

# Godthul & Gold Harbor

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Elephant

seals molt on the beaches of South Georgia, and Gold Harbor is one of their favorites. We often have large numbers of these impressive animals piled together while they go through this “catastrophic” molt!





At the old whaling station in Godthul there is a walk through the tussock grass to an elevated plateau which gains some elevation, and offers a different perspective of the area. Here the hikers are returning to the beach.



The beautiful beach at Gold Harbor offers a great backdrop for the large king penguin colony. The dramatic peaks and hanging glaciers are spectacular.





Giant

petrels are mostly scavengers, and will take advantage of the relatively high mortality of fur seal pups around South Georgia. This one is feeding on a recently deceased one, which is floating in Godthul.

Our final day on South Georgia was a perfect close to a marvelous four days in “paradise!” After spending the night in the very protected harbor of Godhul, we went on a hike through the tussock grass to an elevated plateau, while other guests did a Zodiac cruise of the bay. In the afternoon *National Geographic Orion* repositioned to my favorite place on South Georgia, Gold Harbor, an amazingly beautiful beach filled with all kinds of wildlife, including a large King Penguin colony, with a backdrop of a hanging glacier!

## About the Author

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Rich Kirchner has worked as a naturalist in Antarctica, Alaska, the Bering Sea, Baja and the High Arctic, including Greenland, the Canadian Arctic and Iceland. His 25 years as a professional wildlife photographer has granted him international publication credits included in magazines such as *Geo Germany*, *Geo France*, *Natural History*, *Audubon*, *National Wildlife* and *Ranger Rick*, as well as more than a hundred books.