



## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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info@small-cruise-ships.com

## THE NORTH SEA: COPENHAGEN TO LONDON

Medieval history comes beautifully alive as we explore the famed cobbled streets and canals of Brugge, Ghent, and Brussels; with visits to a Belgian chocolate making workshop, the Royal Museum of Fine Arts and the Grand-Palace Coudenberg. Take a historic walking tour of Amsterdam with stops at Teylers Museum and St. Bavos Church. Discover the old Dutch tradition of whaling and flensing at the Hannemahuis Museum and visit a local Dutch tile workshop. Glide past North Germanys exquisite storybook landscape on the Kiel Canal and marvel at UNESCO World Heritage Site, the medieval city of Lubeck, where youll also visit a marzipan modeling workshop.



### ITINERARY

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

Board National Geographic Orion in the center of Copenhagen. As we sail toward the North Sea, take in panoramic views of the cityscape. (L,D)

#### DAY 2: Lubeck, Germany

Today we arrive in Lubeck, an enchanting city that once served as the medieval capital of the Hanseatic League. Take a walking tour of the old town for an insider's perspective on its Hanseatic and Renaissance architecture, including the Holsten Gate and St. Mary's Church. After lunch, explore Lubeck on your own, or perhaps paddle a kayak. (B,L,D) Gain a further view of German life with a guided tour through the beautiful region of Schleswig Holstein, visiting local fisherman's villages and smokehouses. Or join a pastry chef in a marzipan-modeling workshop.



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### DAY 3: Kiel Canal

Enjoy breakfast on deck as we navigate the Kiel Canal, a 61-mile waterway connecting the North Sea with the Baltic. This morning the beautiful Schleswig-Holstein region beckons. Enjoy the beautiful views from the ship as we slowly traverse this German peninsula. Relax, head to the spa or wellness center, browse the library, and of course, hear talks from our staff en route to Harlingen. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: Harlingen, Netherlands

Dock in Harlingen, a picturesque seaside city in the Friesland region. By special permission, cruise the canals in Zodiacs past 16th- and 18th-century buildings, docking to take a walk through the city center. The city is eager to welcome us and the Mayor of Harlingen will greet us. After lunch, soak in the city at your own pace. Our ship departs late in the evening, allowing for an afternoon of exploration as we take to the North Sea. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5: Amsterdam/Haarlem

With its gabled roofs, squares cluttered with bicycles, and canal-lined streets, Amsterdam is bursting with unique character. Learn about the city's architecture, art, and history on a guided overview via canal and on foot before seeking out its charms on your own. Alternatively, head to Haarlem, home to the Teylers Museum and St. Bavo's Church. Or take a guided bike ride through the Vecht region along winding canals. An abundance of choices await today: a guided visit to the Rijksmuseum, or Amsterdam after dark with a guide in the Red Light District. (B,L,D) Tonight don't miss the exclusive dinner at the historic 17th-century Dutch West Indies House, where the decision was made to build the fort 'Nieuw Amsterdam' on the island of Manhattan. A musical performance will add a festive air to a memorable evening.

### DAY 6: Antwerp and Brussels, Belgium

In the early afternoon, travel overland to Brussels, poised at the junction of Germanic and Latin cultures. Uncover the many layers of the city's history on a guided excursion, visiting sites like the Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium, the Grand-Place, and the remains of the palace on the Coudenberg. Alternatively, you may choose to stay put and explore Antwerp, the largest city in Flanders, known for Flemish artists such as Rubens and van Dyck. (B,D)

### DAY 7: Oostende/Brugge

Anchor in Oostende and transfer to the medieval town of Brugge, known for its Gothic architecture and picturesque market squares linked by cobbled streets and serene canals. Explore the old town with an expert before sampling Belgian fare at a local restaurant. This afternoon discover Brugge on your own, or cycle through the scenic Flemish countryside. (B,L,D) Chocolate fans, this is the country where you belong. Opt to join a private chocolate making class with one of Brugge's top chocolatiers, using the finest hand-selected ingredients.

### DAY 8: London, England/Disembark

Disembark in London's city center nearby Tower Bridge and transfer to the airport for your flight home, or remain in London for an added stay. (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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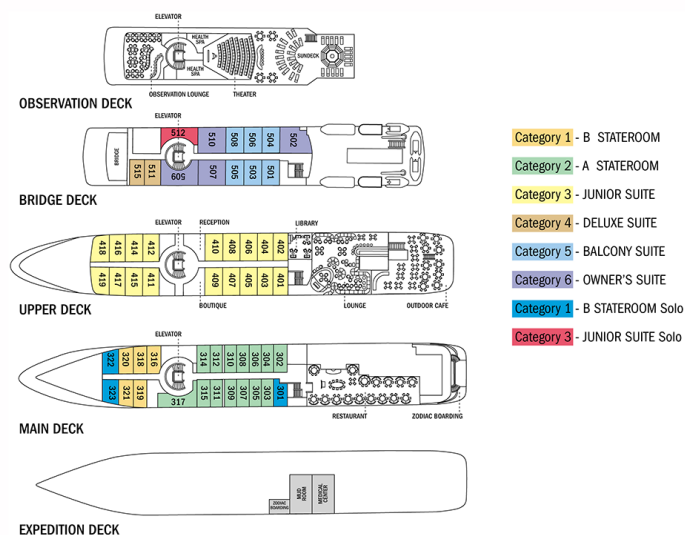
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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## PRICING

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