

SOUTH AFRICA & THE INDIAN OCEAN

9 EXTRAORDINARY DESTINATIONS FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS TO ZANZIBAR

EXPERIENCE
GAME DRIVES
SWAHILI & ZULU
CULTURES
ORANGUTANS
LEMURS
DIVING MECCAS
& MORE

EXCEPTIONAL OFFER
DETAILS INSIDE

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION | 2015



Lindblad
Expeditions



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**As astonishing as the photos in National Geographic.
And an exhilarating life adventure:
A Lindblad-National Geographic
Southern Africa and Indian Ocean expedition.**



Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic have joined forces to further inspire the world through expedition travel. Our collaboration in exploration, research, technology and conservation will provide extraordinary travel experiences and disseminate geographic knowledge around the globe.



Dear Traveler,

One rainy day last October, a bunch of us sat in our conference room in New York staring at the large National Geographic World map on our wall.

National Geographic Orion would finish her final Antarctic voyage of the season on March 8 and we wanted to be back in Australia around June. We had gathered to plan the details of going back across the Pacific. I guess I was a bit agitated—because I really wanted to develop new and surprising itineraries for spring 2015.



And then, free association kicked in.

Just the weekend before I was invited by my friend, Carl Safina, to attend the IMAX preview “Island of Lemurs,” about these enchanting animals and the work of Dr. Patricia Wright (see pages 10-11). It was a magnificent film.

All of a sudden I stood up, walked over to the map and pointed—“Why not go east instead?” For the next several hours we discussed the region broadly—the work of a brilliant National Geographic Emerging Explorer, Andrea Marshall, in Mozambique, where the largest concentration of marine megafauna exists; the infinite beauty and wonder of the Seychelles; the fascination of the myriad tiny atolls that make up the Maldives, just barely above sea level. We talked about Sri Lanka, a country of remarkable beauty and tradition; and Borneo, the home of the charismatic orangutan.

We finished the meeting committed to “east” as the direction we’d head *Orion*. And then we fired up our internal team and our extensive network. The results of our planning work appear in the following pages.

These are going to be remarkable expeditions to remarkable locations, and *National Geographic Orion* is now perfectly equipped for the mission.

I hope you join us.

All the best,

Sven-Olof Lindblad

P.S. As we go to press I have received some wonderful news: Valerie Taylor, legendary filmmaker, photographer and shark expert, is able to join us in April on our Indian Ocean Odyssey (pages 20-27). Valerie joined us on the *National Geographic Orion* inaugural voyage and guests raved about diving and traveling with her. Learn more about this exceptional woman on page 35, and book soon; she’s a powerful reason to commit.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER: Select any of the expeditions featured here—save 10% now and forever! See page 40 or call for details.

WILDLIF



Ring-tailed lemurs, Madagascar.



E & PEOPLE

OF SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE & MADAGASCAR

Our voyage is extraordinary in its diversity and scope, visiting five countries and a remarkable number of different habitats. Beginning in Cape Town, South Africa, and ending in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, you'll see Cape Town; the wildlife of South Africa's bush country; Mozambique's capital and extraordinary coast and marine life; the lemurs and other wildlife of Madagascar, along with its renowned baobab trees; and the cultures and wildlife of Mayotte in the French Comoros. Our expedition staff will reveal the hidden facets of all you'll see and do.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Explore South Africa's Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, one of Africa's finest game parks, seeing wildlife for which the region is famous.
- ✓ Learn about the unusual cultures of the places we visit, including that of the Zulu people.
- ✓ In Mozambique, look for enormous whale sharks, and even have the chance to snorkel with them.
- ✓ See lemurs, baobab trees and many other of Madagascar's unusual species.

23 DAYS/20 NIGHTS | Wildlife & Cultures of South Africa, Madagascar, & Mozambique

MAR. 20: U.S./FLY OVERNIGHT TO CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

MAR. 21: CAPE TOWN

Arrive in Cape Town, South Africa's oldest city, set between Table Mountain and the blue waters of Table Bay, and transfer to the Table Bay Hotel, in a fantastic setting on the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront at the ocean's edge, with Table Mountain as a backdrop. The hotel sits among shops and restaurants, and the waterfront is a favorite recreational spot for Cape Town residents. This evening, there's a welcome reception and dinner at our hotel. (D)

MAR. 22: CAPE TOWN/EMBARK

Take the cable car (weather permitting) to the top of Table Mountain, with tremendous views all around—of the ocean, the surrounding mountains, the city of Cape Town, the Cape Peninsula, and the adjacent winelands. Then visit renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, showcasing the Cape's distinctive flora (with a great collection of proteas) in a beautiful setting. Sunbirds and other birds are attracted to the plants here. Kirstenbosch and Table Mountain are included as part of the Cape Floral Region UNESCO World Heritage site. We'll have lunch at the restaurant at the gardens. As a rousing sendoff treat, we'll have a specially arranged musical performance by one of South Africa's leading bands, before we embark *National Geographic Orion* in the late afternoon. We sail along the Atlantic coast and round the Cape of Good Hope this evening. (B,L,D)

MAR. 23: HERMANUS

The seaside town of Hermanus is our base for a choice of activities. Visit the Fernkloof Nature Reserve, which is beautifully situated in the hills above Hermanus and is renowned for the beauty and diversity of its plant life. Walk through the characteristically South African *fynbos* ("fine bush") in search of flowers and wildlife that includes birds such as Cape sugarbirds and malachite sunbirds, baboons and mongoose. There's also time to explore the atmospheric waterside town of Hermanus on foot. Alternatively, the adventurous can travel (at additional cost) to Gansbaai for the heart-pounding experience of entering the water to observe great white sharks from the safety of a steel cage off "Shark Alley" (conditions permitting). No diving experience is required for this adventure. You may also see African penguins, cormorants, gannets, and fur seals. Full details on this option will be provided when your voyage reservation is confirmed. We continue sailing in the afternoon. (B,L,D)

MAR. 24: MOSSEL BAY/KNYSNA

From Mossel Bay, take an excursion along the coastline to Knysna, gateway to South Africa's "Garden Route." Cross the Knysna Lagoon by ferry to explore the private Featherbed Nature Reserve, and take a leisurely downhill walk with great

views of the Knysna Lagoon, where five rivers originating in the surrounding mountains meet the waters of the Indian Ocean. We'll see the well-known "Knysna Heads," dramatic sandstone cliffs that rise above the entrance to the lagoon. We walk through forest, exploring sea caves once used by the Khoi Khoi people, the original inhabitants of the region, and look for birds including the extraordinary-looking Knysna lourie. After a buffet lunch under a canopy of milkwood trees, we return to Mossel Bay and sail. (B,L,D)

MAR. 25 & 26: AT SEA

We spend these days sailing along the South African coast, with talks by our staff and the chance to prepare for the exciting days ahead. We'll be on the lookout for whales and other marine life. (B,L,D)

MAR. 27: DURBAN

Durban is South Africa's third-largest city and a multicultural center known for its Indian and Zulu populations. The hinterland is part of the heart of Zululand: a stronghold of Zulu culture and rich in nature. You'll explore it on some interesting excursions.

After a brief tour of Durban's city center, including a view of its ornate City Hall, we continue into the countryside and visit a Zulu community. We'll meet the residents, learn about Zulu history and traditions, and see a spirited performance of dancing and drumming.



Zulu boy, Zululand, Durban.

At the town of Eshowe, visit the Fort Nongqayi Museum Village, an atmospheric former British fort, which has a great collection of South Africa's finest basketwork among other exhibits. Alternatively, you may wish to tour the center of Durban, seeing its Golden Mile, harbor, city hall and an Indian spice market. (B,L,D)

MAR. 28: RICHARDS BAY/ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK/ST. LUCIA

Drive to the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which protects a remarkable range of habitats near the coast—including wetlands, savannah, forest, woodlands, beaches, ancient sand dunes, papyrus marshes, and reefs. (iSimangaliso aptly means "miracle and wonder" in Zulu.) The centerpiece is Lake St. Lucia, where we'll go out by boat to look for the wildlife for which the park is known: large groups of hippos and crocodiles, along with birds such as African fish eagles, palm nut vultures, jacanas, guinea fowl, storks and much more—more than 525 species have been recorded here. We'll also look for black rhino, buffalo, and antelope in the Eastern Shores Nature Reserve. Continue to St. Lucia, where we'll spend the night in the Elephant Lake Hotel or similar. (B,L,D)

(CONTINUED)



Hermanus boasts hill country with some of South Africa's finest fynbos (beautiful bush country) with lush flowering plants and colorful birds, including the greater double-collared sunbird, shown above. The town contains an oddity too: A railway station, but no tracks. Residents decided they didn't want their village commercialized.

SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE, & MADAGASCAR



Mother and baby elephant, South Africa.



A local woman carries a basket past Madagascar's famous baobab trees, which can grow to 100 feet tall and live hundreds of years.





“Mantas are some of the most engaging and charismatic underwater animals you’ll encounter.” Andrea Marshall, founder of the the Marine Megafauna Foundation, has discovered two new species of manta ray. And she leads groundbreaking research and conservation programs to save globally threatened manta rays, other vulnerable marine megafauna, and their critical habitats. Traveling with her will add greatly to your undersea experience.

MAR. 29: HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI PARK

Drive to the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, one of Africa’s premier game parks, and experience the fun of a game viewing drive in an open four-wheel drive safari vehicle. Of course we don’t know precisely what we’ll see in this superb environment, but the park is renowned for wildlife that includes the “big five” (black rhino, elephant, lion, leopard, and buffalo). We’ll also look for cheetah, giraffe browsing the trees, herds of wildebeest, and outstanding birdlife. We may find white rhinos too. The park has quintessentially African habitats: rivers, acacia forest, hills, woodland, and savanna. We return to our ship in the late afternoon and sail for Mozambique. (B,L,D)

MAR. 30: MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

This afternoon, tour Maputo, Mozambique’s capital for well over a century—during the Portuguese era it was known as Lourenço Marques. It’s Mozambique’s political and economic capital, a city with character and charm, along with varied architecture that ranges from colonial buildings to skyscrapers. We’ll visit the fortress of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (completed in 1787), along with the colorful Central Market, the fine Museum of Natural History, Iron House, and the Botanical Garden, as well as Maputo’s historic railway station. (B,L,D)



Manta ray.

MAR. 31 & APR. 1: EXPLORING THE INHAMBANE AREA

We’ll spend these days in the Inhambane region of Mozambique. Working with Andrea Marshall, a 2013 National Geographic Emerging Explorer with the Marine Megafauna Foundation, who is doing extraordinary work to protect and conserve marine life along the coast of Mozambique, we have arranged a program to show you some of the undersea life here. We plan to look for whale sharks, bottlenose dolphins, manta rays and turtles and other marine life, seeing them by Zodiac and by snorkeling and diving. Whale sharks, the world’s largest fish, can reach a length of 40 feet and a weight of 20 tons. They do not pose a danger to humans, and if conditions permit the adventurous will be able to snorkel and dive with them. We plan to have Andrea aboard for these days, to tell us about her work and the conservation status of these animals. She is doing groundbreaking research, and has been a pioneering force in the protection of some of the largest animals that have ever lived on Earth. (B,L,D)



EXCLUSIVE OFFER Book by Dec. 31, 2014 and take 10% off now, plus become a Friend For Life and save 10% on all future voyages. See page 40 or call for details.

APR. 2: AT SEA

We sail eastward across the Mozambique Channel toward Madagascar, with a chance to learn about some of the wildlife we’ll be seeing in the coming days. (B,L,D)

APR. 3 & 4: TOLIARA & ISALO NATIONAL PARK, MADAGASCAR

We dock in Toliara, Madagascar, and set off on the long but worthwhile drive to Isalo National Park, where we spend one night in a fine lodge, Le Jardin du Roy or the Relais de la Reine. This spectacular habitat has striking sandstone cliffs, with unusual formations and great vistas. We’ll have a choice of excursions, including longer and shorter walks and a chance to swim in a natural pool. We’ll visit the “window rock”—a sandstone tower with a large gap that turns deep orange as the sun sets. The star attractions are lemurs, which are primates found only in Madagascar and a handful of nearby islands. A highlight will be a chance to walk in search of lemurs that include ring-tailed and red-fronted brown lemurs, and Verreaux’s sifakas. The colorful birdlife includes endemic species such as Sakalava weaver and Madagascar kingfisher. The plant life is unusual too, with endemic palms, aloes, and the bulbous “elephant’s foot.” After an afternoon and morning visiting Isalo, we drive back to Toliara and rejoin our ship for the sail northward. (B,L,D)

APR. 5: MORONDAVA/AVENUE OF THE BAOBABS

From the town of Morondava, we drive to the renowned “Avenue of the Baobabs”—a large stand of photogenic *Adansonia grandidieri* trees. It is one of the classic sights of Madagascar. These beautiful, endemic trees can grow to 100 feet, and some of them are hundreds of years old. This species of baobab, considered by some to be the most beautiful of all, is found only in Madagascar. We’ll have



SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE, & MADAGASCAR



Baobab trees, Madagascar.

plenty of chances to view and photograph them, to see the people who make the region home, learn about the efforts that are underway to promote conservation. (B,L,D)

APR. 6: AT SEA

On our day at sea, we'll have talks by primatologist Patricia Wright and our staff about Madagascar's extraordinary environment. (B,L,D)

APR. 7: MAHAJANGA/ANKARAFANTSIKA NATIONAL PARK

We anchor at Mahajanga and drive to Ankarafantsika National Park, a superb deciduous lowland forest—one of the best remaining examples of this kind of habitat in Madagascar. We'll have a choice of excursions here, with a chance to walk in the forest to look for lemurs, especially the striking brown and white Coquerel's sifaka. Chameleons are also among Madagascar's characteristic wildlife, and we'll look for horned and rhinoceros chameleons here. Frogs and turtles also breed here. Birds include banded kestrel, rufous vanga, and Madagascan fish eagle (a relative of the American bald eagle). You may choose a boat ride on Ravelobe Lake, which has Nile crocodile and waterbirds. The flora is interesting as well, with a number of native medicinal plants. We return to our ship and sail on to Mayotte. (B,L,D)

APR. 8: MAYOTTE, FRENCH COMOROS

Although geographically within the Comoros Group, Mayotte

is a territory of France. Our visit shows us French colonial architecture, colorful local cultures, a distinctive style of dress, and a relaxed way of life. We'll have a selection of excursions including a chance to explore the main island, called Grande-Terre, which has a fine botanical garden with birdlife and fragrant ylang-ylang trees, whose oil is prized by perfumers. There are scenic hills and a fine coastline, along with a lively market near the capital, Mamoudzou. You may also choose to go across to the smaller island, Petite-Terre, where you can walk around the rim of the volcanic crater that surrounds scenic Lake Dziani. You may also opt for an extended walk to look for birdlife, or else to go diving or snorkeling if conditions permit. (B,L,D)

APR. 9: AT SEA

Our last day is a chance to reflect on all we've seen and done, to look at photographs our shipmates have taken, and to enjoy a farewell reception and dinner. (B,L,D)

APR. 10: DAR ES SALAAM/DISEMBARK

Disembark *National Geographic Orion*. Spend the morning exploring Dar es Salaam to see its historic waterfront, the National Museum, which contains some of the Leakey family's discoveries from Olduvai Gorge, and the craft center. After lunch, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B,L)

APRIL 11: ARRIVE U.S.



Parson's chameleon, endemic to Madagascar.

EXPLORE MORE

Add a two-day pre-extension to [South Africa's Cape Town](#) and the [Cape Region](#), and/or a five-day post-extension in [Northern Tanzania](#). See page 40 or call for details.



Lemurs are lovely. To watch and listen to lemurs is better than watching ballet or going to the opera. I saw my first lemur in the wild in 1984, and began to study them in earnest almost 30 years ago. The opportunity for observation is wonderful here—there are 15 species of lemurs in our rainforest. I discovered a new species to science, the golden bamboo lemur, and rediscovered another species we thought was extinct. When the timber exploiters came to cut down the forest where I was studying these rare lemurs, I became a conservationist. To preserve these forests and to save the lemurs from extinction is my lifework—and through our efforts there are now education and conservation programs in 50 villages. To share this beautiful country with Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic guests will be an honor for me. From the famous baobabs to coral reefs to rain forests, Madagascar is a special world like no other. Be prepared to fall in love. With the lemurs, the people and the landscape!

—PATRICIA WRIGHT



Patricia Chapple Wright, Ph.D. is an accomplished American primatologist, anthropologist, and conservationist. Considered to be one of the world's foremost experts on lemurs, Wright is best known for her 26-year study of social and family interactions of wild lemurs in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar. She is the founder of the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments (ICTE) and Centre ValBio (CVB). Wright has worked extensively on conservation and has received many honors for her work. In the late 1980s she spearheaded an integrated conservation and development project that, in 1991, led to the establishment of Ranomafana National Park.

Dr. Wright is currently a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Stony Brook University. She supervises students in two doctoral programs at Stony Brook: Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences and Department of Ecology and Evolution.

- » SHARE THE ADVENTURE WITH DR WRIGHT ON THE MAR. 20, 2015 DEPARTURE. TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT HOME.PATRICIACWRIGHT.ORG
- » DR. WRIGHT CONSULTED ON THE IMAX FILM "ISLAND OF LEMURS: MADAGASCAR." TO SEE THE DELIGHTFUL TRAILER, NARRATED BY MORGAN FREEMAN, VISIT EXPEDITIONS.COM/LEMURS
- » READ A WONDERFUL NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON PATRICIA WRIGHT'S START WITH LEMURS AT EXPEDITIONS.COM/NYTLEMUR

The best trip I will ever experience was my first to Africa. I was 26. I'd never been abroad. I spent a month traveling with a childhood friend who'd been there doing bird research, and we lived in a Maasai village and went walking overnight in the Loita Hills. We had true adventures with wild creatures and peoples, and lived to tell. Then in South Africa I went to sea to observe newborn humpback whales and albatrosses. And in Namibia I saw what seemed like every star in every house of heaven and with a night-vision scope in that blanketing darkness watched lions hunting and harassing rhinos. I sailed on a dhow to a reef to catch lunch with a local and, decades later, did a PBS television episode called "The Sacred Island" about the efforts of the people of Pemba, Zanzibar, to restore their reefs and mangroves based on verses of the Koran (it won in its category at the San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival 2013.) Last year, for a new book I'm writing, I spent a month with the pioneering elephant researchers Cynthia Moss and Iain Douglas-Hamilton, learning the ways and wisdoms of the largest land animal. But in a lifetime gifted with travel I have never been to the destinations we will see on this voyage. Never been to Mozambique though I have friends working to restore wildlife there; never been to Madagascar though my wife, Pat Paladines, works for the world expert on lemurs: the truly amazing primatologist Patricia Wright (both will be our traveling companions on this trip; lucky us!). So I am long overdue, and so looking forward to seeing some of the best and most unusual places remaining in all of Africa, with the best people to help reveal them. I'll be sharing with you some of my impressions about the topic of my life work: the relationship between humans and nature. And I'll be talking about my new book, Beyond Words, which will be in production by the time we sail; its subject, appropriately for our journey, is: how animals think and what animals feel.

—CARL SAFINA





Corals at Baa Atoll, Maldives.



Carl Safina is President and co-founder of The Safina Center, an environmental organization based in Cold Spring Harbor, New York. A winner of the prestigious Pew Fellowship, MacArthur Fellowship and Guggenheim Fellowship, Carl has written five books and more than a hundred scientific and popular publications on ecology and oceans, including featured work in *National Geographic* and *The New York Times*.

His first book, *Song for the Blue Ocean*, was chosen a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. His second, *Eye of the Albatross*, won the John Burroughs Medal for nature writing and was chosen by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine as the year's best book for communicating science. Many of us saw him regularly during the coverage of the Gulf oil spill. And his *A Sea in Flames: The Deepwater Horizon Oil Blowout*, was published in 2011—when his TV series, “Saving the Ocean,” premiered on PBS.

» TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL WITH AUTHOR, EXPLORER AND RACONTEUR CARL SAFINA ON THE MAR. 20, 2015 DEPARTURE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HIM, PLEASE VISIT HIS SITE CARLSAFINA.ORG

» TO SEE CARL SAFINA'S AWARD-WINNING ZANZIBAR DOCUMENTARY, VISIT [HTTP://VIDEO.PBS.ORG/VIDEO/1874606186/](http://VIDEO.PBS.ORG/VIDEO/1874606186/)

TREASUR



Giant tortoise, Aldabra, Seychelles.



E ISLANDS

ZANZIBAR & THE SEYCHELLES

Far from anywhere, surrounded by warm seas, these tranquil places have wildlife, plants, landscapes, and people different from any others on Earth. They represent something rare and beautiful: the chance to explore remote and idyllic regions and to learn about their unique cultures and wildlife. From the Swahili culture of Zanzibar, to the rare birds and giant tortoises of the Seychelles, to the coral reefs and extraordinary marine life you'll find almost everywhere we go, you'll see tropical nature at its most exuberant. Our expedition staff will share with you their passion for exploring.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ See three World Heritage sites: Zanzibar's Stone Town, Aldabra, and Praslin's Vallée de Mai.
- ✓ On the storied island of Zanzibar, explore the historic Stone Town and learn about Zanzibar's history and Swahili culture.
- ✓ Spend two days at Aldabra, an atoll that has an amazing amount and variety of marine life.
- ✓ See the unique coco-de-mer, with the largest leaf and seed in the world, on Praslin Island.

15 DAYS/12 NIGHTS | Treasures of the Indian Ocean: Zanzibar & the Seychelles

APR. 8: U.S./FLY OVERNIGHT TO DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

APR. 9: DAR ES SALAAM

Arrive in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's commercial capital, situated along the Indian Ocean, and transfer to the Hyatt Regency Dar es Salaam, The Kilimanjaro for the night. We have a welcome dinner at the hotel. (D)

APR. 10: DAR ES SALAAM/EMBARK

After a morning at leisure and lunch, tour Dar es Salaam, seeing its waterfront, the National Museum, which contains some of the Leakey family's discoveries from Olduvai Gorge, and the craft center. Transfer to the pier and embark *National Geographic Orion*. (B,L,D)

APR. 11: ZANZIBAR

We have the day on the storied "spice island" of Zanzibar, where cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon are still cultivated. Take a walking tour of the historic Stone Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and learn about traditional Swahili culture and the island's rich history. It's a labyrinth of streets and alleyways with old homes, palaces, mosques, shops and bazaars. Most houses were built in the 19th century of coralline rock, and a striking feature is the massive ornately carved, brass-studded doors—a distinctive feature of Swahili art that is found in abundance here. You'll see the old market and the imposing Anglican cathedral, built in 1887 on the site of the former slave market. You'll also see the Arab Fort, built around 1700, which has also served as a prison, railway depot, and women's tennis club. Climb to the top of the battlements and enter the towers. You may also wish to drive out of town for a walk in the Jozani Forest Preserve in search of Kirk's red colobus monkeys, which are endemic to Zanzibar, stopping also at a clove plantation—Zanzibar is famous for cloves, cinnamon and other spices. (B,L,D)

APR. 12: AT SEA (B,L,D)



APR. 13: ASSUMPTION, SEYCHELLES ISLANDS

We arrive in the Seychelles, anchoring off Assumption Island. Take a stroll ashore through coconut groves to see the remains of the guano mining that once took place here. Swim in the crystal-clear waters from the powder-white sand landing beach—surely one of the finest and most remote

beaches anywhere—or snorkel and if you wish scuba dive to observe the prolific undersea life. There are over 100 species of fish to be found, including black lionfish, blue-ribbon eels, black-streak surgeonfish, and Indian Ocean steephead parrotfish. (B,L,D)

APR. 14 & 15: ALDABRA, SEYCHELLES ISLANDS

We sail to remote Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the largest atolls on Earth. An expedition paradise, Aldabra has

a range of exceptional life, and our two days here give us ample time to see the best of this incredible island.

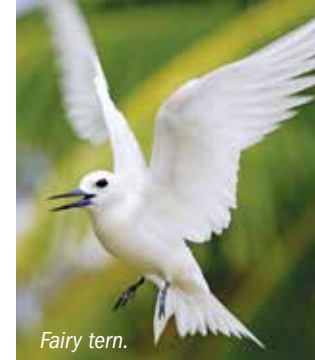
Our plans will remain flexible to make the best of conditions. One afternoon we will have an opportunity to walk ashore, perhaps visiting the research station that

houses the island's only inhabitants—scientists and rangers who protect the wildlife. Walking through a shaded grove we find the Aldabra giant tortoise, emerging from the shade to feed. Aldabra's lagoon is so large that the curvature of the earth hides the opposite shore. Our Zodiacs pass through narrow channels between fossilized coral islands to enter the lagoon. Through the clear water we see the rich marine life below—reef sharks, rays, and turtles—and we cruise between mangrove-covered islands to observe large colonies of nesting boobies and great frigatebirds. There's some of the most amazing snorkeling in the world. As the tides pump water in and out of the lagoon, massive numbers of fish come and go through channels to feed. We snorkel in these same channels, allowing the current to carry us along a magical scene. Scuba divers are also in for a thrill, riding the current in an exciting drift dive. (B,L,D)

APR. 16: ASTOVE

Astove, also part of the Seychelles' remote Outer Islands, offers remarkable snorkeling and diving along the outer wall of the coral reef. The wall plummets to huge depths and rises to within a few feet of the surface at its top. The reefs have enormous and colorful marine populations, with coral, caves, colorful fish and turtles. Look for African flameback angelfish and Oriental sweetlips among the stunning fish populations. We'll make a Zodiac landing on a sandy beach and look for nests of hawksbill and green turtles, and the rare Souimanga sunbird, found only here. Astove also has an intriguing human history, with shipwrecked sailors, hardy settlers, and failed attempts at guano and copra harvesting. (B,L,D)

APR. 17: AT SEA (B,L,D)



*Aldabra was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982. It is the largest raised coral atoll on Earth. And it is a refuge for many endangered species, including the giant tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*), a key interest of our expedition. In addition it hosts one of the largest congregations of nesting green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Indian Ocean, and the last flightless bird species in the Indian Ocean—the white-throated rail (*Dryolimnas cuvieri aldabranus*).*

(CONTINUED)

ZANZIBAR & THE SEYCHELLES

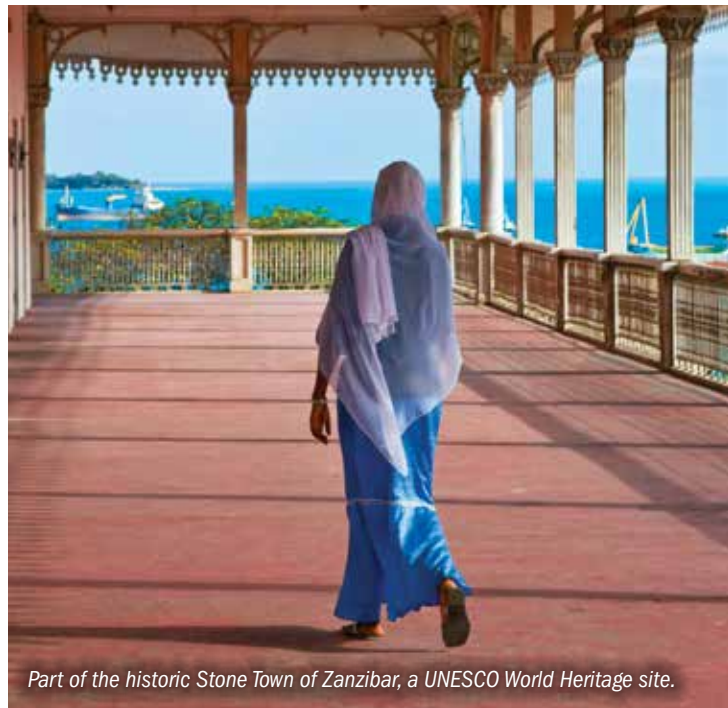


Anse Source d'Argent, La Digue, Seychelles, named world's best beach in the National Geographic book, The 10 Best of Everything.

Some were introduced to the Seychelles by Lars-Eric Lindblad's descriptions of pioneering tourism there in his 1983 autobiography "Passport to Anywhere." For many others, the introduction came earlier when the 1979 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue did its photo shoot among the granite boulders of La Digue's Anse Source d'Argent beach, forever emblazoning it on the collective consciousness as one of the world's most exotic and beautiful beaches. Where did you first learn about the Seychelles?

APR. 18: POIVRE/ST. JOSEPH

Today finds us in the Amirantes group of islands in the Seychelles, still considered part of the Outer Islands. Some of them were discovered in 1502 by Vasco da Gama. Poivre consists of two sandy islets surrounded by outstanding coral reefs. The snorkeling and diving here are excellent, and we'll have chances to see reef fish, rays and other marine life. Our Zodiacs will take us ashore, where we'll look for birds that nest here and explore the coconut plantations. St. Joseph's Atoll is surrounded by coral reefs, and we'll explore the undersea and go ashore to see the thousands of shearwaters that nest here. There are 14 sandy islets, with practically limitless swimming, snorkeling and diving opportunities. In addition to reef fish, we'll look for rays, lobsters, oysters, and giant crabs. (B,L,D)



Part of the historic Stone Town of Zanzibar, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

APR. 19: ARIDE

Tiny Aride presents a remarkable spectacle: it is one of the most important seabird breeding grounds in the Indian Ocean, with well over a million birds present much of the time. It has the world's largest colonies of tropical shearwaters and lesser noddies, along white (or "fairy") terns, roseate terns, sooty terns, tropicbirds and a host of other species. We'll make a Zodiac landing on the beach and hike up a trail for great views. (B,L,D)

spend the afternoon on La Digue, a photogenic island with powdery white sand beaches and giant granite boulders. We visit Anse Source d'Argent, the most famous beach in the Seychelles, whose pink sands and granite boulders inspired National Geographic's book *The 10 Best of Everything* to name it the top beach in the world. We explore the island by open vehicle or bicycle, and walk through the forest reserve to look for the rare Seychelles black parrot and paradise flycatcher. (B,L,D)

APR. 20: PRASLIN/LA DIGUE

Praslin is famous for its unique palm forest, the Vallée de Mai, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is home to the rare coco-de-mer. This palm has mammoth fan-shaped fronds and a seed weighing up to 40 pounds—the largest leaf and seed in the tree kingdom. Some trees are over 900 years old. We'll take an easy walk through the forest, with great chances to see and photograph these unique trees. We

APR. 21: MAHÉ/DISEMBARK

Disembark on the island of Mahé, and tour the island. After lunch, check in to the Savoy Resort and Spa, with a free afternoon to enjoy the beach. In the evening, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B,L)

APR. 22: ARRIVE U.S.



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EXPLORE MORE

Add a five-day pre-voyage extension in Northern Tanzania. See page 40 or call for details.

ZANZIBAR & THE SEYCHELLES



Zebra fish, Seychelles.

INDIA



Snorkel with whale sharks in the Maldives.

N OCEAN

SEYCHELLES, MALDIVES, & SRI LANKA

Spanning more than 1,500 nautical miles, this voyage encompasses a swath of the Indian Ocean that few people ever see in its entirety. Explore tiny islands in the Seychelles, inhabited only by rare wildlife and plants, and surrounded by miles of crystalline sea. In the Maldives, snorkel and dive reefs and passes bathed with Indian Ocean currents and supporting healthy marine ecosystems. Finish the voyage as mariners have throughout history, making landfall on the fabled coast of Sri Lanka. Throughout, your expedition team will enrich the experience, offering insight into the cultures, spotting distant wildlife and sharing tips for capturing the best possible photographs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Visit Aride Island, Seychelles, one of the most important seabird breeding grounds in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Search for abundant marine mammals in Maldives waters, including pilot whales, spinner, bottlenose and Risso's dolphins.
- ✓ Experience the myriad wildlife at Baa Atoll, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
- ✓ Explore Ari Atoll, one of the world's most important whale shark feeding areas.
- ✓ Walk the ramparts of the walled city of Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ✓ Search for blue whales, year-round residents of north Indian Ocean waters near the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

21 DAYS/18 NIGHTS | Indian Ocean Odyssey: Seychelles, Maldives & Sri Lanka

Google “aerial maps of the Maldives” and see at a glance how fascinating they are as geographic entities. Lying on the surface of the ocean like a necklace of gems, they contain undersea life of almost unimaginable splendor. The Maldives reward our time and attention with natural wonders. And, without being unduly sensationalistic, they also warrant our attention now. Scientific models dating back to 1964, confirmed by recent studies and projections, consider the Maldives one of the planet’s areas most threatened by rising sea levels due to global warming. In addition to “must be seen to be believed” we could add: “must be seen to be remembered.”

APR. 18 & 19: U.S./FLY TO MAHÉ, SEYCHELLES

APR. 20: MAHÉ

Arrive in Mahé and transfer to Le Méridien Fisherman’s Cove for the night, with an opportunity to relax and enjoy the beach. This evening, there will be a welcome dinner at the hotel. (D)

APR. 21: MAHÉ/EMBARK

The morning is at leisure. After lunch, we’ll have a brief tour of Mahé before we transfer to the pier and embark *National Geographic Orion*. (B,L,D)

APR. 22: SILHOUETTE/CURIEUSE

Idyllic Silhouette is a steep and forested island that offers us a choice of walks and the chance to see the work of the Seychelles Giant Tortoise Conservation Project. The giant tortoise of the Seychelles was almost extinct because tortoises were taken for food by early sailors. Only a small number remain, and we’ll be able to see some up close. Hikers can opt for easy walks or more strenuous ones, before we return to our ship and sail to Curieuse. Here we’ll have time on the beach to enjoy the warm waters, with a chance to snorkel, kayak or dive. This evening, we plan to have a sunset barbecue dinner ashore, prepared by the crew of our ship. (B,L,D)

APR. 23: PRASLIN/LA DIGUE

Praslin is famous for its unique palm forest, the Vallée de Mai, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is home to the rare coco-de-mer. This palm has mammoth fan-shaped fronds and a seed weighing up to 40 pounds—the largest leaf and seed in the tree kingdom. Some trees are over 900 years old. We’ll take an easy walk through the forest, with great chances to see and photograph these unique trees. We spend the afternoon on La Digue, a photogenic island with powdery white sand beaches and giant granite boulders. We visit Anse Source d’Argent, the most famous beach in the Seychelles, whose pink sands and granite boulders inspired National Geographic’s book, *The 10 Best of Everything*, to name it the top beach in the world. We explore the island by open vehicle or bicycle, and walk through the forest reserve to look for the rare Seychelles black parrot and paradise flycatcher. (B,L,D)



APR. 24: ARIDE

Tiny Aride presents a remarkable spectacle: it is one of the most important seabird breeding grounds in the Indian

Ocean, with well over a million birds present much of the time. It has the world’s largest colonies of tropical shearwaters and lesser noddies, along with white (or “fairy”) terns, roseate terns, sooty terns, tropicbirds and a host of other species. We’ll make a Zodiac landing on the beach and hike up a trail for great views. Mid-afternoon, we set sail across the Indian Ocean for the Maldives. (B,L,D)

APR. 25-27: AT SEA

Enjoy the rare opportunity to spend multiple days at sea, on passage from the Seychelles to the Maldives. Scan the horizon by day, for sightings of pelagic birds and flying fish over a deep blue sea. Miles from the nearest population center, you can venture on deck after dark to see a sky filled with stars, unlike any you’ve seen from land. (B,L,D)



APR. 28: GAN, ADDU ATOLL, MALDIVES

Make landfall at the southernmost atoll of this archipelago, with a visit to the Royal Air Force Station at Gan. Established in 1941 as a base for the British Royal Navy, Gan was active during WWII. During the 1950s and 1960s, RAF Gan was an important stopover for planes in the RAF Far East Air Force en route to Singapore. We’ll visit the RAF Base, while divers may choose to explore the famous WWII shipwreck *British Loyalty*. Underway this evening, we’ll cross the equator into the northern hemisphere tonight. (B,L,D)

APR. 29: HUVADHOO ATOLL, MALDIVES

As one of the world’s ten largest atolls, Huvadhoos has much to offer. Spend the day exploring one of its uninhabited islands and surrounding reef. Swim and snorkel in crystalline Maldives waters, paddle a kayak from the beach, or dive the island’s reef. Those who prefer can choose to explore by Zodiac or glass-bottom boat. (B,L,D)

APR. 30: AT SEA

Since the Maldives are also known for a diversity of cetaceans, we’ll spend today in search of dolphins, pilot whales and possibly even blue whales from the deck of the ship as we explore these pristine waters. Bring your binoculars and cameras, and join us on deck as we scan for all manner of marine wildlife. (B,L,D)

(CONTINUED)

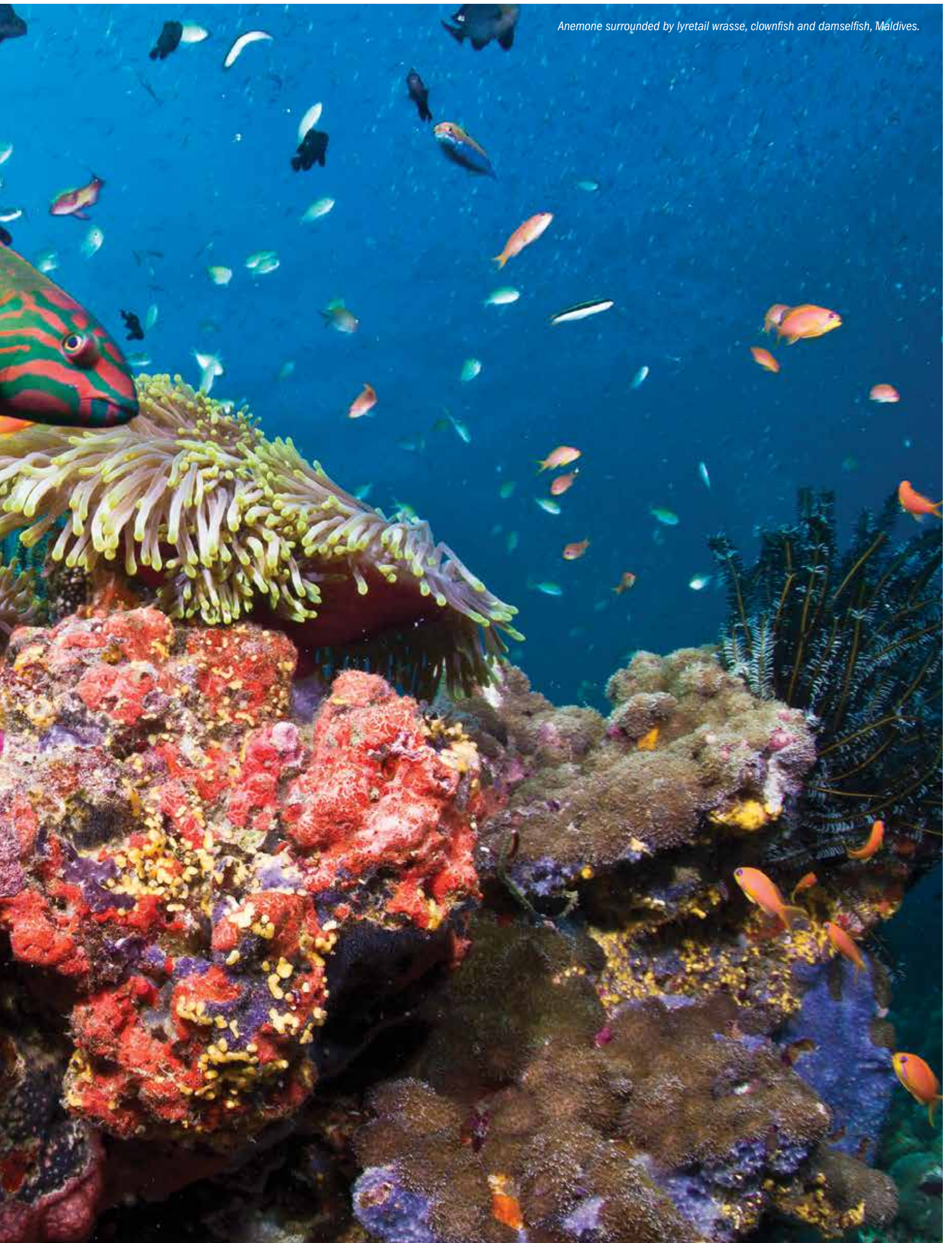
SEYCHELLES, MALDIVES, & SRI LANKA



Aerial view of the Maldives.



Anemone surrounded by lyretail wrasse, clownfish and damselfish, Maldives.



“A world that contained only human beings would not be worth living in, nor would it be habitable very long. This is a lesson that our urban-centered, technologically oriented culture is painfully relearning, though our ancestors knew it well enough. A holy man once told the ruler of Ceylon: ‘O great King, the birds of the air and the beasts have as equal a right to live and move about in any part of this land as thou. This land belongs to the people and all living beings; thou art only the guardian of it.’ That was 23 centuries ago, when coexistence of man and beast presented few problems...” – From an article in the August 1983 National Geographic by Arthur C. Clarke. British science fiction and science writer, inventor, undersea explorer, and more, he lived in Sri Lanka from 1956 to his death in 2008.

EXPLORE MORE

Add a six-day post-voyage extension in [Sri Lanka](#). See page 40 or call for details.

MAY 1: ARI ATOLL, MALDIVES

Located just to the west of the Maldives’ capital of Malé, Ari Atoll is an important area for manta rays and whale sharks, two of the largest planktivores in the world. We’ll spend the day snorkeling and diving some of the atoll’s reefs and passes, in search of these charismatic fish. (B,L,D)

MAY 2: BAA ATOLL, MALDIVES

Snorkel and dive the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Baa Atoll. More than 1,000 fish species, including manta rays and whale sharks, will delight snorkelers and scuba divers. Birdwatchers will be thrilled with Zodiac cruising to look for tropicbirds and frigatebirds. (B,L,D)

MAY 3: MALÉ ATOLL, MALDIVES

This tiny island nation has a long and fascinating human history, so we’ll spend our morning exploring the bustling capital of Malé. A walking tour through the city leads us past the 17th-century cemetery surrounding the Friday Mosque, into the newly constructed National Museum and through the busy market, where masses of fresh fruits, vegetables and fish are on display. Be sure to bring your cameras, as photo opportunities abound. This afternoon, we’ll get underway, in search of more of the Maldives’ abundant marine mammals. (B,L,D)

MAY 4: AT SEA

A day at sea is always a chance to relax and gaze out on the blue horizon from a comfortable deck chair. For those wishing more structured activity, our expedition team and photo experts will offer talks and instruction, ahead of our arrival in Sri Lanka. (B,L,D)

MAY 5: LACCADIVE SEA/GALLE, SRI LANKA

We’ll dedicate this morning to searching out the marine mammals for which this part of the Indian Ocean is known, so bring your binoculars and join us on deck. Later, we’ll pass under the ramparts of the 400-year-old Galle Fort on approach to the harbor. On an afternoon tour of this



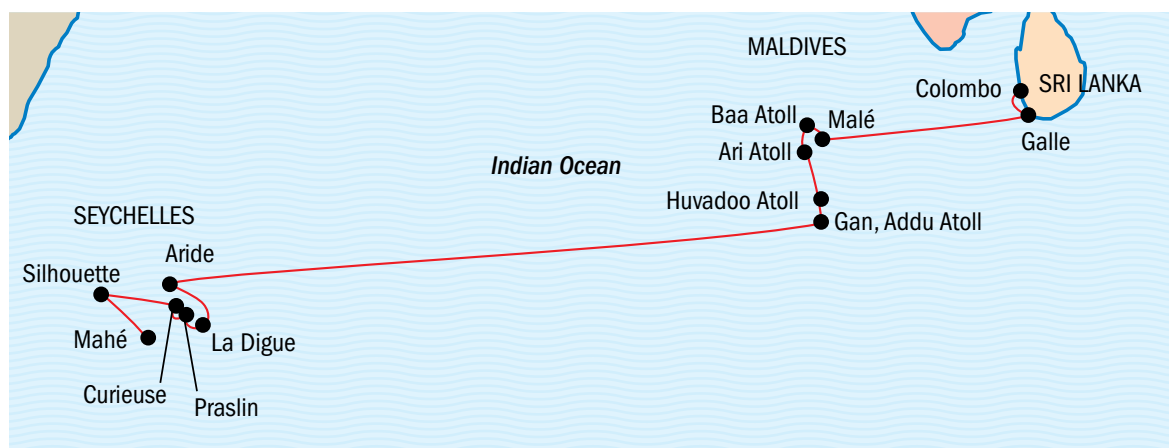
fascinating city, we’ll see its Portuguese and Dutch colonial architecture and learn of a history that includes Persian, Arab, Greek, Roman and Chinese influences. We return to our ship for the night. (B,L,D)

MAY 6: GALLE, SRI LANKA

Historically known as Gimhathiththa, the ancient seaport of Galle is also thought to be the site from which ivory, peacocks and cinnamon were shipped to the court of King Solomon. Today it’s the base from which we explore a bit of southern Sri Lanka. Choose to learn about traditional Sri Lankan culture with visits to the Wickramasinghe Folk Museum, and Handunugoda, a boutique tea plantation, or spend your day searching for wildlife on a guided boat safari along the Madu Ganga River. (B,L,D)

MAY 7 & 8: COLOMBO, SRI LANKA/DISEMBARK/ U.S.

Disembark after breakfast, for a day exploring this bustling Sri Lankan city. Venture seven miles outside of town to tour the elaborate Buddhist temple of Kelaniya with its giant whitewashed stupa, see the impressive collection of artifacts at the National Museum, drive the promenade along the famed Galle Face Green and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before transferring to the Taj Samudra Hotel for the evening. Depart on flights home, arriving the following day. (May 7: B,L,D; May 8: B)



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SEYCHELLES, MALDIVES, & SRI LANKA



Picking leaves at a tea plantation, Sri Lanka.



Stilt fisherman at sunset, Galle, Sri Lanka.



THE WIL



Search for leopards on a game drive in Sri Lanka.



D

ISLANDS

OF SRI LANKA, BORNEO & THE ANDAMAN SEA

Search for leopards or elephants on game drives, see bird and primate species, and meet welcoming people of long-isolated cultures who continue to live close to their ancestral traditions on this sweeping expedition. Rare opportunities abound, including a two-day visit to an orangutan rescue center run since 1971 by National Geographic grantee and Louis Leakey protégée Dr. Biruté Galdikas. Meet the orangutans in Tanjung Puting National Park, Kalimantan. Plus, snorkel or dive some of the planet's most vibrant coral reefs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Tour the 400-year-old Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, walk the ramparts, photograph the Dutch and British colonial architecture, and the beautiful Galle Lighthouse.
- ✓ See herds of Sri Lankan elephants on a game drive in Udawalawe National Park, and watch the feeding of orphaned elephants at the Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home.
- ✓ Search for leopards, abundant birds and other wildlife on a game drive in Yala National Park.
- ✓ Visit Handunugoda Tea Factory, a lowland tea plantation and boutique tea processor owned and operated by a third generation "Ceylon" tea grower.
- ✓ Spend two days in the seldom-visited Andaman Islands.
- ✓ Explore Sabang, at the western end of Indonesia, as well as the interior of North Sumatra.

22 DAYS/19 NIGHTS | Wild Islands of Sri Lanka, Borneo, & the Andaman Sea

The Sign of The Four, the second book in Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes series, has a complex plot involving stolen treasure and a secret pact—and prominently features the Andaman Islands when a penal colony chapter marked its history. Tracing the origins of its human population to the Middle Paleolithic, the Andamans are thought to be a key stepping stone in a great coastal migration of humans from Africa via the Arabian peninsula. Today, the Andamans are celebrated as one of the world's last scuba diving frontiers. There is some stunning diving here, and we'll have advantages: local divemasters for site expertise and few "live-aboard" dive tourists. Our divers will have privileged site access to marine life that is curious, not frightened.

MAY 5 & 6: U.S./FLY TO COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

MAY 6: COLOMBO

Arrive in Sri Lanka's capital city and transfer to the hotel Taj Samudra for the evening.

MAY 7: COLOMBO/EMBARK

Check out of the Taj Samudra after breakfast, for a day exploring this bustling Sri Lankan city. Venture seven miles outside of town to tour the elaborate Buddhist temple of Kelaniya with its giant whitewashed stupa, see the impressive collection of artifacts at the National Museum, drive the promenade along the famed Galle Face Green and have lunch at the Kingsbury Hotel before embarking *National Geographic Orion*. (B,L,D)

MAY 8: GALLE, SRI LANKA

History buffs and photographers will want to be on deck this morning, as we pass under the ramparts of the Galle Fort, situated just at the entrance to the harbor. Once ashore, you can choose to spend the morning either visiting Handunugoda, a private lowland tea factory complete with processing machinery from the British Raj period, or exploring the Madu Ganga River on a wildlife boat safari. This afternoon, we'll tour the 400-year-old Galle Fort, visiting the historic Dutch Reformed Church, taking in the view from atop the ramparts and wandering the narrow lanes of the fort's interior. The juxtaposition of Dutch, British and Portuguese colonial architecture with more recent Moorish influences makes for fascinating photography. (B,L,D)

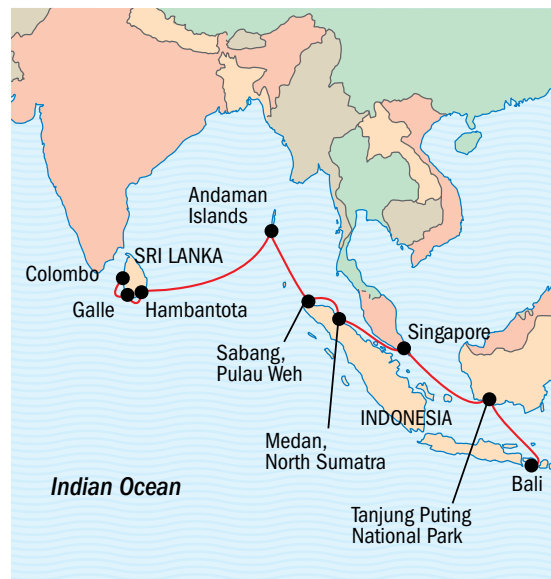
MAY 9: HAMBANTOTA, SRI LANKA

Today will be a highlight, as we set out to explore southern Sri Lanka's incredible national parks. Bring your cameras and binoculars, as we spend the day on our chosen game drives, in search of wildlife, including Sri Lankan leopards, elephants, and prolific birdlife. Udawalawe National Park is home to several herds of Sri Lankan elephants, and the nearby Elephant Transit Center offers an opportunity to see the care and feeding of orphaned elephants. Yala National Park offers opportunities to spot countless species of birds, as well as elusive leopards. Your guides and jeep drivers will be on the lookout for wildlife, stopping regularly for photographs. (B,L,D)

MAY 10 & 11: AT SEA (B,L,D)

MAY 12 & 13: ANDAMAN ISLANDS

Situated at the southeastern edge of the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Islands are known in part for their history as a British penal colony. Long isolated from foreign visitation, the Andamans hold a strong appeal for the modern expedition traveler. Spend a day at South



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Andaman Island, landing first at the small capital city of Port Blair, then venturing inland. Visit the British-built Cellular Jail, where Indian revolutionaries were held during their struggle for independence, then wander the fragrant, colorful stalls of the Aberdeen Market. Later, learn about the spices for which India is renowned, with a visit to a local spice farm. The following day, sail to one of the outer islands for a full expedition day. Snorkel or dive among colorful soft corals and reef fish, or kayak along the lush green shore. (B,L,D)

MAY 14: AT SEA (B,L,D)

MAY 15: SABANG, PULAU WEH, INDONESIA

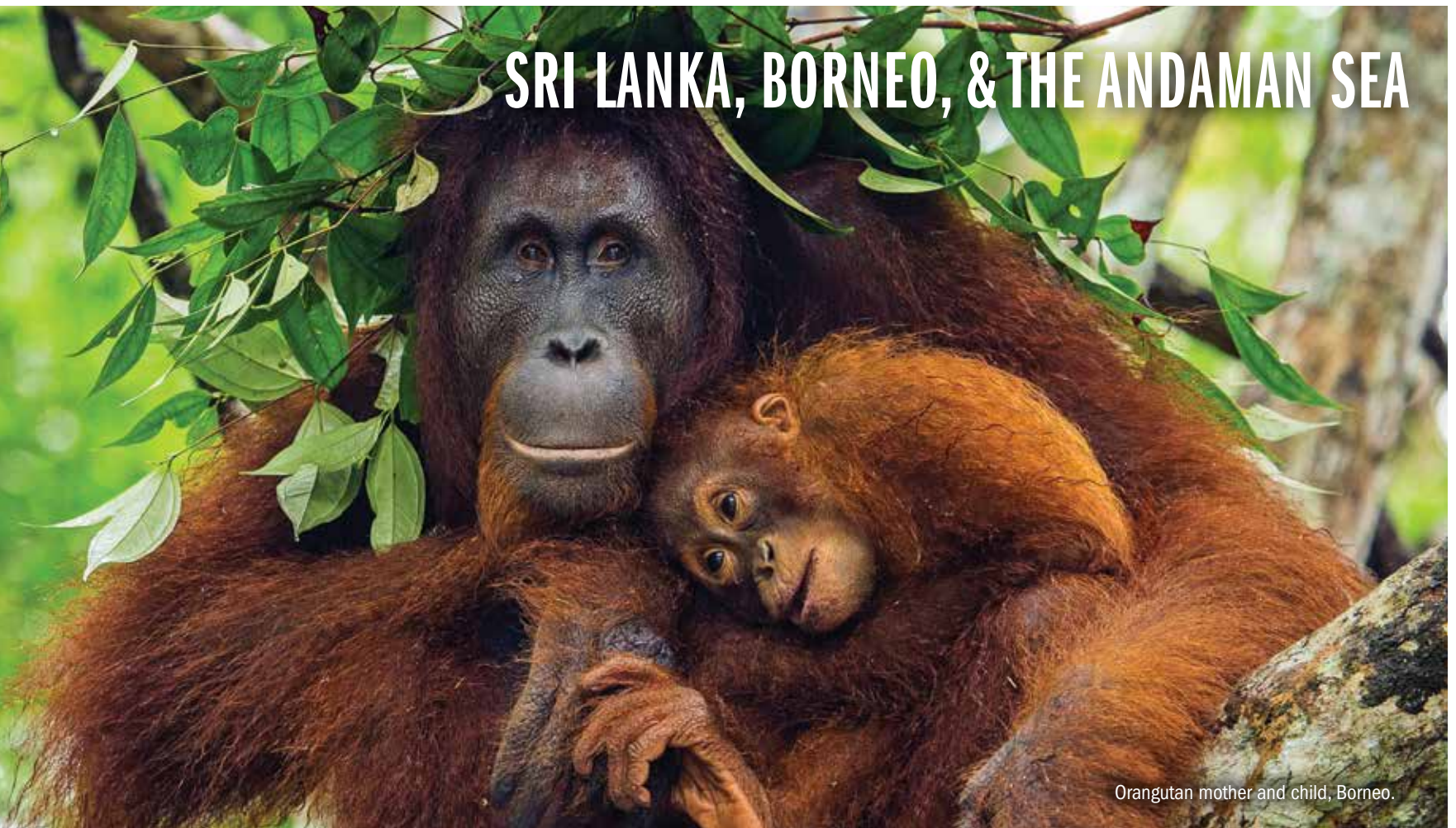
This morning we arrive at Pulau Weh, the westernmost island in the Indonesian archipelago. Spend the morning exploring this relaxed and friendly island, including a walk among the steaming fumaroles of the Jaboi Geothermal Area, and a visit to the quiet city of Sabang. Photograph Dutch colonial buildings while walking Sabang's avenues, or rest in the shade of the large trees planted by Dutch colonists. Located where the Andaman Sea meets the Indian Ocean, Weh offers unparalleled opportunities for underwater exploration as well. We'll spend the afternoon snorkeling and diving one of the island's many reefs, and kayaking from one of its beautiful beaches. (B,L,D)

MAY 16: AT SEA (B,L,D)

MAY 17: MEDAN, NORTH SUMATRA, INDONESIA

This busy port and capital of North Sumatra offer us access to the remote hinterlands of Sumatra today. You

SRI LANKA, BORNEO, & THE ANDAMAN SEA



Orangutan mother and child, Borneo.

can choose a full-day excursion, either to the orangutan sanctuary at Gunung Leuser National Park, or to the highlands near Berastagi, for a cultural exchange with the local Batak Karo tribespeople. (B,L,D)

MAY 18: AT SEA (B,L,D)

MAY 19: SINGAPORE

No passage through this region would be complete without a visit to the incomparable city-state of Singapore. We'll spend the day exploring this bustling metropolis, with stops in Chinatown, and the impressive National Orchid Garden at the Singapore Botanic Garden. Colorful workboats and water taxis have plied Singaporean waters for more than a century, and are an integral part of the city's history. Board one of these brightly painted "bumboats" for a ride along the Singapore River, offering countless photographic opportunities. (B,L,D)

MAY 20 & 21: AT SEA (B,L,D)

MAY 22 & 23: TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK, KALIMANTAN

Set on a peninsula jutting out from the southern edge of Kalimantan, Tanjung Puting National Park is a trove of rare species and diverse habitats. We are privileged to spend two full days here, in the company of its most famous residents, the endangered orangutans.

Board Zodiacs and then local boats called *klotoks* for a

full-day excursion into the forest up the Sekonyer River, gliding on narrow channels on the lookout for hornbills, stork-billed kingfishers, crocodiles, and other primates such as proboscis monkeys and crab-eating macaques. Have cameras at the ready for the late afternoon return downriver as the proboscis monkeys make their camps along the river bank, just meters from our boats.

Our destination is Camp Leakey, a research station established in 1971 by primatologist Dr. Biruté Galdikas, a protégée of legendary paleontologist Louis Leakey and the founder of Orangutan Foundation International (OFI). A many-time National Geographic grantee, Dr. Galdikas joins us to discuss her efforts to save the orangutan from extinction through rehabilitation and habitat preservation. Our boats bring us to feeding stations throughout the forest, where we can observe these gentle creatures at close range. The following day, we visit OFI's Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine Facility, and also attend a cultural performance as the local Dayak people welcome us to their country. At the Care Center, we learn how captive and orphaned orangutans are rescued and rehabilitated. (B,L,D)

MAY 24 & 25: AT SEA/DENPASAR, BALI/ DISEMBARK/U.S.

Cross the Java Sea to the lovely Indonesian island of Bali. Disembark the following morning and transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or, extend your stay with our Bali Extension. (May 24: B)

Fabric merchant, Port Blair, Andaman Islands.



EXPLORE MORE

Add a six-day pre-voyage extension in [Sri Lanka](#) or a two-day post-voyage extension in [Bali](#). See page 40 or call for details.

I've been living here, filming, and writing about Indonesia for some 40 years, and have barely scratched the surface. It would take several lifetimes to visit all its some 17,000 habitable islands, let alone to broach their interiors. Indonesia is most easily explored by boat—it is predominantly a nation of seas, from the world's deepest for its size, to the seas at the heart of the Coral Triangle, which has recently revealed itself as the planet's womb of marine species' generation and diversity, containing an astonishing 75% of all its coral species and some 34% of its salt water fish species. My first Indonesian adventure, in 1972, with my late brother Lorne, was a 1,500-mile-voyage with the Bugis seafaring tribe from Makassar to coastal New Guinea to film the Greater Bird of Paradise. It was the same route sailed by the great 19th-century naturalist, Alfred Russel Wallace, 120 years prior. I have been lecturing and assisting on marine expeditions ranging from private charters to cruise ships, but I cut my teeth, in the 70s and 80s, aboard the Lindblad Explorer, brainchild of Lars-Eric Lindblad, Sven-Olof's father, who pioneered high-end expeditions to the world's remotest regions. Since then, Indonesia has been continuing to astonish with unlikely discoveries: the first-known poisonous bird, Pitohui dichros, with toxic oil on its feathers; the first vampire moth; a new species of living Coelacanth, the 360 million year old pre-fish, unchanged since before the time of the first land creatures; and the remains of the Hobbit, our lost cousin Homo floresiensis, another species of human, 3 foot tall and alive and well only 12,000 years ago. These discoveries, from this most volcanic of nations, affect the whole world's understanding of itself. If anything is more rewarding than exploring an island nation of Komodo dragons, magicians and cannibals, luminous seas and erupting volcanoes, then it's the opportunity of revealing it to others, which I much look forward to doing aboard National Geographic Orion in 2015.

—DR. LAWRENCE BLAIR



Dr. Lawrence Blair is an expert on the culture, geography, and zoology of Indonesia, with many years' experience as a media communicator. In 2006 he wrote and presented, for Sky TV UK, the five-part series *Myths, Magic and Monsters*, which explores the stranger sides of both nature and the human mind. He is also the writer, presenter and co-producer (with his late brother, Lorne) of the internationally acclaimed series *Ring of Fire*, (PBS in the States, and BBC in the UK) which won two Emmy awards in 1988. In addition to having been visiting professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Southern California, Dr. Blair has also been writer, field-producer, and presenter on such Omnimax/IMAX feature documentaries as *Baraka* and *Ring of Fire-Volcanoes of the Pacific Rim*. Blair's most recent film, completed in 2010, is *Bali-Island of the Dogs*, which won the Best Overall Film Award at the Balinale International Film Festival in 2011.

» TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL WITH ANTHROPOLOGIST, AUTHOR/FILMMAKER AND EXPLORER, LAWRENCE BLAIR ON THE MAY 4, 2015 DEPARTURE. VISIT EXPEDITIONS.COM/BLAIR FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LATE-BREAKING NEWS:

Valerie Taylor joins the April 18 voyage!

Legend, shark chronicler, pioneering undersea photographer and filmmaker, and *National Geographic* magazine cover subject, Valerie Taylor is a key member of our Australian Advisory Board. Catapulted to international stardom in Peter Gimbel's 1969 classic, *Blue Water White Death*, Valerie and her husband-partner Ron filmed the live shark sequences featured in *Jaws*, *Orca*, *The Blue Lagoon*, and more. Her knowledge of both underwater photography and her expertise as a diver will greatly enhance your experience—as she did for guests aboard the National Geographic Orion inaugural voyages.

» TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL WITH VALERIE TAYLOR ON THE APRIL 18, 2015 DEPARTURE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HER, PLEASE VISIT EXPEDITIONS.COM/VALERIE



From left to right: **Dr. Patricia Wright** (see page 11 for her bio), one of the world's foremost experts on lemurs, will greatly enhance your lemur encounters; **Dr. Carl Safina** (page 13) is a global explorer visiting Madagascar for the first time, and his enthusiasm is sure to exponentially increase yours; take the opportunity to experience the ocean with legendary diver, filmmaker and *National Geographic* magazine cover subject, **Valerie Taylor** (page 35). **Dr. Lawrence Blair** (page 35), Indonesia expert and Emmy award-winning filmmaker, will provide an insider's view into a fascinating history. You will enjoy their company in the field, through talks in the lounge, over drinks and at mealtimes.

EXPLORE WITH OUR RENOWNED TEAM & SPECIAL GUESTS

The comment cards we receive from guests after every voyage consistently express the same sentiments: "Outstanding expedition staff." Our expedition leaders, known as ELs to staff and guests alike, are exceptional leaders who attract and inspire the naturalists, marine biologists, geologists, historians, archeologists, undersea specialists, and dive masters who accompany *Orion's* voyages. Collectively, these specialists have hundreds of years of experience guiding travelers to the world's most interesting places.



Pictured above, clockwise from far left: Representing the National Geographic Orion team are Tom Ritchie, Darrin Bennett, Richard White, Harry Christensen, Mike Greenfelder, and David Cothran.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS ON BOARD

There is no clearer symbol of the everlasting connection between expedition and photography than the presence of a National Geographic photographer aboard every *National Geographic Orion* voyage. Travel with these top pros and you'll pick up tips and advice in incredible field conditions. You'll share every photo op, and you might just land some cover-worthy shots yourself. An all-star team of photographers joins us this season.

CHRIS RAINIER

National Geographic Fellow and photographer Chris Rainier's life mission is to document traditional cultures. He co-directed the Enduring Voices and All Roads Photography Programs; he is director of the Last Mile Technology Program, which helps preserve endangered culture and languages; and he was photographer Ansel Adams' last assistant.
Mar. 20, 2015 | Wildlife and Cultures of South Africa, Mozambique, and Madagascar



MARK THIESSEN

A National Geographic photographer since 1990, Mark is widely published in all areas of the National Geographic Society. Some of his many articles for *National Geographic* magazine include "Monsters of Madagascar," "Russian Smokejumpers," and "Search for Other Earths."
Apr. 18, 2015 | Indian Ocean Odyssey: Seychelles, Maldives, and Sri Lanka



BOB KRIST

Bob Krist has been stranded on a glacier in Iceland, nearly run down by charging bulls in India, and knitted with a cutlass during a Trinidad voodoo ceremony. He is a contributing editor for *National Geographic Traveler* and *Outdoor Photographer*.
April 8, 2015 | Treasures of the Indian Ocean: Zanzibar and the Seychelles



JAY DICKMAN

Jay Dickman has been a photojournalist for over 30 years covering war, sporting events, politics, and much more. He's lived in both a Stone Age village in Papua New Guinea and a nuclear attack sub under the Arctic ice for *National Geographic* magazine.
May 4, 2015 | Wild Islands of Sri Lanka, Borneo, and the Andaman Sea





Join the captain on the bridge to learn about navigation.

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. A fully stabilized, ice-class vessel with an ice reinforced hull, *Orion* is at home navigating polar ice as well as small harbors in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean.

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

	Wildlife & Cultures of South Africa, Mozambique & Madagascar	Treasures of the Indian Ocean: Zanzibar and the Seychelles	Indian Ocean Odyssey: Seychelles, Maldives, and Sri Lanka	Wild Islands of Sri Lanka, Borneo & the Andaman Sea
CATEGORY 1: Main Deck with oval window #316, 318, 319-321	\$25,940	\$13,290	\$19,930	\$21,040
CATEGORY 2: Main Deck with oval window #302-312, 314, 315, 317	\$27,880	\$15,390	\$23,090	\$24,370
CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck—Suite with window #401-412, 414-419	\$30,920	\$18,200	\$27,290	\$28,810
CATEGORY 4: Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window #511, 515	\$37,100	\$19,920	\$29,870	\$31,530
CATEGORY 5: Bridge Deck—Suite with balcony #501, 503-506, 508	\$42,500	\$23,710	\$35,560	\$37,540
CATEGORY 6: Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with balcony #502, 507, 509*, 510	\$49,480	\$27,420	\$41,120	\$43,410
*Cabin 509 has two windows in lieu of a balcony.				
CATEGORY 1 SOLO: Main Deck with oval window or two portholes #301, 322, 323	\$38,900	\$19,930	\$29,890	\$31,560
CATEGORY 3 SOLO: Bridge Deck—Suite with two windows #512	\$46,360	\$27,290	\$40,940	\$43,210

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.

Note: Visa fees are not included.

Sample Airfares: **Wildlife & Cultures of South Africa, Mozambique & Madagascar:** New York/Cape Town, Dar es Salaam/New York: Economy from \$1,550; Business from \$8,790. **Treasures of the Indian Ocean: Zanzibar and the Seychelles:** New York/Dar es Salaam, Mahé/New York: Economy from \$1,610; Business from \$5,980. **Indian Ocean Odyssey: Seychelles, Maldives, and Sri Lanka:** New York/Mahé, Colombo/New York: Economy from \$1,450; Business from \$5,940. **Wild Islands of Sri Lanka, Borneo & the Andaman Sea:** Los Angeles/Colombo, Bali/Los Angeles: Economy from \$1,430; Business from \$6,850.



Outstanding cuisine, accented with a local flair.



Category 5 balcony suite.



Category 1 & 2 cabin.

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: Bahamas.

OVERALL LENGTH: 338 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: Outdoor café, lounge with bar, restaurant, global gallery, library, state-of-the-art lecture theater for videos and presentations, mud room, sundeck, marina platform, and whirlpool hot tub that doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates.

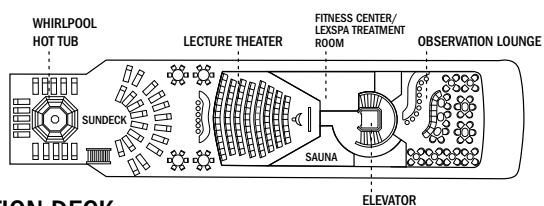
OPEN BRIDGE: Provides guests with an opportunity to meet our officers and captain and learn about navigation.

MEALS: All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. The cuisine is international with local flair, featuring tastes of the regions we explore.

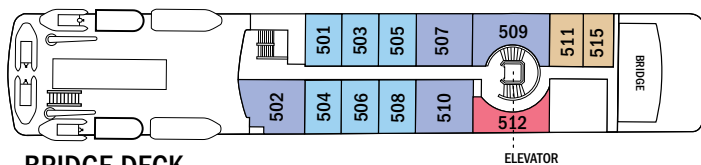
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of 24 double kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for 24 guests, glass-bottom boat, hydrophone, underwater video cameras, Splash-Cam, video microscope, & crow's nest camera.

WELLNESS: The ship is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a fitness center, massage/LEXspa treatment room, and sauna.

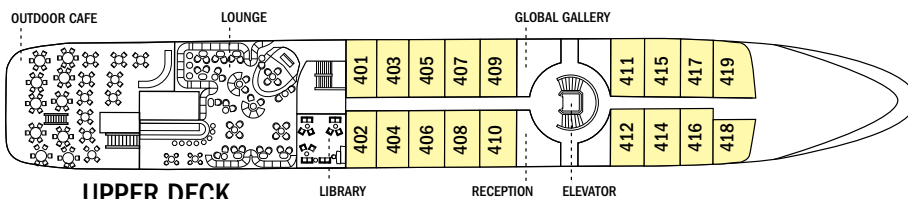
SPECIAL FEATURES: A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, divemasters, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and a video chronicler. Global Perspectives guest speakers on select voyages. Laundry service available.



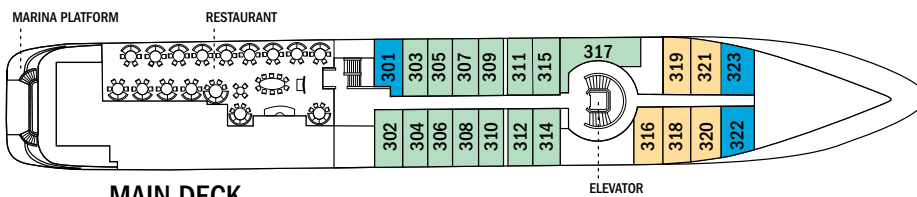
OBSERVATION DECK



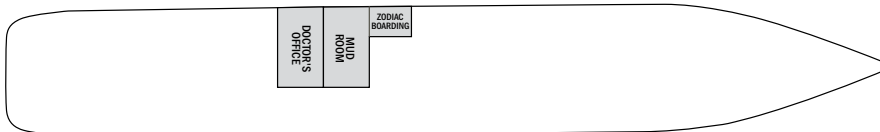
BRIDGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



EXPEDITION DECK

Note: 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.

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ADD BALI

POST-TRIP/2 DAYS
FROM \$1,290 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY



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» VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL FOR FULL DETAILS ON THE EXTENSIONS.

FRIEND FOR LIFE OFFER & BENEFITS

Choose to join any of the four voyages featured in this brochure by Dec. 31, 2014, and we will designate you a Friend For Life with full benefits immediately, including:

- ✓ 10% discount on these expeditions and on all subsequent travel on current and future Lindblad-owned or Lindblad-operated ships.
- ✓ Legacy rights—the privilege of lending your Friend For Life status to your family and handing down to your children and grandchildren.
- ✓ Ongoing values and special programs for you that we will seek out and pass on to you as they are developed.

» VISIT EXPEDITIONS.COM/FFLORIGIN TO LEARN ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF OUR EXCLUSIVE FRIEND FOR LIFE PROGRAM.



Reservation Information

Costs Include: All accommodations aboard ships or in hotels per itinerary or similar, all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship, meals on land as indicated, air transportation where indicated as included, shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of snorkeling equipment and wet suits, use of kayaks (where available), tips (except to ship's crew), taxes and service charges, services of a ship physician on most voyages, and services of our expedition staff.

Not Included: Air transportation (except where shown as included), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, scuba diving (where available which will include equipment and the guidance of certified divemasters), meals not indicated, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as alcoholic beverages, e-mail, voyage DVD (where available), laundry. Gratuities to ship's crew are at your discretion.

Airfare: For all programs, airfare is an additional cost unless otherwise indicated. Sample airfares are subject to change. We will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations: To reserve your place, an advance payment is required at the time of reservation. Payment is accepted by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or by check.

Receipt of your initial payment indicates your acceptance of our complete Terms and Conditions. We require written notice at the time of reservation for any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention.

Once your reservation is confirmed, we urge you to use your personalized online account for important information to help you prepare for your voyage. Managing your documents online will facilitate fast and accurate communication, and allow you to provide us with pertinent details we require, in order to complete your reservation. Your online account gives you access to your Expedition Guide, which includes valuable information specific to your voyage. You can also use your online account to make easy payments, view recommended flights and reading material, packing list, and so much more.

Final Payment: Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. Payment schedules may vary for holiday departures and certain longer voyages, due to high demand for these voyages. We reserve the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

Travel Protection Plan: We strongly recommend that you 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, damaged or lost 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.

Smoking Policy: Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and the National Geographic Society's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure, and are also available on our website at www.expeditions.com/terms, or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Note: Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are valid as of publication date, and are subject to change. Under normal conditions, the total expedition cost is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, the published price is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event we determine that current costs create an unsustainable financial model, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to pass on these costs to you, to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide a transparent accounting of the reason for such an increase in costs.

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United States Tour Operators Association \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program



Lindblad Expeditions, as an Active Member of USTOA, is required to post \$1 Million with USTOA to be used to reimburse, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program, the advance payments of Lindblad Expeditions customers in the unlikely event of Lindblad Expeditions bankruptcy, insolvency or cessation of business. Further, you should understand that the \$1 Million posted by Lindblad Expeditions may be sufficient to provide only a partial recovery of the advance payments received by Lindblad Expeditions. More details of the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program may be obtained by writing to USTOA at 345 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1801, New York, New York 10001, or by email to information@ustoa.com or by visiting their website at www.USTOA.com.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
180 or more days	\$750*
179-120 days	Advance payment cost
119-90 days	25% of trip cost
89-60 days	50% of trip cost
59-0 days	No refund

*\$750 will be refunded in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate.

This cancellation policy applies to expeditions as well as pre- or post- extensions.

The effective date of a cancellation will be the date on which your cancellation notice is received. Note: Airline cancellation policies vary by carrier, as well as the type of fare used to issue your ticket.

Any revisions you make within the cancellation penalty period, such as departure date or choice of voyage, are subject to cancellation fees.

Our Group cancellation policies are listed in the Terms and Conditions section of our website, or you may call us for details. We stress the importance of purchasing a travel protection plan to protect yourself from fees in the event you need to cancel your reservation.

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For Reservations:

Contact your travel agent or Lindblad Expeditions

1.800.EXPEDITION (1.800.397.3348)

Reservation Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 8pm ET

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET

Lindblad Expeditions, Inc., 96 Morton Street, New York, NY 10014

Phone: 212.261.9000 · Fax: 212.265.3770

email: explore@expeditions.com For additional information and online reservations, visit us on the Web: www.expeditions.com



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SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

- » Conde' Nast Traveler's 2014 Readers' Poll - Top 20 Small Cruise Ships in the World, 2014
 - » Condé Nast Traveler World Savers "Doing it All" Award, 2013
 - » Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Award-Top 25 Cruise Lines, 2013
 - » Condé Nast Traveler "Gold List", 2013, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
 - » Virtuoso "Sustainable Tourism Leadership-Supplier" Award, 2013
 - » Conservation Achievement Award for Corporate Achievement from National Wildlife Federation, 2008
 - » Travel + Leisure "World's Best" Award for Small-Ship Cruise Lines, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008
 - » Travel + Leisure "World's Best for Families" Award for Small-Ship Cruise Lines, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009
 - » Cruise Critic Editor's Pick Awards "Best for Adventure," 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010
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