



EXPERIENCE WILD & PURE POLYNESIA

NEW!

ABOARD 100-GUEST NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION | 2018



Lindblad
Expeditions



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC™



DEAR TRAVELER,

On April 24 I boarded the *Hikianalia* voyaging canoe in Papeete, on the island of Tahiti, for one of the final legs of a three-year 42,000 mile journey around the globe with her sister canoe, *Hōkūleʻa*. It was not a long leg, but the winds were brisk, and 24 hours later we entered the lagoon of Raiatea.



No instruments were used, as part of the mission for these voyaging canoes was to revive the ancient ways of Polynesian navigators, arguably the finest in history. I was honored to be part of this historic journey; and it set the tone for the next chapter, building on the unique nature of this place, its history and its people. I encourage you to learn more by visiting this project's website:

www.hokulea.com/voyages/our-story/

Once in Raiatea, I joined my 7-person recon team aboard the small yacht, *Ultimate Lady*, and began a two-week exploration of the Tuamotu Islands to confirm, document, and fine-tune locations we explore on our 2018 itineraries aboard *National Geographic Orion*.

On the following pages, you can learn more about what we discovered. But in simple terms, I can tell you that Polynesia is a bastion of sheer beauty, ocean health and vibrant, optimistic, happy and diverse cultures.

And equally good news: not as far away as people might think—less than 9 hours from Los Angeles to Papeete—although farther away from everything than you could ever imagine.

If you love the ocean, are attracted to indescribable beauty, value peacefulness, and enjoy the company of people whose lives are very different from ours, then you should join us. I promise that if you do, you will be enchanted and captivated in myriad ways by this extraordinary geography.



All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sven-Olof Lindblad', written over a light blue background.

Sven-Olof Lindblad

FREE AIR!

Book by **Dec. 31, 2017** and receive **FREE** international round-trip airfare from Los Angeles. Plus, bar tab & crew tips included.



SOLID RECON WORK IN THE REGION MAKES OUR EXPEDITION EXPERIENCES AUTHENTIC FOR YOU



Above and right: Strong relationships with the locals who live in the places we explore are vital for understanding the different regions and cultures; a local Makatea woman displays her handmade shell necklaces.

Opposite, clockwise from top: Divemaster, underwater photographer, and member of the recon team, Vincent Truchet gets well acquainted with a huge school of humpback snappers. Vincent will be aboard select expeditions; exploring the azure waters of Rangiroa; Sven lines up his camera to capture an unidentified species of jellyfish in the vibrant undersea of Toau's North Pass. Below: White tern, Tikehau Island.



Sven joined the crew aboard the Hikianalia to sail from Papeete to Raiatea—one of the final legs of a three-year voyage circumnavigating the globe using the stars and other elements of nature in traditional Polynesian fashion. Inset: Voyaging project leader and president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, Nainoa Thompson.



THE NEW FRONTIER— A MUST-SEE GEOGRAPHY

Don't let the azure seas, skies, and palm trees fool you, there is tremendous depth to this geography—as we've learned through reconnaissance and research. That's why *National Geographic Orion* will spend from March to September 2018 exploring it. We believe Polynesia offers *everything* you travel for, and that our authentic expedition style delivers.

History and the daring exploits of explorers. A riveting chapter in the human diaspora and diverse, thriving cultures radically different from our own. Romance. The greatest mystery on Earth, Easter Island. Astonishing flora and fauna. And the most beguiling, intact undersea on the planet. Our mission is to search for the heart and soul of this largely unknown region—and our five exclusive itineraries focus on different rewarding facets. Choose any one, and you choose both wisely and well.

*Some itineraries can be taken back-to-back for the richest experience and **10% savings**. See page 52 for details.*

FRENCH POLYNESIA: BEYOND THE POSTCARD

Discover Polynesia's deep spiritual pulse—at the "Sacred Island," home to one of the region's most important cultural sites and a recently named UNESCO World Heritage site, Marae Taputapuatea. And, see the turquoise lagoons and reefs bursting with kaleidoscopic marine life you expect of Polynesia.

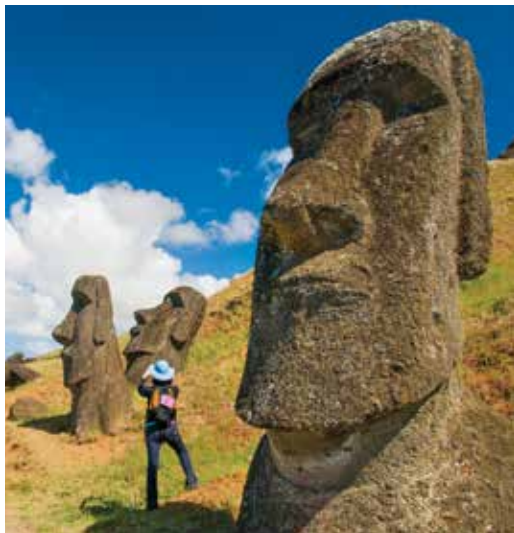
APPEAL: *Culture & history; shorter duration, active, families. Itinerary on pages 42-45.*



EPIC POLYNESIA: COOK ISLANDS TO FIJI

A south seas odyssey for the senses—from Beqa Island in Fiji to witness the spectacle of firewalking, to snorkeling the reefs of five different Pacific territories and more. It introduces you to the breadth of Polynesia.

APPEAL: *Culture & history; romance of remote locations; scuba diving; birdwatching. Itinerary on pages 34-37.*



EASTER ISLAND TO TAHITI: TALES OF THE PACIFIC

Lars-Eric Lindblad, father of our CEO Sven Lindblad, not only brought the first travelers to Easter Island in 1967, he facilitated building the airport necessary to enable it. We know it well, and can offer you an in-depth experience of it, including a voyage through marvels to arrive there.

APPEAL: *Culture & history; a must for the well-traveled; snorkeling & scuba diving. Itinerary on pages 30-33.*



Easter Island brochure, 1967. Lars-Eric Lindblad brought the first travelers here 50 years ago.

AZURE SEAS FROM TAHITI TO THE MARQUESAS

The Marquesas are extraordinary islands with a wealth of archeological wonders, and astounding, rugged, natural beauty. This is a rare opportunity to explore untrammelled paradise. (Find Jacque Brel's beautiful ode, Les Marquises, on youtube.com)

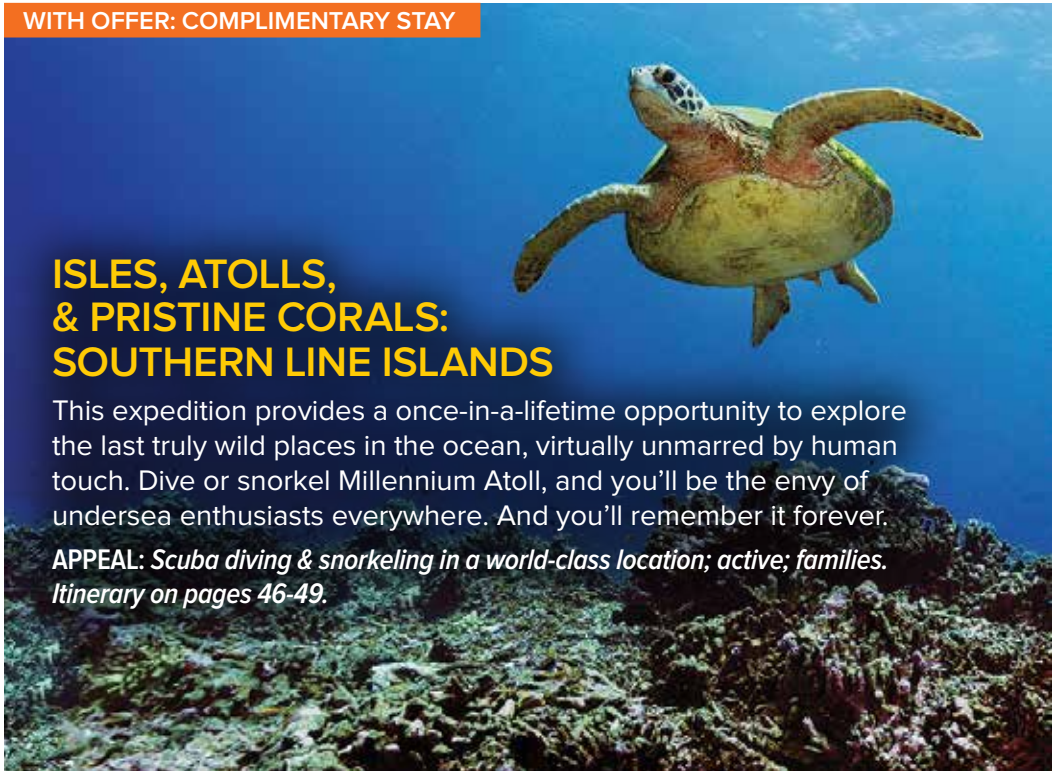
APPEAL: *Culture & history; destination rarity; snorkeling & scuba diving; marine & bird wildlife. Itinerary on pages 38-41.*

WITH OFFER: COMPLIMENTARY STAY

ISLES, ATOLLS, & PRISTINE CORALS: SOUTHERN LINE ISLANDS

This expedition provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the last truly wild places in the ocean, virtually unmarred by human touch. Dive or snorkel Millennium Atoll, and you'll be the envy of undersea enthusiasts everywhere. And you'll remember it forever.

APPEAL: *Scuba diving & snorkeling in a world-class location; active; families. Itinerary on pages 46-49.*





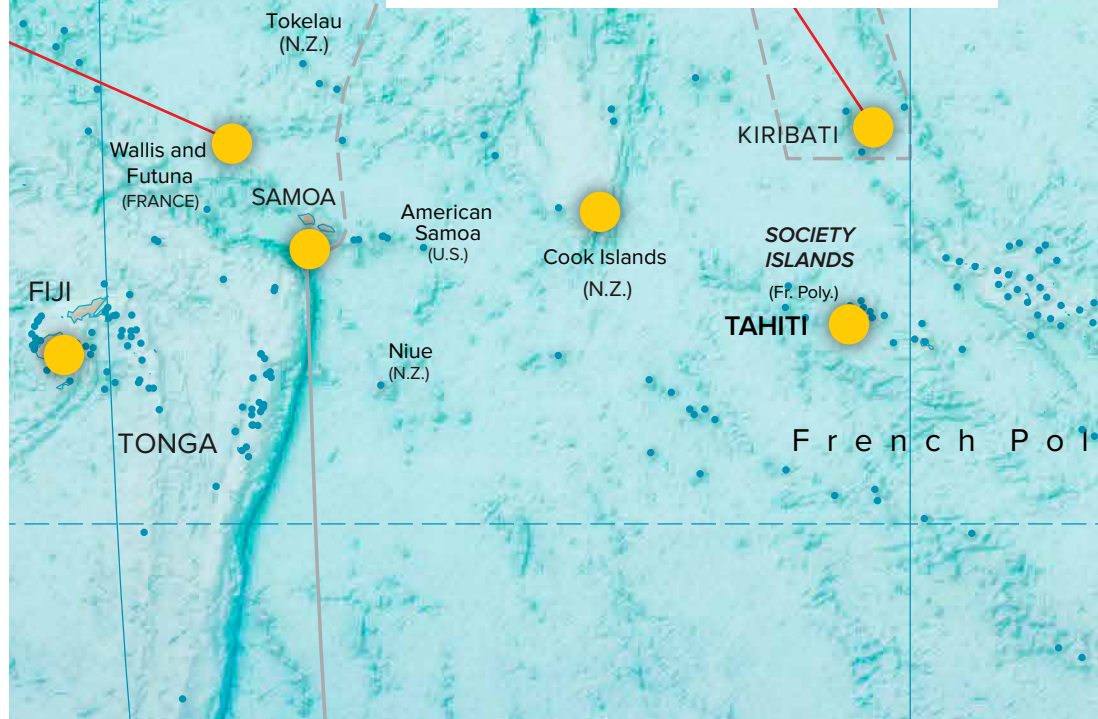
WALLIS & FUTUNA: This tiny island nation is one of France's overseas protectorates, but was originally settled by Polynesians in about 1,000 A.D. The Polynesian culture is similar to neighboring Samoa and Tonga, but with a strong French Catholic element. There is a beautiful cathedral in the main village of Mata Utu, made entirely from local stone and coral blocks. This is a very seldom visited place; the only flights in are from New Caledonia and there is no official boat/ferry service between the islands. *Orion* will spend two days exploring here on our [Epic Polynesia](#) voyage (pages 34-37.)



SOUTHERN LINE ISLANDS, KIRIBATI

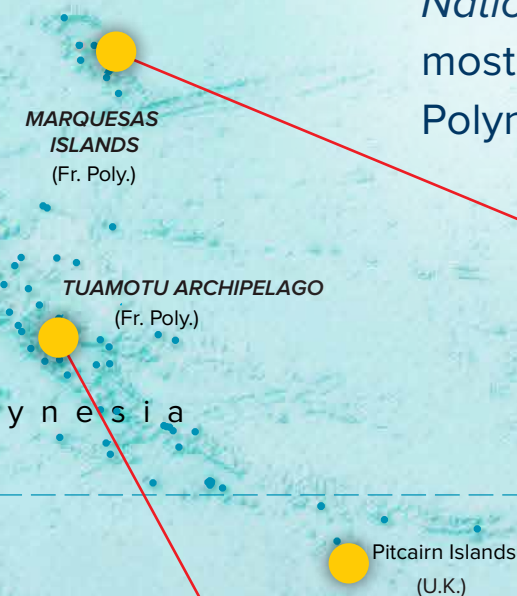
The country of Kiribati spans nearly

2,000 nautical miles of ocean, with the capital and administrative center located in the far western part of the country. We'll explore the easternmost part of the country aboard *Orion*, which is almost impossible to reach in any other way. Designated as a Pristine Seas site, the coral reefs here are among the healthiest on the planet. Visit here on our [Southern Line Islands](#) expedition (pages 46-49.)



GET TO PLACES IN POLYNESIA YOU OTHERWISE CAN'T

Go where few have gone, where fewer can, and far beyond any stereotypical destinations—as *National Geographic Orion* explores these most alluring, and least accessible, regions in Polynesia, starting in Spring 2018.



MARQUESAS ISLANDS

Although part of French

Polynesia, this island group has retained its own identity and unique culture. They are difficult islands to reach, with limited transport between the islands; and overland travel is made difficult by narrow, unpaved roads traversing mountainous terrain. On *Orion*'s [Marquesas](#) expedition (pages 38-41), we'll be able to go ashore at many of these hard to reach places by Zodiac, with minimal overland travel.



TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO

Three of our five itineraries ([Easter Island](#), [Beyond the Postcard](#) and [Marquesas](#))

explore among the 80 islands and atolls of this archipelago. There are few airports, and travel between the islands here in what used to be referred to as the "Dangerous Archipelago" is difficult. Aboard *Orion*, we'll have genuine expedition experiences and the comfort of our ship, as we nimbly access places that only sailboats and small yachts go.

A tropical sunset scene with palm trees silhouetted against a purple and orange sky. The text "ROMANCE: IT'S AT THE HEART OF FRENCH POLYNESIA &" is overlaid in yellow.

ROMANCE: IT'S AT THE HEART OF FRENCH POLYNESIA &

OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

A vintage Morgan 382. Two free spirits. And a big blue sea. It's probably the archetypal fantasy—to sail away to the South Pacific. To get lost in an idyll of azure and atolls.

Michelle Graves, Lindblad Director of Expedition Development, lived it. In 1998, she met her husband, Mark Graves, on the job. He was a Captain with Lindblad Expeditions; she was a naturalist. They married in 2001 on Orcas Island in the Pacific Northwest. Mark taught Michelle to sail, and they sailed together while working, until the pull of the fantasy proved irresistible. They took a leave from their jobs, and in March 2012, set sail from Banderas Bay, Mexico; after 29 days of sailing, they arrived at the Marquesas Islands.

They eased into life there, spending two immersive weeks, before exploring further. In total they spent 3 months sailing in French Polynesia, exploring the islands of Hiva Oa, Tahuata, Nuku Hiva, Fakarava, Toau, Tahiti, Huahine, Raiatea, Taha'a, Bora Bora and Maupiti. Their knowledge of these places is bone-deep. They know the joys of being the only boat anchored in an exquisite bay, where the best



beach-combing, snorkeling and diving is; and where the authentic soul of Polynesian culture resides. They saw, and noted, hundreds of fish species and more creatures they'd never seen before in their lives (and they traveled for years on far-ranging Lindblad expeditions). And they learned pretty much everything there is to know about the art of getting creatively, productively, lost.

Luckily, they chose to return home. And now, Michelle's knowledge and experience, together with Sven

Lindblad's personal reconnaissance trips to French Polynesia (which you'll learn more about soon) is the genesis of our five diverse itineraries—designed to avoid cruise ship lanes and standard ports of call. To bring you instead into the authentic heart and soul of the South Pacific, and create opportunities never before offered there. And, to give you the chance to live your own South Pacific fantasy.

FORGET WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW: BE SURPRISED BY POLYNESIA

When Spanish and Portuguese navigators first sailed into the Pacific in the sixteenth century, they believed it to be a much smaller body of water than in fact it is. They also thought that if they just kept sailing they would reach a vast, imaginary continent known as Terra Australis Incognita. In both of these ideas they were mistaken, and what happened instead was that they sailed and sailed and saw nothing but water for weeks, even months on end.

Then, every once in a while, an island would rise up over the horizon. Sometimes it was a high island, mountainous and verdant; sometimes it was just a bright ring of coral skimming the surface of the sea. But what really astonished these early European explorers was the fact that even the smallest and remotest of these islands showed signs of human habitation: a pile of coconuts, an old canoe, in one curious case a motley collection of dogs. And so, the question naturally presented itself: who were these people and how did they come to be living in the middle of such an enormous sea? For more than three hundred years, writers, scientists, and travelers have tried to answer this question. They have compared the languages spoken in

different parts of the Pacific, collected origin myths and migration stories, measured dwellings and canoes and even people, extracted fishhooks and potsherds from the ground. Along the way many harebrained theories have been suggested: that the islands of the remote Pacific are the peaks of a drowned continent and the inhabitants the survivors of a great deluge; that they are Aryans, or American Indians, or the descendants of a tribe of wandering Jews; that they are hapless castaways blown about the Pacific by the winds.

The truth, however, is no less astonishing. Within a period of about 1,000 years all the habitable islands in the Polynesian Triangle—a region defined





Left: Outrigger canoe of the Va'a type, typically with the rig to the port side, used by Polynesians for centuries; Clockwise from top: Hōkūle'a photographed on Sven Lindblad's recon trip; vintage illustration of the Polynesian Triangle, a region defined by three points: Hawaii, New Zealand, and Easter Island.



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 (a term coined in the nineteenth century by the French explorer Dumont d'Urville), they shared a single language and set of customs, a particular body of myths, a distinctive arsenal of tools and ornaments, and a “portmanteau biota” of plants and animals that they took with them wherever they went.

But what distinguishes them above all are the canoe-building and navigational skills that enabled them to range farther out into the ocean than any humans had ever gone before. Sailing without compasses or maps in canoes lashed with coconut fiber, and carrying with them everything they would

need, the ancestors of today's Polynesians colonized the largest ocean on the planet, finding and settling every scrap of land in an area of more than ten million square miles. 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. — Christina Thompson

*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. She will be traveling aboard our June 21 and July 5, 2018 voyages.*



EVERYTHING THIS GEOGRAPHY HAS TO OFFER, ABOVE & BELOW THE SURFACE

“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. 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.”

A whitetip reef shark.





Enric Sala photo-documents life on a remote reef.

This excerpt is from the first post of Enric Sala’s 2009 Southern Line Islands Expedition blog. He not only met the goal of filling in the gap, but his team’s efforts also led to two vital consequences for ocean conservation—providing data to establish the baseline model for healthy coral reefs, enabling researchers to quantify the effects of human activity on these ecosystems, and to devise a blueprint for the conservation of already degraded reefs. And, importantly, motivating Kiribati President Anote Tong, to announce in June 2014, the protection of this pristine area—a region the size of California—and its closure to commercial fishing.

National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Enric Sala, is a very good friend of Sven Lindblad’s, and an inspiration to Lindblad expedition teams. Sven’s reconnaissance dives at Millennium Atoll, other Sala-recommended dive spots, and additional sites he and his team have scouted, have convinced Sven and our expedition team that this is a vital geography—as extraordinary as Antarctica, the Arctic or any of the other remote wild places we are dedicated to exploring.



Angelfish, Pitcairn Islands.

Consequently, we are committing our time and attention to this region. And, thanks to Enric Sala’s Pristine Seas project, and Sven’s subsequent recons, anyone joining our voyages will have once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to experience as pristine a marine environment as the planet currently offers. We hope you’ll choose to join us to deepen your understanding and appreciation of the marine world.

▶ [DIVE DEEPER INTO PRISTINE SEAS IN THIS VIDEO WITH SVEN LINDBLAD & ENRIC SALA:](http://WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/PRISTINE-SEAS)
WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/PRISTINE-SEAS



Magnificent sea anemone with orange-fin anemonefish and three-spot dascyllus, Huahine, French Polynesia.



SNORKEL IN PARADISE

Our five expeditions offer something you may have never seen—intact, vibrantly healthy marine habitats not found in this pristine a state anywhere else on Earth. And while donning dive gear takes you deeper, snorkelers from the never-tried-it to advanced, can get out there, see every wonder, and experience every thrill. And *National Geographic Orion* is completely outfitted with gear from high tech masks, snorkels and fins to wetsuits. And full scuba gear for certified divers, too.

Our itineraries catalog some of the most aspirational undersea sites on the planet, including:

- ◆ The colorful reefs of six different Pacific territories—Fiji, Samoa, Kiribati, Wallis & Futuna, Cook Islands and French Polynesia;
- ◆ The world's second largest lagoon at Rangiroa; and the turquoise lagoon of Aitutaki, considered the perfect South Pacific Island;
- ◆ The Southern Line Islands, harboring the world's most remote atolls, were identified as a Pristine Seas site, part of an effort led by Dr. Enric Sala and National Geographic;
- ◆ Millennium Atoll, easily the #1 dream dive spot for world-class divers, with its fields of giant clams and stunning beauty;
- ◆ French Polynesia's fantastic Fakarava, part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve;
- ◆ The Pitcairn Islands' unspoiled reef systems, also identified as a Pristine Seas site;
- ◆ And Mangareva, famous for black pearls.

ICONIC UNDERSEA EXPERIENCES

- ✓ Dive, snorkel or peer through our glass-bottom Zodiac to observe the pristine reefs of six different Pacific territories—Fiji, Samoa, Wallis & Futuna, Kiribati, Cook Islands and French Polynesia.
- ✓ Be one of the few ‘civilians’ to dive, snorkel, or observe the Southern Line islands, identified by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Dr. Enric Sala, as one of a handful of undisturbed marine habitats worldwide.
- ✓ Experience exotic species: dive with reef sharks in the Southern Line Islands, snorkel with manta rays and search for melon-headed whales in the Marquesas.
- ✓ See coral gardens of unprecedented color and diversity unlike anywhere else in the world, and galaxies of fish.
- ✓ Enjoy a level of comfort and amenities aboard *National Geographic Orion* that liveaboard dive boats can’t offer, while experiencing remote locations only accessible by dive boat.
- ✓ Benefit from the service and expertise of *Orion*’s undersea specialists and divemasters, and the convenience of no-need-to-pack-yours onboard dive and snorkel gear, plus a glass-bottom Zodiac for dry exploring.



Clockwise from top: Cabbage coral; snorkeling in Fakarava with hundreds of yellowfin goatfish; grouper; school of humpback snappers; beautiful Cephea sp. jellyfish, Rangiroa.

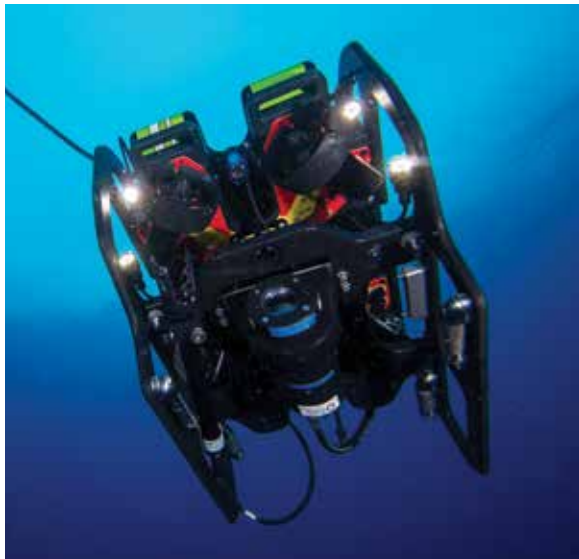
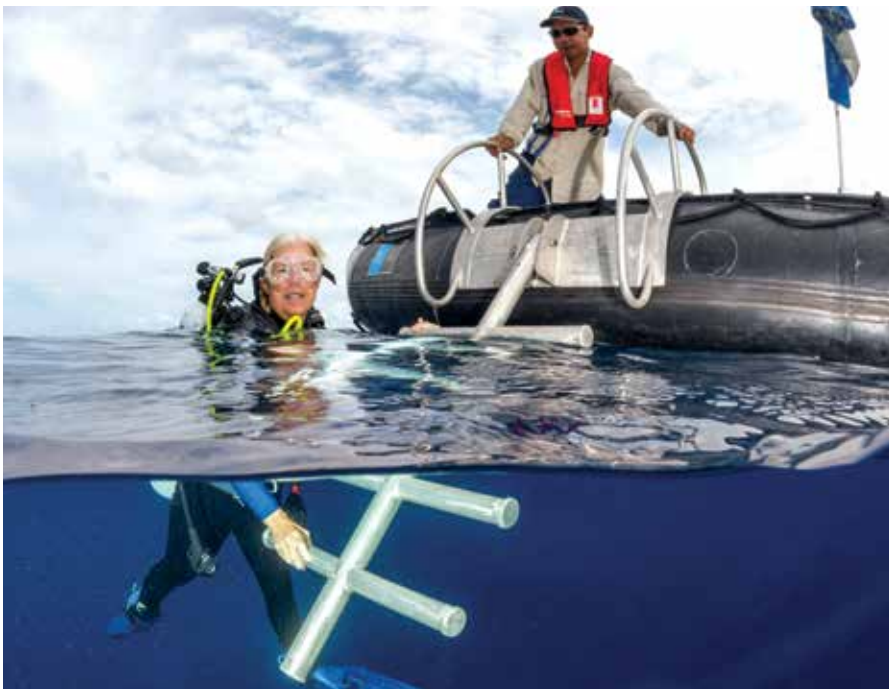




Perfectly sized to navigate the reef-strewn waters of the South Seas, National Geographic Orion takes you to seldom-seen islands and atolls devoid of infrastructure.

THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO EXPLORE LAND & SEA

With generous decks that take full advantage of the sun and ocean breezes, and expansively windowed interiors that bring in the jaw-dropping scenery, *National Geographic Orion* is uniquely designed and equipped to optimize being in this remote part of the world and discovering its spectacular undersea. 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. On the rear deck, a marina platform makes loading divers, snorkelers, and gear into Zodiacs for forays 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. Plus, *Orion* is the only expedition ship traveling in the region with an undersea specialist/expedition diver, undersea video technology and an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) capable of exploring depths of up to 1,000 feet to provide video for all to enjoy in brilliant HD from the comfort of the ship's lounge, perhaps with a cocktail in hand.



Clockwise from top left: Zodiacs equipped with sturdy ladders for ease; 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!



LIFE ABOARD ORION: WARM & WELCOMING



Top to bottom: Enjoy meals on the aft deck amidst picturesque backdrops; evening Recap, a Lindblad tradition, takes places in the spacious lounge; the fitness center affords great views.

Modern and elegant with a gracious, sunlit ambiance, *National Geographic Orion* will be your base for this unforgettable adventure to the other side of the world. *Orion's* stylish setting is completely compatible, however, with relaxed informality and you'll find life aboard mirrors the languid pace of island life. Freely roam the accessible ship, discovering all of her nooks and crannies, including the Bridge where you are welcome anytime to watch the captain and his officers navigate, and help the naturalists scan for birdlife and whales. *Orion's* public spaces foster a convivial atmosphere. In the dramatic window-lined main lounge, the heart of the expedition community, enjoy spirited cocktail hours, our lively daily Recap sessions and informative presentations. No assigned seating in the spacious indoor dining room makes for easy mingling with fellow guests, expedition staffers and special guest speakers. And on deck there are plenty of spaces to congregate to delight in the balmy air and brilliant South Pacific vistas by day or the romance of dining under stars at night. Need a break from socializing? Head for the observation lounge and library perched at the top of the ship to hole up with a good book and simply be.

ARRIVE AHEAD & SETTLE INTO ISLAND TIME ON OUR RELAXING HOTEL OPTION

A lavish garden setting, a gorgeous turquoise lagoon, volcanic peaks rising in the distance, inviting freshwater infinity pools and a private beach all await you at the **InterContinental Tahiti Resort & Spa**—the perfect launch point for your South Pacific adventure. Check in early following your travels and take a day to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy the hotel's many amenities including an ultramodern fitness center, cold plunge pool, steam bath and tranquil tea lounge. Then savor dinner at one of the locally renowned restaurants, Te Tiare for authentic Tahitian-style food, or the French-inspired Le Lotus, a stunning venue over the water. See page 52.



The InterContinental Tahiti offers two stunning freshwater infinity pools.

BE OUR GUEST ON ISLES, ATOLLS, AND PRISTINE CORALS: SOUTHERN LINE ISLANDS

Receive a complimentary pre-voyage night at the InterContinental Tahiti on all Southern Line Islands departures. To take advantage of this special offer call now to speak with an Expedition Specialist. See additional details on page 52.

CAN'T BEAR TO LEAVE? DON'T. LINGER LONGER AT THE BRANDO.

A National Geographic Unique Lodge of The World, the Brando is the epitome of French Polynesia luxe—with a cultural heritage, an eco-conscious mission, and a level of quality that more than merits its mystique. Built on land Marlon Brando purchased in the 60's when he fell in love with his Tahitian co-star while shooting *Mutiny on the Bounty*, and inspired by his original vision, the hotel is idyllically sited on the atoll of Tetiaroa, and features one-to-three-bedroom villas; two restaurants under the guidance of a Michelin-starred chef; and a Spa offering holistic treatments, bordering the pond



where Tahitian royalty once gathered to undergo beauty rituals. There's a host of island-gear activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding, kite surfing, plus lectures, natural history walks and much more.

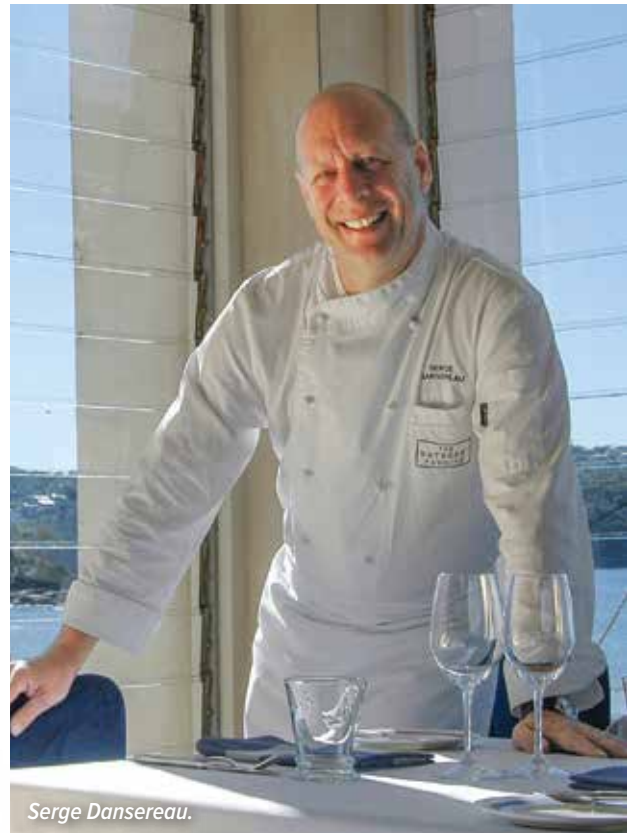


If you would like to stay at the Brando as a post-voyage extension, our Expedition Specialists will be happy to assist you in making arrangements. Please find additional details on page 52, or call an Expedition Specialist.



EXCEPTIONAL HOTEL STAFF

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.



Serge Dansereau.



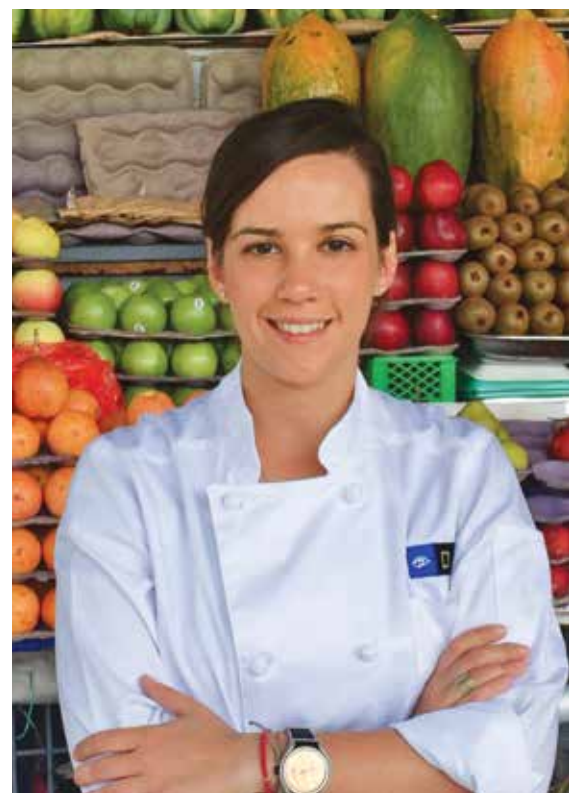
National Geographic Orion's wine list has been developed over years of catering to discriminating guests. Our hotel managers focus on representing the regions we explore.



Clockwise from above: Orion's comfortable, elegant dining room features no assigned seating for casual, easy mingling; manager of hotel operations Ana Esteves; appetizing examples of the superb cuisine. Save room for dessert—extraordinary options are served daily!

“A robust combination of Indo-Pacific, French and Polynesian influences infuse the cuisine you’ll experience in the South Pacific aboard NG 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, Manager Hotel Operations, Lindblad Expeditions



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



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*.





JACOB EDGAR

An ethnomusicologist, Jacob is the founder of record label Cumbancha, and the main music researcher for the acclaimed world music compilations label, Putumayo World Music. His adventures have taken him around the globe in search of superb talent. He will be curating exclusive musical performances featuring top local artists, to enrich our Polynesian cultural experiences in the regions we explore.



HEIDY BAUMGARTNER-LESAGE

An archaeological restorer and conservator, Heidy has lived in Tahiti since 1986, working with the local Department of Archaeology, and as a freelance tour guide and lecturer. For the past 15 years she has worked closely with the ministry of Culture in Tahiti at the local heritage center and is the co-author of travel guide *Mave Mai, the Marquesas Islands*.

SHARE THE ADVENTURE WITH

Our pioneering history, reputation and National Geographic connections give us access to a rewarding breadth of guest speakers. Carefully chosen to be relevant and meaningful in context, our guest speakers' talks and unique insights complement the already lively onboard conversation and ongoing learning our staff stimulates. Together they add layers of knowledge and connection to the South Pacific that no other company can offer. And our guest speakers have chosen to share the expedition experience with you as active participants and fellow travelers. You'll have the opportunity to not only hear them in the context of their lounge presentations, but also to hang out with them—while cruising in a Zodiac, over a drink, or during dinner.



CHRISTINA THOMPSON

Christina works at Harvard University, where she is the editor of the *Harvard Review*. She is also the author of two books on the Pacific: *Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All*, which was shortlisted

for the 2009 Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction and the 2010 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, and the forthcoming *Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia*. In 2015 she received a Public Scholar Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her work in Pacific history. Travel with her on **Marquesas Jun. 21** departure or **Beyond the Postcard Jul. 5** departure.



DR. JOE MACINNIS

Joe is the first person to explore the ocean beneath the North Pole. His teams built the first undersea polar station and discovered the world's northernmost known shipwreck. Having logged more

than 5,000 hours beneath the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans, Joe was among the first to dive to the *Titanic* and once went scuba diving in Havana with Fidel Castro. For the past twenty years, he has been studying leadership in dangerous environments and written 10 books including his latest, *Deep Leadership*. Travel with him on **Epic Polynesia May 10** departure.

ENGAGING GUEST SPEAKERS



JON BOWERMASTER

Jon is a six-time grantee of the National Geographic Expeditions Council and an award-winning writer and filmmaker. Author of 11 books, he 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. Travel with him on **Marquesas Aug. 16** departure or **Easter Island Aug. 30** departure.



VALERIE TAYLOR

Valerie is a dive legend, shark chronicler, pioneering under-sea 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. In 1969, the Taylors formed their own production company. In the same year, Valerie was catapulted to international stardom in Peter Gimbel's classic film, *Blue Water White Death*. During the 1970s Valerie and Ron's live shark sequences appeared in the movies *Jaws*, *Orca* and *The Blue Lagoon*. In 1973 Valerie's photo was on the cover of National Geographic. This image caught the attention of Lars-Eric Lindblad, and Valerie and Ron spent a decade traveling the world on the little red and white ship called the *Lindblad Explorer*. Both she and Ron have won numerous awards in underwater photography and videography. In 2000, she became an inaugural member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame. Travel with her on **Epic Polynesia May 24** departure or **Beyond the Postcard Jun. 7** departure.

▶ LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKERS AT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/EXPERTS](https://www.expeditions.com/experts)

CAPTURE THE ADVENTURE— TAKE GREAT PHOTOS

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

National Geographic Orion is the only expedition ship exploring South Pacific with National Geographic photographers aboard every departure. These photographers, many with significant careers to their credit, have inspired countless professional and amateur photographers, and accompany our ships to inspire and assist you. And, 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.

Now, every guest—from smartphone camera users to semi-pro shooters—can stand side-by-side with top photographers, pick up tips in the field, and take great photos. And you'll want to—the South Pacific provides a photo op a minute and a once-in-a-lifetime experience to capture. So no worries, you don't have to consider yourself a photographer to participate in the fun and rewards of "aim & create." You'll return home with your best photos ever, and a lifelong skill.



DAVID DOUBILET & JEN HAYES

Acclaimed underwater photographer David Doubilet and his wife and underwater partner, photojournalist Jennifer Hayes have been collaborating on projects since 1999. Together their work is creating a visual voice for

the world's oceans and their assignments for *National Geographic* magazine have taken them from the icy waters of Antarctica to Cuba's pristine reefs and beyond. Share the adventure with them on the **Apr. 19 or 26, 2018 departures.**





JAY DICKMAN

Pulitzer-prize winning photographer Jay Dickman has worked in photojournalism for more than 35 years, and his work is often seen in *National Geographic* magazine. Travel with him on the **Jul. 19, 26 or Aug. 2, 2018** departures.



SUSAN SEUBERT

Award-winning photographer Susan Seubert has photographed more than 20 feature stories for *National Geographic Traveler*. Join her on the **Aug. 30, 2018** departure.



MICHAEL MELFORD

Michael Melford has produced 14 feature stories for *National Geographic* magazine, and more than 30 stories for *National Geographic Traveler*. Travel with him on the **May 24 or Jun. 7, 2018** departures.



JONATHAN IRISH

Jonathan Irish has photographed on all seven continents and his work has been featured in *National Geographic* magazine and *The New York Times*. Travel with him on the **Jul. 5 or 12, 2018** departures.



JASON EDWARDS

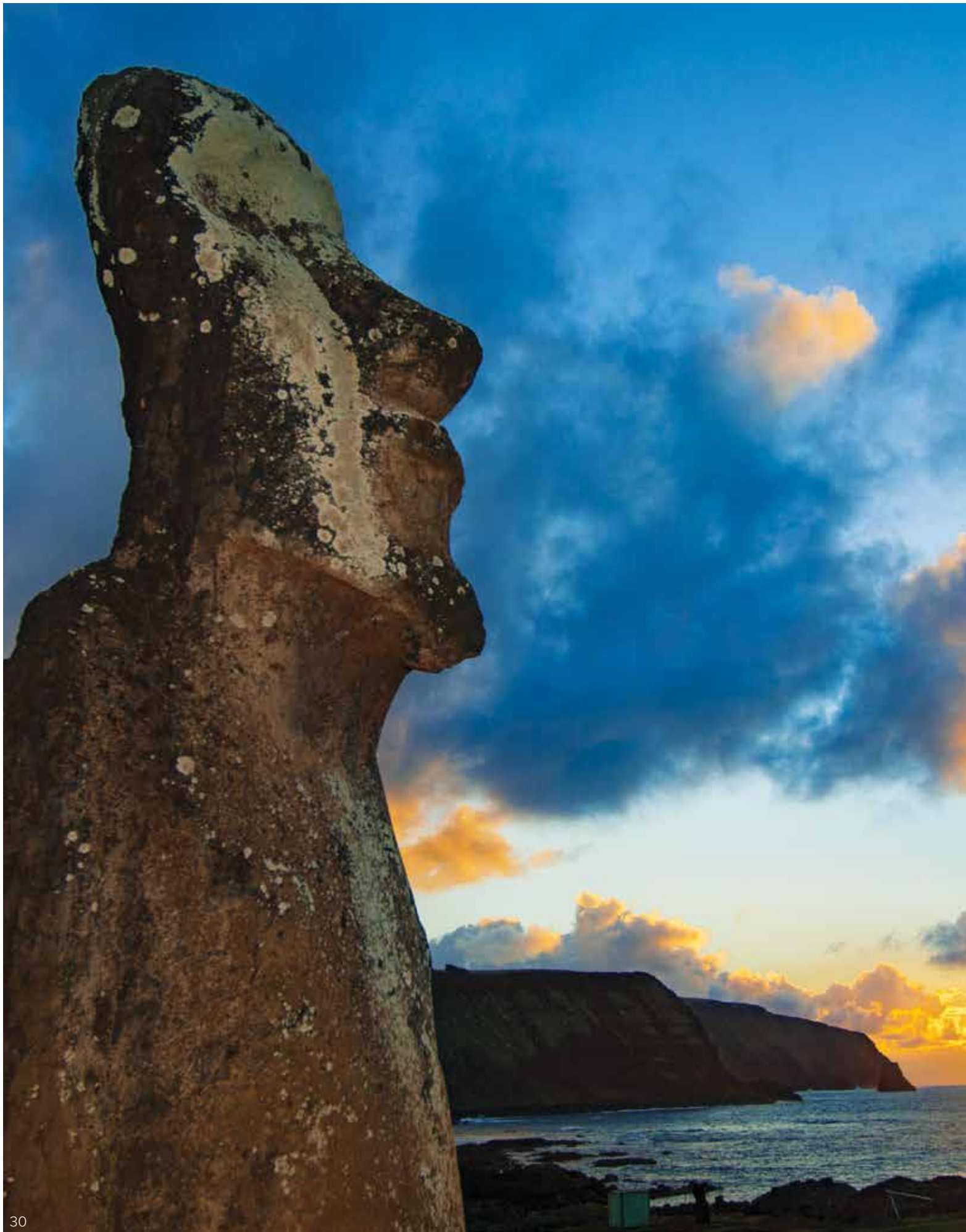
Jason Edward's work has been published in hundreds of publications including *National Geographic* magazine. Travel with him on the **Jun. 14 or 21, 2018** departures.



ONBOARD GEAR LOCKER

Another unique component to our Expedition Photography program is *National Geographic Orion's* gear locker, stocked with the latest by B&H Photo Video, and yours to try with our compliments. Field test new glass, camera bodies and more during your expedition. And to get you ready you'll have access to special gear recommendations and packages, plus booked guest discounts. And check out teaching videos from our annual photography event with B&H at www.optic2017.com. Ask your expedition specialist for details.





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 craftsman. 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 landscape of Bora Bora and 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.

NEW

EASTER ISLAND TO TAHITI: TALES OF THE PACIFIC

20 DAYS/17 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

PRICES FROM: \$17,990 TO \$37,990 (See page 51 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 Eric 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 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)

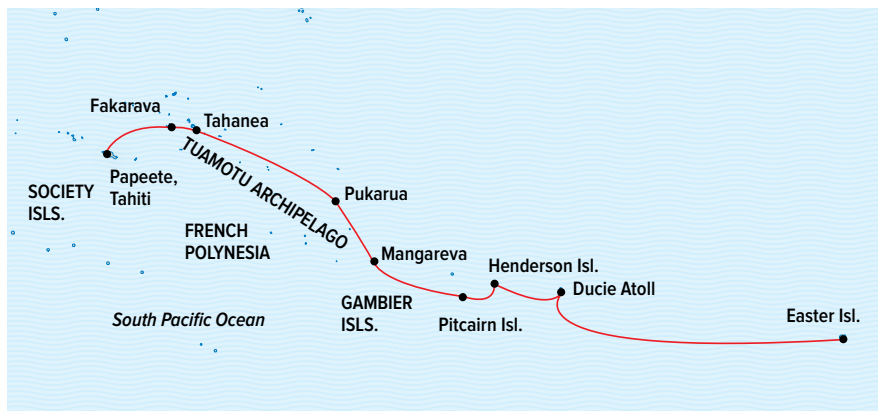
DAYS 6-10: AT SEA/PITCAIRN ISLANDS

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)



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)

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)

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*

*This voyage travels in reverse from Papeete to Easter Island and is 19 days. See website for details.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Dec. 31, 2017** 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.
- **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 departure. See page 21 for details.

GUEST SPEAKER

Join award-winning writer and filmmaker Jon Bowermaster on the Aug. 30 departure.

[Learn more at expeditions.com/experts](http://expeditions.com/experts)



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

Award-winning photographer Susan Seubert has photographed more than

20 feature stories for *National Geographic Traveler*. Join her on the Aug. 30, 2018 departure. [Learn more at expeditions.com/photo](http://expeditions.com/photo)





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 Taputapuatea, 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.

NEW

EPIC POLYNESIA: COOK ISLANDS TO FIJI

17 DAYS/14 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION*

PRICES FROM: \$15,680 TO \$33,440 (See page 51 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.
- ▶ NEW! Visit Beqa Island in Fiji, where you’ll witness the breathtaking spectacle of traditional firewalking.

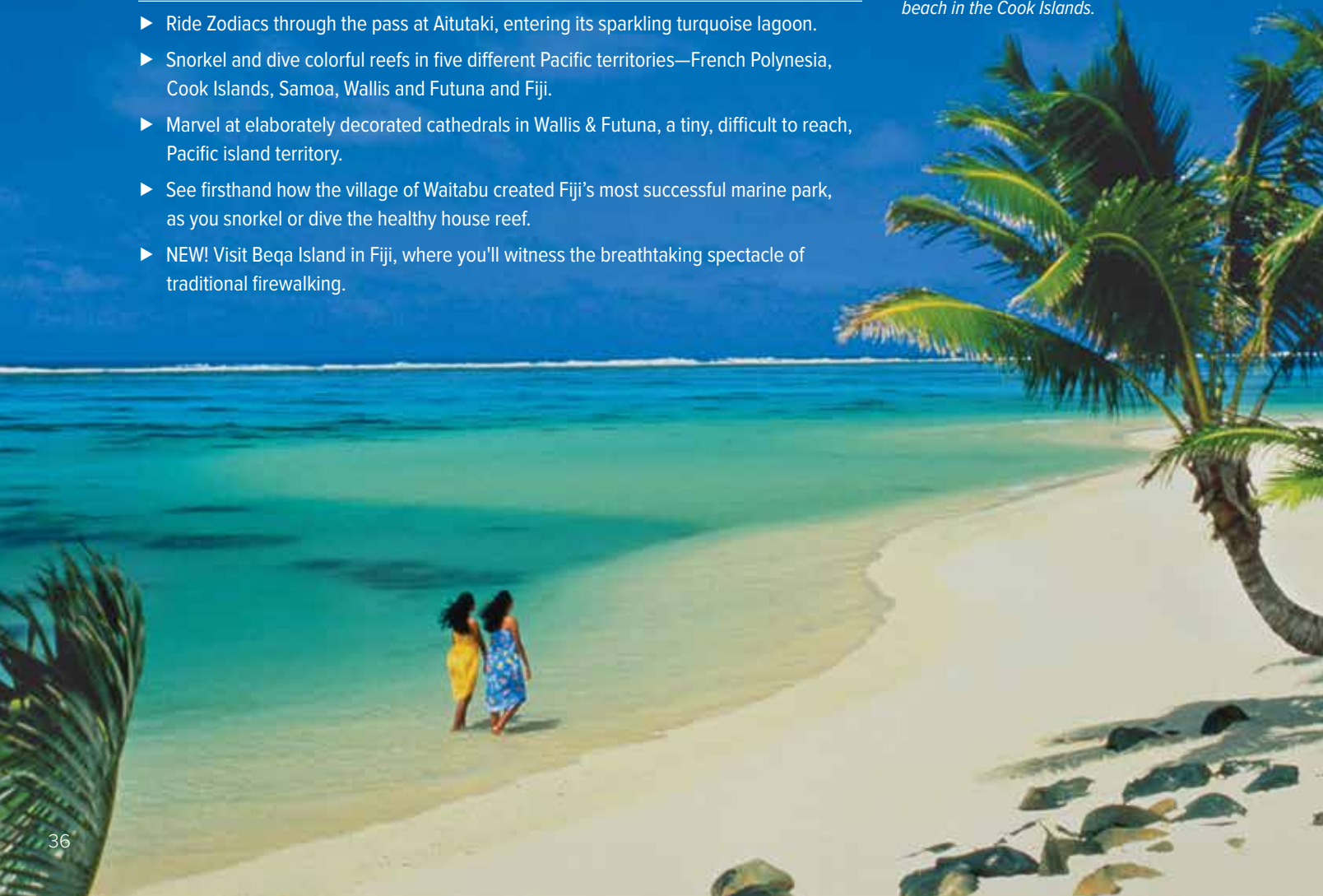
EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE



Our unparalleled expedition team is key to an in-depth experience, and our generous expedition staff-to-guest ratio of 3:5 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

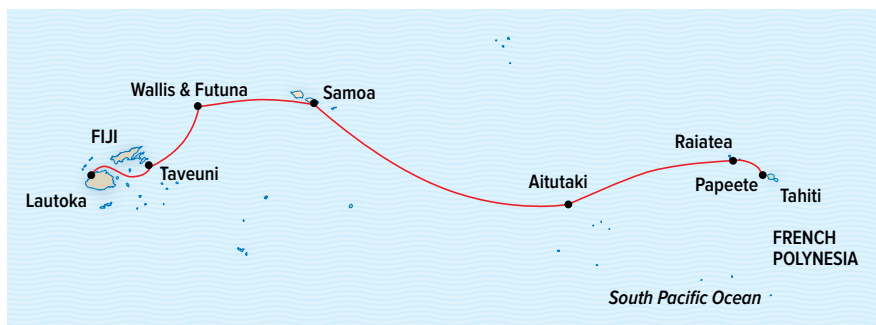
Encircled by a single fringing reef, and sharing a common lagoon, Raiatea and Tahaa are islands well worth exploring. Acclimate to Polynesia's slower pace with a day of snorkeling, kayaking, paddleboarding and beach exploration at Tahaa. One of the most important cultural sites in the Polynesian world, 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)

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)



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)

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)

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)

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 **Dec. 31, 2017** 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.
- **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. See page 21 for details.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Join explorer **Dr. Joe MacInnis** on the May 10 departure,



and underwater film legend

Valerie Taylor on the May 24 departure.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS**

On May 10, join **Sisse Brimberg**, an inspiring photographer who has shot for National Geographic for over 40 years.



Or, travel on the May 24 departure with award-winning photographer



Michael Melford who has produced over 30 stories for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. **Learn more at expeditions.com/photo**



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.

NEW

AZURE SEAS FROM TAHITI TO THE MARQUESAS

17 DAYS/14 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

PRICES FROM: \$15,680 TO \$33,440 (See page 51 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.

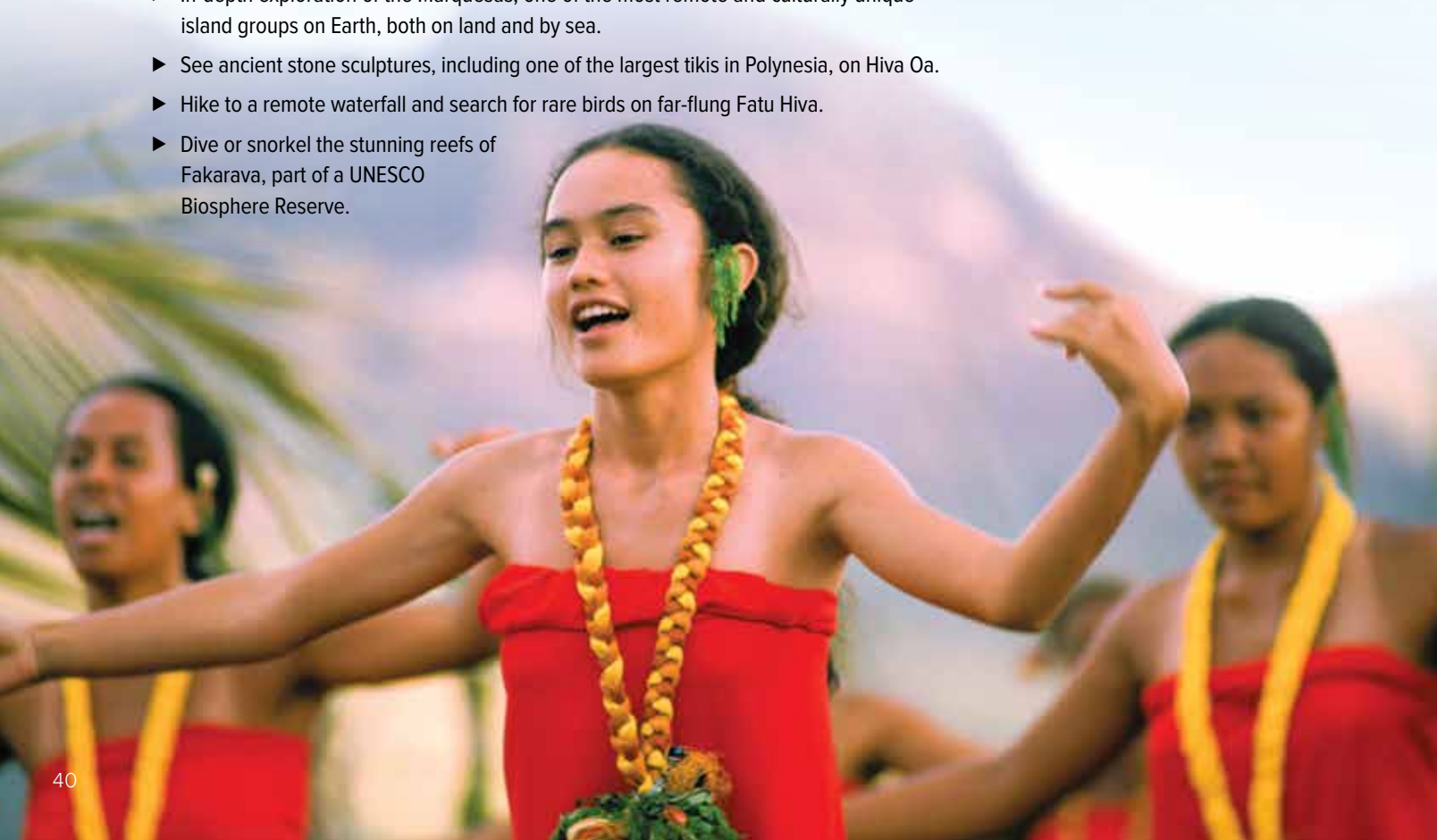
EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE



Our unparalleled expedition team is key to an in-depth experience, and our generous expedition staff-to-guest ratio of 3:5 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)



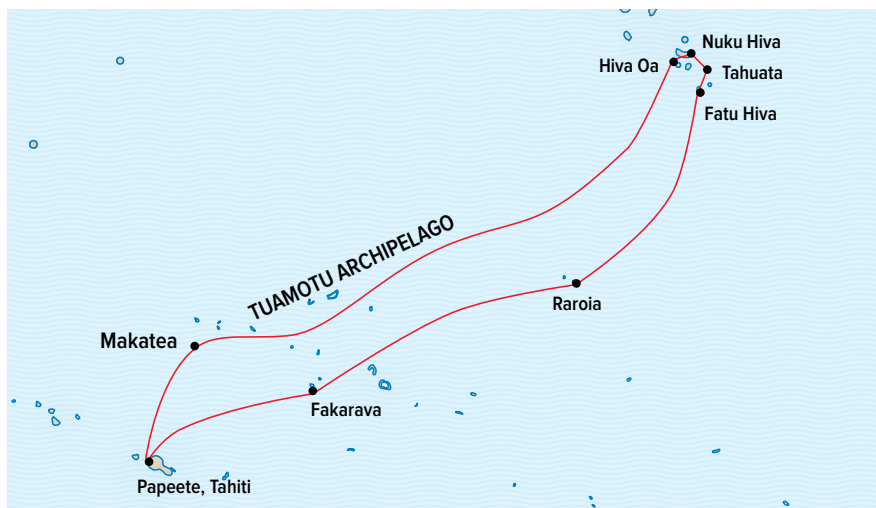
Sea turtle, Fakarava

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)

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)

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)

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

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Dec. 31, 2017** and receive **complimentary round-trip airfare** from Los Angeles to Papeete. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew.
- **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 both 2018 departures. See page 21 for details.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Join cultural expert **Christina Thompson** on Jun. 21 departure, and writer and filmmaker **Jon Bowermaster** on Aug. 16 departure.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

Join award-winning photographer **Jason Edwards** on the June 21 departure. **Learn more at expeditions.com/photo**



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.

NEW

FRENCH POLYNESIA: BEYOND THE POSTCARD

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

PRICES FROM: \$7,690 TO \$16,840 (See page 51 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 expedition staff-to-guest ratio of 3:5 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. Venture into the lush interior of the island on a bicycle,

then 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

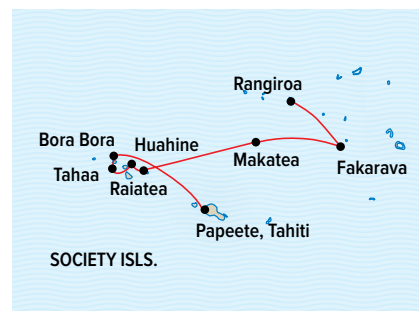
Spend two days exploring some of the nearly 80 islands and atolls in the “Dangerous Archipelago.” Fakarava is one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world famous drift dive. An uplifted 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, then snorkel and dive among clouds of colorful fish on the nearby reef. (B,L,D)

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*; Aug. 2

*These itineraries travel in reverse from Rangiroa to Papeete.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Dec. 31, 2017** and receive **complimentary round-trip airfare** from Los Angeles to Papeete. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew.
- **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 both 2018 departures. See page 21 for details.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Join underwater film legend **Valerie Taylor** on Jun. 7 departure, and cultural expert **Christina Thompson** on Jul. 5 departure.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

Join photographers **David Doubilet** and **Jen Hayes** on April 26, 2018. **Learn more at expeditions.com/photo**



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.

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 51 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 expedition staff-to-guest ratio of 3:5 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)

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 beds of giant clams. Stroll along pristine white sand beaches, or meander through palm groves 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

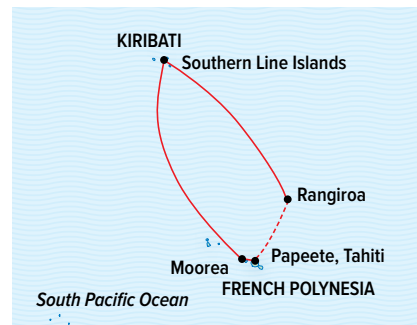
Approach the verdant island of Moorea this morning, and anchor for the day in Opunohu Bay on the island's north shore. Spend the day hiking tropical forest trails or exploring ancient Polynesian sacred sites with an archaeologist. Take in the view of both Opunohu and Cook's bays from the island's famous 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)



Frigatebird, Kiribati.

**EXPEDITION DETAILS**

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

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Book by **Dec. 31, 2017** and receive **complimentary round-trip airfare** from Los Angeles to Papeete. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew.
- **SAVE 10%** when you book two or more voyages in South Pacific aboard *National Geographic Orion*. Call for details.
- Book by **Dec. 31, 2017** and receive a **FREE night stay** at the InterContinental Tahiti in Papeete. See page 21 for details.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

David Doubilet is a legend in underwater photography. Together with his wife and underwater partner, photojournalist **Jennifer Hayes**, he has explored three unique marine environments for National Geographic. Join them on the April 19 departure. **Learn more at expeditions.com/photo**



Calm lagoons offer unparalleled kayaking opportunities.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: Bahamas. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 338 feet.

The state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* (built in 2004) joined the Lindblad-National Geographic fleet in 2014. A fully stabilized, ice-class vessel with a steel reinforced forward hull, is at home navigating polar ice as well as small harbors in the South Pacific.

PUBLIC AREAS: Outdoor café, lounge with bar, restaurant, sundeck, reception desk, observation lounge and library, global gallery, marina platform, and mudroom. 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

CABINS: All cabins feature ocean views, private facilities, climate controls, and a flat-screen TV with DVD/CD player. Equipped with ethernet and wifi 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, stand-up paddleboards, crow’s nest camera, hydrophone, underwater video cameras, video microscope, and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). Plus, there is snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for 24 guests, glass-bottom Zodiac, and splash-cam.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Laundry, a full-time doctor, National Geographic photographer and Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, two dive masters, an undersea specialist and video chronicler.

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.

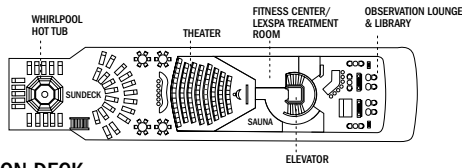
CATEGORY 1 SOLO: Main Deck with oval window or two portholes #301, 322, 323

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

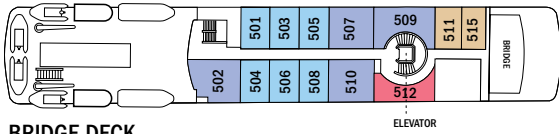
NOTE: Sole occupancy cabins available in Categories 1 and 3. Shared accommodations available in Categories 1 and 2.

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

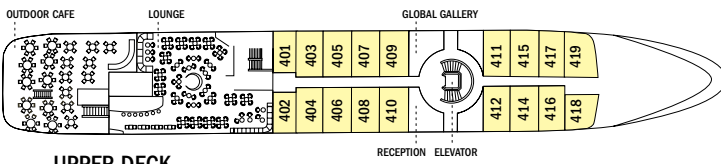
Note: Scuba divers must be certified by an internationally recognized dive association prior to the voyage, and certification cards and logbooks must be shown on board. Divers must have logged 25 dives in total and made a dive within the 12 months preceding the voyage. If you have not made an open water dive within the past year, please contact us about a dive refresher course in Tahiti prior to your voyage.



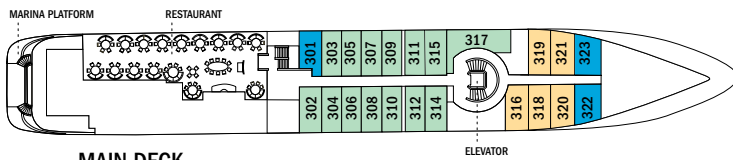
OBSERVATION DECK



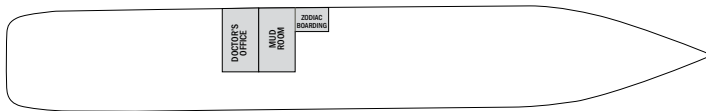
BRIDGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



EXPEDITION DECK



Nautical chart table in the observation lounge and library; main lounge and bar; Category 3 suite.

▶ TAKE A VIRTUAL VIDEO TOUR OF THE SHIP AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/NGORION

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 – Page 30	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 \$1,600, Business from \$3,700; Santiago/Easter Island from \$950 (subject to change.)
Epic Polynesia: Cook Islands to Fiji – Page 34	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.
Azure Seas from Tahiti to the Marquesas – Page 38	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 \$1,500; Business from \$4,300.
French Polynesia: Beyond the Postcard – Page 42	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 \$1,500; Business from \$4,300; Internal airfare from \$250 (Rangiroa-Papeete), subject to change.
Isles, Atolls, and Pristine Corals: Southern Line Islands – Page 46	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 \$1,500; Business from \$4,300; Internal airfare from \$250 (Papeete-Rangiroa), subject to change.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

FREE AIR: BOOK BY DEC. 31, 2017: 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.

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 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.

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For Reservations:

Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions

1.800.EXPEDITION (1.800.397.3348)

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

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET

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