



Europe & British Isles & Mediterranean Aboard National Geographic Orion
37° 44' N 25° 40' W

Atlantic Island Chronicles: Exploring Cabo Verde, the Canary Islands, and the Azores

The remote islands off the coast of Portugal and Western Africa beckon travelers with the promise of rich history, volcanic vistas, world-class wine and cheese, and picturesque fishing villages. Sail through Cabo Verde, the Canaries, and the Azores as we discover natural and historic delights that include scenic hiking trails, tucked away ports, and several UNESCO World Heritage sites in Madeira, Fogo Island, and more. At sea, the elegant *National Geographic Orion* is your home base to spot vibrant marine life and take in spectacular views of these mostly untouched archipelagos.

From

\$ 17,878 / per person
Does not include flights



DATES

Apr



DURATION

16 Days



SHIPS

National Geographic Orion



STARTS AT

Praia, Cabo Verde



ENDS AT

Ponta Delgada, Azores

Highlights

- ★ Visit several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Cabo Verde’s historic Cidade Velha and the Canary Islands’ densely forested Garajonay National Park
- ★ Discover Madeira’s diverse flora and fauna—from monk seals to the emblematic bird of paradise flower—and learn about the island’s rich Portuguese heritage
- ★ Explore the imposing volcanic history of the Atlantic Ridge, from Cabo Verde’s Fogo Island to the Azores’ Faial Island
- ★ Learn how local traditions and architecture evolved in these remote archipelagos





Day by day

■ DAY 1

Praia, Santiago Island, Cabo Verde

Arrive in the remote and mountainous volcanic islands of Cabo Verde and the capital city of Praia, on Santiago Island, and transfer to the hotel. Meet us this evening for a welcome reception and briefing before dinner.

Arrival time: Arrive before 6:00 p.m. local time.

Arrival City: Praia, Cabo Verde Islands

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

Praia / Embark Ship

Start the day in this island paradise with a walking tour of the old town center or "Plateau." Rich in history you will experience the colonial influence on the architecture of the Presidential Palace and Main Square. Explore the open-air market where displays of local fruits and vegetables are works of natural art. Via bus, travel to Cidade Velha, the historic center of Ribeira Grande and the first city built by the Portuguese in Africa. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the ruins tell the story of architecture that protected the city against pirates, provided sanctuary within the cathedral and convent and supported everyday life with the thatched roofs of Banana Street. Following lunch, head to the port and embark the *National Geographic Orion*.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Fogo Island, Cabo Verde

This morning finds us in Sao Filipe on the island of Fogo, where you will have the opportunity to add volcano-gazing to your life list. The

striking landscape of Fogo has been shaped and transformed by lava flows, most recently in 2015. We will visit Portela, one of the villages that was swallowed up by lava in that eruption. The locals have since reclaimed the land and have rebuilt restaurants and shops and restored their homes.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAYS 4-6

At Sea / Cross the Tropic of Cancer

Visit the ship's bridge as we sail northward across the Tropic of Cancer. Soak up the views from one of the observation decks and attend engaging presentations on a range of subjects, from 15th-century Portuguese and Spanish navigators to talks from our marine biologists on the amazing navigation skills of the cetaceans who travel these waters.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAYS 7-8

La Palma and La Gomera, Canary Islands, Spain

Drop anchor in the azure waters of the Canary Islands, which occupies a central place in the history of Atlantic exploration. The larger island of La Palma is known as La Isla Bonita, or "the pretty island," for its lushly forested mountain slopes set against azure waters. Enjoy a scenic drive up to Mirador de la Concepción, perched on the edge of a crater. Take in fantastic views of the town and harbor below and visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Snows, with its fusion of baroque and Spanish-Moorish architecture. On the island of La Gomera, visit a house where Christopher Columbus stayed while his ships were provisioned with supplies, then consider a hike in the verdant Garajonay Nacional Park.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAYS 9-11

At Sea / Desertas Islands, Portugal / Madeira

After a day at sea, start the day south of Madeira in the Desertas Archipelago. This small group of volcanic islands has been deemed a nature reserve, helping to protect both the sea and land. The area is a refuge to the Mediterranean monk seal and an array of seabirds. Sail on to enchanting Madeira, a subtropical island abloom in flora. First settled by the Portuguese in 1419, the island's capital city of Funchal evokes a colonial time capsule, with architecture from the 15th through the 19th centuries. Explore its winding streets and culinary delights.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 12

At Sea

Enjoy all that the *National Geographic Orion* has to offer on this final day at sea as we make our way to the Azores. Spend time on deck with the expedition team as they keep watch over the horizon, searching for the marine creatures and seabirds who feed in this fertile stretch of ocean.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 13

Santa Maria Island, Azores

Historically significant as the first landfall of Christopher Columbus on his return from the Americas in 1493, we make our first landing in the Azores at Santa Maria. For those interested in getting some exercise, there are hiking trails that will allow us to experience the scenery and atmosphere of the island.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 14

Faial

As we sail into Faial, be out on deck to enjoy the beautiful island views and keep your eyes on the horizon in hope of spotting the whales known to move through these waters. Once ashore on the island of Faial, head to Capelinhos to see how dramatically the landscape changed when the volcano at the western end of the island erupted in 1957. Farms and villages were covered in ash, adding an extra two square kilometers of land to the island. Later, stroll along the marina, visit the excellent scrimshaw museum, and raise a glass at Peter Café Sport, a legendary pub where sea adventurers historically dropped their mail.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAYS 15-16

Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores / Disembark Ship

Disembark in Ponta Delgada, the charming capital of the Azores. Spend the morning touring the Old Town—stopping at the impressive Museum of Carlos Machado to discover the varied history of the archipelago. Enjoy lunch before transferring to the airport and homeward flights.

Departure Time: Depart after 10:30 a.m. local time.

Departure City: Ponta Delgada, Azores

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Expedition

Praia, Cabo Verde → Ponta Delgada, Azores

2025 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Orion*

19 Apr		
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National Geographic Orion

Guests

102

Cabins

53

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

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](#)

10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

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.

BRINGING THE KIDS

We believe sharing an expedition with children is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18 on any departure. Not applicable on extensions or airfare. 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. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. 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, and spirits aboard the ship (except certain super premium brands which are available for purchase); basic Wi-Fi; 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 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; private transfers; laundry, enhanced and premium Wi-Fi plans, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

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/>

[terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/](https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/)

Cancellation policy

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