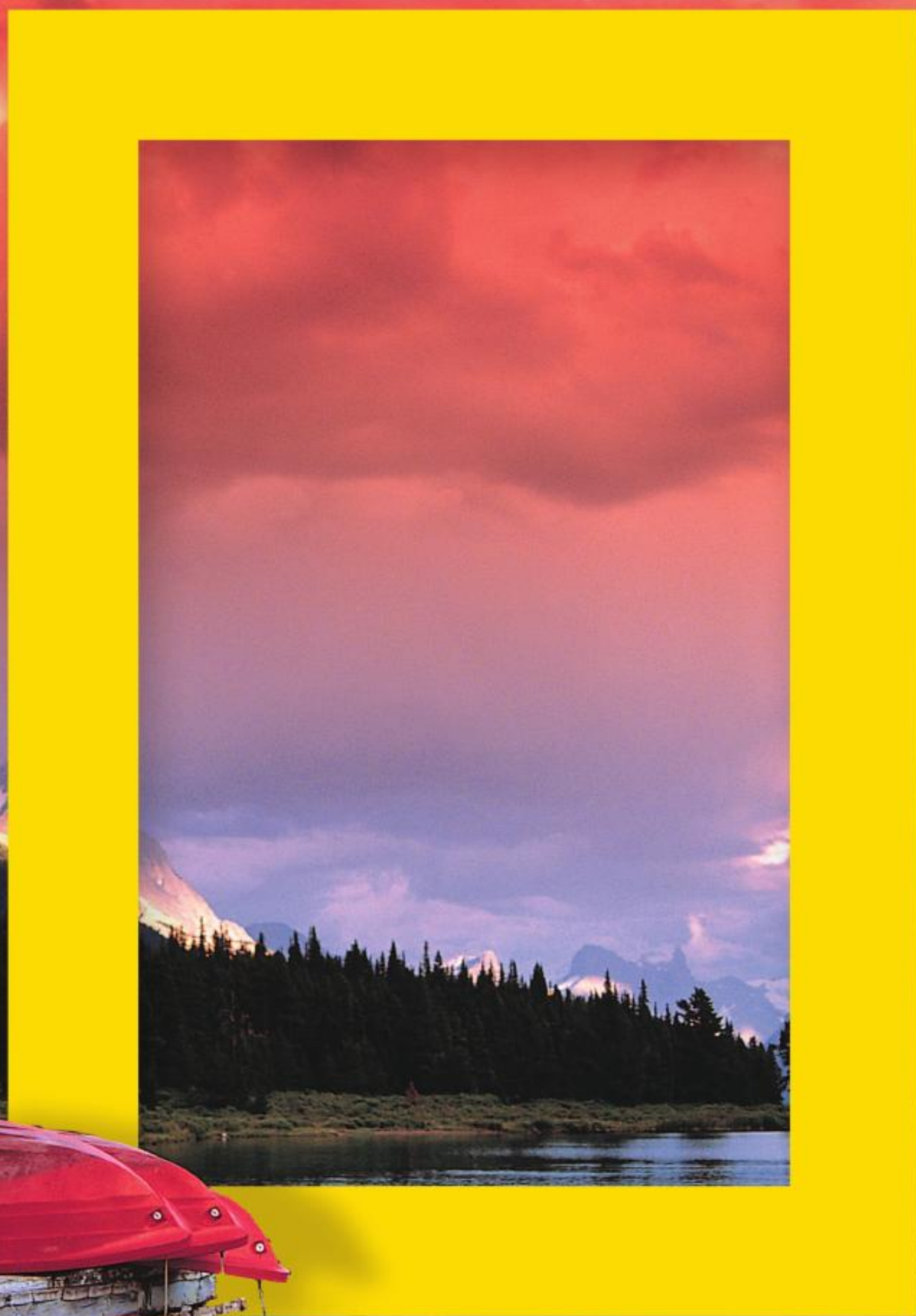


NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

EXPEDITIONS



TRAVEL CATALOG
2016–2017

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS 2016–2017 TRIPS



NORTH AMERICA

- 16 Alaska's Inside Passage
- 18 Canadian Rockies by Rail and Trail **new**
- 20 Baja California and the Sea of Cortez
- 22 Cuba: Discovering Its People and Culture
- 24 Mysteries of the Maya **new**
- 26 Costa Rica and the Panama Canal
- 28 Costa Rica: Cloud Forest to the Caribbean

U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

- 29 Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion
- 30 Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks
- 31 Yosemite National Park
- 32 Ultimate National Parks Expedition **new**
- 34 Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound
- 35 Acadia National Park and Coastal Maine **new**
- 128 Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone

- 128 The Canadian Maritimes
- 129 Sailing the Caribbean
- 129 Hawaii: The Big Island & Maui

SOUTH AMERICA

- 36 Galápagos
- 38 Peru: Land of the Inca
- 40 Upper Amazon
- 42 Patagonian Treasures: Torres del Paine to Cape Horn **new**
- 43 Exploring Chilean Patagonia: Peaks, Glaciers, and Fjords **new**
- 44 Exploring Patagonia

EUROPE

- 46 Sailing the Greek Isles
- 47 Under Sail: Greece to the Dalmatian Coast
- 48 Archaeological Wonders of Southern Italy and Sicily
- 49 Inside Italy
- 50 Spain's Northern Coast by Private Rail
- 51 Holland in Springtime
- 52 Human Origins: Southwest France and Northern Spain
- 54 Remembering D-Day: London to the Normandy Beaches
- 56 Scotland's Highlands and Islands
- 58 Norway's Trains and Fjords
- 60 Swiss Trains and the Italian Lake District

- 62 Mediterranean Isles: Sardinia, Corsica, and Menorca **new**
- 62 Baltic Archipelagos: Denmark, Sweden, and Finland **new**
- 63 Portugal and Spain: From the Algarve to Catalonia **new**
- 63 Bordeaux to London: The French Atlantic Coast **new**
- 64 The North Sea: Copenhagen to London **new**
- 64 Norway and Scotland: Fjordlands to the Inner Hebrides **new**
- 65 Exploring the Coasts of England and Wales **new**
- 65 Culture and Cuisine From Oporto to Basque Country **new**
- 66 Best of the Baltics: Cities and Islands From Tallinn to Copenhagen **new**
- 66 Hidden Ireland: Loughs and Isles Off the Beaten Path **new**
- 67 Scandinavia by Sea: Denmark, Sweden, and Norway **new**
- 67 Exploring the British and Irish Isles
- 128 Slovenia, Croatia, and Venice: The Alps to the Adriatic
- 128 Iceland by Land and Sea: Reykjavik to the Wild West **new**

EURASIA

- 68 Trans-Siberian Rail Journey

ASIA

- 70 Southern India Rail Journey **new**
- 72 Rail Journey Through India
- 74 Inside Japan
- 75 Winter in Japan **new**
- 76 Inside China
- 77 Tibet and Nepal: Journey to the Highest Himalaya
- 78 Bhutan: Kingdom in the Clouds
- 79 Vietnam and Cambodia: Along the Mekong River

AFRICA

- 80 On Safari: Tanzania's Great Migration
- 82 Southern Africa Safari by Private Air
- 84 The Great Apes of Uganda and Rwanda
- 85 Ethiopia: The Omo Valley and Lalibela
- 86 Moroccan Odyssey

Dear Traveler,

National Geographic's Digital Nomad, Robert Reid, recently found himself winding through the Canadian Rockies aboard the *Rocky Mountaineer*. "We head east into a scene that looks like an ending shot of an early *Lord of the Rings* film: an impossible barrier of rocky peaks," he wrote in the November 2015 issue of *National Geographic Traveler*. This famous railway, established in the late 19th century, made the most rugged and beautiful parts of the Canadian Rockies accessible for the first time.

Next summer, we'll travel aboard the *Rocky Mountaineer*, enjoying fantastic meals and 360° views as we slip between sky-scraping peaks on the way to Jasper and Banff National Parks. On expeditions to our own national parks—including an epic trip to five of them—we'll celebrate the centennial of the U.S. National Park Service and learn about National Geographic's role in its evolution.

Further south, in Mexico and Guatemala, we'll explore ancient Maya sites with archaeologist and National Geographic Explorer Bill Saturno, examining ancient murals, temples, and palaces. Another renowned archaeologist awaits us across the globe: Robin Coningham joins several departures of our new Southern India Rail Journey, which includes four-nights aboard the deluxe *Golden Chariot* train and a cruise on the waterways of Kerala in a traditional thatched boat—one of *National Geographic Traveler's* "journeys of a lifetime."

The National Geographic fleet of six expedition ships will be plying the seas from the Arctic to Antarctica and many places in between. As the *National Geographic Orion* traces much of the European coast on a series of eight-day voyages, the *National Geographic Explorer* will navigate Patagonia's wild coast from the Chilean fjords to Cape Horn.

These trips are just the newest addition to National Geographic's broad array of travel opportunities—ranging from photography workshops and family trips to private expeditions for independent travelers. Turn to page 8 to find all the different ways you can explore with us. Then flip to the calendar on page 144 to see a full listing of National Geographic Expeditions. To reserve your space, call 1-888-966-8687 or visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.

We hope you'll join us!



Lynn Cutler

Executive Vice President
National Geographic Travel



When you travel with us, you make a difference. Your support is vital to National Geographic's mission of increasing global understanding through conservation, research, education, and exploration.



MIDDLE EAST

- 87 Traveling the Sands of Time: Oman to Dubai
- 88 The Holy Land: Past, Present, and Future

AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC

- 90 Australia: Tasmania to the Great Barrier Reef
- 92 New Zealand From North to South **new**

POLAR REGIONS

- 94 Land of the Polar Bears
- 96 Norway's Fjords and Arctic Svalbard
- 98 Epic 80° N: Exploring Greenland and Baffin and Ellesmere Islands
- 99 A Circumnavigation of Iceland
- 100 Journey to Antarctica
- 102 Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands

PRIVATE JET

- 104 Around the World
- 106 Around the World: The Northern Route **new**

PHOTOGRAPHY

- 108–111 Photography Workshops
- 112–115 Photography Expeditions

FAMILY EXPEDITIONS

- 116 Alaska
- 117 Galápagos
- 118 Alaska: Denali • Yellowstone
- 119 Yosemite • Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion
- 120 Hawaii • Costa Rica
- 121 Peru • New Zealand **new**
- 122 Tanzania • South Africa
- 123 China • Japan **new**
- 124 Scotland • Ireland
- 125 Tuscany • Iceland
- 126 France **new** • Greece
- 127 Switzerland • Australia

MORE TRAVEL WITH NAT GEO

- 130 Adventures
- 134 Private Expeditions
- 135 Unique Lodges of the World
- 142 Student Expeditions

RESOURCES AND MORE

- 129 Special Offers
- 136–141 Deck Plans
- 143 Terms and Conditions
- 144–147 Expedition Calendars



DISCOVER THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WAS BUILT UPON A PASSION FOR DISCOVERY AND A DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND THE PLANET ON A DEEPER LEVEL. Our earliest explorers, such as Hiram Bingham (pictured above), liked to dig in; immerse themselves in new places; and get to know the local people and their traditions, cuisine, and everyday lives. Through their experiences, we've been able to introduce generations of people all around the world to the spectacular diversity of our planet. Our expeditions are designed in the same spirit—to draw out the uniqueness of each destination through meaningful and enriching experiences.

**“ Other travel companies go places—
National Geographic explores and uncovers places. ”**

— Claire G., traveler on our Scotland expedition

Clockwise from above: Explorer Hiram Bingham at his camp during the National Geographic-funded excavation of Machu Picchu in 1912; photographer Sisse Brimberg has shot more than 25 stories for National Geographic's publications; National Geographic Emerging Explorer Steve Boyes works to preserve species and habitats in southern Africa; National Geographic grantee William Saturno uncovers murals in Xultún.



EXPLORE ALONGSIDE OUR EXPERTS

Whether you're traveling with a National Geographic scientist or photographer, or meeting local experts along the way, you'll enjoy a personal, inside perspective on the places you're exploring. Our experts are involved long before you're on the road: we consult them when we're crafting our itineraries to ensure we make the most out of every day.

GET CLOSER THAN YOU EVER IMAGINED

National Geographic opens doors around the globe so that you can enjoy access to special sites and events and experts in the field—including our own grantees, whose discoveries have helped illuminate the world's cultural and natural treasures.

Deep in Mexico's Lacandon Jungle, the ruins of an unassuming temple hold the most complex known chronicle of Maya culture ever unearthed. Here, in the once-great city of Bonampak, vibrant eighth-century murals reveal episodes of Maya life, from ceremonial processions to epic battles and ritualistic sacrifices.

At the time of their discovery in 1946, these murals were groundbreaking, their depictions of warfare dispelling previously held notions of the Maya as peaceful mystics. Since 1995, National Geographic has been funding the unearthing and restoration of these important frescoes. It is just one of more than 130 archaeological excavations we've supported in Central America over the past century.

Travelers on our new *Mysteries of the Maya* expedition will examine these intricate murals up close, discovering their significance and symbolism with archaeologist, Maya expert, and National Geographic Explorer William Saturno. Currently head archaeologist at Xultún, Bill will guide us through the empire's magnificent cities—from Palenque to Chichén Itzá and Tikal. We'll also encounter the customs of the modern Maya, visiting a traditional village in the Yucatán to learn about surviving connections to the ancient culture. See pages 24–25 for our new *Mysteries of the Maya* itinerary.





EXPERIENCE THE WORLD AUTHENTICALLY

There's a distinct difference between visiting a place and truly experiencing it.

We design every expedition to be a celebration of a remarkable destination and a genuine interaction with its culture.

IT'S IN THE PEOPLE WE MEET, whether we're talking to a Russian cosmonaut in Moscow or a shaman in Peru, visiting with a Maasai family in their home in Tanzania or cooking a traditional meal with a Maya family in Yucatán, Mexico.

IT'S IN THE TRADITIONS WE ENCOUNTER. We spend time immersed in a Maori village in New Zealand, learning about indigenous music, crafts, and cuisine. Farmers teach us age-old desert irrigation practices in Oman, and we participate in a tea ceremony in Japan. Join the locals in Jaipur to celebrate Diwali—the Hindu Festival of Lights.

IT'S IN THE WAY WE TRAVEL. We approach the breathtaking landscapes of the Canadian Rockies from the luxury cars

of the *Rocky Mountaineer*, and step back in time aboard the *Golden Chariot* in southern India. Hop in a *tuk-tuk* to ride like a local in Cambodia, and glide along the Amazon waterways aboard the intimate *Delfin II* riverboat.

IT'S IN THE PLACES WE STAY, from a 13th-century *castello* in the heart of the Tuscan countryside to a deluxe Berber tented camp in the Moroccan Sahara. Many of our trips feature stays at a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, including the architectural masterpiece of Zhiwa Ling in Bhutan, and Tierra Patagonia, overlooking Torres del Paine National Park.

Above: Traditional beads and fabrics adorn a Maasai woman in East Africa.
Right: a polar bear cub straddles the Arctic Ice.

“Traveling opens up your mind; it is a phenomenal way of learning about everything.”

—Enric Sala, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence

WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH US, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Now, more than ever, our planet needs our help. That's why the National Geographic Society is expanding its commitment to save wildlife, protect our oceans, and fund researchers and explorers who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge.

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.



When you travel with us, you make a difference. Your support is vital to National Geographic's mission of increasing global understanding through conservation, research, education, and exploration. As you thumb through this catalog, look for the National Geographic seal to learn more about the National Geographic Society's work in the regions that we visit.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
EXPEDITIONS



Lifelong
Explorer

OUR LOYALTY PROGRAM

Once you've traveled on three National Geographic Expeditions, National Geographic Adventures, and/or National Geographic Journeys, you'll be enrolled 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, and National Geographic Journeys
- Advance notice on 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 natgeoexpeditions.com/lle

SEE THE WORLD YOUR WAY

Our range of travel experiences is truly panoramic. In addition to wildlife safaris, archaeology-focused expeditions, and other land-based trips, we offer many different ways to see the world with National Geographic. Whether you're an aspiring photographer, an avid hiker, or a parent looking for a way to make your family vacation unforgettable, you'll find a wide array of opportunities to nourish your wanderlust. And no matter how you travel with us, you'll delve into local traditions, learn about habitats, and meet fascinating people—exploring in the tradition of National Geographic.



SMALL-SHIP VOYAGES

Take to the sea aboard one of the six ships of the National Geographic-Lindblad fleet and explore the Galápagos, Alaska, and more with a team of experts.



PHOTOGRAPHY TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

Improve your photography skills with the guidance of a National Geographic photographer—whether you're traveling through Japan or heading out on shoots during an intensive weekend workshop in New York City. See pages 108–115.



FAMILY EXPEDITIONS

Introduce your family to the magic of travel on trips designed for travelers of all ages that combine learning, discovery, and fun. See pages 116–127.

TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE EXCITING WAYS TO TRAVEL WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.



“ Please continue opening people’s eyes, minds, and hearts to the spectacular planet we live on. ”

– Rebecca B., traveler on Alaska’s Inside Passage





SEE MORE EXCITING WAYS TO TRAVEL WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE.



TRAIN TRIPS

Wind through dramatic mountain scenery or observe scenes of everyday life, experiencing the world through the nostalgic lens of train travel.



PRIVATE JET TRIPS

Experience fascinating places as far-flung as Easter Island and Marrakech on one epic journey, traveling with a team of experts in the comfort of a VIP-configured jet.



ACTIVE ADVENTURES

Explore by foot, by camel or kayak, or even by dogsled on an active adventure that combines spectacular places, physical challenge, and cultural interaction. See pages 130–131 or visit natgeoadventures.com.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
JOURNEYS
with *G-Adventures*



PRIVATE EXPEDITIONS

Travel independently—with all the benefits of traveling with National Geographic—on a private trip geared for you and the traveling companions you choose. See pages 134–135 or visit natgeoexpeditions.com/private.



UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD

Our handpicked collection of lodges treat you to one-of-a-kind experiences, while treating our planet with care and respect. Stay at one of these world-class hotels and enjoy first-rate amenities and genuine interactions with the local environment and culture. See page 135 or visit natgeolodges.com.



STUDENT EXPEDITIONS

Send your high school or middle school student on assignment with National Geographic to explore inspiring destinations in depth alongside our experts and trip leaders. See page 142 or visit ngstudentexpeditions.com.



INTRODUCING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC JOURNEYS: A NEW WAY TO SEE THE WORLD

Our newest line of trips is built on meaningful encounters, interactions with knowledgeable local guides, and the freedom to roam. We've partnered with award-winning tour operator G Adventures to create 70 unique itineraries that blend fun and hands-on exploration with opportunities to forge human connections with people we meet all around the world. Usually limited to 16 or fewer travelers, these immersive trips are accessibly-priced, offering more free time and choices—with the structure and security of traveling in a small group.

- Each trip is led by a dynamic local guide with an insider perspective on the region you're exploring.
- Accommodations are generally comfortable, mid-range hotels and inns that reflect the local character.
- Travelers enjoy some included activities and meals throughout the trip, along with plenty of options to choose excursions and restaurants that suit their interests.
- Some itineraries include visits to local organizations and researchers supported by National Geographic.

Visit natgeojourneys.com/learnmore

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. On National Geographic Expeditions, they bring you to the planet's most intriguing places and share their passion and their insider perspectives. We'd like to introduce you to a few of them.



Boston University archaeologist **WILLIAM SATURNO** has received numerous National Geographic grants to support his excavation of ancient Maya murals and artifacts. His breakthrough discovery at San Bartolo of the oldest intact Maya murals became the focus of the January 2006 *National Geographic* magazine article "The Dawn of Maya Gods and Kings," and the June 2012 issue described his recent unearthing of murals at Xultún. Bill has also served as field director of the Río Amarillo Archaeological Project in Western Honduras, examining the relationships of Maya cities around Copán. He looks forward to sharing stories of his discoveries on all departures of our new Mysteries of the Maya expedition.



Filmmaker, producer, and scientist **BIRGIT BUHLEIER** played an integral role in the evolution of National Geographic's Crittercam, a video camera system that has provided fascinating insights into the daily lives of hundreds of species. Through her work with Crittercam, she has sidled up to seals, sea lions, and whales; studied the secret lives of great white and tiger sharks; and dived with hawksbill sea turtles. She has personally deployed more than 100 Crittercams on a broad range of animals and has lived and worked in some of the world's most remote places. Birgit will share her unique perspective on the walrus, seals, whales, and bears of Alaska with travelers of all ages on the July 24, 2016 Alaska Family Voyage.



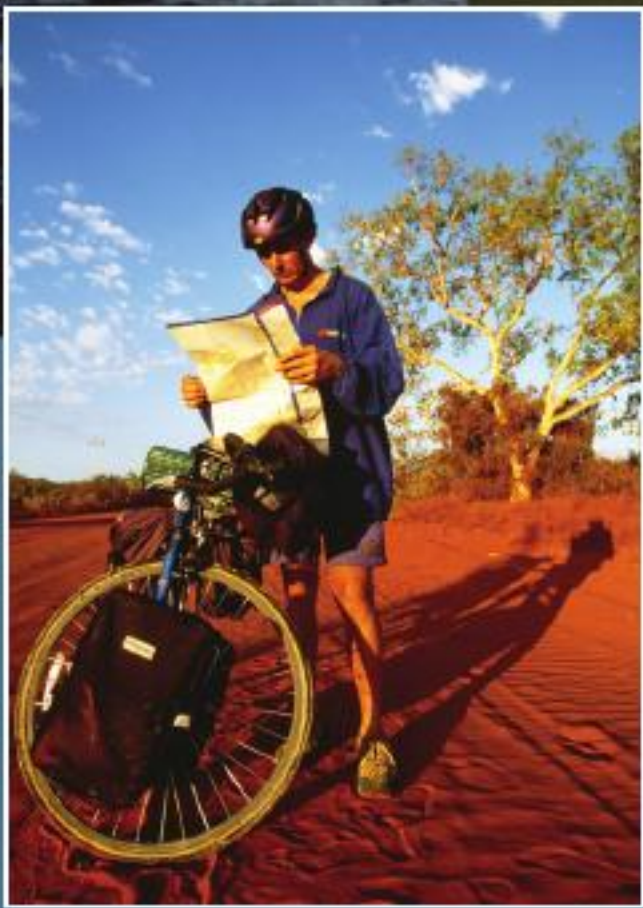
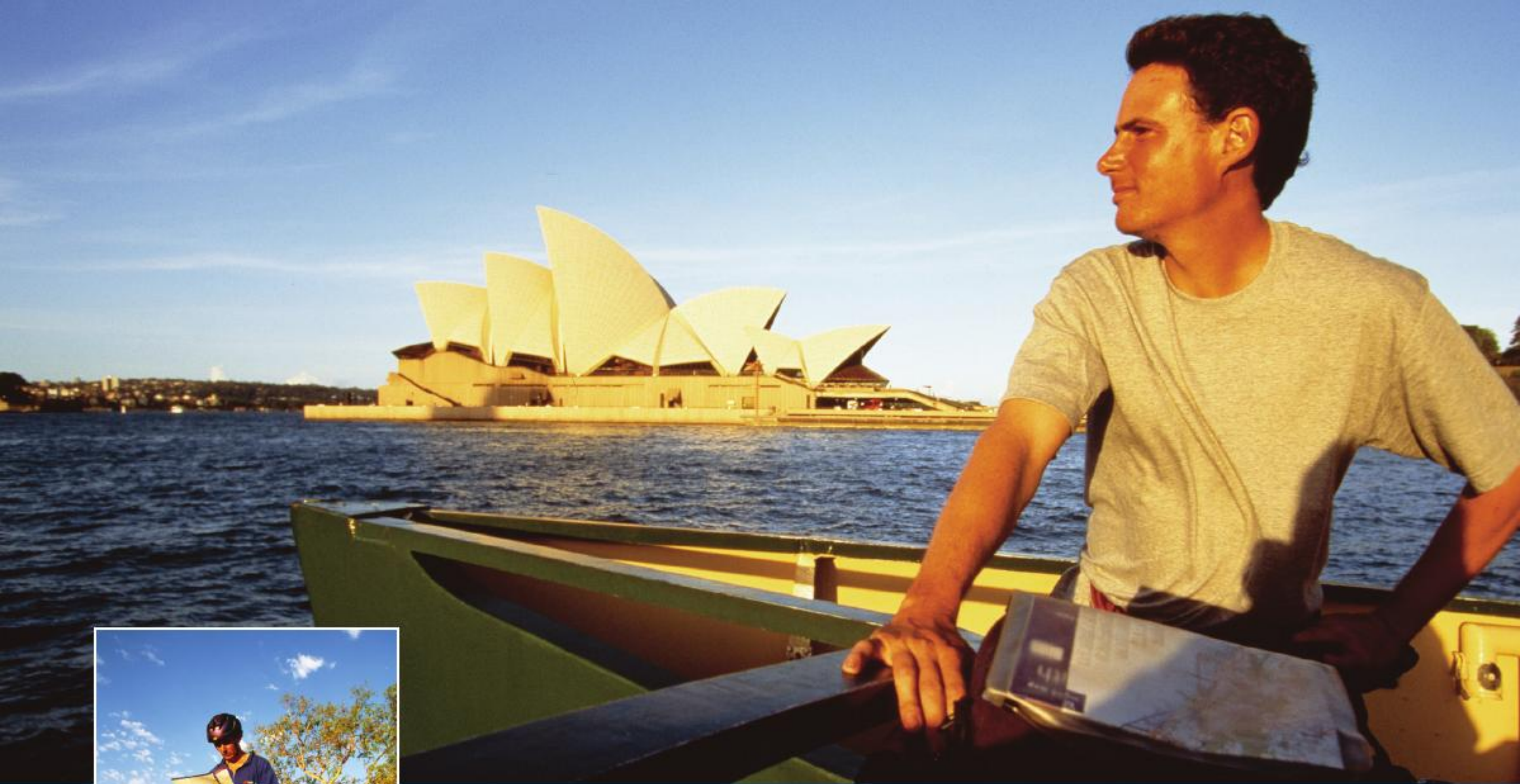
National Geographic Emerging Explorer **JILL PRUETZ** is a biological anthropologist who specializes in primatology. A professor at Iowa State University, Jill spent two years in East Africa researching patas and vervet monkeys as well as Grevy's zebras. She is one of the world's foremost chimpanzee experts and is currently conducting groundbreaking research on chimpanzee behavior—funded by National Geographic—in southeastern Senegal. Jill looks forward to sharing her extensive knowledge of primates with travelers on the July 23, August 20, and December 26, 2016 departures of our expedition The Great Apes of Uganda and Rwanda.



Photographer and explorer **KIP EVANS** has worked on dozens of National Geographic Society projects since 1998, including the five-year Sustainable Seas project to explore and document the U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries. His photographs have been featured in various publications including *National Geographic* magazine, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Outside*. In 2014 Kip lived underwater for 17 days in the Aquarius underwater laboratory as an aquanaut with Fabien Cousteau's Mission 31, and his photographs from the expedition were featured in publications throughout the world. Kip will be sharing tips and techniques for photographing the spectacular landscape and wildlife of Antarctica on the November 27 and December 7, 2016 departures.

Archaeologist and National Geographic grantee **ROBIN CONINGHAM** has spent more than 25 years studying the archaeology and history of the Indian subcontinent. Now based at Durham University in the U.K., Robin was awarded a prestigious UNESCO Professorship in Archaeology in 2014. Two National Geographic grants helped fund his investigations of the birthplace and childhood home of the Buddha in Nepal, and he recently returned from co-directing UNESCO post-earthquake rescue excavations in Kathmandu. In addition to numerous books and articles covering topics such as Roman trade in southern India and the caste system, he published the definitive *Archaeology of South Asia: from the Indus to Asoka* in 2015. Robin will join the November 3, 2016 and February 9, 2017 departures of our new Southern India Rail Journey.





WRITER **ROFF SMITH** ADOPTED AUSTRALIA as his homeland decades ago, when he was a photojournalist living in Sydney. He knows the country better than many of its native residents, having ridden his bicycle 10,000 miles across the inland—a journey he chronicled for *National Geographic* magazine. Over the next year, Roff will join travelers on our Australia and New Zealand expeditions to share his insights and perspective on the countries.

Our Australia expedition includes a range of fascinating places, destinations that a lot of people visit, such as Sydney with its famous Opera House, but also Tasmania, which is well off the beaten path.

That's right. Tassie, as the locals call it, is a very special place. You have these incredible wilderness areas with temperate rain forests and deep, brooding jungles that are absolutely unlike anything else in Australia. You go from there up to the far north of Queensland, where you have two natural World Heritage areas abutting each other: the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. So you have fabulous jungles coming right down into the world's largest and most iconic reef complex. We'll be seeing absolutely spectacular stuff at both the north and south ends of Australia. And of course, we'll visit Sydney as well!

Tell us a little about your epic trek across Australia by bike.

I spent nine months on a solo, 10,000-mile bicycle journey through and around the Australian outback. I stayed in Aboriginal communities, mining camps, and million-acre cattle stations. It was a fabulous experience. The people in the bush opened their doors and their hearts to me in ways that were really moving.

Australia's neighbor out in the Pacific is New Zealand. And there's quite a contrast, right?

Yes, you think of these two antipodean countries and link them together, you think they're the same. They are absolutely different. New Zealand is very much a South Pacific island culture whereas Australia is this massive ancient continent. The landscape is different, the whole culture is different. The Maoris of New Zealand have this wonderful island culture, linked to the Polynesians, the Fijians, the Tongans, and the Samoans. It's a living culture. Before every game they perform the *haka*, the Maori war dance. I've seen it described as one of the most apt bits of nationalism, this wonderful mix of Maori and European. It's not affected, it's not fake, it's not theatrical. It's real...every one of them feel it. And the landscapes of New Zealand are also totally different...mountains, gorgeous lakes and sounds, and of course the volcanoes. It is again completely different from anything you'll see in Australia.

What would you say to someone who's trying to decide whether to visit New Zealand or Australia?

I'd say go to both!

READ MORE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH ROFF ON OUR WEBSITE. SEE PAGES 90-93 FOR THE EXPEDITIONS THAT ROFF WILL LEAD IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

EXPEDITION MOMENTS

Share your favorite experiences traveling with National Geographic Expeditions by tagging your photos and videos with #NatGeoExpeditions #Destination (e.g., #NatGeoExpeditions #Galápagos). We may feature your photos in print or online!

natgeoexpeditions.com/moments

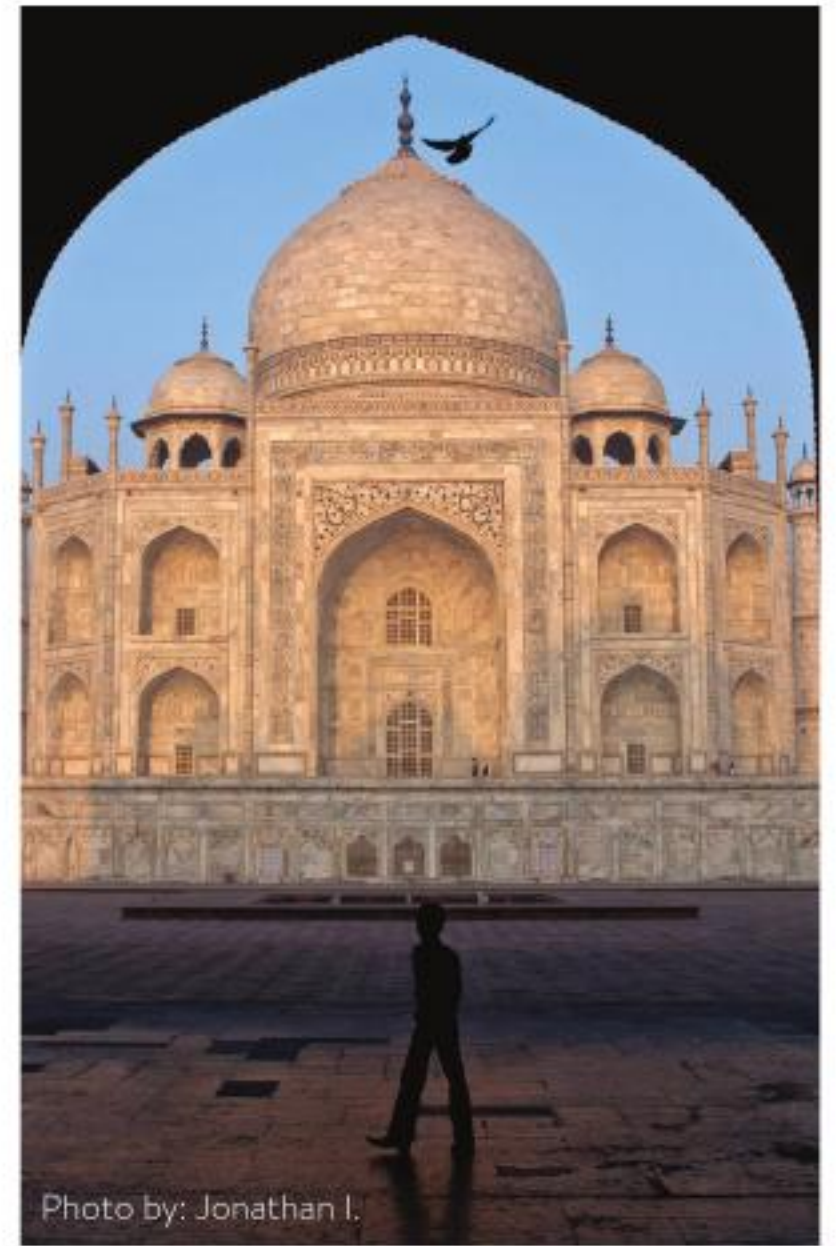


Photo by: Jonathan I.



Photo by: Damon C.



Photo by: Nicholas C.



Photo by: Helen R.

“I have traveled the world, and I have never been as enriched by a travel experience as I was from this one.”

—Jeff G., traveler on our Cuba expedition



Photo by: Joan L.



Photo by: Stacy F.

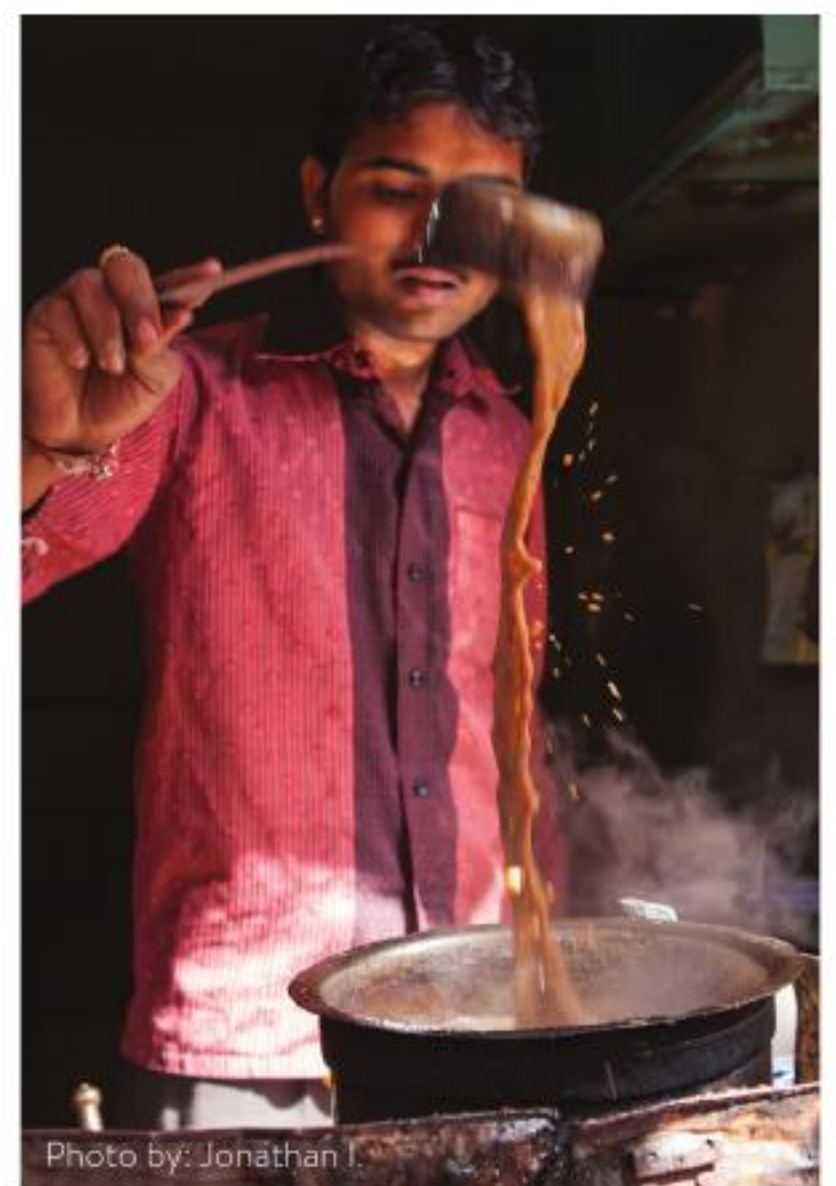


Photo by: Jonathan I.



Photo by: Sarah M.



Photo by: Jim A.



Photo by: Joan L.



Photo by: Deb H.

“The workshop helped me break through to the next level of photography.”

—Bob C., participant in our Santa Fe photo workshop



Photo by: Mark T.



Photo by: Jim A.

“Every time we take a Nat Geo expedition, I think it will not be as good as the last one, but it always is—or better.”

—Michele R., traveler on our Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound expedition



Photo by: Deb H.



Photo by: Andrew M.

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 Preserve, 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 August 28 departure, we will also be joined by award-winning photographer, filmmaker, and instructor **Rich Reid**. Rich has specialized in environmental and adventure photography for more than two decades. He explored Alaska's Inside Passage by bike and ferry for *National Geographic Adventure* and is represented by National Geographic Creative. Recently, the North America 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 | 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, WASHINGTON/ 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 FJORD—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—whose work is supported by a grant from the

Above: A humpback whale demonstrates its power as it breaches the surface of Frederick Sound.

66

Seeing a baby humpback whale make six complete breaches, completely unconcerned by the nearby ship and people watching him, felt like Alaska's way of saying goodbye after an amazing week.

For the first time as a traveler, I felt accepted by, and almost a part of, the natural world I was peeking into.

—Megan N., traveler on our Alaska voyage

Watch short videos about this expedition at natgeoexpeditions.com/alaskavideo



Travelers return to the *National Geographic Sea Bird* after exploring Alaska's mist-shrouded shores.

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

Explore 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)



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

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, WASHINGTON

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. At the Alaska Raptor Center, get a close-up view of species normally seen only at a distance. In the early afternoon, transfer to the airport for the flight to Seattle. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: 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 144 for specific departure dates. Certain departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1 <i>Located on Main Deck</i>	\$6,490
Category 2 <i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>	\$7,490
Category 3 <i>Located on Upper and Bridge Decks</i>	\$8,590

See the *National Geographic Sea Bird/Sea Lion* description and deck plan on page 138. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,250 in Category 1 and \$3,750 in Category 2. Airfare to/from Seattle and airfare between Seattle and Alaska are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights from Seattle to Juneau and return from Sitka, or vice versa, are \$500.

Optional Extension:

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

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2016 and receive complimentary round-trip airfare between Seattle and Alaska on select May and June departures. Visit our website or call for details.

See our **Alaska Family Voyage** on page 116. Visit our website for details on our **Alaska Photography Expeditions** and our voyage to **Alaska, British Columbia, and Haida Gwaii**.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

CANADIAN ROCKIES BY RAIL AND TRAIL new



THE CANADIAN ROCKIES ARE A WONDERLAND of twisting peaks, jewel-colored lakes, and glaciers that pour down from towering heights. Watch as the temperate rain forests of Vancouver give way to awe-inspiring mountain ranges on a journey along the spectacular *Rocky Mountaineer* railway. Then delve into Jasper and Banff National Parks, taking in their beauty from forested valleys, craggy peaks, and powerful glaciers.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Take in panoramic views of Canada's magnificent Rockies from the glass-domed cars of the *Rocky Mountaineer* train.
- Experience Jasper National Park from many angles, cruising Maligne Lake and soaring to the park's summits in a skytram.
- If you wish, trek across Athabasca Glacier and learn about its geology.
- Explore Banff National Park alongside geologist Ben Gadd, a contributor to the *National Geographic Guide to the National Parks of Canada*.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



With a master's degree in wildlife biology, **Doug Chadwick** studied mountain goats among the peaks of the Rockies for seven years. He also carried out surveys of grizzly bears and of the harlequin ducks that breed along the Rockies' fast-moving rivers and streams. In his other role as a journalist, Doug has reported on wildlife around the world, producing close to 50 articles for *National Geographic* magazine. Over the past nine years, much of his free time has been spent as a volunteer helping carry out groundbreaking wolverine research in Glacier National Park, Montana. In addition to hundreds of magazine articles, Doug has written 13 books about wildlife and conservation, including several focused on the Rocky Mountains.

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

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./VANCOUVER, CANADA

Arrive in Vancouver midday and set off on an afternoon excursion through the city. Surrounded by snow-dusted mountains, lush forests, and sandy beaches, this modern metropolis is enveloped by natural beauty. Explore Stanley Park, a stunning urban green space crisscrossed by a network of nature paths. Walk the famous Seawall—lined by temperate rain forest and the shimmering waters of Vancouver Harbour—for incredible views of the skyline. This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner.

WEDGEWOOD HOTEL AND SPA (D)

DAY 2 ROCKY MOUNTAINEER/KAMLOOPS

Transfer to the train depot this morning and board the *Rocky Mountaineer*, settling into one of its two-level, glass-domed coaches. As you ride the rails in luxury accommodations, enjoy breathtaking views of the Canadian Rockies.

Highlights along this leg of the journey include the thunderous rapids of Fraser Canyon, where up to 200 million gallons of water can flow per minute, and the steep slopes and rock sheds along the Thompson River. Disembark at Kamloops and spend the evening exploring this mountain town at your leisure. HOTEL 540 OR SANDMAN SIGNATURE KAMLOOPS HOTEL (B, L)

DAY 3 ROCKY MOUNTAINEER/JASPER NATIONAL PARK

The *Rocky Mountaineer* brings us farther north today, entering the Canadian Rockies and offering increasingly dramatic panoramic views. We'll ride by Pyramid Creek Falls, a glacier-fed cascade that flows out of a hanging valley, and over the Continental Divide at Yellowhead Pass. Our train voyage culminates in the moments we glide by Mount Robson; with craggy peaks reaching heights of nearly 13,000 feet, this behemoth boasts the tallest summit in the Canadian Rockies. This evening, arrive in Jasper National Park and check in to our lakeside lodge, nestled within a forested valley in the heart of the park.

FAIRMONT JASPER PARK LODGE (B, L, D)

“It’s not only a gorgeous ride, cutting across the snow-capped Rockies and river gorges, but also a historic one.”

—Robert Reid, “Northern Exposure”
National Geographic Traveler, November 2015



Male bighorn sheep use their large horns in fierce mating battles.

DAY 4 JASPER NATIONAL PARK

Get immersed in the pristine beauty of Jasper National Park’s glacier-sculpted landscapes today. Travel through the park to Maligne Lake, watching for moose, elk, and caribou along the way. Upon arrival, embark on a classic boat cruise and sail across the lake’s turquoise waters, framed by the staggering peaks of the Rockies. Then soar into the mountains via the Jasper SkyTram, reaching a

height of over 7,000 feet above sea level. From the lookout point, take in 360-degree views that include six surrounding mountain ranges, glacier-fed lakes and rivers, and the town of Jasper. Tonight, we dine in town at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 ATHABASCA GLACIER/LAKE LOUISE, BANFF NATIONAL PARK

Travel along the scenic Icefields Parkway toward Banff National Park, stopping en route at the Athabasca Glacier. This ice mass is part of the Columbia Icefield and feeds a chain of glaciers along Canada’s Great Divide Trail. Set out with a skilled guide on a trekking expedition across the glacier and get an up-close look at its fascinating geology. This afternoon, arrive at your accommodations at the iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, situated on the dazzling lake in Banff known for its sparkling blue waters. Take time upon your arrival to walk the grounds and lakeshore trail before enjoying dinner on your own at one of the many dining options on the property.

THE FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE (B, L)

DAY 6 LAKE LOUISE

You will be joined today by Ben Gadd, a four-time Banff Film Festival award winner, frequent writer for *National Geographic*, and contributor to the



National Geographic Guide to the National Parks of Canada. With Ben’s skillful interpretation, explore Moraine Lake, whose surface mirrors a soaring set of ice-clad summits; and Emerald Lake, fringed by picturesque pine forests. Enjoy a picnic lunch and then discover the fascinating viewpoint of Spiral Tunnels, a favorite stop for railroad aficionados. At the Yoho National Park Visitor Centre, explore interactive exhibits about the Burgess Shale and a special fossil exhibit that Ben took part in developing. Then delve into the spectacular landscapes surrounding Lake Louise, exploring the area on a series of hikes and walking through wildflowers to pristine lakes and hidden waterfalls. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner back at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 CALGARY/U.S.

Transfer to the Calgary airport to catch your international flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 27–July 3 • July 25–31 • Aug. 15–21
Sept. 5–11

Expedition Cost:

\$8,295

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,850. International airfare to Vancouver and return from Calgary is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Extend your trip in British Columbia with a stay at Nimmo Bay Wilderness Resort or Siwash Lake Ranch, two members of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.



Perched on boats that have been turned in for the night, a traveler watches twilight transform the Canadian Rockies.

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, from sand dunes to mangroves to a cactus forest.

EXPEDITION TEAM



A team of experts—from naturalists to undersea specialists—accompanies each expedition. On the January 14 departure, we will be joined by National Geographic Fellow, marine biologist, and filmmaker **Greg Marshall**. Greg invented Crittercam, a lightweight camera that can be attached to animals to capture video of the world from their perspective. He has led more than a hundred field research expeditions, conducted behavioral studies on some 70 species—from emperor penguins and blue whale to house cats and grizzly bears—and contributed to more than 70 National Geographic documentaries. Through his work with Crittercam, he seeks to teach others about the importance of conservation.

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.

Above: A gray whale spy-hops just feet from passengers on a well-positioned expedition landing craft.

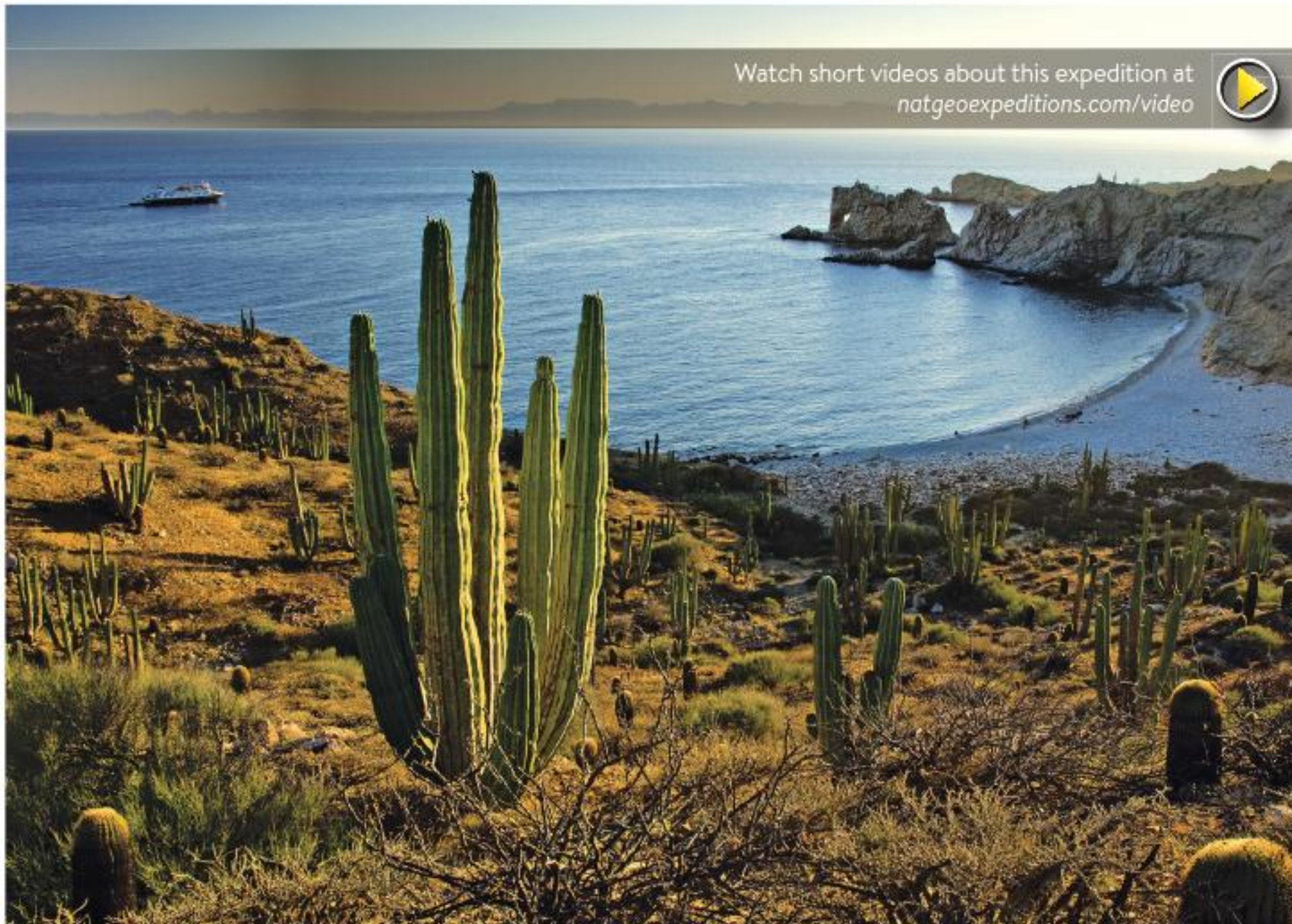
“

This voyage was a fantastic way to view the flora and fauna of an amazing part of the world...the beauty of the region was stunning.

The ability to access these remote and isolated locations in a safe and comfortable manner is as good as it gets! ”

—Eric D., traveler on our Baja voyage

Watch short videos about this expedition at natgeoexpeditions.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)



The National Geographic Sea Bird

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 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:

2017: Jan. 14–21 • Jan. 21–28* • Jan. 28–Feb. 4
Feb. 4–11* • Feb. 11–18 • Feb. 18–25*
Feb. 25–Mar. 4 • Mar. 4–11* • Mar. 11–18

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

Visit our website for 2017 pricing.

See the *National Geographic Sea Bird* photo, description, and deck plan on page 138. 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.

CUBA: DISCOVERING ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE



WITHIN CITIES SEEMINGLY FROZEN IN TIME beats the vibrant pulse of Cuba's most valuable resource: its people. Connect with Cubans of all backgrounds on this unique program, learning about their everyday lives and examining the forces that have shaped Cuban culture. From the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Old Havana and Trinidad to colonial Cienfuegos, meet historians and scientists, athletes and artists, entrepreneurs and musicians—and experience this fast-changing island nation through their eyes.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discuss historic preservation with local experts, and meet residents as you explore Old Havana and Trinidad.
- Witness Cuba's shifting cultural and economic landscape on visits to schools, art studios, and privately owned businesses.
- Immerse yourself in rural traditions in the mountain communities outside Cienfuegos.
- Soak up rhythms of all sorts—from Afro-Cuban to award-winning a cappella.

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 THE FOLLOWING DEPARTURES IN 2016: MAY 8 AND 22, JUNE 5 AND 19, NOVEMBER 6, AND DECEMBER 4 AND 15. IN 2017, HE WILL JOIN THESE DEPARTURES: JANUARY 15, FEBRUARY 12, MARCH 12 AND 26, APRIL 9 AND 23, MAY 7 AND 21, JUNE 4 AND 18. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAY 1 MIAMI, FLORIDA/HAVANA, CUBA

Upon arrival in Havana, enjoy a brief driving tour of the city and head to the lively community arts program of Muraleando. Get to know artists who have helped transform a downtrodden neighborhood into a living work of art. Then check in to our hotel before gathering for a welcome dinner in one of Havana's historic buildings tonight.

HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (D)

DAY 2 HAVANA

The architecture of Havana is astounding in its breadth and elegance, yet years of neglect have left many buildings in need of restoration. Learn about the challenges and successes of historic preservation from a local expert, then set out into Old Havana to see centuries-old gems—and meet the Cubans who live and work in them. After lunch, join local youth and their teachers who are carrying on the traditions of Afro-Cuban religion, dance, and music. Delve into race relations and other issues during a meeting and film screening

with Afro-Cuban filmmakers. Attend a special musical performance after dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 HAVANA

Spend the morning with Cuban professionals, discussing education, economics, social issues, the role of government, and other topics of interest. Then join sports journalists at the stadium where the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame was established and learn about the historical and political importance of baseball here. In the afternoon, meet the instructors and students of La Colmenita, an after-school program that uses song and dance as a social development tool. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 CIENFUEGOS

Drive south to Cienfuegos, a port city with French colonial roots. Stroll along the main commercial street on a walking tour of the city, stopping to talk to *cuentalpropistas* (self-employed workers) about the burgeoning private economy here. At the prestigious Benny Moré Art School, watch students perform music and dance, view their artwork, and hear the stories of these talented youth and their teachers. Then focus on sports—and their

66

I have traveled the world and never, and I mean never, 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! 99

—Jeff G., traveler on our Cuba expedition



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

importance in Cuban culture—during a discussion with local athletes. HOTEL JAGUA (B, L, D)

DAY 5 TOPES DE COLLANTES/CIENFUEGOS

Explore Topes de Collantes, a beautiful nature reserve in the Escambray Mountains that abounds with caves, waterfalls, natural pools, and many species of birds. Get a taste of rural life during visits with coffee farmers and local families, and meet a botany expert to learn about native flora. Stop by a sustainable eco-village that uses art, music, and theater as a means for social improvement in the community. Tonight, there will be an opportunity to get to know residents of a typical neighborhood in Cienfuegos. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 TRINIDAD/CIENFUEGOS

In charming Trinidad, discuss preservation efforts with a restoration expert, then set off along its cobblestoned streets, pausing at colorful houses along the way to meet artisans, antiques collectors, and longtime residents who have transformed their historic homes into guesthouses. One such man is Julio Muñoz, a photographer and union representative for the self-employed, whose family appeared in an October 1999 *National Geographic* magazine article. At his

colonial-era house, learn about his private businesses, such as his bed-and-breakfast, and hear about his program promoting equine care. Then enjoy a choral performance and discussion with a world-renowned cappella group, the Choir of Cienfuegos. (B, L)

DAY 7 BAY OF PIGS/HAVANA

Today, head to the historic Bay of Pigs. Trace the dramatic events that occurred here at a small museum, and then step foot on the Playa Girón, one of two landing sites for the 1961 U.S.-backed invasion. On our way back to Havana, pay a visit to Finca Vigía, the former home of Ernest Hemingway. The director of the museum joins us to share a Cuban perspective on Hemingway's strong connection to the Cuban people. HOTEL PARQUE CENTRAL (B, L)

DAY 8 HAVANA/JAIMANITAS

In the fishing village of Jaimanitas, wander through the fantastical workshop and home of ceramic artist José Fuster, known as the "Picasso of Cuba." Stroll down village streets decorated with his mosaics, stopping to interact with neighborhood families along the way. Then attend a question-and-answer session with American author and Havana resident Marc Frank and a Cuban journalist, and discuss their views on Cuba's past, present, and future. Celebrate our Cuban experience together at a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)



A Cuban man surveys the street behind one of the many classic cars found in Havana.



DAY 9 HAVANA/MIAMI, FLORIDA

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:

2016: Apr. 17–25 • May 1–9 • May 8–16
May 22–30 • May 29–June 6 • June 5–13
June 12–20 • June 19–27 • June 26–July 4
Nov. 6–14 • Nov. 13–21 • Nov. 20–28
Nov. 27–Dec. 5 • Dec. 4–12 • Dec. 11–19
Dec. 15–23 • Dec. 29, 2016–Jan. 6, 2017

2017: Jan. 1–9 • Jan. 8–16 • Jan. 15–23
Jan. 22–30 • Jan. 29–Feb. 6 • Feb. 5–13
Feb. 12–20 • Feb. 19–27 • Feb. 26–Mar. 6
Mar. 5–13 • Mar. 12–20 • Mar. 19–27
Mar. 26–Apr. 3

Expedition Cost:

Apr.–June 2016	\$5,995
Nov.–Dec. 2016	\$6,295

Visit our website for 2017 pricing.

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$800. On the December 15 and 29, 2016 departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$700 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 15 and 29, 2016 departures.

Please Note: This trip is permitted through the people-to-people general license category authorized by 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.**

See our **Cuba and Its People: A Photographic Exploration** program on page 115.

MYSTERIES OF THE MAYA new



NESTLED WITHIN THE JUNGLES OF MESOAMERICA, soaring pyramids, hieroglyphs, and long-hidden murals attest to the magnificence and mystery of the ancient Maya. Discover monuments of this fabled civilization showcased in once-grand cities like Tikal and concealed in the remote temples of Bonampak and Yaxchilán. Meet modern-day Maya and encounter traditions that have survived through the centuries.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore some of the most influential cities of the Maya world, including four UNESCO World Heritage sites: Chichén Itzá, Uxmal, Palenque, and Tikal.
- Examine illustrations of Maya warfare depicted in the vivid wall murals at Bonampak.
- See Palenque's illuminative hieroglyphs during a special after-hours tour.
- Experience Maya culture today on visits to a traditional village and the colorful markets of Mérida.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Dr. William Saturno, assistant professor of archaeology at Boston University, has received numerous National Geographic grants for his excavation of ancient Maya murals and artifacts. An article in *National Geographic* magazine's January 2006 issue, "The Dawn of Maya Gods and Kings," detailed his breakthrough discovery at San Bartolo of the oldest intact Maya murals ever found; and his recent unearthing of murals at Xultún was featured in the June 2012 issue. Bill has also served as the field director of the Río Amarillo Archaeological Project in western Honduras, examining the relationships of Maya cities around Copán.

BILL WILL ACCOMPANY ALL DEPARTURES OF THIS EXPEDITION.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./MÉRIDA, MEXICO

Arrive in Mérida and transfer to our hotel near the historic center. Gather for a welcome reception with a culinary twist: we'll help a local chef make traditional dips, and savor them before sitting down to our welcome dinner.

HOTEL ROSAS & XOCOLATE (D)

DAY 2 UXMAL

Travel to the ruins of Uxmal for our first encounter with the magnificent vestiges of the ancient Maya. Built into the rolling Puuc landscape, Uxmal is one of the only Maya cities without a geometric layout. Explore the complex, examining the ornate carvings on the Pyramid of the Magician and the magnificent two-headed jaguar throne at the entrance to the Governor's Palace. Afterwards, cool off with a refreshing dip in a nearby cenote and help make tortillas for a delicious lunch prepared on-site by local chefs. This afternoon, learn about the culture and customs of modern-day Maya people on a visit to a local village. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 CHICHÉN ITZÁ/IZAMAL

Spend the day exploring Chichén Itzá, often dubbed one of the new seven wonders of the world. Enter a world of fascinating mythology as you discover the southern complex, including the Observatory, the Tomb of the High Priest, and the Nunnery. In the large complex of North Chichén, see towering pyramids and temples surrounded by smaller sites, including the ancient marketplace, the sweat bath, and the largest Maya ball court ever found. On our return trip to Mérida, stop in the colonial town of Izamal to explore its impressive Franciscan monastery, which sits atop an indigenous Maya temple. (B, L)

DAY 4 MÉRIDA/VILLAHERMOSA/PALENQUE

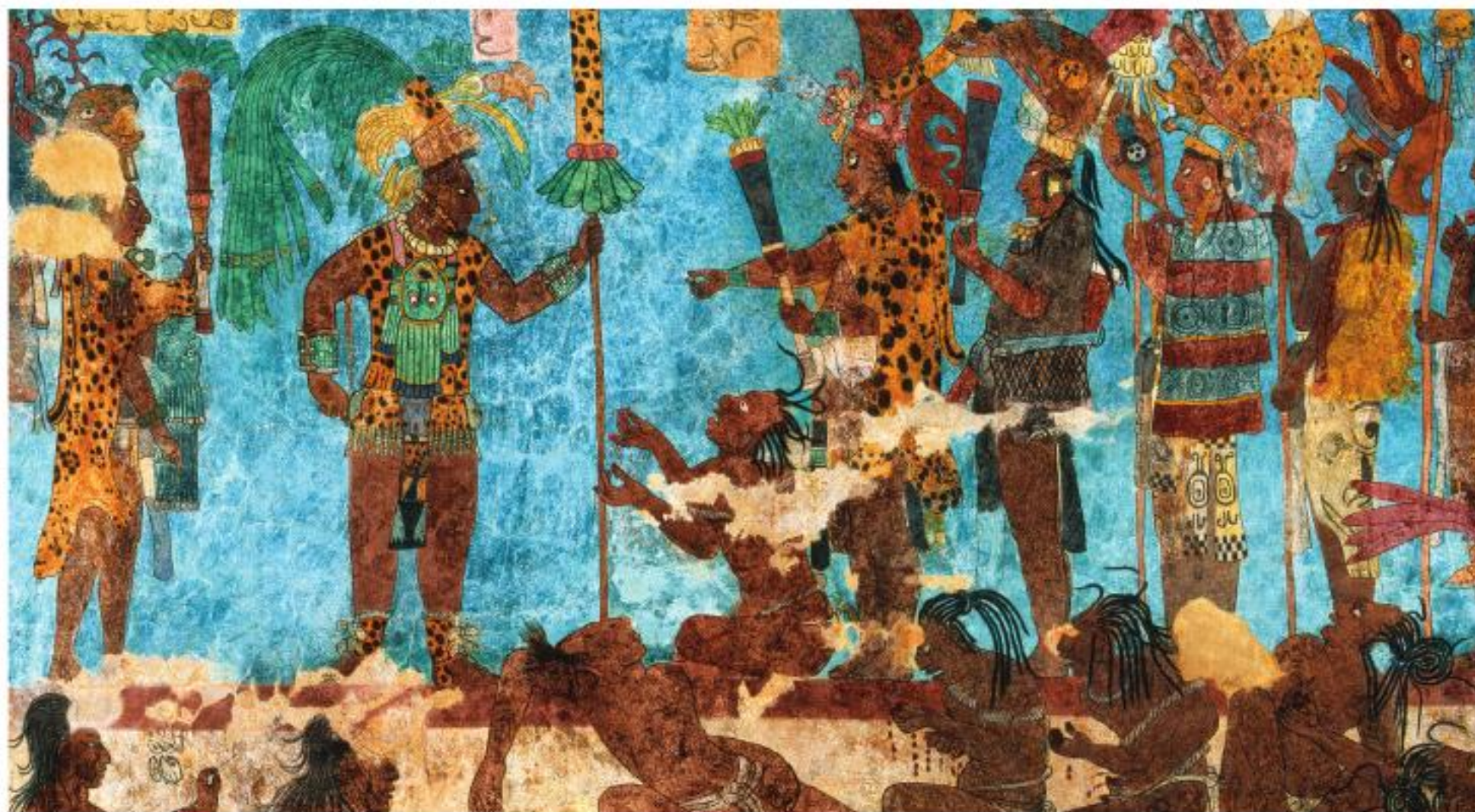
Stroll through Mérida's lively markets where modern-day Maya sell colorful hammocks and embroidered huipils, or traditional blouses. A local chef will guide us through the food stalls to point out unique local ingredients and explain how they are used. This afternoon, fly to Villahermosa and transfer to our hotel in Palenque.

CHAN-KAH RESORT VILLAGE (B, L, D)

Above: The Temple of the Great Jaguar, completed around A.D. 750, rises precipitously above the forest canopy in Tikal, Guatemala.

“The murals at Bonampak, like the Maya themselves, still retain many secrets.”

Mary Miller, “Maya Masterpiece Revealed at Bonampak”
National Geographic magazine, February 1995



A computer-enhanced image restores the colors of the Bonampak murals to their original vibrancy.

DAY 5 PALENQUE

Venture into the ancient city of Palenque and its Temple of Inscriptions, which holds one of the most comprehensive sources of Maya text known to exist—writings that have helped archaeologists piece together the only established timeline for rulers of an ancient Maya city. Examine these stone inscriptions and explore the complex before enjoying an afternoon at leisure. This evening, we'll return to the ruins for a specially arranged after-hours visit. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 BONAMPAK/FRONTERA COROZAL

Journey to the remote ruins of Bonampak, a



Girls in traditional dresses giggle together in a sunlit alleyway in Mérida.

less-visited Maya site that's home to a stunning series of rare polychromatic wall paintings. These frescoes were unearthed in the 1940s and are notable for their detailed depictions of Maya warfare. *National Geographic* magazine featured an article on the reconstruction of these murals, and the Society supports ongoing archaeological work at the site. Take some time to examine the battles and ceremonies depicted in vivid shades of blue, red, and yellow before we continue to our hotel in the small town of Frontera Corozal.

ECOTOURISM ESCUDO JAGUAR (B, L, D)

DAY 7 YAXCHILÁN/FLORES, GUATEMALA

Cruise along the Usumacinta River to remote Yaxchilán—said to be named for its green stone. The city's position on the water gave it a central role in river commerce during the Classic period. Discover the site's jungle-shrouded ruins, paying close attention to its ornate building facades and roof combs and keeping an eye out for the scarlet macaws and troops of howler monkeys that inhabit the surrounding treetops. Continue by boat to the border town of Bethel, and then transfer to our hotel on the shores of Lago Petén Itzá. CAMINO REAL TIKAL (B, L, D)

DAY 8 TIKAL

Rise early for an optional birding walk through the Cerro Cahuí nature reserve, seeking out toucans and parrots feeding in the trees. Then venture



through the jungle to Tikal, one of the largest cities in the Classic Maya world. Here, ancient pyramids pierce the canopy, towering more than 200 feet over thousands of temples, shrines, and ceremonial platforms. Spend the day exploring the site, even climbing a pyramid for a panoramic view over the jungle. With our expert, decipher the stone carvings and hieroglyphs that reveal the dynastic history and spiritual significance of this ancient city. Tonight, we'll celebrate our journey with a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 FLORES/GUATEMALA CITY/U.S.

Transfer to the airport in Flores and fly to Guatemala City to connect with your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Nov. 10–18 • Dec. 29, 2016–Jan. 6, 2017

2017: Jan. 26–Feb. 3 • Feb. 23–Mar. 3

Expedition Cost:

\$5,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$950. On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$200 per person. International airfare to Mérida and return from Guatemala City, and airfare within Mexico and Guatemala, are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within Mexico and Guatemala are \$350 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

For the one-night stay in remote Frontera Corozal, accommodations are basic, with thatched-roof cabins featuring en suite bathrooms and ceiling fans, but no air conditioning. Transportation includes travel by small motorized boat on Day 7, and several two- to four-hour drives on partially unpaved roads.

Optional Extensions:

Add a four-day post-trip extension to El Mirador in Guatemala or a five-day post-trip extension to Antigua and Lake Atitlán. 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.
- Explore the tiny islands of the Gulf of Panama, and snorkel off the islands of Coiba National Park.
- 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 February 11, 2017 departure, we will also be joined by National

Geographic photographer and naturalist **Jeff Mauritzen**. Jeff's adventures have immersed him in vivid landscapes both above and below the water in five continents and more than 50 countries around the world. Whether capturing 360-degree panoramas of wildlife along an African savanna or photographing sharks in the Pacific depths, Jeff's work expresses an unwavering passion, respect, curiosity, and awe for the natural world. His photography is represented by National Geographic Creative and has appeared in National Geographic books and numerous other publications, as well as on the Society's website.

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, 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, take a refreshing swim before tracing the park's beautiful coastline south. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 OSA PENINSULA

Anchor off a part of 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, take an optional horseback ride on the beach, or trek through the rain forest for



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

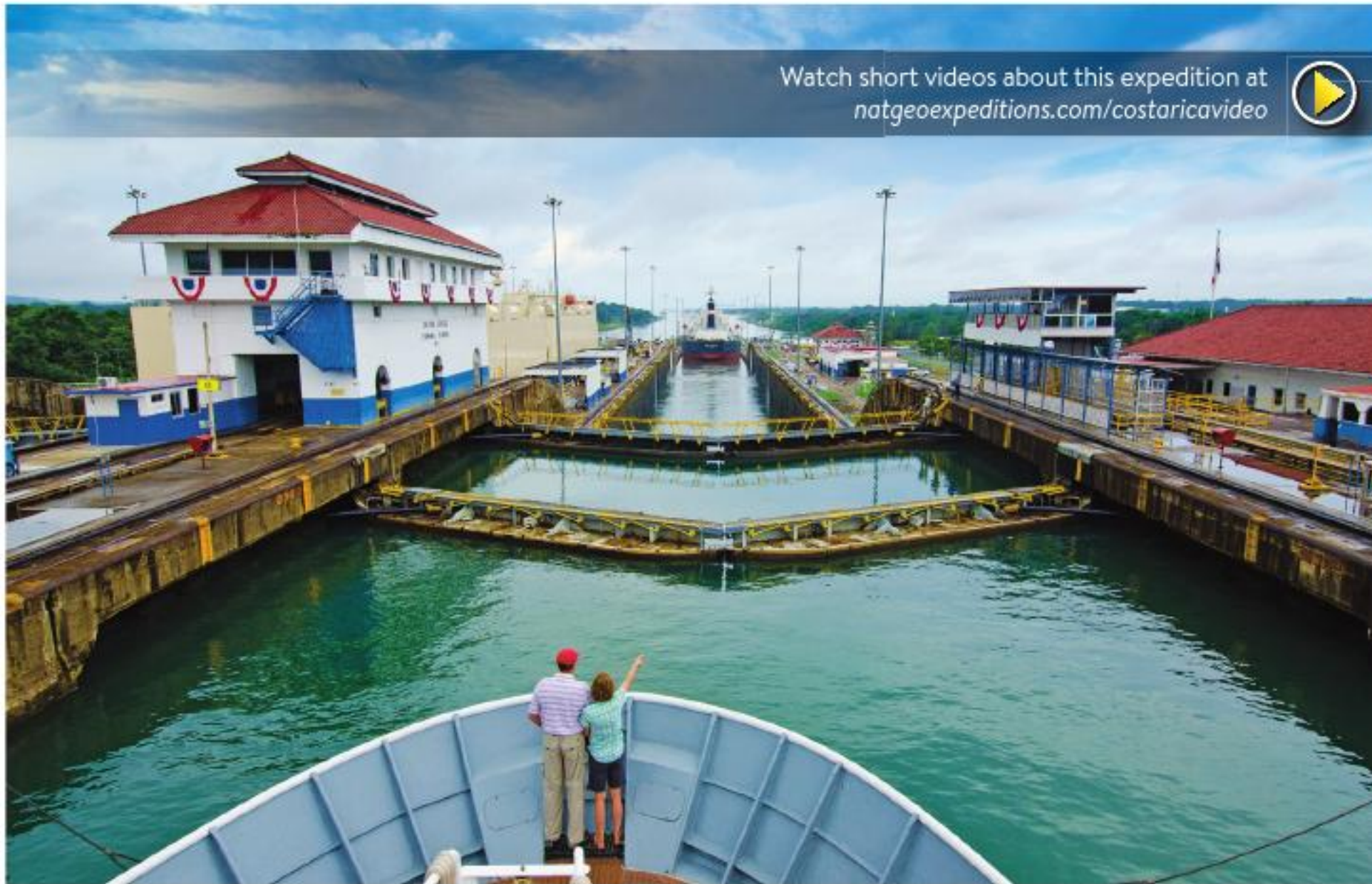
a chance to see four species of monkeys: howler, spider, capuchin, and squirrel. (B, L, D)

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 gingers that is difficult to access and only reachable by boat. Keep your eye out for tanagers, parrots, and toucans. Later, explore the placid bay, ideal for kayaking, stand-up

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

Watch short videos about this expedition at natgeoexpeditions.com/costaricavideo



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

paddleboarding, expedition landing craft rides, and swimming. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 COIBA NATIONAL PARK, PANAMA

We make our first stop in Panama this morning at Coiba National Park—a UNESCO World Heritage site—where we explore the palm-fringed islands. Discover rich marine life while snorkeling, kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding 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 expedition landing craft and kayaks allow us to navigate the tiny islets of the Gulf of Panama today, stopping to explore hidden coves and beaches. Here, we might spot magnificent frigatebirds, brown pelicans, neotropical



The *National Geographic Sea Lion*

cormorants, and brown boobies. Reboard the ship this afternoon and head to the Panama Canal. Stretching more than 50 miles, the canal is a colossal engineering feat that was 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 120 mammals and diverse tree species that can be found here. The island is also the site of a 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:

2016: Mar. 5–12 • Mar. 12–19* 📷
Nov. 26–Dec. 3 • Dec. 3–10* 📷
Dec. 10–17 • Dec. 17–24* • Dec. 24–31
Dec. 31, 2016–Jan. 7, 2017*

2017: Jan. 7–14 • Jan. 14–21* 📷 • Jan. 21–28
Jan. 28–Feb. 4* • Feb. 4–11
Feb. 11–18* 📷 • Feb. 18–25
Feb. 25–Mar. 4* • Mar. 4–11 • Mar. 11–18*

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

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 114 for details.

Expedition Cost:

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

See the *National Geographic Sea Lion* description and deck plan on page 138. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,100 in Category 1 and \$3,800 in Category 2. International airfare to San José and return from Panama City, or vice versa, is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extensions:

Add an extension to Panama City or Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2016 and receive complimentary international airfare between Miami and San José/Panama City or a complimentary extension to Panama City on select 2016 and 2017 departures. Visit our website or call for details.

Combine certain departures of this trip with our **Costa Rica: Cloud Forest to the Caribbean expedition** (see itinerary on page 28). See our **Costa Rica and the Panama Canal Photography Expedition** on page 114 and our **Costa Rica Family Expedition** on page 120.

COSTA RICA: CLOUD FOREST TO THE CARIBBEAN



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, monkeys, and toucans.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

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

DAY 2 CARARA NATIONAL PARK/MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST BIOLOGICAL 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. Then drive to Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve,

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

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.

home to an incredible diversity of flora and fauna. Venture into the Bat Jungle, and learn about life in the early Monteverde community before settling into our lodge. **HOTEL FONDA VELA OR HOTEL DE MONTAÑA MONTEVERDE (B, L, D)**

DAY 3 MONTEVERDE

Visit the Monteverde Butterfly Gardens, and spend the day exploring the cloud forest. Walk along trails rich with butterflies, hummingbirds, and orchids; and search for two-toed sloths and mantled howler monkeys. With luck, we'll spot a rare resplendent quetzal—a sacred bird in Maya and Aztec cultures. **(B, L, D)**

DAYS 4 AND 5 MONTEVERDE/ARENAL VOLCANO

Start the day at a third-generation family-owned coffee farm. Then head into the northern lowlands to the beautiful lake situated at the base of Arenal Volcano. Take boats across the water, and dine at a restaurant with lake views. The next day, explore the rain forest surrounding Arenal Volcano along a network of treetop bridges, keeping an eye out for birds, monkeys, coatis, and snakes. Enjoy a dip in thermal pools heated by the volcano. **ARENAL KIORO SUITES & SPA OR HOTEL ROYAL CORIN (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 6 AND 7 TORTUGUERO NATIONAL PARK

Take a charter flight to Tortuguero, situated along Costa Rica's northeast coast, followed by a short boat ride to our rustic lodge set in the heart of the rain forest. Over two full days, set out by boat or kayak into Tortuguero National Park's vast alluvial floodplain to encounter a variety of wildlife, from tiger herons to monkeys and caimans. Visit the local sea turtle conservancy to learn about turtles and the history of the area. **ANINGA HOTEL & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)**



DAYS 8 AND 9 TORTUGUERO/SAN JOSÉ/U.S.

On our return to San José, visit one of Costa Rica's top chocolatiers, tasting a variety of confections and joining chocolate artisans at a workshop overlooking the central valley. Celebrate our journey at a farewell dinner in San José, and depart for your flight home the next morning. **DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL CARIARI SAN JOSÉ (B, L, D; B)**

Combine this trip with our Costa Rica and the Panama Canal voyage (see itinerary on page 26). Visit our website or call for details.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Mar. 4–12 • Mar. 18–26 • Dec. 2–10
Dec. 16–24 • Dec. 30, 2016–Jan. 7, 2017

2017: Jan. 13–21 • Jan. 27–Feb. 4 • Feb. 10–18
Feb. 24–Mar. 3 • Mar. 10–18

	2016	2017
Expedition Cost:	\$4,290	\$4,590

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

GRAND CANYON, BRYCE CANYON, AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS



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 an expert naturalist as your guide.
- 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, ARIZONA

Arrive in St. George and check in to 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 join our expert for a talk about the area's geology. 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: Sunlight glints off whimsical sandstone spires in Bryce 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 14 AND SEPTEMBER 17 DEPARTURES. 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, UTAH

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 lodge 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 that 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 National Parks Family Expedition on page 119.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: May 14–21 • May 28–June 4 • June 4–11
July 9–16 • Aug. 6–13 • Aug. 20–27
Sept. 3–10 • Sept. 10–17 • Sept. 17–24

Expedition Cost:

\$4,495

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,050. 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 an expert, staying on the lookout for grizzlies, bison, bighorn sheep, and elusive gray wolves.
- Discover Yellowstone's geothermal 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 in to 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 the elusive gray wolves in this sweeping glacial valley. Return to Mammoth Hot Springs and explore Fort Yellowstone. (B, L, D)

Above: Named for its brilliant spectrum of colors, Grand Prismatic Spring glows against the ethereal landscape of Yellowstone National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Few people know Yellowstone country better than wildlife biologist **Jeremy Schmidt**. He has worked in and around the park for more than 30 years, including stints as a park ranger;

a naturalist; a photographer; and an author, writing several articles for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. On daily walks, he will identify local flora and fauna, and give you a new appreciation for these magnificent landscapes.

JEREMY WILL ACCOMPANY BOTH AUGUST AND THE SEPTEMBER 10 AND SEPTEMBER 24 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-long 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 through a glacially carved valley to Phelps Lake. Learn the history of this spectacular park at the visitor center. Later, visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art or explore Jackson's quaint streets. Gather for a farewell dinner this evening. (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 Expedition](#) on page 118.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 11–18 • Aug. 20–27 • Aug. 27–Sept. 3
Sept. 3–10 • Sept. 10–17 • Sept. 24–Oct. 1

Expedition Cost:

\$4,650

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,200. 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.

Optional Extension:

Extend your trip to western Montana with a stay at The Ranch at Rock Creek, a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the iconic landscapes of Yosemite, from the dramatic crag of El Capitan and the towering face of Half Dome 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. SIR FRANCIS DRAKE 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 in to our lodge and gather for a welcome dinner tonight. TENAYA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 3 GLACIER POINT

Journey north to magnificent Yosemite Valley and

Above: Mirror-like waters reflect the golden dome of El Capitan at sunset.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geographer and author **Stephen F. Cunha** spent ten 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 AUGUST 17 DEPARTURE. 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)

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 independently. (B, L, D)

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



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

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 and enjoy free time before 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 114 and our **Yosemite Family Expedition** on page 119.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 8–14 📷 • June 22–28 • July 13–19 📷
July 20–26 • Aug. 17–23 • Aug. 24–30 📷
Sept. 7–13 • Sept. 14–20 📷 • Oct. 5–11

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 114 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$4,895

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,600. Airfare to/from San Francisco is not included in the expedition cost.

ULTIMATE NATIONAL PARKS EXPEDITION new



VENTURE INTO THE WILDERNESS TO CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE—what writer Wallace Stegner called “the best idea we ever had.” Explore five of America’s most iconic national parks, learning about National Geographic’s vital role in preserving and promoting these natural treasures along the way.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore an astonishing diversity of landscapes in five national parks: Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Glacier, Olympic, and Grand Canyon.
- Stay in historic park lodges, and examine the achievements of the past century with representatives from the National Park Service.
- Admire the soaring peaks of the Tetons, and witness Old Faithful geyser’s spectacular eruptions in Yellowstone.
- Raft down the Middle Fork of the Flathead River in Glacier National Park.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Writer, photographer, and biologist **Jeremy Schmidt** has worked in and around America’s national parks for more than 30 years, including stints as a park ranger, a naturalist, a photographer, and an author. In addition to articles for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines, Jeremy has written the National Geographic guidebooks on Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, Grand Canyon National Park, and Yosemite National Park; as well as the *National Geographic Guide to America’s Outdoors: Northern Rockies*. He will share his enthusiasm and knowledge with travelers as we explore these magnificent parks.

JEREMY WILL ACCOMPANY THE JULY 3 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 15 DAYS

DAY 1 JACKSON, WYOMING/GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Arrive in the lively mountain town of Jackson, gateway to Grand Teton National Park. Go for a short hike with spectacular views of the snow-dusted pinnacles of the Teton Range. Visit the National Elk Refuge, and gather for a welcome dinner. RUSTIC INN AT JACKSON HOLE (D)

DAYS 2 AND 3 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Delve into the natural and human history of Grand Teton National Park at the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, and walk scenic trails along Phelps Lake. Then drive north to Yellowstone—the world’s first national park, established in 1872. Most of the park rests atop a slumbering volcano whose magma chamber is the source of the area’s colorful hot springs, steaming fumaroles, and geysers—including Old Faithful, whose eruptions we will witness this evening. Spend the next day exploring gurgling mud pots and mesmerizing



A misty sheen descends from Yellowstone’s Old Faithful Geyser.

mineral pools. Have dinner at Old Faithful Inn, a national historic landmark.

OLD FAITHFUL SNOW LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 4 AND 5 YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Head out early to search for wildlife in Hayden Valley. Visit the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and walk the rim to view thundering waterfalls. Cross Dunraven Pass on our way to Mammoth

Above: Gilt by the early sun, the Grand Canyon shrugs off a blanket of morning fog.

“National Parks are the best idea we ever had.”

Absolutely American, absolutely democratic,
they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.”

—Wallace Stegner, 1983

As quoted in *National Geographic: The National Parks, An Illustrated History*



A cathedral of rocky peaks shelters an aqua alpine lake in Glacier National Park.

Hot Springs, where thermal waters have sculpted travertine terraces over thousands of years. During our stay, a park representative will provide insight into the National Park Service’s centennial celebration and its vision for the future. Explore Lamar Valley, known as “the Serengeti of North America.” Learn about the reintroduction of wolves to the valley in 1995, and use spotting scopes to observe bison, eagles, coyotes, and perhaps even a grizzly.

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS HOTEL AND CABINS (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 6 AND 7 MISSOULA, MONTANA/ GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Journey through Montana’s Rockies to Missoula, and discover the city’s lively downtown. The following morning, continue north through the Mission Range to Flathead Lake. Take to the waters of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, which forms the southern border of Glacier National Park. Paddle Class II and III rapids through rugged canyons, keeping an eye out for bears, bald eagles, and ospreys. DOUBLETREE BY HILTON; BELTON CHALET OR LAKE MCDONALD LODGE (B, L; B, L, D)

DAY 8 GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Named after the slow-moving glaciers that carved these valleys over hundreds of thousands of years, Glacier is one of America’s most magnificent national parks—boasting nearly 1,600 square miles

of what naturalist John Muir called “the best care-killing scenery on the continent.” Take in awe-inspiring vistas as we navigate Going-to-the-Sun Road, a 52-mile engineering marvel that crosses the Continental Divide at Logan Pass. Explore St. Mary Lake and unwind with a trailside picnic. This evening, enjoy a talk with a park representative. BELTON CHALET OR LAKE MCDONALD LODGE (B, L, D)

DAYS 9 AND 10 KALISPELL/SEATTLE, WASHINGTON/OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

Transfer to the airport in Kalispell for our flight to Seattle. Upon arrival, drive into the heart of Olympic National Park, first declared a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt—one of the park system’s greatest patrons—and subsequently designated a national park by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1938. This vast wilderness harbors diverse ecosystems, with glacial peaks presiding over spruce-shrouded rain forest, crystalline lakes and rivers, and sandy beaches. Paddle along the coast in a sea kayak looking for seals, otters, and whales. Then head up to Hurricane Ridge to take in show-stopping views of Mount Olympus as we hike through subalpine meadows. LAKE CRESCENT LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 11 AND 12 OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK/ PHOENIX, ARIZONA/SEDONA

Venture deep into Hoh Rain Forest, marveling at



monumental Sitka spruce and western hemlock stands. Walk amid tide pools, sea stacks, and nesting seabirds on Ruby Beach. Have dinner in the historic Roosevelt Dining Room at Lake Quinalt Lodge. The next day, fly from windswept coast to high desert, arriving in Phoenix, Arizona. Drive to Sedona for the night. LAKE QUINALT LODGE; ORCHARDS INN SEDONA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 13 AND 14 GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy the morning light as it illuminates Sedona’s red-rock spires on our journey to the Grand Canyon, stopping for a hike along the way. A park representative joins us for dinner to introduce us to the history of the Grand Canyon. Spend the next day exploring the South Rim, which frames the canyon’s one-mile-deep chasm—carved by the Colorado River over millions of years. Choose from a variety of hikes, and take in the dazzling colors of sunset. Celebrate our national parks expedition during a farewell dinner at El Tovar Hotel, perched on the canyon’s rim. KACHINA LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 15 GRAND CANYON/BOULDER CITY, NEVADA/LAS VEGAS

Enjoy a bird’s-eye view over the Grand Canyon as we fly to Boulder City, Nevada. Transfer to nearby Las Vegas for your flight home. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: July 3–17 • Aug. 14–28 • Sept. 4–18

Expedition Cost:

\$9,990

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,350. Airfare to Jackson and return from Las Vegas and additional airfare within the U.S. are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within the U.S. are \$900.

ALASKA: DENALI TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Alaska's rolling tundra and taiga forests, spotting an array of wildlife, including caribou, moose, grizzly bears, 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 glaciers and snow-dusted peaks.

ITINERARY | 8 DAYS

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

Arrive in Fairbanks and check in to our hotel. The next morning, travel into the heart of Denali National Park and Preserve 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 AND PRESERVE

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 migrating birds, including eagles and arctic loons.

Above: Set off by snowy peaks, a grizzly rests on wind-swept tundra in Denali National Park and Preserve.

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 BOTH JUNE AND THE JULY DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

Weather permitting, take an optional flightseeing trip around Denali, North America's highest mountain, or hike to viewpoints to photograph its soaring 20,310-foot peak. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 5 DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE/TALKEETNA

Go on 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 Denali. TALKEETNA ALASKAN LODGE (B, L)

DAY 6 TALKEETNA/GIRDWOOD

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: Denali to Prince William Sound Family Expedition on page 118.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 11-18 • June 21-28 • July 23-30
Aug. 23-30 • Sept. 2-9

Expedition Cost:

\$6,195

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,950. Airfare to Fairbanks and return from Anchorage and the optional flightseeing trip around Denali are not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

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

Optional Extension:

Extend your trip in Alaska with a stay at Winterlake or Tutka Bay, two members of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK AND COASTAL MAINE

new

NORTH AMERICA



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Kayak amid historic schooners in Camden Harbor, and stroll along waterfront paths through Boothbay's magnificent botanical gardens.
- Set out on foot and by bicycle to explore the granite peaks, carriage roads, and rocky headlands of Acadia National Park.
- Hear lively tales from a local lobsterman, and sit down to a lobster dinner overlooking Somes Sound.
- See the works of celebrated Maine artists at the Farnsworth Art Museum, and delve into the history and culture of the area's native peoples at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor.

ITINERARY | 7 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 PORTLAND, MAINE/BOOTHBAY/CAMDEN

Arrive in Portland and check in to our hotel downtown. The next morning, follow the coast north to Boothbay. At the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, explore ornamental gardens blooming with native and exotic species. Continue to the charming coastal village of Camden, and gather for a welcome dinner.

THE PORTLAND REGENCY HOTEL & SPA;
LORD CAMDEN INN (DAY 2: B, L, D)

DAY 3 CAMDEN

Hop in a kayak to explore picture-perfect Camden Harbor, steeped in a rich shipbuilding heritage. Paddle amid historic windjammers and lobstermen

Above: The rising sun illuminates the Portland Head Light, a lighthouse commissioned by George Washington.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Freelance journalist **Hilary Nangle** grew up on the coast of Maine and has never been able to resist the lure of her home state. She indulges her sense of wanderlust

by seeking out the offbeat and quirky, and rarely resists the invitation of a back road, local farm stand, or lobster shack. She has shared her finds in articles for publications such as *National Geographic Traveler*, as well as on her *MaineTravelMaven.com* website and in her three Moon-series guidebooks on Maine.

HILARY WILL ACCOMPANY THE JUNE AND JULY DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE.

hauling their traps and keep an eye out for seals and seabirds. Go hiking in Camden Hills State Park, making our way to the summit of Mount Battie, which affords spectacular views of Penobscot Bay. Enjoy a tasting at a local winery. (B, D)

DAY 4 ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Our next destination is Mount Desert Island, home to Acadia National Park: a stunning coastal wilderness of mountains, forests, meadows, lakes, and rocky shorelines. Visit the historic Jordan Pond House, and take a scenic walk to Asticou Inn, a 19th-century resort situated at the head of Northeast Harbor. Tour the hotel's azalea garden, and settle into our classic accommodations here. Later, meet with a lobsterman to learn about one of Maine's most important industries, then sit down to a lobster dinner. ASTICOU INN (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 ACADIA NATIONAL PARK/ BAR HARBOR

Go biking along the park's carriage roads, a 45-mile network of trails commissioned by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. in the early 1900s. Board a local ferry to the Cranberry Isles to explore hearty fishing villages and soak up spectacular views of Acadia; then walk along the 110-foot-high



Lobster pot floats dangle from a fisherman's shack in Bar Harbor.



headlands at Otter Cliff. Continue to the lively seaside community of Bar Harbor, and enjoy a picnic lunch before delving into Maine's Native American cultures at the Abbe Museum. BAR HARBOR INN & SPA (B, L; B, L, D)

DAY 7 ACADIA NATIONAL PARK/ROCKLAND/ PORTLAND

Drive to the top of Cadillac Mountain, the highest point along the North Atlantic seaboard, and go for a hike on the summit. Then head south to the town of Rockland, nestled on the edge of Penobscot Bay. Discover Maine's contributions to American art at the Farnsworth Art Museum, and visit the museum's Wyeth Center. Walk along Rockland's breakwater to its 19th-century lighthouse. After lunch, return to Portland and connect with your flight home. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 25–July 1 • July 16–22 • Sept. 10–16

Expedition Cost:

\$4,995

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

RESERVE ONLINE AT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM

GALÁPAGOS



THE GALÁPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, DARWIN'S LIVING LABORATORY, is home to an astounding 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 96-guest *National Geographic Endeavour* or 48-guest *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 first female naturalist guides on the islands. She completed a doctorate based on her research on the giant tortoises of Alcedo Volcano on Isla Isabela, where she lived for more than a year on the rim of the crater.

LYNN WILL ACCOMPANY SEVERAL DEPARTURES ON THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ISLANDER. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR HER DEPARTURE DATES.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



The National Geographic Society funds research, conservation, and exploration, including vital research on the conservation of the endangered Galápagos penguin and the seasonal migration patterns of Galápagos tortoises.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Depart for Guayaquil and transfer to our hotel upon arrival. HILTON COLON GUAYAQUIL

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)

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

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

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 ongoing research on the islands' wildlife. Visit the neighboring captive breeding program for endangered species of Galápagos giant tortoises. Later, travel into the highlands, where wild tortoises forage, to observe and photograph these giant creatures in their natural habitat.

“ I felt so close to nature walking with iguanas, swimming with penguins, and watching the great variety of birds. The sea turtles and land tortoises were amazing to behold! ”

—Marianne N., traveler on our Galápagos expedition

Watch short videos about this expedition at natgeoexpeditions.com/galapagosvideo



A giant tortoise amid the lush highlands of Isla Santa Cruz.

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.

DAY 9 GALÁPAGOS/GUAYAQUIL

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

DAY 10 GUAYAQUIL/U.S.

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



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016 and 2017: Expeditions depart every Friday on the *National Geographic Endeavour* and every Saturday on the *National Geographic Islander*. See the calendar on page 144 for specific departure dates through March 2017.

Expedition Cost:

2016	<i>Endeavour</i>	<i>Islander</i>
Category 1	\$6,590	\$6,990
Category 2	\$7,490	\$7,890
Category 3	\$7,990	\$8,780
Category 4	\$8,790	\$9,290
Category 5	\$10,890	\$11,290

2017	<i>Endeavour</i>	<i>Islander</i>
Category 1	\$6,920	\$7,330
Category 2	\$7,860	\$8,290
Category 3	\$8,390	\$9,170
Category 4	\$9,170	\$9,750
Category 5	\$11,440	\$11,860

See the *National Geographic Endeavour* and *Islander* descriptions, photos, and deck plans on page 139. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single-cabin pricing and holiday pricing, please visit our website. Holiday departures that incur an additional surcharge are Dec. 16, 17, 23, and 24, 2016 and Dec. 15, 16, 22, and 23, 2017.

International airfare to/from Guayaquil and airfare within Ecuador are not included in the expedition cost. The round-trip group flights between Guayaquil and the Galápagos are \$520 (subject to change).

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2016 and enjoy 2016 rates on your 2017 departure, or receive complimentary international airfare between Miami and the Galápagos on select departures from January to May 2016.



With the *National Geographic Islander* anchored in the distance, a photographer frames a cluster of sea lions lounging onshore.

See our **Galápagos Photography Expedition** on page 114 and our **Galápagos Family Odyssey** on page 117. Call for details on extending your trip to Peru and Machu Picchu or the Amazon.

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 just steps away from the enchanting ruins of Machu Picchu, excavated by Hiram Bingham with funding from National Geographic.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend two days exploring the mountain-top Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.
- Join archaeologist 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.
- Listen to a performance by a local musician playing indigenous instruments.

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.



The National Geographic Society funds research, conservation, and exploration, 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. WYNDHAM COSTA DEL SOL LIMA AIRPORT HOTEL

DAY 2 CUSCO/SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCA

Fly to Cusco and drive into Urubamba Valley, 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—Peter's colleagues—will join us instead.

Above: Perched on a secluded hilltop in the Peruvian Andes, the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu is one of the world's most celebrated archaeological sites.



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)

DAY 4 MACHU PICCHU

An exhilarating train ride brings us through the

“ 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 Andean weaver and National Geographic grantee Nilda Callañaupa, who meets with us on Day 3 of this expedition.



Watch short videos about this expedition at natgeoexpeditions.com/peruvideo

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

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 in to our lodge—the only accommodations adjacent to 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, where Inca Trail hikers get their first glimpse of Machu Picchu, 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 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 Major before we gather for a farewell lunch at Casa Aliaga, a lovely colonial home. Later, check in to 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)



A friendly llama catches an Andean woman by surprise.

DAY 8 LIMA/U.S.

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

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016 and 2017: Expeditions depart every week on either Saturday or Sunday. See the calendar on page 144 for specific departure dates through March 2017.

2016 Expedition Cost: \$5,490

Visit our website for 2017 pricing.

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,400 in 2016. On the December 18 and 24, 2016 departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$700 per person. International airfare to/from Lima and airfare within Peru are not included in the expedition cost. The round-trip 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 is at 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.

Optional Extension:

Extend your trip to Peru's Amazon rain forest with a stay at Inkaterra Hacienda Concepción, a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.

See our Peru Family Expedition on page 121. Call for details on extending your trip to the Galápagos Islands or the Amazon.

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 many 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 *riberños* on visits to villages at the river's edge.
- Go on rain forest hikes, birding walks, and nocturnal river safaris; and search for 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, conservation biologist **Taylor Edwards** will join the September 3 departure. Taylor is an assistant staff scientist at the

University of Arizona Genetics Core, where he and his team conducted the public testing for National Geographic's Genographic Project (an innovative global program in which people can trace their ancestry back 60,000 years using markers in their DNA). His background includes a combination of wildlife ecology and molecular biology, and he blends the two disciplines in his own research to answer questions about the conservation of species. A reptile and amphibian aficionado, Taylor works with a variety of species ranging from endangered tortoises to giant frogs.

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. WYNDHAM COSTA DEL SOL LIMA AIRPORT HOTEL

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 riverboat 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 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 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 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 *riberños*. 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

“ We were ‘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 on our Upper Amazon expedition



Giant lily pads float on the glassy waters of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve.

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, we 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,



The 28-guest *Delfin II* glides along a river in the “Mirrored Forest.”

Call for details on extending your trip to Peru and Machu Picchu or the Galápagos Islands.



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)

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

Enjoy one last morning excursion by skiff. 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.

WYNDHAM COSTA DEL SOL LIMA AIRPORT HOTEL (B, L; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: July 30–Aug. 8 • Aug. 6–15 • Aug. 13–22
Sept. 3–12 • Sept. 10–19 • Sept. 17–26
Oct. 29–Nov. 7 • Nov. 5–14 • Nov. 19–28
Nov. 26–Dec. 5 • Dec. 3–12

Expedition Cost:

2016

Suites \$6,690

Located on Upper and Main Decks

Master Suites \$7,830

Located on Upper and Main Decks with panoramic views

Visit our website for 2017 dates and pricing.

See the *Delfin II* description and deck plan on page 141. 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. The round-trip charter flight between Lima and Iquitos is \$430 (subject to change).

PATAGONIAN TREASURES: TORRES DEL PAINE TO CAPE HORN

new



FROM GLACIER-SCULPTED FJORDS TO GRANITE SPIRES, immerse yourself in the wonders of Chilean Patagonia. Set sail aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, cruising through a maze of fjords, islands, and icebergs. Search for whales, dolphins, and penguins; and explore private nature reserves in Tierra del Fuego. Then spend three days exploring the ice-blue lakes and crooked peaks of Torres del Paine National Park—a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay at the stunning Tierra Patagonia—a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World—and go hiking and horseback riding in Torres del Paine National Park.
- Explore the spectacular Chilean fjords by kayak and Zodiac.
- Transit the legendary Beagle Channel and take in views from land's end at Cape Horn.
- Enjoy special access to remote wildlife reserves, including Yendegaia National Park and the Karukinka reserve.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, National Geographic photographer **Michael Melford** will join both departures. 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, he 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. Michael enjoys giving seminars and workshops on photography and sharing his love of nature and his extensive knowledge of the digital medium.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 15 DAYS

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

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital, and check in to our elegant hotel located in the fashionable Recoleta neighborhood. Set out on a guided tour to discover Beaux Arts palaces and the bohemian quarters of La Boca and San Telmo, and see the famous balcony forever associated with Eva Perón. SOFITEL BUENOS AIRES (L)

DAY 3 USHUAIA

Fly to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Enjoy a catamaran cruise of the legendary Beagle Channel, which is framed by mountains and dotted with picturesque inlets and coves. Keep an eye out for sea lions, dolphins, and a variety of seabirds—including the majestic black-browed albatross. Later, settle into your cabin aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 CAPE HORN, CHILE

Today we visit the southernmost tip of South America: Cape Horn, named in 1616 by Dutch navigator Willem Schouten after his birthplace, Hoorn, in the Netherlands. Weather permitting, take Zodiacs ashore for a panoramic view from land's end. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 BEAGLE CHANNEL AND YENDEGAIA NATIONAL PARK

Sail the Beagle Channel to Yendegaia, exploring this pristine wilderness by special permission. A former cattle ranch stretching between the channel and the Cordillera Darwin, the 370,000-acre park boasts southern beech forests, expansive grasslands, and wild rivers that pass through deep valleys. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 BAHÍA PARRY

Backed by snow-dusted peaks, the glacier-cut fjords, or senos, of the Chilean coast are home to a variety of wildlife. Enter a fjord named Bahía Parry to admire stunning tidewater glaciers; venture ashore on naturalist-led hikes; and hop in



A guest at Tierra Patagonia takes in views of Torres del Paine's towering peaks from the infinity pool.

Zodiacs and kayaks to discover hidden bays and search for seals sunbathing on ice floes. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 TIERRA DEL FUEGO: KARUKINKA

Our destination today is a protected area on the Tierra del Fuego archipelago: Karukinka, meaning "our land" in the language of the ancient inhabitants. We have obtained permission to visit the private reserve, which harbors rich wildlife, including guanacos, Andean condors, and the endangered culpeo fox. (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 THE INLAND PASSAGE AND THE CHILEAN FJORDS

Continue our exploration of the fjord-carved Chilean coastline, venturing deep into this wilderness of mirrorlike lakes, soaring granite walls, and islands blanketed with vegetation. Glide through shimmering waterways and inlets by Zodiac and kayak, and peer beneath the water using our undersea imaging technology. As the ship makes its way through the White Narrows, look for condors and other wildlife. (B, L, D DAILY)



DAY 10 PUERTO NATALES/TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Disembark in Puerto Natales and set off on a breathtaking drive to Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most spectacular and wildlife-rich areas in the Americas, covering 450,000 acres of forests and grasslands, glaciers, rivers, and lagoons. Settle into your room at Tierra Patagonia, a **National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World**, perched on a bluff on the edge of Lake Sarmiento. Learn about the cutting-edge design of this splendid property, which features panoramic windows overlooking the twisting, black-tipped pinnacles of the Torres del Paine mountains. Later, venture into the park with our naturalists to hike amid sapphire-colored lakes and majestic glacial landscapes. TIERRA PATAGONIA (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

During the next two days, tailor your exploration to your interests, choosing from a variety of excursions in the park. Cruise among icebergs at the foot of the immense Grey Glacier, view the towers of the iconic Paine massif from the Blue Lagoon, and encounter the powerful Salto Grande waterfall. Hike through beech forests or ride horseback alongside local gauchos across sweeping valleys. Along the way, search for the park's resident wildlife including eagles, guanacos, rheas, and gray foxes. Back at the lodge, unwind in the heated pool and savor fine Chilean vintages as the sun sets over the peaks. (B, L, D DAILY)

EXPLORING CHILEAN PATAGONIA: PEAKS, GLACIERS, AND FJORDS new

11 Days • 2016: Oct. 24–Nov. 3
Oct. 31–Nov. 10

Venture into the magnificent waterways of Chilean Patagonia on a shorter voyage aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*. In the company of photographer Michael Melford, explore penguin-dotted islands and wild parklands from Puerto Natales to Cape Horn. Visit private reserves on Tierra del Fuego, and follow Darwin's wake through the Beagle Channel. Glide deep into fjords by Zodiac and kayak, passing beneath walls of blue ice; hike on shore with naturalists; and watch for humpback whales, elephant seals, Magellanic penguins, Andean condors, and more. Begin and end your trip in two of South America's loveliest cities: Buenos Aires and Santiago. Visit our website for details.



DAY 13 PUERTO NATALES

Depart for Puerto Natales, stopping to visit the renowned Mylodon Cave, where the remains of a prehistoric giant sloth were discovered in 1895. Check in to our hotel for the night. REMOTA PATAGONIA LODGE (B, L, D)

DAYS 14 AND 15 PUNTA ARENAS/SANTIAGO/ U.S.

Drive to the airport in Punta Arenas and catch our flight to Santiago, connecting to your overnight flight home. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Oct. 24–Nov. 7 • Oct. 27–Nov. 10*

*This departure follows the itinerary shown but in the reverse order, beginning in Santiago, Chile with accommodations on Day 2 at the Grand Hyatt Santiago.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$13,940
Located on Main Deck with porthole	
Category 2	\$14,600
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 3	\$14,980
Located on Main Deck with window	
Category 4	\$15,610
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window	
Category 5	\$17,540
Located on Upper Deck with balcony	
Category 6	\$19,640
Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite	
Category 7	\$21,710
Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description, photo, and deck plan on page 136. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single-cabin pricing, please see our website. International airfare to Buenos Aires and return from Santiago, or vice versa, and airfare within South America are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights to/from Ushuaia and from/to Punta Arenas are \$805 (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 in Torres del Paine National Park from our base at Tierra Patagonia, an exquisite National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World with stunning views of the park.
- Enjoy a tango performance in captivating Buenos Aires, and venture into the colorful artists' quarter of La Boca.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



David Scott Silverberg is an exploration geographer working on conservation projects spanning six continents. His mix of exploration, research, and digital photo-video

storytelling has been popular with National Geographic travelers for many years. A National Geographic grantee and a fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Asia Society, David was executive science director at Earthwatch Institute, set up and managed Boston University environmental field research programs in British Columbia and east Africa, and was a founding White House staff member for AmeriCorps. David has worked in more than 100 countries, manages the Environmental Learning Institute, and teaches at several international universities.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER 2016 DEPARTURE. 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 followed by our welcome dinner tonight.

THE BRICK HOTEL BUENOS AIRES (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 cobblestoned 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 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 *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. During 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 as well as rheas, gray foxes, Patagonian hares, and black-necked swans. Settle into our spectacular hotel—a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection—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 in to 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 (pictured right), 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. Selected as a charter member of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World collection, the hotel is a model of sustainable tourism while providing an exceptional guest experience. 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. The lodge includes a dining room, a bar, a library, a TV room, and a state-of-the-art spa.

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. See the M.V. *Stella Australis* deck plan on our website. National Geographic has reserved 17 cabins on all departures.



Guests find a picturesque perch at Tierra Patagonia, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Mar. 6–18 • Nov. 6–18
Dec. 25, 2016–Jan. 6, 2017

2017: Jan. 15–27 • Feb. 5–17 • Feb. 19–Mar. 3

Expedition Cost:

Category A <i>Tierra—standard</i>	\$10,390
Category AA <i>Tierra—superior</i>	\$12,290
Category AAA <i>Tierra—suite</i>	\$13,790

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 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. The group flights within Argentina and Chile are \$890 (subject to change).

Optional Extensions:

Add a four-day extension to Easter Island. Or extend your trip to Chile's Atacama Desert with a stay at Tierra Atacama Hotel & Spa, a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.

SAILING THE GREEK ISLES



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover magnificent ruins at the ancient sanctuary on Delos, the legendary birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.
- Visit the iconic cliffside village of Ía and the archaeological site of Akrotiri 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*.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS

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

Depart on an overnight flight to Athens. Travel to Piraeus and settle into your cabin aboard the *Sea Cloud*. SEA CLOUD (L, D)

DAY 3 AT SEA/SÍFNOS

After a morning at sea, drop anchor at Sifnos, a rugged island with a harbor village and a beautiful upper *chora* (village) and waterfront tavernas. This afternoon, find a spot on deck to watch the crew hoist the *Sea Cloud*'s sails by hand as we set sail among the Cyclades. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 TENOS

Dotted with green marble quarries and villages steeped in Venetian history, Tenos has long been a haven for artists. Explore the picturesque village of

Above: The exquisite four-masted tall ship *Sea Cloud* takes to the seas under full sail.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, National Geographic photographer **Sisse Brimberg** will join the July 14 departure. Sisse has photographed more than 25 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines. She looks forward to sharing her extensive knowledge of the digital medium.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

Pyrgos, 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)

DAY 5 DELOS

Delos is the mythological birthplace of the twin gods Artemis, goddess of animals and the hunt; and Apollo, god of healing, music, and light. Discover the island's ruins, including the Terrace of the Lions and the Temple of Apollo. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 AMORGÓS

Step ashore on the isle of Amorgós. 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. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 SANTORINI

Incomparable Santorini 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 to the beautiful town of Ía, which affords unrivaled views of the caldera below. After lunch, visit the archaeological site of Akrotiri. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 AT SEA

Enjoy a glorious day of sailing among the idyllic isles of the Cyclades. Relax on deck, and attend presentations by our experts on the area's history and ecology. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 PIRAEUS/ATHENS/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 Crete. Visit our website or call for details.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Waitlist only

2017: June 30–July 8 • July 7–15 • July 14–22
Aug. 23–31 • Sept. 19–27

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$9,490
<i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	
Category 2	\$10,680
<i>Located on the Promenade Deck</i>	
Category 3	\$12,750
<i>Located on the Captain's Deck</i>	
Category 4	\$13,500
<i>Located on the Captain's Deck</i>	
Category 5	\$14,990
<i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	
Category 6	\$15,950
<i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	
Category 7	\$18,250
<i>Located on the Main Deck</i>	

See the *Sea Cloud* description and deck plan on page 140. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$4,750 in Category 1. International airfare to/from Athens is not included in the expedition cost.

SPECIAL OFFER Travel on the *Sea Cloud* in 2017 and we will cover your bar tab on board and all tips for the crew.

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 (L, D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 AT SEA/OLYMPIA

After a day of sailing, dock in Katákolon and travel to Olympia. 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)

DAY 6 SARANDË AND BUTRINT, ALBANIA

Cut off from the world for 50 years by its Stalinist

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

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, historian **Grace Fielder** will join the May 24 departure. Grace is an expert on the history, culture, and languages of the Dalmatian coast. She 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.

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 KRUJË AND TIRANË

Dock in Durrës and drive to the ancient capital of Krujë to visit the medieval market and Ethnographic Museum. Enjoy lunch and see a folkloric show in Albania's contemporary capital, Tiranë. (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. Explore Hvar the next day, 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 an extension in Athens and/or an extension in Croatia. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER Travel on the *Sea Cloud* in 2017 and we will cover your bar tab on board and all tips for the crew.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Waitlist only

2017: May 24–June 4 • June 3–14*
Aug. 30–Sept. 10 • Sept. 9–20*

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

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$12,690
Located on the Promenade Deck	
Category 2	\$14,350
Located on the Promenade Deck	
Category 3	\$17,350
Located on the Captain's Deck	
Category 4	\$18,260
Located on the Captain's Deck	
Category 5	\$19,870
Located on the Main Deck	
Category 6	\$21,500
Located on the Main Deck	
Category 7	\$24,230
Located on the Main Deck	

See the *Sea Cloud* photo, description, and deck plan on page 140. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$6,300 in Category 1. International airfare to Athens and return from Dubrovnik, or vice versa, is not included in the expedition cost.

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.
- Peer into the craters of Mount Vesuvius and Mount Etna alongside a volcanologist.
- Visit seven 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 | 11 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/NAPLES

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. Later, visit the Naples National Archaeological Museum and view its collection of Roman and Greek artifacts. (B, L)

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Kristin Romey is an archaeologist and award-winning journalist who specializes in the civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean world. She served as a consultant for the

2011 exhibition "Pompeii: Life and Death in the Shadows of Vesuvius" and has researched the legacy of the Italian maritime republics for the Institute of Nautical Archaeology. Kristin is the former executive editor of *Archaeology* magazine and a current contributor to *National Geographic*. She also consults on the Society's archaeological projects.

KRISTIN WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER AND BOTH OCTOBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAY 4 PAESTUM/AMALFI

At the World Heritage site of Paestum, wander among three magnificent Doric temples, then see frescoes and friezes at the site's museum. After lunch, trace the spectacular, plunging Amalfi Coast, stopping in the town of Amalfi. (B, L)

DAY 5 NAPLES/PALERMO

Fly to Palermo, Sicily and stroll through the old city. Gaze at the many layers of architecture that represent continuous waves of conquest. Descend into the catacombs of the Convento dei Cappuccini, where mummies and skeletons are still dressed in their finery.

GRAND HOTEL ET DES PALMES (B, L)

DAY 6 MONREALE/PALERMO

In Monreale, visit the majestic Norman cathedral filled with exquisite gold mosaics illustrating biblical tales. Return to Palermo for a guided tour of this vibrant and historically complex city. (B)

DAY 7 SELINUNTE/AGRIGENTO

Meander through the ruins of Selinunte, an ancient Greek city and one of the best preserved archaeological sites in Sicily. After a seaside lunch, travel to Agrigento to explore the Valley of the Temples.

HOTEL BAGLIO DELLA LUNA (B, L, D)

DAY 8 AGRIGENTO/SYRACUSE

At the Villa Romana del Casale, examine elaborate Roman mosaics that were buried in mud for centuries. Travel to the archaeological area of Syracuse and explore the Greek theater and an ancient quarry. Continue to Ortigia, a lively island neighborhood linked to the city by a bridge and packed with Greco-Roman ruins.

GRAND HOTEL ORTIGIA (B, L)



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. Continue to Taormina and check in to our seaside hotel. SAN DOMENICO PALACE HOTEL (B, L)

DAY 10 TAORMINA

Take a walking tour through the upper town of Taormina, perched on a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea. (B, D)

DAY 11 TAORMINA/CATANIA/U.S.

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

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Apr. 13–23 • May 4–14 • Sept. 21–Oct. 1
Oct. 5–15 • Oct. 19–29

Expedition Cost:

\$6,495

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,650. 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 \$225 (subject to change).

INSIDE ITALY



ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

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

Depart for Pisa, Italy, arriving the next morning. Drive to the Ligurian coast, and settle into our hotel before tonight's welcome dinner. HOTEL VIS À VIS (D)

DAY 3 THE CINQUE TERRE

Set out from Manarola along the path that links the pastel-hued villages of the Cinque Terre, five towns that tumble picturesquely across rocky cliffs to the sea. Board a ferry to take in this stunning coastline from a different perspective. This afternoon, take an optional vigorous hike along a coastal path. (B)

Above: Florence's iconic Duomo presides over the city skyline.

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 MAY AND OCTOBER DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAYS 4 AND 5 CARRARA/LUCCA/FLORENCE

Begin the day in Carrara, home to the marble quarries where Michelangelo chose stone for his masterpieces. Continue to Lucca for a walking tour highlighting its Romanesque churches, followed by a bicycle ride atop the old city walls. Arrive in Florence and tour the historic center the next morning. Immerse yourself in the world of Michelangelo, encountering his peerless "David" at the Accademia. HOTEL BRUNELLESCHI (B; B, D)

DAY 6 GARGONZA

Travel south into the Chianti region. Visit the renowned Badia a Coltibuono vineyard and abbey for a wine tasting and lunch. Continue to Gargonza, a medieval hamlet superbly situated in the Tuscan countryside. Settle into our accommodations at the 13th-century castello of Count and Countess Guicciardini. CASTELLO DI GARGONZA (B, L, D)

DAYS 7 AND 8 SIENA/TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE

Soak up the flavor of Siena on a walking tour that includes the Piazza del Campo, the Palazzo Pubblico, and the marble-clad cathedral. The next day, hike through the scenic Tuscan countryside. Join the castello's chef for a cooking demonstration and a tasting of local vintages. (B, D; B, L, D)

DAY 9 PIENZA/ROME

Take a morning stroll through the architectural treasure trove of Pienza. Continue to Rome and visit Vatican City's massive St. Peter's Basilica. Enjoy a specially arranged visit to the Vatican Museums this afternoon and access rooms normally closed to the public. Our visit culminates with a rare after-hours visit to the breathtaking Sistine Chapel.

GRAND HOTEL DE LA MINERVE (B, L)

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.
- Witness the legendary Palio di Siena, a bareback horse race dating back to the medieval era (August departure only).



DAYS 10 AND 11 ROME

On a morning walking tour, stroll through the ancient Forum and the Colosseum. Then visit the Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, and the Trevi Fountain. Toast to our journey at a farewell dinner, and transfer to the airport for your flight home the next day. (B, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Apr. 13–23 • May 11–21 • June 1–11
Aug. 10–20* • Oct. 19–29

*The August departure includes the Palio di Siena horse race. Visit our website for a detailed itinerary.

Expedition Cost:

\$6,695

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,725. Add \$650 to the cost of the August 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.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

SPAIN'S NORTHERN COAST BY PRIVATE RAIL



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.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

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

Depart on an overnight flight to Santiago de Compostela, the end point of the Way of St. James pilgrimage route. Check in to our stunning 15th-century parador and gather for a welcome dinner. PARADOR HOSTAL DOS REIS CATÓLICOS (D)

DAY 3 SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA/FERROL/VIVEIRO

On a tour of Santiago's historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, visit the majestic cathedral that has drawn pilgrims for centuries. Board our train in Ferrol and set off for Viveiro. EL TRANSCANTÁBRICO GRAN LUJO (B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 RIBADEO/LUARCA/AVILÉS/CUDILLERO/OVIEDO

At our first stop, Ribadeo, we see the soaring rock

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Tim Weed is an award-winning author, outdoorsman, and independent explorer who has lived and worked in more than 25 countries. His articles on travel, history, outdoor adventure, and writing have appeared in numerous publications as well as on National Geographic's Intelligent Travel blog.

TIM WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER 1 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE OTHER DEPARTURE.

TIM WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER 1 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE OTHER DEPARTURE.

formations at Las Catedrales Beach. Then explore the ethnographic site of Os Teixois. Spend the night in the fishing village of Luarca and enjoy a Spanish guitar performance. The next day, travel to Avilés to visit the cultural complex designed by architect Oscar Niemeyer, then continue to the village of Cudillero. In Oviedo, venture into the church of San Julián de los Prados, a World Heritage site. (B, L, D; B, D)

DAY 6 PICOS DE EUROPA NATIONAL PARK/COVADONGA/LLANES

Take an excursion into the dramatic mountains of Picos de Europa National Park, and visit the historic basilica in Covadonga. Enjoy lunch at a renowned restaurant before the train brings us to Llanes for the night. (B, L)

DAY 7 POTES/COMILLAS

Journey to the medieval town of Potes, and see the 15th-century Infantado Tower and the historic monastery. Visit a local winery before stopping at Capricho de Gaudí, one of the first buildings designed by Antoni Gaudí. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 SANTILLANA DEL MAR/SANTANDER

Visit the Altamira Museum and learn about the prehistoric cave paintings found here. Then explore Santillana del Mar, one of Europe's best preserved medieval villages. After lunch at the Parador Gil Blas, board our train for Santander. This evening, sample Spanish tapas on a walk through town. (B, D)

DAY 9 BILBAO/VILLASANA DE MENA

Take a city tour of Bilbao, and explore the cutting-edge Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Gehry. Enjoy dinner at an acclaimed restaurant. (B, D)



DAYS 10 AND 11 SAN SEBASTIÁN/HONDARRIBIA/U.S.

After breakfast, disembark and travel to the lively town of San Sebastián. Stroll the beach and the old town. Continue to Hondarribia and toast our journey at a farewell dinner. The next morning, transfer to the airport for your return flight. PARADOR DE HONDARRIBIA (B, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Sept. 1–11 • Sept. 22–Oct. 2

Expedition Cost:

\$11,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$5,995. 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. Suites feature one queen or two twin beds, a living room, large windows, and a private bathroom with a shower. The train travels during the day, allowing passengers to take in the scenery along our route and sleep in quiet and comfort while the train is parked at night. Visit our website for additional photos. National Geographic has reserved all 14 suites for both departures.

Optional Extension:

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

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 recently 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



Art historian **Paula Swart** has been a museum curator for more than 20 years. Born in The Hague in the Netherlands, Paula studied at the University of Leiden and Amsterdam.

She speaks five languages, including Dutch and Mandarin, and has published several books and numerous articles on art and architecture. Paula has researched and lectured on Dutch trade and exploration, and has a special interest in 17th-century Dutch still-life paintings.

PAULA WILL ACCOMPANY BOTH DEPARTURES OF THIS EXPEDITION.

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 polders 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:

2016: Apr. 14–23 • Apr. 28–May 7

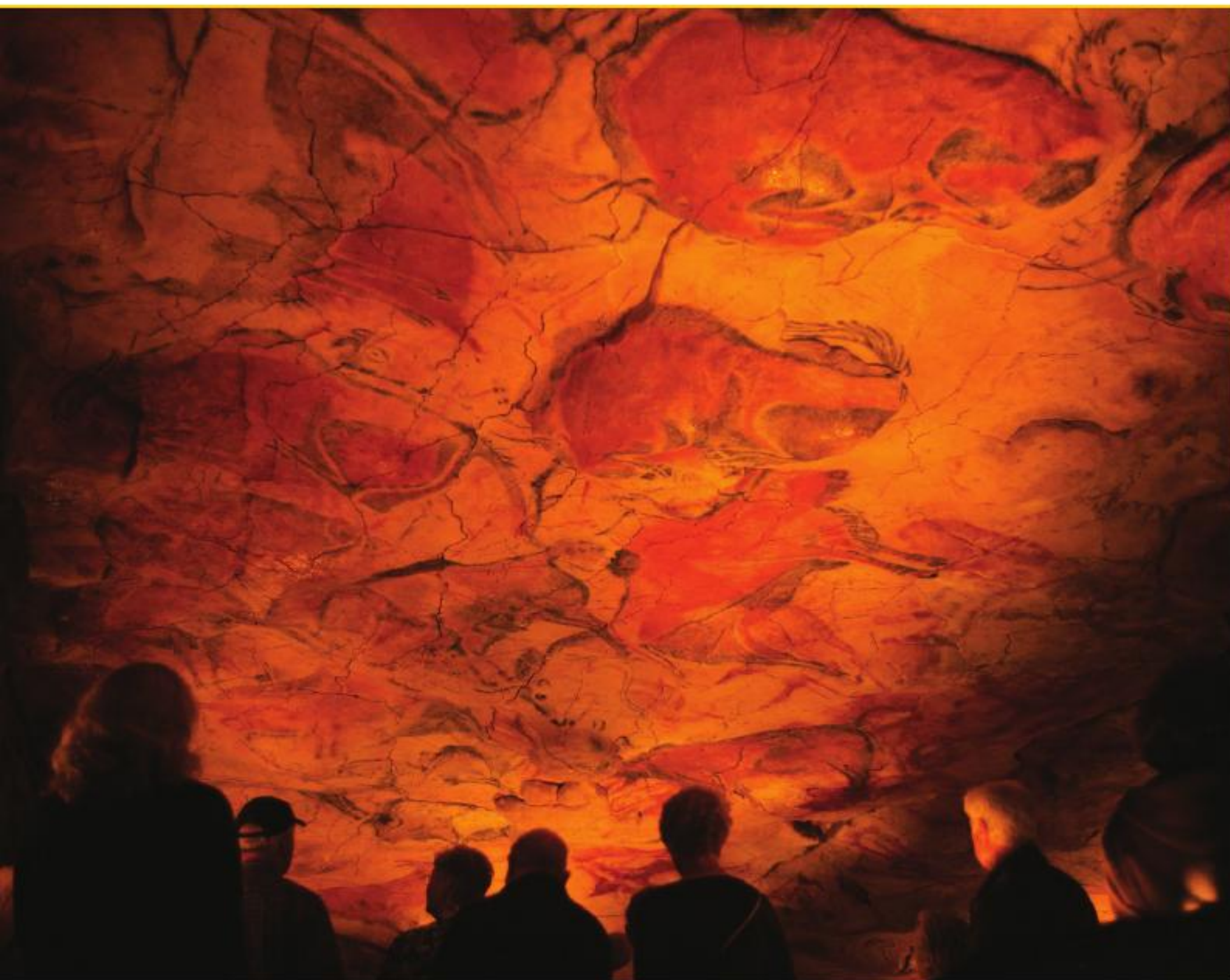
Expedition Cost:

Standard Double Cabin	\$6,295
Junior Suite	\$7,295

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.

RESERVE ONLINE AT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM

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 some 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 in 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 JUNE 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 (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 re-creation 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)

Above: At the Altamira Museum in northern Spain, visitors get an up-close view of the breathtaking images found at the Cave of Altamira.

“ We were thrilled to find a trip like this—**truly an adventure we couldn't organize on our own, with special access** to some fabulous sites we wouldn't have been able to see solo. ”

—Elisa M., traveler on our Human Origins expedition



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 HÔTEL DE L'OPÉRA (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 DE SANTILLANA GIL BLAS (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

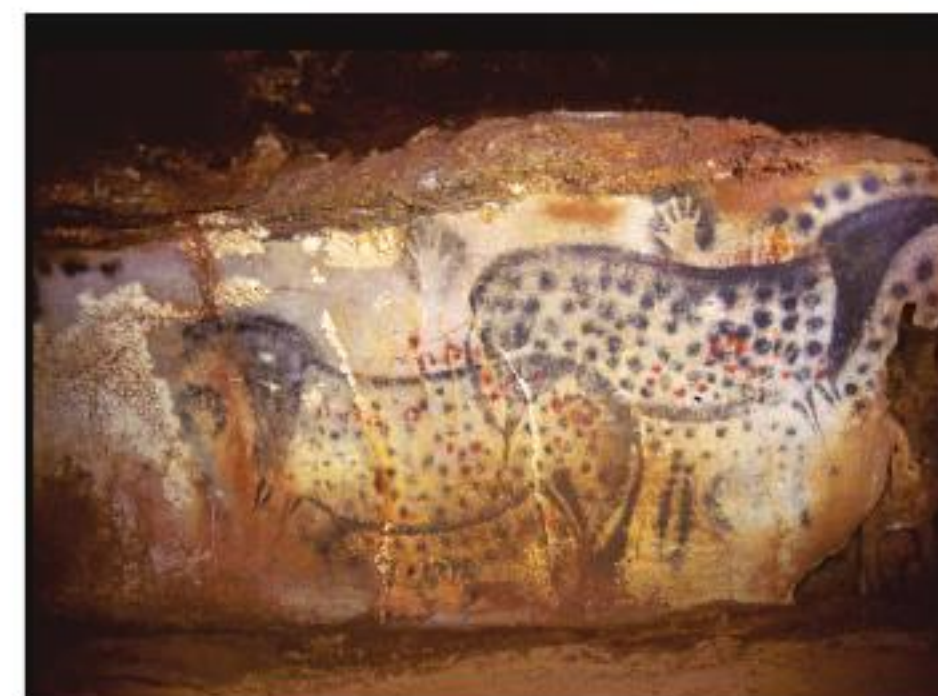
Today we are joined by renowned archaeologist Dr. Ana Cristina Pinto-Llona, an expert on the origins of modern humans. Ana is a two-time National Geographic grant recipient for her work



in the Asturias region of northern Spain, and she also spent several years excavating at the Atapuerca archaeological site. Visit Atapuerca, near the town of Burgos, 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:

2016: Apr. 22–May 1 • June 3–12 • Aug. 31–Sept. 9
Sept. 23–Oct. 2 • Sept. 30–Oct. 9
Oct. 21–30

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.

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, France. 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 explore the decks of the H.M.S. *Belfast*.
- See the enormous map General Eisenhower used to plot Allied positions.
- Learn about Alan Turing and the Enigma code breakers on a visit to Bletchley Park.
- Walk along Utah and Omaha beaches, and pay your respects at the American Cemetery.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Military historian **Bob Berlin** is professor emeritus at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he taught military history and strategy for 28 years. Bob is an award-winning author of publications on U.S. Army World War II Corps Commanders, D-Day, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. He has lectured at the Eisenhower and Truman Presidential Libraries and the British and Dutch military staff colleges, and has appeared on CNN. He is executive director of the Society for Military History and adjunct professor of History at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona, where he teaches courses in aviation history.

BOB WILL ACCOMPANY ONE OF THE MAY 30 ANNIVERSARY DEPARTURES AND THE SEPTEMBER 12 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 9 DAYS*

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

Depart on an overnight flight to London. Upon arrival, check in to our centrally located hotel. The afternoon begins in the Churchill 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. KENSINGTON HOTEL, MARYLEBONE HOTEL, OR BLOOMSBURY 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 explore the decks of the *Belfast*, now part of 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. CHÂTEAU D'AUDRIEU, HÔTEL D'ARGOUGES, OR NORMANDY BARRIÈRE (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. 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

“ 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.

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)

DAY 6 ARROMANCHES/BAYEUX

Travel to Arromanches, where a Mulberry harbor still rises out of the surf—one of the few remnants



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

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. This afternoon, visit the Bayeux Tapestry followed by time to explore the town of Bayeux. (B, D)

DAY 7 POINTE DU HOC/OMAHA BEACH

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. Wander along Omaha Beach, site of the bloodiest fighting of the invasion day, and then visit the Overlord Museum. 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. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 D-DAY COMMEMORATION*

Join veterans and military officials for remembrance ceremonies today to honor those who gave their lives in the historic events of June



1944. Gather for a farewell dinner tonight. (B, D)

DAY 9 PARIS/U.S.

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



Americans from the 1st U.S. infantry land at Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: May 30–June 7* • June 20–27 • Sept. 12–19
Sept. 19–26

*There are three May 30 departures, which coincide with the anniversary of D-Day on June 6. The itinerary shown describes the May 30 departures, which are one day longer than the other departures to include special remembrance ceremonies.

Expedition Cost:

May	\$7,295
June and September	\$6,695

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,890 on the May 30 departures and \$1,590 on the June and September departures. International airfare to London and return from Paris is not included in the expedition cost.

SCOTLAND'S HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS



ON A VOYAGE THROUGH SCOTLAND'S FAMED LOCHS AND INLAND WATERWAYS aboard the *M.V. 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 June 26 and July 3 departures).**

EXPEDITION TEAM



National Geographic photographer and proud descendant of the Celts **Jim Richardson** will join a diverse team of experts on the July 3 departure. A veteran of more than 40 articles for *National Geographic* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*, Jim spent two years photographing the Celtic realm for the March 2006 *National Geographic* article "Celt Appeal." His article "My Scottish Obsession" appeared in the August/September 2012 issue of *National Geographic Traveler*. Jim's work has also been published in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *LIFE*, and *Sports Illustrated*, and featured on *CBS News Sunday Morning* and *ABC's Nightline*.

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

This morning, 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 ship at the first lock. Sail into Loch Lochy and

“Geographically isolated, lashed by the North Atlantic, these brave outposts nurtured an individuality and an independence that have **lured adventurers and romantics for centuries.**”

—Our expert Jim Richardson, “Scottish Island Obsession,”
National Geographic Traveler, August/September 2012



Colorful houses cast long reflections on the harbor at Tobermory.

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, where we’ll 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. At stunning Duart Castle, set dramatically on a bluff jutting into the Sound of Mull, explore the keep and dungeon. 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 its lavish 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:

2016: June 26–July 4 • July 3–11* • July 31–Aug. 8*
Aug. 7–15 • Aug. 14–22* • Aug. 21–29

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

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$7,350
Located on the James Watt Deck	
Category 2	\$8,390
Located on the A. G. Bell and David Roberts Decks	

See the *Lord of the Glens* description and deck plan on page 140. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$3,640 in Category 1 and \$4,190 in Category 2. International airfare to/from Inverness is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day extension in Edinburgh. The extensions on the July 31 and all August departures 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.

See our **Scotland Family Expedition** on page 124.

NORWAY'S TRAINS AND FJORDS



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 the geological 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 many years.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE JUNE 30 AND BOTH JULY 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 in to 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-old 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 urban 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



Brightly colored houses on stilts 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 produce at a farm. HOTEL UNION (B, L, D)

DAY 7 GEIRANGERFJORDEN/BALESTRAND

Set out by ferry for an unforgettable cruise on the 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 in the picturesque village of Loen. 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. Stroll through the village, or stop to sample handcrafted beers at a Viking-style brewery before boarding 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. FIRST HOTEL MARIN (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 Bergen, 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:

2016: June 16–26 • June 30–July 10 • July 14–24
July 28–Aug. 7

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.

What to Expect:

Although included excursions are not strenuous, guests should be able to explore on foot for up to several hours at a time and be capable of boarding trains and buses using stairs that may be steep. There is no porter service at train stations or aboard express boats, though larger luggage can be sent ahead. Guests will manage their own overnight bags for some journeys. 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 Iceland. Visit our website or call for details.



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

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 grand Villa Carlotta 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 JULY 16 AND AUGUST 20 DEPARTURES. 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 in to our hotel and gather for a welcome dinner tonight. HOTEL NATIONAL ZERMATT (D)

DAY 3 ZERMATT/ZMUTT VALLEY

Start the day with a walk through the village of Zermatt. 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. This afternoon, ride the gondola up to Schwarzsee or Furi for a walk through the spectacular Zmutt Glacier valley. Later, return to Zermatt by gondola. Ambitious hikers can also hike to Zmutt, a hamlet of weathered chalets, and continue to Zermatt on foot. (B)

DAY 4 ZERMATT/GORNER GLACIER

Climb aboard the Gorner cogwheel railway, the



A blacknose sheep pauses amid the sun-dappled Alpine landscape.

highest train in Europe, and ascend to a summit far above Zermatt to experience one of the best viewpoints in the Alps. Admire a gorgeous 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 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 atmosphere of the train as we soak up magnificent vistas of

Above: The *Glacier Express* rounds the curve of the Landwasser Viaduct, some 200 feet above the valley floor.



The dramatic Matterhorn is reflected in the waters of a lake near Zermatt.

skyscraping, 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, D)

DAY 6 PONTRESINA/ST. MORITZ

Set out on a walking tour of Pontresina and discover local lore that dates back to prehistory. Later this morning, visit St. Moritz by local train, or explore this picturesque valley by foot or bicycle. 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. (B)

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 town of Poschiavo, where we meet a local guide for a tour of its charming historic center. Return to Pontresina via the *Bernina Express* late this afternoon. (B, D)

DAY 8 PONTRESINA/MOLTRASIO, ITALY

A spectacular drive through Alpine valleys brings us into the Italian Lake District today. The 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 gray sandstone villas are tucked into the hillsides and surrounded



by lush gardens. Our base here is an 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. Visit the grand 17th-century Villa Carlotta, with its magnificent gardens threaded with sculptures, fountains, and staircases set into the hillside. On a lake cruise, behold a panorama of colorful waterside villages and elegant estates, fringed by palms and pines and backed by soaring mountains. Enjoy time to explore the delightful town of Bellagio, and later, 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)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: July 16–25 • Aug. 20–29 • Aug. 29–Sept. 7
Sept. 10–19 • Sept. 17–26 • Sept. 24–Oct. 3

Expedition Cost:

\$6,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$995. International airfare to Zürich and return from Milan is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

Though much of the transport on this trip is done by train, gondola, or boat, guests should be able to walk several miles per day and sometimes over steep, hilly, or uneven terrain. Please note that the Swiss hotels and sites are located at elevations ranging from around 5,000 to 10,000 feet. This expedition is not suitable for anyone with a serious medical condition or limited mobility.



Pastel-hued villages and fishing skiffs line the shores of Lake Como.

JOIN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION IN EUROPE IN 2016



MEDITERRANEAN ISLES: SARDINIA, CORSICA, AND MENORCA **new**

Scattered across the western Mediterranean, the Balearic Islands, Sardinia, and Corsica harbor their own distinctive cultures and unique natural wonders. Explore gorgeous rugged coastlines, villages tucked into seaside slopes, and some of the most pristine waters in the Mediterranean. On board the *National Geographic Orion*, discover the gem-like island of Menorca and the vibrant culture of Sardinia. Encounter Corsica's breathtaking landscapes by foot and by boat, and cap off the voyage in Provence.

DAY 1 BARCELONA, SPAIN
DAY 2 CIUDADELA, MENORCA
DAY 3 CIUDADELA/MAHÓN
DAY 4 AT SEA/ALGHERO, SARDINIA
DAY 5 BONIFACIO, CORSICA
DAY 6 GULF OF PORTO
DAYS 7 AND 8 TOULON, FRANCE/MONACO

8 Days • 2016: May 1–8 • May 8–15*

**This departure follows this itinerary but in the reverse.*

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Barcelona or Monaco.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Award-winning photographer **Kike Calvo** will join a diverse team of experts on the May 8 departure. His book *Habitats* launched at the Reina Sofía Museum and showcased eco-systems from Spain and around the world. His children's book series, *The Adventures of Kikeo*, supported the United Nations Water for Life Decade campaign in Spain.



BALTIC ARCHIPELAGOS: DENMARK, SWEDEN, AND FINLAND **new**

Trace the northern shores of the Baltic Sea from Copenhagen to the Gulf of Finland, encountering beautiful islands and historic cities along the way. Cruise between age-old fishing hamlets of brightly colored houses, meander through medieval fortifications and trading towns, and explore the rugged islands of Christiansø and the Stockholm archipelago. Immerse yourself in the unique traditions of Finland's Swedish-speaking corner, and travel back in time amid the vestiges of Hanseatic traders, Vikings, and Nordic heroes.

DAY 1 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
DAY 2 CHRISTIANSØ
DAY 3 VISBY, GOTLAND, SWEDEN
DAY 4 STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO
DAY 5 STOCKHOLM
DAY 6 MARIEHAMN, ÅLAND, FINLAND
DAY 7 TURKU
DAY 8 TALLINN, ESTONIA

8 Days • 2016: Aug. 7–14 • Aug. 21–28

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Copenhagen.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photographer **Erika Larsen** has documented cultures that maintain strong connections with nature. She has followed Sami reindeer herders in the Scandinavian Arctic and explored the significance of the horse in Native American culture for *National Geographic* magazine. Erika will join a diverse team of experts on the August 7 departure.

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy, and do not include airfare. See pricing details for the European trips aboard the *National Geographic Orion* on our website.

SPECIAL OFFERS Book by March 31, 2016 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare from New York. We'll cover your bar tab on board and all tips for the crew, and, when you book two or more European voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, save 10% on the expedition cost.



PORTUGAL AND SPAIN: FROM THE ALGARVE TO CATALONIA new

Follow in the wake of Roman conquerors, Phoenician traders, and Moorish kings on a voyage to Portugal and Spain. Discover the whitewashed villages of the Algarve and Andalusia, and photograph the iconic silhouette of the Rock of Gibraltar. Encounter wonders both ancient and modern, from the Roman ruins of Cartagena to the avant-garde architecture of Valencia. Savor the flavors of Iberian cuisine, explore mountain trails and medieval fortresses, and delve into the musical traditions of these two captivating countries.

- DAY 1 LISBON, PORTUGAL
- DAY 2 PORTIMÃO/ALGARVE
- DAY 3 CÁDIZ, SPAIN/SEVILLE
- DAY 4 GIBRALTAR, U.K./MÁLAGA, SPAIN
- DAY 5 MÁLAGA/GRANADA
- DAY 6 MAZARRÓN ESCARPMENT/CARTAGENA
- DAY 7 VALENCIA
- DAY 8 BARCELONA

8 Days • 2016: Apr. 24–May 1 • May 15–22*

*This departure follows this itinerary but in the reverse.

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Lisbon or Barcelona.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photojournalist **Massimo Bassano** has published his work in *National Geographic Traveler* and on the National Geographic website, and he has led many National Geographic photography programs. Massimo will share his photography techniques on the April 24 departure along with a diverse team of experts.



BORDEAUX TO LONDON: THE FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST new

Follow France's wild western coast, stopping to explore rocky islands and coastal wildernesses off the beaten path. Revisit French history from Napoléon to the Normandy beaches, witness scenery immortalized by artists like Claude Monet, and encounter the rich culture of Brittany. Move from port to island up or down the coast, and enter the English Channel, stopping to explore Mont-Saint-Michel, Saint-Malo, and the charming harbor town of Honfleur.

- DAY 1 BORDEAUX, FRANCE
- DAY 2 ÎLE D'AIX/LA ROCHELLE
- DAY 3 BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER
- DAY 4 CROZON PENINSULA
- DAY 5 ST. MALO/MONT-SAINT-MICHEL
- DAY 6 THE NORMANDY BEACHES
- DAY 7 HONFLEUR
- DAY 8 LONDON, ENGLAND

8 Days • 2016: May 29–June 5 • Sept. 11–18*

*This departure follows this itinerary but in the reverse.

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Bordeaux or London.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Gianluca Colla has photographed around the world, from the Arctic Circle to the streets of London. He has covered a range of topics, including a lost Da Vinci painting and hidden mummies in Sicilian crypts, and his work has appeared in numerous publications. Gianluca will join a diverse team of experts on both departures of this voyage.



See the *National Geographic Orion* photo, description, and deck plan on page 137.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these expeditions, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.

JOIN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION IN EUROPE IN 2016



THE NORTH SEA: COPENHAGEN TO LONDON **new**

Voyage from Copenhagen to London along the inland waterways of the North Sea, exploring glorious medieval and Renaissance cities with a modern pulse. Wander down cobbled lanes lined by enchanting waterways in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany as you learn about the history, religion, and art of places that sit at the crossroads of Germanic and Romance cultures. In the historical town centers of Amsterdam, Brussels, Brugge, and Lübeck, experience the contrast between old-world charm and the multicultural vibrancy of present-day Europe.

- DAY 1 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
- DAY 2 LÜBECK, GERMANY
- DAY 3 KIEL CANAL
- DAY 4 HARLINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS
- DAY 5 AMSTERDAM/HAAARLEM
- DAY 6 ANTWERP, BELGIUM/BRUSSELS
- DAY 7 OOSTENDE/BRUGGE
- DAY 8 LONDON, ENGLAND

8 Days • 2016: Sept. 4–11

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Copenhagen.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Award-winning photographer **Sisse Brimberg** has photographed more than 25 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines. Sisse will join a diverse team of experts on this voyage.



NORWAY AND SCOTLAND: **new** FJORDLANDS TO THE INNER HEBRIDES

Join an unforgettable voyage from the vibrant cultural center of Dublin to the Norwegian coast, by way of Scotland's wild islands. Discover the heritage of the Inner Hebrides and trace the Viking trail from the Orkneys to the Shetlands, encountering the stunning landscapes, ancient ruins, and rich birdlife of Scotland's extraordinary islands. Then sail across the North Sea to encounter the fjord-carved coast of Norway. Kayak below emerald mountains in the dramatic Sognefjorden, and step ashore at Undredal to explore its stave church and traditional Nordic culture before continuing on to Bergen.

- DAY 1 DUBLIN, IRELAND
- DAY 2 IONA AND STAFFA, INNER HEBRIDES, SCOTLAND
- DAY 3 ISLES OF LEWIS
- DAY 4 ORKNEY ISLANDS
- DAY 5 FAIR ISLE/MOUSA
- DAY 6 LERWICK, SHETLAND ISLANDS/ISLE OF NOSS
- DAY 7 SOGNEFJORDEN, NORWAY
- DAY 8 BERGEN

8 Days • 2016: June 26–July 3

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Dublin.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



National Geographic photographer **Bob Krist** has shot several articles for *National Geographic* magazine and more than 30 articles for *National Geographic Traveler*, where he is a contributing editor. Bob will join a diverse team of experts on this voyage.

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy, and do not include airfare. See pricing details for the European trips aboard the *National Geographic Orion* on our website.

SPECIAL OFFERS Book by March 31, 2016 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare from New York. We'll cover your bar tab on board and all tips for the crew, and, when you book two or more European voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, save 10% on the expedition cost.

Above, left to right: Gabled row houses cast their reflections on an Amsterdam canal; Iona Abbey has served as a center of Christianity for nearly 1,500 years; a puffin nestles in a bed of pink buds; sheets of twisting titanium cloak the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.



EXPLORING THE COASTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES new

The windswept shores of England and Wales showcase stunning and rugged landscapes teeming with diverse wildlife and scattered with charming villages. Journey aboard the *National Geographic Orion* from Portsmouth—once one of the world's most important seaports—to the nearly forgotten isles of the English Channel and the Celtic Sea. Explore remote waters and coastlines by kayak and Zodiac, immersing yourself in a world of marine animals and migratory seabirds. In the seaside towns of Dartmouth and Fishguard, experience maritime culture.

DAY 1 LONDON, ENGLAND

DAY 2 PORTSMOUTH

DAY 3 ALDERNEY/SARK, CHANNEL ISLANDS

DAY 4 DARTMOUTH

DAY 5 ISLES OF SCILLY/TRESCO

DAY 6 SKOMER ISLAND, WALES/FISHGUARD

DAY 7 SNOWDONIA/ANGELSEY

DAY 8 DUBLIN, IRELAND

8 Days • 2016: June 5–12

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to London.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photographer **Jim Richardson** has produced more than 40 stories for *National Geographic* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*, where he is a contributing editor. His work has also been published in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Jim will join a diverse team of experts on this departure.



CULTURE AND CUISINE FROM OPORTO TO BASQUE COUNTRY new

Trace the coast of Portugal and northern Spain on a voyage that celebrates the myriad cultures of Iberia and France's Côte Basque. Discover the importance of Portugal's Douro River, explore the stunning landscapes of Galicia, and immerse yourself in the unique traditions of the Basques. Along the way, encounter the UNESCO World Heritage sites of medieval Oporto, the pilgrimage site of Santiago de Compostela, and the Tower of Hercules, the only well-preserved, working Roman lighthouse in the world.

DAY 1 LISBON, PORTUGAL

DAY 2 OPORTO

DAY 3 VILLAGARCÍA DE AROUSA, SPAIN

DAY 4 A CORUÑA

DAY 5 BILBAO

DAY 6 SAINT-JEAN-DE-LUZ, FRANCE/SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN

DAYS 7 AND 8 BAYONNE, FRANCE/BORDEAUX

8 Days • 2016: May 22–29 • Sept. 18–25*

**This departure follows this itinerary but in the reverse.*

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Lisbon or Bordeaux.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Gianluca Colla has photographed around the world, from the Arctic Circle to the streets of London. He has covered a range of topics, including a lost Da Vinci painting and hidden mummies in Sicilian crypts, and his work has appeared in numerous publications. Gianluca will join a diverse team of experts on both departures of this voyage.



See the *National Geographic Orion* photo, description, and deck plan on page 137.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these expeditions, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.

JOIN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION IN EUROPE IN 2016



BEST OF THE BALTICS: CITIES AND ISLANDS FROM TALLINN TO COPENHAGEN **new**

Set sail aboard the *National Geographic Orion* to explore the Baltic Sea. Sheltered from the North Sea by Sweden and Denmark, this region has long played host to vibrant cultures. In the medieval era, wealthy traders helped finance the colorful, architecturally rich towns and cities that dot its shores, while nature flourished on its picturesque islands. As we explore the Baltic's islands and southern shores from Estonia to Denmark, wander through beautiful old towns and fishing villages, trace 20th-century history in Poland, and spot a wide array of seabirds amid dunes and serene bays.

- DAY 1 TALLINN, ESTONIA
- DAY 2 SAAREMAA ISLANDS
- DAYS 3 AND 4 RIGA, LATVIA
- DAY 5 KLAIPĒDA, LITHUANIA
- DAY 6 GDAŃSK, POLAND
- DAY 7 BORNHOLM, DENMARK
- DAY 8 COPENHAGEN

8 Days • 2016: Aug. 14–21 • Aug. 28–Sept. 4

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Tallinn.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Award-winning photographer **Sisse Brimberg** has photographed more than 25 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines. Sisse will join a diverse team of experts on both departures of this voyage.



HIDDEN IRELAND: LOUGHS AND ISLES OFF THE BEATEN PATH **new**

Along Ireland's coast, historic treasures and a vibrant culture intermingle against a natural landscape that is endlessly magnificent. As we circumnavigate this legendary isle aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, encounter breathtaking cliffs topped with ancient ruins, rugged islands peppered with puffins, and fishing villages where Irish traditions hold strong. Get immersed in the Gaeltacht in Dingle and the Aran Islands. Then venture to lesser-known sites in County Donegal and explore the fascinating shores of Northern Ireland.

- DAY 1 DUBLIN, IRELAND
- DAY 2 BALLYCOTTON/KINSALE
- DAY 3 SKELLIG MICHAEL/DINGLE
- DAY 4 ARAN ISLANDS/CLIFFS OF MOHER
- DAY 5 CONNEMARA
- DAY 6 DONEGAL
- DAY 7 NORTHERN IRELAND
- DAY 8 DUBLIN

8 Days • 2016: June 12–19 • June 19–26

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Dublin.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photographer **Jim Richardson** has produced more than 40 stories for *National Geographic* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*, where he is a contributing editor. His work has also been published in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Sports Illustrated*. Jim will join a diverse team of experts on the June 12 voyage.

SPECIAL OFFER Book a European voyage aboard the *National Geographic Orion* by March 31, 2016 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare from New York. We'll cover your bar tab on board and all tips for the crew, and, when you book two or more European voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, save 10% on the expedition cost.



SCANDINAVIA BY SEA: DENMARK, SWEDEN, AND NORWAY new

Set sail aboard the *National Geographic Orion* to experience the astonishing natural beauty and delightful cultures of Europe's Nordic nations. Discover some of Scandinavia's most remote and spectacular coastal scenery, from the picturesque fishing village of Skagen in Denmark to Sweden's enchanting Weather Islands and Norway's fjord-laced western coast. Stroll past brightly colored fishing huts clinging to rocky outcrops, kayak amid tiny islets and vast fjords, and explore vibrant cities where contemporary life gracefully mingles with centuries of history.

DAY 1 BERGEN, NORWAY

DAYS 2 AND 3 HARDANGERFJORDEN/HIDRA

DAY 4 RISØR

DAY 5 OSLO

DAY 6 WEATHER ISLANDS, SWEDEN

DAY 7 SKAGEN, DENMARK

DAY 8 COPENHAGEN

8 Days • 2016: July 31–Aug. 7

If you are flying from the U.S., plan to depart one day earlier on an overnight flight to Bergen.

Expedition Cost: From \$7,990

EXPEDITION TEAM



Photographer **Erika Larsen** has documented cultures that maintain strong connections with nature. She has followed Sami reindeer herders in the Scandinavian Arctic and explored the significance of the horse in Native American culture for *National Geographic* magazine. Erika will join a diverse team of experts on this departure.

EXPLORING THE BRITISH AND IRISH ISLES ABOARD THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER



Trace the shores of Great Britain and Ireland aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, and discover spectacular coastlines, remote isles, and timeless fishing villages. Discover the prehistoric homes of Skara Brae in the Orkney Islands. Venture into evocative ancient ruins on the isle of Iona, and explore caves lined with geometric basalt columns on Staffa. Gaze up at Ireland's soaring Cliffs of Moher and see the Celtic fort at Dun Aengus on the Aran Islands.

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

DAY 3 PORTSMOUTH

DAYS 4 AND 5 FOWEY ISLAND/EDEN PROJECT/ISLES OF SCILLY

DAYS 6 AND 7 DINGLE PENINSULA, IRELAND/ARAN ISLANDS

DAY 8 COUNTY DONEGAL

DAYS 9 AND 10 INNER AND OUTER HEBRIDES, SCOTLAND

DAY 11 INVEREWE GARDENS/ULLAPOOL

DAY 12 ORKNEY ISLANDS

DAYS 13 AND 14 FAIR ISLE/SHETLAND ISLANDS

DAY 15 BERGEN, NORWAY/U.S.

15 Days • 2016: May 9–23

Expedition Cost: From \$13,640

EXPEDITION TEAM



Award-winning photographer **Sisse Brimberg** has photographed more than 25 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines. Sisse will join a diverse team of experts on this voyage.



NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy, and do not include airfare. See pricing details for these expeditions on our website. See the *National Geographic Orion* photo, description, and deck plan on page 137 and the *National Geographic Explorer* on page 136.

For day-by-day itineraries or to reserve space on these expeditions, visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com.

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 snowcapped 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 DEPARTURES OF THIS EXPEDITION.

ITINERARY | 17 DAYS

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

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Vladivostok. Check in to 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 modern city on a tour that includes the brightly painted railway station and Our Lady Grieving Orthodox Church. 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 to 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 reboard our train and continue on our way back into Russia. (B, L, D)



A sacred site for Buryat shamans, Lake Baikal's Shaman Rock is steeped in legend.

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 Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express



the early 19th century, many Russian artists, officers, 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, 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 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 in to 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, head to 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:

2016: Aug. 7–23 • Sept. 3–19

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.

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.

SOUTHERN INDIA RAIL JOURNEY

new



IN THE SOUTHERN REACHES OF FABLED INDIA, tropical forests shade ancient temples and royal palaces, and colonial port towns punctuate long stretches of sandy coastline. Discover the cultural and historical layers of this storied country as you explore the bustling ports of Kochi, Mumbai, and Goa. Then head inland aboard the elegant *Golden Chariot* on a four-night train journey through remote landscapes that hold the once-great capitals of ancient empires.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel in the royal style of the maharajas aboard the *Golden Chariot*.
- Visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites, from Hampi's haunting ruins to the rock-cut temples of Elephanta Island.
- Cruise past the rice paddies and rural towns in the Kerala backwaters, named a National Geographic "place of a lifetime."
- Savor the flavors of India while lunching in the home of a Brahmin priest in Mysore and on a visit to a Goan spice plantation.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Archaeologist and National Geographic grantee **Robin Coningham** has spent more than 25 years studying the archaeology and history of the Indian subcontinent. His fieldwork spans India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Iran, Myanmar and Pakistan. Now based at Durham University in the U.K., Robin was awarded a prestigious UNESCO Professorship in Archaeology in 2014. Two National Geographic grants helped fund his investigations of the birthplace and childhood home of the Buddha in Nepal, and he recently returned from co-directing UNESCO post-earthquake rescue excavations in Kathmandu. Robin has published numerous books and articles covering Roman trade in southern India, the caste system, and the archaeology and architecture of early Buddhism. He published the definitive *Archaeology of South Asia: from the Indus to Asoka* in 2015.

ROBIN WILL JOIN THE NOVEMBER 2016 AND FEBRUARY 2017 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

70

ITINERARY | 15 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./KOCHI, INDIA

Depart on an overnight flight to Kochi and settle into our hotel. The next day, set out to discover the many layers of the city's colonial old town—a neighborhood of Dutch cottages, Portuguese churches, and British mansions. Visit the old Paradesi Synagogue and the Mattancherry Palace—a 1557 gift from the Portuguese to the raja of Kochi, and now a museum exhibiting Hindu murals and textiles. Continue to Alappuzha and board a *kettuvallam*, or houseboat, for a cruise amid the verdant rice paddies and rural fishing towns of the Kerala backwaters. Gather for a welcome reception with a private dance performance.

VIVANTA BY TAJ—MALABAR (D; B, L, D)

DAY 4 BANGALORE/MYSORE

Fly to Bangalore and continue by coach to Mysore, a city where remnants of a rich royal heritage still linger in palatial buildings, manicured gardens, and

stately tree-lined boulevards. RADISSON BLU PLAZA HOTEL MYSORE (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 MYSORE/NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK

Visit the Mysore Palace, former seat of the maharajas of Mysore, and lunch in the home of a Brahmin family. Drive into the foothills of the Western Ghats to our hotel on the shores of the Kabbani River. Explore Nagarhole National Park, also known as Rajiv Gandhi National Park, a critical wildlife habitat best known for its large elephant population. Enjoy two safaris, by boat and by van, in search of native deer and bison species, colorful birds, and other aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Visit with a National Geographic-supported researcher to learn about wildlife conservation issues in the Western Ghats.

THE SERAI KABINI (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 7 AND 8 NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK/MYSORE

Spend the morning on a final game drive in Nagarhole National Park. After lunch, return to Mysore and settle into your cabin on board the *Golden Chariot* train, arriving in Hassan the next day.

Above: Traditionally used for shipping rice and spices, converted kettuvallams ferry travelers through the lush Kerala backwaters.



Visitors to Elephanta emerge from a labyrinth of cave temples cut from the island's basalt rock formations.

Take an excursion to the town of Shravanabelagola, crowned by the massive Bahubali. This monolithic sculpture depicting a Jain saint has been an important site for religious pilgrims since the 10th century. Travel to Belur, the onetime capital of the Hoysala dynasty, to explore its intricately carved 12th-century temple complex.

GOLDEN CHARIOT TRAIN (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 9 HAMPI

Spend the morning discovering Hampi, the former capital of the Vijayanagar empire. The city was a place of world-renowned splendor and wealth between the 14th and 16th centuries. Discover the ruins of Hampi's many temples, palaces, and public baths before continuing on our rail journey. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 BADAMI/PATTADAKAL

This morning, visit Badami, with stunning cave temples cut from the surrounding red sandstone.



The Golden Chariot

This beguiling city has hosted several dynasties over hundreds of years, with each ruler leaving a distinctive mark on the complex. Continue to Pattadakal to explore the monuments and temples of this coronation site for the mighty Chalukya empire—now a World Heritage site—and then return to the *Golden Chariot* for the last leg of our train journey. (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 GOA/PANAJI

Disembark the train in Goa, a small state on India's west coast laced with natural harbors and intersected by wide rivers—a base for the seafaring Portuguese settlers of the early 16th century. Explore the state capital of Panaji, strolling the colorful streets of the Latin quarter to see strong traces of Portuguese influence. The following day, visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which holds a silver casket containing relics of St. Francis Xavier. See the Institute Menezes Braganza, fostering cultural heritage, before visiting children at a local elementary school. Then continue to a local plantation to learn about spice cultivation and enjoy a traditional meal. **VIVANTA BY TAJ—FORT AGUADA (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAYS 13 AND 14 GOA/MUMBAI

Fly to Mumbai, and learn about National Geographic grantee Krishna Tiwari's camera trapping studies aimed at mitigating human-leopard conflicts in a national park that lies entirely within the borders of Mumbai. Sail to Elephanta Island, home to magnificent rock-cut cave temples dedicated to Shiva. Visit Mani Bhavan, a home to Mahatma Gandhi, and continue to one of the largest *dhobi ghats*, a photogenic open-air laundering spot where locals gather to beat clothes against flogging stones in the age-old tradition. **TAJ MAHAL PALACE (B, L, D DAILY)**

DAY 15 MUMBAI/U.S.

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

ABOUT THE GOLDEN CHARIOT

The *Golden Chariot* (pictured left)—sister to the *Palace on Wheels* featured on our Rail Journey through India—is the premier luxury train of southern India. The train has 11 fully air-conditioned deluxe saloons, each with four twin- or double-bedded cabins. Each sleeping cabin contains a small wardrobe, a vanity desk, an LCD television, and an en suite bathroom. Common areas include two restaurant cars, a bar and lounge, two massage rooms, and a well-equipped gym. National Geographic has reserved 15 cabins on each of these departures.



Mothers flank a trio of elephant calves in Nagarhole National Park.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Oct. 6–20 • Nov. 3–17

2017: Jan. 12–26 • Feb. 9–23 • Mar. 9–23

Expedition Cost:

\$11,495

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,350. International airfare to Kochi and from Mumbai and airfare within India are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within India are \$320 (subject to change).

What to Expect:

This is a moderately strenuous expedition that requires participants to be in good health. There are some long drives of up to three and a half hours. Some excursions involve walking up to two miles a day, climbing stairs (often without handrails), and walking on narrow and sometimes crowded streets with uneven footing. Those who are prone to motion sickness may be uncomfortable on the train. This expedition is not suitable for anyone with a serious medical condition or limited mobility.

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day post-trip extension to the Ellora and Ajanta Caves. 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, 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, and immerse yourself in the colors and rhythms of India's captivating culture.

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 Ranthambore National Park and spot rare birds and other wildlife in Keoladeo National Park.
- Take a sunset camel safari among the evocative dunes of the Thar Desert.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Sarina Singh is the senior author of the bestselling Lonely Planet guidebook to India and a contributing writer for *National Geographic Traveler* magazine. An

Australian who lived for five years in India, she has written for 50 Lonely Planet titles, including the acclaimed *Aboriginal Australia* and the *Torres Strait Islands* guidebook, and has been a high-profile monthly columnist for *Lonely Planet Traveller* magazine. Sarina's writing and photography have also appeared in numerous other publications, such as Britain's *Sunday Times* and the U.K. edition of *Condé Nast Traveller*, and have been featured worldwide on the BBC, ABC, and elsewhere. She is often interviewed for her travel expertise and has been profiled by a variety of publications, including *BBC Travel*, *The Review*, *the Times of Oman*, *Progress Leader*, and *Le Quotidien*.

SARINA WILL ACCOMPANY THE JANUARY 2017 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 in to our hotel upon arrival. TAJ MAHAL HOTEL

DAY 3 DELHI

Set out on a tour of New Delhi, the capital of India, 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 visiting Hawa Mahal, or the Palace of Winds, a stunning

sandstone building with delicate latticework and honeycombed windows.

JAI MAHAL PALACE (B, L, D)

DAY 5 JAIPUR

This morning, ascend to the hilltop Amber Fort and explore its exquisite and well-preserved palaces, temples, gardens, and pavilions. After lunch, take 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. Settle into your cabin on board the *Palace on Wheels*.

PALACE ON WHEELS (B, L, D)

DAY 6 RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK/CHITTAURGARH

Set out on a game drive in Ranthambore National Park in search of hyenas, jackals, and 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)

Above: The magnificent Taj Mahal, built in the mid-17th century, shimmers in its reflecting pool.



The soft folds of a bright sari frame the face of a Rajasthani woman in India.

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. 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. (B, L, D)



The Palace on Wheels

DAY 9 JODHPUR

Jodhpur’s blue-hued old city lies at the foot of the massive Mehrangarh Fort, perched on a rocky outcrop some 120 meters high. Visit the 15th-century fort and learn about its colorful history. 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 NATIONAL PARK/AGRA

Disembark the train in Bharatpur and head into the wetlands of Keoladeo 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

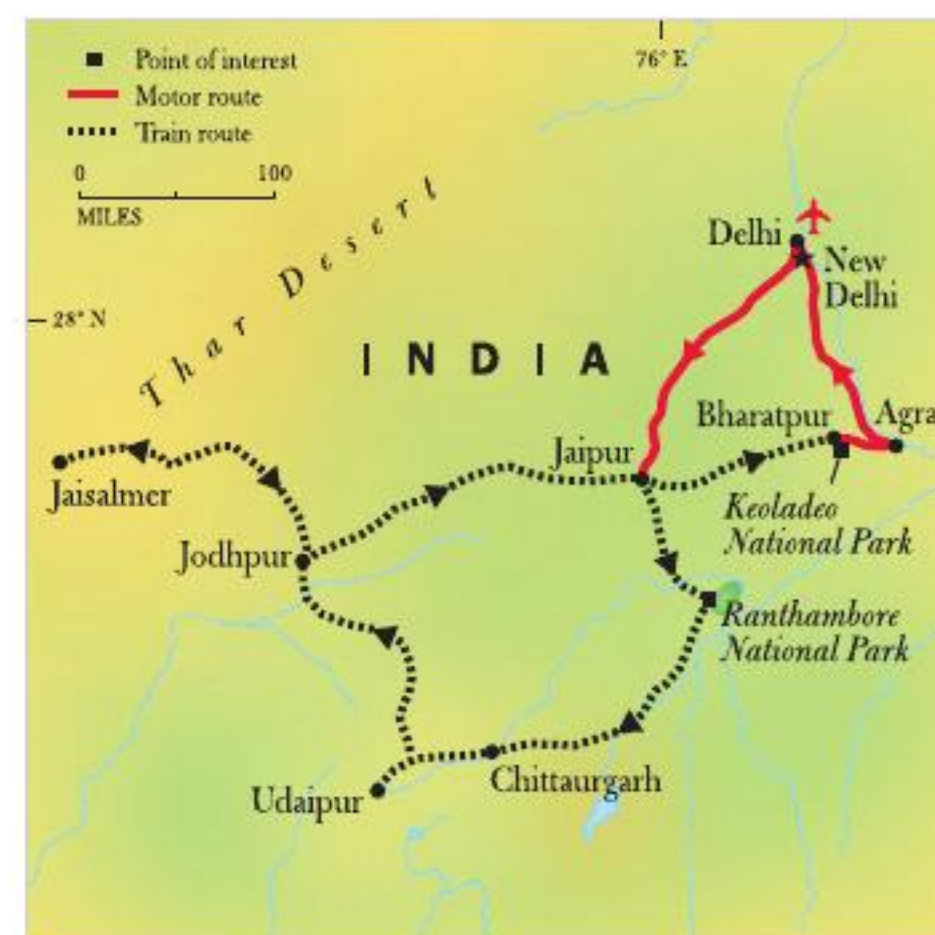
Rise early this morning to see the Taj Mahal’s marble sparkle in the dawn light. Constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, the Taj Mahal is often described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. After lunch, explore Agra Fort’s courtyards, mosques, and private chambers. Stop in at 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)

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)

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. Visit our website for additional photos of the train. National Geographic has reserved 15 cabins on each of these departures.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Oct. 23–Nov. 4* • Nov. 6–18**

2017: Jan. 22–Feb. 3 • Feb. 19–Mar. 3 📷
Mar. 5–17 📷

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 114 for details and special pricing.

*The itinerary shown describes the October 2016 departure, which includes the Diwali festival. Each departure follows a similar itinerary to the one shown but includes a different festival or activity: November 2016 features the Pushkar Camel Fair; January 2017 features the Vasant Panchami festival; February 2017 features the Maha Shivrati festival; and March 2017 features the Holi festival. Visit our website for detailed itineraries.

**In order to allow time to attend the Pushkar Camel Fair, we will fly, rather than drive, from Delhi to Jaipur on the November 2016 departure.

Expedition Cost: **\$11,995**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,300. International airfare to/from Delhi is not included in the expedition cost. For the November 2016 departure, the additional flight from Delhi to Jaipur is \$260 (subject to change).

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.

See our India by Rail Photography Expedition on page 114.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

INSIDE JAPAN



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.

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 in to our hotel. KYOTO HOTEL OKURA

DAYS 3 AND 4 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 UNESCO World Heritage site.

Explore the Zen rock garden at Ryoanji. Visit iconic Kinkakuji, or the "Temple of the Golden Pavilion," as well as Saihoji, also known as Kokedera or the "Moss Temple." Meet with a former geisha and enjoy a short performance. Wander through Arashiyama's bamboo grove and visit Nijo Castle the next day. (B, L, D DAILY)

Above: The Zen temple of Kinkakuji dazzles among the trees.

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 2012 *National Geographic Traveler* article "Japan's Past Perfect" inspired this expedition. Don has edited eight literary travel anthologies and has received dozens of writing awards.

DON WILL ACCOMPANY THE OCTOBER 2016 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAYS 5, 6, AND 7 MOUNT KOYA/IYA VALLEY

Journey to Mount Koya, headquarters of the Shingon Buddhist sect. Explore the Kongobuji temple complex and Okuno-in cemetery, and spend the night in a traditional Buddhist temple. Then ferry across the Inland Sea to Shikoku. Visit the Awa Odori Kaikan museum in Tokushima, and settle into our rural Japanese inn, or ryokan. Learn about the cultural preservation work of the Chiiori Trust, and experience village life in Ochiai.

RENGEJO-IN MONASTERY;
HOTEL HIKYONOYU (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 8 AND 9 SHIKOKU/NAOSHIMA

Travel north to Zentsuji, an important stop along Shikoku's 750-mile pilgrimage route. In Takamatsu, amble through tranquil 17th-century gardens. A ferry then brings us to the island of Naoshima. Explore the inventive Benesse House Museum and stay in the adjacent hotel, designed by acclaimed architect Tadao Ando. Visit the Chichu Art Museum, and see transformed homes that are part of the island's Art House Project.

BENESSE HOUSE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 10 NAOSHIMA/HIROSHIMA

Ferry back to Honshu and take the high-speed train to Hiroshima. Explore Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Memorial Museum. RIHGA ROYAL HOTEL HIROSHIMA OR CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL (B, L)

DAYS 11 AND 12 MIYAJIMA/HIROSHIMA/OSAKA/U.S.

Set off by ferry for the 12th-century Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, a World Heritage site on the island popularly called Miyajima. Back in Hiroshima this evening, gather for a farewell dinner. The next morning, transfer to Osaka for your flight home. (B, D; B)



See our [Inside Japan Photography Expedition on page 112](#) and our [Japan Family Expedition on page 123](#).

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Mar. 15–26 • Apr. 6–17 📷 • May 18–29
Oct. 12–23 • Nov. 2–13 • Nov. 9–20 📷

2017: Mar. 22–Apr. 2 • Apr. 13–24 📷 • May 11–22

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

Expedition Cost:

\$7,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,895. International airfare to/from Osaka is not included in the expedition cost.

What to Expect:

The Rengejo-in and Hotel Hikyonoyu are traditional Japanese accommodations featuring 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.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the snow-dappled forests and geothermal wonders of Hokkaido, and attend a dance performance at an Ainu cultural center.
- Get up close to rare and wonderful winter wildlife: splendid red-crowned cranes, vociferous whooper swans, snow monkeys, and more.
- Experience the time-honored tradition of the Japanese *onsen*, or hot spring bath, while staying at a lakeside hotel and a mountainside *ryokan*.
- Marvel at snow- and ice-sculpted masterpieces at either the Sapporo Snow Festival or the Sounkyo Hyobaku (Ice Waterfall) Festival.

ITINERARY | 12 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./TOKYO, JAPAN

Fly to Tokyo, cross the international date line, and arrive on Day 2. Begin the next day with a traditional tea ceremony at an antiques museum or a Japanese garden. Explore the cutting-edge Aoyama neighborhood and the Meiji Jingu shrine. CERULEAN TOWER TOKYU OR CAPITOL HOTEL TOKYU (DAY 3: B, L, D)

DAY 4 TOKYO/KUSHIRO/LAKE AKAN

The northernmost of Japan's main islands, Hokkaido is a rugged frontier of snowcapped mountains, forests, and volcanoes. Fly to Kushiro, then drive north to wetlands that have been designated a national park to protect the resident population of red-crowned cranes, also known as Japanese cranes. Witness their spectacular court-

Above: Their red faces bright against a backdrop of grays, Japanese macaques soak in a steaming ice hole.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Geographer, conservationist, and explorer **David Scott Silverberg** has been working on Japan's islands and seas since 1983, and has explored the country extensively. He

researches and lectures on Japan's fascinating geography, gardens, cuisine, art, and music, as well as on the Shinto and Buddhist faiths.

A National Geographic grantee, David has explored the coastlines of the Seto Sea, the Sea of Japan, the Kuril Islands, and Hokkaido.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE MARCH DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ship displays amid the snow. Continue to our hot springs resort on Lake Akan.

AKAN YUKU NO SATO TSURUGA (B, L, D)

DAY 5 LAKE AKAN

At the Akan International Crane Center, learn about the ecology of these magnificent birds. Enjoy a performance of traditional Ainu dance, and explore the geothermal wonders of Akan National Park, looking for sika deer, red foxes, and whooper swans. (B, L, D)

DAYS 6 AND 7 LAKE AKAN/SAPPORO*

Travel to Sapporo to experience the world-famous Sapporo Snow Festival.* Marvel at dazzling snow sculptures and ice mazes, and sample traditional food. KEIO PLAZA HOTEL (B, L, D; B, L)

DAYS 8 AND 9 NAGANO/JAPAN ALPS

Fly back to Tokyo and board a bullet train to Nagano, site of the 1998 Winter Olympics. Explore Zenko-ji temple, an important Buddhist pilgrimage site. Travel to our traditional Japanese inn, or ryokan, nestled in the mountains. Relax at the inn's soothing onsen. HOTEL METROPOLITAN NAGANO; KANBAYASHI HOTEL SENJUKAKU (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 10 JAPAN ALPS

Visit Jigokudani Yaen-Koen (Monkey Park), where wild Japanese macaques, or snow monkeys, descend each day from the surrounding cliffs to bathe in warm hot springs. Observe these remarkable primates as they soak and socialize. (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 TOKYO/U.S.

Return to Tokyo by bullet train, and transfer to the airport the next morning for your return flight. CERULEAN TOWER TOKYU OR CAPITOL HOTEL TOKYU (B, L, D; B)



See our Winter in Japan Photography Expedition on page 112.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2017: Jan. 31–Feb. 11 📷 • Feb. 2–13 • Feb. 4–15
Feb. 22–Mar. 5* 📷 • Mar. 1–12*

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

*The itinerary shown describes the January through February 4 departures. The February 22 and March departures follow a similar itinerary but visit Sounkyo instead of Sapporo in order to experience the Sounkyo Hyobaku (Ice Waterfall) Festival. Visit our website for the detailed itinerary.

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

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,295. International airfare to/from Tokyo and airfare within Japan are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within Japan are \$580–\$685 (subject to change), depending on the departure date.

What to Expect:

The Akan Yuku no Sato Tsuruga hotel and Kanbayashi Hotel Senjukaku ryokan are traditional Japanese accommodations with futons set atop tatami mats on the floor.

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 visit Chonghua Palace in the Forbidden City by special permission.
- Work alongside local masters in Dali to learn traditional Chinese painting, martial arts, and cooking.
- Delve into Beijing's contemporary art scene, perusing the galleries of the 798 Art District with a local expert and visiting the studio of a prominent photographer.

ITINERARY | 13 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 and access the Chonghua Palace by special permission. REGENT BEIJING (DAY 3: B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 BEIJING

Peruse the contemporary art galleries of the 798 Art District and visit the studio of a prominent photographer. Delve into *hutong* history at the Shijia Hutong Museum, 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



Elvira Hammond, a professor of Chinese cultural history at New Mexico State University, has been working, traveling, and studying in China since 1983. She studied Chinese language and modern theater in Beijing, and worked for many years developing and leading academic and cultural programs for students of all ages visiting China. She loves introducing travelers to the sights, sounds, and especially the flavors of China.

ELVIRA WILL ACCOMPANY THE MAY 7 AND OCTOBER 8 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE EXPERT ON THE OCTOBER 22 DEPARTURE.

DAYS 6 AND 7 BEIJING/XI'AN

Fly to Xi'an, China's capital for more than a thousand years. Examine thousands of ancient figures at the tomb of the Han emperor Jingdi before riding a bike or golf cart atop the Ming dynasty city wall. Meet a leading archaeologist to learn about the excavation of the life-size terra-cotta army that guards the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. Examine these soldiers up close from the VIP platform at the site. Get an insider's perspective on the Muslim Quarter and the Great Mosque, and enjoy a 16-course dumpling feast. HILTON XI'AN (B, L; B, L, D)

DAYS 8, 9, AND 10 XI'AN/DALI

Today, fly to Kunming and continue to Dali, a city nestled between the foothills of the Cangshan mountain range and the shores of Erhai Lake. Settle into our authentic courtyard estate. Hike in the nearby mountains, and visit a local school and picturesque villages in the surrounding countryside. Try your hand at cooking, martial arts, cormorant fishing, or Chinese painting. THE LINDEN CENTRE (B, L, D DAILY)



The Great Wall winds its way through China's rugged landscape.



DAYS 11 AND 12 DALI/SHANGHAI

Fly to Shanghai and spend two days exploring the city, including the Shanghai Museum and Yu Yuan, a 16th-century classical garden. Enjoy a festive farewell dinner on our final evening. GARDEN HOTEL (B, L; B, L, D)

DAY 13 SHANGHAI/U.S.

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

See our [China Photography Expedition on page 112](#) and our [China Family Expedition on page 123](#).

INFORMATION

Dates:
2016: May 7-19 • Oct. 8-20 • Oct. 22-Nov. 3

Expedition Cost: **\$6,995**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,295. 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 \$1,200 (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.
FOUR SEASONS BEIJING

DAY 3 BEIJING/LHASA, TIBET

Take a scenic flight to the holy city of Lhasa and gather for a welcome dinner tonight.
FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LHASA (B, L, D)

DAYS 4, 5, AND 6 LHASA

Listen for chanting monks at Drepung Monastery and explore the myriad halls and chambers of the magnificent 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 APRIL 22 AND OCTOBER 12 DEPARTURES. SEE PAGE 113 FOR THE EXPERT ON THE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION.

DAY 7 GYANGZÉ

Drive over two spectacular mountain passes to Gyangzê, stopping to view a magnificent hanging glacier up close. GYANGZÉ HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 GYANGZÉ/SHIGATSE

After visiting the temples of Pelkor Chode, travel to Shigatse. Explore Tashilunpo Monastery and, if you wish, hike up to the Chak La pass.
TASHI CHOE TA (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 XÊGAR

Weather permitting, catch a glimpse of Mount Everest on the way to Xêgar, and take in majestic vistas of the peak from the 17,000-foot Pang La pass. Venture into Rongbuk Monastery on the way to the North Face Base Camp.
QOMOLANGMA HOTEL (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 your flight home. (B)



See our Tibet and Nepal Photography Expedition on page 113.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Apr. 22–May 7 • Oct. 12–27
Oct. 29–Nov. 13

This departure is a photography expedition. See page 113 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).

Please Note: At the time of this catalog printing, the border between Tibet and Nepal remains closed following the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. We expect to follow the overland itinerary from Tibet to Nepal as described here; however, it may be necessary to take an alternate route if the border remains closed.

What to Expect:

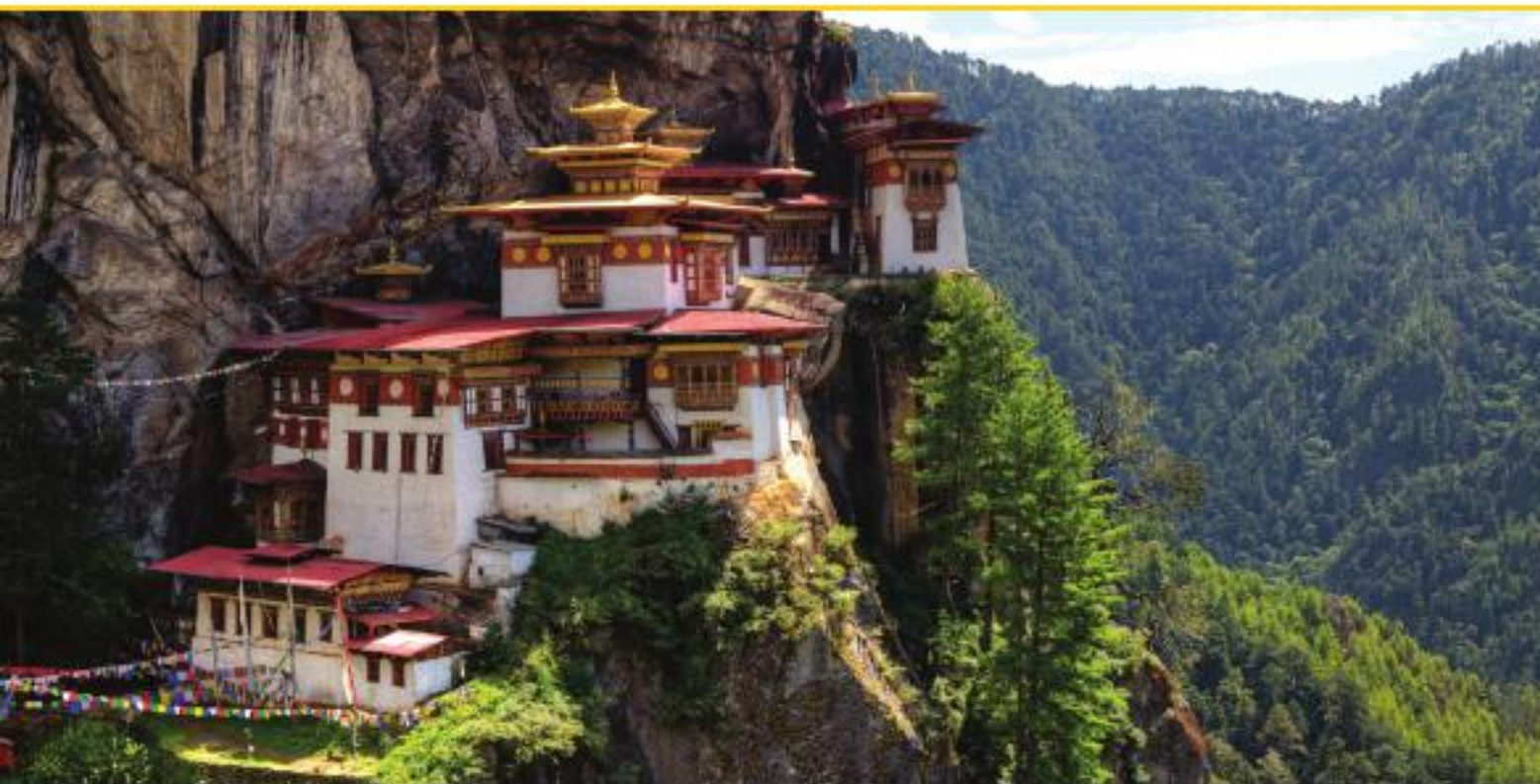
Participants should be physically fit. This trip is not suitable for those with a respiratory, cardiac, or circulatory disorder or a disability that limits mobility. Please visit our website for additional details.

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

BHUTAN: KINGDOM IN THE CLOUDS



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike to Bhutan's most famous pilgrimage site, Taktsang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest Temple), and explore Gangtey Goemba, one of the oldest private monasteries in the country.
- Mingle with community leaders and government dignitaries at a banquet and gain insight into modern Bhutan.
- Witness colorful parades and processions at vibrant local festivals.
- Stay at the spectacular Zhiwa Ling, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World that exemplifies the artistry of Bhutanese architecture.

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. Explore our stunning hotel—a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection—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

Above: The magnificent Taktsang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest Temple) sits high above the lush Paro Valley.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Medical anthropologist **Carroll Dunham** has resided in the Himalaya for the past 25 years. She is the director of Wild Earth, an organization that works with rural Nepalese

women who create handcrafted products to generate income. An expert in Himalayan cultures, Carroll is passionate about sacred geography, pilgrimage, and indigenous medicinal plants. She has written four books and produced films for National Geographic, PBS, and the BBC.

CARROLL WILL ACCOMPANY THE NOVEMBER DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

Punakha Dzong.

MERI PUENSUM HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)

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. Our visit coincides with the annual Crane Festival, which features a vibrant mix of traditional masked and folk dances.* 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 the Dochu La pass (10,000 feet) and gaze at a 200-mile panorama of Himalayan peaks (weather permitting). In Thimphu (7,900 feet), visit the vibrant outdoor market, where farmers and vendors from throughout the country gather each weekend. Get a behind-the-scenes perspective on Bhutan during a banquet with local dignitaries and professionals. TAJ TASHI (B, L, D DAILY)

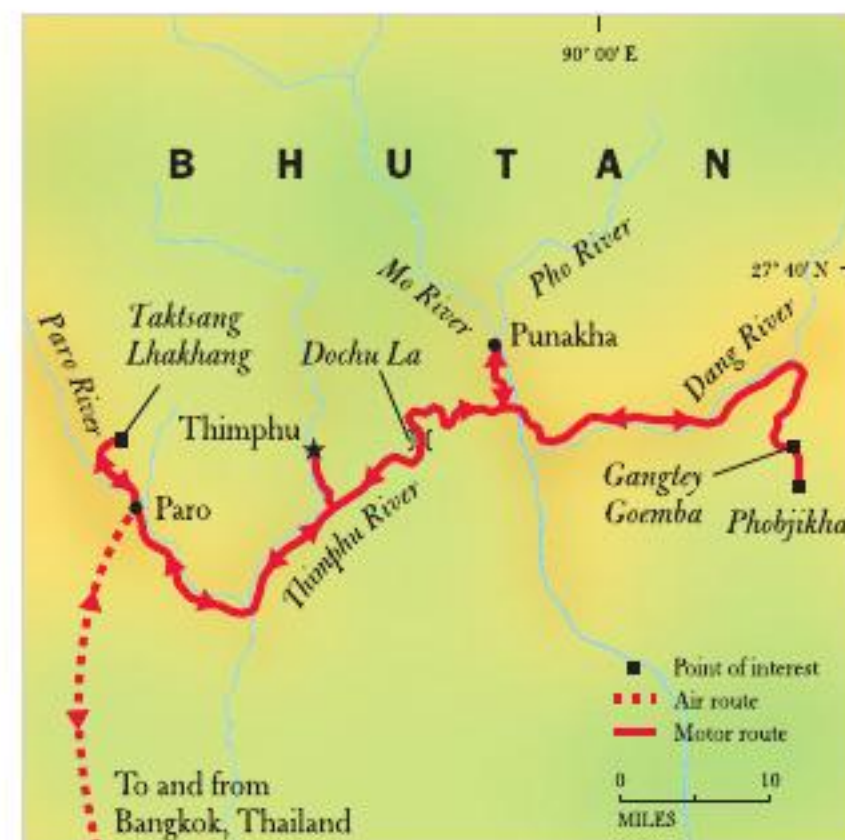
DAY 10 PARO

Our journey culminates today 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 our adventure at a farewell dinner. ZHIWA LING HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAYS 11 AND 12 PARO/BANGKOK, THAILAND/U.S.

Fly to Bangkok and check in to our hotel. The next morning, fly home, arriving the same day. NOVOTEL SUVARNABHUMI HOTEL (B, L; B)

See our **Bhutan Photography Expedition** on page 112.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Mar. 11–22 • Apr. 16–27 • Sept. 3–14
Oct. 5–16 • Nov. 5–16*

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

*The itinerary shown describes the November departure, which includes the Crane Festival. Visit our website for details on festivals and celebrations on other departures.

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 round-trip 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 those with limited mobility. See our website for information about accommodations.

Optional Extension:

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

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA: ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Sail the Mekong River on a seven-night cruise aboard the elegant 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.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

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

Depart for Siem Reap and, upon arrival, settle into our riverside hotel. LA RÉSIDENCE D'ANGKOR

DAYS 3 AND 4 ANGKOR

Rise early to watch the sunrise at Angkor Wat, a 12th-century Khmer temple. Explore Ta Prohm and Banteay Srei, and pay a visit to Les Artisans d'Angkor, a traditional arts school. Ride a *tuk-tuk*, or motorized rickshaw, to the walled city of Angkor Thom to see the Bayon Temple and the Terrace of the Elephants. (B, L, D; B, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 KAMPONG CHAM

Travel to the Mekong River, stopping for a picnic in Kampong Cham. Embark the *Jahan* and catch the sunset on deck before a welcome dinner. The next

Above: Draped in bright saffron robes, two monks gaze at Cambodia's Angkor Wat.

day, see an eighth-century temple at Wat Hanchey, and meet the friendly residents of Angkor Ban on a village stroll. R.V. JAHAN (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 KAMPONG CHHNANG/KAMPONG TRALACH

Anchor at Kampong Chhnang and visit a village known for traditional pottery. Glimpse a unique way of life in the floating villages of Tonle Sap, and in Kampong Tralach, ride oxcarts to an ancient Buddhist temple. (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 PHNOM PENH/THE MEKONG

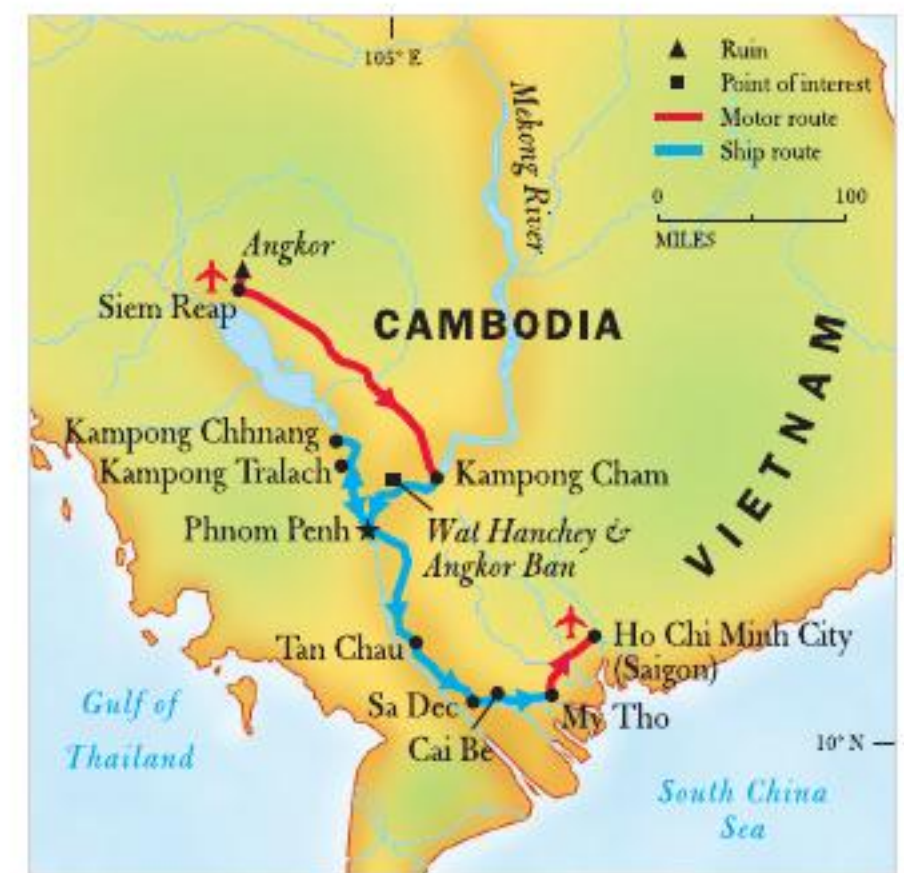
During a full day in Phnom Penh, ride a *cyclo* (bicycle taxi) to the Royal Palace and its Silver Pagoda. Browse Khmer sculpture at the National Museum, and learn about the Khmer Rouge at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Tonight, witness an *apsara* dance performance. Then enjoy a relaxing day on the river, attending talks by our experts and taking a cooking class with our chef. Cross into Vietnam in the afternoon. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 10 AND 11 TAN CHAU, VIETNAM/CAI BE

Meander through the colorful markets of Tan Chau and Cai Be, and visit nearby floating villages and river communities to learn about local enterprises. In the evening, gather for a gala dinner aboard the *Jahan*. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12, 13, AND 14 MYTHO/SAIGON/U.S.

Disembark in My Tho and visit the Vinh Trang Pagoda before traveling to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). Meet with a local expert and explore the city's historic sites, including Reunification Palace, seat of the South Vietnamese government during the Vietnam War. If you wish, visit the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi Tunnels, or explore on your own. Transfer to the airport for your return flight, arriving home the next morning. PARK HYATT SAIGON (B, L, D; B)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2017: Jan. 17–30 • Jan. 25–Feb. 7* • Jan. 31–Feb. 13
Feb. 14–27 • Feb. 22–Mar. 7*

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

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$10,980
Located on the Promenade Deck	
Category 2	\$11,790
Located on the Promenade Deck	
Category 3	\$13,850
Located on the Captain's Deck	
Category 4	\$16,580
Located on the Captain's Deck	

See the R.V. *Jahan* description, photo, and deck plan on page 141. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin in Category 1, add \$5,490. International airfare to Siem Reap and return from Saigon, or vice versa, 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.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, **Paula Swart** will join the January 17 departure. Paula is an expert on Asian culture and history, and has been a museum curator for more than 20 years. Her travels have taken her to Vietnam and Cambodia numerous times. Paula holds degrees in archaeology, Asian art history, and Chinese history. She speaks five languages and has published several books and numerous articles on the art and architecture of Asian cultures.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

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 the 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 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.
- Settle into your stunning canvas suite at Sayari Camp, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World (July through October departures only).
- Join a Maasai chief on a private visit to his village, witness a traditional ceremony, and learn firsthand about Maasai culture.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Conservationist and National Geographic grantee

Laly Lichtenfeld began her work in East Africa as a Fulbright Scholar researching community-based

conservation in 1996. She went on to cofound the African People & Wildlife Fund with her husband, and currently lives in Tanzania at their Nolooho Environmental Center on the Masai Steppe. National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative supports Laly's inspirational work to protect lions, leopards, and cheetahs in partnership with rural people. She earned her Ph.D. from Yale University, where she continues to act as a research affiliate.

LALY WILL ACCOMPANY THE SEPTEMBER 2016 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



The National Geographic Society funds research, conservation, and exploration, 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. Enjoy a guided walk around the lodge's grounds and gardens before hiking to a nearby coffee plantation. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 NGORONGORO CRATER

After breakfast, travel to the Ngorongoro



Their majestic manes blending with the tawny savanna, two male lions squint into the African sun.

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 floor of the Ngorongoro Crater, where volcanic slopes shelter almost 25,000 animals. Observe the interactions of predator and prey; spot colorful birdlife from superb starlings to crowned cranes; and track

Above: Hundreds of zebras and wildebeests intermingle amid the golden grasses of the Serengeti.



Stay at the picturesque Sayari Camp, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, on the July through October departures.



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.

of the earliest members of the human genus. This morning, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Louise Leakey 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** collection, 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)

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. LAKE DULUTI SERENA HOTEL OR RIVERTREES COUNTRY INN (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Mar. 5–15* 📷 • July 9–19 • July 23–Aug. 2
Aug. 6–16 • Aug. 13–23 📷 • Sept. 3–13
Sept. 17–27 📷 • Oct. 1–11
Dec. 26, 2016–Jan. 5, 2017*
Dec. 29, 2016–Jan. 8, 2017*

2017: Jan. 21–31* • Feb. 11–21* • Mar. 4–14* 📷

*The December through March departures follow a slightly modified itinerary to provide travelers with the best opportunity to witness the wildebeest migration. See the box at left.

📷 These departures are photography expeditions. See page 113 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost: **\$8,995**

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$2,700. 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 \$425 to \$750 (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. Visit our website or call for details.

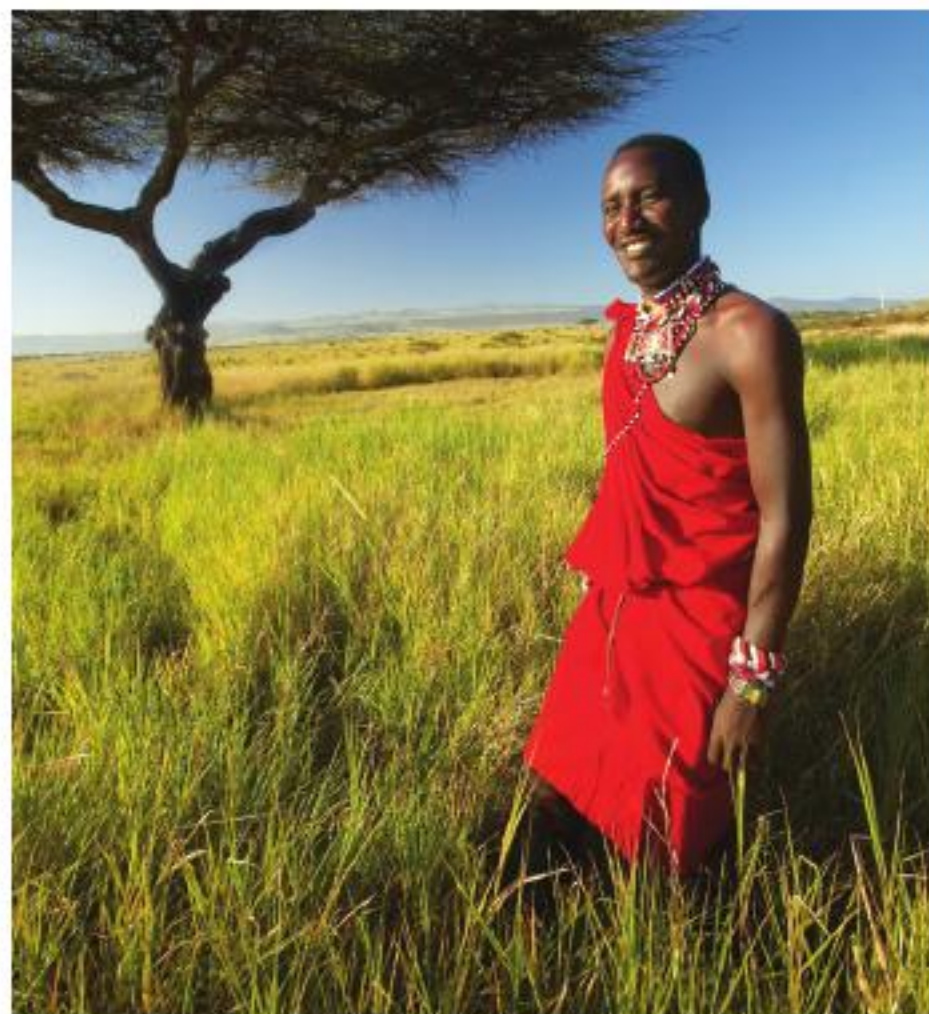
elephants, rare black rhinos, cheetahs, and more. NGORONGORO SOPA LODGE (B, L, D)

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)

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



A beacon of dazzling red, a Maasai tribesman strolls through the grasslands.

See our **Tanzania Photography Expedition** on page 113 and our **Tanzania Family Expedition** on page 122.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

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 flightseeing 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 MAY AND JULY DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.



The National Geographic Society funds the 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 remain alert at rest.

“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 on our Southern Africa expedition



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)

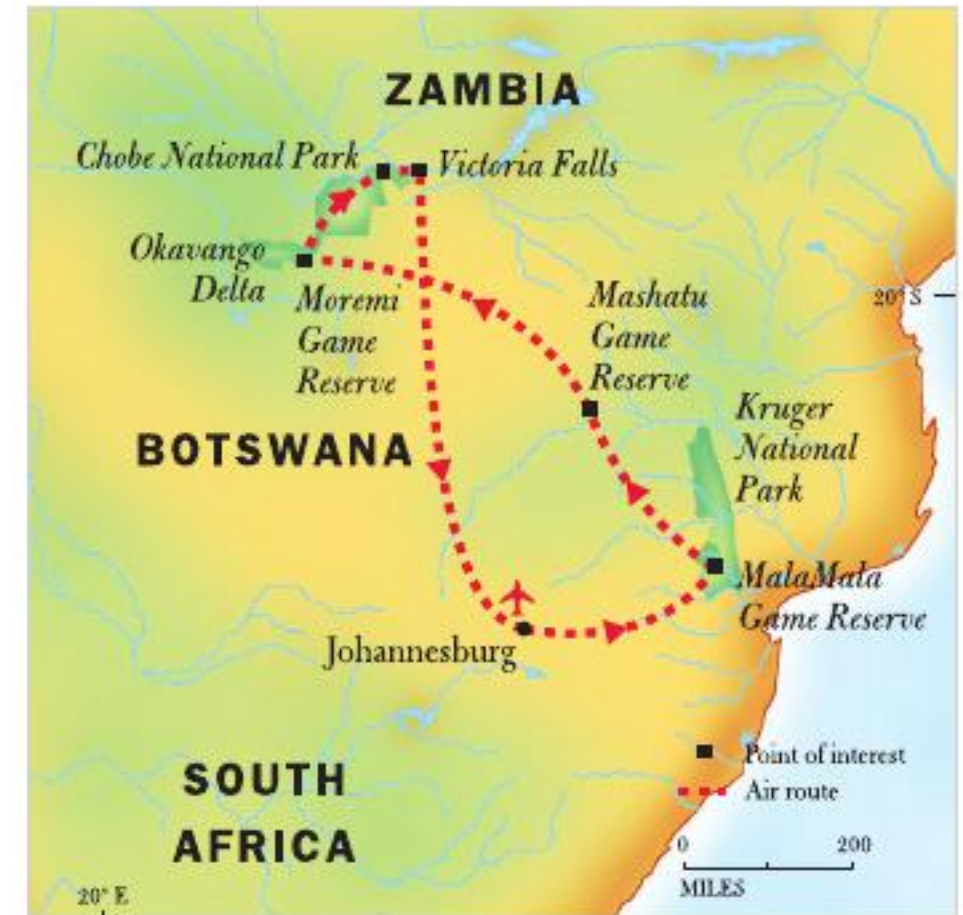
DAYS 7 AND 8 MOREMI GAME RESERVE, OKAVANGO DELTA

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 in to 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 flightseeing 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:

2016: May 7–18 • July 23–Aug. 3 • Aug. 21–Sept. 1
Sept. 24–Oct. 5 • Dec. 26, 2016–Jan. 6, 2017

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. Visit our website for additional information and photos.

Optional Extensions:

Add a four-day pre- or post-trip extension in Cape Town. Or extend your trip to South Africa's Kalahari with a stay at Tswalu Kalahari, a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.

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

Fly from Entebbe to Kasese en route to Kibale National Park, and check in to our lodge, set on a crater lake. Meet with a local researcher and search for chimpanzees, black-and-white colobus,

Above: These endangered mountain gorillas are two of the roughly 880 that remain in the wilds of central Africa.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



National Geographic Emerging Explorer **Jill Pruetz** is a biological anthropologist who specializes in primatology. A professor at Iowa State University, Jill spent two years

in East Africa researching patas and vervet monkeys as well as Grevy's zebras. She is one of the world's foremost chimpanzee experts and is currently conducting groundbreaking research on chimpanzee behavior—funded by National Geographic—in southeastern Senegal.

JILL WILL ACCOMPANY THE JULY 23, AUGUST 20, AND DECEMBER 26, 2016 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

red-tailed and blue monkeys, and the rare l'Hoest's 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. Continue to Queen Elizabeth National Park, and go on safari to look for elephants, lions, and Ugandan kobs before an afternoon wildlife cruise. KYAMBURA GORGE LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 8 AND 9 QUEEN ELIZABETH N.P./BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

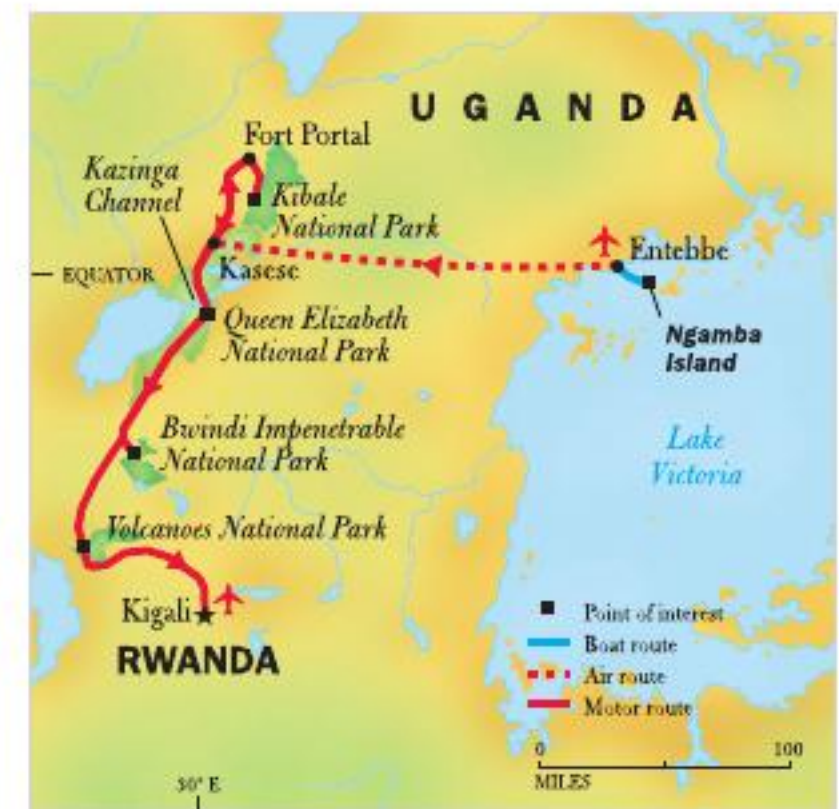
Travel to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The next morning, head into the park's forests, home to roughly half the world's remaining mountain gorillas. Sit among these gentle giants, observing one of the planet's most endangered creatures from an up-close perspective. BWINDI LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

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. Enjoy a traditional dance performance this evening. VIRUNGA LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 12 AND 13 VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK/KIGALI/U.S.

This morning, search for endangered golden monkeys in the park. After lunch, visit a local school. Then transfer to the airport for your flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: July 9–21 • July 23–Aug. 4 • Aug. 20–Sept. 1
Dec. 26, 2016–Jan. 7, 2017

2017: Feb. 19–Mar. 3

Expedition Cost:

	2016	2017
	\$11,995	\$12,995

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 and the flight within Uganda are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight from Entebbe to Kasese is \$300 to \$330 (subject to change), depending on the departure date.

What to Expect:

This is an active expedition with moderate to strenuous hikes. Participants must be at least 15 years old and 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.

Optional Extension:

Extend your trip to Tanzania with a stay at Rubondo Island Camp, a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.

ETHIOPIA: THE OMO VALLEY AND LALIBELA



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet the peoples of the Omo Valley and Konso and experience the ancient traditions they still practice today.
- Explore the spectacular rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage site, carved belowground out of granite.
- Visit Omo Child, cofounded 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.

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. Settle 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 impressive ethnographic museum.

ECO OMO SAFARI LODGE (B, L, D)

DAY 5 THE OMO VALLEY/JINKA

For millennia, the Omo Valley has been inhab-

Above: Kara children look out over the Omo River, bearing the distinctive decorations and body paint that distinguish their people from other Omo Valley tribes.

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 2016 AND FEBRUARY 2017 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ited by ethnic groups with distinctive cultural identities. Meet the Mursi, a pastoralist society known for the lip plates worn by its women. Back in Jinka, visit Omo Child, a nonprofit organization cofounded 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 AND 7 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. Learn about tribal customs and conflicts, and wander through a local market.

BUSKA LODGE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 8 AND 9 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)

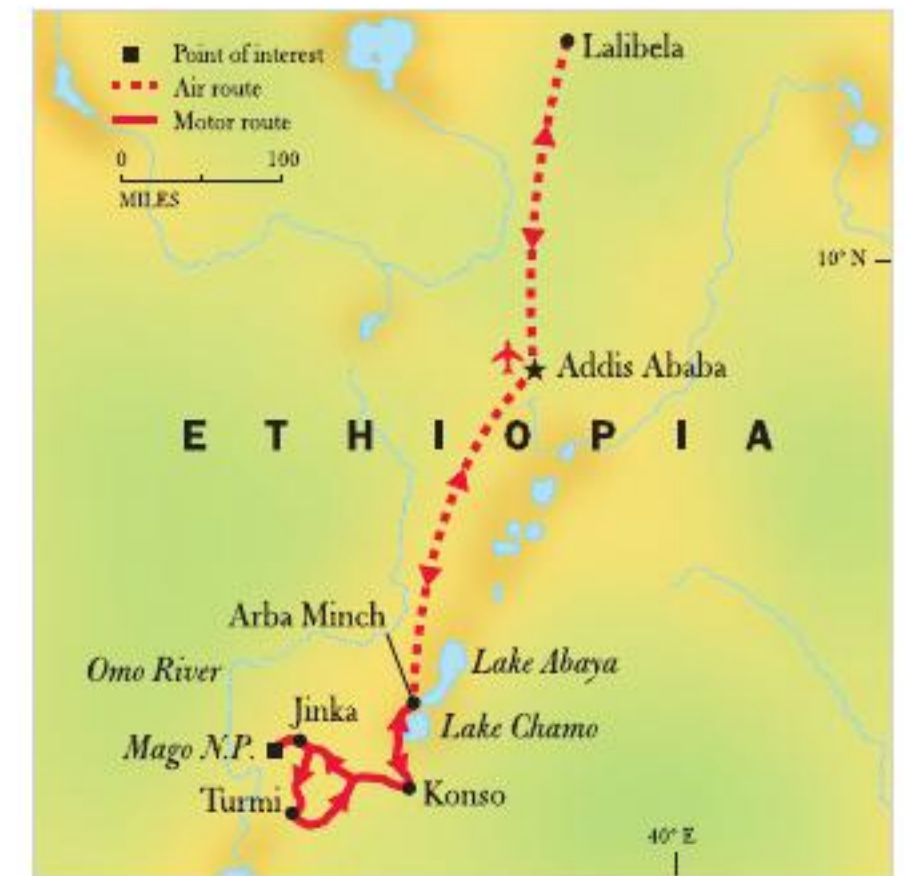
DAYS 10, 11, AND 12 LALIBELA

Fly north to Lalibela, home to 11 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 Yemrehanna 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 113.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Mar. 7–20 • Sept. 17–30
Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 9, 2017

2017: Jan. 9–22 • Feb. 6–19

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 113 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

Mar. 2016	\$7,995
Sept. 2016–Feb. 2017	\$8,995

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.

MOROCCAN ODYSSEY



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the Roman ruins of Volubilis and the ancient adobe village of Aït Ben Haddou, 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.
- Observe artisans plying their timeless crafts in the workshops of Fez.
- 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 stunning 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 PALAIS IMPERIAL (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 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, and the Royal Geographical Society, David is currently working on a book on the Atlas-Sahara transition.

DAVID WILL ACCOMPANY THE APRIL 15 AND OCTOBER 7 DEPARTURES. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

DAY 5 TELOUET/AÏT BEN HADDOU/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 Ben Haddou. Continue to Ouarzazate, where films such as *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 souk in Rissani, ride into the dunes on a camel to watch the sun set on the Sahara. Settle into to our deluxe Berber tented camp for a dinner under the stars, accompanied by traditional folk music.

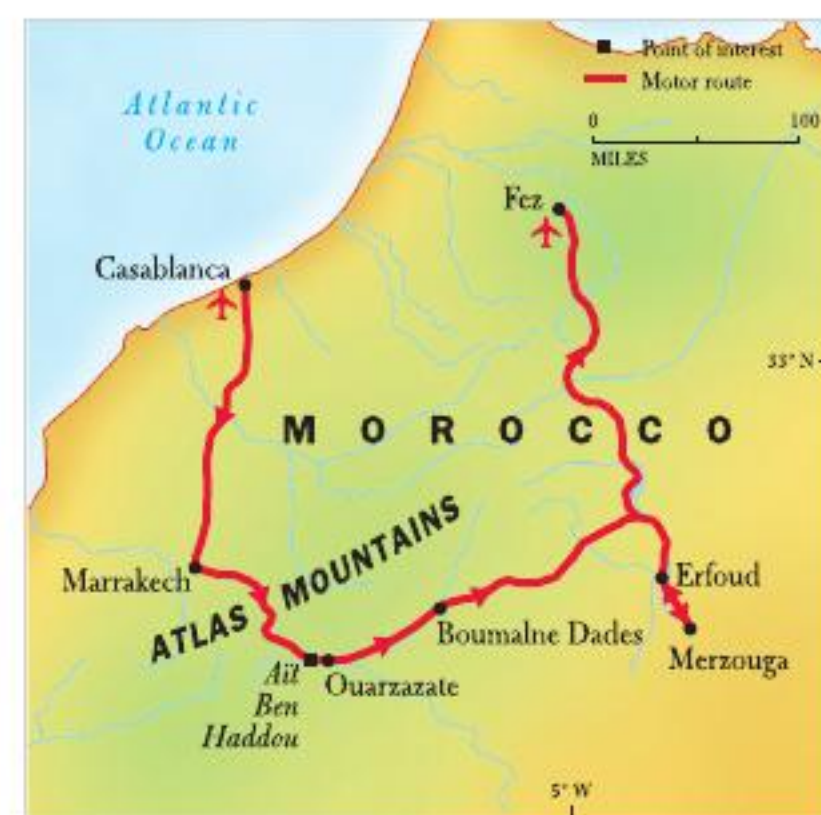
BIVOUAC TENTED BERBER CAMP (B, L, D)

DAYS 8 AND 9 MERZOUGA/FEZ

After a sunrise walk, head north into the high-mountain plains on your way to Fez. Spend the next day exploring this imperial city. Visit the Royal Palace and Fes Jdid, home to the historic Jewish Quarter. Delve into the lively medina, and discover the intricately carved stucco of the 14th-century Bou Inania Madrasa. See the Kairaouine Mosque and the exquisite mosaics of the Nejjarine Fountain. HOTEL SAHRAI (B, L, D; B, L)

DAYS 10 AND 11 FEZ/VOLUBILIS AND 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 113](#).

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Mar. 18–28 • Apr. 15–25 • May 6–16
Sept. 30–Oct. 10 • Oct. 7–17
Oct. 28–Nov. 7

These departures are photography expeditions. See page 113 for details and special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

\$6,295

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,495. 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 camp in Merzouga features deluxe Berber-style tents with en suite bathrooms and generator-powered electricity.

TRAVELING THE SANDS OF TIME: OMAN TO DUBAI



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.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./MUSCAT, OMAN

Depart on an overnight flight to Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. Check in to our hotel. AL BUSTAN PALACE

DAY 3 MUSCAT/QANTAB

Learn about Ibadism, Oman's main Islamic sect, at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. Visit the Oman Botanic Garden and take in views of Al Alam Palace. Wander through the Muttrah Souk, an Arabian bazaar. In the village of Qantab, see the boatyard featured in National Geographic's documentary *Sailing the Treasure Ship*, and meet with archaeologists. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 WADI SHAB

Explore the natural wonders of Oman: visit the Bimmah sinkhole, hike through cliff-walled canyons,

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.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Archaeologist and paleoanthropologist **Jeffrey Rose** was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2012, and is 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 to shape new theories about who early humans were, when they may have exited Africa, and what route they took.

JEFF WILL ACCOMPANY THE DECEMBER 2016 DEPARTURE. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

and take a swim at Wadi Shab; or take a scenic drive. (B, L)

DAY 5 BIRKAT AL MAWZ/JABAL AL AKHDAR

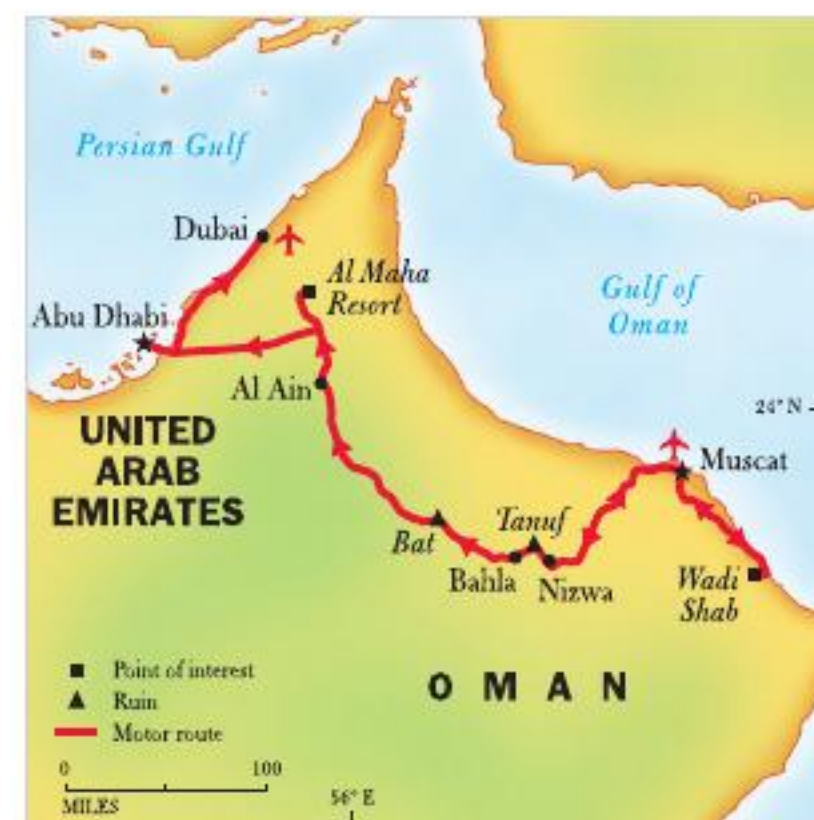
Travel inland to the palm tree oasis of Birkat al Mawz and walk through a traditional *falaj* irrigation field. This type of irrigation system has been in use here for some 1,500 years and was recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Visit the 17th-century fortress and museum in Nizwa, and uncover the mysteries of Jabal al Akhdar, a mountain range named for its lush green terraced fields. Set out by 4x4 to visit the abandoned mud-brick village of Tanuf. Then travel up to the lovely mountaintop village of Misfat al Abreyeen, where we'll meet with local farmers and enjoy a traditional home-cooked Omani meal. GOLDEN TULIP NIZWA HOTEL (B, L, D)

DAY 6 BAHLA/BAT

Explore Oman's largest fortress, Bahla Fort, then head to the Al Ayn tombs and the prehistoric settlements, towers, and tombs of Bat. Learn about the Bat Archaeological Project, co-directed by National Geographic archaeologist Christopher Thronton and supported by the Society. HILI RAYHAAN BY ROTANA (B, L, D)

DAYS 7 AND 8 AL AIN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES/AL MAHA DESERT RESORT

In the oasis city of Al Ain, visit the Al Ain National Museum and discuss regional development with a local expert. Continue to the Al Maha Desert Resort, located inside the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve—home to desert species including a few hundred rare Arabian oryxes. Take an evening 4x4 safari. Rise early for a falconry demonstration and a guided walk. Then choose between several exploration options. AL MAHA DESERT RESORT (B, L, D DAILY)



DAY 9 ABU DHABI

Drive to Abu Dhabi, and enjoy lunch aboard a traditional *dhow* boat. Meet a coral reef conservationist and discuss reef studies funded by National Geographic. Visit the magnificent Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque before continuing to Dubai. RITZ-CARLTON DUBAI (B, L)

DAYS 10 AND 11 DUBAI/U.S.

Wander through Dubai's historic Bastakiya quarter and explore a Hindu temple complex and market. Venture to the top of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, and enjoy a free afternoon to shop or swim in the sea. Transfer to the airport the next morning for your return flight. (B, D; B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Nov. 10–20 • Dec. 29, 2016–Jan. 8, 2017

2017: Feb. 9–19 • Feb. 16–26

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.

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-888-966-8687

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 the ancient desert fortress of 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 with 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 from a Holocaust survivor.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS



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 MAY, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER DEPARTURES; YUVAL WILL JOIN THE REMAINING 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 the importance of this holy site to Muslims. Then visit the Western Wall, touch the ancient stones, and meet with a rabbi to 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; later, speak with residents of the nearby Palestinian neighborhood who oppose the excavations. 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 and 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.



Perched on the Mediterranean shores, the ancient Phoenician settlement of Caesarea Maritima was rebuilt by Herod the Great in the first century B.C.

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 visit Manger Square; then, 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/JERICHO/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

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 Tel Dan National Park 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 where 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 mountaintop village of Beit Jann, discover the secretive traditions of the Druze people, and enjoy lunch with a Druze family in their home. Travel toward 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:

2016: Mar. 11–22 • Apr. 1–12 • May 6–27
Sept. 16–27 • Oct. 28–Nov. 8 • Nov. 11–22
Dec. 30, 2016–Jan. 10, 2017

Expedition Cost:

\$5,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,995. 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 we 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.



Traced by his shadow, a Hasidic Jew prays at the Western Wall.

AUSTRALIA: TASMANIA TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



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 and 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 ALL DEPARTURES OF THIS EXPEDITION. READ OUR INTERVIEW WITH HIM ON PAGE 13.

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, take a cruise through Sydney Harbour and enjoy a welcome dinner on board with views of the spectacular city skyline.

INTERCONTINENTAL SYDNEY (D)

DAY 4 SYDNEY

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. Then take a behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House. This afternoon, set out on an optional excursion to the Sydney Harbour Bridge for an exhilarating climb. Walk along catwalks and up ladders as you ascend to the summit of the bridge, enjoying breathtaking views of the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour. (B, L)

DAY 5 HOBART, TASMANIA

Fly to the wild and beautiful island of Tasmania; view



A young koala clings to its perch.

the sights of Hobart, its vibrant capital; and visit the Museum of Old and New Art. 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

Above: A pair of eastern gray kangaroos bounds across the landscape in Australia.



A dramatic juxtaposition of light and geometry sets off the magnificent Sydney skyline.

research on echidnas and other Tasmanian mammals. HENRY JONES ART HOTEL (B, L, D)

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 seabirds, 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 Currunga 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



Against a backdrop of crimson coral, a pair of regal angelfish meet for a kiss.

See our Australia Family Expedition on page 127.

and alpine heathlands, jagged mountains and glacial lakes. Go for a night drive in search of 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. Witness the famous fairy penguin parade from a viewing platform at dusk. Alternatively, take an optional excursion along the Great Ocean Road to see 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. En route 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 aquarium. 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 on a private snorkeling tour in this incredible marine ecosystem. Scuba diving is also available for certified divers, at an additional cost.

THALA BEACH LODGE (B; B, L)



DAY 13 DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Begin the day with a cruise on the Daintree River, in search of crocodiles at the convergence of salt and fresh water. Then set off with an indigenous guide on a Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk at Mossman Gorge for an intimate look at the connection of culture and spirituality with the land. 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. Celebrate our journey down under at a farewell dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 PORT DOUGLAS/CAIRNS/U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to Cairns Airport for your return flight, arriving home the same day. (B)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Oct. 22–Nov. 4 • Dec. 28, 2016–Jan. 11, 2017*

2017: Jan. 29–Feb. 11 • Feb. 19–Mar. 4

*The itinerary shown describes the October, January, and February departures. The December departure is one day longer and includes a New Year's Eve overnight in Sydney, as well as an extra day in Hobart to experience the Taste of Tasmania festival.

Expedition Cost:

October, January, and February	\$9,995
December	\$11,495*

Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$3,700 in October, January, and February, and \$4,700 in December. International airfare to Sydney and return from Cairns and airfare within Australia are not included in the expedition cost. The group flights within Australia are \$800 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

Extend your trip to Uluru with a stay at Longitude 131° or to Kangaroo Island with a stay at Southern Ocean Lodge, both members of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit our website or call for details.

NEW ZEALAND FROM NORTH TO SOUTH new



NEW ZEALAND'S NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS BRIM WITH GEOLOGICAL DRAMA AND NATURAL BEAUTY.

Volcanic forces simmer on the North Island, leaving craters, caves, and geysers considered sacred by the indigenous Maori people. The Southern Alps shelter sparkling lakes and unfurl into majestic fiords. Encounter unusual wildlife in astonishing landscapes and get acquainted with New Zealand's vibrant cultures on your way from Auckland to Queenstown.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Encounter endangered species and meet the conservationists dedicated to protecting them.
- Spend time in a Maori community, getting to know their traditions and everyday life.
- Go behind the scenes at the famous Weta Workshop, the special effects firm behind *The Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy.
- Cruise Doubtful Sound, and surround yourself with the eerie light of bioluminescent glowworms in the Waitomo Caves.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



Australia-based writer and photographer **Roff Smith** has traveled extensively in New Zealand over the past 30 years, covering a wide range of stories while on the staff of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Melbourne Age*, and later as senior writer for the South Pacific for *Time* magazine. Roff has been a regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine for the past 20 years. His numerous feature articles include "Beyond the Blue Horizon," about the seafaring voyages of the early Polynesian and Maori navigators.

ROFF WILL ACCOMPANY THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2016 DEPARTURES. READ OUR INTERVIEW WITH HIM ON PAGE 13. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EXPERTS ON OTHER DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 13 DAYS

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Depart for Auckland, crossing the international date line and arriving on Day 3. Settle into our historic hotel and join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner this evening.
HERITAGE HOTEL (D)

DAY 4 TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND/AUCKLAND

Board a ferry to Tiritiri Matangi Island, home to one of New Zealand's most important wildlife sanctuaries. Learn about conservation efforts here while seeking out endangered bird and reptile species, including the flightless takahe and the tuatara. Back on the mainland, explore the coastal cliffs and beaches of Shakespear Regional Park with a ranger before meeting with members of the local conservation community. This evening, enjoy free time to discover Auckland, known as the "city of sails" for the many sailboats that teem in its harbor. (B, L)



A farmer and his sheepdog round up the herd.

DAY 5 WAITOMO CAVES/ROTORUA

Travel to Waitomo and cruise through an otherworldly cave system illuminated by the turquoise light of thousands of tiny glowworms. After a



Steam rises off of jade-colored hot springs in Rotorua's volcanic landscape.

barbecue lunch, continue to Rotorua, a city built on geothermal landscapes. Get acquainted with the vibrant culture of the Maori people on a private tour of the Rotorua Museum.

NOVOTEL ROTORUA LAKESIDE (B, L)

DAY 6 LAKE TARAWERA

Delve deeper into Maori traditions, exploring the Lake Tarawera region in the company of a guide from the Tuhourangi tribe. Enjoy a lunch featuring local Maori ingredients and flavors at our guide's home, then visit the Whakarewarewa village and take part in a *mihi whakatau* welcome ritual. Join the villagers for afternoon tea, attend weaving and carving demonstrations, and listen to the melodies of Maori music. By special permission, our group will have the opportunity to mingle with members of the tribe over a private dinner of traditional dishes. (B, L, D)

DAYS 7 AND 8 HUKA FALLS/WELLINGTON/BLLENHEIM

Travel overland to Wellington, New Zealand's charming capital city, stopping en route to see the mighty Huka Falls and enjoy a lakeside lunch. The next day, visit the famous Weta Workshop, the special effects group behind several blockbuster movies, including *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of their design studio and participate in a hands-on demonstration of the creative processes used to develop their props. Next, join a local expert at the impressive Te Papa Tongarewa national museum for an insider's tour, followed by a special viewing of cultural artifacts in the private galleries. This afternoon, take in spectacular vistas as we ferry across the Cook Strait to the South Island. Check in to our

See our New Zealand Family Expedition on page 121.

hotel in Blenheim, in the heart of Marlborough wine country. COPTHORNE HOTEL (B, L); CHATEAU MARLBOROUGH HOTEL (B, D)

DAY 9 BLENHEIM/CHRISTCHURCH

Set out to a nearby sheep farm to watch herding dogs at work before sitting down to a home-cooked lunch with the farm's owners. Travel to Christchurch this afternoon.

THE GEORGE OR HOTEL MONTREAL (B, L)

DAY 10 CHRISTCHURCH/QUEENSTOWN

Spend the day with a local police officer who was on call during the earthquake that all but leveled the city in 2011. Get a personal perspective on the city's resurgent cultural scene and its efforts to rebuild, visit the intriguing Quake City exhibit at the Canterbury Museum, and gather for morning tea at our guide's home. Fly to Queenstown in the evening and settle into our hotel on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. DOUBLETREE BY HILTON QUEENSTOWN (B)

DAY 11 DOUBTFUL SOUND/QUEENSTOWN

Journey into Fiordland National Park for a wilderness cruise through magnificent Doubtful Sound. As we navigate these pristine waters, take in the majesty of the fiords and their surrounding cliffs, blanketed in lush forest and sprinkled with waterfalls. Keep your eyes peeled for dolphins and fur seals. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Queenstown tonight. (B, L)

DAYS 12 AND 13 CENTRAL OTAGO/QUEENSTOWN/U.S.

Venture into the undulating landscapes of the Central Otago region and experience the tranquility of Lake Wanaka's cerulean waters. Wander



the quaint streets of Arrowtown, a historic gold-mining town, and stop at a winery for lunch. Return to Queenstown for our farewell dinner. The next day, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B, L, D; B)



Spirals are a distinctive motif in the ancient art of Maori woodcarving.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Nov. 6–18 • Dec. 4–16

2017: Jan. 15–27 • Feb. 26–Mar. 10

Expedition Cost:

\$7,995

Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$1,765. International airfare to Auckland and return from Queenstown and airfare within New Zealand are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight within New Zealand is \$170 (subject to change).

LAND OF THE POLAR BEARS



A HIGH ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO SITUATED BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE NORTH POLE, Svalbard is a place of deep fjords, snowcapped 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 walrus, 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 11 and 18 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 in to 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.

Above: Polar bear cubs peer out from behind their mother on the ice floes of 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 on our Land of the Polar Bears expedition



Watch short videos about this expedition at natgeoexpeditions.com/polarbearvideo



A Zodiac moves with a swarm of kittiwakes at Monaco Glacier.

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 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.



The National Geographic Explorer

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, walrus, seals, reindeer, and arctic foxes. Nowhere can polar bears be seen more reliably in their natural environment than here. (B, L, D DAILY)

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)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 4–14 • June 11–21 • June 18–28

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$9,830
<i>Located on Main Deck with porthole</i>	
Category 2	\$10,470
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 3	\$10,880
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 4	\$11,530
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window</i>	
Category 5	\$13,610
<i>Located on Upper Deck with balcony</i>	
Category 6	\$15,890
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite</i>	
Category 7	\$18,160
<i>Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony</i>	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description and deck plan on page 136. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$2,620 in Category 2 and \$2,720 in Category 3. International airfare to/from Oslo and airfare within Norway are not included in the expedition cost. The round-trip group flight between Oslo and Longyearbyen is \$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.

NORWAY'S FJORDS AND ARCTIC SVALBARD



FOLLOW NORWAY'S FJORD-CARVED COAST past the North Cape to the icy isles of Svalbard on board the *National Geographic Explorer* or *National Geographic Orion*. 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 walrus loll on glaciers and magnificent icebergs.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Stroll past the medieval wooden houses of historic Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Bergen.
- Discover hidden inlets and cascading waterfalls while kayaking in the spectacular fjordlands.
- Learn about the cultures that flourish on the Arctic's edge.
- Spot polar bears and seals on the ice floes of the Svalbard archipelago.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, award-winning photographer **Sisse Brimberg** will join the May departure. She has produced more than 25 stories for *National Geographic*

magazine over the last three decades. Her work ranges from documenting the life of fairy-tale writer Hans Christian Andersen to a National Geographic project chronicling Viking culture. She won first prize for "Picture Story of the Year" from the National Press Photographers Association for her story on migrant workers. Born in Denmark, Sisse established and managed her own photo studio in Copenhagen after attending photography school. Her photographs have been exhibited around the world in Germany, Greece, Brazil, Mexico, New York City, and Washington, D.C.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 17 DAYS

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

Depart on an overnight flight to Bergen, the gateway to the fjordlands. Ringed by seven hills, this beautiful city was once an important Hanseatic trading center. Discover Bergen's maritime history on a guided walk of Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage site, before beginning our voyage into the fjordlands.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER OR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION (L, D)

DAY 3 NORDFJORD

Glide through the little-known Nordfjord and travel overland to see the jagged peaks and turquoise lake of Loen Valley. Hike through deep, glacially carved valleys to Briksdal Glacier. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 SMØLA

A small, flat island in the North Sea, Smøla is home to a fishing community of about 2,100. Spend

time today exploring the wetlands, fishing villages, and rugged coasts by special permission. Go for a coastal walk or bike ride, or take a kayaking excursion in its protected bays. Many a ship has sunk around Smøla, and our ROV should be able to view wrecks dating back hundreds of years. (B, L, D)

DAYS 5 AND 6 EXPLORING THE FJORDS OF NORWAY

Along the dramatic coast of central Norway, cruise in a Zodiac along vertical rock faces, paddle a kayak past countless waterfalls, and go for a hike with our naturalists. Explore hidden gems such as Melfjorden, a spectacular narrow channel that cuts between high granite cliffs. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 7 LOFOTEN ISLANDS

Travel among the islets by Zodiac to view Atlantic puffins, razorbills, and guillemots. Go ashore for a stroll on the island of Værøy. Later, cruise into dramatic Trollfjorden, one of the most famous fjords in Norway. (B, L, D)

Above: A kayaker slips her paddle into a glassy bay in Svalbard.



A polar bear and her cub interact at the ice's edge.

DAY 8 TYSFJORDEN

This morning, enter the long fjord of Tysfjorden, where only a few small villages cling to the rocky shores. Explore Hellemobotn and the area's numerous side channels by Zodiac, kayak, or on foot. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 TROMSØ

Tromsø is known as the "gateway to the Arctic" because so many Arctic expeditions have originated here. Visit the Polar Museum and the Arctic Cathedral, where the unique architecture evokes snow and icebergs. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 BJØRNØYA (BEAR ISLAND)

We now set our sights on the high Arctic, taking

advantage of opportunities to explore on our way to Bear Island. Glide a Zodiac into the coves and inlets of this mist-shrouded island, populated by thousands of seabirds. (B, L, D)

DAYS 11-15 EXPLORING SVALBARD

Spend five days searching for walrus, seals, reindeer, arctic foxes, and polar bears among the deep fjords, mountains, and ice sheets of Svalbard. Our itinerary is flexible, allowing us to make the most of ice and weather conditions and maximize wildlife sightings. See the description on pages 94 and 95 for more details on these days in Svalbard. (B, L, D DAILY)



Brightly painted cottages dot a blooming shoreline in the Lofoten archipelago.



DAY 16 LONGYEARBYEN/OSLO

Disembark in Longyearbyen and visit the Svalbard Art Gallery and Svalbard Museum. Then board our charter flight to Oslo and check in to our hotel. RADISSON BLU AIRPORT HOTEL (B, L)

DAY 17 OSLO/U.S.

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

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: May 22–June 7* • July 2–18 • July 15–31†

*This departure is aboard the National Geographic Explorer. The other two departures are aboard the National Geographic Orion.

†This departure follows the itinerary shown but in the reverse order with accommodations on Day 2 at Thon Hotel Opera in Oslo.

Expedition Cost:

	Explorer	Orion
Category 1	\$15,930	\$15,930
Category 2	\$16,790	\$16,790
Category 3	\$17,660	\$19,000
Category 4	\$19,000	\$21,270
Category 5	\$21,270	\$25,360
Category 6	\$25,360	\$29,140
Category 7	\$29,140	

See photos, descriptions, and deck plans for the National Geographic Explorer and the National Geographic Orion on pages 136 and 137. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single-cabin pricing, see our website. International airfare to Bergen and return from Oslo, or vice versa, and airfare within Norway are not included in the expedition cost. The group flight between Longyearbyen and Oslo is \$365 (subject to change).

Optional Extension:

For voyages aboard the National Geographic Explorer, add a four-day post-trip extension to Iceland that includes Reykjavik and the Golden Circle. Visit our website or call for details.

EPIC 80° N: EXPLORING GREENLAND AND BAFFIN AND ELLESMERE ISLANDS



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Embark on an epic Arctic voyage aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*, enjoying the ship's amenities and listening to talks by our experts along the way.
- Glide between soaring icebergs at the mouth of Greenland's Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Observe polar bears, walrus, and caribou; humpback, minke, and beluga whales; and perhaps the elusive narwhal.
- Discover the incredible landscapes and wildlife of legendary Baffin Island on hikes and excursions by Zodiac.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

Fly overnight to Reykjavík. Take a guided tour of the old town, or soak in the geothermal Blue Lagoon. HILTON REYKJAVÍK NORDICA HOTEL OR ICELANDAIR REYKJAVÍK NATURA (L, D)

DAYS 3 AND 4 KANGERLUSSUAQ, GREENLAND/SISIMIUT/AT SEA

Fly to Greenland and embark our ship. Discover west Greenland's fjords and the former whaling port of Sisimiut. Watch for whales as we cross Baffin Bay. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 5, 6, AND 7 BAFFIN ISLAND, CANADA

Hike at Qikiqtarjuaq toward Coronation Fjord. Stops include Niaqurnak Point—a former Inuit camp—and Isabella Bay. (B, L, D DAILY)

Above: The *National Geographic Explorer*, a state-of-the-art icebreaker, navigates past a dramatic iceberg.

DAYS 8, 9, AND 10 EXPLORING THE CANADIAN HIGH ARCTIC

Search for ringed seals, walrus, polar bears, and whales. Explore Milne Inlet for possible sightings of the elusive narwhal. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 11, 12, AND 13 DEVON ISLAND/ELLESMERE ISLAND

At the entrance to the Northwest Passage, encounter Devon Island's Croker Bay and Philpots Island. Continue to Ellesmere Island to search for polar bears from the ship's deck and go hiking or kayaking. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 14 AND 15 FARTHER NORTH

Spend two days exploring to 80° N, and beyond if the ice allows. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 16–19 NORTHWESTERN GREENLAND

Visit the former community of Etah and encounter glaciers, fjords, and islands. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 20 AND 21 UUMMANNAQ/ILULISSAT

Stop at Qilakitsoq, where a collection of 15th-century mummies was discovered in 1972 and featured in the February 1985 *National Geographic* magazine. Sail into Qeqertarsuup Tunua, also called Disko Bay, to explore the Ilulissat Icefjord and the former Inuit village of Sermermiut. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 22 GREENLAND'S WEST COAST

In the fjords north of Søndre Strømfjord, explore by Zodiac or kayak, or hike across the tundra. (B, L, D)

DAY 23 KANGERLUSSUAQ/REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

Disembark in Kangerlussuaq and fly to Reykjavík. ICELANDAIR HOTEL REYKJAVÍK NATURA OR HILTON REYKJAVÍK NORDICA (B, L, D)

DAY 24 REYKJAVÍK/U.S.

Explore Reykjavík prior to your flight home. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Date:
2016: Aug. 13–Sept. 5

Expedition Cost:

Category 1 <i>Located on Main Deck with porthole</i>	\$25,190
Category 2 <i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	\$26,990
Category 3 <i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	\$27,990
Category 4 <i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window</i>	\$29,990
Category 5 <i>Located on Upper Deck with balcony</i>	\$36,200
Category 6 <i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite</i>	\$41,270
Category 7 <i>Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony</i>	\$47,960

See *National Geographic Explorer* photo, description, and deck plan on page 136. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$6,750 in Category 2 and \$7,000 in Category 3. International airfare to/from Reykjavík and the flights between Reykjavík and Kangerlussuaq are not included in the expedition cost. The round-trip group flight between Reykjavík and Kangerlussuaq is \$1,450 (subject to change).

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer **Jay Dickman** will join this departure. A seasoned photojournalist for more than 35 years, Jay has traveled to Papua New Guinea and the Arctic on assignments for *National Geographic* magazine. He has published five books and numerous articles for *National Geographic Traveler*, *LIFE*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Time*, and *Sports Illustrated*.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience an enchanting land of geological extremes on a voyage all the way around Iceland aboard the *National Geographic Explorer*.
- Explore one of Europe's largest ice caps and the lava-sculpted landscapes of the Westman Islands, and witness the power of the Godafoss Waterfall.
- Get up close to spectacular shapes in ice while cruising the iceberg-scattered bay of Jökulsárlón.
- Go birding on the Arctic Circle and the dramatic peninsula of Hornstrandir.

ITINERARY | 11 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

Fly overnight to Reykjavík. Take a walking tour of the old town and see Viking artifacts at the National Museum. Board our ship this afternoon. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER (L, D)

DAY 3 THE WEST COAST

Navigate Iceland's western frontier, spotting razorbills on the soaring Látrabjarg cliffs. Stroll around the charming island trading post of Flatey before exploring the coast by Zodiac. (B, L, D)

DAYS 4 AND 5 WESTFJORDS

Look for eider ducks while hiking or kayaking around the idyllic town of Ísafjörður. Then sail on to Hornstrandir, Iceland's magnificent, uninhabited northernmost peninsula. (B, L, D DAILY)

Above: Amid myriad shades of blue and gray, travelers stroll the ice-cluttered shores of Jökulsárlón.

EXPEDITION TEAM



Along with a diverse team of experts, National Geographic photographer **Michael Melford** will join both departures.

Michael has produced more than a dozen feature stories for *National Geographic* magazine and more than 30 for *National Geographic Traveler*. Michael enjoys giving seminars and workshops on photography and sharing his love of nature and his extensive knowledge of the digital medium.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

DAY 6 THE NORTHERN COAST

In Siglufjörður, learn about a local industry at the Herring Museum. Continue to Akureyri for a stroll in the old town or visit the botanical garden. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 MÝVATN AND HÚSAVÍK

Drive to Mývatn, Iceland's most geologically active area. See bubbling mud pools at Hverarönd, the volcanic crater at Viti, and Godafoss, the "waterfall of the gods." From Húsavík, set sail for the island of Grímsey, situated on the Arctic Circle. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 NORTHEAST ICELAND

Iceland's rugged east coast is an unspoiled stretch of rocky outcrops and hidden coves. Today's schedule is flexible so that we can take advantage of wildlife sightings and discover the region by Zodiac and on foot. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 DJÚPIVOGUR

Dock in Djúpivogur and venture onto the vast Vatnajökull ice cap, the third largest in the world. Then cruise Jökulsárlón, a lagoon strewn with stunning icebergs of all shapes and sizes. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 WESTMAN ISLANDS

The volcanic Westman Islands are among the youngest of the world's archipelagos. Sail past Surtsey, the planet's newest island, formed in 1963 and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. On the island of Heimaey, visit a volcanic crater still warm from a 1973 eruption, and take in an amazing landscape engulfed by lava. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 REYKJAVÍK/U.S.

Disembark in Reykjavík and enjoy lunch in town. Soak in the gem-colored geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon before your flight home. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: July 10–20 • July 19–29

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$9,820
<i>Located on Main Deck with porthole</i>	
Category 2	\$10,680
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 3	\$10,990
<i>Located on Main Deck with window</i>	
Category 4	\$11,990
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks with window</i>	
Category 5	\$14,230
<i>Located on Upper Deck with balcony</i>	
Category 6	\$16,990
<i>Located on Upper and Veranda Decks—suite</i>	
Category 7	\$19,350
<i>Located on Upper Deck—suite with balcony</i>	

See *National Geographic Explorer* description, photo, and deck plan on page 136. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For a single cabin, add \$2,670 in Category 2 and \$2,750 in Category 3. International airfare to/from Reykjavík is not included in the expedition cost.

Optional Extension:

Add a two-day pre-trip extension to Reykjavík and the Golden Circle. Visit our website or call for details.

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 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, award-winning filmmaker, photographer, and explorer **Kip Evans** will join the November 27 and December 7, 2016 departures. Kip has

led or participated in more than 50 expeditions throughout the world, including recent assignments in Alaska, the Indian Ocean, Chile, and South Africa. As a photographer, he has worked on dozens of National Geographic Society projects since 1998, including the five-year Sustainable Seas project to explore and document the U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries. Kip's images have been featured in *National Geographic* magazine, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Outside*, and *Alert Diver*. In 2014, Kip lived underwater for 17 days in the Aquarius underwater laboratory as an aquanaut with Fabien Cousteau's Mission 31.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.

ITINERARY | 14 DAYS

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

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires (*Explorer* departures) or Santiago (*Orion* departures). Settle into our hotel before heading out on an afternoon tour of the city. Gather tonight for a welcome reception. SOFITEL BUENOS AIRES (OR ALVEAR ART HOTEL) OR THE RITZ-CARLTON, SANTIAGO (L)

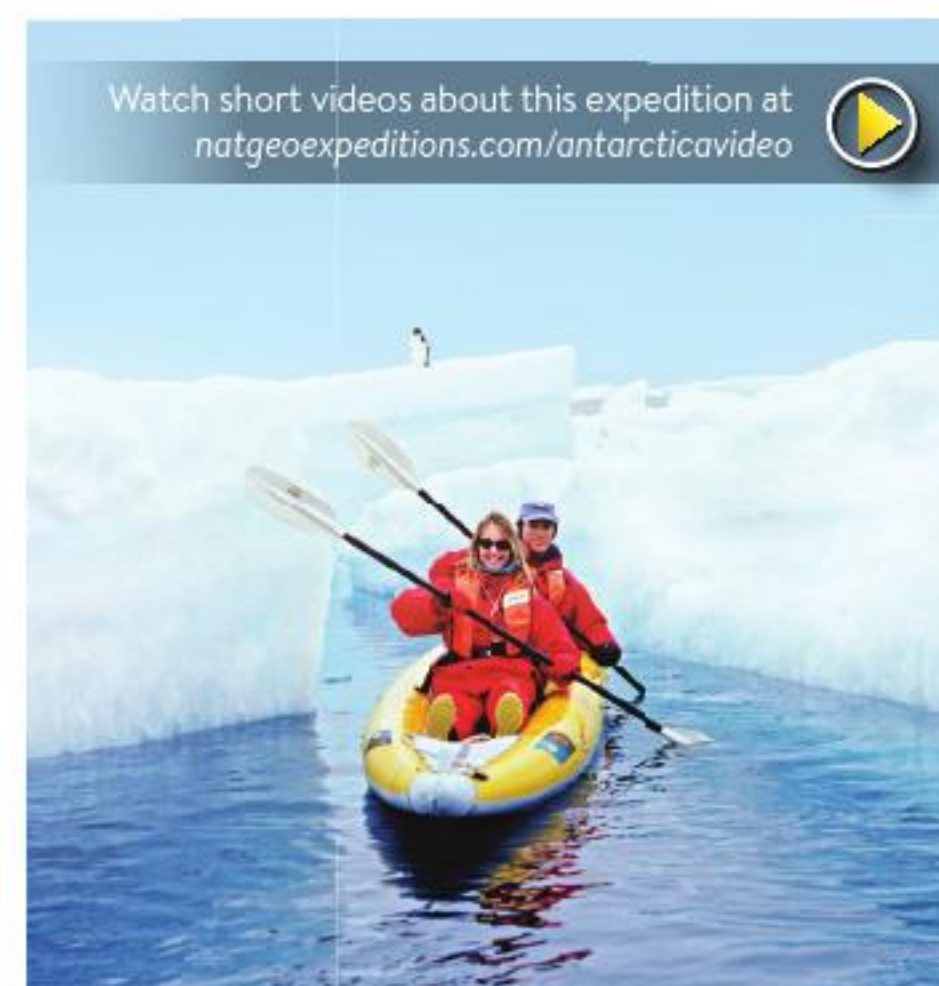
DAY 3 USHUAIA, ARGENTINA

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)

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)

Watch short videos about this expedition at natgeoexpeditions.com/antarcticavideo



Kayakers emerge from an icy passage.

DAYS 5-10 EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

With nearly 24 hours of daylight at this time of year, 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,

“ 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 on our Journey to Antarctica



On a recent expedition, a curious minke whale circled our Zodiacs to get a closer look.

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 cliffside rookery in search of blue-eyed shags.

LEMAIRE CHANNEL AND PETERMANN ISLAND

Cruise through the Lemaire Channel between 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 OR SANTIAGO, CHILE/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia. After lunch, fly to Buenos Aires (*Explorer* departures) or Santiago (*Orion* departures) by private charter and connect with your overnight flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2016 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare between Miami and Buenos Aires/Santiago on the November 27 and December 7, 2016 departures.



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016/2017 Season: Nov. 27–Dec. 10 • Dec. 7–20
Dec. 16–29*† • Dec. 17–30*
Dec. 26, 2016–Jan. 8, 2017*†
Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 9, 2017* • Jan. 5–18*
Jan. 6–19 • Jan. 15–28* • Jan. 16–29
Jan. 26–Feb. 8 • Feb. 5–18

*These departures are aboard the *National Geographic Orion* and begin and end in Santiago, Chile. All other departures are aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* and begin and end in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

†Indicates a holiday departure. Visit our website for special pricing.

Expedition Cost:

2016/2017 Season	<i>Explorer</i>	<i>Orion</i>
Category 1	\$13,360	\$13,360
Category 2	\$14,360	\$14,360
Category 3	\$14,790	\$15,920
Category 4	\$15,920	\$18,990
Category 5	\$19,150	\$21,880
Category 6	\$21,880	\$25,480
Category 7	\$25,480	

See descriptions, photos, and deck plans for the *National Geographic Explorer* and *National Geographic Orion* on pages 136 and 137. 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 an extension in Buenos Aires, Iguazú Falls, or Easter Island. For voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, add an extension in Santiago or Easter Island. 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 19th-century explorer Ernest Shackleton. Traveling aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* or the new *National Geographic Orion*, spend five days discovering the Antarctic Peninsula. Then 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 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, photographer **Sisse Brimberg** will join the February 15, 2017 departure. Sisse has produced more than 25 stories for *National Geographic* magazine. Her work ranges from documenting the life of Hans Christian Andersen to a National Geographic project chronicling Viking culture. She won first prize for "Picture Story of the Year" from the National Press Photographers Association for her story on migrant workers. Sisse's photography has been exhibited in Germany, Greece, Brazil, Mexico, New York City, and Washington, D. C.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



The National Geographic Society funds research, conservation, and exploration, including research assessing the effect of global warming on female leopard seals, as well as climbing expeditions in Antarctica.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

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

Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires (*Explorer* departures) or Santiago (*Orion* departures). Settle into our hotel before heading out on an afternoon tour of the city. Gather tonight for a welcome reception. **SOFITEL BUENOS AIRES OR THE RITZ-CARLTON, SANTIAGO (L)**

DAY 3 USHUAIA, ARGENTINA

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 into 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)**



Black-browed albatrosses nest atop a rocky coastal cliff in the Falkland Islands.

DAYS 5-10 EXPLORING ANTARCTICA

With long hours of daylight at this time of year, we have ample opportunity to explore the Antarctic Peninsula and its 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



Guests approach massive sculptures in ice at Booth Island, Antarctica..

experience close encounters with wildlife. See the description on pages 100 and 101 for more details about these days on the Antarctic Peninsula. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 11 AND 12 AT SEA

As we head north toward South Georgia, watch for whales from the ship's bridge, attend talks by our experts, and enjoy the amenities on board. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 13-17 SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND

Arrive in South Georgia, renowned for its beauty



From its icy parking spot, the *National Geographic Explorer* gives travelers unfettered access to Antarctic terrain.

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 18-21 AT SEA/FALKLAND ISLANDS

After two days at sea, dock in Port Stanley, and stroll along streets lined with Victorian-style houses. See an archway made of whalebone at the Christ Church Cathedral, and visit the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust. Hike and kayak along rocky coasts, spotting Magellanic penguins, enormous elephant seals, and albatrosses. (B, L, D DAILY)

DAY 22 AT SEA

On our final day 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)

DAYS 23 AND 24 USHUAIA, ARGENTINA/ BUENOS AIRES OR SANTIAGO, CHILE/U.S.

Disembark in Ushuaia. After lunch, fly to Buenos Aires (*Explorer* departures) or Santiago (*Orion* departures) by private charter, and connect with your overnight flight home, arriving the next day. (B, L)



INFORMATION

Dates:

2016/2017 Season: Nov. 6–29*† • Nov. 7–30†
Nov. 26–Dec. 19*† • Jan. 25–Feb. 17*
Feb. 14–Mar. 17* • Feb. 15–Mar. 10

*These departures are aboard the *National Geographic Orion* and begin and end in Santiago, Chile. All other departures are aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* and begin and end in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

†These departures follow the itinerary shown but in the reverse order, visiting the Falkland Islands first and ending in Antarctica.

Expedition Cost:

2016/2017 Season	<i>Explorer</i>	<i>Orion</i>
Category 1	\$23,100	\$23,100
Category 2	\$24,750	\$24,750
Category 3	\$25,910	\$27,130
Category 4	\$27,130	\$33,290
Category 5	\$33,290	\$38,420
Category 6	\$38,420	\$44,550
Category 7	\$44,550	

See descriptions, photos, and deck plans for the *National Geographic Explorer* and *National Geographic Orion* on pages 136 and 137. Prices are per person, double occupancy. For single-cabin 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 an extension in Buenos Aires, Iguazú Falls, or Easter Island. For voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, add an extension in Santiago or Easter Island. Visit our website or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by March 31, 2016 and receive complimentary round-trip international airfare from Miami to Buenos Aires/Santiago on the November 6, 7, and 26, 2016 departures.

AROUND THE WORLD BY PRIVATE JET



CIRCLE THE GLOBE WITH TOP NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Traveling in the comfort of a private jet, encounter legendary places from Machu Picchu and Tibet to the Taj Mahal and Marrakech. Experience natural wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Serengeti Plain, and the island paradise of Samoa.

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 Explorer-in-Residence Meave Leakey 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



A 28-year veteran of the National Geographic Society, **Rob Hernandez** began as a senior editor for *National Geographic* magazine and later founded its International

Publishing division, which publishes magazines, books, and other media in more than 35 languages. Raised in Cuba and Spain, Rob spent his early career doing ecological field research and documenting the wildlife and culture of the world's more remote places. He filmed a television special on lions in Namibia, explored the wilderness of New Guinea, journeyed to rarely visited corners of South America, and circumnavigated the Indian and Pacific Oceans in a small sailboat for two years. Rob looks forward to sharing his knowledge of and passion for the world with National Geographic travelers.

ROB WILL ACCOMPANY THE OCTOBER 24 DEPARTURE ALONG WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER SISSE BRIMBERG. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR BIOS OF THE FULL EXPEDITION TEAMS FOR ALL DEPARTURES.

ITINERARY | 24 DAYS

DAY 1 WASHINGTON, D.C.*

We begin this extraordinary adventure with a welcome reception at National Geographic Society headquarters, followed by dinner at our hotel. THE HAY-ADAMS (D)

DAYS 2, 3, AND 4 CUSCO/MACHU PICCHU, PERU

Arrive by private jet in Lima, Peru, then travel to Cusco by local flight. 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 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 archaeologists 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)

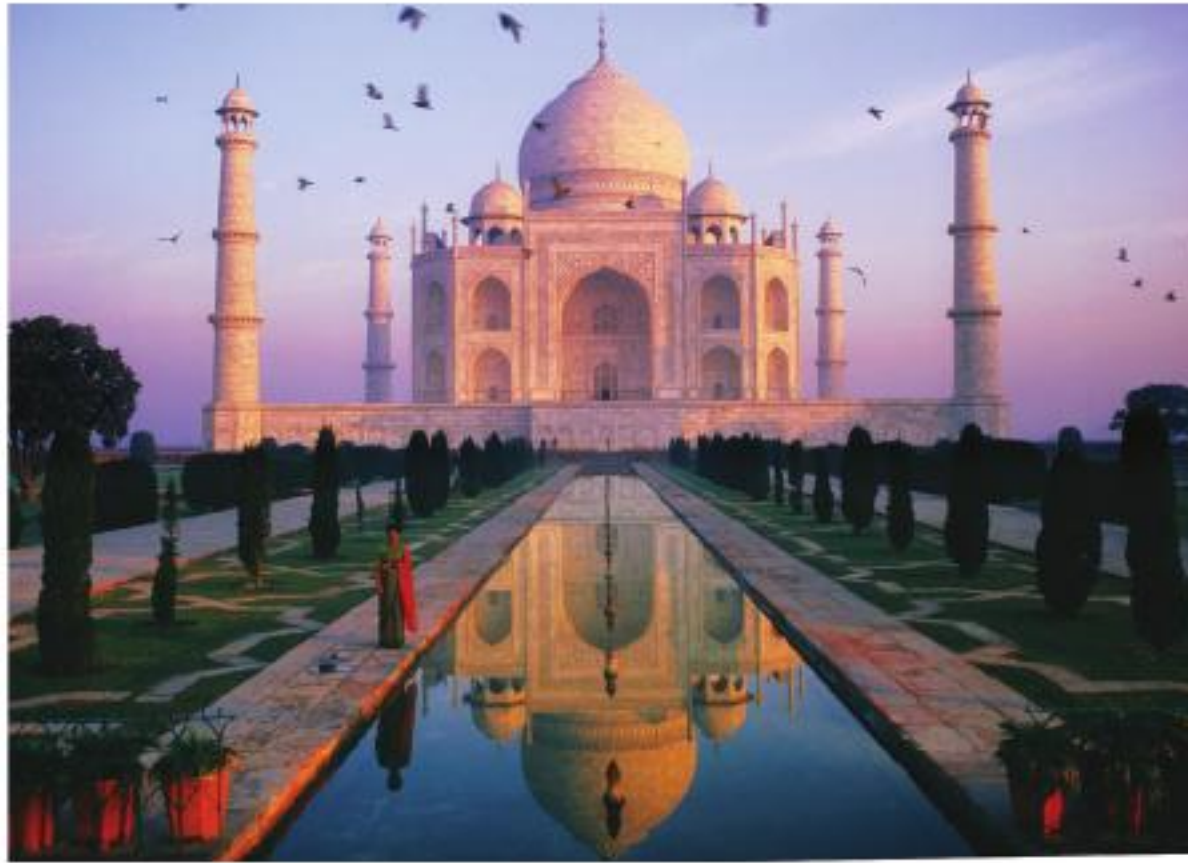
DAY 8 APIA, SAMOA

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. SHERATON SAMOA AGGIE GREY'S RESORT (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

Above inset photographs, top to bottom: Sunlight highlights a regal lion in the savanna; a Cambodian *apsara* dancer in traditional costume; a giant panda in Chengdu. Background photograph: Isolated among mountain peaks, the awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu are a testament to the ingenuity of the ancient Inca.



The architectural splendor of India's Taj Mahal is mirrored in a reflecting pool.

Rainforest. PULLMAN PORT DOUGLAS SEA TEMPLE RESORT & SPA (B, L, D DAILY)

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 Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. 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 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)

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 AMARVILĀS (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 Leakey 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 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/WASHINGTON, D.C.*

Fly by private jet to Washington, D.C. and connect with your flight home. (B, L)

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: Oct. 24–Nov. 16 • Oct. 27–Nov. 19
Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 19, 2017*

2017: Jan. 22–Feb. 14*

*The December 2016 and January 2017 departures follow the itinerary shown but begin and end in Orlando, Florida with accommodations on Day 1 at The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes.

Expedition Cost:

2016	\$76,950
2017	\$79,950

Prices are 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 Washington, D.C. or Orlando is not included.

Please note: There is a \$2,500 per-person deposit for this trip in 2016 and a \$5,000 per-person deposit in 2017. 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. Visit our website for more information and photos of the jet.

“**No words in a brochure can describe**

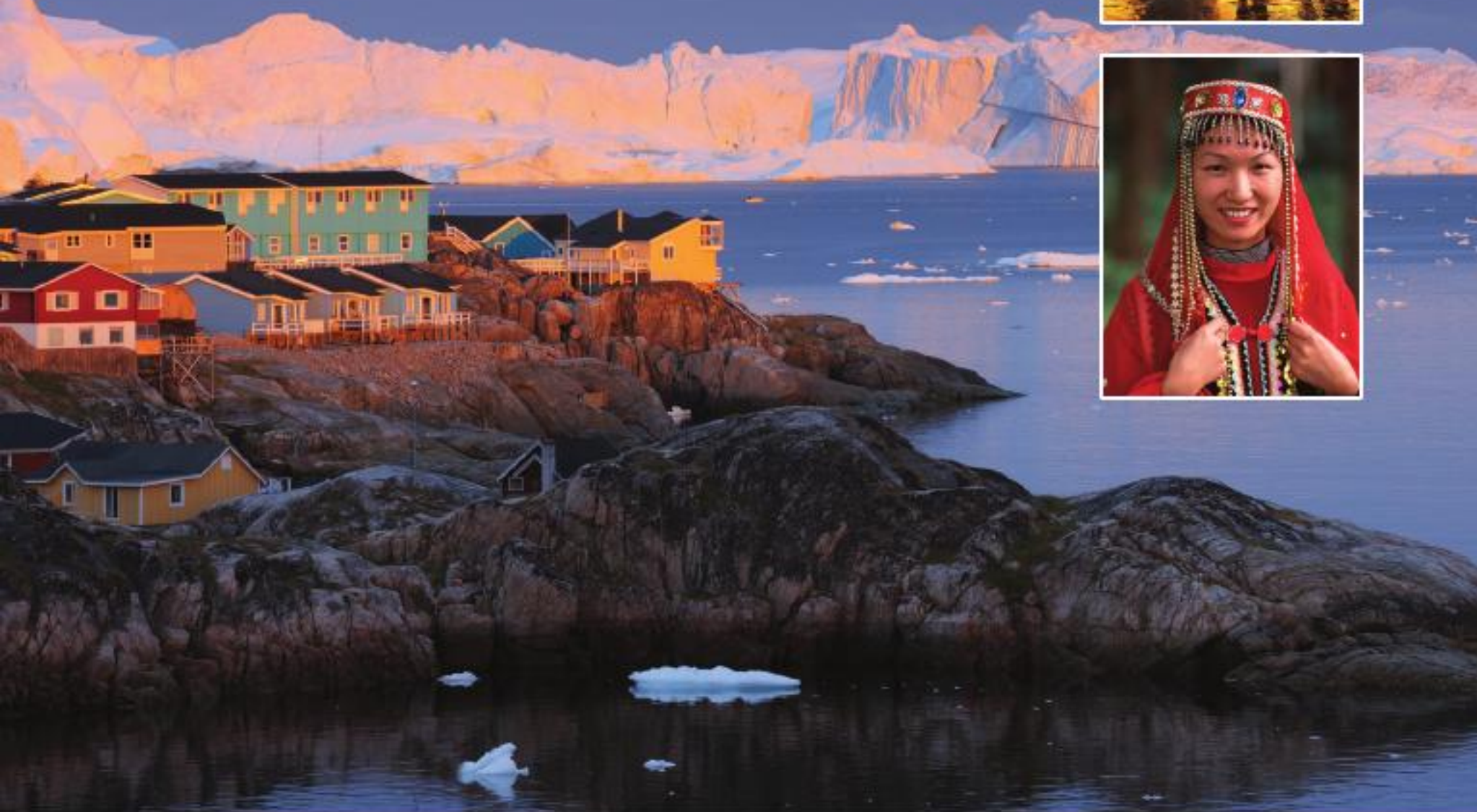
the things you will see, the experiences you will have, the people you will meet along the way, and the person you will be upon your return home.

It is the most inspiring experience of a lifetime.”

—Candy C., traveler on our Around the World expedition

PLEASE NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS PRIVATE JET EXPEDITION, VISIT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM OR CALL 1-800-224-1894.

AROUND THE WORLD BY PRIVATE JET: THE NORTHERN ROUTE new



DELVE INTO THE WORLDS OF EMPERORS AND EXILES, Arctic explorers and fossil-finders, and nomads of the desert and the ice as you circumnavigate the northern hemisphere by private jet. Explore Japan's exquisite spiritual architecture amid the gardens and shrines of Kyoto and Nara. Experience nomadic life in Mongolia's Gobi and trace Russian history in St. Petersburg and Irkutsk. Then head farther north to encounter Norway's fjords, Iceland's wondrous geology, and the glittering glaciers and icebergs of Greenland.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the Gobi from an authentic *ger* camp that is part of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World collection.
- Cruise Lake Baikal and attend a private concert at a historic manor house in Irkutsk, Siberia.
- Discover Norway's fjords by boat and train; and witness waterfalls, volcanoes, and geysers in Iceland.
- Meet Greenland's Inuit, walk along the glacier at Ilulissat Icefjord, and encounter icebergs.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT



National Geographic Explorer **Wade Davis** is an anthropologist, writer, photographer, and filmmaker whose work has taken him to remote places from the Amazon to the Arctic

to learn about and record complex cultures. Wade is the author of more than 15 books, including *One River*, *The Wayfinders*, *The Sacred Headwaters*, and *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest*, which won the prestigious 2012 Samuel Johnson Prize. His many film credits include *Light at the Edge of the World*, a documentary series produced for the National Geographic Channel. An honorary member of the Explorers Club, Wade received their highest award, the Explorers Medal, in 2011. He was also awarded the Gold Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 2009 and, in 2012, the David Fairchild Medal for botanical exploration.

WADE WILL ACCOMPANY THIS DEPARTURE ALONG WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER SISSE BRIMBERG AND GEOGRAPHER JAN NIJMAN. SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THEIR BIOS.

ITINERARY | 22 DAYS

DAYS 1 AND 2 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Meet experts, staff, and fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner at our hotel, located in the heart of downtown Seattle.

The next day, depart for Japan, and lose a day crossing the international date line.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL SEATTLE (D; B, L, D)

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 KYOTO AND NARA, JAPAN

After landing in Osaka, travel to Kyoto, home to UNESCO World Heritage-listed temples, shrines, and gardens. Visit Kinkakuji, or the "Golden Pavilion;" the wooden temple of Sanjusangendo; the striking torii gates at Fushimi Inari Shrine; and the palaces and gardens of Nijo Castle. In ancient Nara, visit the Todaiji temple, the world's largest wooden building, and the Kofukuji National Treasure Museum. Stroll through the Kasuga Grand Shrine, passing by 3,000 stone bronze lanterns.

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 6, 7, AND 8 ULAANBAATAR AND THE GOBI, MONGOLIA

Continue to 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 Tegchenling Monastery, one of the few monasteries to survive the communist religious purges in the 1930s. Then take a private local flight to the Gobi, where we stay at a traditional *ger* (tent) camp, a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Visit with a nomad family and experience their way of life firsthand. At the fossil quarries of Bayanzag, also known as the Flaming Cliffs, hunt for dinosaur fossils with a local paleontologist. Or explore Gorkhi-Terelj National Park. SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, ULAANBAATAR; THREE CAMEL LODGE OR TERELJ HOTEL (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 9 AND 10 IRKUTSK AND LAKE BAIKAL, RUSSIA

After the Decembrist revolt in 1825, exiled nobility settled in Siberia, bringing culture and infrastructure to cities like Irkutsk. Follow in their footsteps on a walk through the central

Clockwise from top left: Colorful medieval houses line the wharf in Bryggen, Norway; sunset at Iceland's Strokkur Geyser; a Mongolian woman in traditional garb. Background photograph: Beyond the town of Ilulissat on Greenland's Disko Bay, the Jakobshavn Glacier glows in the early morning light.



The ornate onion domes atop the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood add color to St. Petersburg's skyline.

square. Visit the Church of Our Savior and wander among the tombs of famous Siberians at the Znamenskaya cathedral. Discover the city's pivotal role in Russian history at the Monument to Russian Pioneers of Siberia. The next day, cruise Lake Baikal, a World Heritage site as well as the world's oldest and deepest lake. In the evening, enjoy a classical concert at the Volkonsky Manor. COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, IRKUTSK CITY CENTER (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 11, 12, AND 13 ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Designed by Peter the Great in the 18th century, elegant St. Petersburg still entices travelers with its magnificent palaces, superb art collections, and riveting history. At the lavishly restored Catherine Palace, marvel at the Amber Room, then visit the world-renowned State Hermitage



Shaded by her parasol, a geisha pauses beneath an arcade of red torii gates at Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto.



Museum and examine jewels and the works of Fabergé at its Treasure Galleries. Stroll through the gardens of Peterhof, the tsar's homage to Versailles. Tour Peter and Paul Fortress to see the stunning grounds and historic cathedral. Attend a performance at one of St. Petersburg's grand theaters, or cruise the Neva River. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LION PALACE (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 14 AND 15 BERGEN, NORWAY

The city of Bergen is our base for discovering the fjords and valleys of western Norway. After a walking tour of the colorful harbor district of World Heritage-listed Bryggen, choose from several options. Embark on a cruise and a thrilling ride on the Flåm Railway, take a guided excursion through historic Bergen, or hike through the countryside. Alternatively, opt to spend your days exploring in the fjords of western Norway. CLARION COLLECTION HOTEL HAVNEKONTORET OR HOTEL ULLENSVANG (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 16, 17, AND 18 REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND

In Iceland's vibrant capital of Reykjavík, explore the old town and the traditional wooden houses of the Árbær Open Air Museum. Relax and unwind in the geothermic hot springs of the Blue Lagoon. At Thingvellir National Park, stand astride the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. See the geothermal fields of Geysir, home to hot springs, mud pots, and boiling pools; and encounter the majestic Gullfoss. Choose among other excursions, including visiting a geothermal power plant, hiking through a nature reserve, or snowmobiling on a glacier. HOTEL BORG, REYKJAVÍK (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 19 AND 20 ILULISSAT, GREENLAND

Our next stop is Kangerlussuaq, a town of about

500 residents in western Greenland. Continue by charter flight north to the remote town of Ilulissat, which abuts the massive Ilulissat Icefjord, the source of many of the icebergs in Greenlandic waters. Cruise among craggy icebergs, take a walk along the ice fjord, and meet a dogsled team. You may also choose a longer hike to the abandoned Inuit settlement of Sermermiut, or a visit to a tiny hunting and fishing settlement. ARCTIC HOTEL, ILULISSAT (B, L, D DAILY)

DAYS 21 AND 22 ILULISSAT/BOSTON, MASS.

Fly to Boston and celebrate with a festive farewell dinner. The next day, connect with your commercial flight home. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BOSTON (B, L, D; B)

INFORMATION

Date:
2017: June 1-22

Expedition Cost: **\$71,950**
Price is per person, double occupancy. For a single room, add \$8,550. Transportation by private Boeing 757 jet and other conveyance, as noted in the itinerary, is included in the expedition cost. Airfare to Seattle and return from Boston is not included.

Please Note: There is a \$5,000 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 passengers in two-by-two, VIP-style leather seating.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS PRIVATE JET EXPEDITION, VISIT NATIONALGEOGRAPHICEXPEDITIONS.COM OR CALL 1-800-224-1894.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS



WHETHER YOU'RE CAPTURING A ROCK CLIMBER SCALING A CLIFF OR THE RADIANT LIGHT OF SANTA FE, you'll get in-depth instruction from some of the world's best photographers on a weeklong National Geographic photography workshop. Through the hands-on instruction and personal insights of a top National Geographic photographer and a professional instructor, both in the classroom and in the field, you'll build your skills as a photographer and visual storyteller. On daily shoots, you'll practice the techniques of our experts while benefiting from their critiques of your images, seeing a visually rich place from their perspective, and soaking up their passion for photography.

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.

ADVENTURE PHOTOGRAPHY: COLORADO

Kick your photo shoots into high gear on an adventure photography workshop in Boulder, Colorado. Using elite outdoor athletes as your subjects, join a top adventure-sports photographer to learn the fundamentals of taking action shots. Attend talks and demonstrations covering topics such as equipment selection and fill flash. Then take to the Rockies to practice capturing rock climbers, mountain bikers, and kayakers as they power their way through gorgeous landscapes. The workshop includes daily edit-and-critique sessions and opportunities to work on landscape photography in the surrounding mountains.

Optional Accommodations: Boulder Marriott

6 Days • 2016: May 15–20 • Oct. 2–7

Cost without hotel: \$3,595

Cost with hotel: \$4,555



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 sagebrush 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 • 2016: June 19–25 • June 26–July 2

Workshop cost: \$4,295 (includes hotel)

PARIS AND PROVENCE

From the iconic monuments along the Seine to the sunny southern towns that inspired Vincent van Gogh, experience France through your lens during a workshop that combines Paris and Provence. In Paris, photograph vibrant street life against the backdrop of architecture both classically elegant and cutting-edge. 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 Arles, set out to capture the colorful markets and Roman ruins, and frame the view from the hilltop hamlet of Les Baux.

Accommodations: Hotel Bedford, Paris and Hotel Jules César, Arles

7 Days • 2016: Apr. 19–25 • Oct. 11–17

Workshop cost: \$4,875 (includes hotel)



Clockwise from top left: A trail runner caught mid-stride in a sunlit action shot; perched on a rocky outcrop near Santa Fe, a photographer frames her shot; soft blossoms set off the iron angles of the Eiffel Tower; wranglers and their charges kick up dust in Wyoming.



MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING: SANTA FE

A melting pot of cowboys, artists, Native Americans, and more, eclectic Santa Fe is full of people with unique stories to tell. Capture the colorful narratives of the city's residents with guidance from a top photographer and filmmaker. Using Santa Fe's historic adobe buildings, open-air markets, and surrounding snowcapped mountains as a backdrop, work in small teams to create a digital story—from the inception of the narrative to the product's final edit—as you incorporate skills learned in the classroom. Daily talks and demonstrations cover topics such as story choice and development, interviewing subjects, using multimedia equipment and software, audio recording, and basic sequencing and video-editing skills. Visit our website for specific camera recommendations and to see the multimedia equipment that is provided.

Optional Accommodations: Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza

7 Days • 2016: Apr. 10–16 • Oct. 23–29

Cost without hotel: \$2,445*

Cost with hotel: \$3,145*

*Applicable New Mexico sales tax is additional.

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 unique 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 shrouded in vines and flowering trees and set against a deep blue sky. Go on a photo shoot near Ghost Ranch, the former home of Georgia O'Keeffe, and zoom in on the sandstone mesas and yellow- and red-banded buttes depicted in many of the artist's paintings. Then spend an afternoon taking portraits of cowboys and their horses at a re-created Old West town. Explore the saloon, sheriff's office, and the jail, and capture scenes that embody the essence of the old Wild West.

Optional Accommodations: Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza

5 Days • 2016: May 10–14 • July 12–16 • Oct. 11–15

Cost without hotel: \$1,995*

Cost with hotel: \$2,430*

*Applicable New Mexico sales tax is additional.

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, single rates, and meals included for these workshops or to reserve space, go to nationalgeographicexpeditions.com or call 1-866-797-4686.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

ADVENTURE PHOTOGRAPHY: COLORADO



After starting out as a skateboard photographer, National Geographic photographer **Keith Ladzinski** went on to shoot outdoor adventure stories. His work has been featured in *National Geographic* magazine, *Discover Magazine*, *Men's Journal*, *Outside*, *Runner's World*, and *ESPN* magazine. Keith will lead the May workshop.

WYOMING'S COWBOY COUNTRY



Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer **Jay Dickman** has worked in photojournalism for more than 40 years and completed more than 25 assignments for *National Geographic*. A popular photo instructor, he has covered topics throughout the American West. Jay will lead both of the Wyoming workshops.

PARIS AND PROVENCE



Award-winning photographer **Sisse Brimberg** has photographed more than 25 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines. She has spent most of her career working in Europe and has been awarded multiple prizes for her photography. Sisse will lead both of the Paris and Provence workshops.

MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING: SANTA FE



Bob Sacha is an award-winning multimedia producer, documentary filmmaker, and editor. A contributing photographer at *National Geographic* magazine, he has covered assignments from New York City to Easter Island. Bob will lead the October workshop.

SANTA FE



Photojournalist **Lynn Johnson** is a regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine who has photographed the global human condition for the past 35 years. She has also published stories in publications such as *LIFE* magazine and *Sports Illustrated*. Lynn will lead the July Santa Fe workshop.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILED BIOS OF THE EXPERTS LISTED ABOVE AND FOR EXPERTS LEADING OTHER DEPARTURES.

WEEKEND PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS



HONE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS WITH A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER over a long weekend in one of the country's most picturesque cities. You'll learn to take magazine-quality photos through field assignments, daily edit-and-critique sessions, and the insights of our experts. Explore techniques and perspectives that will enhance your visual-storytelling ability. These workshops—each led by a National Geographic photographer and a professional instructor—are designed for amateurs who are interested in improving their digital photography. Each workshop concludes with a presentation of the group's best images.

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.

AUSTIN

With dynamic street art, food trucks cooking up inventive dishes, and unique sounds emanating from live-music venues, Austin's expressions of creativity will diversify any photographer's portfolio. Document the downtown farmer's market, the epicenter of the city food scene; shoot festive streets after dark; photograph early morning activity and cityscape views along Lady Bird Lake; and capture symbols of traditional Texas in the state's famously progressive town.

Optional Accommodations: InterContinental Stephen F. Austin

4 Days • 2016: Apr. 7–10 • May 5–8 • Nov. 17–20

Cost without hotel: \$1,665

Cost with hotel: \$2,215

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 photographs are curated and produced for our publications.

Optional Accommodations: Beacon Hotel

4 Days • 2016: Apr. 14–17 • May 12–15
Sept. 22–25 • Oct. 20–23

Cost without hotel: \$1,445

Cost with hotel: \$1,835

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, capturing timeless streetcars, balconies tangled with flowers, and the mimes of Jackson Square. Photograph a historic cemetery, and document the nightlife near Bourbon Street.

Optional Accommodations: Windsor Court Hotel

4 Days • 2016: Mar. 31–Apr. 3 • Oct. 13–16
Nov. 3–6

Cost without hotel: \$1,665

Cost with hotel: \$2,190



NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.

For day-by-day itineraries, single rates, and meals included for these workshops or to reserve space, go to nationalgeographicexpeditions.com or call 1-866-797-4686.



NEW YORK CITY

Brimming with towering skyscrapers and the colorful bustle of street life, New York City presents photographers with an endless array of subjects. Capture the environs of Ground Zero Memorial, catch the sunset from the top of Rockefeller Center, and photograph the iconic Brooklyn Bridge. Complete a portrait assignment in lively 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 • 2016: Apr. 28–May 1 • May 26–29
June 9–12 • Sept. 29–Oct. 2
Oct. 20–23

Cost without hotel: \$1,665
Cost with hotel: \$2,540



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 the 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 • 2016: Apr. 7–10 • June 23–26

Cost without hotel: \$1,665
Cost with hotel: \$2,060

ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS IN NEW YORK CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO WITH JOE McNALLY

Our advanced photography workshops are designed for advanced photographers and National Geographic photography workshop alumni who want to take the next step in their technical and image-making abilities. The workshops feature lectures and demonstrations on a variety of advanced photography techniques including improving your understanding of exposure and metering, flash photography and mixed light situations, and enhancing your ability to tell powerful stories through photos. Visit our website for details and pricing.

New York City

4 Days • 2016: May 12–15 • Sept. 22–25
Oct. 13–16

San Francisco:

4 Days • 2016: Apr. 21–24 • Aug. 18–21

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS IN NEW YORK CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO

It's often said that the best camera is the one you have with you, and in this age of revolutionary mobile imaging, that camera is likely to be a smartphone. Delve into this sophisticated technology during a weekend workshop in New York City or San Francisco, and discover how to get the best images from your mobile device. Visit our website for details and pricing.

New York City:

2 Days • 2016: June 4–5 • Oct. 29–30

San Francisco:

2 Days • 2016: Apr. 30–May 1 • Oct. 1–2

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

AUSTIN



Michael O'Brien shot the *National Geographic* magazine cover story on Austin, "Deep in the Heart of Texans." He will lead the April and November Austin workshops.

WASHINGTON, D.C.



National Geographic staff photographer and Washington, D.C. resident **Mark Thiessen** will lead the May and September Washington, D.C. workshops.

NEW ORLEANS



Award-winning photojournalist and New Orleans native **Tyrone Turner** will lead all of the New Orleans workshops.

NEW YORK CITY



Award-winning photojournalist **Stephanie Sinclair** is a regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine. She will lead the October New York City workshop.

SAN FRANCISCO



Photographer and San Francisco native **Catherine Karnow** will lead both of the San Francisco workshops.

ADVANCED WORKSHOPS



Photographer **Joe McNally**, a regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine, will lead all of the New York City and San Francisco Advanced workshops.

SMARTPHONE WORKSHOPS



Award-winning photojournalist and filmmaker **Ed Kashi** will lead both of the New York City Smartphone workshops.



National Geographic photography fellow and social media guru **David Guttenfelder** will lead the April San Francisco Smartphone workshop.

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.

All land-based photo expeditions are limited to 16 travelers.

MONGOLIA

Home to sweeping landscapes and a nomadic culture that predates 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.

13 Days • 2016: June 30–July 12 • July 30–Aug. 11
Expedition Cost: \$6,995
Airfare within Mongolia: \$340

INSIDE JAPAN

An intriguing mix of time-honored tradition and cutting-edge modernity, Japan is a fascinating place to photograph. In Kyoto, enjoy an exclusive photo opportunity with an 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 74 for the day-by-day itinerary.

12 Days • 2016: Apr. 6–17 • Nov. 9–20
2017: Apr. 13–24
Expedition Cost: \$8,495

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 festival and crimson-robed monks against a backdrop of whitewashed *dzong* architecture. Hike into forests where wild moss creates an otherworldly atmosphere, and photograph breathtaking panoramas of snow-clad peaks.

See page 78 for the day-by-day itinerary.

12 Days • 2016: Apr. 16–27 • Oct. 5–16
Expedition Cost: \$7,195
Airfare between Bangkok and Paro: From \$960



WINTER IN JAPAN

Focus your lens on Japan's exquisite wintertime landscapes, where snow, ice, and steaming hot springs provide the backdrop to a thrilling wildlife display. Explore dynamic Tokyo, then fly north to Hokkaido to document the island's magnificent red-crowned cranes as they perform courtship dances in the snow. Zoom in on whooper swans congregating on crater lakes, and capture the ancient ways of the Ainu people. Marvel at ice or snow sculpture masterpieces at a winter festival; soak in soothing hot springs; and conclude your journey in Nagano, photographing Japan's famed snow monkeys.

See page 75 for the day-by-day itinerary.

12 Days • 2017: Jan. 31–Feb. 11 • Feb. 22–Mar. 5
Expedition Cost: \$8,495
Airfare within Japan: From \$580

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 and the Great Wall. Frame close-ups of Xi'an's terra-cotta warriors from the site's VIP platform. Experience the fantastic karst landscapes near Guilin, and document rural planting or harvest time. Cap off your journey in dazzling Shanghai.

See our website for the day-by-day itinerary.

14 Days • 2016: Apr. 15–28 • Sept. 16–29
Expedition Cost: \$7,895
Airfare within China: From \$550

Clockwise from top left: A horseman in traditional dress drives his herd on the expansive grasslands of Mongolia; sunlight dapples a majestic lion with rich hues of gold and orange; the vibrant colors of dried fruits and spices beckon passersby in the Marrakech medina; beautifully patterned obis flow from the traditional kimonos of two geisha.



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 80 for the day-by-day itinerary.

**11 Days • 2016: Mar. 5–15 • Aug. 13–23
Sept. 17–27**

2017: Mar. 4–14

**Expedition Cost: 2016: From \$8,995
2017: \$9,495**

Airfare within Tanzania: From \$425

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. Venture to Everest's North Face Base Camp to photograph the world's highest peaks.

See page 77 for the day-by-day itinerary.

16 Days • 2016: Oct. 29–Nov. 13

Expedition Cost: \$9,125

Airfare from Beijing to Lhasa: \$475

**NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available.
Airfare is not included and is subject to change.**

**See a complete list of all our photography expeditions at
natgeoexpeditions.com/photography.**



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 86 for the day-by-day itinerary.

11 Days • 2016: May 6–16 • Sept. 30–Oct. 10

Expedition Cost: \$6,995

ETHIOPIA

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 85 for the day-by-day itinerary.

**14 Days • 2016: Sept. 17–30
Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 9, 2017**

2017: Jan. 9–22

Expedition Cost: \$8,995

Airfare within Ethiopia: \$695

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

MONGOLIA



National Geographic Society Explorer and leading documentary photographer **Chris Rainier** will lead the July 2016 Mongolia Photo Expedition.

BHUTAN



National Geographic photographer **Alison Wright** will lead both 2016 Bhutan Photo Expeditions.

WINTER IN JAPAN & INSIDE JAPAN



National Geographic photographer **Karen Kasamauski** will lead the April 2016 Inside Japan and February 2017 Winter in Japan Photo Expeditions.

CHINA



Fritz Hoffman has photographed several *National Geographic* articles on China. He will lead both departures of the China Photo Expedition.

TANZANIA



One of the first female photographers to work for National Geographic, **Annie Griffiths** will lead the August 2016 Tanzania Photo Expedition.

MOROCCO



Steve Casimiro has photographed Morocco for National Geographic and will lead the May 2016 Morocco Photo Expedition.

TIBET AND NEPAL



Photographer and filmmaker **Ami Vitale** will lead the October 2016 Tibet and Nepal Photo Expedition.

ETHIOPIA



John Stanmeyer has photographed Ethiopia for National Geographic and will lead the September 2016 Ethiopia Photo Expedition.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILED BIOS OF THE EXPERTS LISTED ABOVE AND FOR EXPERTS LEADING OTHER DEPARTURES.

MORE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS



GALÁPAGOS

The legendary creatures of the Galápagos make for an incredible photographic experience. Join our National Geographic photographer and team of experts on the *National Geographic Endeavour*, and learn new skills as you photograph the scarlet shells of scampering Sally Lightfoot crabs, the craggy silhouettes of marine iguanas against the surf, and the volcano-sculpted landscapes that these remarkable creatures inhabit.

See page 36 for the day-by-day itinerary.

10 Days • 2016: June 3–12 • June 10–19

Expedition Cost: From \$6,590

Airfare within Ecuador: \$520

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: Dec. 21–26

2017: Jan. 15–20 • Jan. 29–Feb. 3

Feb. 12–17

Expedition Cost: \$4,425

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 beaches backed by lush jungles, kayak or paddleboard among mangroves to photograph incredible birdlife, and document your passage through the historic Panama Canal.

See page 26 for the day-by-day itinerary.

8 Days • 2016: Mar. 12–19 • Dec. 3–10

2017: Jan. 14–21 • Feb. 11–18

Expedition Cost: From \$6,190

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 by shooting historic Mariposa, and discover creative ways to frame the massive sequoias of a protected grove.

See page 31 for the day-by-day itinerary.

7 Days • 2016: June 8–14 • July 13–19

Aug. 24–30 • Sept. 14–20

Expedition Cost: \$5,395

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. Capture vibrant images of local women in traditional dress and Rajasthani men displaying elaborate handlebar mustaches during specially arranged photo shoots. Revel in the visual feast of one of India's colorful festivals: Maha Shivratri on the February departure, and Holi on the March departure.

See page 72 for the day-by-day itinerary.

13 Days • 2017: Feb. 19–Mar. 3 • Mar. 5–17

Expedition Cost: \$12,695





CUBA AND ITS PEOPLE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION

Experience the evolution of Cuba through its people on a cultural program that uses photography as a means of getting to know Cubans from all walks of life. Join a National Geographic photographer and two Cuban photographers for an intimate look at Havana and the surrounding countryside. Rise with the sun to capture the old city's early morning rhythms, and photograph the people you engage with on visits to schools, dance studios, art cooperatives, and more. Each departure is limited to 16 travelers.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit a historical home with its owner and focus on its stunning architectural details.
- Attend a practice session of a ballet company and photograph graceful dancers.
- Step into Cuba's oldest boxing club to meet and photograph with coaches and boxers.
- Tour a leading photography guild with the director and see the work of renowned Cuban photographers.

Visit our website for the day-by-day itinerary.

8 Days • 2016: May 16–23
Dec. 28, 2016–Jan. 4, 2017

Expedition Cost: From \$5,995



Please Note: This trip is permitted through the people-to-people general license category authorized by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. The itinerary was designed to provide numerous opportunities for travelers to engage in meaningful interactions with Cubans, using photography as a medium for enhancing the educational exchange and cultural exploration.

To reserve space or for details about traveling with us on this unique Cuba program, call 1-866-797-4686.

NOTE: Prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included and is subject to change.

See a complete list of all our photography expeditions at natgeoexpeditions.com/photography.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERTS

GALÁPAGOS



Macduff Everton is a contributing editor at *National Geographic Traveler* and will join both 2016 Galápagos Photo Expeditions.

COSTA RICA AND THE PANAMA CANAL



National Geographic photographer and naturalist **Jeff Mauritzen** will lead the February 2017 Costa Rica and the Panama Canal Photo Expedition.

INDIA BY RAIL



Award-winning photographer **Nevada Wier** specializes in the cultures of the remote corners of the world and will lead the February 2017 India by Rail Photo Expedition.

WINTER WILDLIFE IN YELLOWSTONE



Photographer and naturalist **Drew Rush** will lead both January and the February 2017 Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone Photo Expeditions.

YOSEMITE



The work of outdoor adventure photographer **Keith Ladzinski** has been featured in *National Geographic* magazine. He will lead the June 2016 Yosemite Photo Expedition.

CUBA



Massimo Bassano has been a popular photography expert for many National Geographic expeditions and workshops. He will lead the December 2016 Cuba program.

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 Lion*, 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, WASHINGTON/JUNEAU, ALASKA

Fly from Seattle to Juneau, the capital of Alaska. Explore the city and the imposing Mendenhall Glacier before embarking the *National Geographic Sea Lion*. (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: A veil of water cascades off a breaching humpback whale.

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 16 and 17 and explore the following places:

TRACY ARM OR ENDICOTT ARM
PETERSBURG
FREDERICK SOUND
CHATHAM STRAIT
ICY STRAIT AND THE INIAN ISLANDS
CHICHAGOF ISLAND
GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

DAY 8 SITKA/SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

After breakfast, disembark in Sitka, a unique Alaskan 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 16 AND 17.

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 26-July 3* • July 24-31*
 July 31-Aug. 7

*These departures follow the itinerary described here and on pages 16 and 17, but in the reverse order.

Expedition Cost:

Category 1	\$6,490
Located on Main Deck	
Category 2	\$7,490
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	
Category 3	\$8,590
Located on Upper and Bridge Decks	

See *National Geographic Sea Lion* description, photo, and deck plan on page 138. Prices are per person, double occupancy. **For children under 18, deduct \$500 from the adult rate.** For a single cabin, add \$3,250 in Category 1 and \$3,750 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 \$500.

Optional Extension:

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

EXPEDITION TEAM



Filmmaker, producer, and scientist **Birgit Buhleier** will join our diverse team of experts on the July 24 departure. She played an integral role in the evolution of National

Geographic's Crittercam. Through her work with Crittercam, she has sidled up to seals, sea lions, and whales. She has personally deployed more than 100 Crittercams on a broad range of animals, including many that are native to Alaska.

THIS TRIP IS OFFERED IN ASSOCIATION WITH LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS.



Paddles in sync, kayakers ply the waters off Alaska's rocky coast.



EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the fascinating wildlife and geology of the Galápagos aboard the 96-guest *National Geographic Endeavour* or 48-guest *National Geographic Islander*.
- Cruise to pristine islands and walk among colonies of animals and birds unfazed by your presence.
- Snorkel amid sea turtles, penguins, and 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, and knot-tying lessons.

ITINERARY | 10 DAYS

DAY 1 U.S./GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Depart for Guayaquil and, upon arrival, transfer to the Hilton Colon Guayaquil.

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: In the Santa Cruz highlands, a giant tortoise comes face-to-face with a pair of young explorers.

We will explore some of the following islands described on pages 36 and 37:

- ISLA BARTOLOMÉ
- ISLA SANTIAGO
- ISLA SANTA CRUZ
- ISLA ISABELA
- ISLA FERNANDINA
- ISLA FLOREANA
- ISLA ESPAÑOLA
- ISLA SAN CRISTÓBAL

DAY 9 GALÁPAGOS/GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, disembark the ship and fly to Guayaquil. The evening is at leisure. HILTON COLON GUAYAQUIL (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 36 AND 37.

“ This is a trip we will never forget. **It was a living classroom for our children.** ”

—Margaret F., traveler on our Galápagos Family Odyssey

INFORMATION

Dates:

2016: June 24–July 3 • July 1–10 • July 2–11*
July 23–Aug. 1* • Aug. 5–14

*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	\$6,590	\$6,990
Category 2	\$7,490	\$7,890
Category 3	\$7,990	\$8,780
Category 4	\$8,790	\$9,290
Category 5	\$10,890	\$11,290

See *National Geographic Endeavour* and *National Geographic Islander* descriptions, photos, and deck plans on page 139. Prices are per person, double occupancy. **For children under 18, deduct \$500 from the adult rate.** For a single cabin on the *Endeavour*, add \$1,650 in Category 1 and \$1,870 in Category 2. For a single cabin on the *Islander*, add \$3,490 in Category 1 and \$3,940 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 \$520 for adults and \$260 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 July 1 departure. A marine biologist and filmmaker, Greg invented and led 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

FAMILY EXPEDITIONS



ALASKA: DENALI TO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND FAMILY EXPEDITION

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 in alpine luxury at a beautiful mountain resort. With mountain views as a backdrop, head out on naturalist-led hikes to search for moose, caribou, wolves, grizzly bears, and Dall sheep; and kids can try their hand at panning for gold. 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 DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

DAY 5 DENALI/TALKEETNA

DAY 6 TALKEETNA/GIRDWOOD

DAY 7 PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

DAY 8 GIRDWOOD/ANCHORAGE

8 Days • 2016: July 12–19 • Aug. 12–19

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,195

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,575



YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON FAMILY EXPEDITION

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. Cross over the Continental Divide and 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 MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WYOMING

DAY 3 LAMAR VALLEY

DAY 4 GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE

DAY 5 UPPER, MIDWAY, AND LOWER GEYSER BASINS

DAYS 6 AND 7 GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK/JACKSON

DAY 8 SNAKE RIVER/JACKSON

8 Days • 2016: June 25–July 2 • July 30–Aug. 6 • Aug. 6–13 • Aug. 13–20

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,650

Children (ages 7–17) \$4,185

EXPEDITION TEAM

Along with a dynamic expedition team, a National Geographic expert will accompany each of the trips shown above. See our website for the experts who will join all departures.



YOSEMITE FAMILY EXPEDITION

California's Sierra Nevadas splits into fantastic formations at Yosemite National Park, 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. Discover different parts of the park with naturalists, 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 GIANT SEQUOIA GROVE

DAY 3 GLACIER POINT

DAYS 4 AND 5 YOSEMITE VALLEY

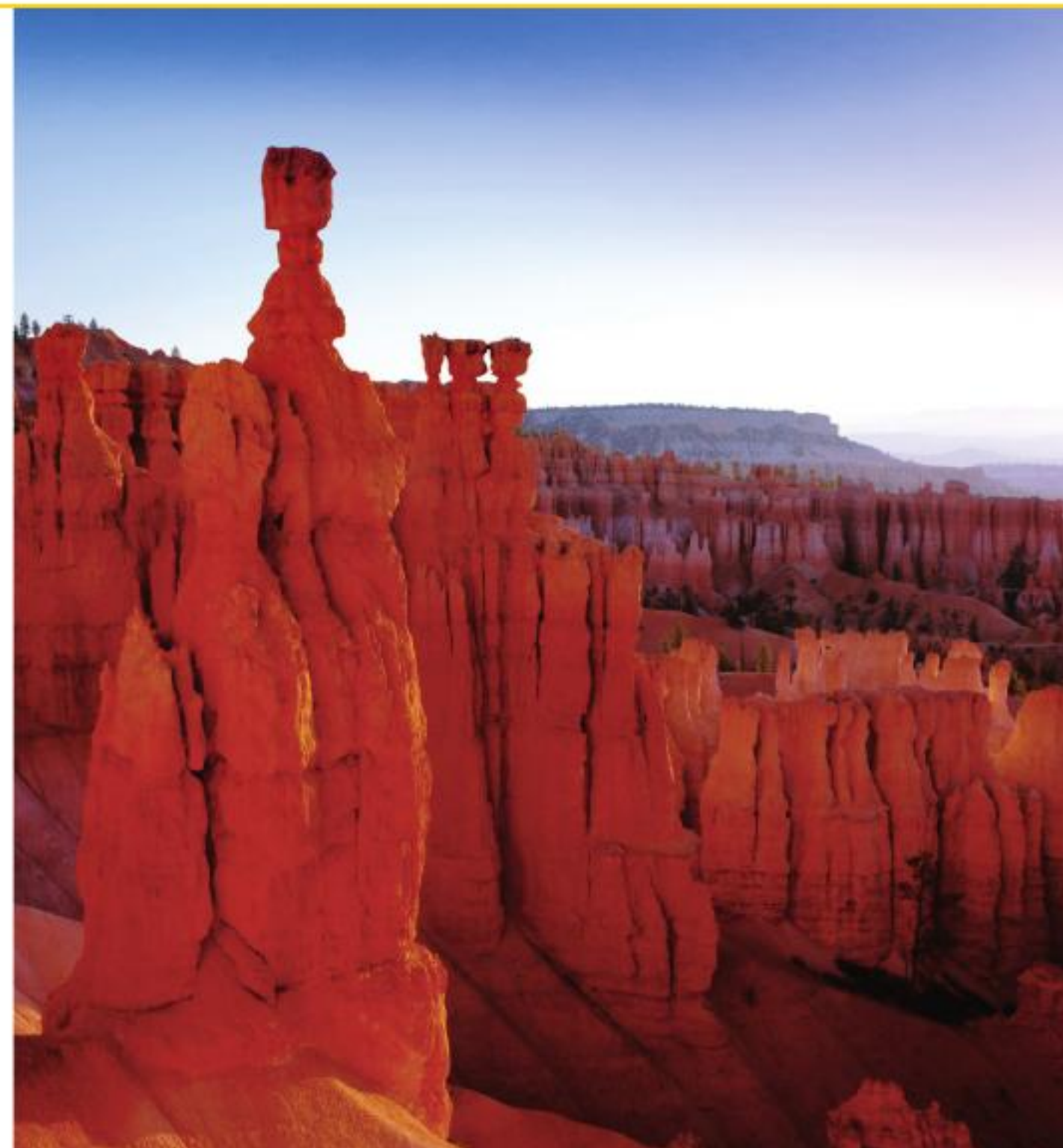
DAY 6 TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

DAY 7 HETCH HETCHY

7 Days • 2016: June 29–July 5 • July 27–Aug. 2 • Aug. 10–16

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,895

Children (ages 7–17) \$4,405



GRAND CANYON, BRYCE CANYON, AND ZION NATIONAL PARKS FAMILY EXPEDITION

Encounter the incredible geological treasures of the American Southwest with your family on an expedition to Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce Canyon 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

DAYS 2 AND 3 GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, ARIZONA

DAYS 4 AND 5 GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK/
ZION NATIONAL PARK, UTAH

DAYS 6 AND 7 ZION NATIONAL PARK/BRYCE CANYON
NATIONAL PARK

DAY 8 BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK/ST. GEORGE

8 Days • 2016: June 18–25 • June 25–July 2 • July 30–Aug. 6

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,495*

Children (ages 7–17) \$4,045*

*Applicable Utah sales tax is additional.

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 natgeoexpeditions.com/family.

FAMILY EXPEDITIONS *(continued)*



HAWAII FAMILY EXPEDITION

From steaming volcanoes and lava-sculpted landscapes to lush jungles and endless beaches, Hawaii is a fantastic destination for families. Explore beautiful Maui on a variety of excursions, spotting humpback whales and winding along the famed Hana Highway. Then venture to the Big Island, home to the geologic wonders of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Hike through rain forest to a black lava crater, and encounter blooming tropical gardens.

DAY 1 MAUI, HAWAII

DAY 2 WHALE WATCHING AND ROAD TO HANA

DAY 3 HANA

DAY 4 MAUI TO THE BIG ISLAND

DAY 5 EXPLORING THE BIG ISLAND

DAY 6 SOUTH POINT/KONA COFFEE BELT/KOHALA COAST

DAY 7 NORTH KOHALA COAST

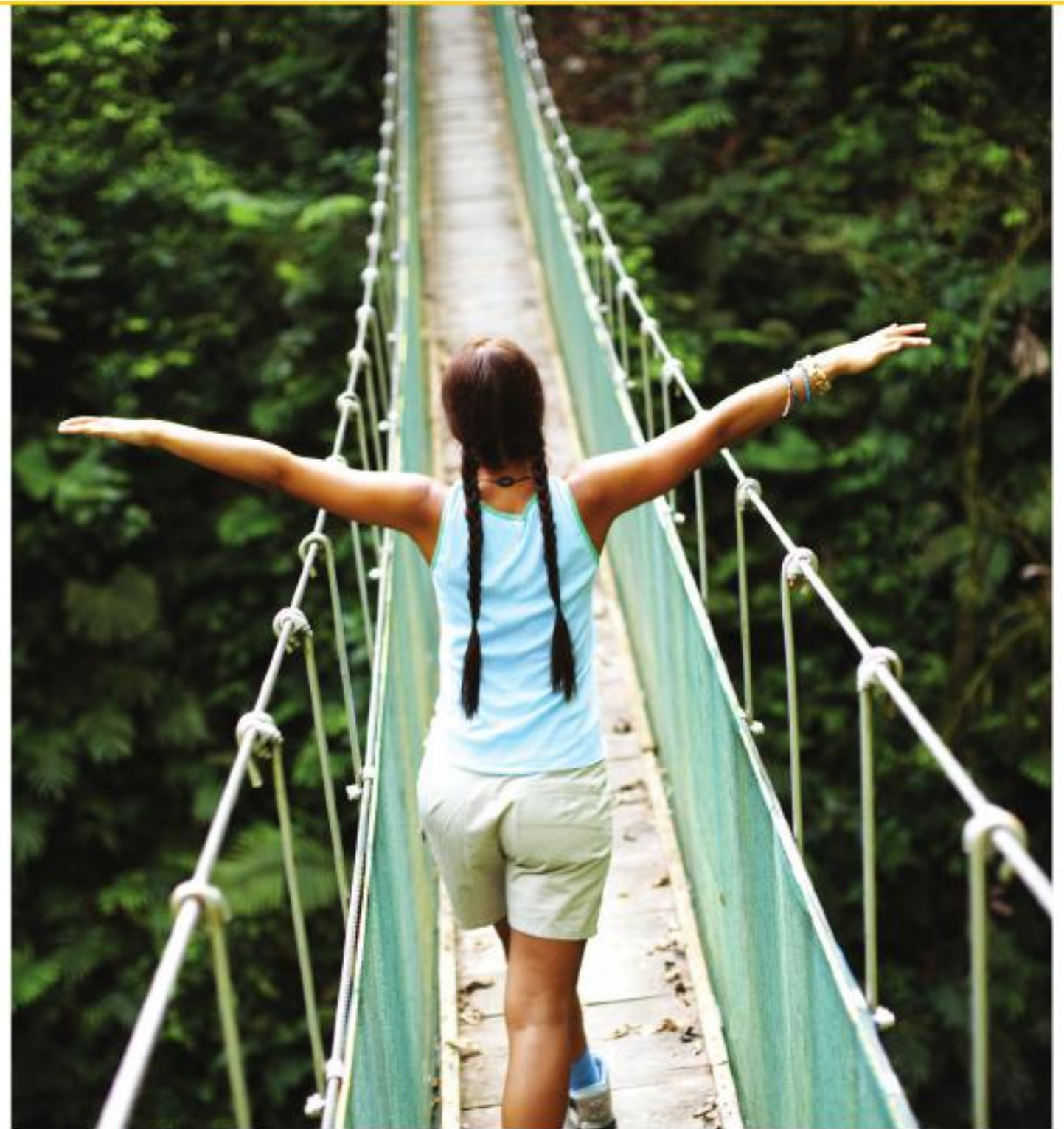
DAY 8 PU'UKOHOLĀ HEIAU/KONA

8 Days • 2016: Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 3, 2017

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,795

Children (ages 7–17) \$6,115

Airfare within Hawaii: \$350



COSTA RICA FAMILY EXPEDITION

Home to misty cloud forests and ancient volcanic landscapes fringed by jungle, Costa Rica brims with natural wonders. Encounter wildlife and wild places close up as we float and hike on a fun-filled family adventure. Peer at white-faced capuchin and howler monkeys, jaguars, sloths, caimans, and toucans. Swing through the cloud forest canopy on a zip line and splash down the Corobicí River on a float trip. Immerse yourselves in local life on visits to a coffee plantation, a rural village, and the lively markets of San José.

DAY 1 U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

DAY 2 SAN JOSÉ/MONTEVERDE

DAY 3 MONTEVERDE

DAY 4 GUANACASTE

DAYS 5 AND 6 RÍO PERDIDO/COLONIA LIBERTAD

DAY 7 LIBERIA/U.S.

7 Days • 2016: Mar. 12–18 • June 11–17 • July 9–15 • Aug. 6–12

Dec. 17–23 • Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 2, 2017

Expedition Cost: Adults \$3,790

Children (ages 7–17) \$3,590

EXPEDITION TEAM OR KID to KID CONNECTION

A National Geographic expert will join each departure of our Hawaii Family Adventure. The other three expeditions feature a Kid to Kid Connection, which links every young traveler with a pen pal of similar age in our destination. Kids, their pen pals, and families will meet in person on the trip and celebrate local culture through interactive games and activities.



PERU FAMILY EXPEDITION

Introduce your family to the mysteries of the Inca and the vibrant traditions of the Andes on this fascinating 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.

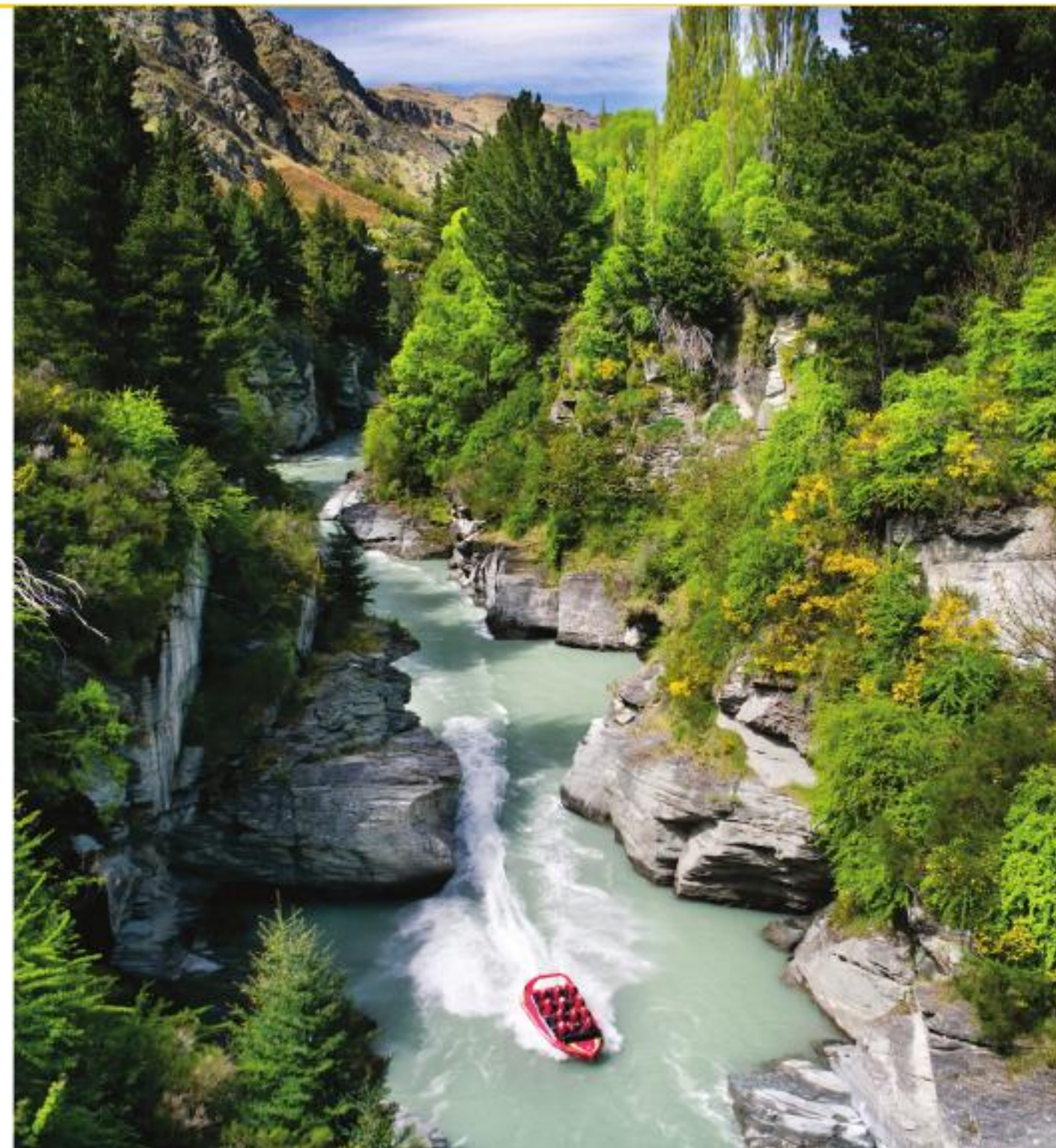
8 Days • 2016: June 25–July 2 • July 16–23 • Aug. 6–13 • Dec. 21–28*
Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 3, 2017*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,490

Children (ages 7–17) \$4,290

Airfare within Peru: \$400 (subject to change)

*On the December departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.



NEW ZEALAND FAMILY EXPEDITION new

Crowned by the snow-covered Southern Alps and laced with stunning fiords and alpine lakes, New Zealand's South Island is a natural paradise that offers endless opportunities for adventure. Set out with your family to encounter an array of treasures, from lush rain forests to glowworm-lit grottoes. Get to know the Maori people and their ancestral traditions on a visit to a local village. Discover Christchurch and Queenstown by boat, bicycle, and gondola; and explore the glacier-formed lakes of Tekapo, Wanaka, and Te Anau. Go horseback riding, experience a thrilling jet-boat ride, and cruise below cascading waterfalls in Fiordland National Park.

DAYS 1, 2, AND 3 U.S./CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

DAY 4 CHRISTCHURCH

DAY 5 CHRISTCHURCH/LAKE TEKAPO

DAYS 6 AND 7 WANAKA/LAKE TE ANAU

DAY 8 DOUBTFUL SOUND

DAYS 9 AND 10 ARROWTOWN/QUEENSTOWN

DAYS 11 AND 12 QUEENSTOWN/U.S.

12 Days • 2016: Mar. 12–23 • Dec. 17–28* • Dec. 26, 2016–Jan. 6, 2017*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$7,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$7,790

*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 natgeoexpeditions.com/family.

FAMILY EXPEDITIONS (continued)



TANZANIA FAMILY EXPEDITION

Venture into the wilds of Tanzania on a family safari and encounter savannas teeming with 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 observe lions, elephants, zebras, and much more 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 • **2016:** Mar. 12–22 • June 25–July 5 • July 16–26 • July 30–Aug. 9
Dec. 17–27* • Dec. 26, 2016–Jan. 5, 2017*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,290
Children (ages 7–17) \$6,090

Airfare within Tanzania: \$300 (subject to change)

*On the December departures, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.



SOUTH AFRICA FAMILY EXPEDITION

Brimming with fascinating cultures and eternal wilderness, South Africa offers families an extraordinary adventure. In Cape Town, explore Table Mountain and hike the hidden trails of Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Walk among African penguins on the magnificent Cape Peninsula, and spend time with San people, learning ancient tracking and hunting techniques. Get up close to endangered animals at a rehabilitation center. Then, during four days on safari, watch for the glow of eyes on a night game drive and observe a jaw-dropping array of species.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

DAYS 3, 4, AND 5 CAPE TOWN

DAYS 6–9 KAPAMA GAME RESERVE

DAYS 10 AND 11 KAPAMA/JOHANNESBURG/U.S.

11 Days • **2016:** June 25–July 5* • Aug. 6–16 • Dec. 26, 2016–Jan. 5, 2017†

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,990
Children (ages 7–17) \$6,790

Airfare within South Africa: \$700 (subject to change)

*On the June departure, Days 6 and 7 will be in Kruger National Park and Days 8 and 9 in Kapama Game Reserve.

†On the December departure, there is an additional holiday surcharge of \$300 per person.

KID to KID CONNECTION

These expeditions feature a Kid to Kid Connection, which links every young traveler with a pen pal of similar age in our destination. Kids, their pen pals, and families will meet in person on the trip and celebrate local culture through interactive games and activities.

Above, left to right: A lion cub clutches its perch; a trio of Burchell's zebras stands at attention on the Tanzanian plain; local children play with a traditional kite in China; worshippers pass below enormous lanterns at Tokyo's Sensoji Temple.



CHINA FAMILY EXPEDITION

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; visit the famous terra-cotta warriors in Xi'an; and zoom to the top of Shanghai's most iconic skyscraper. Meet a traditional kite maker or a martial arts master, and learn how to make shadow puppets on a family adventure that will fascinate every generation.

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

DAY 4 SHANGHAI/XI'AN

DAYS 5 AND 6 XI'AN

DAY 7 XI'AN/BEIJING

DAY 8 GREAT WALL OF CHINA/BEIJING

DAY 9 BEIJING

DAY 10 BEIJING/U.S.

10 Days • 2016: June 25–July 4 • July 30–Aug. 8 • Aug. 6–15

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,540

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,340

Airfare within China: \$550 (subject to change)



JAPAN FAMILY EXPEDITION new

Neon-lit cityscapes, ancient temples clinging to forested hillsides, and markets brimming with exotic ingredients: Japan is a feast for the senses. Experience an intriguing combination of cutting-edge modernity and time-honored tradition as we explore dazzling Tokyo, elegant Kyoto, and ancient Nara. Wander through exquisite shrines and palaces where nobles once lingered, go hiking in a steaming volcanic valley near Mount Fuji, and watch merchants preside over gleaming piles of fish at the world-famous Tsukiji market. Speed aboard a bullet train to explore the timeless mountain town of Takayama, and don a kimono to discover the intricate art of the Japanese tea ceremony.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./TOKYO, JAPAN

DAY 3 TOKYO

DAY 4 FUJI-HAKONE-IZU NATIONAL PARK

DAYS 5 AND 6 TOKYO/TAKAYAMA

DAYS 7 AND 8 KYOTO

DAY 9 NARA/KYOTO

DAY 10 KYOTO/U.S.

10 Days • 2016: June 25–July 4 • July 9–18 • July 23–Aug. 1

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,790

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 natgeoexpeditions.com/family.

FAMILY EXPEDITIONS *(continued)*



SCOTLAND FAMILY EXPEDITION

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, and have the opportunity to earn the John Muir Award.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND/PITLOCHRY

DAY 3 HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE

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 • 2016: June 18–26 • July 30–Aug. 7 • Aug. 6–14

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,790

IRELAND FAMILY EXPEDITION

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 in Sligo and Connemara. Hear stories of legendary pirates and Celtic heroes, meet lively musicians, and discover prehistoric ruins on hikes and bike rides along the coast. Immerse yourselves in the myths, the magic, and the vivid culture of Ireland's wild west.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./DUBLIN, IRELAND/COUNTY SLIGO

DAY 3 COUNTY MAYO

DAY 4 COUNTY SLIGO

DAY 5 ENNISCROME/MULRANNY

DAY 6 GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY

DAY 7 MULRANNY/INISHBOFIN

DAY 8 INISHBOFIN

DAY 9 CONNEMARA/DUBLIN/U.S.

9 Days • 2016: Mar. 12–20 • June 18–26 • July 30–Aug. 7

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,590

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,390

KID to KID CONNECTION

These expeditions feature a Kid to Kid Connection, which links every young traveler with a pen pal of similar age in our destination. Kids, their pen pals, and families will meet in person on the trip and celebrate local culture through interactive games and activities.



TUSCANY FAMILY EXPEDITION

Introduce your family to the magic of Tuscany as we explore walled villages, old fortresses, and wild 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

DAY 9 FLORENCE/U.S.

9 Days • 2016: June 25–July 3 • July 30–Aug. 7

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,190

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,990



ICELAND FAMILY EXPEDITION

With simmering volcanoes and spouting geysers, glaciers and icebergs, cascading waterfalls 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 ARNARFJÖRÐUR/PATREKSFJÖRÐUR

DAY 6 PATREKSFJÖRÐUR/STYKKISHÓLMUR

DAY 7 STYKKISHÓLMUR

DAY 8 SNÆFELLSJÖKULL NATIONAL PARK

DAY 9 REYKJAVÍK/U.S.

9 Days • 2016: June 24–July 2 • July 15–23 • July 29–Aug. 6

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,990

Children (ages 7–17) \$6,790

Airfare within Iceland: \$300 (subject to change)

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 natgeoexpeditions.com/family.

FAMILY EXPEDITIONS *(continued)*



FRANCE FAMILY EXPEDITION **new**

Iconic and intimate, full of history and vibrant with modern life, France is an enchanting place to explore as a family. Go beyond the well-worn tourist track to discover the secrets of this magical country, from the engine room at the Eiffel Tower to a private lavender farm in Provence. Take a kid-friendly tour of the Louvre, step into the studio of Paul Cézanne in Aix-en-Provence, and walk in the footsteps of ancient Romans across the soaring Pont du Gard. Meet up with your pen pals at a cooking school, where a chef teaches you how to make baguettes and pastries.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./PARIS, FRANCE

DAYS 3 AND 4 PARIS

DAY 5 PARIS/AIX-EN-PROVENCE

DAYS 6 AND 7 AIX-EN-PROVENCE

DAY 8 AIX-EN-PROVENCE/U.S.

8 Days • 2016: June 18–25 • June 25–July 2 • Aug. 6–13

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,190

Children (ages 7–17) \$4,990



GREECE FAMILY EXPEDITION

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 DELOS/MYKONOS

DAYS 6 AND 7 PAROS

DAYS 8 AND 9 SANTORINI

DAY 10 SANTORINI/ATHENS/U.S.

10 Days • 2016: June 19–28 • July 10–19

Expedition Cost: Adults \$6,190

Children (ages 7–17) \$5,990

KID to KID CONNECTION

These expeditions feature a Kid to Kid Connection, which links every young traveler with a pen pal of similar age in our destination. Kids, their pen pals, and families will meet in person on the trip and celebrate local culture through interactive games and activities.



SWISS FAMILY EXPEDITION

Head into the magnificent Swiss Alps on a family adventure that combines hiking and biking with legendary train and cable-car journeys. Stay at Lake Lucerne and in two stunning mountain villages: Interlaken, between two lakes, and Zermatt, within view of the iconic Matterhorn. 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, cross the Gorner Gorge on an expedition, walk inside a glacier, and sample Swiss chocolate on this program designed for active explorers of all ages.

DAYS 1 AND 2 U.S./ZURICH, SWITZERLAND/LUCERNE

DAY 3 LUCERNE/MOUNT PILATUS

DAYS 4 AND 5 BALLEMBERG/INTERLAKEN

DAY 6 ZERMATT/GORNER GORGE

DAY 7 ZERMATT/MATTERHORN

DAYS 8 AND 9 ZERMATT/ZURICH/U.S.

9 Days • 2016: June 18–26 • July 31–Aug. 8

Expedition Cost: Adults \$5,590
Children (ages 7–11) \$5,390



AUSTRALIA FAMILY EXPEDITION

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) and Uluru (Ayers Rock), 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 • 2016: June 25–July 6 • Dec. 17–28*

Expedition Cost: Adults \$7,990
Children (ages 7–17) \$7,790

Airfare within Australia: \$800 (subject to change)

*On the December departure, 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 natgeoexpeditions.com/family.

FIND MORE TRIPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit nationalgeographicexpeditions.com to see detailed itineraries of these and other trips.



SLOVENIA, CROATIA, AND VENICE: THE ALPS TO THE ADRIATIC

Sharing the shores of the shimmering Adriatic Sea, Slovenia, Croatia, and eastern Italy harbor fairytale cities, immense karst caves, sapphire lakes, and rolling wine country. The legacies of the Habsburg kings and the Venetians, a world war, and the Cold War all collide here amid glorious scenery. Discover the region's vibrant cultures on a journey from Ljubljana to Venice by way of Croatia's enchanting Istrian Peninsula. Meet an archaeologist featured in *National Geographic* magazine; glide across Lake Bled in a *pletna*, or traditional wooden rowboat; and visit a gondola-making workshop in Venice.

10 Days • 2016: Sept. 2–11
Expedition Cost: \$6,595

ICELAND BY LAND AND SEA: REYKJAVÍK TO THE WILD WEST new

Iceland's culture is as eclectic and riveting as its extreme geography—and this adventure by land and sea is a unique exploration of both. Delve into Reykjavík and the Golden Circle, encountering the thrilling geology of the “land of fire and ice” and the island's fascinating human history. Then head to the wild western coast aboard the *National Geographic Explorer* and discover the dramatic cliffs of the Hornstrandir peninsula and the birdlife and marine life that call it home. Along the way, enjoy exclusively curated experiences—from live local music to a dinner by one of Iceland's top chefs on a private island.

7 Days • 2016: July 27–Aug. 2
Expedition Cost: From \$4,990

THE CANADIAN MARITIMES AND NEWFOUNDLAND

Trace the footsteps of Vikings, European explorers, and inventors on a special voyage aboard our flagship, the *National Geographic Explorer*. Venture to Cape Breton Island, the remote isles of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the rugged and spectacular coast of Newfoundland. Discover the dunes, sandstone cliffs, and Acadian culture of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine; and dock at quaint coastal fishing villages. Explore two UNESCO World Heritage sites: Gros Morne National Park, with its scenic waterfalls and fjords, and the remains of the 11th-century Viking village at L'Anse aux Meadows.

8 Days • 2016: Sept. 8–15, Sept. 15–22
Expedition Cost: From \$7,930



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 • 2016: Dec. 22–27 (Family Departure)
Dec. 24–29
Dec. 27, 2016–Jan. 1, 2017 (Family Departure)
Dec. 30, 2016–Jan. 4, 2017
2017: Jan. 22–27 • Feb. 5–10
Feb. 19–24

Expedition Cost: Adults \$4,095
Children (ages 7–17) \$3,645



Clockwise from top left: A gondolier oars his boat along the pastel facades of Venice; a dolphin leaps out of the Sea of Cortez, giving travelers a thrilling close-up view; the geometric silhouette of the Pitons rises over a beach in St. Lucia; gray wolves were restored to Yellowstone in 1995; stacks of lobster traps line the shores of a fishing village in Gros Morne National Park.

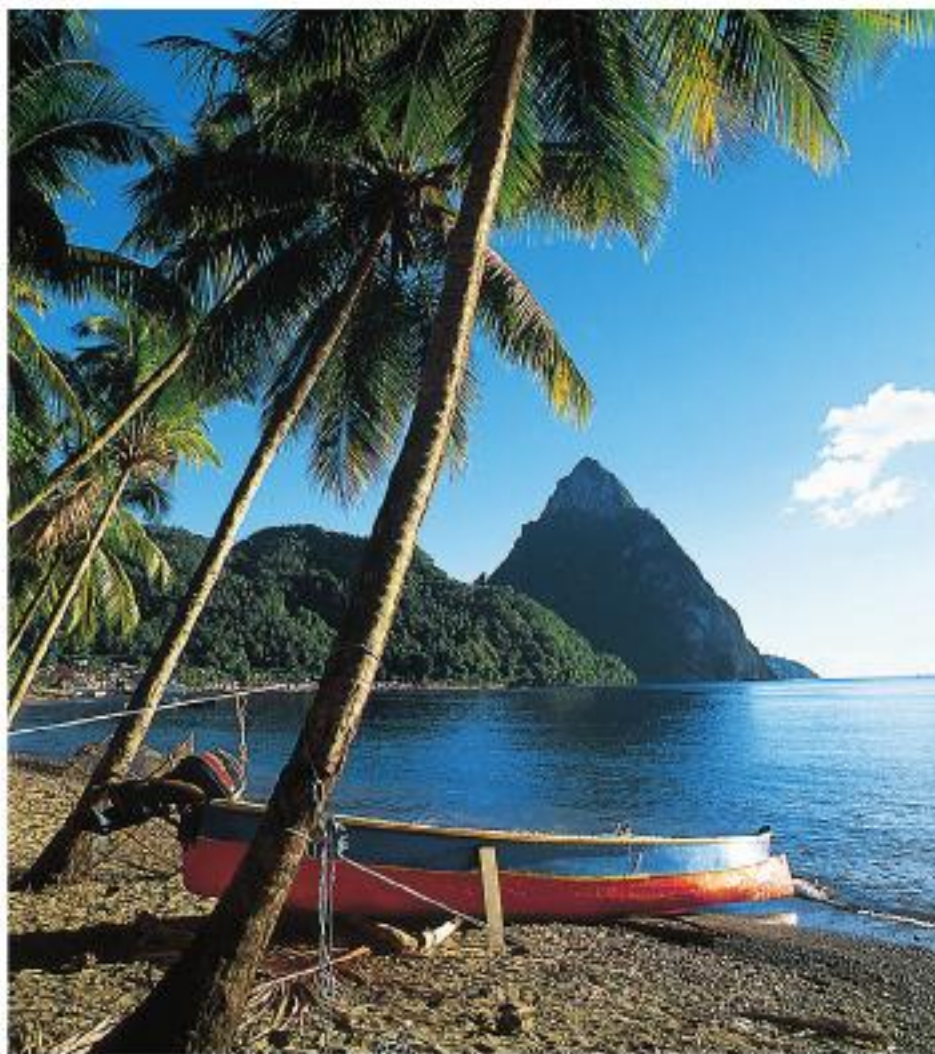
SAILING THE CARIBBEAN

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 St. Lucia, and explore the idyllic Grenadines. Amid a spectacular tropical landscape, enjoy opportunities to swim and snorkel around coral reefs and white-sand beaches, and discover the hidden corners that make this place so special.

**8 Days • 2017: Feb. 6–13 • Feb. 13–20
Feb. 20–27 • Feb. 27–Mar. 6**

Expedition Cost: From \$8,640

SPECIAL OFFER: See offer at right.



HAWAII: THE BIG ISLAND AND MAUI

Formed over millions of years by fiery volcanic forces, 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 deep 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 • 2016: Nov. 26–Dec. 3 • Dec. 18–25

Expedition Cost: From \$6,195

Airfare within Hawaii: From \$300

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy. Single rates are also available. Airfare is not included.



Special Offers and Savings

Reserve your space on the expeditions listed below by **March 31, 2016** and receive special savings on select departures. 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.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Alaska's Inside Passage

Receive complimentary round-trip airfare* between Seattle and Alaska on select May and June 2016 departures. See the itinerary on page 16, and visit our website for offer details.

Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

Receive complimentary round-trip international airfare* between Miami and San José/Panama City or a complimentary extension to Panama City on select 2016 and 2017 departures. See the itinerary on page 26, and visit our website for offer details.

Galápagos

Book by March 31, 2016 and enjoy 2016 rates on your 2017 departure, or receive complimentary international airfare between Miami and the Galápagos on select departures from January to May 2016.

Voyages Aboard the *Sea Cloud*

Travel on the *Sea Cloud* in 2017, and we will cover your bar tab on board and all tips for the crew. See the itineraries on pages 46, 47, and at left.

National Geographic Orion 8-day European Voyages

Receive complimentary round-trip international economy group airfare* from New York to Europe, or apply the savings as a credit to your expedition cost. We'll cover your bar tab on board and all tips for the crew, and, when you book two or more European voyages aboard the *National Geographic Orion*, save 10% on the expedition cost. See the itineraries on pages 62–67.

Journey to Antarctica

Receive complimentary round-trip international airfare* between Miami and Buenos Aires/Santiago on the November 27 and December 7, 2016 departures. See the itinerary on page 100.

Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands

Receive complimentary round-trip international airfare* between Miami and Buenos Aires/Santiago on the November 6, 7, and 26, 2016 departures. See the itinerary on page 102.

*Complimentary airfare is valid on new bookings only, 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, Adventure, or Journey. See page 7 or our website for more information.

Group Discount: For parties of eight or more reserving and traveling together, each traveler receives 5% 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 and may not be combined with other offers.



ADVENTURES

UNIQUE TRIPS FOR THE ACTIVE TRAVELER

EXPLORE BY FOOT, BY CAMEL OR KAYAK, AND EVEN BY DOGSLED on an active adventure. Hike along a sacred pilgrimage route in Japan's misty mountains, ramble clear across England, or paddle your kayak far into Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park. These unique itineraries combine spectacular places, physical challenges, and cultural interaction. Limited to 16 travelers, each trip has a designated activity level, from easy to ultimate challenge, so that travelers can choose according to their ability.



- These trips are led by a knowledgeable guide/adventure leader who accompanies the entire trip.
- Accommodations are chosen for their character and convenience and range from boutique hotels to small inns to tented camps.
- Most activities and meals are included throughout the trip.
- Some trips include visits with a National Geographic expert in the field.





England Coast to Coast

- Cross England on foot, trekking from the Irish Sea to the North Sea on one of the ten best long-distance hikes in the world.
- Ramble through Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales, and the hills of North York Moors National Park.
- Step back into England's fascinating history as you explore sites from prehistory to the Roman era to the Tudors and beyond.
- Visit the home of poet William Wordsworth in the enchanting Lakeland village of Grasmere.

13 Days • COST: From \$5,695

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE TO STRENUOUS



New Zealand Adventure

- Embark on a multisport adventure across New Zealand's South Island.
- Sea kayak among dolphins and fur seals on the coast of Abel Tasman National Park, and explore Franz Joseph Glacier.
- Hike along the wild coastline, taking in views of sparkling lakes and soaring, icy peaks.
- Stargaze and watch for wildlife on an overnight cruise in glorious Milford Sound.

12 Days • COST: From \$7,695

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE



Hiking Patagonia

- Hike through Patagonia's exceptionally scenic national parks: Torres del Paine in Chile and Argentina's Los Glaciares.
- Trek to the base of Torres del Paine's sheer granite walls, and surround yourself with twisting peaks in the French Valley.
- Experience close-up the power and magnificence of Grey and Perito Moreno Glaciers, two of the most impressive in the world.
- Hike to serene lakes at the foot of spectacular Cerro Torre and the Fitz Roy massif.

14 Days • COST: From \$6,195

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE TO STRENUOUS

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy, and do not include airfare.



Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia Adventure

- Kayak from pristine beaches to limestone caves and floating villages on Vietnam's Ha Long Bay.
- Go biking in Hue, Vietnam and in the Cambodian countryside; and spend the night on a traditional Vietnamese junk boat.
- Explore four very different UNESCO World Heritage sites in three different countries: Hue, Ha Long Bay, Louangphrabang, and the temples of Angkor.
- Get to know the local culture during meals, ceremonies, and visits to temples, schools, and homes.

13 Days • COST: From \$6,395

ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY TO MODERATE

See all National Geographic Adventures at nationalgeographicadventures.com

ADVENTURES *(continued)*



Japan Adventure: Hiking the Sacred Kumano

- Hike the Kumano Kodo, one of only a few pilgrimage routes in the world designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Take part in an authentic tea ceremony and discover the intricacies of this important Japanese tradition.
- Ride a bike past burial mounds and terraced rice paddies in the ancient capital of Asuka.
- Visit Nachi Taisha, one of the three Grand Shrines of Kumano, and the nearby waterfall.

11 Days • COST: From \$6,395

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE



Southern Africa Adventure

- Hike to the top of the Drakensberg's towering rock Amphitheatre to view one of the world's highest waterfalls.
- Experience life at a Zulu homestead and trace the footsteps of historic leaders in Durban.
- Search for the "big five" in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park, and meet National Geographic Emerging Explorer Steve Boyes or one of his colleagues to learn about endangered birds.
- Discover Lesotho's unique Basotho culture and the pristine wilderness of Ts'ehlanyane National Park.

12 Days • COST: From \$6,495

ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY TO MODERATE



Iceland Adventure

- Experience the raw power of Iceland's thundering waterfalls, ice-capped volcanoes, glaciers, and geysers.
- Learn about the creation of Europe's largest national park, Vatnajökull, during a special meeting with a park director.
- Explore bubbling mud pots, steaming fumaroles, and lava castles around Lake Mývatn.
- Hike up Reynisfjall mountain, one of the most beautiful coastal walks in southern Iceland.

10 Days • COST: From \$7,895

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE



Sweden: Dogsledding to the Icehotel

- Drive your own team of Alaskan huskies on a sledding expedition through the Lapland wilderness.
- Relax in rustic cabins ideally situated for viewing one of nature's most dazzling displays: the aurora borealis, or northern lights.
- Spend time with Sami herders and try your hand at driving a traditional reindeer sled.
- Stay at the famed ICEHOTEL, with the option of sleeping in one of its sculpted ice rooms.

9 Days • COST: From \$8,595

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE TO STRENUOUS

NOTE: All prices are per person, double occupancy, and do not include airfare.



Peru: Machu Picchu Inn to Inn

- Trek high among the majestic peaks of the Cordillera Vilcabamba on the way to Machu Picchu.
- Spend a full day exploring the magnificent citadel of Machu Picchu.
- Delve into the world of the Inca during an evening with National Geographic grantee Peter Frost or a prominent local anthropologist.
- Relax in beautiful mountain lodges set amid spectacular scenery, including one lodge that is a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection.

10 Days • COST: From \$5,995

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE TO STRENUOUS



Costa Rica Adventure

- Kayak through Tortuguero National Park and look for howler and capuchin monkeys, caimans, and toucans.
- Paddle the rapids of the Pacuare River and spot wildlife along the way.
- Hike into the cloud forest in search of the rare quetzal bird, and sail through the forest canopy on a zip line.
- Stay in eco-lodges and hotels nestled within pristine forest.

9 Days • COST: From \$4,195

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE



Provence Hiking Adventure

- Approach some of France's most beautiful villages on foot, enjoying a unique perspective and time to explore.
- Hike the Van Gogh trail around St.-Rémy-de-Provence, walking through landscapes the artist rendered in paint.
- Meander through an abandoned ochre quarry near Roussillon, where the red glow of the rock creates an otherworldly atmosphere.
- Sample world-renowned wines in Chateauneuf-du-Pape and Gigondas, and sit down to a farm-to-table meal at a local herb farm.

9 Days • COST: From \$5,095

ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY TO MODERATE



Morocco Camel Trek and Hiking Adventure

- Ride a camel to an authentic tented camp in the Sahara and watch the sun rise over the dunes.
- Hike to traditional mountain villages to learn about Berber culture.
- Explore the Roman ruins of Volubilis and the ancient village of Ait Ben Haddou, both UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Discover the striking architecture and enchanting medinas of Morocco's imperial cities.

14 Days • COST: From \$5,895

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

See all National Geographic Adventures at nationalgeographicadventures.com

PRIVATE EXPEDITIONS

TRAVEL INDEPENDENTLY—WITH ALL THE BENEFITS OF TRAVELING WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PRIVATE EXPEDITIONS ARE UNIQUE ITINERARIES DESIGNED TO BRING JUST YOU AND THE TRAVELING COMPANIONS YOU CHOOSE—whether it's one, two, or ten—to extraordinary places all over the world. You'll explore with seasoned guides and stay in top accommodations, including National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World. And, as our guests, you'll enjoy special access to sites and local experts. Simply decide who you'll travel with, select the itinerary that captures your imagination, and choose the dates you wish to go. We'll take care of the rest.



- A top local guide joins you at each destination.
- You choose your dates.
- Accommodations are at world-class or best available hotels and inns.
- Many activities and meals are included and free time is built in.





Morocco

- Stay in the Kasbah Du Toubkal (pictured above), a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection. Perched against a backdrop of Atlas peaks, this stunning hotel was built from the ruins of a medieval kasbah.
- Meet with a Berber family living within the medieval fortified village of Ait Ben Haddou.
- Visit six UNESCO World Heritage sites with a private guide, from the medina of Marrakech to the Roman ruins at Volubis.

9 Days • COST: From \$5,495



Patagonia

- Hike to aquamarine lakes at the foot of the magnificent Fitz Roy massif in Argentina's Los Glaciares National Park.
- Stay at Tierra Patagonia, a member of the **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** collection located on the edge of the world-renowned Torres del Paine National Park.
- Visit a working estancia, or ranch, to meet with gauchos and learn about everyday life in Chilean Patagonia.

10 Days • COST: From \$7,495

And more:

Tanzania • Vietnam and Cambodia • Costa Rica • Australia
Greece • Peru • China • South Africa • Italy • Mongolia

See all National Geographic Private Expeditions
at natgeoexpeditions.com/private



UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD™

Distinctive. Sustainable. Unforgettable.

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. **National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World** is a collection of world-class accommodations that offers a range of meaningful experiences for guests while supporting and preserving the local culture and environment. You can find our lodges nestled in the coastal rain forests of Costa Rica or perched above the red landscape of Australia's outback. Nearly every National Geographic Private Expedition includes a stay in at least one National Geographic Unique Lodge, and a number of our other trips feature them as well. Settle into the stunning Sayari Camp on our On Safari: Tanzania's Great Migration expedition; and on our photo expedition in Mongolia, you'll sleep in the beautifully crafted, traditional *gers* of the Three Camel Lodge in the Gobi. Expect authentic experiences away from the crowd, excellent service and amenities, and unique access to local culture and spectacular sites.

Visit natgeolodges.com to learn more.

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. All dining venues on board offer regionally inspired cuisine using fresh, local ingredients.

CAPACITY: 148 guests in 81 outside cabins

REGISTRY: Bahamas **OVERALL LENGTH:** 367 feet

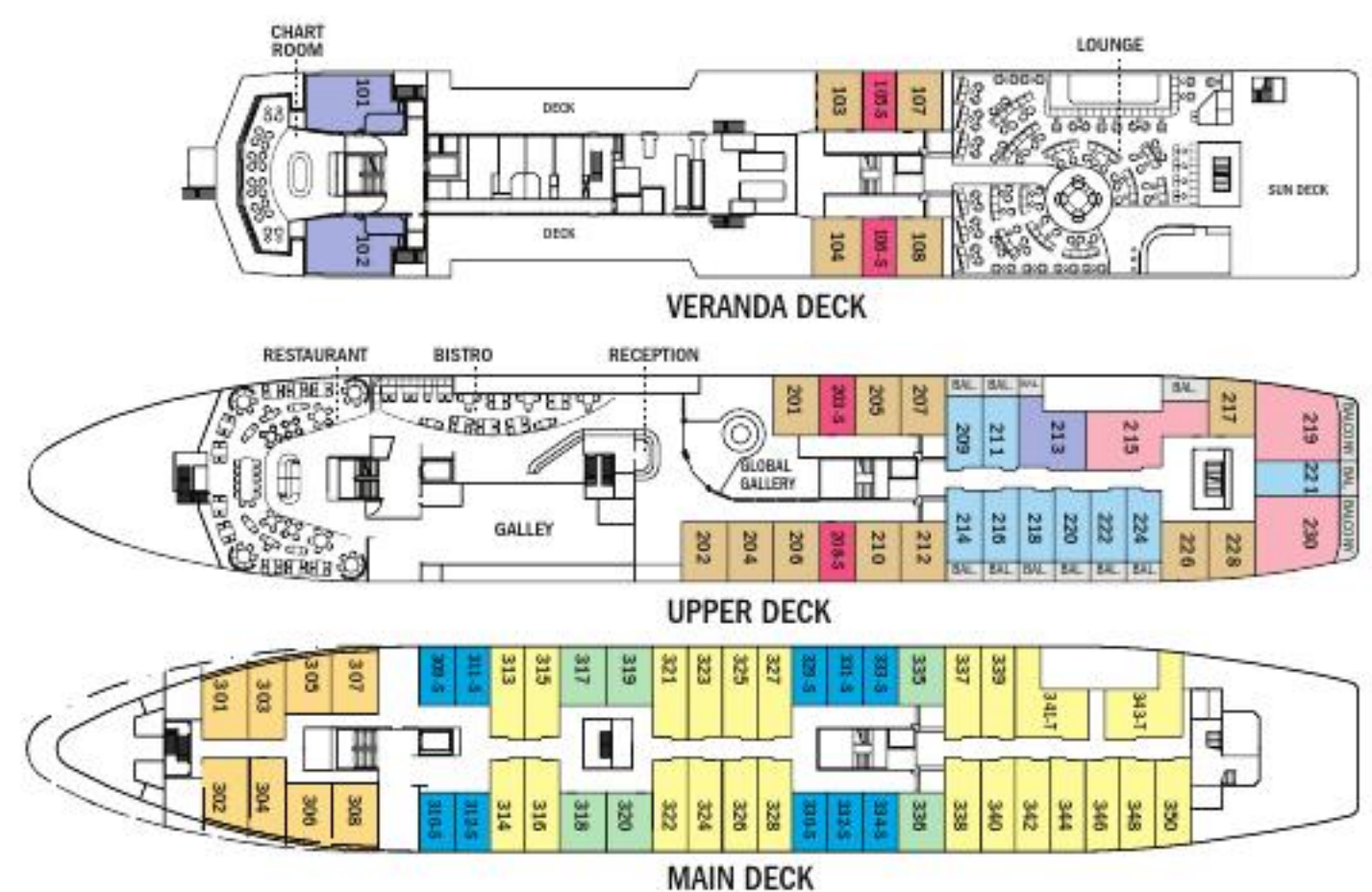
PUBLIC AREAS: A bistro bar, a chart room, a gift shop, a library, a restaurant, a lounge with a bar and cutting-edge audiovisual facilities, and an observation lounge

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, en suite bathrooms, and climate controls; 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 cabin; 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





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 throughout Europe.

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins

REGISTRY: Bahamas **OVERALL LENGTH:** 338 feet

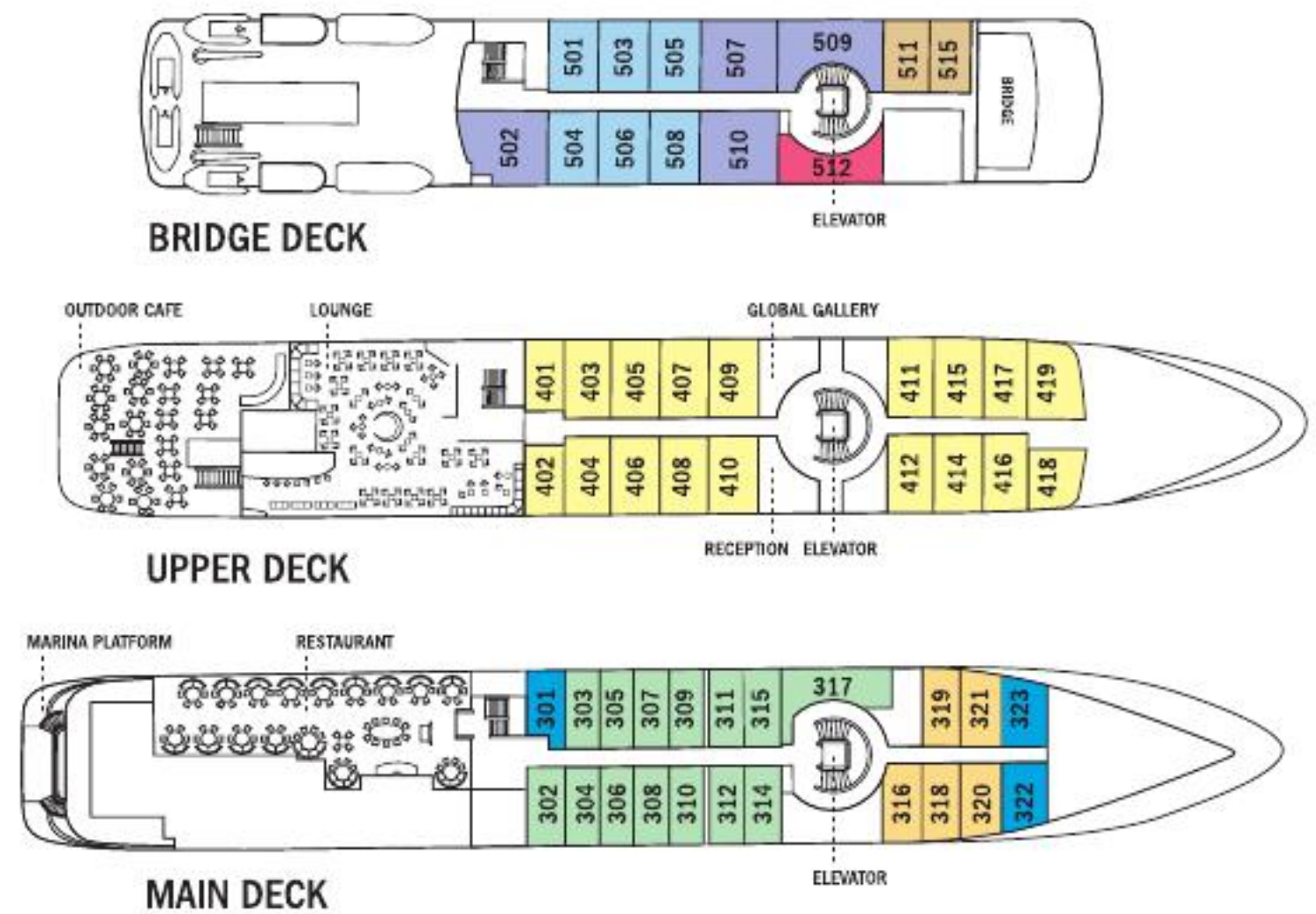
PUBLIC AREAS: An outdoor café, a lounge with bar, a restaurant, a sundeck, an observation lounge and library, a global gallery, a marina platform, and a mud room

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, kayaks, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, and a video microscope; plus a crow's nest camera, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) on Arctic and Antarctic voyages, and a fleet of bicycles on European voyages

SPECIAL FEATURES: A video chronicler, an undersea specialist, a photography instructor, and a full-time doctor; laundry service; 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.

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.



Watch a short video about this ship at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com



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. Both ships have been recently restyled and refreshed. 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

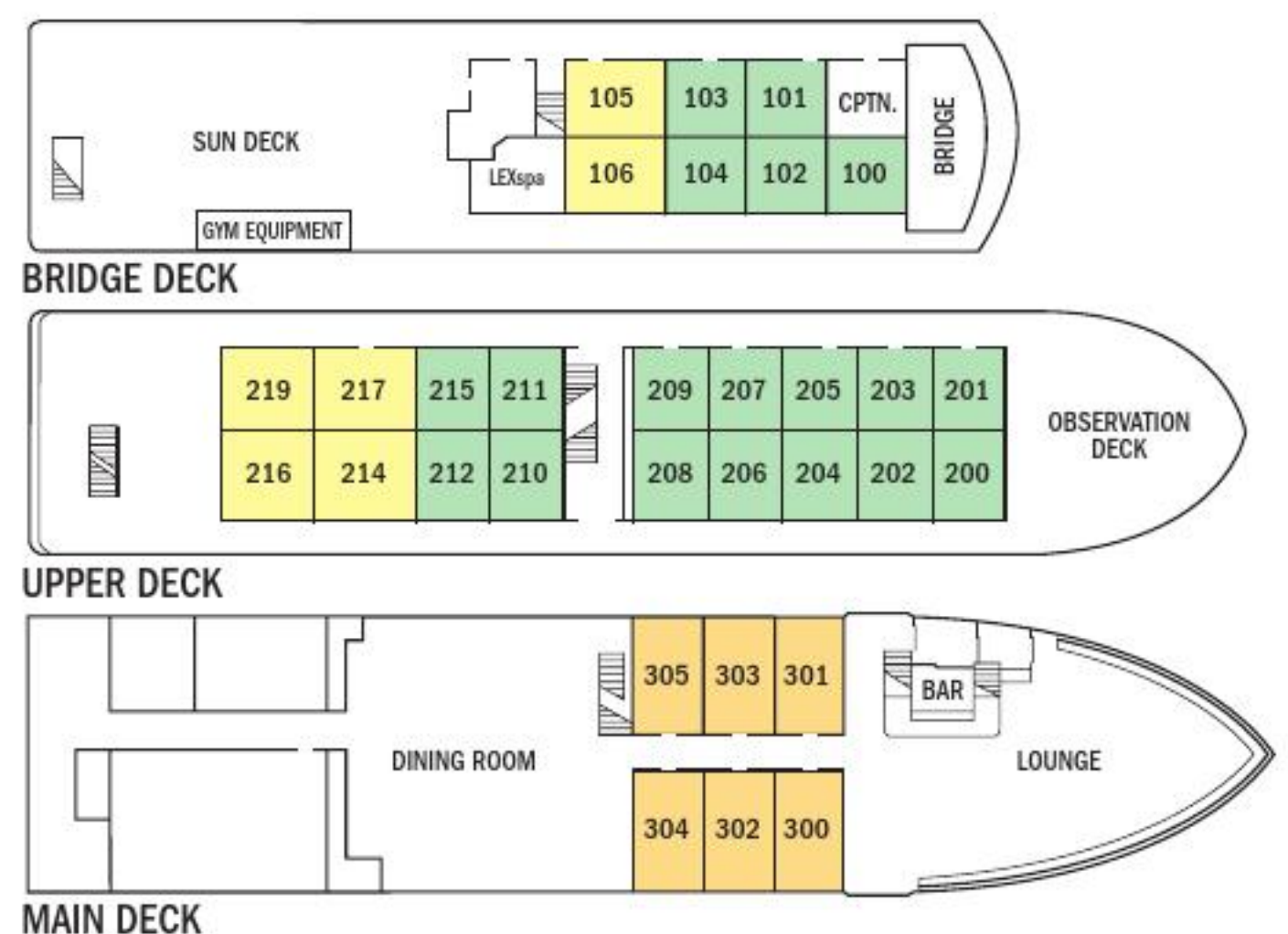
PUBLIC AREAS: A library, a gift shop, a lounge with full-service bar and audio-visual facilities, an observation deck, a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables, and an outdoor stretching area

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 on board in Baja and Alaska.

Above: A freshly redesigned, comfortable Category 2 cabin; twin beds can be pushed together to form a double bed in Category 3 cabins on the Upper Deck; our newly refurbished lounge.





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 comfortable 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

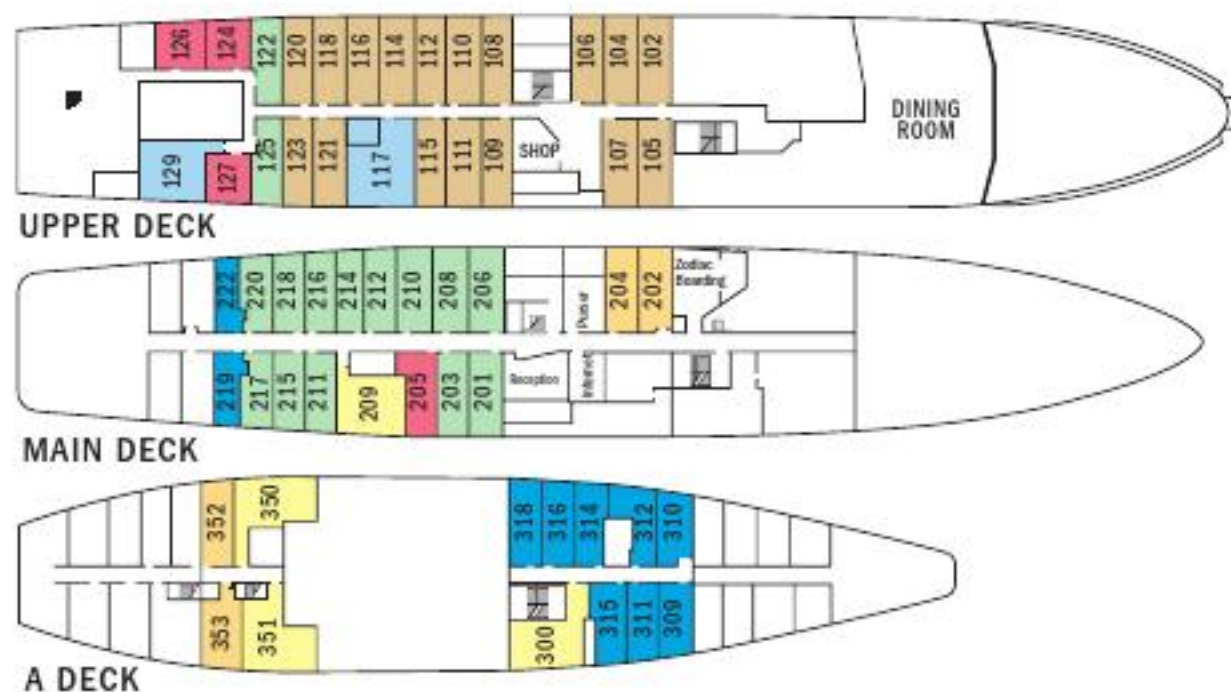
REGISTRY: Ecuador **OVERALL LENGTH:** 295 feet

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 sundeck. 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, an underwater video camera, a video microscope, wet suits, and Zodiac landing craft

SPECIAL FEATURES: Internet access, laundry service, and a wellness program. A doctor, a photo instructor, and a video chronicler are also on board.



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

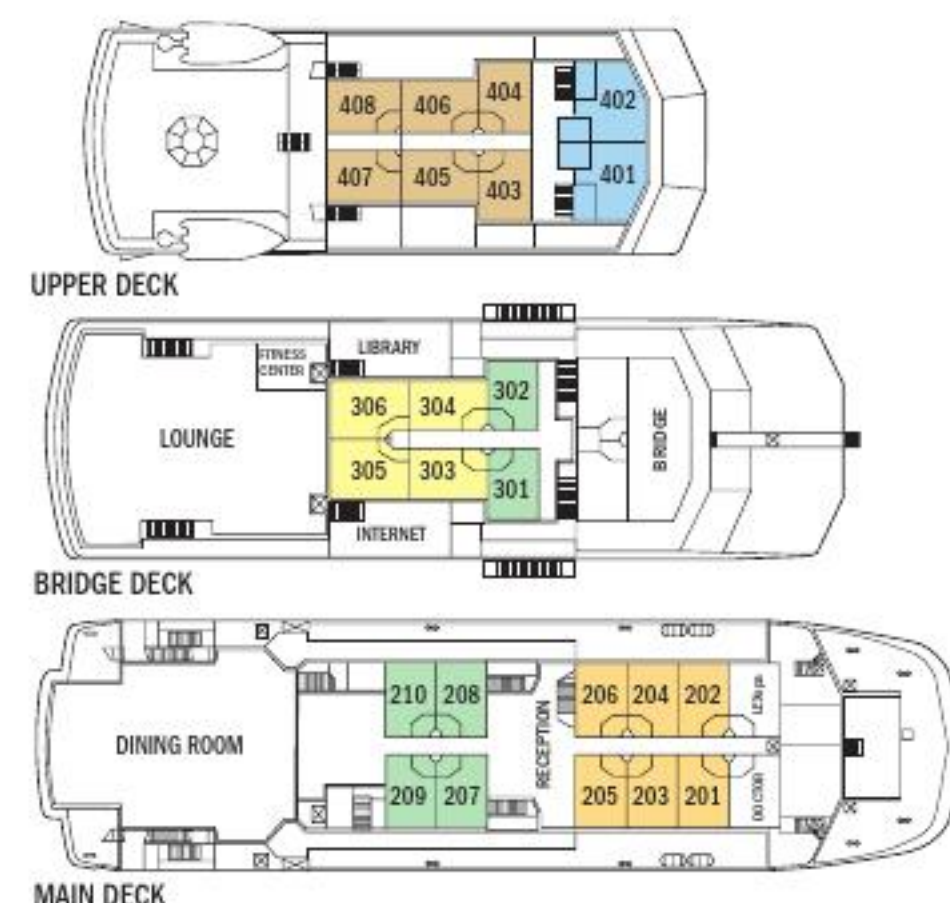
REGISTRY: Ecuador **OVERALL LENGTH:** 164 feet

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 on board.



DECK PLANS (continued)



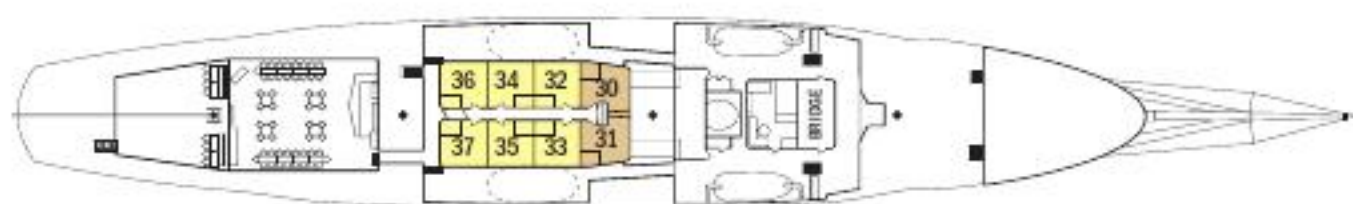
Sea Cloud

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 on board 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 sundecks, a first-class restaurant, and an elegant bar and lounge

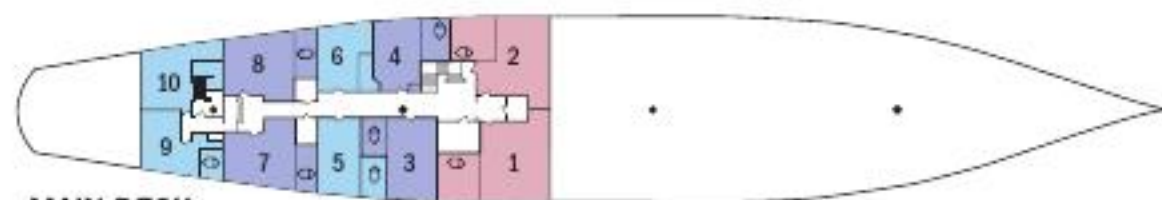
CABINS: The ship features 30 outside staterooms and cabins equipped with windows or portholes, private facilities, individual climate controls, and a hair dryer. The two owner’s suites, once the quarters of Hutton and Post, have sitting areas, fireplaces, and walk-in closets, and were designed by Ms. Post herself.



CAPTAIN'S AND LIDO DECK



PROMENADE DECK



MAIN DECK

Watch a short video about this ship at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com



Lord of the Glens

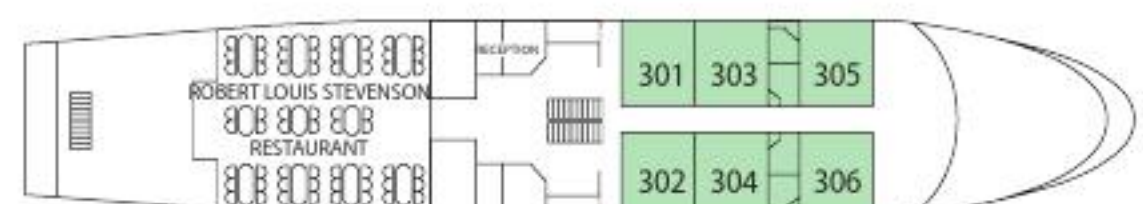
The M.V. *Lord of the Glens* is the only deluxe passenger vessel able to navigate both the Caledonian Canal and the open sea. With teak decks, hardwood-finished interiors, and fine fabrics, this motorized yacht offers a stylish and relaxing ambience. All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned 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

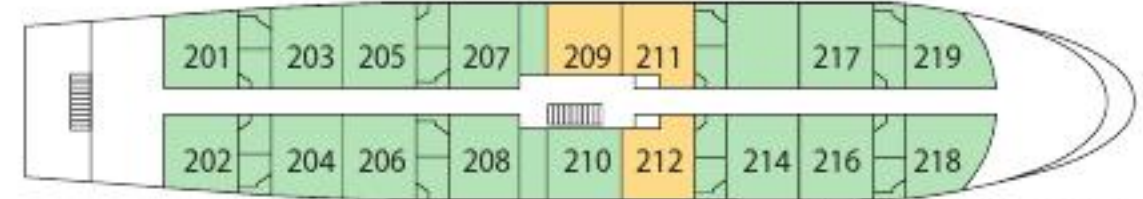
PUBLIC AREAS: Two lounges and two open-air viewing areas, a bar, a well-stocked library, and a reading area

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.

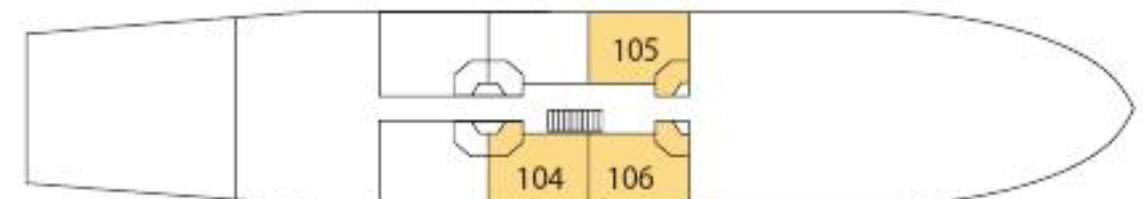
SPECIAL FEATURES: PC with Internet access, bicycles on board, and access to kayaks at Loch Ness. A National Geographic–Lindblad certified photography instructor will be on board all departures.



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.

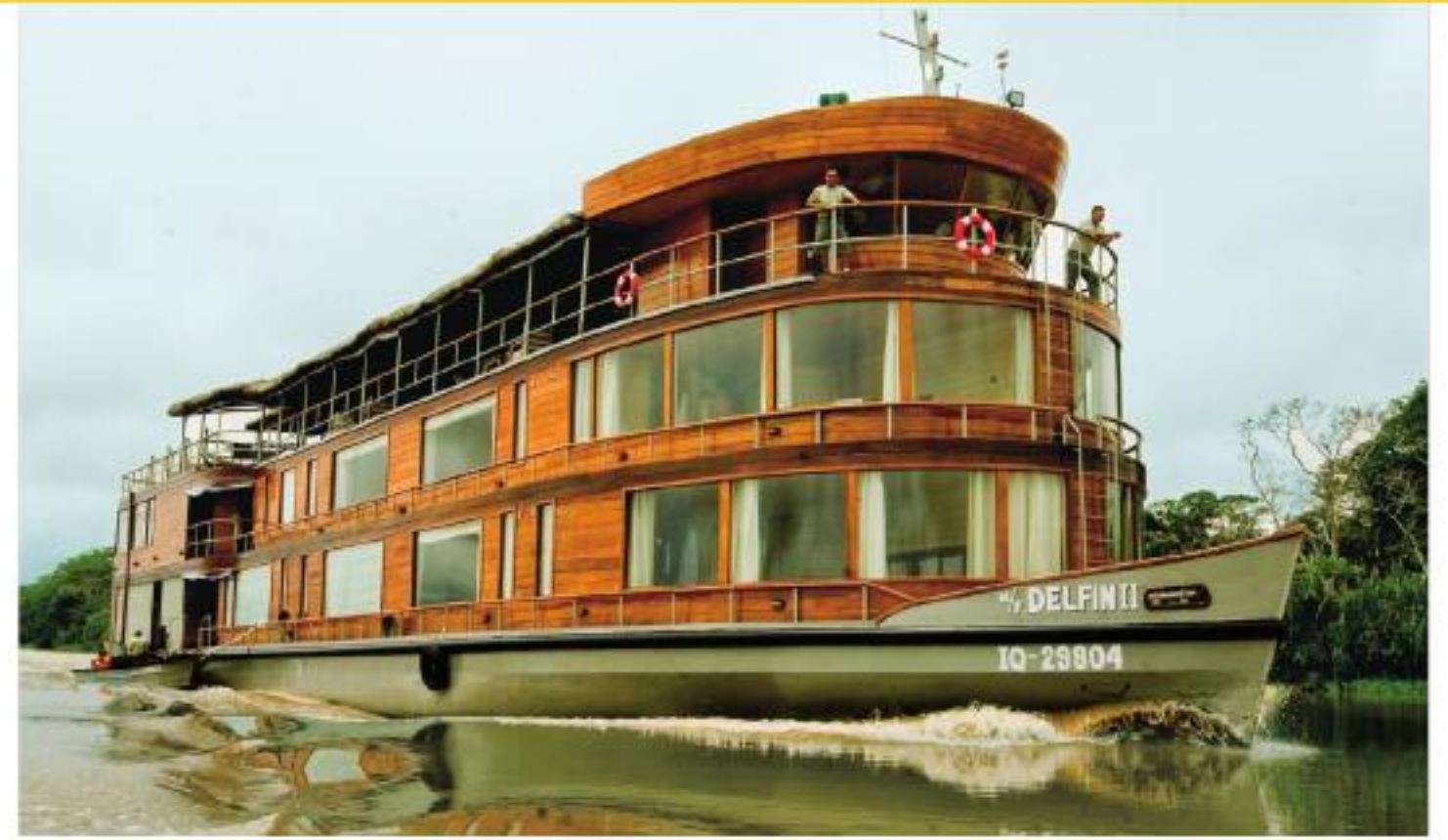
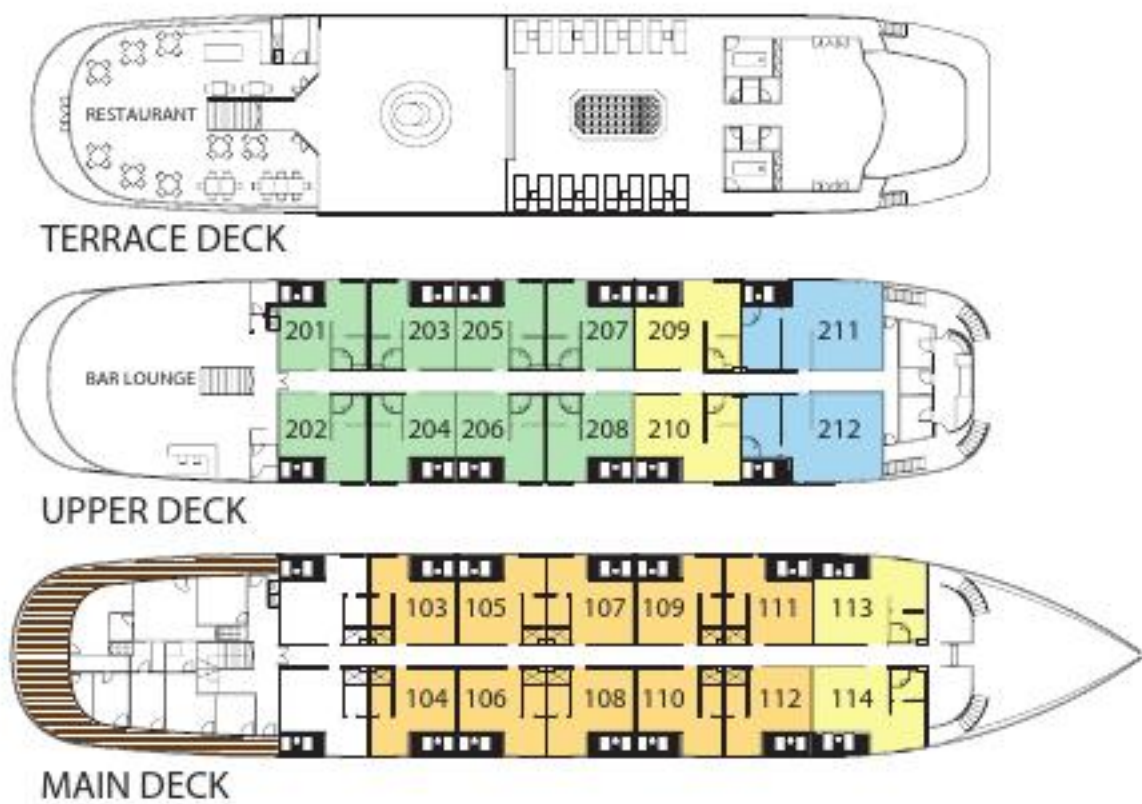
Capacity: 48 guests in 24 outside cabins

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 National Geographic-Lindblad certified photography instructor will be on board 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

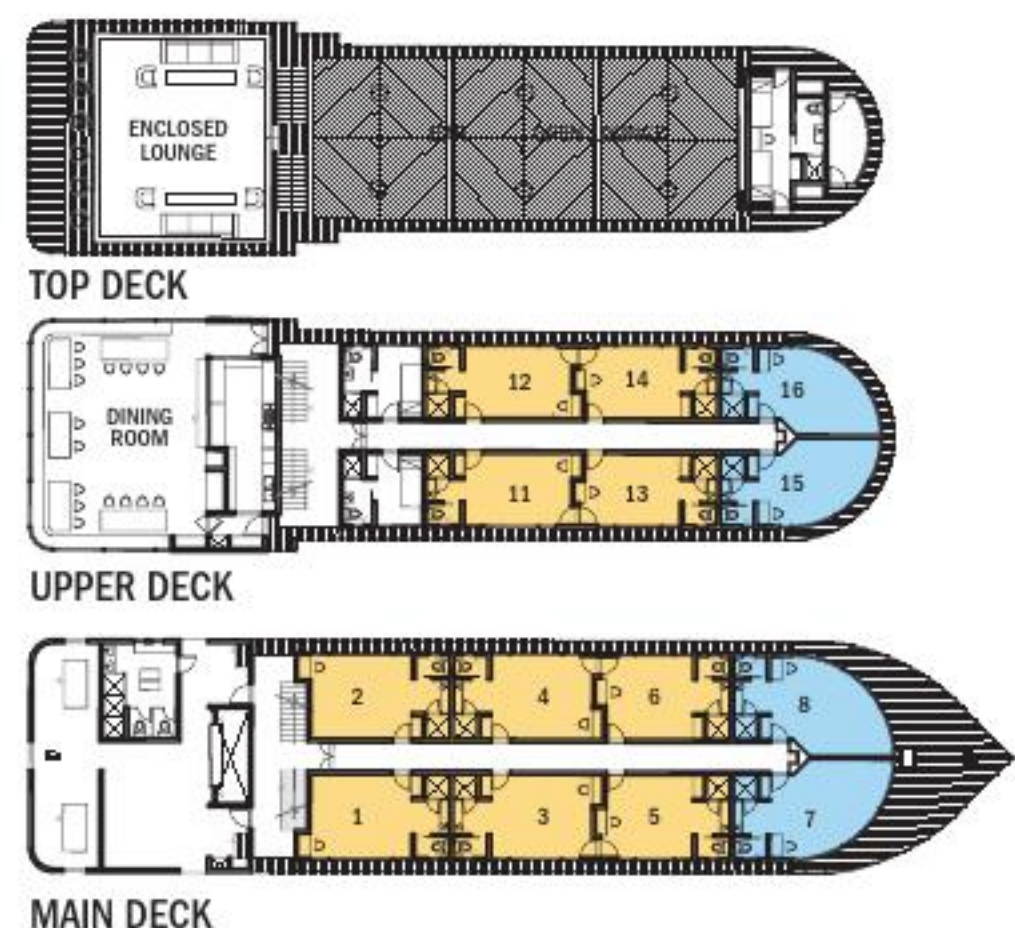
REGISTRY: Peru OVERALL LENGTH: 120 feet

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 National Geographic-Lindblad certified photography instructor will be on board all departures.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC student EXPEDITIONS



Get out and explore on a summer trip for high school students!

Our programs combine adventure and hands-on exploration in amazing parts of the world. Join us this summer to work alongside National Geographic explorers, learn photography from the pros, get involved in community service projects, experience life on a college campus, and more. On all of our trips, students focus on important topics—from photography to wildlife conservation to archaeology—and experience new cultures and environments in a meaningful way.

Belize • Iceland • Ecuador & Galápagos • Tanzania • Australia • Nepal • Switzerland & France • and many more!



NEW! Introducing Middle School Expeditions

National Geographic Student Expeditions now invites young explorers to experience exciting destinations in a fun, engaging, and safe environment. Designed for students completing grades six through eight, these programs challenge, educate, and motivate through a variety of hands-on activities that combine authentic exploration of each destination with a focus on storytelling, conservation, cultural exchange, or community service.

Alaska • Australia • Belize • Costa Rica • France & Spain • Italy

Call toll-free 1-877-877-8759 or visit ngstudentexpeditions.com

Responsibility

National Geographic Expeditions will provide educational enrichment as outlined in its catalog and on its website (nationalgeographicexpeditions.com) 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, National Geographic Partners, LLC and their respective employees, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, representatives, assigns (for purposes of this Responsibility statement and the Terms and Conditions, collectively "National Geographic") and its designated tour operator shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or 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 nonrefundable ticket to or from the participant's National



Travelers on our Great Migration expedition in Tanzania pause for a photo before flying to their next destination.

Geographic Expedition departure city. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant.

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 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: 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 cancellation 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 www.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 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.

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.

Other: The terms and conditions above apply to National Geographic Expeditions departing in 2016. To review the terms for 2017 departures, please see our website at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/information/terms.

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.

Please Note: See our website to review Terms and Conditions for other National Geographic travel programs, including National Geographic Adventures, National Geographic Journeys, and Private Expeditions.

See more at: nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/information/terms

PHOTO CREDITS:

Key: t=top, c=center, b=bottom, l=left, r=right:

Stewart Cohen (100b,117b); Herzen Cortes (50); Jay Dickman (20br, 108bl); David Gedney (29); Stuart Gray (26); Mike Greenfelder (8r, 116b); Tim Greenleaf (8c); Douglas Grimes (69b); Jonathan Irish (73b); Kelsey Hargrove (111tl); Ryan Heffernan (109); Josh Howard (11r, 142tl); Ralph Lee Hopkins (3, 9, 17, 21t, 41t, 41b, 94t, 95t, 97t, 97b, 98, 100t, 117t, 129t); Bob Krist (110br); Becca Marcus (142b); Michael Melford (96); Flip Nicklin (102); Michael S. Nolan (tortoise front cover, 8l, 17b, 20tl, 21br, 37b, 94b, 101, 103t, 103b, 114tl, whale back cover); Jim Richardson (57br); Kevin Schafer (129lc); Jenna Schoenfeld (142tr); Susan Seubert (18); Erika Skogg (115b); Tino Soriano (52); David Vargas (27t, 46)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS—CALENDAR

NORTH AMERICA	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES														
					2016												2017		
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR		
Alaska's Inside Passage <i>Sea Lion</i>	16	S		8			15, 22, 29	5, 12*, 19*, 26	3, 10, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28*									
<i>Sea Bird</i>							14, 21, 28	4, 11, 25	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27*									
Canadian Rockies by Rail and Trail	18	T	★	7				27	25	15	5								
Baja California and the Sea of Cortez	20	S		8										14, 21, 28	4*, 11*, 18, 25	4, 11			
Cuba: Discovering Its People and Culture	22			9		17	1, 8, 22, 29	5, 12, 19, 26					6, 13, 20, 27	4, 11, 15, 29	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5, 12, 19, 26	5, 12, 19, 26		
Mysteries of the Maya	24		★	9									10	29	26	23			
Costa Rica and the Panama Canal	26	S		8	5, 12*								26	3*, 10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14*, 21, 28	4, 11*, 18, 25	4, 11		
Costa Rica: Cloud Forest to the Caribbean	28			9	4, 18									2, 16, 30	13, 27	10, 24	10		
Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks	29			8			14, 28	4	9	6, 20	3, 10, 17								
Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks	30			8				11		20, 27	3, 10, 24								
Yosemite National Park	31			7				8*, 22	13*, 20	17, 24*	7, 14*	5							
Ultimate National Parks Expedition	32		★	15					3	14	4								
Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound	34			8				11, 21	23	23	2								
Acadia National Park and Coastal Maine	35		★	7				25	16		10								
The Canadian Maritimes and Newfoundland	128	S		8							8, 15								
Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone	128			6										24, 30	22	5, 19			
Sailing the Caribbean	129	S		8												6, 13, 20, 27			
Hawaii: The Big Island and Maui	129			8									26	18					

SOUTH AMERICA

Galápagos <i>Islander</i>	36	S		10	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	20, 27	3		12, 19, 26	10, 17, 24, 31	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	4, 11, 18, 25
<i>Endeavour</i>					4, 11, 18, 25	1, 8, 15, 22	27	3*, 10*, 17, 24	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5, 12, 19	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7, 14, 21, 28	4, 11, 18, 25	2, 16, 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	3, 10, 17, 24	3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Peru: Land of the Inca	38			8	5, 13, 19, 27	2, 10, 16, 24, 30	8, 15, 22, 29	5, 11, 19, 25	3, 9, 17, 23, 31	6, 13, 20, 28	3, 11, 17, 25	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6, 12, 20, 26	4, 11, 18, 24	1, 7, 14, 22, 28	5, 11, 19, 25	5, 11, 19, 25
Upper Amazon	40	S		10					30	6, 13	3, 10, 17	29	5, 19, 26	3			
Patagonian Treasures: Torres del Paine to Cape Horn	42	S	★	15								24, 27					
Exploring Chilean Patagonia: Peaks, Glaciers, & Fjords	43	S	★	11								24, 31					
Exploring Patagonia	44			13	6								6	25	15	5, 19	

EUROPE

Sailing the Greek Isles†	46	S		9													
Under Sail: Greece to the Dalmatian Coast†	47	S		12													
Archaeological Wonders of Southern Italy and Sicily	48			11		13	4				21	5, 19					
Inside Italy	49			11		13	11	1		10		19					
Spain's Northern Coast by Private Rail	50	T		11							1, 22						
Holland in Springtime	51	S		10		14, 28											
Human Origins: Southwest France and Northern Spain	52			10		22		3		31	23, 30	21					

*These departures are designated photography expeditions.

†Departure dates beyond March 2017 are listed on the itinerary pages for these trips.

EUROPE (CONT'D)	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES														
					2016												2017		
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR		
Remembering D-Day: London to the Normandy Beaches	54			9			30	20			12, 19								
Scotland's Highlands and Islands	56	S		9				26	3, 31	7, 14, 21									
Norway's Trains and Fjords	58	T		11			16, 30	14, 28											
Swiss Trains and the Italian Lake District	60	T		10					16	20, 29	10, 17, 24								
Mediterranean Isles: Sardinia, Corsica, and Menorca	62	S	★	8			1, 8												
Baltic Archipelagos: Denmark, Sweden, and Finland	62	S	★	8						7, 21									
Portugal and Spain: From the Algarve to Catalonia	63	S	★	8		24	15												
Bordeaux to London: The French Atlantic Coast	63	S	★	8			29				11								
The North Sea: Copenhagen to London	64	S	★	8							4								
Norway and Scotland: Fjordlands to the Inner Hebrides	64	S	★	8				26											
Exploring the Coasts of England and Wales	65	S	★	8				5											
Culture and Cuisine From Oporto to Basque Country	65	S	★	8			22				18								
Best of the Baltics: Cities and Islands From Tallinn to Copenhagen	66	S	★	8						14, 28									
Hidden Ireland: Loughs and Isles Off the Beaten Path	66	S	★	8				12, 19											
Scandinavia by Sea: Denmark, Sweden, and Norway	67	S	★	8					31										
Exploring the British and Irish Isles	67	S		15			9												
Slovenia, Croatia, and Venice	128		★	10						2									
Iceland by Land and Sea: Reykjavik to the Wild West	128	S	★	7					27										

EURASIA

Trans-Siberian Rail Journey	68	T		17						/	3						
-----------------------------	----	---	--	----	--	--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

ASIA

Southern India Rail Journey	70	T	★	15							6	3		12	9	9	
Rail Journey Through India	72	T		13							23	6		22	19*	5*	
Inside Japan†	74			12	15	6*	18				12	2, 9*					22
Winter in Japan	75		★	12										31*	2, 4, 22*	1	
Inside China	76			13			/				8, 22						
Tibet and Nepal: Journey to the Highest Himalaya	77			16		22					12, 29*						
Bhutan: Kingdom in the Clouds	78			12	11	16*					3	5*	5				
Vietnam and Cambodia: Along the Mekong River	79	S		14										17, 25, 31	14, 22		

AFRICA

On Safari: Tanzania's Great Migration	80			11	5*				9, 23	6, 13*	3, 17*	1		26, 29	21	11	4*
Southern Africa Safari by Private Air	82			12			/		23	21	24			26			
The Great Apes of Uganda and Rwanda	84			13					9, 23	20				26		19	
Ethiopia: The Omo Valley and Lalibela	85			14	/						17*			27*	9*	6	
Moroccan Odyssey	86			11	18	15	6*				30*	7, 28					

MIDDLE EAST

Traveling the Sands of Time: Oman to Dubai	87			11									10	29		9, 16	
The Holy Land: Past, Present, and Future	88			12	11	1	6				16	28	11	30			

S = Ship T = Train

CALENDAR CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS—CALENDAR (CONT'D)

AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES														
					2016												2017		
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR		
Australia: Tasmania to the Great Barrier Reef	90			14									22		28	29	19		
New Zealand From North to South	92		★	13										6	4	15	26		

POLAR REGIONS

Land of the Polar Bears	94	S		11				4, 11, 18										
Norway's Fjords and Arctic Svalbard	96	S		17			22		2, 15									
Epic 80° N: Exploring Greenland, Baffin, Ellesmere	98	S		24						13								
A Circumnavigation of Iceland	99	S		11				10, 19										
Journey to Antarctica	100	S		14									2/	7, 16, 17, 26, 27	5, 6, 15, 16, 26	5		
Antarctica, South Georgia, and the Falklands	102	S		24									6, 7, 26		25	14, 15		

PRIVATE JET

Around the World by Private Jet	104	J		24									24, 2/		2/	22		
Around the World the Northern Route [†]	106	J	★	22														

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Adventure: Colorado	108			6			15						2					
Wyoming's Cowboy Country	108			7				19, 26										
Paris and Provence	108			7		19						11						
Multimedia Storytelling: Santa Fe	109			7		10						23						
Santa Fe	109			5			10		12			11						
Austin	110			4		7	5							1/				
Washington, D.C.	110			4		14	12				22	20						
New Orleans	110			4	31							13	3					
New York City	111			4		28	26	9			29	20						
San Francisco	111			4		7		23										
New York City Advanced	111			4			12				22	13						
San Francisco Advanced	111			4		21				18								
Smartphone: New York City	111			2				4				29						
Smartphone: San Francisco	111			2		30						1						

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS

China	112			14		15					16							
Mongolia	112			13				30	30									
Winter in Japan	112			12											31	22		
Inside Japan [†]	112			12		6							9					
Bhutan	112			12		16						5						
Ethiopia	113			14							17			27	9			
Morocco	113			11			6				30							
Tibet and Nepal	113			16								29						
Tanzania	113			11	5					13	1/							4

[†]Departure dates beyond March 2017 are listed on the itinerary pages for these trips.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITIONS (CONT'D)	PAGE	MODE	NEW	# OF DAYS	DEPARTURE DATES														
					2016												2017		
					MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR		
India By Rail	114	T		13												19	5		
Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone	114			6										21	15, 29	12			
Costa Rica and the Panama Canal	114	S		8	12									3	14	11			
Galápagos	114	S		10			3, 10												
Yosemite	114			7			8	13	24	14									
Cuba and Its People: A Photographic Exploration	115			8			16							28					

FAMILY

Alaska Family Voyage	116	S		8			26	24, 31									
Galápagos Family Odyssey	117	S		10			24	1, 2, 23	5								
Alaska: Denali to Prince William Sound Family Expedition	118			8				12	12								
Yellowstone and Grand Teton Family Expedition	118			8			25	30	6, 13								
Yosemite Family Expedition	119			7			29	27	10								
Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion Family Expedition	119			8			18, 25	30									
Hawaii Family Expedition	120			8									21				
Costa Rica Family Expedition	120			7	12		11	9	6				17, 27				
Peru Family Expedition	121			8			25	16	6				21, 27				
New Zealand Family Expedition	121		★	12	12								1, 26				
Tanzania Family Expedition	122			11	12		25	16, 30					1, 26				
South Africa Family Expedition	122			11			25		6				26				
China Family Expedition	123			10			25	30	6								
Japan Family Expedition	123		★	10			25	9, 23									
Scotland Family Expedition	124			9			18	30	6								
Ireland Family Expedition	124			9	12		18	30									
Tuscany Family Expedition	125			9			25	30									
Iceland Family Expedition	125			9			24	15, 29									
France Family Expedition	126		★	8			18, 25		6								
Greece Family Expedition	126			10			19	10									
Swiss Family Expedition	127			9			18	31									
Australia Family Expedition	127			12			25						11				
Winter Wildlife in Yellowstone Family Expedition	128			6									22, 21				

S = Ship T = Train J = Jet

Back cover: The aqua waters off Baja California burst with silvery air bubbles as a gray whale passes through.



Join a National Geographic Expedition to one of these extraordinary destinations:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Alaska | Canadian Rockies | Galápagos | Italy | Patagonia | Switzerland |
| Amazon River | Caribbean | Greece | Japan | Peru | Tanzania |
| America's National Parks | China | Hawaii | Mexico and Guatemala | Portugal | Tibet and Nepal |
| Antarctica | Costa Rica | Holland | Morocco | Rwanda | Trans-Siberia |
| Australia | Cuba | Iceland | New Zealand | Slovenia | United Kingdom |
| Baja California | Dalmatian Coast | India | Norway | Southern Africa | Vietnam and Cambodia and more! |
| Bhutan | Ethiopia | Ireland | Oman | Spain | |
| | France | Israel | | Sweden | |

To reserve your space, call toll-free 1-888-966-8687 or reserve online at nationalgeographicexpeditions.com