



# EPIC POLYNESIA: COOK ISLANDS TO FIJI

17 Days | National Geographic Orion | 102 Guests | Expeditions in: May | \$15,680 to \$33,440



Embark on a sweeping adventure to the western reaches of Polynesia and explore from the verdant crags of Tahiti to the vibrant reefs of Fiji—plus tropical islands and reefs that few others will ever see. Immerse yourself in Aitutaki’s warm turquoise waters, and experience genuine Polynesian welcomes throughout Samoa. Visit the tiny island nation of Wallis and Futuna, as very few travelers have, and marvel at impressively decorated cathedrals before diving into a sparkling lagoon. Learn new techniques for photographing colorful markets and friendly faces, as you are welcomed into Fijian villages with traditional kava ceremonies. Whether it’s Pacific culture or nature that you seek, this in-depth expedition offers it all.



### 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 in to dayrooms and take a brief tour of Tahiti before embarking *National Geographic Orion*. (L,D)



### DAY 3-5: TAHAA/RAIATEA/AT SEA

Encircled by a single fringing reef, and sharing a common lagoon, Raiatea and Tahaa are islands well worth exploring. Acclimate to Polynesia’s slower pace with a day of snorkeling, kayaking, paddleboarding and beach exploration at Tahaa. One of the most important cultural sites in the Polynesian world, Marae Taputapuetea 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 refresh yourself with a swim in warm turquoise seas. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6-8: AITUTAKI, COOK ISLANDS / AT SEA

Known for its turquoise central lagoon, Aitutaki has been described as the perfect South Pacific island. Board Zodiacs to enter the lagoon via the pass on the western side of this “almost atoll.” Once ashore, you’ll step over sacred welcome stones to be greeted with a traditional Polynesian welcome. Explore the lagoon, walk palm-fringed beaches and finish with a swim in the warm, clear lagoon. Or, meet the friendly residents and experience traditional Polynesian food, culture and hospitality on a visit to an interior village. Then enjoy life aboard *National Geographic Orion* as we spend two days sailing west toward Samoa. (B,L,D)



**DAY 9-10: SAMOA**

With its spectacular beaches and aqua lagoons, hidden waterfalls and lava-sculpted landscapes, Samoa captures the essence of the South Pacific. During our time on these islands, hike through rain forests vibrant with flowers and birds, take a dip in a swimming hole, go snorkeling or diving on the reef, and soak up the languid rhythms of island life that drew Robert Louis Stevenson to these shores. (B,L,D)



**DAY 11-13: AT SEA / EXPLORING WALLIS AND FUTUNA**

Another of France’s South Pacific territories, the tiny island nation of Wallis and Futuna lies between Samoa and Fiji. Be on deck just after sunrise, as National Geographic Orion navigates the channel into the lagoon at Wallis Island, where we’ll anchor for the day. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Mata-Utu, a stunning edifice built of blue volcanic stone chiseled and trimmed by hand, or the Church of St. Joseph, with its colorfully decorated interior. Later, snorkel, kayak or stand-up paddleboard from one of the tiny islets offshore. (B,L,D)



**DAY 14-15: EXPLORING FIJI**

Enter the island nation of Fiji with a stop at Taveuni, Fiji’s third largest island, known as “The Garden Island” for its rich vegetation—which includes several species found nowhere else in the world. Experience warm Fijian welcomes at the village of Waitabu, and snorkel in one of the Pacific’s most successful community marine parks. Explore the waterfalls of nearby Bouma National Heritage Park, and dive nearby reefs. (B,L,D)



**DAY 16-17: LAUTOKA/DISEMBARK/HOME**

Disembark in Lautoka this morning. Take a tour of western Viti Levu Island then transfer to the international airport at Nadi for overnight flight home, or choose to extend your stay and check in to our hotel. (Day 16: B,L)

**2018 DEPARTURE DATES:**

May 10\*, May 24\*

*\*This voyage travels in reverse from Lautoka to Papeete.*

**Advance Payment:** \$2,500

**Sample Airfares:** Round-trip Los Angeles/Papeete/Nadi/Los Angeles: Economy from \$1,300. *Airfares are subject to change.*

**Important Flight Information:** Please confirm arrival and departure dates prior to booking flights.

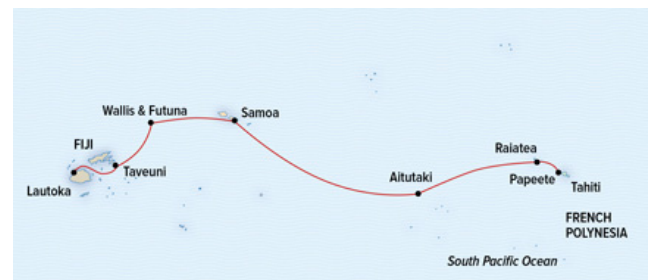
**Cost Includes:** The rates include accommodations aboard ship; all meals indicated; alcoholic beverages (except premium brands) aboard ship; all shore excursions and sightseeing; entrance fees, transfers to and from group flights; local transportation to/from sites of interest; use of kayaks, snorkeling gear, scuba gear, and stand-up paddleboards; taxes, port charges and service charges; services of the ship’s physician; Lindblad Expeditions’ Leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; gratuities to local guides and ship’s crew. **Not Included:** Airfare (unless indicated as included); travel protection plan; scuba diving fees; passport, visa or immigration fees; personal items such as email, laundry, voyage DVD etc.

**SPECIAL OFFERS:**

**FREE AIRFARE:** Book by Jul. 31, 2017 for free round-trip economy class international air Los Angeles/Papeete/Nadi/Los Angeles. Must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions. New bookings only. Call for details.

**BOOK 2 OR MORE AND SAVE 10%:** Book two or more South Pacific voyages aboard *National Geographic Orion* and take 10% off each voyage. Savings is applicable to back-to-back or non-consecutive voyages. \*This savings is available on voyage fare only, and is not valid on airfares or extensions.

**FREE BAR TAB AND CREW TIPS INCLUDED**



**National Geographic Orion**

COST PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY						
	01	02	03	04	05	06
2018	\$ 15,680	\$ 18,670	\$ 21,990	\$ 23,990	\$ 28,940	\$ 33,440
COST PER PERSON SINGLE OCCUPANCY						
	1S		3S			
2018	\$ 23,520		\$ 32,990			



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

**CAPACITY:** 102 guests in 53 outside cabins. **REGISTRY:** Bahamas. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 338 feet.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Outdoor café, lounge with bar, restaurant, global gallery, observation lounge and library, sundeck, marina platform, and whirlpool hot tub that doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates.

**OPEN BRIDGE:** Provides guests with an opportunity to meet our officers and captain 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.

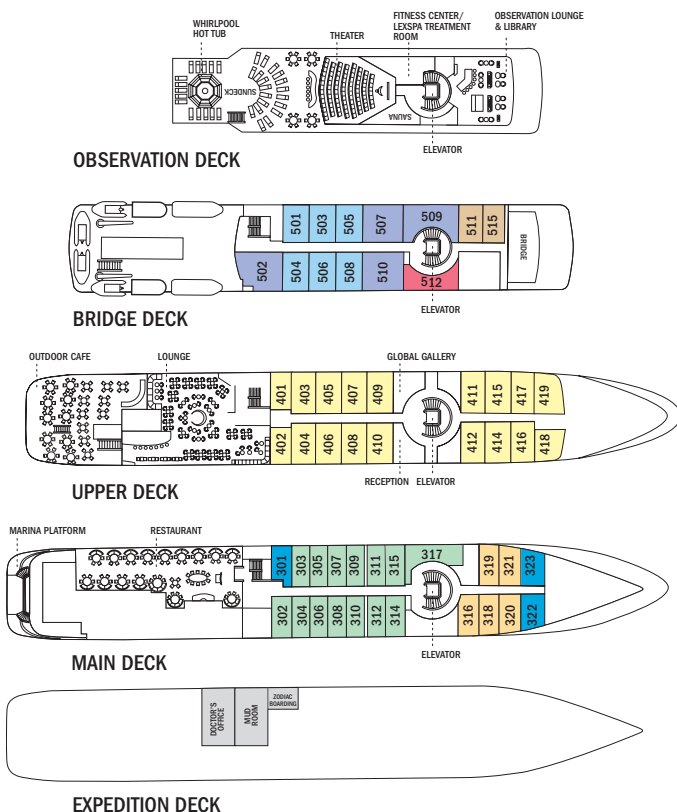
**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of 24 double kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for 24 guests, glass-bottom Zodiac, hydrophone, underwater video cameras, Splash-Cam, video microscope, & crow's nest camera.

**WELLNESS:** The ship is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a fitness center, massage/LEXspa treatment room, and sauna.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, divemasters, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and a video chronicler. Global Perspectives guest speakers on select voyages. Laundry service available.



Top: Category 6 French balcony suite. Middle: Category 3 cabin. Bottom: Observation lounge and library.



**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck with oval window #316, 318, 319-321

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

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

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

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

**CATEGORY 6:** Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with French balcony #502, 507, 509\*, 510  
\*Cabin 509 has two windows in lieu of a French balcony.

**CATEGORY 1 SOLO:** Main Deck with oval window or two portholes #301, 322, 323

**CATEGORY 3 SOLO:** 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.