

# Read all about it

## Península Valdés

1 Look at this list of animals. Tick (✓) the animals that you can find in the Península Valdés.

- dolphin ☐
- flamingo ☐
- elephant seal ☐
- ostrich ☐
- right whale ☐
- magellanic penguin ☐
- puffin ☐

2 Read the text quickly and check your answers to Exercise 1.

3 Find the following words in the text and circle them. Then match them with their meanings below.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| blues     | 1 the production of young animals                              |
| breeding  | 2 an area for birds or animals where people can't kill them    |
| colony    | 3 animals and plants which live and grow in natural conditions |
| sanctuary | 4 a feeling of sadness   |
| wildlife  | 5 a group of animals living together                           |

Read the text carefully and find this information.

The length and weight of the right whale.

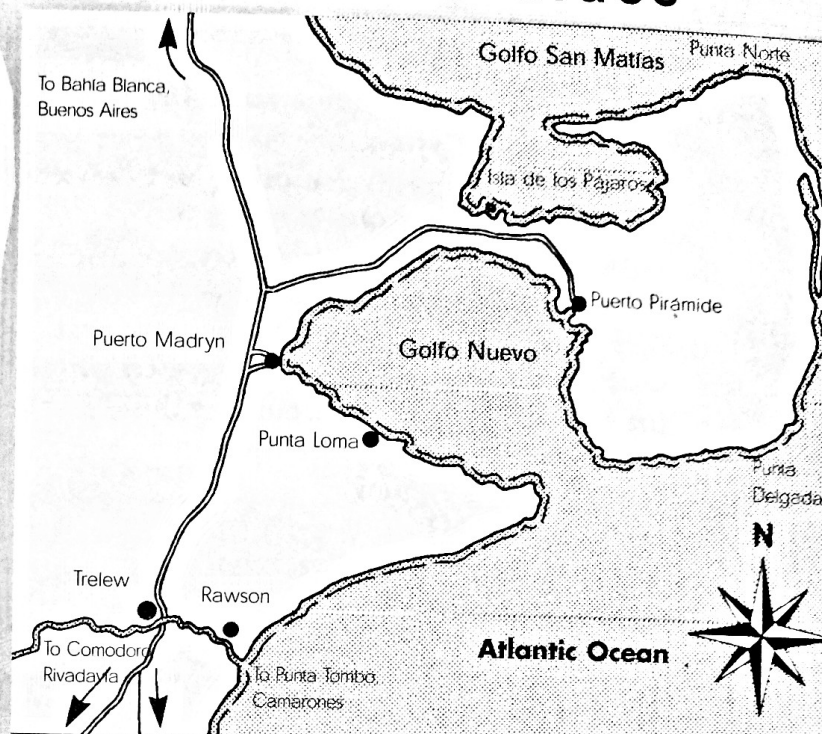
The size of male elephant seals.

The number of penguins found in Península Valdés between September and April.

The best season to visit Península Valdés.

What you should bring on a trip to Península Valdés.

## Península Valdés



Leave your city blues behind and come and see the wonders of Península Valdés. One of the finest wildlife reserves in South America is waiting for you. Península Valdés will make you feel really close to nature. You will see a fantastic variety of marine life.

### Where to go and what to do

Puerto Pirámide is the best place to start exploring the peninsula. Organised tours take you to the main wildlife sites. The visitor centre at the Istmo Ameghino has got a small museum with an exhibition of local fauna and flora. There is also an observation tower with an excellent panoramic view.

### Whale watching

Right whales visit the sandy white beaches of Puerto Pirámide between July and December. These fantastic animals are nearly 12 metres long and weigh more than 30 tonnes. If you come in spring, you will see mother whales and their babies – it's an unforgettable experience!

You can take a boat trip to see the whales from Puerto Pirámide. Watch them jump and play and even get to touch them.

## Elephant seals

Península Valdés has the only breeding colony of southern elephant seals on the South American continent. You can see and photograph these amazing animals at *Punta Norte*. The males can be almost 7 metres long and weigh up to 4,500 kg. Elephant seals live in groups made up of one dominant male and up to 100 females. You may see adult males fighting. This happens very often. Don't get too close for photographs!

## Magellanic penguins

The only species that regularly visits Peninsula Valdés is the magellanic or jackass penguin. You can see large numbers of them at *Punta Tombo* and *Cabo Dos Bahias*. They arrive annually between September and April. You can find over 500,000 penguins during these months. It's a tremendous sight – not one to be missed!

**And don't forget to visit:**

The *Isla de los Pájaros*. At this bird sanctuary you can observe a great variety of bird-life, including flamingos and seagulls. Although visitors are not allowed on the island, you can see the birds through a telescope from the visitor centre in *Puerto Pirámide*.

## Some useful advice

**Come in spring if you want to see all the fantastic wildlife in Península Valdés.**

Bring lots of warm clothes – it can be very windy!  
Bring a camera – you will want to photograph everything!

**5** Complete this table with information from the article.

Place	What to see
Puerto Pirámide	visitor centre ..... whales
Punta Norte	.....
Punta Tombo & Cabo dos Bahias	.....
Isla de los Pájaros	many types of birds including ..... .....

**6** Write a short description of the wildlife that you can find in your area, or in another place you have visited. Include the following information:

animals and plants you can see  
the best time to go  
the right clothes to wear  
facilities available: tours? shops? restaurants?

[illegible]

Esc. Media

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