

EASTER ISLAND TO TAHITI: TALES OF THE PACIFIC CRUISE

Explore lost civilizations amid idyllic, seldom-seen isles while sailing from the remote and enigmatic Easter Island, one of the most isolated landfalls of Polynesia, to Tahiti through the "low islands" of the Tuamotu Archipelago and the historically significant Pitcairn Islands. See the legendary moai statues up close, walk the length of untouched tropical beaches, meet the descendants of HMS Bounty mutineers, and drift dive or snorkel through an atoll pass.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia / Embark Ship

Arrive in Papeete and transfer directly to the hospitality room before embarking the ship in the afternoon. This evening, set sail as you acclimate to island time.

Day 2 Makatea

An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. A _makatea_ is a raised coral atoll that is tilted due to plate tectonics. This specific island of Makatea gives its name to all other uplifted coral atolls worldwide. Spend the day exploring the island's limestone caves and grottos with your expedition team and local guides, or



search for endemic fruit doves and myriad seabirds, then snorkel among colorful fish on the nearby reef.

Day 3-6 Tuamotu Archipelago / At Sea

Arrive at Fakarava, one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This coral atoll is home to many rare species of birds, plants and crustaceans, and you will have the opportunity to snorkel its protected reefs. Spend time exploring Rotoava, the main village on Fakarava. Take a leisurely bike ride, visit a pearl shop or stroll along the turquoise waterfront with a fresh coconut. Snorkel through Fakarava's Tumakohua Pass, one of the most famous drift snorkels in the world.

Experience the furthest reaches of the Tuamotu Archipelago, where the captain and expedition leader will determine the next spot for exploration. Spend a day at sea scanning the horizon with naturalists or relaxing on deck with a good book.

Day 7 Mangareva

Visit Mangareva, the largest of the Gambier Islands, with its interesting history and beautiful lagoon. Venture underwater to snorkel, meet islanders to learn about their culture and the missionaries who made their home here or go on a hike with naturalists.

Day 8-11 Pitcairn Islands, British Overseas Territory / At Sea

Explore the famed Pitcairn Islands. Many of the mutineers of the legendary HMS Bounty made their home here in the late 18th century, and about 50 of their descendants still live here today. Meet the residents and hear a few words of the unusual Pitkern dialect--a combination of English "sailor speak" and Polynesian phrases. Visit the gravesite of the last surviving Bounty mutineer, John Adams, and see the Bounty's anchor, which was salvaged in 1957.

Continue to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Henderson Island, an uplifted atoll that is uninhabited and virtually untouched by humans. Discover the island's four endemic bird species, rich flora and fauna and fascinating geology.

Day 12-13 At Sea

As you journey east toward Easter Island, head up to the bridge to watch for wildlife and observe expert navigation at work as the skilled captain and officers sail these historic waters. There is also time to enjoy a massage in the wellness center, work out in the gym and browse in the library. Each day, naturalists offer talks that add depth to your experience.

Day 14-15 Easter Island, Chile (Rapa Nui)

Over the next two days, explore Easter Island's volcanic calderas, jagged lava fields and sweeping grasslands to discover the colossal moai statues--the astonishing legacy of a long-lost culture. Join archaeologists to examine these statues and discuss their meaning and creation. Visit burial sites, quarries and intricately carved ceremonial altars.

Day 16 Easter Island / Disembark Ship / Santiago

Disembark and transfer to the airport for the flight to Santiago, Chile. Arrive in Santiago and connect to late-night homebound 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.

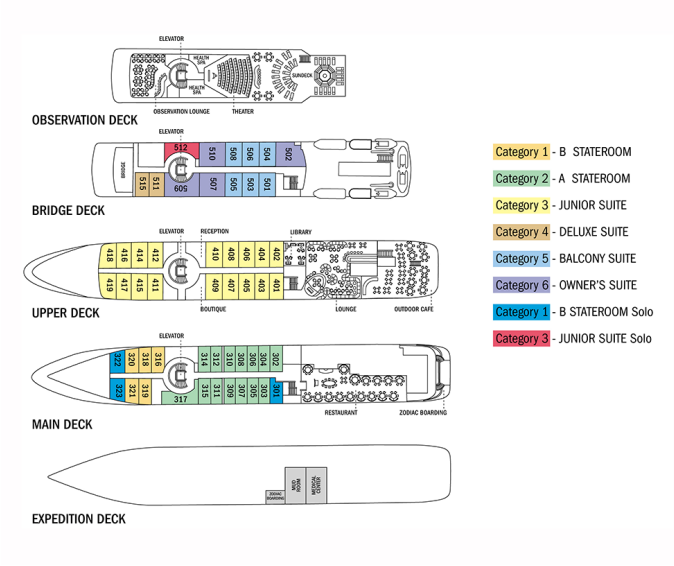
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