

AZORES TO BARCELONA: A SPECIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE VOYAGE

Sail storied waters where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean, a crossroads shaped over centuries by shifting empires, maritime trade and cultural exchange. Discover the Azores' otherworldly beauty, where volcanic landscapes rise stark against the sea; wander Morocco's vibrant medinas, alive with color and tradition; and explore Spain's enduring fortresses that echo with history. In August 2027, enjoy the rare opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse at sea, from aboard the open deck of National Geographic Orion--an unforgettable moment that culminates this once-in-a-lifetime voyage.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal / Embark Ship

Arrive in Ponta Delgada, the capital of the Azores. Transfer from the airport to the city, and spend the day at leisure, wandering the cobblestone streets and soaking in the island's unique blend of Portuguese and Atlantic culture. Later this afternoon, embark National Geographic Orion.

Meals Included: Dinner

Day 2 Ponta Delgada

Venture into the lush Furnas Valley and enjoy a traditional



Azorean specialty for lunch: cozido, a hearty stew of meats and vegetables slow-cooked underground by volcanic steam. Weather permitting, set out with local spotters on a catamaran in search of cetaceans.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 3-5 At Sea

Spend time relaxing at sea as the ship sails toward Morocco. Join the officers on the Bridge to learn about navigating the western coast of Africa, attend an engaging talk with one of the naturalists or take advantage of the ship's amenities, such as a rejuvenating spa treatment with the wellness specialist.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 6-7 Tangier, Morocco

This morning, arrive at the Strait of Gibraltar, the only natural waterway between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean. As we sail this legendary passage, a total solar eclipse unfolds overhead--an awe-inspiring spectacle that will blanket the seascape in otherworldly hues. Navigate to the path of totality to take in this rare celestial event from the best possible position (conditions permitting).

Later, explore Tangier, which lies just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain and has long been a gateway between Africa and Europe--a true cultural crossroads. Stroll the winding streets of its medina. Then ascend to the city's legendary kasbah or visit the American Legation Museum, a symbol of centuries-old diplomacy, and the only U.S. National Historic Landmark located outside the country.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Málaga, Spain

Malaga is one of Spain's oldest cities--a vibrant coastal hub where layers of ancient history blend with contemporary culture. Explore the Alcazaba, a remarkably well-preserved Moorish fortress overlooking the sea, and climb to the Castillo de Gibralfaro, the 14th-century stronghold that once guarded both the Alcazaba and the city below.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Motril

Visit the hillside village of Frigiliana, renowned for its whitewashed houses and Moorish old quarter, where winding lanes are decorated with vibrant ceramic mosaics. Continue to the Caves of Nerja, a subterranean network stretching for nearly three miles, home to vast chambers, soaring stalactites and some of the world's oldest known cave paintings. The day caps off in Grenada, with a special private visit to the famed Alhambra, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This 13th-century hilltop fortress exemplifies the artistic, scientific and architectural achievements of the Moors.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 Cartagena

Uncover Cartagena's remarkable history, from its Roman



foundations to its role as a Mediterranean stronghold. Stand before the magnificent Roman Theatre, admire the remains of the Augustus Temple and see the imposing city walls--a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Later, set out on a tapas tour of the city, weaving your way through narrow lanes and bustling terraces as you taste local delicacies like caldero del mar menor, a traditional fisherman's rice dish. If time allows, we'll also visit the night market, held in the summer along the harbor or in the central squares. Here, street musicians, pop-up performers and a relaxed local crowd bring a festival feel to the evening.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 Valencia

Begin your exploration of Valencia with a visit to its majestic cathedral, home to the revered Holy Chalice--believed by many to be the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper. Savor an authentic paella, the city's signature dish, before exploring the City of Arts and Sciences, a futuristic complex where science, culture and architecture converge. Later, wander the winding streets of the old quarter, browse the bustling Mercado Central or take in world-class art at the Palau de les Arts.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 Columbretes Islands

The ship anchors near the city of Castellon on mainland Spain. From here, enjoy water activities in the Columbretes Islands, an archipelago 30 miles off the coast. The islands are a haven for wildlife, offering opportunities to observe endemic species such as Andouin's gull, Eleonora's falcon and Scopoli's shearwater.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 Barcelona / Disembark Ship

Enjoy breakfast on board before disembarking and transferring to the airport for flights home.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:
Itineraries are subject to change.



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.

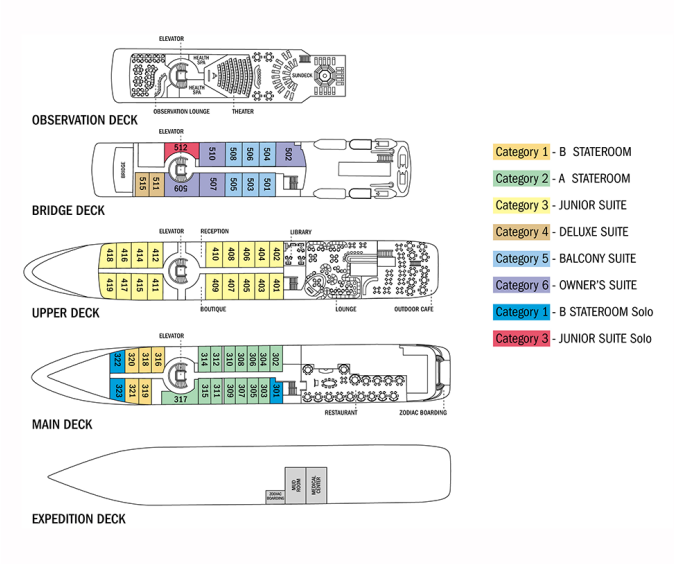
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Category 1. From





PRICING

28-Jul-2027 to 09-Aug-2027

Category 1. From	**£16904 GBP pp**