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2012 EXPEDITIONS

ØRION
EXPEDITION CRUISES



extraordinary experiences

It seems that every day we read of another new mega liner being launched, each attempting to outdo the other with added theme park attractions. I am pleased to say that our approach is the opposite. For us instead of a theatre with wide screen movies we offer the real thing. 3D outdoor 360 degree panoramas to far horizons, with surround sound emanating from cascading waterfalls or the rhythmic beat of drums. Our rock climbing takes place up real cliffs. Our version of an 'adventure club' includes exploration in Zodiacs up rivers, looking for crocodiles or exploring World War II sites, and our thousands of kilometres of Aquarium features some of the best expanses of coral and marine-life epicentres on this planet. With us your senses are stimulated by the warmth of sun on your neck, the hint of eucalyptus on the breeze, looking deep into the eyes of an orangutan or sharing a smile with a shy child in a remote village surrounded by dense jungle.

The feedback I get from our guests drives me to ensure that your expectations are realised, or exceeded, each time you entrust us to provide an opportunity. An opportunity to reveal another wonder of nature or introduction to a remote culture unaffected by mainstream tourism. We work hard to ensure our expeditions are memorable and meaningful experiences. Above all, genuine - invigorating for mind, body and spirit.

With this comes responsibility to those communities we visit and protection of the marine and land environments we share. Elsewhere you will read that our environmental efforts have been

recognised internationally through Green Globe EC3 accreditation, and I am proud that we were named Best Responsible Cruise Operator at the internationally acclaimed 2010 Responsible Tourism Awards which took place as part of World Travel Market in London.

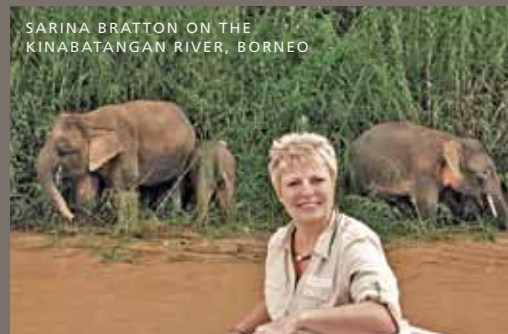
Rather than growth just for the sake of growth, expansion of our business is driven by the demand from guests, past and new, who enjoy our approach and seek stimulating adventures exploring paths less travelled. So, in 2012 we are proud to be offering 74 voyages to 17 countries and 174 often-remote destinations, many exclusive to *Orion*.

If our spirit of adventure appeals to you, along with the comforts of fine dining and unobtrusive service, spacious accommodation and the company of around 100 other like-minded travellers, then I am confident that you will find plenty to tempt you within this brochure.

We look forward to welcoming you onboard.



Sarina Bratton
Founder & Managing Director



SARINA BRATTON ON THE
KINABATANGAN RIVER, BORNEO





orion - the leading expedition cruise operator

It is not just what we do but the way we do it that sets us apart. Commencing operations in 2004, Orion Expedition Cruises has risen to become regarded as the leading expedition cruise operator in Asia Pacific. Along the way we have amassed a noteworthy collection of industry and consumer awards including Best Cruise Line, Best Small Ship, Best Cuisine and Best Adventure Tourism. Notably, at the Responsible Tourism Awards announced at the World Travel Market in London in 2010 Orion Expedition Cruises was named 'Best Responsible Cruise or Ferry Operator'.

The introduction of *Orion II* in June 2011 effectively doubles capacity and with it the opportunity to introduce our guests to new and in many cases unique experiences across a variety of extraordinary destinations, extending from polar ice cap to equatorial jungle. Both purpose-built expedition ships are designed and constructed to explore locations larger ships simply cannot contemplate.

Designed and built to the latest technology of the day the ships meet various world environmental and protection management requirements. Both ships have stabilisers for enhanced comfort and stability, double skinned ice-strengthened hulls for added safety and around 70 crew to attentively service the needs of approximately 100 guests. Floating 5 star base camps for exploration.

Orion is the world's newest purpose-built expedition ship; while *Orion II* underwent a AU\$21 million technical upgrade in 2009, plus a stylish refurbishment in soft furnishings and artworks in 2011. There is much more to *Orion* than

outstanding hardware. Responsible environmental practices are vital to support sustainable operations in some of the remotest parts of the world.

In 2008, Orion Expedition Cruises underwent a benchmarking process with internationally recognised EC3 Global to receive the EarthCheck Bronze Level Status. EarthCheck is widely regarded as the world's most scientifically rigorous accreditation programme, measuring key environmental indicators such as energy and water consumption, total waste production as well as community commitment. *Orion* is currently the only cruise ship to hold this accreditation.

Onboard and onshore experiences are enhanced by our qualified expert expedition team and specialist guest speakers – varying by voyage these include marine biologists, naturalists, diplomats, artists, historians, distinguished academics, explorers, award-winning chefs, ecologists and scientists who share their knowledge with guests.

After exciting and sometimes challenging days in wild and unusual locations, nothing beats a small luxury hotel in which to end your day. Enjoy a massage to unwind, sauna those assaulted muscles, or have refreshments brought to you, spa side. Enjoy an a la carte dinner in the restaurants or BBQ on deck. Try some great wines to complement menus inspired by one of the world's most accomplished chefs - Serge Dansereau - interpreted onboard by executive chefs using the finest fresh local ingredients. We invite you to read on and select a voyage to suit your particular interests. ✽



SEPIK RIVER, PAPUA NEW GUINEA





our unique expedition experience

As soon as you are onboard, you will see that expedition cruising with *Orion* is going to be a unique experience. Our ships were purpose built for a new generation. Around the world, there has been an increasing demand from discerning travellers for special ships, more like mega-yachts with small numbers of guests and a generous ratio of crew.

The strategy of compact vessels like the *Orions* means that we can go virtually anywhere, offering locations and experiences that big cruise ships simply cannot contemplate. Our construction incorporates a shallow draft for access to shallow waters and bow and stern thrusters for exceptional manoeuvrability. Originally used by navies around the world and introduced for expedition operations by Jacques Cousteau, our Zodiacs are the ideal craft for shore landings. This intimate cruising experience is enhanced for our guests because of our discretion and ability to visit small communities without overwhelming them and explore sensitive environments like Antarctica without overloading them.

Expedition cruising with *Orion* combines the presentation skills of recognised experts in all the disciplines of history, botany, marine biology, geology and wildlife with the very real experience of being there. It is this blend of theory and practice that engages the mind and replenishes the soul.

This is why we describe our expedition cruises as following “*a path less travelled*”. Experience places and cultures informally and, most importantly, participate at a level that suits you, at an energy level that suits you. Our expedition team has created experiences to suit all adventurers.

Before we head for the horizon, you will be well briefed in the expedition disciplines for your safety. This is paramount in everything we do and our crew perform to ensure it is to the highest standards set by international maritime law. ✱



CAPE JULES, ANTARCTICA



SPECIALIST EXPEDITION TEAM



TUFI, PNG

russian far east



10 NIGHTS

day 1

natural treasures of the russian far east

2	OTARU, Japan
3	Korsakov, Sakhalin
4	At sea
5	Urup Island & Chirpoy Island, Kuril Islands
6	Yankicha Island & Matua Island, Kuril Islands
7	Skaly Lavushky, Kuril Islands
8	Atlasov Island & Shumshu Island, Kuril Islands
9	Vestnik Bay, Kamchatka
10	Zhupanova River, Kamchatka
11	Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka (overnight onboard)
	PETROPAVLOVSK, Russia (optional charter flight to Narita)
	SHIP: ORION II

Otaru to Petropavlovsk departure date: Thursday 31 May 2012

Reverse - Petropavlovsk to Otaru departure date: Sunday 10 June 2012



BROWN BEAR IN NATURAL HABITAT, KAMCHATKA

As *Orion II* sails between Petropavlovsk and the Kuril Island chain, you will experience a unique environment. This is known as “The Northern Ring of Fire”, an area dominated by the effects of volcanic activity. Thirty two volcanoes stretch across the Bering Sea between Russia and Japan. The sparsely inhabited Kuril Islands are home to people who derive their living from a sea which is a rich source of food and among the most productive in the world. Huge bird colonies dot the cliffs and large seal rookeries are scattered along the coast. Early in the expedition, we will cruise into a fjordland of granite cliffs and active volcanoes, a landscape created by glaciers thousands of years ago. Schools of orcas inhabit these rich hunting grounds, along with sea otters, seals and thousands of sea birds. The islanders share their landscape with bears and foxes. Fortunately, the Russian villagers have protected many of these islands and the creatures that occupy them. This journey will be a milestone, leaving you with unique memories. This is frontier territory subject to extremes of weather which can change quickly. As with all destinations in the Russian Far East the actual weather and conditions on the day will dictate where we can launch our Zodiac fleet and land on islands as well as the exact location visited and the activities undertaken.



VALLEY OF THE GEYSERS

OTARU, Japan – Embark

Otaru is famous for its high quality and highly expensive Sushi. Centred around a picturesque canal lined with warehouses which have been transformed into shops, cafes, museums and restaurants. Stroll the banks of the canal to see the work of local artists.

KORSAKOV, Sakhalin

Korsakov is the main port on the Russian island of Sakhalin and our official portal to the Russian Far East. Nearby Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is a step back in time to the drab cold-war Soviet era with the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Resurrection and Sakhalin’s regional museum. Take time to visit the local market famous for its lacquered boxes and Russian dolls.

URUP ISLAND, Kuril Islands

In 1643, the Dutch East India Company landed here seeking furs. We will head to a large bay

on the northwest coast of Urup, an island made up of extinct and dormant volcanoes. We will make a Zodiac landing and explore the remnants of ancient Ainu settlements and the cabins of long gone Russian fur traders. *Please note this destination will not be offered on the reverse itinerary (Petropavlovsk to Otaru).*

CHIRPOY ISLAND, Kuril Islands

The volcanic activity around the twin islands of Chirpoy and Brat Chirpoev will sharpen your senses. Chirpoy Island is still developing and weather and eruption activity permitting, we will witness a new volcano forming in the centre. At Brat Chirpoev, we plan a Zodiac exploration just offshore to view a Steller sea lion rookery, home to the world’s largest sea lions, growing up to 5.5m long and 1,000kg.

YANKICHA ISLAND, Kuril Islands

Near the lip of the Yankicha lagoon, a gap in

the beach fills with thermal waters and makes a beautiful setting for a hot spring bath. Arctic foxes, harbour seals and abundant bird life can be seen all over this visually scenic island. Our Zodiacs allow us to investigate the hydrothermal hot springs and a climb up the caldera reveals stunning views over the lagoon. This landscape is straight out of “Lord of the Rings”.

MATUA ISLAND, Kuril Islands

Matua is one of the most evocative islands you will ever encounter. It is like a set out of a movie. An abandoned Russian air base complete with bunkers, half-tracks, anti-aircraft gun and rotting chemical-warfare suits. With a central volcano reminiscent of Japan’s Mount Fuji and black volcanic sand beaches. Join our expert team as you explore the base and observe the significant bird life, harbour seals and the imposing geological formations.

SKALY LAVUSHKY, Kuril Islands

Skaly Lavushky is a small collection of rocky islets and home to many northern fur seals and Steller sea lions. Red-necked phalaropes, fulmars, puffins, and cormorants are also common in this mini-archipelago. A cacophonous rant of seabirds, seals and sea lions will be our sound track today as the Zodiacs depart the ship – often the fur seals join the boats and swim with us side by side.

ATLASOV ISLAND, Kuril Islands

As we approach Atlasov, you will be greeted by the perfectly sculptured profile of the volcano Alaid. Abandoned Soviet era buildings can be found behind the dunes, surrounded by scrubland and volcanic ash hills. Keep an eye out for Asian Rosy-Finches, peregrines and Slatey-backed Gulls.

SHUMSHU ISLAND, Kuril Islands

Shumshu is the northernmost of the Kuril Islands and the waters here are alive with hundreds of sea-otters cavorting in the kelp beds just offshore. Their antics make fabulous viewing from our Zodiacs. Interesting side trips are on offer to explore the coast and wetlands of the island.



STELLER SEA EAGLE

VESTNIK BAY, Kamchatka

Vestnik Bay is a true wilderness area in these remote seas. The Bay sits within the Yuzhno-Kamchatsky nature reserve on the Kamchatka peninsula. Our plan is to explore the magnificent bay and its spectacular scenery, where you will have a unique opportunity to see many different mammals and birds, including the steller sea eagle, arctic fox and bears.

ZHUPANOVA RIVER, Kamchatka

The Kamchatka south-eastern peninsula and river are home to one of the world’s richest rainbow trout and Pacific salmon habitats. That’s why there are more brown bears here than Alaska and you can expect to see them in numbers during the annual salmon run. The Zhupanova is also a resting place for migratory birds and the eye stopper here is the huge steller sea eagle, the heaviest eagle in the world.

PETROPAVLOVSK, Russia (Overnight onboard) – Disembark (optional charter flight to Narita)

Massive active volcanoes, a huge harbour and one of the oldest towns in the Russian Far East. This is the crossroads of the continents and departure point for Bering’s expeditions. Petropavlovsk is still home to a Russian submarine base and weather permitting, there will be helicopter flights over the Valley of the Geysers, a spectacular geothermal wonderland. An optional charter flight from Petropavlovsk to Narita is available for guests.✳️

As with all destinations in the Russian Far East the actual weather and conditions on the day will dictate the exact location visited and the activities undertaken.



SEA LIONS AND SEABIRDS, KAMCHATKA

japan, china
& korea



KENROKUEN GARDENS, KANAZAWA

10 / 8 NIGHTS	inland sea of japan	
	discovery of an ancient culture	highlights
day 1	1 KOBE, Japan	1 KOBE, Japan
2	2 Uno Ko, Honshu Island	2 Uno Ko, Honshu Island
3	3 Hiroshima, Honshu Island	3 Hiroshima, Honshu Island
	Miyajima, Inland Sea	Miyajima, Inland Sea
4	4 Uwajima, Shikoku Island	4 Uwajima, Shikoku Island
5	5 Nagasaki, Kyushu Island	5 Nagasaki, Kyushu Island
6	6 Busan, South Korea	6 Busan, South Korea
7	7 Sakai Ko, Honshu Island	7 Sakai Ko, Honshu Island
8	8 Kanazawa, Honshu Island	8 Sado Island, Sea of Japan
9	9 Cruise Sea of Japan	9 NIIGATA, Japan
10	10 Otaru, Hokkaido Island (overnight onboard)	
11	11 OTARU, Japan	
	SHIP: ORION II	

Kobe to Otaru departure date:
Monday 21 May 2012

Reverse - Otaru to Kobe departure date:
Wednesday 20 June 2012



Japan combines a proud ancient culture with one of the world’s most advanced societies. With a coastline longer than the United States and more than 6,000 islands, one of the best ways to appreciate the beauty of Japan is from the Seto Inland Sea. This broad channel separates the main Japanese islands of Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu and is famed for its moderate climate and beautiful landscape. The unique islands and cities of the Inland Sea are easily accessible on *Orion II*. We’ll explore Japanese culture at every opportunity from an ancient tea ceremony in the world famous Korakuen gardens of Okayama to the unique charm of a century old former geisha house and Kurashiki’s scenic river and cobblestone streets. Our discovery of the artworks here will range from the stunning collection in the Hara Museum of Art to the Japanese pop-culture of Sakaiminato with its 100 bronze statues of cartoon characters. Kanazawa retains the look and feel of 19th century Japan while the Peace Parks of atomic bomb cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki reflect the 20th century. Every port of call will be steeped in history and tradition from the ceremony of the Sumo Bulls in Uwajima to the Itsukushima shrine of Miyajima Island, one of Japan’s most revered sites with its huge vermillion gate, sacred to both Shintoism and Buddhism. The culture, art and cuisine of these fascinating sights will fill every day of this memorable voyage on the Inland Sea.

KOBE, Japan – *Embark*

In the 12th century, Kobe was briefly the ancient capital of Japan and an important hub for trade with China and other countries. The history of the city is closely tied to that of the Ikuta Shrine.

UNO KO, Honshu Island

This small coastal port gives us access to historic Kurashiki and the glorious grounds of Korakuen, one of the most significant formal gardens of Japan. A delight for the senses designed in the 17th century with 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, a classic teahouse all overlooked by Okayama castle. Your senses will also be stimulated in the Hara Museum of Art which dates from 1930 and houses works by El Greco, Monet, Matisse, Gauguin, and Renoir together with fine examples of Asian and contemporary art. Leaving Uno Ko mid-afternoon gives us a chance to enjoy some daylight cruising on the Seto Inland Sea.

HIROSHIMA, Honshu Island

The World War II detonation of the Atom bomb at Hiroshima forever changed the psyche of the Japanese people and the history of the entire world. It will change you too after you hear the personal experiences of one of the few remaining survivors of the actual bombing. Our visit to Hiroshima revolves around the Peace Park, the Peace Museum and the A-Bomb Dome, one of



the only buildings to survive the blast. No visit to Japan is complete without a visit to this site dedicated to peace, a truly moving experience.

MIYAJIMA, Inland Sea

One of the most recognisable and revered sights in Japan is the large vermillion gate or O-Torii which graces the entrance to Miyajima. The holy mountain of Misen San rises through the mist and Itsukushima shrine appears to float on the water. Zodiacs will land us on the island for a close-up look at this UNESCO listed World Heritage area and a guided hike through the forest at Miyajima. *Orion* guests will be treated to an exclusive Kagura performance, with the haunting sacred music and the spellbinding dance of this traditional ceremony held in Japanese shrines.

UWAJIMA, Shikoku Island

Uwajima is a window into Japan’s rural past. The coastline is dotted with pearl farms and the fertile hillsides are graced with terraced gardens. Uwajima’s gourmet shopping precinct highlights local produce and the Pearl Centre showcases the work of local pearl producing families.

NAGASAKI, Kyushu Island

Although this is the site of the second World War II atomic bomb explosion, a visit to the Nagasaki Peace Park is an uplifting and memorable experience. We’ll explore all aspects of this fascinating city and its long history of contact with European missionaries, Portuguese, Dutch and British traders that goes back to the 16th century.

BUSAN, South Korea

Busan is the fifth busiest seaport in the world, with famous local restaurants where family recipes have been passed down for generations. We’ll explore the renowned Jagalchi fish market where every kind of edible sea creature is on sale. Experience a Korean tea ceremony with the monks of a colourful Korean Buddhist temple and marvel at the spectacle of thousands of bathers on crowded Haeundae beach.

SAKAI KO, Honshu Island

Sakaiminato, once known as the “Land of Gods”, is now a mixture of modern city, lush mountain parks, quaint harbours and shrines. The city’s best-known symbol is the imposing Matsue Castle, a fortress-watchtower from the 17th century best appreciated from a boat ride around the moat. The Adachi Museum of Art holds a stunning array of Japanese art from many eras and is also to home to one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan, regularly voted the best in Japan.

KANAZAWA, Honshu Island

Kanazawa is famous for silk-making and tea with flakes of gold leaf added for health and vitality. The sensational Kenrokuen Garden was originally built as the outer garden of Ishikawa Castle, and considered one of the most beautiful gardens in Japan. Geisha culture is still alive in Kanazawa and we’ll experience a Geisha tea ceremony and visit traditional Samurai residences. A step back in time to the old Japan. This destination is not visited on the 8 night voyage.

SADO ISLAND, Sea of Japan

This is the perfect summer getaway with rugged coastlines, steep green hills and quaint fishing ports. The island is famous for Japanese Taiko drumming and we’ll be invited to learn the technique from “Kodo”, one of Japan’s best drum troupes. After a ride in a Taraibune, the traditional round barrel abalone boat we’ll find our land legs at a nearby village with fine examples of traditional Japanese architecture in narrow, twisting laneways. This destination is not visited on the 10 night voyage.

OTARU, Japan (overnight onboard) *OR*
NIIGATA, Japan – *Disembark* ✱



8 NIGHTS *japanese culinary adventure*

- day 1 **KOBE, Japan**
2 Shimonoseki, *Honshu Island*
3 Busan, *South Korea*
4 Nagasaki, *Kyushu Island*
5 At sea
6 Okinawa, *Ryukyu Islands*
7 At sea
8 Kobe, *Honshu Island* (overnight onboard)
9 **KOBE, Japan**

SHIP: **ORION II**



Departure date: Friday 27 April 2012



This is a remarkable journey of discovery using Japanese cuisine as a window into the culture, art and ritual of this ancient society. *Orion* guests will have the opportunity to discover Japan and its ancient culture through the amazing diversity of Japanese food. At each port of call, we will discover a different Japanese dish, learn its history and visit local markets to shop for ingredients. Our expert onboard chefs will teach you how to prepare and present the world's favourite Japanese dishes. And then of course, we'll come together onboard *Orion II* to enjoy traditional Japanese dining. Our onshore explorations will include the markets where the locals shop, like the famous Jalgachi Fish Market in Busan. We'll explore the amazing variety of seafood, prepare mouth-watering Kobe beef, the most famous beef in the world, and learn why the notorious fugu puffer fish can be lethal and yet is sought by gourmet food lovers the world over. There can be no better way to experience Japan's culture than through the complexities and culture of the Japanese food experience. The ritual, history and philosophy of the Japanese all find expression at their table. Enjoy every taste on this unique voyage of discovery. *Itadakimasu!*

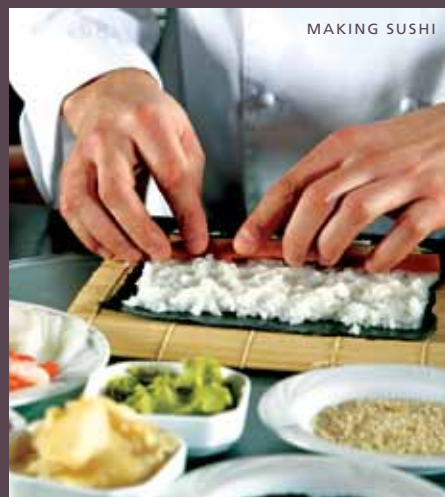


KOBE, Japan – Embark

In 1180, Kobe was briefly the ancient capital of Japan and an important hub for trade with China and other countries. Today it is an important port and vibrant city - this is the city that gave its name to the world famous Kobe beef. There are regular flights from Tokyo to Kobe to connect with *Orion II*.

SHIMONOSEKI, Honshu Island

Home to the oldest Zen building in Japan, the Kozanji Temple built in 1327, as well as the highly toxic but much sought after puffer fish known as fugu. Shimonoseki has the largest wholesale fugu market in Japan and there is a great mystique surrounding this notorious dish - it must be prepared with absolute precision or



else the toxin in certain parts of the fish can be fatal. Nevertheless, fugu sashimi is one of the most celebrated dishes in Japanese cuisine. The apprenticeship to prepare the fish carefully and extract the toxic parts can take a fugu chef up to 3 years. Gourmet diners will come from across Japan and the world to sample the sashimi and other dishes prepared from it. The Japanese have eaten fugu for centuries and the soft roe of the fish is a highly prized delicacy. Many farmers produce a new style of fugu, which is reputed to be non-toxic. Does it really taste as good? Does it have the same thrill as the real thing? Just some of the fascinating aspects to perhaps one of the most curious seafoods in the world.

BUSAN, South Korea

As Busan has been a close trading port with Japan from the 15th century, there is a long history of cultural and cuisine exchange between the two countries. No visit to Busan is complete without a visit to the Jalgachi Fish Market. This is Korea's largest seafood market and arguably the best of its kind in the world, where every kind of edible sea creature is on sale. We'll explore tasting all the varieties of Korean seafood and the best ways of preparing them and it's great fun to pick your own fish and bargain with the friendly fish and eel traders. Some of the restaurants in this district are locally famous, with family recipes passed down the generations. Koreans love their braised fish and we'll learn onboard how to prepare Saeng Sun Jim with market fresh snapper or cod with mushrooms, shredded cabbage and peppers.

NAGASAKI, Kyushu Island

We'll explore all aspects of the cuisine of this fascinating city and the contact with European missionaries, Portuguese, Dutch and British traders that date from the 16th century. Its heritage as a fishing village gives Nagasaki a long tradition of seafood dishes and the influence of the European traders is evident in such dishes as Toruko rice (Turkish rice). During this part of our voyage, our onboard team will focus on sushi and sake. Sushi is probably the best-known Japanese food in the world. Since Japan is a collection of rice growing islands surrounded by the ocean, a delicious fusion of rice and seafood was inevitable. Sushi is basically the combination

of rice and raw fish, but discovering the art of creating sushi can take a lifetime. Our chefs will take you through the preparation of sushi rice and the correct way to roll sushi for the creation of such delicacies as sushi rolls with prawns, tuna and avocado. The perfect partner for sushi is the Japanese rice wine known as sake. Around 15% alcohol, sometimes sampled warm, other times chilled, there are many different types of sake and much ritual surrounding its consumption in convivial company. We'll also explore another aspect of Nagasaki. Although this is the site of the second World War II atomic bomb explosion, a visit to the Nagasaki Peace Park is an uplifting and memorable experience.

OKINAWA, Ryukyu Islands

Okinawa consists of hundreds of the Ryukyu Islands in a chain over 1,000 km long. Aside from embracing rice as a staple, local food differs significantly. The Ryukyu Kingdom, the forbearer to Okinawa the Japanese prefecture, picked up much of its culinary styles and techniques from China, as well as other Asian trading nations that included Thailand and Korea.

KOBE, Honshu Island (overnight onboard)

As we sail to Kobe, you will be introduced to the culinary specialty of the city. Kobe beef is famous for its reputation of being the world's most tender beef, renowned for its flavour. The well-marbled texture derives from



the special black breed of Wagyu beef cattle raised according to the strict precepts laid down by authorities in the Hyogo Prefecture. Kobe beef is high in demand and commands a premium price so it is well worth taking time to follow its proper preparation. During this part of the voyage, we'll show you how to identify the famous cuts of beef and how best to prepare them as steak, sukiyaki, shabu shabu and teppanyaki.

KOBE, Japan - Disembark ✽



11
NIGHTS

asian odyssey

- day 1 HAIPHONG, Vietnam (for Hanoi)
2 Ha Long Bay, Vietnam
3 Quan Lan Island, Vietnam
4 At sea
5 Macau, China
6 Hong Kong, China (overnight onboard)
7 Hong Kong, China
8 At sea
9 Keelung, Taiwan
10 At sea
11 Jeju Island, South Korea
12 BUSAN, South Korea

SHIP: ORION II



Departure date: Sunday 8 April 2012



Sail this historic sea road from Vietnam to Korea and experience a kaleidoscope of Asian history, people and sights. The Parisian grace and Asian pace of Hanoi, the jade coloured waters of spectacular Ha Long Bay and the pristine beauty of Quan Lan Beach. In frenetic Macau, casino action meets picturesque 16th century Portuguese colony. Hong Kong and Taipei - exciting, sophisticated fusions of East and West. The resort island of Jeju, the perfect place to unwind and Jagalchi Market in Busan, a great place to haggle. The spirit of the colonial traders and fortune seekers is never far from this route.



HAIPHONG, Vietnam (for Hanoi) – Embark

Whether you are departing or arriving, Hanoi deserves a longer visit. A city with a blend of Parisian grace and Asian pace, an architectural museum piece evolving in harmony with its history. Hanoi has it all: ancient history, a colonial legacy and a modern outlook.

HA LONG BAY, Vietnam

Nearly 2,000 limestone pinnacles jut out of the jade-coloured sea. The unique atmospherics make for brilliant sunsets and misty mornings. This is a Zodiac exploration paradise.

QUAN LAN ISLAND, Vietnam

The pristine beauty of Quan Lan Beach is exclusive to *Orion* and our guests. Wild green pines flank deep blue waters of this sublime Vietnamese island with beaches, swimming and wilderness.

MACAU, China

Today this 16th century Portuguese colony is a heady mix of European and Chinese influences. European cobblestone streets and baroque churches meet frenetic Las Vegas style casino action in 21st century skyscrapers towering over merchant's mansions and narrow alleyways.

HONG KONG, China (overnight onboard)

The New York of Asia where spectacular architecture marches up Victoria Island, the Star ferry bears bargain hunters to and from Kowloon and the sunset walk around the Peak is still one of the best in the world. In the steep streets, delicious aromas signal the joyous fusion of every kind of Asian cuisine.

KEELUNG, Taiwan

Taipei has impressive temples, small shrines and shopping malls everywhere.

The National Museum has one of the world's largest collections of Chinese art and the performance calendar is packed at the National Theatre and Concert Hall. Simply bursting with energy and culture.

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea

This lucky island enjoys warm weather for much of the year so visitors flock to the beaches. A magnet for hikers and scuba divers and those who want to explore Korean culture in one of the many museums.

BUSAN, South Korea – Disembark

Some of the restaurants here are locally famous, with family recipes handed down the generations. Jagalchi Market is a great place to find a bargain and nearby crowded Haeundae beach has to be seen to be believed. ✱

8
NIGHTS

art of japan

- day 1 BUSAN, South Korea
2 Fukuoka, Kyushu Island
3 Kagoshima, Kyushu Island
4 Miyajima, Inland Sea
5 Uno Ko, Honshu Island
6 Naoshima, Honshu Island (overnight onboard)
7 Naoshima, Honshu Island
8 Takamatsu, Shikoku Island
9 KOBE, Japan

SHIP: ORION II

Departure date: Thursday 19 April 2012



A voyage for art lovers and those with a curiosity about Japanese art. This itinerary includes gardens, beautiful architecture and ceramics as well as some fine collections of Western art. Museums and galleries range from the simple to the simply stunning. The Kyushu National Museum is an architectural triumph of glass and timber perched on a mountain. The tiny island of Naoshima turned from industrial wasteland into artistic paradise with galleries and sculpture everywhere showcasing Japanese and global art. This is a journey of discovery for the spirit and the eye.

BUSAN, South Korea - Embark

Many Busan restaurants are famous for family recipes passed down the generations. Jagalchi Market and Haeundae beach are other great attractions.

FUKUOKA, Kyushu Island

A feast for art lovers with the Kyushu National Museum - the striking architecture of the exterior is reflected in the innovative technology inside. The brilliant Museum of Contemporary Asian Art has a unique collection of over two and a half thousand works. Kyushu Ceramic Museum has valuable and extensive collections housed in a striking modern glass gallery in the hills.

KAGOSHIMA, Kyushu Island

Kagoshima has lush tropical landscapes, hot springs, volcanoes and lakes. The artistic serenity of Ibusuki Private Galleries provides

a welcome retreat or relax in the steaming waters of the Onsen Hot Springs.

MIYAJIMA, Inland Sea

One of the most revered sights in Japan is the large vermilion O-Torii which graces the entrance to Miyajima. The holy mountain of Misen San, Itsukushima shrine and temples have UNESCO World Heritage listing.

UNO KO, Honshu Island

Korakuen is one of the most significant formal gardens of Japan. A delight for the senses with 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, a classic teahouse all overlooked by Okayama castle. Your senses will also be stimulated in the Hara Museum of Art.

NAOSHIMA, Honshu Island

Virtually every space on the island seems to house artistic expression. The Chichu Art Museum is

a superb modern gallery with installations by James Turrell, Walter De Maria and paintings by Claude Monet. Benesse House doubles as a contemporary art museum and hotel.

TAKAMATSU, Shikoku Island

At the Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, *Orion* guests will have the opportunity to visit the residence of this noted 20th century sculptor, and then enjoy the serenity of the extensive sculpture garden designed by Isamu Noguchi himself. We'll also visit the tea house and Sanuki Folk Craft Museum of Ritsurin Garden, one of the most beautiful historical gardens in Japan.

KOBE, Japan – Disembark

In the 12th century, Kobe was briefly the ancient capital of Japan and an important hub for trade with China and other countries. The history of the city is closely tied to that of the Ikuta Shrine. ✱

11
NIGHTS

day 1

KOBE, Japan

2 Hiroshima, Honshu Island & Miyajima, Inland Sea

3 Shimonoseki, Honshu Island

4 Nagasaki, Kyushu Island

5 Busan, South Korea

6 Jeju Island, South Korea

7 At sea

8 Yangtze River, China

9 Nanjing, China (overnight onboard)

10 Nanjing, China

11 Shanghai, China (overnight onboard)

12 SHANGHAI, China

SHIP: ORION II

Departure date: Saturday 30 June 2012



japan highlights and the yangtze delta



SUNRISE ON YANGTZE RIVER

A fascinating journey into the heart of two towering ancient cultures, *Orion II* sails through centuries of history, religion and philosophy. An itinerary of natural wonders, island beach recreation and time to understand Asia's turbulent history. Share the memories of one of the few remaining Hiroshima Atom bomb survivors, hike through the forest to the shrine at Miyajima and meditate on the vision of the holy mountain of Misen San. Contemplate some of the most beautiful Chinese landscape from the deck of *Orion II* as we sail 200 nautical miles of the Yangtze to Shanghai, one of the world's most dynamic cities.

KOBE, Japan – Embark

In the 12th century, Kobe was briefly the ancient capital of Japan and an important hub for trade with China and other countries.

HIROSHIMA, Honshu Island

Our visit to Hiroshima revolves around the Peace Park and the A-Bomb Dome. No visit to Japan is complete without a visit to this site dedicated to peace, a truly moving experience.

MIYAJIMA, Inland Sea

The revered vermillion gate (O-Torii) rises out of the water and marks the entrance to Miyajima, the UNESCO listed World Heritage shrine. We'll go ashore for an exclusive Kagura performance, with haunting sacred music and spellbinding dance of this traditional shrine ceremony.

SHIMONOSEKI, Honshu Island

Home of the oldest Zen building in Japan, the 1327 Kozanji Temple, Shimonoseki is also

known for the dish of blowfish or fugu, the thrill seeking delight of Japanese epicureans.

NAGASAKI, Kyushu Island

Although this is the site of the second WWII atomic bomb explosion, a visit to the Nagasaki Peace Park is an uplifting and memorable experience. We'll explore all aspects of this fascinating city and its long history of European contact that goes back to the 16th century.

BUSAN, South Korea

We'll explore Busan's renowned Jagalchi fish market where every kind of edible sea creature is on sale and experience a colourful Korean Buddhist temple for a Korean tea ceremony with the monks.

JEJU ISLAND, South Korea

This island enjoys warm weather for much of the year and visitors flock to the beaches – there are also fascinating natural wonders like Mount Halla volcano and Gimnyeong Maze.

YANGTZE RIVER, China

The Yangtze River winds 6,300 kilometres from Qinghai Province to Shanghai - a wonderful way to discover some of the most beautiful landscapes and memorable scenes of Chinese life as we cruise 200 nautical miles up the Yangtze to Nanjing for 3 full days and two night stop overs.

NANJING, China (overnight onboard)

Nanjing is a rich repository of Chinese history as the capital city of six ancient dynasties. There is much to see here including some of China's most stunning pagodas and palaces.

SHANGHAI, China (overnight onboard) - Disembark

The Shanghai skyline is full of extraordinary architecture and the streets a multicultural mix where Western customs and Chinese traditions create an energetic, colourful culture. ✳

14
NIGHTS

day 1

SHANGHAI, China (overnight onboard)

2 Shanghai, China

3 At sea

4 Kagoshima, Japan

5 At sea

6 Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands

7 Ishigaki Island, Ryukyu Islands

8 Iriomote Island, Ryukyu Islands

9 Keelung, Taiwan

10 At sea

11 San Fernando (for Baguio), Philippines

12 Puerto Galera, Philippines

13 Coron, Palawan, Philippines

14 At sea

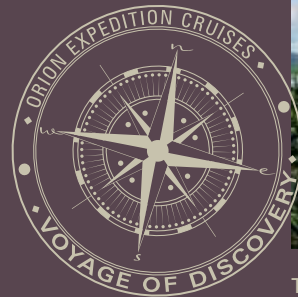
15 TAWAU, Malaysia

SHIP: ORION II

Departure date: Wednesday 11 July 2012



the yangtze, ryukyu & philippines



CORON, PHILIPPINES

This unique itinerary serves up a vibrant mixing pot of Asian cultures, history and highlights. *Orion II* sails from Shanghai where Western customs and Chinese traditions create an energetic, colourful culture. Along the way, we explore the artistic serenity of Kagoshima, memories of WWII on Okinawa, great snorkelling on the coral reefs of Ishigaki and the bustle of Taipei with the treasures of the National Palace museum and the riches of the performing arts in the National Theatre. The Spanish-American influence on Baguio in the Philippines leads us to the island of Coron, coral reefs and spectacular beaches. Certainly one of the best Asian cultural expeditions imaginable.

SHANGHAI, China

(overnight onboard) – Embark

The Shanghai skyline is full of extraordinary architecture and the streets a multicultural mix where Western customs and Chinese traditions create an energetic, colourful culture.

KAGOSHIMA, Japan

Kagoshima has lush tropical landscapes, hot springs, volcanoes and lakes. The artistic serenity of Ibusuki Private Galleries provides a welcome retreat. Or take time to relax in the steaming waters of the Onsen Hot Springs.

OKINAWA, Ryukyu Islands

The coral reefs of the Ryukyu Islands make them one of the World Wildlife Fund's top 200 eco-regions. We'll visit Okinawa to relive memories of the last desperate days of WWII when the restored Shuri Castle was a major command post of the Imperial Japanese military with a maze of underground tunnels.

ISHIGAKI ISLAND, Ryukyu Islands

Ishigaki Island is surrounded by coral reefs and small uninhabited islands. An absolute gem with beautiful unspoilt beaches and snorkelling in perfect waters.

IRIOMOTE ISLAND, Ryukyu Islands

Covered in lush virgin jungle, Iriomote Island is a valuable Japanese national park with diverse eco-systems, unique vegetation and wildlife. The indigenous people of Iriomote have established a rich local culture.

KEELUNG, Taiwan

Keelung has impressive temples, small shrines and extravagant shopping malls. The National Museum has one of the world's largest collections of Chinese art and the performance calendar is packed at the National Theatre and Concert Hall. Simply bursting with energy and culture.

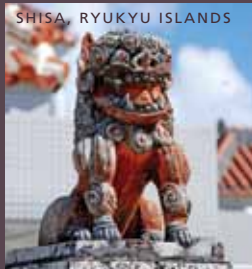
SAN FERNANDO

(for Baguio), Philippines

The tempo changes completely as we sail into the vibrant Spanish-American



SHURI CASTLE, OKINAWA



SHISA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

influence of the Philippines with Latino influences and a totally different religious background. Great people, amazing scenery and beaches.

PUERTO GALERA, Philippines

With its deep natural harbour, sheltered on all sides, this was a favoured anchorage well before the Spanish arrived in 1572. Yachties from all over the world are still drawn to Puerto Galera and its beaches.

CORON, PALAWAN, Philippines

Famous for its wreck diving, this island is one of the top dive spots in the world with ten well preserved WWII shipwrecks surrounded with coral reef. Explore beautiful white sand beaches surrounded by large limestone cliffs.

TAWAU, Malaysia - Disembark

Tawau boomed in early 1980's with lumber and cocoa farming and today is a bustling Malaysian centre and your farewell from this expedition. ✳



ELEVATOR



CONSTELLATION RESTAURANT



ZODIACS

m.v. orion

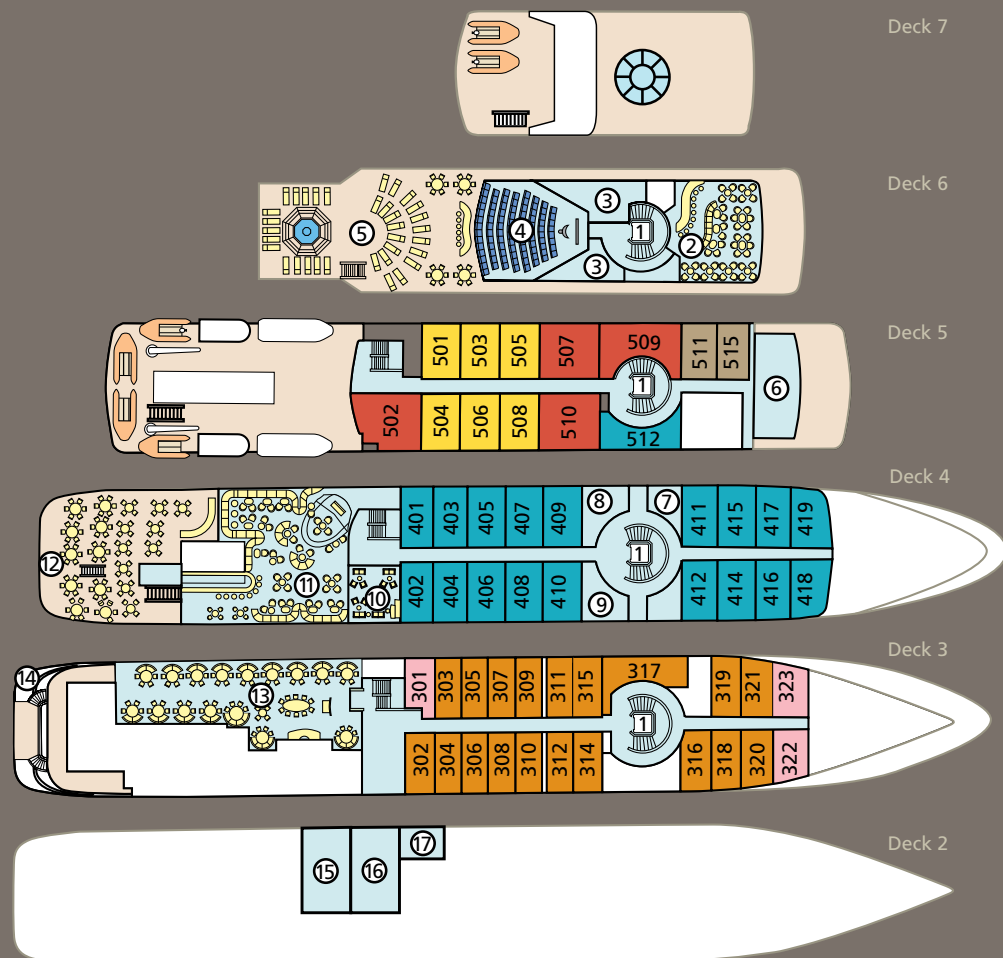
Orion was purpose built in Germany in 2003 where she was designed specifically for expedition cruising. *Orion* is ranked by the Berlitz Guide to Cruising as one of the best expedition ships in the world. Designed from the outset as a vessel that could explore the far corners of the earth, *Orion* meets strict specifications for environmental protection and management.

Orion is equipped with the latest in seafaring technology including large retractable stabilisers, sonar, radar and an ice-strengthened hull. Her waste management systems meet the stringent Antarctic operational standards enabling us to travel to the most pristine environments on earth. With 75 crew and a maximum of just 106 guests, it is no wonder *Orion* is widely regarded as the most luxurious ship of its kind in this part of the world.

orion deck plan

- OS** Owner's Suite
avg area 345sq ft or 32.1sq m
- BS** French Balcony Suite
avg area 230sq ft or 21.4sq m
- DS** Deluxe Suite
avg area 230sq ft or 21.4sq m
- JS** Junior Suite
avg area 218sq ft or 20.3sq m
- A** Oceanview Stateroom
avg area 180sq ft or 16.7sq m
- B** Oceanview Stateroom
avg area 175sq ft or 16.3sq m

- ① Elevator
- ② Galaxy Observation Lounge
- ③ Vega Health Spa
- ④ Cosmos Lecture Theatre
- ⑤ Sun Deck with Jacuzzi
- ⑥ Bridge
- ⑦ Hairdresser
- ⑧ Boutique
- ⑨ Reception
- ⑩ Library
- ⑪ Leda Lounge
- ⑫ Outdoor Café
- ⑬ Constellation Restaurant
- ⑭ Stern Zodiac Embarkation Platform
- ⑮ Medical Centre
- ⑯ Mud Room
- ⑰ Side Zodiac Embarkation Platform

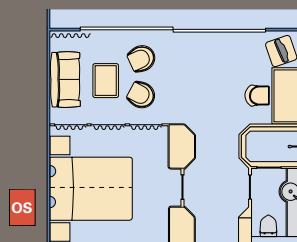


OWNERS SUITE (502) - DECK 5



OWNERS SUITE (507 & 510) - DECK 5

French Balcony*, sitting room, separate bedroom and marble bathroom



*OS509 has two large rectangular windows instead of a balcony.

orion technical specifications

LENGTH: 103 metres
BEAM: 14.25 metres
DRAFT: 3.82 metres

HULL: Ice-reinforced for voyages in the Arctic and Antarctic
ICE CLASS: E3 (Germanischer Lloyd)
GROSS TONNAGE: 4,000
ENGINES: Mak; 8M25; 3,265HP
SPEED: 15 knots. Cruise speed: 13 knots.

STABILISERS: Blohm & Voss, retractable fin stabilisers

MANOEUVRABILITY: Bow and stern thrusters

BUILT: November 2003

BUILDER: Cassens Shipyard-Emden, Germany

STATEROOMS AND SUITES: 53

GUEST CAPACITY: 106 (twin occupancy).

CREW: 75

ELEVATOR: Yes

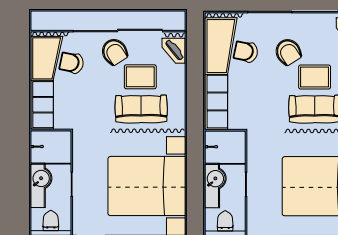
CLASSIFICATION: Germanischer Lloyd
⚡ 100 A5 E3 Passenger Ship ⚡ MC E3 AUT

REGULATIONS: *Orion* is built according to the latest international safety regulations, including those of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health, Canadian Arctic Shipping, and St. Lawrence Seaway.

ADDITIONAL CRAFT: 10 Zodiac Heavy Duty MK5, 10 Kayaks, 2 x12 passenger tenders

COMMUNICATIONS: Direct-dial satellite telephones; fax; e-mail; internet access in staterooms and suites, wireless internet access in public rooms, and an internal telephone system.

REGISTRY: Bahamas

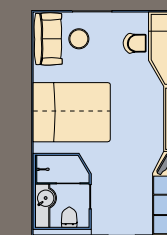


BS

DS



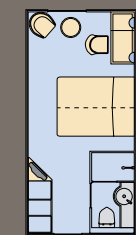
BALCONY SUITE - DECK 5



JS



JUNIOR SUITE - DECK 4



A

B



A & B OCEANVIEW STATEROOM - DECK 3

CONSTRUCTION FEATURES

ICE CLASS HULL: Certification - Germanischer Lloyd ⚡ 100 A5 E3 (equivalent Finnish-Swedish ice class 1A). This is the highest classification that may be awarded to a vessel designed for deep ocean voyaging rather than as an icebreaker. Able to sail unassisted in most ice conditions, *Orion's* hull strength, ice band, shape, and propulsion specifications all conform to ice class requirements. *Orion's* all-welded construction is in accordance with the regulations of the classification society and shipbuilding steel has been used for both the hull and superstructure.

ENGINEERING: The main engine is diesel powered allowing us to avoid using heavy fuel oil in sensitive marine environments.

SONAR FOR NAVIGATION: A FURONO CH-250 retractable forward and down-facing sonar provides a 'view' of underwater conditions ahead enhancing safe operations in both ice conditions and in shallow waters surrounding coral reef systems.

ZODIAC EMBARKATION PLATFORMS: Dual (stern and side) embarkation platforms afford maximum flexibility and permit safe and efficient Zodiac operation in all but extreme weather conditions. The platforms are complemented by a fleet of 10 diesel powered Zodiac landing craft designed for maximum flexibility when landing at remote locations and two high speed (40 knots) tenders.

STABILISED FOR COMFORT: The twin retractable fin stabilisers are oversized in relation to the length of the vessel affording maximum comfort in poor sea conditions.

MUD ROOM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: In Antarctica it is important biological matter is not transferred between landing sites. *Orion* is equipped with a mud room on Deck 2 featuring boot washing and storage facilities.

Stateroom diagrams are representative only. Suites OS and BS have a French balcony (except suite OS509 which has two large rectangular windows). The French balcony features floor to ceiling sliding glass doors and a small outside area for viewing. Owner's Suite 502 has the living room space incorporated into the bedroom. Please note - bath facilities in Owners' Suites may present some difficulties for less mobile guests (excluding 502 which has separate bath and shower facilities). Suites DS and JS feature large rectangular windows (except suites JS418 and JS419 which have large oval windows). Junior Suite 512 has two single beds. Staterooms B and A have large oval windows (except staterooms B322 & B323 which have twin portholes) and sitting area with tub chair. Stateroom 301 has a double bed.



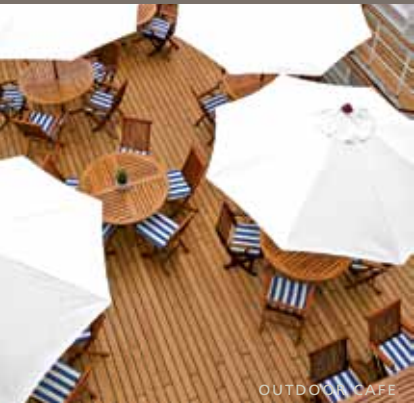
M.V. ORION II



FINE DINING



NAUTILUS CLUB & LIBRARY



OUTDOOR CAFE

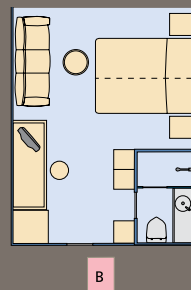
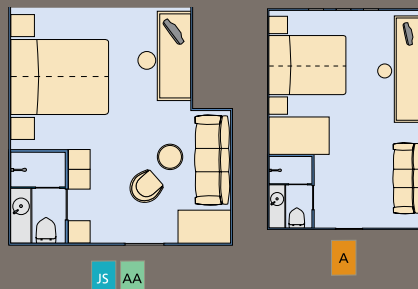
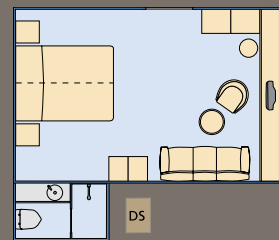
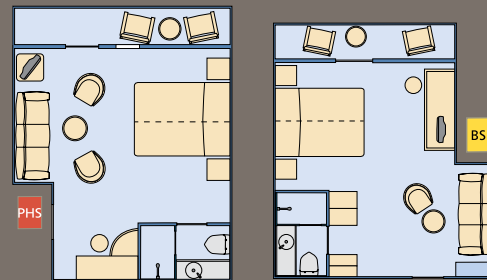
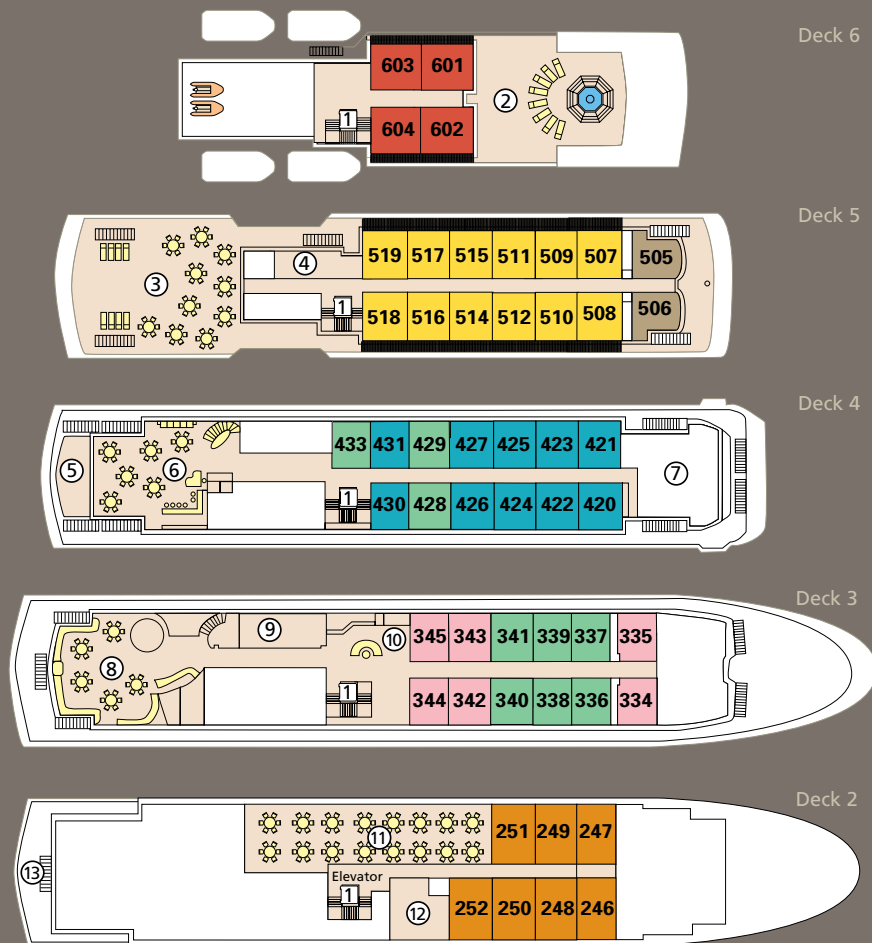
mv orion II

Orion II is a stylish, contemporary expedition cruise ship built by Cantieri Navale Ferrari of Italy. After a number of years as a private yacht, *Orion II* was relaunched in 2009 following an extensive technical refit. Little expense was spared with this Italian built, all-suite Mega Yacht. *Orion II* now offers the finest standards in expedition cruise ship travel. Fitted with stabilisers for enhanced stability, the expedition equipment includes Zodiacs to deliver the *Orion* expedition experience. *Orion II* delivers an impressive level of luxury and service with 70 officers and crew serving no more than 100 guests. Excellence of design, craftsmanship and quality materials combined with *Orion II's* spaciousness and intimate ambience make her ideal for distinctive cultural and expedition voyages.

orion II deck plan

- PHS** Penthouse Suite
avg area 260sq ft or 24.2sq m
- BS** Balcony Suite
avg area 245sq ft or 22.8sq m
- DS** Deluxe Suite
avg area 285sq ft or 26.5sq m
- JS** Junior Suite
avg area 235sq ft or 21.8sq m
- AA** Ocean Suites
avg area 225sq ft or 20.9sq m
*428, 429
Partially obstructed view
- A** Ocean Suites
avg area 275sq ft or 25.6sq m
- B** Ocean Suites
avg area 215sq ft or 20.0sq m
*342, 343, 344, 345
Partially obstructed view

- 1 Elevator
- 2 Sun Deck with Jacuzzi
- 3 Sun Deck & Outdoor Café
- 4 Spa & Salon
- 5 Gym
- 6 Nautilus Club & Library
- 7 Bridge
- 8 Lounge & Lecture Hall
- 9 Boutique
- 10 Reception
- 11 Restaurant
- 12 Medical Centre
- 13 Marina Deck Platform



orion II technical specifications

LENGTH: 88 metres

BEAM: 15.3 metres

DRAFT: 4.5 metres

HULL: Ice- strengthened hull

GROSS TONNAGE: 4,077

ENGINES: MAN B&W Diesel 2 x 2520 KW

SPEED: 15 knots. Cruise speed 13.5 knots.

STABILISERS: Retractable fin stabilisers

MANOEUVRABILITY: Bow thrusters

BUILT: January 1991. Refitted 2009

BUILDER: Cantieri Navale Ferrari (Italy)

SUITES: 50

GUEST CAPACITY: 100 (twin occupancy).

CREW: 70

ELEVATOR: Yes

CLASSIFICATION: Lloyds

REGULATIONS: *Orion II* is built according to the latest international safety regulations, including those of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health, Canadian Arctic Shipping, and St. Lawrence Seaway.

ADDITIONAL CRAFT: 9 Zodiac Heavy Duty MK5

COMMUNICATIONS: Direct-dial satellite telephones; fax; e-mail; internet access in staterooms & wireless internet access in public rooms and an internal telephone system.

REGISTRY: Malta

CONSTRUCTION FEATURES

ICE CLASS HULL:

Ice Class Hull enabling *Orion II* to sail unassisted in most ice conditions. The hull strength, ice band, shape and propulsion specifications all conform to ice class requirements. The all-welded construction is in accordance with the regulations of the classification society and shipbuilding steel has been used for both the hull and superstructure.

ENGINEERING:

The main engines have dual fuel capability allowing us to avoid heavy fuel oil in sensitive environments.

ZODIAC EMBARKATION PLATFORMS:

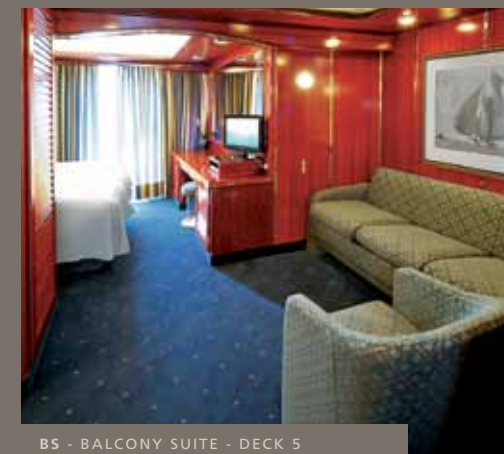
Dual (stern and side) embarkation platforms afford maximum flexibility and permit safe and efficient Zodiac operation in all but extreme weather conditions. The platforms are complemented by a fleet of 9 diesel powered Zodiac landing craft designed for maximum flexibility when landing at remote locations.

STABILISED FOR COMFORT:

Orion II has retractable fin stabilisers affording maximum comfort in poor sea conditions.



BS - BALCONY SUITE - DECK 5



BS - BALCONY SUITE - DECK 5

Suite diagrams are representative only. Furniture is indicative only and varies by suite. PS Suites have a window and sliding door which leads on to a balcony with 2 chairs and a small side table. Suites BS have a sliding door which leads on to a balcony with 2 chairs and a small side table. Suites DS, JS and AA have 3 windows. A Ocean Suites have 3 portholes. B Ocean Suites have 3 windows. Suites 342, 343, 344, 345, 428 and 429 have partially obstructed views. Not all suites can accommodate 3 guests.



LEDA LOUNGE, ORION



LIBRARY, ORION



JACUZZI & OUTDOOR DECK, ORION



LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

life onboard

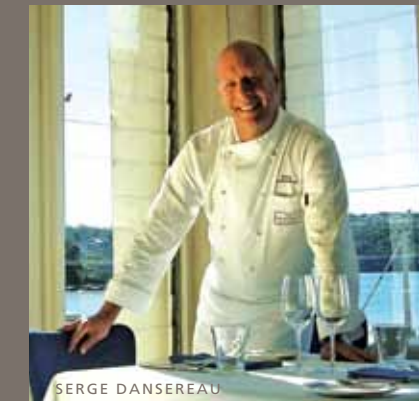
Wake each morning to another day of adventure, and then return to your *Orion* - a world of comfort and attentive service. Whether your adventure involves landing on the ice, venturing up rivers in your Zodiac through waterfalls or exploring caves for ancient rock art, you know that you will always return to the comfort of *Orion* with around 70 dedicated crew. Have a massage to unwind, a sauna for sore muscles, or refreshment brought to you, spa side.

As we travel between our shore explorations, sit back, relax, chat with newfound friends, read, enjoy a spa treatment, the day is yours to do as you wish. The feeling is like staying in a very special, small luxury hotel.

Our spacious staterooms and suites surprise even the most experienced traveller. Some suites have extra rooms and balconies. All suites have ocean views and natural light, internet connectivity, satellite TV's, DVD players, bar fridges and room to stretch out and relax. Our generous space to guest ratio provides plenty of room, private marble bathrooms and ample storage. From fine linens to bathrobes and generous towels, your comfort is paramount.

Unexpectedly, for expedition ships, both offer many amenities you would only expect to find on larger vessels - restaurants, lounges, bars, salons, boutique, internal lift, gymnasium and library. An onboard environment reflected by premium Berlitz ratings.

Onboard facilities include a comfortable theatre or presentation facilities for our guests - onboard lectures and presentations can also be viewed in your suite live. While both are regarded as among the best expedition ships in the world, our aim is to deliver the best possible experience of "quality, safety and service". Worldwide recognition through numerous tourism and cruising awards suggest we are heading in the right direction.



your dining experience

After your day exploring, you can relax in the comfort of *Orion's* lounge, share your day's stories with convivial company over a classic cocktail, an ice cold beer or chilled champagne and enjoy the anticipation of another evening of fine dining. Our degustation menus were created by one of Australia's renowned international chefs, Serge Dansereau, principal of Sydney's "The Bathers' Pavilion". Serge has created a selection of menus to rival the best boutique restaurants in the world. *Orion's* executive chef and his team of professionals have also been busy in the galley creating an exceptional companion menu, so every evening will present you with a delicious dilemma of choice.

The successful partnership between onshore culinary creations and our galleys at sea, plus the ability to source the best and freshest seasonal produce is a winning combination. *Orion* has received many fine dining accolades, the result of an uncompromising approach to purchasing the best quality produce for our guests. *Orion's* adventurous spirit is also reflected in our selection of Australian, New Zealand and European wines: vintages from exceptional lesser-known wineries complement our range of familiar labels and wine styles. *Orion's* philosophy is to adapt the dining experience to the environment so you can look forward to culinary styles which evolve from a la carte to gourmet 'on deck' barbecues, with classics like fresh lobster and lamb cutlets – simply irresistible.

Breakfasts are a delight, hearty and always healthy, with seasonal tropical fruit and yoghurts and freshly made omelettes to order. Lunch is a favourite on-deck experience, perhaps matched with delicious pinot noir, pinot grigio, sauvignon blanc and riesling varietals, perfect for a more relaxed afternoon. There's nothing like a few days at sea to sharpen your appetite, so be prepared to indulge yourself during your time with us.

your concierge

Orion's new concierge service will help you get the very best out of your *Orion* experience. Many of our journeys start from very interesting places in their own right and your adventure could well be extended prior to or after your expedition. Our concierge service has a range of options and services to suit you:

• **Pre and post accommodation** • **Pre and post tours** • **Transfers** • **Flights** • **Travel insurance**

Our aim is to ensure you have the best possible experience with *Orion*, starting from your first contact. If you or your travel agent have any questions, *Orion's* concierge service is here to keep the promise of excellence and help in all matters related to our products and services.

facilities & expedition information

DINING

All meals onboard may be taken in a leisurely single sitting, free of fixed table assignments. Dining hours for the restaurants and outdoor cafes will be provided with your documentation. 24 hour room service is always available.

DRESS

During the day, dress onboard is casual and relaxed. When venturing ashore we suggest you select practical clothing culturally sensitive and suitable to the part of the world you are visiting. Evening dress code onboard the *Orions* is 'smart casual', gentlemen being asked to wear a collared shirt & long pants in the restaurant. Jackets, ties and formal wear are not required.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

There is a doctor/infirmarary onboard. Consultation fees will be charged to your stateroom account.

HAIRDRESSING

Our hair stylist is available by appointment, offering a range of services from a simple shampoo and blow dry to a complete make-over including manicure and pedicure. All staterooms and suites are equipped with a hairdryer.

HEALTH FACILITIES

The Health Spas include massage facilities and a gymnasium with cardio vascular exercise equipment. *Orion* also has a uni-sex dry sauna.

LAUNDRY AND PRESSING FACILITIES

Laundry and pressing services are available at an additional charge. *Orion* and *Orion II* are not equipped with self service facilities.

SECURITY AND VISITOR POLICY

In compliance with international maritime security policy, we regret that visitors are not allowed onboard.

SPORTS FACILITIES

Both ships are equipped with masks, fins and snorkels for guests at no cost. *Orion* also has a fleet of 2-man kayaks for the use of guests in addition to a 4-man fishing boat.

VALUABLES

Be sure to personally carry all valuables onboard and do not pack them in your checked luggage. All staterooms and suites are equipped with a mini safe.

VOLTAGE

The voltage on board is 110 and 220 volt (plugs are round sockets with two round pins). Adaptor plugs are available.

EXPEDITION TEAM

On all expeditions you will find a team of experts travelling with you, all selected for their knowledge and practical experience in fields such as botany, marine biology, anthropology, zoology and history.

SHORESIDE EXPEDITIONS

On each of our expeditions you will find a selection of both inclusive and optional adventures. All optional Shoreside Expeditions can be reserved before you leave home. Many adventures ashore have participation limits so places are awarded on a first-in basis. You will also receive information with your documentation.

ZODIACS

One of the most essential elements to a successful expedition operation, whether it is to land on the Antarctic ice or an idyllic beach, is the ability to make landfalls on a wide variety of remote shores. For this, the *Orions* are equipped with fleets of Zodiacs which are safe, stable and durable inflatable boats. Popularised for marine exploration by Jacques Cousteau, they are the worldwide standard for expedition operators. Shortly after embarking the *Orions* we will provide you with in-depth safety training on the recommended method of embarking our Zodiacs and during the voyage our crew will be on hand to assist as you embark and disembark these very stable and versatile craft.

exclusive use

Capable of accommodating around 100 guests, *Orion* and *Orion II* are both available for exclusive private charters, offering flexibility to tailor each moment to your every need. The perfect choice of venue for corporate meetings and incentives or celebrations with family and friends.

- Team building exercises, onboard education programmes, meetings and presentations
- Special dining events on board and ashore
- Total control of your 'hospitality' environment – from branding of menus to daily programs and ports of call – no interruptions, distractions or interference
- Award nights and Gala dinners
- Shore excursions designed for you

Orion can offer voyages of any duration. If you are contemplating something within the next year consider reserving one of our published sailings for sole use – or we can develop a unique itinerary (just retaining the ports nominated for the beginning and end of the cruise). Advance planning is the key to creating the ideal charter. A charter of one of our vessels is limitless in its opportunities and having experienced it once you'll appreciate why successful companies and discriminating individuals have already and continue to do so. ✽

ORION - 2012 EXPEDITIONS


KIMBERLEY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ANTARCTICA, NEW ZEALAND & SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS, FORGOTTEN ISLANDS, GREAT BARRIER REEF & ARNHEM LAND

DAY	DEPT. DATE	NTS	EXPEDITION	
Sun	12-Feb-12	8	Private Charter	CHRISTCHURCH to AUCKLAND
Mon	20-Feb-12	6	New Zealand's Bay of Islands - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	AUCKLAND to AUCKLAND
Sun	26-Feb-12	6	Tasman Discoverer	AUCKLAND to BRISBANE
Sat	3-Mar-12	6	Australia's Great Barrier Reef	BRISBANE to CAIRNS
Fri	9-Mar-12	11	Papua New Guinea Cultural Highlights	CAIRNS to RABAUŁ
Tue	20-Mar-12	11	Papua New Guinea Cultural Highlights	RABAUŁ to CAIRNS
Sat	31-Mar-12	6	Private Charter	CAIRNS to THURSDAY ISLAND
Fri	6-Apr-12	7	Forgotten Islands & Asmat Art	THURSDAY ISLAND to DARWIN
Fri	13-Apr-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Mon	23-Apr-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Thu	3-May-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Sun	13-May-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Wed	23-May-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Sat	2-Jun-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Tue	12-Jun-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Fri	22-Jun-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Mon	2-Jul-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Thu	12-Jul-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Sun	22-Jul-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Wed	1-Aug-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Sat	11-Aug-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Tue	21-Aug-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Fri	31-Aug-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	DARWIN to BROOME
Mon	10-Sep-12	10	Kimberley Expedition	BROOME to DARWIN
Thu	20-Sep-12	7	Art of Arnhem Land	DARWIN to THURSDAY ISLAND
Thu	27-Sep-12	5	Tropical Reefs and Culture	THURSDAY ISLAND to CAIRNS
Tue	2-Oct-12	11	Papua New Guinea Cultural Highlights	CAIRNS to RABAUŁ
Sat	13-Oct-12	11	Papua New Guinea Cultural Highlights	RABAUŁ to CAIRNS
Wed	24-Oct-12	11	Papua New Guinea Cultural Highlights	CAIRNS to RABAUŁ
Sun	4-Nov-12	11	Private Eclipse Charter	RABAUŁ to CAIRNS
Thu	15-Nov-12	6	Australia's Great Barrier Reef	CAIRNS to BRISBANE
Wed	21-Nov-12	7	Tasman Discoverer	BRISBANE to AUCKLAND
Wed	28-Nov-12	10	Pure New Zealand	AUCKLAND to BLUFF
Sat	8-Dec-12	12	Macquarie Island & NZ sub-Antarctic Wildlife Adventure	BLUFF to BLUFF
Thu	20-Dec-12	18	Mawson's Antarctica - Commonwealth Bay	BLUFF to BLUFF
Mon	7-Jan-13	18	Mawson's Antarctica - Commonwealth Bay	BLUFF to HOBART
Fri	25-Jan-13	20	Scott & Shackleton's Antarctica - Ross Sea	HOBART to BLUFF

ORION II - 2012 EXPEDITIONS

BORNEO, VIETNAM, THAILAND, CAMBODIA, JAPAN, CHINA, RUSSIAN FAR EAST, MICRONESIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

DAY	DEPT. DATE	NTS	EXPEDITION	
Wed	18-Jan-12	10	Borneo - Rajahs, Riches & Rainforests	SINGAPORE to KOTA KINABALU
Sat	28-Jan-12	10	Borneo - Secrets of Sabah	KOTA KINABALU to TAWAU
Tue	7-Feb-12	10	Borneo - Across the Wallace Line	TAWAU to BALI
Fri	17-Feb-12	10	Camp Leakey - Faces in the Forest	BALI to SINGAPORE
Mon	27-Feb-12	7	Gulf of Siam Explorer	SINGAPORE to BANGKOK
Mon	5-Mar-12	7	Thailand, Temples and the Mekong	BANGKOK to HO CHI MINH CITY
Mon	12-Mar-12	9	Vietnam Explorer	HO CHI MINH CITY to HAIPHONG (for HANOI)
Wed	21-Mar-12	9	Vietnam Explorer	HAIPHONG (for HANOI) to HO CHI MINH CITY
Fri	30-Mar-12	9	Vietnam Explorer	HO CHI MINH CITY to HAIPHONG (for HANOI)
Sun	8-Apr-12	11	Asian Odyssey - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	HAIPHONG (for HANOI) to BUSAN
Thu	19-Apr-12	8	Art of Japan - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	BUSAN to KOBE
Fri	27-Apr-12	8	Japanese Culinary Adventure - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	KOBE to KOBE
Sat	5-May-12	8	Inland Sea of Japan Highlights	KOBE to NIIGATA
Sun	13-May-12	8	Inland Sea of Japan Highlights	NIIGATA to KOBE
Mon	21-May-12	10	Inland Sea of Japan - Discovery of an Ancient Culture	KOBE to OTARU
Thu	31-May-12	10	Natural Treasures of the Russian Far East	OTARU to PETROPAVLOVSK
Sun	10-Jun-12	10	Natural Treasures of the Russian Far East	PETROPAVLOVSK to OTARU
Wed	20-Jun-12	10	Inland Sea of Japan - Discovery of an Ancient Culture	OTARU to KOBE
Sat	30-Jun-12	11	Japan Highlights & The Yangtze Delta - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	KOBE to SHANGHAI
Wed	11-Jul-12	14	The Yangtze, Ryukyu & Philippines - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	SHANGHAI to TAWAU
Wed	25-Jul-12	10	Borneo - Secrets of Sabah	TAWAU to KOTA KINABALU
Sat	4-Aug-12	10	Borneo - Rajahs, Riches & Rainforests	KOTA KINABALU to SINGAPORE
Tue	14-Aug-12	10	Camp Leakey - Faces in the Forest	SINGAPORE to BALI
Fri	24-Aug-12	10	Camp Leakey - Faces in the Forest	BALI to SINGAPORE
Mon	3-Sep-12	9	Private Charter	SINGAPORE to KOTA KINABALU
Wed	12-Sep-12	10	Borneo - Secrets of Sabah	KOTA KINABALU to TAWAU
Sat	22-Sep-12	10	Borneo - Across the Wallace Line	TAWAU to BALI
Tue	2-Oct-12	10	Camp Leakey - Faces in the Forest	BALI to SINGAPORE
Fri	12-Oct-12	10	Camp Leakey - Faces in the Forest	SINGAPORE to BALI
Mon	22-Oct-12	10	Borneo, Borobudur & Beyond - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	BALI to BALI
Thu	1-Nov-12	14	Private Eclipse Charter	BALI to CAIRNS
Thu	15-Nov-12	11	Papua New Guinea Cultural Highlights	CAIRNS to RABAUŁ
Mon	26-Nov-12	12	Micronesia Revealed - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	RABAUŁ to PALAU
Sat	8-Dec-12	12	Coral Triangle Discoverer - <i>Voyage of Discovery</i>	PALAU to TAWAU
Thu	20-Dec-12	10	Borneo - Secrets of Sabah	TAWAU to KOTA KINABALU
Sun	30-Dec-12	10	Borneo - Rajahs, Riches & Rainforests	KOTA KINABALU to SINGAPORE
Wed	9-Jan-13	10	Gulf of Siam Explorer	SINGAPORE to HO CHI MINH CITY

A combination reward is available for any two or more consecutive voyages - refer to pricing supplement for further details. Expeditions marked with a  are ideal for back-to-back sailings.

Itineraries are subject to tides, weather and government regulations and may be changed without notice. Expeditions highlighted as a ‘Voyage of Discovery’ signify the inaugural operation of that itinerary.



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EXPEDITION CRUISES

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