

EXPERIENCE WILD & PURE POLYNESIA

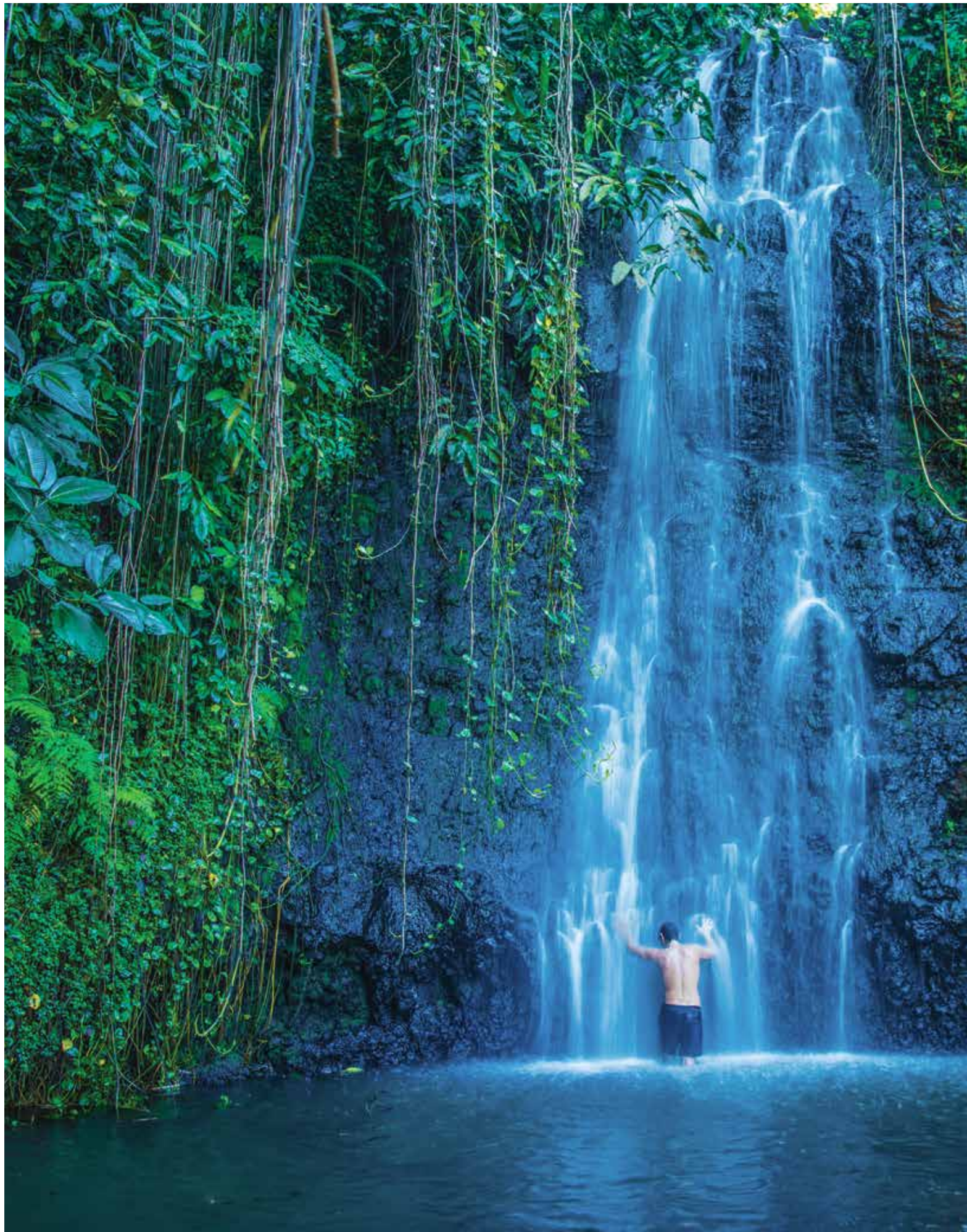
NEW!

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION | 2018 & 2019



Lindblad
Expeditions





DEAR TRAVELER,

In April *National Geographic Orion* begins the first voyages of her 2018 season in the South Pacific. We are thrilled to be blazing new trails in this adventurous geography. Our expedition staff is so eager to explore Polynesia, they've been jockeying for assignments for months now. Here in a nutshell, is some of what they're vying to experience:



Taputapuātea: Among the newly minted UNESCO World Heritage sites, Marae Taputapuātea was registered in July, 2017. It is a massive site, dating from roughly 1,000 AD, and among the most important cultural touchstones in Polynesia. Our expedition team is looking forward to it with the same anticipation as visiting Machu Picchu or Tikal—see pages 17 & 29.

The Marquesas: Among the most remote islands in the world, they are legendary among the extremely well-traveled, which our expedition teams certainly are, for their stunning natural beauty, and their historical and cultural significance. The Marquesas were the center of early Polynesian exploration; the point of departure for the colonization of the entire South Pacific; and they retain a vibrant, undiluted culture today, despite decades of colonial rule—see pages 19-23.

Millennium Atoll and the Southern Line Islands: As you'll read ahead, this is the island chain that gave Dr Enric Sala, Director of National Geographic's Pristine Sea program such a jolt of hope. You'll see the same splendid corals and kaleidoscopic reef life that showed him and the Pristine Seas team what a healthy ocean looks like. And you'll get to share the experience with acclaimed National Geographic photographer, David Doubilet. It doesn't get much better than this—see pages 31-35.

And there's more about each of our five itineraries that exhilarate, including the Guest Speakers traveling with us. For any of you with children and grandchildren, chances are you've heard the soundtrack from Disney's *Moana*. Well, the singer and co-writer (along with Lin-Manuel Miranda) of the movie's anthem, "I Know The Way," Samoan Opetia Foa'i is traveling with us as a cultural specialist, which will be very entertaining (page 15); as is Master Navigator, Tua Pittman, the heir to the grand Polynesia voyaging tradition (page 21).

Polynesia is a very important region to us, and we can't wait to begin our season—and create memorable experiences for you. There are a few spaces available on each of our departures, and hopefully our very special offer will motivate you to agree.

On behalf of some very excited expedition teams, I look forward to welcoming you aboard.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sven-Olof Lindblad', written in a cursive style.

Sven-Olof Lindblad

FREE AIR!

Book by **Jul. 31, 2018** and receive **FREE** international round-trip airfare from Los Angeles. Plus, bar tab & crew tips included. Also, **save 10% off travel for life**. See page 36 for details.

A PERFECT GEOGRAPHY FOR EXPEDITION ADVENTURE

We are constantly on the lookout for new geographies to explore; places that will reward the curiosity and intelligence of the adventurous guests who rely on us for “more.” We believe that Polynesia—a vast and kaleidoscopic geography—is “more.” It contains epic wonders, warrants your time, and will amply reward your interest. Read on to learn why Polynesia might be the new frontier for you.

A FASCINATING EXPLORATION HISTORY

“Within a period of about 1,000 years all the habitable islands in the Polynesian Triangle—a region defined by the three points of Hawaii, New Zealand, and Easter Island—were discovered and settled by a clearly identifiable group of people known to us as Polynesians... For sheer daring, it is certainly one of the greatest chapters in human history, and piecing it together has been one of the great geographic challenges of the modern world.” This brief description by Christina Thompson, hints at all you learn about the history of Polynesian exploration on our five itineraries. Depending on which you choose, you’ll have the opportunity to travel with Christina (pgs. 21 & 27) to learn more about the greatest explorers in the human diaspora; and with master navigator, Tua Pittman (pg. 21), steeped in the ancient Polynesian navigation tradition. Other fascinating individuals are aboard, as well—be sure to read about the Guest Speakers for each itinerary ahead.



ROMANTIC IN EVERY SENSE

Our Director
of Expedition
Development, Michelle
Graves, and her husband



Mark took a sabbatical from their jobs and took off aboard their vintage sailboat to spend three months exploring the islands on the South Pacific, including the most remote—the Marquesas. As a result, her knowledge of these places is bone-deep. And her knowledge underlies our expeditions, enhanced by our founder, Sven Lindblad's, own personal reconnaissance expeditions to scout unique opportunities. *Robert Louis Stevenson and Herman Melville lived here, and wrote movingly, lastingly of Polynesia. Gauguin and Jacques Brel lived in Polynesia, and are buried on Hiva Oa. And images of flowers in the hair, shell necklaces, and the bright patterns of traditional tapa sarongs endure across the ages, and forever conjure a longing in everyone within whom the romantic spark flickers.*

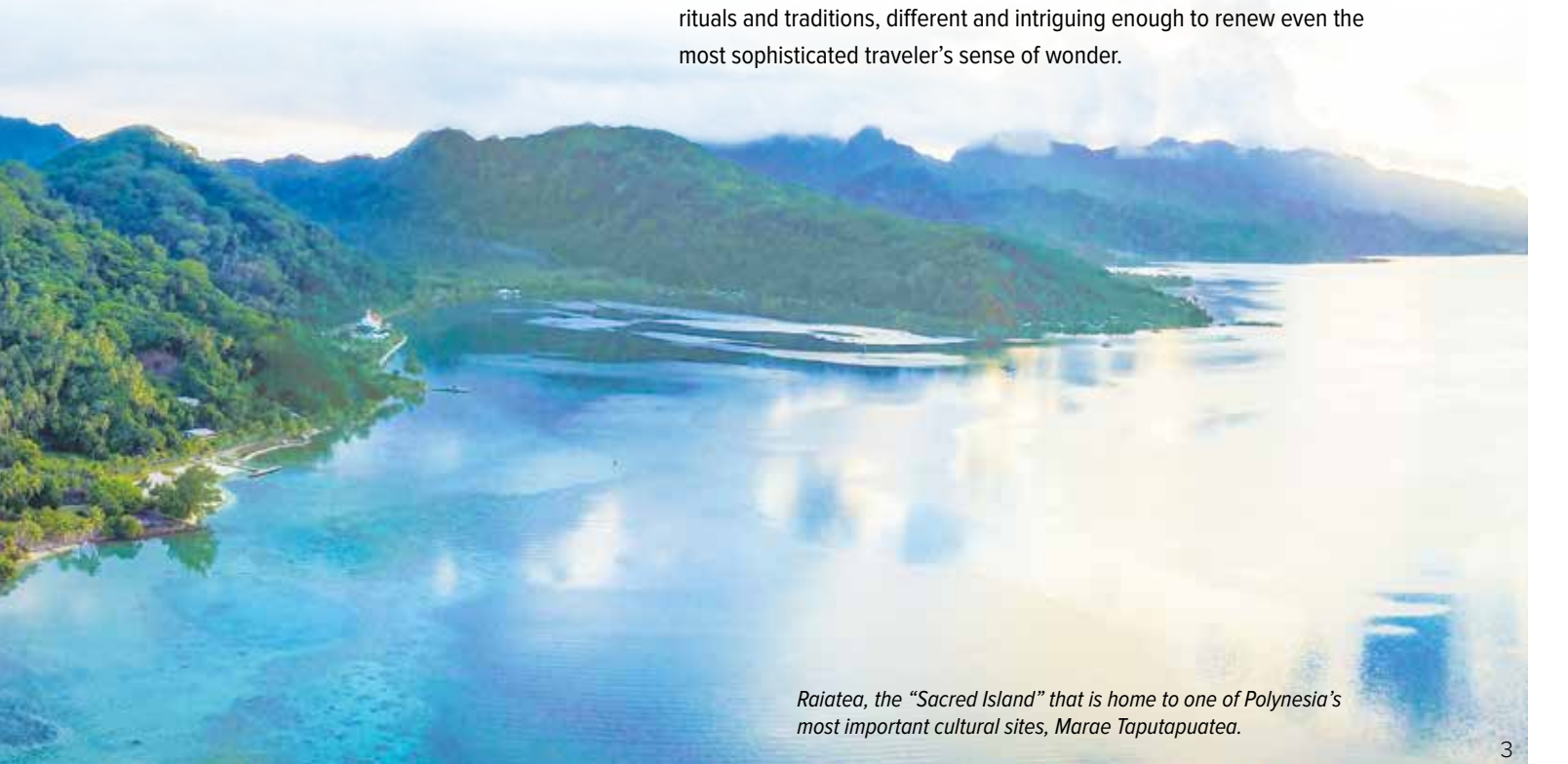
THE UNDERSEA OF 1000 YEARS AGO

"The Southern Line Islands are a blank spot on the ocean map. We believe it is one of the last pristine archipelagos left on the planet. At a time when satellites can photograph every square meter of the globe and make it available to anyone on Google Earth, it is unbelievable that there are still spots for which we have virtually no information. Our goal is to fill this gap." This was National Geographic Explorer, Dr Enric Sala's mission, as he led his Pristine Seas expedition team in search of the last untouched places in the ocean. He found them, and his discovery inspires our *Isles, Atolls and Pristine Corals* itinerary. It reveals to us what Dr Sala calls "an ocean of 1000 years ago" in its intact vibrancy and species diversity. If you love the ocean, or collecting one-of-a-kind experiences, this is a must-do!



INTRIGUING CULTURES

Tongan and Samoan cultures peaceably co-inhabiting two tiny island nations, Wallis and Futuna. The firewalking ceremony on the island of Beqa. Marae Taputapuatea, one of the most important cultural sites in Polynesia. The monumental moai of Easter island, and the deep mysteries that endure there despite the many archeologists who've been dedicated to cracking the code. The diverse dimensions of Oceania are not inert artifacts, housed in the world's natural history museums. They're living vital components of fascinating cultures across Polynesia. Ways of living, rituals and traditions, different and intriguing enough to renew even the most sophisticated traveler's sense of wonder.



Raiatea, the "Sacred Island" that is home to one of Polynesia's most important cultural sites, Marae Taputapuatea.

KIRIBATI



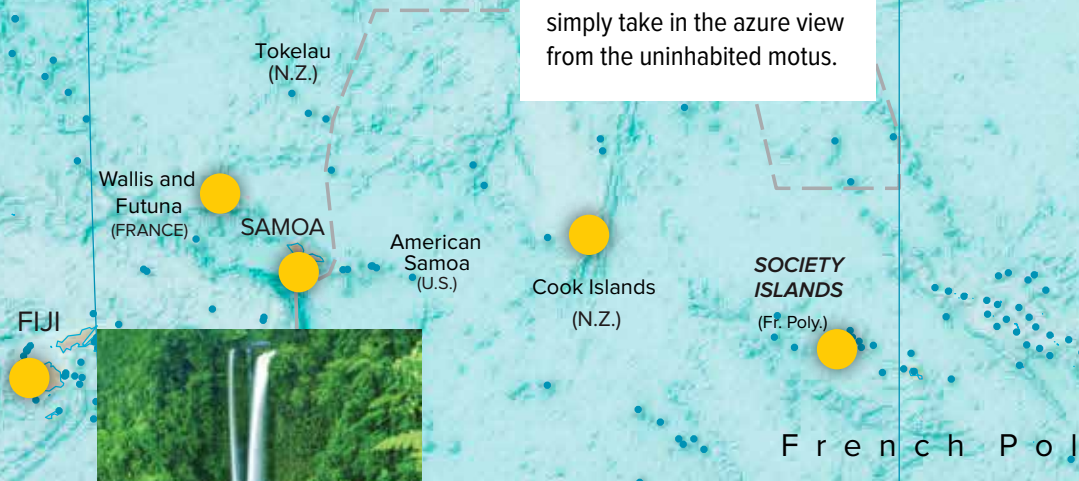
WALLIS & FUTUNA: This tiny French territory bears ancestral ties to Tonga and Samoa, producing a unique blend of French Catholic culture (i.e: elaborately decorated cathedrals) and Polynesian hospitality.



COOK ISLANDS: The world's most spectacular lagoon can be found in Aitutaki, considered the jewel of the Cook Islands. Snorkel the reef or simply take in the azure view from the uninhabited motus.



FIJI: Fiji is a nation of 322 islands and over 500 small islets, which are spread over 75,000 mi². Only 10% of this area is land, the rest is ocean.



SAMOA: After traveling the South Seas, Robert Louis Stevenson settled here in 1889, charmed by the spectacular scenery and the warm, friendly people whose spirit lives on today.



TAHITI: All five itineraries begin or end in the capital city of Papeete—enjoy an afternoon playing tourist (perhaps shopping for a perfect black pearl) before embarking for parts seldom-seen.





MARQUESAS: One of the most remote island groups on the planet, to this day some of the islands have been virtually untouched since the era of European exploration.

THE VASTNESS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC contains epic wonders, equal to those of Antarctica, the Arctic, Galápagos and other charismatic geographies we've been exploring for 50 years. We have devoted our knowledge, a global network of experts and advisors, and our itinerary design skills to creating opportunities that have never been offered before in this part of the world. Join us to go deep into the culture, history, and vivid depths of the planet's bluest part.

ÎLES MARQUISES
(Fr. Poly.)

ARCHIPEL DES TUAMOTU
(Fr. Poly.)

y n e s i a

Pitcairn Islands
(U.K.)

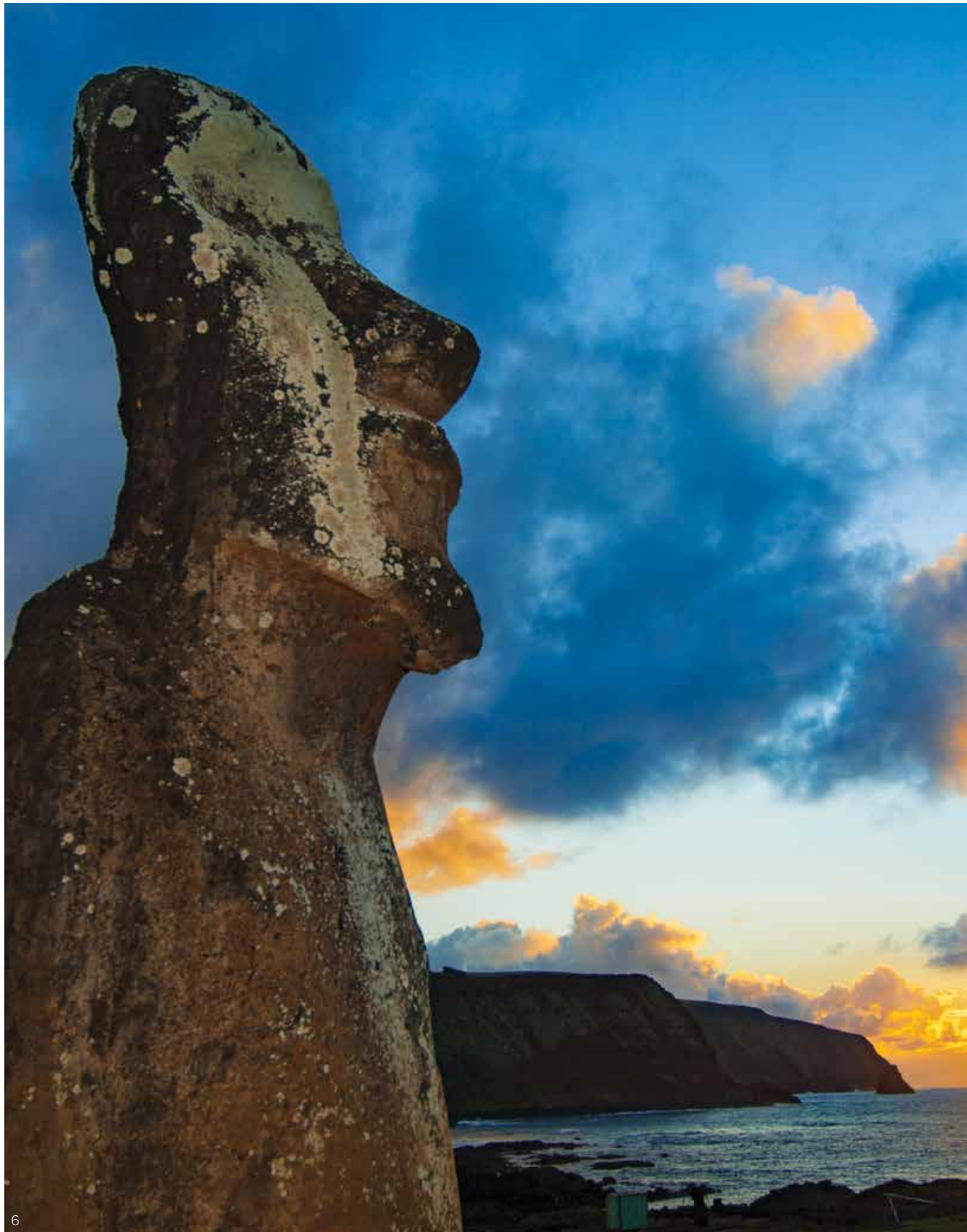
Easter Island
(CHILE)



PITCAIRN ISLANDS: The notorious mutineers of the *Bounty* made landfall in January 1790 & in March 2015, the British government established the largest continuous marine protected area in the world around their remote outpost.



EASTER ISLAND: In 1967, Lars Eric Lindblad facilitated construction of an airport, and brought the first group of travelers to explore the enigmatic *moai* with archaeologists. Today it's a UNESCO World Heritage site.



THE LONG ARC OF TIME IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Perched on an Easter Island cliff you'll see something not available anywhere else on Earth: *"The horizon bends, not merely off ahead of you, as it does on any coast, but all around, encircling you. The clouds arch forward from the other side of the planet,*



*and the ocean is almost pregnant in its curvature. You get a sense of where you are: on a rock in a vast circle of sea."**

And from this awareness your lens on the fascinating history of the Polynesian explorers who settled this island, plus the theories about other possible discoverers, will widen. You'll be welcomed by the Rapa Nui, descendants of Hotu Matu'a, Easter

Island's first king who is said to have arrived by canoe around A.D. 400. Then, alongside archaeologists you'll probe the mysteries of the monolithic *moai*, the stony sentinels carved centuries ago by Polynesian craftsmen. You'll learn about the H.M.S. *Bounty* survivors on Pitcairn Island where the 50 inhabitants share just four surnames, a lasting testament to their mutineer ancestry. From the spectacular volcanic landscapes seen from the ship to the stunning reefs of Fakarava to the *Kon-Tiki*, and the culture of the people who explored the world in *vakas*, this in-depth voyage is the stuff of legends—join us to discover a long-lost culture and pervasive history.



**National Geographic magazine, Easter Island Unveiled, March 1993*

Left to right: Ancient Moai, Easter Island; a local woodcarver, Easter Island; Pacific Island boatyard.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS ITINERARY



Flags of the regions: Chile, Easter Island, Pitcairn Island, Gambier Islands, French Polynesia, Tuamotu Archipelago.

If your only experience of the deep mystery of Easter Island is a National Geographic article, or a TV documentary, then you owe yourself the opportunity to experience it—live. Practically everyone has seen the images; beholding them in person is astounding; and discovering that the massive, mysterious heads have hidden buried bodies is literally jaw-dropping. There are few sites on earth so steeped in an air of impenetrable mystery. And you will be ideally positioned to absorb the atmosphere—at the Hanga Roa Eco Village & Spa for two nights.



Explore UNESCO World Heritage sites, Henderson Island, and Ducie Island, both part of the Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve. And at Fakarava, comb pristine beaches, snorkel protected reefs, or take a world-class drift-dive into the lagoon.



Meet the descendants of the Mutiny on The Bounty mutineers on Pitcairn Island, and perhaps, debate who was right or wronged—Captain Bligh, or Fletcher Christian?



At Mangareva, learn about the black pearl trade—its history, routes, current and former economics, and the impressive divers who mined this evocative sea treasure.



ADDING FLAVOR TO THIS UNIQUE VOYAGE



JON BOWERMASTER: Author & Filmmaker

A six-time grantee of the National Geographic Expeditions Council, an award-winning writer and author of 11 books, Jon is also writer, director and producer of 20 documentary films, most recently, *Dear President Obama: The Clean Energy Revolution Is Now*, produced with and narrated by actor/advocate Mark Ruffalo, and *Antarctica 3D: On the Edge*, narrated by Tilda Swinton. His current film projects include *The Ghost Fleet*, which looks at the global issue of fishing slaves, a six-part series for Vice.com called *Clean Water Wars* and the web series, *The Hudson, A River at Risk*. Jon is president of One Ocean Media Foundation, chairman of the advisory board of Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation and a board member of Ruffalo's Water Defense. Jon will join us on the **Aug. 30 2018** departure.



The National Geographic Photographers aboard these voyages are **JEFF MAURITZEN**, March 26, 2018; and **SUSAN SEUBERT**, August 30, 2018.

Learn more at expeditions.com/bio



NEW

EASTER ISLAND TO TAHITI: TALES OF THE PACIFIC

20 DAYS/17 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

PRICES FROM: \$17,990 to \$39,390 (See page 9 of ship brochure for complete prices.)

Following in the wake of early Polynesian navigators, this voyage takes you to the farthest reaches of Oceania. From remote and enigmatic Easter Island, to the historically significant Pitcairn Islands through the “low islands” of the Tuamotu Archipelago to Tahiti, you’ll visit islands that are virtually inaccessible and untouched. The voyage begins in one of the most isolated landfalls of Polynesia: Easter Island. Walk the length of untouched tropical beaches, meet the descendants of H.M.S. *Bounty* mutineers, and drift dive or snorkel through an atoll pass.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Dive or snorkel the stunning reefs of Fakarava, part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the Pitcairn Islands, identified as one of most unspoiled reef systems in the world by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala.
- ▶ Trace the legend of the ill-fated H.M.S. *Bounty* from Tahiti to Pitcairn Island, where descendants of its mutineers still live today.
- ▶ Explore the unusual geology and wildlife of Henderson Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and look for endemic bird species.
- ▶ Delve into the intriguing lost culture of Easter Island, and examine ancient burial sites and towering *moai* with an archaeologist.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

50
YEARS
EXPERIENCE

In 1967 Lars-Eric Lindblad set his sights on bringing travelers to Easter Island by air.

But with no airstrip to speak of, it seemed an impossible challenge. Yet Lars’ resolve was as strong as the facilities on the island were weak, and after much negotiation and planning he orchestrated the building of the airport that was crucial for tourism. Now, 50 years later, our deep connection and unrivaled knowledge of this enigmatic archipelago allows us to offer an in-depth experience that shines a light on the astonishing legacy of a long-lost culture.

Easter Island, shrouded in mystery and guarded by the famous moai statues.



DAYS 1-5: U.S./SANTIAGO, CHILE/ EASTER ISLAND/EMBARK

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile. Upon arrival, transfer to the Ritz Carlton in central Santiago then join your Lindblad-National Geographic staff this evening for a Welcome Reception. Early the next morning, fly to Easter Island where you will check into the Hanga Roa Eco Village & Spa for two nights. Explore volcanic calderas, jagged lava fields, and sweeping grasslands to discover the colossal *moai* statues, the astonishing legacy of a long-lost culture. Join archaeologists to examine these statues and discuss their meaning and creation; visit burial sites, quarries, and intricately carved ceremonial altars. Embark *National Geographic Orion*. (Day 3: L,D; Days 4-5: B,L,D)

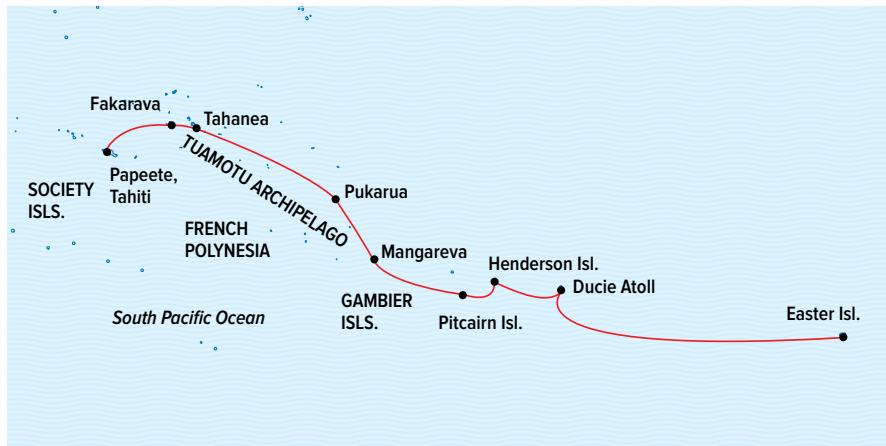
DAYS 6-10: AT SEA/PITCAIRN ISLANDS

Set sail from Easter Island on our journey west, listening to talks by our experts as we sail for two days. We begin our exploration in Ducie Atoll, where we spend time watching for frigatebirds and boobies and snorkeling or diving among spectacular reefs. Our next stop is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Henderson Island, an uplifted atoll that is uninhabited and virtually untouched by humans. On hikes and Zodiac excursions, discover the island's four endemic bird species, rich flora and fauna, and fascinating geology.



Black pearls, Fakarava.

Many of the mutineers of the legendary *Bounty* made their home on Pitcairn Island in the late 18th century, and about 50 of their descendants still live here today. Meet the residents and hear a few words of the unusual Pitkern dialect—a combination of English “sailor speak” and Polynesian phrases. Visit the gravesite of the last surviving *Bounty* mutineer, John Adams, and see the *Bounty*'s anchor, which was salvaged in 1957. (B,L,D Daily)



White fairy tern, Ducie Atoll.

DAYS 11 AND 12: AT SEA/ MANGAREVA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Spend a day at sea scanning the horizon with our naturalists, or relaxing on deck with a good book. We then arrive at Mangareva, the largest of the Gambier Islands, and famous for its black pearls. Venture underwater to snorkel or dive, meet islanders to learn about their culture and the missionaries who made their home here, and go on a hike with our naturalists. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 13-18: AT SEA/TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO

We begin our exploration of the “Dangerous Archipelago” in Pukarua, where we’ll be greeted by traditional dancers. Navigate reefs and islets during a day at sea and then in true expedition mode, explore one of the uninhabited atolls such as Tahanea. After a festive welcome with traditional dancers in Fakarava, one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, learn about the island’s pearl industry, and walk its pristine beaches. Snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world famous drift dive. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 19 AND 20: PAPEETE/ DISEMBARK/U.S.

Arrive in Papeete, French Polynesia and take a tour of Tahiti before your overnight flight home. (Day 19: B, L)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2018 Mar. 26; Aug. 30*
2019 Mar. 26; Oct. 9*

*These voyages travel in reverse from Papeete to Easter Island. Aug. 30, 2018 and Oct. 9, 2019 departures are 19 days. See website for details.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Jul. 31, 2018** and receive **complimentary international airfare** between Los Angeles/Santiago and Papeete/Los Angeles. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew on all *Orion* departures.
- Travel on either 2018 voyage and you'll become a **Friend for Life and save 10% off for life**.
- **SAVE 10%** when you book two or more voyages in South Pacific aboard *National Geographic Orion*. Call for details.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Arrange a pre-voyage stay—effortlessly. Arrive in Papeete and rest up at the InterContinental Tahiti before embarking. Available on the Aug. 30, 2018 and Oct.9, 2019 departures. Call for details.



Traditional dancers in Fakarava.



A SOUTH SEAS ODYSSEY FOR THE SENSES

One of “God’s sweetest creations” is what Robert Louis Stevenson called the people of Samoa. Smitten by their warmth he settled down on the idyllic island, developing a relationship of deep mutual admiration with the hospitable locals. That genuine spirit which so enthralled Stevenson will be front and center as this far-ranging voyage wends its way west. On the Cook Islands you’ll meet the Aitutakians, who believe themselves to be descendants of Ru, a legendary seafaring warrior, and tour ancient ceremonial sites. In Samoa you’ll be treated to lunch made in an underground oven or *umu*, savoring traditional foods such as taro and breadfruit while mingling with the locals. And in Fiji, a kava ceremony, the customary way to welcome honored visitors will greet you. Be prepared—the native



herbal drink has a mildly sedative effect that might enhance the sensual feeling Polynesia has on its visitors. Along the way you’ll also marvel at Marae Taputapuātea, a recently named UNESCO World Heritage site on Raiatea; encounter French Catholic

culture and elaborately adorned cathedrals on the tiny, remote island territory of Wallis & Futuna; and have the chance to snorkel the reefs of five different Pacific territories. By journey’s end you will have completely succumbed, as Stevenson did, to the ‘attractive power’ and ‘sense of seduction’ of the sybaritic South Seas.

Clockwise from left: Men from the village of Dakuibeqa prepare for the firewalk. This village is said to be the place where the Fijian firewalking custom originated; one of the many reefs you'll have the opportunity to explore; guests being welcomed ashore, Cook Islands.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS ITINERARY



Flags of the regions: Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Wallis & Futuna.

Life, and travel, afford few opportunities like this: to visit five of the premier South Pacific destinations (Territories or nations? Learn which is correct and why): French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji, plus the rarest of them all—Wallis & Futuna. We've featured some of the highlights of this extraordinary voyage below.



WALLIS & FUTUNA While our expedition team frowns at the notion of 'country-collecting,' they admit that visiting here earns you bragging rights, and interesting cocktail chat. According to a statistic we read, Wallis & Futuna has the fewest number of English-speaking tourists per population in the world: 50 per 12,000. These two tiny and fascinating island cultures—Tongan and Samoan respectively—are united under French governance. They are anomalies in the Polynesian cultural landscape: 99% Roman Catholic, with some of the most beautiful churches ever (think: shells). Gentle, unpretentious people, and—baguettes! A rarity for even the savviest of travelers.

On our 2006 expedition to Polynesia, we were the only ship invited to the village on Beqa Island in Fiji where this astonishing ceremony is performed. You will see what we saw then—and lest you doubt the fiery heat of the stones, wait till you see the men's grass anklets tossed onto the stones burst into flame!



UNESCO World Heritage Site, Marae Taputapuātea is an extensively restored complex—an imposing sight, and another rare opportunity to add to your personal store of knowledge of the world's most important sacred sites.

EXPERTS & MUSIC ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE



JACOB EDGAR: Ethnomusicologist

An ethnomusicologist, and global explorer, Jacob has traveled to hundreds of the world's greatest international music festivals, and performance venues in search of exceptional musical talents. Since 2012, Jacob has curated musical encounters and performances for our West Africa, Iceland, South America, Patagonia, and Europe expeditions. He has developed an exceptional Polynesian music season for us—including Opetai Foa'i and his wife Julie aboard as Guest Musicians and Cultural Specialists. **May 10 & May 24, 2018**

OPETAIA FOA'I, JULIE FOA'I: Musicians, Cultural Specialists

Born in Samoa, and raised in New Zealand, Opetai Foa'i is the creator, composer and front-man of Te Vaka. Over the last 20 plus years he has released 9 albums of original music. He has toured with Te Vaka (talented musicians and dancers from across the South Pacific), to over 40 countries around the world telling the stories and sharing the culture of the South Pacific. With the release of the acclaimed Disney animation, *Moana*, Te Vaka's music is reaching a huge global audience. Opetai shares co-writing credit with Lin-Manuel Miranda and Mark Mancina for the Oscar-nominated *Moana* soundtrack. And he performs vocals on a key song, "I Know the Way." His wife Julie accompanies him as a cultural specialist, contributing insight and sharing the adventure. **May 10 & May 24, 2018**



DR. JOE MACINNIS: Renowned Explorer

The first person to explore the ocean beneath the North Pole, Joe's teams built the first under-sea polar station and discovered the world's northernmost known shipwreck. **May 10, 2018**



VALERIE TAYLOR: Dive Legend

Pioneering undersea photographer and filmmaker, and National Geographic cover subject. Valerie, and her husband Ron Taylor, gained fame in the early days of scuba diving for their breathtaking live footage of sharks, particularly great whites. **May 24, 2018**



The National Geographic Photographers aboard these voyages are **SISSE BRIMBERG**, May 10, 2018; and **MICHAEL MELFORD**, May 24, 2018. **Learn more at expeditions.com/bio**



NEW

EPIC POLYNESIA: COOK ISLANDS TO FIJI

17 DAYS/14 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

PRICES FROM: \$15,680 to \$33,440 (See page 9 of ship brochure for complete prices.)

Embark on a sweeping adventure to the western reaches of Polynesia and explore from the verdant crags of Tahiti to the vibrant reefs of Fiji—plus tropical islands and reefs that few others will ever see. Immerse yourself in Aitutaki’s warm turquoise waters, and experience genuine Polynesian welcomes throughout Samoa. Visit the tiny island territory of Wallis and Futuna, as very few travelers have, and marvel at impressively decorated cathedrals before diving into a sparkling lagoon. Learn new techniques for photographing colorful markets and friendly faces, as you are welcomed into Fijian villages with traditional *kava* ceremonies. Whether it’s Pacific culture or nature that you seek, this in-depth expedition offers it all.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Ride Zodiacs through the pass at Aitutaki, entering its sparkling turquoise lagoon.
- ▶ Snorkel and dive colorful reefs in five different Pacific territories—French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Samoa, Wallis and Futuna and Fiji.
- ▶ Marvel at elaborately decorated cathedrals in Wallis & Futuna, a tiny, difficult to reach, Pacific island territory.
- ▶ See firsthand how the village of Waitabu created Fiji’s most successful marine park, as you snorkel or dive the healthy house reef.
- ▶ Visit Beqa Island in Fiji, where you’ll witness the breathtaking spectacle of traditional firewalking.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE



Our unparalleled expedition team is key to an in-depth experience, and our generous 12-person expedition team means more choice in activities, and more diverse personalities and interests you can gravitate to. An expedition leader, naturalists/historians, a National Geographic photographer, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, an undersea specialist, two dive masters, a video chronicler, and a wellness specialist all contribute to your experience of the region’s wonders.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.

Strolling along a white sand, palm-fringed beach in the Cook Islands.



DAY 1: DEPART U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Tahiti.

DAY 2: PAPEETE, FRENCH POLYNESIA/ EMBARK

Arrive in Papeete, Tahiti early this morning, check in to dayrooms and take a brief tour before embarking *National Geographic Orion*. (L,D)

DAYS 3–5: TAHAA/RAIATEA/AT SEA

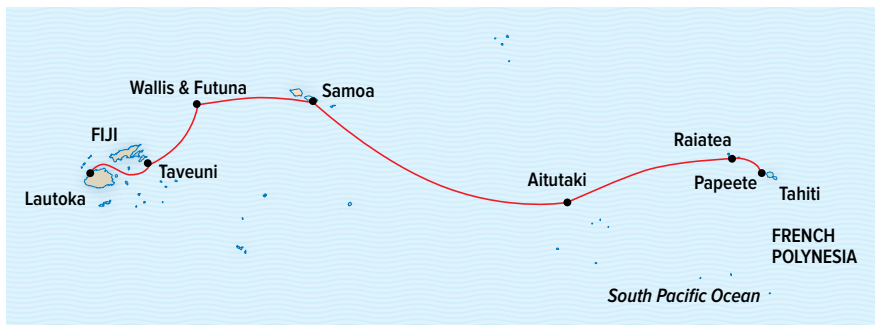
Encircled by a single fringing reef, and sharing a common lagoon, Raiatea and Tahaa are islands well worth exploring. Acclimate to Polynesia's slower pace with a day of snorkeling, kayaking, paddleboarding and beach exploration at Tahaa. One of the most important cultural sites in the Polynesian world, Marae Taputapuetea was a center for Polynesian seafarers and the location from which they set out for Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Hawaii and New Zealand. Spend the morning exploring this site on Raiatea, then refresh yourself with a swim in warm turquoise seas. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 6–8: AITUTAKI, COOK ISLANDS/ AT SEA

Known for its turquoise central lagoon, Aitutaki has been described as the perfect South Pacific island. Board Zodiacs to enter the lagoon via the pass on the western side of this "almost atoll." Once ashore, you'll step over sacred welcome stones to be greeted with a traditional Polynesian welcome. Explore the lagoon, walk palm-fringed beaches and finish with a swim in the warm, clear lagoon. Or, meet the friendly residents and experience traditional Polynesian food, culture and hospitality on a visit to an interior village. Then enjoy life aboard *National Geographic Orion* as we spend two days sailing west toward Samoa. (B,L,D Daily)



Bouma National Heritage Park.

**DAYS 9 AND 10: SAMOA**

With its spectacular beaches and aqua lagoons, hidden waterfalls and lava-sculpted landscapes, Samoa captures the essence of the South Pacific. During our time on these islands, hike through rain forests vibrant with flowers and birds, take a dip in a swimming hole, go snorkeling or diving on the reef, and soak up the languid rhythms of island life that drew Robert Louis Stevenson to these shores. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 11 AND 12: EXPLORING WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Another of France's South Pacific territories, the tiny island of Wallis and Futuna lies between Samoa and Fiji. Be on deck just after sunrise, as *National Geographic Orion* navigates the channel into the lagoon at Wallis Island, where we'll anchor for the day. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Mata-Utu, a stunning edifice built of blue volcanic stone chiseled and trimmed by hand, or the Church of St. Joseph, with its colorfully decorated interior. Later, snorkel, kayak or stand-up paddleboard from one of the tiny islets offshore. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 13–15: EXPLORING FIJI

Enter the island nation of Fiji with a stop at Taveuni, where you'll experience warm Fijian welcomes at the village of Waitabu and snorkel in one of the Pacific's most successful community marine parks. Explore the waterfalls of nearby Bouma National Heritage Park, and dive nearby reefs. Witness a dramatic firewalking ceremony, at Beqa Island. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 16 AND 17: LAUTOKA/ DISEMBARK/U.S.

Disembark in Lautoka this morning. Take a tour of western Viti Levu Island then transfer to the international airport at Nadi for an overnight flight home, or choose to extend your stay and check in to our hotel. (Day 16: B,L)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2018 May 10; May 24*

*This voyage travels in reverse from Lautoka to Papeete.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Jul. 31, 2018** and receive **complimentary round-trip airfare** between Los Angeles/Papeete and Nadi/Los Angeles. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew on all *Orion* departures.
- Travel on either 2018 voyage and you'll become a **Friend for Life and save 10% off for life**.
- **SAVE 10%** when you book two or more voyages in South Pacific aboard *National Geographic Orion*. Call for details.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Arrange a pre-voyage stay—effortlessly. Arrive in Papeete and rest up at the InterContinental Tahiti before embarking. Available on the May 10 departure. Call for details.



Snorkeling on a coral reef, Fiji.



THE MARQUESAS: ISLANDS THAT LINK TO THE PAST

The Marquesas Islands are said to have been ‘fished from the sea’ by the Polynesian demi-god Maui. And with saw-toothed basalt pinnacles jutting straight out of the crashing, indigo ocean, sky-



scraper-high waterfalls spilling over steep mountain cliffs, and limestone caves dotting jagged shorelines, it’s not hard to see why. One of the most remote group of islands in the world and thought to be the first to be settled by the Polynesians during the great South Pacific migration, the Marquesas’ untamed interiors conceal a wealth of archeological wonders—ceremonial sites,

sacrificial altar stones, mystical petroglyphs—all enigmatic remnants of this ancient past. As you explore Hiva Oa at Me’ae Iipona, you’ll discover a huge concentration of sacred *tiki* statues, including Tiki Takai’l one of Polynesia’s largest *tikis*. And at picturesque Cimetière du Calvaire, you can visit the graves of artist Paul Gauguin and singer Jacques Brel, who both found inspiration on the isolated isles. Take in an electrifying dance performance at a Marquesan *me’ae* on Nuka Hiva, and watch the locals make Tapa cloth, a native textile formed by soaking and pounding bark. Culturally rich and ruggedly wild, the Marquesas have a distinctly different feel from the rest of French Polynesia. Paired with the chance to explore pristine seas and swim with a variety of reef sharks in the Tuamotu Archipelago, this itinerary promises an incomparable blend of culture, history and nature.



Clockwise from left: The sun sets over Hatiheu Bay on the island of Nuku Hiva in the Marquesas; Marquesan tattoos are among the most artistic in the world; beautiful black pearls.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS ITINERARY



Flags of the regions:
French Polynesia,
Tuamotu Archipelago,
Marquesas.

Among the first islands to be settled by the ancient Polynesians, the Marquesas constituted the jumping off point for the colonization of the entire Polynesian triangle—from Hawaii to Easter Island and New Zealand—sometime between pre-history and between AD 900 and 1100—an achievement by the early Polynesian explorers equivalent to the moon landing. Learn about the successive waves of European explorers—from Mendaña in 1595, to Cook in 1774, to Dupetit-Thouars who claimed the islands for France in 1842—and the resulting collapse of Marquesan society upon contact with Western influences. The 20th century restored the fame of the Marquesas—Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel lived, and are buried, on Hiva Oa. And it brought archeologists and other scientists in to uncover the remarkable culture eclipsed only a short time ago. Encountering the interesting, independent people of the islands, and seeing the sacred tiki statues at the vast lipona site will make an indelible impression on you.

With the topography of a fairy tale, the Marquesas' extraordinary natural beauty is a waking dream for any eco-minded traveler.



In the early 1920s, the anthropologist Edward S. C. Handy and his wife, Willowdean, spent nine months in the Marquesas as part of the Bayard Dominick Expedition. Although by this time, Marquesans were no longer practicing the art for which, in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries they had become justly famous, Willowdean was able to find people who still bore traditional tattoos, and in 1922 she published a little monograph filled with meticulous drawings of exquisite Marquesan designs. The tradition endures, and we'll welcome a local Marquesan tattoo artist aboard to learn more. And if you're inclined to get a souvenir Marquesan design, as is the practice among visiting sailors and yachtsmen, our expedition team can make the arrangements for you.

INTERESTING GUESTS TAKE YOU DEEPER INTO THE CULTURE



TUA PITTMAN: Master Navigator

In 1992, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands sent out a challenge to all the voyaging canoes in the region to sail to Rarotonga for the Pacific Arts Festival using non-instrument navigation. Accepting the challenge, the Polynesian Voyaging Society from Hawaii said they would come under one condition, that Cook Island voyagers must learn to navigate their own canoe. On his second trip to Aitutaki onboard Hokulea, Society navigator, Mau, handpicked Tua to join Nainoa Thompson and six of his fellow countrymen to learn this ancient tradition. Two decades later and thousands of miles of voyaging, Tua was bestowed the title of PWO or master navigator by Mau Pialug in Micronesia in 2008. As a thank you to Nainoa and Mau, Tua made a lifelong promise to teach others and continue to nurture this tradition. In the Polynesian voyaging tradition, a navigator has to memorize up to 200 stars in the sky, differences in constellations, and understand where they are rising from on the star compass. Traveling with Tua aboard *Orion* will transform your experience of traveling by ship. **Aug. 16, 2018** departure.



CHRISTINA THOMPSON: Cultural Specialist

Christina Thompson is the editor of Harvard Review and the author of a memoir set in New Zealand, *Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All*. Her new book, *Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia*, will be published in 2018. **Jun. 21, 2018** departure.



HEIDY BAUMGARTNER-LESAGE:

Cultural Specialist

Originally from Lucerne, Switzerland, archaeological restorer and conservator Heidi has lived in Tahiti since 1986, working with the local Department of Archaeology in excavations throughout French Polynesia and as a freelance tour guide and lecturer. She is the co-author of the travel guide *Mave Mai, The Marquesas Islands*. **Jun. 21 & Aug. 16, 2018** departures.

MARQUESAN TATTOO ARTIST: Cultural Specialist

Our local expert will join us aboard to talk about the historical significance of Marquesan designs, reveal who was tattooed and why, and more. And, he will show us how they were done in the past, using a comb, versus today, using a machine. As we go to press, the actual artist is yet to be determined; find details soon on our website.



The National Geographic Photographers aboard these voyages are **JASON EDWARDS**, Jun. 21 & Aug. 16, 2018; and **RALPH LEE HOPKINS**, Aug. 16, 2018. **Learn more at expeditions.com/bio**



NEW

AZURE SEAS FROM TAHITI TO THE MARQUESAS

17 DAYS/14 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

PRICES FROM: \$15,680 to \$34,840 (See page 9 of ship brochure for complete prices.)

Remote and enigmatic, the Marquesas are islands that belong to the past. Some of them virtually untouched since the era of European exploration, their isolation has given way to a proud people whose unique Marquesan dialect is a direct link to the ancient Polynesian language of Maohi. Indeed, it is believed locally that the spirits of the ancient Maohi live among the islands' saw-toothed peaks and lush, verdant valleys, and the limestone caves and grottos that we'll explore. Herman Melville penned his indulgent novel *Typee* based on his time on Nuku Hiva and established himself as the "man who lived among the cannibals," and Robert Louis Stevenson landed here aboard his yacht *Casco* in the late 19th century. At sea we'll encounter cetaceans, potentially the rare melon-headed whales, and we'll dive among manta rays.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ In-depth exploration of the Marquesas, one of the most remote and culturally unique island groups on Earth, both on land and by sea.
- ▶ See ancient stone sculptures, including one of the largest *tikis* in Polynesia, on Hiva Oa.
- ▶ Hike to a remote waterfall and search for rare birds on far-flung Fatu Hiva.
- ▶ Dive or snorkel the stunning reefs of Fakarava, part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

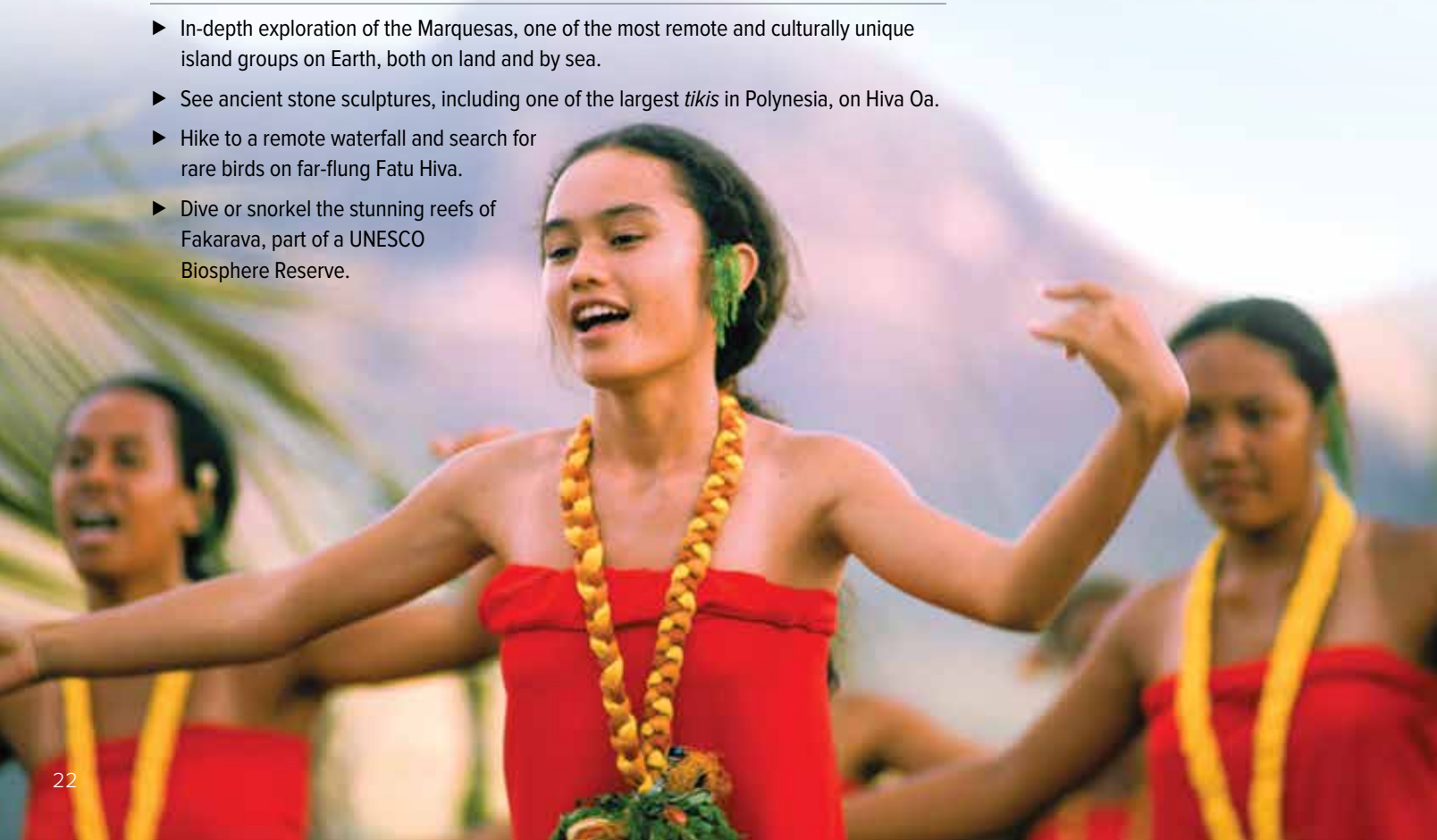
EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE



Our unparalleled expedition team is key to an in-depth experience, and our generous 12-person expedition team means more choice in activities, and more diverse personalities and interests you can gravitate to. An expedition leader, naturalists/historians, a National Geographic photographer, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, an undersea specialist, two dive masters, a video chronicler, and a wellness specialist all contribute to your experience of the region's wonders.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.

Dance performance, Nuku Hiva.



DAY 1: DEPART U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Tahiti.

DAY 2: PAPEETE, FRENCH POLYNESIA/ EMBARK

Arrive in Papeete, early this morning, check in to dayrooms at the InterContinental Tahiti, and take a brief tour before embarking *National Geographic Orion*. (L,D)

DAYS 3–5: AT SEA/TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO

We begin our exploration of the “Dangerous Archipelago” at Fakarava, one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. After a festive welcome with traditional dancers, learn about the island’s pearl industry, and walk its pristine beaches. Snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world famous drift dive. Continue to Raroia, one of the easternmost atolls in this chain, and the site where Thor Heyerdahl’s famous *Kon-Tiki* raft made landfall in 1947. (B,L,D Daily)



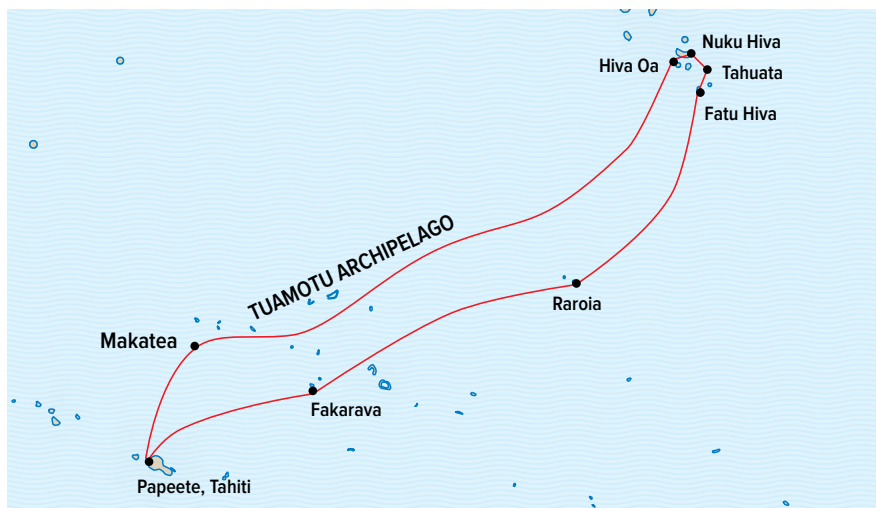
Sea turtle, Fakarava

DAYS 6 AND 7: AT SEA/NUKU HIVA, MARQUESAS

A day at sea brings us to one of the most remote island groups on earth, the Marquesas Islands. We begin our exploration of this archipelago at Hatiheu Bay, on the north shore of Nuku Hiva Island. Visit ancient petroglyphs and witness a spectacular dance performance at a Marquesan *me’ae*, or hike up the valley with the naturalists and local guides in search of rare birds and spectacular views. Later, sample local foods in the village, and peruse unique arts and crafts. (B,L,D Daily)

DAY 8: HIVA OA, MARQUESAS

At Hiva Oa, go ashore at the village of Puamau to visit the stunning Marquesan *me’ae lipona*, and photograph one of the largest *tikis* in Polynesia. Stop for a fresh-baked French baguette before a short visit to Calvary



Cemetery and the gravesites of French artists Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: FATU HIVA, MARQUESAS

Be sure you’re on deck this morning to photograph the volcanic pillars of Hanavave Bay, as *Orion* approaches one of the most storied shorelines in the entire Pacific. Visit a remote village where you’ll see displays of uniquely Marquesan arts and crafts. Choose a challenging hike to a remote waterfall, or take Zodiacs to the next bay where local transport takes you on a birdwatching foray deep into the Omoa Valley. (B,L,D)

DAYS 10–12: EXPLORING THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS/AT SEA

Our last two days in the Marquesas are open for exploration. Scuba dive with manta rays, search for rare cetaceans with your naturalists and marvel at the rugged volcanic silhouettes of these legendary islands from the Zodiacs and kayaks. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 13 AND 14: TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO

We let nature be our guide for these days, as we explore some of the more than 80 islands and atolls that make up this seldom-visited archipelago. Snorkel or dive stunning healthy reefs, kayak and stand-up paddleboard on turquoise lagoons, and walk pristine beaches beneath coconut palms. (B,L,D Daily)

DAY 15: MAKATEA

An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. Spend the day exploring limestone caves and

grottos with your expedition team and local guides, or search for endemic fruit doves and myriad seabirds, then snorkel and dive among colorful fish on the nearby reef. (B,L,D)

DAYS 16 AND 17: DISEMBARK/ PAPEETE/U.S.

Disembark in Papeete this morning and tour Tahiti before overnight flight home. (Day 16: B,L)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2018 Jun. 21; Aug. 16
2019 Apr. 25

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Jul. 31, 2018** and receive **complimentary round-trip airfare** from Los Angeles to Papeete. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew on all *Orion* departures.
- Travel on either 2018 voyage and you’ll become a **Friend for Life** and **save 10% off for life**.
- **SAVE 10%** when you book two or more voyages in South Pacific aboard *National Geographic Orion*. Call for details.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

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Detail from a painting by Paul Gauguin.



HIDDEN POLYNESIA: REVEALING A LIVING & ANCIENT CULTURE

Palm-lined turquoise lagoons. Soaring, emerald-encrusted mountain peaks. Pristine reefs bursting with a kaleidoscope of marine life.

These are the idyllic notions that lure visitors to French Polynesia like a magnet, but beneath the sublime exterior there beats a spiritual pulse, linking the island people of today with their ancestors of yore. And nowhere is this ancient rhythm more palpable than on Raiatea, the “Sacred Island” that’s home to one of Polynesia’s most important culture sites, Marae Taputapuatea. Built as a monument to Oro, the god of war, this imposing open air temple reigned as the center of spiritual power over 3,000 years ago. *Ari’i* (chiefs) would arrive from far and near for ceremonial rites, bringing offerings for the gods. As you unpack the history of this sacred ground with cultural experts don’t be surprised if you experience for yourself the indescribable mysterious energy said to emanate from this far-flung island. You’ll venture on to neighboring Huahine, once the home of

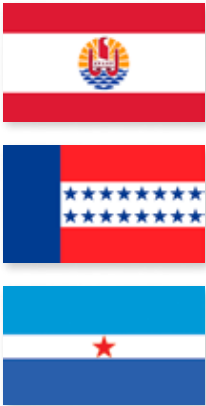


Tahitian royalty, where the highest density of well-preserved ancient marae abounds along with myriad archeological artifacts dating as far back as 700 A.D. will be contrasted. The last half of the voyage turns your attention back to the region’s

secular offerings—snorkeling Fakarava, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, drifting in Rangiroa’s lagoon, the second largest in the world, or exploring enchanting grottos on Makatea.

Clockwise from left: Tahitian paddler in his va’a; a local friendly face; tiki statue at Marae Taputapuatea, Raiatea.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS ITINERARY



Flags of the regions:
French Polynesia,
Tuamotu Archipelago,
Makatea.

This is classic French Polynesia—everything movies, magazine articles, novels and more have conditioned you to want from this exquisite geography—but with a twist. Instead of being in one place, in an over-water bungalow context, you’ll freely roam aboard National Geographic Orion, to see, do and experience all the thrilling diversity you’d otherwise miss. In ten compact days you’ll roam a legendary paradise, but with empty beaches, no tourists and laid-back welcoming locals—to experience the mythic romance, tropical waters and remarkable marine life of authentic Tahiti.



According to the UNESCO listing of World Heritage Sites in Oceania, Taputapuātea, designated in 2017, includes two forested valleys, a portion of lagoon and coral reef and a strip of open ocean—and at its heart—the Taputapuātea complex. A political, ceremonial and funerary center. Marae Taputapuātea, is “an exceptional testimony to 1,000 years of mā’ohi civilization.” (Mā’ohi, in Tahitian, refers to the ancestors of the Polynesian peoples.) What’s fascinating about this center of learning dating back to 1,000 AD, was that priests and navigators from all over the Pacific convened here, to offer sacrifices to the gods and share their knowledge of the genealogical origins of the universe and of deep-ocean navigation—a uniquely Polynesian juxtaposition. By 1929 the center had fallen into complete disrepair. The archaeological remains of Marae Taputapuātea were restored in 1994, and preservation efforts have continued ever since. Thanks to the work of the cultural association, Association Na Papa E Va’u Raiatea, Marae Taputapuātea achieved World Heritage status on July 9, 2017. In addition, the association is dedicated to reviving connections between communities of the Polynesian triangle and throughout the Pacific region.



The name Huahine translates roughly as ‘woman’ and is derived from the shape of the island’s prominent mountain, which resembles a woman reclining. The historic seat of Tahitian royalty, Huahine was ruled by monarchs from 1760 until 1895 when it was annexed by France. Of its ten monarchs, five were female, including the final ruler, Tehaapapa III who died in 1917.

As the calm demeanor of this photographer shows, Fakarava’s elegant grey tip reef shark population is a fascinating subject for her camera, not an object of trepidation. Experience the same thrilling closeness to myriad marine life in this extraordinary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.



GET MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED FROM TAHITI



CHRISTINA THOMPSON: Cultural Specialist

Christina Thompson is the editor of Harvard Review and the author of a memoir set in New Zealand, *Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All*. Her new book, *Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia*, will be published in 2018. **July 5, 2018 departure.**



VALERIE TAYLOR: Dive Legend

Pioneering undersea photographer and filmmaker, and National Geographic cover subject. Valerie, and her husband Ron Taylor, gained fame in the early days of scuba diving for their breathtaking live footage of sharks, particularly great whites. **June 7, 2018 departure.**



One of two uniquely once-in-a-lifetime chances to share a South Seas adventure with the acclaimed undersea photographer, **DAVID DOUBILET**, and his wife and collaborator, photojournalist **JEN HAYES**. They have been professional partners since 1999, creating a visual voice for the world's oceans through their assignments for

National Geographic, ranging from the icy waters of Antarctica to Galápagos and beyond. Their inspiring and informative presentations, valuable photo and storytelling tips, and genial onboard company will add immeasurably to your experience and your memory bank. **April 26, 2018 departure.** (They are also on our **April 19, 2018 Isles, Atolls & Pristine Corals** expedition; see pgs. 30-35 for more.)

Strong relationships with the locals who live in the places we explore are vital for understanding the different regions and cultures.



NEW

FRENCH POLYNESIA: BEYOND THE POSTCARD

10 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION*

PRICES FROM: \$7,690 to \$17,420 (See page 9 of ship brochure for complete prices.)

Venture to the heart of Polynesian culture and wildness on this highly immersive expedition where options abound. Choose to kayak, stand-up paddleboard, or take a bike ride for independent exploration and to connect with these people and islands on a personal level. Explore the historic ceremonial site, called a *marae*, on Raiatea where Polynesian seafarers would begin their bold expeditions sailing into the unknown—expeditions that would eventually lead to populating Hawaii and New Zealand. Sail among some of the 80 atolls of the Tuamotu Archipelago, a string of tiny islands in an azure sea that hides thriving reefs we'll explore while scuba diving and snorkeling.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Visit one of the most important cultural sites in the Polynesian world, Marae Taputapuatea on Raiatea, recently named a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ▶ Snorkel or dive some of the healthiest reefs of the Pacific in the Tuamotu Archipelago.
- ▶ Learn stand-up paddle boarding in gorgeous turquoise lagoons.
- ▶ Watch on deck as *National Geographic Orion* navigates Tiputa Pass into the lagoon at Rangiroa, one of the largest atolls in the world.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE



Our unparalleled expedition team is key to an in-depth experience, and our generous 12-person expedition team means more choice in activities, and more diverse personalities and interests you can gravitate to. An expedition leader, naturalists/historians, a National Geographic photographer, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, an undersea specialist, two dive masters, a video chronicler, and a wellness specialist all contribute to your experience of the region's wonders.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.

Hibiscus flower, Mount Otemanu, Bora Bora.

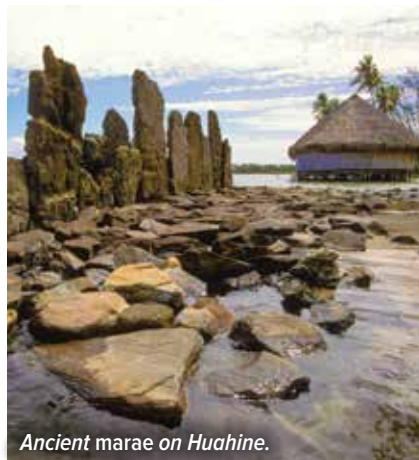


DAY 1: DEPART U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Tahiti.

DAY 2: PAPEETE, FRENCH POLYNESIA/ EMBARK

Arrive in Papeete, Tahiti early this morning, check into dayrooms and take a brief tour before embarking *National Geographic Orion*. (L,D)



Ancient marae on Huahine.

DAY 3: BORA BORA, SOCIETY ISLANDS

Begin your voyage with a view of one of the South Pacific’s most iconic images, the angular crags of Bora Bora’s Mount Otemanu. Explore the island’s interior by 4WD, for unparalleled views of the island’s turquoise lagoon, then snorkel, dive, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard from one of the *motus* on the outer reef. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: RAIATEA/TAHAA

Encircled by a single fringing reef, and sharing a common lagoon, Raiatea and Taha’a are islands well worth exploring. One of the most important cultural sites in the Polynesian world, Marae Taputapuetea was a center for Polynesian seafarers and the location from which they set out for Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Hawaii and New Zealand. Spend the morning exploring this site on Raiatea, then refresh yourself with a swim in warm turquoise seas. Watch from on deck as we navigate lagoon channels en route to Tahaa, then go ashore for a visit to a small, family-run vanilla plantation. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: HUAHINE

One of Polynesia’s best-kept secrets, Huahine is well off the beaten path. Once the home of Tahitian royalty, Huahine maintains the highest density of ancient *marae* in French Polynesia. Visit these sites with cultural experts and

archaeologists who bring them to life. Explore the verdant shoreline by kayak, stand-up paddleboard or Zodiac. Finish the day with a swim in the island’s crystal-clear lagoon. (B,L,D)

DAYS 6 AND 7: TUAMOTU

ARCHIPELAGO

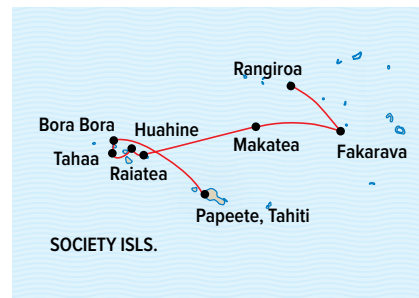
Spend two days exploring some of the nearly 80 islands and atolls in the “Dangerous Archipelago.” Fakarava is one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world famous drift dive. An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. Spend the day exploring limestone caves and grottos with your expedition team and local guides, or search for endemic fruit doves and myriad seabirds. (B,L,D Daily)

DAY 8: RANGIROA

The atoll of Rangiroa is a ring of slender islands known for some of the best diving and snorkeling in French Polynesia. The turquoise lagoon at its center is the second-largest in the world. Our ship passes between the islets to anchor inside the lagoon near the village of Tiputa, where local musicians greet us. Visit the village, and kayak, snorkel, and scuba dive in the rich waters here, home to large schools of pelagic fish, manta rays, dolphins, sea turtles, and hammerheads. (B,L,D)

DAYS 9 AND 10: RANGIROA/ DISEMBARK/PAPEETE/U.S.

Disembark this morning and take a short flight back to Papeete, where you’ll connect to international overnight flight home. (Day 9: B,L)



EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2018 Apr. 12, 26; Jun. 7; Jul. 5, 12*, 19, 26*; 2019 Apr. 18*; May 9, 16*

*These voyages travel in reverse from Rangiroa to Papeete.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Jul. 31, 2018** and receive **complimentary round-trip airfare** from Los Angeles to Papeete on 2018 voyages. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew on all *Orion* departures.
- **SAVE 10%** when you book two or more voyages in South Pacific aboard *National Geographic Orion*. Call for details.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Arrange a pre-voyage stay—effortlessly. Arrive in Papeete and rest up at the InterContinental Tahiti before embarking. Call for details.



Explore Bora Bora island’s interior by 4WD.



Diving at Rangiroa.



DISCOVER PARADISE & AN UNDERSEA UTOPIA

Thanks to the protection of the 3,000 square mile zone now known as the Southern Line Islands Marine Reserve, you now have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore one of the last truly wild places in the



ocean, virtually unmarred by human touch. Venture into this vibrant undersea—sometimes up to three times a day—to dive, snorkel or just swim among massive clouds of tropical fish, a parade of sharks, giant clams, endangered Napoleon wrasse, and much more. Above water, you'll discover a soothing contrast to the frenzied exhilaration of being on the reef in settings equally pristine and untouched. Listen to the azure waves lapping on hushed beaches, kayak into peaceful coves, hike through coconut palm forests keeping a watch out for



colossal coconut crabs, one of the few denizens which inhabit these islands, and observe on deck as *National Geographic Orion*, easily the most elegant and comfortable 'live-aboard' in the South Seas, navigates the pass in Moorea's fringing reef to anchor in Opunohu Bay, as Captain James Cook did centuries before.

Clockwise from left: Caroline Island, protected in part to National Geographic's Pristine Seas project; a snorkeler observes a school of tropical fish; Titan triggerfish.

REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS ITINERARY



Flags of the regions:
French Polynesia,
Kiribati, Society Islands,
Tuamotu Archipelago.

Each of our five Polynesia itineraries offers exhilarating experiences and unique opportunities. This itinerary, however, is something genuinely rare—the chance to go where you otherwise couldn't. No cruise lines or live-aboards currently offer this option; National Geographic Orion is literally the only ship exploring Kiribati's Southern Line Islands and Millennium Atoll, and the only one equipped with the snorkel and scuba gear, and the expert dive masters, or the glass-bottom boat for non-immersers, you'll need to experience them. And if you are ocean-loving, you will want to. This island group is considered—by the handful of marine scientists and top undersea photographers who've been there—the most superb snorkel-dive locations on Earth; a rare opportunity to savor the splendors of intact marine habitats, nearly identical to those of 1,000 years ago. And that's not all, this opportunity gives you a host of other Polynesia rewards, as well.



"We are about to achieve a dream: to explore and survey one of the last unknown places on the planet—a mare incognitum, an uncharted sea.... The Southern Line Islands are a blank spot on the ocean map...Our goal is to fill this gap." This excerpt is from the first post of Enric Sala's 2009 Southern Line Islands Expedition blog. He met the goal, and his team's efforts also led to two vital consequences for ocean conservation—providing data to establish the baseline model for healthy coral reefs, and to devise a blueprint for the conservation of already degraded reefs. A region the size of California has been protected since 2014. You'll witness the impact of this enlightened conservation and see wonders—coral gardens—in a state unlike anywhere else in the world.

Stroll along pristine white sand beaches, or meander through wooded areas with your naturalists and search for endangered coconut crabs, the largest land-dwelling invertebrates in the world.



SHARE THE ADVENTURE WITH SUPERB ARTIST-EXPLORERS



ZARIA FORMAN: Artist

Zaria Forman is known for her beautiful and impeccably naturalistic pastel drawings. Her drawings feature carefully rendered images of glistening icebergs, turbulent arctic waters, and crashing tropical waves. She is inspired by remote landscapes and environmentally sensitive locations such as Greenland and the Maldives. In addition, she travels to both collect material for her drawings and raise awareness about climate change. In 2015, sponsored by Sven Lindblad, she completed a four-week art residency in Antarctica aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* (Nov-Dec), and created works from her observations there that were featured in her September 2017 Winston Wächter Seattle exhibition. In October 2016, she flew over Antarctica with NASA's Operation IceBridge; the largest airborne survey of Earth's Polar ice. This past spring, she flew with NASA's Operation IceBridge once again, in Greenland. Born in South Natick, Massachusetts, Zaria currently works and resides in Brooklyn, New York. She studied at Studio Art Centers International in Florence, Italy and received a B.S. in Studio Art from Skidmore College. Share the adventure with her on the **June 14, 2018** departure.



One of two uniquely once-in-a-lifetime chances to share a South Seas adventure with the acclaimed undersea photographer, **DAVID DOUBILET**, and his wife and collaborator, photojournalist **JEN HAYES**. They have been professional partners since 1999, creating a visual voice for the world's oceans through their assignments for National Geographic, ranging from the icy

waters of Antarctica to Galápagos and beyond. Their inspiring and informative presentations, valuable photo and storytelling tips, and genial onboard company will add immeasurably to your experience and your memory bank. **April 19, 2018** departure. (They are also on our **April 26, 2018 *Beyond the Postcard*** expedition; see pgs. 24-29 for this itinerary.)



NEW

ISLES, ATOLLS, AND PRISTINE CORALS: SOUTHERN LINE ISLANDS

10 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION*

PRICES FROM: \$7,690 to \$16,840 (See page 9 of ship brochure for complete prices.)

Discover that the idealized notion of tropical paradise is alive and well—as are some of the world’s best dive and snorkel sites—on an expedition from Rangiroa’s sparkling lagoon to the verdant peaks of Tahiti’s neighbor, Moorea. This compact voyage maximizes your time in some of the most vibrant undersea sites in the world. Plus, there’s time to stroll pristine beaches, kayak peaceful coves, and experience true Polynesian hospitality. Dive or snorkel in the Southern Line Islands and see diverse coral, clouds of tropical fish, and healthy predator populations. It is one of the healthiest reef systems in the world and a rare place virtually unmarred by the touch of humans, which is why it was identified by the National Geographic Pristine Seas project as one of the few places researchers can study to see how reefs and undersea ecosystems looked before humans.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Spend three full days in the Southern Line Islands, identified as one of the healthiest reef systems in the world by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Enric Sala.
- ▶ Watch on deck as *National Geographic Orion* navigates the pass in Moorea’s fringing reef to anchor in Opunohu Bay, as Captain James Cook did in 1777.
- ▶ Zodiac through reef passes, snorkel over beds of giant clams, or dive the atolls’ outer reefs in the Southern Line Islands.
- ▶ Hike tropical forest trails or visit ancient Polynesian archaeological sites on Moorea.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE



Our unparalleled expedition team is key to an in-depth experience, and our generous 12-person expedition team means more choice in activities, and more diverse personalities and interests you can gravitate to. An expedition leader, naturalists/historians, a National Geographic photographer, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, an undersea specialist, two dive masters, a video chronicler, and a wellness specialist all contribute to your experience of the region’s wonders.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.

Sharks at a pristine reef at Millennium Atoll, Southern Line Islands, Kiribati.

DAY 1: DEPART U.S.

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Tahiti.

DAY 2: PAPEETE/RANGIROA/EMBARK

Arrive Papeete, Tahiti early this morning and take a short, very scenic flight to the nearby atoll of Rangiroa. After a brief tour of the island, embark *National Geographic Orion* this afternoon. Settle in to your cabin, or linger on deck to take in the view of the island's turquoise lagoon as you're fanned by tropical ocean breezes. Just before sunset, watch from on deck as we navigate the narrow Passe de Tiputa and exit the lagoon to the north. (L,D)



Diver exploring new growth on coral.

DAYS 3–5: AT SEA/SOUTHERN LINE ISLANDS, KIRIBATI

A day at sea brings us to the far-flung Southern Line Islands, where you'll snorkel or dive some of the most remote and pristine coral reefs on Earth. Marine Ecologist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala researched these islands as part of the Pristine Seas project and identified them as one of the last healthy, undisturbed places in the ocean. You'll spend three full days exploring

seldom-visited atolls such as Caroline Island, also known as Millennium Atoll after creative realignment of the international date line made it one of the first places on earth to welcome the year 2000. (B,L,D Daily)

DAYS 6 AND 7: SOUTHERN LINE ISLANDS/AT SEA

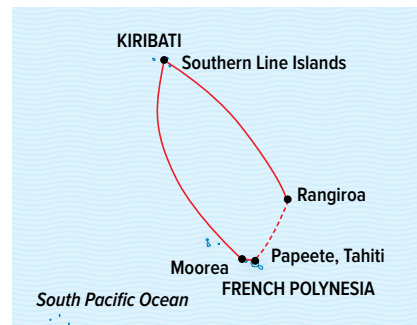
For our final day in Kiribati, you'll navigate the intricate channels of the lagoons by Zodiac or, possibly, kayak, see nesting boobies and tropic birds on shore, and snorkel above beautiful coral gardens. Stroll along pristine white sand beaches, or meander through wooded areas with your naturalists as they search for endangered coconut crabs, the largest land-dwelling invertebrates in the world. Bring binoculars and join your naturalists on deck for a day at sea, as they search for marine mammals and seabirds. Photographers will want to try and capture the perfect image of a flying fish skimming above an azure sea. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: MOOREA, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Approach the verdant island of Moorea this morning, and anchor for the day in Opunohu Bay on the island's north shore. Spend the day hiking tropical forest trails or exploring ancient Polynesian sacred sites with an archaeologist. Take in the view of both Opunohu and Cook's bays from the island's famous Belvedere, then stop at the Lycée Agricole d'Opunohu to sample locally produced jam and sorbet. (B,L,D)

DAYS 9 AND 10: PAPEETE/DISEMBARK/HOME

Disembark in Papeete this morning and tour Tahiti before overnight flight home. (Day 9: B,L)

**EXPEDITION DETAILS**

DATES: 2018 Apr. 19; May 3; Jun. 14; Aug. 9

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book now and receive **complimentary round-trip airfare** from Los Angeles to Papeete. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew on all *Orion* departures.
- **SAVE 10%** when you book two or more voyages in South Pacific aboard *National Geographic Orion*. Call for details.
- Book now and receive a **FREE night stay** at the InterContinental Tahiti in Papeete, plus a \$125 resort credit. Call for details.



Frigatebird, Kiribati.



Aerial view of Opunohu Bay, Moorea.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

FREE AIR: BOOK BY JUL. 31, 2018: Take advantage of complimentary international air offer when you book a South Pacific voyage aboard *National Geographic Orion*. If you choose not to book your air with us, the savings can be applied as a reduction to your voyage cost. Free air is based on round-trip group economy flights that must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions. In the case that Lindblad's group 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. Call for details.

BECOME A FRIEND FOR LIFE: Join us on any one of these itineraries in 2018—**Epic Polynesia: Cook Island to Fiji, Azure Seas from Tahiti to the Marquesas** or **Easter Island to Tahiti: Tales of the Pacific**, and upon your return, we will enroll you in the **Friend for Life** program. Once enrolled, you will receive 10% off all future expeditions for life, 10% shipboard discounts on the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic fleet, transferability: the ability to lend your 10% expedition discount to a family member or friend, and legacy rights: The privilege of handing down your **Friend For Life** status to your children and grandchildren. This is only applicable to the three itineraries mentioned, in 2018 only. For new bookings only. Must book by July 31, 2018. 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.

MULTIPLE VOYAGE SAVINGS: Save 10% when you book two or more voyages in South Pacific and French Polynesia aboard *National Geographic Orion*. You may take these voyages as back-to-back or non-consecutive journeys. This savings is applicable on voyage fares only, and is not valid on extensions or airfare.

BAR TAB AND CREW TIPS: There will be no bar bill on these voyages and we will tip the crew on your behalf.

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.

COMBINING OFFERS: Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings!

THE BRANDO—A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC UNIQUE LODGE OF THE WORLD:

Post-voyage hotel stay, 2 nights minimum, based on availability. One-bedroom villa: US\$3,985 per villa/night (April-June); US\$4,780 per villa/night (July-August.) All inclusive, room, taxes, meals, drinks, one spa treatment per day, one excursion per day, and use of all facilities. Call for details.

Lindblad-National Geographic Exclusive: When you book through us you can step behind the scenes on a private, guided visit of the Lodge's Ecostation. Then, dine or walk with the researchers for the insider scoop on ongoing sustainable fishing initiatives and protecting green sea turtle populations.



INTERCONTINENTAL TAHITI RESORT & SPA

Pre-voyage hotel stay, 1 night, based on availability. Includes: early check-in, \$125 per person resort credit to be used at either of the dinner venues on property, and breakfast on day of check-out. This stay is complimentary on all **Isles, Atolls, and Pristine Corals: Southern Line Islands** departures.

PRE-VOYAGE HOTEL OPTION:

Add this stay on any **French Polynesia: Beyond the Postcard** and **Azure Seas from Tahiti to the Marquesas** departures, **Epic Polynesia May 10th** departure, and **Easter Island Aug. 30th** departure.

From \$450 per person, double occupancy; From \$650 per person, single occupancy.

Call an Expedition Specialist for additional details.

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—internet usage, laundry, wellness treatments and other specialized arrangements. Scuba diving is an additional cost.

ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals and alcoholic (except certain super-premium brands) and non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Cappuccinos, lattes & complimentary refillable water bottle
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during recap
- ✓ Sauna & Fitness Center
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ The guidance and company of our expedition staff
- ✓ Gratuities to ship's crew

ASHORE

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

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All shore activities
- ✓ Zodiac, kayak and stand-up paddleboard explorations
- ✓ Snorkeling, including wetsuits, masks, fins
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge

RESERVATION INFO

Costs Include: All accommodations aboard ships or in hotels per itinerary or similar, all meals and beverages, except premium alcohol, 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 wetsuits, use of kayaks and/or stand-up paddleboards, tips, gratuities 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, meals not indicated, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as internet access, voyage DVD and 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.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations: To reserve your place, an advance payment is required at the time of reservation. The per person advance payment amount is \$1,000 or \$2,500 depending on program. 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 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 luggage, 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. If you are not satisfied for any reason, you may return your plan within 10 days after purchase. Your premium will be refunded if canceled within 10 days, provided you have not already departed on the trip or filed a claim. When so returned, the coverage under the plan is void from the original date of purchase.

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

Entry and Visa Requirements: All guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

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.

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 total fare
89–60 days	50% of total fare
59–0 days	No Refund


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

This cancellation policy applies to expeditions, extensions (with the exception of Denali), as well as all other additional services. The effective date of a cancellation will be the date on which your cancellation notice is received. Any revisions you make within the cancellation penalty period, such as departure date or choice of voyage, are subject to cancellation fees.


Note: Airline cancellation policies vary by carrier, as well as the type of fare used to issue your ticket.

Cancellation policy for certain longer voyages and Holiday departures may vary due to high demand for these voyages. Our group cancellation and Denali 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.

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.

We are proud to be a Founding Member of Adventure  Collection—a family of the world's most trusted and experienced active travel companies. Each member company of Adventure Collection is dedicated to enriching the lives of its guests and to giving back to the areas in which it travels. For more information visit www.AdventureCollection.com.

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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**

**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**





*“The first experience
can never be repeated.
The first love, the first sunrise,
the first South Sea island,
are memories apart and
touched a virginity
of sense.”*

- Robert Louis Stevenson, *In the South Seas*

ENJOY **FREE** INTERNATIONAL AIR

Or \$1,200 savings* Bar tab and crew tips included.
Plus 10% OFF travel—for life**

*Roundtrip from Los Angeles, on 2018 and select 2019 itineraries. **On three 2018 itineraries.





ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION





THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO EXPLORE LAND & SEA

National Geographic Orion is uniquely designed and equipped to optimize being in this remote part of the world and discovering its spectacular undersea. *Orion* is equipped with a fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks and paddleboards for landings, forays, and personal explorations. The upper dive deck is equipped with scuba gear for up to 24 divers, and complete snorkeling gear for all 102 guests aboard—maintained by two dive masters. The rear deck's marina platform makes loading explorers, divers, snorkelers, and gear into Zodiacs efficient and safe. *Orion* is also equipped with a glass-bottom Zodiac that enables remarkably clear observations of coral gardens and fascinating creatures for those who prefer to stay dry. And because *Orion* has an undersea specialist on the team and an onboard ROV, count on stunning video presentations that reveal even more fascinating dimensions of the world beneath the ship.

Clockwise from top left: Scuba gear is provided for 24 guests and two divemasters join every voyage; stand-up paddleboards; glass-bottom Zodiac makes the undersea accessible to everyone; kayaks offer ops for personal exploring; our ROV descends to capture undersea footage beyond the depths that divers can reach.

NOTE ON PADDLEBOARDING: *Polynesia is a mecca for this sport, and offers much fun no matter what your skill level is. Calm waters in lagoons make for easy learning and improving your paddling mastery. Skilled paddlers can go exploring!*

TRAVEL WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM

The comment cards we receive from guests after every voyage consistently express the same sentiments: “Outstanding expedition staff.” Discover the South Pacific with a veteran expedition leader, an assistant expedition leader, and a team of four naturalists/cultural specialists well-versed in the region’s flora, fauna, and human history. Two divemasters and an underwater specialist will maximize your time in the incredible undersea, while a National Geographic photographer, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and a video chronicler aboard will ensure you go home with amazing shots and a DVD that captures the story of your voyage. Plus, a wellness specialist to help enhance the relaxing and revitalizing benefits of life in the South Pacific.

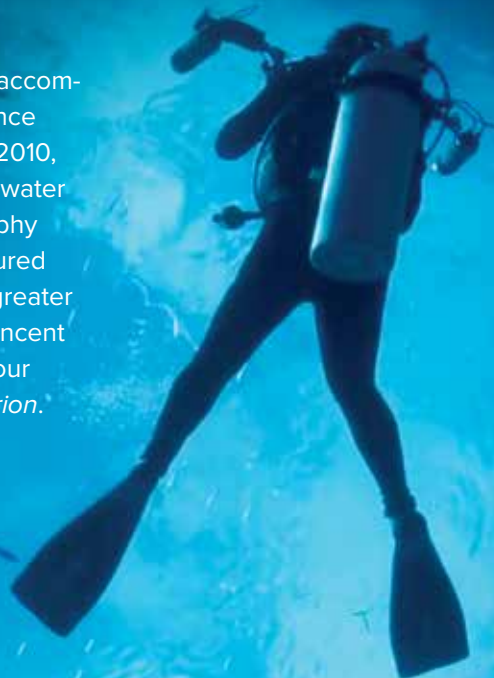
▶ LEARN MORE AT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/EXPERTBIOS](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/expertbios) FOR FULL BIOS ON OUR STAFF



Representing our South Pacific team: Tom Ritchie, naturalist, Aug. 16, Aug. 30; Mike Nolan, naturalist and certified photo instructor, May 24, Jun. 21; Jen Martin, expedition leader, Mar. 26, Apr. 12; David Cothran, naturalist and certified photo instructor, Mar. 26, May 10; Ian Strachan, naturalist and certified photo instructor, Aug. 16, Aug. 30.

VINCENT TRUCHET

Divemaster and underwater photographer, Vincent accompanied our founder Sven on his recent reconnaissance trip to the islands. Based in French Polynesia since 2010, he’s guided more than 5,000 dives at various underwater locations in the Tuamotu Archipelago. His photography has been widely published—one of his shots is featured on a Polynesian postage stamp—helping to create greater appreciation for our oceans and their inhabitants. Vincent and his partner Mélo Veron will manage and guide our guest dive program aboard *National Geographic Orion*.





CAPTURE THE ADVENTURE— TAKE GREAT PHOTOS

National Geographic Orion is the only expedition ship exploring South Pacific with a National Geographic photographer aboard every departure. The work of these photographers has inspired countless professionals and amateurs alike, and they accompany our ships to inspire and assist you. They are flanked by Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructors, naturalists trained by National Geographic photographers, to assist you with your camera settings, the basics of composition, observation, and more to equip you with skills to get your best photos ever.



Traveling with us in 2018: A) Ralph Lee Hopkins, Aug. 16, Azure Seas from Tahiti to the Marquesas; B) Michael Melford, May 24, Epic Polynesia, Cook Islands to Fiji; C) Susan Seubert, Aug.30, Easter Island to Tahiti: Tales of the Pacific; D) Jeff Mauritzen, Mar. 26, Easter Island to Tahiti: Tales of the Pacific; E) Jay Dickman, Aug. 2, French Polynesia: Beyond the Postcard; F) Sisse Brimberg, May 3, Isles, Atolls and Pristine Corals: Southern Line Islands.



THE PERFECT SHIP TO DISCOVER POLYNESIA

National Geographic Orion is a beautiful ship, originally purpose-built for luxurious expedition cruising—to adventurous regions such as Antarctica, as well as the temperate and tropical zones of the South Pacific. Spacious and modern, *Orion* offers panoramic views from her main lounge, observation lounge and library at the top of the ship to maintain a constant visual connection to the wonders outside. The dramatic window-lined main lounge is the site of lively daily Recap sessions, presentations and performances. And her expansive decks offer balmy air and brilliant vistas by day, or the romance of dining under stars at night. And while *Orion*'s interiors are elegant, life aboard is always casual, with no need for formal clothing, and very inclusive, fostering a rewarding *esprit de corps*.





Main image: The 102-guest National Geographic Orion underway; Clockwise from top left: Enjoy meals on the aft deck amidst picturesque backdrops; the spacious lounge is the heart of our expedition community.



EXCEPTIONAL DINING

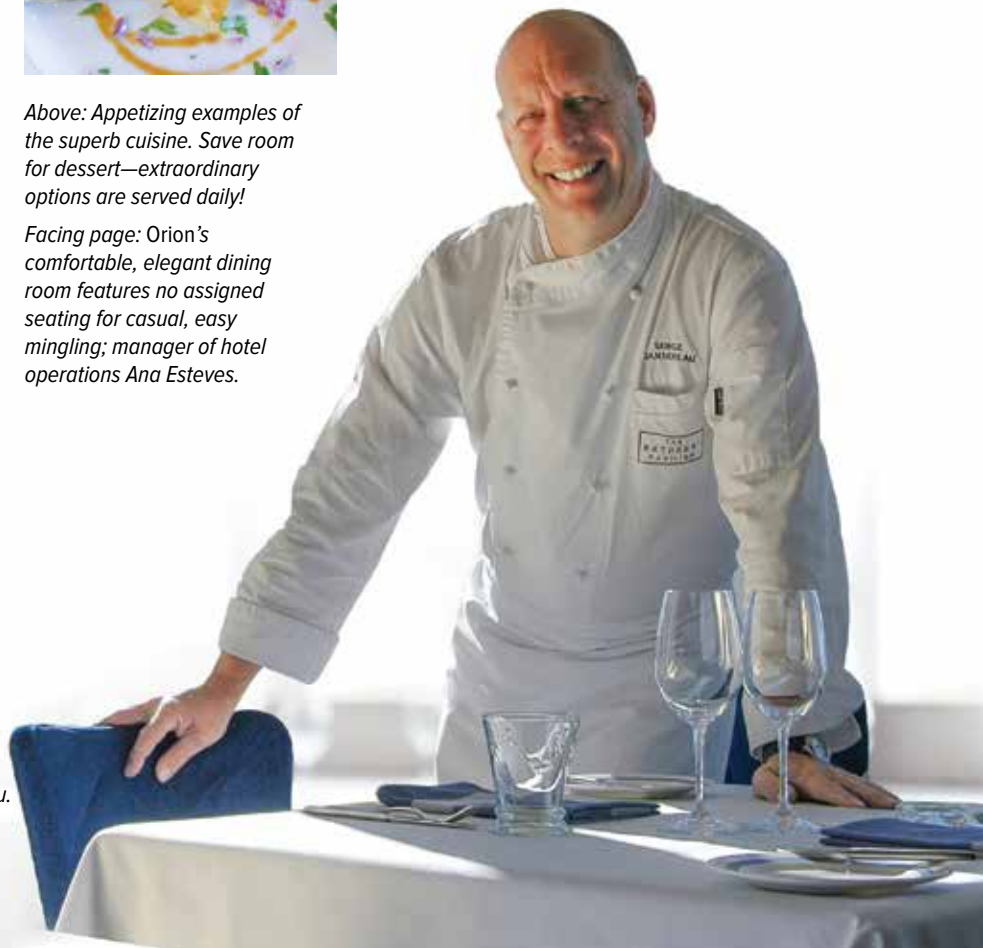
National Geographic Orion has an appetite for dining excellence as well as adventure. Serge Dansereau, the head chef and owner of the Sydney, Australia iconic Bathers' Pavilion Café, is a multi-award winning chef, renowned internationally, and considered "the father of the fresh food movement." The force behind *Orion's* celebrated menus, he continues to train her kitchen and waitstaff, and his concepts are brought to life daily by the ship's Executive Chef. Count on them to keep your palate engaged with daily diversity and the unexpected delight. Unlike cruise companies which provide a food program across the fleet, our chefs have the freedom to execute Serge's smartly conceived dishes while taking advantage of what's at hand in the local markets or provisioned from a passing fishing boat. That means whenever possible you'll experience the true flavors of the region through the food served aboard. And always dine extraordinarily well.



Above: Appetizing examples of the superb cuisine. Save room for dessert—extraordinary options are served daily!

Facing page: Orion's comfortable, elegant dining room features no assigned seating for casual, easy mingling; manager of hotel operations Ana Esteves.

Serge Dansereau.





“A robust combination of Indo-Pacific, French and Polynesian influences infuse the cuisine you’ll experience in the South Pacific aboard National Geographic Orion. French cheeses, freshly baked baguettes and crepes honor the French influence of the islands, while rotis, chutneys and curries reflect the Indian influence found in Fiji. South Pacific cuisine is also long on healthy ingredients—leafy greens, root vegetables, seaweeds, chiles, papaya—and 100 percent of the produce used on board will come straight from the islands. Chef will provision from local markets as well as Lycée Agricole in Moorea, French Polynesia’s only agricultural school, to bring back lemons, vanilla beans, pineapples, among other local fruits, as well as jams and sorbets. Anticipate Polynesian cooking techniques like steamed fish wrapped in coconut or banana leaves, whole slow roasted pig which recreates the traditional underground earth ovens known as umu, lovo or ahima, and dishes like Tahitian poisson cru or Fijian kokoda which take advantage of the high density of Albacore tuna found in the South Pacific.”



—Ana Esteves, Director Hotel Services, Lindblad Expeditions



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins.
REGISTRY: Bahamas. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 338 feet.

The state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel with an ice reinforced hull. *Orion* is at home navigating polar ice, as well as island harbors in the South Pacific.

PUBLIC AREAS: Outdoor café, lounge with bar and state-of-the-art facilities, restaurant, sundeck, reception desk, observation lounge and library, global gallery, and marina platform. The whirlpool hot tub doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates. Our “open bridge” allows guests to meet our captain and officers 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.

CATEGORY 1: Main Deck with oval window
 #316, 318, 319-321

CATEGORY 2: Main Deck with oval window
 #302-312, 314, 315, 317

CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck—Suite with window
 #401-412, 414-419

CATEGORY 4: Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window
 #511, 515

CATEGORY 5: Bridge Deck—Suite with French balcony
 #501, 503-506, 508

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. If you have not made an open water dive within the past year, please contact us about a dive refresher course in Tahiti prior to your voyage.

CABINS: All cabins feature ocean views, private facilities, climate controls, and a flat-screen TV with DVD/CD player. Equipped with Ethernet and Wi-Fi connections and USB ports for mobile devices. Some cabins have French balconies. Single cabins in Category 1 and Category 3 include #301, 322, 323, and 512.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of 24 double kayaks, a crow’s nest camera, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, video microscope, and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). Plus, for South Pacific voyages, there is snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for 24 guests, stand-up paddleboards, glass-bottom Zodiac, and splash-cam.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Laundry, a full-time doctor, National Geographic photographer and Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, plus an undersea specialist and video chronicler. On all South Pacific voyages, there are two dive masters.

WELLNESS: A wellness specialist, fitness center, LEXspa treatment room and sauna are on board.

CATEGORY 6: Bridge Deck—Owner’s suite with French balcony #502, 507, 509*, 510

*Cabin 509 has two windows in lieu of a French balcony.

CATEGORY 1 SOLO: Main Deck with oval window or two portholes #301, 322, 323

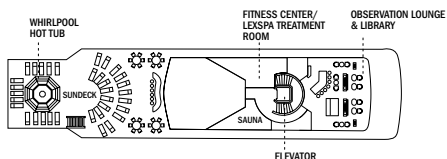
CATEGORY 3 SOLO: Bridge Deck—Suite with two windows #512

NOTE: Sole occupancy cabins available in Categories 1 and 3. Shared accommodations available in Categories 1 and 2.

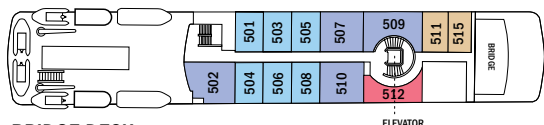
NOTE: Third person rates available at one-half the double occupancy rate in designated triple occupancy cabins.

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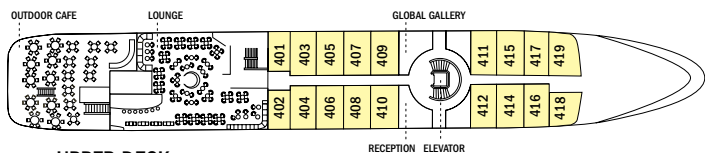
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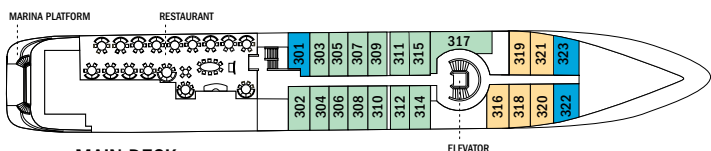
OBSERVATION DECK



BRIDGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



Clockwise from above: Main lounge; Category 6 Owner's Suite with French balcony; Category 3 suite with window; marble bathroom.

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WITH COMPLIMENTS, YOUR BAR TAB AND ALL CREW GRATUITIES ARE INCLUDED.

Page references can be found in the accompanying brochure. Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

ITINERARY	YEAR	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5	CAT. 6	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 3 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	NOTE
Easter Island to Tahiti: Tales of the Pacific – Pages 6-11	2018	\$17,990	\$21,350	\$25,370	\$27,490	\$32,820	\$37,970	\$26,990	\$37,990	\$2,500	Includes two hotel nights accommodations on Easter Island. Immigration fees are not included. Sample Airfares: Los Angeles/ Santiago, Chile, Papeete/Los Angeles: Economy from \$1,800; Business from \$4,000; Santiago/Easter Island from \$950, subject to change.
	2019	\$18,590	\$21,990	\$26,250	\$28,450	\$33,970	\$39,300	\$27,890	\$39,390		
Epic Polynesia: Cook Islands to Fiji – Pages 12-17	2018	\$15,680	\$18,670	\$21,990	\$23,990	\$28,940	\$33,440	\$23,520	\$32,990	\$2,500	Sample airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete, Nadi/Los Angeles: Economy from \$1,300; Business from \$5,500.
French Polynesia: Beyond the Postcard – Pages 24-29	2018	\$7,690	\$9,380	\$10,990	\$11,990	\$14,520	\$16,840	\$11,540	\$16,490	\$1,000	Sample airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete: Economy from \$1,600; Business from \$4,500; Internal airfare from \$290 (Rangiroa-Papeete), subject to change.
	2019	\$7,960	\$9,690	\$11,370	\$12,390	\$14,990	\$17,420	\$11,940	\$17,050		
Azure Seas from Tahiti to the Marquesas – Pages 18-23	2018	\$15,680	\$18,670	\$21,990	\$23,990	\$28,940	\$33,440	\$23,520	\$32,990	\$2,500	Sample airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete: Economy from \$1,600; Business from \$4,500.
	2019	\$15,920	\$19,380	\$22,740	\$24,780	\$29,980	\$34,840	\$23,880	\$34,100		
Isles, Atolls, & Pristine Corals: Southern Line Islands – Pages 30-35	2018	\$7,690	\$9,380	\$10,990	\$11,990	\$14,520	\$16,840	\$11,540	\$16,490	\$1,000	Sample airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete: Economy from \$1,600; Business from \$4,500; Internal airfare from \$290 (Papeete-Rangiroa), subject to change.



“THE DIVING WAS UNBELIEVABLE.

I’ve never seen so many fish in my life.”

—William C.



“This island redefines what
REMOTE REALLY MEANS.”

—Linda R.



“I just find that I’m pinching myself to believe...this, is where we are.

IT’S JUST MAGICAL.”

—Marielle T.