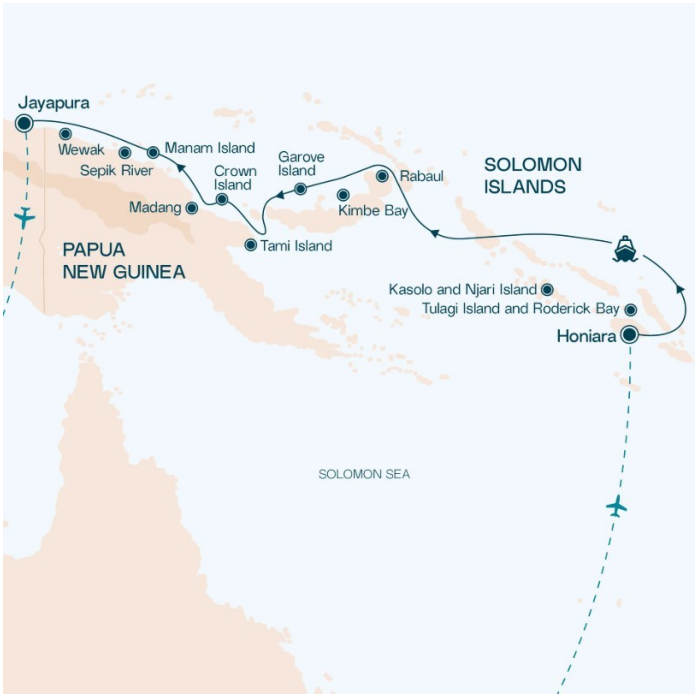


SOLOMON ISLANDS SECRETS: CRUISE FROM GUADALCANAL TO THE SEPIK RIVER

Embark on an extraordinary journey through the Pacific's living Eden: Papua New Guinea, one of the world's most culturally and biologically diverse regions, where over 850 indigenous languages thrive amid some of Earth's most pristine wilderness. Departing from Honiara on Guadalcanal Island, your voyage explores the rich tapestry of islands and coasts across the Bismarck Sea - Pavuvu Island, Kasolo (Kennedy) Island, remote Njari Island, the volcanic ports of Rabaul, and the abundant marine habitats of Kimbe Bay. Sail onwards to Garove, Tami, and Crown Islands, then explore the scenic coasts of Madang and Manam. Journey along the storied Sepik River to Kopar Village, visit Wewak, and conclude in Jayapura, Papua. Numerous activities await throughout this unrivalled expedition. Enjoy insightful onboard lectures with regional experts covering ancient trade routes, tribal history, WWII battles, unique wildlife, and post-colonial development. Witness vibrant tribal cultures, observe rare birdlife, snorkel among coral reefs and WWII wrecks, and engage with local communities in breathtaking natural settings - all surrounded by the extraordinary beauty, history, and heritage of the Pacific's last great frontier.



ITINERARY

Days 0 - 1 Pre Cruise & Honiara, Guadalcanal Island (Solomon Islands)

**Charter flights to the port of embarkation/ disembarkation (Longyearbyen, Ushuaia, Kangerlussuaq, Nuuk, Honiara, Jayapura and Sorong)**

**One night pre-cruise accommodation with breakfast in a 4/5-star hotel (exemptions apply)**

The capital of the Solomon Islands, Honiara sits on the northeastern coast of Guadalcanal at the mouth of the Mataniko



River. A relatively new city, it grew up around a U.S. military base during and after WWII. In 1952 it superseded Tulagi as the premier city of these islands. Honiara's U.S. War Memorial provides a comprehensive war-history lesson of the area. Today the town is laid-back and relatively tourist free with a real-life atmosphere.

Day 2 Cruising Kasolo Island (Kennedy Island) (Solomon Islands)

Day 2 Njari Island (Solomon Islands)

They say good things come in small packages. Njari is a tiny island located between the Wilson Strait and Vella Gulf in the Solomon Islands' north region. An idyllic speck in the ocean, it's almost entirely covered in trees. With hardly any infrastructure to speak of, the coves and bays remain unspoilt. Thousands of species of fish, rays, turtles, dolphins and sharks swim around the colourful coral.

Day 3 Buka Town, Buka Island (Solomon Islands)

Buka, the capital of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, offers an authentic introduction to one of the South Pacific's most culturally distinctive regions. Local Melanesian communities maintain strong clan ties and a deep connection to land and sea, expressed through music, dance, oral traditions, and craftsmanship. The town also reflects a story of resilience and renewal, shaped by Bougainville's ongoing journey toward greater self-determination.

Day 4 Rabaul (Papua New Guinea)

Rabaul, the former capital of New Britain in Papua New Guinea's northeastern tip, is a town with a remarkable volcanic history. Situated inside a flooded caldera and near the active Tavurvur volcano, Rabaul has been rebuilt multiple times, including after the 1994 eruption. Its bustling markets, rich wartime heritage and a strategic harbour make Rabaul an intriguing destination. An observatory oversees the country's volcanic activity.

Day 5 Garove Island (Papua New Guinea)

Tiny, far-flung Garove is part of the Vitu Islands in the Bismarck Sea and is defined by its rich marine biodiversity. The island wraps around a massive, horseshoe-shaped flooded caldera. Nearby dive sites reveal multi-hued fish darting among sea fans and anemones, while reef sharks, schooling jacks, and barracuda patrol the deep. Back on dry land, tiny villages nestle amid towering coconut palms.

Day 6 Tami Island (Papua New Guinea)

Tami Island, a small and serene island in Papua New Guinea, is known for its rich cultural heritage and vibrant traditional carvings. The island's friendly community welcomes visitors to experience authentic local life, colorful art, and stunning coastal scenery. Surrounded by clear blue waters and coral reefs, Tami Island offers a peaceful escape infused with cultural warmth and natural beauty.

Day 7 Crown Island (Papua New Guinea)

Characterised by dense rainforest, the miniscule volcanic island of Crown Island is barely five kilometres from end to end. Rugged jungle trails offer glimpses of birds of paradise, doves and pigeons, while sapphire waters hide colourful coral reefs beneath the surface. Nearby Kar Kar Island is home to one of the country's most active volcanoes, sprawling cocoa plantations and traditional villages dotted among imposing coconut palms.

Day 8 Madang (Papua New Guinea)



Madang, a laid-back port town exuding a village vibe, presents a captivating blend of Pacific war history and natural beauty. At the Visitors and Cultural Bureau, WWII artefacts and exhibits recount the battles for this strategic outpost. The surrounding waters host coral reefs teeming with marine life. Rocky hiking trails traverse Mount Wilhelm, offering panoramic views, extending the allure beyond the town.

Day 9 Manam Island (Papua New Guinea)

Manam Island is marked by an active stratovolcano, occasionally emitting ash plumes. The island's rugged valleys, forested crags, villages and cultures coexist in the shadow of this natural colossus. The area boasts numerous coral reefs, and Hansa Bay holds sunken American and Japanese ships, along with bombers and fighter planes. These waters have also witnessed sightings of hammerheads and tiger sharks.

Day 10 Kopar Village, Sepik River (Papua New Guinea)

Kopar Village, nestled along the Sepik River in Papua New Guinea, is a vibrant community renowned for its rich cultural traditions and elaborate riverine art. The village offers a unique window into the lives of the Sepik people, famous for their intricate spirit houses, woodcarvings, and ceremonial rituals. Surrounded by lush tropical rainforest and winding waterways, Kopar is a place where culture and nature blend seamlessly, providing an unforgettable glimpse into one of the world's most fascinating river cultures.

Day 11 Jayapura, Papua (Indonesia)

Jayapura, Papua's provincial capital, serves as a base to explore the rugged Baliem Valley. Winding trails lead through verdant highlands to secluded waterfalls and saltwater springs. Traditional life endures in tribal villages hidden in the rainforest, featuring religious ceremonies or mock tribal wars. In Jayapura, museums recount the intense WWII battles, where Allied and Japanese forces clashed for control of the Pacific theatre.

Day 12 Day at sea (At Sea)

Day 13 Pulau Mansinam, Papua (Indonesia)

Pulau Mansinam is a small island of great historical and spiritual importance, where Christianity and modern education were first introduced to Papua in 1855. Today, the island combines the quiet rhythm of village life with meaningful cultural landmarks, including historic churches and monuments. Overlooking Manokwari Bay with views toward the Arfak Mountains, Mansinam also offers insight into the strong sense of community and living traditions that continue to shape local life.

Day 14 Sorong, Papua (Indonesia)

Sorong, located in West Papua, serves as a key transportation and logistical hub in eastern Indonesia. Set along the coast and surrounded by tropical landscapes, the city reflects the dynamic character of this remote region, shaped by maritime activity and regional connections. As the final point of the voyage, Sorong provides a practical gateway for onward travel, marking the conclusion of the expedition and guests' return journey home.

**Group return transfers from airport to cruise port and to the hotel (where included)**

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: MINERVA

YOUR SHIP: **Minerva**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The 5 star elegant Scandi-design boutique ship offers you an intimate setting from which you will be fully immersed in all the sights and scenery of your voyage. Introducing SH Minerva Minerva has been designed to journey to off the beaten path destinations and remote polar regions in style and comfort. The ship incorporates a PC5 ice-strengthened hull combined with extra-large stabilisers to make your journey as smooth as possible. Sophisticated Elegance We know how important outdoor space is, so our spacious, relaxing public spaces provide wide open, unobstructed views throughout the ship. The destination will always be in view. Your Wellbeing The safety & happiness of the guests is paramount to the 120-strong crew on board as well as the passionate expedition team who'll be serving up thrilling shore excursions and lasting memories. Cabin Types The 76 cabins including 6 suites have all the amenities you will need to feel comfortable including dressing gowns, hairdryers, personal safes and minibars. The stylish cabins all have desks, a dressing area and comfy seating. En suite bathrooms all feature glass-enclosed rain showers. Wheelchair access Guests who use wheelchairs must bring their own, as we have only a small number of wheelchairs stored onboard for emergencies. To ensure ease of movement on the ship, wheelchairs and mobility aids must be no wider than 65cm. All mobility or medical equipment brought on board must be capable of being carried safely and must be declared before sailing. To ensure that all guests can safely evacuate during an emergency, guests requiring a wheelchair can only be accommodated in our ADA-accessible cabins. There is an Oceanview stateroom on Vega which is specifically designed to be completely ADA compliant and have a fully operable wheelchair-access wet unit. Vega has two lifts, serving every passenger deck apart from the Stargazing top deck, which is, therefore, more difficult to access, as are the Aft Marina and Swan's Nest forward observation platform. Also, we don't have special equipment to access the swimming pool, jacuzzi, or sauna. Otherwise, the ship is entirely at your disposal. Many of the expeditions ashore in remote places are by Zodiac. Boarding these boats and returning aboard can present challenges for wheelchair users, as can navigating uneven terrain. These challenges are by no means always insurmountable, though, and our highly experienced crew is trained to provide reliable advice and assistance. They will make every effort to ensure wheelchair-using guests enjoy a memorable experience at each destination. Our general guidance, however, is to recommend wheelchair users travel with a companion for their ease and enjoyment. If you prefer to remain aboard, our panoramic interiors and ample open decks ensure an immersive, intimate experience of your inspiring





surroundings.

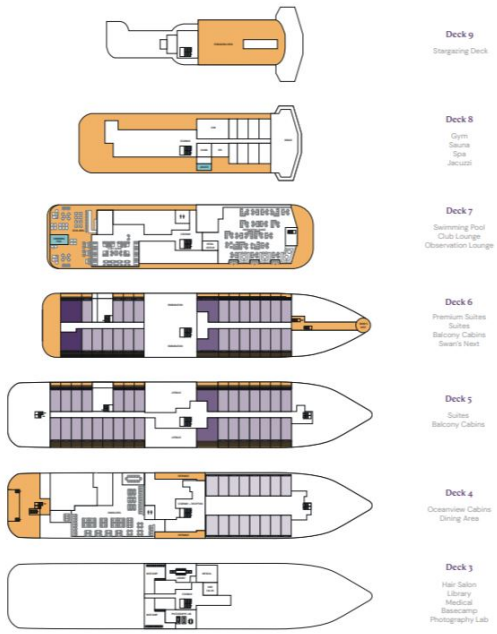
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Balcony M5



Oceanview D4



Oceanview M4



Premium Suite



Suite





PRICING

02-Apr-2027 to 16-Apr-2027

Suite	£15265 GBP pp
Balcony D5	£9605 GBP pp
Oceanview D4	£8725 GBP pp
Oceanview M4	£9165 GBP pp
Balcony M5	£10055 GBP pp
Balcony D6	£10465 GBP pp
Premium Suite	£17455 GBP pp

02-Apr-2028 to 16-Apr-2028

Premium Suite	£16955 GBP pp
Balcony M5	£9755 GBP pp
Oceanview M4	£8915 GBP pp
Balcony D5	£9325 GBP pp
Oceanview D4	£8475 GBP pp
Suite	£14839 GBP pp
Balcony D6	£10175 GBP pp