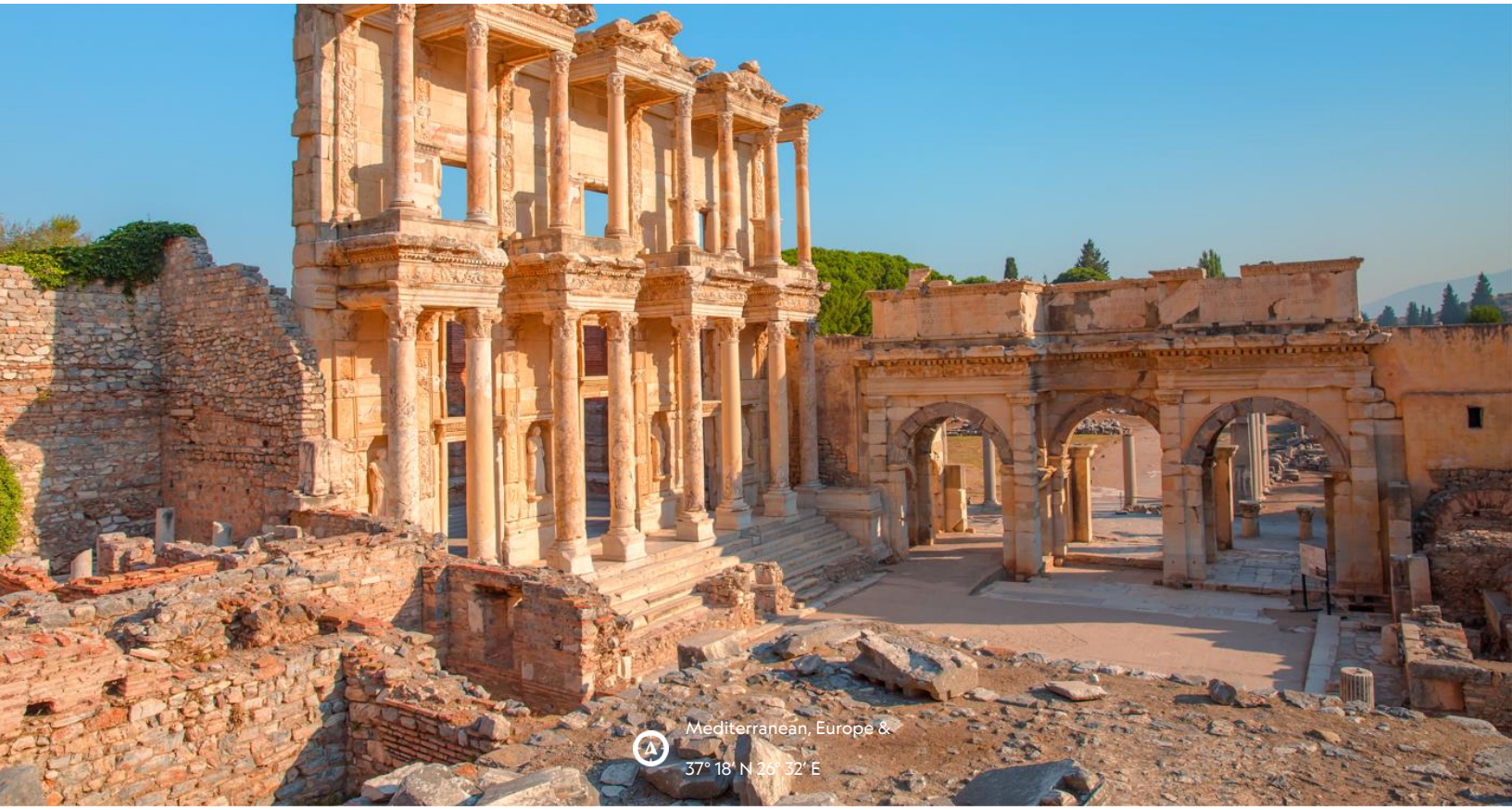


Crossroads of the Ancient World: Exploring Greece and Turkey

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions and *Food & Wine* magazine have combined their expertise to deliver a satiating culinary voyage at the crossroads of the world. Sail along the magnificent isles and rocky coastlines of Greece and Turkey, where a mélange of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman influences take us on a fascinating journey through history and cuisine. Encounter glittering marble cities of the ancient past, from Delos to Ephesus; stroll the timeless, whitewashed villages of the Cyclades; and soak up the rhythms of everyday life as you travel age-old trade routes along vibrant Aegean coastlines. A dedicated wine expert joins each voyage to offer insights as we explore the region's rich terroirs through nightly onboard wine tastings.

From

$ 8,800 / per person

Does not include flights

DATES
May and Sep

DURATION
11 Days

SHIPS
National Geographic Orion

STARTS AT
Athens, Greece

→

ENDS AT
Athens, Greece

Itinerary Note: Routing may vary and stops may be subject to modification and/or permitting. Activities are included in your voyage price; however, some departures may offer optional premium excursions at an additional cost.

Highlights

- Experience Ephesus, a UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated as one of the world's best-preserved ancient cities, followed by a mesmerizing performance by whirling dervishes
- Taste some of the region's best wines, sampling bottles personally selected by *Food & Wine* magazine's Executive Wine Editor, Ray Isle
- Sample the culinary delights of the Cyclades, and delve into the intricate rituals surrounding Turkish coffee
- Go ashore in Delos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a major religious and economic center in ancient Greece








GREECE
Athens
Lavrio
Délos
Naxos
Patmos
Kusadasi
Samos
Didim
Bodrum
Leros
mapbox
© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

Day by day

■ DAY 1

Athens, Greece / Lavrio / Embark Ship

Arrive in Athens, the capital city of Greece, and transfer to Lavrio, where you'll embark *National Geographic Orion* in the afternoon. Settle into your cabin and take in your first Aegean sunset at sea. Or explore more on a pre-voyage extension in Athens.

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

Delos

The island of Delos is one of the most important mythical and historical sites in Greece and a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. In myth, it's the birthplace of the twin immortals Artemis, goddess of animals and the hunt, and Apollo, god of healing, music and light. Spend a morning discovering the Terrace of the Lions and exquisite Temple of Apollo, two of the many incredible ruins preserved here.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Patmos

In 1999, UNESCO designated three landmarks on the Greek isle of Patmos as World Heritage sites: the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, the Cave of the Apocalypse and the town of Chora—all for their significance in Christianity. Patmos is believed to be the island where Saint John the Theologian wrote the Book of Revelation, and the 11th-century monastery has been a pilgrimage site ever since. Tour the monastery and the cave, where Saint John dictated his gospel to his disciple, Prochoros. Later, there are options to explore the island's whitewashed alleyways and lush courtyards, meet local artisans or simply relax while enjoying a coffee in a local café.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Samos

Samos is the home of the Temple of Hera (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the birthplace of ancient philosopher Pythagoras, and the remarkable Eupalinos Tunnel, an ancient engineering marvel. Spend the morning visiting ancient sites with an optional wine excursion in the afternoon.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Ephesus, Turkey

Step back in time as you wander through UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ephesus, one of the world's best preserved ancient cities and once home to the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Peer up at the intricately carved ceiling of the iconic Library of Celsus, and marvel at the Temple of Hadrian, where the main keystone arch still holds in place nearly 2,000 years after its construction. After lunch at a weaving center, partake in a Turkish coffee experience. Later, enjoy a performance of whirling dervishes—mystical Sufi dancers who spin themselves into a spiritual trance.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Didim

Didyma is home to the renowned Sanctuary of Apollo and Miletus—a significant hub of commerce, culture and innovation from the Bronze Age through the Roman era. Or visit Priene, one of the most charming ancient sites in the Mediterranean that offers stunning vistas overlooking the Meander Delta.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Bodrum

Gracing Bodrum's magnificent waterfront is the Castle of St. Peter, a 15th-century crusader fortress that now houses the Museum of Underwater Archaeology—an impressive collection of antiquities recovered from ancient shipwrecks along the Turkish coast.

In the afternoon, set sail on a traditional Turkish wooden sailing gulet to discover the area's tranquil, hidden bays. Take time to relax and enjoy a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear, blue waters of the Aegean Sea.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Leros, Greece

Laid-back Leros, one of the Dodecanese Islands, is dotted with picturesque windmills and medieval castles that make great photography subjects. Set out on a photo walk as the early sun rises above the hillcrests.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Naxos

This morning, choose to go on an early hike on Naxos. Visit an olive press museum and meet the fifth-generation owners while sampling cake, oil and marmalades, or enjoy a self-guided tour of the Kastro. This afternoon, choose to explore on your own, or join an optional marble carving class.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Paros

In Paros, explore the charming Kastro, visit a winery or join an optional excursion with a local farmer to hear how they make dry-land farming work. Afterward, taste the fruits of their bounty. Visit charming villages along the harbor like Parikia and Naoussa that offer a maze of streets and alleyways to explore.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 11

Lavrio / Disembark Ship / Athens

Arrive in Lavrio this morning. Enjoy a farewell breakfast on board before disembarking and transferring to the Athens airport for your flight home or explore more on a post-voyage extension in Crete.

Meals included: breakfast

Crossroads of the Ancient World: Exploring Greece and Turkey

Athens, Greece → Athens, Greece

2027 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *National Geographic Orion*

03 May	27 May			
11 Sep				



National Geographic Orion

GUESTS	CABINS
102	53

Joining the Lindblad fleet in 2013, the state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* serves as a luxurious base camp for voyages to the far-flung corners of the planet.

Built in Germany by the Cassens shipyard, the 102-guest *National Geographic Orion* was created with a high ice class to be able to venture safely into polar regions. A ship of her size is seldom built with such ice-cutting ability, which makes her a rarity. She is yacht-scale, yet rugged enough to venture far afield, making her a perfect addition to the Lindblad fleet, which she joined in 2013. Her size and nimbleness offer the perfect combination of safety and liberty to voyage untrammeled locations. In fact, *National Geographic Orion* currently holds the distinction of having sailed further south than any other Lindblad vessel.

Her menu, created by famed Australian chef, Serge Dansereau, owner of Sydney's acclaimed Bather's Pavilion restaurant, enormously popular with *National Geographic Orion*'s guests, so impressed Sven Lindblad, that Serge, a chef-owner who shared the Lindblad commitment to serving local and sustainable food, was enlisted to design the dining program for the entire National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions fleet.

National Geographic Orion is gracious and intimate, with a rewarding, almost clubby feeling. Of her many amenities and features, the most appealing is her outside deck space which beckons in the balmy reaches of the Pacific, and on those days in Antarctica when the midnight sun and the spectacle of the ice makes going indoors, let alone going to bed, impossible.





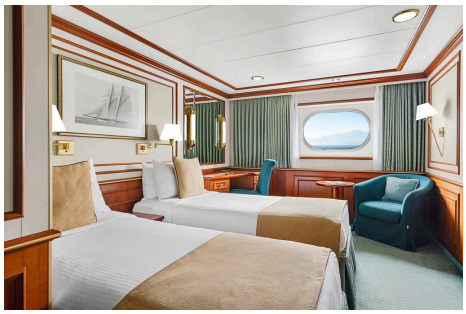


Cabin Categories

Category 1

MAIN DECK **#316, 318-321**

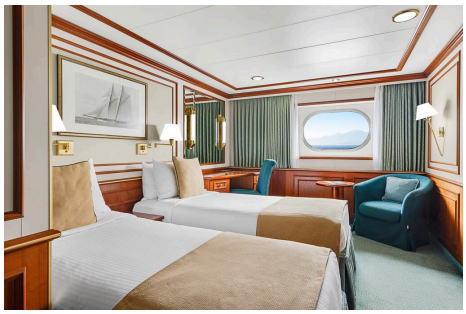
Cabins feature a luminous oval window and configurable beds: two single beds that can be converted to a queen. An armchair, reading lamps, a flat screen TV, two bedside tables, coffee table, desk and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 2

MAIN DECK **#302-312, 314, 315, 317**

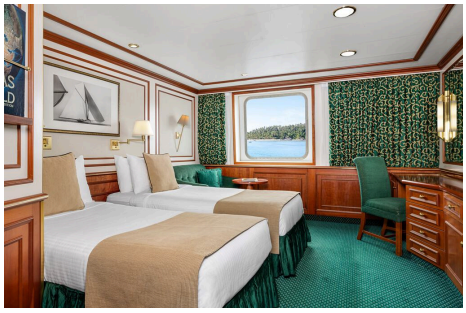
Cabins feature a luminous oval window and configurable beds: two single beds that can be converted to a queen. An armchair, reading lamps, a flat screen TV, bedside table, coffee table, desk and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 3

UPPER DECK **#401-412, 414-419**

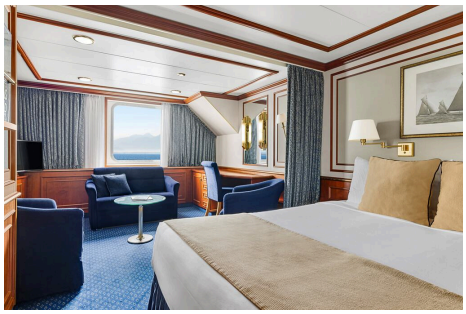
These suites feature a sitting area with a large window, a sofa—except slightly smaller #401 & #402—an armchair or two, writing/laptop desk, reading lamps, coffee table, flat screen TV, bedside table and climate controls. Beds are configurable (call for details). Marble bathrooms include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 4

BRIDGE DECK **#511, 515**

These two suites feature separate sleeping and sitting areas, with a chair and armchair, coffee table, and a two-cushion sofa facing an expansive window. Beds are configurable (call for details). Ample storage, reading lamps, a flat screen TV and climate controls complete the amenities. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 5

BRIDGE DECK **#501, 503-506, 508**

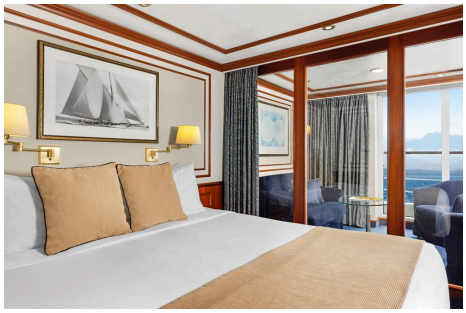
These spacious suites feature open living areas and sliding glass doors opening to a shared French balcony. Beds are configurable (call for details). A separate sitting area with armchairs and a sofa, a writing/laptop desk, coffee table, well-placed reading lamps, a flat screen TV and climate controls complete the decor. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 6

BRIDGE DECK **#502, 507, 509*, 510**

These large, elegant suites feature a French balcony, except for #509 which has double windows. Each provides a separate living area with a sofa and two armchairs, coffee table, except for #502, which uniquely offers a 'soaking tub with a view' in addition to a shower stall and expansive vanity. All cabins have reading lamps, a flat screen TV and climate controls. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



Category 1 Solo

MAIN DECK **#301, 322, 323**

These solo cabins feature a window or two portholes, a queen-size bed, except for #301 which has a double bed, writing desk and chair, climate controls, reading lamps, coffee table, two bedside tables and a TV. Marble bathrooms are generously sized and include a roomy shower stall with a glass door.



Category 3 Solo

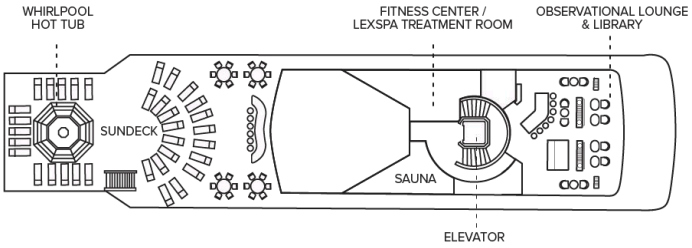
UPPER DECK **#512**

This solo suite features two single beds and two large windows, plus two armchairs and a small table, reading lamps, coffee table a flat screen TV and climate controls. The marble bathroom is generously sized and includes a spacious shower stall with a glass door.



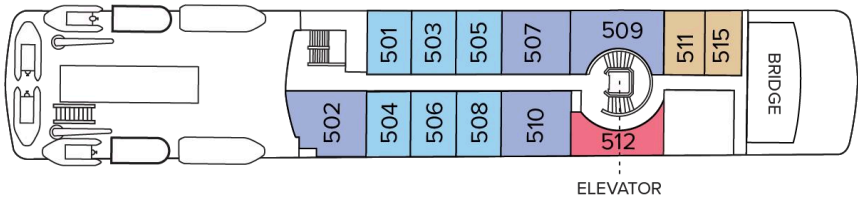
Deck Plans

Observation Deck



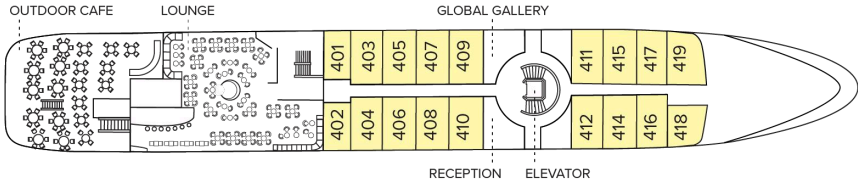
Bridge Deck

- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 3 Solo



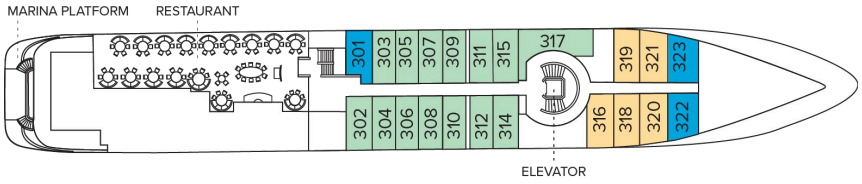
Upper Deck

- Category 3

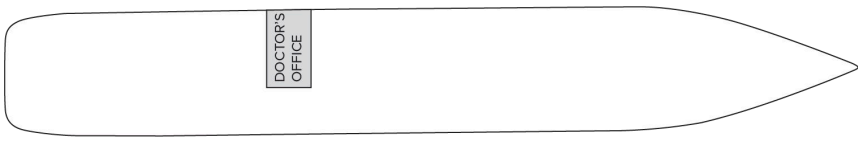


Main Deck

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 1 Solo



Expedition Deck



Ship Amenities

Public Areas

Reception; two dining areas; lounge with bar and state-of-the-art presentation facilities; OM System photo locker; sundeck with a whirlpool hot tub that doubles as a plunge pool in warm climates; observation lounge and library; global gallery; a marina platform; plus open access to the Bridge, the Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

Meals

Meals are served in the dining room, or weather permitting, the outdoor café, at a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menus feature sustainable choices, local where possible.

Cabins

All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins feature a coffee table, lounge chair, desk, phone, TV with on demand entertainment, multiple outlets and USB, mini refrigerator, and safe. Luxury linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and a National Geographic Atlas are available in each cabin.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of double kayaks, a crow's nest camera, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, video microscope and an ROV. Plus, for South Pacific voyages: snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for a number of pre-qualified guests, stand-up paddleboards, glass-bottom Zodiac and splash-cam.

Special Features

A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor. A central staircase and elevator reach all decks. Enjoy daily teatime and the smoothies served after the sunrise stretch sessions on the sundeck in Polynesia.

Wellness

A fitness center, LEXspa treatment room and sauna, staffed by wellness specialists.

Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean CoatTM is a light-activated, self-disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. This non-toxic, chemical-free system also helps us save over one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures.

Special Offers

SUITE EXCLUSIVES

Spacious living areas and incredible views immerse you in the beauty of your marine surroundings. Our new Suite Exclusives package helps make your voyage all the more memorable. **Learn more**

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

INCLUDED IN PRICE

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, liquor and spirits aboard the ship (except certain premium brands which are available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; crew gratuities; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs and kayaks; guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the National Geographic Photographer and Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; onboard physician consultations; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, scuba diving for pre-qualified divers on select voyages*, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

*Scuba Diving Requirements

- Dives can be challenging so divers must have ample previous experience
- Divers need at least 25 lifetime dives if you're advanced open water and at least 35 if you're just open water
- Divers need to have a completed an open water dive or professional refresher course within 12 months of the voyage
- Divers need to receive medical clearance to dive from a doctor (form provided upon registration) and provide proof of dive insurance

Additional costs associated with medical services outside onboard physician consultation.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non- refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/

CANCELLATION POLICY

Review our cancellation policy: https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/