








## Ancient Mediterranean Odyssey: Exploring Greece, Croatia, and Albania

The experts at *Food & Wine* magazine and Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic have come together to create this immersive exploration of the Dalmatian Coast's sun-soaked beaches, charming port towns, rich maritime history, and eclectic cuisine. Sail between Greece, Albania, and Croatia, delving into ancient empires and their archaeological treasures and visiting fascinating UNESCO World Heritage sites, from Delphi to Dubrovnik. Soak in the Ionian Sea's idyllic turquoise waters, and encounter the region's lesser-known gems, including outlying Croatian isles and vestiges of antiquity in Albania. A top team of naturalists—including experts on history and culture—will illuminate all we see, and a wine expert will guide us through tastings of more than 40 of the region's best wines, each personally selected by *Food & Wine* magazine's Executive Wine Editor, Ray Isle.

From

**\$ 7,493** / per person

Does not include flights

 <b>DATES</b> Jun and Aug	 <b>DURATION</b> 8 Days
 <b>SHIPS</b> <i>National Geographic Orion</i>	
 <b>STARTS AT</b> Athens, Greece	→  <b>ENDS AT</b> Split, Croatia

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

## Highlights

- ★ Indulge in gourmet menus guided by the rhythms of the season, featuring sustainable ingredients primarily sourced from the Mediterranean
- ★ Navigate the iconic Corinth Canal, a spectacularly scenic cut that is inaccessible to larger ships
- ★ Immerse yourself in Delphi, the center of ancient Greek civilization, once home to the famed Oracle of Delphi
- ★ Explore Dubrovnik—the pearl of the Adriatic—while strolling atop its ancient walls, trying your hand at oystering, or participating in a cooking or silk embroidery class





## Day by day

### ■ DAY 1

#### Athens, Greece / Embark Ship

Arrive in Athens and transfer to Lavrio, where we embark *National Geographic Orion* in the afternoon. Settle into your cabin and take in an Aegean sunset at sea.

Meals included: dinner

### ◇ DAY 2

#### Corinth Canal / Delphi

Enjoy breakfast on deck as we navigate the historic Corinth Canal, slipping between the 300-foot limestone walls that tower above both sides of our vessel. Built in the late 19th century, the canal is too small for most modern-day ships, but *National Geographic Orion* is perfectly sized for the transit to the Gulf of Corinth and Ionian Sea.

Later, visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Delphi, the center of the ancient Greek world. The ruins here are home to the Temple of Apollo—Greece’s most important shrine—where the Oracle of Delphi delivered divine prophecies. Your onboard local guides will share the city’s storied past as we explore the temple and other important sites.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 3

#### Kefalonia or Zakynthos

For our next stop, your Expedition Leader and local guides will choose one of the many picturesque beaches on the island of either Kefalonia or Zakynthos, bordered by the idyllic Ionian Sea. Soak in the vivid blue waters—a true photographer’s delight. Stroll along the shoreline, or swim, kayak, or paddleboard in the beautiful sea.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 4

#### Corfu / Butrint, Albania

Sandwiched between two fortresses, Corfu’s World Heritage-listed Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage center, begs to be explored. Choose to wander the maze of Venetian lanes and shaded town squares, or enjoy a walking tour of the 6th-century Old Fortress of Corfu. This afternoon, we cross into Albania and arrive at Butrint National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that was first settled by the Greeks in the 7th century BC and is known for its well-preserved Roman ruins. This mesmerizing tapestry of ancient ruins is a wonderful representation of Albania’s lush landscapes.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 5

#### Krujë / Divjakë-Karavasta National Park

After docking in Durrës, drive to Albania’s ancient capital of Krujë, just north of its modern-day capital of Tirana. Wander the stalls of the medieval bazaar, visit the Ethnographic Museum, and tour the museum dedicated to Albania’s larger-than-life national hero, Skanderbeg—the warrior who led a 15th-century rebellion against the Ottoman Empire. Cap off the day with a stirring folkloric performance. Or, if you’re interested in birding, visit the lagoons of Divjakë-Karavasta National Park, home to over 200 avian species, including the greater flamingo, Kentish plover, and the extremely rare dalmatian pelican.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 6

#### Dubrovnik, Croatia

Wake up anchored off the ancient walls of

Dubrovnik's Old City—a UNESCO World Heritage site that is considered one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the world. Choose from several experiences to customize your day. Participate in a guided walk of the fortified walls, go oystering and enjoy a seafood lunch in the neighboring town of Ston, take part in an interactive cooking class in a quaint rural home, or learn about traditional silk embroidery at a local workshop. Cap off your day with a private folkdance performance.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

## ◇ DAY 7

### Komiža / Vis

One of the outermost Croatian islands, Vis was ruled successively by the ancient Greeks, Romans, Venetians, Austrians, and Italians. It became a central Yugoslav military base during World War II, and only opened to tourists in the 1990s, making it less developed and less populated than many of its neighbors. Spend the morning exploring one of the island's sea caves and the fjord at Stivina Bay, and enjoy a swim in the crystalline waters (conditions permitting).

We arrive in Komiža after lunch and embark on your choice of several optional experiences, including a hike to the headquarters of Yugoslav resistance leader Josip Broz Tito, where he hid troops and weapons in extensive underground tunnels at the end of World War II and into the Cold War. Venture to hillside barracks and hidden bunkers, or spend the morning enjoying the charming downtown.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

## ■ DAY 8

### Split / Disembark Ship

Arrive in Split this morning. Enjoy a farewell breakfast on board before disembarking and transferring to the airport for your flight home.

Meals included: breakfast

### Northbound

Athens, Greece → Split, Croatia

### 2025 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Orion*

21 Jun				
09 Aug				

### Alternative Routes

Visit [Expeditions.com](http://Expeditions.com) for more information.

### 2025 Departure Dates

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28 Jun, 30 Aug

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## ***National Geographic Orion***

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<b>Guests</b> 102	<b>Cabins</b> 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

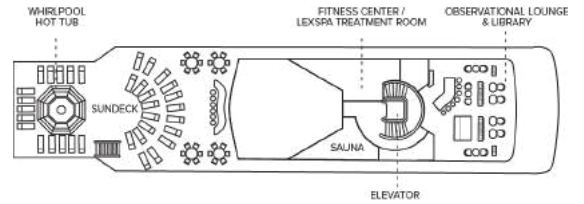
**Upper Deck: #512**

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.



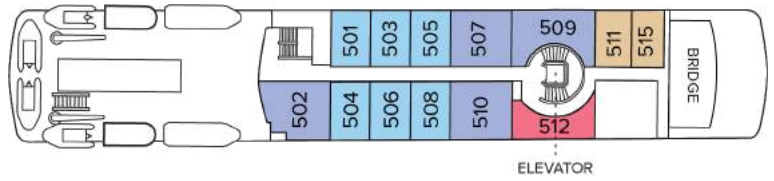
# Deck Plans

## Observation Deck



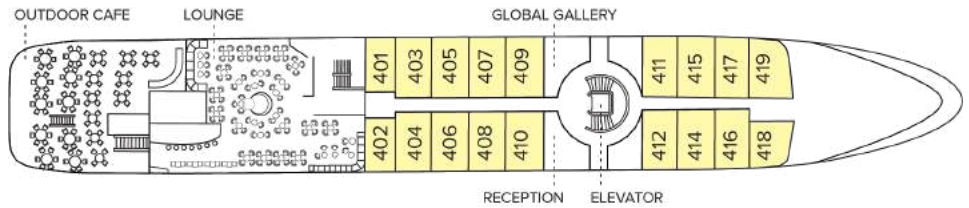
## Bridge Deck

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



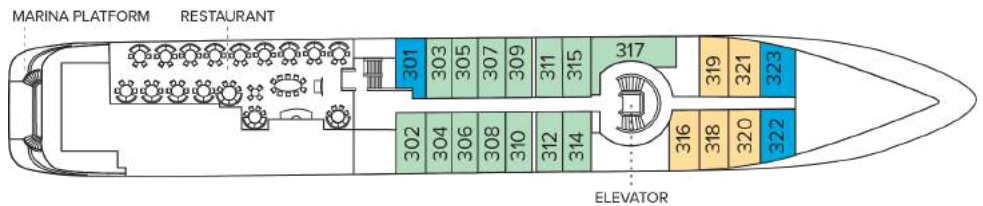
## Upper Deck

- 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

### NATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY: 25% SAVINGS

Book between August 27th–September 19th, 2024, and save 25% on the cabin fare when booking any Category 1, Category 2, or Category 3 cabins, including solo cabins, and Category SU on *National Geographic Islander II* and *National Geographic Delfin II*, and Category 4 cabins on *National Geographic Delfina*, when you pay in full at time of booking on select departures in 2024 and 2025. To qualify for the discount, non-refundable payment in full is due at the time of booking and standard cancellation terms will not apply. Valid for new bookings only, based on availability at time of booking, cannot be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions.

### MEDITERRANEAN CREDIT

Book between July 31 - September 30, 2024. Receive \$1,500 per cabin credit, deducted from cabin fare prior to any additional applicable savings with the purchase of cabin fare. Valid on select 2025 departures, for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers and is not applicable on airfare or extensions. Credit valid on 2025 voyages only. Call for details.

### 2026-2027 EARLY BOOKING OFFERS

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Booking and deposit must be made by Nov. 1, 2024. Valid for new bookings only on departures from Jan. 1, 2026 through Mar. 31, 2027, subject to availability, may not be combinable with other offers, and not applicable on airfare or extensions.

**Book Early to Lock in Current Rates on All**

**2026-2027 Departures:** Pricing will increase on Nov. 2, 2024. Not applicable on airfare or extensions.

#### Bringing the Kids - Save \$1,000 Per Child Up To 22:

We believe sharing an expedition with children is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$1,000 off for each child under the age of 23 on any departure.

**Save Up To 20% on Back-to-Back Voyages:** Save up to 20% on voyage fares on consecutive back-to-back departures. Applicable on select departures only.

**Book Two or More Voyages and Save 10%:** Save 10% on the lowest priced departure when you book two or more expeditions.

**Bring a Friend and Save 5%:** Save 5% when you book two or more cabins on the same departure. Valid on voyage fares only. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies when you book 8 or more guests.

### 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](#)

### 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.

### 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.

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## 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, and spirits aboard the ship (except certain super 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, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, snorkeling equipment (including wetsuits, masks, and fins); guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the National Geographic Photography Expert 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; services of a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or paramedic; 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, scuba diving for pre-qualified divers on select voyages\*, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

### \*Scuba Diving Requirements

- Dives can be challenging so divers must have ample previous experience
- Divers need at least 25 lifetime dives if you're advanced open water and at least 35 if you're just open water
- Divers need to have a completed an open water dive or professional refresher course within 12 months of the voyage
- Divers need to receive medical clearance to dive from a doctor (form provided upon registration) and provide proof of dive insurance

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## 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/>

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## Cancellation policy

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