



## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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## BALTIC ARCHIPELAGOS: ISLANDS OF DENMARK, SWEDEN & FINLAND

The wondrous waterways and rugged coastlines of the Baltics are a stunning introduction to the fascinating history of this unique region. In Denmark you'll explore the craggy shores of Christian Island, visit the Grasholmen Bird Sanctuary and the Fortress of King Christian V. Swedens Visby on Gotland Island is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Scandinavia with its 13th Century wall and countless ruins. Enjoy Uto Islands Elderflowered Orchids and famed Apollo Butterflies. Visit the 17th Century warship of Stockholms Vasa Museum and wander through Gamla Stan (Old Town). And you won't want to miss Finlands Turku Castle, the ruins of Aboa Vetus, and the Aland Maritime Museum arguably the finest in the world.

### ITINERARY

**DAY 1: Copenhagen, Denmark/ Embark**

Embark the National Geographic Orion then settle into your cabin and prepare for an evening departure. (L,D)

**DAY 2: Christians**

Zodiacs take us to the almost uninhabited island of Christians, where Danish fortifications date from 1684. Explore the craggy shores and lighthouse the first in Denmark Christians, and just one type of mammal, the hedgehog. Look for eider ducks, razorbills, and more nested on the small island of Grsholmen, a bird sanctuary. (B,L,D)

**DAY 3: Visby, Gotland, Sweden**

Spend the day exploring Visby, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Scandinavia. Founded as a Viking settlement, the town became a center of the Hanseatic trade in the 12th to 14th centuries. Stroll the cobblestone streets of the enchanting old town and walk along its nearly two-mile-long, 13th-century wall. Ride a bike through town or along the many bike paths across the island of Gotland. This evening join us for a special night on Gotland with a Swedish dinner and a private concert by Swedish folk music group, Vasen. (B,L,D) Extremely picturesque, Visby is perfect for a guided photo walk through medieval neighborhoods capped off with a visit to the Gotland Museum.

**DAY 4: Stockholm Archipelago**

Anchor near the small island of Uto and explore its quiet coves by kayak. Or, take a Zodiac to the island to walk through Utos nature preserve. Keep your camera handy as we maneuver

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through the scenic Stockholm Archipelago to dock in the heart of Stockholm, the city built on 14 islands. (B,L,D) You'll arrive in Stockholm like no one else: via Zodiac through the lush greenery of the Djurgården Canal.

#### DAY 5: Stockholm

The great Scandinavian maritime capital of Stockholm provides some favorite experiences: view the royal Vasa warship (which capsized in Stockholm harbor in 1628 and was salvaged and restored 350 years later.) Take a walking tour of Old Town Gamla Stan, or learn about Sweden's living history at the Skansen open-air museum. This afternoon enjoy time on your own or take a tasting tour of Swedish sweets in the Gamla Stan. We stay docked overnight so you can enjoy this magical Scandinavian city. (B,L,D) Take a rooftop walk across the Old Town. Yes, opt to buckle up in your safety harness and step along the narrow rooftop path that only we will follow. You'll be stunned by the fantastic views and the fascinating stories that your guide will narrate.

#### DAY 6: Mariehamn, Åland, Finland

Sail to the Åland Islands, an autonomous, Swedish-speaking, Finnish territory. In Mariehamn, the capital, visit the four-masted merchant sailing ship Pommern, and visit the Åland Maritime Museum, or bicycle out into the countryside. Tonight we have a special tasting ashore while we hear traditional sea shanties from the Age of Sail. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 7: Turku

Visit Turku, the oldest city in Finland. Explore Turku Castle, the Luostarinmäki Handicrafts Museum, or the artwork and underground ruins at Aboa Vetus and Ars Nova museum. This afternoon cruise via Zodiac to a small island for nature hikes

and a relaxing swim. (B,L,D) Experience an authentic Finnish sauna in the good ol' outdoors. Take a sauna or a swim in the waters of one of the many islands in the Åland Archipelago.

#### DAY 8: Tallinn, Estonia/Disembark

Disembark today for flights home or remain for an added stay in our centrally-located hotel in Tallinn. (B)

#### Please Note:

All day-by-day breakdowns are a sampling of the places we intend to visit, conditions permitting.

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## YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

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

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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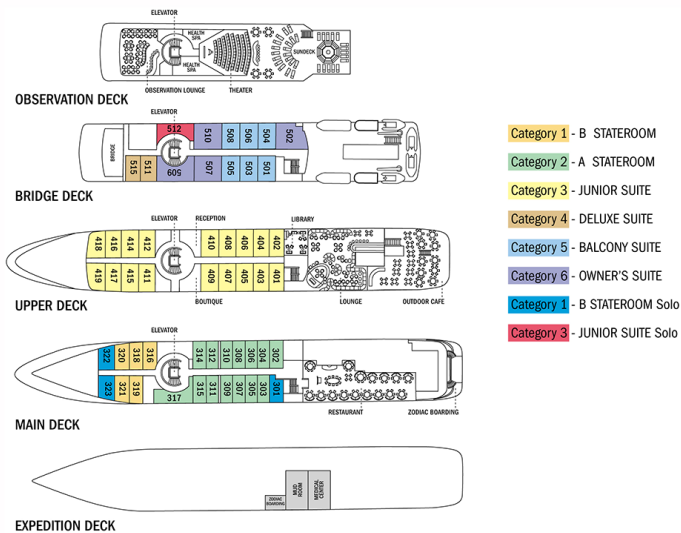
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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## PRICING

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