

# West Falkland, Falkland Islands

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A black-browed albatross swoops overhead as it approaches the nest.



On approach to Falkland Islands, yet another black-browed albatross hurtles by.



This morning we had an exciting birdwatching session from the aft deck. We were treated to wonderful views of giant petrel which were following the vessel all day.



While landing, we were escorted ashore by some very enthusiastic Peale's dolphins.



Kelp geese loitering at the landing site.



Giant petrels go grey as they age. This veteran southern giant petrel came close, giving us a piercing stare.



New Island is home to some rockhopper penguins: adult (left) and a chick (right).

Favourable seas allowed us to cross from Ushuaia to the Falkland Islands in record time. During the night, the ship was doing 18 knots through as the tides and tail winds helped us on our way. Arriving earlier than expected, we squeezed in a bonus evening landing at New Island. We landed at a stunning horseshoe bay, bordered by an idyllic white-sand beach. A quick hike to the other side of the island immediately produced rewarding views of rock-hopper penguins and black-browed albatross nesting among the tall stands of tussock grass. A fiery sunset gave way to a glorious moonrise as we made our way back to our ship.

## About the Author

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**Conor Ryan** • Naturalist

Hailing from Cobh in the south of Ireland, Conor Ryan grew up on the shores of Cork Harbour where his fascination with the sea led him to study zoology at University College Cork. He continued his studies in

marine biology in Galway, where he completed his Ph.D. thesis on the diet and population structure of baleen whales in the Celtic Sea using stable isotope analysis. His research also brought him to Cape Verde in search of the breeding grounds of humpback whales that frequent the coasts of Ireland. However these whales have not yet given up their secret!