



NEW!

EXPLORING NEW GUINEA

RAJA AMPAT, TROBRIAND ISLANDS & THE ASMAT

RARE OPPORTUNITY!

**EXTRAORDINARY
ART & CULTURE**

**ONE EXPEDITION,
MORE NEW GUINEA:
WEST PAPUA + PAPUA
+ PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

AND MUCH MORE

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION | SEPTEMBER 2015



**Lindblad
Expeditions**





“THE FINAL GOAL... IS TO GRASP THE NATIVE’S POINT OF VIEW, HIS RELATION TO LIFE, TO REALIZE HIS VISION OF HIS WORLD.”

—Bronislaw Malinowski,
Argonauts of The Western Pacific, 1922



Clockwise from top left: Asmat man carving a dugout long boat; nutmeg, indigenous to Indonesia’s Banda Islands; Raja Ampat has over 1,200 species of fish and 600 kinds of coral; fire dancer of the Baining tribe, Rabaul, Papua New Guinea; Melanesian art is sought after by museums and art collectors throughout the world.



Outrigger sailing canoe and National Geographic Orion.

NEW! EXPLORING NEW GUINEA: RAJA AMPAT, TROBRIAND ISLANDS & THE ASMAT

20 DAYS/17 NIGHTS

WITH A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER & HOTEL OVERNIGHT IN BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

New Guinea is one of the least explored places on Earth. The western half of the island, the provinces of West Papua and Papua, is part of Indonesia. The eastern half is the nation of Papua New Guinea. We'll explore all these parts, seeing portions few outsiders have been privileged to visit. You may well have dreamed of coming here, and this is an exceptional and unusual chance to discover in depth.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Experience the cultures of West Papua, Papua, and Papua New Guinea, as you meet remote people such as the legendary Asmat and Trobriand Islanders for close encounters.
- ▶ See the artistry of the Melanesians, sought after by museums and private collectors, first-hand, with the opportunity to collect remarkable carvings and more.
- ▶ Swim, snorkel, dive, kayak, and explore via our glass-bottom Zodiac amid prolific fish and coral formations, in places that are lifetime goals of lovers of the undersea world, including Raja Ampat.
- ▶ Learn about the region's WW II history, transiting the Torres Strait, separating Australia from New Guinea, and visiting the Japanese submarine base and Yamamoto's bunker in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.
- ▶ Discover birds and plants found nowhere else, including rare birds of paradise.
- ▶ Travel in the company of *Orion's* knowledgeable, enthusiastic expedition team, and share the adventure with fascinating guest speakers.



SPECIAL OFFERS

- **25% Off + Future Friend For Life 10% Discount Forever**
- **\$2,000 Air Credit***
- **Bar Tab & Crew Tips On Us**
- **Complimentary Hotel Night & Dinner in Brisbane**

THANK YOU GIFT

COMPLIMENTARY SNORKEL SUIT

Learn more about this special gift AND the latest David Doubilet-recommended snorkel gear you'll demo aboard at expeditions.com/supersnork

*On voyages where air credits are offered, credits will be deducted from cabin fare prior to any other savings being applied.



SEP. 22-24: DEPART U.S./EN ROUTE/

ARRIVE BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Depart the U.S. for Brisbane, Australia on Sep. 22. The next day, Sep. 23, is “lost” as we cross the International Date Line. Arrive in Brisbane Sep. 24 and transfer to our hotel. Early-evening reception.

SEP. 25: SORONG/WEST PAPUA, INDONESIA/EMBARK

A private charter flight brings us to Sorong, at the western end of the Bird’s Head Peninsula of West Papua, on the Indonesian part of the island of New Guinea. We’ll take a brief tour of this thriving port city before embarking *National Geographic Orion* in the late afternoon. (B,L,D)

SEP. 26 AND 27: RAJA AMPAT

We spend these days snorkeling and diving in one of the richest marine regions in the world, an area that’s justly famous among undersea enthusiasts for its profusion and variety of ocean life. Over 1,200 species of fish and 600 kinds of coral have been recorded here. These are astonishing figures. On land, the experiences are also remarkable, with lush islands, towering limestone pinnacles jutting out of the water, and hidden white-sand coves for us to discover by Zodiac or kayak. We’ll plan to visit the islands of Waigeo and Misool, but may adjust our plans depending on reports of recent sightings. (B,L,D)

“As good as it gets. Towering, jungled castles of rare orchids and birds of paradise, the Raja Ampats are the heart of the ‘coral triangle’, the world’s womb of marine species generation and diversity.”

—Lawrence Blair, *Global Perspectives* guest speaker



Pygmy seahorse, Raja Ampat.

SEP. 28: AT SEA/EXPLORING

We spend this day en route to the Banda Islands, and will plan to stop along the way for snorkeling, diving or other adventures at one of a number of seldom-visited locales on our route. (B,L,D)

“Arriving at the Banda Islands—an Indonesian paradise—was like a scene from a Joseph Conrad novel.”

—Tracy Dalby, *field notes posted in National Geographic magazine*

SEP. 29: BANDA ISLANDS, MOLUCCAS

Today *Orion* will sail into the heart of the Moluccas, to the Banda Islands, and on into the flooded Banda Caldera. Here a kora kora, or traditional war canoe, will escort us to Banda Neira, once the center of the Spice Island trade and a hub of the Dutch East India Company. You’ll stroll past Dutch architecture and visit Fort Belgica, built to protect the spice trade, which sits atop a hill with fantastic views. A visit to the local market, where nutmeg is sold, gives insight into the way of life here. Nearby lies the near-perfect conical volcano of Gunung Api, and the crystal-clear waters of the

caldera provide for some great swimming and snorkeling. Today is bound to stand out as one of the highlights of our journey. (B,L,D)

See Tom Ritchie’s interesting mini-documentary on the connection between nutmeg and Manhattan at expeditions.com/nutmeg

SEP. 30: AT SEA

A day at sea gives a chance to reflect on the things we’ve seen and to hear talks from our staff about the places we’re going. (B,L,D)

OCT. 1 AND 2: THE ASMAT REGION

We spend these days as honored guests in the country of the Asmat people, arguably once the most feared headhunters on Earth. The Asmat people’s first contact with Europeans was in 1623, when the Asmats had a stone-age culture. Approaching a village, we may be met by dozens of dugout long boats with hundreds of warriors paddling, standing up, and chanting in unison. We’ll see a “long house,” known as a *jeu*, and watch a ceremony whose traditions date back many centuries. We’ll also visit the town of Agats, the capital of the region, built on stilts since the tides flood everything around. A series of boardwalks connects the entire town, and we’ll have a chance to wander and experience life here. The local museum is outstanding, with beautiful works of carved wood. (B,L,D)

“The Asmat have lived in harmony with their environment for thousands of years, and have developed appropriate ways of using their natural resources. They are the best stewards of their land.”
—Jennifer Hile, *National Geographic On Assignment*

OCT. 3 AND 4: AT SEA

We leave the Asmat region and sail through the Aru and Arafura Seas. During the last ice age, when sea levels were over 100 meters lower than they are today, this region was a land bridge between Australia and New Guinea. We transit the shallow, island-strewn Torres Strait, which separates Australia from New Guinea, to enter the Gulf of Papua and the Coral Sea. Talks by our staff will prepare us for the days ahead. (B,L,D)

“It was through the Torres Straits that Tokyo’s strategists once hoped to hopscotch from New Guinea to Australia, but the Japanese didn’t realize the tenacity of the islanders and their warrior tradition.”
—James Bradley, *Global Perspectives* guest speaker

OCT. 5: PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

This morning we arrive in the country of Papua



Asmat people in dugout long boats greet guests on a Zodiac.



Mosaic facade of the Parliament House, Port Moresby.

New Guinea and visit Port Moresby, its bustling capital. The National Museum and Art Gallery has superb collections of the art and carvings for which “PNG” is renowned, and if you wish, you’ll have the chance to purchase indigenous art at an enormous, well-known local store that collects some of the finest carvings and masks from all over the country. The Nature Park zoological garden offers a chance to see some of the region’s otherwise hard-to-see wildlife amid tropical gardens. And we’ll drive past the Parliament, its design inspired by New Guinean spirit houses. (B,L,D)

OCT. 6: SAMARI AND DEKA DEKA ISLAND

It’s hard to imagine today that Samarai Island was once a bustling trading port and the second largest city in Papua New Guinea. The town was evacuated at the onset of the Pacific War and many of its buildings deliberately destroyed. When the war ended, Samarai never regained its earlier importance. Life is much slower paced nowadays, and we’ll have a chance to meet and be greeted by the town’s residents. Nearby Deka Deka is a pristine tropical island paradise with a magnificent beach, which offers us a multitude of water activities: snorkeling and diving, swimming from white sand beach, kayaking, and seeing the coral reef from our glass-bottom Zodiac. (B,L,D)

OCT. 7: D’ENTRECASTEAUX ISLANDS

The volcanic D’Entrecasteaux Islands, named after the French sailor who saw them in 1792, lie off the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea. They offer us a variety of intriguing options. We may choose to visit Dei Dei hot springs, which look like something out of the age of dinosaurs, all steam and bubbling water and mud. The ground is a crust of marvelous design of tiny circles and fine lines and simple sketches. Carnivorous pitcher plants, which carry a sweet-smelling

nectar that attracts insect prey, grow on the island. Fergusson also offers us a chance to look for birds of paradise including the rare Goldie’s bird of paradise. Nearby Dobu Island has friendly, welcoming people, and we may be able to visit the school there. We also hope to swim and snorkel at one of the many good sites in these islands. (B,L,D)

OCT. 8: KUIYWAWA ISLAND, TROBRIAND ISLANDS

Thanks to the insights of anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski, Trobriand islanders gained world fame for the “Kula Ring,” a complex ceremonial system of exchange of shell jewelry that links many groups of islands off the eastern tip of mainland New Guinea. The Trobrianders’ traditions are proudly and lovingly maintained today. We’ll be warmly welcomed and there will be ample time to talk informally with the residents here, many of whom speak English. (B,L,D)

“The village...looked more like what I had expected from villages in the South Pacific... In addition to opening their home to us, the town put on a dance performance upon our arrival. Children sang, women and men danced, and townspeople not participating in the performance came out to watch the festivities.”

—Jennifer Davidson, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor on her 2014 visit aboard National Geographic Orion

OCT. 9: NEW BRITAIN/RABAUL

This morning offers us a final chance to swim, snorkel, and dive in the warm waters surrounding the reefs of the Solomon Sea, as we stop on the southeastern coast of the island of New Britain. This evening, we arrive in Rabaul and drive to the country of the Baining people to witness their astonishing fire dance, traditionally done to celebrate special occasions. The

dancers wear elaborate costumes with masks, leaves and other local materials, and dance in and around a fire that has been lit for the occasion. (B,L,D)

OCT. 10: RABAUL/DISEMBARK/ BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Disembark *National Geographic Orion* in the historic township of Rabaul, which sits on the northeastern side of the island of New Britain. It lies within a volcanic caldera. Nearby Mt. Tavurvur erupted in 1994, and the heavy ash demolished most of the eastern side of town. Today Tavurvur sits quietly, with only the occasional burst of activity. We’ll drive around Rabaul, seeing some of the damage caused by the 1994 eruption and visiting the Rabaul Volcanic Observatory. We’ll also visit a number of World War II sites, including the Japanese submarine base and Yamamoto’s bunker. Then transfer to the airport for our charter flight to Brisbane. To help you transition to your land-based life, be our guest for the night at a fine Brisbane hotel and enjoy dinner. (B,L,D)

“On April 18, 1943, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto—the man who had planned the Pearl Harbor attack—gave a rousing speech to Japanese Navy pilots at their Rabaul airbase, promising victory. Hours later he was dead, shot out of the air on the direct orders of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had ordered his military to ‘Get Yamamoto.’”

—James Bradley, Global Perspectives guest speaker



OCT. 11: BRISBANE/U.S.

Join our group flight, departing mid-morning, and arrive home on the same day. (B)

INTRIGUING EXTENSION

Make the most of your time in the region with our extraordinary [Tari Highlands 5-Day Extension](#) at the renowned [Ambua Lodge](#).

See Huli “Wigmen,” search for birds of paradise and more.

Visit expeditions.com/tari for day-by-day details.

- ▶ See photos, videos & the recently digitized archival Lindblad film “New Guinea Safari” at EXPEDITIONS.COM/NEWGUINEA
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Category 6 owner's suite with French balcony.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION OUR NEWEST EXPEDITION SHIP

The state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* is the newest addition to the Lindblad-National Geographic fleet. Fully stabilized, she is spacious and modern, with a variety of public rooms that offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. Friendly and informal, *Orion* fosters a welcoming atmosphere where like-minded guests share in exceptional experiences and enrichment.

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

**TAKE
25% OFF
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CATEGORY 1: Main Deck with oval window #316, 318, 319-321	\$17,390
CATEGORY 2: Main Deck with oval window #302-312, 314, 315, 317	\$19,990
CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck—Suite with window #401-412, 414-419	\$23,790
CATEGORY 4: Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window #511, 515	\$25,990
CATEGORY 5: Bridge Deck—Suite with French balcony #501, 503-506, 508	\$30,990
CATEGORY 6: Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with French balcony. #502, 507, 509*, 510. *Cabin 509 has two windows in lieu of a French balcony.	\$35,920
CATEGORY 1 SOLO: Main Deck with oval window or two portholes #301, 322, 323	\$25,990
CATEGORY 3 SOLO: Bridge Deck—Suite with two windows #512	\$35,680

Advance Payment: \$2,500

All cabins feature ocean views, private facilities, climate controls, internet access for your own laptop, and a flat-screen TV with movie programming.

Note: Sole occupancy cabins available in Categories 1 and 3 include #301, 322, 323, and 512. Shared accommodations available in Categories 1 and 2.

Note: Third person rates available at one-half the double occupancy rate in designated triple occupancy cabins.

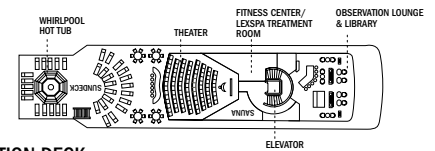
Sample Airfare: Los Angeles/Brisbane/Los Angeles round-trip: Economy from \$1,700; Business from \$6,400 per person.

Charter Airfare: Brisbane/Sorong \$950 per person; Rabaul/Brisbane \$550 per person.

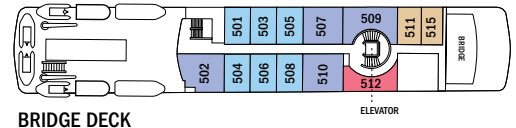
Scuba Diving Requirements: Scuba divers must be certified by an internationally recognized dive association prior to the voyage, and certification cards and logbooks must be shown on board. Divers must have logged 25 dives in total and made a dive within the 12 months preceding the voyage.



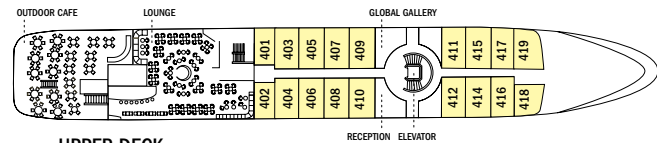
Category 3 cabin.



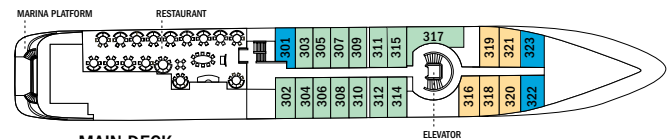
OBSERVATION DECK



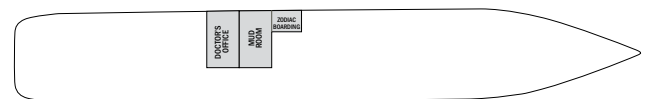
BRIDGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



EXPEDITION DECK

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