

Polar expeditions

Only the world’s most prestigious holiday agencies tackle the icy waters of the Arctic and the Antarctic, with adventurers and charter operators offering specialist explorer superyachts for extreme – and quite spectacular – expeditions into the wild

PELORUS X

If superfluous Norwegian fjords and the Lofoten Islands (summer expeditions) do not spike the adrenaline levels, Pelorus offers a trip to Svalbard; the isolated archipelago of frozen tundra, Northern Lights and midnight sun between March and October. Its imposing terrain, stark glaciers and incredible wildlife underpin a diverse and unparalleled yachting expedition. Thanks to world-leading experts, it is now possible to explore regions that, until recently, were considered wildly off limits. From an abandoned Russian

mining town to crossing vast open expanses by dog sled and snowmobile, kayaking among icebergs the size of houses; abseiling into deep crevasses; and barbecuing on the pack ice, this trip has it all.

Heading further north, ski touring and dry suit diving are also possible.

Alternatively, Patagonia and the Antarctic offer an equally memorable trip (December – February). Water is a huge part of Patagonia’s appeal, with rivers cascading down enormous mountains, vibrant turquoise

inland lakes and huge glaciers dominating the horizons.

The Patagonia trip starts at the Bernardo O’Higgins National Park, where kayaking, paddle boarding and hiking – and even a helicopter tour over the powerful glaciers – create a spectacular experience. Mother of God Island, ‘The Cave of the Whales’ (where many ancient whale skeletons have been discovered, including five blue whale skulls), is quite mesmerising.

Torres del Paine National Park, (the eighth wonder of the world) and the Perito Moreno Glacier (with ice axes and crampons) present

a melting pot of once-in-a-lifetime moments. There is even an opportunity to go in search of the elusive puma.

Trips start at around £28,000 (\$36,000) per person for Lofoten and £35,000 (\$45,000) per person for Svalbard, excluding the yacht charter and technical aspects. pelorusx.com

GALILEO G – BURGESS YACHTS

Brand new to charter, and only used by its first owner, this ice-class Vitruvius expedition yacht is a proven off the beaten track explorer with a 9,000 nm range, comprehensive diving set-up and large inventory of tenders, including a fully custom 9.5m Zodiac Hurricane expedition RIB.

Below: Find both wilderness and camaraderie on a chartered cruise to either end of the world with the stunning *Galileo G* – and lifetime memories to boot



Galileo G is instantly recognisable from her striking lines and dark blue hull, combined with fully functional ice classed capabilities. She features a traditional interior with a contemporary twist, mixing neutral tones and bursts of colour with accommodation for ten guests in five cabins, comprising one owner’s suite, two double suites and two twin suites.

With her first owner, *Galileo G* completed one full circumnavigation and a trip to New Zealand and back to Europe. The yacht reached New Zealand via the North West Passage (pictured left), Japan and South East Asia, and returned to Europe crossing the Pacific. The crossing from New Zealand to Panama took 28 days of non-stop navigation, which is testament to the yacht’s long-distance capability.

Galileo G is offered for charter and for sale (with EU VAT paid) for €28,500,000 (US\$20,169,450). burgessyachts.com

Top: Cookson guests ice climbing in Antarctica Above: *Hanse Explorer* is chartered by Plan South America Right: Submersives in Antarctica Far right: A lone crabeater seal seen on a Cookson Adventure





Above: *Galileo G* is regarded as one of the world's foremost explorer yachts **Below:** Two lone icebergs *Galileo G* encountered in the North West Passage

HANSE EXPLORER & PLAN SOUTH AMERICA

Hanse Explorer is one of few yachts in the world today that can be considered a true 'Expedition Yacht'. Purpose built in 2006 with German precision, her steel hull has the highest commercial Ice Class rating (Finnish Ice Class A1 / Germanischer Lloyd Ice Class E3) and her powerful engine allows her to break through dense sea ice with ease.

Expeditions in recent years have taken *Hanse Explorer* south of the Antarctic Circle, north of 82 degrees north latitude (the High Arctic) and to many other exotic destinations in between.

With state of the art navigation equipment, a 8,000nm cruising range, the capacity to produce

20 tons of fresh water onboard every day and an extraordinary level of seaworthiness, *Hanse Explorer* is entirely self sufficient for long range exploration.

Her professional crew and expert guides will take you to the most remote and exciting destinations on Earth – a journey of both substance and style. plansouthamerica.com

COOKSON ADVENTURES

From the Cook Islands, to Patagonia, to the remote white wilderness of Antarctica, Cookson Adventures' most recent expedition took in tribal dances, stunning scenery, incredible wildlife and scientific discovery across three continents. What kickstarted this adventure was the desire to explore the Antarctica Peninsula.

Cookson Adventures now tours the South Shetland Islands and cruises around the Antarctic Peninsula – an arc of stunning islands, mountains and glaciers which extend from the continent towards South America. Antarctica remains a haven of natural beauty, which few are afforded the privilege of visiting. cooksonadventures.com ■

