

Mediterranean Wonders: Sicily, Greece, Sardinia and Beyond

On this special voyage featuring wine selections curated by *Food & Wine* magazine experts, experience exclusive culinary excursions and world-renowned delicacies as we explore a vast swath of the Mediterranean—from Spain and Sardinia to Corsica and Greece. Walk amid pre-historic standing stones on the isle of Menorca, swim in the azure waters of Kefalonia, and discover the UNESCO World Heritage site of Delphi, the center of the ancient Greek world. Aboard the nimble *National Geographic Orion*, navigate places out of reach to other ships, like the narrow Corinth Canal, and enjoy insights from our onboard wine expert, who guides us through nightly tastings of wines personally selected by *Food & Wine* magazine's Executive Wine Editor, Ray Isle.

From

$ 8,720 / per person

Does not include flights

DATES
Apr, Jun, Aug and Sep

DURATION
13 Days

SHIPS
National Geographic Orion

STARTS AT
Barcelona, Spain

→

ENDS AT
Athens, Greece

Note: Routing may vary and stops may be subject to modification and/or permitting. Activities are included in your voyage price; however, some departures may offer optional premium excursions at an additional cost.

Highlights

- Explore vestiges of Greek, Roman, and Talayotic civilizations across the Mediterranean alongside expert historians
- Indulge in gourmet menus featuring fresh, sustainable ingredients and classic regional dishes—from the seafood and pasta of Sicily and Sardinia to the grilled meats of Greece
- Step back in time at UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Delphi—home of the most famous ancient Oracle—and Sicily's historic city of Ortigia
- Learn about the rich history of Sardinia and Corsica, two fiercely independent islands—Italian and French respectively—populated since pre-historic times








GERMANY
BELGIUM
LUXEMBOURG
CZECHIA
SLOVAKIA
FRANCE
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
SWITZERLAND
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
ROMANIA
SERBIA
MONTENEGRO
BULGARIA
ITALY
NORTH MACEDONIA
ALBANIA
Barcelona
Bonifacio
Golfo Aranci
Mahón
Corfu
Aeolian Islands
Taormina
Delphi
Athens
Kefalonia
Siracusa
MALTA
ALGERIA
LIBYA
mapbox
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Day by day

■ DAY 1

Barcelona, Spain / Embark Ship

Arrive in Barcelona and transfer to the hospitality suite, which is centrally located. This afternoon, explore the city at your own pace enjoying its architectural masterpieces, the energetic street rhythms coming from Las Ramblas or the beautiful views atop Montjuic. Embark *National Geographic Orion* in the late afternoon and set a course east for the island of Menorca.

Arrival time: Arrive before 1:30 p.m. local time.
Arrival City: Barcelona, Spain

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

Mahón, Menorca

The Vandals, the Moors and the British Empire have ruled over this stunning little island where prehistoric civilizations left intriguing rock mounds and megalithic monuments dating back some 4,000 years. Walk through the Bronze Age village of Torralba d'en Salord and see the characteristic T-shaped stone monuments left by the Talayotic peoples. This evening, set a course east toward the shores of Corsica.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

At Sea / Bonifacio, Corsica, France

Enjoy the *National Geographic Orion*'s amenities during this day at sea. Listen to talks by your onboard experts, get photo tips from a National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor or spend some time on the bridge with officers who are happy to answer questions. A massage from the wellness specialist is an inviting option or relax with a book in the observation lounge. Arrive in Bonifacio this evening.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Bonifacio

Wake up to the sunrise over the layered cliffs of Bonifacio, one of the Mediterranean's most beautiful towns. Begin with a walking orientation to the citadel, established by the powerful margraves of Tuscany in the ninth century, enjoy a hike or travel to a charming mountain village. This afternoon, enjoy some time relaxing onboard or exploring at your own pace. Later, enjoy a musical performance at a majestic church in town. In the evening, depart Corsica and head to the shores of Italy.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Golfo Aranci, Sardinia, Italy

Step ashore on Sardinia's east coast, known for its stunning and remote landscapes, including grottos and mountain peaks. Populated since pre-historic times, the landscape is dotted with Roman village ruins and monasteries from the Middle Ages. Venture into the mountains to visit the archeological discoveries, including tombs and village remains. Or explore the village of San Pantaleo, visiting local artisan shops that showcase the handicrafts of painters, goldsmiths, sculptors and potters.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

At Sea / Aeolian Islands

Enjoy the day at sea as you sail toward the Aeolian Islands—not only famous for the winds of the god Aeolus, but also for some of the most well-known classical volcanoes. With a bit of luck, you will witness the pyrotechnics of the active volcanic island of Stromboli. Pass through the narrow Strait of Messina overnight, the purported location of Homer's monsters Scylla and Charybdis: the rock and the hard place through which Odysseus had to sail.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Taormina, Sicily

This morning, drive up to the beautiful town of Taormina, perched 250 meters above the sea. With Mount Etna dominating to the south, this medieval town boasts the pedestrian-friendly Corso Umberto, lined with exquisite buildings and one of the world's most interesting cultural sites: the Greco-Roman Theater. This remarkable theater was built right into the cliffside, overlooking the vast sea below, in the third century B.C. Enjoy lunch at a nineteenth-century estate at the foot of Monte Serra in Viagrande.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAYS 8-9

Siracusa / At Sea

Head ashore at Siracusa, one of the most powerful cities in the classical world. Explore the archaeological park where a well-preserved Greek amphitheater with carved limestone seats is still used today. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone, and is the site of the curious Ear of Dionysius—a huge cave with incredible acoustics. Make the most of your time in port: explore the city's excellent market or join a walking tour of the adjacent island of Ortigia, where a stunning cathedral was built on the columns of the 6th-century Temple of Athena. Spend the following day at sea, relaxing aboard the *National Geographic Orion* as she makes her way toward Greece.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Corfu, Greece

Known for its strong cultural heritage, Corfu is home to many of the country's firsts: the first university, theatre and opera. Learn about the island's history, including its triumphant defense against the Ottoman empire, and spend time around Spianada, the old city's main square—and the largest one in Greece—built in the 16th and 17th centuries by the Venetians. Discover the island's most iconic landmarks and signs of foreign influences. Or meander through the old town's charming city streets tasting local delicacies such as kumquats and olive oil.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 11

Kefalonia

Start the day with an early morning hike in Kefalonia. Later on, visit the natural marvels of Melissani Lake and Drogarati cave. Enjoy lunch onboard before transferring overland to a nearby beach for a sun-filled afternoon. Soak in the vivid blue waters—a true photographer's delight. Stroll along the shoreline, or swim, kayak or paddleboard in the beautiful sea (weather permitting).

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 12

Delphi / Corinth Canal

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Delphi, the center of the ancient Greek world. The ruins here are home to the Temple of Apollo—Greece's most important shrine—where the Oracle of Delphi

delivered divine prophecies. Learn about the city's storied past and explore the temple and other important sites. Later, navigate the historic Corinth Canal, slipping between the 300-foot limestone walls that tower above both sides of the vessel. Built in the late 19th century, the canal is too small for most modern-day ships, but the *National Geographic Orion* is perfectly sized for the transit to the Gulf of Corinth and Ionian Sea.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 13

Athens / Disembark Ship

Disembark in Athens and transfer to the airport for flights home, or explore more on a post-voyage extension in Crete.

Departure Time: Depart after 12:00 p.m. local time.
Departure City: Athens, Greece

Meals included: breakfast

Eastbound

Barcelona, Spain → Athens, Greece

2027 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *National Geographic Orion*

07 Apr				
09 Aug				

Alternative Routes

Visit Expeditions.com for more information.

2027 Departure Dates

13 Jun, 21 Sep



National Geographic Orion

GUESTS	CABINS
102	53

Joining the Lindblad fleet in 2013, the state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* serves as a luxurious base camp for voyages to the far-flung corners of the planet.

Built in Germany by the Cassens shipyard, the 102-guest *National Geographic Orion* was created with a high ice class to be able to venture safely into polar regions. A ship of her size is seldom built with such ice-cutting ability, which makes her a rarity. She is yacht-scale, yet rugged enough to venture far afield, making her a perfect addition to the Lindblad fleet, which she joined in 2013. Her size and nimbleness offer the perfect combination of safety and liberty to voyage untrammeled locations. In fact, *National Geographic Orion* currently holds the distinction of having sailed further south than any other Lindblad vessel.

Her menu, created by famed Australian chef, Serge Dansereau, owner of Sydney's acclaimed Bather's Pavilion restaurant, enormously popular with *National Geographic Orion*'s guests, so impressed Sven Lindblad, that Serge, a chef-owner who shared the Lindblad commitment to serving local and sustainable food, was enlisted to design the dining program for the entire National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions fleet.

National Geographic Orion is gracious and intimate, with a rewarding, almost clubby feeling. Of her many amenities and features, the most appealing is her outside deck space which beckons in the balmy reaches of the Pacific, and on those days in Antarctica when the midnight sun and the spectacle of the ice makes going indoors, let alone going to bed, impossible.





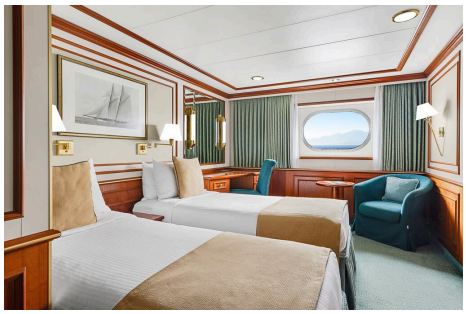


Cabin Categories

Category 1

MAIN DECK **#316, 318-321**

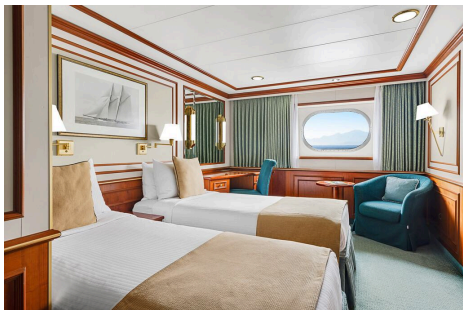
Cabins feature a luminous oval window and configurable beds: two single beds that can be converted to a queen. An armchair, reading lamps, a flat screen TV, two bedside tables, coffee table, desk and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 2

MAIN DECK **#302-312, 314, 315, 317**

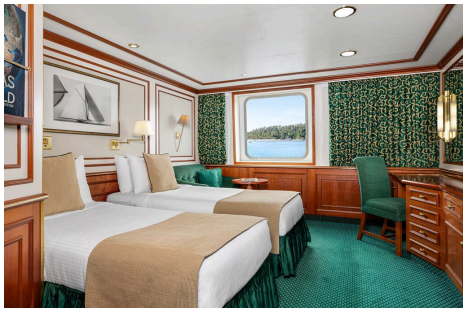
Cabins feature a luminous oval window and configurable beds: two single beds that can be converted to a queen. An armchair, reading lamps, a flat screen TV, bedside table, coffee table, desk and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 3

UPPER DECK **#401-412, 414-419**

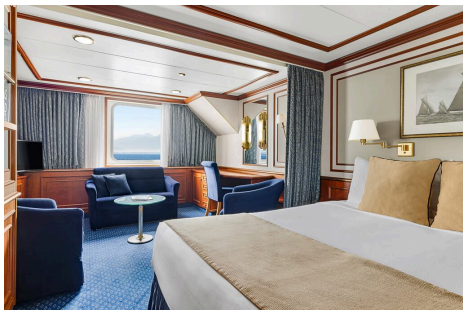
These suites feature a sitting area with a large window, a sofa—except slightly smaller #401 & #402—an armchair or two, writing/laptop desk, reading lamps, coffee table, flat screen TV, bedside table and climate controls. Beds are configurable (call for details). Marble bathrooms include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 4

BRIDGE DECK **#511, 515**

These two suites feature separate sleeping and sitting areas, with a chair and armchair, coffee table, and a two-cushion sofa facing an expansive window. Beds are configurable (call for details). Ample storage, reading lamps, a flat screen TV and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 5

BRIDGE DECK **#501, 503-506, 508**

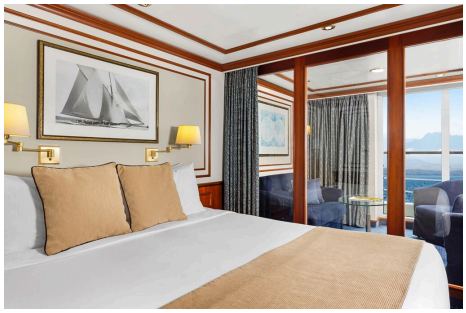
These spacious suites feature open living areas and sliding glass doors opening to a shared French balcony. Beds are configurable (call for details). A separate sitting area with armchairs and a sofa, a writing/laptop desk, coffee table, well-placed reading lamps, a flat screen TV and climate controls complete the decor. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 6

BRIDGE DECK **#502, 507, 509*, 510**

These large, elegant suites feature a French balcony, except for #509 which has double windows. Each provides a separate living area with a sofa and two armchairs, coffee table, except for #502, which uniquely offers a 'soaking tub with a view' in addition to a shower stall and expansive vanity. All cabins have reading lamps, a flat screen TV and climate controls. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 1 Solo

MAIN DECK **#301, 322, 323**

These solo cabins feature a window or two portholes, a queen-size bed, except for #301 which has a double bed, writing desk and chair, climate controls, reading lamps, coffee table, two bedside tables and a TV. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a roomy shower stall with a glass door.



Category 3 Solo

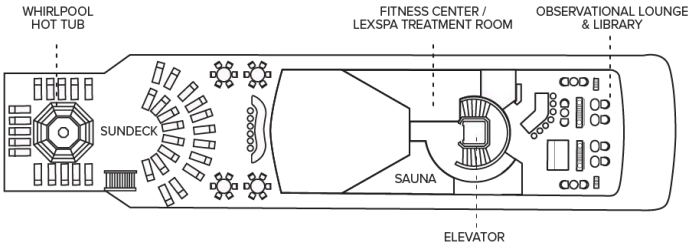
UPPER DECK **#512**

This solo suite features two single beds and two large windows, plus two armchairs and a small table, reading lamps, coffee table a flat screen TV and climate controls. The marble bathroom is generously sized and includes a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



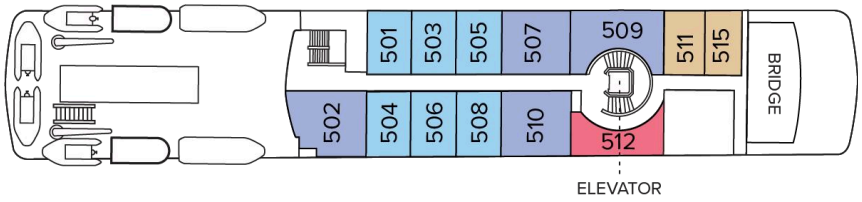
Deck Plans

Observation Deck



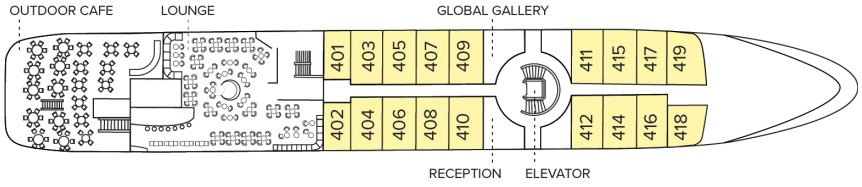
Bridge Deck

- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 3 Solo



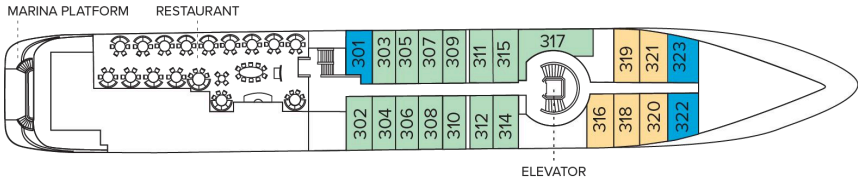
Upper Deck

- Category 3

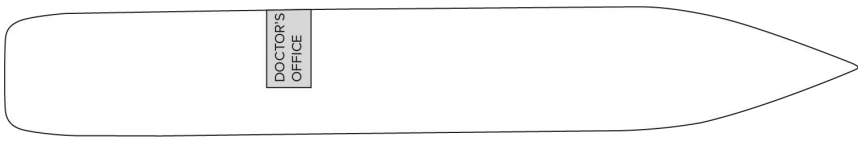


Main Deck

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 1 Solo



Expedition Deck



Ship Amenities

Public Areas

Reception; two dining areas; lounge with bar and state-of-the-art presentation facilities; OM System photo locker; sundeck with a whirlpool hot tub that doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates; observation lounge and library; global gallery; a marina platform; plus open access to the Bridge, the Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

Meals

Meals are served in the dining room, or weather permitting, the outdoor café, at a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menus feature sustainable choices, local where possible.

Cabins

All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins feature a coffee table, lounge chair, desk, phone, TV with on demand entertainment, multiple outlets and USB, mini refrigerator, and safe. Luxury linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and a National Geographic Atlas are available in each cabin.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of double kayaks, a crow's nest camera, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, video microscope and an ROV. Plus, for South Pacific voyages: snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for a number of pre-qualified guests, stand-up paddleboards, glass-bottom Zodiac and splash-cam.

Special Features

A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor. A central staircase and elevator reach all decks. Enjoy daily teatime and the smoothies served after the sunrise stretch sessions on the sundeck in Polynesia.

Wellness

A fitness center, LEXspa treatment room and sauna, staffed by wellness specialists.

Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean CoatTM is a light-activated, self-disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. This non-toxic, chemical-free system also helps us save over one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures.

Special Offers

SUITE EXCLUSIVES

Spacious living areas and incredible views immerse you in the beauty of your marine surroundings. Our new Suite Exclusives package helps make your voyage all the more memorable. **Learn more**

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

INCLUDED IN PRICE

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, liquor and spirits aboard the ship (except certain premium brands which are available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; crew gratuities; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs and kayaks; guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the National Geographic Photographer and Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; onboard physician consultations; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

Additional costs associated with medical services outside onboard physician consultation.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non- refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/

CANCELLATION POLICY

Review our cancellation policy: https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/