

EXPEDITION SOUTH AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR: TWO WONDERFUL WILDERNESSES

Discover the biodiversity of two countries, which couldn't be any more different. South Africa leads you into the habitat of the legendary big five. Encounter the wonders of Madagascar in the form of baobab trees, lemurs, vanilla and mysterious rites.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Cape Town/South Africa

Cape Town/South Africa, departure 24.00 hrs

Day 2 Hermanus

Hermanus, 08.00 - 14.00 hrs

On the southern tip of South Africa, the charming town of Hermanus welcomes you to an aquamarine bay with delightful cliffs. World famous for whale watching, Hermanus offers spectacular sightings of southern right whales between July and November, when they come here to breed. With luck, you will be



able to spot the marine mammals from the deck or during your explorations on land. Keep your eyes peeled and your ears open as well: during the whale season, the Whale Crier of Hermanus blows on his kelp horn to tell people where whales have been seen. When the sea is calm, the whales come within just a few metres of the cliffs. Find out about the interesting history of the former fishing town and the sea life in the Old Harbour Museum. Take a stroll around the centre of Hermanus and soak up the atmosphere, perhaps in one of the quaint cafes with a glass of wine from the local vineyards.

Day 3 Mossel Bay

Mossel Bay, 08.00 - 14.00 hrs

The pioneering spirit of seafarer Bartolomeu Dias surrounds you in Mossel Bay. In 1488 he was the first European to sail around the Cape of Good Hope - a replica of his caravel is on display in the museum here. In the 19th century, Mossel Bay developed into an important trading port, where grain, fruit, meat and wool from the interior changed hands. When natural gas reserves were discovered off the coast in the middle of the 20th century, the townscape changed to accommodate the associated industry. As you discover the seaside town, your independent shore visit will become an exciting voyage back in time - from prehistoric settlements to colonisation and apartheid and into the present day. On the other hand, the idyllic beaches rivalling those on the Sunshine Coast are timeless.

Day 4 Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth)

Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth), 08.00 - 18.00 hrs

Not far off the Garden Route, the town formerly known as Port Elizabeth offers cultural and historical highlights. Its name was changed to Gqeberha in 2021 because the South African government believed that its former European name was a reminder of colonial oppression. Your experts on board will shed light on the country's turbulent history. Expand on your knowledge on the Donkin Heritage Trail along the coast, with its historical landmarks including the Donkin Reserve, with its iconic lighthouse, and the stone pyramid, which Sir Rufane Donkin had built in memory of his wife, Elizabeth. The coastal town is the perfect starting point for excursions* into South Africa's wilderness and animal kingdom: perhaps you will spot giraffes and zebras looking for refreshment at the water holes or lions on the hunt - unforgettable scenes. As well as the kings of the animal kingdom, this area is also home to rhinos, leopards, elephants and buffalo, the legendary big five.

Day 5 Relaxation at sea

Day 6 Durban

Durban, 07.00 - 19.00 hrs

The big cities on the Cape are known for their cosmopolitan flair. Durban is no different, with its dazzling skyline and the hustle and bustle of a modern city, a melting pot of different cultures. The city presents a contrast with the Zulu people, who also live in the province of KwaZulu-Natal - get some insights into the rich Zulu culture and the turbulent history of the region at the KwaMuhle Museum. Indian and colonial influences are reflected in the city's architecture and lively food scene. Durban's magnificent beaches along the famous Golden Mile are a dream for sun worshippers: here you can surf, swim or just relax on the beach. You can also go on excursions from Durban, making Africa a cornucopia of unforgettable experiences. Experience an unforgettable voyage of discovery with all your senses as you



travel through a diverse range of fauna and flora under the African sun.

Day 7 Richards Bay

Richards Bay, 05.00 - 22.00 hrs

Richards Bay is a place where you can experience unspoilt Africa in all its powerful beauty - untamed and full of secrets just waiting to be discovered by you. This is the gateway to the wild nature of the KwaZulu-Natal province, a real paradise for explorers. It's impossible to predict which species of African animal will show itself and when, but that's what makes every game drive so exciting and appealing. Follow the call of the wild to South Africa's untamed soul. Pelicans, flamingoes and exotic species such as the hornbill live in the nearby game reserves, as well as elephants, giraffes, zebras and lions. Which species will you see before you return to the ship? Look forward to some overwhelming experiences and shows of nature.

Days 8 - 9 Relaxation at sea

Days 10 - 11 Madagascar's west coast

Madagascar's west coast (Toliara, Nosy Andriangory)

Superb experiences in the Indian Ocean lie ahead. Madagascar is a real gem for explorers; your experts on board will shed light on the endemic flora and fauna. The world's fourth largest island has idyllic bays, majestic volcanoes and unique vegetation. Madagascans share their home with baobabs, lemurs and vanilla, a place of mysterious rites, sacred grottos and serenity.

Gain some insights into the lives of the locals in the lively city of Toliara on the west coast of Madagascar. At the Mahafaly-Sakalava ethnological museum, you will find works of art like masks and statues of the Vezo people. These "nomads of the sea" are some of the last of their kind in the country. They travel far out to sea to catch fish and have a number of rules and forbidden things, known as "fady". At the daily central market in Toliara, enjoy the smells of freshly grilled fish and local spices as you let the rhythm of the city draw you under its spell. The shell and craft market has a story to tell about the treasures of the sea and the craftsmanship of the islanders.

Driven by the spirit of discovery, the Zodiacs will take you to see Madagascar's hidden gems off the beaten track. After landing on Nosy Andriangory, experience the almost untouched natural scenery and the magic of this remote island paradise. Beaches lined with palm trees are a wonderful place to relax and sunbathe, swim and snorkel. In the bright turquoise water, discover colourful coral reefs and exotic species of fish, reflecting the unique biodiversity of Madagascar. Birds and dwarf lemurs can also be found here. Enjoy the wild beauty of Madagascar in its purest form.

Day 12 Relaxation at sea

Day 13 Mayotte/Comoros/France

Mayotte/Comoros/France, 07.00 - 14.00 hrs

Enjoy a day in paradise. Mayotte lies between the African mainland and Madagascar and is the oldest volcanic island in the Comoros - and part of Europe. In the watercolour of the dark blue ocean, the group of islands stands out with green vegetation, colourful fruits and golden beaches. Surrounded by a coral reef, Mayotte is a dream destination for diving and snorkelling, with an underwater world teeming with hundreds of



fish species. When relaxing on the beach, you will feel like you are in a French kind of paradise, as you will in the little town of Mamoudzou with its colonial architecture: here the inhabitants speak French, eat baguettes and pay in euros. Enjoy the wonderful cuisine with its African, Indonesian, French and Indian influences. Look forward to some exciting encounters and enjoy the great hospitality of the Mahorans.

Days 14 - 15 Madagascar's north coast

Madagascar's north coast (Nosy Be, Nosy Hara)

The tropical north coast of Madagascar is famous for its beautiful beaches, hilly island interior covered in rainforest, and for growing cocoa, coffee, spices and rice. Off the coast lie expansive coral reefs, which are home to a wide variety of sea life. The Nosy Be archipelago in particular is a popular spot for divers and snorkellers.

The lush green island of Nosy Be, whose name means "big island" in the local language, is of volcanic origin. The magnificent colonial villas around the port in the island's capital, Andoany, recall the bygone feudal lifestyle of the French sugar barons. Nosy Be is also known as the "perfume island" since it is home to many fragrant plants. The hot and humid climate and the island's sheltered location offer the ideal growing conditions for vegetation. The overwhelming beauty of this paradise is best revealed on a hike - accompanied by your experts who will direct your gaze to its biodiversity. Marvel at giant trees up to 40 m (131 ft) tall, many different bird species and the way of life of the lemurs, which live in troops led by the oldest female.

In the blue ocean, the little island of Nosy Hara literally stands out with its high needles of rock known as Tsingys. Nature has been left to its own devices in this protected marine area. For generations, the island has been known by the local people as "fady", the Madagascan word for sacred or taboo. It is a real privilege for you to set foot on the uninhabited island with a small group of like-minded people. The island is home to countless endemic species, including the tiny leaf chameleon, which fits on top of a match. This biodiversity is also on show underwater.

Day 16 Relaxation at sea

Day 17 Madagascar's east coast

Madagascar's east coast (Nosy Boraha)

Your manoeuvrable expedition ship is perfect for discovering terra incognita in Madagascar. The spirit of adventure is in the air as your ship sails through the legendary waters. When you set foot on the island of Nosy Boraha, you will be entering the infamous pirate republic of Libertalia, said to have been founded in the 17th century. Legends like Olivier le Vasseur, Henry Every and William Kidd lived on the isolated island for a time, setting out from here on their privateering expeditions at sea. Today, the gravestones with skull symbols in the pirate cemetery on the former pirate island tell of times gone by. On a shore visit with your experts or on long walks along the coast, explore the unspoilt nature and small waterfalls of this island, which is largely untouched by tourism - an intense encounter with some of the last unspoilt landscapes on earth. Perhaps you will also find William Kidd's legendary pirate treasure, which is said to lie hidden here still.



Day 18 Relaxation at sea

Day 19 Port Louis/Mauritius

Port Louis/Mauritius, arrival 08.00 hrs

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: HANSEATIC INSPIRATION/SPIRIT/NATURE

YOUR SHIP:	**Hanseatic inspiration/spirit/nature**
VESSEL TYPE:	
LENGTH:	
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	

The HANSEATIC inspiration, spirit and nature are small, state-of-the-art expedition ships with a maximum of 230 guests, offers a perfect blend of adventure and comfort for explorers seeking to uncover the world's wonders. As an international vessel conducting cruises in both English and German, it brings over 30 years of expertise from a market leader in German-speaking countries to every journey. Each expedition is a masterpiece, passionately crafted to reveal far-flung worlds--be it icy realms, tropical paradises, wildlife havens, or cultural gems--making every voyage a unique discovery aboard this exceptional ship. Features of all cabins and suites An ocean view with even more: exclusively outside cabins and suites, almost all with balconies or French balconies Spaciously designed - enjoy a relaxing stay in rooms from 21 m²/226 ft² up to 71 m²/764 ft² in size Exceptionally equipped - for example, with binoculars, Nordic Walking poles, air conditioning, coffee machine and mini bar (free of charge) and 24-hour cabin service Separable beds Rain shower and heated wall in bathroom (e.g. for towels and wet parkas) Extensive infotainment with live broadcast and recordings of expert presentations, forwardview camera, navigation chart, films and much more Restaurants Aboard the HANSEATIC Inspiration and Spirit, a new kind of freedom blends adventure and pleasure with a culinary journey across three exceptional restaurants. The spacious HANSEATIC Restaurant offers flexible mealtimes and a free choice of seating, serving a daily-changing menu of global flavors inspired by local specialties, paired with fine wines and supported by attentive 24-hour cabin service. At the Lido Restaurant, guests can savor breakfast under the open sky or enjoy a perfectly grilled steak from the outdoor barbecue, complete with panoramic views and an open show kitchen. The specialty restaurant Nikkei fuses fine Japanese creations with modern Peruvian cuisine, delivering a unique dining experience that elevates exploration to new heights--all while bars in the Observation Lounge and HanseAtrium offer favorite drinks against stunning backdrops, from Nordic fjords to icy Antarctic vistas. Fitness and Wellness On the HANSEATIC inspiration, an extraordinary time out awaits after thrilling Zodiac rides, challenging hikes, or Arctic adventures. Unwind in the Ocean Spa, where a Finnish sauna with stunning ocean views, a gentle steam sauna, an ice fountain, and a relaxation room rejuvenate your senses, complemented by professional massages, cosmetic treatments, and eco-friendly products made from natural, vegan ingredients. Stay active in the 100 m² fitness room or separate course room--both with ocean vistas--guided by a fitness coach offering personalized advice and a variety of courses, either indoors or on deck. The pool area, with its flexible canopy, invites relaxation year-round, featuring water loungers, a whirlpool, and a bar, ensuring a perfect blend of



indulgence and revitalization against the backdrop of the open sea. Knowledge Shore excursions and Zodiac rides come alive with deeper context through fascinating presentations in the HanseAtrium, a high-tech lounge where experts share daily precaps and recaps, doubling as an atmospheric evening bar for films and discussions. The Ocean Academy enhances the journey with a Study Wall and interactive poster of scientific insights, microscopes for exploring hidden wonders alongside experts, and Study Seats--with swivel touchscreens--for personal dives into science. Supported by travel diaries and destination videos, this immersive experience broadens horizons with cutting-edge tools and



expertise.

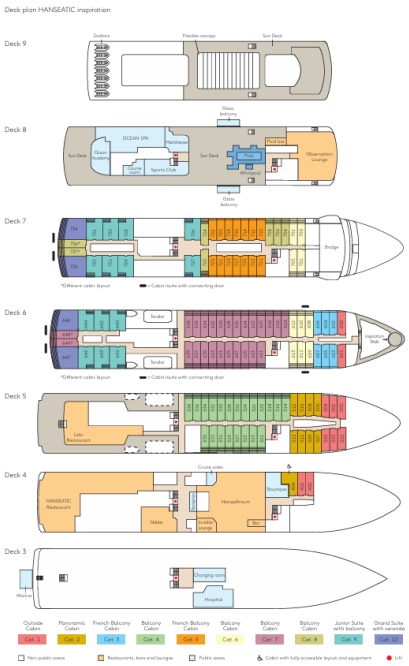
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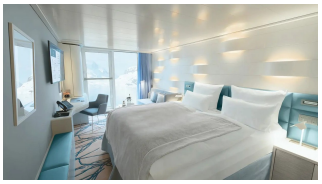
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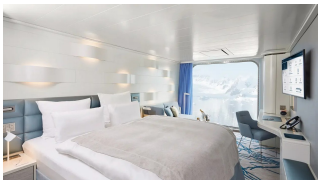
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Balcony Cabin. From	£12512 GBP pp
Junior Suite. From	£17374 GBP pp
Grand Suite. From	£23622 GBP pp

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