

ROOTS OF THE PACIFIC: EXPLORING NEW ZEALAND AND MELANESIA

2022-23 (Current) route: Auckland, New Zealand to Honiara, Solomon Islands

Expeditions in: Jan/Oct/Dec |



DAY 1-3: U.S. / Auckland, New Zealand

Depart the U.S. and arrive Auckland on Day 3. Transfer to our hotel for check in and lunch, and relax this afternoon before a welcome briefing in the evening to meet your fellow travelers. (Day 3: L,D)

DAY 4: Auckland / Embark

Have breakfast at the hotel before joining a tour of this vibrant city center. We'll stop for lunch midday before embarking *National Geographic Orion* in the late afternoon. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Bay of Islands

The Bay of Islands is an area encompassing more than 140 subtropical islands, boasting an abundance of wildlife and fascinating history. Visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a place of immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and historical significance, and learn of the historical events for which these grounds are remembered. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: At Sea

Take advantage of a full day at sea to settle into the relaxed pace of life on board. Visit the Bridge to study our route on the navigational charts, and attend talks by our experts. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Norfolk Island, Australia

Explore Norfolk Island, discovered by Captain Cook in 1774. Covered in dense forests of pines, it was initially valued as a ready source of ship-building lumber. Later, it became a British penal colony and then a settlement for Pitcairn Islanders, who themselves were descendants of the mutineers from the famous *Bounty*. Explore the ruins of the prison and enjoy walking around the main settlement at Burnt Pine. Later, take a long nature hike in Norfolk National Park to look for the endemic tree ferns and land birds. As we depart, look for large groups of seabirds alongside the dramatic island scenery. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: At Sea

Relax on deck as we make our passage to Melanesia or attend talks by our expert expedition and photo teams. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: New Caledonia

Visit this vibrant French overseas territory and swim in the world's largest enclosed lagoon, included in the UNESCO World Heritage List for its outstanding beauty, unique geography, and incredible coral diversity. Alternatively, join our naturalists for a birding walk through the dense canopy of the forest. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Port Vila / Moso, Vanuatu

Clear into Vanuatu at Port Vila. Later, arrive at Moso and spend the day snorkeling or diving at one of the most incredible locations you will experience on this voyage. The crystal clear waters reveal colorful corals, sea turtles, eagle and cowtail rays, reef fish, and pelagics. Dugongs and dolphins can sometimes be encountered here as well. (B,L,D)

Important Flight Information

Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking flights.

Sample Airfares:

Economy(round-trip Los Angeles/Auckland, Brisbane/Los Angeles; round-trip Los Angeles/Brisbane, Auckland/Los Angeles): from \$1,550
Business(round-trip Los Angeles/Auckland, Brisbane/Los Angeles; round-trip Los Angeles/Brisbane, Auckland/Los Angeles): from \$6,775
Charter(one way Honiara/Brisbane): from \$475
Airfares are subject to change

Cost Includes:

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar; all meals and alcoholic beverages aboard ship (excepting certain super-premium brands) and tips (including to ship's crew); meals on land as indicated, accompanied by nonalcoholic beverages; shore excursions; sightseeing and entrance fees; special access permits; transfers to and from designated flights; use of snorkeling equipment and wetsuits (where applicable); use of kayaks and/or stand-up paddleboards (where applicable); taxes and service charges; services of a ship physician and services of our expedition staff. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Cost Not Included:

Air transportation (except where specified as included), charter airfare (where applicable), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, scuba diving aboard *National Geographic Orion* for pre-qualified divers (available at additional cost); travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as internet access and laundry.

DAY 11: Ambrym

Ambrym is known for its active volcanoes, black-sand beaches, and mystery and magic. Arrive ashore to witness the striking Rom dance, traditionally a secret event. Involving incredible masks and elaborate outfits that represent spirits, this is a cultural experience specific only to this island. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: Espiritu Santo

Captain James Cook named the islands of Vanuatu the "New Hebrides" because they reminded him of the rugged isles off Scotland's coast. On the main island of Espiritu Santo, experience one of the best wreck dives in the world: the *S.S. President Coolidge*, a luxury cruise liner used as a troop carrier during World War II, or enjoy a serene canoe paddle to the Matevulu Blue Hole, a jewel-blue freshwater source surrounded by jungle. (B,L,D)

DAY 13: Lo Island, Torres Group

Arrive to the small village of Lo Island by Zodiac, meandering along a beautiful mangrove lagoon. Meet the lovely villagers and experience some of the local *kastom* dances. Hike across the island to a cave and look for wildlife along the way. If conditions permit, snorkel in along the beautiful fringing reef of the island. (B,L,D)

DAY 14: Fenuaaloa, Solomon Islands

Visit Fenuaaloa, which is part of the Reef Islands in the northwestern province of Temotu. On shore we will be greeted by the local islanders and enjoy a tour of their village before snorkeling or swimming in the brilliant blue waters of the reef. (B,L,D)

DAY 15: Utupua

Located in the Santa Cruz Island group, Utupua is a high volcanic island surrounded by a lagoon and a fringing coral reef. Zodiac to the village of Nimbau for a welcome song and dance performance. Take a walk through the village with the locals and see a display of their fantastic fishing canoes. Take a Zodiac ride along the shores, lined with dense mangroves and boasting a variety of wildlife. (B,L,D)

DAY 16: Owaraha Island

On the tiny isle of Owaraha (formerly known as Santa Ana), we're greeted with a traditional dance performed by villagers in elaborate costumes, body paint, and masks. Walk across the small island to Nafinotoga to see Spirit Houses containing the skulls and bones of ancient chiefs of the Snake Clan and the Turtle Clan. (B,L,D)

DAY 17: Honiara / Disembark / Brisbane, Australia

Our expedition concludes in Honiara, a former U.S. supply depot and a strategic WWII battleground. Tour around the outskirts of the city to see sites well known from the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942–43. See the shores of Red Beach and the vital airbase at Henderson Field. Visit the hills above Honiara, where some of the

Special Offers

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Join us and celebrate your great milestones, including birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, retirements, and more. Beginning in 2023, groups of 8 or more traveling together in celebration receive 5% off and a complimentary group photograph, while the cabin-of-honor receives onboard ship credit, beautiful cake, and more onboard celebrations. Milestone celebration must be communicated at time of booking. Milestone amenity package is one per group, intended for the guest celebrating the Milestone event. Group discount is applicable to cruise portion only, and does not apply towards additional services such as hotels, extensions, airfare, etc. Group cancellation terms also apply. Not combinable with certain offers.

BACK-TO-BACK SAVINGS

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

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.

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.

fiercest battles took place. Then transfer to the airport for our flight to Brisbane, where we will overnight at a local hotel. (B,L)

DAY 18: Depart Brisbane / U.S.

Depart this morning for your flight home, arriving the same day. (B)



* See our website at <https://www.expeditions.com/> for the most up-to-date pricing, which may vary by departure date. Prices are subject to modification, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposits are made. For best pricing, book early.

(1) Travel Protection Plan

We strongly recommend our guests to 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, damage or loss of baggage, 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, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/>

(2) Cancellation Policy

Review our cancellation policy: <https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/>

