

# The Great White Continent

An expedition cruise to magnificent South Georgia and the  
Antarctic Peninsula aboard the *MS Bremen*

1st to 20th January 2013



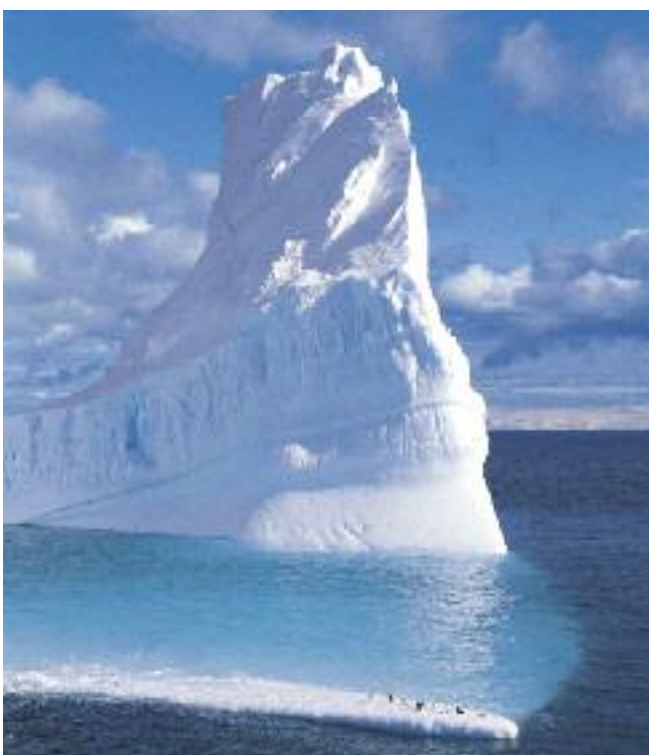
NOBLE CALEDONIA

**F**ollow in the footsteps of famous researchers, pioneers, adventurers and discoverers on our expedition cruise to the sixth continent. Antarctica is a beautiful and demanding place that confounds all preconceptions and once experienced it lights the imagination and irrevocably touches the spirit of travellers in a way quite unlike anywhere else. In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthrall and enchant. Antarctica is certainly one of these.

Mere words cannot do justice to the awe inspiring spectacle of Antarctica. This most southern of continents, this desert of ice, is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of an Antarctic landscape. This is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character, to deeds requiring extreme courage. Even today after many decades of exploration, Antarctica still remains a world apart, a majestic last frontier surpassing even the most jaded of travellers' expectations. To enjoy the wonders of this icy paradise in the company of a small and enthusiastic party is the perfect way to achieve the most from a visit to this extraordinary place.

Although South Georgia is a couple of days extra steaming from Antarctica it is well worth the effort. Here you will experience one of the world's natural wonders, the 'Alps in mid-ocean', offering remarkable concentrations of wildlife against a backdrop of glaciers and snow-covered mountains. Hugging the coast to the wildest reaches of the island we land on beaches alive with rampaging fur seals, somnolent elephant seals and truly astonishing numbers of king penguins.

For most travellers the Antarctic experience is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible and the *MS Bremen* is the perfect vessel both in terms of the educational experience on board and the number of opportunities to go ashore. Antarctica is to be experienced, not just to be seen and we believe the only way to do this is aboard a small ship.



## Meet the Experts

Joining us onboard for this Antarctic expedition are a great selection of experts who will enhance the cruise with their onboard talks and knowledge of the history and natural world. You will be accompanied by these experts during Zodiac landings, as well as on hikes and walks in small groups.

### Dr Hans Joachim Spitzenberger – Expedition Leader

Dr. Hans-Joachim Spitzenberger was born in Recklinghausen, Germany. After military service he studied biology in Hamburg and went on to do a Ph.D. for which he spent several summers on Spitsbergen; the main topics of his research were the hydrography of limnic waters and the ecology of organisms living there. After that he worked as an assistant at the University of Hamburg, as scientist handling research projects and as manager of the Naturschutzbund Deutschland. Dr. Spitzenberger currently works independently as biologist and landscape planner. In addition he lectures for landscape planning and environmental protection at the universities of Rostock and Hamburg. A passionate photographer, he gives lectures and has been expedition leader on many tours to the Arctic, Antarctica, India and the South Seas.



### Dr Christine Reine-Kunze – Guest Speaker

Dr. Christine Reinke-Kunze was born in Pinneberg. She studied Slavic, political sciences and journalism. For her reports she visited all continents and finally found her favourite subject: Polar Regions. She took part in various expeditions for research and has had much of her work published. In 1993 she wrote a book about penguins and in 1997 she released the first Antarctic travel guide in German. Today she works as a free-lance radio journalist for the German ARD institute and regularly joins the *MS Bremen* as guest speaker.

### Dr Eckhard Pott – Guest Speaker

Dr. Eckart Pott was born in Bünde, Germany and has M.S. and Doctorate degrees in biology. He worked for several years as an editor in the biology department of a major German educational publishing company, after which he went into freelance publishing full time. He is the author of numerous articles and books published in several European languages. He travels extensively all over the world and is a renowned natural history photographer, having travelled in Europe, Greenland, Alaska, Canada, Australia, Southern Africa and Antarctica.



### Dr Monika Steinhof – Guest Speaker

Monika Steinhof was born in Mettmann, Germany and studied biology at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf. She continued her studies in prehistory and early history as well as archaeobotany at the Freie Universität Berlin. In 1999, she gained her doctorate at the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, majoring in botany. Botanic excursions have taken her to destinations such as Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba and China. Since 2001, Monika Steinhof has been a scientific assistant at the Übersee-Museum Bremen. There, she is in charge of the botanic collections and a member of an interdisciplinary team of museum scientists. Since 2006, she has been accompanying the Hapag-Lloyd Cruises expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Buenos Aires.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Buenos Aires.** Arrive this morning and transfer to the centrally located Melia Hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is at leisure to explore independently.

**Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia.** Morning charter flight to Ushuaia. Upon arrival transfer to the *MS Bremen* and embark. Sail this evening.

**Days 4 – 6 At sea.** Relax onboard enjoying the facilities of the vessel and attend a lecture or two.

**Days 7 – 9 South Georgia.** South Georgia Island is home to many marvels including Shackleton's Grave, several former whaling stations, incredible scenery and prolific wildlife. On nearby islands we hope to spot wandering albatross in their nesting grounds. We will work our way along the wild coast to land on remote beaches, alive with great numbers of fur seals, elephant seals, wandering and sooty albatrosses and Macaroni and king penguins. The young fur seals will be cavorting in the shallows, the albatrosses will be enthusiastic in courtship, and the penguins will come and visit if you sit quietly on the beach. These beach paradises are backed by some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery in the world. South Georgia is generally agreed by visitors to represent the 'Cream of Antarctica'

**Day 10 At sea.** A day at leisure onboard to recap on all the magnificent sites we have seen and look ahead to our days exploring the peninsula.

**Days 11 – 15 South Orkney Islands, South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula.** The *MS Bremen* continues in a southerly direction and reaches the South Orkney Islands. Weather permitting, we will visit the Argentinean research station Orcadas with the Zodiacs. We start our exploration of the peninsula on Elephant Island where Shackleton's crew spent 128 days waiting to be rescued. The island is populated by groups of elephant seals, fur seals and chinstrap penguins. One of numerous Zodiac rides takes you past ice floes within viewing distance of the animals. You may also have the chance to cast a glance at the monument of Captain Pardo, who rescued the men of the Shackleton Expedition in 1916. A completely different highlight awaits you on Deception Island. The island consists of the circular remnants of a caldera which a small, manoeuvrable ship like the *MS Bremen* can effortlessly sail into. Here, you have the unique opportunity to have a hot bath on the black lava beach - amidst the inhospitable world of Antarctica. Paradise Bay where gigantic, glacier



Seal, Gold Harbour

towers are covered in crevasses will also make you eager to explore. In the course of a ride with the Zodiacs through the fantastic ice and glacier landscape, spectacular perspectives will be revealed to you time and time again, perhaps crowned by the unforgettable sighting of a whale. In Neko Harbour, you will set foot on Antarctica's mainland. You could go on a hike to the observation point, from which you will enjoy a wonderful view of the edge of a massive glacier. Gentoo penguins, which are known for their loud, donkey-like cries, are at home here, too. Breathtaking panoramas will accompany you in the Neumayer Channel, which the *MS Bremen* sails through in order to reach Port Lockroy. This former British research station nowadays accommodates the southernmost post office in the world. Gentoo penguins raising their chicks and sheathbills are brooding in their nests. One of the most beautiful marine passages in the world awaits you as we approach the narrow Lemaire Channel, to both sides of which steep mountains tower in the air. Listen to drift ice cracking as it is pushed aside by the steel-reinforced bow of the ship. Upon leaving the channel at the southern end, you will reach Petermann Island. Look forward to another opportunity to watch the animals raising their young - besides Adelie and Gentoo penguins, the island is home to blue-eyed cormorants and skuas. Enjoy the view and the clear Antarctic air one more time before an unforgettable expedition comes to an end.



Exploring by Zodiac



Going ashore by Zodiac



Grytviken



Stunning scenery



King Penguin colony



Shackleton's grave at Grytviken

**Days 16 – 17 Drake Passage.** Two days to relax at sea as we cross the Drake Passage and reflect on all we have witnessed over the past two weeks.

**Day 18 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for the charter flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the Melia Hotel for an overnight stay and the remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 19 Buenos Aires to London.** After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to London.

**Day 20 London.** Arrive this morning.

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour Code: SCBR010113

CATEGORY	CABIN DESCRIPTION	DECK	
1	Twin cabin with porthole	3	£6995
2	Twin cabin with panorama window	4	£7695
3	Twin cabin with panorama window	4	£8295
4	Twin cabin with panorama window	5	£8995
5	Twin cabin with panorama window	5	£9495
6	Twin cabin with balcony	6	£10695
7	Suite with balcony	7	£11995
5	For sole use	5	£10795

**Price includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires on breakfast only basis, 15 nights aboard the *MS Bremen* on full board, mini-bar with soft drinks in your cabin restocked each day, shore excursions, expedition team including onboard lectures, Tour manager, use of expedition parka and rubber boots, transfers, gratuities to crew, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, optional excursions.

N.B Ports and activities subject to change based on weather conditions.

## A Typical Day in South Georgia

### An extract from one of our ship logs

We dropped anchor off Salisbury Plains at 0355. The idea was to have a 0400 landing as the sun came up but the clouds prevented such a spectacular landing. The landing did take place before breakfast at 0600. Here there were over 100,000 pairs of King penguins for the passengers to enjoy. There were a few elephant seals and some reindeer could be seen in the distance. Although there were swells, the loading was done the regular way. All tags were turned and the ship was away at 0845.

The next stop was Prion Island only a few kilometres away and here the anchor went down at 0930. This visit to the Albatross nesting site is one in which the impact on the Albatross environment is to be kept to an absolute minimum. Towards this goal only ten people at a time were able to visit the site. This meant a much longer and more complicated landing operation. The climb up the slope through tussock grass, bogs, and among seals to see these Albatrosses was considered well worthwhile by the passengers. The galley was kind enough to continue lunch into the afternoon to accommodate the returning passengers.

It was not until 1515 that the ship set its course for Hercules Bay, arriving at 1700. This bay is a unique spot with great cliffs surrounding the relatively small inlet. Here there are Macaroni penguins, Fur seals, Albatross nests, Gentoo penguins, and geology with spectacular folds and other contortions produced during the metamorphism of the area. Zodiac cruises from 1745 to 2000 allowed all to view the sights close up. Dinner was served immediately at the end of the cruises. And it was during dinner that a two mile long tabular berg was seen. The ship then proceeded to Grytviken where she anchored at 2230. The passengers then had a calm sea on which to sleep. The night sky was clear with a crescent moon.

NOON POSITION 54°01 S 37°14.6 W

## Optional Pre-Cruise Extension – Celebrate New Year in Buenos Aires

30TH DECEMBER 2012 TO 2ND JANUARY 2013



For those who would like to see in the New Year in Buenos Aires we are offering a three night pre-cruise extension staying at the four-star centrally located Melia Hotel. Our extension includes transfers from the airport to hotel, a half day city tour of Buenos Aires and an evening Tango Show with dinner on New Year's Eve.

**Twin: £545 per person based on double occupancy; Single: £745**

# The MS Bremen



We are delighted to be working with the four-star vessel the *MS Bremen*, an expedition ship of a special kind. The vessel accommodates a maximum of 160 passengers and we have part chartered the vessel from our associates, Hapag-Lloyd. In addition to a Noble Caledonia cruise director there will be a qualified expedition team of naturalists onboard who travel ashore with you and also provide informative talks in the comfort of the well designed panoramic lounge. There is also a crew of 100 offering exquisite onboard service.

## Cabins and Suites

The *MS Bremen's* cabins offer 18 square metres of floor space and the spacious suites measure 24 square metres. Cabins on Deck 3 have portholes and all other cabins have a panoramic window. The cabins and suites on Decks 6 and 7 have balconies. All of the cabins and suites have individual climate control and are furnished with a seating area and table, a dressing table with hairdryer, wardrobe, safe, telephone, flat screen TV, DVD player, radio and reading lamp. Non-alcoholic beverages are free of charge from the mini bar and these are refilled daily. All cabins have an en-suite bathroom with shower and the suites have a bathtub. Bathrobes are provided in every cabin/suite for your convenience. Depending on the satellite

reception you will receive an excerpt from a newspaper every morning with the most important international news. Guests in suites are provided with a range of high-quality cosmetic items including bath salt, massage sponge and body lotion. In addition to the bowl of fruit served on a daily basis (also in the cabins on Deck 6), passengers staying in a suite receive a bottle of champagne and canapés on the day of embarkation.

## Facilities and onboard equipment

Facilities onboard include a single seating restaurant, a club with bar, lounge with panoramic windows, well-stocked library, sundeck with heated seawater swimming pool, fitness room, sauna, hair salon and beauty parlour, a small hospital and a boutique. There are several computers with internet access and all cabins and public areas have Wi-Fi connection (extra charge for use). Laundry and ironing services are also available and a lift service operates connecting each deck. Guests will have the opportunity to visit the bridge whenever the local regulations allow by prior arrangement with the officer on duty. Bridge officers will be happy to provide you with information regarding the course, position of the ship and other nautical questions.



Category 6 cabin with balcony



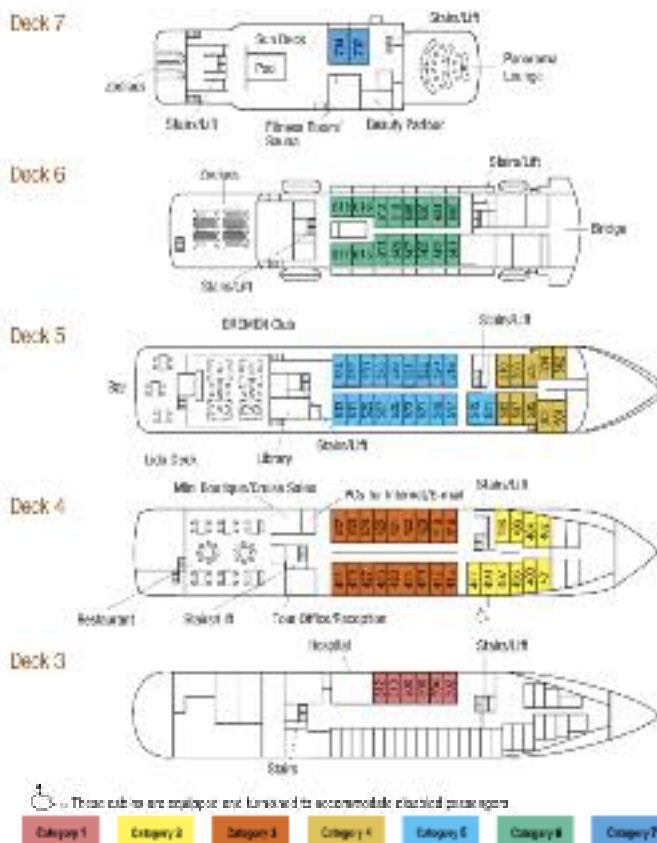
Restaurant

## Culinary Delights

Experience indulgence at the highest level. Highly trained chefs will surprise you every day with their skill and attention to detail. Diversity as well as classic delicacies will be available for every meal, whether you are enjoying a quick breakfast or a relaxed evening meal. When the weather is good, you are very welcome to have breakfast on deck and at lunchtime there is always the choice between a buffet and a la carte menu. There will also be special events throughout your cruise such as barbecues on deck or evenings with a special theme.

## Ice Class and capabilities

When the *MS Bremen* was built, the focus was on making her suitable for all ice conditions. She has a reinforced hull across her entire length so as to withstand pack ice. The vessel has a shallow draught and exceptionally high manoeuvrability making it possible to access remote Antarctic islands. Furthermore the *MS Bremen* is equipped with extremely powerful engines as well as robust propellers and steering gear and due to her constructional design; she boasts the highest ice classification for passenger ships: E4.



Library



Captain



Breakfast on the Lido deck





Category 2 cabin



Club lounge



**Call 020-7752 0000**  
 Reservations: Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Brochures: 24 hours a day/7 days a week


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