

Azure Seas from Tahiti to the Marquesas

17 Days | *National Geographic Orion* | 102 Guests | Expeditions in: Jun/Aug/Apr | \$15,680 to \$34,840



Remote and enigmatic, the Marquesas are islands that belong to the past. Some of them virtually untouched since the era of European exploration, their isolation has given way to a proud people whose unique Marquesan dialect is a direct link to the ancient Polynesian language of Maohi. Indeed, it is believed locally that the spirits of the ancient Maohi live among the islands' saw-toothed peaks and lush, verdant valleys, and the limestone caves and grottos that we'll explore. Herman Melville penned his indulgent novel *Typee* based on his time on Nuku Hiva and established himself as the "man who lived among the cannibals," and Robert Louis Stevenson landed here aboard his yacht *Casco* in the late 19th century. At sea we'll encounter cetaceans, potentially the rare melon-headed whales, and we'll dive among manta rays.



DAY 1: DEPART U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Tahiti.



DAY 2: PAPEETE, FRENCH POLYNESIA/EMBARK

Arrive in Papeete, Tahiti early this morning, check in to dayrooms at the Intercontinental Tahiti, and take a brief tour before embarking *National Geographic Orion*. (L,D)



DAY 3-5: AT SEA / TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO

We begin our exploration of the "Dangerous Archipelago" at Fakarava,

one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. After a festive welcome with traditional dancers, learn about the island's pearl industry, and walk its pristine beaches. Snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world famous drift dive. Continue to Raroia, one of the easternmost atolls in this chain, and the site where Thor Heyerdahl's famous *Kon-Tiki* raft made landfall in 1947. (B,L,D)

**DAY 6-7: AT SEA/NUKU HIVA, MARQUESAS**

A day at sea brings us to one of the most remote island groups on earth, the Marquesas Islands. We begin our exploration of this archipelago at Hatiheu Bay, on the north shore of Nuku Hiva Island. Visit ancient petroglyphs and witness a spectacular dance performance at a Marquesan *me'ae*, or hike up the valley with the naturalists and local guides in search of rare birds and spectacular views. Later, sample local foods in the village, and peruse unique arts and crafts. (B,L,D)

**DAY 9: FATU HIVA, MARQUESAS**

Be sure you're on deck this morning to photograph the volcanic pillars of Hanavave Bay, as *Orion* approaches one of the most storied shorelines in the entire Pacific. Visit a remote village where you'll see displays of uniquely Marquesan arts and crafts. Choose a challenging hike to a remote waterfall, or take Zodiacs to the next bay where local transport takes you on a birdwatching foray deep into the Omoa Valley. (B,L,D)

**DAY 13-14: TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO**

We let nature be our guide for these days, as we explore some of the more than 80 islands and atolls that make up this seldom-visited archipelago. Snorkel or dive stunning healthy reefs, kayak and stand-up paddleboard on turquoise lagoons, and walk pristine beaches beneath coconut palms. (B,L,D)

**DAY 16-17: DISEMBARK/PAPEETE/HOME**

Disembark in Papeete this morning and tour Tahiti before overnight flight home. (Day 16: B,L)

DAY 8: HIVA OA, MARQUESAS

At Hiva Oa, go ashore at the village of Puamau to visit the stunning Marquesan *me'ae*, lipona, and photograph one of the largest tikis in Polynesia. Stop for a fresh-baked French baguette before a short visit to Calvary Cemetery and the gravesites of French artists Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel. (B,L,D)

DAY 10-12: EXPLORING THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS/AT SEA

Our last two days in the Marquesas are open for exploration. Scuba dive with manta rays, search for rare cetaceans with your naturalists and marvel at the rugged volcanic silhouettes of these legendary islands from the Zodiacs and kayaks. (B,L,D)

DAY 15: MAKATEA

An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. Spend the day exploring limestone caves and grottos with your expedition team and local guides, or search for endemic fruit doves and myriad seabirds, then snorkel and dive among clouds of colorful fish on the nearby reef. (B,L,D)

DEPARTURE DATES:

June 21 & August 16, 2018

April 25, 2019

Important Flight Information

Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking flights.

Advance Payment: \$2,500

Sample Airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete: Economy from \$1,500; Internal airfare from \$250 (Rangiroa- Papeete). Airfares are subject to change.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

FREE AIRFARE: Book now for free round-trip air between Los Angeles and Papeete. Free air is based on round-trip, economy group flights from Los Angeles to Papeete and must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions. New bookings only. Call for details.

BOOK 2 OR MORE AND SAVE 10%

Book two or more South Pacific voyages aboard *National Geographic Orion* and take 10% off each voyage. Savings is applicable to back-to-back or non-consecutive voyages. *This savings is available on voyage fare only, and is not valid on airfares or extensions.

FREE BAR TAB AND CREW TIPS INCLUDED

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- 10% shipboard discounts on the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic fleet
- Transferability: the ability to lend your 10% expedition discount to a family member or friend of your choosing
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Cost Includes: The rates include accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar; all meals indicated; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands) aboard ship; all shore excursions and sightseeing; entrance fees, transfers to and from group flights; local transportation to/from sites of interest; use of kayaks, snorkeling gear, scuba gear, and stand-up paddleboards; taxes, port charges and service charges; services of the ship’s physician; Lindblad Expeditions’ Leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; gratuities to local guides and ship’s crew. **Not Included:** Airfare (unless indicated as included); charter airfare; travel protection plan; scuba diving fees; passport, visa or immigration fees; personal items such as email, laundry, voyage DVD etc.

National Geographic Orion

COST PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

	01	02	03	04	05	06
2018	\$ 15,680	\$ 18,670	\$ 21,990	\$ 23,990	\$ 28,940	\$ 33,440
2019	\$ 15,920	\$ 19,380	\$ 22,740	\$ 24,780	\$ 29,980	\$ 34,840

COST PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY

	1S	3S
2018	\$ 23,520	\$ 32,990
2019	\$ 23,880	\$ 34,100

