



# BELIZE

# TO TIKAL

A LAND AND SEA ADVENTURE



ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST | 2019



Lindblad  
Expeditions



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC™







DEAR TRAVELER,

The eastern coast of Mesoamerica is little known and rarely visited via the sea. Since the days of the ancient Maya, who flourished along this coast some 1500 years ago, civilization has had relatively little impact. Much of the region remains genuine wilderness, with large expanses of dense tropical forest, miles of wild rivers, abundant bird life—and the largest coral reef systems in North America.

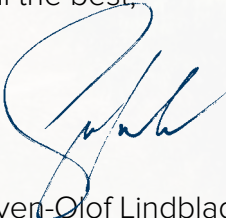
Stretched along this coast are literally hundreds of islands and atolls. No cruise lines venture here; *National Geographic Quest* is the only way to get here, and the perfect platform for exploring. Using our fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks and paddle boards, you'll have the opportunity to explore crystalline waters, and land on isolated cays, some inhabited by seabird colonies, others mere patches of sugar-white sand with a scatter of palm trees. The snorkeling is immensely satisfying, and for those who want to and are certified to scuba dive, Quest is the perfect live-aboard, complete with all the gear you need. We'll discover jungle rivers, too, and mangrove lagoons—to give you the most complete sense of incredible diversity of ecosystems here.

On the human side, there's fascinating diversity, as well—with Belize's dual nature as a Central American and a Caribbean country, and the fuzzy territorial distinctions between Belize and Guatemala. The region contains many cultures and languages, and a rich history—it was part of the great Maya civilization. You'll have the opportunity to explore the storied ruins of the Tikal, one of the most famous and extensive of the Maya sites. And, go off the beaten track to discover beautiful Yaxhá.

As you'll see ahead, our team has developed and refined an itinerary to deliver the best of the region's natural and archaeological wonders for you —providing many great opportunities for you to see, do and learn.

I hope you will choose to join us.

All the best,



Sven-Olof Lindblad

**SPECIAL OFFER:**

Book by **October 31, 2018** and receive **FREE ROUND TRIP** economy group airfare between Miami / Guatemala City or **\$350 air credit**.



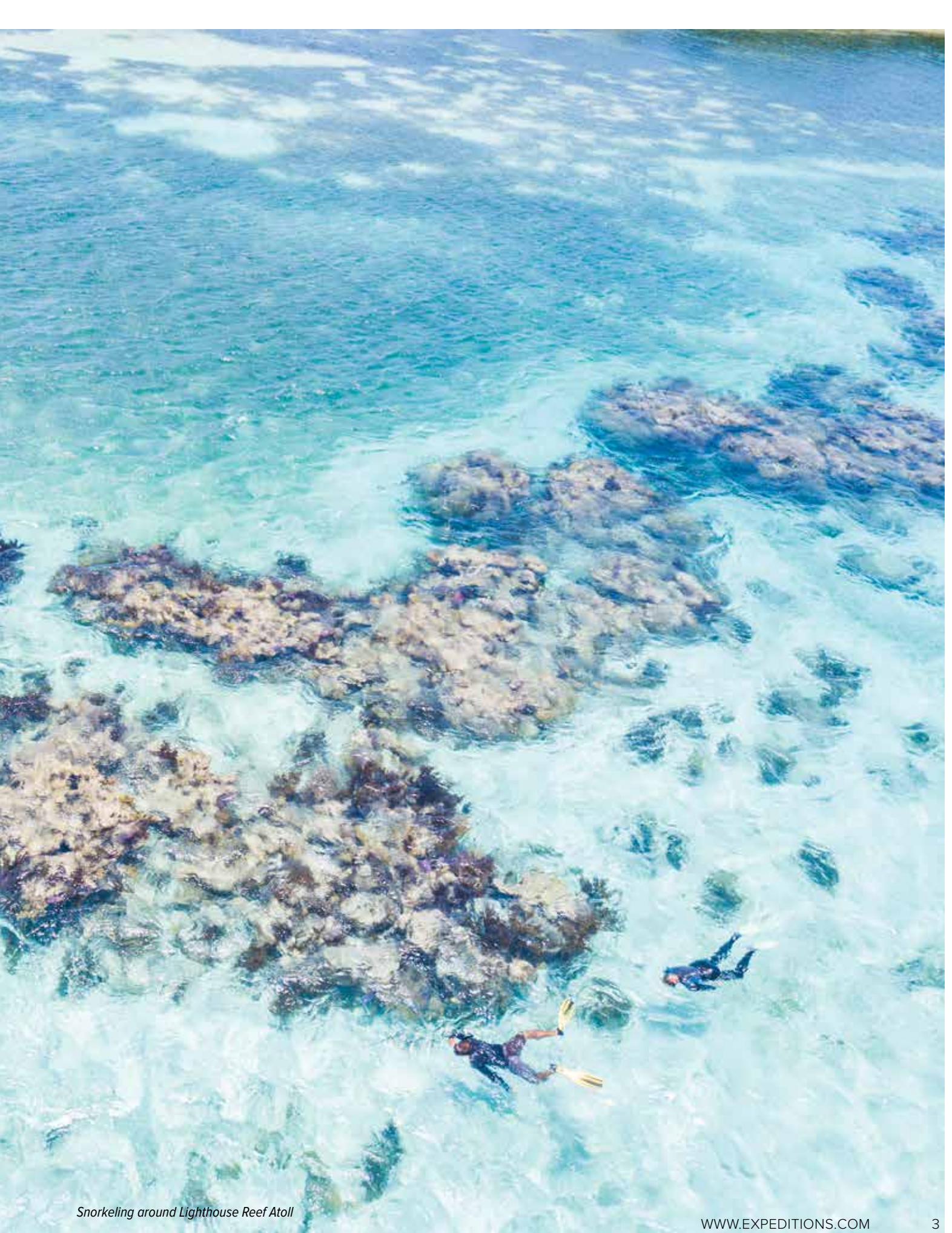
# INTO THE BLUE OF BELIZE

*The Belize Barrier Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest reef system in the Northern Hemisphere, reveals hundreds of species of fish, marvelous sea turtles, graceful rays, gentle manatees, and over 90 varieties of coral. As only a small percentage of the reef has been studied, researchers believe hundreds, even thousands more species could be discovered in this protected zone.*



*National Geographic Quest is the only expedition ship exploring the Mesoamerican Reef, giving you otherwise impossible access to turquoise lagoons and white-sand beaches, too. And Quest is equipped with a fleet of onboard tools—snorkel gear for every guest, Zodiacs, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards—so you can experience this vibrant habitat up-close, and with all your senses.*









# INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THE MAYA

*Explore the extensive Mayan ruins of the Petén region, once the hub of Classic Maya civilization. Spend a full day at Tikal, among extensive well-preserved stone temples, palaces, ceremonial platforms, terraces and roads cloaked in lush, wildlife-harboring vegetation. And discover seldom-visited Yaxhá, the third largest ruins of the Mayan world, beautifully sited overlooking Yaxhá Lake.*



Hike into the Maya Biosphere Reserve amid giant ceiba trees—the sacred tree of the Mayas—and with the help of experienced naturalists search for 400+ species of birds, howler and spider monkeys, tapirs, tree frogs and more.

*Clockwise from top: Temple 1 in Tikal; Aerial view of the Hotel Camino Real Tikal; gartered trogon; spider monkey*







Spend three nights at the beautiful Hotel Camino Real Tikal, your home base while you explore the Maya culture and ruins. Nestled in the rain forest, enjoy the many different species of birds while on an optional bird walk with your naturalist or relax on a sunset boat ride on Petén Itza Lake.

▶ SEE WHAT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE AT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/TIKAL](https://www.expeditions.com/tikal)





*Young guests actively exploring the Maya ruins with a naturalist.*

# SEE, DO & LEARN MORE WITH OUR EXPEDITION TEAM

From marine life to wildlife and Mayan wonders, our team will do whatever it takes to make sure you miss none of the marvels of the reef, rain forest and ruins. An expedition leader, and a team of naturalists, including knowledgeable locals, an undersea specialist, an expedition diver, a wellness specialist, and a video chronicler ensure you a wide breadth of expertise and engaging personalities. And our generous naturalist-to guest-ratio of about 1:10 means our staff is always accessible—on deck, and during activities, cocktails, and meals.



*Representing the staff for the 2019 season: Cynthia Manning, EL, Max Vindas, Naturalist, Taylor Butz, Video Chronicler, Alexis Mutchler, Wellness Specialist*



# OUR EXCLUSIVE SPECIALISTS ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

## Shaylyn Potter, Undersea Specialist

The *National Geographic Quest* provides unique access to the Belize Barrier Reef, and our undersea specialist, an integral member of the expedition team, provides access to the deep for all, including those who neither snorkel nor dive. Diving with video equipment, he or she captures the vivid life beneath the ship for all to enjoy at engaging video presentations in the dry comfort of the ship's lounge.



## David Cothran, Naturalist, Certified Photo Instructor

For many, visiting the important sites of the Mayan world is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. And your Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor will help you tell story. They can help you with your camera settings, or the basics of composition. And they can help you aim at the right place at the right time to capture often swift-moving or elusive birds and monkeys.



## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



## Richard Hansen, National Geographic Expert

Archeologist, anthropologist and National Geographic Expert Richard Hansen specializes in the early Maya. He directs the Mirador Basin Project in northern Guatemala, for which he has received grant support from the National Geographic Society. The president of Guatemala has awarded him the country's National Order of the Cultural Patrimony. Richard is a founder of National Geographic's Dialogue of Civilizations conference and appeared in the National Geographic television special *Dawn of the Maya*. He'll add a fascinating layer of insight as we explore the rise and fall of this legendary ancient civilization. **Feb. 23, 2019 departure**

## EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE

Our ethnomusicologist, Jacob Edgar, has arranged for a performance by the internationally renowned Garifuna Collective, the premier representative of Belize's acclaimed Garifuna music tradition. The Collective has appeared on stages worldwide. And you will be astonished at the caliber of their musicianship, their instruments—unique hand drums, turtle shells and jawbones, guitars and bass—and their haunting melodies and powerful vocals.





# BELIZE TO TIKAL: REEFS, RIVERS, AND RUINS OF THE MAYA WORLD

## 9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

PRICES FROM: \$5,760 to \$9,890 (See page 11 for complete prices.)

Embark on a unique land-and-sea expedition to discover Maya ruins overgrown with tropical rain forest and incredible, seldom-seen reefs. Snorkel among some of the 65 species of stony coral and 500 species of fish on the Belize Barrier Reef with the 50-cabin *National Geographic Quest* as your base for exploration. Then venture to the ancient Maya ruins of Tikal to explore the stories and archaeological sites of these stone temples swathed in the rain forest teeming with wildlife.

### EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Venture into the jungles of Guatemala with local experts to discover the spectacular temples and pyramids of both Tikal and Yaxha.
- ▶ Spot rainbow-colored fish, turtles, and rays while snorkeling or diving the corals of the Belize Barrier Reef, one of the largest barrier reef systems in the world.
- ▶ Explore Belize's coastal rivers by Zodiac, to sight toucans, green iguanas and other wildlife.

### EXTEND YOUR STAY:

#### POST-VOYAGE

##### (2 DAYS/2 NIGHTS):

Combine your Belize to Tikal expedition with a two-day/two-night stay in Antigua, Guatemala. See details on page 12.

#### POST-VOYAGE

##### (7 NIGHTS/7 DAYS):

Explore Costa Rica's spectacular Monteverde Cloud Forest, Arenal Volcano, and Tortuguero. visit [expeditions.com/MATL](http://expeditions.com/MATL)



Antigua

Tikal temple.



**DAY 1: DEPART US / GUATEMALA / EMBARK NG QUEST**

Arrive in Guatemala City and connect to our charter flight to Puerto Barrios, transfer to Puerto Santo Tomás, where you'll embark NG Quest. Please call me if you want to discuss this one further. (D)

**DAY 2: MONKEY RIVER & LAUGHINGBIRD CAYE NATIONAL PARK, BELIZE**

Board Zodiacs this morning and explore one of Belize's coastal rivers in search of toucans, green iguanas and other wildlife. This afternoon, anchor near one of the cayes within Laughingbird Caye National Park. Snorkel, kayak, or try stand-up paddleboarding. Certified scuba divers may opt to join a reef dive (at an additional cost). (B,L,D)



*slaty-tailed trogon*

**DAY 3: EXPLORING THE BELIZE BARRIER REEF**

Spanning more than 200 miles, the Belize Barrier Reef offers countless opportunities for exploration by ship and ashore on one of the many cayes. Don mask, fins and snorkel or paddle a kayak on a turquoise lagoon. Conditions permitting, have a beach barbecue lunch or dinner ashore. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4: COCKSCOMB BASIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY & MANATEE OR SITTEE RIVER**

Devote your morning to exploring Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, internationally recognized as the world's first jaguar reserve. Hike one of the many nature trails with your naturalists, photograph colorful tropical plants, scan the forest for its abundant birdlife, and be on the lookout for the tracks of deer, tapirs, wildcats and other wildlife. Afterward, stop at a traditional Maya handicraft center. This afternoon, take a Zodiac cruise along the mangrove channels of one of Belize's coastal



*Snorkeling around Lighthouse Reef Atoll*

rivers. Internationally acclaimed drumming group, The Garifuna Collective, performs this evening. (B,L,D)

**DAY 5: LIGHTHOUSE REEF ATOLL**

Snorkel, dive, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard inside the fringing reef that surrounds Lighthouse Reef Atoll. This lagoon is dotted with hundreds of coral patches and is known for its high diversity of corals and fishes. (B,L,D)

**DAY 6: PUERTO SANTO TOMÁS, GUATEMALA/DISEMBARK/FLORES**

Disembark this morning for our charter flight to Flores. Lunch at a picturesque restaurant overlooking Lake Petén Itzá, before transferring to the Hotel Camino Real Tikal. Check-in on arrival, then take an optional birdwatching walk with your naturalists, or a sunset boat ride on the lake. (B,L,D)

**DAY 7: TIKAL NATIONAL PARK**

Today is dedicated to exploring Tikal, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the largest and most impressive archaeological



*Ocellated Turkey*



sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization. Delve deep into Maya history and architecture as you explore the many temples, including Temple I, which rises 154 feet from the jungle floor, and the North and South Acropolis. (B,L,D)

**DAY 8: YAXHÁ**

Visit Yaxhá, the third largest ruin in the Maya world, beautifully situated on a ridge overlooking Yaxha Lake. One of the few Maya sites still known by its Mayan name, "green waters", Yaxha is spread out over nine plazas. This little-visited site contains hundreds of structures, dozens of stelae, multiple pyramid temples and ball courts. Stop at a traditional Guatemalan restaurant for lunch today. (B,L,D)

**DAY 9: FLORES/GUATEMALA CITY/ HOME**

Depart on our charter flight to Guatemala City this morning, where you'll connect to international flights home. (B)



*white-nosed coatis.*





# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

**CAPACITY:** 50 cabins accommodating 100 guests.

**REGISTRY:** United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 238 feet.

The *National Geographic Quest*, launched in 2017, is designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A, setting a new standard in exploration and comfort.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Global gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear, and a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. Our “open bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and captain and learn about navigation.

**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast and lunch are wide selection buffets with chef action stations, while dinners are primarily served plated. Menu emphasizes local fare.

**CABINS:** All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities and climate controls. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, paddleboards, snorkeling gear for all guests (where applicable).

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest internet access, elevator, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, a video chronicler undersea specialist and a ship physician.

**WELLNESS:** The vessel is staffed by a Wellness Specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.



*Top to bottom: National Geographic Quest; library and photo kiosk lounge, the hub of the expedition community; spacious open sun deck will provide unparalleled views.*





Left to right: The dining room provides views and outstanding cuisine; Category 3 cabin; Category 4 cabin with lower single beds (which can be converted to a Queen) and a private step-out balcony; select cabins connect via an inside doorway.

**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #301-306 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 2:** Main Deck #307-315 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two portholes.

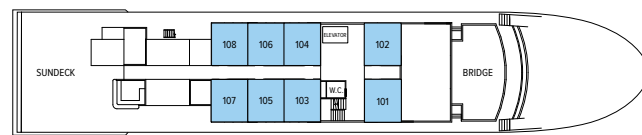
**CATEGORY 3:** Upper Deck #201-206 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two large view windows.

**CATEGORY 4:** Upper Deck #207-229 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door, and small, private balcony.

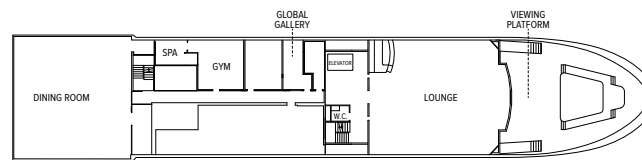
**CATEGORY 5 (SUITE):** Observation Deck #101-108 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

**NOTE:** Sole Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

**Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access:** Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-308, #305-307; Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227



OBSERVATION DECK



LOUNGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK

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

ITINERARY	YEAR	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5 SUITE	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	NOTE
Belize to Tikal: Reefs, Rivers & Ruins of the Maya World	2019	\$5,760	\$6,180	\$6,600	\$7,030	\$8,180	\$8,640	\$9,270	\$750	Miami/Guatemala City/Miami – Economy from \$475.00; Business from \$1050.00 USD. Charter flight – Flores/Guatemala City: \$275.00. Subject to change.



# EXTEND YOUR VOYAGE IN GUATEMALA

## ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION

2 DAYS/2NIGHTS \$750 PER PERSON & \$900 SOLO PRICE

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ Explore the picturesque historic city of Antigua, Guatemala, with its stunning backdrop of Volcán Pacaya
- ▶ Spend two nights at the beautiful Camino Real Antigua Hotel
- ▶ Visit a Guatemalan coffee plantation
- ▶ Peruse the exhibits of one of Guatemala's finest museums

#### DAY 1: FLORES/GUATEMALA CITY/ ANTIGUA

Depart on our charter flight to Guatemala City this morning. Upon arrival, join your local guide and land leader for a visit to either the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology or the Museum of Textiles (depending on day of the week) followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Transfer to Antigua, where you'll walk with your guide to see the Monastery of La Merced, the Main Plaza, and Arco de Santa Catalina. In the late afternoon, you'll have the option to visit a jade factory and the local handicraft market. Check in to the beautiful Camino Real Antigua Hotel, located in the Colonial City within blocks of the Central Plaza, and have dinner at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 2: ANTIGUA

Depart this morning for a tour of a Guatemalan coffee estate. Return to Antigua for lunch at a local restaurant, followed by free time to explore Antigua's picturesque main plaza, historic buildings, cobblestone streets and markets. Dinner this evening is a feast of traditional Guatemalan fare such as plato chapin, puyazo, salimbucó and pepian, at the Posada don Rodrigo, followed by a traditional dance performance, accompanied by live marimba music. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 3: ANTIGUA/GUATEMALA CITY/ HOME

Transfer to Guatemala City for flights home. (B)

### EXPEDITION DETAILS

**2019 DATES:** Feb. 21, 26; Mar. 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, 28



*Clockwise from top: Church Hermano Pedro; Local woman shares a warm smile in the main plaza; artisan at the local handicraft market; view from the cobblestone streets of the Arco de Santa Catalina and the Volcán de Agua*





# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

## RECEIVE FREE ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE BETWEEN MIAMI/GUATEMALA CITY:

Book by Oct. 31, 2018 and receive Free economy group airfare from Miami/Guatemala City or a \$350 air credit. *On voyages with complimentary air offers, airfare is based on economy group flights that must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions. In the case that Lindblad's group or charter flights are no longer available at time of booking, we reserve the right to issue a credit. All offers are valid for new bookings only, subject to availability at the time of booking, and may not be combined with other offers and pre- and post-extensions. Call for details.*

**BRINGING THE KIDS:** We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18.

**BACK-TO-BACK SAVINGS:** Save 10% on any consecutive journeys taken on board one of our expedition ships. This savings is applicable on voyage fares only, and are not valid on extensions or airfare.

**TRAVELING AS A GROUP:** Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Take advantage of these great savings, while enjoying traveling with your friends and family. This savings is applicable to voyage fares only, and is not valid on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies.

## INCLUSIVE PRICING

We include just about everything you have the opportunity to do as part of your expedition aboard ship and ashore. The only things not included are those of a personal nature—alcohol, internet usage, tips to the crew, wellness treatments and other specialized arrangements.

### ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals & non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Cappuccinos, lattes & complimentary refillable water bottle
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during lounge recap
- ✓ Fitness center
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ The guidance & company of our expedition staff

### ASHORE

- ✓ Meals on land, as indicated in itinerary
- ✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
- ✓ Transfers to & from group flights
- ✓ The expertise of our expedition staff

### ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All excursions
- ✓ Zodiac & kayak explorations
- ✓ Snorkeling & paddleboarding (where indicated)
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge

## RESERVATION INFORMATION

**Terms & Conditions:** For complete terms and conditions please visit [www.expeditions.com/terms](http://www.expeditions.com/terms)

**Costs Include:** Charter flights to/from Puerto Barrios (Santo Tomas), Guatemala; all accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar, all meals and non-alcoholic beverages aboard ship, meals on land as indicated accompanied by non-alcoholic beverages, air transportation where indicated as included, shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of kayaks, tips (including gratuities to ship's crew), taxes and service charges, services of a ship physician and services of our expedition staff. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

**Not Included:** Air transportation (except where shown as included), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, alcoholic beverages, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as e-mail, voyage DVD, laundry.

**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.

**Reservations:** To reserve your place, an advance payment is required at the time of reservation. The per-person advance payment amount is: \$2,500 for the 20-day voyage.

**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, medical assistance, and damaged or lost baggage, and provides 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.

**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](http://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.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation penalties may apply after payment is received. Please visit [www.expeditions.com/terms](http://www.expeditions.com/terms) for complete cancellation policies.

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## For Reservations:

Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions

**1.800.EXPEDITION (1.800.397.3348)**

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

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET

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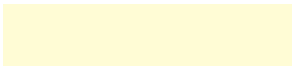




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MAY-058

# FLY FREE TO FREELY EXPLORE

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