



# Azure Seas from Tahiti to the Marquesas

17 Days | National Geographic Orion | 102 Guests | Expeditions in: Jun/Aug | \$15,680 to \$33,440



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



### DAY 1: DEPART U.S.

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



### DAY 2: PAPEETE, FRENCH POLYNESIA/EMBARK

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



### DAY 3-5: AT SEA / TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO

We begin our exploration of the "Dangerous Archipelago" at Fakarava,

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

**DAY 6-7: AT SEA/NUKU HIVA, MARQUESAS**

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

**DAY 9: FATU HIVA, MARQUESAS**

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

**DAY 13-14: TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO**

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

**DAY 16-17: DISEMBARK/PAPEETE/HOME**

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

**DAY 8: HIVA OA, MARQUESAS**

At Hiva Oa, go ashore at the village of Puamau to visit the stunning Marquesan *me'ae*, lipona, and photograph one of the largest tikis in Polynesia. Stop for a fresh-baked French baguette before a short visit to Calvary Cemetery and the gravesites of French artists Paul Gauguin and Jacques Brel. (B,L,D)

**DAY 10-12: EXPLORING THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS/AT SEA**

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

**DAY 15: MAKATEA**

An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. Spend the day exploring limestone caves and grottos with your expedition team and local guides, or search for endemic fruit doves and myriad seabirds, then snorkel and dive among clouds of colorful fish on the nearby reef. (B,L,D)

**2018 DEPARTURE DATES:**

June 21 & August 16

**Important Flight Information**

Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking flights.

**Advance Payment: \$2,500**

**Sample Airfares:** Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete: Economy from \$1,500. Airfares are subject to change.

**SPECIAL OFFERS:**

**FREE AIRFARE:** Book by Jul. 31, 2017 for free round-trip air between Los Angeles and Papeete. Free air is based on round-trip, economy group flights from Los Angeles to Papeete and must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions. New bookings only. Call for details.

**BOOK 2 OR MORE AND SAVE 10%**

Book two or more South Pacific voyages aboard *National Geographic Orion* and take 10% off each voyage. Savings is applicable to back-to-back or non-consecutive voyages. \*This savings is available on voyage fare only, and is not valid on airfares or extensions.

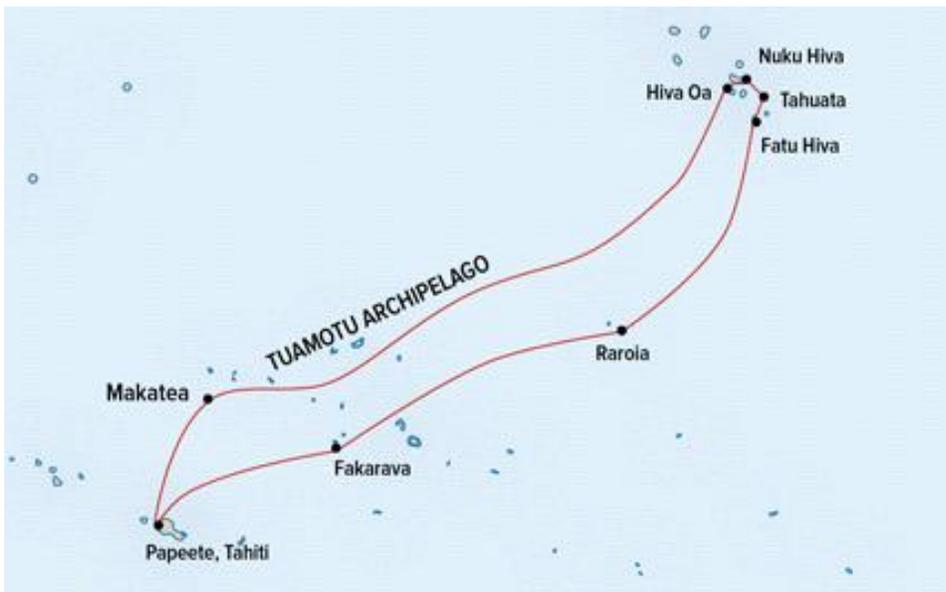
**FREE BAR TAB AND CREW TIPS INCLUDED**

**Cost Includes:** The rates include accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar; all meals indicated; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands) aboard ship; all shore excursions and sightseeing; entrance fees, transfers to and from group flights; local transportation to/from sites of interest; use of kayaks, snorkeling gear, scuba gear, and stand-up paddleboards; taxes, port charges and service charges; services of the ship's physician; Lindblad Expeditions' Leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; gratuities to local guides and ship's crew. **Not Included:** Airfare (unless indicated as included); charter airfare; travel protection plan; scuba diving fees; passport, visa or immigration fees; personal items such as email, laundry, voyage DVD etc.

**National Geographic Orion**

COST PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY						
	01	02	03	04	05	06
2018	\$ 15,680	\$ 18,670	\$ 21,990	\$ 23,990	\$ 28,940	\$ 33,440

COST PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY		
	1S	3S
2018	\$ 23,520	\$ 32,990





## National Geographic Orion

The state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* is the newest addition to the Lindblad-National Geographic fleet. A fully stabilized, ice-class vessel with an ice reinforced hull, *National Geographic Orion* is at home navigating polar ice as well as small harbors in Australia, Borneo, Indonesia, and the South Pacific.

**CAPACITY:** 102 guests in 53 outside cabins.

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

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Outdoor café, lounge with bar, restaurant, sun deck, reception desk, observation lounge and library, global gallery, marina platform, and mud room. Guests are welcome on the “open bridge” to meet the 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. Menus are created by award-winning chef Serge Dansereau of Sydney-based restaurant, The Bathers’ Pavilion.

**CABINS:** All cabins feature ocean views, private facilities, climate controls, internet access for your own laptop, and a flat-screen TV with DVD/CD player. Some cabins have French balconies. Single cabins in Category 1 and Category 3 include #301, 322, 323, and 512.

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

**CATEGORY 2:** Main Deck with large 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

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** Zodiac landing craft, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, a video microscope, and a crow’s nest camera on Kimberley voyages. Plus kayaks, snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for 24 guests, a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and a glass-bottom Zodiac on all voyages where scuba diving is offered.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Laundry, a full-time doctor, video chronicler, National Geographic photographer and Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, plus undersea specialists, divemasters, and Global Perspectives guest speakers on select voyages.

**WELLNESS:** A wellness specialist, fitness center, massage/LEXspa treatment room, and sauna are on board. A whirlpool hot tub on the Observation Deck doubles as a plunge pool in warm temperatures.

**CATEGORY 6:** Bridge Deck—Owner’s suite with French balcony #502, 507, 509\*, 510 \*Cabin 509 does not have a French balcony

**CATEGORY 1 SOLO:** Main Deck with oval windows or portholes #301, 322, 323

**CATEGORY 3 SOLO:** Bridge Deck—Suite with window #512

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

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

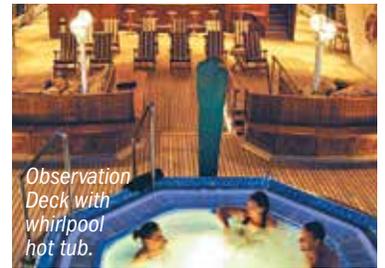
*Note: Scuba divers must be certified by an internationally recognized dive association prior to the voyage, and certification cards and logbooks must be shown on board. Divers must have logged 25 dives in total and made a dive within the 12 months preceding the voyage.*



Category 1 and 2 cabin.



Dining on deck.



Observation Deck with whirlpool hot tub.



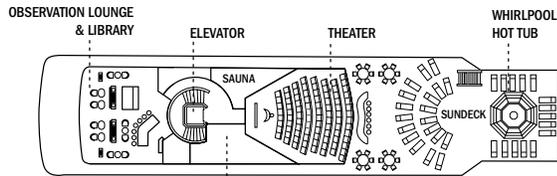
Category 5 suite with French balcony.



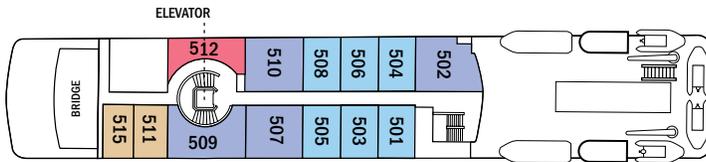
Category 6 owner's suite.



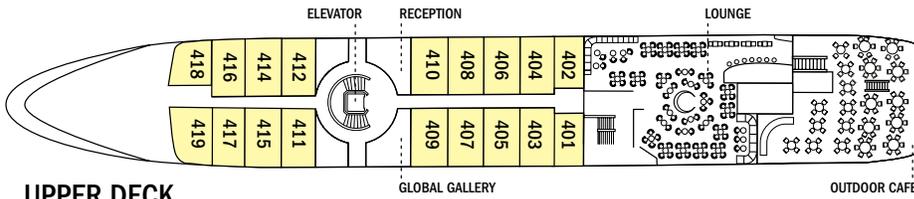
Lounge.



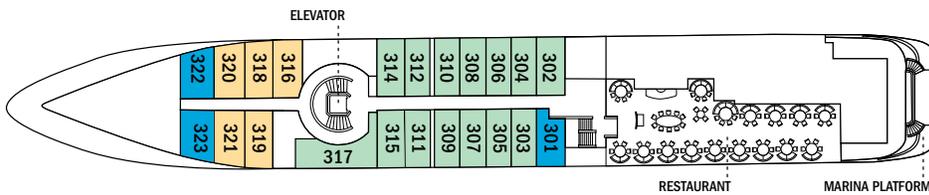
**OBSERVATION DECK**



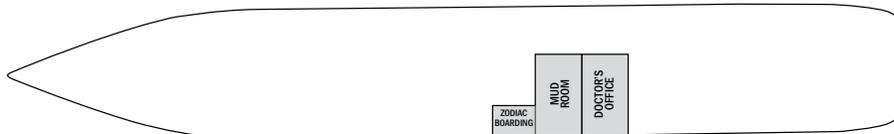
**BRIDGE DECK**



**UPPER DECK**



**MAIN DECK**



**EXPEDITION DECK**