

FRENCH POLYNESIA

WITH A TWIST

THE SOCIETY
& TUAMOTU
ISLANDS

ROAM FREE
AS A YACHT

DISCOVER
SACRED SITES
FLY OVER
REEFS ON A
DRIFT DIVE

DEAR TRAVELER,

I never thought I could find places able to create the same sense of wonder and exhilaration I always feel in Galápagos, in Baja and the Sea of Cortez, in Central America, Antarctica or the Arctic—regions we've been exploring for decades. For me, it's the incredible wildlife in these places, and the sense our expeditions give of entering the lives of fascinating creatures and cultures. There's the diversity of the geographies, the different habitats—the remarkable specifics of the polar ice; the desert meeting the sea in Baja; or the ability to be among the animals in Galápagos.



I have explored many wild places, experienced a great variety of wildlife and landscapes in many different geographies, but I had yet to make as surprising a discovery as 'finding' Polynesia.

I went on a reconnaissance to Polynesia in 2016 to uncover opportunities for expeditions we were planning. I had absolutely astonishing experiences in a number of places—including Fakarava and Rangiroa—on the itinerary described inside. I had never experienced snorkeling or diving like this; had never seen the splendor of genuinely thriving reefs or been among such diverse and fascinating marine life, including sharks. The photo, at bottom right, is one of my favorites: it's my fiancée, surrounded by elegant grey tipped reef sharks, utterly unafraid—because she had learned that sharks living in a healthy system pose virtually no threat to humans.

I admire volcanic topographies. And these Polynesia islands display a spell-binding range of forms— from low-lying atolls with stunning lagoons, to the high island of Bora Bora. I've never seen anything like the unique limestone island of Makatea, or experienced anything as refreshing as swimming in a freshwater limestone cave there.

And, there are the people. Polynesia offers you an extraordinary cultural experience—as you'll meet exceptionally welcoming people, currently in the midst of re-discovering and celebrating their heritage as the world's greatest explorers. And as you'll have the opportunity to visit remarkable ancient sacred sites.

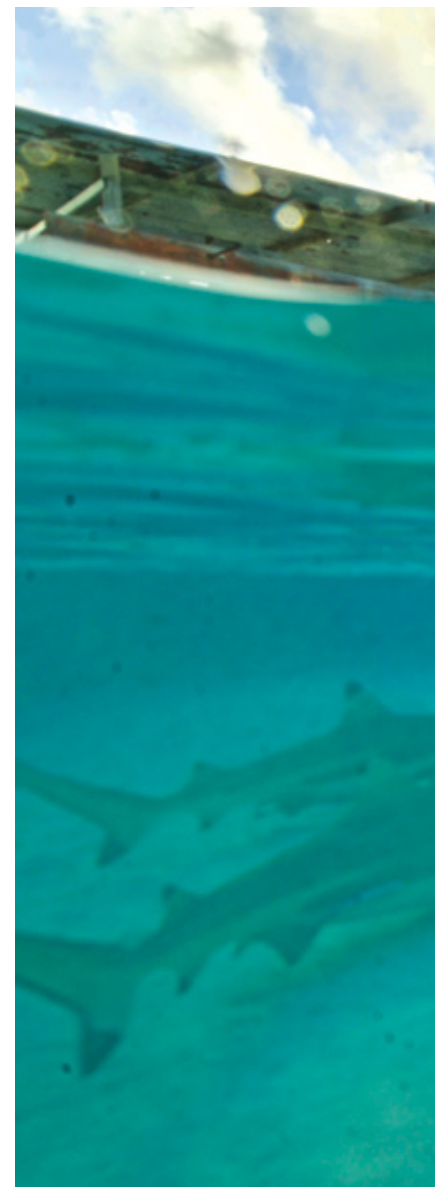
I can assure you that if you choose to go 'beyond the postcard' with us, you will be deeply rewarded. There is so much to see, do and learn here—you may be surprised by what you find, and you will certainly be thrilled by your discoveries.

I hope you will choose to join us this season.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sven Lindblad'.

Sven Lindblad





Cover photo: National Geographic Orion in Fakarava Atoll. © Adam Cropp

All photos here from Sven's Polynesia reconnaissance trip in 2016 which informed subsequent itineraries, including our 2020 season. © Sven Lindblad

BE HERE NOW IS THE IMPERATIVE OF THE ENLIGHTENED

And that's what landing at the InterContinental Tahiti enables you to do—arrive. And adapt to the languid grace of French Polynesia. In no time you'll be off, unlike the rooted resort and overwater bungalow dwellers, to freely roam aboard National Geographic Orion. You'll traverse the vast Pacific like the early Polynesians, the greatest explorers on earth, to discover atolls and islands, coral gardens, reefs bursting with a kaleidoscope of marine life, and the people cupped within this far-flung, gentle splendor. Here are highlights of an itinerary that takes us not merely from place to place, but to and through extraordinary enchantments and unforgettable experiences.



Left to right: Underwater in Bora Bora, French Polynesia; Family owned vanilla farm in Taha'a, also known as Vanilla Island.

This spread: Aerial view of Bora Bora, French Polynesia.



Raiatea hosts the sacred **Taputapuātea** complex, recently designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site—“an exceptional testimony to 1,000 years of mā’ohi civilization.” What’s fascinating about this center of learning dating back to 1,000 AD, is that priests and navigators from all over the Pacific convened here, to offer sacrifices to the gods and share knowledge of the genealogical origins of the universe and of deep-ocean navigation—a uniquely Polynesian juxtaposition. As you unpack the history of this sacred ground with your expedition’s cultural specialist, don’t be surprised if you feel the *mana*, the indescribably powerful and mysterious energy said to emanate from this sacred island. Sharing the lagoon with Raiatea, **Taha’a** is the source of 80 percent of Polynesian vanilla. At a visit to a small family farm to learn how this spice, second only to saffron in costliness, is cultivated, you’ll steep in the pervasive scent of vanilla.



For many, the sight of the high central peak of Mount Otemanu signaling **Bora Bora**, is a kind of *déjà vu*—perhaps never seen, yet deeply familiar—that’s how iconic this Society Island is. Surrounded by shallow and deep reefs and a bright, almost hypnotic turquoise lagoon, Bora Bora, formed 7 million years ago, was inhabited by the first Polynesians.



FROM THE SOCIETY ISLANDS TO THE TUAMOTUS & BEYOND

Exploring the **Tuamotu Archipelago**, comprised of 75 atolls, one raised coral atoll, **Makatea**, and innumerable coral reefs, may prove one of the most memorable experiences of your life.

Fakarava, with its rich marine ecosystem, has been designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, consisting of six atolls, in order to ensure its preservation. Fakarava Atoll is home to several species of rare birds, many interesting plants, bizarre terrestrial crustaceans, and lots of marine life. **Makatea**, with a population of 100,000 during its phosphate mining heyday in the 60s is now home to 68 residents. Stretch your legs on the hike from the beach landing to the island's crest, or opt for a 4WD drive up and through this lush natural garden, grown over the cavities created during the island's phosphate mining past. Catch your breath at a scenic lookout—and then begin the descent to one of the more magical destinations ever—a freshwater grotto, for the most refreshing swim of your life.





Matairea Hill, on the beautiful island of **Huahine**, is home to an exceptional density of *marae*—a veritable Buckingham Palace—prompting a theory that it was inhabited by the families of nobles and chiefs. Enhancing the island’s aura of mystery are two wonders: eels with blue eyes near the village of Faie. Anadromous, as our naturalists explain, these eels make their way from the sea to this river; legend has it that they hold the spirits of dead islanders. And well-preserved fish traps on Lake Fauna Nui that have been here for centuries and are still in use. As the fish are pulled towards the sea by the ebb tide they become trapped where they are easily netted. Proof that in paradise, the living truly is easy.



The visit to Makatea is a highlight of this itinerary, and an example of the kind of experience our expeditions uniquely provide—full of contrasts, captivating history, and gorgeous tropical vistas, culminating in an extraordinary cave swim. You’ll see romantic vine-draped ruins as the jungle reclaims remnants of the island’s industrial mining past. And meet some of the 68 or so residents who remain—committed to their island, their way of life, and future possibilities.





THE PERFECT SHIP TO EXPLORE ATOLLS, LAGOONS, ISLANDS & THE UNDERSEA

National Geographic Orion is your base camp for south sea adventure, uniquely equipped to get you out there and up close. The upper dive deck holds scuba gear for a number of qualified divers and complete snorkeling gear for all 102 guests aboard—maintained by two divemasters. On the rear deck, a marina platform makes loading divers, snorkelers, and gear into Zodiacs efficient and safe. *National Geographic Orion* is also equipped with an ingenious platform, which allows us to snorkel or swim virtually anywhere, plus a glass-bottom Zodiac, custom-crafted to enable those who prefer to stay dry a remarkably clear view. *National Geographic Orion* is the only expedition ship in the South Pacific with an undersea specialist equipped with undersea video tech and an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) capable of exploring depths of up to 1,000 feet on board. You'll enjoy vivid HD video and engaging presentations in the comfort of the ship's lounge throughout your voyage.

National Geographic Orion is your window on the gorgeous scenery of Polynesia, and the perfect platform for exploring it up-close, and personally.

JOIN OUR POLYNESIA TEAMS, INCLUDING THESE REPRESENTATIVES:



JACOB EDGAR, Ethnomusicologist

Our Ethnomusicologist, Jacob Edgar is known to many prior guests for his remarkable music curation on our voyages. Despite not being able to join us, he has produced exclusive Polynesian programs for our 2020 and 2021 seasons. This excerpt from a recent interview gives you a sense of his sensibility and an exciting preview of what you can expect:

“Upon our arrival, we found all the parishioners waiting for us in the church dressed in their finest Sunday clothes. They began to sing traditional polyphonic Tahitian choir music, which uses unique and incredibly soul stirring harmonies and vocalizations. It resonated through the high ceilings of the cathedral, carrying with it echoes of a pre-Christian culture that had long been lost to the past, yet which lived on almost subversively in the music of a Protestant church. Instantly, all our guests had tears streaming down their faces, as did I. It was one of the most beautiful sounds any of us had ever heard.”



Elise Lockton, *Naturalist*
May 5, 2020



Michael Nolan, *Naturalist*
May 5, 2020



John Mitchell,
Expedition Leader
May 5 & 12, 2020



Christopher Cook,
Undersea Specialist
May 12, 2020



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS

Travel with a National Geographic Photographer on any *National Geographic Orion* voyage and benefit from their pro knowledge and experience.



Krista Rossow
Apr. 14, 2020



Andy Bardon
May 5 & 12, 2020

ITINERARY:

FRENCH POLYNESIA: BEYOND THE POSTCARD

10 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION*
PRICING FROM \$8,360 (SEE PAGE 11 FOR DETAILS)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

2020 Dates: Apr. 14, May 5, 12*; 2021 Dates: Apr. 12†, May 3†, 10*†

* These departures travel in reverse

† These departures will follow a slightly modified itinerary

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Free round-trip airfare from Los Angeles to Papeete. Plus, we will cover your bar tab and tips for the crew. See page 13, or call for details.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1: Depart U.S.
- Day 2: Papeete, French Polynesia / Embark
- Day 3: Bora Bora, Society Islands
- Day 4: Ra’iatea / Taha’a
- Day 5: Huahine
- Days 6 & 7: Tuamotu Archipelago
- Day 8: Rangiroa
- Days 9 & 10: Rangiroa / Disembark / Papeete / U.S.

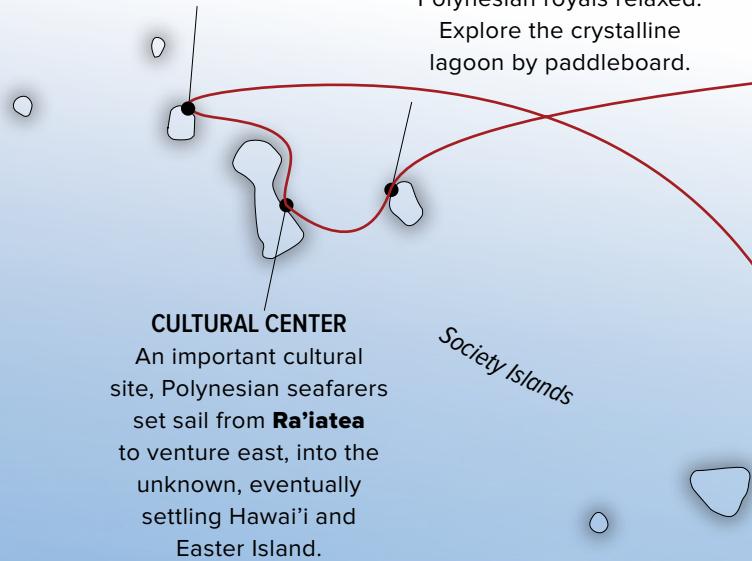
▶ Visit expeditions.com/postcard for a complete day-by-day itinerary. Or call to speak with an Expedition Specialist.

ICONIC ISLAND

Explore the famous craggy interior of **Bora Bora** and Mount Otemanu by 4WD. Snorkel the lagoon’s turquoise waters.

SECRET SPA OF ROYALS

See the ancient marae on off-the-beaten-path **Huahine**. Swim where Polynesian royals relaxed. Explore the crystalline lagoon by paddleboard.



CULTURAL CENTER

An important cultural site, Polynesian seafarers set sail from **Ra’iatea** to venture east, into the unknown, eventually settling Hawai’i and Easter Island.



LOVELY LAGOON

Venture into the second largest lagoon in the world, **Rangiroa**. One of the region's best spots to snorkel or dive among large schools of fish, plus mantas, dolphins and sea turtles.

RUINS UNDER, GARDEN OVER

Experience a cave swim on **Makatea**. See its history under the lush overgrowth. Spot a rare endemic dove.

THE IDEAL UNDERSEA

Dive or snorkel at stunning **Fakarava**. Thrill to the black-tipped reef sharks amid teeming colorful fish in this thriving UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Tuamotu Archipelago

ADAPT FOR RE-ENTRY

The rhythms of city life in Tahiti's capital **Papeete** gently prep you to leave the paradise of French Polynesia.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

Explore Rangiroa's 'aquarium' teeming with pristine coral and vibrant marine life • Observe some of the region's 800 species of fish, plus reef sharks, rays, giant clams and more • Kayak and paddleboard in turquoise waters along idyllic palm-lined shores • Watch the ship navigate Tiputa Pass into the lagoon at Rangiroa, one of the world's largest atolls • Glide over a carpet of vibrant coral on a thrilling drift snorkel • Spot endemic birds like the imperial pigeon and fruit dove • Bike or stroll through the charming flower-filled village on Fakarava • Delve deep into the past at Marae Taputapuatea, one of the most sacred sites in all of Polynesia • Truck or walk up Makatea's steep ascent, then descend into the grotto for the most invigorating freshwater swim • Snorkel, swim or just chill on your own private motu (island) • Visit an over-the-water museum curated with fascinating archeological relics • See the sacred blue-eyed eels of Huahine • Meet welcoming locals at a family-run vanilla plantation • Discover the region's natural and human history alongside your knowledgeable expedition team • Capture the islands' epic scenery with help from a National Geographic photographer





NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins.

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

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

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

MEALS: All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. The cuisine is international with local flair, featuring tastes of the regions we explore.

CABINS: All cabins feature ocean views, private facilities, climate controls, and a flat-screen TV.

Equipped with Ethernet and Wi-Fi connections and USB ports for mobile devices. Some cabins have French balconies. Single cabins in Category 1 and Category 3 include #301, 322, 323, and 512.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of 24 double kayaks, 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 a number of guests, a glass-bottom Zodiac, and a splash-cam.

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

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



Left to right: Main lounge; National Geographic Orion; our hotel staff will do whatever it takes to ensure your comfort and satisfaction aboard; National Geographic Orion's dining room features no assigned seating for casual, easy mingling; Category 3 suite with window; Category 6 Owner's suite with French balcony.

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

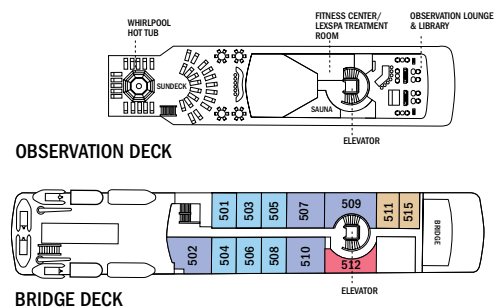
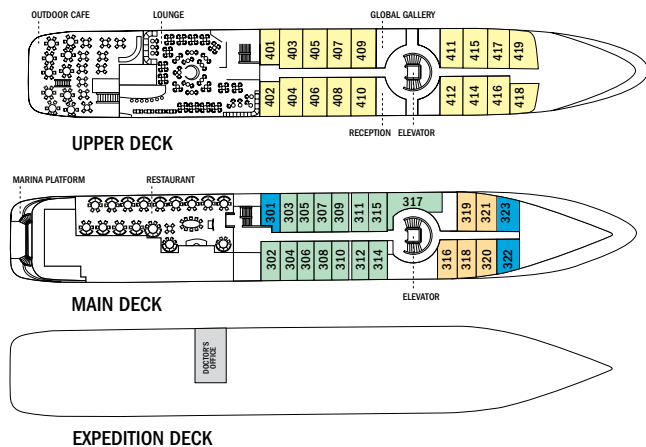
CATEGORY 6: Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with French balcony #502, 507, 509*, 510

*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: Solo occupancy cabins available in Categories 1 and 3. Shared accommodations available in Categories 1 and 2. Third person rates available at one-half the double occupancy rate in designated triple occupancy cabins.



ITINERARY	YEAR	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5	CAT. 6	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 3 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	NOTE
French Polynesia: Beyond the Postcard	2020	\$8,360	\$10,170	\$11,940	\$13,010	\$15,740	\$18,290	\$12,540	\$17,900	\$1,000	Sample Airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete: Economy from \$2,000; Business from \$5,000. Charter airfare from \$390 (Rangiroa-Papeete), subject to change.
	2021	\$8,490	\$10,320	\$11,990	\$13,200	\$15,890	\$18,410	\$12,690	\$17,990		

Prices quoted in this brochure are valid as of the time of printing, are subject to modification, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposit is made. For all categories, current rates, and details, visit expeditions.com/marquesas-rates, call an Expedition Specialist, or your Travel Advisor. For best pricing book early.

ADD THIS EXPERIENCE

INTERCONTINENTAL MOOREA RESORT & SPA

A DELIGHTFUL 35-MINUTE FERRY RIDE TRANSPORTS YOU FROM THE URBAN PULSE OF PAPEETE to the verdant, and serene, heart of Moorea. Nestled in a tropical sanctuary on the northwestern coast, the elegant InterContinental Moorea Resort & Spa is the ideal spot to shift into a more languid pace post-expedition. Choose from a selection of resort activities (with our compliments). Explore the turquoise lagoon by snorkel, kayak, or traditional outrigger canoe. Refresh with a dip (and a cocktail) in the infinity pools. Or indulge in a spa treatment featuring aromatic island flowers.

3 DAYS POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION FROM \$1,410 per person

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1: Disembark/Tahiti/Moorea
Day 2: Moorea
Day 3: Moorea/Tahiti/Home

- ▶ Visit expeditions.com/Moorea for a detailed day-by-day itinerary. Or call to speak with an Expedition Specialist.



ADD THIS EXPERIENCE

INTERCONTINENTAL BORA BORA RESORT & THALASSO SPA

TRANSPORT YOURSELF TO ONE OF BORA BORA'S TRANQUIL AND PICTURESQUE OUTER MOTUS and fall into island time at the InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa. Check into a stunning overwater villa, surrounded by turquoise waters and lush tropical gardens, and explore as much (or as little) as you choose during this two-day stay. Discover the resort's pristine beaches, browse the treatment menu in the resort's renowned spa, or luxuriate in the comfort of your own private villa, all while taking in the incredible views of Bora Bora's Mount Otemanu.

2 DAYS PRE-OR POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION CALL FOR PRICING AND DETAILS.

- ▶ Visit expeditions.com/BoraBora for a detailed day-by-day itinerary. Or call to speak with an Expedition Specialist.



FREE AIR: BOOK BY DEC. 31, 2019:

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. For new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers or extensions. Call for details.

INCLUSIVE PRICING MEANS VALUE + EXPERIENCES

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, wellness treatments and other specialized arrangements.

ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals, alcoholic beverages (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

Photo Credits: Alamy, Andy Bardon, David Cothran, Adam Cropp, David Doublet, Jan Butchofsky Houser, Jonathan Irish, Keenpress, Michael Melford, Marco Ricca, Vincent Truchet, David Vargas, Craig Wilson

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions: For complete terms and conditions please visit www.expeditions.com/terms

Costs Include: All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar, all meals and beverages aboard ship (excepting certain super-premium brands of alcohol), air transportation where indicated as included, all shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of kayaks (where available), tips (including gratuities to ship's crew), taxes and service charges, services of a ship physician, and services of our expedition staff.

Not Included: Air transportation (except where shown as included), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, internet access, voyage DVD, flightseeing, laundry. Gratuities to ship's crew are at your discretion.

Airfare: For all programs, airfare is an additional cost unless otherwise indicated. Sample airfares are subject to change. We will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee.

Reservations: To reserve your place, an advance payment is required at the time of reservation. A per-person deposit begins at \$750 and is dependent upon itinerary.

Final Payment: Payment is due 120 days prior to departure. Payment schedules may vary for 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 strongly recommend that you take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, medical assistance, and damaged or lost baggage, and provides medical assistance and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. 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.

Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions: Certain provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and the National Geographic Society's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure, and are also available on our website at www.expeditions.com/terms, or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Note: Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date and are subject to change. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, 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 adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation penalties may apply after payment is received. Please visit www.expeditions.com/terms for complete cancellation policies.

Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

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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 – 9pm ET
Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET**

Lindblad Expeditions, Inc., 96 Morton Street, New York, NY 10014

Phone: 212.261.9000 • Fax: 212.265.3770

**For additional information and online reservations,
visit us on the Web: www.expeditions.com**

Account Number: 

1.800.EXPEDITION | WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM

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SPP-110

**OUR EXTENSIONS MAKE YOU WANT TO STAY:
MOOREA OR BORA BORA, YOUR CHOICE**

SEE PAGE 12

**OUR FREE AIR OFFER
GETS YOU THERE**

SEE PAGE 13



DEAR TRAVELER,

I never thought I'd find a place that could create the same sense of wonder and exhilaration that I always feel in Galápagos. I know you've been to Galápagos. Did it amaze you too? For me, it's not just the incredible wildlife, it's the ease, the lack of fear that admits you, literally, into the lives of fascinating creatures. And then there's the diversity of the islands, the different habitats—the remarkable strangeness of the plants, the incredible patterns of the lava.



I have explored many wild places, experienced a great variety of wildlife in many different geographies, but I had yet to replicate what I feel in Galápagos—until I discovered Polynesia.

I went on a reconnaissance to Polynesia in 2016 to uncover opportunities for expeditions we were planning. I had absolutely astonishing experiences in a number of places—including Fakarava and Rangiroa—on the itinerary described inside. I had never experienced snorkeling or diving like this; had never seen the splendor of genuinely thriving reefs or been among such diverse and fascinating marine life, including sharks. The photo, at bottom right, is one of my favorites: it's my fiancée, surrounded by elegant grey tipped reef sharks, utterly unafraid—because she had learned that sharks living in a healthy system pose virtually no threat to humans.

I love Galápagos' volcanic character. And these Polynesia islands display a spell-binding range of forms—from low-lying atolls with stunning lagoons, to the high island of Bora Bora. I've never seen anything like the unique limestone island of Makatea, or experienced anything as refreshing as swimming in a freshwater limestone cave there.

And, there are the people. While Galápagos introduced you to the native Ecuadoreans on our ship, and those you met on Santa Cruz where you went into the highlands, it was largely a wildlife experience. Polynesia offers you an extraordinary cultural experience—as you'll meet exceptionally welcoming people, currently in the midst of re-discovering and celebrating their heritage as the world's greatest explorers. And as you'll have the opportunity to visit remarkable ancient sacred sites.

I can assure you that if you choose to go 'beyond the postcard' with us, you will be deeply rewarded. There is so much to see, do and learn here—you will be thrilled by your discoveries.

I hope you will choose to join us this season.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sven Lindblad'.

Sven Lindblad

