Following in the wake of early Polynesian navigators, this National Geographic Orion voyage takes you to the farthest reaches of Oceania. From Tahiti, through the “low islands” of the Tuamotu Archipelago to the historically significant Pitcairn Islands, plus remote and enigmatic Easter Island, you’ll visit islands that are virtually inaccessible and untouched. Drift dive or snorkel through an atoll pass, meet the descendants of H.M.S. Bounty mutineers, and walk the length of untouched tropical beaches.

**DAY 1-2: U.S./Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia/Embark**
Depart the U.S. and arrive in Papeete, French Polynesia. Take a short tour of Tahiti before embarking National Geographic Orion. (Day 2: D)

**DAY 3-8: Tuamotu Archipelago/At Sea**
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. In true expedition mode, explore one of the uninhabited atolls such as Tahanea. Navigate reefs and islets during a day at sea on our way to Pukarua, where we’ll be greeted by traditional dancers. (B,L,D)

**2015 Departure Dates:** Nov 13*

**Important Flight Information**
* Return overnight flight. Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking flights.

**Advance Payment:** $2,500

**Sample Airfares:**
Economy: ..................from $2,900
Business: .................from $6,700
Airfares are subject to change
DAY 9-10: Mangareva, Gambier Islands/At Sea

Famous for its black pearls, Mangareva is the largest of the Gambier Islands. Venture underwater to snorkel or dive, meet islanders to learn about their culture and the missionaries who made their home here, and go on a hike with our naturalists. Then spend a day at sea scanning the horizon with our naturalists, or relaxing on deck with a good book. (B,L,D)

DAY 11-15: Pitcairn Islands/At Sea

Many of the mutineers of the legendary Bounty made their home on Pitcairn Island in the late 18th century, and about 50 of their descendants still live here today. Meet the residents and hear a few words of the unusual Pitkern dialect—a combination of English “sailor speak” and Polynesian phrases. Visit the gravesite of the last surviving Bounty mutineer, John Adams, and see the Bounty’s anchor, which was salvaged in 1957.

Our next stop is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Henderson Island, an uplifted atoll that is uninhabited and virtually untouched by humans. On hikes and Zodiac excursions, discover the island’s four endemic bird species, rich flora and fauna, and fascinating geology. Then spend a day on Ducie Atoll, watching for frigatebirds and boobies and snorkeling or diving among spectacular reefs. Set out on our final leg east, listening to talks by our experts as we sail two days towards Easter Island. (B,L,D)

Cost Includes:

Accommodations; meals indicated; excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions’ leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; all port charges and service taxes; two nights accommodation at a hotel on Easter Island.

Not Included:

Air transportation; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, laundry, etc.; discretionary tips to ship’s crew.

Note: There will be a surcharge for scuba diving, which will include equipment and the guidance of a certified divemaster.

Scuba diving requirements: Scuba divers must be certified by an internationally recognized dive association prior to the voyage, and certification cards and logbooks must be shown on board. Divers must have logged 25 dives in total and made a dive within the 12 months preceding the voyage.

DAY 16-19: Easter Island/Santiago, Chile/U.S.

Disembark on Easter Island and check into our hotel for two nights. Explore volcanic calderas, jagged lava fields, and sweeping grasslands to discover the colossal moai statues, the astonishing legacy of a long-lost culture. Join archaeologists to examine these statues and discuss their meaning and creation; visit burial sites, quarries, and intricately carved ceremonial altars. Explore on our final morning, fly to Santiago, then take an overnight flight back to the U.S. (Day 16-17: B,L,D; Day 18: B)

Cost Includes:

Accommodations; meals indicated; excursions; services of Lindblad Expeditions’ leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; all port charges and service taxes; two nights accommodation at a hotel on Easter Island.

Not Included:

Air transportation; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, laundry, etc.; discretionary tips to ship’s crew.

Note: There will be a surcharge for scuba diving, which will include equipment and the guidance of a certified divemaster.

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(1) 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. and Canadian 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:
http://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/

(2) Cancellation Plan

Review our cancellation plan:
http://www.expeditions.com/reservations/cancellation-policy/