

Marine Fauna Experiences

PUERTO MADRYN, ARGENTINA

Full Day Peninsula Valdes (12hs)

Season: year-round (whale watching from Jun to Dec)

During this full day tour you will be able to appreciate the flora and fauna of the territory. You will have a first idea of the geography of the peninsula, coastal features, Bird Island, part of the gravel paths and their derivations. As for whale watching you will take a boat that will approach you extremely close to the whales, so you can appreciate them, while your guide explains their behavior. Moving on, you will visit Caleta Valdes, a colony of elephant seals and sea lions located at the eastern end of the peninsula. Then, it continues to Punta Norte, another colony of marine fauna located on the northeast corner.

Full Day Punta Tombo and Rawson (10hs)

Season: Sep to Mar

In Punta Tombo you will be able to see the largest and greatest continental reserve of Magellan penguins. In here they nest, breed, and have their young and molt before undertaking their return trip towards the northeastern coast of South America returning the following year. The penguins coexist with other marine birds that have chosen this site to nest like the kelp gull or southern gull, skuas, two species of cormorants -Royal and Rock, steamer ducks, Antarctic doves, and several giant species of sea birds including petrels.

Full Day Estancia San Lorenzo (12hs) - *with whale watching (until Dec)*

Season: Aug to Mar

In Estancia San Lorenzo, there is an awesome breeding colony of Magellanic penguins. You will also have the chance to see elephant seals, the world's largest seals. If you visit the area between August and March, you will be able to see penguins developing their life cycle at this location. They nest, breed, mate and wait for their eggs to hatch. Both parents feed the young and teach them basic strategies to become independent in the sea.

Half Day Doradillo Beach (2hs)

Season: Jun to Oct

This coast is ideal to watch the Southern Right Whale (*Ballena Franca Austral*), in that unlike most of beaches of the area, this beach has a very pronounced slope what allows the whales to approach only a few yards from the coast. It is an excellent place for the whales to give birth and to nurse the new born whales.

Half Day Punta Loma (2hs)

Season: year-round

In this tour you will visit: Punta Cuevas: the site where there are the remains of the first Welsh settlement in the area. Then you will reach the Parana Beach, where the wreck of the ship *Folies* lays exposed at low tide. This is one of the diving sites in the area. You will also visit the animal Reserve Punta Loma. The only permanent colony of Sea Lions in the area (The Sea Lion colonies of Peninsula Valdes are seasonally occupied for reproduction or wintering). Punta Loma has cliffs of medium height that fall sharply to the sea and extensive pebble beaches. In this area there is also colony of Rock Cormorants, they build their nests on the South American clay cliffs. Terns, skuas and other marine and terrestrial birds are often seen here.

Half Day Dolphins Watching (1 hs) – *With Punta Tombo*

Season: May to Feb

In Bahía Engaño you will have the option to embark in the unforgettable experience of navigating these waters to carry out the Dolphins Ovaries Watching (*Commerson's Dolphins*). The navigation is realized in powerful semi-rigid boats and consists on going to meet the dolphin ovary, variety of dolphin of coastal habits and that likes to mount oceanic and coastal waves and to continue to the crafts. They are animals who tend to be in groups.

Half Day Yellow Submarine, whale watching (1 ½hs) – with Peninsula Valdes tour

Season: Jul to Oct

On this tour you can watch the whales immersed in their world. Underwater, the perspective is completely different, being a comparable experience as diving with them. While remaining close to the ship, you will observe at all times through the 40 windows of the submarine cabin. On board, you can move freely opting for the ship's deck to observe from the water surface or underwater cabin. The combination of underwater watching with panoramic views from the outside deck will be an unforgettable experience. You will be able to see: Southern right whales, one hair sea lions and typical birds of the Patagonian coast (depending on time of year).

USHUAIA, ARGENTINA

Gable Island and penguin rookery (9hs)

Season: Oct 15th to Apr 15th

Gable Island is the tour for those who arrive in Ushuaia searching for the world's end. Away from the tourist-crowded areas, and in the middle of the Beagle Channel, this place is recommended worldwide by word-of-mouth. Gable Island offers us nature untouched and history in the present tense. During this full-day excursion the traveler goes for a ride, sails on a motor boat, walks and discovers. On your way to Gable Island you'll also see penguins.

Gable Island and penguin rookery /canoeing (10hs)

Season: Oct 15th to Apr 15th

This full-day excursion takes you for a ride, to navigate, to walk and to make discoveries in one of the roughest and most beautiful places in the Beagle Channel. You will enjoy of a canoeing adventure down the river that leads into the sea that ends in the Harberton port. After leaving the canoes you will take a trip on a motor boat towards Martillo Island, where you will have the chance to see penguins in their breeding lair. Then the motor boat take you to the main attraction at Gable Island, where you have some snacks, good wine and a delicious meal. Later you will take a hike to know more of this gorgeous island, crossing over beaver dams and through the forest to reach the Beagle Channel shore where you will take the boat to start your return to Ushuaia.

Meet the Beavers (5hs)

Season: Nov to Mar

Beaver encounter takes place in the evening, because that's the only time of day when they leave their lodges. You will close up on their habitat along challenging mud tracks, then, after kitting yourselves up on learning about their lives, you'll be enjoying a delicious stew under the impressive sunset.