

FROM TOP New *Magellan Discoverer*; the ship's guests will get up close to the Antarctic ice



ON THE HORIZON

Construction has begun on a new vessel for Chilean-based expedition line Antarctica21. A sister ship to *Magellan Explorer*, new *Magellan Discoverer* will debut in the 2026-2027 season, reflecting increased demand for the company's fly-and-cruise expeditions, which avoid the long sea voyage to Antarctica.

Magellan Discoverer will share the yacht-like character of its sister ship but with enhanced features including larger guest cabins with private balconies, and there will be a wraparound deck offering 360° views of the polar landscape.

Like most expedition cruise ships, it is built to polar class six (PC6) specifications – the highest rating, PC1, is reserved for the toughest ice



conditions – and its green credentials include a heat-recovery system and compliance with the strict emission controls governing polar sailings.

As well as a dining area, bar and gift shop, the ship will have a fully equipped gym and a sauna with panoramic windows. Guests will also have the use of meeting rooms,

an observation lounge and a 'wet science' laboratory to support Antarctic research programmes.

Antarctica21's president, Jaime Vasquez, says, "This ship is born out of our unwavering commitment to meeting the rising expectations of our guests. Equipped with the latest technology, *Magellan Discoverer* supports our dedication to sustainability while offering seamless comfort for our travellers."

The ship will welcome up to 76 guests on each cruise and will offer seven categories of accommodation, including single cabins – most with private balconies – as well as more affordable porthole cabins.

There will also be triple suites with two bedrooms, reflecting the trend for multigenerational families cruising together, and grand suites aimed at luxury cruisers.

Ship - Antarctica21; iceberg - Stu Snow/Shutterstock