

Expedition South America including Panama Canal

Monumental Heritage of a Continent



From Valparaíso/ Chile to Colón/ Panama

14.03. - 01.04.2023

Written by Andreas M. Gross

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March 14 / Tuesday
Arrival in Santiago de Chile

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
33°02`S 071°37,6`W		1014	17	16	72	2
Sunrise: 07:48				Sunset: 20:06		

Arrival from different airports in Santiago de Chile.



The capital of Chile is dry, warm and sunny. In the late summer of the southern hemisphere, the ladies and gentlemen of Hapag Lloyd welcome us and after a short stay, we board the two buses with our Chilean guides to start at 11:00 from Santiago International Airport in the direction of Valparaiso.



On the 180 km route to the Pacific coast, we stop for lunch at a winery and get introduced to the local varieties of white and red. With a view of the extensive vineyards of the estate, we enjoy a typical Chilean lunch with grilled meat and chicken: Afterwards, tired from the long journey and elated by the local wines, we let the buses take us to the coast.



In the legendary port of Valparaíso, embarkation on the HANSEATIC inspiration takes place at 16:00.

The locals call Valparaíso "Valpo" for short. 130 years ago, the most modern and progressive city in Chile at that time offered many German and English companies the best conditions. Especially as long as the Panama Canal did not yet exist and the entire shipping traffic on the South and North American west coast coming from Cape Horn passed by here. Today still the second most important port of the country, Valparaíso has retained much of the charm of those boom decades and impresses the visitor with fantastic modern murals on its walls. A grandiose open-air gallery that has no equal in Latin America. How nice that some guests found time to capture a few of these charming city motifs.

Pandemic end? Not quite. So it is still mandatory at Hapag Lloyd: the COVID test for everyone. To be on the safe side, everything is done quickly and everyone has "passed".



After casting off from Valparaiso at 19:00, we experience a calm journey on the little-moved Pacific into the sunset, passing the seaside resort of Viña del Mar, parallel to the Chilean coast. Course north.

March 15 / Wednesday

At sea

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
29°16`S 071°41`W		1016	18	18	95	2
Sunrise: 07:48				Sunset: 20:05		

The day is sunny, with some coastal fog. The calm ocean behaves like its name and gives the HANSESATIC inspiration a quiet trip. You live on the beautiful ship, explore facilities and lounges, exercise with fitness coach Markus or just relax on the sun deck.

General Expedition Manager Anke Ulisch introduces the expedition team, the expert and the experts at 11:00. In addition, there is still information and tips on life on board - you feel fit and perfectly introduced to everything that awaits us.

There's also something to discover on deck 8: the experts are happy to give guests aft an introduction to the Ocean Academy's knowledge center.



16:30 In the afternoon, an upbeat introduction to the region of the trip with expert Andreas Gross. His multimedia lecture is called "South America! Countries, Cultures and History".

At 18:30, Captain Peter Rösler invites the guests to a welcome cocktail on the sun-drenched pool deck and takes this opportunity to introduce the senior officers. The captain proudly reveals the number of people on board his ship: 168 guests / 167 crew members - a sensational 1:1 ratio; delighted reaction on the pool deck.

Then there is a lively welcome by local marine mammals: in the evening light a large school of dolphins accompanies us to starboard.

The enjoyment of dinner is combined with a pleasant settling in for everyone: Finally (back) on board! For some of the arrivals, this is the first time they get to know each other and enjoy themselves. For many guests, however, it is also a kind of "coming home": familiar faces

among the crew and fellow passengers, a familiar atmosphere. Welcome to the HANSEATIC inspiration. Now it's time to relax after the long journey. Lucky those who have been on board for a while and are allowed to continue the route with the new arrivals.

March 16 / Thursday
Isla Pan de Azúcar / Chile

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
26°08`S	070°41W	1016	16	17	95	2
Sunrise: 07:44				Sunset: 19:57		

Little wind, very sunny. Calm sea. A wonderful morning in the middle of Chile's Pan de Azúcar National Park. Where the Atacama Desert meets the sea, the small "Sugarloaf Island" lies just offshore of the vast protected area named after it. The region is a unique ecosystem where flora and fauna benefit from the Camanchaca fog that often hangs over the coast and islands here. One of the protected islands is the uninhabited Isla Pan de Azúcar, in whose immediate vicinity we anchor around 08:00. There is a lot to observe, because here the abundance of fish in the Chilean Pacific attracts many seabirds and marine mammals.



From 09:00 the departures of the individual Zodiacs take place half around the island of Pan de Azúcar.

How to see pelicans, boobies, cormorants, the occasional turkey vulture, a few Humboldt penguins and of course sea lions. Expert Nadine and some expert answer many questions about the local wildlife and help to distinguish the different birds.



On the second trip, a fascinating schooling fish can be observed! Thousands of Guanay Cormorants (white breast) swirl with their wings the water surface above a huge school of Anchovetta-like fish, called Machúmen here. The Pacific Ocean seemed to be boiling at this point, and the rush of nimble wings in the water sounded like a mighty river. The cormorants splashed and splashed as they snapped their beaks at the startled machúmen.



A seething chaos. Triggered by a school of fish that sent the hungry birds into a kind of collective hunting and feeding frenzy.

The Zodiacs lay quietly on all sides of this natural spectacle. Silently the swell of the Pacific Ocean rose and fell. Fascinated, the guests observed and photographed the overwhelming scenery and listened to the noise of the fishing birds!

Around 12:30 we leave Isla Pan de Azúcar and head north to the ochre coastal mountains of the Atacama Desert, one of the driest regions in the world.

A well-filled afternoon on board with kitchen, cooks, delicacies, deck chairs in the fresh and warm air as well as among other things plankton microscopy with depth in the Ocean Academy under the expert guidance of biology expert Nadine.



March 17 / Friday

At sea direction Perú

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
23°12`S	070°54W	1014	19	18	95	3
Sunrise: 07:44				Sunset: 19:55		

In the morning, the HANSEATIC inspiration is anchored off Antofagasta from 08:00 to 09:30. The tradition-rich port, whose largest operation pulsed at the time of the saltpetre boom at the end of the 19th century, today profits from the lively business life on the Panamericana road in northern Chile and the mining industry in the interior. Added to this is the shipping of copper. The "red gold" comes by rail from Chuquicamata near Calama. The largest open copper mine in the world is located high in the Andes and is one of Chile's most important foreign exchange earners.



No one goes ashore in Antofagasta, because only the officials of the border authority appear here to see ship and people off from Chile according to regulations. Everything is ready for the entry into Peru the day after tomorrow. Before 10:00 o'clock the HANSEATIC inspiration sets sail again to cross the Tropic of Capricorn shortly thereafter. With this we have officially reached the tropics.

Another sunny sea day on Chile's cool Humboldt Current full of program and activities. Whether fitness, walk or lounge chair, reading, bingo, dolphin sighting or chatting at the bar boredom does not arise. Today, nature expert Nadine and her three expert colleagues have a lot to tell. Dietmar's lecture in the Hanseatrium is about the complex basics of the highly developed Andean civilizations and Nadine presents "Cougar & Co" to the English-speaking guests in the Ocean Academy. There had previously

Andreas already tried to trace the riddles of the Nazca lines in an English lecture and expert Volkmar, "our man for quakes, plates and volcanoes", presented two fascinating lectures on geology topics of all kinds at the Hanseatrium during the day.

How nice to end the day to the sounds of Stefan Flügel after all that exciting content, while enjoying dinner options at three different restaurants.



Still in Chilean waters.



The HANSEATIC inspiration gently passes islands and mountains on the coast of the Atacama. The Pacific Ocean has more than earned its nickname "Silent Ocean"; only a gentle swell cradles our ship. Occasionally distant fog banks remind us of the enormous temperature differences between the cool sea and the hot Atacama. One is glad that the dense haze that envelops the local coastal region for days or even weeks in July or August spares us.

Before dinner, a social surprise: "All guests to the doors of their cabins!" sounds over the loudspeakers - "Gang party - meet your neighbors and our "good spirits" will serve champagne." Great atmosphere - people are literally getting into the swing of things, lively exchanges about what they've already experienced, and enjoying the impromptu socializing with a well-filled glass in hand. Our guests kindly gave their consent to the publication of this photo. Thank you very much.



March 18 / Saturday At sea direction Perú

Midday position		Air pressure	Temperature (°C)		Humidity	Wind
Wide	Length	hPa	Air	Water	%	Beaufort
17°51S	074°22W	1012	25	26	81	3
Sunrise: 06:59				Sunset: 19:08		



Sea day and one hour gained! We have set the clock back during the night and are now five hours behind Central European Time. Today we cross the Tropic of Capricorn - and have reached the tropics.

Deck Log Book of <i>Albatross</i>														
Time	Barometric	Temperature	Relative	Wind	Sea	Wind	Wave	Current	Compass	True	Speed	Distance	Log	Distance
	mb	°C	%	Dir	Force	Dir	Height	Drift	Error	Force	Force	Run	Time	made good
0800	1012	23	76	bc	S	SE	4		329	TM	330			
0900	1012	23	76	bc	S	SE	3		329	TM	333			
1000	1011	23	76	bc	S	SE	3		329	TM	333			
1100	1012	24	76	bc	S	SE	3		329	TM	334			
1200	1012	24	76	bc	S	SE	3		329	TM	333			
1300	1012	25	76	bc	S	SE	3		329	TM	334			

longitude $\lambda = 074^{\circ}22.3$ W
 latitude $\phi = 17^{\circ}51.4$ S
 Day's average speed 15.5 kn
 Total time difference -4:00 min
 Time of day 3 = 7:00 h 30 min = time river / port passage
 Total distance 998 NM = distance river to berth
 Distance left NM
 Current: set and drift - NM



The weather could not be sunnier! You relax on deck, who looks a little over the railing, sees among others large schools of dolphins, flying fish and sea lions - the Humboldt Current shows its best side, while we slowly approach Peru.

The Sports Club gets fit already at 08:00 under the guidance of Markus at the railing and Nadine opens today's "colorful round of expert lectures" with "Tropical Coastal Worlds". Volkmar lectures in the Ocean Academy in English about the geology of South America and Dietmar about the ecological diversity of the Andean region.



For the shuffle board it attracts a few sporty enthusiasts in the midday tropical sun on the upper deck. In the afternoon "the volcanoes" are bubbling with Volkmar again, while

Andreas in the Hanseatrium first told about the Nazca lines and Nadine then took us all into the realm of birds.



In the afternoon, yoga enthusiasts also get in tune with their body, mind and soul, and a little later General Expedition Manager Anke Ulich invites you to a daily "run in the fresh air" - the target is two kilometers in 15 laps. Anke is not alone in her "walk the cruise," of course.



Dietmar prepares us for Peru with a broad overview, Ramona introduces us to tomorrow's program in the HanseAtrium before dinner, and Nadine takes another look for us at the enchanted world of Chile's Pan de Azúcar National Park.



March 19 / Sunday
Paracas / Perú

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
13°48'S 076°17'W		1012	26	20	88	3
Sunrise: 06:08				Sunset: 18:16		



Paracas Peninsula - our jetty, nature and millenary culture

The flight route from Pisco to Nazca

In Paracas, the HANSEATIC inspiration is moored at the edge of the large bay. into the fertile oasis de 18 km away, the Nasca fliers take off from Pisco airport for a scenic flight over the mysterious lines of the Nasca pampas, 150 km to the southwest.



The spider. Amid seemingly wild lines and geometric shapes, it is perfectly spotted from the plane.

No extraterrestrial ever arrived here. Today, research knows: These were sacrificial sites, ritual sites, lines for great processions - the perfect scenario for exclusive dialogue with the spiritual forces of a long-submerged world. Performed by praying people on earth - projected to stars, sun, moon and gods. For fertility and survival.

In addition to the Nazca flight, our guests also experience other exciting excursions. A trip to the Guano Islands "Islas Ballestas" allows not only the sighting of the sea lion colonies there, but also the encounter with a species-rich bird life. Especially the Humboldt Penguins delight the observers in the boats.



The "candlestick", a shard from ancient times? There is no consensus yet, but the mysterious drawing in the desert inspires all visitors.



The Ballestas Islands, with sea lions, Inca terns and Humboldt penguins, among others.

Another excursion takes the guests interested in wine to the fertile oasis of the city of Ica. In a winery they will learn everything about the local products and familiarize themselves with them in a tasting.



Peru's national drink: The Pisco Sour. The basis is the approx. 40 percent distillate from grapes, the Pisco.

PISCO SOUR

peruanische Version

360 ml PISCO

180 ml Limettensaft

3 Stk. Eiweiß

120 ml Zuckersirup

3 Stk. Eiweiß

1 Spritzer

Amargo / Angostura

SCHRITT 1 Limette in zwei Hälften teilen und den Saft auspressen. 30 ml Limettensaft entspricht in etwa dem Saft einer Limette.

SCHRITT 2 Den Pisco (peruanischer Traubenbrand, am besten „Quebranto“), Limettensaft, Zuckersirup und das Eiweiß in einen Cocktailshaker geben.

SCHRITT 3 Eine Handvoll Eiswürfel dazugeben, und den Inhalt kräftig mind. 30 Sekunden lang schütteln.

SCHRITT 4 Den Inhalt in ein Cocktailglas abseihen (alternativ auch gerne z.B. ein Weißweinglas nehmen).

SCHRITT 5 Ein paar Spritzer des Cocktail Bitters auf den Eischäum geben, um dem Pisco Sour eine würzige Dimension zu verleihen.

The recipe for Peruvian Pisco Sour

March 20 / Monday
Callao - Lima, Peru

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
12°03'S 077°08'W		1013	28	19,5	78	calm
Sunrise: 06:12'S 077°08'W				Sunset: 18:19		



We dock early in the morning in Callao, which is strictly closed off to the outside world. The lively and very colorful Callao is an independent city and the port of Lima.

Lima, the capital of Peru, was founded by the Spanish in 1535 on Epiphany Day and is therefore also called the "City of Kings". A bis takes us to visit its old town, protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here once resided the viceroys of Spain for almost 300 years an empire that stretched from Venezuela to Patagonia. We stroll a bit through the old center and visit, among other things, the spectacular cathedral at the Plaza de Armas; here lie the mortal remains of the conquistador and city founder Francisco Pizarro The baroque monastery of Santo Domingo conveys all the baroque splendor of the powerful order.



Lima's historic old town

The Larco Herrera Museum with its famous pre-Columbian ceramics and gold artifacts is also on the program. Here, the day trippers will then also have a typical lunch in the museum garden.



Those interested in archaeology will visit the temple ruins of Huaca Huallamarca and Huaca Mateo, located in the middle of Lima. The impressive temples and pyramids date from different centuries of Peruvian history and contrast strongly with the modern cityscape surrounding them.

By speedboat, some guests will go out to the Palomino Islands, which is populated by seabirds and seals. During the whole trip we are accompanied by guano pelicans, Peruvian boobies, gulls and Inca terns. After exploring several islands, we finally find the much anticipated Humboldt Penguins posing in smaller groups right on the coastal rocks. After a cruise around the largest of the Palomino Islands, which is besieged by a large sea lion colony, we get the chance to swim with these maned seals there.

And those who wanted to experience the Peruvian Caballos de Paso, the tölt horses, went on a trip to a hacienda near the suburb of Pachacamac on the edge of the desert.



Caballos de Paso, magical horses, proudly cultivated culture of horsemanship with a long tradition and the many faces of Lima.

March 21 / Tuesday

Isla Grupo de Huaura / Isla Huampanu / Peru

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
11°18'S 077°43'W		1011	23	23	84	3
Sunrise: 06:14				Sunset: 18:20		



AQUINOCTIES! Today day and night are of equal length on our globe and we reach the Guano group of islands "Islas Grupo de Huaura" off the coast of Peru. We are not allowed to enter them, but we can get closer with our Zodiacs. We head for the "Isla Huampanu" in calm seas after dropping anchor in the archipelago around 08:00 and the first group took a seat in our maneuverable rubber boats.

We head for "Isla Huampanu" in calm seas after dropping anchor in the archipelago around 08:00 and the first group took their seats in our maneuverable rubber boats.

Peruvian boobies, Guaney cormorants, pelicans, Inca terns, gulls, various other bird species and many sea lions cavort on, in front of, on and above the vegetation-free rocky island. Many guests are especially happy about the sighting of small groups of the cute Humboldt Penguins, which stay close to the waterline.



The pungent smell of the precious bird droppings, guano, and the "well-digested legacies" of the howling sea lions waft around the island - even from an olefactory point of view, nature is not always a pleasure, but all the more impressive for it.

Expert Nadine never tires of explaining why here of all places, in the cold Humboldt Current, so many nutrients make marine life so plump and lush: From microorganisms to krill, a delicious biomass is wafting in the Pacific here, supporting fish of all

Formats feed. Especially the extensive anchovetta shoals here ensure that larger fish, but also seabirds and marine mammals find so much food.

No wonder that so many of all these animals can be observed and the nitrogen-rich droppings of the birds continue to accumulate on the rocky islands in the rainless region.

In sunny weather, the HANSEATIC inspiration continues its course north on a calm and unusually warm Humboldt Current from 12:00.

In his fascinating lecture "Mummies, Gold and Temple Pyramids: Peru before the Incas," expert Dietmar Neitzke takes us on a journey into the multifaceted world of pre-Columbian cultures at the Hanseatrium, which boasts a series of highly specialized cultures long before the Incas. For her part, expert Nadine rolls up "The history of everything" for the English-speaking guests in an exciting lecture at the Ocean Academy.

In the evening, expert Dietmar introduces us to the use and history of guano. The precious fertilizer developed an enormous economic meaning for Peru since the 19. Jahrhundert; also today still, and/or again, one mines it in far careful and modest form. In the meantime, however, guano plays only for the domestic agriculture a certain meaning.



21:30 Pool Deck, on deck 8 in tropical temperatures: Cheers! The officers mix cool drinks! In addition, Stefan Flügel puts on the right rhythms.

Cheers!

March 22 / Wednesday

Islas Guañape / Peru

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
08°24'S	079°03'W	1011	26	24	81	3
Sunrise: 06:19				Sunset: 18:25		

In the morning, we see the desert coast of Peru far to starboard through the early haze. Occasionally, we recognize river oases breaking through the dry and almost rain-free scenario of the landscape. In them, nature flaunts unbridled lushness. Today, the cultivation of sugar cane, asparagus and cotton dominates the fertile areas. But thousands of years ago, the early Peruvians used these oases for their agriculture. They harvested beans, corn, squash, sweet cucumbers or other crops, built the first large settlements and constructed mud-brick pyramids with other ceremonial buildings to worship the gods. The rivers from the Andes also guaranteed a permanent, secure water supply at that time - the best conditions for the emergence of early advanced civilizations.

All guests enjoy the morning warmth in calm seas; however, the sun only slowly fights its way through the pale layers of high fog in the course of the morning while the first group of Zodiacs departs from the HANSEATIC inspiration around 09:00.



We are in a national park. Again we are greeted by the usual wildlife on and around Guano Island. We get close to them, this time also seeing various turkey vultures and a larger group of penguins. Not too far away on the much larger main island the stone huts and scaffolds can be seen. The guano miners have built them there and still use them occasionally, when they win the "white gold" popular as "super fertilizer" in hard work there.



The Zodiacs have just successfully circumnavigated the small, but lively island, when - as if out of nowhere - a gray, fully manned Peruvian coast guard boat appears. Promptly comes shortly thereafter the command from the bridge of the HANSEATIC inspiration to all Zodiac captains: "Immediately back to the ship!" Escorted by the coast guard, they all hurry back to the "mother ship". That's it, that's it, that's it. Something must have happened!

So it is: Back on board we learn that after the recent change of government the rules for visiting ships have been tightened so drastically by the Peruvian authorities without prior notice that a meaningful approach for nature observation is no longer possible. Cancellation of the action - and even more serious: Also the island tomorrow is no longer visitable for us under these circumstances. The guests regret this, but have understanding. Once again it becomes clear that South America is full of surprises.

Now it's a matter of improvising. Captain Rösler, the expedition team and the experts confer on the bridge all afternoon. E-mails, phone calls and radio messages go back and forth. They negotiate, organize and invent alternatives. At 6:30 p.m., guests, captain, expedition team and experts gather in the Hanseatrium for an unscheduled presentation of the modified program: It's on to Ecuador, we will arrive a day early in Ecuador's Puerto Bolívar, run our program there as scheduled and from there continue to Manta a port city further north. There we use the day thus gained for newly arranged excursions and now fly the guests from Manta to Quito and back, who originally wanted to visit Ecuador's capital from Puerto Bolívar. It is agreed: in every respect a gain; for it one renounces gladly that further Guano island "Isla Lobos de Tierra", which stood actually still in Perú on the program. The change of the program promises much more variety and we are looking forward to further, unexpected impressions in Ecuador.

March 23 / Thursday
At sea direction Puerto Bolívar / Ecuador

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
04°29'S	081°32'W	1011	27	26	89	3
Sunrise: 06:26				Sunset: 18:32		

Sea day

On today's sea day we leave the Humboldt Current and Peruvian waters to reach the territory of Ecuador. The Pacific has now become much warmer with 26 ° C, heavy, tropical humid heat surrounds us - but captain and crew surprise us with a fantastic cooling: Anchor is dropped, the platform is extended aft and from 14:00 to 16:00 the water rats among us are allowed from there under the watchful eyes of Anke and the whole team into the water. Bathing in the Pacific Ocean, which is a good 1,600 meters deep here! A real highlight.



Swimming in the Pacific Ocean, which is a good 1,600 meters deep here! A real highlight.

During the course of the sea day, Andreas will be talking about the Native Americans: "Indians - they were the first." From Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, there are many facts, questions and topics for discussion.



Whether it's a sling or a knot, with Cadet Alexander we'll learn on deck 8 how a real sailor or a good sailor handles ropes, ropes and the right turn to tie or splice knots.

Expert in geophysics and also otherwise everything "earthly" Volkmar reports exciting ain his lecture "Manganese nodules on the seabed" and what economic opportunities open up with the mining of this geological treasure.

After an entertaining bingo, at 18:30 we looked back a bit on what we had already experienced and got a picture of tomorrow's program with a precap. This held a surprise for all: Due to the outbreak of bird flu on the next planned island, the captain and expedition team decided to bring the arrival in Puerto Bolívar / Ecuador forward by one day and to head for the interesting port of Mata instead of Bird Island the following day. Again, a program gain that the guests are pleased to note.

March 24 / Friday
Puerto Bolívar / Ecuador

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
03°15'S 080°00'W		1012	30	27	95	3
Sunrise: 06:28				Sunset: 18:33		





The morning greets us rainy and warm in Puerto Bolívar. Mangroves, brackish water and wetlands characterize the picture at the mouth of the Guayas River, where Ecuador's second largest port is located. In the port, which is strictly sealed off from the outside world, a classic banana steamer lies on the other side of our pier, busily loaded with the yellow fruit. It is the trump card in this area and Ecuador rightly boasts of being the largest banana exporter in the world.



The heavy rain of the last few days has flooded the already wet landscape and even the local airports to such an extent that air and land traffic is noticeably disrupted, and some of our guides have not even made it this far. Nevertheless, some excursions succeed thanks to great flexibility of guests and guides. One gets to know a banana plantation, gets acquainted with tropical fruit and uses the free time for a stroll in the quite original Puerto Bolívar. Especially

the many painted walls of the small town and an exotic fish market with stunning offers and friendly people offer much to report.



Great bananas on the sustainable plantation and "happy" tropical fruit on aj ecological farm.



Some stroll in extreme humid heat into the town, where especially the fish market inspires. Police astonished / worried. All good, no harm done.



One of the many murals in Puerto Bolívar, here directly at the fish market. In the town itself there are further worthwhile motifs of an "urban gallery"



On board, there is now an interim status for "Walk the cruise": 1037.36 km have already been covered. Every step counts in this sporting challenge, which Anke Ulich has accompanied since the start in Valparaíso and takes on daily with the guests. Regardless of whether you sweat your kilometers on deck, ashore or on the treadmill in the fitness area - everyone is asked to enter the distances they have run on a list. What is the goal of the physical pursuit? One tries to collectively run the kilometers that the ship covers on this journey. One is curious to see if this will be accomplished by the end of the voyage in Colon.

March 25 / Saturday
Manta / Ecuador

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
00°55'S 080°43'W		1011	30	28	76	2
Sunrise: 06:23				Sunset: 18:28		

In the early morning we reach the port town of Manta, instead of heading for the originally targeted and then "forbidden island of bird flu".



Manta and Montecristi - stronghold of tuna fishing and magic of Panama Hat



Tuna and dorade - the gold of the local sea.



On the beach of Manta: shipbuilding like in Magellan's time

All the rearrangements were a downright titanic task for everyone involved with the HANSEATIC inspiration and Captain Rösler. The effort was worth it: Whether it was the city's bathing beaches, the traditional small shipyards on the coast, the lively fish market or the archaeological museum - every program point was a worthwhile unique and the excursions provided an excellent overview of the city and its surroundings.



Local Indian lords of ceramics in the museum and the native guardian of ancient treasures. Continuity in appearance over 2000 years.

Those interested in the fine Panama hats from Montecristi were well served by the trip to the town of the same name. Here, the noble headgear is virtually woven by hand from the fiber of the toquilla palm. No wonder that four-digit dollar amounts are paid for particularly noble models. And why Panamá? Quite simply, although the hats have always been produced in Montecristi, their worldwide distribution has been through the Panama hub. That's how the name stuck.



Quito's main square with government palace and guards

Meanwhile, other guests flew to the capital of Ecuador - Quito. Situated at a cool 2,800 meters above sea level, this "colonial architectural jewel" offers a great picture of traditional Andean life with bustling activity, magnificent buildings and an excellent museum.



San Francisco - the magnificently decorated Franciscan church of the capital city



Treasures of the Museum in Quito: Pre-Columbian art and jubilant Colonial Baroque



The old town from the hill: The colonial heart of Quito

March 26 / Sunday
Isla de La Plata / Ecuador

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
01°15'S	081°02'W	1010	29	28	85	calm
Sunrise: 06:26				Sunset: 18:32		



Isla de la Plata, Ecuador



The boats of the national park are ready to start and the official representative of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment gives the "ok" to sail to the island.



Frigate birds, green sea turtles, blue-footed boobies and a school of "Nemo" fish greet us.

Machalilla National Park with its Isla de la Plata, or "Silver Island" is a jewel of nature observation. Also called "Little Galapagos", this rich ecological tropical island offers encounters with blue-footed boobies and many other birds. The goal of the national park is to preserve the remains of the unique coastal forest. At the same time, the marine areas in the national park are protected with their bird colonies and fishing grounds. In addition, Machalilla National Park is an important pre-Columbian site, mainly for ceramics.

We are allowed to land and the boats of the national park bring the hiking guests to the island. Despite a heavy tropical shower and a lot of mud on the way, the excursion was worth it and everyone brings unforgettable impressions of this natural paradise back on board with them around 13:00.

Around 14:00 we weigh anchor and set course north. In the afternoon, expert Dietmar tells us in the HanseAtrium fascinating facts about the Inca and their empire, which after a short and steep rise in the 15th century was abruptly brought down by the Spanish conquista. Geo-expert Volkmar, on the other hand, reports in English at the Ocean Academy about the turbulent and rich mining industry in the Andes. Here, raw materials were and are stored, which continue to be of utmost importance for the world economy....

March 27 / Monday
At sea direction Bahia Solano / Colombia

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
03°09'N 078°08'W		1011	29	28	82	4
Sunrise: 06:14				Sunset: 18:22		

Sea day - and last night we crossed the equator at 19:32!



Line zero, last night on the smartphone and on the well-attended bridge.



Neptune's wet troop

Therefore, Neptune and his entourage come on board at noon with a loud roar. After short speeches and great expressions of respect from our captain, the God of the Seas gives his blessing to our onward journey to the northern hemisphere. Accompanied by refreshing drinks, rollmops and the finest Spanish Iberico ham, everyone on deck 8 happily celebrates the maritime event.



Harro's transformation into the god of the seas and suitable delights for crossing the equator



Part of everyday maritime life on board: training on the bridge



Evening sundown for Ramona from the HanseAtrium. Before that around noon on deck 8 cool drinks at the Equator baptism.

March 28 / Tuesday
Bahia Solano, Colombia

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
06°43'N	077°02'W	1010	30	29	79	3/4
Sunrise: 06:14				Sunset: 18:22		



Bahia Solano in the province of Chocó on the west coast of Colombia.



Best preserved tropical rainforest - one of the excursion destinations



Welcome to the school! Here they have prepared for our visit for a long time and welcome the guests of the HANSEATIC inspiration in English.



Two out of 830 - that's how many children the local village school has. In Colombia, public education is free, meals included.

The more than 3,000 inhabitants, Afro-Colombians, a few whites and Embera Indians, live from fishing and some agriculture. The village remains isolated from the rest of mainland Colombia and is only accessible by boat or plane. A tour of the peaceful village led by local guides provides our excursion groups with a varied overview and offers wonderful motifs of an all-around friendly ambience with friendly locals.



Everyday life in the small town of Mutis at the end of Solano Bay: "Settling things" in front of the store on the main street (left). To the right, Embera Indians from the surrounding area in anticipation of "things". Zero stress; wonderfully contagious.



Exotic palm fruit at the vegetable stand: The "Chontaduro". Not for raw food lovers. They are enjoyed here cooked as a salty vegetable or as a sweet dessert.

The tour ends for everyone at the main square close to the beach: local groups and groups from further away perform their traditional dances in period costumes.



They came from far away: Afro-Colombian youths inspire us with their dances.



Strong women at the dance event: Monica Sánchez, the first female port chief of the Colombian Navy. Interested spectators on red wall - two Embera Indian women with offspring.

March 29 / Tuesday
Expedition Day Colombia

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
06°16'N	077°27'W	1010	33	29	82	calm
Sunrise: 06:09				Sunset: 18:18		



Surprise! Since the Gulf of Utría is not to be approached because of a closure, the crew of the HANSEATIC inspiration gives us today a suitable and short-term alternative: Tropical rainforest with hiking! As a supplement with kayak, paddleboard and swimming the beach Huina at the edge of the bay of Solano.

March 30 / Thursday

Golfo de San Miguel, Panama / to the Emberá

Midday position		Air pressure	Temperature (°C)		Humidity	Wind
Wide	Length	hPa	Air	Water	%	Beaufort
08°07'N 078°23'		1010	35	26	73	4
Sunrise: 06:12				Sunset: 18:23		



The Darién of Panama - still a remote "land of adventure."



We have reached Panama's easternmost province: the so-called Darién. We start early with the local speedboats across the Gulf of San Miguel and reach the village of the Emberá Indians via jungle rivers.

We are greeted by traditionally dressed representatives of the tribe in a friendly manner and with music. After a hike through the primary forest we reach the small settlement, which is not connected with any road to the outside. Accordingly, there are neither cars nor motorcycles here.

We attend musical performances and dance shows, examine handicrafts and gladly buy some of the excellently made baskets.



Greeting at the river.



In the Emberá village "La Chunga": handicrafts of high quality.



"Chiefs" among themselves.



Sunset on the Pacific Ocean to the soulful sounds of our ocean pianist Davide Lorenzato.

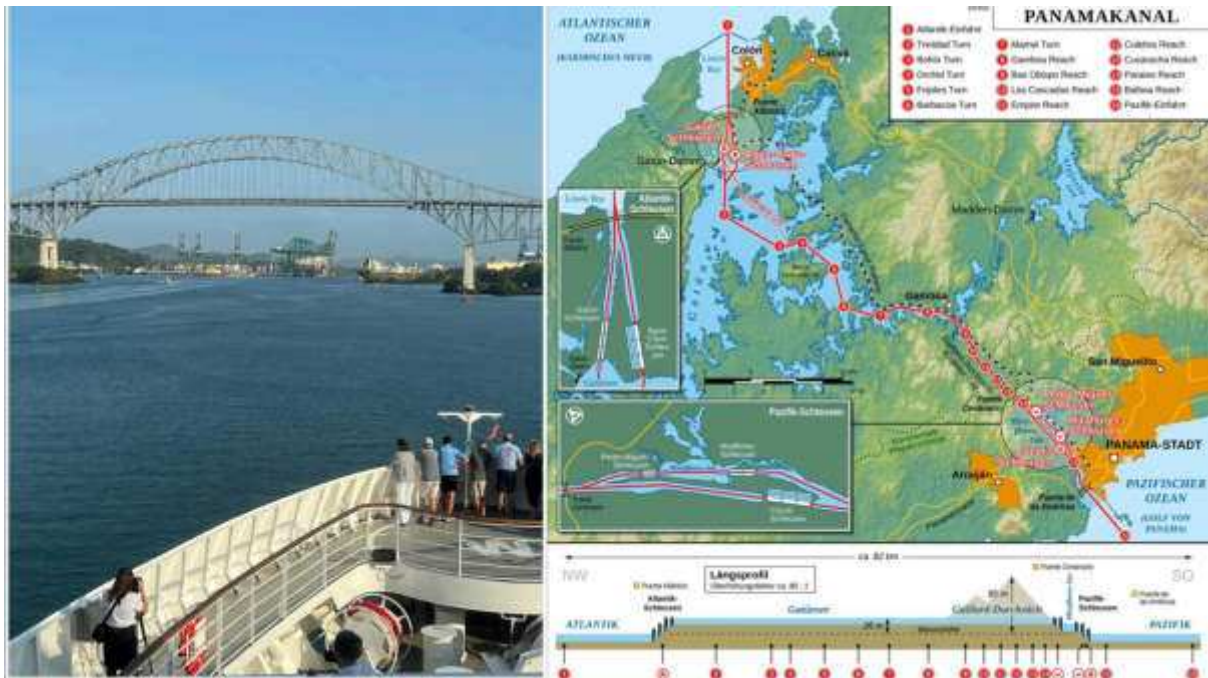


Farewell cocktail in the HanseAtrium: Warm words from Captain Peter Rösler and thanks to all guests.

March 31 / Friday Panama Canal Transit

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
09°06'N 079°42'W			30	28	89	3
Sunrise: 06:17				Sunset: 18:30		

Crossing under the Bridge of the Americas in the morning and entering the Miraflores Locks around 08:00 am.



Map of the Canal with the new Locks for the much larger post-panamax-ship.



Entering Miraflores Locks



Französischer Kanal

Wyse / Lesseps

1881 – 1889

22.000 Tote

800.000 Investoren

287 Mio. US\$ Verlust

Welt-Finanzcrash

Lange Prozesse

The „French Disaster“ in numbers.



The Chagres River in the upper hills of Panama. It delivers the waters to the artificial Gatun Lake 26 meters above sea level. The chart below shows the locks lift the ships up on both sides of the canal in order to let them sail a good part of the 82 km stretch on the Gatun Lake.

US Kanal 1904-1915
 US Präsident Theodore Roosevelt
 US Präsident Woodrow Wilson

5.600 Tote

36 Mio m3 Erdbewegung

Kosten ca. 500 Mio U\$ = ca. 14 Mrd. 2023

US-statistics and the two presidents linked directly to the Panama Canal

PASSAGE-KOSTEN

Length of vessel	Toll
Up to 15.240 meters (50 ft)	US\$800
From 15.240 to 24.384 meters (50 to 80 ft)	US\$1,300
From 24.384 to 30.480 meters (80 to 100 ft)	US\$2,000
More than 30.480 meters (100 ft)	US\$3,200
INTRA MARITIME CLUSTER – Local Tourism More than 24.384 meters (80 ft)	US\$2,000 plus \$72/TEU

In 1928, American travel writer Richard Halliburton paid 36 cents to swim through the Panama Canal.

For container ships, the toll is assessed on the ship's capacity expressed in twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), one TEU being the size of a standard intermodal shipping container.

The highest toll ever paid for passing through the Panama Canal is US\$ 226,194.25, by the cruise ship Coral Princess on 25 September 2003.

Without fees, no channel passage. Today, this costs the HANSEATIC inspiration about 100 thousand US dollars.

In 1999, the U.S. had to return the canal zone to the state of Panama, which subsequently built new lock chambers so that larger ships, the so-called Neo-Panamax class, can now pass through it.

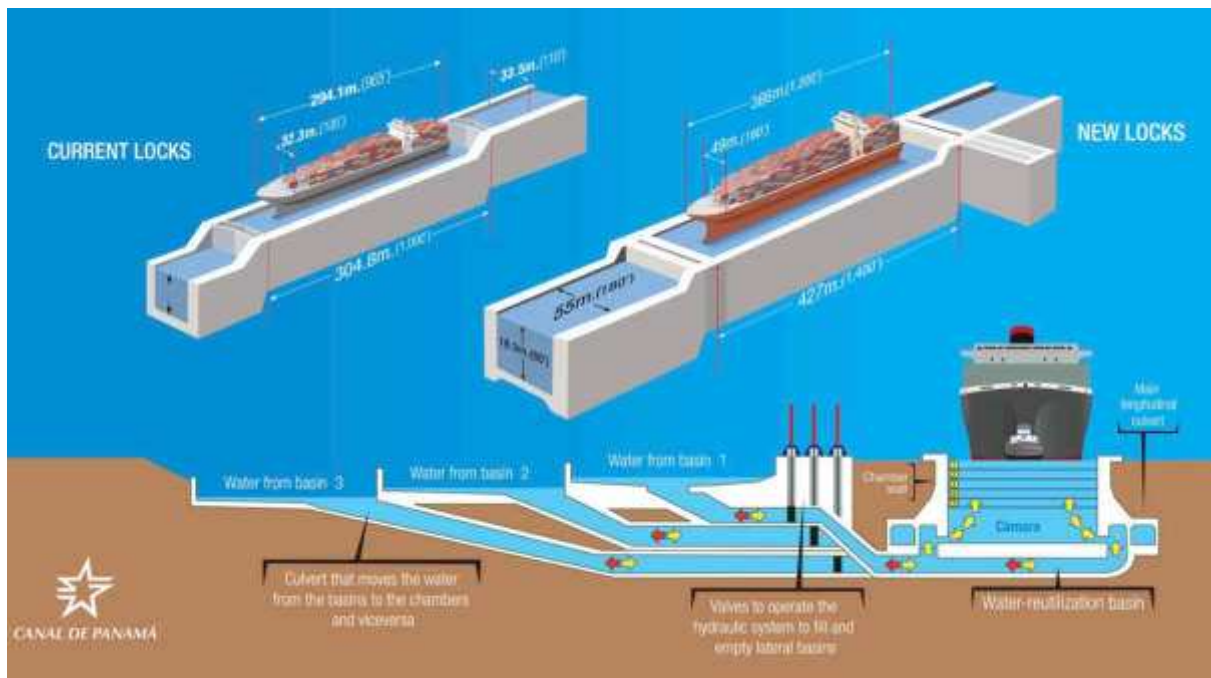
It also starts right at the beginning of the day: already at dawn the convoy is usually formed in which we cross the channel. Thus, twice a day, a maximum of 20 ships pass through the channel in each direction - smaller sailboats or yachts are additionally joined by the larger ships. Today we are lucky to be waiting almost alone in front of the lock.

Before 8:00 a.m. we pass under the "Bridge of the Americas," which here connects North and South America, so to speak, and are lifted by about 26 m by means of the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel locks - that is at least the average water level of Lake Gatún above N.N.. The exact lift varies with the relatively high tides of about 7 m on the Pacific coast, whereas the sheltered Caribbean has a maximum of 1 m tidal range.



Our crossing of the Canal from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

From the outside decks, we can closely observe the lock operations: how tiny rowboats deliver the ropes with which the Bremen is tied to the locomotives called mules. These powerful tractors, however, only keep the ship on course; it enters the lock chambers under its own power. But how important it is that the mules control and maintain the distance to the lock wall is shown by the large freighters, where really only a few centimeters of air or water remain free between the lock and ship's sides when the ship slowly enters the lock chamber. It is an admirable achievement of the mules that there have never been any significant accidents during these precise maneuvers over the years!



In decidedly good weather, we continue into the Pedro Miguel Lock: slightly cloudy skies dampen the otherwise often scorching sunshine and ensure pleasant temperatures without rain showers bothering us. We then

pass the Bridge of the Century, built in 2004, and cross the 13 km long Culebra Cut, a rocky ridge through which the canal was blasted. We arrive at the enormous Gatún Reservoir, to which the Rio Chagres was dammed to have enough water for the locks.

Just here we can also enjoy the rainforest at close range as we pass by. The former mountain tops now rise as small or larger green islands out of the turquoise water. They have developed into laboratories of evolution, because the animal and plant species isolated in this way are already beginning to evolve into new subspecies and species. Galapagos in the early stages, so to speak, and the whole thing under the curious eyes of the Smithsonian Institute, which operates an outpost here.

We enjoy all this from the outside decks, a tasty drink in our hands, and in our ears the commenting announcements from the bridge, which expertly explain all this to us.



Around 3 pm we leave the Gatun Locks and enter the salty waters of the Caribbean.

In the afternoon, we then sink back down to sea level through the three chambers of the Gatún Lock. Our HANSEATIC inspiration greets the familiar salt water and some large crocodiles lying around on the shore of the channel with a loud toot.



01 April / Saturday

Midday position		Air pressure hPa	Temperature (°C)		Humidity %	Wind Beaufort
Wide	Length		Air	Water		
Sunrise:				Sunset:		

Since there is also an editorial deadline for this travel diary, the daily schedule of the last day presented here is based on pure speculation. If there are any last minute changes here, may you, dear guests, please add them yourself and handwritten in the part "Own notes". Stay healthy and see you next time!