

CONTINENTAL CROSSROADS: SPAIN, MOROCCO AND THE CANARY ISLANDS

Sail a storied route between the Canary Islands, Morocco and Spain, where volcanic landscapes meet vibrant coastal cities and timeless medinas echo with centuries of trade and tradition. Along the way, uncover a mosaic of histories--Roman theatres, Moorish fortresses, Andalusian palaces and bustling souks--each revealing the layers of empire and exchange that have shaped these shores. From windswept Atlantic ramparts to sunlit Mediterranean plazas, step into the living history of two continents while savoring the food, music and customs that bring their cultures vibrantly to life.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Barcelona, Spain / Embark Ship

Arrive in Barcelona and transfer to the centrally located hospitality space. This afternoon, explore the city at your own pace, enjoying its architectural masterpieces, the lively street rhythms of Las Ramblas or the beautiful views atop Montjuic. Embark the ship in the late afternoon and enjoy your first evening in the Mediterranean.

Day 2 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.

Day 3 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, set out independently to 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.

Day 4 Cartagena

In Cartagena experience a tapas tour, weaving through narrow lanes and bustling terraces. Head toward the Cartagena Night Market, held in the summer along the harbor or central squares. Explore the rich tapestry of Cartagena's history, from its ancient Roman origins to its strategic military importance through the centuries. See the stunning Roman Theatre, the Augustus Temple and city walls.

Day 5 Málaga

Malaga is one of Spain's oldest cities--a vibrant coastal destination where ancient history and modern culture live side by side. Visit the Alcazaba of Malaga, one of the best-preserved Moorish fortresses in Spain, and the Castillo de Gibralfaro--a 14th-century fortress that once defended the Alcazaba and the city below.

Day 6 Tangier, Morocco

Tangier sits just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain and has long served as a gateway between Africa and Europe--a true cultural crossroads. Wander through the winding streets of the medina, climb to the kasbah or visit the American Legation Museum, a symbol of centuries-old diplomacy.

Day 7 Casablanca

Meaning 'White House' in Spanish, Casablanca is the largest city in Morocco and a hub of industry on Africa's west coast. The architecture of the city is an eclectic blend of influences from Moorish design to the French Art Deco era and more. Explore the bustling old medina, where the twisting cobbled streets are lined with whitewashed buildings and alive with activity. Stroll along the Corniche, the popular boardwalk by the sea. Witness the vast beauty of Hassan II Mosque, built on an outcrop jutting out over the ocean.

Day 8 Essaouira

Essaouira, a coastal gem on Morocco's Atlantic coast, is known for its whitewashed medina, dramatic sea walls and blend of Berber, Arab, Jewish and European influences. Today, visit the old medina, relax in traditional Moroccan hammams or enjoy a tour of the local architecture.

Day 9 Agadir

Nestled between the foothills of the Atlas Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean, Agadir is one of Morocco's most modern cities. Destroyed by a major earthquake in 1960, the city has been rebuilt to its current vitality while still retaining its rich history. A beautiful example of this is La Medina d'Agadir, which was recreated in the 1990s using traditional Berber methods. Overlooking the city, the kasbah is one of the few structures that survived the quake. Hike to the top to take in stunning views



and the medieval architecture of this fortress.

Day 10 At Sea

Spend a relaxing day at sea en route to the Canary Islands. 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.

Day 11 Arrecife, Canary Islands, Spain

Go ashore in Arrecife, the capital of Lanzarote, and venture into Timanfaya National Park to witness volcanic peaks and craters shaped by eruptions as recently as 300 years ago. Explore the Castillo de San Gabriel, a 16th-century fortress set on a small island in Arrecife's harbor and built to defend against pirate attacks. Explore the Museo de Historia de Arrecife inside the castle walls to uncover the city's pre-Hispanic past and the unique natural history of the island.

Day 12 Las Palmas / Disembark Ship

Enjoy breakfast on board before disembarking and proceeding to the airport for onward flights.

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.

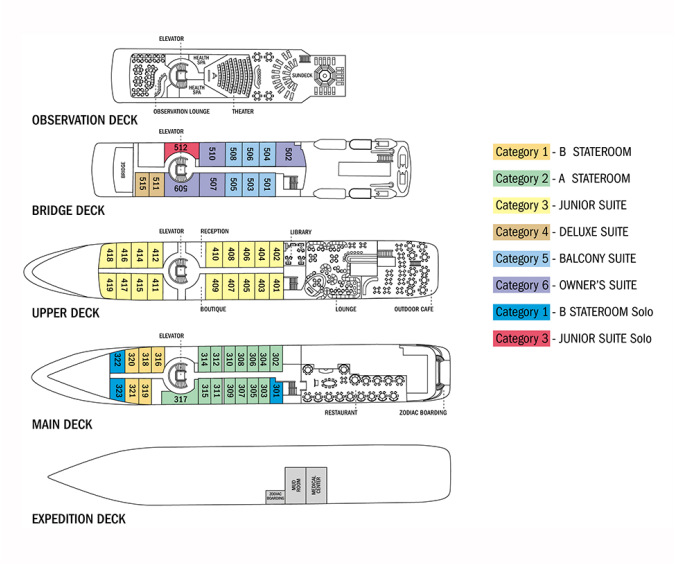
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