



NATURAL HABITAT ADVENTURES AND
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M / V OCEAN NOVA

The Antarctic Chronicle



An Expedition to the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica
THURSDAY THE 29TH OF JANUARY 2009

ELSEHUL AND SALISBURY PLAINS

“For speed and efficiency of travel give me Amundsen, for scientific discovery, give me Scott, but when all hope is lost get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.”

Sir Edmund Hilary

- 0600 Early-bird coffee, tea and pastries are served in the panorama lounge. The scenery as we round the northwest corner of South Georgia (**Willis and Bird Islands**)
- 0700 Breakfast is served in the dining room
- ±0800 We hope to take you on our first excursion in South Georgia, a combined Zodiac cruise and landing at **Elsehul**. A fantastic array of wildlife is what one expects to see at this small natural harbour at the very extreme northern point of the main island, on the Paryadin Peninsula. From zodiacs one is able to see both Black-browed and Grey-headed Albatrosses on their nests, as well as three species of penguin- including the rare Macaroni. Look out for the incredibly beautiful Light- mantled sooty albatross flying above the bay. On the land side a grim reminder of the sealing days can be found- ‘trypots’, which were used to boiled own blubber to render oil, particularly from elephant seals. There may be a possibility to see elephant as well as fur seals hauled out on shore, and if conditions are favourable, we may be able to walk to the southern side of the bay – to Undine harbour.
- This is an exposed little harbour, and we can only visit this site in very favourable conditions
- 1230 Lunch is served in the dining room, whilst we sail eastwards
- ±1330 We hope to enter the **Bay of Isles** at this stage. Please come to the decks and watch the incredible scenery of this part of South Georgia
- ±1430 We hope to be able to land at one of South Georgia’s ultimate gems, **Salisbury Plains**. Salisbury Plains is a huge plain of glacial deposit on the southern side of the Bay of Isles and the beach is around 4km long. In the hinterland, South Georgia is barely 10km wide at this point, yet the mountains and associated glaciers are over 1000m high! If you were to travel to the other side of the island, you would find yourself in the famous King Haakon Bay. The Grace and Lucas glaciers are visibly retreating and make for an awesome backdrop. The site is quite difficult to land on with zodiacs, as the swell and wind offer very little protection. The reward? King Penguins as far as the eye can see!
- 1830 Please join the staff for a recap and cocktail in the glass house.

1930 Dinner is served in the dining room, please enjoy