

# Guide to Wildlife on the Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands



PENGUINS



WHALES



SEALS



BIRDLIFE

## NOVEMBER

The three species of brush-tailed penguins are busy courting, nest building and mating.

There's a chance of sighting minke & orca in the Gerlache Strait area.

Crabeater and leopard seals are regularly sighted amongst the pack ice and on ice floes.

Antarctica's birdlife returns and is focused on nest building, mating and laying eggs.

SPRING

## DECEMBER

Penguin chicks begin to hatch on the Antarctic Peninsula in time for Christmas.

Humpback, minke & orca start arriving back, with a good chance of sightings.

Sightings of solitary leopard seals and groups of crabeaters and weddells are common.

It's the incubation period in the bird colonies, with chicks beginning to hatch from mid-December.

SUMMER

## JANUARY

Penguin chicks are at their fluffiest and most photogenic.

Hungry humpback whales are focused on gorging on krill.

**Seals abound!** Particularly leopard seals, who are preying around the penguin rookeries.

It's hatching time. Don't get too close to the Antarctic terns' nests or you'll be dive-bombed.

SUMMER

## FEBRUARY

The penguin chicks are growing fast and leaving their nests for the first time.

With the whale population at its maximum, sightings are at their peak.

Fur seals and young male elephant seals are seen in larger numbers.

Now the hatching season is over, most species start to fledge and there are more birds in the air.

SUMMER

## MARCH

Penguin chicks are at their strongest and most curious and are learning to swim in the shallows.

Whale sightings continue to peak, with whales being particularly curious about boats.

On the South Shetland Islands the fur seal population is at its peak.

Some species, like the Arctic terns, have already started to leave Antarctica.

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