






## Journey through Southeast Asia: Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia

Sail the long-established colonial trade routes of Chinese, Malay, and European merchants as we travel the Malaccan Strait to the Andaman Sea. Discover how the different cultures left a lasting imprint on architecture, cuisine, religion, and many other aspects of daily life. Trek into lush rainforests on the lookout for the many species who call these protected areas home. Explore the white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters of the small islands dotting the coast of Thailand. This journey beautifully weaves a diverse tapestry of culture, wildlife, and the sheer wonder of this region.

From  
**\$ 11,265** / per person  
 Does not include flights

 <b>DATES</b> Aug	 <b>DURATION</b> 11 Days
 <b>SHIPS</b> <i>National Geographic Orion</i>	
 <b>STARTS AT</b> Singapore	→  <b>ENDS AT</b> Phuket, Thailand

**Please note:** the Southbound 2024 departure follows a modified itinerary. Please refer to departure dates for exact routing of your departure.

## Highlights

- ★ Experience the innovative melting pot that is Singapore—a spectacular blend of cultures, innovation, and beauty
- ★ Explore Malaysia's fascinating and colorful UNESCO Historical Cities: Malacca and Penang's George Town
- ★ Be on the lookout for the gentle giants of Sumatra—orangutans—as we traverse the lush rainforest of Gunung Leuser National Park, part of the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ★ Immerse yourself in the earthy aromas and fresh ingredients used in some of the best local food in Asia, and cast your own vote on who has the tastiest chicken rice in Penang





## Day by day

### DAY 1

#### Singapore

Arrive in Singapore and transfer to the Pan Pacific Singapore. This evening, meet your fellow travelers at the welcome reception.

**Arrival Time:** Arrive before 4:00 p.m. local time.

**Arrival City:** Singapore

Meals included: dinner

### ◇ DAY 2

#### Singapore / Embark Ship

This morning we check out of our hotel and set off to explore this landmark city-state. Cosmopolitan Singapore, a former British colony, has transformed itself into one of the world's leading and most innovative commercial centers. As we tour the old sections of the city, we'll see how Chinese, Malay, and Indian cultures thrive side by side. We'll also see the ultra-modern styles along the skyline of high rises and in the whimsical creations of the Gardens by the Bay. Singapore is truly a melting pot of culture, style, and cuisine. This afternoon we will embark *National Geographic Orion*.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 3

#### Malacca, Malaysia

Step ashore in the UNESCO Historical City of Malacca with its eclectic blend of Portuguese and Dutch colonialism, traditional Chinese influence, and bright colors of India. The port is packed with eye catching cycle trishaws adorned with bright ruffles, hearts, flowers, and Hello Kitty—each a work of art.

Explore this beautiful city known as the unofficial historical capital of Malaysia—Jonker Street, the

main thoroughfare of Chinatown; Christ Church and Stadthuys, some of the oldest surviving Dutch architecture; and Melaka Sultanate Palace, a replica of Sultan Mansur Shah's 15th-century palace.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAYS 4-5

#### Belawan, Sumatra, Indonesia / Gunung Leuser National Park

Arrive in the seaport of Belawan—known as one of Indonesia's busiest ports, second only to Java. Pass through the city of Medan with its chaotic energy of modern-day trade and ties to the architecture of the past when Chinese and Dutch merchants settled here. Head inland to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Gunung Leuser National Park. The entire biosphere covers a vast area of rainforest and other varied ecosystems. It is home to hundreds of species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and plants: orangutan, gibbons, elephant, hornbills, Sumatran partridge, monitor lizards, and the biggest flower in the world—*Rafflesia Arnoldi* (the corpse flower or giant padma). Wildlife sightings are never predictable, but this stunning biosphere never disappoints with its mind-blowing variety.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 6

#### Penang, Malaysia

Enjoy a full day of adventure in Penang Island's capital, George Town. Vibrant and colorful, this UNESCO multicultural city is a mix of colonial history of the first British settlement in Southeast Asia and modern day skyscrapers. A beautiful jumble of temples, mosques, and the Clan Jetties—wooden stilt houses built by the Chinese who settled on the water. Follow the "art trail" that weaves its way past

amazing murals tucked on side streets and painted directly on old buildings. Explore the boardwalk trails and canopy of Penang National Park. It may be the smallest national park in the world, but it is packed with lush jungle, beautiful beaches, monkeys, and birds of every color. Or choose to immerse yourself in the fragrant herbs and spices grown in the Tropical Spice Garden, the cornerstone of some of the best food in Asia.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### ◇ DAY 7

### Langkawi

Known as the Jewel of Kedah, Langkawi boasts some of the most beautiful beaches in Malaysia—white sand and crystal water stretch for miles. Kayak among the karst outcroppings, fringed by healthy mangroves and lush rainforest jungle. Be on the lookout for the white-bellied sea eagle, Brahminy kite, and kingfishers in stunning plumage. Head to the sky on the Langkawi Cable Car as you glide over the cliffs and jungle. Once at the top, enjoy coastline views from the skybridge and explore the boardwalk trails into the jungle.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### ◇ DAY 8

### Ko Tarutao, Thailand / Tarutao National Park

The first national marine park of Thailand, Tarutao offers some of the most beautiful coastline on the Andaman Sea. Explore the underwater world where the clear waters support healthy coral reefs and the wide array of life that call this region home. Be on the lookout for the elusive and rare dugong, irrawaddy dolphin, and hundreds of brightly colored fish. Head inland on one of the many white sandy beaches in search of crab-eating macaques, otters, common palm civets, flying bats, and a multitude of birds: scarlet-breasted flowerpecker, pied trillers,

grey-headed sea eagles, and more.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### ◇ DAY 9

### Ko Rok Noi / Mu Ko Lanta National Park

Today begins off the coast of the small, pristine gem—Ko Rok Noi. Fringed with a healthy shallow reef system, this bit of paradise offers a morning of exploration both above and below the pristine waters. Snorkel and dive this unspoiled paradise or choose to take a leisurely kayak paddle or stand-up paddleboard along the rocky coastline, with a clear view below the surface. Follow the white sandy beach into the jungle and the beauty of Koh Rok waterfall. Enjoy lunch on deck as the ship positions to Ko Lanta, the largest island in the marine reserve, where we continue explorations above and below the sea.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### ◇ DAY 10

### Phi Phi Islands

A small archipelago of six islands known as Koh Phi Phi lies just off the coast of Krabi province. Postcard visions of spectacular karst formations, clear turquoise waters, and brightly painted long tail boats are found on these shores. Enjoy Zodiac cruises along the high cliffs and through the mangroves; snorkel or scuba dive the vibrant reefs; view the ancient rock art of Tham Phaya Nak, Viking Cave; or walk a deserted white sand beach in quiet reflection—the choices are endless.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### ■ DAY 11

### Phuket / Disembark Ship

Wake up this morning in Phuket province, the largest in Thailand. After breakfast, disembark and explore

Old Phuket Town. As a center of trade, see the influences of the Chinese, Indian, and European merchants who settled here. Following a traditional lunch, transfer to the airport for flights homeward.

**Departure Time:** Depart after 4:00 p.m. local time.

**Departure City:** Phuket, Thailand

**Meals included:** breakfast, lunch

### Northbound

Singapore → Phuket, Thailand

### 2024 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Orion*

11 Aug

### Alternative Routes

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

### 2024 Departure Dates

20 Aug



## ***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

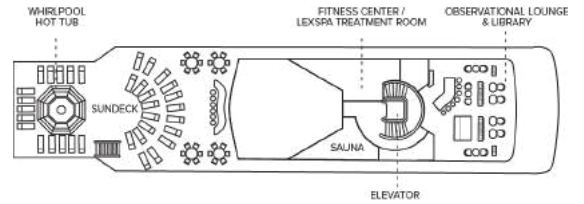
**Upper Deck: #512**

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.



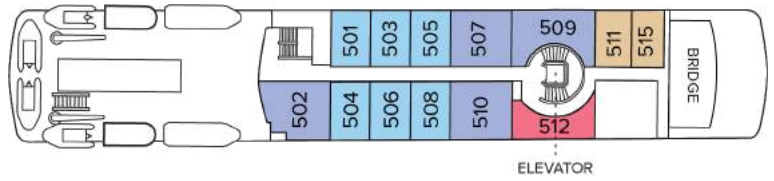
# Deck Plans

## Observation Deck



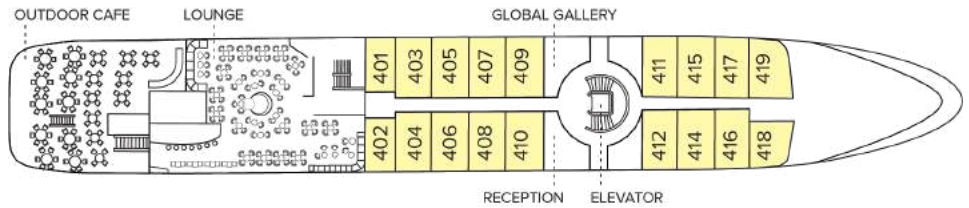
## Bridge Deck

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



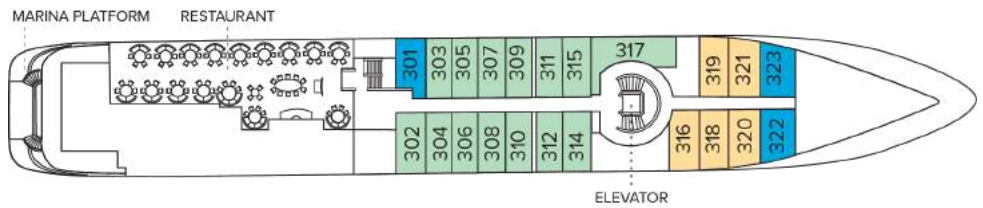
## Upper Deck

- 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

### 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](#)

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### 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.

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### 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/>