

ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN ODYSSEY: EXPLORING GREECE, CROATIA, AND ALBANIA

The experts at Food & Wine magazine and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions 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 some of the region's best wines, each personally selected by Food & Wine magazine's Executive Wine Editor, Ray Isle.



ITINERARY

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 Durres, drive to Albania's ancient capital of Kruje , 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 Divjake-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

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 Zadar / Disembark Ship

Enjoy a farewell breakfast on board before disembarking in Zadar and transferring to the Zadar airport for your flight home.

Note: A transfer will be offered from Gaženica port in Zadar to the Split airport, arriving at Split airport at 10:30am.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:

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



YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

YOUR SHIP:	**National Geographic Orion**
VESSEL TYPE:	**Luxury Expedition**
LENGTH:	**103 metres**
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	**102 (in 53 cabins)**
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	**2003 / Refurbished 2014**

Engineered for maximum comfort and safety, _Orion_ is equipped with the latest technology including large retractable stabilizers, sonar, radar, and an ice-strengthened hull. A shallow draft plus bow and stern thrusters provide the convenience of being able to maneuver close to shore. 14 Zodiacs ensure quick disembarkation and offer the ideal transport for up-close exploration. _National Geographic Orion_ meets strict specifications for environmental protection and the on board waste management systems meet the stringent Antarctic operational standards enabling us to travel to the most pristine environments. A host of advanced design features and technology ensures sustainable marine environmental practices. _National Geographic Orion_ accommodates 102 guests in 53 cabins, including several with balconies. She is spacious and modern, with a variety of public rooms that offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. Friendly and informal, _Orion_ fosters a welcoming atmosphere where like-minded guests share in exceptional experiences and enrichment. Her public rooms include a dramatic window-lined main lounge, as well as an observation lounge and library perched at the very top of the ship, with plentiful observation decks. The spacious lounge is the heart of our expedition community, and is suited for spirited cocktail hours, informative presentations and our nightly tradition of Recap. In addition, a dedicated theater provides a unique setting for specialist presentations or films and slideshows. Both the main dining room and outside buffet easily accommodate all guests at once for open seating dining. On selected nights, weather permitting, our dining room menu is also available on the outside deck. While _Orion_ interiors are elegant, life aboard is always casual, with no need for formal clothing. And you'll find shipboard services like laundry, in-room cabled internet, and public-area wifi make packing and traveling more





convenient.

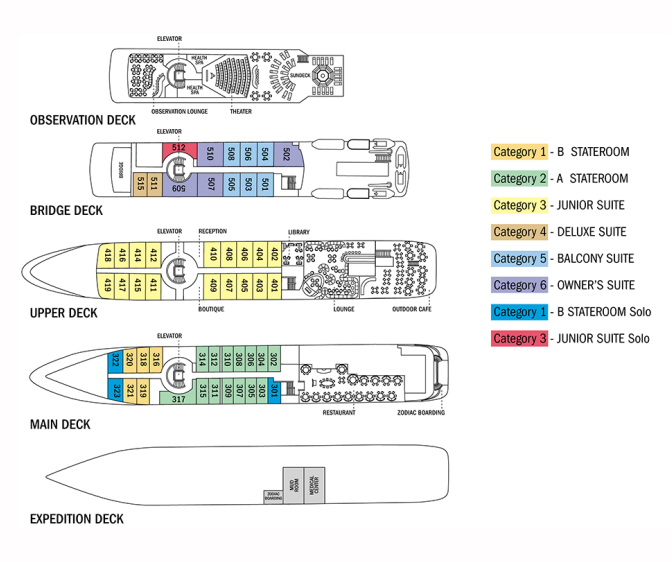
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