

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

EXPEDITIONS



TRAVEL CATALOG
2015–2016

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS 2015–2016 TRIPS



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Dear Traveler,

In 1903, Elsie May Grosvenor—the daughter of one National Geographic president and the wife of another—was tasked with designing a flag for the 15-year-old society. She chose to represent the realms that National Geographic intended to explore: a green stripe for sea, a brown stripe for land, and a blue one for sky. More than a century later, that flag has been unfurled by our explorers atop Mount Everest, among deep-sea reefs, and even on the moon. Our grantees and reporters continue to investigate our multifaceted world, and through our expeditions, you can join them, discovering the myriad wonders of our planet with us by sea, land, and air.

In 2015, we'll set off across the sands of Arabia with archaeologist Jeffrey Rose, going behind the scenes at important excavation sites in Oman and the United Arab Emirates. We'll meet wildlife experts in Australia on a trip from Tasmania to the Great Barrier Reef, and in Costa Rica, we venture into jungle waterways and cloud forests with a naturalist. Join an acclaimed archaeologist for a journey by rail and riverboat through Malaysia and Thailand, or ride five spectacular railways through Norway's fjord-sliced countryside with geographer David Scott Silverberg. Our newest family expedition will have explorers of all ages discovering dinosaur fossils and ancient cliff dwellings alongside local experts in the American Southwest.

We'll sail the eastern Pacific aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, tracing the coasts of Colombia, Peru, and Chile on three fascinating voyages. The *National Geographic Orion* heads to the South Pacific, offering some of the best scuba diving and snorkeling in the world from the Spice Islands to the Pitcairns. And we'll take to the skies with a slew of conservationists and scientists on our private jet trip, *Ocean Wonders and Island Cultures*, visiting far-flung places such as Palau, Fiji, and the Maldives.

No matter which way you choose to travel, you'll experience incredible places in the company of our inspiring experts. We hope you'll join us!

Turn to the calendar on page 136 for a full listing of our trips by destination, and see page 138 for our photography, family, and Adventure trips. To reserve your space, call 1-888-966-8687 or visit our website: nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.

Sincerely,



Gary E. Knell
President and CEO
National Geographic Society

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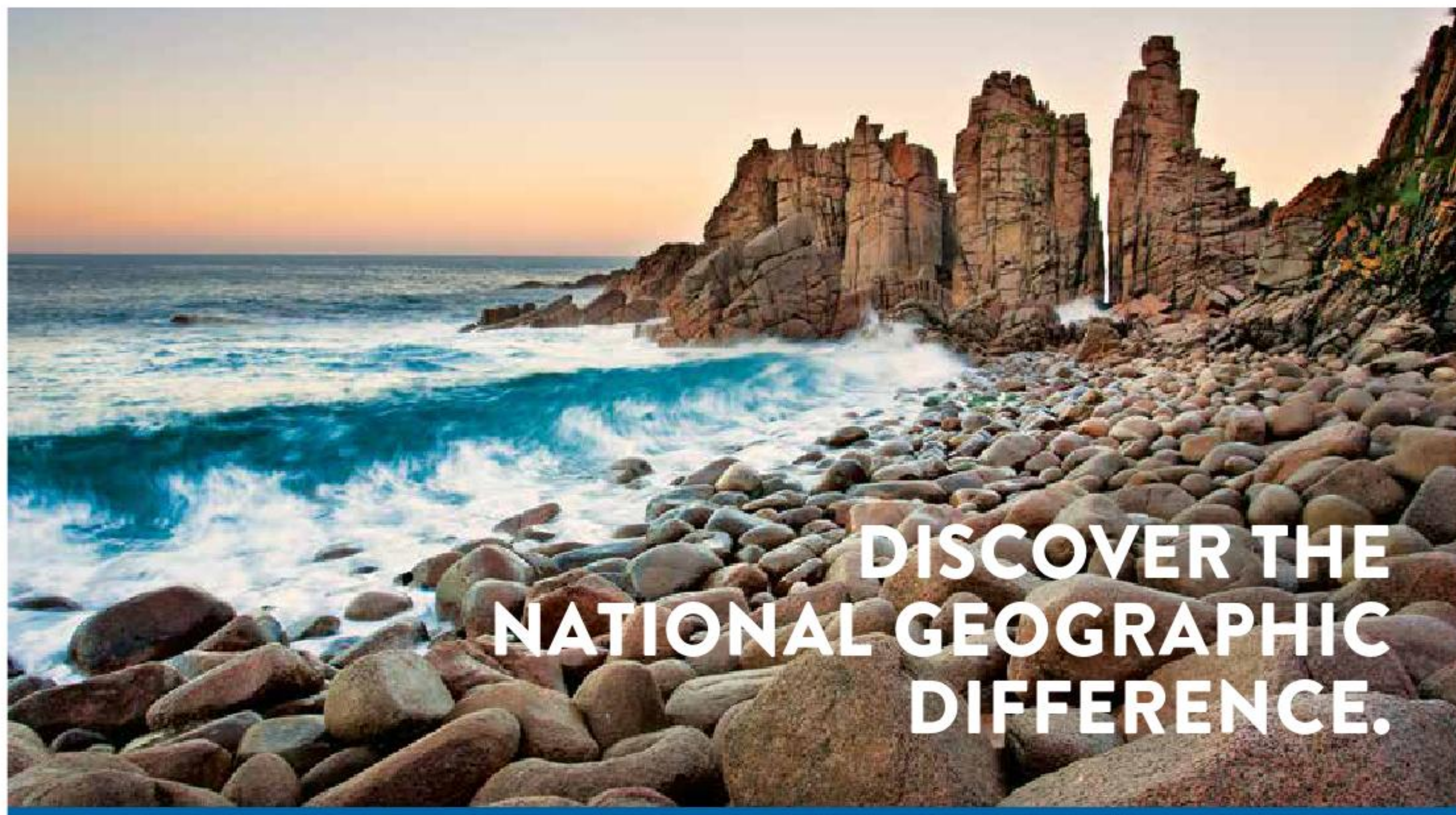
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By traveling with us, you help support National Geographic grantees and explorers in their efforts to preserve species and habitats, protect cultures, and advance understanding of our incredible planet.



Set off the southern coast of Australia amid the tumultuous seas that reach to Antarctica, Tasmania is wild, unique, and utterly magnificent. Ancient glaciers upended the geography here, sculpting dramatic landscapes where unusual creatures now make their homes. A huge swath of the island's western half has been declared a World Heritage site, and about a third of Tasmania is protected by national parks. When you're born in a place like this, it's natural to want to do everything you can to preserve it.

Native Tasmanian Robert Pennicott—a National Geographic Traveler of the Year—launched a pioneering ecotourism company in 1999, inviting visitors to explore Tasmania's spectacular southeastern coast and adjacent islands aboard custom-designed pontoon boats. Fifteen years later, these wildlife cruises are award-winning models of ecologically sound exploration, and they've also helped fund efforts to protect coastal ecosystems. We'll climb into Robert's famous yellow boats on our new Inside Australia expedition, joining him or a senior member of his team for an exhilarating and inspirational voyage to some truly wild coastal landscapes.

We'll also meet National Geographic scientists who have been drawn by Tasmania's rare and diverse fauna. In Hobart, Tasmania's vibrant capital, we'll be joined by Stewart Nicol, one of the world's leading experts on the echidna—a spiny, egg-laying mammal related to the platypus. Stewart will discuss the quirky behavior of this prehistoric creature and accompany us on a private after-hours tour of the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary to see them up close. Shark expert Adam Barnett will meet up with us later in Port Douglas to share his Tasmania-based research on the sevengill sharks.

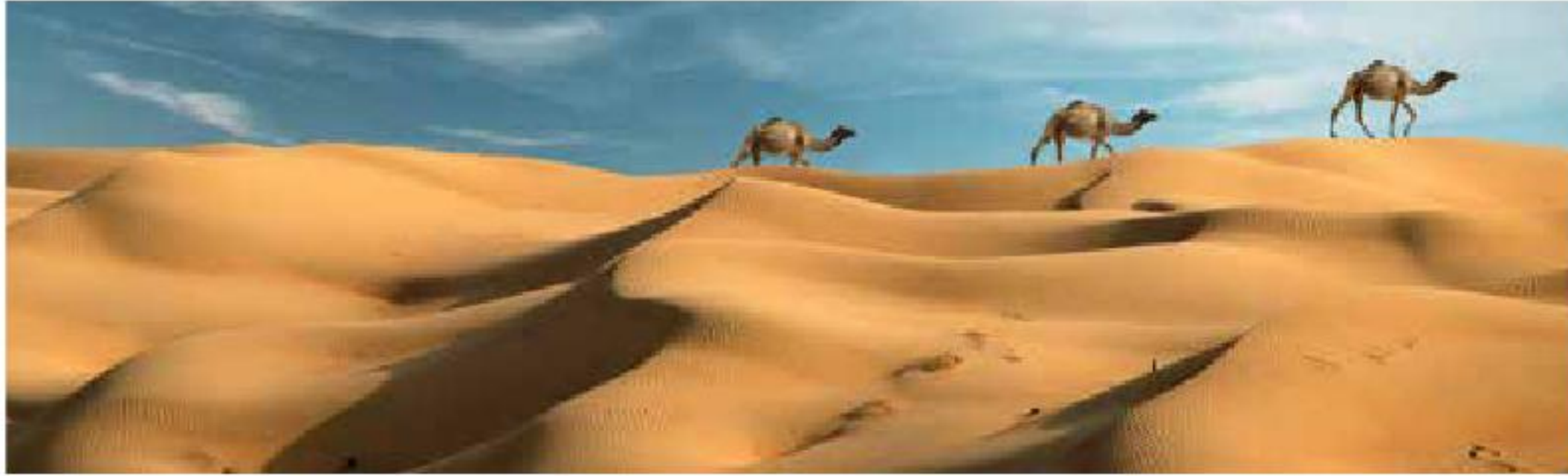
On our new trip to Oman, we meet archaeologists at their excavation sites to get an insider's perspective on their work. We'll peer at prehistoric rock art with a host of local experts on our Human Origins trip to France and Spain, and we track iconic wildlife in Rwanda and India with researchers who have dedicated their lives to studying and protecting them. Our explorers and grantees are driven by a passion for discovery and a desire to understand the planet on a deeper level—and that spirit infuses everything we do.

“

I have traveled the world and never, and I mean never, have had the ability to learn so much from so many people as I did on this trip. **I have never been as enriched by a travel experience as I was from this one.**

Thank you, Nat Geo! ”

—Jeff G., traveler on our Cuba expedition



TRAVEL THAT'S TAILORED TO YOUR INTERESTS

Our trips span the gamut: whether you're a budding photographer, a classic-train buff, a wildlife enthusiast, or a parent looking for a great family adventure, you'll find an array of opportunities that fit your passions and interests.

THE BEAUTY OF HAPPENSTANCE

Some of the best moments in travel occur when you least expect them. So that you can savor these instants and enjoy a place in a way that's meaningful to you, we offer options and build free time into our itineraries wherever we can.

EXPLORE THE WORLD COMFORTABLY

Our accommodations are selected for their excellent quality, location, and character. We take care of the logistics and the details so that you can immerse yourself in the places you are exploring.

TRAVEL IN GOOD COMPANY

Lasting friendships often begin on a National Geographic Expedition. Your traveling companions are Society members like you: active, engaged, and curious about the world.

AN EXPERT TOUCH

Our experts' fingerprints are all over our expeditions. We consult them when crafting our itineraries; we visit them in the field; and—best of all—they travel with us. The result: you experience a place through the eyes of someone who knows it intimately.

EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

To help you prepare for your trip, we'll send you National Geographic books, articles, or maps related to your destination.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
EXPEDITIONS



Lifelong
Explorer

Our Loyalty Program

Once you've traveled on three National Geographic Expeditions and/or National Geographic Adventures, you'll qualify for enrollment in our Lifelong Explorer program. Lifelong Explorers are entitled to a host of benefits:

- Savings on all future National Geographic Expeditions and National Geographic Adventures
- Advance notice of new trips
- Invitations to join special trips not open to the public
- Special offers on upcoming trips
- Invitations to special National Geographic events and lectures around the country
- Dedicated email newsletters exclusively for Lifelong Explorers

To learn more about the Lifelong Explorer program, visit ngexpeditions.com/le.

OUR EXPERTS

YOUR INSPIRING TRAVEL COMPANIONS

National Geographic researchers, explorers, writers, and photographers have brought the world to our members for more than a hundred years. Now, they bring you to the planet's most intriguing places to share their passion and their insider perspectives. We'd like to introduce you to a few of them.



A longtime resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico **NEVADA WIER** is an award-winning photographer specializing in the remote corners of the globe and the cultures that inhabit them. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *National Geographic* magazine, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *Outside*, and *Smithsonian*. She is a Fellow of the Explorer's Club and a member of the Women's Geographic Society. Nevada will lead photography expeditions in India and Tanzania, as well as the May 2015 Santa Fe Photography Workshop.



Author, photographer, filmmaker, and National Geographic Emerging Explorer **SANDESH KADUR** seeks to inspire people to appreciate and protect the world's biodiversity. With subjects ranging from king cobras to clouded leopards, his documentary films have appeared on the National Geographic Channel, the BBC, the Discovery Channel, and elsewhere. His photographs have been featured in numerous books and magazines. Sandesh's many awards include CIWEM Environmental Photographer of the Year, the International Conservation Photographer award, and the 2013 North American Nature Photographers Vision Award. Sandesh will join the November 3, 2015 and February 15, 2016 departures of our India Wildlife Safari.



Writer and adventurer **ROFF SMITH** migrated to Australia about 30 years ago and has written extensively about his adopted land, authoring *National Geographic Traveler: Australia* and *Australia: Journey Through a Timeless Land*. In 1996, Roff set out on a 10,000-mile solo bicycle trek around Australia that he chronicled in a *National Geographic* magazine article series and a book called *Cold Beer and Crocodiles*. He has written of crossing Australia on the Indian Pacific Railway for a National Geographic book, and his story on Australia's Fraser Island appeared in the September 2010 issue of *National Geographic* magazine. Roff will join the December 2015 and the January and February 2016 departures of our new trip, Inside Australia: Tasmania to the Great Barrier Reef.



Archaeologist and National Geographic grantee **JOYCE WHITE** is a consulting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and executive director of the Institute for Southeast Asian Archaeology. For more than 30 years, she has directed a research project on Ban Chiang, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Thailand. Through the Middle Mekong Archaeological Project, which she also directs, she has excavated a number of sites in Luangphabang province in Laos. Her focus is the evolution of agriculture and metallurgy in prehistoric Southeast Asia. Joyce will join both October 2015 departures of our new Southeast Asia by River and Rail expedition.



Conservationist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer **STEVE BOYES** has dedicated his life to preserving Africa's wilderness areas and the species that depend upon them. A native of South Africa, Steve spent more than five years in the Okavango Delta while doing fieldwork for his doctorate in zoology. He currently runs the Cape Parrot Project with support from the Society's Conservation Trust and is the Scientific Director of the Wild Bird Trust. His work takes him all over Africa, studying wildlife rehabilitation and biodiversity, fighting the wild-caught bird trade, and planting thousands of trees in forest restoration projects. Steve will accompany our December 2015 departure of Southern Africa by Private Air.



WHEN ARCHAEOLOGIST AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EMERGING EXPLORER **JEFFREY ROSE** TRAVELS TO OMAN THESE DAYS, EVEN THE PASSPORT CONTROL STAFF MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE HE'S HOME: "You're the guy who walks his dog on the beach!" they've been known to say when he arrives. Jeff spent three years in an Omani fishing village and many, many months excavating prehistoric sites all over Oman. He will be leading our new expedition there next year. Here's what he has to say about falling in love with the country.

WHAT ORIGINALLY BROUGHT YOU TO OMAN?

I read Wilfred Thesiger's book *Arabian Sands* when I was 17. He was one of the first British explorers to cross the Rub' al Khali, the vast desert that covers much of the southern Arabian Peninsula. It sounded like the last great archaeological frontier. Through a grant from the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, I traveled to the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, to learn Arabic, and suddenly I was running a project by myself in extremely remote parts of eastern Yemen.

After 9/11, Yemen wasn't a very welcoming place. I visited an Omani friend from graduate school in 2002, and he took me down to the south, to Dhofar, where I work now. I've never seen anything like it, not to this day. This is a landscape covered with prehistoric archaeology from all time periods. The density of sites is just mind-boggling. It was love at first trip.

WHAT STANDS OUT ON A FIRST VISIT TO OMAN?

The people: They're friendly, warm, genuine, smiling, gentle—just lovely, lovely people. Without even knowing you, they'd give you the shirt off their backs. Another first impression:

Oman's incredible landscape. You might envision a desert that's dry and sandy, but much of Oman is green and mountainous.

I love showing people this country. It's a gem. The sultan hasn't turned it into a glitzy commercial center, but has worked instead to preserve and celebrate its traditions. Everything here still smells like frankincense. People wear traditional attire. All the romantic things that originally drew me to Arabia you can still find in Oman.

YOU'VE MADE FASCINATING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN OMAN. WHAT DO THEY REVEAL?

We know that humans first migrated out of Africa between 120,000 and 60,000 years ago. We didn't know exactly who they were, where they came from, or when they left. Nubian material we've excavated at Dhofar in southwestern Oman tells us they came from the Nile Valley between 120,000 and 100,000 years ago, and that they took a southern route. There was never a land bridge across the Red Sea here, so they had to have some sort of seafaring technology in order to cross it. Perhaps they saw what was across the Red Sea when they looked east and they wanted to know what was there.

READ MORE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH JEFF ON OUR WEBSITE. SEE PAGE 84 FOR OUR NEW EXPEDITION THAT JEFF WILL LEAD: TRAVELING THE SANDS OF TIME: OMAN TO DUBAI.



EXPEDITIONS TAILORED TO YOUR INTERESTS

TAKE TO THE SEAS ABOARD THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC–LINDBLAD FLEET.

Step aboard any of the six expedition ships in the National Geographic–Lindblad fleet and it's clear right away that these are no ordinary cruise ships. Discovering the planet's treasures—whether it's endangered tortoises in Galápagos or far-flung island cultures in the South Pacific—is the guiding force on our ships, and yet your comfort is never sacrificed. We dive into a destination and get to know it well, setting out in small groups with our team of experts to learn about the local culture and ecology. We give our guests the freedom to get out and explore, get in the water, go hiking and kayaking, and see wildlife up close.

We value sunrise photo shoots and engaging recaps at the end of each action-packed day. And we'll gladly veer off course just to follow a pod of orcas or explore a hidden cove. This flexibility allows us to experience the remote and the rare, from the glacier-carved coasts of Norway to the Chilean fjords.

Through our alliance with Lindblad Expeditions, we support initiatives around the globe, with a special focus on the regions we explore. With the help of our guests, we have funded research on humpback whale behavior in Alaska; provided educational materials to teachers and students in the Galápagos; and are now supporting the National Geographic Pristine Seas Project, which seeks to protect some of the last unspoiled ocean environments in the world.

“ The National Geographic name is synonymous with the highest quality expedition experience,
which includes well thought-out itineraries, top naturalists and other staffers, as well as high quality accommodations and equipment. **”**

—Carelle K., traveler on our Galápagos expedition



LEARN PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE BEST.

National Geographic’s photographers have long told stories through their images that help connect us to people and places all around the globe. Now, there are more ways than ever to learn from them firsthand. Our photography workshops are in-depth, hands-on programs that take place over a long weekend or a week and combine classroom time with daily photo assignments in the field. On a photography expedition, you’ll explore a compelling place like India or Morocco with your camera in hand, learning tips and techniques as you shoot alongside the pros. Each program is designed for amateur photographers interested in improving their skills and is led by a National Geographic photographer. Turn to pages 108–113 to see a listing of our photography trips and workshops.

SHARE THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD WITH YOUR FAMILY.

Tap into kids’ natural instinct to explore and discover fascinating places as a family! Family travel can be life-changing, cultivating new interests and transforming a curious youth into a budding global citizen. From Australia to the American Southwest, we draw on our global resources to create experiences in incredible places that are authentic, immersive, and fun. We meet with all kinds of fascinating people on the road—archaeologists in Xi’an, China or Scotland’s Highlanders for example—and try out new things like making mosaics in Greece or water puppets in Vietnam. Many of our family adventures feature a kid-to-kid connection: kids correspond before the trip with pen pals in our destination, and then meet up with them during the trip. See pages 114–125 for all of our family expeditions.

GRAB YOUR HIKING BOOTS AND HIT THE TRAILS...

...or gear up to go kayaking, horseback riding, camel trekking, mountain climbing, or even dogsledding in truly spectacular places. National Geographic Adventures are designed for travelers who seek more active exploration, approaching magical sites by the road less traveled, whether it’s hiking to hilltop villages in Provence or mountaintops in Bhutan, tracking lemurs in Madagascar or cheetahs in Namibia, walking clear across England, or kayaking deep into Alaska’s Glacier Bay. Pick from six activity level ratings, from easy to ultimate challenge, and travel with a top guide in groups of no more than 16. We’ve also invited acclaimed National Geographic photographers to accompany special photo adventures to places like Scotland and Japan to share their tips and insights as you travel together. Visit our website at nationalgeographicadventures.com.



SPARK A PASSION FOR TRAVEL IN YOUR TEENAGER.

National Geographic Student Expeditions invites the next generation of explorers to get out into the field this summer and learn about the world through hands-on experiences, often in the company of our experts. Conduct research alongside a National Geographic paleontologist in South Africa or a wildlife biologist in Brazil, go on shoots with a National Geographic photographer during a photography workshop in Yellowstone or Prague, or work on community service projects in Fiji or Nepal. Students dig deeper into the place they’re exploring through a project in their own area of interest—photography, creative writing, or archaeology, for example—which helps them engage more fully with the cultures and landscapes they encounter. Learn more at ngstudentexpeditions.com.



AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES AROUND THE WORLD

There's a distinct difference between visiting a place and truly experiencing it. It's what has kept National Geographic's reporting so vivid over the years—our explorers and photographers dig in deep, get immersed in the culture, learn from and listen to the people, and take part in age-old traditions. They are not satisfied with just scratching the surface. In the same spirit, we seek to make every expedition a celebration of a unique place and a genuine interaction with its culture.

IT'S IN THE WAY WE TRAVEL. Climb high into Norway's mountains for majestic views of the fjords aboard the Flåm Railway, named one of Europe's top ten railways by *National Geographic Traveler*. Or trace the length of Malaysia in 19th-century style aboard the elegant *Eastern & Oriental Express*. Venture up the jungle waterways of Costa Rica's Tortuguero National Park by boat, or ply Holland's canals at the height of spring in an intimate barge.

IT'S IN THE PEOPLE WE MEET. A Navajo storyteller will enchant us with his people's legends during an evening picnic in Monument Valley on a new family trip to the American Southwest. In Oman, join an archaeologist for an insider's tour of Bat, a Bronze Age site currently being excavated with support from National Geographic. A renowned chef brings us to his native Tuscan village and hosts a meal at his family's restaurant on





our Joys of the Italian Table culinary expedition to Italy, and the former president of Colombia introduces us to his country on a voyage from the Panama Canal to Colombia and Peru.

IT'S IN THE TRADITIONS WE

ENCOUNTER, from the evocative sounds of monks chanting at dawn in the mountains of Thailand to the foot-tapping fun of live music on Ireland's west coast. We'll catch street performances in Cuba, learn about the Dreamtime on a rain forest walk with Australia's Aboriginal people, and sample local ciders in Norway and cheeses in Provence. We roll up our sleeves for cooking lessons, kick up our heels to join in local festivals, and learn from local artisans all over the world.

IT'S IN THE PLACES WE STAY.

Settle into your own pine cabin at Tasmania's award-winning Cradle Mountain Lodge and spend your days exploring the exquisite wilderness of Cradle Mountain–Lake Saint Clair National Park. Encounter a side of Arabia worlds away from Dubai at Al-Maha, a luxury resort nestled within a conservation area where beautifully appointed tented suites look out over undulating dunes. Or stay in one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World—including Chile's Tierra Patagonia and the Three Camel Lodge in Mongolia's Gobi—and experience a destination from extraordinary properties that are deeply engaged in sustaining the natural and cultural treasures of the region. Read more about the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World program on the next page.



“ The trip was like eating mezes: a little bit of everything! ” A bustling city, a natural wonder, lunch with a local family, some Greco-Roman ruins, a seaside town known for its clear turquoise water...
What a wonderful trip! ”

—Julia S., traveler on our Turkey expedition

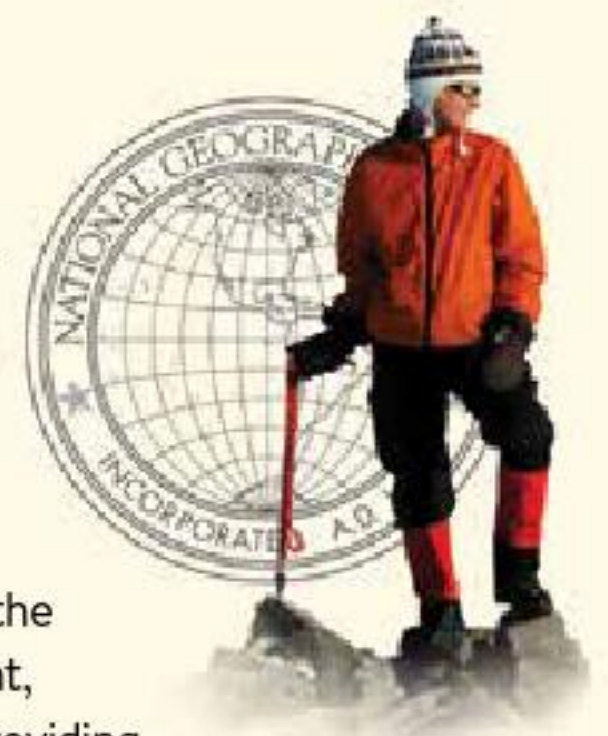


When you travel with us, you make a difference.

Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the National Geographic Society's core nonprofit programs. By traveling with us, you help support our grantees and explorers in their efforts to preserve species and habitats, protect cultures, and advance understanding of our incredible planet.

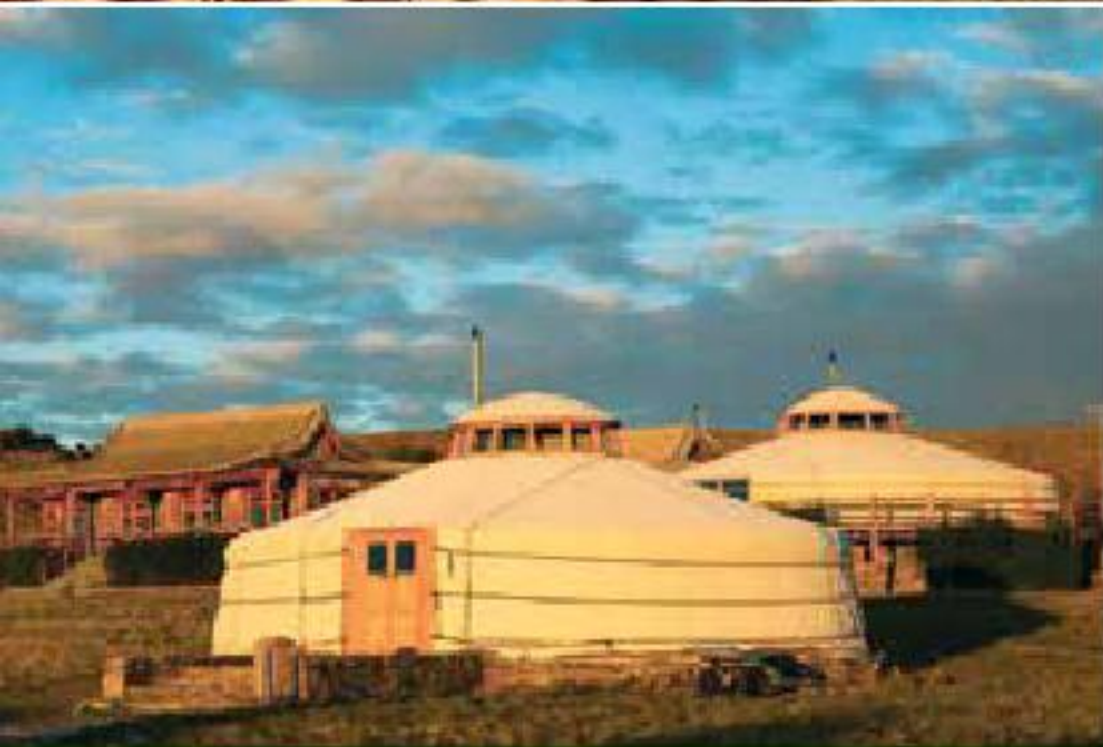
As you thumb through this catalog, look for the National Geographic seal to learn more about the programs that your participation helps fund.

National Geographic Expeditions is committed to sustaining the character and integrity of each place we visit—its environment, culture, and heritage, and the well-being of its residents. In providing authentic travel experiences, we strive to support local economies in our choice of services. At the same time, we believe that the powerful positive effects of sustainable travel go beyond the long-term economic benefits, inspiring passionate stewards committed to protecting the places we visit.





STAY IN A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC UNIQUE LODGE



IN SPECTACULAR PLACES ALL OVER THE WORLD, National Geographic has singled out hotels that treat you to one-of-a-kind experiences while treating our planet with care and respect. Launching in 2015, National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World is a new collection of world-class accommodations that create rich, meaningful experiences for guests while supporting and preserving the local culture and environment. You can find them nestled in the coastal forests of British Columbia or perched on spectacular atolls in French Polynesia—and you'll have a chance to stay at them on some of our expeditions.

On our **EXPLORING PATAGONIA EXPEDITION**, we settle into the Tierra Patagonia, a stunning lodge designed to reflect the local architecture and showcase a magnificent vista of the peaks of Torres del Paine National Park. In the company of excellent guides, explore the park by foot, mountain bike, or horseback, and then relax by the fireside or in the award-winning spa.

On our **BHUTAN: KINGDOM IN THE CLOUDS EXPEDITION**, your base in Paro is Zhiwa Ling, a timeless masterpiece of Bhutanese architecture and craftsmanship set among willows and streams in the Himalaya foothills. Here you can enjoy a yoga

session looking out at the legendary Tiger's Nest Temple, join monks for a blessing ceremony in the lodge's temple, or learn traditional games or recipes with the locally hired staff.

On our **MONGOLIA PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION**, sleep in the tranquility of a beautifully appointed *ger*—a traditional, round tent—at the Three Camel Lodge in the Gobi, and spend your days exploring the desert and meeting its nomads. Or watch the wildlife of the Serengeti pass by from your stunning tented suite at Sayari on our **TANZANIA'S GREAT MIGRATION SAFARI**. Our **WILDLIFE OF THE WORLD BY PRIVATE JET** trip features a stay at the Southern Ocean Lodge, perched on the coastal cliffs of Australia's Kangaroo Island.

No matter which of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World you call home on your travels, expect authentic experiences away from the crowd, world-class services and amenities, and unique access to local culture and spectacular sites.



**UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD™**
nationalgeographiclodges.com

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRIVATE EXPEDITIONS



TRAVEL INDEPENDENTLY—WITH ALL THE BENEFITS OF EXPLORING WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

National Geographic Private Expeditions bring you and the traveling companions you choose—whether its one, two, or ten—to extraordinary places all over the world. We've crafted innovative itineraries that combine guided excursions, fascinating insights into culture and wildlife, and top accommodations. Simply select the destination that captures your imagination and decide when you want to travel, and we'll take care of the rest.

IT'S YOUR TRIP.

Bring your spouse, your daughter, your whole family, a handful of friends, or just treat yourself: it's up to you. Choose dates based on your own schedule—or based on what you want to see. Our reservation specialists can give you guidance on what times of the year are best for whale-spotting in South Africa or catching a festival in Bhutan. You'll explore each destination in the company of seasoned guides and, as a



guest of National Geographic, you'll enjoy special access to sites and events such as a behind-the-scenes tour of a fossil lab with paleontologists in Mongolia or a nature walk with a biologist in the cloud forests of Ecuador.

YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE EXCEPTIONAL.

Spend a night on an intimate traditional junk, sailing among karst formations on Vietnam's Halong Bay. Or stroll among the stone arcades of a 16th-century manor in Cusco, Peru. We've lined up incredible accommodations that celebrate the local culture or wilderness while offering top-notch amenities. Many private expeditions feature National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, some of the most spectacular—and the most sustainable—hotels on the planet. Enjoy Berber hospitality high in Morocco's Atlas Mountains at the Kasbah du Toubkal, watch the sunset over Uluru (Ayer's Rock) from your luxury tent at Australia's Longitude 131°, or step into the Costa Rican rain forest right outside your bungalow door at Lapa Rios. Visit ngexpeditions.com/private to see detailed itineraries for these destinations and more!

- Peru
- Ecuador
- China
- Mongolia
- Tanzania
- Vietnam and Cambodia
- Greece
- South Africa
- Bhutan
- Australia
- Morocco
- Costa Rica
- Chile

COSTA RICA: CLOUD FOREST TO THE CARIBBEAN new



EXPLORE COSTA RICA'S SPLENDID NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES on a journey from mist-shrouded cloud forests to volcanoes and coastal jungles. Spot bright-winged birds in Carara National Park, and venture deep into the Monteverde Cloud Forest to search for monkeys, sloths, and rare orchids. Discover the smoldering Arenal Volcano, and encounter a wealth of wildlife along hidden waterways in Tortuguero National Park.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the extraordinary biodiversity of Monteverde, home to six distinct ecological zones.
- Marvel at scarlet macaws, sloths, and monkeys on a walk in Carara National Park.
- Explore the rain forest surrounding Arenal Volcano on bridges suspended among the treetops.
- Glide along the waterways of Tortuguero National Park on the lookout for caimans, manatees, and toucans.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Gustavo Abarca-Guerrero has been leading land- and ship-based nature programs in Costa Rica since 1992. He has studied biological sciences and modern languages at the University of Costa Rica, and continues to study natural resource management and conservation at Costa Rica's state university. He also coordinates a study abroad program in Costa Rica that focuses on the environment. For Gustavo, leading expeditions through the tropical paradise of his homeland is a dream come true.

GUSTAVO WILL ACCOMPANY SEVERAL DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS DEPARTURE DATES. THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Fly to San José, Costa Rica's capital, and transfer to our hotel upon arrival. Gather for a welcome dinner this evening. **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL CARIARI SAN JOSÉ (D)**

DAY 2 CARARA NATIONAL PARK/ MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST RESERVE

Explore Carara National Park, a 13,000-acre reserve that encompasses both dry and tropical rain forest. Watch for capuchin and spider monkeys along with hundreds of bird species, including scarlet macaws, blue-crowned motmots, and hummingbirds. After lunch, embark on a scenic drive to Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve—one of Costa Rica's most spectacular wildlife sanctuaries and home to an incredible diversity of flora and fauna. Visit the Bat Jungle to witness this nocturnal species in action, and learn about life in the early Monte Verde community, which was established by the Quakers in the

1950s. Later, settle into our lodge with expansive views of the cloud forest. **HOTEL FONDA VELA OR HOTEL DE MONTAÑA MONTEVERDE (B, L, D)**

DAY 3 MONTEVERDE

Visit the Monteverde Butterfly Gardens to see dozens of local species. Then spend the day exploring the cloud forest. Here, the dense foliage is bathed in year-round moisture created by the cooling of winds off the ocean. Walk along trails rich with butterflies, insects, reptiles, and some of the 500-plus species of orchids; and search for tapirs and mantled howler monkeys. With luck, we'll spot a rare resplendent quetzal—a sacred bird in Maya and Aztec cultures. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 4 MONTEVERDE/ARENAL VOLCANO

After breakfast, head to a third-generation family-owned coffee farm. Learn about the culture of coffee farming in Central America and pick coffee cherries during a tour of the grounds. Then head into the northern highlands to the beautiful lake situated at the base of Arenal Volcano—one of



The simmering cone of Arenal Volcano rises symmetrically out of the mists.

the most active volcanoes in the world. Cross the tranquil waters in small boats and dine at a restaurant on the lake's far side. Later, check into our hotel with a view of the volcano.

ARENAL KIORO SUITES & SPA (B, L, D)

DAY 5 ARENAL VOLCANO

Venture into the rain forest surrounding Arenal Volcano along an extensive network of bridges that loop through the treetops. From our strategic location, observe a variety of birds including toucans, antbirds, and hawks. Keep an eye out for monkeys, coatis, and snakes. This evening, take a dip in soothing thermal pools heated by the volcano. (B, L, D)



A trio of scarlet macaws shows off their bright colors.

DAY 6 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Transfer to the airport for a charter flight to Tortuguero National Park, followed by a short boat ride to a village in the heart of the rain forest. Located along Costa Rica's northeast coast, Tortuguero is a lowland wet tropical forest accessible only by water or by air. Settle into our rustic lodge perched on the water's edge. Later, explore the village and tour the local sea turtle conservancy to learn about the turtles for which the park is named. LAGUNA LODGE TORTUGUERO (B, L, D)

DAY 7 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Set out by boat into the park's vast alluvial floodplain. As we navigate backwater lagoons and creeks shrouded in greenery, encounter a variety of wildlife—from poison dart frogs to caimans, river otters, and brilliant tropical flowers. This afternoon, enjoy free time to wander the lodge's botanical and butterfly gardens, or relax by the pool. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 TORTUGUERO/SAN JOSÉ

Considered a food of the gods by the ancient Maya and Aztec, cacao has deep roots in Costa Rican culture. Cacao beans were used as a currency in pre-Columbian times, and chocolate was the country's major export until the tobacco and coffee booms in the 1700s and 1800s. On our return to San José, pay a visit to one of Costa Rica's top chocolatiers and taste a variety of exquisite confections. Then join artisans tempering chocolate on marble slabs at a workshop



overlooking the mountains of the central valley. Later, celebrate our journey at a farewell dinner in San José. DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL CARIARI SAN JOSÉ (B, L, D)

DAY 9 SAN JOSÉ/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



The red-eyed tree frog sleeps by day, sticking itself to the underside of leaves and covering its bright feet and eyes for protection.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Dec. 11–19 • Dec. 25, 2015–Jan. 2, 2016

2016: Jan. 8–16 • Jan. 22–30 • Feb. 5–13
Feb. 19–27 • Mar. 4–12 • Mar. 18–26

Expedition Cost:

\$4,290

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$500. International airfare to/from San José is not included in the expedition cost.

Combine this trip with our **Costa Rica and the Panama Canal voyage** (see itinerary on page 16). Visit our website or call for details.

COSTA RICA AND THE PANAMA CANAL



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NATURAL WONDERS ALONG THE PACIFIC COASTS OF COSTA RICA AND PANAMA

on a voyage aboard the *National Geographic Sea Lion*. Venture into the rain forests of Manuel Antonio and Corcovado National Parks; search for monkeys, frogs, sloths, and brightly colored birds; and go for an optional horseback ride on a pristine beach. Cap off the trip with a crossing of the legendary Panama Canal.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover hidden pools and waterfalls deep within the jungles of the Osa Peninsula.
- Kayak around the tiny islands of the Gulf of Panama, and snorkel off Isla de Coiba.
- Enjoy special access to the protected forests of Barro Colorado Island.
- Examine the fascinating lock system that made the Panama Canal one of the greatest engineering achievements of its era.

EXPEDITION TEAM



A diverse team of experts—from naturalists to geologists—accompanies these expeditions. On the March 12, 2016 departure, we will be joined by National Geographic photographer **Michael Melford**. Michael has produced more than a dozen feature stories for *National Geographic* magazine and more than 30 for *National Geographic Traveler*, including eight covers. On assignment for National Geographic for the past ten years, Michael has often used photography to bring attention to the planet's wonders and the need to preserve them. He shot the cover story, "Places We Must Save," for the October 2006 issue of *National Geographic* magazine, as well as a cover story on threats to America's national parks.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA/ HERRADURA

Upon arrival in San José, transfer to Herradura and embark the *National Geographic Sea Lion*. (D)

DAY 2 MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK

Spend the morning in Manuel Antonio National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site where thick forests fringe spectacular beaches. Venture into this lush wilderness, watching for three-toed sloths lazing among the branches, as well as monkeys and vividly colored birds. This afternoon, trace the park's beautiful coastline south and stop to take a refreshing swim or a hike. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 OSA PENINSULA

Anchor off the Osa Peninsula, unreachable by road, to see some of the most unspoiled lowland rain forest on the Pacific coast. In the environs of Corcovado National Park, swim in waterfall pools, ride horses on the beach, or trek through the rain forest for a chance to see four species of



A keel-billed toucan's bill can reach up to a third of the bird's total length.

monkeys: howler, spider, capuchin, and squirrel. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 GOLFO DULCE

Enter the mangrove-fringed Golfo Dulce, a protected gulf along the southwestern edge of Costa Rica. Visit Casa Orquídeas, a tropical paradise of ornamental palms, bromeliads, heliconias, orchids, and flowering ginger that is difficult to access and only reachable by boat. Keep your eye out for

Above: A baby white-throated capuchin monkey clings to its mother.

Watch short videos about this expedition at
nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



Travelers enjoy a prime vantage point on the *Sea Lion* as the ship makes its way through the historic Panama Canal.

tanagers, parrots, and toucans. Later, explore the placid bay, ideal for kayaking, cruising in an expedition landing craft, and swimming. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 COIBA NATIONAL PARK, PANAMA

We make our first stop in Panama this morning at the remote Isla de Coiba, one of the many islands of Coiba National Park, a World Heritage site. Once a penal colony, the island has long been protected and is accessible by special permit only. Among its many endemic species are the Coiba Island agouti and the mantled howler monkey, as well as four varieties of sea turtle. Discover rich marine life while snorkeling, kayak along the coast, take a guided hike in the forest, or just relax on the beach. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 GULF OF PANAMA ISLETS/PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT

Our nimble expedition landing craft and kayaks allow us to navigate the tiny islets of the Gulf of



The National Geographic *Sea Lion*

Panama today, stopping to explore hidden coves and beaches. Here, we might spot magnificent frigatebirds, brown pelicans, neotropical cormorants, and brown boobies. Reboard the ship this afternoon and head to the Panama Canal. Stretching more than 50 miles, the canal was a colossal engineering feat completed in 1914 and is still traversed by some 14,000 ships every year. As cargo ships tend to pass through the canal during the day, we'll most likely begin our crossing at night, when the canal is dramatically lit. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 GATÚN LAKE/PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT

Board an expedition landing craft this morning to visit Barro Colorado Nature Monument in Gatún Lake by special arrangement. Scientists have worked at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on Barro Colorado Island since 1946, researching the 120 mammals and diverse tree species that can be found here. It is also the site of a pioneering project supported by National Geographic that tracks tagged animals using automated radio signals and wireless technology. Join local experts for a walk through the forests that so challenged the canal builders. This evening, continue through the complex lock system of the canal. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 COLÓN/PANAMA CITY/U.S.

After breakfast, disembark in Colón and transfer to the airport in Panama City for your flight home. (B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Nov. 28–Dec. 5 • Dec. 5–12*
 Dec. 12–19 📷 • Dec. 19–26*
 Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 2, 2016

2016: Jan. 2–9 • Jan. 9–16 📷 • Jan. 16–23*
 Jan. 23–30 • Jan. 30–Feb. 6* • Feb. 6–13*
 Feb. 13–20 📷 • Feb. 20–27*
 Feb. 27–Mar. 5 • Mar. 5–12
 Mar. 12–19* 📷

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 112 for details.

Expedition Cost (Nov. 2015–Mar. 2016):

Category 1	\$6,190
Located on Main Deck	
Category 2	\$6,990
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	
Category 3	\$7,920
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	

See the *National Geographic Sea Lion* description and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,100 in Category 1 and \$3,500 in Category 2. International airfare to San José and return from Panama City is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extensions:

Add a two-day pre- or post-trip extension to Panama City to see the brand new Museum of Biodiversity, designed by Frank Gehry; or a three-day pre-trip extension to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2015 and receive a complimentary two-day Panama City extension on the November 28, December 5 and 12, 2015 and the January through March 2016 departures.

See our **Costa Rica and the Panama Canal Photography Expedition** on page 112. Or, combine this trip with our new **Costa Rica: Cloud Forest to the Caribbean** trip (see itinerary on page 14). Visit our website or call for details.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

CUBA: DISCOVERING ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE



EXPERIENCE CUBAN CULTURE THE MOST AUTHENTIC WAY POSSIBLE—through its people. On this unique and inspiring program, get acquainted with Cubans in diverse settings, from Old Havana to colonial Cienfuegos. Engage the local people directly in discussions about their lives and work, culture and traditions. Meet with Cuban historians, teachers, students, artists, naturalists, and others, and experience this fast-changing island nation through their eyes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Old Havana and Trinidad with Cuban experts.
- Spend time with local musicians and dancers in the colonial city of Cienfuegos.
- Witness Cuba's shifting cultural and economic landscape on visits to schools, art studios, and privately owned restaurants.
- Meet “horse whisperer” Julio Muñoz, and learn about his program promoting equine care.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Travel writer and photographer **Christopher P. Baker**, author of *National Geographic Traveler: Cuba*, is one of the world's leading authorities on Cuban travel and culture.

His more than 20 books include the award-winning *Mi Moto Fidel: Motorcycling Through Castro's Cuba*. He has also written for numerous publications, from *National Geographic Traveler* to *Newsweek*, and has given talks about Cuba at National Geographic headquarters, the National Press Club, and the World Affairs Council. Christopher will share his unique insights into Cuban culture, history, and politics.

CHRISTOPHER WILL ACCOMPANY SEVERAL DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS DEPARTURE DATES AND EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./HAVANA, CUBA

Upon arrival in Havana, visit an *organopónico* (urban organic farm) to learn about the growing agrarian movement and Cuban cuisine. Check in to our hotel before gathering for a welcome reception and dinner tonight.

HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (D)

DAY 2 HAVANA

Learn about the restoration and changing landscape of Havana from a local preservation expert. Then set out to explore Old Havana, stopping in at local businesses and meeting the workers. After lunch, meet with community members at a socio-cultural project that focuses on preserving traditional Afro-Cuban religion, dance, music, and culture. Tonight, attend a special musical performance after dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 HAVANA

Engage in a specially arranged question-and-answer session with Cuban professionals, discuss-

ing education, economics, the role of government, and other topics of interest. After lunch, explore a community project at Muraleando, where local and international artists have been changing a downtrodden neighborhood into a living work of art. Later, meet the instructors and students of La Colmenita, an after-school program that uses song and dance performance as a social development tool. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 CIENFUEGOS

Leave Havana and head to Cienfuegos, a port city with architecture that reflects its French-colonial roots. After an orientation tour of the city, engage local *cuentapropistas* (self-employed workers), who are part of an expanding private sector, on Cienfuegos' main commercial street. Then visit the Benny Moré Art School to meet with teachers and students of music, dance, and art. HOTEL JAGUA (B, L, D)

DAY 5 TRINIDAD

Travel to Trinidad, Cuba's best-preserved colonial city. Explore with a restoration expert and interact with local community members, including a Santería priest. Then meet Julio Muñoz, a local

Above: Palming his outside instrument, a Cuban musician strides down the road.

“ Our people-to-people cultural program is an extraordinary way to experience Cuba. Having opportunities to interact directly with Cuban people, being invited into their homes, sharing meals and stories, laughing together: **these are the things that we remember, and I think that this type of travel is invaluable.** ”

Carol Steele, National Geographic Expert



Behind one of the many classic cars found in Havana, a Cuban man surveys the street.

photographer and “horse whisperer” whose wife and niece appeared in an October 1999 *National Geographic* magazine article, and learn about his *casa particular* (guest house) business. Visit Julio’s colonial-era house and stables, the base for his program promoting equine care. (B, L)

DAY 6 CIENFUEGOS

Near Cienfuegos, visit Cuba’s oldest botanical garden with a botany expert. Stop in a former sugar mill town and meet with the town’s present-



Young Cubans play soccer against the pastel backdrop of Trinidad’s Iglesia y Convento.

day inhabitants. Later, enjoy a choral performance and discussion with a world-renowned a cappella group, the Choir of Cienfuegos. After dinner, there will be an opportunity to get to know local residents in Cienfuegos. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 BAY OF PIGS/HAVANA

Today, head to the historic Bay of Pigs. Set foot on the famous Playa Girón, one of the two landing sites for the 1961 U.S.-backed invasion. In Australia, once a sugar mill town and Fidel Castro’s headquarters during the Bay of Pigs invasion, enjoy a conversation with former mill workers. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B, L)

DAY 8 HAVANA/JAIMANITAS

This morning, travel to the charming fishing village of Jaimanitas to visit the workshop and home of ceramic artist José Fuster, called the “Picasso of Cuba.” Then attend a question-and-answer session with American author and Havana resident Marc Frank. Meet with Marc and a Cuban journalist to discuss their perspectives on Cuba’s past, present, and future. Celebrate our Cuban experience together at a farewell dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 HAVANA/U.S.

After breakfast, talk with troupe members of an Afro-Cuban dance group and enjoy an energetic private performance. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Miami. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 29–Apr. 6 • Apr. 12–20 • Apr. 26–May 4
May 10–18 • May 17–25 • May 31–Jun. 8
Jun. 14–22 • Nov. 1–9 • Nov. 8–16
Nov. 15–23 • Nov. 22–30 • Nov. 29–Dec. 7
Dec. 6–14 • Dec. 13–21 • Dec. 20–28
Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 4, 2016

2016: Through June 2016, expeditions depart most weeks on Sunday and the itinerary will vary slightly. See the calendar on page 136 for specific departure dates through March 2016, and visit our website for itinerary details and late spring departure dates.

Expedition Cost:

2015

\$5,995

Visit our website for 2016 pricing.

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$700 in 2015. On the December 20 and 27, 2015 departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$600 per person. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Round-trip charter airfare between Miami and Havana is \$550 per person. A \$75 per person airfare supplement applies for the December 20 and 27, 2015 departures.

Please Note: This trip is permitted by a special People-to-People license from the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. The itinerary was designed to provide an in-depth cultural experience with numerous opportunities for meaningful interaction with Cubans. Travel restrictions in Cuba, such as limits on how much one may spend and what may be purchased, will be provided in your pre-departure materials. **While we do our best to adhere to the itinerary listed here, traveling in Cuba requires flexibility, and changes to hotels and activities may occur.**

BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES



DISCOVER THE EXTRAORDINARY WILDLIFE AND LANDSCAPES OF THE SEA OF CORTEZ on an expedition aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. In the company of marine biologists, experience up-close encounters with gray whales in the inlets of Bahía Magdalena. See a variety of other wildlife in the Sea of Cortez, from humpback whales to bottlenose dolphins. Follow naturalists on hikes amid barrel cacti, and snorkel among playful sea lions.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness gray whale mothers and their young in their birthing grounds as we explore Bahía Magdalena by expedition landing craft.
- Snorkel amid sea lions, brilliant blue damselfish, and schools of king angelfish.
- Kayak through clear blue waters on the lookout for a variety of bird species, including magnificent frigatebirds.
- Explore diverse landscapes, including sand dunes and a cactus forest.

EXPEDITION TEAM



A team of experts—from naturalists to undersea specialists—accompanies each expedition. On the January 16 and 23, 2016 departures, we will be joined by National Geographic

photographer and marine biologist **Flip Nicklin**. Regarded as one of the world's leading photographers of whales, Flip has produced stories for numerous National Geographic magazines and television specials. Between his frequent visits to the Sea of Cortez, Flip migrates with the humpbacks, spending summers in the Pacific Northwest and the Gulf of Alaska, and winters off Maui in Hawai'i. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge about whales and photography with travelers in the Sea of Cortez.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./LA PAZ, MEXICO

Arrive in La Paz and drive along the beautiful Malecón to meet our ship, the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. (D)

DAY 2 EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

We'll follow the currents and the wildlife today, exploring pristine, uninhabited islands such as Isla San José or Isla Santa Catalina and snorkeling among colorful parrotfish and butterflyfish. Search for whales among the islands of the southern Sea of Cortez, one of the best areas for spotting blue whales and bottlenose dolphins. Walk among huge cacti and observe the great diversity of birdlife. (B, L, D)

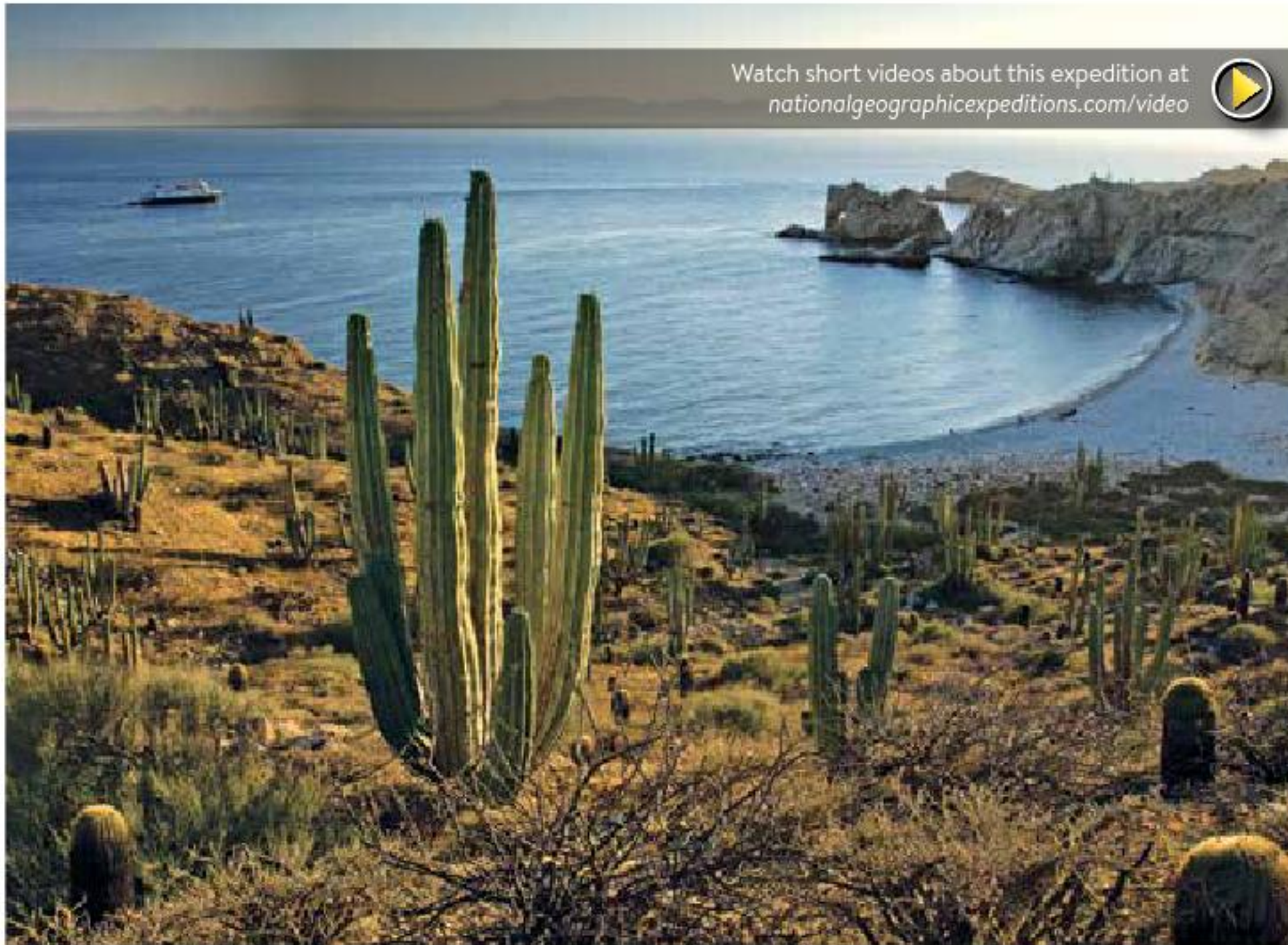
DAY 3 LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

At Los Islotes, snorkel and swim among curious sea lions. With its rugged cliffs and coves carved



Kayakers paddle in crystal-clear waters.

Watch short videos about this expedition at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



Bristling cacti soak up the sun on Isla Santa Catalina.

deeply into the coastline, Espiritu Santo is one of the most beautiful islands in the Sea of Cortez. This afternoon, examine the island's volcanic landscapes on a kayak excursion. Go beachcombing or take a hike along the rocky coast, keeping your eye out for brown pelicans, gulls, and boobies. Tonight, gather for a barbecue around a campfire on the beach and take in a splendid display of stars. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 GORDA BANKS AND LOS CABOS

The morning is spent at the Gorda Banks seamount or La Fortuna, gathering places for whales—especially humpbacks—as well as dolphins and other sea life. Search for whales and watch these giant creatures breach and tail-lob. Then



The National Geographic Sea Bird

cruise past Friars Rocks at Land's End and dock at Los Cabos. If you choose, take an excursion to the historic town of San José del Cabo. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5, 6, AND 7 BAHÍA MAGDALENA

Bahía Magdalena—a vast wilderness of sand dunes, mangrove channels, and protected waters—is one of the main breeding and calving areas for California gray whales that migrate here from the Arctic waters of Alaska every year. It is believed to be the longest migration route traversed by any mammal and is one of nature's greatest spectacles. In this vast aquatic nursery, observe these enormous yet gentle animals from the ship and at water level from our expedition landing crafts. On kayaking excursions, watch for magnificent frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, great blue herons, and more. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 8 SAN CARLOS/LA PAZ/U.S.

After breakfast, disembark in San Carlos and drive across the peninsula to La Paz for your return flight home. (B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 7–14* • Mar. 14–21

2016: Jan. 16–23 • Jan. 23–30* • Jan. 30–Feb. 6
Feb. 6–13* • Feb. 13–20 • Feb. 20–27*
Feb. 27–Mar. 5 • Mar. 5–12* • Mar. 12–19

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

	2015	2016
Category 1	\$5,990	\$6,390
<i>Located on Main Deck</i>		
Category 2	\$6,890	\$7,390
<i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>		
Category 3	\$7,730	\$8,390
<i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>		

See the *National Geographic Sea Bird* description and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin in 2015, add \$3,000 in Category 1 and \$3,450 in Category 2; in 2016, add \$3,050 in Category 1 and \$3,700 in Category 2. International airfare to/from La Paz is not included in the expedition cost.



A playful sea lion dives beneath the waters of the Sea of Cortez.

ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE



EXPERIENCE THE REMARKABLE BEAUTY OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA on a voyage aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird* or *National Geographic Sea Lion* into a land of mist-shrouded fjords, tidewater glaciers, and islands teeming with wildlife. Search for orcas and humpback whales, kayak amid glacial ice, spend a full day in Glacier Bay National Park, and learn about Alaska's rich Native American heritage.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Kayak into protected coves and look for sea otters, seabirds, and harbor seals.**
- **Hike along lush forest trails to cascading waterfalls, and take an expedition landing craft into sheltered coves to look for brown bears.**
- **Meet researchers from the Alaska Whale Foundation, and get a firsthand perspective on Alaska's indigenous people from a Tlingit cultural interpreter.**
- **Discover seldom-seen, vibrant marine life, revealed by our undersea specialist.**

EXPEDITION TEAM



A diverse team of experts—from naturalists to undersea specialists—joins each voyage. On the May 16 and 23 departures, we will also be joined by naturalist

Casey Anderson. The host of Nat Geo WILD's *Expedition Wild* and *America the Wild*, Casey was nicknamed the "animal magnet" while growing up in Montana. In 2002, Casey rescued an abandoned grizzly bear cub and dedicated his life to raising Brutus to be an ambassador for his wild grizzly cousins. Casey built Brutus a sanctuary that became the Montana Grizzly Encounter, a bear rescue and education facility. Together, they have been featured in the National Geographic Channel's *Expedition Grizzly* and in numerous educational videos, films, television shows, and commercials.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

Our approach during this voyage is one of discovery. We take time to stop and explore this beautiful and intriguing land up close in the company of expert naturalists who have an intimate knowledge of the region. Our small ship has the flexibility to take you ashore to places that few others see, and the long days of summer allow for wildlife viewing well into the evening hours.

DAY 1 SEATTLE/JUNEAU, ALASKA

Fly from Seattle to Juneau, the capital of Alaska. Visit the imposing Mendenhall Glacier set in the dramatic Mendenhall Valley, and learn about this ever-changing landscape. There is time to explore Juneau on your own in the evening.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD OR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA LION (D)

DAY 2 TRACY ARM—FORDS TERROR WILDERNESS

Voyage into Tracy Arm, a spectacular, glacially carved fjord, and see soaring glaciers up close.

Take a cruise in an expedition landing craft for an unbeatable view of sculpted icebergs, while keeping an eye out for harbor seals, porpoises, and arctic terns. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 PETERSBURG

Search for humpback whales as we head toward the small town of Petersburg on Mitkof Island, a typical Alaskan town founded more than a hundred years ago by Norwegian fishermen. Explore a unique Southeast Alaskan ecosystem, the "muskeg," with its stunted trees and carnivorous plants. There will be an opportunity for bike riding and an optional floatplane excursion. Enjoy a crab feast for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 FREDERICK SOUND AND CHATHAM STRAIT

These waters often offer great whale-watching opportunities. Look for Steller sea lions stretched out on the rocky islands that dot the channels. Take a walk with naturalists along a quiet forest trail or kayak in the tiny coves in this area. Meet researchers from the Alaska Whale Foundation—

66

The naturalist John Muir was exploring the coves and islands of the Inside Passage when he wrote,

'To the lover of pure wildness, Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world.'

Once you leave the larger towns in your wake and head up the quiet inlets... it's easy to find the Alaska that charmed Muir. 99

Heather Lende, "Alaska Cruise,"
National Geographic Traveler, September 2010



Watch short videos about this expedition at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video

A brown bear and her cubs position themselves to catch salmon mid-run.

whose work is supported by a grant from the Lindblad Expeditions–National Geographic Fund—and discuss some of their recent discoveries about the region's marine mammal population. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 ICY STRAIT AND THE INIAN ISLANDS

Hike and kayak among the Inian Islands, where an abundance of Steller sea lions and sea otters reside. We'll search for whales in the rich waters of Icy Strait and, conditions permitting, lower the ship's hydrophone to listen in on the whales' communication. (B, L, D)



The National Geographic Sea Bird

DAY 6 GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

By special permit, we enter magnificent Glacier Bay, fed by enormous glaciers that flow from the ice fields far above. Watch for calving glaciers and hear the thunder as tons of ice crash into the sea. A National Park Service ranger joins us and provides insight on the mountain goats and brown bears that patrol the shores here, as well as harbor seals, Steller sea lions, and puffins. Get a unique perspective from a Tlingit cultural interpreter, who will be on board to share the legends of the land and its people. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 EXPLORING ALASKA'S ISLANDS, BAYS, AND FJORDS

Beachcomb, hike forest trails, or kayak in an area where perhaps the world's highest density of nesting bald eagles is found. Celebrate our Alaska expedition at a farewell dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SITKA/SEATTLE

After breakfast, disembark in Sitka, a unique town with a strong Russian heritage. Visit St. Michael's



Russian Orthodox Cathedral, a testament to Alaska's history prior to the U.S. purchase of the territory from Russia. Then see eagles up close at the Alaska Raptor Center, an educational center that also serves as a bald eagle hospital. In the early afternoon, transfer to the airport for the flight to Seattle. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: From May through August, expeditions depart every Saturday on the National Geographic Sea Bird and every Sunday on the National Geographic Sea Lion.

See the calendar on page 136 for specific departure dates. Certain departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$6,290
<i>Located on Main Deck</i>	
Category 2	\$7,340
<i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>	
Category 3	\$8,390
<i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>	

See the *National Geographic Sea Bird/Sea Lion* description and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,150 in Category 1 and \$3,670 in Category 2. Airfare to/from Seattle and airfare to/from Alaska are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight from Seattle to Juneau and return from Sitka is \$570.

Optional Extension:

Add a seven-day extension to Denali National Park and Preserve or a three-day extension in Seattle and Mount Rainier National Park. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2015 and receive complimentary round-trip airfare between Seattle and Alaska (a \$570 value) on the following 2015 departures: May 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31, and June 6 and 7.

See our Alaska Photography Expeditions on page 112 and our Alaska Family Voyage on page 114.

ALASKA: DENALI TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Alaska's rolling tundra and taiga forests, spotting an array of wildlife, including caribou, moose, wolves, and Dall sheep.
- Immerse yourself in the pristine wilderness of Denali National Park and Preserve on a variety of hikes, taking in views of the mountain that gave the park its name.
- Cruise through spectacular Prince William Sound to spot humpback whales and orcas, and experience the thunder of calving glaciers.
- Stay in private cabins in the heart of Denali, and at a mountain resort surrounded by snow-dusted glaciers and peaks.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA/DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

Arrive in Fairbanks and check into our hotel. The next morning, travel into the heart of Denali National Park in search of moose, caribou, gray wolves, grizzly bears, and Dall sheep. Settle into our remote lodge in the former mining settlement of Kantishna, surrounded by glacier-fed, braided rivers and the peaks of the Alaska Range. PIKE'S WATERFRONT LODGE; DENALI BACKCOUNTRY LODGE (DAY 2: B, L, D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Spend the next two days exploring Denali's magnificent interior. Set out on hikes or walks of varying degrees of difficulty, or try panning for gold. While in the park, keep your eye out for migrat-

Above: With Denali looming in the background, a silhouetted moose sends ripples across still water.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Carl Tobin is an associate professor of environmental science and outdoor studies at Alaska Pacific University. He has written a book on the climbing history of a section

of the Alaska Range and mentored students studying a variety of Alaska's environmental issues. A keen biker and climber, Carl will introduce travelers to the flora, fauna, and geology of his home state.

CARL WILL ACCOMPANY THE JUNE DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ing birds, including golden plovers, arctic loons, jaegers, and eagles. Weather permitting, take an optional flightseeing trip around Mount McKinley, North America's highest mountain, or hike to viewpoints to photograph its soaring 20,237-foot peak. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 5 DENALI/TALKEETNA

Take advantage of an early morning drive out of the park to catch wildlife during one of its most active periods. Then head to Talkeetna on the *Denali Star* train and explore this historic Alaskan village, a launching point for climbers headed up Mount McKinley.

TALKEETNA ALASKAN LODGE (B, L)

DAY 6 TALKEETNA/GIRDWOOD

This morning, drive south of Anchorage along the stunning Seward Highway, past Turnagain Arm and the snowcapped Chugach Mountains, which seem to rise out of the mirrored waters of Cook Inlet. This is part of a route that National Geographic has named one of its "Drives of a Lifetime." Continue to the scenic town of Girdwood, and explore this glacial valley on a hike through lush rain forest.

HOTEL ALYESKA (B, L, D)

DAY 7 PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

Embark on a day cruise on Prince William Sound, where the rich waters attract a variety of wildlife, from humpback whales and orcas to playful sea otters, puffins, and seals. Against a spectacular mountain backdrop, glide past towering tidewater glaciers, and listen for the telltale crackle and boom of impending glacier calving. Later this evening, celebrate your Alaska adventure with a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)



DAY 8 GIRDWOOD/ANCHORAGE

Enjoy up-close encounters with Alaska's wild residents at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, which rehabilitates injured and orphaned animals and returns them to the wild. After lunch, return to Anchorage and connect with your flight home. (B, L)

See our Alaska Family Adventure on page 118.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 13–20 • Aug. 25–Sep. 1 • Sep. 6–13

Expedition Cost:

\$5,695

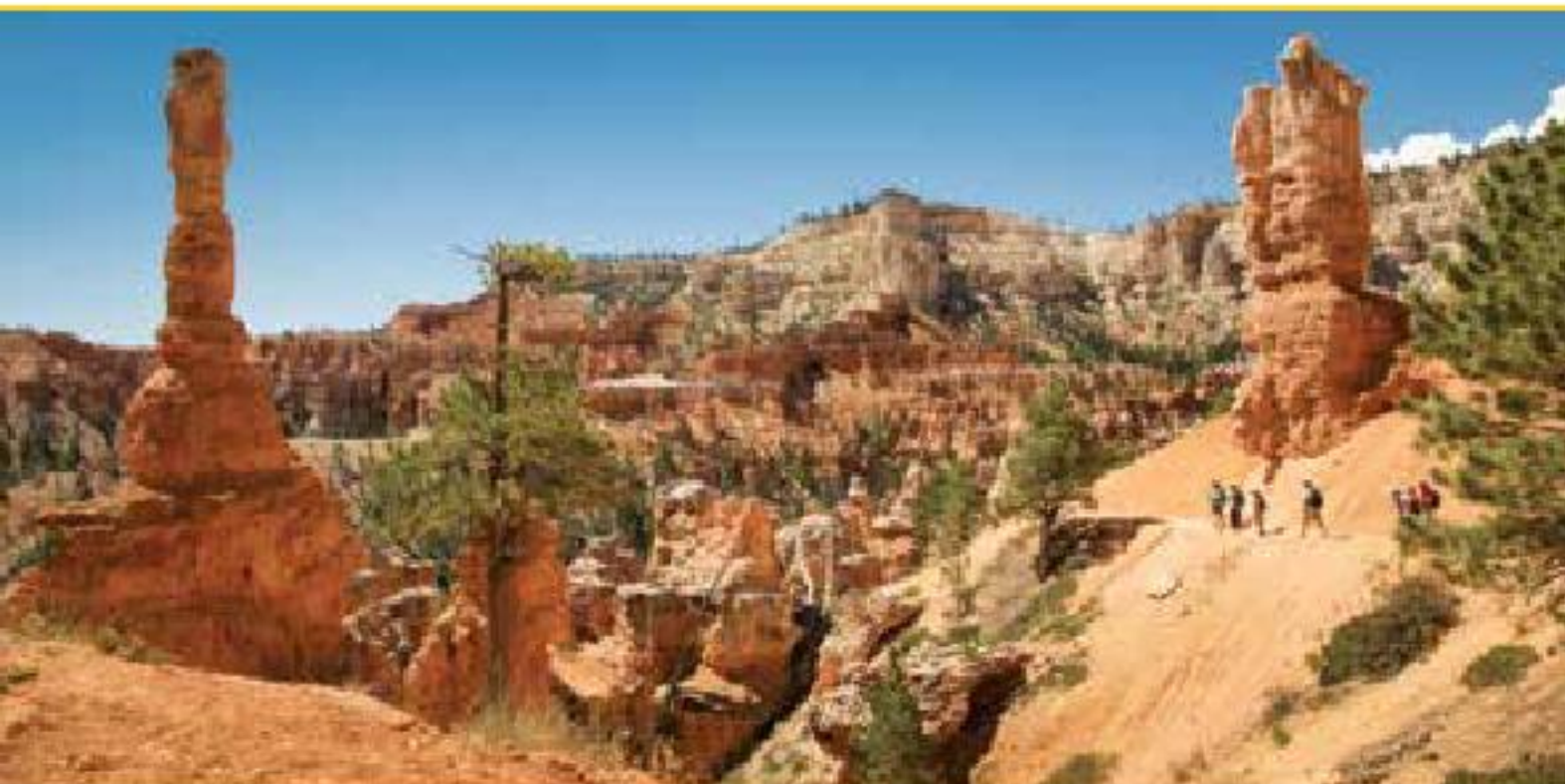
Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,400. Airfare to Fairbanks and from Anchorage and the optional flightseeing trip around Mount McKinley are not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This expedition is designed to accommodate guests at different activity levels. In Denali, guests can choose easy, moderate, or challenging hikes each day, ranging from one to nine miles.

GRAND CANYON, BRYCE CANYON, AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS

NORTH AMERICA



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in the majestic beauty of the American Southwest, discovering the geological wonders of three national parks: Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce Canyon.
- Hike amid Bryce Canyon's surreal maze of red spires and Zion's magnificent red rock monuments with a seasoned naturalist.
- Explore the Grand Canyon on foot and learn about its unique geology.
- Stay in historic national park lodges, and learn about the region's wildlife and varied vegetation.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 ST. GEORGE, UTAH/GRAND CANYON

Arrive in St. George and check into our hotel. The next morning, travel into canyon country, stopping at Pipe Springs National Monument and Kaibab Indian Reservation. Upon arrival at the Grand Canyon, settle into our historic lodge and learn about its geology from our expert. HILTON GARDEN INN ST. GEORGE; GRAND CANYON LODGE NORTH RIM (DAY 2: B, L, D)

DAY 3 NORTH RIM OF THE GRAND CANYON

Set out to explore the canyon's rim, peering into the multi-hued chasm carved by the Colorado River over millions of years. Choose from a variety of hikes for all levels, and learn about the park's unique ecosystems and geology while enjoying

Above: Russet rock pinnacles—called hoodoos—dwarf hikers in Bryce Canyon National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Kirt Kempter is a field geologist and teacher based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A Fulbright Fellow, Kirt has led many expeditions to Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks and has published numerous geologic maps and articles about the geology of the American Southwest. He has conducted fieldwork on a National Geographic-funded project, as well as studies of plate tectonics and volcanism around the world.

KIRT WILL ACCOMPANY THE MAY 16 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

sweeping views at every turn. Return to the lodge this evening, and capture the canyon's dazzling colors at sunset. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 ZION NATIONAL PARK

Journey north across the Kaibab Plateau into Zion National Park, stopping for a picnic lunch on the way. In the afternoon, explore the Narrows, a slot canyon cut by the Virgin River. CLIFFROSE LODGE & GARDENS (B, L, D)

DAY 5 ZION NATIONAL PARK

Today, continue exploring Zion, a wonderland of sandstone slot canyons, lush hanging gardens, and cascading waterfalls. Choose between hiking to Scouts Lookout for dramatic views of Angels Landing or to the cool waters of Emerald Pools. This evening, join our expert for a discussion of the geological events that have shaped this land for over 200 million years. (B, L)

DAY 6 BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Beautiful landscapes unfold as we travel to Bryce Canyon. Stop for breathtaking views at Fairyland Point, then stroll along the Rim Trail overlooking Bryce Amphitheater. Settle into our home for the next two nights near the rim of the canyon. BRYCE CANYON LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 7 BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Spend the day exploring Bryce Canyon's famous hoodoos—whimsical rock formations in red, orange, and yellow, which have been eroded into surreal spires. Hike or drive into the heart of the park, and learn about the geology behind this landscape of time-sculpted stone. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 KOLOB CANYONS/ST. GEORGE

Head to Kolob Canyons, a lesser-known area of Zion National Park. Hike up the short Timber



Creek Overlook Trail, and peer into the red sandstone expanse. After a final picnic lunch, return to St. George for your flight home. (B, L)

See our Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion Family Adventure on page 118.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: May 16–23 • May 23–30 • May 30–Jun. 6
Jun. 6–13 • Jun. 13–20 • Jul. 11–18
Aug. 8–15 • Sep. 5–12

Expedition Cost:

\$4,095

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$900. Airfare to/from St. George and Utah sales tax of 6.25% are not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This expedition is designed to accommodate guests at different activity levels. Choose hiking options ranging from easy one- to two-mile walks to moderate or strenuous hikes of four miles or more.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- From vast canyons to alpine lakes, explore Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons with a naturalist, staying on the lookout for grizzlies, bison, bighorn sheep, and elusive gray wolves.
- Discover Yellowstone's thermal landscape of bubbling mud pots, brilliantly colored hot springs, and erupting geysers—including legendary Old Faithful.
- Hike among glacial valleys below towering peaks, and learn about the geology and history of Grand Teton National Park.
- Float on the Snake River beneath the jagged peaks of the Teton Range.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 BOZEMAN, MONTANA/ MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WYOMING

Arrive in Bozeman and check into our hotel. The next morning, travel to Yellowstone National Park—the world's first national park. At the village of Mammoth Hot Springs, stroll along travertine terraces sculpted by hot springs. Later, gather for a welcome reception and dinner. HILTON GARDEN INN BOZEMAN; MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS HOTEL AND CABINS (DAY 2: B, L, D)

DAY 3 LAMAR VALLEY

Rise early to drive to the wildlife-rich Lamar Valley, where gray wolves were first restored to Yellowstone in 1995. Be on the lookout for bison, bears, elk, eagles, and elusive gray wolves in this sweeping glacial valley. Return to Mammoth Hot Springs and explore Fort Yellowstone. (B, L, D)

Above: A steaming, turquoise mineral pool adds to the ethereal landscape of Yellowstone National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Kitty Coley is a geologist, naturalist, and avid birder who serves as a consultant to *National Geographic* magazine. As a professional geologist, she has worked in remote rain for-

ests and rugged landscapes around the world. Her love of nature has inspired her to explore through scuba diving, backpacking, kayaking, and biking. A gifted and enthusiastic teacher and a popular National Geographic expert, Kitty generously shares her knowledge of geology, flora, and fauna on every expedition she joins.

KITTY WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER 12 AND 26 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAY 4 GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is a spectacular 20-mile chasm. Walk along the rim to view cascading waterfalls set against a dazzling red and gold palette. In Hayden Valley, look for bison, coyotes, elk, and perhaps even a grizzly. Then trace the shores of Yellowstone Lake, and continue up and over the Continental Divide to the Upper Geyser Basin, home to Yellowstone's most famous geyser, Old Faithful. OLD FAITHFUL SNOW LODGE OR OLD FAITHFUL INN (B, L, D)

DAY 5 UPPER, MIDWAY, AND LOWER GEYSER BASINS

Greet the day with the clockwork eruption of Old Faithful. Numbering more than 300, Yellowstone's geysers make up two-thirds of all those found in the world. Explore this stunning geothermal landscape with our expert, and marvel at steaming fumaroles, belching mud pots, and gem-colored mineral pools. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK/ JACKSON

Journey south to the Teton Range, where saw-toothed, snowy peaks rise from the valley floor. Take a scenic cruise on the emerald waters of Jenny Lake. Then continue to Jackson, a lively mountain town with Old West flair, and trace its history on an optional guided walk. THE LEXINGTON AT JACKSON HOLE (B, L)

DAY 7 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Head back into Grand Teton National Park to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve. Enjoy a self-guided hike in a glacially carved valley to Phelps Lake. Learn the history, both natural and human, of this spectacular park at the experiential visitor center and library. Later, visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art or explore Jackson's



quaint streets. Then gather for a farewell dinner at one of the town's fine restaurants. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SNAKE RIVER/JACKSON

Enjoy a float trip on the Snake River this morning, and search for bald eagles, moose, and other wildlife. After lunch, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B, L)

See our [Yellowstone and Grand Teton Family Adventure](#) on page 119.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 13–20 • Jun. 27–Jul. 4 • Aug. 1–8
Aug. 15–22 • Aug. 22–29 • Sep. 5–12
Sep. 12–19 • Sep. 19–26 • Sep. 26–Oct. 3

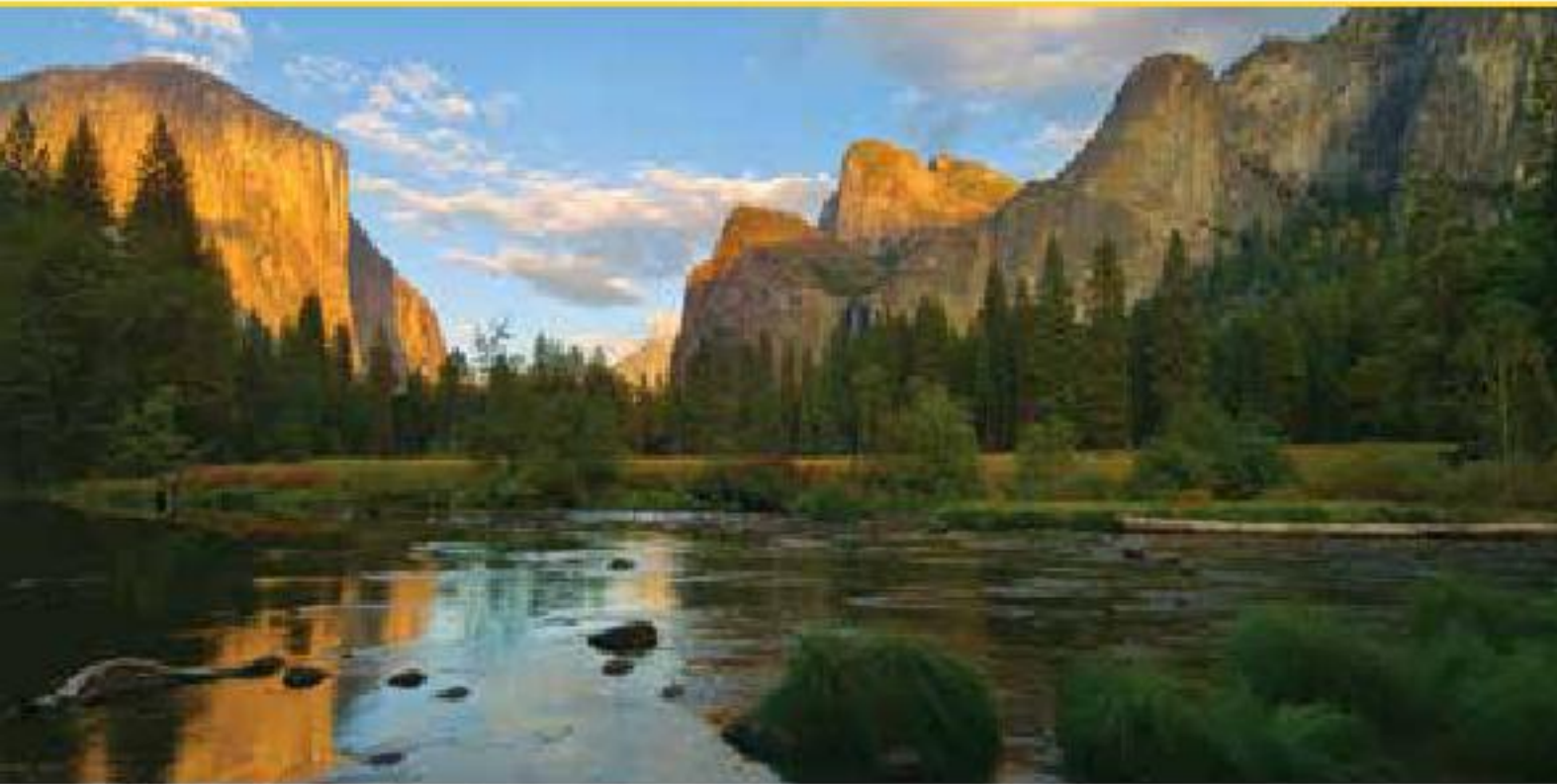
Expedition Cost:

\$4,250

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,100. Airfare to Bozeman and return from Jackson is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This expedition is designed to accommodate guests at different activity levels. Choose hiking options ranging from easy two- to four-mile walks to moderate hikes of five miles or more.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the iconic landscapes of Yosemite, from the dramatic crag of El Capitan and the plunging waterfalls of the Yosemite Valley to the verdant landscapes of Hetch Hetchy Valley.
- Take a guided walk through a sequoia grove and gaze up at some of the largest living organisms in the world.
- Trace the history of Yosemite and the lives of two of its greatest champions, John Muir and Ansel Adams, during talks by local experts.
- Stay at lodges that reflect the local character, including the incomparable Ahwahnee Hotel, a National Historic Landmark.

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAY 1 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Arrive in San Francisco and transfer to our hotel for an evening on your own to explore the city. **PRESCOTT HOTEL**

DAY 2 MARIPOSA

Drive east to the gold rush town of Mariposa. Visit the renowned Mariposa Museum and History Center, and enjoy a picnic lunch. Enter the realm of *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, the largest living organism by volume, on a guided walk through a giant sequoia grove. Check into our lodge and join us for a welcome dinner tonight. **TENAYA LODGE (L, D)**

DAY 3 GLACIER POINT

Journey north to magnificent Yosemite Valley and

Above: The Merced River mirrors the sunlit face of El Capitan.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geographer and author **Stephen F. Cunha** spent 10 years as a National Park Service ranger in Yosemite and Alaska. He directed the California Geographic Alliance

for more than a decade, promoting geographic education and literacy, and is now an acclaimed geography professor at California's Humboldt State University. Stephen is the author of National Geographic's *Our Fifty States* and *How to Ace the National Geographic Bee: The Official Study Guide*.

STEPHEN WILL ACCOMPANY THE JUNE 10, JULY, AND AUGUST DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ascend to Glacier Point for sweeping vistas of El Capitan and Half Dome. Hear about the park's geology as we walk the granite slopes of Sentinel Dome. Arrive at our stunning lodge this afternoon and learn about its art and architecture on a guided tour. **AHWAHNEE HOTEL (B, L, D)**

DAY 4 YOSEMITE VALLEY

Join a naturalist from the Yosemite Conservancy for a morning walk to learn more about the park's history and geology before enjoying a picnic lunch. The afternoon is yours to explore the valley; options available include bike rentals, rock climbing, and mule rides. **(B, L)**

DAY 5 YOSEMITE VALLEY

Enjoy an easy walk to Mirror Lake, or opt for a more strenuous climb to the top of Vernal Falls. Later, pay a visit to the Ansel Adams Gallery, founded as an artists' studio in 1902 by painter Harry Best, whose daughter Adams later married. **EVERGREEN LODGE (B, D)**

DAY 6 TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Head into the vast, high-mountain meadows above the Tuolumne River today. Walk to Soda Springs and see an exhibit on John Muir and the region's early residents at the historic Parsons Memorial Lodge. Go for a hike in the area if you wish, or return to the lodge to try geocaching, an international treasure hunting game, before



A hiker appears tiny between the gargantuan trunks of sequoia trees.



our farewell dinner tonight. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 7 HETCH HETCHY/SAN FRANCISCO

Explore the beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley, submerged by the construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam in the 1920s and '30s. Learn the fascinating and controversial history of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the damming of the "Little Yosemite Valley". Enjoy a farm-to-table lunch on our way back to San Francisco. **(B, L)**

See our Yosemite Photography Expedition on page 112 and our Yosemite Family Adventure on page 119.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 10–16 • Jun. 24–30 📷 • Jul. 15–21
Aug. 19–25 • Sep. 2–8 📷 • Sep. 9–15
Oct. 7–13

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 112 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$4,795

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,500. Airfare to/from San Francisco is not included in the expedition cost.

GALÁPAGOS



THE GALÁPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, DARWIN'S LIVING LABORATORY, is home to an abundance of wildlife. Isolated from the mainland for millions of years, it is a rare wilderness where animals have no instinctive fear of humans. Traveling aboard the comfortable *National Geographic Endeavour* or *National Geographic Islander*, experience up-close encounters with unique species such as flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, and domed giant tortoises.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Snorkel amid shimmering fish, sea turtles, penguins, and frolicking sea lions.
- Cruise to pristine islands and walk among colonies of animals unfazed by your presence.
- Observe rare giant tortoises at the Charles Darwin Research Station.
- Explore the waters of the Galápagos by kayak, glass-bottom boat (*Endeavour* only), or Zodiac.

EXPEDITION TEAM



A diverse team of experts accompanies these expeditions to provide insights into the wildlife and landscapes that you encounter. **Lynn Fowler** first arrived in the Galápagos

in 1978 and became one of the park's first female naturalist guides. She completed a doctorate based on her research on the giant tortoises of Alcedo Volcano on Isabela Island, where she lived for more than a year on the rim of the crater.

LYNN WILL ACCOMPANY ALL DEPARTURES ON THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ISLANDER IN MARCH AND JUNE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HER ADDITIONAL DEPARTURE DATES. THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Depart for Guayaquil and upon arrival, transfer to our hotel. HOTEL HILTON COLÓN

DAY 2 GUAYAQUIL/GALÁPAGOS

This morning, fly to the Galápagos Islands and board our comfortable expedition ship. After lunch, we begin our exploration of the islands and their diverse wildlife. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDEAVOUR OR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ISLANDER (B, L, D)

DAYS 3-8 EXPLORING THE GALÁPAGOS

In keeping with the nature of an expedition, our itinerary is flexible, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in this extraordinary wildlife sanctuary. (B, L, D DAILY)

Listed below are some of the islands we may visit during our expedition.*

Isla Bartolomé

Walk to the top of Bartolomé's volcanic cone for a stunning view of Pinnacle Rock and the surrounding beaches. You may also have the opportunity to swim with Galápagos penguins.

Isla Santiago

Santiago offers some of the best "tide pooling" in the islands. Follow a path along a series of pools and underwater caverns in search of Galápagos fur seals, marine iguanas, sea lions, and Sally Lightfoot crabs.

Isla Santa Cruz

At the Charles Darwin Research station, learn about the ongoing research on the islands' wildlife. Visit the neighboring captive breeding program for endangered species of Galápagos giant



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including vital research on the conservation of the endangered Galápagos penguin and the seasonal migration patterns of Galápagos tortoises.

*Please note: Itineraries vary slightly from week to week, subject to Galápagos National Park regulations. Each itinerary will include Isla Santa Cruz and a selection of the other stops listed on these pages.

Above: Blue-footed boobies strut and flaunt their azure appendages in the hopes of luring a mate.

“ We appreciated the **blend of education, interest in conservation, and the thrill of discovery** throughout. ”

—Steve and Debbie G., travelers



A photographer focuses on a giant tortoise in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

tortoises. Later, travel into the highlands where wild tortoises forage to observe and photograph these giant creatures in the wild.

Isla Isabela

Explore the largest island in the group, home to marine iguanas, sea turtles, penguins, and the only species of flightless cormorant in the world. Cruise by Zodiac and snorkel in the cool, rich

waters that often draw whales and dolphins to the area.

Isla Fernandina

Discover Punta Espinosa on Isla Fernandina. Through a thicket of white mangroves lies the largest colony of marine iguanas in the Galápagos. Sea lions play along the coast, and flightless cormorants hunt from their nesting sites against the dramatic backdrop of Isla Isabela's volcanoes.

Isla Floreana

At Champion Islet, snorkel among sea lions, or peer into an underwater world in a glass-bottom boat (*Endeavour* only) while keeping an eye out for the endangered Floreana mockingbird. Those interested can visit Post Office Bay—if you see a letter addressed to someone who lives near you, the tradition is to deliver it by hand.

Isla Española

A paradise for bird lovers, Isla Española is home to Darwin's finches, blue-footed boobies, and waved albatrosses. Walk among vivid green-and-red marine iguanas, and observe sea lions up close on a pristine white-sand beach.



With the *National Geographic Islander* anchored in the distance, a sea lion nuzzles her playful pup.

See our **Epic Galápagos Photography Expedition** on page 113 and our **Galápagos Family Odyssey** on page 115. Visit our website for details on extending your trip to Machu Picchu.



DAY 9 GALÁPAGOS/GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, disembark the ship and fly to Guayaquil. The evening is at your leisure. HOTEL HILTON COLÓN (B)

DAY 10 GUAYAQUIL/U.S.

Depart Guayaquil this morning, arriving home the same day. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015 and 2016: Expeditions depart every Friday on the *National Geographic Endeavour* and every Saturday on the *National Geographic Islander*. See the calendar on page 136 for specific departure dates through December 2015.

Expedition Cost:

2015	<i>Endeavour</i>	<i>Islander</i>
Category 1	\$6,290	\$6,760
Category 2	\$6,990	\$7,590
Category 3	\$7,650	\$8,270
Category 4	\$8,290	\$8,750
Category 5	\$10,280	\$10,650

Visit our website for 2016 dates and pricing.

Prices are per person, double occupancy. 2015 pricing applies to all departures except for holiday departures. Add an additional \$500 per person for holiday departures leaving Dec. 18, 19, 25, and 26, 2015.

International airfare is not included in the expedition cost. Charter airfare between Guayaquil and Galápagos is \$495 (subject to change). See the *National Geographic Endeavour* and *Islander* descriptions, photos, and deck plans on page 131.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2015 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare to the Galápagos on select 2015 departures. Visit our website for details.

PERU: LAND OF THE INCA



WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS OF PERU LIES A WEALTH OF ANCIENT INCA TEMPLES, Spanish colonial towns, and breathtaking Andean vistas. Discover the magnificent capital of Cusco, hike to ruins in the Urubamba Valley, and meet artisans and archaeologists. Then spend the night among the enchanting ruins of Machu Picchu, excavated by Hiram Bingham with funding from National Geographic.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Watch day break over the mountaintop Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.**
- **Join archaeologist and National Geographic grantee Peter Frost for talks on his archaeological finds in Peru, which have been featured in *National Geographic* magazine.***
- **Attend a private demonstration of traditional Andean weaving techniques by a National Geographic grantee.**
- **Hear local musicians play indigenous instruments in a 16th-century monastery in Cusco.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Born and raised in a small Peruvian village, **Ernesto Ore** is well versed in the rich history, traditions, and modern life of his people. He is currently president of the Fundación

Apu Kuntur, a nonprofit dedicated to saving the endangered Andean condor, and he has served as an apprentice to a high priest and healer from the Andes. Ernesto has been introducing travelers to his native culture for more than a dozen years, lecturing on topics ranging from local wildlife and Inca ruins to traditional Peruvian perspectives on astronomy.

ERNESTO WILL ACCOMPANY SEVERAL DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS DEPARTURE DATES. THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including excavations of early Inca religious sites in Peru.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./LIMA, PERU

Depart for Lima, Peru's capital, founded in the 1500s by conquistador Francisco Pizarro. Transfer to our hotel and enjoy an evening to relax. HOTEL COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA LIMA

DAY 2 CUSCO/SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA

Fly to Cusco, and drive into the Sacred Valley of the Inca, stopping for a visit to Awanacancha, a llama and alpaca farm. Settle into private bungalows nestled in tropical gardens and enjoy a talk by National Geographic grantee Peter Frost* before dinner. In 2001 and 2002, Peter led National Geographic Society-sponsored expeditions into the remote region of Vilcabamba, Peru, and discovered the Inca and pre-Inca site of Qoriwayrachina (*National Geographic* magazine, February 2004). HOTEL SOL Y LUNA (B, L, D)

*On departures that coincide with Peter's field work, either anthropologist Jean-Jacques Decoster or ethnomusicologist Holly Wissler—both Peter's colleagues—will join us instead.



Peter Frost, an archaeologist, writer, photographer, and National Geographic grantee, joins us on Days 2 and 3 of our journey.*

DAY 3 SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA

Travel further into the valley to Ollantaytambo and join Peter to explore the enormous stone fortress where the Inca won their greatest victory against the conquistadores. Back at the lodge, watch a weaving demonstration by National Geographic grantee Nilda Callañaupa, who has helped preserve traditional Andean textile arts. After a barbecue lunch, witness the delicate dance of Paso horses. Gather for a performance of folk stilt-dancing tonight. (B, L, D)

“Nilda really has rescued ancient weaving techniques.

She saved these old methods. Every weaving here is handmade from natural materials and designed with traditional patterns.”

Kim MacQuarrie, “The Golden Yarn,” a May 2013 *National Geographic Traveler* article that featured traditional Andean weaver and National Geographic grantee Nilda Callañaupa, who meets with us on Day 3 of this expedition.



Hiram Bingham poses at his expedition camp during the excavation of Machu Picchu.

DAY 4 MACHU PICCHU

An exhilarating train ride brings us through the valley and up steep slopes to magnificent Machu Picchu. Isolated among mountain peaks, Machu Picchu is one of the world's most awe-inspiring sites. The sacred citadel was abandoned by the Inca, reclaimed by the jungle, and lost to history until it was rediscovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911 and excavated with support from the National Geographic Society. Discover the mysteries of the “lost city of the Inca” on a guided walk of the citadel, and then check into our historic lodge—set in the shadow of Machu Picchu. This afternoon, explore the ruins further with a guide; or head off on your own to see the Inca Bridge, built into a cliff face. Watch twilight descend on Machu Picchu after the crowds have disappeared, and

soak up the quiet enchantment of this legendary place. BELMOND SANCTUARY LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 5 MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO

Hike up to the Sun Gate, the final checkpoint of the Inca Trail, and see day break over the citadel. After more time to explore, board the train and ride back to Cusco, the capital of the Inca Empire. Our home in this charming city is an exquisite 16th-century monastery just steps from the main square. BELMOND MONASTERIO HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 6 CUSCO

Spend a full day exploring magnificent Cusco. Examine the massive stone boulders that make up the 15th-century Sacsayhuaman fortress, site of one of the bloodiest battles in the Spanish conquest. See the Coricancha, a 17th-century cathedral and convent built atop the ruins of an Inca temple. Enjoy free time before meeting up to experience the sounds of the Andes at a presentation of indigenous instruments. (B, D)

DAY 7 CUSCO/LIMA

Fly back to Lima, and visit the renowned Larco Herrera Museum, home of the world's largest private collection of pre-Columbian art. Catch the changing of the guard at the Plaza Mayor be-



A friendly llama catches an Andean village woman by surprise.



fore we gather for a farewell lunch at Casa Aliaga, a lovely colonial home. Later, check into our waterfront hotel in the elegant Miraflores district, and take the rest of the day to relax or explore on your own.

BELMOND MIRAFLORES PARK HOTEL (B, L)

DAY 8 LIMA/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Lima airport for your return flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015 and 2016: Expeditions depart every week on either Saturday or Sunday. See the calendar on page 136 for specific departure dates through March 2016.

Expedition Cost:

2015

\$4,990

Visit our website for 2016 pricing.

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,200 in 2015. International airfare to/from Lima and airfare within Peru are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight between Lima and Cusco is \$370 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

We will be traveling at high elevations while in Cusco and at Machu Picchu. Cusco is at an altitude of 11,200 feet and Machu Picchu, 8,000 feet. Participants should be physically fit. This expedition is not suitable for anyone who suffers from a respiratory disorder, a circulatory ailment, or a disability that limits mobility.

UPPER AMAZON



VOYAGE TO THE HEADWATERS OF THE MIGHTY AMAZON in the heart of Peru's rain forest aboard the elegant riverboat *Delfin II*. Slip through an intricate network of jungle waterways in a skiff or kayak, spotting hundreds of bird species, as well as caimans, tamarins, and sloths. Skim past massive lily pads, peer up at towering ceiba trees, and witness glorious sunsets on the still waters of the Amazon River Basin.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the flooded "Mirrored Forest" of Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve with a team of naturalists.
- Learn about the everyday life of the native *riberenos* on visits to villages at the river's edge.
- Go on rain forest hikes, birding walks, and nocturnal river safaris; and spot tropical wildlife from pink dolphins to scarlet macaws.
- Experience the wilds of the Amazon from the comfort of the intimate *Delfin II*.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a team of expert naturalists, **Kitty Coley** will join the November 14 and 21, 2015 departures. Kitty is a geologist and an avid birder who serves as a consultant to *National Geographic* magazine. She has worked in remote rain forests and rugged landscapes around the world. Her love of nature has inspired her to explore through scuba diving, backpacking, white-water and sea kayaking, and biking. A gifted and enthusiastic teacher and a popular National Geographic expert, Kitty generously shares her knowledge of geology, flora, and fauna.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./LIMA, PERU

Arrive in Lima in the late evening and transfer to our hotel. COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA

DAY 2 LIMA/IQUITOS/NAUTA

After a morning visit to the celebrated Larco Herrera Museum, fly to Iquitos and continue overland to Nauta, where our ship awaits. Get settled in your elegant, hardwood-paneled cabin, and gather for a welcome dinner of fine Peruvian cuisine prepared by our ship's chef. Tonight, step out on deck to gaze at the magnificent night sky over the Amazon. *DELFIN II* (B, L, D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

Glide into the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, one of the largest swathes of pristine jungle in South America, stretching across more than five million square acres. The reserve floods annually with nutrient-rich waters and is known locally as



A blue morpho butterfly spreads its radiant wings.

the Mirrored Forest for the reflections created by its glass-like waterways. In kayaks or skiffs, skim along the Pucate River looking for parrots, macaws, and perhaps shaggy-tailed monk saki monkeys or saddle-back tamarins. Encounter a very different ecosystem on hikes on terra firma, or explore up-river in a skiff. Reach the junction of the Marañón and the Ucayali, two powerful rivers

“**We were literally ‘blown away’**

by the incredible diversity of what we experienced. Every time we went out in a skiff, we saw something new and exciting. The schedule was well thought out, the food was quite wonderful, our cabin was five star.”

—Sam F., traveler



Sunset casts a golden glow as travelers head out by skiff to spot wildlife.

that border the reserve and converge to create the Amazon. Pay a visit to a village on the river’s edge and discover the traditions of the *riberaños*. Then learn about the inspiring work of Minga Peru, a nonprofit that has helped improve health and livelihoods for the people of the Amazon with the support of the Lindblad–National Geographic Fund. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 5 AND 6 PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

Venture deeper into the rain forest on narrow tributaries, seeking out pink dolphins, iguanas, and

giant water lilies. On a birding hike, look for an astounding variety of species, from tanagers and hummingbirds to oropendolas. As the sun sets, slip through the forest in a skiff, using a spotlight to find caimans, frogs, fishing bats, and other creatures of the night. From December through May we explore Atun Poza by skiff, looking for lagoon birdlife, and take a short walk to a local community. From June through November, hike through the rain forest in search of the soaring ceiba, or kapok tree. In skiffs, we reach Yanayacu lagoon, the furthest point in our journey, and with luck, enjoy a chance to swim with pink dolphins. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 7 AND 8 PACAYA-SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

During the wet season, look for massive paiche, the Amazon’s largest fish, and infamous piranhas, an important food source for the local people. As the water recedes later in the year, explore the spontaneous ecosystems of temporary islands that appear. Travel by skiff to Puerto Miguel and get acquainted with the culture, folklore, and daily life of the villagers. (B, L, D DAILY)



The Delfin II

Combine this trip with our Peru: Land of the Inca trip (see itinerary on page 30). Visit our website or call for details



DAYS 9 AND 10 NAUTA/IQUITOS/LIMA/U.S.

Enjoy one last morning excursion by skiff to view wildlife. After lunch, disembark in Nauta and pay a visit to the town’s manatee rehabilitation center. Return to Iquitos in time for a late afternoon flight to Lima. After breakfast the next day, transfer to the airport for your flight home. COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA (B, L; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jul. 18–27 • Aug. 22–31 • Aug. 29–Sep. 7
Sep. 5–14 • Sep. 12–21 • Sep. 19–28
Nov. 14–23 • Nov. 21–30 • Nov. 28–Dec. 7
Dec. 5–14

2016: Jan. 9–18 • Jan. 16–25 • Jan. 23–Feb. 1
Jan. 30–Feb. 8 • Feb. 13–22 • Feb. 20–29
Feb. 27–Mar. 7 • Mar. 5–14 • Mar. 19–28
Mar. 26–Apr. 4

Expedition Cost:

	2015	2016
Suites	\$6,390	\$6,690
Master Suites	\$7,460	\$7,830

Located on Upper and Main Decks

Located on Upper and Main Decks with panoramic views

See the *Delfin II* photo and deck plan on page 133. Prices are per person, double occupancy. Due to limited availability, single cabins are offered on a request basis only; please call for availability and rates. International airfare to/from Lima and airfare within Peru are not included in the expedition cost. Charter airfare between Lima and Iquitos is \$430 (subject to change).

EXPLORING PATAGONIA



CARVED BY FJORDS AND CAPPED BY GLISTENING GLACIERS, Patagonia is a natural wonderland. Cruise through a landscape of thick forests and icebergs to the tip of Cape Horn and the Strait of Magellan. Then continue to Patagonia's crown jewel—Torres del Paine National Park—and end our journey in Santiago, Chile's vibrant capital.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow Patagonia's pristine fjords past vast glaciers, and trace the voyages of great explorers around Cape Horn.
- Encounter unique wildlife, including guanacos, rheas, gray foxes, and Magellanic penguins.
- Spend three days hiking and horseback riding amid the granite spires, glacial lakes, and waterfalls of Torres del Paine National Park.
- Enjoy a tango performance in captivating Buenos Aires, and venture into the colorful artists' quarter of La Boca.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



A National Geographic Emerging Explorer, high-altitude archaeologist **Constanza Ceruti** specializes in excavating Inca Empire ceremonial centers on the

summits of sacred Andean mountains. Constanza's most impressive find to date took place on a 22,100-foot summit, where the expedition she co-led unearthed the three best preserved Inca mummies ever discovered. "When we found the mummies, I remember a profound silence falling over the group. It is so humbling to look into the eyes of another human being from half a millennium ago." Constanza looks forward to sharing her expertise on and passion for mountainous regions and cultures with fellow travelers.

CONSTANZA WILL ACCOMPANY BOTH FEBRUARY 2016 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires. Transfer to our hotel in the heart of the fashionable Recoleta neighborhood and explore the nearby galleries, museums, and cafés. Enjoy a tango performance at our welcome dinner tonight. LOI SUITES RECOLETA (D)

DAY 3 BUENOS AIRES

Spend the day discovering Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, known as "the Paris of South America." On a city tour, see the remarkable Recoleta Cemetery, burial site of Eva Perón. Continue to the historic presidential palace, La Casa Rosada, and the cathedral in Plaza de Mayo. After lunch, explore the cobblestone lanes of San Telmo, as well as the colorful artists' quarter of La Boca. (B, L)

DAY 4 USHUAIA/TIERRA DEL FUEGO NATIONAL PARK

Fly to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and visit Tierra del Fuego National Park. Embark our ship and sail toward the famed Beagle Channel. M.V. STELLA AUSTRALIS (B, L, D)

DAY 5 CAPE HORN, CHILE/WULAIA BAY

Weather permitting, take Zodiacs to legendary Cabo de Hornos (Cape Horn) for a panoramic view from the southernmost tip of South America. Later, explore Wulaia Bay, where Charles Darwin landed during his voyage on the H.M.S. *Beagle*. Choose one of two walks to experience the spectacular beauty of the Magellanic forest. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 MAGDALENA CHANNEL/AGOSTINI SOUND

As we navigate the Magdalena Channel, spot penguins, dolphins, sea lions, and Andean condors. Cruise through majestic Agostini Sound and disembark for a closer look at Águila Glacier. On an easy walk on shore, take in spectacular views of the brilliant blue-and-white ice set off by black



Tango dancers are caught mid-lunge against the colorful walls of La Boca in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

mountains, and learn about the geological forces that shaped this dramatic land. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 MAGDALENA ISLAND/PUNTA ARENAS

Take a morning walk on Magdalena Island, home to a colony of 120,000 Magellanic penguins. Disembark in Punta Arenas and continue across the southern pampas, looking for herds of guanacos and rheas, gray foxes, Patagonian hares, and black-necked swans. Settle into our deluxe hotel—a member of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World program—for the next four nights.

TIERRA PATAGONIA HOTEL & SPA (B, L, D)

DAYS 8, 9, AND 10 TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

During the next three days, tailor your exploration to your interests, choosing among a variety



The M.V. *Stella Australis*

of hiking and horseback-riding excursions in the park. Discover Grey Lake and its incredibly blue sculpted ice; hike through beech forests along the shore of Laguna Azul; and marvel at rock paintings left by Aonikenk Indians, some of the earliest inhabitants of the region. Photograph wildlife near the northern limits of the park or relax at the hotel, taking advantage of its wonderful amenities. Enjoy evening lectures, and cap off your stay in the park with a festive barbecue in the company of local *gauchos*, getting a glimpse into traditional Patagonian cowboy culture. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 11 PUNTA ARENAS/SANTIAGO, CHILE

Today, drive to Punta Arenas airport for the flight to Santiago, stopping for lunch along the way. Arrive in Santiago this evening and check into our hotel. PLAZA EL BOSQUE EBRO (B, L)

DAYS 12 AND 13 SANTIAGO/U.S.

Spend a full day exploring Santiago. On a walking tour of the city center, see the elegant Plaza de Armas, Palacio de la Moneda, and the 18th-century Metropolitan Cathedral. View the impressive collection at Santiago's Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, and enjoy a farewell celebration at a Chilean winery. This evening, transfer to the airport for your flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)

ABOUT TIERRA PATAGONIA

The lakeside Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, celebrated for its award-winning architecture, blends in with the landscape while offering stunning views of the peaks of Torres del Paine from each room. Suites have a two-story loft design with floor-to-ceiling windows, Superior rooms feature a large full bathroom, and Standard rooms offer a smaller bathroom. Tierra Patagonia offers the amenities and comforts of a five-star hotel, including a dining room; a bar; a library; a TV room; and a spa with an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor Jacuzzi, a sauna, a steam bath, and massage rooms.

ABOUT THE M.V. STELLA AUSTRALIS

Built in 2010, the M.V. *Stella Australis* has 100 outside-facing cabins and was designed specifically to cruise the spectacular Patagonian waterways. All cabins are the same size and feature a large window, an en suite bathroom, a satellite phone, and individual temperature controls. Cabins are available on three levels: Category A on the second level, Category AA on the third level, and Category AAA on the fourth level. Facilities include an open deck, three lounges, a library, a game room, an exercise room, and a single-seating dining room. National Geographic has reserved 17 cabins on all departures.



A Patagonian guanaco surveys the landscape.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 8–20 • Nov. 8–20
Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 8, 2016

2016: Jan. 10–22 • Feb. 7–19 • Feb. 21–Mar. 4

2015/2016 Expedition Cost:

Category A	\$10,390
<i>Tierra-Standard</i>	
Category AA	\$12,290
<i>Tierra-Superior</i>	
Category AAA	\$13,790
<i>Tierra-Suite</i>	

Categories A, AA, and AAA refer to ship categories. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,350 in Category A, \$4,100 in Category AA, and \$4,700 in Category AAA. On the December 27 departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$400 per person. International airfare to Buenos Aires and return from Santiago and airfare within Argentina and Chile are not included in the expedition cost. Group flights within Argentina and Chile are \$890 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a four-day extension to Easter Island or a four-day extension to Chile's Atacama Desert. Visit our website or call for details.

EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA ON THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER



WHEN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC AND LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS JOINED FORCES MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, we celebrated our partnership with an inaugural voyage from Valparaíso, Chile to the Panama Canal—the first of many extraordinary expeditions to come. In 2015, we'll return to South America to trace the length of the continent's western coast on three remarkable voyages aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*.

Our flagship, the *National Geographic Explorer*, is one of the finest expedition ships on the seas, able to reach many of South America's seldom-seen treasures while offering you an exceptional experience on board. Every voyage features state-of-the-art exploration tools and a dynamic team of experts, including naturalists, an undersea specialist, and a National Geographic photographer. From Ecuador's splendid marine reserves to Peru's mysterious Nasca lines, we invite you to discover wild and fascinating places and enjoy superb amenities along the way.



Opposite page: Bearing the marks of traditional tattooing, an Emberá man paddles a Panamanian waterway; the Paracas Candelabra is etched into a hillside in Peru; Magellanic penguins take a stroll in the surf.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

COASTAL TREASURES FROM THE PANAMA CANAL TO PERU **new**

Transit the historic Panama Canal and follow the coasts of Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, discovering stunning, seldom-visited places along the way. Discover the biodiversity of pristine islands and rain forests, and snorkel at marine reserves teeming with diverse species. Venture into the remote Darién Gap, visit archaeological sites, and explore Colombia with the country's former president, César Gaviria.



- Encounter rare tropical species and dazzling marine life while snorkeling and hiking in national parks and marine preserves.
- Experience the traditions of the Emberá people in the remote Darién Gap.
- Discover the forests and reefs of Utría National Natural Park and Isla Gorgona on the *National Geographic Explorer's* inaugural visit to Colombia.
- Explore South America's largest ancient adobe city—Chan Chan—and the sacred Moche River valley.

Date:
2015: Sep. 27–Oct. 10

Expedition cost: from **\$12,590**

ITINERARY | 17 DAYS

PERU AND CHILE: ANCIENT SITES AND NATURAL WONDERS **new**

From the beguiling Nasca lines, etched into the plain by an ancient civilization, to the shimmering, fantastic formations of the Atacama Desert, encounter breathtaking archaeological and natural wonders as we sail the coasts of Peru and Chile. Discover the wildlife-rich Juan Fernández Islands; see the penguin and seabird colonies of Peru's Ballestas Islands; and explore Isla Grande de Chiloé, just off the Chilean coast.



- Take a flightseeing excursion over the Nasca lines, viewing the remarkable animal figures and geometric shapes carved into the desert more than a thousand years ago.
- Venture into the salt-glazed, wind-sculpted landscapes of the Atacama Desert, the driest place on Earth.
- Delve into historic towns from Peru's Arequipa to La Serena, Chile.
- Get immersed in the wilderness of the rarely visited Juan Fernández Islands, thought to have inspired the novel *Robinson Crusoe*.

Date:
2015: Oct. 8–24

Expedition cost: from **\$17,690**

ITINERARY | 21 DAYS

ROUNDING THE CAPE: CHILEAN PATAGONIA AND ARGENTINA'S STATEN ISLAND **new**

From Tierra del Fuego to Torres del Paine National Park, experience Patagonia on a voyage from Chile's fjords to Argentina's remote Isla de los Estados, or Staten Island, one of the most pristine places on Earth. Pass icebergs and massive glaciers, encounter wildlife, and round Cape Horn in the wake of history's great explorers.



- Be one of the few people to explore Staten Island, located at the extreme tip of South America.
- Experience Patagonia's Torres del Paine National Park and the glorious Chilean fjords.
- Visit nature reserves not readily accessible to the public, including Yendegaia National Park and the private Karukinka Reserve in Tierra del Fuego.
- Transit the Beagle Channel and take in views of Cape Horn.

Date:
2015: Oct. 21–Nov. 10

Expedition cost: from **\$18,880**

See our website at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com for detailed itineraries, pricing, and special offers.

See the *National Geographic Explorer* deck plan on page 128. All prices are per person, double occupancy. Airfare is not included in the expedition cost.

ALL TRIPS ON THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER ARE OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

SCOTLAND'S HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS



ON A VOYAGE THROUGH SCOTLAND'S FAMED LOCHS AND INLAND WATERWAYS

aboard the *Lord of the Glens*, experience mystical landscapes dotted with medieval castles and churches. Trace Scotland's compelling history on visits to battlefields, fortresses, and ancient tombs. Cruise Loch Ness; descend through the intricate lock system of Neptune's Staircase; and explore serene hills and harbor villages on the picturesque islands of Mull, Iona, Eigg, and Skye.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak on Loch Ness, and wander through the charming seaside town of Tobermory.
- Stroll across the battlefields at Culloden, where Bonnie Prince Charlie was dramatically defeated.
- Hike through stunning scenery on the Isle of Skye, and learn about the tiny community on the remote island of Eigg.
- Attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on an optional extension (except for the July 26 departure).

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photographer **Catherine Karnow** will join a diverse team of experts on the July 26 departure. Catherine first traveled across Scotland to illustrate a book on the Malt

Whisky Trail and recently led a photography workshop there. She has photographed everything from Australian Aborigines and Bombay film stars to the victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam. She shot the cover story "Inside Provence" for *National Geographic Traveler's* April 2006 issue and captured rare images of Prince Charles for the May 2006 *National Geographic* magazine feature "Not Your Typical Radical."

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./INVERNESS, SCOTLAND

Depart for Inverness, arriving the next morning. Board the *Lord of the Glens* to the strains of a Highland piper and settle into your cabin—your home for the next seven nights. Gather for a reception and dinner on board while docked in Inverness. *M.V. LORD OF THE GLENS* (D)

DAY 3 CULLODEN/CLAVA CAIRNS/LOCH NESS

After a morning walk, visit Culloden, the infamous battlefield where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite forces were defeated in 1746. See the prehistoric standing stones and passage tombs of Clava Cairns. This afternoon, set sail on the Caledonian Canal, built in the early 19th century to create a route between western and eastern Scotland. Enter Loch Ness, cruise past the ruins of Urquhart Castle, and learn about the legendary monster said to inhabit the loch. Moor this afternoon at Fort Augustus and set out on a kayak excursion or a hike. (B, L, D)



The nimble *Lord of the Glens* glides by the ruins of Urquhart Castle on the shores of Loch Ness.

DAY 4 LAGGAN LOCKS/BANAVIE/ GLENFINNAN

Ascend an impressive flight of locks that runs through the heart of Fort Augustus. Glide down the tree-lined canal known as Laggan Avenue, or hike or bike along the towpath and rejoin the



Colorful houses cast long reflections on the harbor at Tobermory.

ship at the first lock. Sail into Loch Lochy and follow the canal to the town of Banavie, set in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Great Britain's highest mountain. Drive to the village of Glenfinnan, nestled within the mountains, and enjoy an afternoon walk in the stunning landscape. Return to the ship, and welcome local musicians on board for a lively evening of music. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 LOCH LINNHE/OBAN

Today, the *Lord of the Glens* descends Neptune's Staircase—a set of eight interconnected locks—and continues through Loch Linnhe to the vibrant town of Oban, perched on a picturesque bay on the Firth of Lorn. Explore Oban on foot, visiting a whisky distillery and McCaig's Tower, a hilltop monument that was inspired by the Roman Colosseum. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 ISLE OF MULL/IONA/TOBERMORY

Continue to the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. Visit stunning Duart Castle, set dramatically on a bluff jutting into the Sound of Mull, and explore the keep and dungeon of this fortress. Then cross by ferry to explore the island of Iona. Visit the medieval abbey ruins and the rebuilt abbey church, and learn about the ecumenical movement based there. Stroll through St. Oran's Chapel and the royal graveyard where generations of Scottish kings are buried, and enjoy a brief walking tour of Iona. Continue to the charming town of Tobermory. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 TOBERMORY/EIGG OR ISLE OF RUM/INVERIE

This morning, explore Tobermory's colorful quayside. Then sail north to the isle of Eigg, catching glimpses of the islands of the Inner Hebrides along the way. At Eigg, get a sense of what life is like for the 90 or so people who live in this tiny island community. Look for marine mammals, including Atlantic seals, minke whales, dolphins, and porpoises, as well as a variety of seabirds. Alternatively, visit the Isle of Rum, renowned for spectacular Kinloch Castle. Then sail to the town of Inverie, and enjoy a drink at the most remote pub in the British Isles. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 ISLE OF SKYE

Continue north to the Isle of Skye. At the Museum of the Isles, trace the legacy of the 1,300-year-old Clan Donald, who once ruled the west coast of Scotland, and stroll through the woodlands of Armadale. Take a guided walk in the Cuillin Hills (weather permitting) amid some of Scotland's most spectacular scenery. Or explore Eilean Donan Castle and the quaint village of Plockton. Celebrate your voyage at a festive farewell dinner on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 KYLE OF LOCHALSH/INVERNESS/U.S.

Disembark in Kyle of Lochalsh and drive through the Highlands to Inverness. Then transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jul. 26–Aug. 3 • Aug. 2–10* • Aug. 9–17
Aug. 16–24* • Aug. 23–31 • Aug. 30–Sep. 7*

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$6,990
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Located on the James Watt Deck

Category 2	\$7,990
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Located on the A. G. Bell and David Roberts Decks

See the *Lord of the Glens* description and deck plan on page 132. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$1,750 in Category 1 and \$2,000 in Category 2. International airfare to/from Inverness is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day extension in Edinburgh. All except the extension to the July 26 departure include the Military Tattoo—a spectacle of bands, fiddlers, and Highland dancers. Visit our website or call for details.



Experience Edinburgh's spectacular Military Tattoo on an optional extension.

MYSTERIES OF PREHISTORIC ENGLAND AND IRELAND



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Take an insider's tour of legendary Stonehenge and its adjacent sites with a local expert.
- Explore the boglands of Céide Fields, a 6,000-year-old site excavated by archaeologist Seamus Caulfield.
- Delve into the heritage of the Aran Islands with the director of the islands' college.
- Take a walking tour of the Burren National Park with a local author and discover Bronze Age sites amid this otherworldly limestone landscape.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND/ AVEBURY AND STONEHENGE

Arrive in London after an overnight flight and travel west to Wiltshire. Settle into a beautiful 19th-century country house, then step back thousands of years at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed megalithic monuments of Avebury and Stonehenge. Stroll around the massive stone circle at Avebury, examining the site and museum with a local expert. Walk past Silbury Hill, Europe's largest manmade prehistoric mound, en route to the Neolithic chamber tomb of West Kennet Long Barrow, which predates Stonehenge by some 600 years. Explore Stonehenge on an insider's tour

Above: Standing sturdily on the green fields of Wiltshire, Stonehenge dates back more than 5,000 years.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Renowned archaeologist and National Geographic grantee **Mike Parker Pearson** is one of the world's leading experts on Stonehenge. Mike co-directed the Stonehenge Riverside

Project, a six-year initiative supported by the Society that revolutionized our understanding of Stonehenge. He appeared in the National Geographic Channel documentary *Stonehenge Decoded* and was named U.K. Archaeologist of the Year in 2010. Mike's findings have been featured in numerous publications, including *National Geographic* magazine.

MIKE WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL 11 AND JUNE 6 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

with a local expert and visit the adjacent, related sites of Woodhenge and Durrington Walls. BEECHFIELD HOUSE HOTEL (B, D DAILY)

DAYS 4 AND 5 LONDON/DUBLIN, IRELAND/ BRÚ NA BÓINNE

Fly to Dublin. At the National Museum of Ireland take an in-depth look at Early Bronze Age gold and jewelry, Iron Age "bog bodies," and prehistoric weapons and utensils. Head to Brú na Bóinne, site of major megalithic passage tombs and dozens of smaller prehistoric monuments begun more than 5,000 years ago. Venture into the inner chambers of Newgrange and Knowth, admiring their engravings and alignments. Tour the Hill of Tara, a Stone Age site that later served as the seat of Ireland's kings. CLONTARF CASTLE HOTEL OR PORTMARNOCK HOTEL (B, D; B)

DAY 6 BALLINA AND CÉIDE FIELDS

Journey west to the timeless, rugged landscape of County Mayo. Here, atop sheer cliffs that drop to the sea, visit Céide Fields, the world's oldest known stone-walled field system, dating back nearly 6,000 years. Learn of its accidental discovery as we stroll over boglands lush with heather, mosses, and birdlife. MOUNT FALCON (B, D)

DAYS 7 AND 8 GALWAY/ARAN ISLANDS

Travel to Galway, a vibrant center of Irish music, theater, and art on Ireland's west coast. Hop on a ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, a living testament to Ireland's age-old traditions. The director of Coláiste Ó Direáin school welcomes us for a talk about the preservation of the Irish language, Gaelic. Walk to the mystical Celtic ring fort of Dun Aengus, perched at the edge of a sheer cliff. Return to Galway late this afternoon. GLENLO ABBEY HOTEL (B, D; B)



DAYS 9 AND 10 THE BURREN/LIMERICK/ SHANNON/U.S.

Head south through wild landscapes to the Burren, an otherworldly sweep of limestone strewn with megalithic monuments. Walk with a local expert from the Poulnabrone portal tomb into the heart of the Burren. Pass the buckled geology of Mullaghmore and encounter a Stone Age megalithic tomb, a Bronze Age cairn, and a *fulacht fia* (burned mound). End the day atop the spectacular Cliffs of Moher, 700 feet above the crashing sea. Continue to Limerick for a farewell dinner, and depart the next day from Shannon. LIMERICK STRAND HOTEL (B, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Apr. 11–20 • Jun. 6–15 • Jun. 13–22
Sep. 5–14

Expedition Cost:

\$6,895

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,090. International airfare to London and return from Shannon, and from London to Dublin, are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight from London to Dublin is \$200 (subject to change).

HOLLAND IN SPRINGTIME



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Take to the waterways of the Netherlands on the canal barge *M.S. Magnifique* and discover Keukenhof, Kinderdijk, Amsterdam, and the “green heart” of Holland.
- Drive past striped fields of tulips on the Flower Route, one of *National Geographic’s Drives of a Lifetime*.
- Immerse yourself in the excitement of the world’s largest flower auction in Aalsmeer.
- Visit the cheese-weighing house in Gouda and the oldest working ceramics factory of the Netherlands in Delft.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Depart on an overnight flight to Amsterdam. After time to explore, meet for a welcome dinner. BILDERBERG GARDEN HOTEL (D)

DAY 3 AMSTERDAM

Step into the newly renovated Rijksmuseum to examine masterpieces including Rembrandt’s *Night Watch*. Set out on a tour of the canals, and visit the Noordermarkt and the Anne Frank Museum. Board the *Magnifique* this evening. *M.S. MAGNIFIQUE* (B, D)

DAY 4 HAARLEM

In the medieval market town of Haarlem, see the Town Hall and Grote Kerk, a 15th-century church that houses Holland’s largest pipe organ. Take a

Above: Dazzling blooms turn the Keukenhof gardens into a patchwork of color.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Jan Nijman is a professor emeritus of geography and regional studies at the University of Miami. Born in the Netherlands, Jan studied at the University of Amsterdam and has written about Amsterdam’s geography and history and its place in the international arena. The National Geographic Society and the National Science Foundation have supported Jan’s work, and his publications have also appeared in a wide range of international journals.

JAN WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL 30 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE OTHER DEPARTURE.

walking tour and visit the Frans Hals Museum. (B, D)

DAY 5 LISSE/LEIDEN

Immerse yourself in a riot of colors and fragrances at the breathtaking Keukenhof gardens, where more than seven million blossoms display their bright hues. Later, travel the famous Flower Route to Leiden, home of the country’s oldest university and botanical garden. (B, D)

DAY 6 THE HAGUE/DELFT

Explore Den Haag (The Hague) and view masterpieces by Vermeer, van Dyck, and Rembrandt in the Mauritshuis collection. Continue to Delft, and watch artisans at work at Royal Delft, a ceramics factory founded in 1653. (B, D)

DAY 7 ROTTERDAM/KINDERDIJK/GOUDA

Sail through the busy port of Rotterdam on our way to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Kinderdijk-Elshout, where 19 windmills built around 1740 to drain the marshes still stand. Explore Kinderdijk by bicycle if you wish. Our barge glides into Gouda this afternoon. See the Gothic Stadhuis (City Hall) and venture into St. John’s Church to see the world-famous stained glass windows. (B, L)

DAY 8 GOUDA/GROENE HART/OUDE WETERING

Pay a visit to the local market and De Goudse Waag cheese museum this morning. Learn about the history and production of Gouda cheese and sample several varieties. Then head out on a bike ride through the landscapes of Groene Hart (Green Heart), or stay on board for a cooking class. Enjoy a local beer tasting and dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 AALSMEER/AMSTERDAM

Rise early for an excursion to the world’s largest



flower auction in Aalsmeer, where more than five billion flowers are sold every year. Witness the bargaining among flower vendors, and get an insider’s view of the tulip trade. Return to the ship for brunch as we cruise back to Amsterdam. Explore the city on your own before gathering to celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

DAY 10 AMSTERDAM/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Apr. 9–18 • Apr. 30–May 9

Expedition Cost:

Standard Double Cabin	\$5,995
Junior Suite	\$6,995

See the *M.S. Magnifique* description, deck plan, and photo on our website. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$2,300. International airfare to/from Amsterdam is not included in the expedition cost.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

NORWAY'S TRAINS AND FJORDS new



IN WESTERN NORWAY, DEEP FJORDS CUT THROUGH SNOWCAPPED MOUNTAINS, and remote valleys are only accessible by railways and roads that are masterworks of engineering. Climb aboard five different trains to experience the country's astonishing natural beauty from Oslo to Bergen. Cruise the waters of the Sognefjorden and the Geirangerfjorden and delve into a rich seafaring history as you encounter Viking longships and medieval churches.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Journey across alpine peaks, emerald valleys, and sparkling rivers on five railway lines including the Flåm—one of the steepest normal-gauge railroads in the world.**
- **Glide into spectacular fjords beneath sheer rock walls and waterfalls.**
- **Explore the mining town of Røros and Bergen's old wharf, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.**
- **Experience Norway's culinary delights on visits to farms, villages, and markets.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geographer, conservationist, and explorer **David Scott Silverberg** has lived in Norway for many years and has explored the country's terrain by backpack, ski, and

snekke (boat). He researches and teaches on the geologic development, biological evolution, conservation challenges, and political economic environment of Norway. A National Geographic grantee and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, David has worked in more than 100 countries and teaches at several international universities. His mix of exploration, research, and photo and video storytelling has been popular with National Geographic travelers for years.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE THE JULY 30, 2015; AND THE JUNE 30 AND JULY 14, 2016 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./OSLO, NORWAY

Depart on an overnight flight to Oslo and check into our hotel. Gather for a welcome dinner tonight. HOTEL CONTINENTAL (D)

DAY 3 OSLO

Explore Norway's cosmopolitan capital, situated at the head of a more than 60-mile-long fjord. Wander through Vigeland Park, filled with hundreds of life-size human figures by native artist Gustav Vigeland. At the Natural History Museum, learn about the work of National Geographic Explorer Jørn Hurum during a visit with "Ida," a 47-million-year distant relative of humans and the most complete fossil primate ever found. Then venture to the Bygdøy Peninsula to visit the Norsk Folkemuseum, an open-air assemblage of historic buildings from across the country, and see some of the best-preserved Viking longships in existence at the Viking Ship Museum. (B, L)

DAY 4 RØROS/TRONDHEIM

Norway's several thousand miles of railways stretch

from the southern tip of the country to above the Arctic Circle, offering breathtaking views of rolling hills, mountains, lakes, and fjords. Climb aboard the Røros Railway and travel to the mining town of Røros—a World Heritage site and one of the oldest wooden towns in Europe. Stroll past 17th- and 18th-century buildings where residents still live and work. Later, catch a train to the lovely city of Trondheim, situated on the southern shore of Trondheimsfjorden at the mouth of the Nidelva River. BRITANNIA HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 5 TRONDHEIM

Said to be founded in the tenth century by Viking King Olaf I Tryggvason, Trondheim served as Norway's capital until the early 1200s. Today, high-tech culture mingles with medieval architecture in this university town. Visit the Nidaros Cathedral, a cherished landmark built on the grave site of Norway's patron saint that is prized for its stained glass windows. Take a musical tour at the Ringve Music Museum and enjoy a concert performed on antique instruments. Later, explore on your own or discover the city on an optional kayaking excursion. (B, L)

Above: Snow-frosted hills set off a summery scene on Norway's Sognefjorden.

“ In this seabooted country, nearly everyone is bilingual, speaking equally the language of earth and ocean. ”

Verlyn Klinkenborg, “Norway’s Otherworldly Coast,”
National Geographic magazine, November 2013



Forming a tableau of bright colors, stilted houses line the harbor in Trondheim.

DAY 6 RAUMA RAILWAY/GEIRANGER

Catch a morning train to Dombås and board the Rauma Railway. Take in stunning scenery through panoramic windows on a journey past craggy alpine peaks, glacier-fed waterfalls, and the emerald green waters of the Rauma River. Cross the historic Kylling Bridge and marvel at the 3,300-foot Trollveggen, Europe’s tallest vertical rock face. Continue by coach to Geiranger along the famed Trollstigen—the Troll’s Footpath. Wind through the mountains along 11 hairpin turns, keeping an eye out for troll statues inspired by Norwegian fairytales. Stop en route to taste local products at a summer farm. HOTEL UNION (B, L, D)



The towering rock face of Trollveggen juts high above the Rauma Railway.

DAY 7 GEIRANGERFJORDEN/BALESTRAND

Set out by ferry for an unforgettable cruise on the UNESCO World Heritage site of Geirangerfjorden, a ten-mile passage lined with sheer rock walls and punctuated with waterfalls. Disembark at Hellesylt and drive to Balestrand, located on the Sognefjorden—the longest and deepest fjord in Norway. Along the way, skirt the edges of Nordfjord, passing tumbling cascades, lush pastures, and lakes. Have lunch at the water’s edge and then learn about the Norwegian folk art of rosemaling at a local village. This evening, settle into our historic hotel overlooking the Sognefjorden. KVIKNES HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SOGNEFJORDEN/BALESTRAND

Cross the Sognefjorden by ferry for a visit to the Hopperstad Stave Church, one of Norway’s most intact medieval churches. Back in Balestrand, visit a cider house to taste local ciders, fruit wines, and brandies. Then discover the town’s history as a hub for 19th-century European artists, who were inspired by the Sognefjorden’s captivating scenery. Walk along the fjord’s edge, dotted with villas built in the popular Swiss style of the period, and keep an eye out for dragon heads atop the gables—a motif from Norse mythology. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 FLÅM RAILWAY/BERGEN

Take a scenic cruise across the Sognefjorden and up the narrow Aurlandsfjorden to the village



of Flåm. Sample award-winning handcrafted beers at a Viking-style brewery, then board the world-famous Flåm Railway, named by *National Geographic Traveler* as one of the top ten train journeys in Europe. Make a thrilling ascent of some 2,837 feet in just one hour, passing through 20 tunnels. At the mountain station of Myrdal, transfer to the Bergen line and continue across the spine of Norway to the coastal city of Bergen. RADISSON BLU ROYAL HOTEL (B, L)

DAY 10 BERGEN

Bergen was once an important trading center of the Hanseatic League, which dominated commercial activity in northern Europe in the Late Middle Ages. Discover the city’s maritime history on a tour of Bryggen—the old wharf, and stroll through the local fish and flower market. This afternoon, explore the former home of celebrated Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, nestled in the hills above the city, and enjoy a private piano recital of Grieg’s music. Then sit down to a farewell dinner at a restaurant with splendid views overlooking the city. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 BERGEN/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jul. 30–Aug. 9 • Aug. 20–30

2016: Jun. 16–26 • Jun. 30–Jul. 10 • Jul. 14–24

2015/2016 Expedition Cost: **\$8,995**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$890. International airfare to Oslo and return from Bergen is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a five-day post-trip extension to Iceland. Visit our website or call for details.

SWISS TRAINS AND THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT



CLIMB ABOARD SWITZERLAND'S LEGENDARY TRAINS to experience some of the most spectacular scenery in the Swiss Alps, from the twisted peak of the Matterhorn to the breathtaking vistas of the Bernina Pass. Soar high above Zermatt in a gondola, and enjoy a choice of hikes, walks, and tram rides through beautiful mountain landscapes. Then cross the Alps into Italy and cap off the trip on the shores of stunning Lake Como.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Journey across majestic passes on two of the world's most picturesque railways, the *Glacier Express* and the *Bernina Express*.
- Take in panoramic views of glaciers and peaks from aboard a narrow gauge cog railway.
- Hear tales of early Alpinists from a local mountaineer.
- Cruise Italy's Lake Como, and stroll the gardens of the renowned Villa Serbelloni with a private guide.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Travel writer **Teresa Fisher** is the author of several books on Switzerland and Italy, including *National Geographic Traveler: Switzerland*. She has penned more than 30 guidebooks plus

several children's travel reference books on a wide variety of destinations worldwide, and has had a lifelong love affair with the Alps, living and working there for many years. She specializes in European cities, adventure travel, and all things Alpine. Teresa has been featured on BBC radio and has published photography and travel articles in the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sunday Times*.

TERESA WILL ACCOMPANY THE AUGUST DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND/ZERMATT

Depart on an overnight flight to Zürich. Arrive the next morning and board a train to the charming Alpine village of Zermatt, off limits to cars. Check into our hotel and gather for a welcome dinner tonight. HOTEL NATIONAL ZERMATT (D)

DAY 3 ZERMATT/GORNER GLACIER

Climb aboard the Gorner cogwheel railway, the highest train in Europe, and ascend to a summit far above Zermatt to experience one of the best viewpoints in the Alps. Admire a breathtaking vista that includes Monte Rosa, the Matterhorn, and the Gorner Glacier. Hike down past Alpine lakes to Riffelberg, where we will catch the train back to Zermatt. (B, D)

DAY 4 ZERMATT/ZMUTT VALLEY

Ride the gondola up to Schwarzsee or Furi for a walk through the spectacular Zmutt Glacier valley.

Ambitious hikers can continue on a ridge facing the Matterhorn before descending to Zmutt, a hamlet of weathered chalets. After lunch on your own, return to Zermatt by gondola. This afternoon, pay a visit to the Matterhorn Museum, where a local mountaineer and Alpine historian will recount stories of early attempts to conquer the Matterhorn and other climbing adventures. (B)

DAY 5 GLACIER EXPRESS/PONTRESINA

Take your seat on the world-famous *Glacier Express* and set off on a breathtaking journey across three high-mountain passes, over 291 bridges, and through 91 tunnels. Enjoy the elegant amenities of the train as we soak up magnificent vistas of sky-scraping, glacier-glazed peaks on our way to the Upper Engadin Valley. Disembark in St. Moritz and take a short drive to our hotel in Pontresina. SPORHOTEL PONTRESINA (B, L)

DAY 6 PONTRESINA/ST. MORITZ

Set out on a walking tour of Pontresina and discover local lore that dates back to prehistory.



Lake Silvaplana adds a splash of vivid turquoise to the gorgeous tableau of the Upper Engadin Valley.

Later this morning, hit one of the trails that surrounds this picturesque town on a bicycle, riding past the Silvaplana Lake and over Maloja Pass to get to St. Moritz. You may also choose to travel there by foot or local train. After lunch on your own, meet up for a visit to the Segantini Museum, dedicated to the Alpine artist Giovanni Segantini, who spent the end of his career in the Upper Engadin Valley. Take the rest of the afternoon to explore the galleries, cafés, and boutiques of St. Moritz before returning to Pontresina for dinner. (B, D)



Flowers fill a fishing skiff on the shores of Italy's Lake Como.

DAY 7 BERNINA PASS/POSCHIAVO

Today, board the legendary *Bernina Express*, the highest mountain railway in the Alps, to the heart of Italian-speaking Switzerland. Take in extraordinary views of the Morteratsch Glacier from the train's panoramic windows as we climb to the highest point at Ospizio Bernina, 7,578 feet above sea level. Descend to the picturesque town of Poschiavo, where we meet a local guide for a tour of its historic center. Return to Pontresina via the *Bernina Express* late this afternoon. (B)

DAY 8 PONTRESINA/MOLTRASIO, ITALY

A spectacular drive through Alpine valleys brings us into the Italian Lake District today. The picturesque countryside is dotted with villas in hues of terra-cotta, pink, ochre, and gold, and strewn with tropical vegetation and lush gardens. Our destination is the lovely village of Moltrasio, perched on the western shore of the vast and beautiful Lake Como. Wander the winding, narrow lanes of this lakeside village, where elegant grey sandstone villas are tucked into the hillsides and surrounded by lush gardens. Our base here is a charming art nouveau resort and spa overlooking Lake Como. GRAND HOTEL IMPERIALE (B, L)

DAY 9 LAKE COMO

Spend the day exploring the treasures of Lake Como. In the exquisite gardens of Villa Serbelloni, stroll in the footsteps of former visitors such as Leonardo da Vinci, Emperor Maximilian I, and Queen Victoria. On a lake cruise, behold a majestic panorama of colorful waterside villages and elegant estates, fringed by palms and pines and



backed by soaring mountains. Enjoy time to relax on our hotel's terrace, taking in the view before we meet to celebrate our journey at a lakeside farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 10 MILAN/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to Milan's Malpensa Airport for your flight home. (B)



Crowned by enormous horns, Alpine ibexes create a striking profile on the slopes of the Swiss Alps.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jul. 10–19 • Jul. 24–Aug. 2 • Aug. 17–26
Sep. 14–23

Expedition Cost:

\$6,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$750. International airfare to Zürich and return from Milan is not included in the expedition cost.

REMEMBERING D-DAY: LONDON TO THE NORMANDY BEACHES



RETRACE THE EVENTS OF D-DAY, following the path of the Allied forces from Portsmouth, England, to the shores of Normandy. Step back in time at important World War II sites in London. Then cross the English Channel, delving into the poignant events of June 1944 with a military historian. Stroll the legendary beaches and the cratered cliff top at Pointe du Hoc, and visit villages that still bear the vestiges of war.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Venture into Winston Churchill's fortified Cabinet War Rooms, and learn about the Enigma code breakers on a visit to Bletchley Park.
- See the enormous map General Eisenhower used to plot Allied positions.
- Attend a private reception at the Château de Creully, where BBC correspondents reported on the war.
- Walk along Utah and Omaha beaches, and pay your respects at the American Cemetery.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Historian and retired archivist **Timothy Mulligan** has written three books and 20 articles on military history, most relating to World War II in Europe, including *Lone Wolf: The Life and Death of U-Boat Ace Werner Henke* and *Neither Sharks Nor Wolves: The Men of Nazi Germany's U-Boat Arm*. He received his Ph.D. in diplomatic history from the University of Maryland in 1985. During his 34-year tenure as an archivist with the National Archives and Records Administration, he also compiled the two-volume finding aid *World War II: Guide to Records Relating to U.S. Military Participation*. This guide describes approximately 200,000 cubic feet of records in National Archives custody and received the Society of American Archivists' C.F.W. Coker award in 2009. Now retired, Timothy teaches a course on "History Through Hollywood."

TIMOTHY WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER 19 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./LONDON, ENGLAND

Depart on an overnight flight to London. Upon arrival, check into our centrally located hotel. The afternoon begins in the Cabinet War Rooms, a fortified bunker deep underneath Whitehall from which Winston Churchill directed the British war effort. Wander through the rooms—and the adjacent Churchill Museum—and examine maps, telephones, and items from Churchill's life. Gather for a welcome reception and dinner tonight. **DOUBLETREE WESTMINSTER, KENSINGTON HOTEL, OR MARYLEBONE HOTEL (D)**

DAY 3 BLETCHLEY PARK/LONDON

This morning, immerse yourself in a world of intrigue and espionage at Bletchley Park and discover the story behind the Enigma code breakers, who successfully deciphered the encryption used by the Wehrmacht. After lunch, return to central London and enjoy an insider's tour of the

interactive World War II exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. The evening is at your leisure. (B, L)

DAY 4 PORTSMOUTH/NORMANDY, FRANCE

Travel south to Portsmouth, where we begin with a visit to Southwick House, the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force. Here, on the evening of June 5, Eisenhower made the decision to strike. At the D-Day Museum, examine the Overlord Embroidery, a stunning, handcrafted depiction of the D-Day events that stretches some 270 feet. This afternoon, cross the English Channel to Normandy by ferry. Settle into our hotel tonight. **HÔTEL D'ARGOUGES OR MANOIR DE MATHAN (B, L, D)**

DAY 5 SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE/UTAH BEACH/LA CAMBE

Explore the village of Sainte-Mère-Église, where the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division paratroopers dropped from the sky in a hail of gunfire on the night of June 5. View the church steeple upon which one unlucky paratrooper was entangled for hours, and visit the village's remarkable museum.

“ June 6 dawns. The tide is low at Utah Beach and Omaha Beach, as it was then. The sand hardens underfoot, as it did then. I touch a rusted metal stump thrusting from the sand, a remnant of the rows of barriers that lined this shore on June 6, 1944.

It will be a gray day, as it was then. ”

Thomas B. Allen, “Untold Stories of D-Day,”
National Geographic magazine, June 2002



A rural church overlooks the verdant meadows of Normandy.

Continue to Utah Beach, site of one of the two American amphibious landings in the early hours of D-Day. Stop for lunch at Le Roosevelt, a restaurant built around a former German bunker just steps from the historic beach. This afternoon, pay a visit to the German war cemetery at La Cambe. (B, L, D)



Sunlight fills the American and French flags in a Norman town near the D-Day beaches.

DAY 6 CAEN/ARROMANCHES

In Caen, delve into the history of D-Day at the impressive museum, the Mémorial de Caen. Then travel to Arromanches, where a Mulberry harbor still rises out of the surf—one of the few remnants of the prefabricated concrete harbors that assisted in landing Allied supplies. Visit the Arromanches Landing Museum and watch a spectacular film on the landings in the Arromanches 360 theater. Gather for a private evening reception at the Château de Creully, from which BBC correspondents reported on the Allied invasion. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 POINTE DU HOC/OMAHA BEACH/PARIS

One of the most dramatic sites along the Normandy coastline is Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Rangers used hooks and ropes to scale cliffs some 100 feet high in order to destroy key German gun positions. Walk along cliff-top pathways still cratered by mortar blasts, and venture into the concrete bunkers from which German forces unleashed a barrage of artillery fire. Then wander along Omaha Beach, site of the bloodiest fighting of the invasion day. At the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, pay your respects to fallen heroes by laying a wreath. Take in the poignant



sight of row upon row of small white grave markers stretching across acres. Then, continue to Paris and cap off our expedition with a farewell dinner in the City of Lights. MILLENNIUM HOTEL PARIS OPÉRA, HOTEL ROYAL SAINT HONORE, OR HÔTEL EDOUARD 7 (B, D)

DAY 8 PARIS/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for your flight home. (B)



A triumphant General Charles de Gaulle returns to France for the first time since the German occupation.

INFORMATION

Dates:

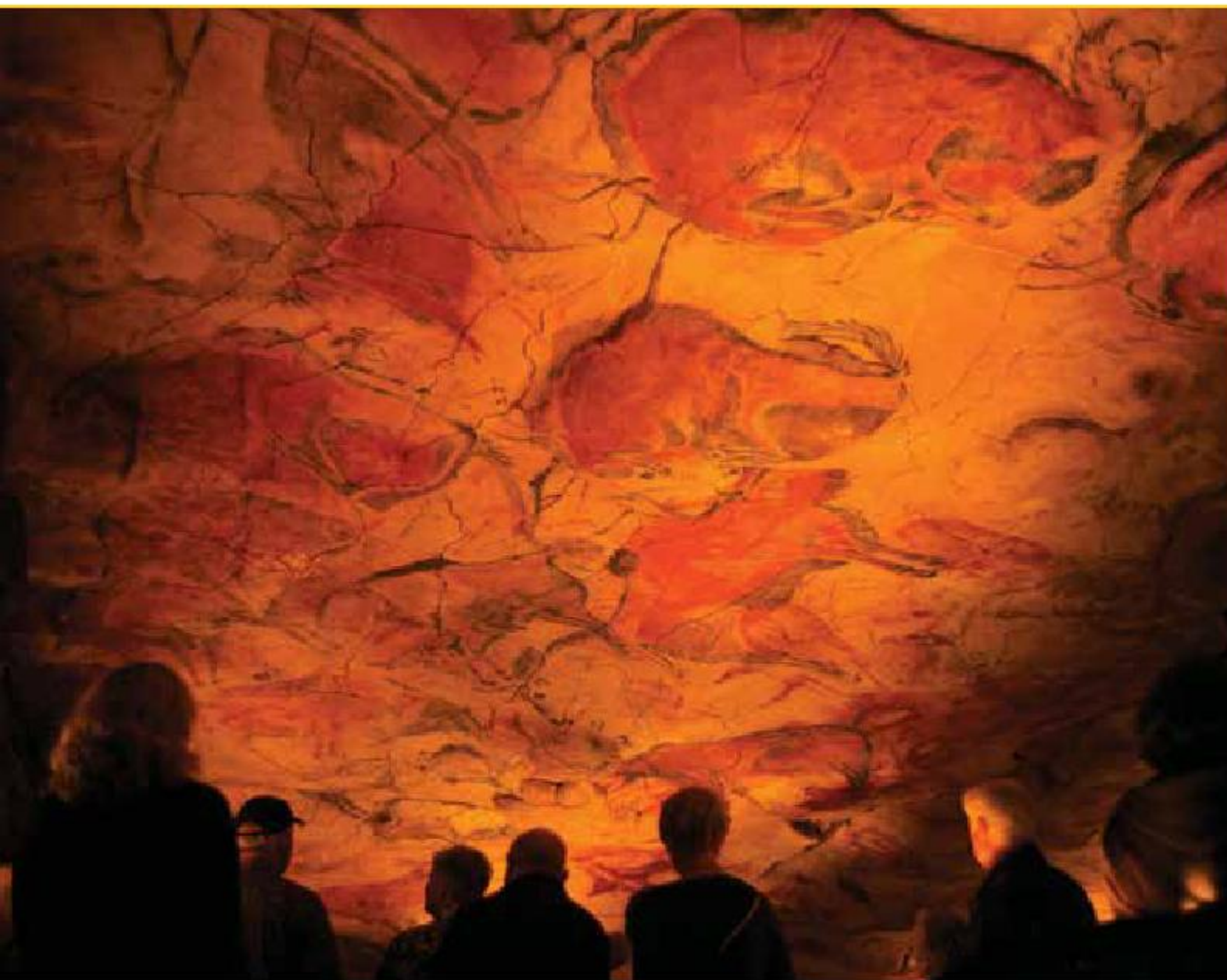
2015: May 2–9 • May 31–Jun. 7 • Sep. 5–12
Sep. 19–26

Expedition Cost:

\$6,795

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,250 on the May 2 and September departures and \$1,390 on the May 31 departure. There is an additional surcharge of \$200 per person on the May 31 departure, which includes a commemorative ceremony on June 6. International airfare to London and return from Paris is not included in the expedition cost.

HUMAN ORIGINS: SOUTHWEST FRANCE AND NORTHERN SPAIN



TRACE THE FOOTSTEPS OF EARLY HUMANS as we explore the cradle of civilization in southwest France and on Spain's northern coast. On an expedition designed with paleoanthropologist Donald Johanson, examine carvings and cave paintings that illustrate life up to 40,000 years ago. From the Dordogne to Basque Country, stay in beautiful medieval towns that dot these long-inhabited landscapes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Examine the Paleolithic art of two UNESCO World Heritage-listed cave regions: France's Vézère valley and the northern coast of Spain.
- Meet leading archaeologists for talks and private tours of cave sites.
- Visit Castel-Merle with Isabelle Castanet, whose family has excavated the site for generations.
- Explore Sarlat, France and Santillana del Mar, Spain, two of Europe's best preserved medieval villages.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Paleoanthropologist **Chris Stringer** has worked at the Natural History Museum London since 1973, where he now leads research in Human Origins. Chris's early research

was on the relationship of Neanderthals and early modern humans in Europe. Through his work on the "Recent African Origin" model for modern human origins, he now collaborates with archaeologists, dating specialists, and geneticists in attempting to reconstruct the evolution of modern humans globally. Chris has excavated at sites in Britain and abroad, and is currently leading the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project in its third phase. He has published more than 250 scientific papers, and his recent books include *Homo Britannicus: The Incredible Story of Human Life in Britain*, *The Complete World of Human Evolution* (with Peter Andrews), and *Lone Survivors*.

CHRIS WILL ACCOMPANY THE THE MAY DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BORDEAUX, FRANCE/ VÉZÈRE VALLEY

Depart on an overnight flight to Bordeaux. Journey to the beautiful Dordogne region—still commonly known by its pre-Revolutionary name, Périgord. Here, rivers have carved up the limestone landscape, leaving cliffs and caves where humans have built their homes for tens of thousands of years. Settle into your country hotel in the Vézère valley, and gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner. HÔTEL LE CENTENAIRE OR LA VILLA ROMAINE (D)

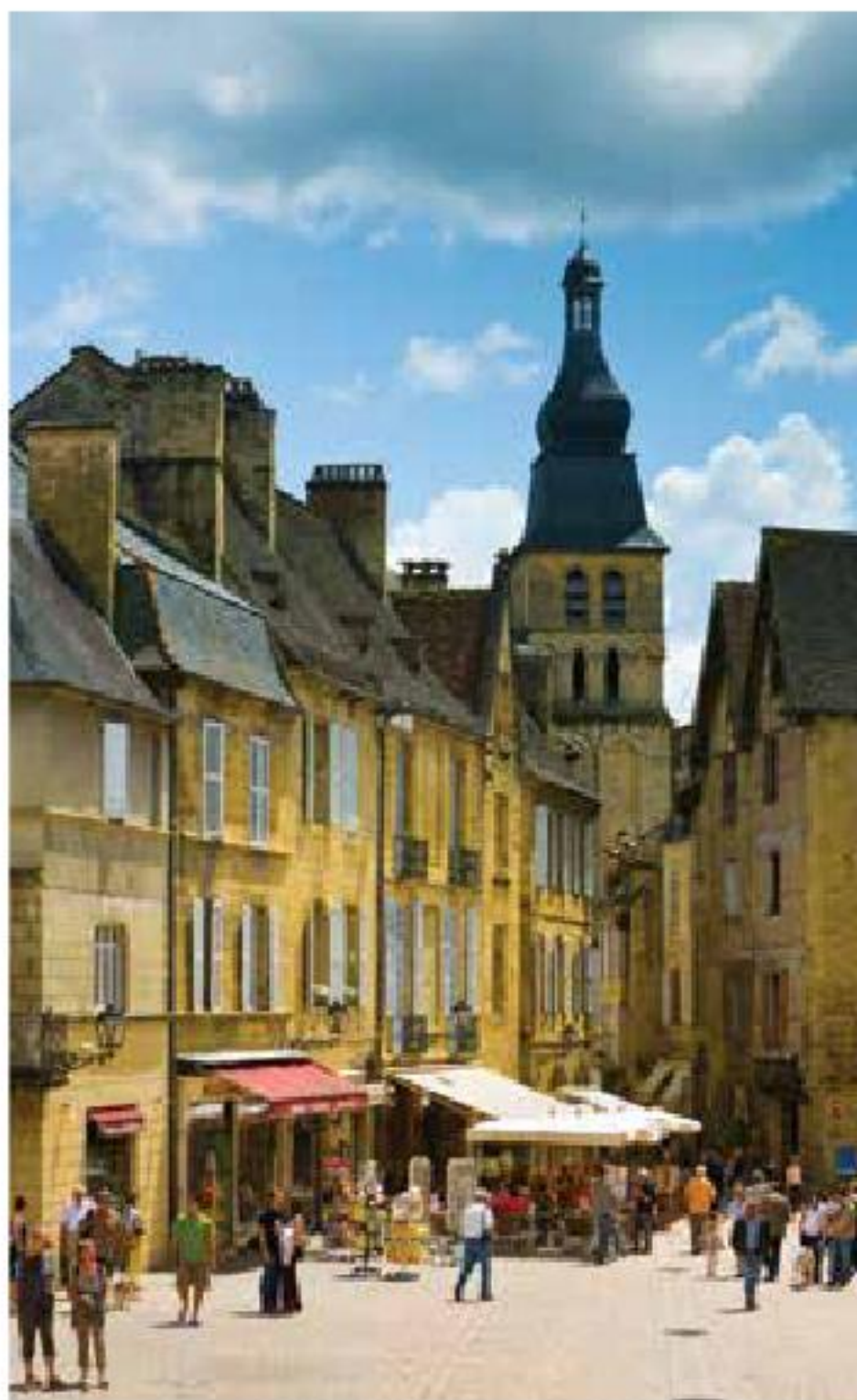
DAY 3 PREHISTORIC SITES OF THE VÉZÈRE VALLEY

Set out with Christine Desdemaines-Hugon, one of the world's leading experts on Paleolithic art and author of *Stepping Stones: A Journey Through the Ice Age Caves of the Dordogne*, on an excursion to the majestic sculpted frieze of horses and bison at Cap Blanc. Then see other local finds on a guided tour at the National Museum of Prehistory.

After lunch on your own in the nearby town of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, end the day with a visit to either Font-de-Gaume, home to more than 200 polychrome paintings, or Rouffignac Cave, known as the "cave of a hundred mammoths." (B, D)

DAY 4 SARLAT/LASCAUX II

Travel to picturesque Sarlat, whose original half-timbered, golden-stone buildings and narrow, cobbled streets make it one of the best preserved medieval towns in France. After time to explore on your own, gather for a unique "prehistoric" lunch made with the ingredients once used by Neanderthals. In the afternoon, join archaeologist Isabelle Castanet for a visit to Castel-Merle, a complex of prehistoric stone shelters more than 300 feet long, excavated and preserved by several generations of the Castanet family. Meet prehistory expert Denis Tauxe for a private, behind-the-scenes visit to Lascaux II, a painstaking recreation of the two primary chambers of the original Lascaux cave, whose famous paintings have been off-limits to visitors since 1963 to prevent deterioration. (B, L, D)



Known for its buildings of ochre-colored stone, Sarlat has retained much of its medieval character.

DAY 5 PECH MERLE/TOULOUSE

This morning, venture into the spectacular natural galleries of Pech Merle, an enormous cave system filled with prehistoric art and artifacts dating back 25,000 years. See rare representations of human figures, engraved or spotted animals, and a mammoth drawn using the natural contours of the rock. The cave floor displays children's footprints preserved in the ancient clay more than 12,000 years ago. Following lunch on your own, continue to the lively university town of Toulouse.

GRAND HOTEL DE L'OPERA (B)



Carved into the shape of a lion, a reindeer horn found at Isturitz displays symbols thought to be magical.

DAY 6 BASQUE COUNTRY/SANTILLANA DEL MAR, SPAIN

Drive southwest into France's Basque region, stopping in a picturesque village for lunch in a traditional Basque restaurant. In the afternoon, enter the Isturitz and Oxocelhaya caves with prehistory specialist Aude Labarge, or meet with the archaeological site director, Christian Normand. Used by human beings for more than 80,000 years, these superimposed caves have yielded tens of thousands of artifacts, including flutes, sculpted reindeer horns, and whalebone tools. Cross into Spain this afternoon and trace the Bay of Biscay to the Cantabria region. Check into our charming hotel, a manor house situated in the heart of the medieval village of Santillana del Mar. PARADOR SANTILLANA DEL MAR (B, L, D)

DAY 7 PUENTE VIESGO CAVES

Come face-to-face with some of the oldest artistic representations in human history on a visit to the caves at Puente Viesgo, part of the Paleolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain World Heritage site. Recently identified as the oldest cave artwork in the world, the paintings in El Castillo cave date back at least 40,800 years. Explore the nearby Las Monedas cave—the longest in Puente Viesgo—and later, delve deeper into the prehistory of the region on a visit to the Altamira Museum. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 HORNOS DE LA PEÑA CAVE/BILBAO

Continue our exploration of Cantabria's World Heritage-listed caves at Hornos de la Peña. Here, large-scale naturalistic engravings depict horses, bison, aurochs, goats, and other animals, as well as an unusual anthropomorphic figure with a human-like arm and a tail. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to Bilbao, the largest city in Spain's autonomous Basque Country. Explore the city on your own this afternoon, and if you wish, stop in at the world-famous Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Gehry and located just a short walk from our hotel. HOTEL MIRÓ (B, L)

DAY 9 ATAPUERCA/BILBAO

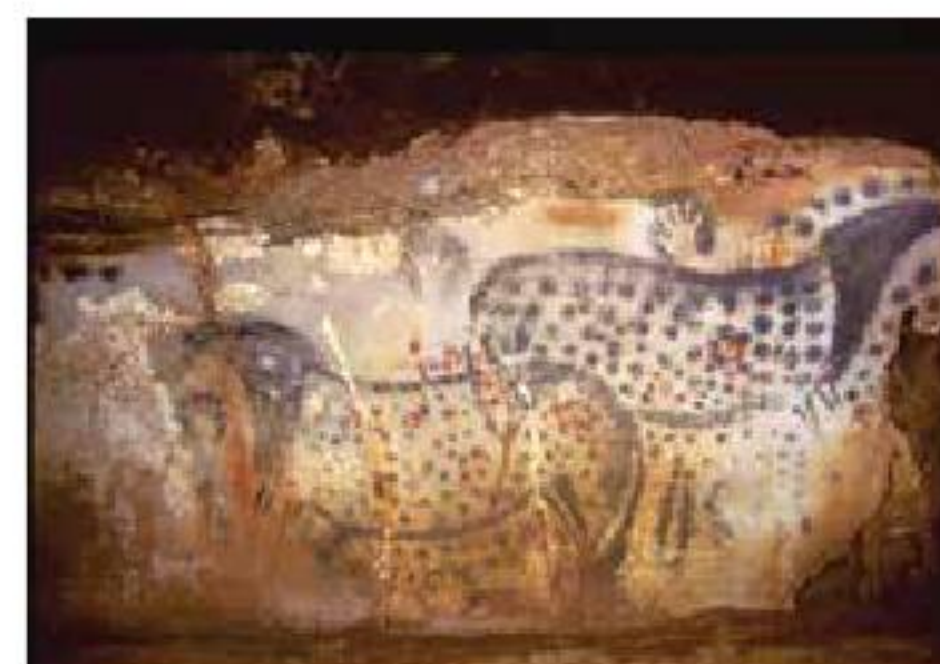
Today we are joined by renowned archaeologist Dr. Ana Cristina Pinto-Llona, an expert on the origins of modern humans. Ana is a two-time National Geographic grant recipient for her work in the Asturias region of northern Spain, and she also spent several years excavating at the Atapuerca archaeological site. Visit Atapuerca, where the oldest known hominin fossil remains



in Europe have been unearthed. Return to Bilbao and celebrate your prehistoric adventure at a festive farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 BILBAO/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to Bilbao Airport for your flight home. (B)



The iconic Dappled Horses of Pech Merle feature hand stencils, rare instances of the human body depicted in prehistoric art.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Apr. 24–May 3 • May 29–Jun. 7
Sep. 4–13 • Oct. 2–11 • Oct. 16–25

Expedition Cost:

\$6,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,280. International airfare to Bordeaux and return from Bilbao is not included in the expedition cost.

SPAIN'S NORTHERN COAST BY PRIVATE RAIL



CLIMB ABOARD THE LUXURY *TRANSCANTÁBRICO GRAN LUJO* near Santiago de Compostela and set off on a rail journey along Spain's northern coast. Passing through medieval hamlets and historic towns, the train traces the fertile tract between the Cantabrian Mountains and the scalloped beaches on the Bay of Biscay. Explore Basque country, Asturias, and charming seaside ports.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel in spacious, refurbished 1920s British Pullman cars on the elegant *Transcantábrico Gran Lujo*, remodeled in 2010.
- Admire diverse architectural styles, from the pre-Romanesque gems of Oviedo to Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum.
- Stroll amid emerald lakes, limestone peaks, and mountain meadows in Picos de Europa National Park.
- Stay in a historic parador in Santiago de Compostela, and savor the region's cuisine and fine wines.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Travel writer **Fiona Dunlop** has explored northern Spain extensively, writing numerous articles about its culture and gastronomy. She is the author of the *National Geographic*

Traveler guidebooks for Spain and Portugal as well as *Spain Chic* and the critically acclaimed book *New Tapas*, which explores Spain's evolving food culture. Fiona contributes to numerous newspapers and magazines and has written more than a dozen guidebooks and food culture books. In addition to living for long periods in France, Italy, and London—her hometown—she has long favored Andalusia in southern Spain, where she frequently retreats to her house in the olive groves.

FIONA WILL ACCOMPANY THE AUGUST DEPARTURE. TIM WEED WILL JOIN THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS BIO.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN

Depart on an overnight flight to Santiago de Compostela, the capital of Galicia and the ending point of the historic Way of St. James pilgrimage route. Check into our beautiful parador, considered one of the oldest hotels in the world. Gather for a welcome reception and dinner tonight. PARADOR HOSTAL DOS REIS CATÓLICOS (D)

DAY 3 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA/FERROL/VIVEIRO

This morning, explore Santiago's historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. In the middle of the city sits the majestic cathedral, allegedly the burial place of St. James and the destination of many thousands of pilgrims for the past millennium. You may choose to stay and witness the weekly Pilgrims' Mass at noon in the cathedral, a tradition that dates to the 11th century. After lunch, drive to Ferrol, where we board our train and continue on to Viveiro. Enjoy dinner and settle in for the night.

EL TRANSCANTÁBRICO GRAN LUJO (B, L, D)

Above: Covered in the fuschia velvet of blooming ice plants, Pancha Island juts into the Bay of Biscay just off the coast of Ribadeo.

DAY 4 RIBADEO/LUARCA

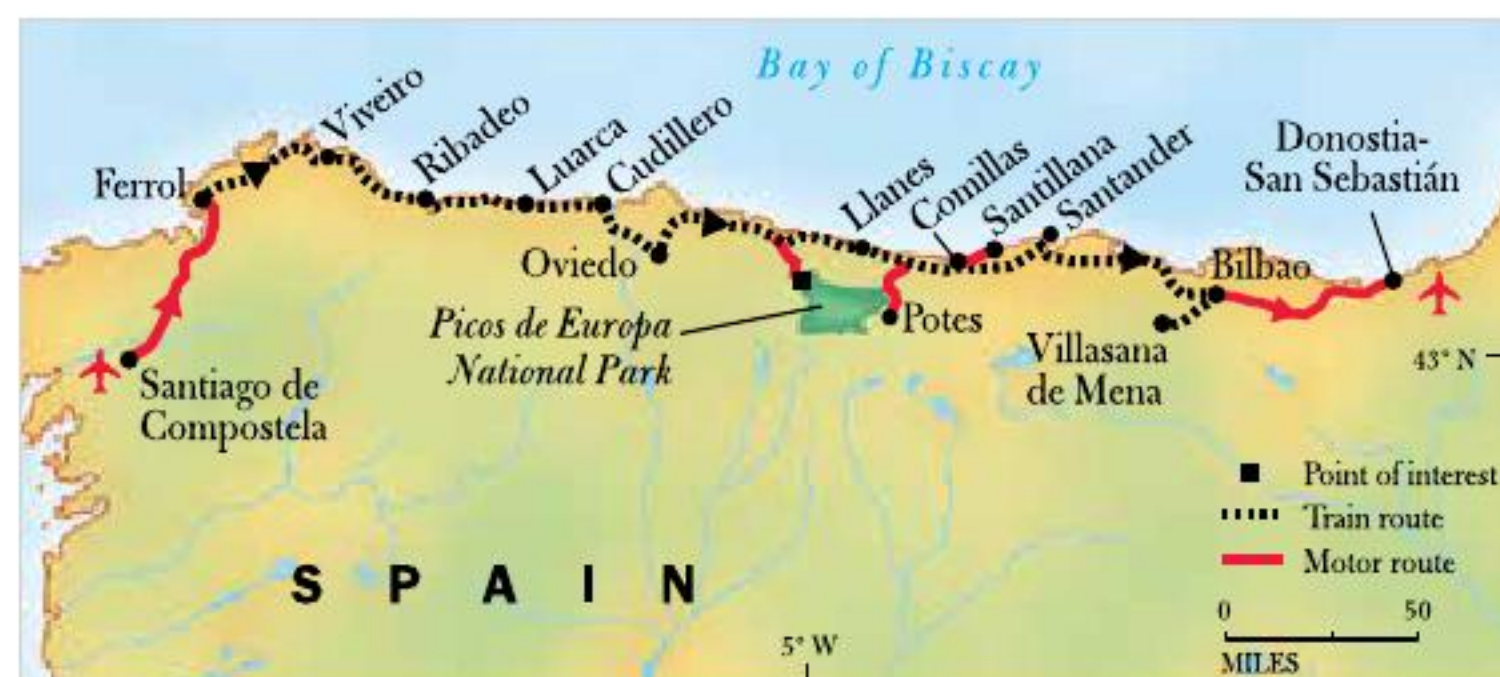
Our first stop this morning is the stately seaside town of Ribadeo. Depending on the tides, wander beneath soaring rock formations at a magnificent beach aptly named Las Catedrales. Visit the ethnographic site of Os Teixois in Taramundi where we learn how, in ancient times, people of this region used the power of water to create tools and operate machinery. Enjoy lunch at the historic Parador de Ribadeo, a traditional Galician country home, and then board the train for the whitewashed fishing village of Luarca. After dinner, enjoy a live performance by a Spanish composer and musician aboard the train. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 AVILÉS/CUDILLERO/OVIEDO

From the port city of Candás, travel to Avilés to visit the Oscar Niemeyer International Cultural Center, designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. Later, enjoy a walk in the old town of Avilés before traveling to the picturesque fishing village of Cudillero. Marvel at the "hanging houses" and colorful balconies perched on steep cliffs around the port, explore the chapel of Humilladero, and venture into one of the many fishermen's taverns if



Sheets of twisting titanium cloak the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.



you choose. After lunch, continue to Oviedo, a city known for its pre-Romanesque Asturian architecture. Visit the church of San Julián de los Prados, a stunning example of this style and a World Heritage site. (B, D)

DAY 6 PICOS DE EUROPA NATIONAL PARK/COVADONGA/LLANES

Journey east through the Asturias region, tracing the coast as the Cantabrian Mountains rise along the southern horizon. Stop in Arriondas for an excursion into Picos de Europa National Park, where stony, snow-dusted peaks jut into the sky. Pay a visit to a mountainside cabin to sample traditional Asturian cider while taking in spectacular views. Venture into the village of Covadonga, site of the first victory of the Spanish Reconquest, and visit its basilica, an important pilgrimage site. The train brings us to Llanes for the night. (B, L)

DAY 7 POTES/COMILLAS

Spend the morning in Potes, a beautiful village of medieval buildings and bridges nestled in the hills below the Picos de Europa mountains. See the Infantado Tower, a 15th-century bastion that dominates the village skyline, and wander the narrow cobbled lanes of the Old Quarter. Pay a visit to Santo Toribio de Liébana monastery,

where monks have long venerated what is alleged to be the largest preserved fragment of the Lignum Crucis—the Holy Cross discovered by St. Catherine in Jerusalem. Stop to taste a few vintages at a local winery before continuing to Comillas. Here, visit the Capricho de Gaudí, one of the first two buildings designed by the famous Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SANTILLANA DEL MAR/SANTANDER

After breakfast, visit the Altamira Museum and learn about the prehistoric cave paintings found here. Continue to Santillana del Mar, one of Europe's best preserved medieval villages. Have lunch at the Parador Gil Blas, a stunning ancestral home dating back to the eighth century, and then explore this enchanting village. Reboard the train for Santander, the seaside capital of Cantabria. Stretched out along narrow spits and scalloped beaches, Santander was a royal retreat in the early 20th century. This evening, sample Spanish tapas on a walk through town. (B, D)

DAY 9 BILBAO/VILLASANA DE MENA

Pull into Bilbao, a shipbuilding center and the largest city in the Basque region. Enjoy a city tour that includes the Guggenheim Museum, which houses works by Picasso and Warhol, but is better known

for its cutting-edge design by Frank Gehry. Travel on to Villasana de Mena tonight. (B, D)

DAY 10 SAN SEBASTIÁN/HONDARRIBIA

After breakfast, disembark the train and drive to San Sebastián, the lively culinary capital of Basque country, just 12 miles from the French border. Stroll along the narrow lanes of the picturesque old town this afternoon before checking into our parador in nearby Hondarribia. Tonight, toast our Spanish rail adventure at a farewell dinner. PARADOR DE HONDARRIBIA (B, D)

DAY 11 HONDARRIBIA/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Aug. 13–23 • Sep. 17–27

Expedition Cost:

\$11,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. Two smaller compartments are available for singles at the price of \$9,995. International airfare to Santiago de Compostela and return from San Sebastián is not included in the expedition cost.

About our train, *El Transcantábrico Gran Lujo*:

The deluxe *Transcantábrico Gran Lujo* is a narrow-gauge train with original British Pullman coaches that have been elegantly refurbished. Each suite features a queen bed (or two twin beds), a living room, large windows, and a private bathroom with a shower, hydro sauna, and steam bath. The train travels during daylight hours, allowing passengers to take in the scenery along our route, enjoy fine restaurants in the towns we visit, and then sleep in quiet and comfort while the train is parked at night. Visit our website for additional photos of the train. National Geographic has reserved all 14 suites on *Transcantábrico Gran Lujo*.

Optional Extensions:

Add a three-day pre-trip extension to Barcelona. Visit our website or call for details.



El Transcantábrico Gran Lujo glides along the shore.

INSIDE ITALY



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE LIVELY RHYTHMS OF LIFE IN ITALY on an unforgettable journey to some of its lesser-known treasures. Walk between the picturesque villages of the Cinque Terre, explore the Carrara quarries where Michelangelo chose his marble, and settle into a restored medieval *castello* to discover traditional Tuscany. Delve into the cultural centers of Florence and Siena, and step behind the scenes on an insider's tour of Rome.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk through terraced vineyards and charming seaside villages tucked into the dramatic slopes of the Cinque Terre.
- Gaze at Michelangelo's frescoes during a private after-hours visit to the Sistine Chapel.
- Stay in a 13th-century *castello* while exploring Tuscany's beautiful hill towns.
- Discover the town of Lucca on foot or ride a bike atop its medieval city walls.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Writer **Tim Jepson** is a passionate and lifelong devotee of Italy. Since graduating from Oxford, he has spent many years living in and writing about the country, produc-

ing more than a dozen books, two articles for *National Geographic Traveler*, and five National Geographic guidebooks to Italy's cities and regions. Tim has also worked on programs about Italy for the BBC and commercial television. A keen hiker, Tim takes pleasure in studying the food, wine, art, and culture of the country.

TIM WILL ACCOMPANY THE OCTOBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./PISA, ITALY/SESTRI LEVANTE

Depart for Pisa and arrive the next morning. Drive to Sestri Levante, Italy's spectacular Ligurian coast, and check into our hotel. Take a stroll through town before our welcome reception and dinner. HOTEL VIS À VIS (D)

DAY 3 THE CINQUE TERRE

Nestled in the folds of a rugged coastline, the five pastel-hued villages of the Cinque Terre tumble picturesquely from the rocky cliffs to the sea. Travel through steep, vine-covered hills to Manarola, and set out along a coastal walking path that links the villages. Follow the trail as it winds along the hillside, offering incomparable views, and learn about the history and geologic features of this region from our guide. Board a ferry and cruise north to Vernazza to take in the stunning coastline from a different perspective. Enjoy lunch on your own in Vernazza—a village open to pedestrians only. This afternoon, take an optional

vigorous hike or return to the hotel for time at leisure. (B)

DAY 4 CARRARA/LUCCA/FLORENCE

Begin the day in Carrara, home to the marble quarries where Michelangelo chose the massive blocks that he transformed into masterpieces. Here, walls of shining white marble soar skyward, cut from the mountains and accessible only by narrow switchbacks. Continue to the lovely walled city of Lucca and set out on a walking tour highlighting its Romanesque churches. Ride a bicycle atop the city walls or take advantage of free time to explore the town. Arrive in Florence and enjoy an evening on your own. HOTEL BRUNELLESCHI (B)

DAY 5 FLORENCE

Take a morning walking tour of the historic center of Florence. In Piazza della Repubblica, discover the city's beginnings as a Roman settlement. Stroll through narrow streets past the fortified houses and towers that marked the medieval town, and emerge onto the open Piazza della Signoria, the political center of the city since the Middle Ages. Immerse yourself in the world of Michelangelo this



The centerpiece of a small piazza, the Baroque Trevi Fountain is one of Rome's most majestic.

afternoon. A native son of Florence, Michelangelo attracted the city's most powerful patrons, the Medici family, and inspired generations of artists. Encounter Michelangelo's peerless "David" and the evocative "Prisoners" at the Accademia. (B, D)

DAY 6 FLORENCE/GARGONZA

Travel south into the Chianti region. Visit the renowned Badia a Coltibuono vineyard and fortified

PALIO HORSE RACE



The August departure includes an opportunity to experience the legendary Palio di Siena, one of the most famous horse races in the world. Take your seats on Siena's Piazza del Campo and witness the thrilling pageantry of this bareback horse race that has been held since medieval times. Visit our website for a detailed itinerary.

former abbey for a wine tasting and lunch. Then continue to Gargonza, a medieval hamlet superbly situated in the Tuscan countryside. This afternoon, settle into the privately owned 13th-century castello of Count and Countess Guicciardini—our home for the next three nights. Take the rest of the day to read, relax, and enjoy the swimming pool, set in an olive grove with a glorious view. CASTELLO DI GARGONZA (B, L, D)

DAY 7 SIENA

A short drive brings us to the Tuscan gem of Siena. Soak up the medieval flavor of the city on a walking tour that includes the Piazza del Campo; the Palazzo Pubblico; and the colorful, marble-clad cathedral. Stop for lunch on your own in one of Siena's many trattorias, and spend the afternoon exploring at leisure. (B, D)

DAY 8 TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Venture into the Tuscan countryside on a morning hike through the scenic landscape near Gargonza. During a free afternoon at the castello, stroll the gardens, relax by the pool, or try your hand at a game of bocce. Later, you may join the castello's chef for a cooking demonstration and a tasting of several fine local vintages. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 PIENZA/ROME

Drive through gorgeous scenery on the way to Pienza, an architectural treasure trove. Stroll through the heart of the town before sampling local specialties such as *pici* (hand-rolled pasta) and fresh pecorino cheese. Continue to Rome, arriving in the afternoon. Head into Vatican City to visit massive St. Peter's Basilica. Within its walls are the priceless works of Renaissance and baroque masters, including Raphael, Michelangelo, and Bernini. Enjoy a specially arranged visit to the Vatican Museums this afternoon where we will have access to rooms normally closed to the public. Our visit culminates with a rare opportunity to visit the breathtaking Sistine Chapel after hours and examine the masterpieces without the crowds. GRAND HOTEL DE LA MINERVE (B, L)

DAY 10 ROME

On a morning walking tour, visit the Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, and the Trevi Fountain. After lunch on your own, stroll through the ancient Forum and the Colosseum. Toast your journey at a Roman farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

DAY 11 ROME/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



Charming courtyards and leafy parklands lie within the walls of Castello di Gargonza.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 3–13 • Aug. 10–20 • Sep. 16–26
Oct. 7–17

Expedition Cost:

\$6,595

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,705. Add \$650 to the cost of the August 10 departure, which includes a ticket to the Palio horse race in Siena. International airfare to Pisa and return from Rome is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day post-trip extension in Rome and Venice. Visit our website or call for details.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WONDERS OF SOUTHERN ITALY AND SICILY



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Delve into the vibrant legacies of the Greeks and Romans in southern Italy and Sicily on a journey to ancient cities in spectacular settings.
- Gain special access to the excavations of Pompeii with a local expert, and peer into the crater of Mount Vesuvius alongside a volcanologist.
- Visit eight UNESCO World Heritage sites, from the dramatic Amalfi Coast and ancient Syracuse to the Valley of Temples in Agrigento.
- Hike through a landscape transformed by lava on Mount Etna and enjoy breathtaking views of Taormina and the coast.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./NAPLES, ITALY/SORRENTO

Depart on an overnight flight to Naples. Upon arrival, take a scenic drive to Sorrento and gather for a welcome dinner tonight.

IMPERIAL HOTEL TRAMONTANO (D)

DAY 3 POMPEII/MOUNT VESUVIUS

Spend the morning in Pompeii, a city frozen in time when Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79. On an insider's tour, see its frescoed villas and get a glimpse of daily life nearly 2,000 years ago. Then head up Mount Vesuvius and hike to the crater's edge with a volcanologist. (B, L)

DAY 4 PAESTUM/AMALFI

At the World Heritage site of Paestum, wander among three magnificent Doric temples, then

Above: Sunlight illuminates a village tucked into the rocky grooves of the Amalfi Coast.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Archaeologist and National Geographic grantee **Steven Ellis** is an associate professor at the University of Cincinnati. He directs the Pompeii Archaeological Research

Project: Porta Stabia and co-directs the Pompeii Quadriporticus Project. Steven has received major awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, as well as the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome.

STEVEN WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL, MAY, AND SEPTEMBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

see frescoes and friezes at the site's museum. After lunch at a farm where mozzarella is produced, trace the spectacular, plunging Amalfi Coast, stopping in the town of Amalfi to visit its Romanesque cathedral. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 NAPLES/PALERMO

See stunning Greek and Roman artifacts at the National Archaeological Museum of Naples before flying to Palermo, Sicily.

GRAND HOTEL ET DES PALMES (B, L)

DAY 6 MONREALE/PALERMO

In nearby Monreale, view exquisite gold mosaics illustrating biblical tales. Return to Palermo for a guided tour that includes Palermo Cathedral, the mosaics of the Cappella Palatina, and the catacombs of the Convento dei Cappuccini. (B, D)

DAY 7 SEGESTA/SELINUS/AGRIGENTO

Visit a beautifully preserved fifth-century B.C. temple at Segesta, and meander through the ruins of the ancient city of Selinus at Selinunte. After a picnic lunch, travel to Agrigento to explore the Valley of the Temples, where temples to Zeus, Castor and Pollux, and Herakles dot the landscape. HOTEL BAGLIO DELLA LUNA (B, L)

DAY 8 SYRACUSE/TAORMINA

At the Villa Romana del Casale, examine elaborate Roman mosaics that were buried in mud for centuries and only rediscovered in the 19th century. Travel to the archaeological area of Syracuse, where we explore the Greek theater; an ancient quarry; and Ortigia, a lively island neighborhood linked to the city by a bridge and packed with Greco-Roman ruins. Continue to the lovely town of Taormina, and settle into our hotel.

GRAND HOTEL ATLANTIS BAY (B)



DAY 9 MOUNT ETNA/TAORMINA

Ascend by cable car and 4x4 to the rim of Europe's largest active volcano, 10,000 feet high, and behold a fascinating landscape forged by lava. Return to Taormina for a walking tour and free time before our farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

DAY 10 TAORMINA/CATANIA/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Catania airport for your return flight. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Apr. 15–24 • May 6–15 • Sep. 23–Oct. 2
Oct. 7–16 • Oct. 21–30

Expedition Cost:

\$6,195

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,550. International airfare to Naples and return from Catania and airfare within Italy are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight within Italy is \$245 (subject to change).

JOYS OF THE ITALIAN TABLE



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Step behind the scenes with local producers to discover the origins of some of Italy's most renowned foods, from parmesan to prosciutto to balsamic vinegar.
- Meet a leading expert in olive oil for a talk and sampling, and take an insider's tour of one of Florence's most beloved bakeries.
- Join the owners for tours and tastings at two historic wineries: Chiarli in Emilia-Romagna, and Antinori in Chianti.
- Enjoy farm-to-table meals in a village in the hills above Florence and at a historic villa in the heart of Chianti.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BOLOGNA, ITALY/REGGIO NELL'EMILIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Bologna and transfer to our stunning resort near Reggio nell'Emilia. Enjoy dinner at A Mangiare, a restaurant that specializes in local cuisine. HOTEL MATILDE DI CANOSSA (D)

DAY 3 REGGIO NELL'EMILIA

Delve into a farmers market with a chef this morning. Continue to the Cleto Chiarli winery for a tour and tasting with its owner. Then visit Terra Del Tuono, an *acetaia del balsamico*, to discover how balsamic vinegar is made and sample several aged varieties. Dine tonight on delicious, locally sourced ingredients at the innovative Osteria Chilometro Zero. (B, L, D)

Above: Cypress trees dot the vineyards of an age-old Tuscan manor house.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Award-winning chef **Francesco Ricchi** grew up in the age-old village of Cercina in the Tuscan hills. Trained there by his grandmother and educated at Florence University, Francesco

turned the family business into a successful restaurant combining country ambience and great food. Chef Ricchi moved to the United States and opened Ristorante i Ricchi in Washington, D.C., where he established a reputation for providing guests with authentic Tuscan-inspired cuisine. Francesco will introduce fellow food lovers to the region that inspired his craft and host them at his family's restaurant.

FRANCESCO WILL ACCOMPANY ALL DEPARTURES.

DAY 4 REGGIO NELL'EMILIA/FLORENCE

We wind our way south today, stopping to walk among great wheels of parmesan, learn how prosciutto is made, and visit a family-run pasta factory that has crafted pasta since 1860. Arrive in Florence this afternoon and meet for a reception before discovering the city's culinary delights on your own. HOTEL TORNABUONI BEACCI (B, L)

DAY 5 FLORENCE

Begin the day at a *pasticceria* for a behind-the-scenes tour of one of Italy's most famous bakeries. Then head into the Tuscan hills to the Ricchi family restaurant to meet a leading expert in olive oil for a lesson on the history and production of this all-important ingredient. Enjoy a pasta-making demonstration before we sit down with the family to savor a homemade meal. Visit one of Florence's most popular *gelaterias* this afternoon. (B, L)

DAY 6 TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Venture into Tuscany's renowned wine region to visit the historic vineyard and villa of Dievole,

TASTES OF PROVENCE AND THE RIVIERA

8 Days • 2015: Jun. 7-14 • Sep. 20-27
Sep. 27-Oct. 4

Provence and the Riviera offer up a cornucopia of fresh ingredients that have brought the local cuisine of southern France world renown. Explore famous markets and taste acclaimed wines. Meet chefs and farmers, take part in a cooking class, and explore the vegetable garden of a well-known chef. Sit down to delightful meals and tastings at farms, country inns, and celebrated restaurants. Visit our website for details.



where we're welcomed with a tasting of a variety of Tuscan specialties paired with fine local wines. Return to Florence this afternoon and enjoy time to explore at your leisure. (B, L)

DAY 7 CHIANTI

Travel into the heart of beautiful Chianti to the Antinori wine estate to meet members of the Antinori family, tour the cellar, and enjoy a tasting. This evening, gather to toast our tour of the Italian table at Alla Vecchia Bettola, an acclaimed restaurant that specializes in Tuscan cuisine. HOTEL TORNABUONI BEACCI (B, L, D)

DAY 8 FLORENCE/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 13-20 • Sep. 19-26 • Oct. 10-17

Expedition Cost:

\$6,195

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,350. International airfare to Bologna and return from Florence is not included in the expedition cost.

SAILING THE GREEK ISLES

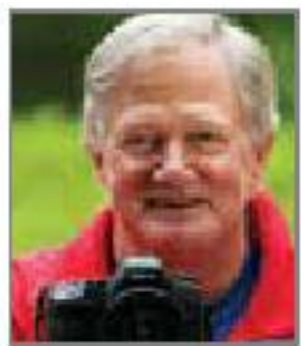


SPRINKLED ACROSS THE AEGEAN SEA AND STEEPED IN ANCIENT MYTHOLOGY, the Cyclades are some of the most spectacular of Greece's many isles. Here, fishing boats cast colorful reflections in azure waters, whitewashed villages cascade down lavender-dusted slopes, and craggy headlands are punctuated by ancient ruins. Under the billowing sails of the exquisite four-masted tall ship *Sea Cloud*, voyage to rugged Sifnos, sun-drenched Santorini, the mystical isles of Delos and Tenos, and more.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover magnificent ruins at the ancient sanctuary on Delos, the legendary birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.
- Ride a donkey or cable car down a cliff side to the harbor on beautiful Santorini.
- Soak up the lively culture, mythology, and Venetian legacy of ancient villages.
- Explore the Cyclades under full sail aboard the historic square rigger *Sea Cloud*.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, National Geographic photographer **Michael Melford** will join the September 10, 2016 departure. Michael has produced

more than a dozen feature stories for *National Geographic* magazine and more than 30 for *National Geographic Traveler*, including eight covers. On assignment for National Geographic for the past ten years, Michael has often used photography to bring attention to the planet's wonders and the need to preserve them. He has photographed the beauty of Greece during his travels and looks forward to sharing his love of nature and his extensive knowledge of the digital medium.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ATHENS, GREECE/PIRAEUS

Depart on an overnight flight to Athens. After some time at leisure and lunch in the city, travel to Piraeus and settle into your cabin on the majestic *Sea Cloud*. Cast off this afternoon, and take in your first Grecian sunset at sea. *SEA CLOUD* (L, D)

DAY 3 AT SEA/SÍFNOS

Our first morning on board is spent at sea. We may stop for a late morning swim before visiting the island of Sifnos. Distinguished for its pottery and its Venetian dovecotes, Sifnos is a rugged island with a harbor village and a beautiful upper *chora* (village), waterfront tavernas, and convenient beaches. This afternoon, find a spot on deck to watch the crew hoist the *Sea Cloud*'s sails up their impressive masts by hand as we set sail among the Cyclades. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 TENOS

Drop anchor at beautiful Tenos, dotted with villages



Snorkelers immerse themselves in the cerulean waters of the Cyclades.

steeped in Venetian history. The island's terraced hillsides and green marble quarries have long made it a haven for artists. Explore the picturesque village of Pyrgos, adorned with carved marble facades, and visit the church of Panagia Evangelistria, where thousands of pilgrims come every year to pray at one of Greece's holiest shrines. (B, L, D)

Above: The rugged cliffs of Santorini set off the smooth geometry of a whitewashed chapel.

“ Scattered across the Aegean Sea, the islands stand like small worlds apart. ”

On some, gods made legend; on others, ancient peoples made history; everywhere invaders left customs and architecture as legacies. ”

Gilbert M. Grosvenor, “The Aegean Isles: Poseidon’s Playground,”
National Geographic magazine, December 1958



High above the Aegean Sea, the brightly painted cottages of Santoríni cluster on the clifftop.

DAY 5 DELOS

The tiny archaeological gem of Delos is the mythological birthplace of the twin gods Artemis, goddess of animals and the hunt; and Apollo, god of healing, music, and light. Spend the morning discovering the island’s incredible ruins, including the Terrace of the Lions and the Temple of Apollo. (B, L, D)



The Sea Cloud under full sail

DAY 6 AMORGÓS

Drop anchor at Amorgós, the easternmost isle of the Cyclades. Visit the main village, perched in the mountains, and see its beautiful domed churches and windmills. Explore the dazzling white monastery of Panagia Hozoviotissa, clinging to a cliff face above the sea. Later, return to the *Sea Cloud* and enjoy a relaxing afternoon beneath its splendid sails. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 SANTORÍNI

Incomparable Santoríni is an island archipelago formed from a single volcanic cone that erupted in the second millennium B.C., burying the island’s Minoan culture in ash. Sail into the caldera, and drive through windswept vineyards to the beautiful town of Ía. Set high on a cliff, Ía affords unrivaled views of the caldera below. After lunch, ride a donkey or a cable car down the cliff side back to the ship. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 AT SEA

Enjoy a glorious day of sailing among the idyllic isles of the Cyclades. Relax on deck with a book, observe the crew as they man the rigging and trim the sails,



and attend presentations by our team of experts on the area’s history and ecology. In the late afternoon, we may have a chance for an impromptu stop and a swim. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 PIRAEUS/ATHENS/U.S.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Waitlist only

2016: Jun. 3–11 • Jul. 17–25 • Jul. 24–Aug. 1
Aug. 14–22 • Sep. 10–18

2016 Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$9,230
<i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	
Category 2	\$10,370
<i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	
Category 3	\$12,380
<i>Located on the Captain’s Deck</i>	
Category 4	\$13,110
<i>Located on the Captain’s Deck</i>	
Category 5	\$14,570
<i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	
Category 6	\$15,490
<i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	
Category 7	\$17,720
<i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	

See the *Sea Cloud* description and deck plan on page 132. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$4,610 in Category 1. International airfare to/from Athens is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day extension in Athens and/or a three-day extension in Crete. Visit our website or call for details.

UNDER SAIL: GREECE TO THE DALMATIAN COAST



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Ply the waters of the Aegean, Ionian, and Adriatic Seas aboard the elegant tall ship *Sea Cloud*.
- Step back in history amid the evocative ruins of Olympia, Greece, and Butrint, Albania, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Skim across Montenegro's Gulf of Kotor to Our Lady of the Rocks, a tiny islet created over centuries by local fishermen.
- Spend a day meandering along the marble-paved lanes and ramparts of Dubrovnik.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ATHENS, GREECE/PIRAEUS

Depart on an overnight flight to Athens. In the afternoon, travel to Piraeus and set sail aboard the elegant *Sea Cloud*. SEA CLOUD (D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 AT SEA/OLYMPIA

Round the southern coast of the Peloponnesian peninsula, enjoying a full day of sailing. Dock in Katákolon and travel to Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games. Visit the legendary ruins of this World Heritage site, the Olympic Stadium, and the Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 5 ITHÁKI

Discover villages nestled along the coast of Itháki. View the sites that some claim link the island to Homer's Ithaca, and swim in a stunning bay. (B, L, D)

Above: Encircled by medieval battlements, the terracotta roofs of Dubrovnik shimmer in the Adriatic light.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, historian **Grace Fielder** will join the June 20, 2016 departure. Grace is an expert on the history, culture, and languages of the Dalmatian coast. She holds a Ph.D. from UCLA and is a professor of Balkan and South Slavic linguistics at the University of Arizona. Grace has studied the local lore, music, and cuisine of this region, and even moonlighted as a lavender harvester on the island of Hvar.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

DAY 6 SARANDË AND BUTRINT, ALBANIA

Cut off from the world for 50 years by its Stalinist dictator, Albania is now feeling its way into the 21st century. Discover the ancient city of Butrint, another World Heritage site. Return to Sarandë for local refreshments at Lekursi Castle. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 KRUIË

Dock in Durrës and drive to the ancient capital of Krujë to visit the medieval market and Ethnographic Museum. Then visit the Skanderbeg Museum, dedicated to Albania's national hero. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 PERAST AND KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

Sail into Montenegro via the magnificent Gulf of Kotor. Take a local boat to the islet of Gospa od Škrpjela, or Our Lady of the Rocks, which was created by fishermen dropping rocks from their rowboats. Visit Kotor this afternoon. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Known as the "pearl of the Adriatic," Dubrovnik is regarded as one of the best preserved medieval towns in the world. Spend the day exploring the marvelous Old Town, and enjoy a performance of traditional Croatian klapa music. (B, L, D)

DAYS 10 AND 11 KORČULA/HVAR

Anchor at the beautiful island port of Korčula, and see the house believed to be Marco Polo's birthplace. This evening, attend a Moreška sword dance. Then explore Hvar, taking a tour inside the delightful walled city. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 12 DUBROVNIK/U.S.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day extension in Athens and/or a three-day extension in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Visit our website or call for details.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Waitlist only

2016: Jun. 10–21 • Jun. 20–Jul. 1* • Aug. 21–Sep. 1
Aug. 31–Sep. 11*

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

2016 Expedition Cost:

Category 1 <i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	\$12,210
Category 2 <i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	\$13,800
Category 3 <i>Located on the Captain's Deck</i>	\$16,680
Category 4 <i>Located on the Captain's Deck</i>	\$17,550
Category 5 <i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	\$19,100
Category 6 <i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	\$20,670
Category 7 <i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	\$23,300

See the *Sea Cloud* photo on page 57 and description and deck plan on page 132. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$6,100 in Category 1. International airfare to Athens and return from Dubrovnik is not included in the expedition cost.

TURKEY: İSTANBUL TO THE TURQUOISE COAST



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Cappadocia's surreal "fairy chimneys" and the maze-like underground city of Kaymaklı.
- Go behind the scenes with researchers at Bodrum's Institute of Nautical Archaeology.
- Enjoy an insider's perspective on the historic sites and lively markets of Istanbul.
- Sail the turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea aboard a private gulet, a traditional wooden yacht.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./İSTANBUL, TURKEY

Depart on an overnight flight to İstanbul, the capital of three empires: Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman. Explore the Hagia Sofia; the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet I, known as the Blue Mosque; and the ancient Underground Cistern. Delve into the Grand Bazaar, one of the largest covered marketplaces in the world. DIVAN İSTANBUL (D; B, L)

DAY 4 İSTANBUL

Set out to explore the opulent Topkapı Palace and the Süleymaniye Mosque. Encounter exquisite Iznik tiles at Rüstem Pasha Mosque and wander the nearby spice market. Later, enjoy a sunset Bosphorus cruise. (B, L, D)

Above: Robes aloft, whirling dervishes fill a hall in İstanbul with their spiritual motion.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Aydin Kudu—photographer, filmmaker, and native Turk—serves as a consultant to *National Geographic* magazine photographers and writers on assignment in Turkey, providing

invaluable access and interpreting his country's rich culture and history. He has accompanied National Geographic television crews, as well as scientists working on Society-funded archaeological expeditions. Aydin's photography has been exhibited widely, and his films documenting life, the environment, and social issues in Turkey have won many awards.

AYDIN WILL ACCOMPANY ALL DEPARTURES.

DAY 5 İSTANBUL/KAYSERİ/CAPPADOCIA

Fly to Kayseri, and drive to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Cappadocia—a surreal moonscape of natural stone pillars and cones known as fairy chimneys. In the third century, Christians fleeing Roman persecution carved dwellings into the tuff stone. Have lunch in a private home. Then tour the Göreme Open Air Museum, a complex of medieval cave churches. Attend a performance of whirling dervishes—mystical Sufi dancers—and enjoy a rare opportunity to meet with one of them.

HOTEL CAVEDELUXE (B, L, D)

DAYS 6 AND 7 CAPPADOCIA/İZMİR

Discover Cappadocia's Red Valley and the underground city of Kaymaklı. Drive to Paşabağ to see some fairy chimneys up close and visit a local pottery cooperative. The next day, transfer back to Kayseri for a flight to İzmir.

HOTEL CAVEDELUXE; SWISSÔTEL GRAND EFES (B, L, D; B)

DAY 8 EPHEBUS/ŞİRİNCE/İZMİR

Spend the day in Ephesus exploring the site, from its Great Theater and Terrace Houses to its elaborate water systems and beautiful mosaics. Continue to Şirince, a lovely hillside village of Ottoman houses nestled against a backdrop of vineyards and olive groves. (B, L)

DAYS 9 AND 10 İZMİR/BODRUM

In Bodrum, meet researchers and examine recent finds at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), where numerous National Geographic grantees have based their studies. At the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, see relics from ancient shipwrecks and visit buildings dedicated to Bronze Age and "glass wreck" excavations



supported by National Geographic. Cap off your expedition with a cruise aboard a privately chartered gulet. THE MARMARA BODRUM (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 11 BODRUM/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your flights home. (B)

See our Turkey Photography Expedition on page 113.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: May 7–17 • May 21–31 • Sep. 3–13
Sep. 19–29 • Oct. 1–11

This departure is a photography expedition. See page 113 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$5,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,300. International airfare to İstanbul and return from Bodrum and airfare within Turkey are not included in the expedition cost. Group flights within Turkey are \$650 (subject to change).

TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL JOURNEY



SET OUT ON AN EPIC TRAIN JOURNEY

across one-third of the world, traveling from Vladivostok to the heart of Moscow along the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway. From the Mongolian steppe to Lake Baikal's remote shores to the snow-capped Ural Mountains, trace the history of tsars, exiles, and Mongols in the comfort of our luxury train, the *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express*. Encounter remote cultures and the unique architecture of Siberia's wooden cottages and Moscow's onion domes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the evocative choral music and unique culture of Buryat's Old Believers.
- Trace the shores of Lake Baikal, and stop for tea in a family home.
- Attend musical performances, including a concert at the Decembrist House Museum in Irkutsk.
- In Moscow, take an in-depth tour of the Kremlin, and meet a Russian cosmonaut.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



George Munro, a professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University, lived and studied in the former Soviet Union and travels to Russia regularly to pursue his

research. A former Fulbright fellow, George is the author of five books, including *The Most Intentional City: St. Petersburg in the Reign of Catherine the Great*. He has written more than 200 articles about the region, lectured widely, and received numerous fellowships and distinguished service awards.

GEORGE WILL ACCOMPANY BOTH 2015 DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 17 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Vladivostok. Check into our hotel and gather for a welcome dinner tonight. HOTEL HYUNDAI (D)

DAY 3 VLADIVOSTOK

As a strategic naval outpost, Vladivostok was closed to most of the world from World War II until the end of the Cold War. Get acquainted with this now-thriving city on a tour that includes the brightly painted railway station and Our Lady Grieving Orthodox Church, the only one of its kind allowed to remain in the city during Stalin's reign. See the Pacific Navy War Memorial and the steamboat *Krasny Vypel*, take in views of the city and its bay from the Eagle's Nest observation platform, and stroll the historic Vladivostok Naval Cemetery. This evening, climb aboard our luxury train and set off on our journey across Russia. GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS (B, L, D)

DAY 4 KHABAROVSK

Explore the lively squares of Khabarovsk and visit the Natural History Museum by the Amur River. Learn about the flora and fauna of the region, and see artifacts from the indigenous tribes of the Goldi and the Gilyak. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 ON TRAIN/SIBERIA

As the train slips past rolling hills and Siberian villages of log houses, relax with a book, attend a talk by our expert, or simply watch remote and ever-changing countryside pass by. On our second day on board, we enter the sweeping Mongolian steppe. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

During a morning in Mongolia's capital city, visit the National Museum to trace the history of Genghis Khan and explore the culture of the steppe nomad. Then head for nearby Gorkhi-Terelj National Park to enjoy the alpine scenery, watch a demonstration of Mongolian horseback riding, and visit a traditional *ger* (felt tent). This evening, enjoy dinner and a performance of Mongolian throat singing and traditional dance before we



An elaborately decorated wooden house reflects Siberia's distinctive architectural style.

reboard our train and continue on our way back into Russia. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 ULAN UDE, RUSSIA

The train rolls through the valley of the Selenge River, which flows into Lake Baikal. Stop in Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic and once a major trading post between China and Irkutsk. Pay a visit to a village of Old Believers, a group descended from 17th-century religious exiles whose fascinating culture has changed little over the centuries. Watch a performance of their unique choral music. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 LAKE BAIKAL

Arrive at beautiful Lake Baikal, called the "sacred sea" by locals and named a World Heritage site by UNESCO. The lake basin holds about 20 percent of the world's unfrozen fresh water. Our train route hugs the rocky shores and passes through 33 tunnels. Take in spectacular views from the train, and stop for a barbecue lunch on the shore. In the afternoon, explore the village of Listvyanka and join a family for tea in their home. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 IRKUTSK

Spend today in Irkutsk, an important Siberian outpost established by the Cossacks in 1652. In the early 19th century, many Russian artists, officers,



The Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express

and nobles were exiled here for their involvement in the Decembrist revolt. Visit the city's historic sights, and wander through a delightful collection of classic Russian and Siberian cottages at the Museum of Wooden Architecture. Stop for a private bell-ringing performance atop a bell tower, and then enjoy a private concert and champagne reception at the Decembrist House Museum. (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 ON TRAIN/NOVOSIBIRSK

Enjoy a day to relax on board, taking in stunning scenery as the vast Siberian taiga unfurls. The following day, stop in Novosibirsk, Siberia's largest city, to see the opera house and Lenin Square. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 13 YEKATERINBURG

Arrive in Yekaterinburg, where Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. Visit the Romanov execution site—now a church dedicated to their memory, and view the city's ornately decorated wooden houses. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 KAZAN

Today, explore Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, perched on the banks of the Volga River. Tour the city's Kremlin, the turquoise-topped Qol Sharif

ABOUT THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN EXPRESS

The *Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express* (pictured left) is a deluxe, air-conditioned train with comfortable two-berth sleeping compartments. Silver Class cabins measure 60 square feet and Gold Class cabins measure 77 square feet. Both cabin categories feature a private bathroom, a shower, and a sitting/sleeping area. There is a lounge car for daytime relaxation and socializing. The restaurant car serves fine local cuisine, made from the freshest ingredients and complemented with wines from around the world. See our website for additional train details and photos. National Geographic has reserved 20 compartments on each of these departures.



Mosque, and the Peter and Paul Cathedral. Pay a visit to the Kazan Conservatory and enjoy a concert performed by the students. Then set off on a private cruise around the walls of the city's Kremlin before returning to our train to depart on the final leg of our journey. (B, L, D)

DAYS 15 AND 16 MOSCOW

Disembark in Moscow, and check into our hotel before an afternoon city tour. After dinner at a local restaurant, take a guided stroll through Red Square at night. The following morning, explore the legendary Kremlin. Visit St. Basil's Cathedral, and view court regalia from the Romanov dynasty at the Armory Museum. After lunch, visit the monument to the Conquerors of Space, which sweeps some 360 feet into the sky. Delve into the history of space exploration at the recently updated Memorial Museum of Astronautics, and enjoy a specially arranged talk by a Russian cosmonaut. MOSCOW MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 17 MOSCOW/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Aug. 7–23 • Sep. 3–19

2016: Aug. 7–23 • Sep. 3–19

2015/2016 Expedition Cost:

Silver Class	\$18,695
Gold Class	\$22,295

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$7,995 in Silver Class and \$10,595 in Gold Class. International airfare to Vladivostok and return from Moscow is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to St. Petersburg, Russia. Visit our website or call for details.

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA: ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER



LINKED BY THE MIGHTY MEKONG RIVER, VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ABOUND WITH MAGNIFICENT CARVED TEMPLES, lush landscapes, and cities where rich imperial and colonial legacies mingle. Encounter the incomparable treasures of Angkor, and then set off on a river voyage to Vietnam's Mekong Delta aboard the elegant *Jahan*. Explore traditional villages, and gain insight into the daily lives of farmers, monks, and craftspeople.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Sail the Mekong River on a seven-night cruise aboard the riverboat *Jahan*.
- Spend two full days immersed in the splendor of Angkor's temples and palaces.
- Delve into the vibrant cities of Phnom Penh and Saigon, and experience rural life on visits to floating homes, farms, and traditional villages.
- Witness the revitalization of Cambodian arts at a dance performance and during a visit to a traditional arts school.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, **Barry Till** will join the March 2016 departure. Barry is a curator of Asian art with a wide knowledge of culture, history, and archaeology. He has traveled extensively throughout Asia and lectured on numerous expeditions—including trips to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar—for more than 30 years. He has published more than 100 catalogs (including *The Buddhist Arts of Asia*), books, and articles on various Asian art topics. In 2008, Barry received the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Museums Association. He speaks fluent Chinese, holds degrees in Far Eastern Studies, and studied at Oxford and Nanjing University in China.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Depart for Siem Reap and arrive the following evening. Settle into our Khmer-style hotel, perched on the banks of the Siem Reap River. LA RÉSIDENCE D'ANGKOR

DAYS 3 AND 4 ANGKOR

Awaken early to watch the sunrise reveal the magic of Angkor Wat, a 12th-century Khmer temple adorned with elaborate bas-reliefs and sculptures. Explore Ta Prohm, where shrines remain tangled in the roots and branches of kapok and fig trees, and see the exceptional carvings of the temple of Banteay Srei. Pay a visit to Les Artisans d'Angkor, a school where local youth are trained in age-old Khmer arts. Ride a *tuk-tuk*, or motorized rickshaw, to the walled city of Angkor Thom. Wander among hundreds of colossal stone faces at the Bayon Temple, and visit the Terrace of the Elephants. (B, L, D; B, D)

DAY 5 KAMPONG CHAM

Drive through the countryside to the Mekong River, stopping along the way for a picnic lunch. In the riverside town of Kampong Cham, embark the *Jahan*, our home for the next seven nights. Set sail along the Mekong into a landscape of rice fields and picturesque fishing boats. Catch the sunset on deck before a welcome dinner. R.V. JAHAN (B, L, D)

DAY 6 WAT HANCHEY/ANGKOR BAN

At Wat Hanchey, set on a hilltop overlooking the Mekong, see a variety of temples including an eighth-century temple from the pre-Angkor Chenla period. Meander past interesting traditional homes in Angkor Ban and meet the friendly residents. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 KAMPONG CHHNANG/KAMPONG TRALACH

Anchor at Kampong Chhnang and drive to a village where artisans make traditional pottery for local use. Then glide along the Tonle Sap and glimpse a unique way of life in the clustered



Vietnamese women in traditional dress pedal along in a blur of motion.

houses and shops that float in midstream. In the town of Kampong Tralach, ride oxcarts through the rice fields to see a local school. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 PHNOM PENH

Enjoy a full day of exploring the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. Ride a *cyclo* (bicycle taxi) to the Royal Palace and its opulent Silver Pagoda. Browse the world's finest collection of Khmer sculpture at the National Museum of Cambodia, and venture into a local market. This afternoon, learn about the reign of the Khmer Rouge on a visit to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Back aboard ship, enjoy a traditional Cambodian *apsara* dance performance. (B, L, D)



Surrounded by rippling colors, a Vietnamese woman paddles her boat along the river.

DAY 9 SAILING THE MEKONG

Spend a relaxing day on the Mekong. Take in views of everyday life along the river, attend talks by our experts, and join our chefs to learn how to cook regional dishes. This afternoon, cross the border into Vietnam. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 CHAU DOC, VIETNAM

Meander past colorful produce in the markets of Chau Doc. Next, stop in an island village to watch traditional fish-farming methods. We continue to a small floating market on the river and a floating fish farm, where we'll see fish being fed through trapdoors in the floating platforms. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 SA DEC/CAI BE

Take a local boat up a tributary to experience rural life in the Mekong Delta. See skiffs piled high with bright fruits and vegetables at the floating market of Cai Be, and visit a local rice factory where rice is made into candy, paper, and more. Tonight, enjoy a gala dinner aboard the *Jahan*. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 MYTHO/SAIGON

Disembark in My Tho and visit the splendid Vinh Trang Pagoda. Then journey to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) and take in a panoramic view of the city before checking into our hotel. Late this afternoon, meet with a local expert on Vietnam's modern history. Gather for dinner tonight in one of Saigon's elegant restaurants. PARK HYATT SAIGON (B, L, D)

DAYS 13 AND 14 SAIGON/U.S.

Set out on a tour of Saigon's historic landmarks,



including colonial gems such as the Opera House, the former city hall, and Notre Dame Basilica. Stop by the Central Post Office, designed by Gustave Eiffel; and visit the Reunification Palace, headquarters of the South Vietnamese government during the Vietnam War. If you wish, continue to the War Remnants Museum. Trace the footsteps of Viet Cong guerillas in the Cu Chi Tunnels, an elaborate underground network built during the Vietnam War, or enjoy time to explore on your own. Tonight, transfer to the airport for your return flight, and arrive home early the next morning. (DAY 13: B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Jan. 5–18 • Jan. 13–26* • Jan. 27–Feb. 9
Feb. 2–15* • Mar. 1–14

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$10,460
Located on the Promenade Deck	
Category 2	\$11,230
Located on the Promenade Deck	
Category 3	\$13,190
Located on the Captain's Deck	
Category 4	\$15,790
Located on the Captain's Deck	

See the R.V. *Jahan* description, photo, and deck plan on page 133. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin in Category 1, add \$5,230. International airfare to Siem Reap and return from Saigon is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Venture further into Vietnam on an eight-day extension to Hoi An, Hue, Hanoi, and Halong Bay. Visit our website or call for details.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BY RIVER AND RAIL new



EXPERIENCE A BROAD TAPESTRY OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN CULTURES on a journey from the island nation of Singapore into the heartlands of Thailand and Laos. Travel the length of the Malay Peninsula aboard the luxurious *Eastern & Oriental Express* railway, and cruise along the River Kwai. Trace riveting histories and rich legacies of art and architecture from Chiang Mai and Bangkok to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Louangphabang.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Step into another era on a two-night journey on the stunning *Eastern & Oriental Express* train.
- Ascend to a mountainside temple in Chiang Mai and hear the monks' nightly chanting ritual at dusk.
- Take in scenes of traditional markets and rural life on excursions by boat.
- In Louangphabang, rise at dawn for the local custom known as *tak baat*, when hundreds of saffron-robed monks flood the streets to collect alms.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Archaeologist and National Geographic grantee **Joyce White** is a former senior research scientist and now a consulting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and founder and executive director of the Institute for Southeast Asian Archaeology. For more than thirty years, she has directed an ongoing research project concerning Ban Chiang, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Thailand. She also inaugurated and directs the Middle Mekong Archaeological Project, which has excavated a number of sites in Louangphabang province in northern Laos. Joyce looks forward to sharing her extensive knowledge of Southeast Asia with fellow travelers.

JOYCE WILL ACCOMPANY BOTH OCTOBER 2015 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./SINGAPORE

Fly to Singapore, crossing the international date line and arriving on Day 2. Check in to our lovely boutique hotel. HOTEL FORT CANNING

DAY 3 SINGAPORE

Begin the day with a tour of the Colonial District, and delve into Singapore's rich history, shaped by Chinese, Malay, Indian, and British cultural influences. After lunch at a vibrant local temple, explore the city's modern side on your own or visit Gardens by the Bay, a beautiful botanical park opened in 2011 on reclaimed land. Gather this evening for an orientation and welcome dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 SINGAPORE/ABOARD THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS

Following a morning at leisure, enjoy a special reception hosted by the *Eastern & Oriental Express*. Then climb aboard and settle into your private cabin, admiring the views as the train rolls out of the city and into the Malaysian countryside. Enjoy a

leisurely dinner in one of the train's elegant dining cars as we make our way north.

EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS (B, L, D)

DAY 5 KUALA KANGSAR, MALAYSIA

Spend the morning in Kuala Kangsar, Malaysia, briefly a royal capital in the 19th century. Encounter an array of architectural styles on visits to the Ubudiah Mosque; the Perak Royal Museum; and the Sultan Azlan Shah Gallery, formerly the sultan's palace. Continue north this afternoon, watching rural scenes as the train leaves Malaysia and enters Thailand. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 KANCHANABURI, THAILAND/BANGKOK

In Thailand, stop at the train station beneath the famous Bridge on the River Kwai and join a local historian for a scenic cruise along the river. Visit a local museum and cemetery to learn about this region's role in World War II, and enjoy a final lunch on board before disembarking in Bangkok late this afternoon. In the evening, meet with a wildlife conservationist to learn about work funded in part by National Geographic to protect Thailand's tiger population. ANANTARA BANGKOK RIVERSIDE RESORT & SPA (B, L, D)

Above: Carved and painted in intricate designs, tiered stupas cluster around Bangkok's Wat Po temple.



Vendors row their piles of bright produce through the floating markets of Bangkok.

DAY 7 BANGKOK

Cruise through Bangkok's vibrant canals in a private boat, passing residents commuting along the water and vendors selling fruits or vegetables out of wooden canoes. Disembark at Baan Silapin, the Artist's House, a century-old riverside compound that was once the home of a wealthy merchant family. The house has since been transformed into a residence for artists, as well as a gallery and performance space for traditional Thai culture and arts. Stop for lunch at Supatra River House on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, with views of the Grand Palace across the water. Continuing along the river, visit the National Museum of Royal Barges and Wat Arun, the Temple of Dawn, known for its soaring tower decorated with brightly colored ceramics. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 BANGKOK/CHIANG MAI

Fly to Chiang Mai and head into the colorful Warorod Market, with rows of vendors selling flowers, tropical fruit, local food, ceramics, and much more. Visit the Buddhist temple of Wat Chedi Luang, and then drive to picturesque Wat Prathat Doi Suthep, perched on the side of a mountain. Reached by a staircase flanked by an ornate balustrade, the monastery was founded in 1383 to house a relic of Buddha. Just after sunset, witness the monks' nightly chanting ritual in the atmospheric prayer hall.

SIRIPANNA VILLA RESORT & SPA (B, L, D)

DAY 9 CHIANG MAI

Travel to an organic farm for a Thai cooking class and a glimpse of life in a traditional teak Thai home. Browse a local market to choose ingredients and prepare regional dishes for lunch. A walking tour of Chiang Mai's historic Wat Ket area includes visits to a market and the Chinese-Muslim Baan Haw quarter. Attend a Khantoke dinner at the Old Chiang Mai Cultural Center, celebrating the ancient northern kingdom of Lanna, and witness a performance by traditional northern Thai dancers. Then walk to a nearby children's theater for folk music and dance. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 CHIANG MAI/LOUANGPHABANG, LAOS

In the morning, ride a boat on the Ping River, observing daily life along the riverside. Fly to the town of Louangphabang, a World Heritage site and former royal capital known for its blending of traditional Laotian and colonial architecture. Check into our elegant hilltop hotel and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. BELMOND LA RÉSIDENCE PHOU VAO (B, L, D)

DAY 11 LOUANGPHABANG

Rise early to watch the local custom of tak baat, when hundreds of monks clad in saffron-colored robes flood the streets to collect alms—primarily sticky rice, fruits, and vegetables, which they take back to their monasteries and eat in silence. Take a walking tour of the old city and its beautiful temples: Wat Visoun, That Pathum, Wat Xieng Thong, Wat Sene Souk Haram, and Wat Mai. Following lunch, visit the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre to explore the crafts and cultures of local ethnic groups. Meet the director for a talk on Laos's ethnic diversity. Attend a traditional Baci ceremony, a ritual often undertaken by travelers who are setting off on journeys or returning home, before our celebratory farewell dinner at L'Elephant Restaurant. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 LOUANGPHABANG/BANGKOK

Examine a collection of the royal family's personal



artifacts at the National Museum, housed in what used to be the king's palace. Visit the spectacular Khuang Si waterfalls and Butterfly Park, then stop at the Living Crafts Centre in a tropical garden overlooking the Mekong River. Late this afternoon, fly to Bangkok. HOTEL NOVOTEL SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT (B, L)

DAY 13 BANGKOK/U.S.

Depart Bangkok and arrive home the same day. (B)



Clutching traditional bowls, monks in Louangphabang collect morning alms.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Oct. 9–21 • Oct. 20–Nov. 1

2016: Jan. 16–28 • Feb. 18–Mar. 1

Expedition Cost (Oct. 2015–Feb. 2016):

Pullman Class	\$10,665
State Class	\$11,960

Pullman and State Class refer to cabin categories aboard the *Eastern & Oriental Express*.

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,485 in Pullman Class and \$4,425 in State Class. International airfare to Singapore and return from Bangkok and airfare within Southeast Asia are not included in the expedition cost. Group flights within Southeast Asia are \$835 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Visit our website or call for details.



Banana trees flank the tracks as the *Eastern & Oriental Express* curves by.

INSIDE JAPAN



DISCOVER JAPAN'S INTRIGUING CONTRASTS on a journey inspired by *National Geographic Traveler's* January/February 2012 article "Japan's Past Perfect." Explore Kyoto's iconic temples and ascend to the sacred pilgrimage site of Mount Koya. Step back in time in the age-old villages of Shikoku, then encounter cutting-edge architecture on Naoshima and the bustle of a revitalized Hiroshima.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in Shikoku's timeless Iya Valley, dotted with thatched cottages, shrines, and vine bridges.
- Stay at an ancient mountain temple; a traditional rural *ryokan*; and Benesse House, designed by acclaimed architect Tadao Ando.
- Experience a splendid spectrum of gardens, from Zen rock gardens to the lush moss gardens of Saihoji.
- Participate in a tea ceremony, meet a former geisha, and attend a Buddhist prayer service.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Travel writer **Don George** is an editor-at-large and columnist for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, as well as host of the *National Geographic Live* series

of conversations with notable authors. Don lived and taught in Japan for two years, and his *National Geographic Traveler* article "Japan's Past Perfect" inspired this expedition. Don has edited eight literary travel anthologies, including *Better Than Fiction*, *The Kindness of Strangers*, and *Travelers' Tales: Japan*. He has received dozens of writing awards, including the Pacific Asia Travel Association's Gold Award for Best Travel Article and the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalist of the Year Award.

DON WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./OSAKA, JAPAN/KYOTO

Fly to Osaka, cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 2. Transfer to Kyoto and check into our centrally located hotel.
KYOTO HOTEL OKURA

DAY 3 KYOTO

Kyoto served as an imperial capital for more than a thousand years, and many of the wooden temples and gardens from that era have been collectively designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Stroll the elegant Zen rock garden at Ryoanji and visit iconic Kinkakuji, or "Temple of the Golden Pavilion." Enjoy a specially arranged visit to Saihoji, also known as Kokedera, or "Moss Temple," for the more than 120 species of moss that carpet its beautiful gardens. At tonight's welcome dinner, meet a former geisha to learn about the geisha profession and enjoy a short performance. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 KYOTO

Wander through Arashiyama's atmospheric bamboo grove this morning. Continue to Nijo Castle, built in 1603 and designated a national treasure. Explore the castle's Ninomaru Palace, known for its beautiful wall paintings and its "nightingale" floors, designed to squeak when stepped upon to warn of intruders. In the afternoon, visit an artisanal ceramics workshop. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 MOUNT KOYA

Travel to Mount Koya, headquarters of the Shingon Buddhist sect. Meet a temple priest and wander through the evocative Okuno-in cemetery, where the tombs of more than 200,000 samurai warriors and other dignitaries fill a grove of age-old cedar trees. Venture into Kongobuji, the chief temple of the Mount Koya monastery, and see work by artists of the Kano school of painting. Settle into our simple lodgings at Rengejo-in, the first temple of Shingon Buddhism, and enjoy a traditional Buddhist vegetarian dinner. RENGEJO-IN MONASTERY (B, L, D)

66

Skeins of morning mist rise from the valley floor...No other houses are visible. The only sound is the drip of predawn rain from nearby branches and from the farmhouse's roof of thick thatch. The faint scent of charcoal from last night's hearth rides on the air.

I feel as if I'm in the hermit's hut in a 17th-century ink-and-brush painting.

Don George on Iya Valley, "Japan's Past Perfect,"
National Geographic Traveler, January/February 2012



Beautifully patterned *obis* flow from the traditional *kimonos* of two geisha.

DAY 6 MOUNT KOYA/IYA VALLEY

After attending an optional morning prayer ceremony, descend to the shores of the Inland Sea and ferry across to Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's main islands. In Tokushima, see costumes and floats from the city's 400-year-old dance festival at the Awa Odori Kaikan museum. Our home for the next two nights in the Iya Valley is a traditional Japanese inn, or *ryokan*, where inviting on-site hot spring baths offer a chance to relax and refresh. HOTEL HIKYONUYU (B, L, D)

DAY 7 IYA VALLEY

Travel along the steep slopes of the Iya ravine to a 300-year-old thatched farmhouse, home to the Chiiori Trust, a unique project that seeks to preserve age-old rural traditions in the valley. Continue to the Okuiya Niju Kazurabashi, twin

suspension bridges made of intertwined vines, and hear the legends of their creation. Witness timeless scenes of village life in Ochiai, a community of traditional dwellings, some of which date from the Edo period (ca. 1600–1870). (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SHIKOKU/NAOSHIMA

Travel north to Zentsuji, revered as the birthplace of the Buddhist priest Kobo Daishi and as one of the important stops along Shikoku's 750-mile and 88-temple pilgrimage route. In Takamatsu, stroll through the tranquil gardens of 17th-century Ritsurin Park. A ferry then brings us to the small island of Naoshima, which has recently emerged as a mecca of contemporary art and architecture. Get a new perspective on nature through inventive art installations at the Benesse House Museum this afternoon and stay in the adjacent hotel, designed by acclaimed architect Tadao Ando. BENESSE HOUSE (B, L, D)

DAY 9 NAOSHIMA/HIROSHIMA

Wander past the works of Claude Monet and James Turrell at the innovative Chichu Art Museum, built underground but designed to capture natural light and shadow. Also visit homes that are part of the Art House Project, which has transformed some of the island's older structures into imaginative works of art. Ferry back to Honshu and take the high-speed train to Hiroshima. RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL HIROSHIMA (B, L)

DAY 10 HIROSHIMA

Pay a visit to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum, which documents the atomic explosion that ravaged the city. This afternoon, go on an optional guided visit to Shukkei-en garden or explore this thriving modern metropolis—a testament to Japanese resilience—on your own. (B, L)



DAY 11 MIYAJIMA/HIROSHIMA

Set off by ferry for a full-day excursion on Itsukushima Island, popularly called Miyajima. Venture into the 12th-century Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, a World Heritage site built over the water, where a vermilion *torii* (wooden gateway) appears to float at high tide. Participate in a traditional tea ceremony followed by free time to go on a hike, visit temples, and stroll through the picturesque town. Back in Hiroshima this evening, gather for a farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 12 HIROSHIMA/OSAKA/U.S.

Transfer to the airport in Osaka for your return flight. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 25–Apr. 5 • May 18–29
Sep. 23–Oct. 4 • Oct. 17–28 • Nov. 7–18

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 110 for details.

Expedition Cost: **\$7,995**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,795. International airfare to/from Osaka is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

The Rengejo-in and Hotel Hikyonyu are traditional Japanese accommodations with futons set atop tatami mats on the floor. The Rengejo-in, where we stay one night, is a typical temple inn, with simple rooms, rice-paper sliding doors, and traditional Japanese-style shared bathrooms.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day extension to Tokyo and nearby Nikko. Visit our website or call for details.

See our Japan Photography Expedition on page 110.

INSIDE CHINA



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet a leading archaeologist and enjoy VIP access to Xi'an's astonishing terra-cotta warrior dig on a private tour.
- Hike along an isolated section of the Great Wall, and examine the impressive ninth-century rock carvings of Dazu.
- Witness the new landscapes created by the Three Gorges Dam and attend a talk by a head engineer from the project.
- Catch a glimpse of old China while exploring Beijing's ancient hutong neighborhoods.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./BEIJING, CHINA

Fly to Beijing, cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 2. Begin the next day at the Temple of Heaven, a Ming dynasty temple complex, and stroll across Tiananmen Square, the stage for many turning points in modern Chinese history. Continue to the Forbidden City, home to some of the finest imperial architecture in China. REGENT BEIJING (DAY 3: B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 BEIJING

Wander through Beijing's traditional hutong neighborhoods and learn about the principles of feng shui. Discover the Lama Temple and savor a dinner of Peking duck. The following day, explore a section of the Great Wall not seen by many visitors. (B, L, D; B, L)

Above: An elaborate doorway and deep crimson walls lead to one of the many passageways of Beijing's Forbidden City.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



A professor at New Mexico State University, historian **Ken Hammond** directs a Chinese-American university exchange program. He has produced a documentary on the revival of

Confucian ritual and recorded a lecture series covering 5,000 years of Chinese history. Ken served as president of the Society for Ming Studies and was a visiting scholar at the History Institute of the Chinese Academy for Social Sciences.

KEN WILL ACCOMPANY THE MAY AND OCTOBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAYS 6 AND 7 BEIJING/XI'AN

Fly to Xi'an, China's capital for more than a thousand years, and experience the city on a bike or golf cart ride atop the Ming dynasty city wall. Meet a leading archaeologist to learn about the excavation of the life-size terra-cotta army that stands guard at the tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. Examine these treasures up close from the VIP platform at the site. Tonight, enjoy a 16-course dumpling feast. HILTON XI'AN (B, L; B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 XI'AN/CHONGQING/DAZU

Fly to Chongqing and go behind the scenes at the Chongqing Zoo to get a closer look at China's giant pandas. Travel through the Sichuan countryside to see the ninth-century Dazu Rock Carvings, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and visit a nearby farm. In Chongqing, board our ship and set off down the Yangtze River. INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL/M.S. YANGZI EXPLORER (B, L; B, L, D)

DAYS 10 AND 11 YANGTZE RIVER

Cruise past reconstructed villages and modern cities, witnessing life along the Yangtze—and the ways that damming has changed it. The next morning, approach the first of the spectacular Three Gorges. Travel by local boat up a narrow tributary, passing terraced hillsides and fishing boats. This evening, enter the intricate lock system of the Three Gorges Dam. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12 AND 13 YICHANG/SHANGHAI

Disembark in Yichang and meet an engineer from the Three Gorges Dam project. After lunch, fly to Shanghai and check into our hotel. Explore the Shanghai Museum and Yu Yuan, a 16th-century



classical garden. Gather for a festive farewell dinner. GARDEN HOTEL (B, L; B, L, D)

DAY 14 SHANGHAI/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your return flight, arriving home the same day. (B)

See our [China Photography Expedition on page 110](#).

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Apr. 15–28 • May 27–Jun. 9
Sep. 12–25 • Oct. 7–20
Oct. 28–Nov. 10

This departure is a photography expedition. See page 110 for a description and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$7,995
See the *Yangzi Explorer* ship description and photo on our website. Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,395. International airfare to Beijing and return from Shanghai and airfare within China are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within China are \$590 (subject to change).

TIBET AND NEPAL: JOURNEY TO THE HIGHEST HIMALAYA



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Admire the extraordinary landscapes of the Himalaya, from towering peaks and hanging glaciers to the lush foothills of Nepal.
- Venture into the legendary Potala Palace in Lhasa and visit Tibet's holiest and most historic monasteries.
- Gaze up at the soaring crags of Mount Everest from the storied North Face Base Camp in Tibet.
- Discover many layers of symbolism and belief at ancient Bodhnath, the largest Buddhist stupa in Nepal.

ITINERARY | 16 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BEIJING, CHINA

Depart for Beijing, cross the international date line, and arrive the next evening. THE PENINSULA BEIJING

DAY 3 BEIJING/LHASA, TIBET

Take a scenic flight to the holy city of Lhasa and gather for a welcome dinner this evening. FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LHASA (B, L, D)

DAYS 4, 5, AND 6 LHASA

Listen for chanting monks at Drepung and Sera Monasteries and explore the legendary Potala Palace. Visit Ganden Monastery and the Jokhang, Tibet's holiest temple; and wander through the Barkhor market. (B, L, D DAILY)

Above: Severe and splendid, the snowy north face of Mount Everest glows in the sunlight.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Adventurer **Peter Hillary** was born into mountaineering royalty: His father, Sir Edmund Hillary, was the first person to summit Mount Everest. Peter has completed more than

40 mountaineering expeditions and climbed the highest peaks on all seven continents. His ascent of Everest in 2002 was featured in the National Geographic documentary *Everest: 50 Years on the Mountain*. Peter is deeply involved in aid programs for the people of the Himalaya.

PETER WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER 18 AND OCTOBER 9 DEPARTURES. SEE PAGE 111 FOR THE EXPERT ON THE OCTOBER 30 PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION.

DAY 7 GYANGZÊ

Drive over two spectacular mountain passes to Gyangzê, stopping to view a magnificent hanging glacier up close. YETI HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 GYANGZÊ/SHIGATSE

After visiting the temples of Pelkor Chode, travel to Shigatse. Explore Tashilunpo Monastery and hike up to Chak La pass if you wish. TASHI CHOE TA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 XÊGAR/TINGRI

Catch a glimpse (weather permitting) of Mount Everest on the way to Xêgar. Take in majestic vistas of the peak from the 17,000-foot Pang La pass (weather permitting), and visit Rongbuk Monastery as we continue to the North Face Base Camp. QOMOLANGMA HOTEL AND SNOW LEOPARD GUEST HOUSE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 12 ZHANGMU

Descend more than 9,000 feet to the lush foothills of Nepal and stay in the border town of Zhangmu. CAI YUAN HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 13 AND 14 BHAKTAPUR, NEPAL/ KATHMANDU

Explore the medieval city of Bhaktapur. In Kathmandu, visit the 2,500-year-old Swayambhunath temple; the Hanuman Dhoka palace complex; and Bodhnath, Nepal's largest Buddhist stupa. Cap off the journey with a farewell dinner. HOTEL YAK & YETI (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 15 AND 16 KATHMANDU/U.S.

Depart Kathmandu and connect in Bangkok or Hong Kong for flights home. (B)

See our Tibet and Nepal Photography Expedition on page 111.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Sep. 18–Oct. 3 • Oct. 9–24
Oct. 30–Nov. 14

This departure is a photography expedition. See page 111 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$8,715

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,925. International airfare to Beijing and return from Kathmandu and airfare from Beijing to Lhasa are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight from Beijing to Lhasa is \$475 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

We spend nine nights at elevations up to 14,268 feet and travel as high as 17,200 feet by 4x4 vehicle, often on rough, dusty roads. Participants should be physically fit. This trip is not suitable for those with a respiratory, cardiac, or circulatory disorder or a disability that limits mobility. We stay at first-class hotels in Beijing, Lhasa, and Kathmandu; and at best available hotels elsewhere.

Please note: Access to Everest Base Camp is regulated by the Chinese government. We expect to operate this trip as planned, but may need to alter the itinerary in the event that current regulations change.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Visit our website or call for details.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

INDIA WILDLIFE SAFARI



DEEP IN INDIA'S WILDERNESS, majestic tigers prowl in greater numbers than anywhere else in the world, and rare beasts like greater one-horned rhinoceroses and sloth bears coexist with countless species of birds. On safari with a National Geographic wildlife expert in three national parks—Panna, Bandhavgarh, and Kaziranga—experience some of India's best wildlife viewing, and track the elusive Bengal tiger.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend two days in Bandhavgarh National Park, home to perhaps the greatest density of wild tigers in India.
- Visit Qutb Minar and the magnificent temples of Khajuraho, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Explore India's wild habitats with top wildlife experts, observing a wide variety of unusual creatures.
- Ride an elephant through the grasslands of Kaziranga, where most of the world's greater one-horned rhinoceroses roam.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Conservation biologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer **Krithi Karanth** received the Society's 10,000th research, conservation, and exploration grant to

support her work in India's Western Ghats. She works on conservation issues such as human-wildlife conflict, land-use change, people-wildlife relationships, and styles of tourism that threaten India's elephants, leopards, and tigers. The daughter of a renowned tiger biologist and Indian conservationist, Krithi has accompanied field expeditions since she was just a year old, and spotted her first leopard at the age of three. She earned her Ph.D. from Duke and a master's degree from Yale.

KRITHI WILL ACCOMPANY THE NOVEMBER 20, 2015 DEPARTURE. SANDESH KADUR WILL JOIN THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 AND FEBRUARY 15, 2016 DEPARTURES. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 15 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./DELHI, INDIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Delhi and transfer to our hotel upon arrival. The next day, discover the sights of New Delhi, India's capital city since 1911. See the colonnaded house of the Indian Parliament and the ornate presidential palace, Rashtrapati Bhavan; as well as the India Gate, a memorial to Indian soldiers killed in World War I. Step into centuries past at the World Heritage sites of Qutb Minar, an early 13th-century red sandstone minaret that rises 238 feet into the air, and Humayun's Tomb, an impressive example of early Mogul architecture. Stop in at the Okhla Bird Sanctuary, whose residents include striated babblers, white-tailed stonechats, and streaked weavers. RADISSON BLU PLAZA DELHI (B, L, D)

DAY 4 KHAJURAHO/PANNA

After breakfast, fly to Khajuraho to visit a stunning group of Hindu and Jain temples that date back a thousand years. Wander through this World Heritage site to examine shrines covered in mag-

nificent sculptures. Continue overland to Panna National Park, a wildlife reserve that links animal populations of the eastern and western parts of the Vindhya Range. PASHAN GARH (B, L, D)

DAY 5 PANNA

Embark on morning and afternoon game drives in the Panna wilderness for an introduction to India's native deer species, including the sambar, chital, and chousingha; and the nilgai, Asia's largest antelope. Search for elusive predators such as leopards and dholes (Indian wild dogs) and look for sloth bears perched on rocky escarpments. With luck, we may see our first tiger, as efforts to stabilize a small population of tigers in Panna are ongoing. Between drives, take a dip in the infinity pool at our hilltop lodge, or relax with a book on your private veranda. If water levels permit, take a boat ride on the Ken River to see several species of water birds or a large mugger crocodile basking on the riverbank. (B, L, D)

DAYS 6, 7, AND 8 BANDHAVGARH

Travel to Bandhavgarh National Park, the former hunting preserve of the maharajas of Rewa, which

Above: Tigers laze and prance at a water hole in Bandhavgarh National Park.



Astride their elephants, visitors observe the prehistoric forms of a one-horned rhino and her calf in the misty grasslands of Kaziranga.

now boasts one of the highest concentrations of wild tigers in India. Spend two days on safari in the park, tracking more than 40 resident tigers and spotting other wildlife: black-faced Hanuman langurs; macaques; wild boar; and a variety of bird species, including Bonelli's eagles, malabar pied hornbills, and peregrine falcons. See the enormous reclining statue of Lord Vishnu known as Shesh Shaiya, which dates back to the tenth century. If you prefer, set out on a guided birdwatching walk and visit a local village in lieu of a game drive. In the evenings, take in a traditional dance perfor-



The wildlife of India has long fascinated the Society's explorers, writers, and photographers. The cover of the December 1997 issue of *National Geographic* magazine featured Sita, a tigress whose many descendants have helped repopulate Bandhavgarh. In August 2010, the magazine published a story on "India's Grassland Kingdom," Kaziranga National Park. This expedition was inspired by the work of two recent National Geographic Emerging Explorers, conservation biologist Krithi Karanth (see her bio at left) and wildlife photographer and filmmaker Sandesh Kadur (see his bio on page 6). Each will join select departures.

mance or relax around the bonfire under the stars. **KINGS LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 9 AND 10 KHAJURAHO/KOLKATA

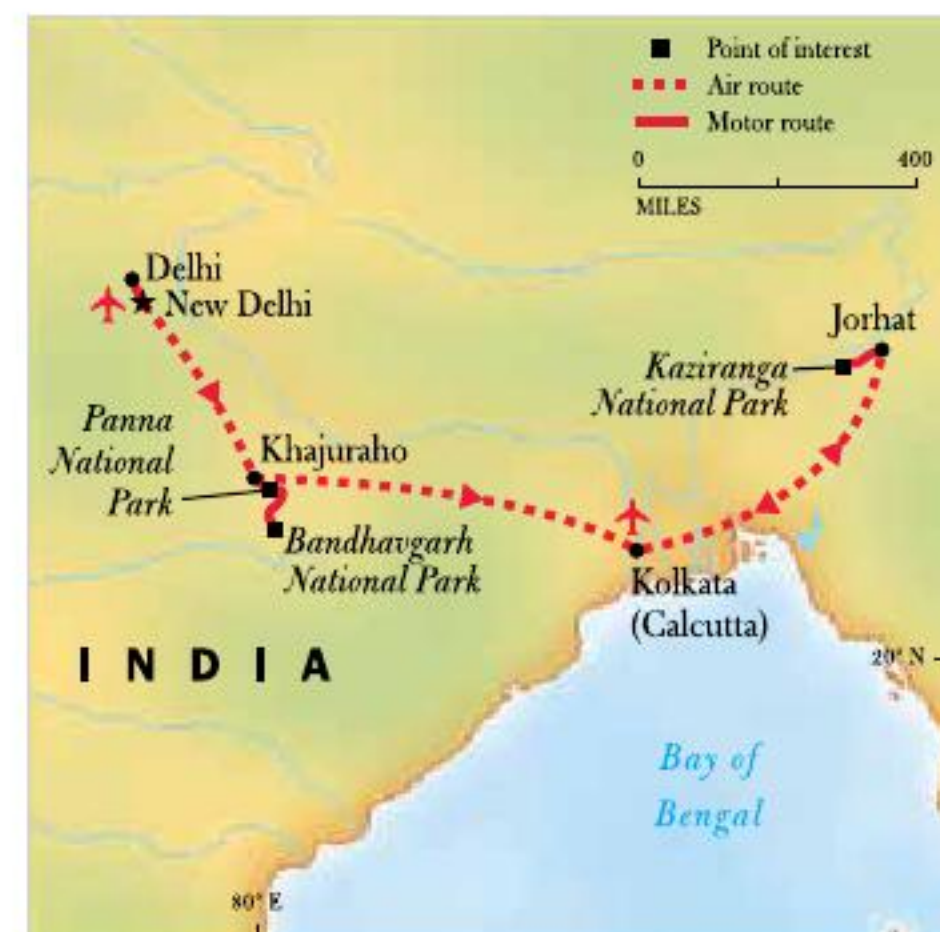
Take a scenic drive to Khajuraho and board a flight to Kolkata via Varanasi. The following day, explore historic Kolkata, the capital of British India from 1772 to 1911 and one of the largest British trading centers in the world. View the Writers' Building, once the headquarters of the British East India Company, and step into St. John's Church, built in the 18th century. At the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity, stroll through halls where Mother Teresa lived and worked and visit her tomb. Stop by the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata's most iconic building, dedicated to Queen Victoria. **TAJ BENGAL (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAY 11 JORHAT/KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Fly to Jorhat in India's eastern State of Assam and continue overland to Kaziranga National Park. Check into our lodge, set among bamboo groves and fruit orchards, and get settled in private cottages built on stilts in the local tradition. **INFINITY RESORT KAZIRANGA (B, L, D)**

DAYS 12 AND 13 KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Stretching along the edge of the Brahmaputra River, Kaziranga National Park is a World Heritage site and one of the last unspoiled wildernesses in eastern India. The park and its environs have been designated a tiger reserve and a BirdLife International Important Bird Area. Explore the



varied landscapes by elephant and by 4x4 vehicle, venturing through fields of elephant grass, marshlands, and dense forests to find greater one-horned rhinoceroses, Asian elephants, water buffalo, and more than 300 species of birds. Experience everyday life outside the park on an optional village walk, and stop to photograph lush tea plantations along the way. If you choose, take a boat ride on the Brahmaputra River to search for aquatic wildlife. Celebrate our last evening with a festive farewell dinner and a traditional dance performance. **(B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 14 AND 15 KAZIRANGA/KOLKATA/U.S.

After a final morning game drive, fly from Jorhat to Kolkata and check into day rooms. Enjoy time to relax before transferring to the airport for overnight flights home. **SWISSÔTEL KOLKATA (B, L, D)**

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Nov. 3–17 • Nov. 20–Dec. 4

2016: Jan. 18–Feb. 1 • Feb. 15–29 • Feb. 29–Mar. 14

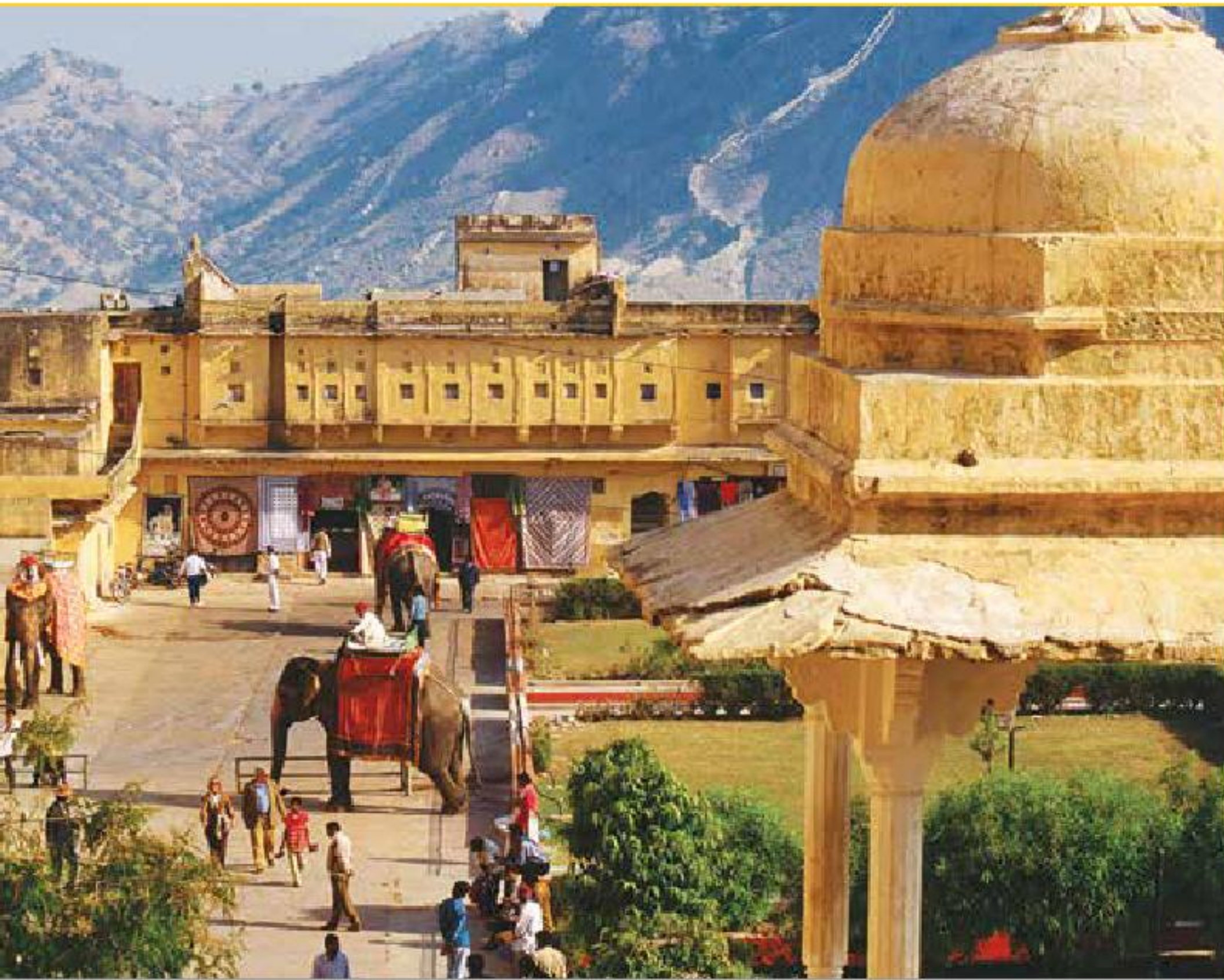
Expedition Cost (Nov. 2015–Feb. 2016): \$8,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,790. International airfare to Delhi and return from Kolkata and airfare within India are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within India are \$980 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day pre-trip extension to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. Visit our website or call for details.

RAIL JOURNEY THROUGH INDIA



STEP ABOARD THE PALACE ON WHEELS and set off on an unforgettable rail journey to the fabled cities of Rajasthan. Venture into majestic forts and palaces, and immerse yourself in the colors and rhythms of India's captivating culture. Visit the immense Amber Fort high above Jaipur, and watch the sunset light up the Taj Mahal. Experience one of India's celebrated festivals or fairs on each departure.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel for five nights aboard the *Palace on Wheels*, a train designed in the style of a bygone era that evokes the splendor of the maharajas.
- Explore six UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Fatehpur Sikri and the incomparable Taj Mahal.
- Search for tigers in Ranthambhore National Park and spot rare birds and other wildlife in Keoladeo Ghana National Park.
- Take a sunset camel safari among the evocative dunes of the Thar Desert.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Jan Nijman is Professor Emeritus of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Miami. A former member of National Geographic's Committee for

Research and Exploration, Jan has spent more than a decade researching socioeconomic and cultural change in India. The National Geographic Society and the National Science Foundation have supported his work, and his publications have appeared in a wide range of international journals. Jan has received the University of Miami's Excellence in Teaching Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

JAN WILL ACCOMPANY THE FEBRUARY 2016 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./DELHI, INDIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Delhi and check into our hotel upon arrival. TAJ MAHAL HOTEL

DAY 3 DELHI

Set out on a tour of New Delhi, the capital established by the British in 1911. Then delve into Old Delhi, a patchwork of eight different cities built by a succession of rulers and the capital of Muslim India between the 13th and 19th centuries. Explore Humayun's Tomb, a milestone in the history of Mughal architecture, and Gandhi Smriti, a museum honoring Mahatma Gandhi. This evening, gather for a special welcome reception and dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 JAIPUR

Travel from Delhi to Jaipur in Rajasthan. Known as the "Pink City" for its rose-colored buildings, Jaipur is protected by high fortifications and multiple gates. Stroll through a local bazaar before visit-

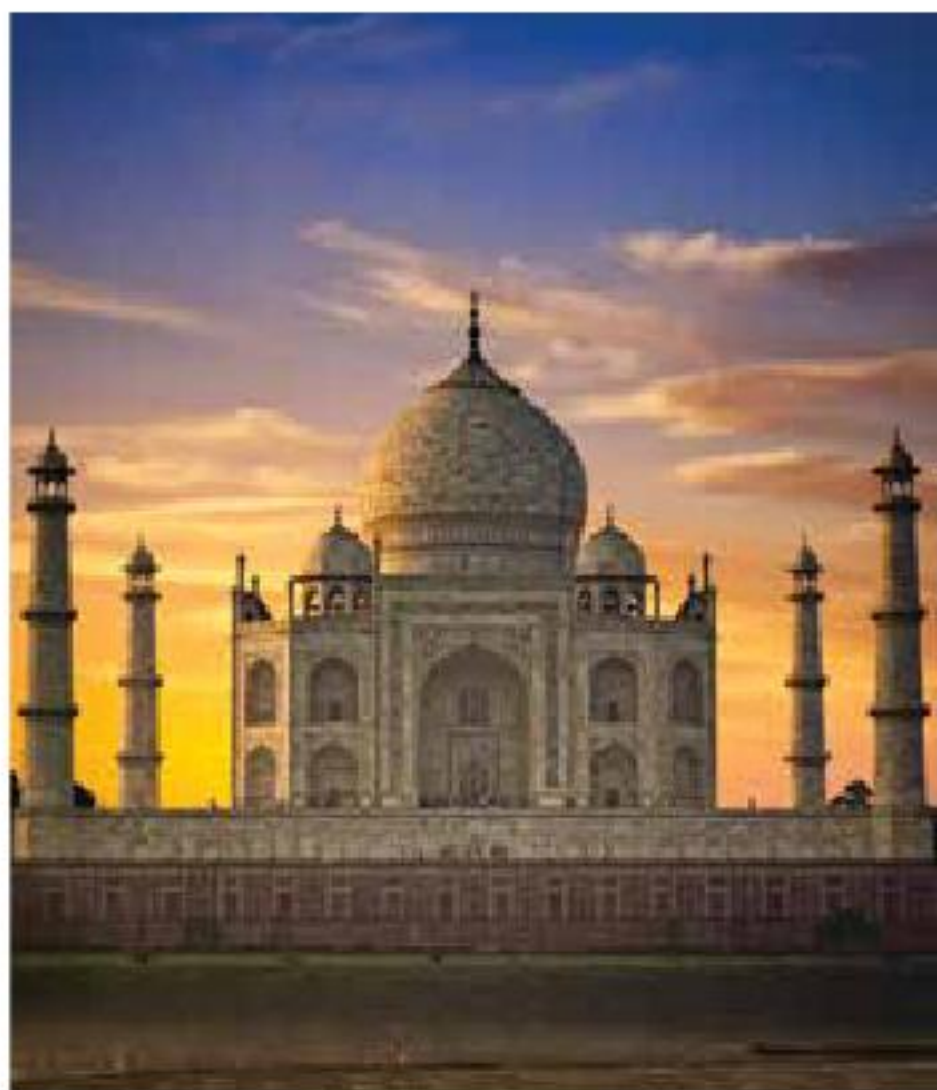
ing Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds, a stunning sandstone building with delicate latticework and honeycombed windows. Tonight, experience Diwali, the Festival of Lights.* India glows during this important Hindu celebration: ceramic lamps burn brightly, colored paper lanterns are hung, and fireworks light up the sky in a dazzling display. JAI MAHAL PALACE (B, L, D)

DAY 5 JAIPUR

Begin the day with a guided tour of the City Palace, a vast complex with a museum housing rare manuscripts, paintings, and an armory. Visit the 18th-century royal observatory known as the Jantar Mantar, and examine a variety of precise astronomical tools. In the afternoon, ascend to the hilltop Amber Fort and explore its exquisite and well-preserved palaces, temples, gardens, and pavilions. Settle into your cabin on board the *Palace on Wheels*. PALACE ON WHEELS (B, L, D)

DAY 6 RANTHAMBHORE NATIONAL PARK/CHITTAURGARH

Set out on a game drive in Ranthambhore National Park in search of hyenas, jackals, and



The magnificent Taj Mahal, built in the mid-17th century, catches the last rays of the setting sun.

foxes, as well as elusive tigers. After lunch back on the train, arrive in the city of Chittaurgarh. Trace a turbulent history of siege, valor, and sacrifice at Chittaurgarh Fort, one of the largest forts in India. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 UDAIPUR

Known as the City of Lakes, Udaipur is most celebrated for its fairy-tale marble palaces, which appear to emerge from the waters of Lake Pichola. Venture into a spectacular labyrinth of courtyards within the City Palace, a soaring creation of marble and granite perched on the lake's edge. This palace complex, the largest in Rajasthan, blends medieval, European, and Chinese architecture and is richly decorated with inlaid mirror-work, mosaics, and frescoes. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 JAISALMER

Today the train carries us into the heart of the Thar Desert to magical Jaisalmer. Rising above the city, the imposing turrets and bastions of

the golden sandstone fort conceal a lively town within. Discover the *havelis*, once the mansions of wealthy merchants, decorated with elaborate facades. Later, ride a camel across the sand dunes of Sam and stop for a traditional tea in the desert. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 JODHPUR

Jodhpur's blue-hued old city lies at the foot of massive Mehrangarh Fort, perched on a rocky outcrop some 120 meters high. Visit the 15th-century fort and learn about its colorful history. We'll enjoy lunch in Jodhpur before returning to the *Palace on Wheels* for the final leg of our rail journey. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 KEOLADEO GHANA NATIONAL PARK/AGRA

Disembark the train in Bharatpur and head into the wetlands of Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a renowned bird sanctuary. Search for egrets, flamingos, and many other wildlife species. Then stop at a hotel near the park for a cooking demonstration and lunch. Take a guided walk around Bharatpur village before heading to Fatehpur Sikri, the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1569 to 1585, where elegant carved sandstone palaces remain incredibly well preserved. Continue to Agra this evening. ITC MUGHAL, AGRA (B, L, D)

DAY 11 AGRA

Rise early this morning to see the Taj Mahal's marble sparkle in the dawn light. Constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, the Taj Mahal is often described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. After lunch, explore Agra Fort's courtyards, mosques, and private chambers. Pay a visit to a marble inlay workshop to see how the intricate stonework of the Taj Mahal was created. This evening, visit the iconic site once again at sunset before gathering for a festive farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

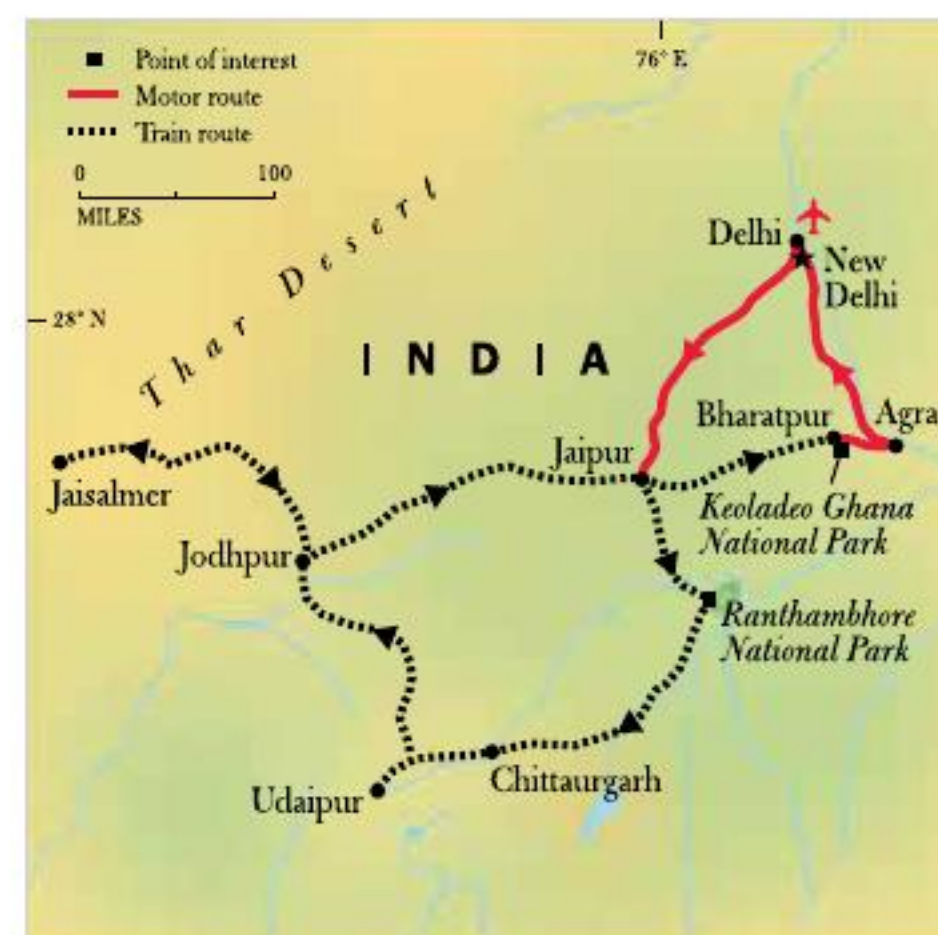
ABOUT THE PALACE ON WHEELS

The *Palace on Wheels* (pictured left) is a train built in the royal style of the maharajas. The train has 14 fully air-conditioned deluxe saloons, each with four twin-bedded cabins, a mini-pantry, and lounge. Each cabin has an en suite bathroom with a toilet, sink, and shower. Two restaurant cars serve Continental, Indian, Rajasthani, and Chinese cuisine, and the cozy bar and lounge offer great places to wind down at the end of the day. National Geographic has reserved 15 cabins on each of these departures.



The *Palace on Wheels*

See our India Photography Expedition on page 110.



DAYS 12 AND 13 AGRA/DELHI/U.S.

After breakfast, pay a visit to a local orphanage if you wish. Then drive to Delhi and relax in day rooms at the Taj Mahal Hotel. Later, transfer to the airport for your overnight flight, arriving home the next day. (B, L, D)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Oct. 18–30 • Nov. 8–20

2016: Jan. 17–29 • Feb. 14–26 📷 • Feb. 28–Mar 11
Mar. 13–25 📷

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 110 for details.

*The itinerary shown describes the November 2015 departure, which includes the Diwali festival. Each departure follows a similar itinerary to the one shown but includes a different festival: October 2015 features the Dussehra festival; January 2016 features the Vasant Panchami festival; February 14, 2016 features the Desert festival; February 28, 2016 features the Maha Shivratri festival; and March 2016 features the Holi festival. Visit our website for detailed itineraries.

Expedition Cost (Oct. 2015–Mar. 2016): \$11,595

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,100. International airfare to/from Delhi is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This is an active trip that involves walking up to two miles a day, climbing stairs (often without handrails), and walking on crowded streets with uneven footing. Participants should be physically fit. Those who are prone to motion sickness may be uncomfortable on the train or during drives on bumpy roads. This expedition is not suitable for anyone with a serious medical condition or limited mobility.

Optional Extension:

Add a five-day post-trip extension to Khajuraho and Varanasi. Visit our website or call for details.

BHUTAN: KINGDOM IN THE CLOUDS



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike to Bhutan's most famous pilgrimage site, Taktsang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest Temple).
- Mingle with community leaders and government dignitaries at a banquet dinner, and gain insight into modern Bhutan.
- Witness colorful parades and processions of dancers in traditional costumes at enchanting local festivals.
- Explore Gangtey Goemba, one of the oldest private monasteries in Bhutan, which has been recently restored by Bhutan's finest artisans.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BANGKOK, THAILAND

Depart the U.S., cross the international date line, and arrive in Bangkok the next night. NOVOTEL SUVARNABHUMI HOTEL

DAY 3 PARO, BHUTAN

Fly to Bhutan's Paro Valley (7,300 feet), and visit the seventh-century Kyichu Lhakhang temple before a welcome dinner tonight. ZHIWA LING HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 PUNAKHA

After a special Buddhist blessing ceremony, journey to Punakha, the ancient capital of Bhutan. The next day, hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyel Chorten to take in spectacular views, and explore the holy Punakha Dzong. MERI PUENSUM HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)

Above: The magnificent Taktsang Lhakhang, or Tiger's Nest Temple, sits high above the lush Paro Valley.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Bill Jones has led more than 100 groups to destinations as far-flung as Madagascar and Kazakhstan, but his greatest expertise is in Southeast Asia and the Himalayan region. He has traveled regularly to Bhutan for more than 25 years and experienced firsthand the country's evolution. A great raconteur, he shares his profound insights into Bhutan's Buddhist beliefs—which form the cornerstone of the country's culture, art, and architecture.

BILL WILL ACCOMPANY THE MARCH AND NOVEMBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAYS 6 AND 7 PHOBJIKHA

Travel to the beautiful alpine valley of Phobjikha (10,000 feet), the largest wintering site for the endangered black-necked crane. At the recently restored Gangtey Goemba temple complex, examine the workmanship of Bhutan's best artisans and take part in a butter-lamp-lighting ceremony. Later, go on a half-day hike, stopping to visit with a village family. DEWACHEN LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 8 AND 9 THIMPHU

Cross Dochu La pass (10,000 feet) and gaze at a 200-mile panorama of Himalayan peaks (weather permitting). In Thimphu (7,900 feet), see some of Bhutan's finest weavings and brocades at the National Textile Museum. The next day, attend the vibrant Thimphu Tsechu festival, an important religious event and the main social gathering of the year.* Tonight, get a behind-the-scenes perspective on Bhutan during a banquet with local dignitaries and professionals. TAJ TASHI (B, L, D)

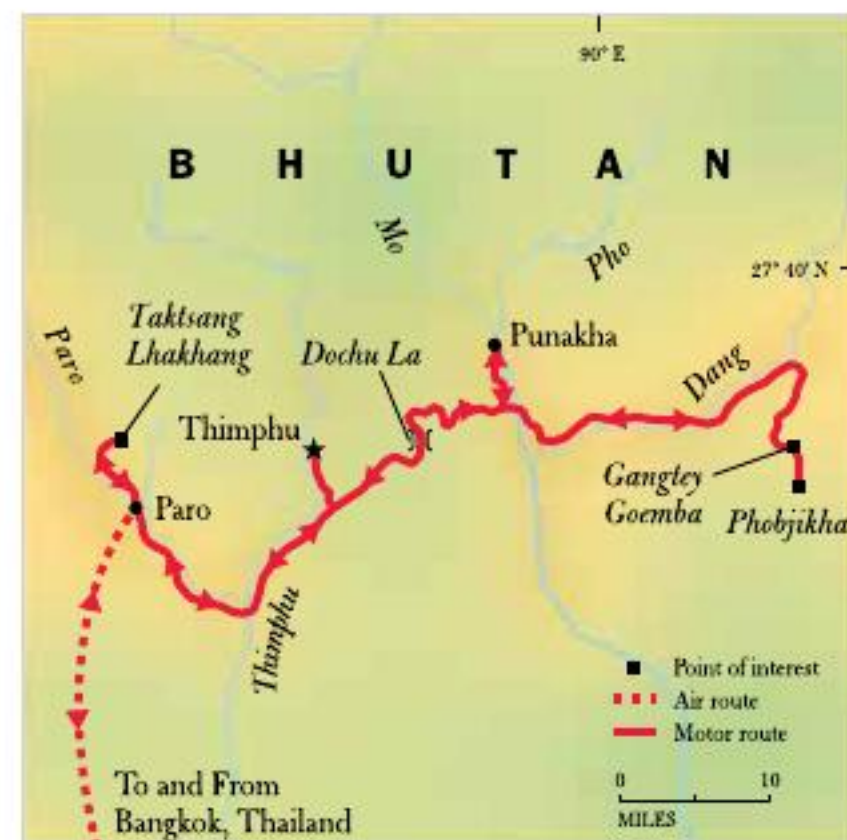
DAY 10 PARO

Our journey culminates the next day with a hike to Taktsang Lhakhang, or the Tiger's Nest Temple (9,300 feet), a magical temple that clings to a vertical granite cliff above the valley floor. Celebrate your adventure at a farewell dinner. ZHIWA LING HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 11 AND 12 PARO/BANGKOK, THAILAND/U.S.

Fly to Bangkok and check into our hotel. The next morning, fly home, arriving the same day. NOVOTEL SUVARNABHUMI HOTEL (B, L; B)

See our Bhutan Photography Expedition on page 110.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 24–Apr. 4 • Apr. 4–15 • Sep. 17–28 • Oct. 20–31 • Nov. 5–16

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 110 for details.

*The itinerary shown describes the September departure which includes the Thimphu Tsechu festival. Each departure follows a similar itinerary to the one shown but includes a different festival or celebration. Visit our website for detailed itineraries.

Expedition Cost: \$6,695

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,175. There is an additional government tourism tariff of \$400 per person. International airfare to/from Bangkok and airfare between Bangkok and Paro are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight between Bangkok and Paro is \$960 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

The average elevation in Bhutan is 8,000 feet above sea level. This is an active trip, not suitable for those with cardiac, respiratory, or circulatory disorders, or limited mobility. We stay at first-class hotels in Bangkok, Paro, and Thimphu; a Bhutanese-style hotel in Punakha; and a rustic lodge in Phobjikha.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day pre- or post-trip extension to Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Visit our website or call for details.

WILD ENCOUNTERS FROM BORNEO TO BALI



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet National Geographic grantee Dr. Biruté Galdikas at Camp Leakey, an orangutan research center she established in Indonesian Borneo.
- Glide into the jungles of Tanjung Puting National Park on local boats, and interact with orangutans at a rehabilitation center.
- Discover an incredible spectrum of wildlife in Malaysian Borneo's Bako National Park, home to seven different ecosystems.
- Snorkel and swim in the coral reefs off pristine, uninhabited isles in the Natuna and Anambas archipelagos.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./SINGAPORE

Depart for Singapore, and cross the international date line. Then set sail on the South China Sea on board the *National Geographic Orion*. (DAY 3: D)

DAY 4 ANAMBAS ARCHIPELAGO

Our first stop is the remote Anambas archipelago, where we'll snorkel the unspoiled reefs surrounding Pulau Lintang, ending the day with a beach barbecue. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 NATUNA ARCHIPELAGO

The 272 islands of the Natuna archipelago are fringed with coral reefs and white-sand beaches. Depending on the weather, we will likely snorkel at either Pulau Senua or Pulau Tiga, and later enjoy a welcome ceremony at a local fishing village. (B, L, D)

Above: A pair of young Bornean orangutans embrace.

EXPEDITION TEAM



National Geographic photographer and naturalist **Jeff Mauritzen** will accompany our diverse team of experts on the August departure. Jeff's travels and assignments have immersed him in vivid landscapes both above and below the water on five continents and in more than 50 countries around the world. His travel and wildlife photography assignments have appeared in numerous publications.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

DAY 6 BAKO N.P., MALAYSIAN BORNEO

Situated on the northern coast of Malaysian Borneo, Bako National Park harbors seven distinct ecosystems and most of the plant species found in Borneo. Enjoy a full day to explore on a variety of walks and hikes, go birding, and track rare primates like the proboscis monkey. (B, L, D)

DAYS 7, 8, AND 9 KUCHING, SARAWAK/AT SEA

Continue to Kuching, the capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Visit the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre to discuss ongoing research on orangutan behavior and conservation. Spend two days relaxing at sea, with a brief stop to explore a remote island, as we trace the western coast of Kalimantan, or Indonesian Borneo. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK, INDONESIAN BORNEO

Set on a southern peninsula of the island, Tanjung Puting National Park is a trove of diverse habitats and rare species including endangered orangutans. Board local boats for an excursion into the forest, on the lookout for hornbills, crocodiles, and perhaps proboscis monkeys. Our destination is Camp Leakey, a research station established in 1971 by primatologist Dr. Biruté Galdikas, a protégée of legendary paleontologist Louis Leakey and the founder of Orangutan Foundation International (OFI). A many-time National Geographic grantee, Dr. Galdikas joins us to discuss her efforts to save the orangutan from extinction. Observe these gentle creatures at close range in the forest and visit OFI's wildlife rehabilitation center. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12 AND 13 AT SEA/DENPASAR, BALI/U.S.

Cross the Java Sea to enchanting Bali. Disembark the following morning and transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B, L, D; B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: May 23–Jun. 4* • Jun. 2–14
Aug. 28–Sep. 9*

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$9,550
Located on Main Deck with oval windows	
Category 2	\$11,090
Located on Main Deck with large oval window	
Category 3	\$13,170
Located on Upper Deck—Suite with window	
Category 4	\$14,420
Located on Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window	
Category 5	\$17,210
Located on Bridge Deck—Suite with balcony	
Category 6	\$19,990
Located on Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with balcony	

See the *National Geographic Orion* description and deck plan on page 129. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$4,740 in Category 1 and \$6,570 in Category 3. International airfare to Singapore and return from Bali is not included in the expedition cost.

SPECIAL OFFER See page 127.

RESERVE ONLINE AT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM

ON SAFARI: TANZANIA'S GREAT MIGRATION



GO IN SEARCH OF THE THUNDERING HERDS

of the legendary wildebeest migration on a wildlife safari in Tanzania. Experience the power of the migration up close in the vast savannas of northern or southern Serengeti, depending on the season (see box at right). Take in extraordinary vistas of the Great Rift Valley, and descend into the Ngorongoro Crater to spot lions, cheetahs, elephants, and much more.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a private tour of Olduvai Gorge, where *Homo habilis* was discovered on a National Geographic–sponsored expedition.
- Seek out the great wildebeest migration.
- Spot spectacular wildlife in the Ngorongoro Crater, a unique habitat sheltering almost 25,000 animals.
- Join a Maasai chief on a private visit to his village, witness a traditional ceremony, and learn firsthand about Maasai culture.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Conservation biologist and National Geographic grantee **Rosemary Groom** grew up in Zimbabwe before moving to the United Kingdom for her education. After graduating

with a degree in zoology, Rosemary returned to Africa and has since worked on a variety of wildlife conservation and research projects in eastern and southern Africa. National Geographic's Conservation Trust and its Big Cats Initiative have both funded Rosemary's work. Rosemary currently works in southern Zimbabwe on a Society-sponsored conservation project protecting the endangered African wild dog, and she does ongoing work with African lions.

ROSEMARY WILL ACCOMPANY THE AUGUST 1, 2015 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including investigations into early human origins in the Laetoli area of Tanzania.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport, and arrive the following evening. ARUSHA COFFEE LODGE

DAY 3 LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

Drive to Lake Manyara National Park, famous for its elephants, hippos, giraffes, flamingos, and tree-climbing lions. Set out to discover East Africa's legendary wildlife amid the stunning Rift Valley landscape on our first safari. PLANTATION LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 4 LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

On a morning game drive, observe the wildlife that congregates on the shores of Lake Manyara. Hike through a coffee plantation this afternoon. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 NGORONGORO CRATER

After breakfast, travel to the Ngorongoro Highlands, where a nearby Maasai community

welcomes us into their village on a special visit. Far from the tourist circuit, enjoy a rare opportunity to view traditional singing and dancing, witness an initiation ritual, and learn about this fascinating culture from the village chief and his wives. After lunch, descend 2,000 feet to the base of the Ngorongoro Crater, where volcanic slopes shelter almost 25,000 animals. Observe the interactions of predator and prey; spot colorful birdlife from marabou storks to crowned cranes; and track elephants, rare black rhinos, cheetahs, and more. NGORONGORO SOPA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 6 NGORONGORO CRATER

Return to the crater floor for breakfast and a morning safari. Enjoy an afternoon to relax and watch the sun set over the crater from the lodge. Tonight, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Louise Leakey or Dr. Fidelis Masao, co-director of the Olduvai Landscape Paleoarchaeology Project, joins us for dinner and a discussion about the groundbreaking paleontological finds in the region. (B, L, D)

Above: The dark forms of migrating wildebeests speckle the savanna as far as the eye can see.



A lion positions himself to protect the next generation.



MIGRATION SEASONS IN THE SERENGETI

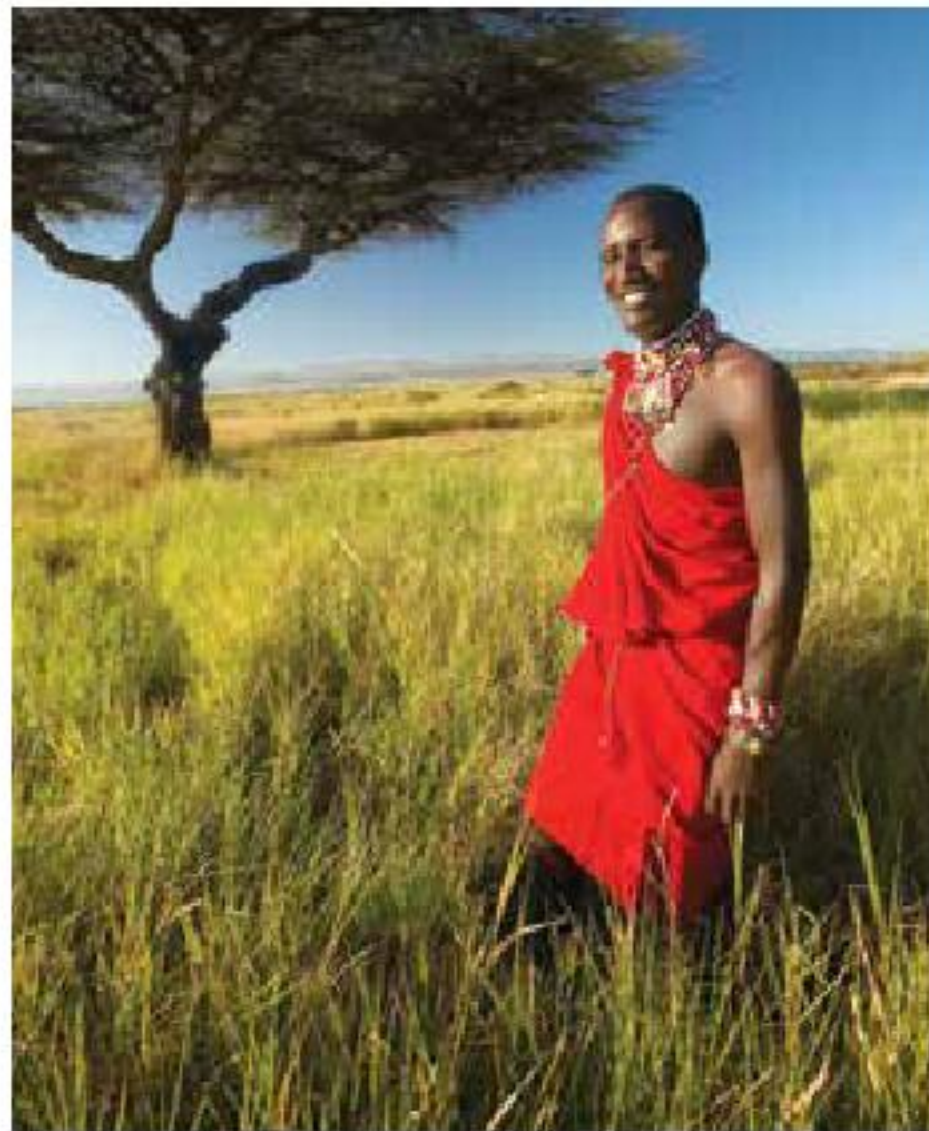
In order to provide travelers with the best opportunity to witness the wildebeest migration, the Serengeti portion of the itinerary differs by season. The itinerary shown describes the July through October departures, when the wildebeests are in the northern Serengeti. On the December through March departures, when the migration moves south, we'll set out for the southeastern border of the Serengeti on Day 7. For the evenings of Days 7, 8, and 9, we'll stay at Lake Masek Tented Camp. Here, we will go on morning and afternoon game drives, and take an off-track safari in the Ndutu area. See our website for details.

DAY 7 OLDUVAI GORGE/SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Drive to the Olduvai Gorge where, on a National Geographic-sponsored expedition in 1960, Louis and Mary Leakey discovered *Homo habilis*, one of the earliest members of the human genus. This morning, Louise, the Leakeys' granddaughter, or Dr. Masao will discuss the family's legacy and ongoing work at Olduvai Gorge. Then take a private tour of the site, or accompany Dr. Masao on a walk through the area where much of his life's research has been conducted. This afternoon, drive to our lodge in the central Serengeti, looking for lions, giraffes, and leopards along the way. SERENGETI SOPA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Rise early for a morning game drive before flying to the northern Serengeti, and with luck, witness the dramatic river crossings of the wildebeest migration. Great herds of wildebeests and zebras eye predators warily as crocodile snouts break the surface of the Mara River. Stay in a luxury tented camp, a member of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World program, and take in the region's spectacular array of wildlife on morning and afternoon game drives. On our last evening, gather for a candlelit farewell dinner in the bush. SAYARI CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)



A beacon of dazzling red, a Maasai tribesman strolls through the grasslands.

DAYS 10 AND 11 SERENGETI/ARUSHA/U.S.

After a final early morning safari, fly back to Arusha. Relax at our hotel before connecting with your evening flight home, arriving the next day. RIVERTREES COUNTRY INN (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 7-17 📷 • Jul. 11-21 • Jul. 25-Aug 4
Aug. 1-11 • Aug. 15-25 📷 • Sep. 5-15
Oct. 3-13 • Dec. 26, 2015-Jan. 5, 2016*
Dec. 29, 2015-Jan. 8, 2016*

2016: Jan. 23-Feb. 2* • Feb. 13-23*
Mar. 5-15 📷*

*The December through March departures follow a slightly modified itinerary to provide travelers with the best opportunity to witness the wildebeest migration. See box at left.

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 111 for details.

Expedition Cost:

2015	\$8,795
2016	\$8,995

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,600 in 2015 and \$2,700 in 2016. On the December departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$750 per person. International airfare to/from Arusha and airfare within Tanzania are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within Tanzania are \$400 to \$700 (subject to change), depending on the departure date.

Optional Extensions:

Add a six-day post-trip extension to track gorillas in Rwanda or a four-day post-trip safari in Tanzania's Ruaha National Park. See our website or call for details.

See our Tanzania Photography Expedition on page 111 and our Tanzania Family Adventure on page 124.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SAFARI BY PRIVATE AIR



SOAR OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA'S SPLENDID LANDSCAPES on an unforgettable journey by private air. Experience some of the world's best wildlife viewing on safari in private reserves away from the crowds. Choose from a variety of activities, from optional flight-seeing at Victoria Falls to canoe safaris and bush walks, and stay at some of southern Africa's top safari camps.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy exclusive wildlife viewing away from the crowds on safari in private game reserves.
- Examine ancient rock art with an archaeologist and see pottery shards and trading beads that date back thousands of years.
- Set out on a wildlife cruise in Botswana's Chobe National Park and watch elephants "snorkeling" in the river.
- Sip sundowners on the classic steam train *Royal Livingstone Express* as it travels through Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Conservationist **Steve Boyes**, a 2013 National Geographic Emerging Explorer, has dedicated his life to preserving Africa's wilderness areas and the species that depend upon them. A native of South Africa, Steve spent more than five years in the Okavango Delta while doing fieldwork for his doctorate in zoology. He currently runs the Cape Parrot Project with support from the Society's Conservation Trust. His work takes him all over Africa, studying wildlife rehabilitation and biodiversity, and planting thousands of trees in forest restoration projects.

STEVE WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's Big Cat Initiative, which supports field research, conservation projects, and education programs to halt the decline of lions, cheetahs, and other big cats.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA/MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

Depart on an overnight flight to Johannesburg. Board our aircraft for a scenic flight to MalaMala Game Reserve, a private reserve in Greater Kruger National Park. The distinctive habitat of the Lowveld region is full of big game, including lions, leopards, and white rhinos. Settle into our luxury safari lodge, situated on the leafy banks of the Sand River, and take your first game drive before our welcome dinner tonight.
MALAMALA MAIN CAMP (D)

DAY 3 MALAMALA GAME RESERVE

Set off on an early morning safari in open vehicles and observe wildlife at one of its most active times with naturalist guides. Enjoy time to relax and take advantage of the camp's amenities before lunch. During our late afternoon game drive, stop for sundowners in the bush. Continue exploring as night falls, searching for nocturnal



A bright carmine bee-eater stands in contrast to the stark stripes of its perch.

predators on the prowl. Gather for dinner around a large campfire in a reed-enclosed *boma*. (B, L, D)

DAYS 4, 5, AND 6 MASHATU GAME RESERVE, BOTSWANA

Our private aircraft flies us directly to Mashatu Game Reserve, an enormous private reserve located in the remote eastern corner of Botswana that comprises a diverse wilderness of savanna, riverine forests, marshlands, open plains, and sandstone outcrops. Take morning and evening game

Above: A vigilant leopard and her cub survey the landscape.

“Going to Africa was a dream of mine, and this trip far surpassed any and all of my expectations.”

It was breathtaking, majestic, and awe-inspiring, and a profound experience. I have returned from Africa not quite the same person as I was before I went.”

Ronnie A., traveler



With the helping hand of an assistant, a photographer captures the magnificence of Victoria Falls.

drives accompanied by expert guides, and choose two of the following activities: go on a bush walk, join a photographer in a hide to capture close-ups of wildlife, take a game drive, or mountain bike along elephant trails. Visit the Motloutse Ruins, a

THE ULTIMATE SAFARI EXPERIENCE



On board our private DC-3, enjoy first-class service as we're whisked from one game reserve to the next. We fly at a low altitude, allowing for rare aerial views of spectacular landscapes and wildlife. On several days, you can tailor the trip to your interests and choose from a variety of activities—including walking safaris, excursions by boat or mountain bike, and a wildlife photo shoot with a professional photographer.

significant archaeological site, in the company of South African archaeologist Grant Hall.

MASHATU MAIN CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)

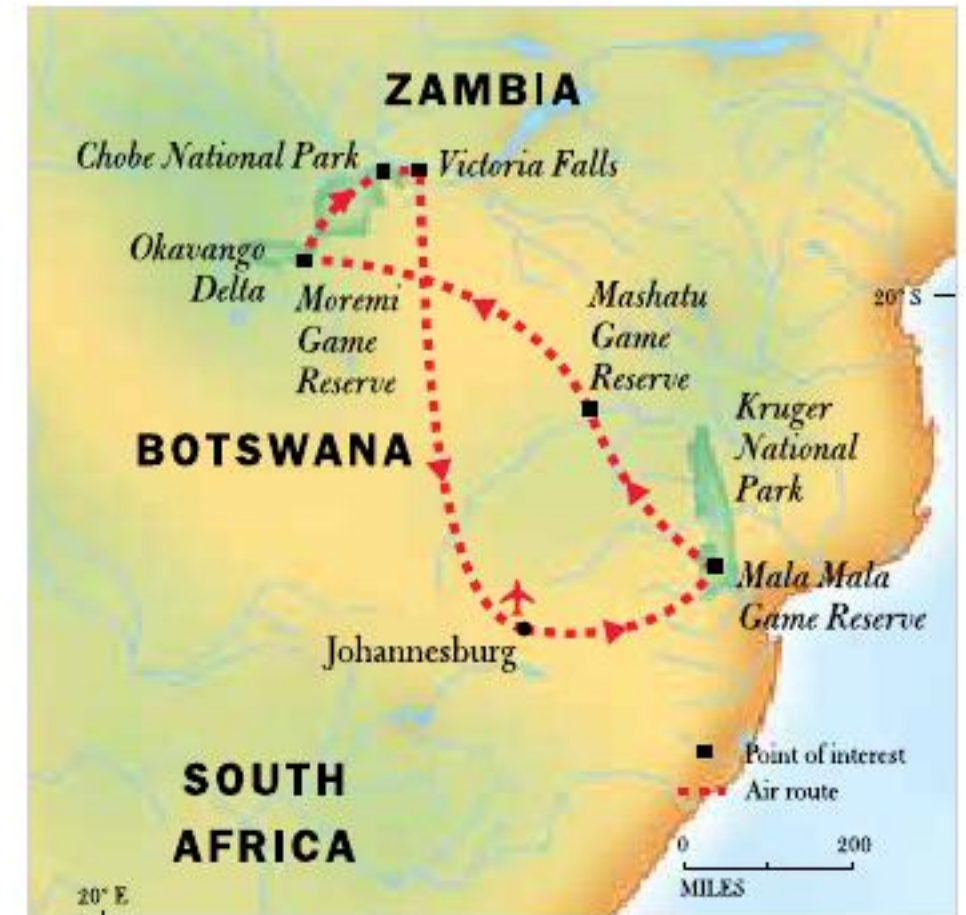
DAYS 7 AND 8 MOREMI GAME RESERVE, OKAVANGO DELTA

Our next flight takes us soaring over the magnificent wetlands of the Okavango Delta to a tented camp in Moremi Game Reserve. Spend two days discovering this untamed habitat by land and water. Explore by open safari vehicle, and take a trip to Gadikwe Island by flat-bottom boat to see hippos and breeding colonies of herons, egrets, pelicans, storks, and cormorants.

XAKANAXA CAMP (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 9 AND 10 CHOBE NATIONAL PARK/ VICTORIA FALLS AND LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Board our aircraft for a flight to Chobe National Park, known for its many elephant families. On a wildlife river cruise, watch for elephants frolicking at the water's edge and using their trunks like snorkels as they swim. Then fly along the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers to Livingstone and check into the luxurious Royal Livingstone Hotel just steps from Victoria Falls. Design your morning according to your interests: visit a local village or the Livingstone Museum, or head into the Maramba



market. Take a canoe safari, or experience the falls from a thrilling perspective on an optional flight-seeing excursion. Explore the falls with a local guide this afternoon, venturing into the mists along suspended walkways. This evening, board the historic *Royal Livingstone Express* steam train for a festive farewell dinner as we travel through Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. ROYAL LIVINGSTONE HOTEL (B, L; B, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA/U.S.

Fly to Johannesburg and connect with your return flight home, arriving the next day. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jul. 11–22 • Aug. 23–Sep. 3 • Sep. 20–Oct. 1
Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 6, 2016

Expedition Cost:

\$15,450

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,050. All flights within Africa are included in the expedition cost. Transportation within Africa is by DC-3 (minimum of 16 guests) or by small private aircraft (if there are fewer than 16 guests). International airfare to/from Johannesburg is not included in the expedition cost.

About Our Accommodations:

MalaMala Main Camp and Mashatu Main Camp are luxury safari lodges; Xakanaxa Camp is a luxury tented camp; the Royal Livingstone Hotel is a five-star hotel.

Optional Cape Town Extension:

Add a four-day extension in Cape Town. Visit our website or call for details.

ON SAFARI: AFRICA'S BIG CATS



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend two days exploring Zambia's wildlife-rich Luangwa Valley with the head of the Zambian Carnivore Programme.
- Go on safari with a researcher from the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Carnivore Conservation Programme and learn about cheetah conservation in South Africa.
- Track everything from the "big five" to wild dogs, jackals, and wildebeests during two days in Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve.
- Experience the majesty and power of Victoria Falls on clifftop walks in the spray of the thundering waters.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

Fly overnight to Lusaka, Zambia's capital, and transfer to our hotel upon arrival. INTERCONTINENTAL LUSAKA HOTEL (B)

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 MFUWE/SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK

Fly to Mfuwe and journey to South Luangwa National Park. On morning and sunset game drives, look for lions, leopards, elephants, impalas, hippos, giraffes, and more. The CEO of the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP), a National Geographic Big Cats Initiative (BCI) grantee, accompanies us on game drives and talks about conservation. Track lion prides by radio collar with members of the ZCP research team. Visit a village school and meet scientists at the South Luangwa

Above: A lion cub finds a nook for nuzzling while another cub looks on.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Wildlife biologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer **Luke Dollar** began his career in conservation in Madagascar in 1994, conducting research on the island's top predator, the fossa—a catlike nocturnal carnivore. An assistant professor at Pfeiffer University, Luke has worked to promote conservation and sustainable development in Madagascar and now works to protect large cats worldwide as manager of the Society's Big Cats Initiative.

LUKE WILL ACCOMPANY THE JUNE AND JULY DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

Conservation Society. Attend a performance by Seka Theatre, a local troupe. MFUWE LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 6 MFUWE/LIVINGSTONE

Fly to Livingstone and take a walking tour of Victoria Falls, known locally as the "smoke that thunders." These breathtaking falls span more than a mile and tumble into narrow Batoka Gorge. Cross Knife-edge Bridge for incredible views and hike through the mist-fed rain forest to Danger Point. ROYAL LIVINGSTONE HOTEL (B)

DAY 7 AND 8 LIVINGSTONE/KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA

Fly to South Africa and travel to Kapama Private Game Reserve, home to an enormous variety of species, including all of Africa's "big five." Join Kelly Marnewick, a BCI grantee, or one of her colleagues from the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Carnivore Conservation Programme, on safari today; and learn about their work protecting South Africa's cheetahs. Visit the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre or go on a walking safari in Kapama. KAPAMA RIVER LODGE (B, D; B, L, D)

DAYS 9–12 KAPAMA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE/SABI SAND PRIVATE GAME RESERVE/U.S.

Travel to the Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve, which shares an unfenced border with world-renowned Kruger National Park. Settle into your private bungalow within the reserve. On morning and afternoon safaris, search for lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, giraffes, zebras, and a wide variety of birdlife. Venture into the bush at dawn to observe rhinos, wild dogs, blue wildebeests, and jackals. At the lodge, watch wildlife from the terrace or go on a bush walk with local rangers. Sip a sundowner cocktail as the sun hits



the horizon, and spot wildlife after dark. Toast Africa's big cats at a farewell dinner. Fly to Johannesburg and then home. SABI SABI BUSH LODGE (B, L, D DAILY; DAY 12: B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:
2015: Jun. 27–Jul. 8 • Jul. 18–29 • Aug. 13–24
Nov. 10–21

Expedition Cost: **\$8,995**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,500. International airfare to Lusaka and return from Johannesburg and airfare within Africa are not included in the expedition cost. Group flights within Africa (Lusaka/Mfuwe/Livingstone/Kruger/Johannesburg) are \$1,900 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day extension to South Africa's Phinda Private Game Reserve, renowned for its resident cheetah population and opportunities to snorkel in the Indian Ocean. Visit our website or call for details.

About our Accommodations:

Mfuwe Lodge, Kapama River Lodge, and Sabi Sabi Bush Lodge are luxury safari lodges. Our accommodations in Lusaka and Livingstone are five-star hotels.

THE GREAT APES OF UGANDA AND RWANDA



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend two days tracking chimpanzees, two days tracking gorillas, and one day tracking endangered golden monkeys.
- Watch the antics of chimpanzees up close at a sanctuary established in association with the Jane Goodall Institute.
- Go on safari and take a wildlife cruise in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- Meet with scientists at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund's Karisoke Research Center.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./ENTEBBE, UGANDA/NGAMBA ISLAND

Depart on an overnight flight to Uganda and transfer to our hotel. Visit the Chimpanzee Sanctuary on Ngamba Island, established in association with the Jane Goodall Institute as a habitat for rescued and orphaned chimpanzees. Later, explore the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre. LAKE VICTORIA SERENA RESORT (DAY 3: B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

Stop in Fort Portal en route to Kibale National Park, and check into our lodge set on a crater lake. Search for chimpanzees, black-and-white colobus, red-tailed and blue monkeys, and the rare l'Hoest's

Above: This endangered mountain gorilla is one of about 880 that remain in the wilds of central Africa.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Primatologist **Janette Wallis** coordinated the chimpanzee research at Tanzania's Gombe Stream Research Centre, and has been a collaborating scientist with the Budongo Forest

Project—both National Geographic-funded programs. She currently directs the Kasokwa Forest Project in Uganda. Janette is a vice president of the International Primatological Society and editor-in-chief of the journal *African Primates*. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma, where she teaches wildlife conservation courses.

JANETTE WILL ACCOMPANY THE JULY 7 AND AUGUST 18 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

monkey. Explore the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary. KYANINGA LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 6 AND 7 KIBALE NATIONAL PARK/QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Spend a second morning tracking chimpanzees. Stop at the Equator on our way to Queen Elizabeth National Park, and go on safari to look for elephants, lions, and Ugandan kobs. Enjoy an afternoon wildlife cruise.

MWEYA SAFARI LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 8 AND 9 QUEEN ELIZABETH N.P./BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

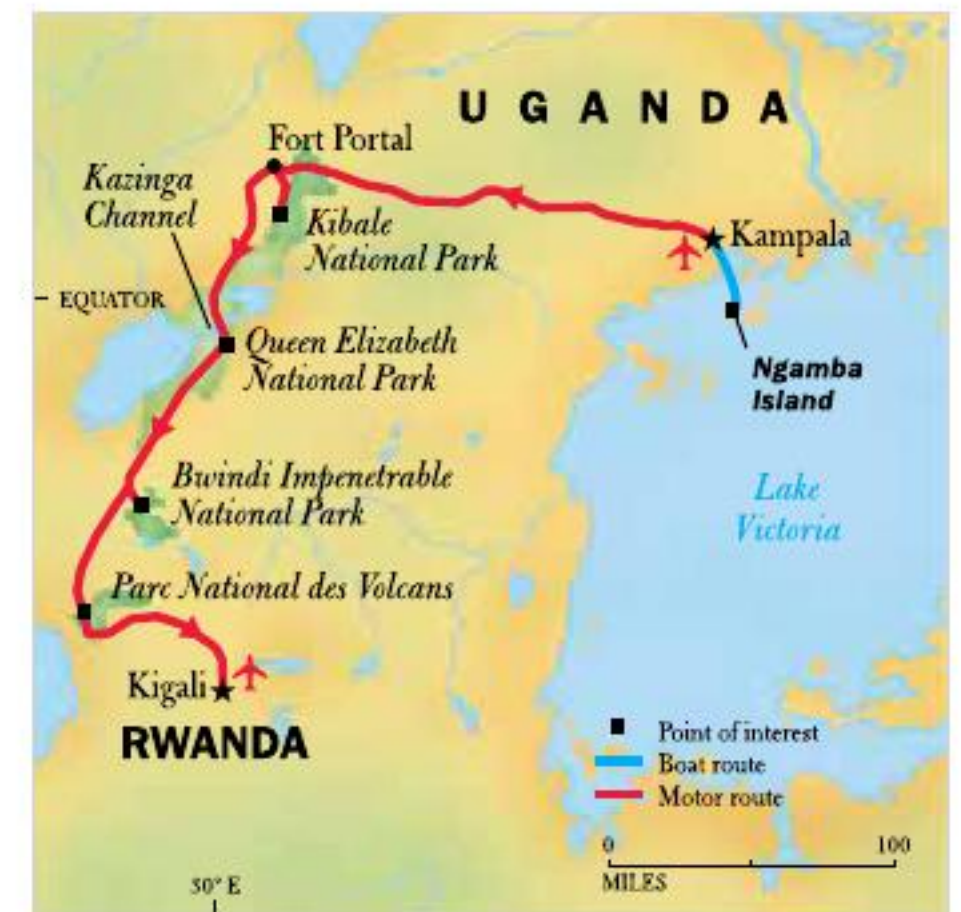
Travel to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The next morning, head into the park's forests, home to roughly half of the world's remaining mountain gorillas. Sit among these gentle giants, observing one of the planet's most endangered creatures from an up-close perspective. BWINDI LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, RWANDA

Settle into your private villa overlooking the surrounding volcanoes and lakes. Meet experts at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund's Karisoke Research Center to learn about ongoing conservation efforts. Spend the next day tracking mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park, where National Geographic grantee Dian Fossey conducted research on gorillas for 18 years. VIRUNGA LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12 AND 13 VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK/KIGALI/U.S.

Search for endangered golden monkeys in the park. After lunch, visit a local school and watch a traditional dance performance. Then transfer to the airport for your flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jul. 7–19 • Jul. 20–Aug. 1 • Aug. 18–30
Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 7, 2016

Expedition Cost:

\$11,995

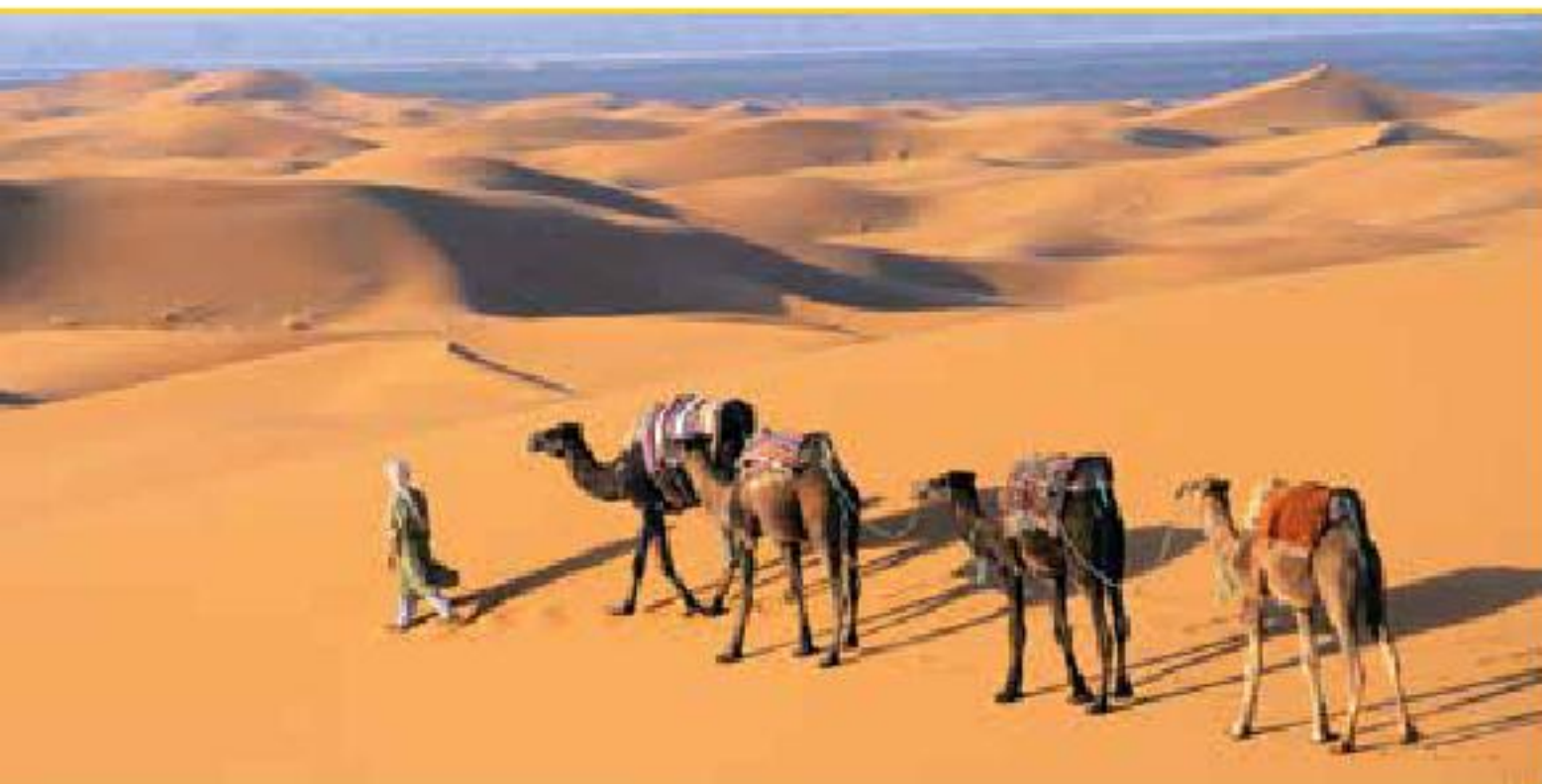
Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,500. All primate-tracking permits are included in the expedition cost. International airfare to Entebbe and return from Kigali is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

This is an active expedition with moderate to strenuous hikes. Participants must be at least 15 years old, and should be physically fit. Each departure is limited to 16 travelers. While tracking primates, guests will trek through thick jungle at elevations ranging up to 10,000 feet, for as many as eight hours. The terrain can be steep, uneven, wet, and muddy. This trip is not suitable for those who suffer from a cardiac, respiratory, or circulatory disorder or a disability that limits mobility.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

MOROCCAN ODYSSEY



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the Roman ruins of Volubilis and the ancient adobe village of Aït Benhaddou, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Ride a camel at sunset from a tented camp nestled among the sculpted dunes, and watch the sun rise over the Sahara.
- Wander the labyrinthine streets of the medina in Marrakech, and observe artisans plying their timeless crafts in the workshops of Fez.
- Venture into rose-colored kasbahs, and learn about Berber culture while sipping mint tea in a traditional mountain village.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

Depart on an overnight flight to Casablanca. Visit the extraordinary Hassan II Mosque and stroll through the Habous district and the mechouar. Gather for a welcome dinner. SOFITEL CASABLANCA TOUR BLANCHE (L, D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 MARRAKECH

Spend two days exploring Marrakech, Morocco's legendary "pearl of the South." Visit the Koutoubia Mosque, the Saadian Tombs, and Bahia Palace. Soak up the colorful sights of the medina and Djemma el Fna Square. Stroll through Majorelle Garden, and discover the 14th-century Ben Youssef Madrasa and the Museum of Marrakech. SOFITEL MARRAKECH LOUNGE AND SPA (B, L, D; B, L)

Above: A herder leads his caravan of camels across the undulating dunes.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geographer **David Scott Silverberg** is a National Geographic grantee who has worked throughout North Africa and the Middle East since 1989. In Morocco, he has participated in mapping projects and studied the history of exploration by Moroccan adventurers. A fellow of the Explorers Club, the Royal African Society, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Royal Asia Society, David is currently working on a book on the Atlas-Sahara transition.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL AND OCTOBER 2 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAY 5 TELOUET/AÏT BENHADDOU/OUARZAZATE

Cross the High Atlas Mountains over the Tichka Pass, and travel by 4x4 to the Kasbah of Telouet. After lunch, explore the ancient fortified village of Aït Benhaddou. Continue to Ouarzazate, where films like *Gladiator* and *Lawrence of Arabia* were shot. LE BERBÈRE PALACE (B, L, D)

DAY 6 OUARZAZATE/BOUMALNE DADES

Learn about traditional adobe architecture in Taourirt Kasbah. Then set out on the fabled Road of 1,000 Kasbahs, arriving in Boumalne Dades. Hike in the dramatic Dades Gorge and visit nearby villages. XALUCA DADES (B, L, D)

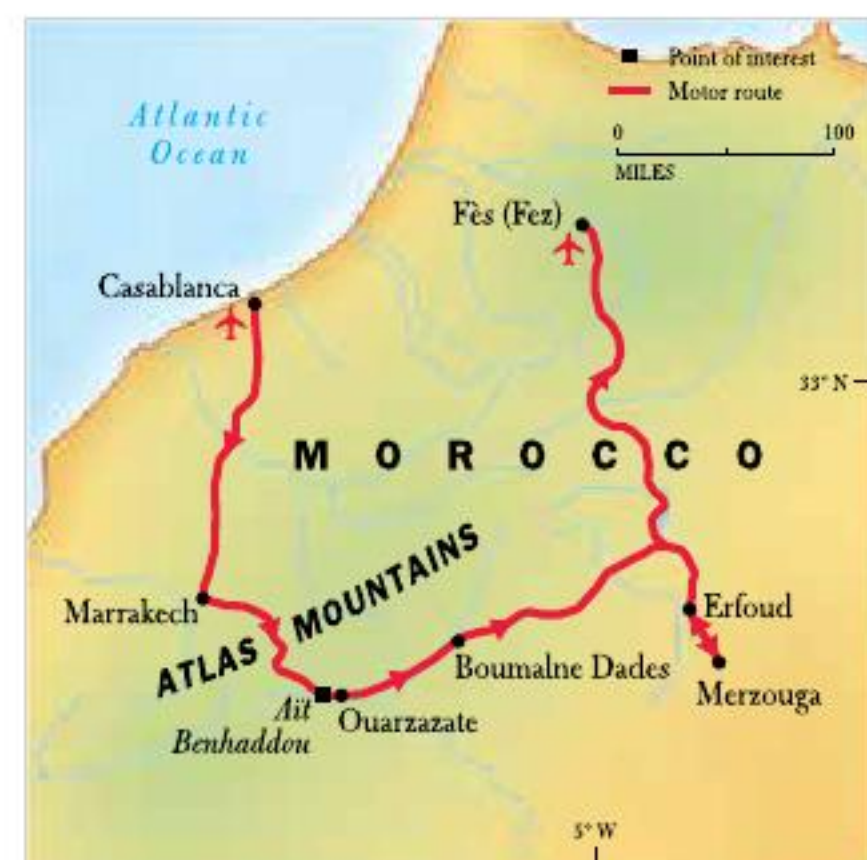
DAY 7 ERFOUD/RISSANI/MERZOUGA

Follow the Road of 1,000 Kasbahs to Erfoud, and climb into 4x4s for the drive into the desert. After visiting the suq in Rissani, ride into the dunes on a camel to watch the sun set on the Sahara. Return to our Berber tented camp to dine under the stars accompanied by Berber folk music. BIVOUAC TENTED BERBER CAMP (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 MERZOUGA/FEZ

After a sunrise walk, head north into the high-mountain plains on your way to Fez. Our home for the next three nights is the legendary Palais Jamai. The next day, visit the Royal Palace and Fes Jdid, home to the historic Jewish Quarter, and delve into the lively medina. Visit the 14th-century Bou Inania Madrasa, the exquisite Nejjarine Fountain, and the Kairaouine Mosque. PALAIS JAMAI (B, L, D; B, L)

DAYS 10 AND 11 FEZ/VOLUBILIS & MEKNES/U.S. Explore Fez on your own or venture to the Roman ruins of Volubilis and the 17th-century capital of



Meknes. Enjoy a farewell dinner and belly-dancing performance, and transfer to the airport for your return flight the next day. (B, D; B)

See our Morocco Photography Expedition on page 111.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 20–30 • Apr. 17–27 • May 22–Jun. 1
Oct. 2–12 • Oct. 16–26 • Oct. 30–Nov. 9

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 111 for details.

Expedition Cost: **\$5,995**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,395. International airfare to Casablanca and return from Fez is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

Our hotels are first-class, well-located properties that reflect the character of each region. In Marrakech, Ouarzazate, and Fez, each hotel has a lovely pool and stunning tropical gardens. Our desert camp in Merzouga features Berber-style tents with en suite bathrooms and generator-powered electricity.

ETHIOPIA: THE OMO VALLEY AND LALIBELA



ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA/ARBA MINCH

Arrive in Addis Ababa after an overnight flight. The next day, visit the National Museum of Ethiopia and fly south to Arba Minch. Check into our cliff-top *tukuls* (thatched huts) overlooking Lake Abaya and Lake Chamo. RADISSON BLU/PARADISE LODGE (D; B, L, D)

DAY 4 ARBA MINCH/JINKA

Spot wildlife on a morning lake cruise. Then travel through ever-changing landscapes to Jinka and visit its ethnographic museum. ECO OMO SAFARI LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 5 THE OMO VALLEY/JINKA

For millennia, the Omo Valley has been inhabited by ethnic groups with distinctive cultural identi-

Above: Sunset silhouettes Kara families in the Omo Valley.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geographer, conservationist, and explorer **David Scott Silverberg** has been working in the Ethiopian Highlands for many years. He researches and teaches on the geologic development, biological evolution, and community-based conservation challenges of the Omo Valley and Simien Mountains. A National Geographic grantee and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and Royal African Society, David has worked on community-based protected-area projects on six continents.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE MARCH DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ties. Meet the Mursi, a pastoralist society known for the lip plates worn by the women. Back in Jinka, visit Omo Child, a nonprofit organization co-founded by National Geographic Emerging Explorer Lale Labuko, a native of the Omo Valley, to halt the practice of *mingi*, a superstition that dictates the killing of “cursed” children. (B, L, D)

DAYS 6, 7, AND 8 OMO VALLEY/TURMI

Meet the Hamar people, who fashion their clothing out of goat skins, cowrie shells, and beads; and visit the farming communities of the Kara. Talk with villagers who have ended the practice of *mingi* killing as a result of Omo Child’s efforts. Cross the Omo River to meet the Daasanach people. BUSKA LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 9 AND 10 TURMI/KONSO/ADDIS ABABA

Journey north to the region of the Konso people, where we meet the Konso ritual chief and explore villages fortified with concentric stone walls. Drive to Arba Minch the next day and fly to Addis Ababa. KANTA LODGE/RADISSON BLU (B, L, D; B, L)

DAYS 11 AND 12 LALIBELA

Fly north to Lalibela, home to eleven rock-hewn churches that date from the 12th century. Explore the tunnels and trenches that link the churches, and examine murals and carvings. Then venture to the stone cave church of Yemrehane Kristos. TUKUL VILLAGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 13 AND 14 ADDIS ABABA/U.S.

Return to Addis Ababa and enjoy time to explore. Transfer to the airport for your evening flight, arriving home the next day. RADISSON BLU (B, L)

See our Ethiopia Photography Expedition on page 111.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience an incredible range of ethnic traditions in the Omo Valley and Konso.
- Explore the incredible rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage site, carved below ground out of granite.
- Visit Omo Child, co-founded by National Geographic Emerging Explorer Lale Labuko to rescue “cursed” children.
- Examine early human fossils on a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Museum of Ethiopia.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Sep. 17–30 • Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 9, 2016

2016: Jan. 8–21 • Mar. 7–20

Apr. 19–May 2

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 111 for details.

Each departure follows a similar itinerary to the one shown but includes a different festival or celebration (except for March). Visit our website for detailed itineraries.

Expedition Cost (Sep. 2015–Apr. 2016): \$7,995

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,795. International airfare to/from Addis Ababa and airfare within Ethiopia are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within Ethiopia are \$695 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

While tourism is growing steadily, Ethiopia’s infrastructure is still developing. See our website for more information and accommodation descriptions.

Optional Extension:

Add a five-day post-trip extension to Lake Tana, Gonder, and the Simien Mountains. Visit our website or call for details.

RESERVE ONLINE AT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM

TRAVELING THE SANDS OF TIME: new OMAN TO DUBAI



DISCOVER THE ANCIENT ROOTS OF ARABIA IN OMAN, a country where Bedouin culture blends with the vibrant legacy of Indian Ocean trade routes. Delve into spice bazaars, explore wild canyons and desert oases, and learn about Oman's unique form of Islam. Then cross the sands to glitzy Dubai, taking a wildlife safari in the dunes and visiting conservation projects along the way.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit sites excavated by National Geographic grantees: the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bat, the fishing village of Qantab, and the rock art of Tanuf.
- Explore two of the Middle East's most magnificent mosques and learn about Oman's moderate Islamic sect.
- Discover ancient, fortified oasis towns in the sands of the Arabian Peninsula.
- In Dubai, ride to the top of the world's tallest building for views across the Persian Gulf.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Jeffrey Rose is a trailblazing archaeologist and paleoanthropologist named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2012, and currently a research scholar at the Ronin

Institute. Jeff has been working in Oman since 2002, studying the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras on the Arabian Peninsula and helping shape new theories about who early humans were, when they may have exited Africa, and what route they took. Jeff's passion for the past extends beyond fieldwork to how science can be shared with the public. "You can't put into words how unique the landscape here is. Arabia feels like this romantic lost world filled with mysterious ruins; it's a living museum of artifacts. Everyone on Earth had ancestors who passed through this place; why wouldn't you want to show it to people?"

JEFF WILL ACCOMPANY THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015 AND THE FEBRUARY 2016 DEPARTURES. READ OUR INTERVIEW WITH HIM ON PAGE 7. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE OTHER DEPARTURE.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./MUSCAT, OMAN

Depart on an overnight flight to Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. Check into our stunning hotel overlooking the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Oman. **AL BUSTAN PALACE**

DAY 3 MUSCAT

Learn about Ibadism, Oman's main Islamic sect, and its doctrine of tolerance at the stunning Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, paved with marble and made of Indian sandstone. Stroll through the Oman Botanic Garden, and take in views of the sultan's opulent official residence, Al Alam Palace. Wander the labyrinthine alleyways of the Muttrah Souq, an Arabian bazaar filled with exotic spices, perfumes, and handicrafts. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 WADI SHAB/QANTAB

Explore the natural wonders of Oman traveling the old coast road by 4x4. Visit the turquoise Bimmah sinkhole, then hike to the stunning Wadi Shab, a cliff-walled canyon with deep pools for swimming.

Or take a scenic drive followed by a beach walk and picnic overlooking the waters of the Gulf of Oman. In the fishing village of Qantab, see the boatyard featured in National Geographic's documentary *Sailing the Treasure Ship*, and meet with archaeologists reconstructing medieval Arab boats that transported goods from Africa to Singapore. This evening, enjoy a fresh catch from local fishermen at dinner in a restored village house. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 BIRKAT AL MAWZ/JABAL AL AKHDAR

Meet Omani farmers to learn about agriculture in the palm tree oasis of Birkat al Mawz and walk through a traditional falaj irrigation field. This type of irrigation system has been in use here for some 1,500 years and was recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Uncover the mysteries of Jabal al Akhdar, a mountain range named for its lush green terraced fields. At the abandoned mud-brick village of Tanuf, nestled between towering canyon walls covered in Bronze and Iron Age rock art, hear the dramatic story of how this water-rich site was depopulated. Visit the 17th-century fortress and museum in Nizwa. **FALAJ DARIS HOTEL** (B, L, D)

Above: More than 80 marble-clad domes crown Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, and one of the largest marble mosaics in the world fills its vast courtyard.



The elegant coloration of a pair of Arabian oryxes stands out against the sandy swells of the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve.

DAY 6 BAHLA/BAT

Visit Oman's largest fortress, Bahla Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site famed for its pottery and once believed to be a center of magic and sorcery. Then head to another World Heritage site: the Al Ayn tombs and the prehistoric settlements, towers, and tombs of Bat. National Geographic archaeologist Christopher Thornton is co-director of the Bat Archaeological Project, an excavation supported by the Society. One of Chris's colleagues will take us on an insider's tour of the site. Learn about the Bronze Age Umm an-Nar culture, whose production of copper and long distance trade with India and Mesopotamia helped develop the Arabian Peninsula. This afternoon, cross the border into the United Arab Emirates and stay in the gateway city of Al Ain. HILI RAYHAAN BY ROTANA (B, D)

DAY 7 AL AYN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Explore Al Ayn, an oasis city in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Visit the Al Ayn National Museum to discover the history of this important stop on the caravan routes. Join a local expert for a discussion on the challenges of regional development, from

rapid industrialization to an influx of foreign workers. Continue to the stunning Al-Maha Desert Resort, recipient of a 2004 World Legacy Award from National Geographic and Conservation International. The resort is inside the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, home to many desert species: gazelles, foxes, and lizards; as well as a few hundred rare Arabian oryx, declared extinct in the wild in the 1970s. Take an evening 4x4 safari through the dunes in search of wildlife.

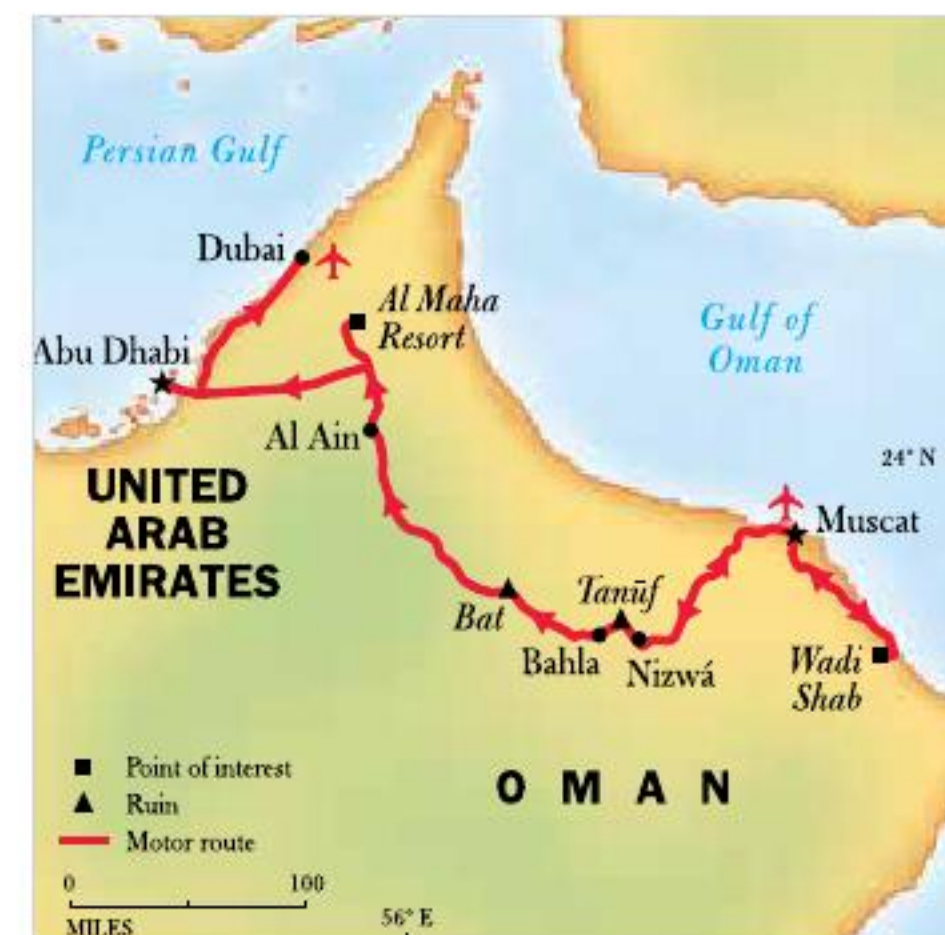
AL-MAHA DESERT RESORT (B, D)

DAY 8 AL AYN

Rise early for a traditional falconry demonstration and a guided walk through the reserve. Photograph the animals as they roam freely and hear about efforts to conserve their habitat. In the afternoon, choose between several options, including a ride on an Arabian horse or a camel trek through the desert. Learn about the Bedouin nomads who have traversed the desert for thousands of years. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 ABU DHABI

Drive to the capital city, Abu Dhabi, and learn



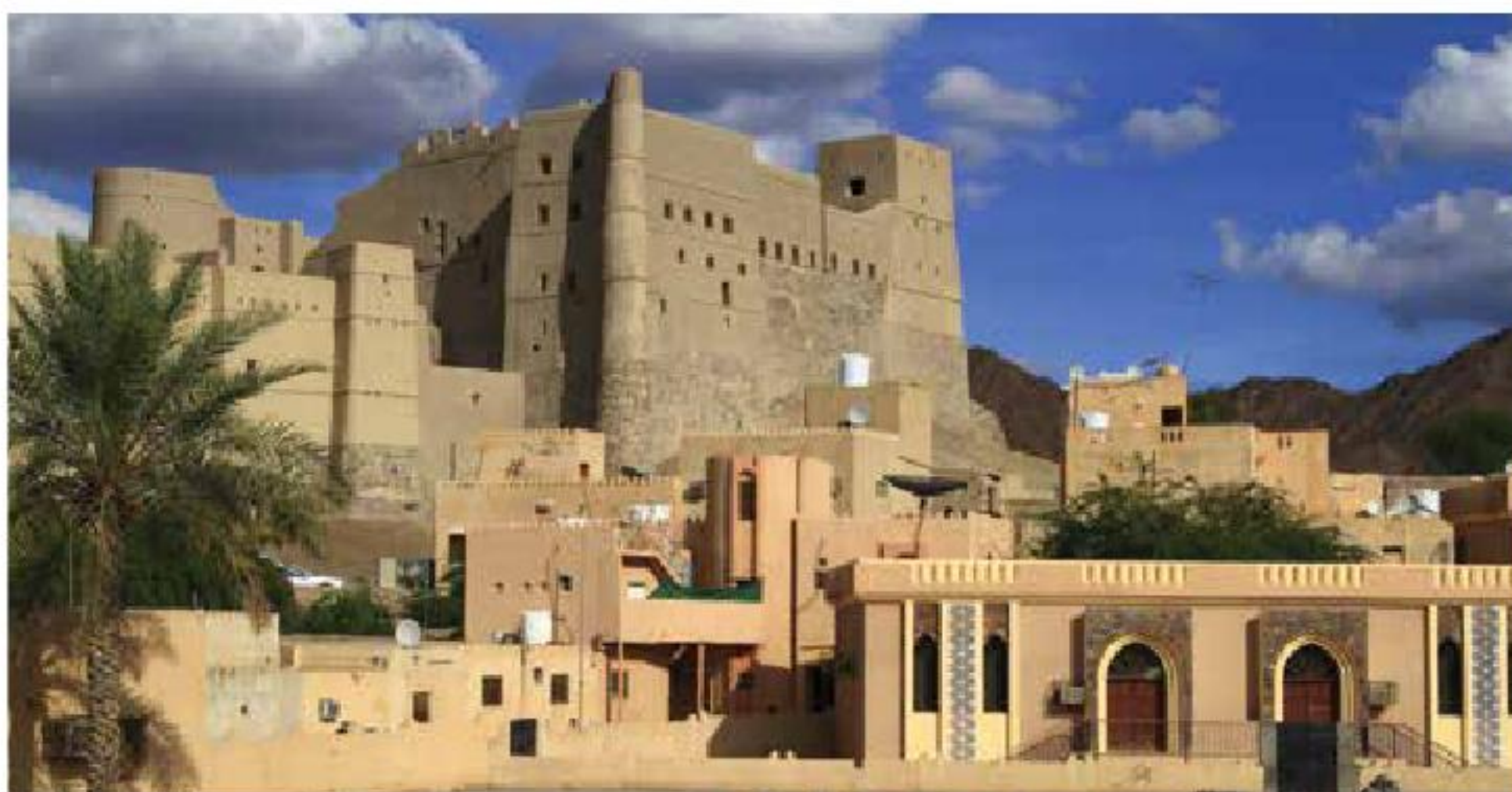
about the historic pearling industry aboard a traditional dhow used by pearl divers working in the Persian Gulf. Meet a coral reef conservationist and discuss work funded by National Geographic to study the effects of climate change on coral reef health. Visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, among the grandest in the Middle East, with a capacity for 41,000 worshippers, and gain insight into the religious traditions of the UAE. Continue to Dubai, one of the world's most extravagant cities. JUMEIRAH AL QASR (B)

DAY 10 DUBAI

Wander through the narrow lanes of Dubai's historic Bastakiya quarter, founded by merchants in the 19th century. Explore a Hindu temple complex and market, and discuss the medieval Indian-Arab trade routes and cultural exchange. Visit the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project, then head to the top of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, home to a massive mall containing the first indoor ski resort in the Middle East. Tonight, gather for our farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 11 DUBAI/U.S.

Transfer to the airport this morning for your return flight home. (B)



Oman's massive, mud-walled Bahla Fortress rises above its fortified oasis settlement, a magnificent example of defensive architecture in medieval Arabia.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Oct. 1-11 • Nov. 5-15

2016: Jan. 14-24 • Feb. 12-22

Expedition Cost:

\$5,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,600. International airfare to Muscat and return from Dubai is not included in the expedition cost.

THE HOLY LAND: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE HOLY LAND on an expedition inspired by the peace-building efforts of National Geographic Emerging Explorer Aziz Abu Sarah. Explore the City of David and Masada, glide across the Sea of Galilee, and discover Jerusalem through the eyes of Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Hear a broad spectrum of narratives on this program designed in partnership by Israelis and Palestinians, Arabs and Jews.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet artists and politicians, settlers and refugees, imams and rabbis.
- Explore the archaeological site of Caesarea Maritima with National Geographic Emerging Explorer Beverly Goodman.
- Enjoy a unique dual narrative provided by the Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders who accompany the entire expedition.
- Visit the Yad Vashem Memorial and hear a firsthand account from a Holocaust survivor.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



National Geographic Emerging Explorer **Aziz Abu Sarah** is a cultural educator who has dedicated his life to bringing Israelis and Palestinians together to

build understanding and forge lasting relationships. He has spoken on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, peace, reconciliation, and interfaith dialogue before the European Parliament and the United Nations, and at many universities.



Author **Yuval Ben-Ami** writes for the Hebrew edition of *National Geographic* magazine and has published two travel books about Israel. His work in conflict resolution began

in 2000 at Jerusalem's Youth Center of World Cultures, and he has since mediated, lectured, and trained in a number of forums.

AZIZ WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL AND BOTH OCTOBER DEPARTURES; YUVAL WILL JOIN ALL OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./TEL AVIV, ISRAEL/ JERUSALEM

Take an overnight flight to Tel Aviv, and transfer to Jerusalem. Relax at the hotel before our reception and welcome dinner tonight. AMERICAN COLONY HOTEL (D)

DAY 3 JERUSALEM

Begin the day on the Temple Mount, capped by the shining cupola of the Dome of the Rock. Meet an imam from the Al-Aqsa Mosque, who will explain this holy site's importance to Muslims. Then visit the Western Wall with a rabbi, touch the ancient stones, and learn about the significance of this sacred place. A local pastor then joins us at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, home to six Christian sects and, according to tradition, the tomb of Jesus. In the afternoon, ascend to the top of the Mount of Olives and take in a panoramic view of the domes, spires, and golden stones of Jerusalem's Old City. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 JERUSALEM

Just outside the Old City walls lies the City of David, thought to be the original capital city established by King David some 3,000 years ago. Venture into the archaeological site and meet with its Israeli administrators, and later with residents of the nearby Palestinian neighborhood who oppose the excavations. Later, get an insider's perspective on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict with an Israeli politician. Then travel to Ramallah, where we are granted rare access to the offices of the Palestinian Authority to hear from a high-ranking politician. (B, L)

DAY 5 JERUSALEM

Today, trace the turbulent history of the birth of the state of Israel. At Yad Vashem, Israel's moving memorial to the Holocaust, meet with a Holocaust survivor for a personal glimpse into one of history's darkest moments. Then travel to Ein Kerem, where Christian tradition says John the Baptist was born. An Israeli and a Palestinian guide will each tell their divergent narrative of the village's role in Israel's 1948 War of Independence. Enjoy time to explore Jerusalem on your own.

Above: Two of the most sacred sites in the Holy Land, the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall, shimmer as evening descends on Old Jerusalem.



Masada, the multi-tiered fortress and palace built by Herod the Great, towers above the Judean desert.

Tonight, gather for a discussion with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists from the Bereaved Families Forum. (B, D)

DAY 6 BETHLEHEM AND THE WEST BANK

Travel to the Gush Etzion settlement bloc to hear the viewpoints of Israeli settlers. Continue to Bethlehem and meet with the mayor to learn about the city's shrinking Christian population. Stop by Manger Square and, at the Church of the Nativity, descend into the cave revered by many as the birthplace of Jesus. Walk through a nearby Palestinian refugee camp, and learn how murals and graffiti have been used to depict the refugees' struggles. Our final stop is Herodion, a volcano-shaped hill and fortress built by Herod the Great. Over dinner, take in a musical performance by a group of Israeli and Palestinian musicians. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 JERUSALEM/JERICO/DEAD SEA

This morning, meet with an environmentalist from Friends of the Earth Middle East whose efforts to foster Arab-Jewish cooperation through environmental stewardship were featured in the special



Traced by his shadow, a Hasidic Jew prays at the Western Wall.

April 2010 "Water" issue of *National Geographic* magazine. View the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum, and then drive down through the Judean Desert to Jericho to visit the archaeological site of Tel Jericho. This afternoon, continue to our hotel located in the Ein Gedi kibbutz on the shores of the Dead Sea. Learn about the kibbutz movement before enjoying time on your own to float in the Dead Sea, wander through the hotel's botanical garden, or enjoy an optional spa treatment. EIN GEDI BOUTIQUE HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 8 THE JORDAN RIVER VALLEY/TIBERIAS

Soar up the flank of Masada in a gondola and explore King Herod's 2,000-year-old mountaintop refuge. Then follow the Jordan Valley north to the Roman city of Bet She'an to see its remarkably preserved amphitheater, baths, and column-lined streets. Along the way, stop to dip your feet in the Jordan River, where Christian pilgrims come to be baptized. THE SCOTS HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 9 GALILEE

Visit Caesarea Philippi, a center of worship from the Hellenic age to the early Christian era. Explore the area as you wish this afternoon: follow a scenic trail to the Baniyas waterfall or enjoy a short hike through the Tel Dan Nature Reserve to the ancient city of Dan. Take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee from Tiberias to Capernaum, where Jesus lived and preached, and many apostles, including Peter, made their home. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 NAZARETH/JAFFA/TEL AVIV

Hear the perspective of an Israeli Arab Christian on the way to Nazareth, where we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, one of the largest churches in the Middle East. On an excursion to the moun-



taintop village of Beit Jann, discover the secretive traditions of the Druze, and enjoy lunch with a Druze family in their home. Travel towards the Mediterranean coast this afternoon, and explore picturesque Jaffa, a strategic port town dating back to the Bronze Age. The bustling city of Tel Aviv is our home for tonight. Enjoy dinner here on your own. DAN TEL AVIV HOTEL (B, L)

DAYS 11 AND 12 CAESAREA MARITIMA/TEL AVIV/U.S.

Follow the coast north to Caesarea Maritima, Herod's harbor city, and visit the ruins with geo-archaeologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer Beverly Goodman. Then enjoy a free afternoon in Tel Aviv before gathering for a farewell reception and dinner. After breakfast the next morning, transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 20–31 • Apr. 24–May 5 • May 8–19
May 22–Jun. 2 • Oct. 9–20 • Oct. 23–Nov. 3
Nov. 6–17 • Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 6, 2016

Expedition Cost:

\$5,895

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,895. International airfare to/from Tel Aviv is not included in the expedition cost.

Please note: A State Department travel warning for Israel is currently in effect (<http://travel.state.gov>). We expect to operate this trip as planned, but will continue to closely monitor events in the region, and will alter the itinerary if necessary.

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day extension to Petra, Jordan. Visit our website or call for details.

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF INDONESIA AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC ABOARD THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION



THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION, THE NEWEST SHIP IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC-LINDBLAD FLEET,

explores some of the planet's most pristine marine habitats in 2015, heading to the idyllic isles of the South Pacific and Indonesia on four unique voyages. A state-of-the-art expedition vessel, the *National Geographic Orion* accommodates 102 guests in 53 cabins with ocean views. The ship is outfitted for snorkelers and divers,* and each voyage is packed with opportunities to discover both marine and terrestrial wonders, whether it's clouds of shimmering fish in Fiji or the endangered orangutans of Borneo. Accompanying each trip is a dynamic expedition team, including naturalists, an undersea specialist, divemasters, and a National Geographic photographer.

From the dazzling coral reefs of Raja Ampat to the exuberant traditions of French Polynesia, we invite you to encounter an astonishing spectrum of wildlife and cultures while enjoying the world-class amenities and exploration tools of a modern expedition ship.

ALL TRIPS ON THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION ARE OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

*Please see scuba diving requirements on page 129.



This page: The *National Geographic Orion* is the ideal size for navigating small harbors in the South Pacific and Indonesia.

Opposite page, top to bottom: A wet baby orangutan clings to its mother after a rainstorm; a palm stretches toward the inviting waters of Fiji; a diver examines the colorful sea life of the Pacific; Easter Island's famous *moai* statues are shrouded in mystery.

ITINERARY | 20 DAYS



SINGAPORE TO RAJA AMPAT: EXOTIC INDONESIA **new**

2015: Sept. 7–25 from \$16,340

Sail from Singapore to Indonesian Borneo and into the heart of the Coral Triangle, experiencing extraordinary marine biodiversity and a rich tapestry of cultures. Spot rare Komodo dragons in the wild, discover a magical world of coral and tropical fish while exploring the archipelago of Raja Ampat, and observe Borneo's orangutans with a National Geographic grantee.

- Snorkel and dive the reefs of Raja Ampat, the Badas Islands, and the Banda Islands.
- Meet Dr. Biruté Galdikas to learn about her seminal work with orangutans in Borneo's Tanjung Puting National Park.
- Spot Komodo dragons in their natural habitat in Komodo National Park.
- Watch skilled artisans create intricate *ikat* textiles in the Lesser Sunda Islands.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS



FIJI TO THE COOK ISLANDS: POLYNESIAN DISCOVERY **new**

2015: Oct. 24–Nov. 5 from \$10,870

On a voyage from the lush shores of Fiji to Tonga, Niue, and the Cook Islands, explore the western reaches of Polynesia and visit palm-fringed isles and far-flung reefs that few ever see. Swim in warm turquoise waters, encounter a wealth of marine species, and get to know the welcoming Polynesian peoples that make their home here.

- Swim, snorkel, and dive the colorful reefs and sapphire lagoons of four Pacific nations.
- Enjoy traditional dances and ceremonies on visits to local villages.

SPECIAL OFFER: Receive 10 percent off the expedition price on this departure. Lifelong Explorers can double the discount and receive 20 percent off the expedition price.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS



COOK ISLANDS TO TAHITI: PRISTINE REEFS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC **new**

2015: Nov. 3–15 from \$10,870

Timed just before the bustle of the holiday season and the cold northern winter, this expedition offers an idyllic South Pacific getaway. Journey from Rarotonga to Papeete, encountering shimmering lagoons and lively island welcomes; and go snorkeling or diving amid the coral colonies of the Southern Line Islands, part of National Geographic's Pristine Seas project.

- Snorkel or dive in the Southern Line Islands, identified as one of most pristine reef systems in the world by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala.
- Experience Polynesian welcome ceremonies in the Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

SPECIAL OFFER: Receive 10 percent off the expedition price on this departure. Lifelong Explorers can double the discount and receive 20 percent off the expedition price.

ITINERARY | 19 DAYS



TAHITI TO EASTER ISLAND: TALES OF THE PACIFIC **new**

2015: Nov. 13–Dec. 1 from \$17,390

Trace the legacies of missionaries and mutineers, intrepid explorers, and enigmatic cultures on a fascinating voyage from French Polynesia to Easter Island. Dive or snorkel the pristine reef systems of Fakarava Atoll and the Pitcairn Islands, soak up the joyous rhythms of traditional music and dancing, and encounter the mysterious moai statues of Easter Island.

- Explore the Pitcairn Islands, identified as one of the ocean's last unspoiled environments through National Geographic's Pristine Seas project.
- Explore the unusual geology of Henderson Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

SPECIAL OFFER: Receive 10 percent off the expedition price on this departure. Lifelong Explorers can double the discount and receive 20 percent off the expedition price.

See our website at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com for detailed itineraries and pricing.

See National Geographic Orion deck plan on page 129. Prices are per person, double occupancy. Airfare is not included.

INSIDE AUSTRALIA: TASMANIA TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

new



WITH ITS WHIMSICAL WILDLIFE, UNUSUAL GEOLOGY, AND ONE OF THE OLDEST CULTURES ON THE PLANET, there is much that is extraordinary about Australia. Venture to this diverse continent to explore great cities like Sydney and Melbourne, as well as wild places from Tasmania to the Daintree Rainforest. Encounter Tasmanian devils, fairy penguins, kangaroos, and more; and experience the breathtaking underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore some of Australia's most spectacular wildernesses: Tasman Island, Cradle Mountain, and the Daintree Rainforest.
- Get acquainted with Tasmania's rare creatures on a private visit to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Go snorkeling or float in a glass-bottom boat on the Great Barrier Reef.
- Get a new perspective on the natural world while exploring the Daintree Rainforest with the Kuku Yalanji people.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Writer and adventurer **Roff Smith** migrated to Australia more than 25 years ago, initially writing for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and then becoming an award-winning senior writer covering the South Pacific for *Time* magazine. In 1996, he embarked on a 10,000-mile solo bicycle trek through the outback, chronicled in a three-part series in *National Geographic* magazine, and later in his book, *Cold Beer & Crocodiles*. For the past ten years he has been a freelance writer, regularly contributing to *National Geographic* magazine. He has also authored several books for the Society including *National Geographic Traveler's* guidebook to Australia as well as *Australia: Journey Through a Timeless Land*.

ROFF WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER 2015 AND JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2016 DEPARTURES.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EMERGING EXPLORER KRISTOFER HELGEN, CURATOR OF MAMMALS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, WILL JOIN THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HIS BIO.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Depart on a flight to Sydney, crossing the international date line and arriving on Day 3. This evening, cruise through Sydney Harbour and enjoy a welcome dinner on board with views of the spectacular city skyline.

INTERCONTINENTAL SYDNEY (D)

DAY 4 SYDNEY

Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House. Then visit the lush Royal Botanic Gardens, nestled in the heart of the city and home to cockatoos, flying foxes, and over one million plant specimens. This afternoon, set out on an optional excursion to the Sydney Harbour Bridge for an exhilarating twilight climb. Walk along catwalks and up ladders as you ascend to the summit of the bridge, enjoying breathtaking views of the Opera House and Sydney Harbour. (B, L)

DAY 5 HOBART, TASMANIA

Fly to the wild and beautiful island of Tasmania and



Against a backdrop of crimson coral, a pair of regal angelfish meet for a kiss.

view the sights of Hobart, its vibrant capital, on an afternoon city tour. Tonight, zoologist and National Geographic grantee Dr. Stewart Nicol joins us for a private visit to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, a refuge and rehabilitation center. Get acquainted with a host of rare creatures during their feeding time, including Tasmanian devils, Forester kangaroos, and koalas; and learn about Stewart's research on echidnas and other Tasmanian mammals.

HENRY JONES ART HOTEL (B, L, D)

Above: Mirroring the deep green hues that surround it, a stream spills between the mossy rocks of Daintree Rainforest.



A dramatic juxtaposition of light and geometry sets off the magnificent Sydney skyline.

DAY 6 TASMAN ISLAND/PORT ARTHUR

Just off the southeastern coast of Tasmania lies Tasman Island, a geological wonderland of skyscraping vertical sea cliffs, rock archways, and deep caves. Watch for sea birds, seals, and dolphins as we glide past these spectacular coastal formations on a wilderness cruise run by ecotourism pioneer Robert Pennicott, named a National Geographic Traveler of the Year in 2012. Robert will welcome us on the cruise and discuss his conservation and humanitarian work, as his schedule allows. Back on dry land, wander through the haunting ruins of Port Arthur, one of Australia's historic prison colonies and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. (B, L)

DAYS 7 AND 8 CRADLE MOUNTAIN-LAKE SAINT CLAIR NATIONAL PARK

Travel north to Mount Field National Park, pausing for a walk to Russell Falls. Glimpse the island's agricultural tradition at Curringa Farm, an operating sheep farm, and enjoy lunch and a sheep-shearing demonstration. Settle into our award-winning lodge at the edge of Cradle Mountain-Lake Saint Clair National Park, and spend a full day exploring the park's rugged, glacially sculpted landscapes on guided walks. Discover ancient rain forests and alpine heathlands, jagged mountains and glacial lakes. Go for a walk at dusk in search of



A young koala clings to its perch.

wombats, wallabies, and possums.

CRADLE MOUNTAIN LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 9 AND 10 MELBOURNE/PHILLIP ISLAND

Transfer to Launceston for your flight to Melbourne, known as the cultural capital of Australia. Visit famous landmarks such as the Queen Victoria Market, Melbourne Arts Centre, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and the lively beach town of St. Kilda. The next day, journey to Phillip Island, just off the southern coast. Venture down treetop boardwalks with a park ranger to view koalas up close at the Koala Conservation Centre, and step back in time at Churchill Island Heritage Farm. Witness the famous fairy penguin parade from a viewing platform at dusk. Alternatively, take an optional helicopter flight over the Great Ocean Road and the towering rock formations known as the Twelve Apostles. SOFITEL MELBOURNE ON COLLINS (B, L; B, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 CAIRNS/PORT DOUGLAS/GREAT BARRIER REEF

Fly to Cairns. Enroute to our beach lodge in Port Douglas, stop at James Cook University to meet with National Geographic grantee Dr. Adam Barnett, a renowned shark researcher. Hear about his studies on deep-sea sharks such as the sevengill, and take a tour of his research lab. Enjoy an evening at leisure before our full-day adventure on the world's largest reef system. Embark on a cruise by motorized catamaran to the outer reef and spend the day discovering some of the 2,000 species that inhabit the Great Barrier Reef. Observe the reef from a viewing platform, take a ride in a glass-bottom boat, or go snorkeling in this incredible marine ecosystem. Scuba diving is also available for certified divers at an additional cost. THALA BEACH RESORT (B; B, L)

DAY 13 DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Begin the day with a cruise on the Daintree River,



where diverse wildlife collects at the convergence of salt and fresh water. Join members of the Kuku Yalanji people for a walk on their traditional fishing grounds at Cooya Beach, and learn about the ways of their ancestors—still a part of everyday life. Then set off with an indigenous guide on a Dreamtime Walk at Mossman Gorge for an intimate look at the connection of culture and spirituality with the land. Celebrate our journey down under at a farewell dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 PORT DOUGLAS/CAIRNS/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Cairns Airport for your return flights, arriving home the same day. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Sep. 27–Oct. 10 • Oct. 31–Nov. 13
Dec. 16–24

2016: Jan. 30–Feb. 12 • Feb. 20–Mar. 4

Expedition Cost:

\$9,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,700. On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$500 per person. International airfare to Sydney and return from Cairns and internal airfare are not included in the expedition cost. Group flights within Australia are \$800 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day post-trip extension to Uluru (also known as Ayers Rock, pictured below) or a four-day pre-trip extension to Kangaroo Island and Adelaide. Visit our website or call for details.



AUSTRALIA'S WILD NORTHWEST



STRETCHING ALONG AUSTRALIA'S NORTHWEST COAST, the Kimberley Plateau is a vast landscape of plunging waterfalls, wild sandstone formations, deep gorges—and very few people. Aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, the newest ship in our fleet, see ancient rock art and discover the mythology and culture of the isolated Aboriginal people here. Encounter a wide array of wildlife, and navigate the stunning coast in Zodiacs.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Soar over the unique formations of the Bungle Bungle Range during a scenic flight.
- Glide in a Zodiac between steep canyon walls to King George Falls, powerful twin cascades that tumble some 260 feet.
- Examine Gwion Gwion paintings, some of the oldest rock art in the world.
- Explore mangroves, narrow inlets, and reefs by Zodiac, spotting crocodiles and a variety of birds.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photographer **Ira Block** will join our team of experts on the June 15 and 25 departures. Ira began shooting for *National Geographic* magazine in the 1970s, and later worked with both *National Geographic Traveler* and *National Geographic Adventure* magazines. His assignments have taken him to locations as diverse as Africa, the Australian outback, the Gobi, Siberia, the North Pole, Greenland, and Baffin Island; and his photographs are as varied as the destinations stamped in his passport. From gold coins retrieved from Havana's sunken treasure ships to the largest discovered *T. rex* dinosaur to a lost Confederate submarine, Ira's lens continues to capture and document amazing stories from around the globe.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

Depart for Darwin, cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 3. Established on the coast of the Northern Territory, Darwin began as a frontier town of pioneering cattlemen, gold miners, and crocodile hunters and has developed into a thriving, multicultural city. Settle into your cabin aboard the *National Geographic Orion* and cast off this afternoon.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION (D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 COM, EAST TIMOR/AT SEA

Prepare for the amazing photographic opportunities ahead with talks and hands-on instruction by our National Geographic photographer and certified photo instructor. The ship makes a brief stop at Com before continuing into the heart of the Kimberley. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 6 THE BUNGLE BUNGLES OR LAKE ARGYLE, AUSTRALIA

Dock in Wyndham and spend the day in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Purnululu National

Park, home of the breathtaking Bungle Bungle Range, where striped sandstone hills shaped like giant beehives give way to deep chasms filled with greenery. Get an incredible view of this otherworldly cone karst landscape during a flightseeing excursion. Or you may choose to cruise the Ord River to Lake Argyle, keeping an eye out for crocodiles, wallabies, jabirus (black-necked storks), and kookaburras in the remarkably lush ecosystem that has developed above the Ord River Dam. Take in views of the lake and learn about the area's pioneers on a visit to the Durack homestead. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 KING GEORGE RIVER

Drop anchor at the mouth of the King George River and ride Zodiacs upriver, weaving between nearly vertical canyon walls. Our destination is the dramatic King George Falls, where water drains off the plateau in twin cascades, careening down some 260 feet. Early in the season, we will probably hang back in the mist to watch the thundering water. Later in the year, we will get right up close—even under—the falls. If you wish, hike to the top of the falls and cool off in a freshwater rock pool. (B, L, D)

Above: Travelers in a Zodiac experience the thunder and awe of King George Falls.



A red kangaroo leaves its shadow behind.

DAY 8 VANSITTART BAY

Enter Vansittart Bay and go ashore at Jar Island to experience the mystical culture of Kimberley’s Aboriginal people at an outdoor gallery of prehistoric Gwion Gwion rock art. The elegant images, dating back tens of thousands of years, are also known as “Bradshaw figures,” after Joseph Bradshaw, who first recorded the style in 1891. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 HUNTER RIVER

With crimson cliffs jutting toward the sky and thick mangroves lining the waterways, Prince Frederick Harbour and Hunter River make for some of the most spectacular scenery on the

Kimberley coast. Drop anchor near Naturalists Island and set off to explore Hunter River by Zodiac. Navigate the mangroves, on the lookout for crocodiles and numerous bird species, or take an optional helicopter flight to Mitchell Falls to get a unique perspective on the Kimberley’s vast, rugged, and hard-to-reach interior. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 MONTGOMERY ISLANDS AND RAFT POINT

The Kimberley coast is known for its dramatic tides. We’ll arrive at the reef surrounding the Montgomery Islands at the turn of the tide and position ourselves to watch the water drop rapidly and miles of reef appear suddenly, as if rising from the sea. This is a fantastic opportunity to spot wildlife such as cormorants, egrets, sea turtles, and reef sharks as they forage for creatures trapped on the reef. Continue to Raft Point, where we climb up to a saddle of rock filled with ancient rock art. Trace the lore of the sacred Wandjina ancestors and their “great fish chase” in paintings depicting spirits and native creatures. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 TALBOT BAY AND HORIZONTAL WATERFALLS

Sail into the Buccaneer Archipelago to witness an extraordinary phenomenon: the “horizontal waterfalls” of Talbot Bay. These double waterfalls, created by the sudden tidal rise and fall when conditions are right, surge up to ten or more feet as the trapped water pushes inland or cascades out through the narrow gaps on the ocean side. Hop into Zodiacs to experience this exhilarating event. Later in the day, join our naturalists on an excursion to Cyclone Bay to explore the twisted geological folds of the ancient seabed. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 NARES POINT AND CROCODILE CREEK

A long finger of sandstone protruding from the mainland alongside Koolan Island, Nares Point provides great opportunities to explore by Zodiac and



go on beach walks with our naturalists. In nearby “Crocodile Creek”—which, despite its name, is free of crocodiles—take a refreshing swim in cool natural pools. (B, L, D)

DAYS 13 AND 14 BROOME/U.S.

Disembark in Broome and make your way to the airport for an overnight flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 15–28* • Jun. 25–Jul. 8 • Jul. 5–18*
Jul. 15–28 • Jul. 25–Aug. 7* • Aug. 4–17

*These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$8,990
<i>Located on Main Deck with oval windows</i>	
Category 2	\$10,380
<i>Located on Main Deck with large oval window</i>	
Category 3	\$12,450
<i>Located on Upper Deck—Suite with window</i>	
Category 4	\$13,630
<i>Located on Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window</i>	
Category 5	\$16,270
<i>Located on Bridge Deck—Suite with balcony</i>	
Category 6	\$18,910
<i>Located on Bridge Deck—Owner’s suite with balcony</i>	

See the *National Geographic Orion* description and deck plan on page 129. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$4,560 in Category 1 and \$6,230 in Category 3. International airfare to Darwin and return from Broome is not included in the expedition cost.



The National Geographic Orion

AUSTRALIA’S WILD NORTHWEST AND THE SPICE ISLANDS

18 Days • 2015: Aug. 14–31

If you have more time to explore, combine a voyage along Australia’s dramatic Kimberley coast with the contrasting landscapes of Indonesia’s tropical isles and rich undersea life. Discover natural wonders from the reefs of Rowley Shoals and towering King George Falls to the pink coral beaches of Komodo. Look for humpback whales in their breeding grounds and observe wallabies, crocodiles, and Komodo dragons in the wild. Delve into diverse cultures and histories as we examine Aboriginal cave art, visit World War II sites, and meet island peoples. See our website for details.

LAND OF THE POLAR BEARS



A HIGH ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO SITUATED BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE NORTH POLE, Svalbard is a place of deep fjords, snow-capped mountains, massive sheets of ice, and magnificent polar bears. From Oslo, head to the land of the midnight sun to explore these glittering islands aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. Get up close to polar wildlife and spectacular landscapes in kayaks, Zodiacs, and on foot, and experience nature in its purest form.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Search for the very symbol of the Arctic—the polar bear—and observe these majestic creatures in their natural habitat.
- Take naturalist-led shore walks, and cruise among beautiful passing icebergs in a Zodiac or a kayak.
- Experience the legendary midnight sun: the ethereal light of the northern summer, when the sun never sets.
- Watch for huge walruses, bearded and ringed seals, arctic foxes, and reindeer.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, award-winning photographer, filmmaker, and instructor **Rich Reid** will join the June 8 and 15 departures. Rich has specialized in environmental and adventure photography for more than two decades. Recently, the North American Nature Photography Association presented Rich with a Fellows Award for his professional contribution to nature photography. His award-winning short documentary highlighting watershed conservation on the California coast has motivated him to continue to create multimedia projects using time-lapse photography to benefit our oceans, open spaces, and wildlife.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./OSLO, NORWAY

Depart on an overnight flight to Oslo. Upon arrival, check into our hotel. On an afternoon tour of this charming city, stroll among the famed Vigeland sculptures—hundreds of life-size human figures set in terraced parkland. Visit the Fram Museum, showcasing the polar ship *Fram* and dedicated to the explorers and wooden vessels that navigated the Arctic Sea in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This evening you are free to explore Oslo on your own. THON HOTEL BRISTOL

DAY 3 OSLO/LONGYEARBYEN

Depart Oslo on a private charter flight, and enjoy breathtaking vistas en route to Longyearbyen. Embark the *National Geographic Explorer*, our base for the next six days.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER (B, L, D)

DAYS 4–9 EXPLORING SVALBARD

This voyage is undertaken in the spirit of discovery,



Two travelers kayak off Svalbard's pristine coast.

and our travel in the archipelago is exploratory by design. In a region ruled not by humans but by polar bears, we let nature guide our course. Svalbard lies north of the Arctic Circle, where the summer midnight sun never sets. With our fully stabilized ice-class expedition ship, we are able to probe the ice in search of wildlife. Our exact day-to-day

Above: A polar bear leaps from an ice floe in Svalbard.

“ This was a ‘trip of a lifetime’ for me.

Seeing polar bears in their natural environment was something I had always wanted to see, and the educational aspect of the expedition made it even more meaningful.”

—Carol B., traveler



Watch short videos about this expedition at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video

Low clouds blanket Svalbard's coastal peaks as a Zodiac skims toward the shore.

itinerary remains flexible, depending on local ice and weather conditions. Zodiacs and kayaks take us closer to experience the region's geologic features and wildlife and the wildflowers that flourish during the summer months.

With our National Geographic photographer and a seasoned naturalist staff, venture to the foot of vast tidewater glaciers, kayak among sparkling icebergs, and explore fjords that split the coastline. Hike through miniature gardens blooming on the tundra; and search the edge of the pack ice for polar bears, walruses, seals, reindeer, and arctic foxes. Nowhere can polar bears be seen more reliably in their natural environment than here. (B, L, D DAILY)



The National Geographic Explorer

DAY 10 LONGYEARBYEN/OSLO

In Longyearbyen, the largest settlement in Svalbard, disembark and enjoy time to explore. Founded by an American coal executive in 1906, this is one of the northernmost human settlements on Earth. Fly back to Oslo this afternoon.

RADISSON BLU AIRPORT HOTEL (B, L)

DAY 11 OSLO/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)

NORWAY'S FJORDS AND ARCTIC SVALBARD

17 Days • 2015: May 19–Jun. 4

Experience both Norway's fjord-carved coast and the rare wildlife of Svalbard on a voyage aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. Visit charming towns in Sweden and Norway before entering the fjordlands. Kayak narrow inlets that slice between towering peaks, visit fishing villages, and hike wildflower-strewn islands. Explore Tromsø and Bear Island on the way to Svalbard, where polar bears prowl and walruses loll on glaciers and magnificent icebergs. Visit our website for details.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 1–11 • Jun. 8–18 • Jun. 15–25

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$9,440
Located on Main Deck with porthole	
Category 2	\$10,070
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 3	\$10,460
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 4	\$11,090
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window	
Category 5	\$13,090
Located on Upper Deck with balcony	
Category 6	\$15,280
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite	
Category 7	\$17,460
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description and deck plan on page 128. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$2,520 in Category 2 and \$2,620 in Category 3. International airfare to/from Oslo and airfare within Norway are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within Norway are \$725 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a five-day pre-trip extension to the breathtaking fjords of Norway or a four-day post-trip extension to Iceland that includes Reykjavik and the Golden Circle. Visit our website or call for details.

EXPLORING GREENLAND AND THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC



VENTURE INTO THE FAR REACHES OF THE ARCTIC, a land where polar bears roam, walrus loll, and hardy Inuit communities maintain their traditional way of life. Aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, trace the rugged fjords of Greenland and navigate the eastern entrance to Canada's legendary Northwest Passage. Spot polar bears on the pack ice, get up close to massive glaciers, and hike the myriad islands that dot Canada's northern shores.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Glide between icebergs at the mouth of the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site.**
- **Observe polar bears, walrus, and belugas in their natural habitats.**
- **Follow in the wake of legendary explorers as we explore the Lancaster Sound, the gateway to the Northwest Passage.**
- **Discover the incredible wildlife and landscapes of Baffin Island on hikes and excursions by Zodiac.**

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photographer **Ralph Lee Hopkins** will join a diverse team of experts—from naturalists to undersea specialists—on both of these departures. Ralph is a popular photo workshop instructor who also serves as an expedition leader aboard the National Geographic fleet. He served as a photographer on the historic Arctic Expedition for Climate Action in July 2008 and has traveled beyond the Arctic and Antarctic Circles many times. His images have appeared in National Geographic's books and magazines and are represented in the National Geographic Image Collection.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's Pristine Seas program, an exploration, research, and media project to find, survey, and help protect the last wild places in the ocean.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./OTTAWA, CANADA

Arrive in Ottawa and check into our hotel in time for a welcome reception and dinner. FAIRMONT CHÂTEAU LAURIER (D)

DAY 2 KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND

Fly by chartered aircraft to Greenland. Embark the *National Geographic Explorer* at the head of Kangerlussuaq Fjord, a scenic waterway that stretches 100 miles and is aptly known as the "long fjord."

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER (B, L, D)

DAY 3 GREENLAND'S WEST COAST AND SISIMIUT

Dozens of deep fjords carve into Greenland's west coast, many with glaciers fed by the ice cap that covers about 80 percent of the country. Discover this beautiful and ragged coastline in Zodiacs, searching for humpback and minke whales. At Sisimiut, a former whaling port, visit



A polar bear cub playfully detains its mother.

the museum and wander amid a picturesque jumble of 18th-century wooden buildings. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 DISKO BAY AND ILULISSAT ICEFJORD

Sail into Disko Bay to explore the World Heritage site of Ilulissat Icefjord, a tongue of the Greenland ice cap that extends to the bay. Take an extraordinary cruise among towering

Above: Walrus use their huge tusks to help haul themselves out of the water.



Afloat in Greenland's Ilulissat Fjord, a vertical cliff of ice dwarfs a passing Zodiac.

icebergs at the mouth of the fjord. Explore the Inuit fishing village of Sermermiut, and view the Jakobshavn Icefjord and its immense calving glacier. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 AT SEA

Watch for wildlife, enjoy the ship's amenities, and attend talks by our experts as we travel through Baffin Bay. (B, L, D)

DAYS 6–8 EXPLORING THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC

Carved by Ice Age glaciers, Lancaster Sound is the eastern gateway to the Arctic Archipelago. European explorers like William Baffin first ventured here in the 15th century to search for the Northwest Passage. The sound has been a favorite Inuit hunting and fishing site for hundreds of years. Our days here will be spent searching

for ringed seals, arctic foxes, walrus, and polar bears, as well as beluga and bowhead whales. We may even see the elusive narwhal, an arctic whale known for the long, spiraling tooth that projects up to ten feet from its upper jaw. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 9–11 EASTERN BAFFIN ISLAND

Over the next three days, we make the most of the eastern Baffin shores. Hike the tundra in search of caribou and arctic foxes, or follow our botanist to learn more about the hardy arctic plants. We'll cruise the coastline in search of walrus and other icons of the Canadian North. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12 AND 13 IQALUIT/OTTAWA/U.S.

Disembark in Iqaluit and fly to Ottawa by chartered aircraft. Transfer to our hotel and fly home the following morning.

FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAURIER (B, L; B)

GREENLAND, BAFFIN ISLAND, AND ELLESMERE ISLAND

23 Days • 2015: Aug. 17–Sep. 8

This brand-new epic voyage follows the west coast of Greenland and traces the northern shores of Baffin Island. Encounter glaciers, ice sculptures, soaring cliffs, canyons, and fjords; and spot polar bears, whales, and elusive narwhals. Visit our website for details.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jul. 28–Aug. 9 • Aug. 7–19*

*This departure follows the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$12,990
Located on Main Deck with porthole	
Category 2	\$13,990
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 3	\$14,430
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 4	\$15,550
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window	
Category 5	\$18,680
Located on Upper Deck with balcony	
Category 6	\$21,290
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite	
Category 7	\$24,790
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony	

See the *National Geographic Explorer* description and deck plan on page 128. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,500 in Category 2 and \$3,610 in Category 3. International airfare to/ from Ottawa and between Canada and Greenland are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights from Ottawa to Kangerlussuaq and from Iqaluit to Ottawa are \$1,750 (subject to change).



The National Geographic Explorer

JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA



TRAVELING ABOARD THE STATE-OF-THE-ART NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER OR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION, encounter the spectacular Antarctic Peninsula and the surrounding islands and waterways. Glide around enormous tabular icebergs by Zodiac, walk along beaches covered with thousands of penguins, and kayak amid abundant marine life.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- View magnificent mountains, towering icebergs, and ice formations that make up the dramatic Antarctic landscape.
- Cruise aboard sturdy Zodiac landing craft in search of leopard seals.
- Kayak in protected waters, paddling around icebergs as penguins swim nearby.
- Walk on shore amid thousands of penguins, including gentoo, Adélie, and chinstrap.
- Explore the world's last great wilderness in the company of a team of top naturalists.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, photographers **Sisse Brimberg** and **Cotton Coulson** will join the December 17 and 27, 2015 departures. Sisse and Cotton have collectively pho-

tographed more than 60 stories for National Geographic's magazines, including a feature story on Antarctica for the October 2013 issue of *National Geographic Traveler*. They have shot stories from Arctic Norway to South Georgia to Italy and France. Sisse and Cotton have won awards from Pictures of the Year International, the National Press Photographers Association, White House Press Photographers Association, and *Communication Arts*. Today they are based in Glasgow, Scotland but spend most of the year on the road producing magazine stories and videos for the Society.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA*

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina's cosmopolitan capital.* Settle into our hotel before heading out on an afternoon tour of the city. Gather tonight for a welcome reception. CAESAR PARK HOTEL/MGALLERY

DAY 3 BUENOS AIRES/USHUAIA

Fly to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and enjoy lunch on a catamaran cruise of the Beagle Channel. Then set sail on the *National Geographic Explorer* or *National Geographic Orion*. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 AT SEA/DRAKE PASSAGE

While crossing the spectacular Drake Passage, spot whales and other marine life that glide alongside the ship. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5-10 EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

With nearly 24 hours of daylight at this time of year,



A waddle of gentoo penguins teeters across the snow.

we have ample opportunity to explore the Antarctic Peninsula and the surrounding islands. In keeping with the nature of an expedition, the schedule is flexible so that we can take advantage of the unexpected—watching whales perform off the bow,

Above: On a recent expedition, a curious minke whale circled our Zodiacs to get a closer look.

“ Being on the *National Geographic Explorer* was a wonderful experience. ”

We had whale experts, penguin experts, underwater experts, all types of experts! We were novices, and to have that kind of guidance as we were seeing someplace so spectacular was phenomenal.

Doug and Lenore P., travelers



Kayakers emerge from an icy passage, leaving a lone penguin in the distance.

taking an after-dinner Zodiac cruise, or heading out on an extra landing during the day. We anticipate making several Zodiac landings each day to hike, kayak among the icebergs, and experience close encounters with wildlife. (B, L, D DAILY)

Depending on weather and sea conditions, we plan to make the following stops:

PARADISE BAY

This pristine bay is edged by soaring, ice-covered peaks. Hike to a summit for a breathtaking view, or kayak along a cliff-side rookery in search of blue-eyed shags.

LEMAIRE CHANNEL AND PETERMANN ISLAND

Cruise through the Lemaire Channel between



The *National Geographic Explorer*

towering snowcaps and blue icebergs. Step ashore at Petermann Island to the cries of thousands of gentoo penguins standing along the shoreline as if awaiting your arrival.

NEKO HARBOR

Dock in Neko Harbor. Walk among penguins on the beach or climb high onto an ice field for a panoramic vista of the untouched peaks surrounding this idyllic bay.

PORT LOCKROY

In 1944, the British government began an expedition code-named Operation Tabarin, creating a series of base stations in Antarctica. Base A, at Port Lockroy, is now a museum and Antarctica's only public post office.

DAYS 11 AND 12 AT SEA

Enjoy the ship's amenities as the Antarctic coast disappears from view. Round the southernmost tip of South America, and see the meeting of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Celebrate your voyage at a farewell dinner on board. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 13 AND 14 USHUAIA, ARGENTINA/BUENOS AIRES*/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia. After lunch, fly to Buenos Aires* by private charter and connect with your overnight flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015/2016 Season: Nov. 27–Dec. 10 • Dec. 6–19*
Dec. 7–20 • Dec. 16–29 *† • Dec. 17–30 †
Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 8, 2016 *†
Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 9, 2016 † • Jan. 5–18*
Jan. 6–19 • Jan. 16–29

*These departures are aboard the *National Geographic Orion* and begin and end in Santiago, Chile instead of Buenos Aires, Argentina. All other departures are aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*.

† Indicates a holiday departure. Visit our website for special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

2015/2016 Season	Explorer	Orion
Category 1	\$12,970	\$12,970
Located on Main Deck with porthole		
Category 2	\$13,940	\$13,940
Located on Main Deck with window		
Category 3	\$14,370	\$15,460
Located on Main Deck with window		
Category 4	\$15,460	\$18,550
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window		
Category 5	\$18,550	\$21,250
Located on Upper Deck with balcony		
Category 6	\$21,250	\$24,740
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite		
Category 7	\$24,740	
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony		

See descriptions, photos, and deck plans for the *National Geographic Explorer* and *National Geographic Orion* on pages 128–129. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single cabin and holiday pricing, please visit our website. International airfare to/from Buenos Aires or Santiago and airfare to/from Ushuaia are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight to/from Ushuaia is \$850 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

For voyages aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, add a two-day pre-trip extension in Buenos Aires, a three-day post-trip extension to Iguazú Falls, or a four-day post-trip extension to Easter Island. For voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, add a two- or three-day post-trip extension in Santiago. Visit our website or call for details.

ANTARCTICA, SOUTH GEORGIA, AND THE FALKLANDS



SET OUT ON AN EPIC VOYAGE to the remote lands made famous by Ernest Shackleton. Traveling aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* or the new *National Geographic Orion*, spend five days discovering the Antarctic Peninsula. Stroll through lively crowds of penguins on stunning South Georgia Island, and hike the shores of the Falkland Islands. Experience boundless wildlife and captivating beauty as you venture into some of the planet's most unspoiled landscapes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Glide in a Zodiac or a kayak past massive icebergs, sculpted by the elements into exquisite formations.**
- **Trace the story of Shackleton's fateful voyage to South Georgia.**
- **Get immersed in a sea of black and white amid tens of thousands of king penguins in South Georgia.**
- **Visit the outposts of Port Stanley in the Falklands and Port Lockroy in Antarctica.**

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, photojournalist **Massimo Bassano** will join the February 14, 2016 departure. Massimo has published his work in *National Geographic*

Traveler and on the National Geographic website, as well as in numerous European publications. His acclaimed photography book *The Color of Silence* detailed the 12 weeks he spent in a little-known Italian monastery. Massimo will share techniques and insights as you explore Antarctica.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Proceeds from our expeditions help fund the Society's research, conservation, and exploration programs, including research assessing the effect of global warming on female leopard seals, and climbing expeditions in Antarctica.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA*

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires,* Argentina's cosmopolitan capital. Check into our hotel before heading out on an afternoon tour of the city. Gather for a welcome reception. *CAESAR PARK HOTEL/MGALLERY*

DAY 3 BUENOS AIRES/USHUAIA

Fly to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and enjoy lunch on a catamaran cruise of the Beagle Channel. Then set sail on the *National Geographic Explorer* or *National Geographic Orion*. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 AT SEA

Settle in to life aboard the ship as we sail to the Falkland Islands. Keep a lookout for albatrosses and other seabirds that glide alongside the ship. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 FALKLAND ISLANDS

Dock in Port Stanley, and stroll along streets lined with Victorian-style houses. See an archway made

of whalebone at the Anglican Cathedral, and visit the Falkland Islands Museum. Hike and kayak along rocky coasts, spotting Magellanic penguins, enormous elephant seals, and albatross. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 7-13 AT SEA/SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND

After two days at sea, arrive in South Georgia, renowned for its beauty and wildlife. Visit Shackleton's final resting place and wander through the ruins of abandoned whaling stations. Glide in Zodiacs past dramatic cliffs and swirling birds, on the lookout for young Antarctic fur seals. Hike through this breathtaking landscape, and cruise into a remote bay where tens of thousands of king penguins crowd the shore. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 14 AND 15 AT SEA

As we head south toward Antarctica, watch for whales from the ship's bridge, attend talks by our experts, and enjoy the amenities on board. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 16-20 EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

With long hours of daylight at this time of year, we have ample opportunity to explore the Antarctic

Above: In an endless sea of black and white, king penguins cluster on the beaches of South Georgia Island.

“**South Georgia is the ultimate for pristine scenery and boundless wildlife...** If doctors told me I had only two weeks to live, I'd spend one week on South Georgia and the other week getting there.”

Brent Houston, “Island of the Kings,”
National Geographic Traveler, October 2009



Watch short videos about this expedition at
nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video

Hikers mount a snowy rise in Neko Harbor, Antarctica.

SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE FALKLANDS

19 Days • 2016: Mar. 6–24

Focus on the wonders of South Georgia and the Falklands on a special voyage aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* that celebrates the islands' spectacular wilderness and distinctive culture. Walk in the footsteps of the legendary Ernest Shackleton on South Georgia; spend more time exploring the pioneer towns and stunning shores of the Falklands; and surround yourself with fascinating wildlife, from hundreds of thousands of penguins to fur seals, albatrosses, and whales. Visit our website for details.

SPECIAL OFFER: Book by March 31, 2015 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires, plus round-trip charter airfare between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, on this departure.

Peninsula and the surrounding islands. In keeping with the nature of an expedition, the schedule is flexible, allowing us to take advantage of the unexpected. We anticipate making several landings each day to hike, kayak among the icebergs, and

experience close encounters with wildlife. See the description on pages 98 and 99 for more details on these days on the Antarctic Peninsula. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 21 AND 22 AT SEA

On our final days at sea, enjoy a last chance to view the marine life of these southern waters. Gather to toast our epic voyage at a festive farewell dinner on our final night at sea. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 23 AND 24 USHUAIA, ARGENTINA/BUENOS AIRES*/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia. After lunch and some time to explore the town, fly to Buenos Aires* by private charter. Connect to your flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)



Sunlight illuminates a dazzling cliff of ice in Antarctica's Iceberg Alley.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2015/2016 Season: Nov. 7–30 • Jan. 25–Feb. 17*†
Feb. 14–Mar. 8*† • Feb. 15–Mar. 9†

*These departures are aboard the *National Geographic Orion*. Orion departures begin and end in Santiago, Chile instead of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Visit our website for a detailed itinerary. All other departures are aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*.

†These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order, visiting Antarctica first and ending in the Falkland Islands.

Expedition Cost:

2015/2016 Season	Explorer	Orion
Category 1	\$22,430	\$22,430
Located on Main Deck with porthole		
Category 2	\$24,030	\$24,030
Located on Main Deck with window		
Category 3	\$25,160	\$26,340
Located on Main Deck with window		
Category 4	\$26,350	\$32,320
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window		
Category 5	\$32,320	\$37,300
Located on Upper Deck with balcony		
Category 6	\$37,300	\$43,250
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite		
Category 7	\$43,250	
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony		

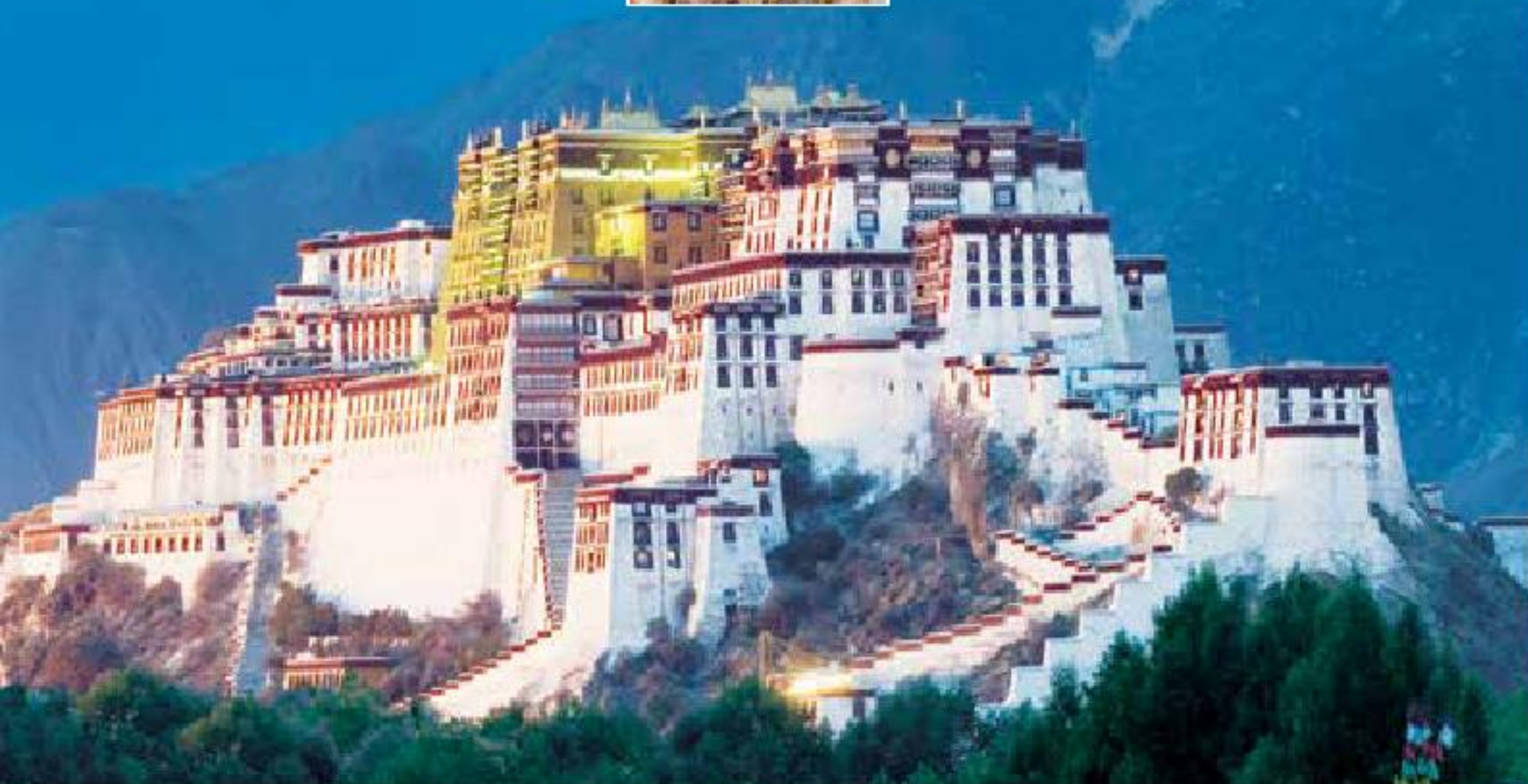
See descriptions, photos, and deck plans for the *National Geographic Explorer* and *National Geographic Orion* on pages 128–129. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single cabin and holiday pricing, please visit our website. International airfare to/from Buenos Aires or Santiago and airfare to/from Ushuaia are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight to/from Ushuaia is \$850 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

For voyages aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, add a two-day pre-trip extension in Buenos Aires, a three-day post-trip extension to Iguazú Falls, or a four-day post-trip extension to Easter Island. For voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, add a two- or three-day post-trip extension in Santiago. Visit our website or call for details.

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EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore 12 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Machu Picchu, Angkor Wat, the Taj Mahal, and the lost city of Petra.
- Meet with National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence Meave or Louise Leakey in Tanzania.
- Explore Easter Island's giant *moai* statues and famously lost culture with resident archaeologists.
- Delve into the natural world on game drives in the Serengeti Plain and snorkeling excursions on the Great Barrier Reef.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence **Wade Davis** is an anthropologist, writer, photographer, and filmmaker whose work has taken him from the Amazon to Tibet, from Africa

to Australia, and from Polynesia to the Arctic. He has lived among indigenous communities, learning and recording their rituals and customs. Wade is the author of numerous books including *The Serpent and the Rainbow* (1986), *One River* (1996), *The Wayfinders* (2009), and *The Sacred Headwaters* (2011). His latest book, *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest*, won the 2012 Samuel Johnson Prize, the top non-fiction prize in the English language. His film credits include *Light at the Edge of the World*, a documentary series produced for the National Geographic Channel.

WADE WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER 27, 2015 DEPARTURE ALONG WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER MASSIMO BASSANO AND ART HISTORIAN JACK DAULTON. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR BIOS OF THE FULL EXPEDITION TEAMS FOR ALL DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

DAY 1 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

We begin this extraordinary adventure with a welcome reception, followed by dinner at our hotel. THE RITZ-CARLTON ORLANDO, GREAT LAKES (D)

DAYS 2, 3, AND 4 CUSCO/MACHU PICCHU

Arrive by private jet in Lima, then travel to Cusco by local flight, and explore the Plaza de Armas and the Sacsayhuaman fortress overlooking the city. Continue to Machu Picchu, an ancient citadel abandoned by the Inca and rediscovered in 1911. Excavated by Hiram Bingham with funding from National Geographic, Machu Picchu is one of the world's greatest archaeological sites. BELMOND HOTEL MONASTERIO OR BELMOND PALACIO NAZARENAS (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 5 AND 6 EASTER ISLAND, CHILE

Travel 2,300 miles off the coast of Chile to Easter Island, an open-air museum of ancient stone villages, sanctuaries, and giant statues called *moai*. Explore the island's treasures with resident archae-

ologists Edmundo Edwards, Patricia Vargas, and Claudio Cristiano. HANGAROA ECO VILLAGE & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 CROSS THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

Depart for Samoa and lose a day crossing the international date line. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 APIA, SAMOA

Trace the coast on a scenic drive, passing through charming seaside villages. Enjoy a traditional Polynesian feast and a *fia fia*, a colorful performance of Samoan dance and song. AGGIE GREY'S LAGOON BEACH RESORT & SPA (B, L, D)

DAYS 9 AND 10 THE GREAT BARRIER REEF OR DAINTREE RAINFOREST, AUSTRALIA

Explore the Great Barrier Reef, the largest known coral reef in the world and home to an exceptionally rich variety of marine life. Enjoy snorkeling and swimming in this magnificent marine ecosystem. Or you may discover the natural wonders of the Daintree Rainforest. PULLMAN PORT DOUGLAS SEA TEMPLE RESORT & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)

Above inset photographs, left to right: The ancient and awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu; a Cambodian *apsara* dancer in traditional costume; sunlight highlights a regal lion in the savanna. Background photograph: Tibet's extraordinary Potala Palace glows against the slopes of the Himalaya.



The architectural splendor of India's Taj Mahal is mirrored in a reflecting pool.

DAYS 11 AND 12 ANGKOR, CAMBODIA

Fly to Siem Reap and transfer to Angkor. Survey Angkor Wat's massive temple complex, and encounter the royal city of Angkor Thom and the extraordinary Bayon Temple. RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL D'ANGKOR (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 13 CHENGDU, CHINA*

Travel to Chengdu, where we meet researchers at the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Center. Stay overnight before flying to Tibet. SHANGRI-LA HOTEL CHENGDU (B, L, D)

DAYS 14 AND 15 LHASA, TIBET OR XI'AN, CHINA*

Depart by local flight to Lhasa. Visit the Jokhang Temple, the region's oldest and most revered temple, and explore the colorful Tibetan markets. The next day, venture into the fabled Potala Palace and the nearly 600-year-old Sera Monastery. Alternatively, you may choose to travel to Xi'an, China to view the famous terra-cotta warriors. THE ST. REGIS LHASA RESORT OR THE WESTIN XIAN (B, L, D DAILY)



Massive moai dwarf a traveler on Easter Island.



DAYS 16 AND 17 TAJ MAHAL, AGRA, INDIA

Return to Chengdu by local flight and continue on our private jet to Agra. See the majestic Taj Mahal, one of the world's greatest monuments to love. THE OBEROI AMARVILÁS (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 18 AND 19 TANZANIA

Fly to Kilimanjaro Airport and choose from two options: go deep into Serengeti National Park to witness the greatest concentration of plains game in Africa; or descend into the Ngorongoro Crater and observe the permanent population of about 25,000 animals in the largest unbroken caldera in the world. National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Meave or Louise Leakey joins us to discuss the family's historic fossil finds. FOUR SEASONS SAFARI LODGE SERENGETI OR NGORONGORO CRATER LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 20 AND 21 PETRA, JORDAN

Experience Petra, the lost city of the Nabataeans. Hidden in Jordan's deep canyons south of the Dead Sea, this remarkable site was founded more than 2,000 years ago, and consists of elaborate buildings and tombs carved from sheer rock walls. Gather for a festive Bedouin dinner this evening. MÖVENPICK RESORT PETRA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 22 AND 23 MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Arrive in Marrakech and transfer to our hotel. The next day, see the Koutoubia Mosque and visit the Bahia Palace. Wander through the medina and the open-air market of Djemaa el Fna, or take a stroll in the stunning Majorelle Garden. Tonight, gather for a festive farewell banquet with traditional entertainment. LA MAMOUNIA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 24 MARRAKECH, MOROCCO/ ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Fly by private jet to Orlando and connect with your flight home. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 19, 2016

2016: Jan. 21–Feb. 13* • Mar. 20–Apr. 12

*On the January 2016 departure, Myanmar will replace China and Tibet on Days 13–15. Visit our website for details.

Expedition Cost:

2015	\$73,950
2016	\$76,950

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$8,650 in 2015 and \$8,950 in 2016. Transportation by private Boeing 757 jet and other conveyance, as noted in the itinerary, is included in the expedition cost. Airfare to/from Orlando is not included.

Please note: There is a \$2,500 per-person deposit for this trip. See our website for specific terms and conditions.

Fly by Private Jet:

Our specially outfitted Boeing 757 is ideally suited for this extraordinary expedition. Its long-range capabilities and ability to land in smaller airports afford us unmatched flexibility. We set our own schedules, flying direct and avoiding layovers, which gives us the freedom to make the most of our adventures on land. Instead of the standard 233 seats, the jet's interior has been customized and refitted to accommodate just 75 guests in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seating.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS PRIVATE JET EXPEDITION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL 1-800-224-1894.

OCEAN WONDERS AND ISLAND CULTURES: AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY BY PRIVATE JET



ENCOUNTER VIBRANT ISLAND TRADITIONS AND DAZZLING MARINE LIFE FROM HAWAII TO MADAGASCAR TO THE MALDIVES. Join eleven of National Geographic's top scientists, photographers, and explorers to discover rich island cultures from Tonga to Sri Lanka, and incredible wildlife in remote places like the Maldives and Australia's Kangaroo Island.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Encounter endemic wildlife, from the lemurs of Madagascar to Papua New Guinea's birds of paradise.**
- **Discover two of Sri Lanka's UNESCO World Heritage sites: the ancient city of Sigiriya and the Golden Temple of Dambulla.**
- **Snorkel in Tonga's kaleidoscopic reefs with oceanographer Sylvia Earle.**
- **Meet Huli Wigmen in Papua New Guinea and take part in a Fijian kava ceremony.**

ITINERARY | 25 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 KONA, HAWAII

Depart independently on a commercial flight to Hawaii. Gather for a welcome dinner and enjoy a talk by National Geographic wildlife photographer Flip Nicklin. The next day, depart for Tonga and lose a day crossing the international date line. **THE FAIRMONT ORCHID (D; B)**

DAYS 3 AND 4 VAVA'U, TONGA

Immerse yourself in the island culture of Tonga, which traces its royal lineage back about 900 years. Take in spectacular ocean views on a chartered flight to the Vava'u Group, northern islands known for verdant hills and flawless beaches. Go snorkeling with Sylvia Earle among pristine coral reefs, and sail to sheltered coves hidden among limestone cliffs. **SCENIC HOTEL TONGA (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 5-8 ADELAIDE AND KANGAROO ISLAND, AUSTRALIA

Set out on a tour of Adelaide and enjoy lunch at a local winery in the Adelaide Hills. Meet with

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Michael Davie before flying by local aircraft to Kangaroo Island, considered Australia's Galápagos for its teeming wildlife and dramatic landscapes. Stay in the Southern Ocean Lodge, a member of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World program, and discover the island's native species, including Tammar wallabies and endemic kangaroos. **HILTON ADELAIDE HOTEL; SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 9, 10, AND 11 DAMBULLA, SRI LANKA

Fly to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Take a local flight to Habarana and continue overland to Dambulla to visit two of the island's eight World Heritage sites: Sigiriya, a fifth-century royal city; and the Golden Temple of Dambulla, a cave monastery that has drawn pilgrims for more than 22 centuries. Meet National Geographic grantee and archaeologist Robin Coningham, who conducted excavations at Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's earliest capital. **JETWING LAGOON; AMAYA LAKE (B, L, D DAILY)**

**Visit our website for a complete listing of accommodations.*

DAYS 12, 13, AND 14 ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR

Thanks to its isolation from the African mainland, more than 80 percent of species in Madagascar are endemic. National Geographic Emerging Explorer and wildlife biologist Luke Dollar meets us here to discuss the island's unique wildlife. Choose one of three excursions: track the largest species of lemur, called indri, in the jungles of Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, and listen for their eerie calls echoing in the canopy; hike to waterfalls and volcanic lakes in Montagne d'Ambre National Park; or, discover some of the 1,800 floral species on the Anjajavy Peninsula. **CARLTON HOTEL, DAY 12; AND VARIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS* DAYS 13 AND 14 (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 15, 16, AND 17 THE MALDIVES

Settle into private overwater bungalows and wake up to magnificent ocean views. Dip into translucent waters to snorkel or scuba dive in a dazzling underwater world of more than a

Above inset photographs, clockwise from top left: A Huli Wigman in Papua New Guinea; a koala on Kangaroo Island; a colorful angelfish in the Maldives. Background photograph: A traditional *dhooni* sails the waters of the Maldives.

thousand sea species. Or hop on a bicycle and enjoy the beautiful island scenery. National Geographic Emerging Explorer Andrea Marshall, a leading expert on manta rays, joins us here. SHANGRI-LA'S VILLINGILI RESORT & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 18 AND 19 BALI, INDONESIA

Immerse yourself in the tranquility of magical Bali, whose cultural landscape was declared a World Heritage site in 2012. Visit the Hindu temple of Pura Luhur Batukaru; explore Ubud, the island's cultural and artistic center; or ride through the countryside atop an elephant. Explorer of the Year Kenny Broad will discuss the relationships between ancient and modern civilizations. FOUR SEASONS RESORT BALI AT SAYAN (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 20, 21, AND 22 PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Underwater photographer David Doubilet, who documented Papua New Guinea's magnificent coral reefs for *National Geographic* magazine, introduces us to this country of cultural and natural wonders. After a night in Port Moresby, fly by local aircraft to one of four remote areas. Visit with the Melpa people in the Western Highlands, an area known for its orchid species and birds of paradise. Or head to the Southern Highlands, where the Huli Wigmen sport extravagant head-dresses. Explore the tropical lowland forest on a Sepik River basin cruise, or head to Kokopo beach on New Britain Island. AIRWAYS HOTEL, DAY 20; AND VARIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS* DAYS 21 AND 22 (B, L, D DAILY)



A baby ring-tailed lemur from Madagascar clings to his mother's back.



DAYS 23 AND 24 FIJI

On Fiji's main island, Viti Levu, take part in a traditional kava ceremony at the Kalevu Cultural Centre. Ride jet boats on the Sigatoka River or take a catamaran cruise around Natadola, stopping to swim and snorkel the reef. Meet with National Geographic Emerging Explorer and water advocate Alexandra Cousteau, whose family has explore the seas for generations. FIJI GOLF RESORT & SPA, AN INTERCONTINENTAL RESORT (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 25 FIJI/HONOLULU, HAWAII

Board our private jet and depart for Hawaii. As we cross the international date line, we gain a day, and arrive in Honolulu on Day 24. Enjoy a casual dinner in the evening. The next day, connect with your commercial flight home. THE MODERN HONOLULU (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:
2015: Sep. 27–Oct. 21

Expedition Cost: **\$76,950**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$8,950. Transportation by private Boeing 757 jet and other conveyance, as noted in the itinerary, is included in the expedition cost. Airfare to/from Hawai'i is not included.

Please note: There is a \$2,500 per person deposit for this trip. See our website for specific terms and conditions.

Fly by Private Jet:

Our specially outfitted Boeing 757 is ideally suited for this extraordinary expedition. Its long-range capabilities and ability to land in smaller airports afford us unmatched flexibility. We set our own schedules, flying direct and avoiding layovers, which gives us the freedom to make the most of our adventures on land. Instead of the standard 233 seats, the jet's interior has been customized and refitted to accommodate just 74 guests in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seating.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS



Kenny Broad

Anthropologist and National Geographic 2011 Explorer of the Year who will join us in Bali



Robin Coningham

Archaeologist and National Geographic grantee who will join us in Sri Lanka



Alexandra Cousteau

Filmmaker, water advocate, and National Geographic Emerging Explorer who will join us in Fiji



Michael Davie

Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and author who will join us in Australia



Luke Dollar

Conservation scientist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer who will join us in Madagascar



David Doubilet

National Geographic photographer who will accompany the entire expedition



Sylvia Earle

Oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence who will join us in Tonga



Andrea Marshall

Conservation biologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer who will join us in the Maldives



Flip Nicklin

Marine biologist and National Geographic wildlife photographer who will join us in Hawaii



Tierney Thys

Marine biologist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer who will accompany the entire expedition

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THE HUMAN JOURNEY: TRACING LEGENDARY PEOPLES AND SACRED PLACES WITH DR. SPENCER WELLS



JOIN GENETICIST, ANTHROPOLOGIST, AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER-IN-RESIDENCE SPENCER WELLS on an

extraordinary private jet expedition, venturing off the beaten path to discover the enduring legacies of legendary civilizations that have shaped our human history. Following a specially crafted itinerary we developed with Spencer, explore sacred sites, ancient cities, and astonishing cultural treasures from Uzbekistan and Mongolia to Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and beyond.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Explore the exquisite Buddhist temples of Myanmar, the remarkable rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia, and the ancient wonders of Jerusalem; and trace the living legacies of these sacred places.**
- **Venture into the jungles of Sri Lanka to explore archaeological treasures including the cave temple of Dambulla.**
- **In Mongolia, hunt for dinosaur fossils at the Gobi's Flaming Cliffs.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geneticist, anthropologist, and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence **Spencer Wells** has analyzed the DNA of thousands of people living in isolated tribes around

the world. He leads the Society's landmark Genographic Project, a multi-year endeavor to chart the journey of our early ancestors as they populated the planet. Spencer earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University and conducted post-doctoral work at Stanford and Oxford. He is the author of three books: *The Journey of Man*, *Deep Ancestry*, and *Pandora's Seed*. His fieldwork has taken him to more than 80 countries, where he has worked with everyone from heads of government to tribal chieftains in places as remote as Chad, Tajikistan, and Papua New Guinea.

SPENCER WILL ACCOMPANY THIS EXPEDITION ALONG WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER AND LINGUIST GREGORY ANDERSON AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER BOB KRIST. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THEIR BIOS.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

MAY 12 AND 13 U.S./LONDON, ENGLAND

Depart the U.S. independently on an overnight flight to London. The next day, meet experts, staff, and fellow travelers during a welcome reception and dinner. **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LONDON AT PARK LANE (D)**

MAY 14, 15, AND 16 TBILISI, GEORGIA

Get acquainted with Tbilisi's Old City, visiting the Georgian Orthodox Sioni Cathedral. At the Georgian National Museum, enjoy a private tour and reception with paleoanthropologist and National Geographic grantee Dr. David Lordkipanidze, the museum's director. Join David on an optional excursion to the archaeological site of Dmanisi, where he led the discovery of the earliest known hominin remains outside of Africa. Explore the historic churches and monasteries of the UNESCO World Heritage site Mtskheta; or travel to the ancient cave town of Uplistsikhe and visit Gori, the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. **MARRIOTT TBILISI HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)**

MAY 17 AND 18 SAMARQAND, UZBEKISTAN

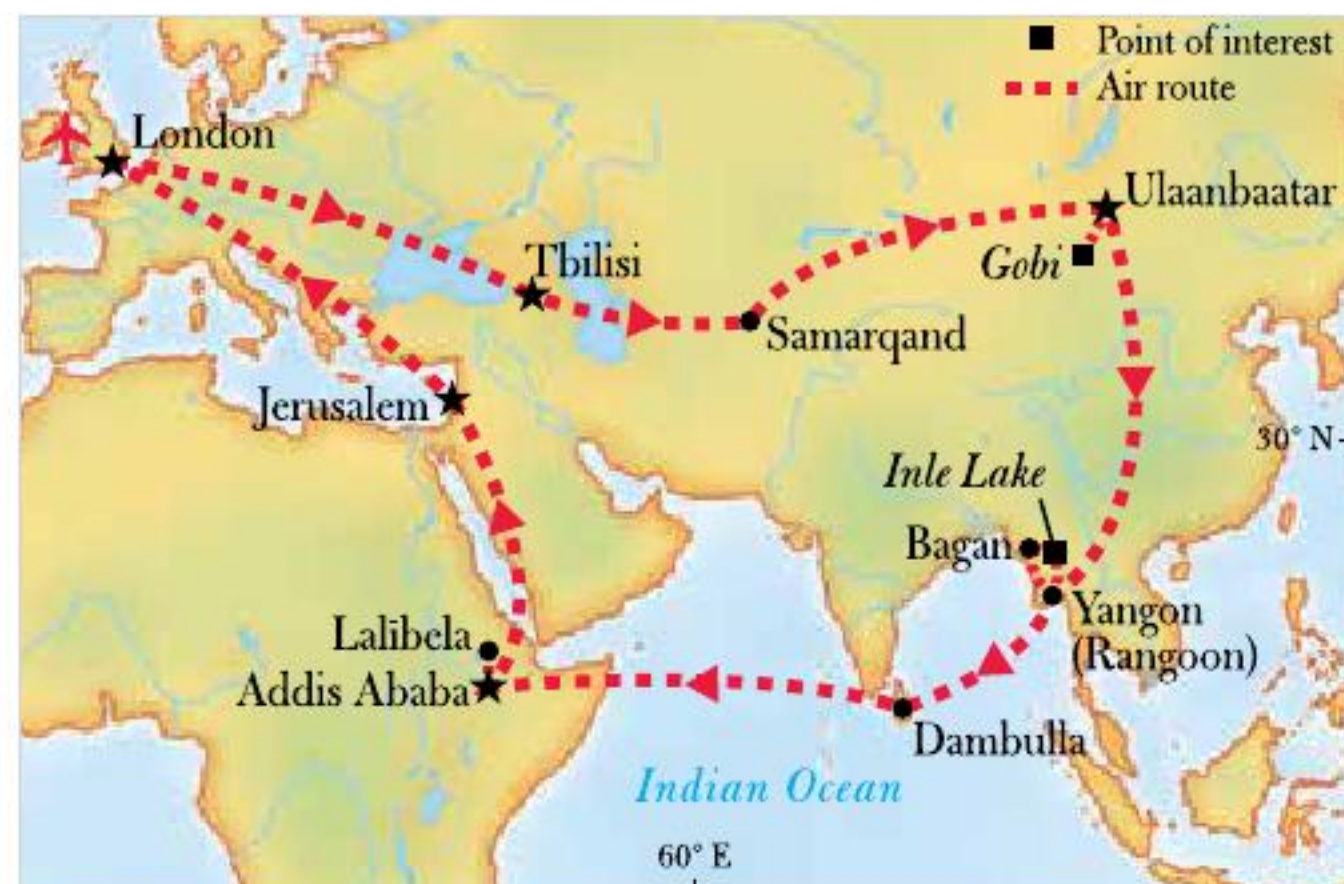
The fabled city of Samarqand flourished in the 14th and 15th centuries under the rule of Tamerlane and his successors, who commissioned spectacular mosques and madrassas covered in blue tiles. Discover the city's vibrant bazaars, and examine some of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in the world on a stroll through Registan Square. Venture into Gur-e Amir and the Shah-i-Zinda complex of mosques and mausoleums, and see the turquoise domes of the Bibi Khanum mosque. **REGISTAN PLAZA HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)**

MAY 19, 20, AND 21 ULAANBAATAR AND THE GOBI, MONGOLIA

Our next stop is the land of Genghis Khan, where one of the world's last nomadic cultures lives amid the stark beauty of the steppe. In Ulaanbaatar, explore the Gandan Monastery, one of the few monasteries to survive the anti-Buddhist attacks of the 1930s. Then take a private local flight to the majestic Gobi, where we'll spend two nights at a traditional *ger* camp. In addition, visit with a nomad family and experience their way of life firsthand.



Dunes and dromedaries cast their shadows on the sands of Mongolia's Gobi.



At the fossil quarries of Bayanzag, also known as the Flaming Cliffs, hunt for dinosaur fossils with a local paleontologist. Or discover the stunning landscapes of Gorkhi Terelj National Park. **THE BLUE SKY HOTEL & TOWER; THREE CAMEL LODGE OR TERELJ HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)**

MAY 22–25 YANGON (RANGOON), BAGAN, AND INLE LAKE, MYANMAR (BURMA)

Our visit begins at Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda, a dazzling structure that has dominated the city's skyline for more than a thousand years. Then take a private local flight to remote Inle Lake, home to the floating gardens, stilt houses, and markets of the Intha people. Learn about their traditional weaving and blacksmithing methods, watch fishermen poling their skiffs with one leg, and

visit Nga Phe Chaung Monastery. Then fly to the ancient capital of Bagan and explore its extraordinary plain, dotted with thousands of temples, stupas, and monasteries. **TRADERS HOTEL, YANGON; AUREUM RESORT & SPA; AUREUM PALACE HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)**

MAY 26, 27, AND 28 DAMBULLA, SRI LANKA

We fly next to Colombo, Sri Lanka's colorful capital. Take a private local flight to Habarana and continue overland to Dambulla. From our base at a stunning lakeside hotel, set out to visit several World Heritage sites: the rock fortress of Sigiriya, a wonder of ancient engineering; the cave temples of Dambulla, a Buddhist pilgrimage site; and the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, where many ruins date from the 12th century. **AMAYA LAKE AND SIGNATURE BY AMAYA (B, L, D DAILY)**

MAY 29 AND 30 ADDIS ABABA AND LALIBELA, ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is home to diverse religions, distinct tribal cultures, evidence of some of the earliest humans, and an array of archaeological treasures. In the capital city of Addis Ababa, pay a visit to the National Museum of Ethiopia. Then travel by local air to the northern town of Lalibela, an important pilgrimage center of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church—one of the oldest Christian sects in the world. At this fascinating World Heritage site, stroll among the breathtaking subterranean churches that were carved out of bedrock in the 12th century. **SHERATON ADDIS (B, L, D DAILY)**

MAY 31, JUNE 1 AND 2 TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Fly by private jet to Tel Aviv and continue overland to Jerusalem, a city that holds a rich spiritual meaning to many faiths. We will visit a number

of holy sites in the Old City and learn about their significance to Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Face the Western Wall, one of the most sacred of Jewish sites, and touch its ancient stones; then wander through the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which, according to tradition, houses the tomb of Jesus. **KING DAVID HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)**

JUNE 3 AND 4 LONDON, ENGLAND/U.S.

Return by private jet to London and celebrate our adventure with a farewell dinner. The next day, transfer to the airport for your commercial flight home. **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LONDON AT PARK LANE (B, L, D; B)**

INFORMATION

Dates:
2016: May 12–Jun. 4

Expedition Cost: **\$67,950**
Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$8,250. Transportation by private Boeing 757 jet and other conveyance, as noted in the itinerary, is included in the expedition cost. Airfare to/from London is not included.

Please note: There is a \$2,500 per person deposit for this trip. See our website for specific terms and conditions.

Fly by Private Jet:

Our specially outfitted Boeing 757 is ideally suited for this extraordinary expedition. Its long-range capabilities and ability to land in smaller airports afford us unmatched flexibility. We set our own schedules, flying direct and avoiding layovers, which gives us the freedom to make the most of our adventures on land. Instead of the standard 233 seats, the jet's interior has been customized and refitted to accommodate just 77 guests in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seating.



The painted patterns of a monastery doorway frame a young monk in Mongolia.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS PRIVATE JET EXPEDITION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL 1-800-224-1894.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS



WHETHER YOU'RE CAPTURING THE INCOMPARABLE LIGHT OF PROVENCE OR A STREET MUSICIAN IN NEW ORLEANS, you have real-time access to some of the world's best photographers in the classroom and in the field on a National Geographic photography workshop. You practice their techniques on daily shoots, benefit from their critiques of your images, see a visually rich place from their perspective, and soak up their passion for photography. Through the hands-on instruction and personal insights of a top National Geographic photographer and a professional instructor, you'll build your skills as a photographer and visual storyteller.

All participants must bring a digital SLR or mirrorless camera, a laptop computer, and software for organizing and presenting images. Each workshop is limited to 25 participants.

WYOMING'S COWBOY COUNTRY

Capture the essence of a uniquely American culture during a photography workshop in Wyoming's cowboy country. From our base at the beautiful CM Ranch, get ensconced in the traditions of the Wild West, photographing wranglers at work, horse drives, and lasso-tossing cowboys. Work on portraiture during photo sessions with cowboys, and shoot images of horses galloping across the sage-brush fields against the red hills of the Badlands. Then head behind the scenes to document the excitement of a Friday-night rodeo.

Accommodations: CM Ranch

7 Days • 2015: Jun. 21–27 • Jun. 28–Jul. 4
Aug. 9–15

Workshop cost: \$4,295



SANTA FE

Since the days of Ansel Adams, photographers have been drawn to Santa Fe's vivid textures and colors; its radiant light; and its blend of Spanish, Native American, and Wild West flavors. Join a top photographer in this picturesque city and learn to capture light and frame images that tell a story. Photograph cubic adobe homes against a deep blue sky, go on a photo shoot amid the mesas and buttes near Georgia O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch, and spend an afternoon taking portraits of cowboys and their horses at a nearby ranch.

Optional Accommodations: Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza

5 Days • 2015: May 12–16 • Jul. 21–25
Oct. 13–17

Cost without hotel: \$1,995*

Cost with hotel: \$2,570*

*Applicable New Mexico sales tax is additional.

PARIS AND PROVENCE

From the iconic monuments along the Seine to the sunny southern towns that inspired Vincent van Gogh, experience France during a workshop that combines Paris and Provence. In Paris, photograph vibrant street life against the backdrop of architecture both elegant and eclectic. Go on photo shoots in the ornate gardens of Versailles, and find a new angle on the Eiffel Tower. Then head south to the soft pastel landscapes of Provence. From our base in the heart of Avignon, set out to capture the colorful markets and Roman ruins of Arles and frame the view from the hilltop hamlet of Les Baux.

Accommodations: Hotel Bedford, Paris and Hotel de l'Horloge, Avignon

7 Days • 2015: Apr. 14–20 • Oct. 6–12

Workshop cost: \$4,875



Note: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. There is no single supplement for the Wyoming's Cowboy Country Workshop. Airfare is not included. For day-by-day itineraries and single rates for these workshops or to reserve space, go to nationalgeographicexpeditions.com or call 1-866-797-4686.



NEW YORK CITY

Brimming with towering skyscrapers, vibrant ethnic enclaves, and the colorful bustle of street life, New York City presents photographers with an endless array of subjects. Capture the environs of Ground Zero, catch the sunset from the top of Rockefeller Center, and photograph the iconic Brooklyn Bridge. Complete a portrait assignment in the lively neighborhoods of Chinatown and Little Italy, then head to our state-of-the-art classroom to learn about photo technique, exposure, lighting, and composition.

Optional Accommodations: *New York Marriott Downtown*

4 Days • 2015: May 7–10 • May 21–24 • Jun. 4–7
Sep. 17–20 • Oct. 8–11

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,445

NEW ORLEANS

From its French-influenced architecture to the jazz bands that fill the streets with swirling rhythms, New Orleans' lively blend of cultures makes it a compelling photography destination. Take to the streets of the French Quarter with your camera, photograph a historic cemetery, and document the nightlife on Bourbon Street.

Optional Accommodations: *Bourbon Orleans Hotel*

4 Days • 2015: Mar. 26–29 • Apr. 16–19
Oct. 15–18 • Nov. 12–15

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,175

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Discover how to get the best images from your mobile device. Visit our website for details.

San Francisco:

2 Days • 2015: Mar. 28–29, Aug. 8–9

New York City:

2 Days • 2015: Apr. 25–26, Oct. 24–25



SAN FRANCISCO

Elegant row houses, diverse neighborhoods, and dramatically undulating streets make San Francisco a particularly photogenic city. On daily assignments, photograph merchants hawking their goods in Chinatown and go on a shoot in the ethnic neighborhood of North Beach. In Russian Hill, frame graceful Victorian homes that line the steep streets and views of winding Lombard Street and Alcatraz. Learn how to enhance your photos, and take advantage of daily edit-and-critique sessions with your instructors.

Optional Accommodations: *Cartwright Hotel*

4 Days • 2015: Apr. 9–12 • Jun. 18–21

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,275

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington, D.C. is home to evocative memorials, neoclassic architecture, beautiful parks, and eclectic neighborhoods. Photograph scenes of Eastern Market coming to life in the morning's first light and the majestic monuments of the National Mall. Go behind the scenes at National Geographic's headquarters to meet with magazine staff and learn how the photographic process works at the Society.

Optional Accommodations: *Topaz Hotel*

4 Days • 2015: Mar. 26–29 • May 7–10
Sep. 24–27 • Oct. 22–25

Cost without hotel: \$1,595

Cost with hotel: \$2,145

ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

are available in San Francisco and New York City for advanced photographers and National Geographic Photography Workshop alumni who want to take their photography to the next level. Visit our website for details.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

WYOMING'S COWBOY COUNTRY



Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer **Jay Dickman** will lead all of the Wyoming workshops.

SANTA FE



Award-winning photographer and resident of Santa Fe, **Nevada Wier** will lead the May workshop.

PARIS AND PROVENCE



Award-winning photographers **Sisse Brimberg** and **Cotton Coulson** will lead the April Paris and Provence workshop.

NEW YORK CITY



Photographer and native of New York City **Ira Block** will lead the May 21 and June 4 New York City workshops.

SAN FRANCISCO



Photographer and native of San Francisco, **Catherine Karnow** will lead the June San Francisco workshop.

NEW ORLEANS



Award-winning photojournalist and native of New Orleans, **Tyrone Turner** will lead all of the New Orleans workshops.

WASHINGTON, D.C.



National Geographic staff photographer and Washington, D.C. resident **Mark Thiessen** will lead the March and September Washington, D.C. workshops.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILED BIOS OF THE EXPERTS LISTED ABOVE AND FOR EXPERTS LEADING OTHER DEPARTURES.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS



TAKE YOUR CAMERA ON THE ROAD, discovering stunning destinations alongside some of the best photographers in the world. Set out with a National Geographic photographer on photo shoots among the sacred temples of Japan or the ancient rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia. Whether you're snapping portraits of Mongolian nomad families or framing the giant tortoises of the Galápagos, you'll learn techniques from photographers who are passionate about travel and their craft.

Our photography expeditions are designed for photographers of all skill and experience levels. While they generally follow the itineraries found elsewhere in this catalog or on our website, daily activities have been adjusted to maximize photographic opportunities through sunrise or sunset shoots, photo walks, and portrait sessions.

MONGOLIA

Home to sweeping landscapes and a nomadic culture that pre-dates the age of Genghis Khan, Mongolia offers a stunning array of photographic opportunities. Travel through the vast steppe to capture images of Mongolian horses, traditional *ger* camps, and camel-herding families. Catch the towering dunes of the Gobi at sunrise and the brilliant Flaming Cliffs at sunset, and spend a thrilling day documenting Naadam, Mongolia's most celebrated festival.

See our website for the day-by-day itinerary.

14 Days • 2015: Jun. 30–Jul. 12 • Jul. 25–Aug. 6

Expedition Cost: \$5,995

Airfare within Mongolia: from \$450



JAPAN

An intriguing mix of time-honored tradition and cutting-edge modernity, Japan is a fascinating place to photograph. In Kyoto, enjoy a private photo opportunity with elegant geisha and explore the lantern-lit streets of the Gion district. Following the likely path of the springtime cherry blossoms or fall's changing foliage, photograph the thatched villages of Shikoku, a private *kagura* dance performance in Hiroshima, and more.

See page 66 for the day-by-day itinerary.

12 Days • 2015: Mar. 25–Apr. 5 • Nov. 7–18

Expedition Cost: \$7,995

CHINA

China's combination of epic monuments, natural beauty, and striking modern architecture make it a magical photographic destination. In Beijing, set out to photograph the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, and historic neighborhoods. Frame close-ups of Xi'an's terra-cotta warriors from the site's VIP platform. Experience the beautiful karst landscapes near Guilin, and document rural life during harvest time. Cap off your journey in dazzling Shanghai.

See our website for the day-by-day itinerary.

14 Days • 2015: Sep. 12–25

Expedition Cost: from \$7,595

Airfare within China: \$730

BHUTAN

Set out into the mountains of Bhutan to shoot images of exquisite temples, timeless farming villages, and the towering Himalaya. Capture scenes from a lively market and crimson-robed monks against a backdrop of whitewashed *dzongs*. Hike into forests where wild moss creates an otherworldly atmosphere, and photograph breathtaking panoramas of snow-clad peaks.

See page 74 for the day-by-day itinerary.

12 Days • 2015: Apr. 4–15 • Oct. 20–31

Expedition Cost: \$6,695

Airfare between Bangkok and Paro: from \$960

INDIA BY RAIL

Traveling aboard the *Palace on Wheels*, document the enchanting land of India on photo shoots in rural villages, at the Taj Mahal, and amid evocative dunes. Focus on birdlife at a wildlife sanctuary and snap action shots of dancers at a private performance. Revel in the visual feast of India's vibrant Desert festival in Jaisalmer on the February departure, or the colorful Holi festival in Agra on the March departure.

See page 72 for the day-by-day itinerary.

13 Days • 2016: Feb. 14–26 • Mar. 13–25

Expedition Cost: \$11,595



TIBET AND NEPAL

Journey through the Himalaya from the stark Tibetan Plateau to the verdant foothills of Nepal. Frame Lhasa's Potala Palace in the golden hues of morning, and snap portraits of traditional Tibetan dancers in Gyangzê. Venture to Everest's North Face Base Camp to photograph the world's highest peaks, and plunge into the colorful bustle of Kathmandu with your camera.

See page 69 for the day-by-day itinerary.

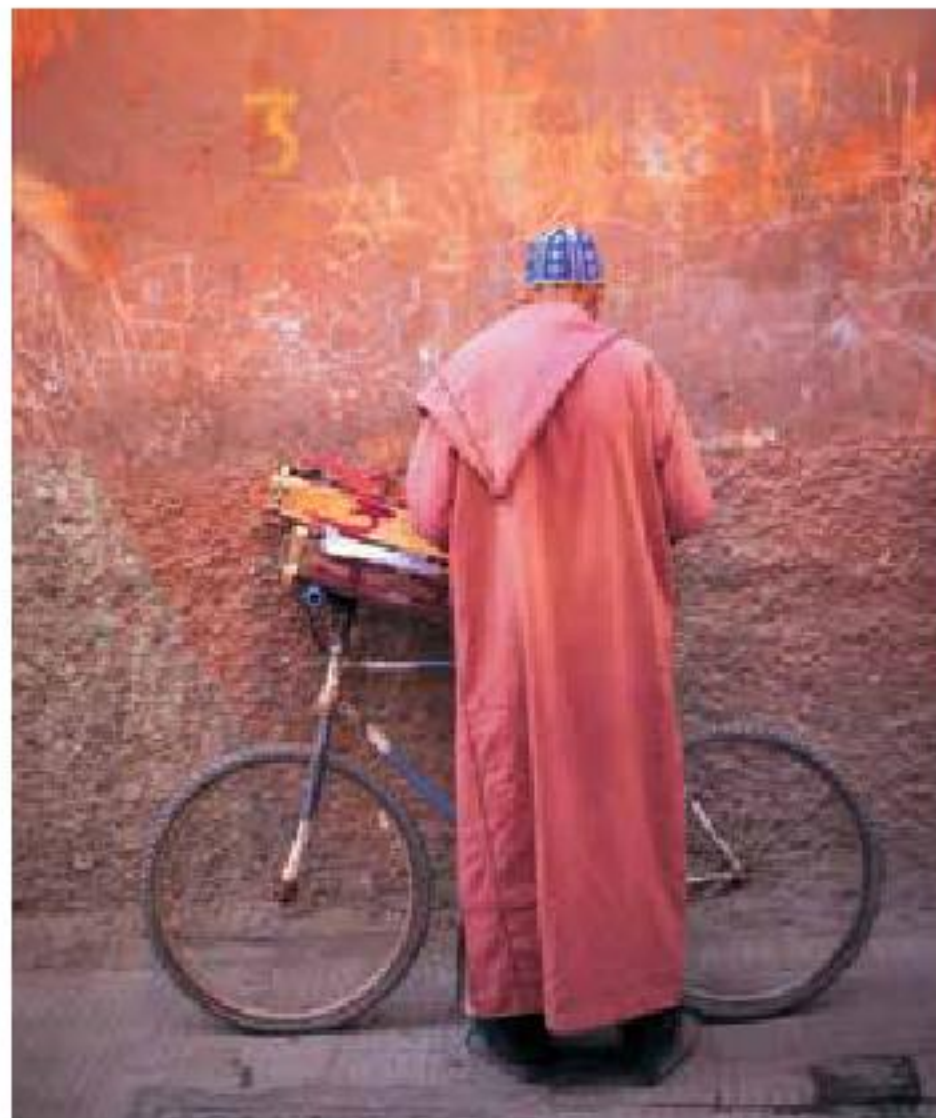
16 Days • 2015: Oct. 30–Nov. 14
Expedition Cost: \$8,215
Airfare from Beijing to Lhasa: \$475

ETHIOPIA

Between its ancient wonders and its vibrant ethnic traditions, Ethiopia presents a rare chance for photographers to document fascinating cultures barely touched by the centuries. In the Omo River Valley, meet and photograph diverse peoples who distinguish themselves with elaborate body paint, scarification, and lip plates. Document bustling market scenes, and train your lens on the exquisite underground churches of Lalibela.

See page 83 for the day-by-day itinerary.

14 Days • 2015: Sep. 17–30
2016: Jan. 8–21 • Apr. 19–May 2
Expedition Cost: \$7,995
Airfare within Ethiopia: \$695



MOROCCO

With your camera in hand, discover the enchanting cities of Marrakech and Fez, venture into rose-colored kasbahs, and snap portraits of traditional Berber families in their mountain villages. Photograph the ancient adobe village of Ait Benhaddou lit up by the late afternoon sun, and ride into the Sahara on a camel to capture the sun setting on the dunes.

See page 82 for the day-by-day itinerary.

11 Days • 2015: May 22–Jun. 1 • Oct. 30–Nov. 9
Expedition Cost: \$5,995

TANZANIA

Set out on a photo safari amid some of East Africa's most spectacular landscapes and hone your skills while photographing an ever-changing tableau of wildlife. Learn how best to capture movement and light as you frame dazzling herds of zebras, majestic lion prides, and wildebeests on their annual migration across the Serengeti. Spend time with the Maasai and document their traditions in the Ngorongoro Highlands.

See page 76 for the day-by-day itinerary.

11 Days • 2015: Mar. 7–17 • Aug. 15–25
2016: Mar. 5–15
Expedition Cost: from \$8,795
Airfare within Tanzania: \$700

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

MONGOLIA AND TIBET AND NEPAL



National Geographic Society Explorer and leading documentary photographer **Chris Rainier** will lead the July 25 Mongolia and the October 30 Tibet and Nepal Photo Expeditions.

JAPAN



Award-winning National Geographic photographer **Macduff Everton** will lead the November Japan Photo Expedition.

CHINA



Photographer **Greg Girard** lived in China for many years and will lead the China Photo Expedition.

BHUTAN



Photographer **Alison Wright** was named a 2013 National Geographic Traveler of the Year and will lead the April Bhutan Photo Expedition.

INDIA AND TANZANIA



Renowned photographer and *National Geographic* contributor **Nevada Wier** will lead the March India and the August Tanzania Photo Expeditions.

MOROCCO



Acclaimed photojournalist **Massimo Bassano** will lead the May 8 and October 30 Morocco Photo Expeditions.

ETHIOPIA



Photographer and filmmaker **Ami Vitale** will lead the September Ethiopia Photo Expedition.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILED BIOS OF THE EXPERTS LISTED ABOVE AND FOR EXPERTS LEADING OTHER DEPARTURES.

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.

See a complete list of all our photography expeditions at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/photography.

MORE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS



WINTER WILDLIFE IN YELLOWSTONE

Yellowstone in winter is a photographer's delight: mineral pools burn through the snow, revealing their gem-colored depths; waterfalls freeze mid-spill; and elk and moose stand out clearly against the glistening white landscape. Record the beauty of winter in our oldest national park, zooming in on wildlife in the Lamar Valley, catching the interplay of steam and snow on Mammoth Hot Springs, and rising early for a sunrise photo shoot in the Lower Geyser Basin.

Visit our website for the day-by-day itinerary.

**6 Days • 2016: Jan. 17–22 • Feb. 7–12
Feb. 21–26**

Expedition Cost: \$3,850

YOSEMITE

Follow in the footsteps of Ansel Adams in one of North America's most spectacular national parks. Find a unique angle on sites he made famous: El Capitan, Half Dome, and the myriad waterfalls that splash into the Yosemite Valley. Trace Adams's legacy at the Ansel Adams Gallery, long owned by his family. Capture the spirit of the California Gold Rush on a photo shoot in historic Mariposa, and discover creative ways to frame the massive sequoias of Mariposa Grove.

See page 27 for the day-by-day itinerary.

7 Days • 2015: Jun. 24–30 • Sep. 2–8

Expedition Cost: \$4,895

COSTA RICA AND THE PANAMA CANAL

Traveling with a team of photographers aboard the *National Geographic Sea Lion*, venture deep into the rain forests of Costa Rica to capture images of sloths and howler monkeys, frame white-sand beaches backed by lush jungles, kayak among mangroves to photograph incredible birdlife, and document your passage through the historic Panama Canal.

See page 16 for the day-by-day itinerary.

**8 Days • 2015: Dec. 12–19
2016: Jan. 9–16 • Feb. 13–20
Mar. 12–19**

Expedition Cost: from \$6,190

ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE

Record the remarkable beauty of southeast Alaska on a voyage with top photographers into a land of mist-shrouded fjords, tidewater glaciers, and islands teeming with wildlife. Sailing aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird* or the *National Geographic Sea Lion*, focus on orcas and humpback whales, kayak around dramatic glacial ice with your camera in hand, and spend a full day in Glacier Bay National Park.

See page 22 for the day-by-day itinerary.

**8 Days • 2015: Jun. 13–20 • Jun. 20–27
Aug. 29–Sep. 5 • Aug. 30–Sep. 6**

Expedition Cost: from \$6,290



ALASKA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND HAIDA GWAI

Set sail on a remarkable journey to Alaska's Inside Passage and British Columbia, and experience the extraordinary biodiversity and cultural riches of the Haida Gwaii archipelago. Photograph towering, ancient totem poles and wild shores shrouded with old-growth forest. While cruising the dramatic fjords and inland waterways of southeastern Alaska, keep your camera at the ready to capture images of orcas, humpback whales, and Steller sea lions. Then listen for the thunder of calving glaciers while exploring the stunning wilderness of Glacier Bay National Park.

Visit our website for the day-by-day itinerary.

**15 Days • 2015: May 2–16 • May 3–17 • Sep. 5–19
Sep. 6–20**

Expedition Cost: from \$10,390



Clockwise from top left: Steam rising from a Yellowstone thermal pool shrouds the park's winter landscape in mist; a humpback whale breaching in Alaska's pristine waters; colorful macaws swoop through the Costa Rican jungle; caught in constant motion, dervishes spin in Turkey; blue-footed boobies in the Galápagos.



EPIC GALÁPAGOS new

Join a team of top National Geographic photographers in one of the planet's most photogenic places for an in-depth exploration over two weeks. Whether you're a published pro or a rookie looking to build a portfolio, you'll learn new shooting skills in the field and editing and gear tips during on-board sessions. Enjoy daily excursions including snorkeling, hiking, Zodiac tours, and kayaking; and experience up-close photography opportunities with the unique wildlife of the Galápagos.

See our website for the day-by-day itinerary.

17 Days • 2015: Nov. 27–Dec. 13
Expedition Cost: from \$12,580
Airfare within Ecuador: \$495

TURKEY

From the gleaming ruins of Ephesus to the vibrant markets of Bodrum, Turkey is exceptionally picturesque. Uncover the country's rich cultural legacy on visits to palaces, mosques, and bazaars in Istanbul. Enjoy a rare opportunity to photograph whirling dervishes during a private performance, and capture the glowing moon-scape of Cappadocia at sunset. Shoot portraits of local farmers, artists, and families as you soak up daily life.

See page 59 for the day-by-day itinerary.

11 Days • 2015: Oct. 1–11
Expedition Cost: \$6,595
Airfare within Turkey: from \$650



NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.

See a complete list of all our photography expeditions at
nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/photography.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

- WINTER WILDLIFE IN YELLOWSTONE
- EPIC GALÁPAGOS



National Geographic staff photographer **Mark Thiessen** will lead the February 7 Winter in Yellowstone Photo Expedition and will be one of the photographers who joins the November 27 Epic Galápagos Photo Expedition.

YOSEMITE



National Geographic photographer **Peter Essick** is the author of the book *The Ansel Adams Wilderness*. He will lead both Yosemite Photo Expeditions.

COSTA RICA AND THE PANAMA CANAL



National Geographic photographer and naturalist **Jeff Mauritzen** will lead the January 2016 Costa Rica and the Panama Canal Photo Expedition.

ALASKA'S INSIDE PASSAGE



Photographer **Michael Melford** is a regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*. He will lead both June Alaska's Inside Passage Photo Expeditions.

ALASKA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND HAIDA GWAI



Award-winning travel and editorial photographer **Susan Seubert** will lead the September 6 Alaska, British Columbia, and Haida Gwaii Photo Expedition.

TURKEY



National Geographic photographer **Mathieu Paley** will lead the Turkey Photo Expedition.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILED BIOS OF THE EXPERTS LISTED ABOVE AND FOR EXPERTS LEADING OTHER DEPARTURES.

ALASKA FAMILY VOYAGE



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Traveling aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird*, spot black and brown bears and humpback whales with experienced naturalists.
- Glide in an expedition landing craft among a maze of glacial ice in Tracy Arm Fjord, and paddle a kayak into pristine fjords and hidden coves.
- Discover Alaska's vibrant marine life with our undersea specialist.
- Participate in activities designed for kids, such as scavenger hunts and special expedition landing craft excursions, and earn a Junior Ranger Badge in Glacier Bay National Park.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 SEATTLE/JUNEAU, ALASKA

Fly from Seattle to Juneau, the capital of Alaska. Explore the city and explore the imposing Mendenhall Glacier before embarking the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. (D)

DAYS 2-7 EXPLORING ALASKA'S ISLANDS, BAYS, AND FJORDS

Spend the next six days encountering some of the world's most spectacular scenery and wildlife along Alaska's coast. We explore this beautiful and intriguing land up close, as our small ship can reach places that few others see. The long days of summer allow for wildlife viewing well into the evening hours. Our special hands-on educational program is designed to encourage children's interest in a wide range of topics from the feeding behavior

Above left: A veil of water cascades off a breaching whale.

EXPEDITION TEAM



National Geographic Fellow **Jon Waterhouse** will join our diverse team of experts on the June departure. Jon is the executive director of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed

Council and has paddled canoes all over the world on "Healing Journeys," evaluating the health of river systems, addressing environmental concerns, and documenting the traditions of the indigenous peoples who depend on rivers.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

of humpback whales to the identification of bear tracks in the wild. (B, L, D DAILY)

Our approach during this voyage is one of discovery, and our itinerary is flexible. We follow the same itinerary as described on pages 22 and 23, and explore the following places:

TRACY ARM-FJORDS TERROR WILDERNESS
PETERSBURG
FREDERICK SOUND
CHATHAM STRAIT
ICY STRAIT AND THE INIAN ISLANDS
CHICHAGOF ISLAND
GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

DAY 8 SITKA/SEATTLE

After breakfast, disembark in Sitka, a unique town with a strong Russian heritage. See eagles up close at the Alaska Raptor Center, an educational center that serves as a bald eagle hospital. In the early afternoon, transfer to the airport for the flight to Seattle. (B)

SEE A DETAILED ITINERARY AND MAP ON PAGES 22-23.



Paddles in sync, kayakers ply the waters off Alaska's rocky coast.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 27-Jul. 4* • Jul. 18-25 • Aug. 1-8

*This departure follows the itinerary described here and on pages 22-23, but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1 <i>Located on Main Deck</i>	\$6,290
Category 2 <i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>	\$7,340
Category 3 <i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>	\$8,390

See *National Geographic Sea Bird* description, photo, and deck plan on page 130. Prices are per person, double occupancy. **For children under 18, deduct \$500 from the adult rate.** For a single cabin, add \$3,150 in Category 1 and \$3,670 in Category 2. Airfare to/from Alaska is not included in the expedition cost. The group flight from Seattle to Juneau and return from Sitka is \$570.

Optional Extension:

Add a three-day pre-trip extension to Seattle or a seven-day extension to Denali National Park and Preserve. Visit our website or call for details.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the fascinating wildlife and geology of the Galápagos aboard the *National Geographic Endeavour* or *National Geographic Islander*.
- Cruise to pristine islands and walk among colonies of animals and birds unfazed by your presence.
- Snorkel amid sea turtles, quirky penguins, and playful sea lions; gaze into the old eyes of a giant tortoise; and sit among a colorful band of marine iguanas.
- Participate in special kids' activities, such as stargazing, scavenger hunts, drawing and journaling workshops, and knot-tying lessons.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Depart for Guayaquil and, upon arrival, transfer to the Hotel Hilton Colón.

DAY 2 GUAYAQUIL/GALÁPAGOS

Fly to the Galápagos Islands and settle into your cabin aboard the comfortable expedition ship *National Geographic Endeavour* or the more intimate *National Geographic Islander*. (B, L, D)

DAYS 3-8 EXPLORING THE GALÁPAGOS

Discover the Galápagos Islands with a dynamic team of naturalists specially trained to work with kids of all ages. Snorkel with playful sea lions and penguins, observe the interactions of marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs, and explore the coast by kayak and Zodiac. (B, L, D DAILY)

Above left: Just beneath the water's surface, snorkel buddies explore together off the coast of the Galápagos.

In keeping with the nature of an expedition, our itinerary is flexible. We explore some of the following islands described on pages 28 and 29:

ISLA BARTOLOMÉ

ISLA SANTIAGO

ISLA SANTA CRUZ

ISLA ISABELA

ISLA FERNANDINA

ISLA FLOREANA

ISLA ESPAÑOLA

DAY 9 GALÁPAGOS/GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, disembark the ship and fly to Guayaquil. The evening is at leisure. HOTEL HILTON COLÓN (B)

DAY 10 GUAYAQUIL/U.S.

This morning, transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

SEE A DETAILED ITINERARY AND MAP ON PAGES 28-29.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 26-Jul. 5 • Jul. 3-12 • Jul. 4-13*
Jul. 25-Aug. 3* • Aug. 7-15

*These departures are aboard the *National Geographic Islander*. The other three are aboard the *National Geographic Endeavour*.

Expedition Cost:

	<i>Endeavour</i>	<i>Islander</i>
Category 1	\$6,290	\$6,760
Category 2	\$6,990	\$7,590
Category 3	\$7,650	\$8,270
Category 4	\$8,290	\$8,750
Category 5	\$10,280	\$10,650

See *National Geographic Endeavour* and *National Geographic Islander* descriptions, photos, and deck plans on page 131. Prices are per person, double occupancy. **For children under 18, deduct \$500 from the adult rate.** For a single cabin on the *Endeavour*, add \$1,570 in Category 1 and \$1,740 in Category 2. For a single cabin on the *Islander*, add \$3,380 in Category 1 and \$3,800 in Category 2. International airfare to/from Guayaquil and airfare within Ecuador are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight between Guayaquil and Galápagos is \$495 for adults and \$250 for children under 12 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Add a post-trip extension to Machu Picchu and Cusco, Peru or Quito, Ecuador. Visit our website or call for details.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Our diverse team of experts will be joined by National Geographic Fellow **Greg Marshall** on the June 26 and July 3 departures. Greg is a marine biologist and filmmaker.

He invented and has continued to lead development of Crittercam, a system of animal-borne cameras that capture video showing the world through animals' eyes.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Sea lions bicker playfully as a father and son ready their camera.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

AMERICA'S SOUTHWEST: CANYONS, DESERTS, AND DINOS FAMILY ADVENTURE new



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Watch a Navajo storyteller perform as night falls on the enchanting landscapes of Monument Valley.
- Climb into the ancient cliffside dwellings of the mysterious Ancestral Puebloans (or Anasazi) people at Mesa Verde.
- Go rafting or canyoneering in Canyonlands National Park, and discover the creatures of the Sonoran Desert on a sunset walk.
- Dig for fossils alongside a paleontologist at an excavation site where the bones of eight dinosaur species have been found.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

DAY 1 PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Meet up at the airport and transfer to our hotel in Scottsdale. Take a sunset walk in the Sonoran Desert before our welcome dinner tonight. FIRESKY RESORT SCOTTSDALE (D)

DAY 2 MONUMENT VALLEY

Drive into the otherworldly Monument Valley, where we'll meet our pen pals and take part in a Navajo sand-painting workshop. Later, climb into jeeps to explore the valley with a Navajo guide, stopping for a sunset dinner and traditional dance and storytelling.

MONUMENT VALLEY INN KAYENTA (B, L, D)

DAY 3 CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT/MESA VERDE N.P., COLORADO

Venture into Canyon de Chelly National

Above: Sunlight infuses Delicate Arch in Utah's Arches National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



As a second-generation National Park Service veteran, **Lou Good** grew up in Yellowstone, Yosemite, Dinosaur, Acadia, and Everglades National Parks.

He went on to work in Bryce Canyon, Hawaii Volcanoes, and Big Bend National Parks, as well as the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, from which he got to know the parks of the Four Corners region intimately. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge of America's national parks with National Geographic travelers.

LOU WILL ACCOMPANY BOTH JULY DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES

Monument and learn about the indigenous people who have lived here for nearly 5,000 years. Visit Four Corners Monument—where you can stand in four states simultaneously: Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah—on the way to Mesa Verde National Park. FAR VIEW LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 4 MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK/MOAB, UTAH

Delve into the mystery of the Ancestral Puebloans as we explore their dwellings, built into the sheer walls of Mesa Verde. Travel to Moab after lunch and hike through the red-rock landscape to take in the sunset over Arches National Park.

BEST WESTERN GREENWELL INN (B, L)

DAY 5 MOAB/CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Choose from two options this morning: a float on the Colorado River, or a fun canyoneering excursion. Return to Moab for lunch and free time this afternoon. If you wish, set out on an optional backcountry camping adventure this evening (dinner included). (B, L)

DAY 6 FRUITA/GRAND JUNCTION

Encounter robotic dinosaurs at the Dinosaur Journey Museum in Fruita. In the company of a paleontologist, learn how to distinguish fossil from rock, and go behind the scenes at the pale-

KID to KID CONNECTION

Meet our Navajo pen pals at a local school and take part in a sand-painting workshop together. Navajo sand painters join us to demonstrate their art and talk about the healing qualities and symbolism of sand-painting images. With their guidance, roll up your sleeves and create a sand painting of your own.



ontology lab. Cap off the day with a poolside pizza party at our hotel. DOUBLETREE GRAND JUNCTION (B, L, D)

DAYS 7 AND 8 MYGATT-MOORE QUARRY/ GRAND JUNCTION

Head into the field with a paleontologist to excavate the fossil-rich Mygatt-Moore Quarry and hike the nearby hills to identify bone fragments embedded in the sediment. Celebrate our adventure at a farewell dinner, and depart after breakfast the next day. (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Jun. 20-27 • Jul. 4-11 • Jul. 18-25
Aug. 1-8

Expedition Cost:

Adults	\$3,990
Children (ages 7-17)	\$3,790

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$750. The optional backcountry camping adventure on Day 5 is \$300 per person. Airfare to Phoenix and return from Grand Junction is not included in the expedition cost.

COSTA RICA FAMILY ADVENTURE



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy an unforgettable day of adventure in and around the treetops and volcanic canyon landscapes of Río Blanco.
- Go zip-lining through tropical forests, surrounded by astonishing varieties of wildlife.
- Eat lunch at the National Theater, have dinner in a tree house, and visit a coffee plantation.
- See Costa Rica's wild cats at a rescue center established to help orphaned or wounded animals, like jaguars and ocelots.

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Bienvenidos! Your tropical adventure begins! Meet fellow travelers and our expedition leaders—both “ticos,” or native Costa Ricans—at a welcome dinner. REAL INTERCONTINENTAL SAN JOSÉ (D)

DAY 2 SAN JOSÉ/MONTEVERDE

Explore the beauties of San José—from tropical fruit stands at the Mercado Central to the Teatro Nacional and the glittering Museum of Pre-Columbian Gold. After lunch at the National Theater, head north to the cloud forests of Monteverde. Go on a twilight forest walk as nocturnal creatures awaken. EL ESTABLO (B, L, D)

DAY 3 MONTEVERDE

Hike with a local expert through the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Spot some of the 500-plus species of orchids and look for wildlife: howler monkeys, tapirs, sloths, leaf-cutter ants, snakes, frogs, colorful birds, and butterflies. See how coffee is grown and roasted on a coffee plantation and ride in an ox-drawn cart. Or, if you feel adven-

Above: A girl takes in a treetop view on a canopy walk in Costa Rica.

KID to KID CONNECTION

In the village of Colonia Libertad, kids will get to know their “tico” pen pals during an afternoon of fun activities. They'll join artisans to learn how to make soap using local herbs, teach their new friends how to play basketball at hoops that have been donated to the community, and plant trees together.

turous, ride a zip line through the forest canopy. Have dinner tonight in a tree house. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 GUANACASTE

Head to Guanacaste Province, full of fast rivers, volcanic scenery, and deep canyons. Float down the Corobicí River through the tropical dry forest, keeping your eyes peeled for otters; crocodiles; monkeys; and large birds like storks, herons, and roseate spoonbills. See wild cats up close at the Las Pumas Rescue Center: jaguars, pumas, ocelots, or jaguarundis. Our home for the next three nights is hidden away on a “lost river” deep in a protected forest. RÍO PERDIDO (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 RÍO PERDIDO/COLONIA LIBERTAD

Adventures abound! Set out on an exhilarating excursion in and around the canyons of Río Blanco. Clamber on canyon platforms, walk across hanging bridges, zip-line above the rushing river, and swing and hike through the treetop canopy. Swim in natural thermal pools with views over ancient volcanic landscapes. Spend a day at Colonia Libertad, a community of farm workers. Kids meet their pen pals at the local school, play basketball together,



A keel-billed toucan calls out from its leafy perch.



and forge new friendships. At our farewell dinner tonight, kids can share bits from their trip journals and exchange contact information with their new friends. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 LIBERIA/U.S.

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2015: Mar. 14–20 • Jun. 13–19 • Jul. 5–11
Jul. 25–31 • Dec. 20–26
Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 1, 2016

Expedition Cost:

Adults	\$3,990
Children (ages 7–17)	\$3,890

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$800. International airfare to San José and return from Liberia is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to Papagayo Bay on the Pacific coast. Visit our website or call for details.

FAMILY ADVENTURES



ALASKA: DENALI TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FAMILY ADVENTURE

Discover stunning landscapes and diverse wildlife on a family expedition into the heart of Alaska's untouched wilderness. Stay in cozy cabins in Denali National Park and Preserve and in alpine luxury at a beautiful mountain resort. Head out on naturalist-led hikes to search for moose, caribou, wolves, grizzly bears, and Dall sheep; and look for wildflowers and animals on a scavenger hunt. Meet Alaska's wild residents up close at a local conservation center, and scan the horizon for whales and other marine life on a wildlife cruise through Prince William Sound.

DAY 1 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

DAYS 2, 3, AND 4 FAIRBANKS/DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

DAY 5 DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE/TALKEETNA

DAY 6 TALKEETNA/GIRDWOOD

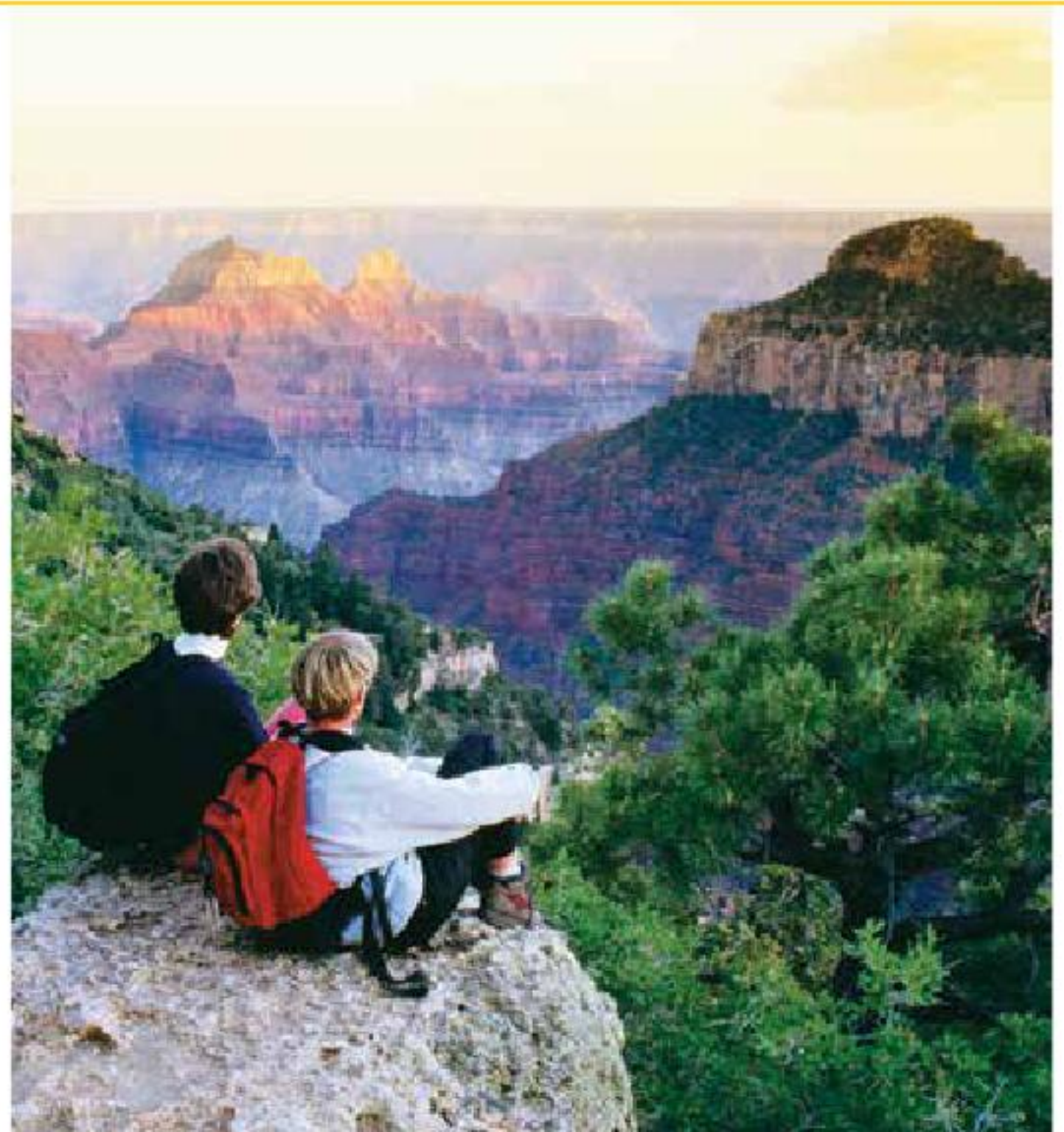
DAY 7 PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

DAY 8 GIRDWOOD/ANCHORAGE

8 Days • 2015: Jul. 1–8 • Jul. 10–17 • Aug. 7–14

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,695

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,125



GRAND CANYON, BRYCE CANYON, AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS FAMILY ADVENTURE

Encounter the geological treasures of the American Southwest with your family on an expedition to three national parks. Explore the North Rim of the Grand Canyon on foot or ride mules like the old pioneers. Hike amid Zion's wonderland of slot canyons, hanging gardens, and waterfalls. And wind your way through Bryce Canyon's whimsical maze of red rock spires. Stay in historic park lodges with Old West atmosphere, and take part in activities and excursions geared for explorers of all ages.

DAY 1 ST. GEORGE, UTAH

DAY 2 ST. GEORGE/GRAND CANYON

DAY 3 NORTH RIM OF THE GRAND CANYON

DAY 4 GRAND CANYON/ZION NATIONAL PARK

DAY 5 ZION NATIONAL PARK

DAY 6 ZION/BRYCE CANYON

DAY 7 BRYCE CANYON

DAY 8 BRYCE CANYON/ST. GEORGE

8 Days • 2015: Jun. 20–27 • Jul. 18–25 • Aug. 1–8 • Aug. 15–22

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,095*

Children (ages 7–17) \$3,685*

*Applicable Utah sales tax is additional.



YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON FAMILY ADVENTURE

Explore two of America's greatest natural wonders: Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. On a variety of excursions designed for families, discover Yellowstone's mud pots, geysers, and colorful pools; and look for bison, bears, elk, eagles, and coyotes. Hike along the edge of the spectacular Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and witness iconic Old Faithful's thrilling eruption. Embark on a scavenger hunt in search of wildlife and wildflowers, then head south to the jagged peaks of the Teton Range. Hop on a boat on Jenny Lake, and descend the thrilling rapids of the Snake River.

DAY 1 BOZEMAN, MONTANA

DAY 2 BOZEMAN/MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WYOMING

DAY 3 LAMAR VALLEY

DAY 4 GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE

DAY 5 UPPER, MIDWAY, AND LOWER GEYSER BASINS

DAY 6 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK/JACKSON

DAY 7 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

DAY 8 SNAKE RIVER/JACKSON

8 Days • 2015: Jun. 20–27 • Jul. 18–25 • Jul. 25–Aug. 1 • Aug. 8–15

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,250

Children (ages 7–17) \$3,825



YOSEMITE FAMILY ADVENTURE

California's Sierra Nevadas split into fantastic formations at Yosemite, where glacier-polished granite domes rise high above the valley floor and waterfalls tumble from great heights. Astonish your family with all that is colossal here: from the soaring wall of El Capitan to ancient sequoias that reach into the sky. In the company of naturalists, discover different parts of the park and learn about the native people who once inhabited this region. Hear the stories of photographer Ansel Adams and conservationist John Muir, two legendary men who cherished, and helped protect, the wonders of Yosemite.

DAY 1 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

DAY 2 MARIPOSA

DAY 3 GLACIER POINT

DAY 4 YOSEMITE VALLEY

DAY 5 YOSEMITE VALLEY

DAY 6 TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

DAY 7 HETCH HETCHY

7 Days • 2015: Jul. 8–14 • Jul. 29–Aug. 4 • Aug. 5–11

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,795

Children (ages 7–17) \$4,315

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these family adventures, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/family.

FAMILY ADVENTURES



SCOTLAND FAMILY ADVENTURE

Home of the great warrior William Wallace, as well as the fictional school Hogwarts of Harry Potter fame, Scotland intrigues with legend and myth, mystical landscapes, and enchanting castles. Visit present-day Highlander villages, and follow park rangers through the glens and gorges of three beautiful parks from Ben Nevis to Loch Ness. Participate in hands-on conservation activities led by a ranger from the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND/PITLOCHRY

DAY 3 HIGHLAND PERTHSHIRE

DAY 4 LOCH TAY/BLAIR ATHOLL

DAY 5 NEWTONMORE/FORT WILLIAM

DAY 6 FORT WILLIAM/MALLAIG

DAY 7 FORT WILLIAM/INVERNESS

DAY 8 LOCH NESS/CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK

DAY 9 EDINBURGH/U.S.

9 Days • 2015: Jun. 20–28 • Jul. 18–26 • Aug. 1–9 • Aug. 8–16

Expedition Cost: **Adults \$5,990**

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,790

IRELAND FAMILY ADVENTURE

Delve into the idyllic landscapes of Ireland's west coast as we explore mountains and serene lakes, spectacular cliffs and beaches, and fishing villages and castles from Sligo to Connemara. Hear stories of legendary pirates and Celtic heroes, meet lively musicians, and discover prehistoric ruins on hikes and bike rides along the coast. Call a seven-hundred-year-old castle home, and immerse yourselves in the myths, the magic, and the vivid culture of Ireland's wild west.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./DUBLIN, IRELAND/SLIGO

DAY 3 LOUGH GILL/SLIGO

DAY 4 CARROWKEEL

DAY 5 STREEDAGH STRAND/MULRANNY

DAY 6 GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY

DAY 7 MULRANNY/INISHBOFIN

DAY 8 INISHBOFIN

DAY 9 CONNEMARA/DUBLIN/U.S.

9 Days • 2015: Mar. 14–22 • Jun. 20–28 • Jul. 11–19 • Aug. 1–9

Expedition Cost: **Adults \$5,990**

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,790

KID to KID CONNECTION

A special aspect of these expeditions is the Kid-to-Kid Connection, which links every young traveler with a pen pal of similar age in-country. Kids, their pen pals, and families will meet in person and celebrate local culture through interactive games and activities.



TUSCANY FAMILY ADVENTURE

Introduce your family to the magic of Tuscany as we explore walled villages, old fortresses, and breathtaking landscapes. From our base at a lovely villa in Chianti, set out on daily adventures, discovering medieval alleyways and castle keeps, peering at famous frescoes with an art historian, and hiking through the beautiful Tuscan countryside. Venture into the crypt of a medieval castle on a special tour for kids, and go horseback riding in the Chianti hills. Learn how olive oil, cheese, and gelato are made—and enjoy a taste too!

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./FLORENCE, ITALY/CHIANTI

DAY 3 SAN GIMIGNANO/VOLTERRA

DAY 4 CRETE SENESI/PIENZA

DAY 5 SIENA

DAY 6 CHIANTI

DAY 7 MONTEPULCIANO

DAY 8 CHIANTI/RADDA

DAY 9 FLORENCE/U.S.

9 Days • 2015: Jun. 27–Jul. 5 • Jul. 18–26 • Jul. 25–Aug. 2

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,790



GREECE FAMILY ADVENTURE

From science and medicine to art and democracy, the achievements of the ancient Greeks have shaped the foundations of Western civilization. Encounter this living legacy firsthand on a journey from the magnificent monuments of Athens to the enchanting villages of the Cyclades. Discover the mythology of ancient temples and ruins once buried in volcanic ash, and experience the pageantry and excitement of participating in your own Olympic Games. Explore the islands of Mykonos, Delos, and Paros by boat and on foot, and sail beneath the soaring cliffs of Santorini's crater. Along the way, take part in a variety of fun activities designed to immerse your family in the colors, flavors, and traditions of Greek culture.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ATHENS, GREECE

DAY 3 ATHENS

DAY 4 PIRAEUS/MYKONOS

DAY 5 MYKONOS/DELOS

DAYS 6 AND 7 PAROS

DAYS 8 AND 9 SANTORINI

DAY 10 SANTORINI/ATHENS/U.S.

10 Days • 2015: Jun. 21–30 • Jul. 12–21

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,790

Airfare within Greece: \$300

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these family adventures, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/family.

FAMILY ADVENTURES



ICELAND FAMILY ADVENTURE

With simmering volcanoes and spouting geysers, glaciers and icebergs, and deeply carved fjords, Iceland is a land where geology comes to life. Discover these extreme landscapes with your family, exploring ancient caves, boating to islands buzzing with birdlife, and taking a dip in the legendary Blue Lagoon. Learn about the island's rich mythology and colorful folk heroes, and enjoy time with native Icelanders—from artisans and storytellers to local families and kids.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

DAY 3 GOLDEN CIRCLE

DAY 4 WESTFJORDS PENINSULA

DAY 5 ARNARFJÖRDUR/PATREKSFJÖRDUR

DAY 6 PATREKSFJÖRDUR/STYKKISHÓLMUR

DAY 7 STYKKISHÓLMUR

DAY 8 SNÆFELLSJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

DAY 9 REYKJAVÍK/U.S.

9 Days • 2015: Jun. 26–Jul. 4 • Jul. 3–11 • Jul. 17–25 • Jul. 31–Aug. 8

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$6,790

Airfare within Iceland: \$300

KID to KID CONNECTION

A special aspect of these expeditions is the Kid-to-Kid Connection, which links every young traveler with a pen pal of similar age in-country. Kids, their pen pals, and families will meet in person and celebrate local culture through interactive games and activities.



SPAIN FAMILY ADVENTURE

Spain's Mediterranean coast is home to a lively mix of festivals, music, and colorful handicrafts side-by-side with modern science and surrealist architecture. In magical Barcelona, witness the wild creations of Salvador Dalí and Antoni Gaudí. Discover the aquatic creatures of the Mediterranean at Valencia's Oceanogràfic aquarium, and savor Catalan specialties. Learn to make paella and dance flamenco, go biking, explore an urban adventure park, and more. Spain's treasures await!

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./VALENCIA, SPAIN

DAYS 3 AND 4 VALENCIA

DAYS 5 AND 6 BARCELONA

DAY 7 GIRONA/FIGUERES

DAY 8 BARCELONA

DAY 9 BARCELONA/U.S.

9 Days • 2015: Mar. 15–23 • Jun. 21–29 • Jun. 28–Jul. 6
Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 4, 2016*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,390

Children (ages 7–17) \$6,190

*On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.



AUSTRALIA FAMILY ADVENTURE

Introduce your family to the breathtaking landscapes, fascinating wildlife, and unique cultures of Australia. Explore the magnificent Great Barrier Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Plant a native tree in the Skyrail's "rain forest regeneration corridor," and learn about the preservation of Australia's tropical forests. Encounter the giant red domes of Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) during a fun hike, and dine in the bush with an astronomer. Spend time with the Kuku Yalanji people, following in the footsteps of their ancestors, and take part in a traditional ceremony.

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

DAY 4 GREAT BARRIER REEF

DAY 5 KURANDA

DAY 6 PORT DOUGLAS/COOYA BEACH

DAYS 7 AND 8 ULURU AND THE OUTBACK

DAYS 9 AND 10 SYDNEY

DAYS 11 AND 12 SYDNEY/BLUE MOUNTAINS/U.S.

12 Days • 2015: Mar. 14–25 • Jun. 24–Jul. 5 • Jul. 18–29 • Dec. 19–30*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$7,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$7,790

Airfare within Australia: \$800

*On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.



PERU FAMILY ADVENTURE

Delve into the mysteries of the Inca and the vibrant traditions of the Andes on an unforgettable family journey to Peru. Venture into Inca fortresses and towns built of giant boulders, and get immersed in the swirl of colors and crafts at a village market. Ride a paso horse, try your hand at traditional weaving, and go hiking among salt terraces and ancient ruins. A spectacular train ride brings us high into the Andean peaks to amazing Machu Picchu for a full day of exploration in this lost citadel of the Inca.

DAY 1 U.S./LIMA, PERU

DAY 2 CUSCO/SACRED VALLEY

DAYS 3 AND 4 SACRED VALLEY/AGUAS CALIENTES

DAY 5 MACHU PICCHU

DAY 6 SACRED VALLEY/CUSCO

DAYS 7 AND 8 CUSCO/LIMA/U.S.

8 Days • 2015: Jun. 20–27 • Jun. 27–Jul. 4 • Jul. 11–18 • Aug. 1–8
Dec. 20–27* • Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 3, 2016*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,690

Children (ages 7–17) \$4,490

Airfare within Peru: \$400

*On the December departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these family adventures, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/family.

FAMILY ADVENTURES



TANZANIA FAMILY ADVENTURE

Venture into the wilds of Tanzania on a family safari and encounter a mind-boggling array of wildlife. Get to know local Maasai people, who welcome us into their homes and schools and share their vibrant traditions. With the help of our expedition leader and local rangers, learn to identify tracks and interpret animal behavior, and encounter an incredible diversity of wildlife on safari in the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ARUSHA, TANZANIA

DAYS 3 AND 4 EASTERN SERENGETI

DAYS 5, 6, AND 7 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

DAY 8 NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

DAY 9 NGORONGORO CRATER

DAYS 10 AND 11 ARUSHA/U.S.

11 Days • 2015: Mar. 14–24 • Jun. 27–Jul. 7 • Jul. 18–28 • Aug. 1–11
Dec. 19–29* • Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 5, 2016*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,290
Children (ages 7–17) \$6,090

Airfare within Tanzania: \$300

**On the December departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.*

SOUTH AFRICA FAMILY ADVENTURE

Brimming with fascinating cultures and eternally wild, South Africa offers an extraordinary assortment of family adventures. In Cape Town, ride a cable car to the top of Table Mountain; observe African penguins up close on the Cape Peninsula; and spend time with San “Bushmen,” learning ancient tracking techniques. Then, during four days on safari, watch for the glow of eyes on a nighttime game drive, observe lions and elephants in the wild, and gaze at tangerine-colored sunsets melting into the bush.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CAPE TOWN

DAY 6 CAPE TOWN/KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

DAY 7 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

DAYS 8 AND 9 KAPAMA GAME RESERVE

DAYS 10 AND 11 KAPAMA/JOHANNESBURG/U.S.

11 Days • 2015: Mar. 16–26 • Jun. 27–Jul. 7 • Jul. 4–14 • Aug. 1–11
Dec. 26, 2015–Jan. 5, 2016*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,990
Children (ages 7–17) \$6,790

Airfare within South Africa: \$700

**On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.*

KID to KID CONNECTION

A special aspect of these expeditions is the Kid-to-Kid Connection, which links every young traveler with a pen pal of similar age in-country. Kids, their pen pals, and families will meet in person and celebrate local culture through interactive games and activities.



CHINA FAMILY ADVENTURE

Welcome to China—ancient, intriguing, beautiful, and mind-boggling in its cultural and natural diversity. Get ready for a kaleidoscopic array of experiences: venture into Beijing’s Forbidden City and the watchtowers of the Great Wall; learn about an ancient emperor’s tomb with archaeologists in Xi’an; and zoom to the top of Shanghai’s most iconic skyscraper. Meet a traditional kite-maker and a martial arts master, and learn how to make shadow puppets on a family adventure that will fascinate every generation.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./SHANGHAI, CHINA

DAY 3 SHANGHAI

DAY 4 SHANGHAI/XI’AN

DAYS 5 AND 6 XI’AN

DAY 7 XI’AN/BEIJING

DAYS 8 AND 9 BEIJING

DAY 10 BEIJING/U.S.

10 Days • 2015: Jun. 20–29 • Jul. 4–13 • Jul. 25–Aug. 3

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,740

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,540

Airfare within China: \$550



VIETNAM FAMILY ADVENTURE

Discover the enchanting landscapes, colorful traditions, enticing cuisine, and genuinely friendly people of a remarkable country at the crossroads of past and future. On an adventure for all ages, ride bicycles past rice paddies and rural villages and along the fertile shores of the Mekong Delta. Explore the warren of lanes in Hanoi’s Old Quarter, paddle a boat along a palm-shaded canal, and zip through the streets of Saigon on a scooter. Kids will love the chance to team up for a scavenger hunt, learn to fish from a round basket-boat, practice the folk art of water puppetry, and create a traditional toy with new friends.

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./HANOI, VIETNAM

DAYS 4 AND 5 HANOI

DAYS 6, 7, AND 8 HOI AN

DAYS 9 AND 10 HO CHI MINH CITY/MEKONG

DAY 11 HO CHI MINH CITY/U.S.

11 Days • 2015: Mar. 13–23 • Jun. 19–29 • Jul. 31–Aug. 10 • Dec. 18–28*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,390

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,190

Airfare within Vietnam: \$400

*On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$200 per person.

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these family adventures, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/family.

FIND MORE TRIPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com to see detailed itineraries of these and other trips.



SPAIN AND PORTUGAL: new LEGACY OF THE MOORS

Trace the footsteps of Moorish sultans, Spanish monarchs, and legendary explorers on a voyage aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. Encounter a stunning array of architectural masterpieces: Gothic cathedrals and Moorish palaces, Bilbao's ultra-modern Guggenheim Museum, and the nautically inspired monuments on Lisbon's shores. Wander the winding streets of charming old towns, and discover historic sites and vibrant cultures from Granada and Lisbon to Porto and Santiago de Compostela.

11 Days • 2015: Apr. 3–13
Expedition Cost: from \$8,790

SPECIAL OFFER: See box on opposite page.

THE CANADIAN MARITIMES AND NEWFOUNDLAND

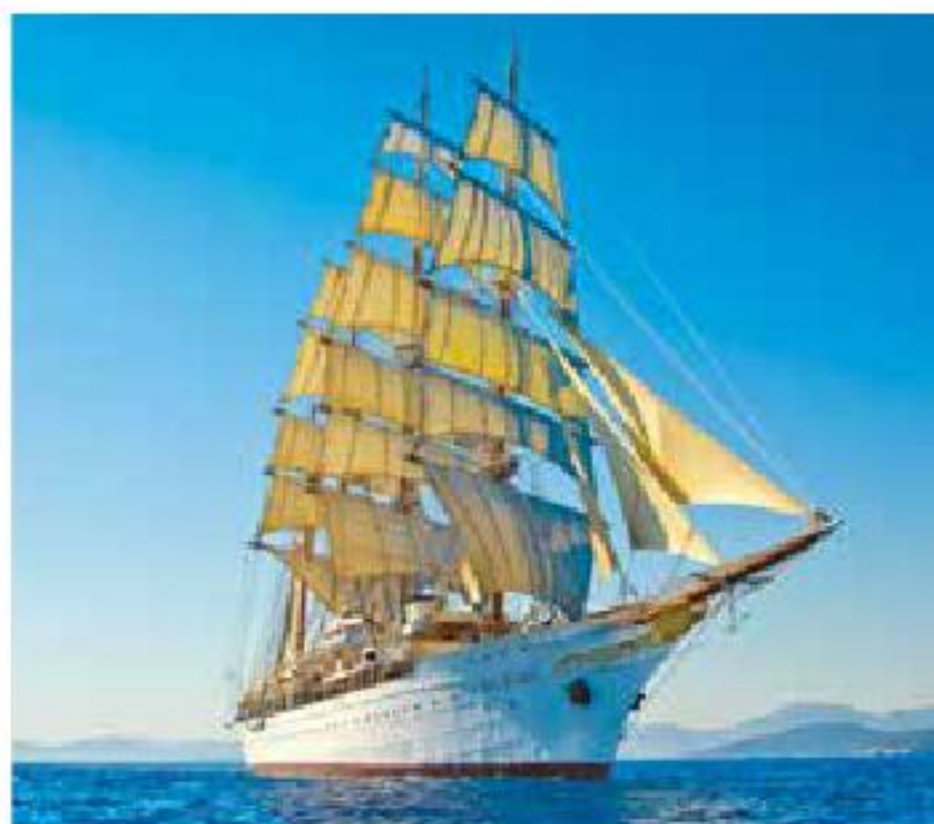
Trace the footsteps of Vikings, European explorers, and inventors on a special voyage with the chairman emeritus of the Board of Governors of the National Geographic Society. Aboard our flagship, the *National Geographic Explorer*, explore Cape Breton Island, the remote isles of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the rugged and spectacular coast of Newfoundland.

8 Days • 2015: Sep. 11–18
Expedition Cost: from \$7,690

SAILING THE CARIBBEAN

Set sail aboard the magnificent four-masted *Sea Cloud* to explore the lush islands and vibrant cultures of the Lesser Antilles. Hike in the mountainous rain forests of Dominica, venture to an active volcanic crater in Saint Lucia, and glide on a catamaran in the idyllic Grenadines. Amid a spectacular tropical landscape, enjoy opportunities to swim and snorkel at coral reefs and white-sand beaches, and discover the hidden corners that make this place so special.

8 Days • 2015: Mar. 5–12 • Mar. 12–19
2016: Jan. 21–28 • Jan. 28–Feb. 4
Feb. 4–11
Expedition Cost: from \$7,990



HAWAII: THE BIG ISLAND AND MAUI

Formed over millions of years by the fiery forces of a volcanic hotspot, the Hawaiian Islands rise from the ocean floor and pierce the glittering surface of the Pacific. Set out to explore Maui on a variety of excursions, spotting humpback whales and finding sacred pools nestled within the jungle. Then fly to the Big Island, home to the geologic wonderland of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Hike through rain forest to a black lava crater, swim and snorkel in crystal-clear waters, and meet local artists in charming coastal towns.

8 Days • 2015: Mar. 15–22 • Nov. 21–28
Expedition Cost: \$5,895

COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS JOURNEY

Follow the path of Lewis and Clark's expedition through Washington and Oregon and explore the historical lands of the Native American tribes they encountered. Glide beneath the towering canyons of the Columbia River Gorge, and explore its tributaries by kayak or expedition landing craft. Hike or bike amid breathtaking vistas, and take an exhilarating jet boat ride up the Snake River to Hell's Canyon. Delve into the lush landscapes of the Cascade Range, dine on locally sourced cuisine, and sample the region's famed wines and microbrews.

7 Days • 2015: Sep. 21–27 • Sep. 22–28
Sep. 28–Oct. 4 • Oct. 3–9
Oct. 4–10 • Oct. 10–16
Oct. 27–Nov. 2
Expedition Cost: from \$4,590



WINTER WILDLIFE IN YELLOWSTONE

Experience the magic of Yellowstone in the quiet of winter. Watch shaggy herds of bison shake snow off their backs as elk browse nearby. Learn about the return of Yellowstone's wolves and a study, partially funded by the National Geographic Society, about their impact on the park. Take in Yellowstone's brilliant views as you discover steaming geysers and dramatic canyons.

6 Days • 2015: Dec. 24–29
Dec. 22–27 (Family departure)
Dec. 27, 2015–Jan. 1, 2016
Dec. 30, 2015–Jan. 4, 2016
(Family departure)
2016: Jan. 3–8 • Jan. 31–Feb. 5
Feb. 14–19

Expedition Cost: Adults **\$3,725**
Children (ages 7–17) **\$3,315**



SWISS FAMILY ADVENTURE

Head into the magnificent Swiss Alps on a family adventure that combines hiking and biking with legendary train and cable car journeys. During stays in Lucerne, Interlaken, and Zermatt, wind through mountain scenery on historic trains and breathtaking gondolas, hike beneath the Matterhorn, and bike down an Alpine peak. Take a cooking class with local kids, walk inside a glacier, and sample Swiss chocolate on this program designed for active explorers of all ages.

9 Days • 2015: Jun. 20–28 • Jul. 11–19 • Aug. 1–9
Expedition Cost: Adults **\$5,590**
Children (ages 7–17) **\$5,390**

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.



Special Offers and Savings

SPECIAL OFFERS

Reserve your space on the expeditions listed below by **March 31, 2015** and receive special savings on select departure dates. Offers are for new bookings, may not be combined with other offers, and are subject to availability. Visit our website or call for special offer details.

Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

Enjoy a complimentary two-day Panama City extension on the November 28 and the December 5 and 12, 2015 departures; and the January through March 2016 departures. See the itinerary on page 16.

Alaska's Inside Passage

Receive complimentary round-trip airfare* between Seattle and Alaska (a \$570 value) on the following 2015 departures: May 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31; and June 6 and 7. See the itinerary on page 22.

Galápagos

Receive complimentary round-trip international airfare* to the Galápagos on select departures. See the itinerary on page 28, and visit our website for select departure dates.

Coastal Treasures from the Panama Canal to Peru

Receive complimentary international airfare* to Panama City and return from Lima on the September 27, 2015 departure. See the trip description on page 37.

Wild Encounters from Borneo to Bali

Receive 10 percent off the expedition price on all 2015 departures. Lifelong Explorers can double the discount and receive 20 percent off the expedition price. See the itinerary on page 75.

South Pacific Voyages Aboard the Orion

Receive 10 percent off the expedition price on any 2015 South Pacific voyage. Lifelong Explorers can double the discount and receive 20 percent off the expedition price. See the trip descriptions on page 89.

Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands

Receive complimentary round-trip international airfare* between Miami and Buenos Aires, plus round-trip charter airfare* between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, on the March 6, 2016 departure. See the trip description on page 101.

Spain and Portugal

Receive an airfare credit* of \$1,400 on the April 3, 2015 departure. See the trip description on the opposite page.

**Airfare credits and complimentary airfare are subject to availability and must be booked through Lindblad Expeditions.*

SPECIAL SAVINGS

Lifelong Explorers: Members of our Lifelong Explorer program enjoy savings on any National Geographic Expedition or Adventure. See page 5 for more information.

Group Discount: For parties of eight or more traveling together, each traveler receives 5 percent off the expedition cost. Separate terms and conditions apply. Please ask upon making your reservation. The group discount is not applicable on private jet bookings.

DECK PLANS



National Geographic Explorer

The *National Geographic Explorer* is a state-of-the-art, fully stabilized, ice-class expedition ship with an ice-reinforced forward hull that enables it to navigate polar environments while providing exceptional comfort. The ship carries kayaks and Zodiacs, as well as sophisticated video equipment that allows access to the underwater world. Our “Open Bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and learn about navigation. A selection of dining options onboard offer regionally inspired cuisine using fresh, local ingredients.

CAPACITY: 148 guests in 81 outside cabins

REGISTRY: Bahamas **OVERALL LENGTH:** 367 feet

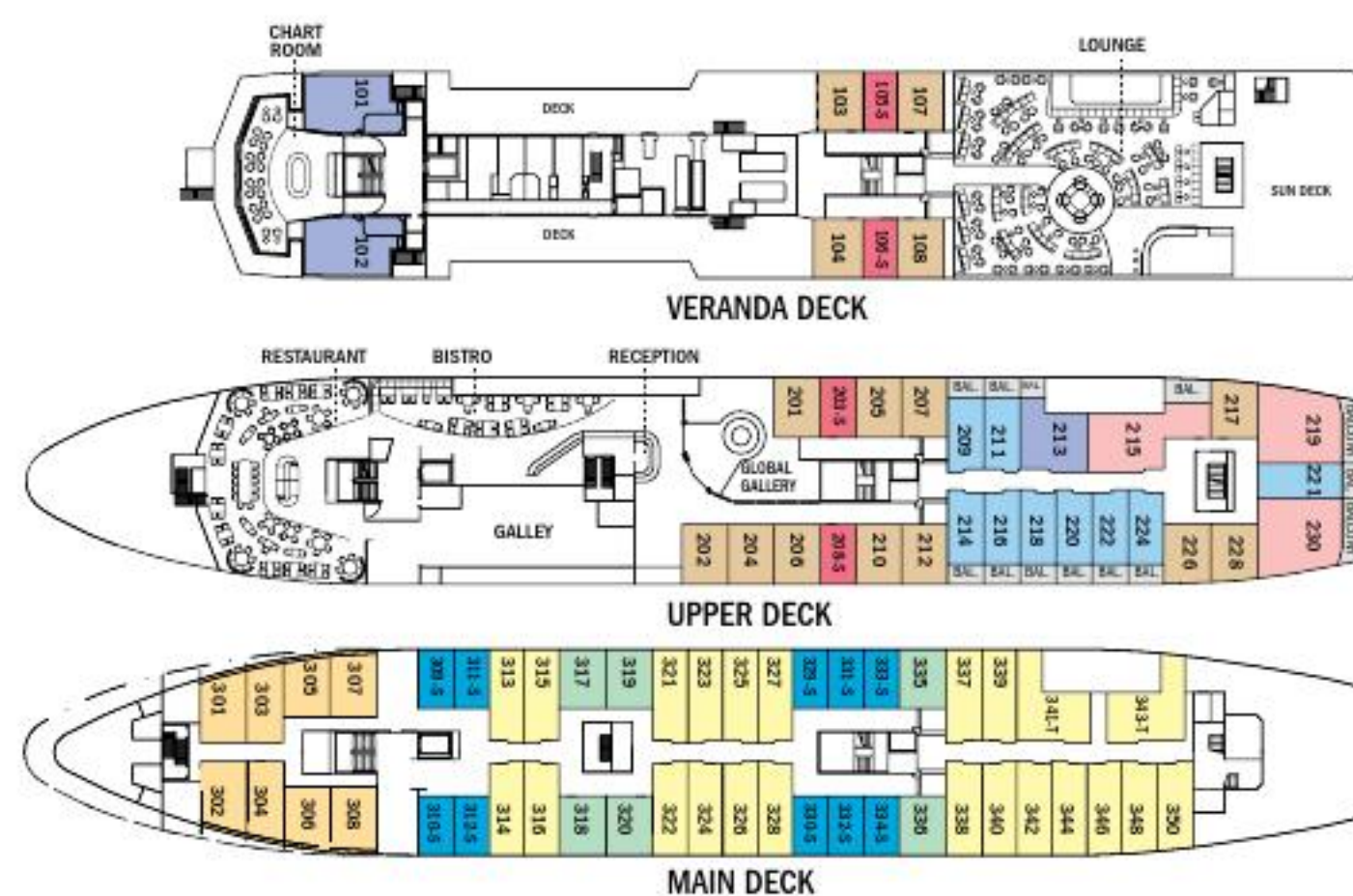
PUBLIC AREAS: A bistro bar, a chart room, a gift shop, a library, a lounge with a bar and cutting-edge audiovisual facilities, and an observation lounge

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, en suite bathrooms, and climate controls, and some have balconies. Single cabins in Category 2 are highlighted in bright blue (cabins 309–312 and 329–334). Single cabins in Category 3 are highlighted in bright pink (105, 106, 203, and 208).

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: 13 Zodiac landing craft, 36 double kayaks, a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), a hydrophone, a SplashCam, an underwater video camera, a crow’s nest remote-controlled camera, and a video microscope

SPECIAL FEATURES: An undersea specialist, a wellness specialist, a photography instructor, a video chronicler, a full-time doctor, an Internet café, a fitness center, two LEXspa treatment rooms, a sauna, and laundry service. A National Geographic photographer accompanies every departure.

Above: A Category 2 room; the fitness center offers panoramic views; travelers learn about navigation in the *Explorer*’s chart room.



Watch a short video about this ship at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video





National Geographic Orion

OUR NEWEST EXPEDITION SHIP

The state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion*, the newest addition to the National Geographic/Lindblad fleet, serves as our luxurious base camp for voyages to far-flung corners of the planet. A fully stabilized, ice-class vessel with an ice-reinforced hull, the *National Geographic Orion* is at home navigating polar ice as well as small harbors in the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins

REGISTRY: Bahamas **OVERALL LENGTH:** 338 feet

PUBLIC AREAS: An outdoor café, a lounge with bar, a restaurant, a sun deck, a state-of-the-art lecture theater, a library, a boutique, a marina platform, and a mud room

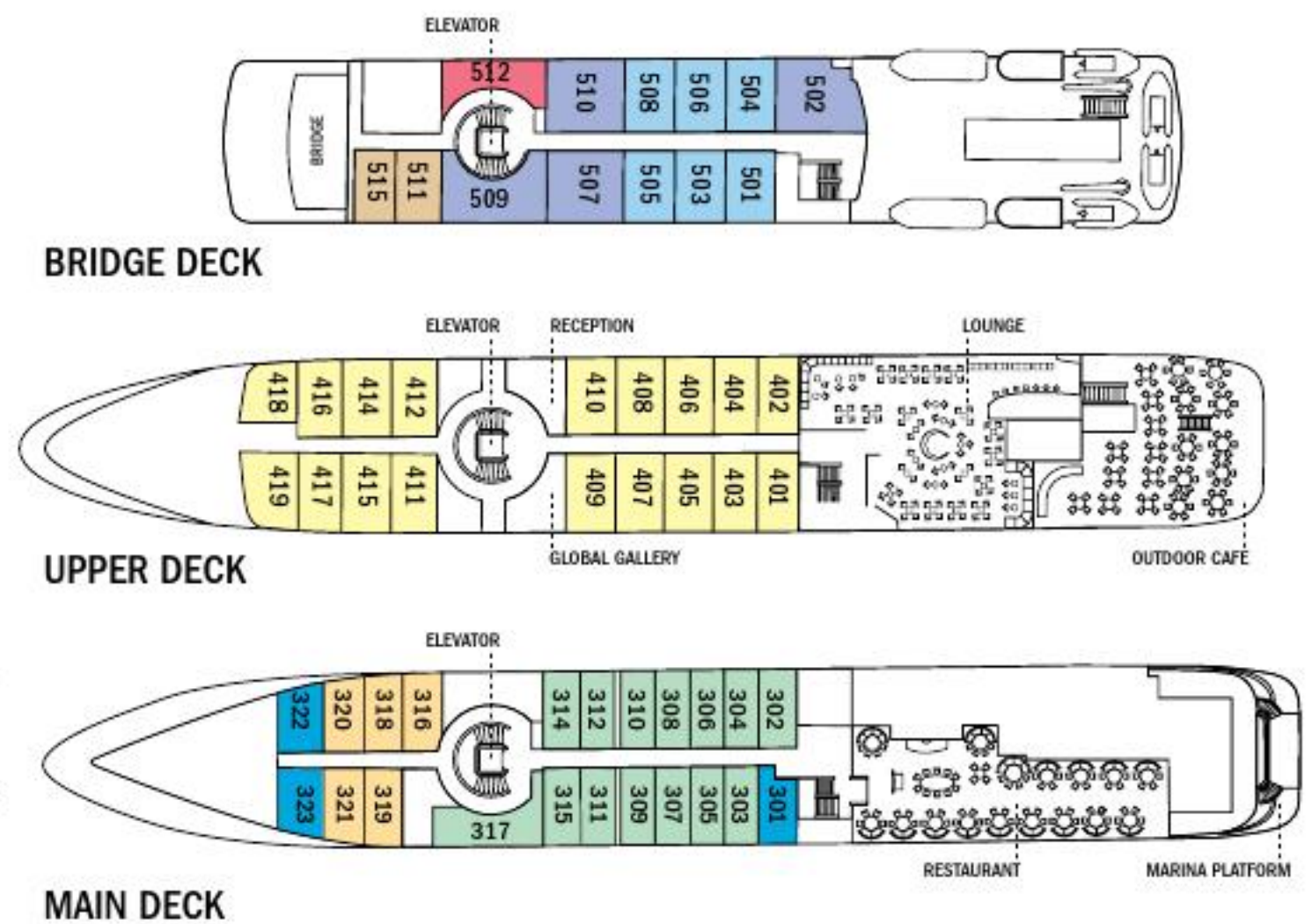
CABINS: All cabins feature ocean views, en suite bathrooms, climate controls, Internet access, and a flat-screen TV with DVD/CD player; some have balconies. Single cabins in Category 1 and Category 3 are highlighted in bright pink or bright blue (301, 322, 323, and 512).

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, a video microscope, and a crow's nest camera on the Kimberley expedition. Plus kayaks, snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for 24 guests, a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and a glass-bottom boat on all Indian Ocean and Oceania voyages. All expedition equipment except for scuba gear is offered on the Borneo to Bali expedition.

SCUBA DIVING REQUIREMENTS: 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 at least 25 dives in total and made a dive within the 12 months preceding the voyage.

Above: A Category 4 deluxe suite; the observation lounge and library offer stunning views; the ship's lounge is a great place for guests to gather.

SPECIAL FEATURES: A video chronicler, an undersea specialist, a photography instructor, and a full-time doctor; laundry; and wellness services, including a sauna, fitness room, and massage/spa treatment room. A hot tub on the Observation Deck doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates. A National Geographic photographer accompanies every departure.



Watch a short video about this ship at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



DECK PLANS (continued)



National Geographic Sea Bird and National Geographic Sea Lion

Our twin sister ships, the *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *National Geographic Sea Lion*, are large enough to operate in remote seas, yet small enough to enter narrow waterways inaccessible to bigger ships. A fleet of kayaks and expedition landing craft provide easy access to places of interest, and plenty of public spaces allow guests to relax in comfort after a day of exploring. Meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables and feature locally inspired fare. Guests are welcome to visit the “Open Bridge” to meet our officers and learn about navigation. On our Alaska expeditions, the ships are authorized to operate in the Tongass National Forest under a Forest Service Special Use Permit.

CAPACITY: 62 guests in 31 outside cabins

REGISTRY: United States **OVERALL LENGTH:** 152 feet

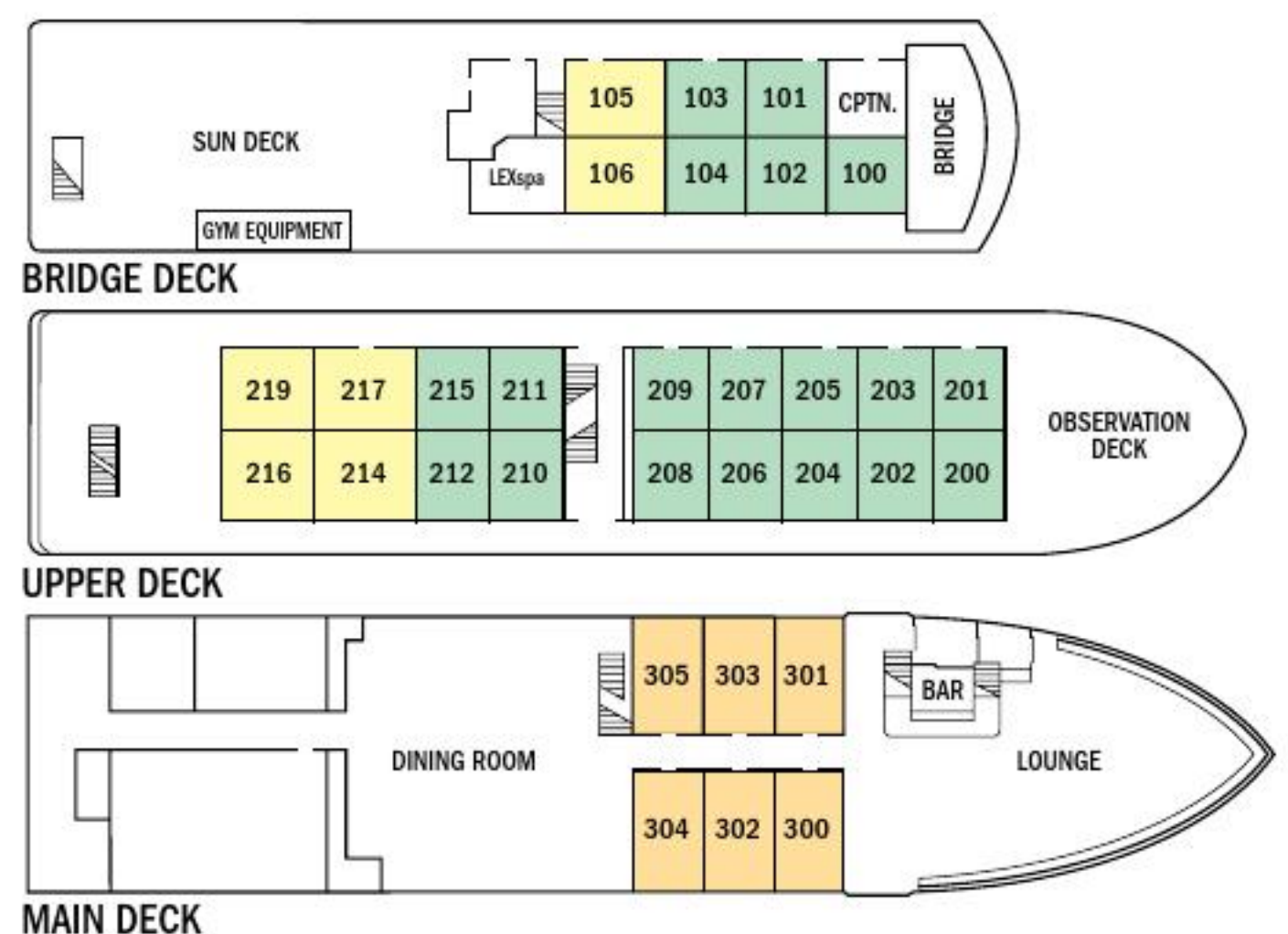
PUBLIC AREAS: A library, a gift shop, a lounge with full-service bar and audiovisual facilities, an Observation Deck, a partially covered Sun Deck with chairs and tables, and an outdoor stretching area

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows, private facilities, reading lights, and individual climate controls.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A bow camera; a hydrophone; kayaks; snorkeling gear; expedition landing craft; a SplashCam; an underwater video camera; a video microscope; and, in Baja, wet suits

SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access, exercise equipment, a LEXspa, a wellness specialist, a photo instructor, and a video chronicler. A doctor is on board in Baja and Costa Rica/Panama, and an undersea specialist is onboard in Baja and Alaska.

From top: A comfortable Category 3 cabin; the ships carry a fleet of kayaks; guests gather on the Sun Deck for a morning stretch with our wellness specialist.





National Geographic Endeavour

The *National Geographic Endeavour* is a premier expedition ship that is fully stabilized, allowing for smooth passage from one island to the next. Kayaks, Zodiacs, and a glass-bottom boat offer guests a variety of ways to explore, and a variety of public spaces on board make it easy to socialize, relax, or take in the views. Our Ecuadorian captain and officers welcome guests to the “Open Bridge.” All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables and the menu is international with an Ecuadorian flair.

CAPACITY: 96 guests in 56 outside cabins

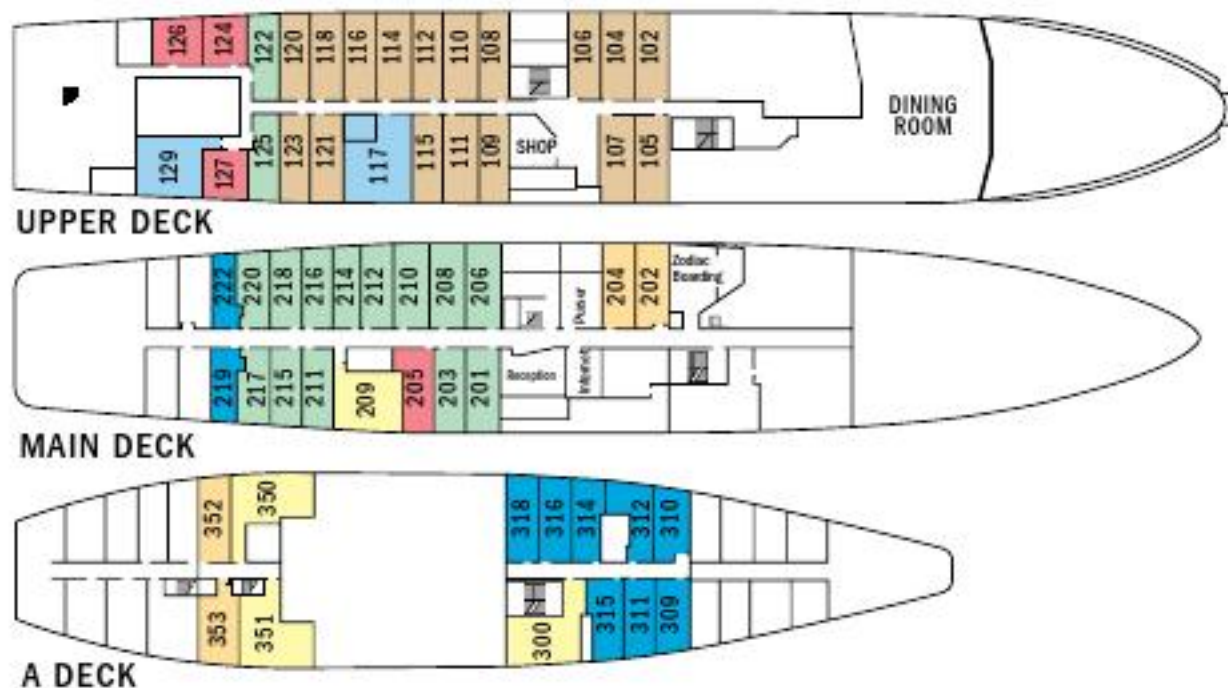
REGISTRY: Ecuador **OVERALL LENGTH:** 295 feet

PUBLIC AREAS: A covered deck with chairs and tables, a gift shop, a library, a lounge with full-service bar and audiovisual facilities, a sauna, a small swimming pool, a spa, a fitness center, and a sun deck. The ship is fully air-conditioned.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes. Each has private facilities and climate controls. Single cabins in Category 1 are highlighted in bright blue (cabins 219, 222, 309–312, 314–316, and 318); in Category 2, they are highlighted in bright pink (124, 126, 127, and 205).

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Kayaks, a glass-bottom boat, snorkeling gear, a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV), an underwater video camera, a video microscope, wet suits, and Zodiac landing craft

SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access, laundry service, a floating massage platform, and a wellness program. A doctor, a photo instructor, and a video chronicler are also onboard.



National Geographic Islander

Designed for just 48 guests, the intimate *National Geographic Islander* offers comfortable public spaces and a variety of exploration tools. Our Ecuadorian captain and officers welcome guests to the “Open Bridge.” All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables and the menu is international with an Ecuadorian flair.

CAPACITY: 48 guests in 24 outside cabins

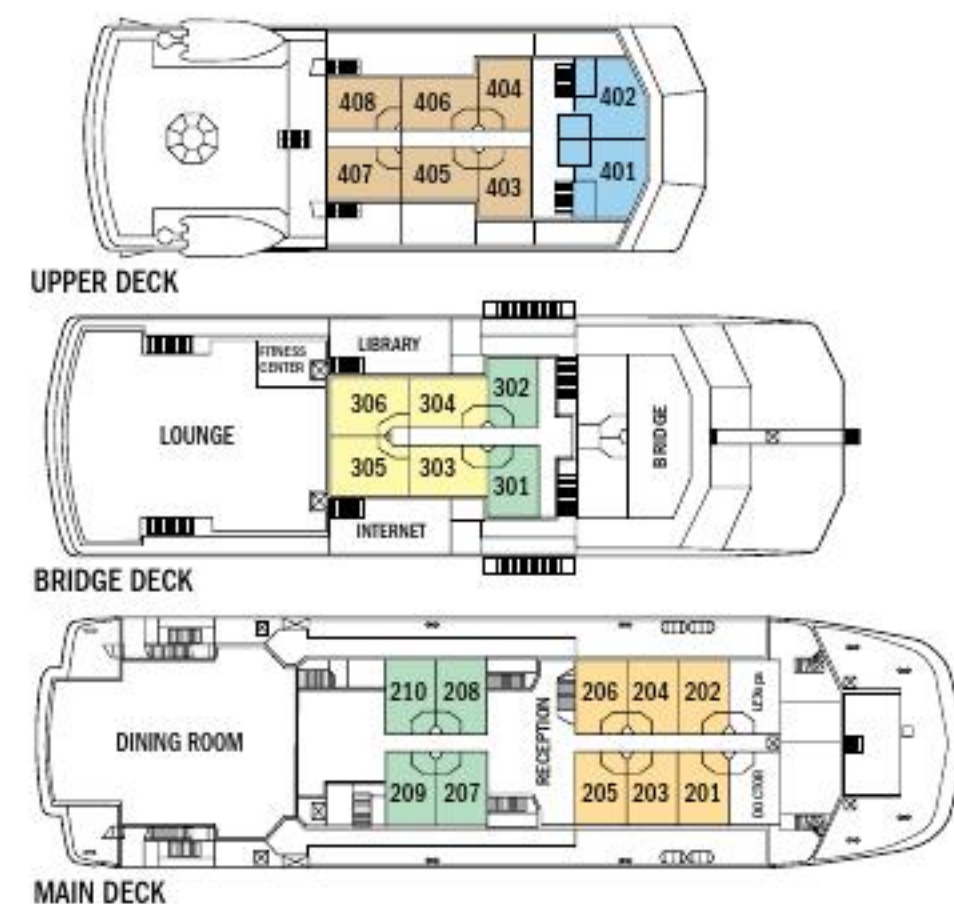
REGISTRY: Ecuador **OVERALL LENGTH:** 164 feet

PUBLIC AREAS: A covered deck with hammocks, chairs, and tables; a fitness center; a gift shop; a spa; a library; a lounge with full-service bar and audiovisual facilities; and a Sky Deck. The ship is fully air-conditioned.

CABINS: All cabins have a window with an outside view, private facilities, and climate controls.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Kayaks, snorkeling gear, an underwater video camera, a video microscope, wet suits, and Zodiac landing craft

SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access and laundry service. The ship is staffed by a wellness specialist and features exercise equipment and an outdoor stretching area. A doctor, a photo instructor, and a video chronicler are also onboard.



DECK PLANS (continued)



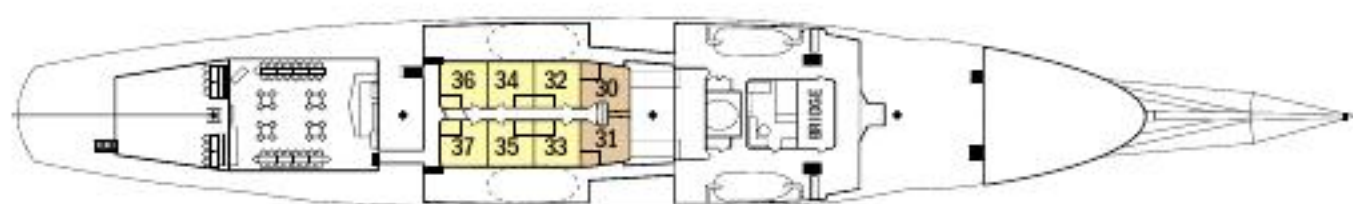
Sea Cloud

The *Sea Cloud*, a four-masted square-rigger, was built in 1931 by Wall Street businessman E.F. Hutton for his wife, Marjorie Merriweather Post. Cabins and common areas are beautifully appointed with antiques and period-style furniture. The *Sea Cloud* carries 30 sails measuring a total of 32,000 square feet. They are raised by hand by a spirited crew, and guests have the chance to learn about their design and function during the voyage. All meals are served in a single seating, with cuisine that features tastes of the regions we visit. Guests are welcome on the “Open Bridge” to learn how the *Sea Cloud* is navigated and sailed. While the ship is elegant, the atmosphere onboard is relaxed and casual. A Lindblad–National Geographic certified photography instructor will be on board all departures.

CAPACITY: 58 guests in 30 cabins including two owner’s suites
REGISTRY: Malta **OVERALL LENGTH:** 360 feet

PUBLIC AREAS: The outdoor Lido Bar, two sun decks, a first-class restaurant, and an elegant bar and lounge

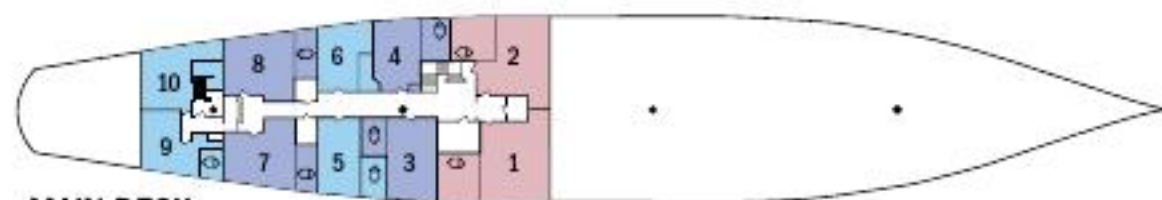
CABINS: The ship features 30 outside staterooms and cabins equipped with windows or portholes, private facilities, individual climate controls, and a hair dryer. The two Owner’s Suites, once the quarters of Hutton and Post, have sitting areas, fireplaces, and walk-in closets, and were designed by Ms. Post herself.



CAPTAIN'S AND LIDO DECK



PROMENADE DECK



MAIN DECK

Watch a short video about this ship at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/video



Lord of the Glens

The M.V. *Lord of the Glens* is the only deluxe passenger vessel able to navigate both the Caledonian Canal and the open sea. With teak decks, hardwood-finished interiors, and fine fabrics, this motorized yacht offers a stylish and relaxing ambience. All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables. Cuisine is healthy and features fresh Scottish ingredients, including poultry and seafood.

CAPACITY: 48 guests in 26 outside cabins
REGISTRY: Great Britain **OVERALL LENGTH:** 150 feet

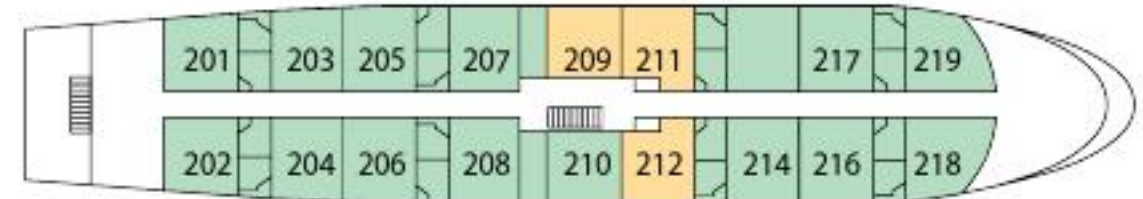
PUBLIC AREAS: Two lounges and two open-air viewing areas, a bar, a well-stocked library, and a reading area

CABINS: All cabins have outside views and include a private bathroom with a shower, individual climate controls, satellite television, a music system, a hair dryer, a telephone, a safety deposit box, and bathrobes.

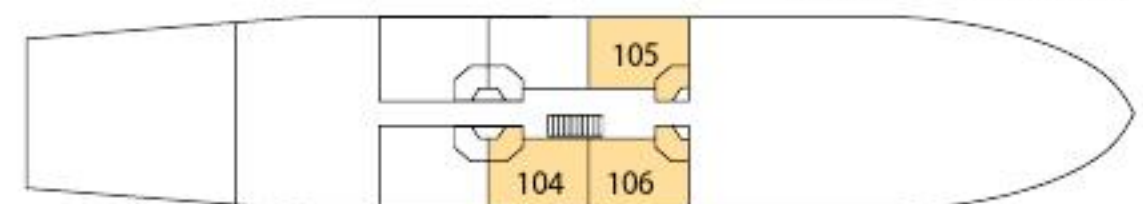
SPECIAL FEATURES: PC with Internet access, bicycles on board, and access to kayaks at Loch Ness. A Lindblad–National Geographic certified photography instructor will be onboard all departures.



ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL DECK



DAVID ROBERTS DECK



JAMES WATT DECK



Jahan

Designed in the style of colonial cruise liners of old, the elegant R.V. *Jahan* is one of the first modern boutique-style riverboats to sail the Mekong. The ship's cabins are beautifully furnished with floor-to-ceiling windows and private balconies. The restaurant features Western and regional cuisine served in single seatings with unassigned tables. Guests are welcome on the "Open Bridge" to meet the captain and officers and learn about navigation.

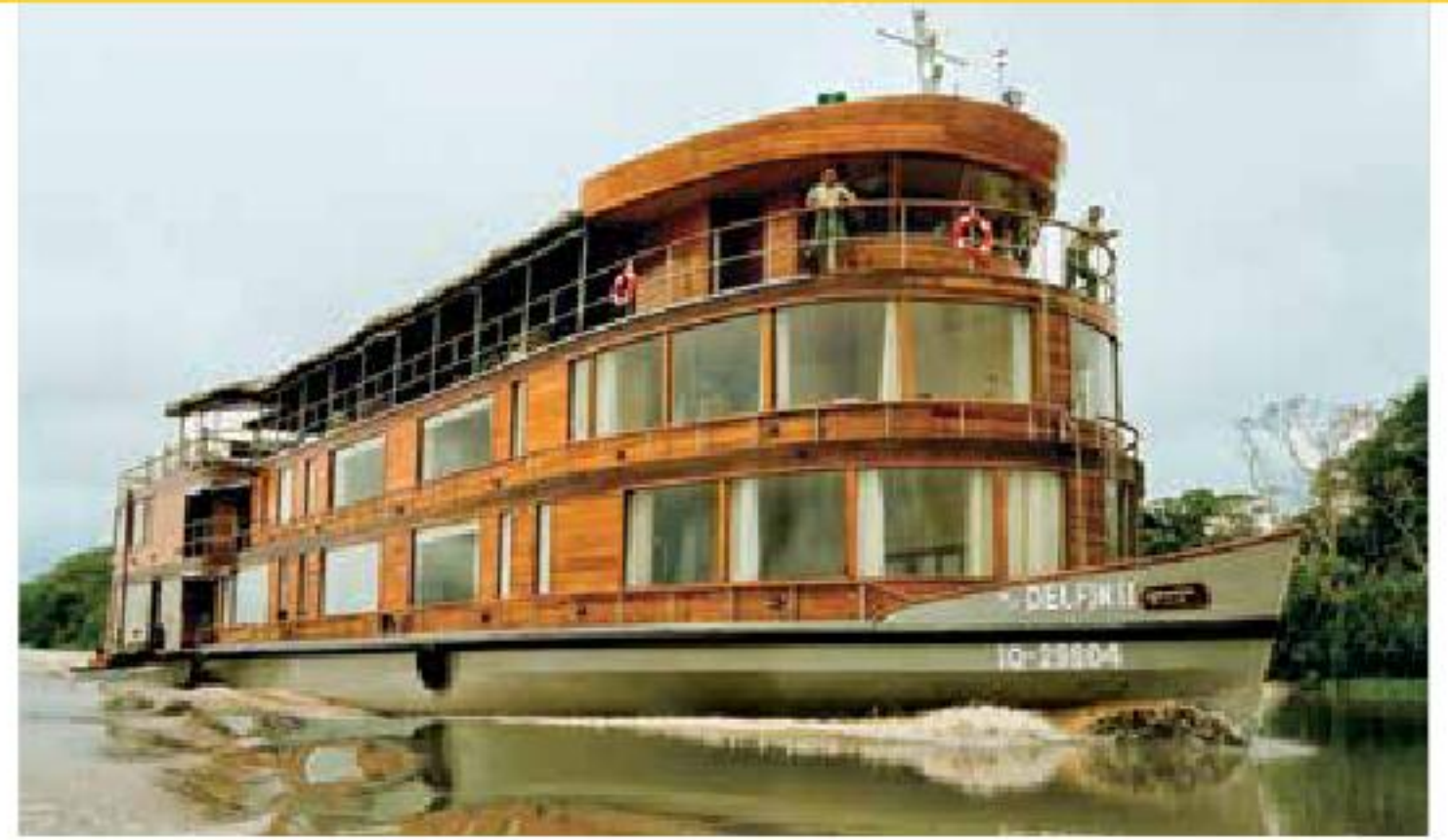
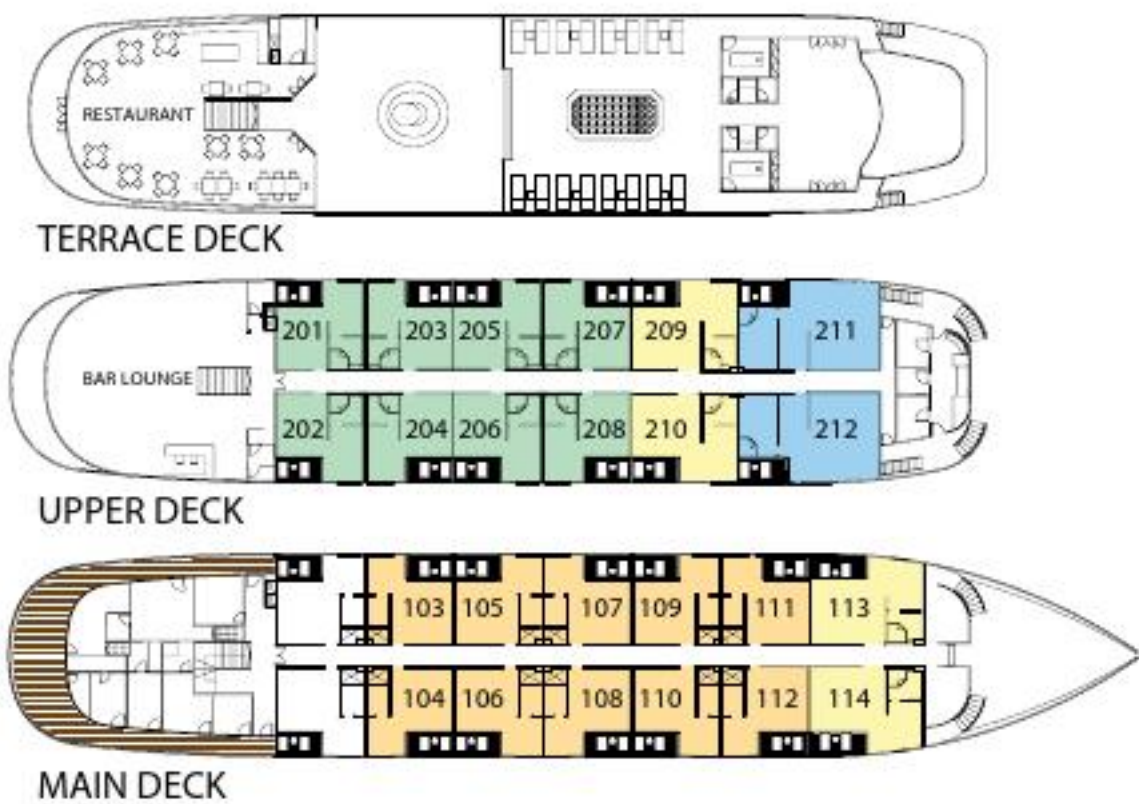
Capacity: 48 guests in 24 outside cabins

REGISTRY: Vietnam OVERALL LENGTH: 230 feet

PUBLIC AREAS: A pool deck, a whirlpool spa, an outdoor bar, a lounge with a library, a full-service bar, audiovisual facilities, a gym, a boutique, and a spa. The ship is fully air-conditioned.

CABINS: All cabins are spacious and face outside with glass doors and private balconies. Each has private facilities and a hair dryer, individual climate controls, a music entertainment system, and a minibar.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Wi-Fi Internet where available, morning tai chi classes, and DVD players and iPods are available on request. A Lindblad-National Geographic certified photography instructor will be onboard all departures.



Delfin II

The *Delfin II* is an intimate riverboat with luxurious suites that offer expansive Amazon views. Skiffs and kayaks allow guests to venture down narrow jungle waterways on day and night excursions. The onboard chef serves fine cuisine made from local, sustainable ingredients in a dining room with large windows for excellent views. All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables.

CAPACITY: 28 guests in 14 outside suites

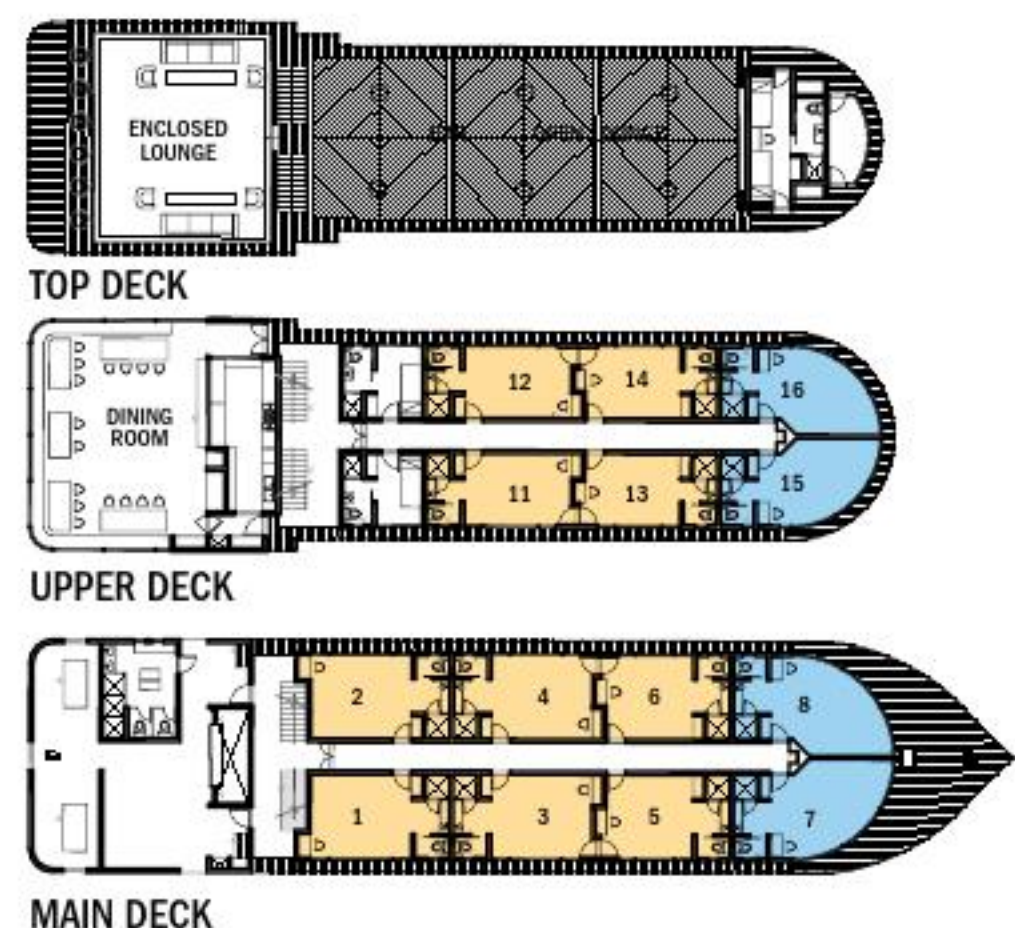
REGISTRY: Peru OVERALL LENGTH: 120 feet

PUBLIC AREAS: An enclosed air-conditioned lounge; a sundeck with hammocks; an observation deck with sofas, chairs, and a bar; a reference library; and an open bridge.

SUITES: Elegant, air-conditioned guest suites feature large windows and private facilities. Four are master suites with 180-degree panoramic windows, and four suites can be interconnected to accommodate families.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Ten-person skiffs with individual seat cushions and plenty of leg room, a fleet of kayaks, rain ponchos, and rubber boots

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guests may swim directly from the skiffs using the convenient swim ladder. A Lindblad-National Geographic certified photography instructor will be onboard all departures.



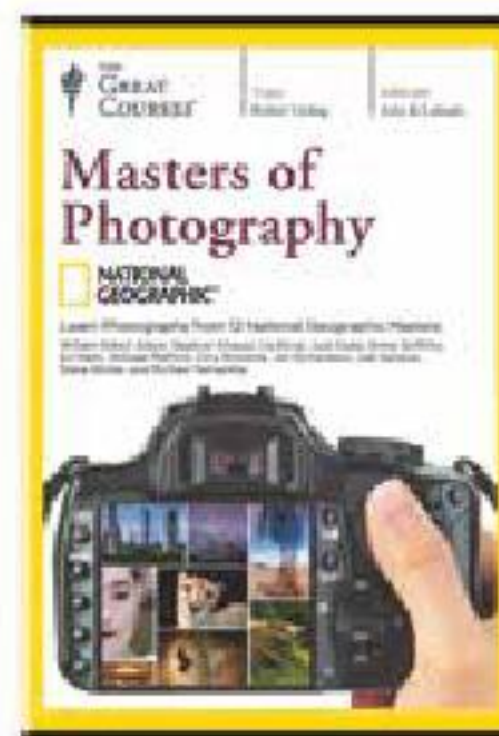
The National Geographic Travel Family

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVEL

National Geographic Expeditions is part of the National Geographic Travel family, which includes *National Geographic Traveler* magazine, travel books and maps, innovative travel websites, blogs, and more. Drawing on our rich heritage of exploration, we seek to offer experiences that are authentic, engaging, and transformative, from compelling articles and helpful travel tools to unforgettable expeditions. Take a look at some of the great resources now at your fingertips through National Geographic Travel.

National Geographic's New Photography Courses

Develop your travel photography skills and refine your creative vision with the help of National Geographic photographers through our series of photography courses available on DVD or online. In our new **National Geographic Masters of Photography** course, gain insight into the techniques of 12 true artists during 24 lessons led by National Geographic photographers that will forever change the way you approach the craft. Visit natgeocourses.com/learn to learn more or purchase.



National Geographic Adventures and National Geographic Student Expeditions

Beyond the pages of this catalog, many more travel opportunities await! On our popular **National Geographic Adventures**—which now include photography-focused trips—you'll venture off the beaten path to discover wild places and intriguing cultures by foot, kayak, horseback, or even a dogsled. See a listing of all National Geographic Adventures on page 139. We also offer summer trips for high school students. Traveling with **National Geographic Student Expeditions**, teens explore inspiring places—from Brazil's rain forest to China's Great Wall—through hands-on projects in the company of dynamic trip leaders and experts. See page 9 for more information or visit nationalgeographicadventures.com or ngstudentexpeditions.com to request a catalog.

The most widely read travel magazine in the world, **National Geographic Traveler** has been a leader in the travel sphere for more than 30 years, pioneering the prestigious *National Geographic Traveler* photo contest and the celebrated Travelers of the Year program. Every issue of our award-winning magazine is packed with photographs, maps, insider tips, and stories, plus travel advice from the people who know the world best. To subscribe to the print or digital magazine, visit nationalgeographic.com/traveler.



Gear up for your next trip! Our new **National Geographic Expeditions Gear Store** features a range of high-performance apparel and accessories, carefully selected to help you get the most out of your expedition. Browse our selection at natgeoexpeditionsgear.com. And visit the **National Geographic Expeditions website** for much more, including an easy-to-navigate trip finder; photo galleries, stories, and videos from our trips; and a full roster of our experts. Explore nationalgeographicexpeditions.com today!

Responsibility

National Geographic Society will provide educational enrichment for National Geographic Expeditions as outlined in its catalog and on its website (nationalgeographicexpeditions.com) as a sponsoring organization and has licensed qualified professional tour operators to organize and administer National Geographic Expeditions. The designated tour operator, in turn, acts only as an agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with specific National Geographic Expeditions ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger; the carriers are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time participants are not aboard their conveyances.

National Geographic Society, its employees, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, representatives, assigns (collectively "National Geographic") and its designated tour operator shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property, or any injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, watercraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider; and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft,

or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against National Geographic and/or its designated tour operator for any such loss, damage, injury, or death.

By registering for a National Geographic Expedition, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. National Geographic and its designated tour operator reserve the right in their sole discretion to accept, decline to accept, or remove any participant on a National Geographic Expedition. National Geographic and the tour operator reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their judgment, conditions warrant or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants.

Neither National Geographic, nor its designated tour operator, shall be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket to or from the participant's National Geographic Expedition



A traveler and a sea lion show off their yoga moves in the Galápagos Islands.

Terms and Conditions

Basis of Rates: All prices are based on two persons sharing a room or cabin. All prices and fares are quoted in U.S. dollars. The rates are based on tariffs, currency values, airfares, and third-party charges as of catalog publication date and are subject to change due to increases in park fees, VAT, or any other unforeseen circumstances. While National Geographic will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, if it is necessary to levy a surcharge, National Geographic reserves the right to do so, and notification will be given at the time of final invoicing.

Eligibility: Participation in a National Geographic Expedition is a benefit of membership in the National Geographic Society. Membership dues for 2015 are \$39. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the entire journey.

Included in Expedition Cost: Accommodations and meals as indicated in the itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner); educational materials; pre-departure information; entrance fees, excursions, and sightseeing noted as included in the itinerary; all gratuities except those for train or ship's crew, unless otherwise noted on the itinerary page; ground transportation during the expedition; transfers to and from group flights where applicable; services of National Geographic experts and/or local guides, lecturers, expedition leaders, and any other staff; and taxes, port charges, baggage handling, and service charges. Please note: the "B, L, D" notations apply to the period during the expedition only and do not include any meals on flights to/from the expedition. Internal airfare is included on some international expeditions as indicated in the itinerary.

Not Included: Air transportation and related fees (except as indicated in the itinerary); activities noted as optional in the itinerary; gratuities for train or ship's crew, unless otherwise noted on the itinerary page; passport, visa, and permit expenses; medical expenses and immunizations; baggage/accident/cancellation insurance; personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone calls, and alcoholic beverages; and any other items not specifically noted as included.

Single/Shared Accommodations: A limited number of single rooms/cabins are available at an extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis. We will assist persons requesting a roommate. Participants will be notified if a suitable roommate is not available, in which case the single rate will be charged.

Payments, Cancellations, and Refunds: To reserve space on a National Geographic Expedition, a \$500 per-person deposit is required for expeditions that are nine days or less, and a \$750 per-person deposit is required for expeditions that are ten days or more except if noted on the itinerary page. Final payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Payments must be made by credit card. A participant's reservation may be canceled if full payment has not been received by 90 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 90 days of the departure date, full payment is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If a participant cancels 120 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee of 50% of the deposit will be made. Per-person charges for cancellations that occur less than 120 days prior to departure ("Cancellation Penalty Period") are as follows: 91-119 days prior to departure: 100% of the deposit amount; 45-90 days prior to departure: 50% of the expedition cost; 44 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of the expedition cost. This policy also applies to pre- and post-expedition extensions. Any revisions made within the Cancellation Penalty Period, such as a change in departure date or choice of expedition, are subject to this cancel-

lation policy. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund policy. Arriving late or leaving an expedition in progress for any reason whatsoever will not result in a refund, and no refunds will be made for any unused portions of an expedition. National Geographic reserves the right to cancel any expedition because of inadequate enrollment that makes the expedition economically infeasible to operate or because of good-faith concerns with respect to the safety, health, or welfare of the participants. If an expedition is canceled prior to departure, the tour operator will provide participants with a full refund of monies paid to the tour operator; except in the event that the cancellation is due to a significant event that makes it infeasible to operate the expedition as planned, in which case the tour operator will provide participants with a refund and/or credit toward a future National Geographic Expedition equivalent to monies paid to the tour operator. If National Geographic cancels the expedition in progress, participants will receive a prorated refund based on the number of days not completed on the expedition. Except as outlined above when National Geographic cancels an expedition, National Geographic and its designated tour operator has no responsibility for any expenses, including any non-refundable expenses, incurred by participants in preparing for a cancelled expedition or for any additional arrangements should participants embark prior to the scheduled group departure date.

Trip-cancellation insurance is available at an additional cost and is strongly recommended. For more information about and to enroll in an option available through Travel Insurance Services, visit the "Travel Insurance" section of our website at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.

Itinerary Changes: The itineraries and staff presented in the catalog or on the website are subject to modification and change by National Geographic or its designated tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but alterations may still occur after final itineraries are sent.

Documentation: Participants are responsible for obtaining any documents required for their participation in the expedition such as a valid passport, all visas, vaccination certificates, and any other documents. Failure to obtain documents does not negate the terms and conditions, and any extra costs incurred for rerouting due to travel without the necessary documents will be the participant's responsibility.

Health Requirements: Participants must be in good physical and mental health. Any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention must be reported in writing when the reservation is made. National Geographic encourages participants to consult a doctor for specific medical advice about any activities or destinations. Certain expeditions may require that the participant obtain medical consent prior to departure as a condition of participation.

Medical Authorization and Coverage: In the event participant becomes sufficiently incapacitated as to be unable to direct his or her own care, there is no one on the expedition who can direct participant's care, and National Geographic is unable or does not have time to contact participant's emergency contact, the participant, by registering and paying a deposit for a National Geographic expedition, authorizes any medical treatment deemed necessary in the event of any injury or illness while participating in the activity including, but not limited to, X-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis, or treatment and hospital care which is deemed advisable by, and is to be rendered under the general or specific supervision of, any physician and/or surgeon licensed in the United States, or, if in a foreign country and no physician licensed to practice in the United States is reasonably available, by

departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant.

a duly licensed physician deemed competent to render the necessary care. In addition, the participant certifies that they have medical insurance which will cover personal accidents, medical expenses, medical evacuation, air ambulance, loss of effects, repatriation costs, and all other expenses which might arise as a result of loss, damage, injury, delay, or inconvenience occurring to the participant, or that in the absence of this medical insurance coverage, the participant agrees to pay all costs of rescue and/or medical services as may be incurred on the participant's behalf.

Photography: National Geographic and its designated tour operator and expedition leader reserve the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any expedition or part thereof and to use the resulting photography, videos, or recordings for promotional or commercial use. By making a reservation on a National Geographic Expedition, the participant agrees to allow his/her likeness to be used by National Geographic, National Geographic-authorized third parties, and the tour operator without compensation to the participant. If the participant prefers that his/her likeness not be used, he/she must notify us in writing prior to departure of the expedition.

Copyright in all photographs, video, and related materials created by the participant ("Expedition Materials") shall belong to the participant upon creation. The participant grants to National Geographic a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable license to use any Expedition Materials provided to National Geographic and/or the tour operator in any media for the following limited purposes: editorial use, promotion of this editorial use, promotion of National Geographic's travel programs, or promotion of the mission of National Geographic.

Dispute Resolution: Dispute Resolution policy and process is available at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/information/terms.

Other: Additional Terms and Conditions may apply to some expeditions and will be provided with pre-expedition mailings. By registering for a National Geographic Expedition, the participant agrees to the Responsibility statement and the Terms and Conditions published in the catalog and on the website.

Mailing List: If you are receiving duplicate catalogs, have address updates, or would like to be removed from future National Geographic Expeditions mailings, please call toll-free 1-888-966-8687.

See more at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/information/terms.

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	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES															
					2015												2016			
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR			
EURASIA																				
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MIDDLE EAST																				
Traveling the Sands of Time: Oman to Dubai	84		★	11										1	5		14	12		
The Holy Land: Past, Present, and Future*	86			12	20	24	8, 22							9, 23	6	26				
OCEANIA																				
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Cook Islands to Tahiti: Pristine Reefs of the South Pacific	89	S	★	13											3					
Tahiti to Easter Island: Tales of the Pacific	89	S	★	19											13					
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Ocean Wonders and Island Cultures	104	J		25									27							
Wildlife of the World	106	J		23																19

S = Ship T = Train J = Jet

SEE THE CALENDAR ON NEXT PAGE for our Family Adventures, Photography trips, and Active Adventures.

CALENDAR—BY DESTINATION

NORTH AMERICA	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES														
					2015												2016		
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR		
Costa Rica: Cloud Forest to the Caribbean	14	S	★	9											11, 25	8, 22	5, 19	4, 18	
Costa Rica and the Panama Canal	16	S		8									28	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	5, 12		
Cuba: Discovering Its People and Culture	18			9	29	12, 26	10, 17, 31	14					1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6, 13, 20, 27	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	6, 13, 20, 27		
Baja California and the Sea of Cortez	20	S		8	7, 14										16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	5, 12		
Alaska's Inside Passage	22	S		8			17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30									
							16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 22, 29									
Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound	24			8			13		25	6									
Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks	25			8			16, 23, 30	6, 13	11	8	5								
Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks	26			8			13, 27			1, 15, 22	5, 12, 19, 26								
Yosemite National Park	27			7			10, 24	15	19	2, 9	7								
The Canadian Maritimes and Newfoundland	126	S		8							11								
Sailing the Caribbean	126	S		8	5, 12										21, 28	4			
Hawaii: The Big Island and Maui	126			8	15								21						
Columbia and Snake Rivers Journey	126	S		7						21, 22, 28	3, 4, 10, 27								
Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone	127			6									24, 27	3, 31	14				

SOUTH AMERICA

Galápagos	28	S		10	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	30	6, 13, 20, 27	4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5, 19, 26	3, 10, 31	14, 28	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	5, 12, 19, 26	
					6, 13, 20, 27	3, 10, 17, 24	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5, 12, 19, 26	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	30	6, 13, 20, 27	11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5, 12, 19, 26	4, 11, 18, 25	
Peru: Land of the Inca	30			8	1, 7, 15, 21, 29	4, 12, 18, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7, 13, 21, 27	5, 11, 19, 25	2, 8, 16, 22, 30	5, 13, 19, 27	4, 11, 28, 24	1, 7, 14, 22, 28	6, 12, 20, 26	9, 17, 23, 31	6, 14, 20, 28	5, 13, 19, 27	
Upper Amazon	32	S		10					18	22, 29	5, 12, 19		14, 21, 28	5	9, 16, 23, 30	13, 20, 27	5, 19, 26	
Exploring Patagonia	34	S		13	8								8	27	10	7, 21		
Coastal Treasures from the Panama Canal to Peru	37	S	★	14							27							
Peru and Chile: Ancient Sites and Natural Wonders	37	S	★	17								8						
Rounding the Cape: Chilean Patagonia and Argentina's Staten Island	37	S	★	21								21						

EUROPE

Scotland's Highlands and Islands	38	S		9					26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30								
Mysteries of Prehistoric England and Ireland	40			10		11, 18		6, 13			5							
Holland in Springtime	41	S		10		9, 30												
Norway's Trains and Fjords*	42	T	★	11					30	20								
Swiss Trains and the Italian Lake District	44	T		10					10, 24	17	14							
Remembering D-Day: London to the Normandy Beaches	46			8			2, 31				5, 19							
Human Origins: Southwest France and Northern Spain	48			10		24	29				4	2, 16						
Spain's Northern Coast by Private Rail	50	T		11						13	17							
Inside Italy	52			11				3		10	16	7						
Archaeological Wonders of Italy and Sicily	54			10		15	6				23	7, 21						
Joys of the Italian Table	55			8				13			19	10						
Sailing the Greek Isles*	56	S		9														
Under Sail: Greece to the Dalmatian Coast*	58	S		12														
Turkey: Istanbul to the Turquoise Coast	59			11			7, 21				3, 19	1						
Norway's Fjords and Arctic Svalbard	95	S		17			19											
Spain and Portugal: Legacy of the Moors	126	S	★	11		3												

*Departure dates beyond March 2016 are listed on the itinerary pages for these trips.

CALENDAR—BY TRIP TYPE: Photography, Family, Adventures

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES														
					2015												2016		
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR		
Wyoming's Cowboy Country	108			7				21,28		9									
Santa Fe	108			5			12		21			13							
Paris and Provence	108			7		14						6							
New York City	109			4			7,21	4			17	8							
San Francisco	109			4		9		18											
New Orleans	109			4	26	16						15	12						
Washington, D.C.	109			4	26		7				24	22							
Smartphone: San Francisco	109			2	28					8									
Smartphone: New York City	109			2		25						24							

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS

Mongolia	110			14				30	25								
Japan	110			12	25								7				
Bhutan	110			12		4						20					
China	110			14							12						
India by Rail	110	T		13											14	13	
Tibet and Nepal	111			16								30					
Morocco	111			11			22					30					
Ethiopia*	111			14							17				8		
Tanzania	111			11	7						15						5
Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone	112			6											17	7,21	
Costa Rica and the Panama Canal	112	S		8										12	9	13	12
Alaska, British Columbia, and Haida Gwaii	112	S		15			2,3				5,6						
Yosemite	112			7				24			2						
Alaska's Inside Passage	112	S		8				13,20		29,30							
Epic Galápagos	113	S	★	17									27				
Turkey	113			11								1					

FAMILY

Alaska Family Voyage	114	S		8				27	18	1							
Galápagos Family Odyssey	115	S		10				26	3,4,25	7							
Canyons, Deserts, and Dinos Family Adventure	116		★	8				20	4,18	1							
Costa Rica Family Adventure	117			7	14			13	5,25					20,26			
Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound Family Adventure	118			8					1,10	7							
Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion Family Adventure	118			8				20	18	1,15							
Yellowstone and Grand Teton Family Adventure	119			8				20	18,25	8							
Yosemite Family Adventure	119			7					8,29	5							
Scotland Family Adventure	120			9				20	18	1,8							
Ireland Family Adventure	120			9	14			20	11	1							
Tuscany Family Adventure	121			9				27	18,25								
Greece Family Adventure	121			10				21	12								
Iceland Family Adventure	122			9				26	3,17,31								
Spain Family Adventure	122			9	15			21,28						27			

*Departure dates beyond March 2016 are listed on the itinerary pages for these trips.

SEE THE CALENDAR ON PREVIOUS PAGE for expeditions by destination.

FAMILY (CONTINUED)	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES													
					2015									2016				
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
Australia Family Adventure	123			12	14				24	18					19			
Peru Family Adventure	123			8				20,27	11	1					20,27			
Tanzania Family Adventure	124			11	14			27	18	1					19,26			
South Africa Family Adventure	124			11	16			27	4	1					26			
China Family Adventure	125			10				20	4,25									
Vietnam Family Adventure	125			11	13			19	31						18			
Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone Family Adventure	127			6											22,30			
Swiss Alpine Family Adventure	127			9				20	11	1								

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ADVENTURES

Madagascar Adventure	WEB		★	12					15	13	10,24	7	5					
Namibia Culture and Wildlife Adventure	WEB			14	29				21	20	24	21	26		21			
Morocco Camel Trek and Hiking Adventure	WEB			14	15	5							3,17,31	14	19,26			
Tanzania: Walking Safari with the Maasai	WEB			11	8			20	7	8					20			
Tanzania: Kilimanjaro Climb and Safari	WEB			15	7			22	25	29					20			
Borneo Wildlife Adventure	WEB		★	11	13,27	15						21	4					
Japan Adventure: Tokyo to Sacred Kumano	WEB			11	22	8,15	13,24,31					30	7,18	4,8				
Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia Adventure	WEB			13	7,22							20	4,18	1,15	19			
Bhutan Sacred Valley Trek	WEB			14	28	15							5,28	11				
Nepal: Everest Base Camp Trek	WEB			19		13	10						13					
Mongolian Horse Trek	WEB			14				14	1,20	9								
New Zealand Adventure	WEB			12	17													
Provence Hiking Adventure	WEB			9			31	14			30	13	11					
England Coast to Coast	WEB			13			10,24	7,21,28	5,12,19,26	2,9,16,30	6,13							
Hiking Scotland's Highlands and Islands	WEB			8			23	6,20	4,18	1,15,22,29	5,12							
Ireland: Hiking the Emerald Isle	WEB			10			18	1,15,29	13	10,24	7							
Croatia Island Adventure	WEB		★	8				5,19	3,8		9							
Tour de Mont Blanc	WEB			10				6	4	1,22	5,19							
Spain: Walking El Camino de Santiago	WEB			9			4	1			1,14							
Tuscany and Cinque Terre Hiking Adventure	WEB			9		14,21	5,12,19	2			8,15,22	6,13						
Greek Islands Adventure	WEB			9			23	6,20		29	5,19	3						
Hungary and the Slovenian Alps	WEB		★	10				14,26	12,23		13							
Greenland Adventure	WEB		★	10				19	3,17,31	14								
Sweden: Dogsledding to the Icehotel	WEB			9	13,20,27	3												
Iceland Adventure	WEB			10				26	3,17,24	7,14,21	4,11							
Salmon River Rafting Adventure	WEB			8				22,30		1,17								
Alaska by Sea Kayak: Whales, Bears, and Ice	WEB			9				22,24	6,12,14	6,8								
Hiking the Grand Canyon	WEB			9			16,30	15		22	5,19							
Belize: Reefs, Rain Forests, and Ruins	WEB			10	6	3,26									17,29			
Costa Rica Adventure	WEB			9	15,22				12,25	9					22			
Ecuador Hiking Adventure	WEB		★	10	7			27		8	19				5			
Hiking Patagonia	WEB			14	7							24	7,21	5,19				
Peru: Machu Picchu Inn to Inn	WEB			10		5,20	17,31	14	6,26	11,23	7,20	4						

S = Ship T = Train

Back cover: A flamenco dancer whirls on the colorful streets of Old Havana, Cuba.



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