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10 best cruises for 2013

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By **Elissa Richard**
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(Photo: Lindblad Expeditions)

Best Cruise for Nature Lovers

Combine the experts at National Geographic, an eco-minded Lindblad Expeditions voyage, and the natural wonders of Alaska for a nature lover's cruise vacation that Mother Earth practically stitched together herself. Cruise the 62-passenger National Geographic Sea Bird or National Geographic Sea Lion for an unforgettable expedition-style sailing to the Last Frontier.

Why they will love it: Lindblad's small ships have been providing access to [Alaska's](#) off-the-path channels and hidden coves for 30 years. Come face-to-face with Alaskan fjords, glaciers, and old-growth forests; set out on hiking, kayaking, and Zodiac excursions; and expect wildlife encounters with whales, bears, eagles, and more. Benefit from the insights of numerous naturalists, scientists, and even a Lindblad-National Geographic-certified photo instructor who accompany the sailings, and be wowed by Lindblad's new Undersea Alaska program, offering real-time glimpses of the marine wonderland in the waters below.