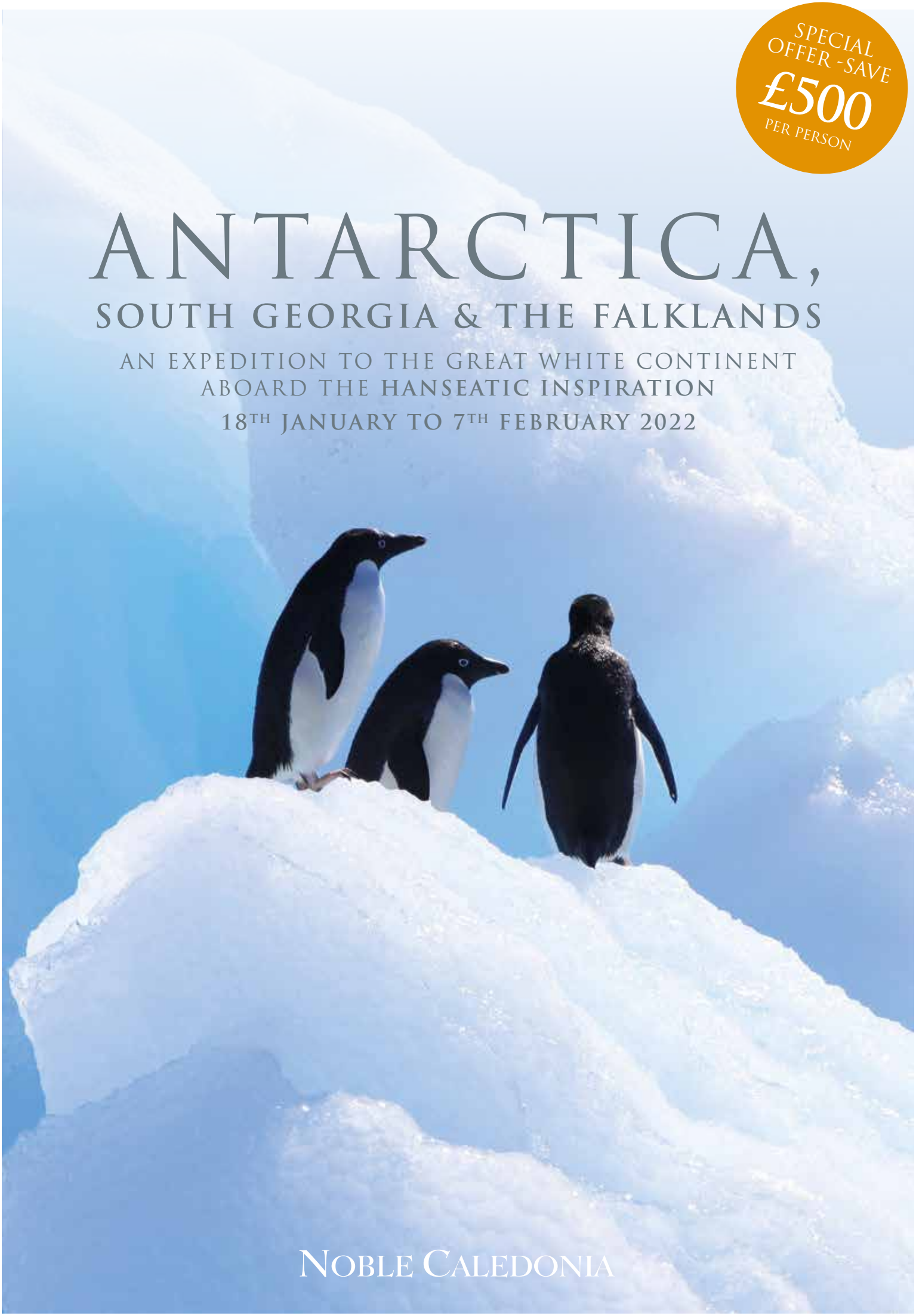
SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £500 PER PERSON

ANTARCTICA,

SOUTH GEORGIA & THE FALKLANDS

AN EXPEDITION TO THE GREAT WHITE CONTINENT
ABOARD THE **HANSEATIC INSPIRATION**

18TH JANUARY TO 7TH FEBRUARY 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Exploring by Zodiac

King penguins, Falkland Islands

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. For this incredible voyage we are working with our German associates at Hapag-Lloyd Cruises who operate the five-star Hanseatic Inspiration, and we will follow in the footsteps of researchers, pioneers, adventurers and discoverers on this expedition to the sixth continent. It is hard to put into words the sheer grandeur of an Antarctic landscape. 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. Enormous icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs dotted in the ocean; the sights, sounds and emotions will stay with you forever.

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 Hanseatic Inspiration 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 on board a small ship. To enjoy the wonders of this icy paradise in the company of a small and enthusiastic party aboard a luxuriously appointed vessel designed for expedition cruising is the perfect way to achieve the most from a visit to this extraordinary place.

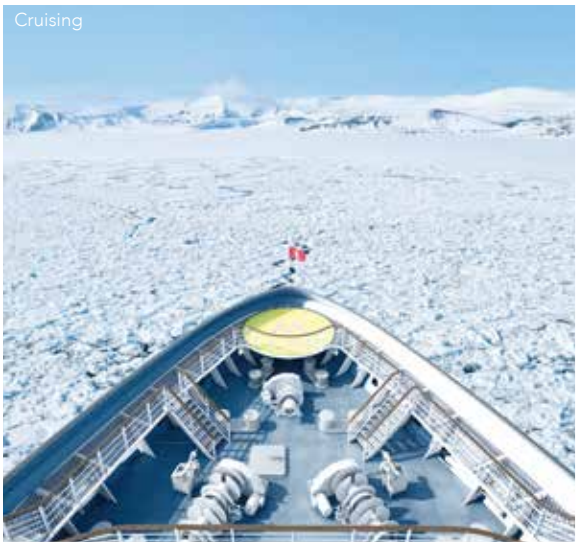
This expedition aboard the Hanseatic Inspiration features magnificent South Georgia where you will experience one of the world's natural wonders, the 'Alps in mid-ocean', offering remarkable concentrations of wildlife against a backdrop of glaciers and snow-covered mountains. Hugging the coast to the wildest reaches of the island we land on beaches alive with rampaging fur seals, somnolent elephant seals and truly astonishing numbers of king penguins. We have three days of exploration in this unique animal paradise and using the Zodiacs you will land each day allowing you the optimum time ashore to experience this rich animal kingdom. We also spend time on the Falkland Islands, a truly enchanting place with a unique character and staggering wildlife. This is the last sanctuary of the elegant albatross which soars gracefully against the blue sky, with colonies of elephant seals basking at the foot of vertiginous cliffs. In between our landings and while at sea, you can pass the time on deck looking for wildlife, attend the series of lectures by members of the expedition team and simply relax on board enjoying the facilities.

What to Expect

Every expedition to Antarctica and South Georgia is unique and no two days are the same. Flexibility is key and often the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience based on weather conditions or wildlife sightings. Each day holds something new and here are some extracts from previous Antarctic expedition logs which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Falkland Islands: At 6am, the rattling of the anchor chain indicated that we had arrived at New Island on the south-western edge of the Falkland Islands. Our first excursion took place under optimal conditions – sunshine, calm seas and a landing site in a shallow sandy cove. After exiting the Zodiacs and receiving our briefing, we were greeted by kelp geese, magellanic oystercatchers, tussac birds and a long-tailed meadowlark. A short 20-minute walk over a low pass to the other side of island brought us to our first amazing seabird colony experience. Here, we had close-up views of many hundreds of black-browed albatrosses dotted along a one-kilometre stretch of cliff. Intermingled with the albatrosses, rockhopper penguins argued over nesting sites and king cormorants impressed their mates with great beakfuls of seaweed. We had plenty of time to sit in the sun and watch breeding albatross pairs perform greeting behaviours, feed their chicks and preen. Every now and then, one of these magnificent birds would take to the wing and impress us with its size.

Salisbury Plain, South Georgia: Salisbury Plain, in the Bay of Isles with its colony of 200,000 king penguins, is a truly great wildlife spectacle. Although the southerly wind had picked up, the beach was well protected and our landing went smoothly. The entire beach


Cruising

Iceberg

Weddell seal

Falkland Islands

was carpeted with king penguins as far as the eye could see, and in between there were hundreds of male Antarctic fur seals guarding their breeding territories. We hiked along the raised beach to the foot of the colony, barely able to contain our excitement. In just two hours we experienced sun, rain, snow, mist and strong gusts, none of which could prevent us from being awed by the vastness of the colony and fascinated by the opportunity to observe these majestic penguins at close range. The fur seals and their pups kept us on our toes, and the southern giant petrels outed themselves as voracious scavengers, devouring a seal carcass in front of our eyes.

South Shetland Islands: Deception Island was our starting point today and it was an early start too. The ship sailed into the flooded caldera of the still-active volcano through the narrow channel called Neptune's Bellows. Upon leaving the caldera the ship headed for the nearby, massive colony of chinstrap penguins. However, nature had other ideas! Very soon a whale spout was spotted and then there were more and more seen. Four different species were involved – Antarctic minke, humpback, fin and killer whales. Extremely good views were had of the latter two species and many of the killers (spread out again) were swimming alongside the fins. Towards the end of the encounter two male killer whales swam down the port side of the ship and another whale dived underneath us.

On our port side Livingston Island slowly came into view as it emerged from the cloud. Eventually the cloud cleared completely and revealed yet another high, mountainous, snowy and icy realm. Distant spouts were seen in the sunshine and, as we approached our turning point for Half Moon Island, a plume of cloud and fog emerged from the strait between the islands. It was short-lived and our destination was soon in sight. The beach was a shingly one but the snowy ground behind it was covered in guano of the penguin kind. Once up the slope we were able to get close views of the nesting chinstrap penguins. Other species seen were kelp gull, Antarctic tern, Antarctic shag, pale-faced sheathbill, Southern elephant seal and Weddell seal. The big surprise was a single macaroni penguin. It was seen going down the main penguin highway to the beach and was seen later on climbing back up the hill. Half Moon Island had certainly provided a very interesting and varied last Antarctic excursion.

The Itinerary

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition in Antarctica. Although an itinerary is outlined below, this is only a preliminary plan and the exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and the wildlife encountered.

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is free to relax in the hotel or maybe join an orientation tour of the city including the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral, the Cabildo (Old City Hall) and the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobblestoned streets. End the tour in La Boca to look around the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists. The evening is free for independent exploration.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Ushuaia. On arrival transfer to the Hanseatic Inspiration and sail this evening.

Day 4 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day on board as we sail south to the Falkland Islands. Watch out for wildlife, such as the albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ships, join one of the lectures in the HanseAtrium or relax with a book in the lounge.

Day 5 Stanley, Falkland Islands. The British overseas territory has more than just a turbulent history; discover its impressive bird life the moment your Zodiac lands. With more than 60 different species, including rockhopper penguins, Magellanic penguins and albatrosses, the Falkland Islands are a paradise for ornithologists. During natural history walks along the coast, the onboard experts will provide fascinating information about the head-high tussock grass and the Victorian houses in Stanley.

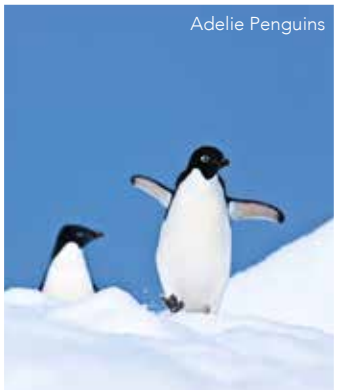
Days 6 & 7 At Sea. There will be plenty of wildlife spotting as we make our way east across the Antarctic Convergence and officially enter Antarctic waters. Shipboard presentations will continue with briefings on the fascinating history and abundant wildlife of South Georgia.

Days 8 & 9 South Georgia. Fur seals, elephant seals and gigantic colonies of king penguins – South Georgia's animal kingdom is one of our planet's greatest wonders and

South Georgia

Paradise Bay

Fin whale


Adelie Penguins

we will use the Zodiacs in order to experience the very special sightings. The island is home to almost 200,000 animals inhabiting the steep slopes and coasts – such as Salisbury Plain or the Gold Harbour beach where fur seals and elephant seals will not be disturbed by your visit. At the former Grytviken whaling station, the grave of Sir Ernest Shackleton recalls the adventures of times gone by.

Day 10 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we head towards the Antarctic Peninsula across waters rich with whales whilst in the skies we may see Antarctic petrel, Kerguelen petrel and even the beautiful snow petrel.

Days 11 to 16 South Orkney Islands, South Shetland Islands & the Antarctic Peninsula. For scientists, the Antarctic is an enormous natural laboratory. We hope to gain an insight into the everyday lives of polar researchers when, weather permitting, we will visit the Argentinian Orcadas station (subject to authorisation). Enjoy the pure fascination of the drifting tabular icebergs. The bizarre blocks that have broken off the shelf ice and their huge archways shimmer a mystical shade of blue in the cool polar light. Enjoy unforgettable moments when, for example, you set foot on the Antarctic mainland near to Paradise Bay. Snow-capped summits surround the bay, where icebergs the size of houses drift and glaciers tower hundreds of metres above. The gigantic glacier cliffs, such as those of Neko Harbour, provide a unique backdrop. Gentoo penguins stretch as far as the eye can see on Cuverville Island. One of the most impressive shipping passages in the world is the Lemaire Channel: mountains up to 1000 metre high line the strait of water. The Neumayer Channel and Port Lockroy provide panoramic views of glaciers that are no less breathtaking. The Weddell Sea is home to breathtaking ice formations, some of which are as tall as a house and covered by Adelie penguins and dense pack ice. We will hope to visit Paulet Island which is home to countless penguins and, like Devil Island, makes for a very lively spectacle.

Days 17 & 18 Drake Passage. Enjoy two days to relax on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during the expedition. Look out for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drake Passage towards Ushuaia.

Day 19 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our chartered flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. This evening is free for independent exploration, you may wish to watch a local tango performance over dinner or to enjoy the hotel facilities.

Day 20 Buenos Aires to London. After a morning to explore or relax in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 21 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Outside cabin	4, 5 & 6	£14995	£14495
2	Panoramic cabin	4 & 5	£15495	£14995
3	French balcony cabin	6	£16295	£15795
4	Balcony cabin	5	£16895	£16395
5	French balcony cabin	7	£16895	£16395
6	Balcony cabin	6 & 7	£17795	£17295
7	Balcony cabin	6	£18295	£17795
8	Balcony cabin	7	£19095	£18595
9	Junior suite with balcony	6 & 7	On Request	On Request
10	Grand suite with veranda	6 & 7	On Request	On Request
1	Outside cabin for sole use	4, 5 & 6	£20295	£19795
4	Balcony cabin for sole use	5	£21795	£21295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel between London & Buenos Aires • Chartered flight between Buenos Aires & Ushuaia • Two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast • City tour in Buenos Aires • 16 nights aboard the Hanseatic Inspiration on a full board basis • Mini-bar with soft drinks in your cabin restocked each day • Zodiac excursions • Expedition team including onboard lectures • Gratuities • Transfers • Landing fees • Port taxes • Airport taxes • Loan of waterproof boots and parka during cruise.
Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

HANSEATIC INSPIRATION

HanseAtrium Bar

Junior Suite

Nikkei Restaurant

Operated by our German associates, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, the Hanseatic Inspiration is a new five-star expedition ship launched in October 2019. With a maximum of just 230 passengers (199 passengers in Antarctica), this unique vessel offers an informal and relaxed atmosphere on board with more open deck space than any other expedition ship. There is a qualified expedition team of naturalists who will accompany you ashore and provide informative talks in the comfort of the well-designed HanseAtrium, and a crew of 175 offering the most exquisite and attentive service on board.

Your Cabin/Suite

There are a total of 120 cabins and suites. All cabins/suites feature a comfortable sleeping area with separable beds, a heated wall in the bathroom, a rain shower, TV, a coffee machine and a mini bar with soft drinks refilled daily. They are also equipped with binoculars and Nordic walking poles and 24-hour cabin service is available. The Outside Cabins, Panoramic Cabins and French Balcony Cabins all measure between 21 to 23 square metres and the Balcony Cabins measure 27 square metres including the balcony. The Junior Suites are approximately 42 square metres including the balcony and offer panoramic views, a comfortable living and sleeping area and a separate dining area. They also benefit from the addition of a bathroom with two sinks, a steam sauna and butler service. The Grand Suites are approximately 71 square metres including a private veranda with space heaters. They feature a sleeping area with panoramic views and a comfortable living area as well as a separate dining area. Additional facilities include a bathroom with two sinks, free standing bath, rain shower, steam sauna, balcony access and butler service.

Your Space

The vessel has three spacious restaurants, two bars, a library, Sun Deck with swimming pool and pool bar, fitness room, hair salon and a small boutique. Whilst relaxing on deck and watching for passing wildlife, the excellent service team offer little touches like exotic fruit skewers and cooling cloth towels. There is also a hospital on the lower deck and it is in the HanseAtrium that the expedition team will hold lectures and briefings. The vessel has been designed taking inspiration from nature to reflect the expeditionary theme of the voyages and to provide interplay between the interiors and the world outside. Exciting vistas are guaranteed in the Observation Lounge thanks to the 180-degree panoramic view which can be enjoyed while relaxing with an aperitif at the bar and listening to the music. Another design highlight are the two extendable glass balconies on the Sun Deck from which passing wildlife can be viewed on the ocean surfaces. Guests will have the opportunity to visit the bridge whenever the local regulations and conditions allow, by prior arrangement with the officer on duty.

Main Restaurant

Panoramic Cabin

Observation Lounge

Your Dining

Highly trained chefs will surprise you every day with their skill and attention to detail. Diverse and classic delicacies will be available at every meal, whether you are enjoying a quick breakfast or a relaxed evening meal. There is a choice of three spacious open-seating restaurants including the Hanseatic Restaurant with its relaxed atmosphere, the Lido Restaurant offering both indoor and outdoor seating, and the Speciality Restaurant where you will be taken on a culinary voyage of discovery with Japanese and Peruvian creations. The Hanseatic Restaurant and Speciality Restaurant are à la carte whereas the Lido Restaurant offers a buffet-style service. Spend your days and evenings however you wish thanks to flexible mealtimes, a free choice of seating and attentive 24-hour cabin service.

Life On Board

With your every need attended to, there is nothing to do but relax and enjoy the experience aboard the Hanseatic Inspiration. After a Zodiac excursion, you will be welcomed back on board with hot drinks and snacks, drinks will be handed to you as you stand on deck viewing magnificent icebergs and the crew will think of everything and enhance your cruise in every way possible. Highly qualified, knowledgeable experts will accompany you throughout the cruise; discovering unknown territory and seeing amazing wildlife will be a lot more rewarding with an expert by your side. Whether a naturalist or ornithologist, their passion and enthusiasm will be conveyed through talks on board and during excursions. The onboard fleet of 17 Zodiac landing craft enables guests to reach every spectacular sight, no matter how remote and, due to their manoeuvrability, these inflatable craft allow us to truly immerse ourselves in nature.

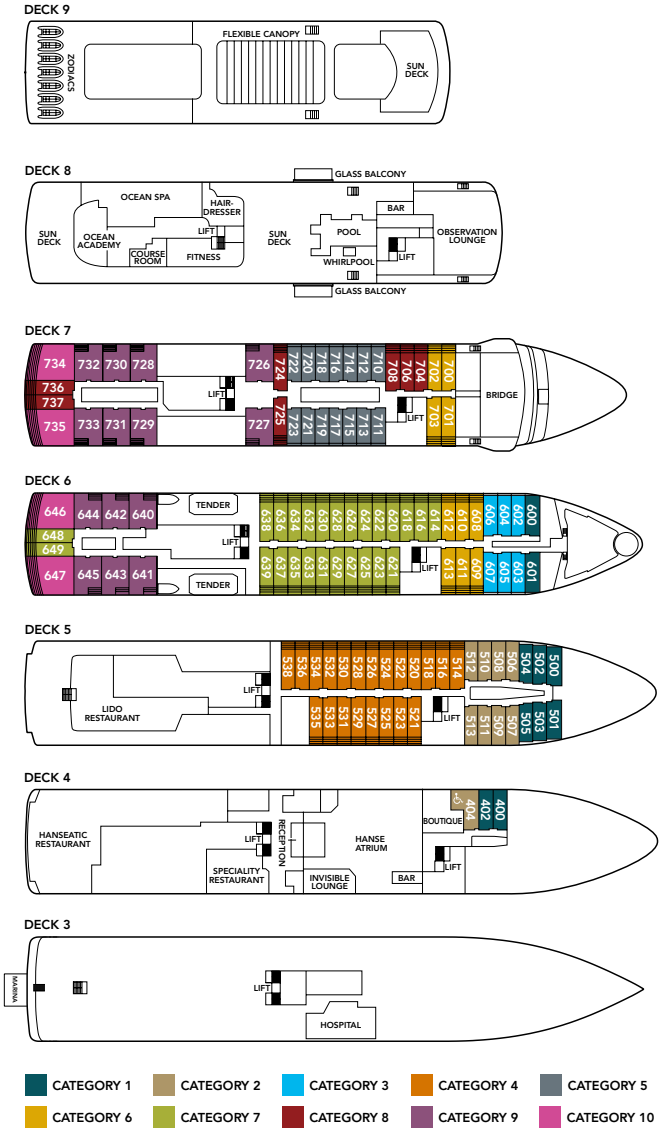
For your Comfort, Safety & Security

During construction of the Hanseatic Inspiration, the focus was on making her suitable for all ice conditions and she has been fitted with cutting-edge equipment and environmental technology. The vessel holds the highest ice class for a passenger ship – PC 6, and with a shallow draught, powerful engine and robust propellers, this is a sturdy ship with excellent manoeuvrability. All of these features allow access to remote islands and coastlines and make for one of the finest expedition vessels. *Please note that the Hanseatic Inspiration is a smoke-free ship. This applies to all interior public areas as well as on deck, including the private balconies and verandas.*

EXPEDITION CRUISING

During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

HANSEATIC INSPIRATION DECK PLAN



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Cover image: Penguins on the ice.