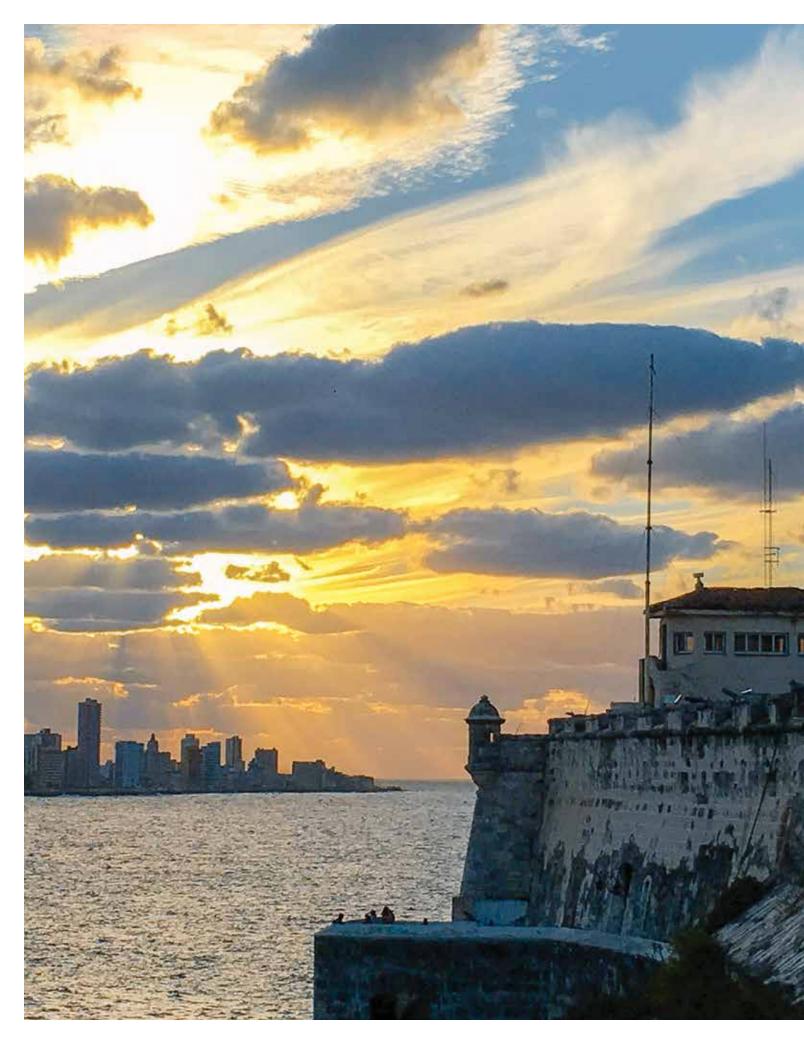
# CUBA BY LAND & SEA

## CULTURAL HERITAGE & NATURAL WONDERS

Lindblad Expeditions



ABOARD HARMONY V | 2017-2018





#### DEAR TRAVELER,

Like so many people who lived through the 1950s, '60s and the years since, I have been keenly aware of Cuba and its outsize influence on the world for most of my life. So when in 2014 I was able to travel there for the first time, I jumped at the chance.



That journey was an eye-opener. We met with key leaders and

Cubans from all walks of life, and learned just how extraordinary both the cultures and natural history of Cuba are. I loved the experience, which included the best snorkeling and diving I have ever experienced in the Caribbean—Cubans have taken great care to protect their natural resources.

I returned last year with the intention of creating something unique for our guests, beyond the normal experiences offered today. I was looking to combine culture, history and nature, to introduce our guests to Cubans who are making a difference, and to make the experience both educational and exhilarating.

I believe we succeeded in doing just that, as I hope you'll see when you read about our unique land and sea program in the pages that follow. The combination of three nights in Havana with seven nights along Cuba's southern coast aboard the *Harmony V* will show you many of Cuba's facets, and will let you learn from Cubans about their country.

Cuba is on the cusp of great change. Its people—among the friendliest you'll ever encounter—are eager for more economic opportunity. They are resilient and creative, and possess heart and determination in abundance. And the network of friends we've made there will help inform your experience. During our inaugural 2016-17 season, our guests had one exceptional people-to-people experience after another and learned so much about Cuba—as I believe you will as well, if you join us.

If you do, bring along a sense of humor, patience, and a good dose of curiosity. A key purpose of travel is to see places different from our own, and Cuba certainly qualifies in that regard. I believe your journey there will be inspiring, great fun, and certainly hugely memorable.

All the best,

Sven-Olof Lindblad

Cover top: Tarpons, along with corals and other creatures make up Cuba's marine diversity. © Sven-Olof Lindblad

Cover bottom: Cuba's vibrant street life, as seen on one of our journeys.  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  Sven-Olof Lindblad

Inside cover: Entrance to Havana Harbor at sunset. ©Sven-Olof Lindblad



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.

## HAVANA

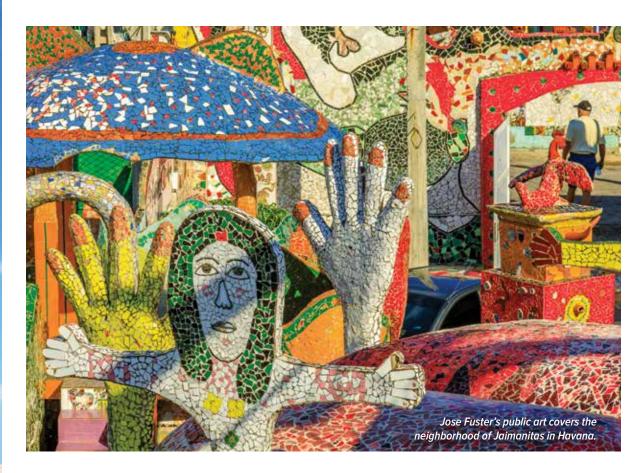
Favored with a gorgeous seaside setting on the Straits of Florida, Havana has evolved from a strategically positioned outpost into one of the world's most vital cities.

and the second second

It's a place where Cuba's colorful character expresses itself—in passionate discussion and in the enjoyment of family and friends. Where people mingle on the seafront promenade, the Malecón; where crowds gather at Wi-Fi hot spots to email overseas family members; and where people stay up all hours of the night to hear music and socialize.

We've crafted a people-to-people program like no other, with a rich variety of choices so that you can do the things that most interest you. Here are a few of the many ways to discover Cuba on your own.

*The historic* Capitolio, *modeled after the U.S. Capitol, and vintage American cars.* 



#### EXPLORE THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF OLD

HAVANA, with brilliant architecture, and where seemingly every building has a story to tell. Meet and talk with Cubans who are working to revitalize its neighborhoods.

MEET AND INTERACT WITH ARTISTS working in a variety of media, on scales from small to grand. The arts are greatly valued in Cuba, and the work of Havana's artists is profoundly affecting. You can visit the Museum of Fine Arts, with an extraordinary collection of works by Cubans.

VISIT A WORKSHOP owned by a Cuban entrepreneur, where vintage American cars are lovingly restored. He will explain the challenges of Cuba's emerging private sector. His ingenuity in securing and making parts is quintessentially Cuban.

EXPLORE ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S ESTATE, see his house and his beloved boat *Pilar*, and visit some of his various haunts where you will meet local Cubans.

MEET AND DISCUSS CUBAN MEDIA WITH PIONEERING INDEPENDENT CUBAN JOURNALISTS who report on all aspects of Cuban current affairs, life, and culture.

LEARN HOW THE CUBAN REVOLUTION UNFOLDED at the Museum of the Revolution.



### THE HOTEL NACIONAL

Staying at the Hotel Nacional is like living a part of Cuban history. Since the hotel opened in 1930, it has been home to a Who's Who of heads of state, film stars, entertainers, and athletes, along with some notorious guests...including Winston Churchill, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Fred Astaire, Frank Sinatra, Walt Disney, Mickey Mantle, Lucky Luciano, and many, many more. Another part of its history is reflected in the tunnels that were constructed in the gardens during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Its architecture inspired by The Breakers in Palm Beach, the hotel enjoys a splendid location overlooking the Straits of Florida.

# LA MÚSICA CUBANA

In Cuba, nearly every child plays a musical instrument or sings. The level of talent is astonishing—as the ageless worldwide renown of Cuban music proves. Learning about the music and the artists who make it is one of the exclusive features of our program. Anticipate experiences like these:

**IN HAVANA**, a private meeting with and performance by the renowned Grammynominated band Septeto Nacional. Now in its fourth generation, the band is among Cuba's leading exponents of the *son* style of music popularized by the Buena Vista Social Club.

IN CIENFUEGOS, enjoy an affecting performance by the well-traveled Cantores de Cienfuegos, an a cappella group whose repertory includes traditional Cuban songs plus a broad international cross-section of classical and popular melodies; hear a wonderful children's group perform Cucarachita Martina, a classic Cuban tale with a moral; and visit the Benny Moré School of Art to meet talented students who play classical music, Cuban melodies, as well as other styles.

**IN TRINIDAD**, enjoy a luncheon performance by an outstanding solo singer-guitarist.

**ENJOY THE VARIETY** of formidably talented street performers we'll see throughout our journey.

### SEE A VIDEO OF OUR CUBAN MUSICAL EXPERIENCE AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/CUBAMUSIC

Clockwise from top: A private performance by Septeto Nacional just for our group; the rousing percussion and dance ensemble Habana Compás; a guitarist in Cienfuegos.







4

"I particularly enjoy the 'people to-people' element, which facilitates and gives access to all levels of Cuban culture and society. The profound and personal interactions make us realize how many misconceptions we have about each other, and that we are all ambassadors to and from our own countries in revitalizing this relationship. It's a joy to discover, understand, and foster awareness of Cuba's wonderfully warm, resilient and creative people."

-TOM O'BRIEN, EXPEDITION LEADER

## CIENFUEGOS & TRINIDAD:

Our journey takes us to two of the most beautiful and historic colonial towns you'll ever encounter: Trinidad and Cienfuegos. Their historic centers are both World Heritage sites, for reasons you'll readily discover on your visits. Both have remarkable architecture and beautiful locations, Trinidad backed by the verdant Escambray Mountains, and Cienfuegos along a lovely bay of the Caribbean (said to have been explored by Columbus on his second voyage in 1494).







## CUBA'S COLONIAL TOWNS

### IN TRINIDAD:

VISIT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY HISTORIAN, and learn about Trinidad's design and history (it was founded in 1514 by Diego Velázquez).

SEE TRINIDAD'S EXQUISITE COLONIAL BUILDINGS, the *campaniles* for which it's famous, and the spectacular Plaza Mayor in the heart of this historic town, while learning about life there from local residents.

VISIT THE STUDIO OF A RENOWNED ARTIST who creates vivid likenesses in wood of the region's workers.



CHOOSE TO GO INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE to the Valle de los Ingenios (Valley of the Sugar Mills), also a World Heritage site, where for centuries sugar was grown—the landowners living in opulence while slaves toiled.

### IN CIENFUEGOS:

WALK THE PEDESTRIAN-ONLY MAIN STREET of this lively place, visiting shops and learning about what life is like for ordinary Cubans. Visit a ration shop and a market.

**EXPLORE THE PLAZA MARTÍ**, surrounded by fantastic buildings including the government palace and the ornate Teatro Tomás Terry, which still serves as a vital center for performances.

CHOOSE TO VISIT A VILLAGE in the countryside whose economy was based on sugar cane, and find out how residents are adapting to the changed economic climate.

ON OUR LAST DAY, ENJOY SUNSET DRINKS on a rooftop overlooking the historic center.

The historic colonial center of Trinidad, a World Heritage site.

## CUBA'S REMARKABLE NATURAL HISTORY

Cuba is rich in natural wonders, something that is often overlooked with all the attention paid to the island's cultures and human history. Dedicated Cubans have done a great deal to preserve and protect their natural areas, and it shows—there is an abundance of life, much of it unique to Cuba. In the company of knowledgeable Cubans, you'll be able explore this wonderful facet of Cuba by land and sea.

## JARDINES DE LA REINA (THE GARDENS OF THE QUEEN)

Be among the comparatively few to explore the Gardens of the Queen, considered the crown jewel of Caribbean reef systems, with marine life that ranks among the finest and most abundant in the Western Hemisphere.\* You'll have chances to snorkel and to dive (qualified divers only, at additional cost) in these pristine waters. Water temperatures are typically ideal and visibility is usually excellent. You can walk on cays in the "Gardens" ecosystem, looking for birds, iguanas and shore creatures, and you'll meet with people working to preserve this habitat.

\*Please note: our visit to Jardines de la Reina is pending permission from Cuban officials. In the event we are unable to get permission, we will instead explore the culture of seldom-visited Isla de la Juventud.

A large school of horse-eye jacks in Jardines de la Reina. "He looked at me with fiercely observant eyes. Forty feet under the warm ocean near his private island, Fidel Castro was measuring my aquatic ability. The 64-year-old free-diver was at the height of his political power. He adjusted his face mask, peered under a coral ledge and finned slowly



up toward the sunlight. I had been his guest for a week. Three days in Havana. Four days on his tightly guarded island south of the mainland. Since my arrival in Cuba I had been haunted by questions. Who is this mysterious man? What could I learn from him? During our voyage together, I will describe my conversations about politics and the ocean with the revolutionary fighter and dictator who governed the Republic of Cuba from 1959 to 2008."

-DR. JOE MACINNIS (FEB. 14 DEPARTURE)

## TOPES DE COLLANTES

Near Trinidad, go for a Cuban-led walk at Topes de Collantes, in the green Escambray Mountains. In the 1960s, rebels based here fought the Castro government, but today the section we explore is a nature reserve reached by a ride in a Soviet-era truck!

### CHOOSE TO GO BIRDWATCHING

Travel to the Ciénaga de Zapata National Park with informed Cubans who can tell you about the things you see. You'll look for birds found only in Cuba, including the bee hummingbird (at under two inches long and weighing less than two grams, it's the world's smallest bird); the Cuban trogon (Cuba's national bird, so designated because its colors are similar to those of the flag); and the colorful Cuban green woodpecker.

### **BAY OF PIGS**

At the Bay of Pigs, choose to go diving (at additional cost) or snorkeling from shore. Not far away is a coral wall extremely rich in marine life.

Bee hummingbird.

## CUBA BY LAND & SEA: CULTURAL HERITAGE & NATURAL WONDERS

#### 11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS-ABOARD HARMONY V

PRICES FROM: \$9,500 to \$14,250 (See page 13 for complete prices.)

xperience Cuba as few have—on a special people-topeople journey that delves into its intriguing culture and seldom-seen, stunning wild places on a unique land-andsea expedition. You'll discover a Cuba on the verge of change, where we're able to offer authentic exploration of the island's incredible natural history, while also building value for Cubans working to preserve these wild areas.

#### DAY 1: MIAMI/HAVANA

Meet at Miami International Airport for our morning flight to Havana. This afternoon, we'll visit a community project with colorful art. Check in to our historic hotel, the Hotel Nacional, a Havana landmark on the waterfront, where we stay three nights. We then ride in 1950s cars to our dinner at a local restaurant. (L,D)



#### DAYS 2 AND 3: HAVANA

There's a full program of people-to-people visits, where you may choose among programs that interest you most. Explore Old Havana—a World Heritage site, trove of historic architecture, and cultural center–on foot. Drive along the Malecón, the esplanade that runs along the Waterfront. Meet with members of a Cuban percussion and dance group, and see a stirring performance. Get a perspective on Castro's revolution. Explore art spaces. See Ernest Hemingway's estate at Finca Vigía. Visit a cigar factory and an organic farm. See an auto workshop where classic cars are restored. Enjoy meals in some of Havana's best private restaurants. And one evening we will hear Cuba's celebrated musical rhythms at a private dinner, with the chance to meet the members of the renowned Grammy-nominated Septeto Nacional. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 4: HAVANA/CIENFUEGOS/ EMBARK

Have a final morning to explore Havana with people-to-people visits. Drive to the beautiful city of Cienfuegos, where we'll meet and hear a performance by a stirring choral group. Embark *Harmony V*, our home for the next seven nights, with a welcome dinner aboard ship. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 5: BAY OF PIGS

Drive to the Bay of Pigs, an ecologically important area that became known when the 1961 U.S.-backed invasion was defeated by Cuban forces. Visit the museum that recounts the battle's history, and meet with people who describe what transpired. Choose to explore, with Cubans, the area's renowned birdlife, including the world's smallest bird, the bee hummingbird. Another option is to swim, snorkel or dive (at additional cost) at the Bay of Pigs. Visit an artists' retreat with musicians, dancers, painters, and more. In the late afternoon, drive back to Cienfuegos. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 6: CAYO LARGO

This beautiful island has diverse marine ecosystems and a small local community. We visit the local clinic to discuss Cuba's





medical system with doctors and nurses. Meet conservationists at a sea turtle breeding center and endangered species program, and explore the island's marine world by swimming or snorkeling with Cuban guides. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 7: TRINIDAD

A World Heritage site, Trinidad is splendidly preserved. Visit the City Historian's office and walk through the town, meeting residents including local artists. In the afternoon, see the Valley of the Sugar Mills, learning about sugar's importance here. Alternatively, spend the day with a local specialist exploring the Escambray Mountains, with a short hike and a chance to see Cuba's natural history, exploring Trinidad in the afternoon and meeting its residents. (B,L,D)

DAYS 8 AND 9: JARDINES DE LA REINA NATIONAL PARK\* Jardines de la Reina (Gardens of the Queen) is a crown jewel of the Caribbean. We'll have



all day Wednesday and Thursday morning to learn about this unique habitat, meeting with ecologists who are working to describe and preserve it. You'll have chances to snorkel and (at additional cost) dive with Cuban specialists, and to see a great diversity of corals, fish, and other creatures. There are also opportunities to walk with naturalists on some of the islands in search of birdlife and to swim in the azure waters. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 10: CIENFUEGOS

Explore Cienfuegos, Cuba's "Pearl of the South" and a World Heritage site. Explore on foot, seeing its grand buildings and beautiful main square. Continue to a school of art, where talented young people develop their skills. Choose to visit a village where sugar used to be processed. Then return to Cienfuegos for a children's performance and sunset drinks on a rooftop, before a farewell dinner aboard ship. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 11: CIENFUEGOS/ DISEMBARK/HOME

We disembark this morning, with a program of people-to-people visits during the day before we transfer to Cienfuegos airport for our late afternoon flight to Miami. (B,L)

#### **EXPEDITION DETAILS**

DATES: 2017 Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27; 2018 Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21

\*Please note: our visit to Jardines de la Reina is pending permission from Cuban officials. In the event we are unable to get permission, we will instead explore the culture of seldom-visited Isla de la Juventud. Lindblad Expeditions is authorized by the U.S. Treasury Department to conduct people-to-people travel programs in Cuba under a general license. Images from our 2016/17 inaugural season, clockwise from top: Guest and a local resident, Trinidad; American vintage car glides past the Plaza de la Revolución, Havana; students at the Benny Moré Art School in Cienfuegos; one of thousands of sea turtles at the breeding center in Cayo Largo.



## AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM REVEALS A HIDDEN CUBA

Our expedition leaders attract and inspire our expert teams. Their passion will engage you, and their knowledge will illuminate all you'll see and do during your expedition. In addition to an expedition leader, you'll be joined by an expert on Cuba's culture and history, a naturalist, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and local guides who will help illuminate the Cuban people-to-people experience.



Tom O'Brien Dec. 6 & 13 Veteran Lindblad Expedition leader who's been exploring Cuba since 1995, laying the groundwork for our unique experience.



Fabio Amador Dec. 6 & 13 An archaeologist and anthropologist who has served on educational and scientific missions in Cuba over the past five years for National Geographic.



Dan Whittle Jan. 17 Senior Director of the Environmental Defense Fund and an expert on Cuba's marine and coastal ecosystems and international government relations.



**Dr. Joe MacInnis** Feb. 14 Acclaimed deepsea explorer who once spent a week with Fidel Castro on his bomb-sheltered island, where they scuba dived and discussed world affairs with Pierre Trudeau.



Christopher P. Baker Feb. 7 One of the world's leading Cuba experts and author of several books on the island including *National Geographic Traveler: Cuba.* 

PLEASE VISIT EXPEDITIONS.COM/EXPERTBIOS AND SELECT YOUR ITINERARY TO LEARN WHICH STAFF IS TRAVELING ON YOUR DEPARTURE

## CAPTURE CUBA WITH EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY

Cuba is uniquely photogenic and a brand-new experience for many travelers, making the photos you'll take very valuable. To ensure that you catch Cuba in it's best light, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor is at your side and at your service on board every departure. Point-and-shoot, iPhone and DSLR users alike will find the quality of their images and storytelling will improve greatly thanks to the inspiration, tips and advice in the field, where it counts. Regardless of your skill level, you'll return home a more confident photographer, with shots you'll enjoy sharing.

#### LEARN MORE AT **EXPEDITIONS.COM/PHOTO**







Join National Geographic photographer **Ralph Lee Hopkins** on the Jan. 10 departure or **Kike Calvo** on Feb. 28.

## HARMONY V

#### CAPACITY: 46 guests in 23 outside cabins. REGISTRY: Greece. OVERALL LENGTH: 179 feet.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** The ship is fully air-conditioned. Part of the Sun Deck is enclosed and serves as a venue for meals, talks, and recaps. The Sun Deck also has an *al fresco* area with deck chairs for relaxing. The dining room has large windows and lets in ample light. There are full-service bars on the Sun Deck and in the lounge. There is a collection of books and films about Cuba. There are full facilities for presentations, films, and slide shows. Guests are welcome on the "Open Bridge" to meet the captain and officers and learn about navigation.

**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Some meals are served on the Sun Deck. The menu is international, with a focus on local specialties.

**CABINS:** All have windows, lower beds, and face outside. Each has private facilities, a hair dryer, individual climate controls, television, internal telephone, safe, and mini-fridge.

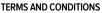
**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** Snorkeling equipment and "shorty" wetsuits are available.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** The ship is equipped with stabilizers. Satellite Internet access is available on board. There is a doctor on all voyages.

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

| CATEGORY 1: Main Deck #108-109 Each cabin has a queen-size bed and two vertical windows.   | \$9,500  |
|--|----------|
| CATEGORY 2: Main Deck #103-107 Each cabin has either a queen-size bed or two lower single beds, and two vertical windows.          | \$10,200 |
| CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck #202-209, 211-216 Each cabin has either a queen-size bed or two lower single beds, and a window.            | \$11,000 |
| CATEGORY 4: Upper Deck #201, 210 These are the largest cabins aboard ship, and can be configured with either two lower single beds |          |
| or a queen-size bed. Each has a window.  | \$11,500 |
| CATEGORY 1 SOLO:   | \$14,250 |
| CATEGORY 2 SOLO:   | \$15,300 |

Shared Accommodations: Shares can be arranged at the double occupancy rate in Category 2 only.



**Cost Includes:** All accommodations (three nights in hotel in Havana and seven nights aboard ship); meals indicated; people-to-people visits; services of Lindblad Expeditions' Leader, staff and local guides; snorkeling equipment and wetsuits; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes.

Not Included: Air transportation; immigration/visa/passport fees; personal items: alcoholic beverages, emails, laundry, etc.; optional diving; discretionary tips to ship's crew.

Flight Information: All guests are required to travel on group flights (Miami/Havana, returning Cienfuegos/Miami), which must be booked and ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions.

Sample Airfares: Miami/Havana, Cienfuegos/Miami: Economy from \$365; Business from \$620 (December rates: Economy from \$520; Business from \$690). Airfares subject to change. We will gladly assist with your flights to and from Miami for a \$50 per person service fee.

Advance Payment: \$1,000 due at time of booking.

Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions: Certain 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 this trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

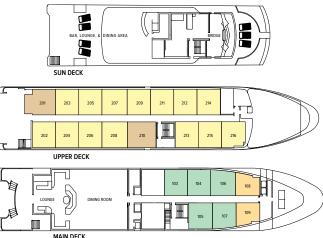
**Important:** Cancellations are subject to penalty. Visit our website for details on our Cancellation Policy and Travel Protection Plan.

**Note:** Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are valid as of publication date, and are subject to change.

Photo Credits: Alamy, Stewart Cohen, Jennifer Davidson, Ralph Hammelbacher, Ralph Lee Hopkins, Sven-Olof Lindblad, Michael S. Nolan, Gary D. Paige, Shutterstock, Mark Thiessen, David Vargas

©2017 Lindblad Expeditions and the Eye are the trademarks of Lindblad Expeditions. All rights reserved. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC and the Yellow Border are the trademarks of the National Geographic Society. All rights reserved.











Left to right: Harmony V's dining room; a Category 3 queen-bedded cabin; the Sun Deck.

FOR RESERVATIONS: Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions

## **1.800.EXPEDITION** (1.800.397.3348)

Reservation Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 10pm 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



## 1.800.EXPEDITION | WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM

Printed on 10% recycled content paper with soy-based inks. We recommend that you pass this along for others to enjoy or recycle.

CBA-068

#### TRAVEL WITH SPECIAL GUESTS AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS ON SELECT DATES-SEE PAGE 12

#### **SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS**

- » Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Award—Top Small Ship Cruise Lines, 2016, 2015, 2014
- » Virtuoso "Best VAST Partner" Award, 2016
- » Cruise Critic Editor's Pick Awards "Best for Adventure," 2016, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010
- » 2016 World Tourism Award
- » Andrew Harper's Reader Choice Awards: Best Cruise Lines, 2016
- » Town & Country Cruise Awards: Best for Families and Onboard Activities, Expedition Cruises, 2016
- » Porthole Cruise Magazine Readers' Choice Awards: Best Expedition Cruise Line, 2015
- » Tourism Cares Travel Philanthropy Awards: Legacy in Travel Philanthropy, 2015
- » Condé Nast Traveler's "Gold List," 2013, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
- » Virtuoso "Sustainable Tourism Leadership-Supplier" Award, 2013
- » 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
- » Climate Champion Award to Sven Lindblad by Clean Air-Cool Planet, 2009

GO TO WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/AWARDS FOR AN EXTENDED LIST.