Kapitan Khlebnikov

A World Class Icebreaker Designed for Excellent Comfort

Passengers © Rosanne Pervello

Russian icebreakers are considered to be among the best and most powerful in the world – and the Kapitan Khlebnikov is an outstanding example. Built in 1981 and launched a year later by the world's leading builder of icebreakers - Wartsila Company of Finland – the Kapitan Khlebnikov was designed for challenging sea conditions in north Siberia.

Since its original refurbishment in 1992, it has been sailing with adventurous travelers to some of the most remote corners of the world. No other expedition vessel has navigated more polar waters and, in 1997, it became the first ship ever to circumnavigate Antarctica with passengers.

Quality accommodation

Refurbished to accommodate passengers in 54 first-class outside cabins and suites, the Kapitan Khlebnikov is extremely comfortable. All cabins feature private facilities, two lower berths (one fixed berth and one convertible sofa bed), a desk and large closets. Public areas include two dining rooms, a lounge and bar, well-equipped auditorium, indoor swimming pool, gym and sauna. Views are excellent from the Navigation Bridge. Our ship also has a library of polar books and videos, a shop, a passenger elevator and a small infirmary with a western doctor.

European catering staff and international cuisine

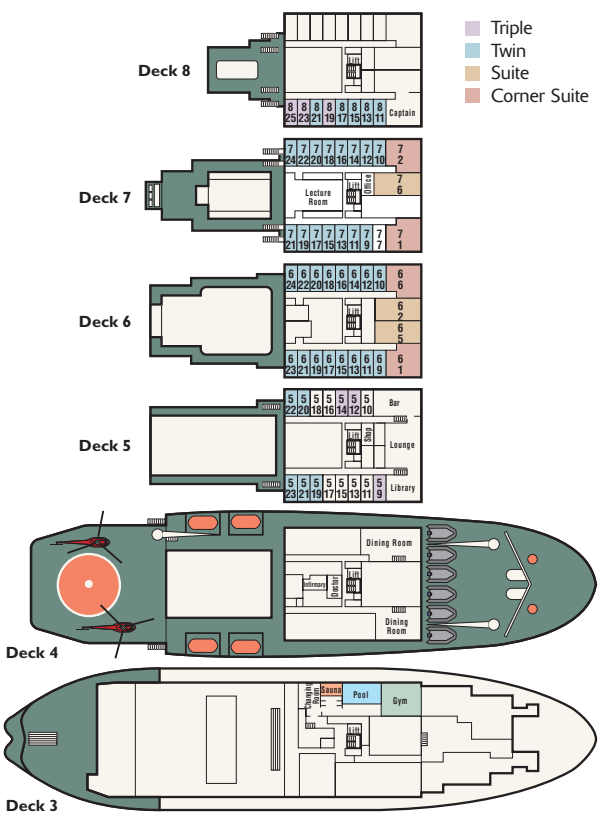
European chefs prepare excellent international cuisine using fine provisions from around the world. A European barman attends the popular forward lounge which features a well-stocked bar with a good selection of wines, champagne and spirits. The dining room is attended by a combination of Russian and western staff.

Sophisticated technical gear

With 24,000 horsepower and a massive icebreaker hull, we navigate high latitude waterways closed to conventional shipping safely and efficiently. The Kapitan Khlebnikov is also equipped with the latest satellite navigation and communications equipment, including convenient Inmarsat telephone, facsimile and e-mail.

Expert polar officers and crew

The Kapitan Khlebnikov is staffed by Russian officers and crew, all highly experienced in polar navigation. Russian captains are recognized the world over as experts in icebreaker operations.

Unique Zodiac and helicopter excursions

Zodiac landing craft take us to remote beaches, and enable us to cruise among floating ice or close to Arctic wildlife. We also carry helicopters for ice and wildlife reconnaissance. The aerial views of our ship breaking through thick ice in the otherworldly polar landscapes are unforgettable. (The Kapitan Khlebnikov may not carry helicopters onboard at all times and, in some cases, local helicopters may be used; the exact make and model of helicopters will be determined prior to the voyage; all helicopter flights are weather-dependent).