BELIZE & GUATEMALA
BY LAND & SEA

MAYAN RUINS
RAIN FORESTS
& THE AMAZING
UNDERSEA

ABOARD THE NEW NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST | 2018
From top, clockwise: Rio Dulce in Guatemala; Quiriguá, an ancient Maya archaeological site in southeastern Guatemala; sea turtle swimming in the waters of Belize; Temple 1, Tikal National Park; vendors in Antigua, Guatemala; snorkeler in Laughing Bird Caye; Viola ceous Trogon perched on a branch in Tikal Mayan jungle.
DEAR TRAVELER,

It’s always a pleasure to announce a new expedition. And our new Belize-Guatemala expedition is particularly exciting for a number of reasons. The geography is really remarkable— with a great diversity of ecosystems, and an abundance of land and marine species. On the human side, there’s fascinating diversity as well—with Belize’s dual nature as a Central American and 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 Mayan civilization. Our team has developed a focused itinerary that delivers the best of the region’s natural and archaeological wonders, providing a great many opportunities for you to see, do and learn more. And, this new expedition will be taking place aboard our newest ship—National Geographic Quest, giving you the opportunity to be among the first to sail her. As you’ll learn below, Quest is perfectly sized and perfectly equipped for exploring these waters, above and below the surface. Our entire expedition team can’t wait for the sights, sounds and memorable experiences this new adventure will bring, and are eager to share it with you.

I hope you’ll choose to join us. I encourage you to act decisively to secure your preferred cabin—our new expeditions tend to book rapidly.

All the best,

Sven-Olof Lindblad

MEET THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

Quest benefits from our 35+ years exploring the fast-moving channels and shallow coves of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, and the tropical waterways of Central America. She was designed with a shallow draft depth, allowing us to navigate inner reaches and reefs, to provide an intimate experience of the charismatic region we explore on this voyage. Her twin platforms allow us to rapidly deploy our fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks and paddleboards; and her dive locker holds complete snorkel gear for all, to ensure we maximize our time exploring off the ship. A supremely comfortable ship, Quest offers large view-encompassing windows in her public spaces, and 50 spacious outside cabins, 22 of which feature step-out balconies; and 6 of which are inter-connecting, ideal for families and friends.
DISCOVER TEMPLES & FORESTS TEEMING WITH LIFE

Remarkable ruins and abundant rain forests take center stage on the land portion of this compact yet comprehensive expedition. In Tikal, one of the largest and most impressive archaeological sites of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization, delve into mystery and history as you explore well-preserved stone temples, palaces, ceremonial platforms, terraces and roads cloaked in lush vegetation. Venture to seldom-visited ruins. Enjoy stellar views at Yaxhá, beautifully situated on a ridge overlooking Yaxhá Lake. Explore to Topoxté, located on an island surrounded by jungle. And marvel at the highly detailed sandstone carvings glorifying Mayan kings at Quiriguá. Along with this fascinating human history, discover a myriad of wildlife up in the canopies and down on the rain forest floor. 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.

DIVE INTO A WEALTH OF BIODIVERSITY

An invigorating counterpoint to the historic and natural riches on land, the Belize Barrier Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest reef system in the Northern Hemisphere, reveals a wide spectrum of sea life—hundreds of species of fish, majestic 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. Aboard National Geographic Quest, the only expedition ship exploring the Mesoamerican Reef, you'll get up-close access to places others simply cannot go. And a fleet of onboard tools—snorkel gear for every guest, Zodics, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards—lets you experience this vibrant underwater wilderness with all your senses.

From top to bottom: Yaxhá Temple; mantled howler monkeys; Wonderful and beautiful underwater world with corals and tropical fish.
SHARE THE ADVENTURE WITH THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE TEAM IN THE REGION

Our A+ expedition team is your key to unlocking the wonders that lie within the diverse ecosystems and spectacular archaeological sites we’ll explore. You’ll travel with an expedition leader, an assistant expedition leader, and several naturalists—many of whom are knowledgeable locals—plus an undersea specialist and an expedition diver, a wellness specialist, and a video chronicler. There is also a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor aboard every departure to assist you. Whether you’re a novice or more advanced you’ll take your best photos ever—of the spellbinding ruins and iconic wildlife—and go home a better, more confident photographer. And with more staff aboard the new 100-guest National Geographic Quest, you’ll enjoy a wider breadth of expertise and personality. We never assign you to a staffer so you can join the individuals whose interests reflect your own, giving you the opportunity to see, do and learn more of what interests you.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ARCHEOLOGIST
Director of the National Geographic-funded Mirador Basin Project in northern Guatemala, archeologist and anthropologist Richard Hansen specializes in the early Maya. He was named the 2008 Environmentalist of the Year in Latin America by the Latin Trade Group, a major regional publisher, and the president of Guatemala has also awarded him the country’s National Order of the Cultural Patrimony. Richard is a founder of the Geographic’s Dialogue of Civilizations conference and appeared in the Society’s Dawn of the Maya documentary. He’ll be aboard the Feb. 28, 2018 departure adding a fascinating layer of insight as we explore the rise and fall of this legendary ancient civilization.

ETHNOMUSICOLOGIST
Our ethnomusicologist, Jacob Edgar, has arranged for a performance by the internationally renowned Garifuna Collective, the premier representative of Garifuna music from Belize on the international stage.

“This troupe of extraordinary singers has fashioned a unique and wonderful world; once you enter, you will never want to leave.”
—CHARLIE GILLETT, THE GUARDIAN (UK)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER & NATURALIST
Jeff Mauritzen joins our departure on Feb. 23 leading hikes and offering shooting tips in the field.
BELIZE TO TIKAL: REEFS, RIVERS & RUINS OF THE MAYA WORLD

9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

PRICES FROM: $5,490 to $8,840

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

▶ Explore a partially excavated Maya temple situated on a tiny island in the middle of a lake where only the sounds of jungle wildlife and tropical birds float through the air.
▶ Snorkel on the second largest barrier reef in the world.
▶ Walk the ancient city of Tikal over a full day-and-a-half with expert guides who share the secrets of the site.

DAY 1: U.S./BELIZE CITY, BELIZE/EMBARK
Fly to Belize. Embark National Geographic Quest. (D)

DAY 2: LAUGHING BIRD CAYE NATIONAL PARK OR SAPODILLA CAYES MARINE RESERVE, BELIZE
Snorkel, kayak, or stand-up paddleboard the crystalline waters of Laughing Bird Caye National Park or Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve. Discover the dazzling undersea of the Belize Barrier Reef, second only to the Great Barrier Reef in terms of biodiversity, while snorkeling or, if certified, scuba diving. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: QUIRIGUÁ & RIO DULCE, GUATEMALA
See the highly detailed stonework of the Mayan ruins of Quiriguá, sculpted to glorify Maya kings. Lunch on the shores of Lake Izabal then take local boats through the beautiful limestone canyon of the Rio Dulce. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: GLOVER’S REEF/SOUTH WATER CAYE MARINE RESERVE
Explore turquoise seas and protected reefs of Glover’s Reef and South Water Caye Marine Reserves by snorkeling or, if certified, diving, then explore the shoreline and reef top by kayak or stand-up paddleboard. If conditions permit, we may stop at a remote field station to learn about reef research. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: LIGHTHOUSE REEF & HALF MOON CAYE NATURAL MONUMENT
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. Walk through the endangered and fragile littoral forest at Half Moon Caye to view the nesting population of red-footed boobies from observation platforms. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: BELIZE CITY/DISEMBARK/FLORES, GUATEMALA/TIKAL
Take a charter flight to Flores, Guatemala. Transfer to Tikal, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the largest and most impressive archaeological sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization, which we’ll explore over two days. Check into the Camino Real Tikal Hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: TIKAL, GUATEMALA
Delve deeper into Maya history and architecture with local experts in Tikal while enjoying a stay at the Camino Real Tikal Hotel. Explore the many temples, including Temple I, which rises 154 feet from the jungle floor, and the North and South Acropolises. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: YAXHÁ & TOPOXTÉ, GUATEMALA
Visit Yaxhá, the third largest ruin in the Maya world, beautifully situated on a ridge overlooking Yaxhá Lake. Hike nearby trails or explore the lesser-visited ruins at Topoxté, secluded on an island in the lake. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: FLORES/GUATEMALA CITY/U.S.
Fly from Flores to Guatemala City this morning to connect with international flight home. (B)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2018 Feb. 8, 13, 18, 23, 28; Mar. 10

EXTEND YOUR ADVENTURE

Make the most of your proximity and extend your stay to visit Antigua, Guatemala. Visit expeditions.com/antigua

Or you can combine your Belize to Tikal expedition with a voyage to Exploring Costa Rico: Cloud Forest to the Caribbean. See our website or call for details.
ABOARD THE NEW NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

CAPACITY: 100 Guests in 50 cabins.

REGISTRY: United States. OVERALL LENGTH: 238 feet.

National Geographic Quest (launching 2017) is the latest addition to our fleet. 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, splashcam, 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 and undersea specialist.

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

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

For Reservations: Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions

1.800.EXPEDITION (1.800.397.3348) WWW.EXPLORATIONS.COM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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; use of Zodiacs, 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 $440; Business from $690 (December rates: Economy from $520; Business from $690). Airfares subject to change. We will gladly assist with your flights 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 web site 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.

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SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

» Condé Nast Traveler’s Readers’ Choice Award—Top Small Ship Cruise Lines, 2015, 2014
» Porthole Cruise Magazine Readers’ Choice Awards: Best Expedition Cruise Line, 2015
» The Tourism Cares Travel Philanthropy Awards: Legacy in Travel Philanthropy, 2015

» Condé Nast Traveler World Savers “Doing it All” Award, 2013
» Condé Nast Traveler Readers’ Choice Award—Top 25 Cruise Lines, 2013
» Virtuoso “Sustainable Tourism Leadership-Supplier” Award, 2013

» Climate Champion Award to Sven Lindblad by Clean Air-Cool Planet, 2009
» Tourism for Tomorrow “Global Tourism Business Award,” 2007

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