





 Europe & Atlantic Isles
 37° 44' N 25° 40' W

Islands of the Azores: Basalt Peaks to Volcanic Vineyards

Towering basalt peaks, bubbling hot springs, emerald-green farmlands, fascinating seafaring history, world-class wine and culinary specialties—this is just some of the beauty and vitality you’ll discover as we explore the dramatically beautiful Portuguese archipelago of the Azores.

From
\$ 8,928 / per person
 Does not include flights

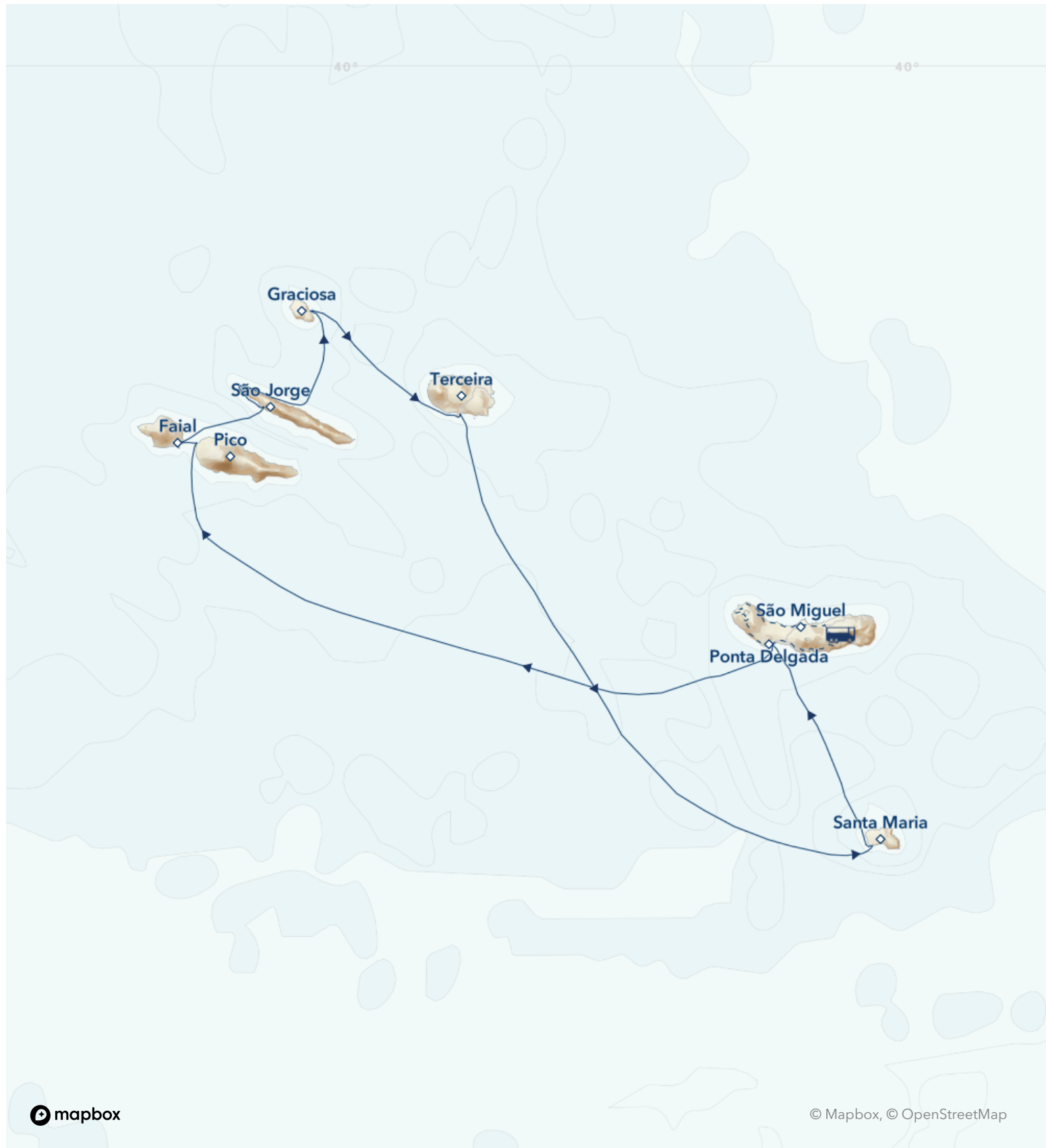
 DATES Apr and May	 DURATION 8 Days
 SHIPS <i>National Geographic Endurance</i> <i>National Geographic Orion</i>	
 STARTS AT Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal	  ENDS AT Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal

Itinerary note: Routing may vary and stops may be subject to modification and/or permitting.

Highlights

- ★ Search for whales, follow scenic hiking trails, and learn of the volcanic history unique to the Azores
- ★ Soak up Azorean culture, sampling local wine and cheese, and dine on a delectable local specialty: a stew cooked underground by volcanic heat
- ★ Discover the varied past and the stories of explorers, whalers, and conquerors who all had a part in weaving the tapestry of island history
- ★ Experience the commitment the locals have to sustainable growth and protecting the natural beauty and ecosystems of the archipelago





Day by day

■ DAY 1

São Miguel, Azores, Portugal / Embark Ship

Arrive on São Miguel, the charming capital of the Azores. Transfer from the airport to the city and spend the day at your own pace exploring the sights, sounds and tastes of this island capital. Check in with the hospitality desk this afternoon before embarking the ship.

Arrival Time: Arrive before 3:00 p.m. local time.

Arrival City: São Miguel, Azores

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

Pico / Faial

The tallest mountain on the Atlantic Ridge, the long dormant Ponta do Pico is a defining feature of this beautiful island whose claims to fame are whaling history and wine. Visit the once-booming former whaling village Lajes do Pico and learn about the importance of the whaling industry to these islands at the Whalers' Museum. Then, travel to the wine region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the moonscape terrain left by the lava flows has been painstakingly converted to vineyards. See the unlikely lava stone corrals that protect the precious vines before ending the day with a tasting of these very special wines.

This afternoon, sail to the island of Faial in time to raise a glass at Peter Café Sport, a legendary pub where sea adventurers historically dropped off their mail.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Faial

Following breakfast on board the ship, head to Capelinhos, where you can see how dramatically the landscape changed when its volcano erupted in 1957. Farms and villages were covered with ash, which added nearly an extra mile of land to the island. Later, stroll in the marina, visit the excellent scrimshaw museum and enjoy a coffee at a local café.

Meals included: breakfast, dinner, lunch

◇ DAY 4

São Jorge

This morning visit São Jorge, formed by volcanic fissures. An impressive mix of imposing sea cliffs and *fajãs*—coastal plateaus formed from lava flows—the island has fertile soil that supports picturesque grasslands and farms. On trails that crisscross the ridge and beaches, hike to Caldeira de Santo Cristo Lake, known for its clams; visit the small villages perched on the *fajãs*; explore the coffee and tea plantations and taste world-renowned São Jorge cheese. Be on deck with binoculars this afternoon as you sail around the tip of the island, passing cliffs with nesting sea birds and looking for Risso's dolphin and whales.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Graciosa

Aptly named, this "gracious" island has been designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for the balance its inhabitants have achieved between the preservation of the geography and sustainable human development. Travel through a beautiful patchwork of farmland and vineyards dotted with windmills en route to the ancient village of Santa Cruz. At the natural monument Caldeira da Graciosa, you'll see Furna do Enxofre, a unique lava

cave and underground lake. Later, stroll through the village of Praia, enjoy the sweet pastry *queijada da Graciosa* and soak up the tranquility of this quiet harbor.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Terceira

First settled by Portuguese navigators around 1450, Terceira became a popular port of call for merchant ships and the economic and religious center of the Azores. You'll wind along the coastline and explore historic villages like Porto Judeu, a small fishing community; Sao Sebastiao, which has a notable 15th-century parish church and Altares, with its quaint whitewashed houses capped with traditional chimneys and painted cones. Stroll the streets of Praia da Vitoria or take a walking tour with local guides to see the forts, palaces, churches, museums and gardens of Angra do Heroismo. Step back in time in this 15th-century UNESCO World Heritage Site and see firsthand the indelible mark left by the ancient explorers, conquerors and religious leaders.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Santa Maria

As you cruise towards the island of Santa Maria, be on deck to search for the islands' many cetaceans. Go ashore at Santa Maria, historically significant as the first landfall of Christopher Columbus on his return from the Americas in 1493. You'll see a statue of the explorer in the village of Anjos and admire breathtaking vistas as you travel along the coast. Those who choose to hike the Pico Alto-Baía dos Anjos trail will travel from the highest point on the island to the sea to observe marine birds in their azure surroundings.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

São Miguel

Explore the Furnas Valley and its famed hot springs, hiking the trails and visiting a tea plantation. Sample a typical Azorean dish for lunch: *cozido*, a dish made with a variety of meats and vegetables naturally cooked underground from the heat of volcanic activity. Following lunch, join local whale spotters and a marine biologist onboard a catamaran in search of the gentle giants of the sea.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 9

São Miguel / Disembark Ship

Disembark in São Miguel and transfer to the airport for flights home.

Departure Time: Depart after 10:00 a.m. local time.

Departure City: Ponta Delgada, Azores

Meals included: breakfast

2025 Expedition

Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal → Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal

2025 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Endurance*

02 Apr

10 Apr

18 Apr

Alternative Routes

Visit Expeditions.com for more information.

2026 Departure Dates

09 Apr, 16 Apr, 23 Apr, 30 Apr, 07 May



National Geographic Endurance

Guests	Cabins
138	76

The most advanced ice-class expedition ship afloat, the *National Geographic Endurance* offers unprecedented access to polar regions.

The first new polar build in Lindblad's 50-year history, *National Geographic Endurance* is named to honor explorer Ernest Shackleton and his legendary Transantarctic Expedition.

A fully-stabilized vessel of the highest ice class (PC5 Category A), she will enable adventurous guests to go where few have or can. Endurance's most striking exterior feature is her distinctive profile, the patented X-Bow®, a game-changing design that guarantees the smoothest, most comfortable ride in all kinds of conditions; and since it eliminates bow impact, a quieter ride, as well.

An equally impressive feature may well be her capacity: she carries just 138 guests, a commitment to expedition excellence over scale. Scandinavian-inflected, luxuriously appointed, her inviting interiors would be a destination in themselves. Because she is a Lindblad expedition ship, however, her attention is focused on the world outside—with acres of window glass to keep you connected to the stunning views beyond the pane, and a fleet of expedition tools to get you out exploring.

National Geographic Endurance and *National Geographic Resolution* are next-generation expedition ships. Purpose-built for polar navigation. Fully stabilized, highly strengthened, ice-class Polar Code PC5 (Category A) vessels, they are designed to navigate polar passages year-round, and safely explore uncharted waters, while providing exceptional comfort. The patented X-bow[®] is key to their design; its powerful wave-slicing action provides an extremely smooth ride even in adverse conditions, and even reduces spray on deck for superior observation. They carry a full suite of expedition tools, and offer a variety of experience enhancing amenities.



Cabin Categories

Category 1

Fore Deck: #406, 408, 411, 413, 415

Fore Deck, with two large windows, two singles that can convert to a queen, armchair, writing desk and chair, two bedside tables, window sofa, and a closet.



Category 2

Fore Deck: #410, 412, 414, 416-419, 421-427

Fore Deck, with two large windows, two single beds that can convert to a queen, window sofa, 2 seat sofa, coffee table, armchair, writing desk with an office chair, two bedside tables, and a closet.



Category 3

Main Deck: #512-524

Suite with balcony that features two balcony chairs, hammock, and a table; two single beds that convert to a queen, convertible sleeper sofa, writing desk with a chair, two bedside tables, and a closet.



Category 4

Lounge Deck: #608, 610, 612, 613-623

Suite with balcony that features two balcony chairs, hammock, and a table; two single beds that convert to a queen, convertible sleeper sofa, writing desk with a chair, two bedside tables, and a closet.



Category 5

Bridge Deck: #700-707, 712, 713, 715, 717

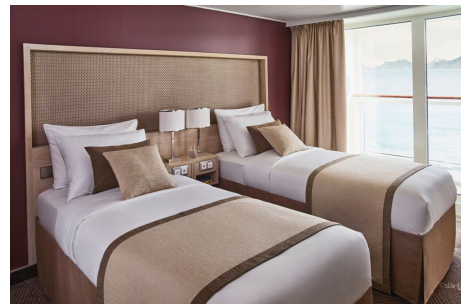
Cabin with balcony that features two balcony chairs, hammock, and a table; two single beds that convert to a queen; convertible sleeper sofa; coffee table; writing desk with chair; two bedside tables; and a closet.



Category 6

Bridge Deck: #714

Junior suite with balcony that features two balcony chairs, hammock, and table; two single beds that convert to a queen; pull-out sofa; writing desk with chair; two bedside tables; coffee table; espresso maker; and a closet. Guests receive a welcome amenity, complimentary laundry, priority access to one igloo reservation, and one spa appointment per departure.



Category 7

Bridge Deck: #708-711, 716, 718, 719, 721

These large balcony suites feature two balcony chairs, hammock, and table; two single beds that can convert to a queen; pull-out sofa; coffee table; writing desk and chair; espresso maker; hammock; and a large walk-in closet with full length mirror. Expanded bathroom has a double vanity, bathtub, towel warmer, and rain shower. Guests receive a welcome amenity, complimentary laundry, priority access to one igloo reservation, and one spa appointment per departure.



Category A Solo

Main Deck: #504-510, 513

Suite with balcony that features two balcony chairs and a table; single bed, writing desk with an office chair, bedside table, and a closet.



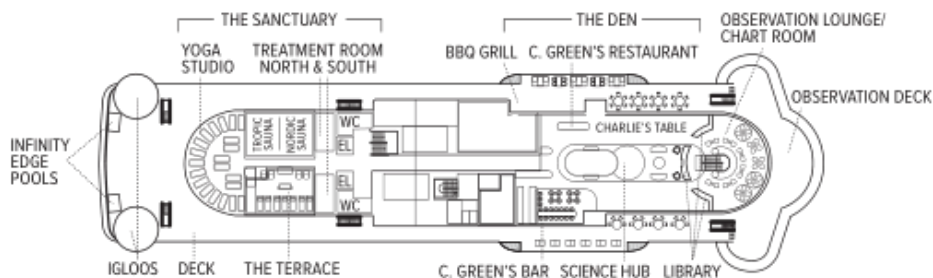
Category B Solo

Lounge Deck: #604-607, 609, 611

Suite with balcony that features two balcony chairs, hammock, and a table; single bed, bedside table, writing desk with chair, hammock, and a closet.

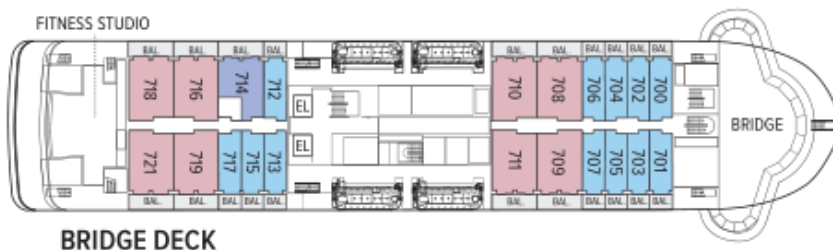


Observation Deck



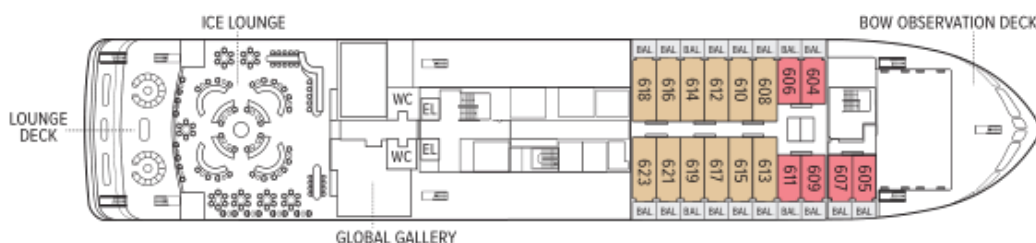
Bridge Deck

- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 7



Lounge Deck

- Category 4
- Category B Solo



Main Deck

- Category 3
- Category 2 Solo

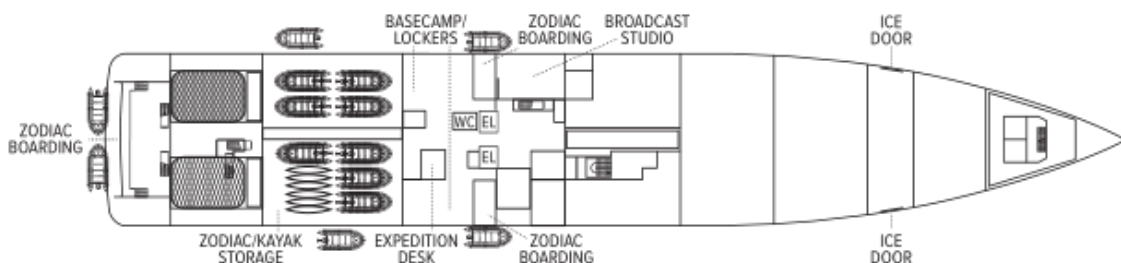


Fore Deck

- Category 1
- Category 2



Expedition Deck



Ship amenities

Public Areas

Reception; three dining areas; an observation lounge with bar, gym, wellness area, infinity-style outdoor hot tubs with adjacent igloos; library; main lounge with full service bar, 24-hour beverage station, state-of-the-art tech for films/presentations; B&H Photo locker and a photo workshop area; science hub; an onboard broadcast studio; an expedition base with lockers for expedition gear; and open access to the Bridge, Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

Meals

Restaurant 270° features wrap-around views; two other dining areas offer lighter, made-to-order fare or intimate, small group dinners. All feature sustainable choices, local where possible, and unassigned, flexible, inclusive seating.

Cabins

All cabins face outside with large windows, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with expedition command centers with iPad tablets, multiple electrical and USB outlets, TVs, with on demand entertainment, phone, Wi-Fi, clock, barometers, hygrometers, vanity mirror, mini refrigerator, small safe, ice bucket, glasses, hair dryer, reading lights and National Geographic Atlas. Luxury linens and pillows. Bathrooms outfitted with Rain showers & hand held shower, botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel and lotion. Complimentary insulated water bottles. Balcony cabins have hammocks, chairs and table.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiac landing craft, kayaks, snowshoes, cross-country skis, an ROV and underwater video camera for unique access to the polar undersea, hydrophone, aerial remote-controlled camera and video microscope.

Special Features

A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler, an internet cafe and laundry. A forward and aft staircase, and elevators, reach all decks. Echoing the pioneering installation aboard *National Geographic Endurance*, artist Zaria Forman has curated a new exhibit, featuring a wide range of artists.



Wellness

A glass-enclosed yoga studio, gym, treatment rooms and spa relax area, and high and low-heat saunas with ocean views, staffed by wellness specialists.

Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean Coat™ is a light-activated, self-disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. Not only does this create a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike, but this non-toxic, chemical-free system also saves more than one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures, and reduces our carbon footprint as well as the amount of plastic and waste in our supply chain.



National Geographic Orion

Guests 102	Cabins 53
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Joining the Lindblad fleet in 2013, the state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* serves as a luxurious base camp for voyages to the far-flung corners of the planet.

Built in Germany by the Cassens shipyard, the 102-guest *National Geographic Orion* was created with a high-ice class to be able to venture safely into polar regions. A ship of her size is seldom built with such ice-cutting ability, which makes her a rarity. She is yacht-scale, yet rugged enough to venture far afield, making her a perfect addition to the Lindblad fleet, which she joined in 2013. Her size and nimbleness offer the perfect combination of safety and liberty to voyage untrammelled locations. In fact, *National Geographic Orion* currently holds the distinction of having sailed further south than any other Lindblad vessel.

Her menu, created by famed Australian chef, Serge Dansereau, owner of Sydney's acclaimed Bather's Pavilion restaurant, enormously popular with *National Geographic Orion's* guests, so impressed Sven Lindblad, that Serge, a chef-owner who shared the Lindblad commitment to serving local and sustainable food, was enlisted to design the dining program for the entire Lindblad-National Geographic fleet.

National Geographic Orion is gracious and intimate, with a rewarding, almost clubby feeling. Of her many amenities and features, the most appealing is her outside deck space which beckons in the balmy reaches of the Pacific, and on those days in Antarctica when the midnight sun and the spectacle of the ice makes going indoors, let alone going to bed, impossible.



Cabin Categories

Category 1

Main Deck: #316, 318-321

Cabins feature a luminous oval window and configurable beds: two single beds that can be converted to a queen. An armchair, reading lamps, a flat screen TV, two bedside tables, coffee table, desk, and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 2

Main Deck: #302-312, 314, 315, 317

Cabins feature a luminous oval window and configurable beds: two single beds that can be converted to a queen. An armchair, reading lamps, a flat screen TV, bedside table, coffee table, desk, and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 3

Upper Deck: #401-412, 414-419

These suites feature a sitting area with a large window, a sofa—except slightly smaller #401 & #402—an armchair or two, writing/laptop desk, reading lamps, coffee table, flat screen TV, bedside table, & climate controls. Beds are configurable (call for details). Marble bathrooms include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 4

Bridge Deck: #511, 515

These two suites feature separate sleeping and sitting areas, with a chair and armchair, coffee table, and a two-cushion sofa facing an expansive window. Beds are configurable (call for details). Ample storage, reading lamps, a flat screen TV, and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 5

Bridge Deck: #501, 503-506, 508

These spacious suites feature open living areas and sliding glass doors opening to a shared French balcony. Beds are configurable (call for details). A separate sitting area with armchairs and a sofa, a writing/laptop desk, coffee table, well-placed reading lamps, a flat screen TV, and climate controls complete the decor. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 6

Bridge Deck: #502, 507, 509*, 510

These large, elegant suites feature a French balcony, except for #509 which has double windows. Each provides a separate living area with a sofa and two armchairs, coffee table, except for #502, which uniquely offers a 'soaking tub with a view' in addition to a shower stall and expansive vanity. All cabins have reading lamps, a flat screen TV, and climate controls. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 1 Solo

Main Deck: #301, 322, 323

These solo cabins feature a window or two portholes, a queen-size bed, except for #301 which has a double bed, writing desk and chair, climate controls, reading lamps, coffee table, two bedside tables, and a TV. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a roomy shower stall with a glass door.



Category 3 Solo

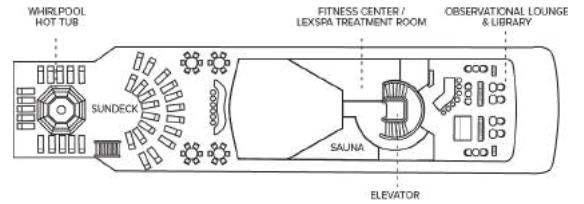
Upper Deck: #512

This solo suite features two single beds and two large windows, plus two armchairs and a small table, reading lamps, coffee table a flat screen TV, and climate controls. The marble bathroom is generously sized and includes a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



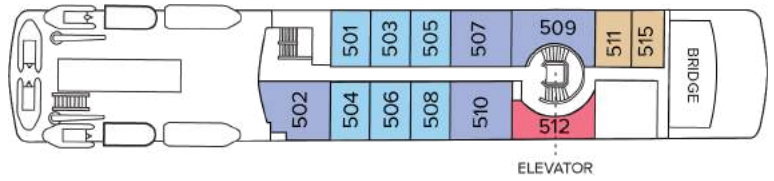
Deck Plans

Observation Deck



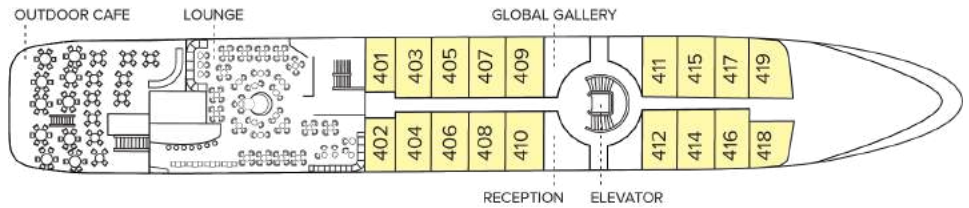
Bridge Deck

- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 3 Solo



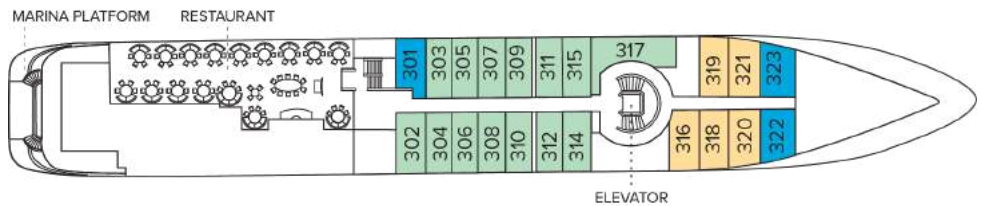
Upper Deck

- Category 3

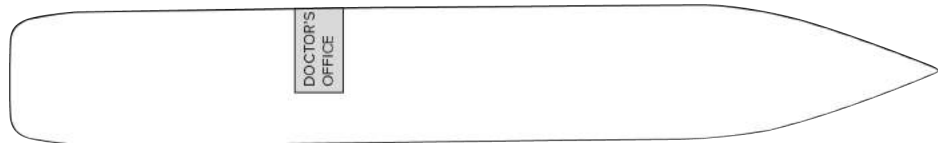


Main Deck

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 1 Solo



Expedition Deck



Ship amenities

Public Areas

Reception; two dining areas; lounge with bar and state-of-the-art presentation facilities; B&H Photo locker; sundeck with a whirlpool hot tub that doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates; observation lounge and library; global gallery; a marina platform; plus open access to the Bridge, the Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

Meals

Meals are served in the dining room, or weather permitting, the outdoor café, at a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menus feature sustainable choices, local where possible.

Cabins

All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins feature a coffee table, lounge chair, desk, phone, TV with on demand entertainment, multiple outlets and USB, mini refrigerator, and safe. Luxury linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and a National Geographic Atlas is available in each cabin.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of double kayaks, a crow's nest camera, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, video microscope, and an ROV. Plus, for South Pacific voyages: snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for a number of pre-qualified guests, stand-up paddleboards, glass-bottom Zodiac, and splash-cam.

Special Features

A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler. On all South Pacific voyages, there are a minimum of two dive masters. A central staircase, and elevator reaches all decks. Enjoy teatime, daily. And the smoothies served after the sunrise stretch sessions on the sundeck in Polynesia. Don't miss either opportunity.

Wellness

A fitness center, LEXspa treatment room and sauna, staffed by wellness specialists.

Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean Coat™ is a light-activated, self- disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. This non-toxic, chemical-free system also helps us save over one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures.

Special Offers

SAVE 20% ON SELECT DEPARTURES

Book by April 15, 2025. Receive a saving of 20% per person on select departures, deducted from cabin fare prior to any additional applicable savings with the purchase of cabin fare. Valid for new bookings only on select 2025 departures, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

SUITE EXCLUSIVES

Spacious living areas and incredible views immerse you in the beauty of your marine surroundings. Our new Suite Exclusives package helps make your voyage all the more memorable. [Learn more](#)

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US\$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of eight or more people. Valid on voyage fares only and not applicable on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

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.

Included in price

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, liquor and spirits aboard the ship (except certain premium brands which are available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; crew gratuities; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs and kayaks; guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the National Geographic Photographer and Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; onboard physician consultations; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Not included in price

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

Additional costs associated with medical services outside onboard physician consultation.

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/>

Cancellation policy

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