

# The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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## COASTAL NEW ZEALAND: AUCKLAND TO MILFORD SOUND

New Zealand's unparalleled natural beauty beckons with soaring peaks, crystal-clear lakes, and swathes of unpopulated white-sand beaches. Traveling through scenic fjords, bays, and sounds, witness plunging waterfalls and an abundance of whales, dolphins, and fur seals drawn by sparkling waters rich with marine life. The last country to be inhabited by humans and isolated for 85 million years, New Zealand boasts flora and fauna found nowhere else in the world. Among its 300 species of birds are the world's smallest penguin, a colony of 20,000 gannets, and the magnificent royal albatross, with an impressive 10-foot wingspan.



### ITINERARY

DAY 1: Auckland, New Zealand

Arrive in Auckland, where we check in to our hotel. Join us for a welcome briefing this evening to meet your fellow travelers.

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### DAY 2: Auckland/Embark

Have breakfast at the hotel before joining a tour of this vibrant city center. We'll stop for lunch midday before embarking National Geographic Orion in the late afternoon. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3: Bay of Islands

The Bay of Islands is an area encompassing more than 140 subtropical islands, boasting an abundance of wildlife and fascinating history. Visit the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a place of immeasurable cultural, spiritual, and historical significance, and learn of the historical events for which these grounds are remembered. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4-5: Great Barrier Island/Exploring Coastal NZ

Stretch your legs today as we explore Great Barrier Island on exploratory walks and hikes. As we continue south along the North Island's verdant coast, we let nature guide us as your Captain and Expedition Leader choose our next site for exploration. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6: Gisborne

Discover rural life at a 110-year old New Zealand homestead and witness the daily process of sheep herding and sheering. Take in the greenery of a local arboretum, and cap the day off with a winery tour and tasting. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7: Napier

Spend the morning getting to know Napier, the Art Deco capital of New Zealand. Choose to discover the city's unique architecture on an art tour or leave the city behind and join us on a Gannet Safari Tour where we'll have close encounters at a large Australasian gannet colony. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8: Exploring New Zealand's South Island

Today will be exploratory in nature as we discover the many hidden islands and treasures on the northern side of New Zealand's South Island. (B,L,D)

### DAY 9: Kaikoura

In Maori, Kaikoura translates to 'meal of crayfish.' The region's abundance of crayfish and nutrient-rich marine system draw impressive quantities of whales, dolphins, and fur seals to its waters. Today we'll venture out in search of various resident and migratory marine mammals as well as the impressive albatross. (B,L,D)

### DAY 10: Dunedin

Known for its Victorian and Edwardian architecture and boasting the world's only mainland albatross colony, Dunedin sits on the verdant southeast coast of New Zealand's South Island. Discover the world's smallest penguin, the little blue penguin, and its endangered cousin, the yellow-eyed penguin, on an excursion to the beaches of the Otago Peninsula. Visit the fragrant Dunedin Botanic Gardens, and explore the Otago Museum's exhibits on nature, culture and science. (B,L,D)

### DAY 11: Stewart Island

Stewart Island, known in Maori as Te Punga o Te Waka a Maui, is positioned firmly at the heart of Maori mythology. Today we'll explore the island's rare native birdlife as well as its well-preserved podocarp forest. In the afternoon, discover Stewart Island's nearby neighbor, Ulva Island, where we'll hike with naturalists to discover its unspoiled rainforest. (B,L,D)

### DAY 12-13: Dusky Sound & Doubtful Sound

Over the course of two days we will explore Fiordland National Park, home to fourteen individual fiords. Here we'll discover

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hundreds of meter high waterfalls, snowcapped peaks, and we'll hope for a glimpse of Doubtful Sound's resident bottlenose dolphins, fur seals, and penguins. (B,L,D)

**DAY 14:** Milford Sound/Disembark/Queenstown/Home

Have breakfast aboard the ship before disembarking and transferring to Queenstown for flights home. (B)

**Please Note:**

Itineraries are subject to change. Your expedition may be traveling over the International Date Line, so please confirm departure and arrival dates with an Expedition Specialist before booking your flights.

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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





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convenient.



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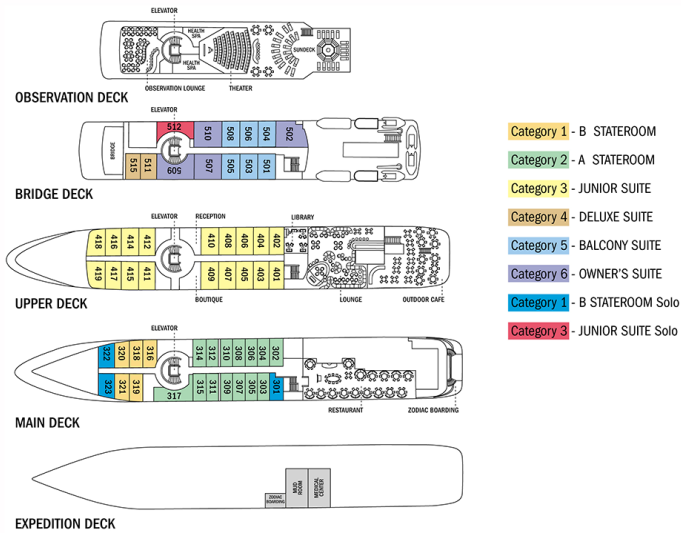
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP





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## PRICING

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