FRENCH POLYNESIA
BEYOND THE POSTCARD
MAY 9-18, 2019

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION
Aerial view of the "Sacred Island" of Raiatea.
DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Renowned for its idyllic blue-green beauty, Polynesia will prove to be far more than a beach vacation, as you go off-the-beaten path to discover the rich culture and fascinating natural history far beyond its façade of tranquil beauty.

You will encounter the quintessential South Pacific on Bora Bora in the Society Islands. Then discover Polynesia’s deep spiritual pulse as you visit the region’s marae, including Marae Taputapuatea, newly registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Dating from roughly 1,000 AD, it is among the most important cultural touchstones in Polynesia—as is Huahine, one of Polynesia’s best-kept secrets. Once the home of Tahitian royalty, Huahine maintains the highest density of ancient marae. Visit these sites with cultural experts and archaeologists who bring them to life. Venture into the lush interior of the island on a bicycle, then explore the verdant shoreline by kayak, stand-up paddleboard, or Zodiac.

Fakarava in the Tuamotu Archipelago is another highlight. One of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, it offers you the opportunity to snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world-famous drift dive.

The modern and comfortable National Geographic Orion is the perfect mobile platform for this journey, equipped for active exploration on land and sea. Relish the warmth and observe the riveting vistas from her expansive decks at al fresco breakfast and lunch. Or seek the cool serenity of her interior, including the bridge, welcoming observation lounge, and library.

An expert expedition team will add incomparable dimensions to your experience. Naturalists/cultural specialists will illuminate every facet, two divemasters and an undersea specialist will maximize your time in the water, and exclusive musical performances will be curated by an ethnomusicologist. An onboard National Geographic photographer and a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor are at your service—enabling you to benefit from their experience and tips as you shoot side by side.

Few have the chance to experience the South Pacific the way you will on this exceptional expedition, and I hope you are inspired to join us, May 9-18, 2019. To reserve your space, please send in the reservation form or call 800-252-4910.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions, Inc.
For AAAS Travels, ACS and Sigma Xi Expeditions
www.betchartexpeditions.com

FREE AIR!
Book by December 31, 2018, and receive FREE round-trip airfare from Los Angeles to Papeete. Plus bar and crew tips included.

Cover photo: Snorkeling amongst butterfly fish, Taha’a, Society Islands. © Mike Greenfelder

Ship’s registry: Bahamas
Palm-lined turquoise lagoons. Soaring, emerald-encrusted mountain peaks. Pristine reefs bursting with a kaleidoscope of marine life. These are the idyllic notions that lure visitors to French Polynesia, but beneath the sublime exterior there beats a spiritual pulse, linking the island people of today with their ancestors of yore. Nowhere is this ancient rhythm more palpable than on Raiatea, the “Sacred Island” that is home to one of Polynesia’s most important cultural sites, Marae Taputapuatea, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built as a monument to Oro, the god of war, this open-air temple reigned as the center of spiritual power over 1,000 years ago. As you unpack the history of this sacred ground with cultural experts, don’t be surprised if you experience for yourself the indescribable mysterious energy said to emanate from this far-flung island.

You’ll venture on to neighboring Huahine, once the home of Tahitian royalty, with its well-preserved ancient marae and myriad archaeological artifacts dating as far back as 700 AD. The last half of the voyage turns your attention back to the region’s acclaimed natural wonders—snorkeling Fakarava, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; drifting in Rangiroa’s lagoon, the second largest in the world, or exploring enchanting grottos on Makatea.

SNORKEL OR DIVE
IN PARADISE

This expedition offers intact, vibrantly healthy marine habitats. Although donning dive gear takes you deeper, snorkelers can also experience every wonder and thrill. National Geographic Orion is completely outfitted with gear from high tech masks, snorkels, fins, and wetsuits, plus full scuba gear for a number of certified divers—no need to pack your own. In addition, two divemasters and an undersea specialist will do whatever it takes to make this your most memorable experience ever.
THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO EXPLORE LAND & SEA

Modern and elegant with a welcome, sunlit ambiance, the 53-cabin National Geographic Orion will be your mobile base for this unforgettable adventure on the other side of the world. Her generous decks and expansive windowed interiors take full advantage of the sun, ocean breezes, and jaw-dropping scenery.

Orion’s unique adaptation for ocean exploration makes her ideal for discovering the region’s spectacular undersea. The ship is equipped with scuba gear for a number of divers and complete snorkeling gear for all guests aboard. A marina platform makes loading divers, snorkelers, and gear into Zodiacs exceptionally efficient and safe. For those who prefer to stay dry, Orion is equipped with a glass-bottom Zodiac that offers remarkably clear observations of the undersea. She is the only expedition ship traveling in the region with an undersea specialist, two divemasters, and undersea video technology, including an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) capable of exploring depths up to 1,000 feet to provide video to enjoy in brilliant HD from the comfort of the ship’s lounge.
Life aboard National Geographic Orion is as welcoming as the Polynesian people, mirroring the languid pace of island life. Freely roam the accessible ship, including the bridge where you are welcome to watch the captain and officers navigate, and scan for birdlife and whales. Orion’s public spaces foster a convivial atmosphere. In the expansive lounge, the heart of the expedition community, enjoy the lively daily recap sessions and informative presentations. No assigned seating in the elegant dining room makes for easy mingling with fellow guests and the expedition staff. On deck, there are plenty of spaces to enjoy the balmy air and brilliant vistas by day or the romance of dining under stars at night.
SHARE THE ADVENTURE
WITH AN A+ TEAM

Discover the South Pacific with a veteran expedition leader, an assistant expedition leader, and a team of naturalists/cultural specialists well-versed in the region’s flora, fauna, and human history. Two divemasters and an underwater specialist will maximize your time in the incredible undersea, while a National Geographic photographer, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and a video chronicler aboard will ensure you go home with amazing shots and a DVD that captures the story of your voyage. A wellness specialist helps enhance the relaxing and revitalizing benefits of life in the South Pacific.

EXCEPTIONAL DINING

National Geographic Orion has an appetite for dining excellence as well as adventure. Multi-award winning chef Serge Dansereau, considered “the father of the fresh food movement,” is the force behind Orion’s celebrated menus. His concepts are brought to life daily by the ship’s chefs, who have the freedom to execute Serge’s smartly conceived dishes while taking advantage of what’s at hand in the local markets or provisioned from a passing fishing boat. That means you will experience the true flavors of Polynesia in the food served aboard, and you’ll always dine extraordinarily well.
CAPTURE THE EXPERIENCE—TAKE GREAT PHOTOS

*National Geographic Orion* is the only expedition ship exploring the South Pacific with a National Geographic photographer aboard. You'll be joined by Andy Mann, a leader in the field of adventure and ocean photography. He will be flanked by a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, a naturalist trained to help you with your camera settings, the basics of composition, observation, and more to equip you with skills. The South Pacific provides a photo op a minute, and you'll return home with your best photos ever and a lifetime skill.

*NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER ANDY MANN* has been a forerunner in the world of adventure film and conservation photography for over a decade. His work is helping to tell the story of our rapidly changing planet, focusing on ocean conservation and water issues on all seven continents. He is also an experienced climber, diver, Arctic explorer, and workshop leader. Andy has worked extensively in Fiji, including a shark diving expedition in 2014. French Polynesia is one of his most cherished places, and he looks forward to sharing it with travelers.
VENTURE TO THE HEART OF POLYNESIAN CULTURE ON THIS HIGHLY IMMERSIVE EXPEDITION WHERE OPTIONS ABOUND. CHOOSE TO KAYAK, STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD, OR TAKE A BIKE RIDE FOR INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION AND TO CONNECT WITH THESE PEOPLE AND ISLANDS ON A PERSONAL LEVEL. ON RAIATEA, EXPLORE THE HISTORIC CEREMONIAL SITE CALLED A *MARAE*, WHERE POLYNESIAN SEAFARERS WOULD BEGIN THEIR BOLD EXPEDITIONS SAILING INTO THE UNKNOWN. CRUISE AMONG THE ATOLLS OF THE TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO, A STRING OF TINY ISLANDS IN AN AZURE SEA THAT HIDES THRIVING REEFS WE’LL EXPLORE WHILE SCUBA DIVING AND SNORKELING.

**DAY 1: DEPART U.S.**
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Tahiti.

**DAY 2: PAPEETE, FRENCH POLYNESIA/EMBARK**
Arrive in Papeete, Tahiti early this morning, check into dayrooms, and take a brief tour of the island before embarking National Geographic Orion. (L,D)
DAY 3: BORA BORA, SOCIETY ISLANDS
Begin your voyage with a view of one of the South Pacific’s most iconic images, the angular crags of Bora Bora’s Mount Otemanu. Explore the island’s interior by four-wheel drive vehicle for unparalleled views of its turquoise lagoon, then snorkel, dive, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard from one of the motus on the outer reef. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: RAIATEA/TAHA’A
Encircled by a single fringing reef, and sharing a common lagoon, Raiatea and Taha’a are islands well worth exploring. One of the most important cultural sites in the Polynesian world, Marae Taputapuatea was a center for Polynesian seafarers and the location from which they set out for Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Hawaii, and New Zealand. Spend the morning exploring this site on Raiatea, then watch from on deck as we navigate lagoon channels en route to Taha’a, then go ashore for a visit to a small, family-run vanilla plantation. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: HUAHINE
One of Polynesia’s best-kept secrets, Huahine is well off-the-beaten path. Once the home of Tahitian royalty, Huahine maintains the highest density of ancient marae in French Polynesia. Visit these sites with cultural experts and archaeologists who bring them to life. Finish the day with a swim in the island’s crystal-clear lagoon. (B,L,D)

DAYS 6 AND 7: TUAMOTU ARCHIPELAGO
Spend two days exploring some of the nearly 80 islands and atolls in the “Dangerous Archipelago.” Fakarava is one of the largest atolls in French Polynesia and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Snorkel the protected reefs or ride the current into the lagoon on a world famous drift dive. An uplifted coral atoll, the island of Makatea is one of the most unique landforms in the Pacific. Spend the day exploring limestone caves and grottos with your expedition team and local guides, or search for endemic fruit doves and myriad seabirds. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: RANGIROA
The atoll of Rangiroa is a ring of slender islands known for some of the best diving and snorkeling in French Polynesia. The turquoise lagoon at its center is the second largest in the world. Your ship passes between the islets to anchor inside the lagoon near the village of Tiputa. Visit the village, and kayak, snorkel, and scuba dive in the rich waters here, home to large schools of pelagic fish, manta rays, dolphins, and sea turtles. (B,L,D)

DAYS 9 AND 10: RANGIROA/DISEMBARK/PAPEETE/U.S.
Disembark this morning and take a short flight back to Papeete, where you’ll connect to your international overnight flight home. (Day 9: B,L)

PRE-VOYAGE HOTEL STAY: Arrive in Papeete and rest up at the InterContinental Tahiti before embarking. Call for rates and details.
CAPACITY: 53 cabins accommodating 102 guests.  
REGISTRY: Bahamas. OVERALL LENGTH: 338 feet.  
The National Geographic Orion is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel with a steel reinforced forward hull. She is at home navigating polar ice as well as small harbors in the South Pacific.  
PUBLIC AREAS: Outdoor café, lounge with bar, restaurant, sundeck, reception desk, observation lounge and library, global gallery, marina platform. The “open bridge” allows guests to meet the captain and officers and learn about navigation.  
MEALS: All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. The cuisine is international with local flair, featuring tastes of the regions we explore.  
CABINS: All cabins feature ocean views, private facilities, climate controls, and a flat-screen TV with interactive system. Equipped with ethernet and wifi connections and USB ports for mobile devices. Some cabins have French balconies. Single cabins in Category 1 and Category 3 include #301, 322, 323, and 512.  
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of 24 double kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, glass-bottom Zodiac, splashcam, crow’s nest camera, hydrophone, underwater video camera, video microscope, and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). There is snorkeling gear for all guests, and scuba gear for a limited number of qualified divers.  
SPECIAL FEATURES: Laundry, a full-time doctor, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, two divemasters, undersea specialist, and video chronicler.  
WELLNESS: A wellness specialist, fitness center, LEXspa treatment room, and sauna are on board.  

Note: Scuba divers must be certified by an internationally recognized dive association prior to the voyage, and certification cards and logbooks must be shown on board. Divers must have logged 25 dives in total and made a dive within the 12 months preceding the voyage. If you have not made an open water dive within the past year, please contact us about a dive refresher course in Tahiti prior to your voyage. All divers must submit required documentation for review, before joining any expedition.
The fitness center affords great views.

The elegant dining room, with no assigned seating.

### Prices

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

**CATEGORY 1:** $7,960
Main Deck with oval window #316, 318-321

**CATEGORY 2:** $9,690
Main Deck with oval window #302-312, 314, 315, 317

**CATEGORY 3:** $11,370
Upper Deck—Suite with window #401-412, 414-419

**CATEGORY 4:** $12,390
Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window #511, 515

**CATEGORY 5:** $14,990
Bridge Deck—Suite with balcony #501, 503-506, 508

**CATEGORY 6:** $17,420
Bridge Deck—Owner’s suite with balcony #502, 507, 509*, 510
*Cabin 509 has two windows in lieu of balcony.

**CATEGORY 1 SOLE OCCUPANCY:** $11,940
Main Deck with oval window or two portholes #301, 322, 323

**CATEGORY 3 SOLE OCCUPANCY:** $17,050
Bridge Deck—Suite with two windows #512

Note: Sole occupancy cabins available in Categories 1 and 3. Shared accommodations available in Categories 1 and 2. Note: Third person rates available at one-half the double occupancy rate in designated triple occupancy cabins.
INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP
✓ All meals & alcoholic (except certain super-premium brands) & nonalcoholic beverages
✓ Cappuccinos, lattes & complimentary refillable water bottle
✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda
✓ Hors d’oeuvres & snacks during evening recap
✓ Sauna & fitness center
✓ Fully stocked library
✓ The guidance & company of the expedition staff
✓ Gratuities to ship’s crew

ASHORE
✓ Meals on land, as indicated in itinerary
✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
✓ Transfers to & from group flights
✓ The expertise of the expedition staff

ACTIVITIES
✓ All shore activities
✓ Zodiac, kayak & stand-up paddleboard explorations
✓ Snorkeling, including wetsuits, masks, fins
✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
✓ Photo instruction

SPECIAL OFFERS
FREE AIR: Book by December 31, 2018 and receive complimentary economy round-trip airfare from Los Angeles to Papeete. (Tickets must be issued by Lindblad Expeditions, new bookings only, subject to availability, and cannot be combined with other offers.)
BAR TAB AND CREW TIPS: There will be no bar bill on this voyage and tips to crew will be included. (Certain super-premium brands of alcohol are excluded.)
BRING THE KIDS: We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take $500 off for each child under the age of 18.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
COSTS INCLUDE: Accommodations aboard ship; all meals and alcoholic (except certain super-premium brands) and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; shore excursions, sightseeing, and entrance fees; special access permits; transfers to and from group flights; use of kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, snorkeling and scuba equipment, and wetsuits; taxes, service charges, and tips; services of a ship physician and expedition staff.
NOT INCLUDED: Air transportation (except where shown as included); charter airfare Rangiroa/Papeete; passport, visa, and immigration fees; individual transfers; meals not indicated; super-premium brands of alcohol; extensions; scuba diving fees; travel protection plan; items of a personal nature, such as email, voyage DVD, laundry, etc.
SAMPLE AIRFARES: Airfare is an additional cost (except where shown as included). Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete: Economy from $1,500; Business from $4,300; Internal airfare from $250 (Rangiroa-Papeete). Airfares are subject to change. Lindblad Expeditions will assist in making your air arrangements for a $50 per person service fee.
RESERVATIONS: To reserve your place, an advance payment of US$1,000 per person is required at the time of reservation and is payable by check.
FINAL PAYMENT: Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.
TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel protection and medical insurance are available at extra cost. Information will be sent upon registration.
ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(ies) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country, if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country’s requirement.
SMOKING POLICY: Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.
RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Maritime Enterprises’ liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship’s ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.
Itinerary and prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date, and are subject to change. Lindblad Maritime Enterprises reserves the right to impose surcharges based on increases in the actual cost of fuel.

CANCELLATION POLICY

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<tr>
<th>Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start</th>
<th>Per Person Cancellation Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>180 or more days</td>
<td>$850</td>
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<td>179-120 days</td>
<td>Advance payment cost</td>
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<td>119-90 days</td>
<td>25% of trip cost</td>
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<td>89-60 days</td>
<td>50% of trip cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>59-0 days</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.
FRENCH POLYNESIA: BEYOND THE POSTCARD
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION—MAY 9-18, 2019

Please reserve __________ place(s).

Name 1:__________________________________________ (M/F): ____________
(As it appears on passport)

Name 1:__________________________________________ Date of Birth: ____________
(Preferred name for name badge)

Name 2:__________________________________________ (M/F): ____________
(As it appears on passport)

Name 2:__________________________________________ Date of Birth: ____________
(Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address:_________________________________________________________________

City:__________________________________________________________________________

State: _________________________________________________________________________

Zip: ___________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: ___________________ Business Phone: _____________________________

Cell Phone: _____________________ Fax: ________________________________

Email: __________________________________________________________________________

Accommodations: □ Double  □ Single  □ Twin share w/friend

□ Share with roommate assigned by tour operator

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: __________________________ 2nd choice: __________________________

□ I would like to take advantage of the complimentary air offer (booked by Lindblad Expeditions).

□ I will book my own air, and would like information regarding an ‘air credit.’

□ Enclosed is my advance payment of $________________________ ($1,000 per person).

Check made payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

□ I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them:

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Membership: □ AAAS  □ Sigma Xi  □ ACS

#1540
EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

» Visit one of the most important cultural sites in Polynesia, Marae Taputapuatea on Raiatea, recently named a UNESCO World Heritage site.

» Snorkel or dive some of the finest reefs of the Pacific in the Tuamotu Archipelago.

» Kayak or try stand-up paddleboarding in gorgeous turquoise lagoons.

» Watch on deck as National Geographic Orion navigates Tiputa Pass into the lagoon at Rangiroa, one of the largest atolls in the world.

» Travel with an onboard team of naturalists, cultural specialists, divemasters, and expert photographers.

EXPLORE FRENCH POLYNESIA!
MAY 9-18, 2019

AAAS Travels ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions
Betchart Expeditions inc.
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