

EUROPE

2.0

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION | 2016

UPGRADE
YOUR
EXPERIENCE

ACTIVE
INSIGHTFUL
EXCLUSIVE
EFFORTLESS

22 ONE-WEEK
VOYAGES, TAKE
ONE OR MORE

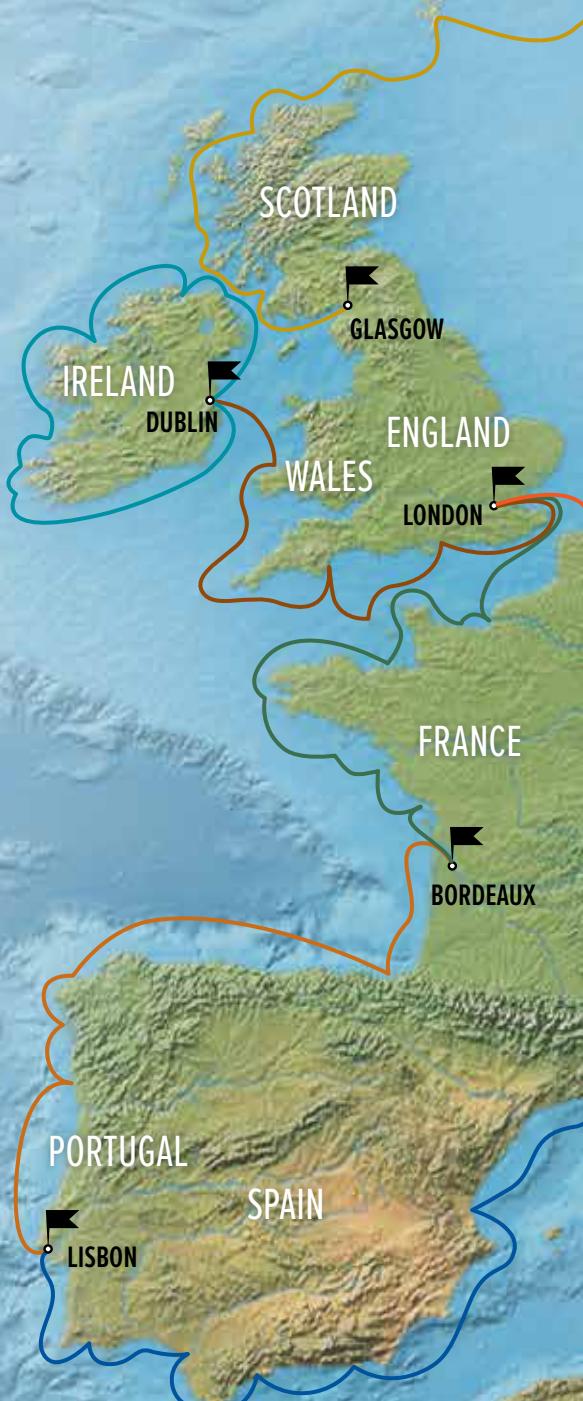


EUROPE 2.0

For most travelers, Europe's diversity is both alluring and exhilarating. Its art and architecture are among the greatest gifts human culture provides; and its food, people, plus the everlasting co-existence of *past* and *present* are a wonder. Now, you can discover Europe, again or the first time, in a uniquely gracious and personal way.

Get to know each destination—more **actively, insightfully, exclusively, and effortlessly** than you ever imagined. We call it Europe 2.0—carefully curated, perfectly paced one-week itineraries with distinct advantages over Europe by any other means.

And, to make your Europe experience even more remarkable, we have arranged for pre- and/or post-voyage hotel accommodations at premier properties. All you have to do is elect to stay, and we'll handle the details for you.





2016 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION IN EUROPE

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**CHOOSE 1 VOYAGE OR EXPLORE A REGION &
SAVE 10% ON ANY 2 OR MORE**

Or, disembark the ship for a deeper steep in a specific region—to linger in Bordeaux or the Algarve, for example—and re-embark the ship elsewhere in Europe. You'll save 10% on any two or more voyages, in any sequence. And we'll help with flight arrangements to make it easy.



Clockwise from above: Quinta do Crasto winery along the Douro River seen from a helicopter, and its wines, among the best in the region; Neptune's Fountain, Lisbon; the mouth-watering build of a pastry in a shop on our culinary explorations; photographing monuments at night like St. Idelfonso in Oporto; famous tile murals in Oporto's train station; Señor António, owner of Os Amigos da Severa pub, with his establishment's exclusive version of the sour cherry brandy, Ginjinha.





DEAR TRAVELER,

It's just before 6:00 a.m. on May 28, as we land in Lisbon. I'm excited, as I haven't been to Southern Europe for many years, and my time in Portugal was always very limited. We're prepared, as our ground team has done some extensive scouting. The days here will be busy and we're very curious to see what they have discovered and to know this city. The cab ride to the hotel was a first taste. "You will love this city, a capital built to rule half the world," our driver said. It's true. This relatively small country had a very big footprint on the world; it was the first global empire in history and the longest-lived of the modern European colonial empires for over six centuries beginning in 1415.



I thought this note I jotted *en route* was quite fitting as our relatively small ship, the *National Geographic Orion*, will begin a series of 22 one-week explorations of Europe beginning in Lisbon on April 24, 2016.

I've spent most of my life either in wild places or in the third world. But every time I venture into Europe, I'm enthralled. And last year, we made a commitment to curate the most compelling experiences possible to reveal this historic, cultural, and modern part of our world to you in a seamless way. We've had three teams on the ground for months looking to blend the known and the unknown into a mosaic of possibilities.

Join us, and you will experience a Europe few really know, with options to choose that suit your particular interests everywhere we go—whether it's a walk in the backstreets of a town sampling different foods and drink, a bicycle ride through the countryside, a photographic walk at golden hour, or an evening foray into the local music scene.

Europe can be as exotic and exciting as any place our 'explorer hearts' desire. Hopefully, my recent Portugal photographs (shown here) will communicate a bit of how we blend many appealing aspects of a place into a seamless whole for you. I hope you will join us this season to explore this beloved continent.

All the best,

Sven-Olof Lindblad

P.S. I hope you'll take advantage of the pre/post hotels we've arranged, for the opportunity to linger longer in any of several European cities. Our team can give you good guidance to really round out your experience. And if you choose Lisbon, I'd be happy to give you suggestions based on my personal experience there.

Cover: Lisbon's charming backstreets invite meandering. © Sven-Olof Lindblad

Ship's registry: Bahamas



ACTIVE





So much of European travel has always existed between two poles: passive sightseeing with highlights assured for those willing to forego being active agents of their own travel, or intense planning by travelers who wanted to actively experience many facets. Our European itineraries combine the best of both.

You'll enjoy the advantage of having everything arranged for you *and* the assurance of active discovery—thanks to a daily menu of possibilities, presented by our onboard concierge. Choose among walking tours, visits to farms or vineyards, hikes, cycling trips and more. Glide through an ancient city on a Segway, or trek across rooftops for a peerless, and decidedly uncommon, view of Stockholm's beautiful Old Town. We'll even arrange scuba diving at Scotland's historic Scapa Flow for the Bob Ballard-inspired!

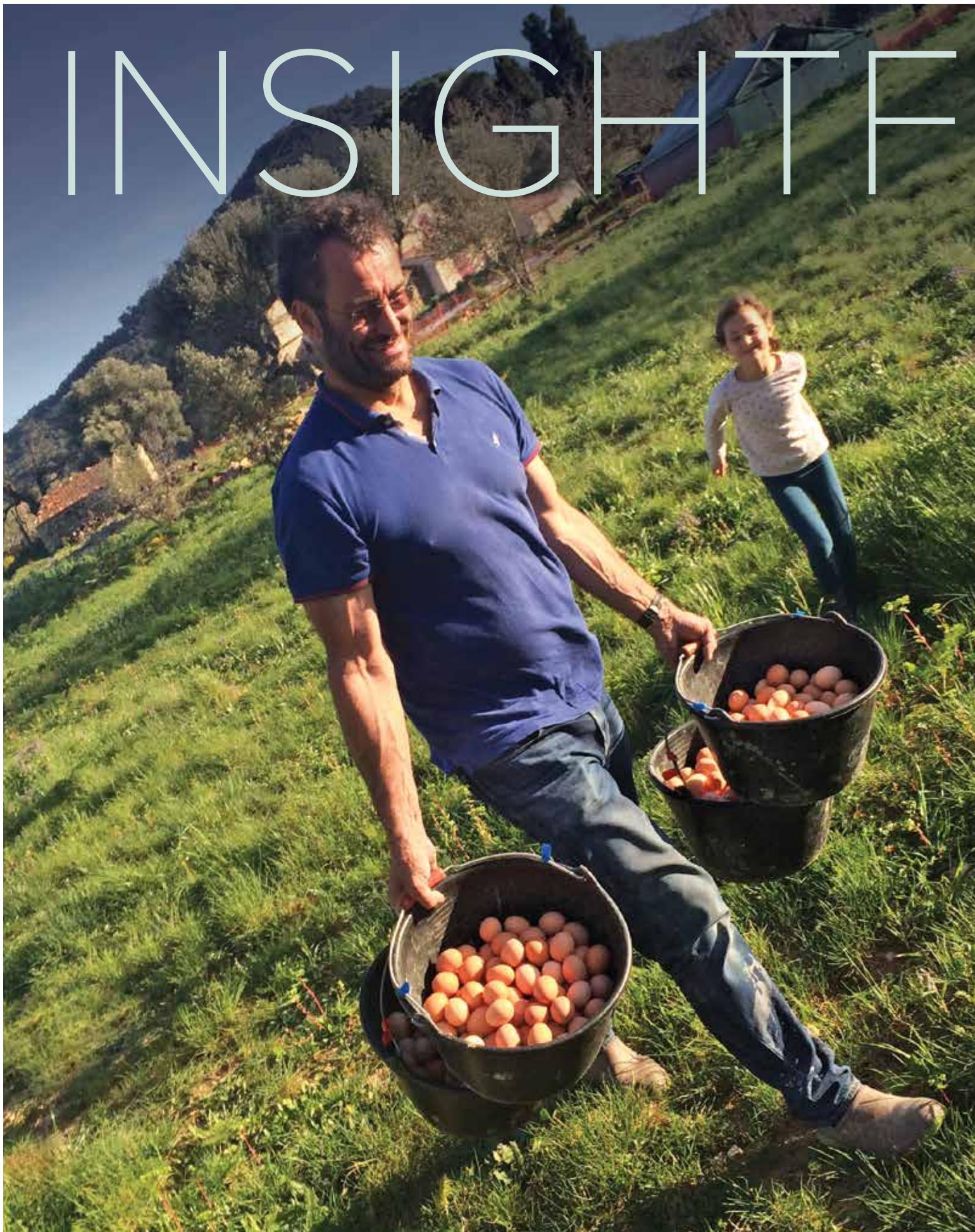
There's a natural history component to each day's possibilities, and you'll always have the option to see Europe from a café seat if you choose; pleasures like people-watching and piazza-strolling are always on the day's menu.



Clockwise from left: Choose to go on a cycling exploration and our concierge will provide a map and the staff will adjust your bicycle—so you can confidently head off. Walking and hiking activity will match your interests and fitness level, and can also incorporate birdwatching and other natural history elements. And opportunities for special personal expeditions, like wreck diving at Scotland's historic Scapa Flow, will tailor your voyage to you.



INSIGHT





Travel on your own in Europe, and you might have delightful unplanned encounters with locals. With us, it's assured; we orchestrate opportunities for you to learn or simply have fun together.

Pay your respects at Normandy beaches and go behind-the-scenes of the D-Day map room with a WWII expert. Visit a 19th-century Provencal farm home—enjoy exploring the property, hold the hens, they are very gentle; see two completed examples of the new style of sustainable eco-home building in the region; and visit the vineyard. Then, convene with a chef for a tasting using all the farm's provender: scrambled eggs with truffles and olive oil, a ratatouille, and wine. Plus, explore cathedrals, mosques, churches, fortresses and museums with expert docents.



Traveling in the company of excellent historians and regional experts, you'll see more and gain a richer perspective on what makes each individual region unique and interesting. And you'll return home with photos that capture all these unique moments, plus improved skills, thanks to our onboard National Geographic photographer.

Clockwise from left: Whether it's an articulate, eco-conscious farmer in Provence, the oyster harvesters of Cancale, or the traditional knitters of the Aran Isles, the opportunities for rich, satisfying encounters with soulful Europeans will make your voyage uniquely memorable. The quality of our itinerary curation is matched by the quality of our onboard experts.

EXCLUSIV



E



Itinerary design has always been a Lindblad Expeditions art, and our Europe 2.0 program combines the best of independent travel with having someone thoughtfully handle the logistics for you and ensure unanticipated delights.

Our Europe Experience Design Team has developed exclusive opportunities—behind-the-scenes visits, dining experiences, concerts and performances, and more—ones you wouldn't otherwise experience, everywhere we go. In addition, our voyages are deliberately paced to allow more time in ports so you can explore deeper, with at least one evening ashore for a local dinner, and the nighttime delight of charming towns. And most importantly, we've also built in time for you to explore on your own.



You'll never miss a one-of-a-kind view, an enriching encounter, a photogenic sunset, or the magic of the totally unexpected. It's a way to travel that puts the *unforgettable* in otherwise memorable experiences.

Clockwise from left: The stunning geology and beauty of Fingal's Cave inspired Romantics like Mendelssohn (the Hebrides Overture). Choose this itinerary (page 42) and you'll see what it inspired our team to arrange for you. The Swedish trio Väsen has performed worldwide; they're one of many celebrated performers you'll experience in every region we visit. Truly exceptional private dining experiences await you on every itinerary.

EFFORTLE





We've scheduled earlier embarkation times than ever before, boarding by 1:00 pm, so you can settle in, relax and enjoy lunch aboard the ship as the crew prepares to set sail.

And aboard *National Geographic Orion*, you'll traverse tedious distances while you sleep (the ship travels by night), so you awaken to a new vista daily*.

The bicycles, kayaks and Zodiacs that will enhance your experience each day are all onboard, so heading off to have fun is uncomplicated. And, all museum, cathedral and other site visits and entrance fees have all been arranged for you, and in many cases, we've also arranged special access or behind-the-scenes opportunities you might not otherwise be able to secure. Every activity you'll have the opportunity to do on each voyage is included in the price, as is your bar tab and crew tips.



And, to make your Europe experience even more remarkable, we have arranged for pre- and/or post-voyage hotel accommodations at premier properties if you wish. All you have to do is to decide you like the notion of a before or after 'decompression,' and we'll handle the details. You'll find the relevant hotel properties listed on each itinerary.

Interesting fact: If you were to travel on your own, duplicating, for example, the experience of our **Mediterranean Isles: Sardinia, Corsica, and Menorca itinerary, it could involve 17 hours of driving/traveling total, 2-3 hours a day over 8 days. And that's assuming your directions are flawless, and you're willing to limit the joys of discovery to the non-driving, or packing, parts of the day.*

Left photo: Heading back to the ship from lovely St. Jean-de-Luz; Above: Orion's fleet of Zodiacs disembark swiftly to get you off on adventures quickly.

THE PERFECT SHIP TO DISCOVER EUROPE

National Geographic Orion is a beautiful ship, originally purpose-built for luxurious expedition cruising—to adventurous regions such as Antarctica, as well as the temperate and tropical zones of the South Pacific. Spacious and modern, *Orion* offers panoramic views from her main lounge, observation lounge and library at the top of the ship to maintain a constant visual connection to the wonders outside. The dramatic window-lined main lounge is the site of lively daily Recap sessions, presentations and performances. And her expansive decks offer balmy air and brilliant vistas by day, or the romance of dining under stars at night. And while *Orion* interiors are elegant, life aboard is always casual, with no need for formal clothing, and very inclusive, fostering a rewarding *esprit de corps*.





Main image: The 102-guest National Geographic Orion underway; Clockwise from top right: Orion's main lounge is the center of shared life aboard; expansive windows invite in scenic views, and the reflective ceiling mirrors the ocean in a sublimely relaxing way; The observation lounge and library provides a welcome to readers, card players, and sailors who love to review the nautical charts on display; Orion's generous aft platform makes embarking and disembarking Zodiacs secure and easy for all.



THE BOUNTY OF EUROPE

From farm-fresh produce to sustainably-raised or line-caught fish, to wines of various *terroirs*, to ports from the center of port artistry and regional beers, dining aboard *National Geographic Orion* will open a window on the flavors of four key regions of Europe. *Orion*'s menus are designed by renowned Australian chef-owner of The Bather's Pavilion in Sydney, Serge Dansereau, and executed daily by head chef, Lothar Greiner. Both chefs are European-trained and creatively inspired, so you can rely on dining exceptionally well both on and off ship. *Orion*'s indoor dining room accommodates all guests at once in a single seating, and there is no assigned seating for easy mingling. Breakfast is served on the aft deck in good weather, a perfect way to greet each new day in a fresh European locale.





Left: Orion's comfortable, elegant dining room features no assigned seating for casual, easy mingling; Clockwise from top: breakfast on the aft deck is a delightful way to begin a glorious weather day; each day's menu, a window on diverse European regions, was developed by the southern hemisphere's top chef, Serge Dansereau.





THE PERFECT ENDING TO ACTIVE DAYS



National Geographic Orion's private spaces are as alluring as her public ones. Decorated in rich jewel tones, her 53 cabins, including 9 suites with French balconies and 4 solo cabins, are inviting and rewarding—with deluxe bedding, our signature feather duvets and thick terry robes. All cabins feature flat screen TVs with news and movie programming, as well as channels broadcasting the live feed from our remote-controlled crow's nest camera, and our electronic chart system. And all cabins are equipped with Ethernet connections, plugs for laptops, phones, and camera chargers.



Clockwise from left: Category 6 French balcony suite, Category 5 cabin with French balcony: both are spacious with a sitting area; Category 2 cabin with an oval window, armchair, and desk. The bathroom in each cabin has a marble sink and is stocked with fine amenities.

► TO VIEW 360° VIDEOS OF ORION'S ACCOMMODATIONS, VISIT
EXPEDITIONS.COM/NGORION

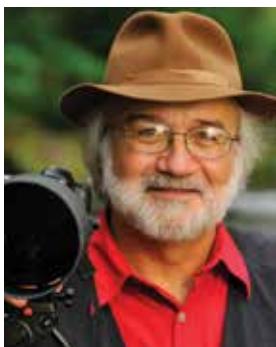
PHOTOGRAPH EUROPE WITH THE TOP PROS



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Whether you think of yourself as a photographer or simply want to capture the moments at the heart of your voyage, you'll take your best photos ever aboard *National Geographic Orion*. You'll have a top National Geographic photographer onboard to provide inspiration, tips and advice gleaned over the course of significant careers. Point-and-shoot, iPhone and DSLR users alike will find the quality of their images, and their storytelling, will improve greatly during the voyage. And regardless of your skill level, you'll return home a more confident photographer, with shots you'll enjoy sharing.

► LEARN MORE AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/PHOTO AND FIND INTERESTING BIOS FOR ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/NGPS



National Geographic photographers aboard Orion this season are: Ralph Lee Hopkins, Kike Calvo, Massimo Bassano, Erika Larson, Bob Krist, Gianlucca Colla, and Jim Richardson.





Metropol Parasol building, Seville, Spain.

Top photo gear and knowledgeable advice. Stellar shipping and customer service. These and more reasons are why Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic has teamed up with renowned camera and electronics retailer B&H. Book with us, and in addition to region-specific gear recommendations, you'll also receive exclusive guest discounts. Call an expedition specialist for more details.





OUR EUROPEAN TEAM

Our reputation as an expedition travel company is based largely on the quality of the teams we've created to explore the planet's wild places. For Europe, we've assembled an Experience Design Team expert in the different regions, in curating extraordinary and one-of-a-kind experiences, and in providing extra levels of insight for you. Expert historians and cultural experts accompany you, so you can wonder as you wander and learn as you go. There's a natural history component to every itinerary's activities, and onboard naturalists to help you make the most of these opportunities. And thanks to the uncommon expertise of our ethnomusicologist, you'll enjoy a genuinely special connection to Europe's music, and genuinely special experiences.

 LEARN MORE AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/EXPERTS



Here is a partial list of staff during our European season: expedition leader Jen Martin; historian David Barnes; archaeologists Vinnie Butler and Carol Knott; underwater archaeologist Robyn Woodward; historian Tom Heffernan; and (not shown) naturalists Peter Wilson and Madalena Patacho.



Jacob Edgar is a world music tastemaker and global explorer with an insatiable curiosity for the ways in which people express themselves through music. Founder of record label *Cumbancha* and host of television program *Music Voyager*, Jacob's adventures have taken him throughout the world in search of exceptional musical talents. Jacob will be curating exclusive musical performances to enrich the cultural experiences of the countries in which we explore.

► LEARN MORE AT

WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/JACOB

IBERIA & THE



A view of Granada from Alhambra Palace.

FIELD NOTES FROM OUR EXPERIENCE DESIGN TEAM | EUROPE

MEDITERRANEAN

PORUGAL & SPAIN: FROM THE ALGARVE TO CATALONIA

"Portugal is everyone's new favorite European country. This itinerary offers an in-depth look at one of Portugal's most beautiful treasures—the pristine Algarve coast. One of my favorite things was heading out into the lush countryside in jeeps. And visiting the private art gallery and the sherry bodega in Jerez was a real privilege."



MEDITERRANEAN ISLES: SARDINIA, CORSICA, AND MENORCA

"There are so many interesting things to see and do, but honestly, the most life-enhancing is being in the Mediterranean at this time of year. The contrasts between land and sea are so dramatic; the sunrises and sunsets are world-class—whether you choose to silently witness them, or take advantage of them as rare photo ops."



CULTURE & CUISINE FROM OPORTO TO BASQUE COUNTRY

"This is easily one of the most intellectually satisfying travel experiences of my life—the history, cuisine and music of the Basque region is so rich and redolent, especially given that we experience both the French and the Spanish sides of this unique culture, a really rare opportunity."



— Alizé Carrère, Regional Experience Designer



One of the many white villages of Andalusia.

PORUGAL AND SPAIN: FROM THE ALGARVE TO CATALONIA

2016 DATES: APR. 24; MAY 15*

**This voyage travels in reverse.*

Follow in the wake of Roman conquerors, Phoenician traders, and Moorish kings on a voyage to the sun-dappled shores of Portugal and Spain. Discover the whitewashed villages of the Algarve and Andalusia, and photograph the iconic silhouette of the Rock of Gibraltar en route to exploring charming towns nestled along the Mediterranean. Encounter wonders both ancient and modern, from the Roman ruins of Cartagena to the Gothic Cathedrals of Seville to the avant-garde architecture of Valencia. Savor the rich flavors of Iberian cuisine, explore mountain trails and medieval fortresses, and delve into the musical traditions of two of Europe's most captivating countries.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"Home ports for the planet's greatest early explorers, these regions have invited exploration since the dawn of travel. Heading off to explore the Algarve in jeeps, coupled with National Geographic Orion's pacing along this fascinating coast will make visiting here, whether it's again or the first time, a genuine discovery." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: LISBON, PORTUGAL

Arrive in Lisbon and embark the *National Geographic Orion*. Take in splendid views of Portugal's capital as we set sail. Tonight we have a performance of authentic *fado* music aboard the ship.

DAY 2: PORTIMÃO/ALGARVE

Portimão is our gateway to Portugal's southernmost province, the Algarve, known for its whitewashed villages, lush farmlands, and remnants of Moorish culture. Travel north to Silves, home to a fortified sandstone castle built by the Moors, and learn about the tradition of harvesting cork oak. Alternatively, explore the sea caves of the Algarvian coast by small boat while savoring a glass of Medronho, a local fruit brandy.

"Your transport into the Portuguese countryside today will be by off-road jeep, returning by way of small river boats along the Arade River. Keep an eye out for the large stork nests nestled atop cottage chimneys!"

DAY 3: CÁDIZ, SPAIN/SEVILLE

Arrive on the shores of Spain. From Cádiz, travel to the graceful Andalusian capital of Seville, where contemporary culture is

interwoven with layers of history. In the old city, see one of the world's largest Gothic cathedrals and the Alcázar palace, where the king and queen of Spain greeted Columbus on his return from the New World. Delve into the art of flamenco during a private performance at the intimate Museo del Baile Flamenco, and perhaps try some classic *zapateado* (footwork) yourself.

"Opt to visit one stop on the famed sherry triangle. Visit a traditional sherry bodega, interesting not only for its extra-aged sherries (20 or more years old), but because it houses the Colección Joaquín Rivera, a private Spanish art collection that includes important works by Goya, Velázquez and Zurbarán."

DAY 4: GIBRALTAR, U.K./MÁLAGA, SPAIN
 Stand on deck as we pass the tiny British colony of Gibraltar, which presides over the strait between Spain and Morocco. Enter the Mediterranean Sea on our way to Málaga, the birthplace of Picasso and a gem of a coastal city surrounded by charming Andalusian towns. Explore the city's artistic treasures; ride along the newly finished bike path hugging beaches and beautiful coastline; or go hiking in Torcal de Antequera, a nature reserve adorned with limestone formations and fossils dating back roughly 150 million years. We gather for dinner at a special wine bar, featuring local Andalusian products.

"Feeling energetic? Grab a mountain bike and cycle through the natural paradise surrounding Málaga, with a pre-mapped route in hand."

DAY 5: MÁLAGA/GRANADA

A variety of excursions await today. For a deeply cultural experience, travel into Andalusian countryside past orange groves and olive trees



for a specially prepared lunch in the homes of local women. Many of you will want to take the full day to see enchanting Granada, set high in the Sierra Nevada, exploring magnificent Moorish architecture including the 13th-century Alhambra Palace and Generalife gardens.

"Or, set out for an early morning trek following Mr. Henderson's Railway to the neighboring city of Ronda, famous for its dramatic escarpments and views, and for the deep El Tajo gorge."

DAY 6: MAZARRÓN ESCARPMENT/CARTAGENA

With our naturalists, look for whales and dolphins along the submerged volcanic mountains of the Mazarrón Escarpment. Later, arrive in the deep natural harbor of Cartagena—a historic naval base where Phoenicians, Romans, and Moors all left their mark. Set out on foot to explore the city's medieval fortresses and modernist houses, or glide along the streets on an electric Segway scooter—for a modern way to see this ancient city!

"For a striking visual of the times, walk to the lookout at Parque Torres and look down on the ruins of the Roman amphitheater, now placed back-to-back with a modern-day one."

Príncipe Felipe Science Museum in Valencia, Spain.



DAY 7: VALENCIA

In sunny Valencia, old-world cafés mingle with Gothic cathedrals and futurist architecture. Visit the City of Arts and Sciences, an otherworldly cultural complex designed by native architect Santiago Calatrava. Explore the rich birdlife of Albufera Natural Park, one of the most important wetland areas on the Iberian Peninsula. Enjoy a lunch of traditional paella—Valencia's signature dish.

"Hop aboard private fishermen's boats along the marshy canals of the Albufera Lake ecosystem, where they cultivate rice and harvest shellfish for paella—and learn how to make a delicious paella in the city it was invented."

DAY 8: BARCELONA

Wake up in Barcelona, and have breakfast on board. Disembark our ship and transfer to the airport for your return flight, or remain in Barcelona for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Lisbon and rest up at the Sofitel before embarking. Or savor a night in Barcelona at the Majestic Hotel before traveling home or onward.



Sea cave along the Algarve coast, Portugal.



Bonifacio, Corsica.

MEDITERRANEAN ISLES: SARDINIA, CORSICA, & MENORCA

2016 DATES: MAY 1, 8*

*This voyage travels in reverse.

Scattered across the western Mediterranean, the Balearic Islands, Sardinia, and Corsica harbor their own distinctive cultures and unique natural wonders. The legacy of prehistoric civilizations and traces of great empires dot their landscapes. In the background are gorgeous rugged coastlines, villages tucked into seaside slopes, and some of the most pristine waters in the Mediterranean. On board *National Geographic Orion*, set sail from Barcelona and Monaco to 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.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"Washed by breezes, these sun-spangled Mediterranean isles celebrate the sea, and National Geographic Orion's fleet of kayaks and Zodiacs will give us an advantage—bringing us into intimate contact with the idyllic sea caves, grottos and beaches that usually only the yacht-enabled ever see." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: BARCELONA, SPAIN

Arrive in Barcelona and embark *National Geographic Orion*. After lunch on board, we set out to experience this vibrant city.

DAY 2: CIUDADELA, MENORCA

Cross the Balearic Sea, cruising along the ridge of Mallorca's Serra Tramuntana before reaching the small island of Menorca. Stroll the charming city of Ciutadella, or head out for a hike along an old military path that hugs the coast of the island. Enjoy a sunset dinner on deck while anchored in the lovely harbor of Ciutadella, overlooking the old quarter.

"Menorca is home to some of the most beautiful, secluded Mediterranean beaches. Walk through pine forests and arrive at the base of a quiet bay or cove along the northern coast."

DAY 3: CIUDADELA AND MAHON, MENORCA

The Vandals, the Moors, and the British Empire have ruled over this stunning little island, and prehistoric civilizations left intriguing rock mounds and megalithic monuments that date back some 4,000 years. Explore this history today while traveling overland to Mahón at the south end of the island. Walk through the



Bronze Age village of Torralba d'en Salord and see the characteristic T-shaped stone monuments left by the Talayotic peoples. Meet the *Orion* at the port in Mahón and sail east.

DAY 4: AT SEA/ALGHERO, SARDINIA
A morning at sea brings us to Sardinia, where we soak up the unique character of Italy's second-largest island through a variety of excursions. Explore Neptune's Grotto by small boat and swim or kayak beneath the cliffs of Capo Caccia. After dinner aboard the ship, a free evening ashore lets you explore Alghero on your own.

"Meet the owner of a small, private Sardinian family estate and vineyard with lovely gardens. Sample the wines and the Sardinian specialties."

DAY 5: BONIFACIO, CORSICA
Witness our spectacular entrance into Bonifacio's natural harbor at sunrise. On a walking tour of the hilltop town, venture into an impressive 12th-century citadel and walk along medieval streets lined with art galleries, shops, and cafés. This afternoon hike to the Pertusato Lighthouse, look up at the cliff-top city from below by Zodiac, or simply relax on a small beach. A special Corsican evening ashore awaits you.

"Our musicologist has planned a Corsican a cappella polyphonic singing performance in Bonafacio."

DAY 6: GULF OF PORTO, CORSICA

Wake up in the exquisite Gulf of Porto, part of the Scandola Nature Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ride Zodiacs amid the pink cliffs, caves, and turquoise waters of this coastal and marine wilderness. Encounter the deep rocky folds along the shores of southern Provence known as calanques, and enjoy lunch on the picturesque beach.

"The crystal clear waters of the Scandola marine reserve spells hope for the Mediterranean, an area that National Geographic's Pristine Seas team set out to assess in 2010 with NG Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala and Pierre-Yves Cousteau aboard Jacques Cousteau's historic Alcyone. The diversity and richness of life beneath the surface are breathtaking. Dozens of huge groupers and other large fish populate the area, along with colorful anemones, massive spider crabs, giant fan mussels, moray eels—so much life!"

DAY 7: TOULON, FRANCE

Greek, Roman, Germanic, Catalan—Provence in southeastern France has been a cultural crossroads since antiquity, when grapevines and olive trees were already being cultivated. From Toulon, Zodiacs take us into the lovely Provencal port of Le Pradet to get immersed in the flavors and charms of this celebrated region. Pay a visit to a family-run organic chicken farm and stop for a tasting at a small winery.

"The farm we've selected is a beautiful stretch of land with olive trees, flower fields, and a



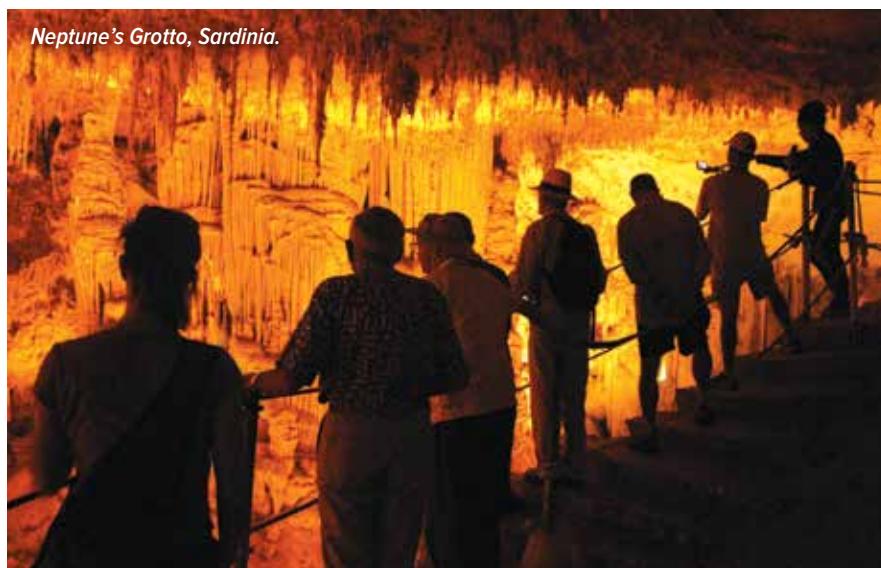
19th-century Provencal farmhouse. The town's mayor will greet us and give us an introduction to the three farm features we will visit: the neighboring vineyard, an olive oil and vegetable farm, and the hen houses to learn about organic egg production. Afterwards, the chef will prepare tastings combining all of the fresh farm products."

DAY 8: MONACO

Wake in Monaco, and disembark after breakfast. Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or remain in Monaco for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Barcelona and rest up at the **Majestic Hotel** before embarking. Or savor a night in Monaco at the **Fairmont Monte Carlo** before traveling home or onward.





Tapas, San Sebastian.

CULTURE AND CUISINE FROM OPORTO TO BASQUE COUNTRY

2016 DATES: MAY 22; SEP. 18*

**This voyage travels in reverse.*

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 remaining in the world.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"From the food of both Basque regions, the rich perfume of incense in Santiago de Compostela, the molten glow of port upon your tongue, the performance by renowned Basque artist Kepa Junkera our musicologist has arranged, to the art of the Guggenheim Bilbao, this itinerary celebrates all five senses." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: LISBON, PORTUGAL

Arrive in Lisbon, and embark *National Geographic Orion*. After lunch, relax on the ship or explore on shore. Then be on deck as we navigate the Tagus River at sunset, drinks in hand.

DAY 2: OPORTO

Arrive in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Oporto in the late morning. The birthplace of port wine, Oporto straddles a gorge on the Douro River, linked by numerous bridges and filled with medieval architecture. See the famous *azulejo* tiles of the region and take in the views from the iron masterpiece Ponte Dom Luis. Later, learn the secrets of port-making during a tasting at a riverside port house.

"Explore with a range of transport modes: vintage tram or auto, tuk-tuk, or on foot."

DAY 3: VILLAGARCÍA DE AROUSA, SPAIN

Anchor in Villagarcía de Arousa and drive to Santiago de Compostela. Visit a historic mansion with impressive gardens, and listen to the melodies of a *gaita*, a Galician bagpipe. In the heart of Santiago de Compostela, visit

the cathedral that has welcomed millions of pilgrims over the centuries, and enjoy lunch and a vibrant musical performance at the adjacent Hostal de los Reyes Católicos.

"Immerse yourself in the culture. Choose to join fishermen along an estuary as they collect mussels, which our Orion chef will season and prepare. Or, walk in the steps of the pilgrims' path to the magnificent cathedral of Santiago de Compostela."

DAY 4: A CORUÑA

Cruise into A Coruña, passing the impressive Tower of Hercules in the morning light. Pay a visit to the tower, the only working Roman lighthouse in the world, visit the local market, and learn about the architectural phenomenon that earned the town the nickname "The Glass City." Take a late morning stroll or a bicycle ride around the area's picturesque coastal villages before we sail east.

DAY 5: BILBAO

Arrive in Bilbao after lunch. Explore the titanium curves of the iconic Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, learn how it has transformed the city, and have a guided tour of the interior in small groups. Wander through Bilbao's old quarter, or go for a scenic hike along the coast. After dinner on the ship, enjoy a free evening to experience the city at night.

"Our musicologist has arranged for a private performance from famous Basque musician Kepa Junkera."



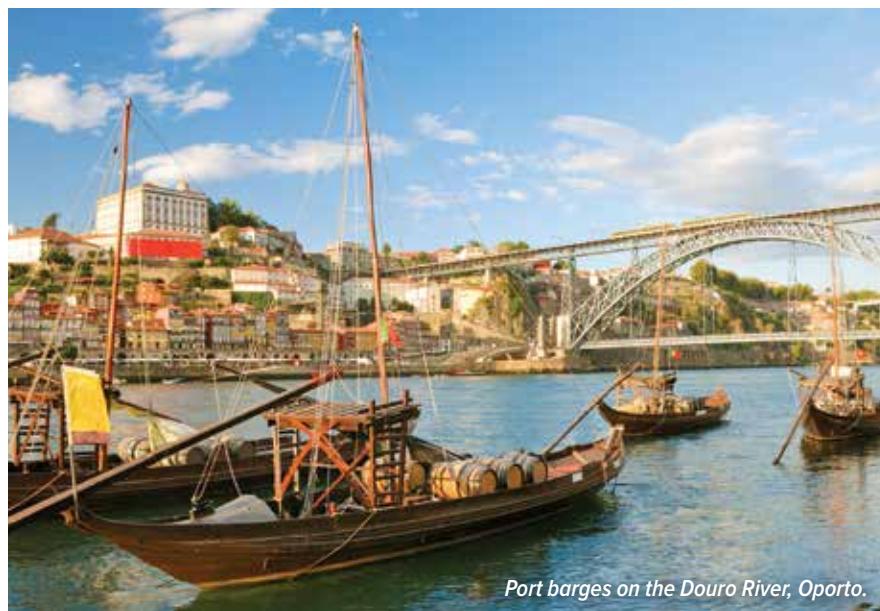
DAY 6: SAINT JEAN-DE-LUZ, FRANCE/SAN SEBASTIÁN, SPAIN

Explore both the French and Spanish Basque cultures today. At a market excursion in the village of Saint Jean-de-Luz, get an introduction to French Basque culture and cuisine, followed by a journey to the French Basque countryside for a wine and tapas tasting. In Spain's Basque capital of San Sebastian, discover the connection to the Celts and hear the bouncing rhythms of a *trikitixa*, a traditional accordion.

"Cider houses rule in Basque Spain, and we've planned a special Basque dinner and cultural event in San Sebastian. Grab a glass and do as the locals do, sit at the long farm tables and sidle up to the barrel tap for a cider refill."

DAY 7: BAYONNE, FRANCE

Take a walk through the picturesque old port town of Bayonne and learn about the rich



chocolate industry for which this area is so well known. On an excursion to the former imperial retreat of Biarritz, stroll along the coast to the Rock of the Virgin, once used by Napoleon III as an anchoring point.

"Chocolate lovers may attend a demonstration at a small, private French chocolate house."

DAY 8: BORDEAUX

After breakfast the next morning, disembark in Bordeaux and transfer to the airport to catch your flight home. Or, remain in Bordeaux for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Lisbon and rest up at the Sofitel before embarking. Or savor a night in Bordeaux at the Grand Hotel de Bordeaux before traveling home or onward.



Mont-Saint-Michel, France.

FIELD NOTES FROM OUR EXPERIENCE DESIGN TEAM | EUROPE

WESTERN EUROPE

BORDEAUX TO LONDON: THE FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST

"It's never been this easy to visit the legendarily charming towns and villages in western and northern France. These places are seafood meccas and the dining is simply superb. The history is so evocative too, whether it's the art history of Manet and Monet, or the world history of Normandy and WWII."



THE NORTH SEA: LONDON TO COPENHAGEN

"The North Sea's historic trading ports are inherently interesting.

Sailing back in time through Belgium, Holland and Germany, and bookending the voyage with two of the world's most cosmopolitan cities is an exceptional experience. The architecture, the incredible food of the region and the world-renowned beers, this is a genuine taste of Europe in every sense of the word."



—Nicole Thornton, Regional Experience Designer



Fort National, Saint-Malo.

BORDEAUX TO LONDON: THE FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST

2016 DATES: MAY 29; SEP. 11*

**This voyage travels in reverse.*

Explore the stunning landscapes of Brittany and Normandy. Revisit history from Napoleon to the D-Day beaches. Explore out-of-the-way anchorages: picturesque Île d'Aix, La Rochelle and the Crozon Peninsula with its ancient standing stones. Wonderful wines and regional cuisines are a temptation throughout, from cheeses and seafood to cider and cognac. The art and architectural wonders you'll see span centuries, from the stunning 12th-century monastery at Mont-Saint-Michel to the famed Bayeux Tapestries, and the charming half-timbered harbor town of Honfleur, a favorite of Monet, Courbet, and Boudin.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"The coast of Europe is plied by many ships. Being aboard the smallest, most nimble ship in Europe is an advantage—especially along this storied coast—where the quality of your experience will be enhanced by being more personal, so up-close you'll smell the lavender carried from the fields on an offshore breeze." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Arrive in Bordeaux and embark *National Geographic Orion* in the elegant and ornate city center. Spend the afternoon exploring the cafés and shops along the thriving waterfront, before departing through the Gironde estuary, passing sloping hills and islands en route to the Atlantic Ocean.

DAY 2: ÎLE D'AIX/LA ROCHELLE

Stretch your legs on a walking tour of the quaint Île d'Aix, Napoleon's last stop on French soil before his final exile. Visit the Napoleon Museum, then continue to the nearby port of La Rochelle for an afternoon in this charming seaside city guarded by medieval ramparts. Return to the ship for an exquisite French meal, focusing on local cuisine and inspired by our consulting chef, Serge Dansereau.

"Or, join our naturalists this afternoon on the île de Ré for birdwatching, and visit the island's small villages, then continue to Château La Péraudière to learn how cognac is made."

DAY 3: BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER

Wake up to magnificent views of Belle-Île-en-Mer (beautiful island in the sea), known for its rugged cliffs on the western side and charming

ports on the eastern side. Explore highlights such as the Bangor lighthouse, the rocks at Port Coton favored by Monet, the Vauban citadel (one of 12 Vauban fortifications recognized by UNESCO), and the fishing town of Le Palais. We've built in free time so you may explore Belle-Île on your own, too.

DAY 4: CROZON PENINSULA

Today we explore Brittany's Crozon Peninsula. Have a guided walk of medieval Locronan, officially one of "the most beautiful villages in France," with its Renaissance buildings and church. Take time to discover its many craft workshops on your own, perhaps tasting Breton butter cake.

"Opt to join a naturalist for a hike on the Camaret sur Mer Peninsula, passing the 17th-century fortified Vauban Tower with its moat and drawbridge, a UNESCO site."

DAY 5: SAINT-MALO/MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

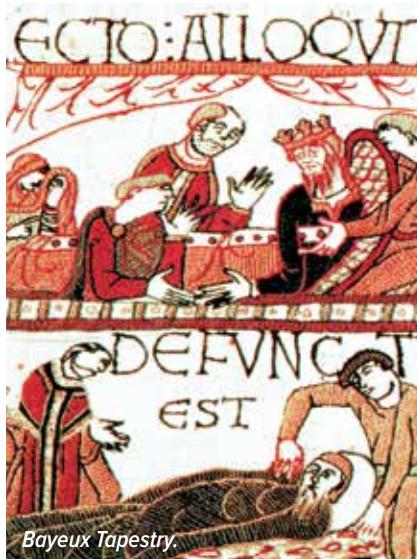
Wake up in Saint-Malo, and take a walking tour of this fortified port city surrounded by ramparts dating from the 12th century. Or, head east on an excursion to the iconic abbey-fortress of Mont-Saint-Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage site poised dramatically on a rocky tidal island a few hundred yards off the coast.

"We've arranged for an exclusive visit to a privateer's mansion followed by a tasting of the cider for which the region is known. Or for an authentic 'foodie' experience, join us at a local oyster farm to gather oysters for the ship's chef, who will shuck and season these delicacies for a sampling on board. If you wish to explore Saint-Malo on your own, we've made it easy with a pre-provided map and a list of the best cafés and shops."

DAY 6: CHERBOURG/THE NORMANDY BEACHES

Today we visit the Normandy beaches with a local historian. The D-Day landings on June 6, 1944 were the first wave of the largest seaborne invasion in history; more than 6,000 ships landed on these beaches. Walk in the footsteps of the Allied troops at Omaha Beach, and pay your respects at the American Cemetery nearby. Travel through countryside known for Calvados, cider, and cheese to the city of Bayeux for an afternoon

exploration, including a visit to the Bayeux Tapestry Museum, which houses the 230-foot wool embroidered account of the Norman Conquest. This evening we've planned an authentic French dining experience ashore. *"We've planned some active options today, too. Cycle through northern France, stopping at relevant WWII sites and have lunch in Bayeux."*



DAY 7: HONFLEUR

Take Zodiacs in to the charming harbor town of Honfleur, a favorite of renowned artists such as Monet, Courbet, and Boudin. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Vieux Bassin (the old port), and visit the Eugène Boudin Museum and Église Sainte-Catherine.



"Be sure to savor time exploring on your own. Interested in art? Ask our concierge to map out the best galleries (there are nearly 100 in Honfleur.) Or, see for yourself what inspired many of the Impressionists with a hike to the arched limestone cliffs of Etretat."

DAY 8: LONDON, ENGLAND

Wake up in London, disembark near Tower Bridge and head to the airport for your flight home, or remain in London for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Bordeaux and rest up at the **Grand Hotel de Bordeaux** before embarking. Or savor a night in London at the **Royal Horseguards** before traveling home or onward.



Artist by Old Harbour, Honfleur.



Chocolate shop, Brugge.

THE NORTH SEA: LONDON TO COPENHAGEN

2016 DATES: JUL. 3; SEP. 4*

**This voyage travels in reverse.*

Voyage from London to Copenhagen along the inland waterways of the North Sea, exploring glorious medieval and Renaissance cities with a modern pulse. Wander down cobblestone 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.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"Few places on the planet are more picturesque. Images from the towns we'll visit on this itinerary grace posters and postcards worldwide. The benefit of the National Geographic photographer aboard Orion will be to help you capture the moments at the heart of your unique experience." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: LONDON, ENGLAND

Board *National Geographic Orion*, docked on the River Thames. As we sail toward the North Sea, take in panoramic views of the cityscape.

DAY 2: OOSTENDE, BELGIUM/BRUGGE

Anchor in Oostende and transfer to the medieval town of Brugge, known for its Gothic architecture and picturesque market squares linked by cobbled streets and serene canals. Explore the old town with an expert before sampling Belgian fare at a local restaurant. This afternoon discover Brugge on your own, or cycle with a gourmet picnic lunch through the scenic Flemish countryside.

"Chocolate fans, this is the country where you belong. Opt to join a private chocolate-making class with one of Brugge's top chocolatiers, using the finest hand-selected ingredients."

DAY 3: ANTWERP AND BRUSSELS

Wake up in Antwerp and travel overland to Brussels, poised at the junction of Germanic and Latin cultures. Uncover the many layers of the city's history on a guided excursion, visiting sites like the Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium, the Grand-Place, and the remains of Coudenberg. After lunch on your own,

choose one of two options: remain in Brussels and explore the city as you wish or return to Antwerp, the largest city in Flanders known for Flemish artists such as Rubens and van Dyck. We reconvene on the ship this evening and sail into Dutch waters.

"Mussels in Brussels? You may wish to join our private walking and tasting tour through Brussels with a culinary expert."

DAY 4: AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS/HAARLEM

With its gabled roofs, squares cluttered with bicycles, and canal-lined streets, Amsterdam is bursting with unique character. Learn about the city's architecture, art, and history on a guided overview via canal and on foot before seeking out its charms on your own. Alternatively, head to Haarlem, home to the Teylers Museum and St. Bavo's Church. Or take a guided bike ride through the Vecht region along winding canals. An abundance of choices await today: a guided visit to the Rijksmuseum, or Amsterdam after dark with a guide in the Red Light District.

"Tonight don't miss the exclusive dinner at the historic 17th-century Dutch West Indies House, where the decision was made to build the fort 'Nieuw Amsterdam' on the island of Manhattan. A musical performance will add a festive air to a memorable evening."

DAY 5: HARLINGEN

Dock in Harlingen, a picturesque seaside city in the Friesland region. By special permission, cruise the canals in Zodiacs past



16th- and 18th-century buildings, docking to visit the Hannemahuis Museum and a Dutch tile workshop. The city is eager to welcome us and the Mayor of Harlingen will greet us. After lunch, soak in the city at your own pace. Our ship departs mid-day, allowing for an afternoon to relax on board as we take to the North Sea.

"Set on the Wadden Sea, Harlingen affords unique opportunities for sailing enthusiasts. Learn the ropes (literally) and 'race' with local sailors (if weather permits) to get to know one another. Alternatively, visit a small shipyard that is reconstructing a 17th-century Dutch sailing ship."

DAY 6: KIEL CANAL, GERMANY

Enjoy breakfast on deck as we navigate the Kiel Canal, a 61-mile waterway connecting the North Sea with the Baltic. This morning the beautiful Schleswig-Holstein region beckons. Enjoy the beautiful views from the ship as we slowly traverse this German peninsula. Relax,



Cruising the Harlingen canals in Zodiacs.

head to the spa or wellness center, browse the library, and of course, hear talks from our staff en route to Lübeck.

DAY 7: LÜBECK

Today we dock at Lübeck, an enchanting city that once served as the medieval capital of the Hanseatic League. Take a walking tour of the old town for an insider's perspective on its Hanseatic and Renaissance architecture, including the Holsten Gate and St. Mary's Church. After lunch, explore Lübeck on your own, or perhaps paddle a kayak.

"Gain a further view of German life with a guided walk through the historic Gut Panker, a baroque manor estate and farm known for its horse breeding. Or join a pastry chef in a marzipan-modeling workshop."

DAY 8: COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Disembark in Copenhagen and transfer to the airport for your flight home, or remain in Copenhagen for an added stay.

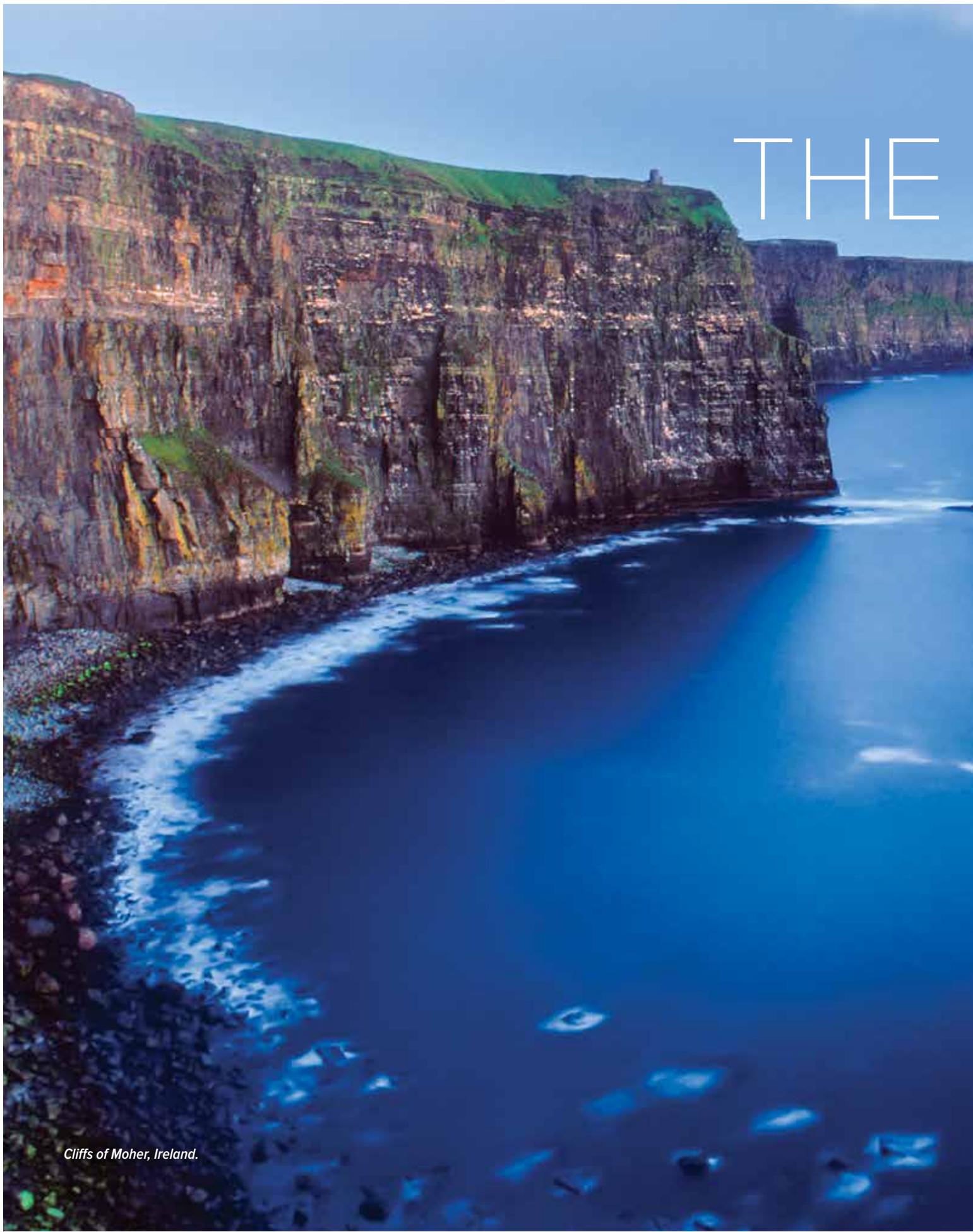
PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in London and rest up at the **Royal Horseguards** before embarking. Or savor a night in Copenhagen at the **Phoenix Copenhagen** before traveling home or onward.



Holsten Gate, Lübeck.

THE



Cliffs of Moher, Ireland.

FIELD NOTES FROM OUR EXPERIENCE DESIGN TEAM | EUROPE

U.K. & IRELAND

WILD & WINDSWEPT: THE COASTS OF ENGLAND & WALES

“Unless you’ve taken a Lindblad Expeditions’ British Isles expedition before, you haven’t seen the U.K. this way—from the windswept coasts of the Channel Islands to the Welsh countryside. Cycling through immensely picturesque Pembrokeshire with a gourmet picnic lunch and wine along the way is one of a dozen memories I made here that I’ll keep forever.”



HIDDEN IRELAND: LOUGHGS & ISLES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

“Forget what you think you know about Ireland, I concluded shortly into this reconnaissance trip—this is an incredible perspective on the island—the drama of the rugged Cliffs of Moher and the emerald landscapes beyond. Plus, the privilege of actually landing at and climbing Skellig Michael—amazing.”



—Nicole Thornton, Regional Experience Designer

NORWAY & SCOTLAND: FJORDLANDS TO THE INNER HEBRIDES

“What other travel company has, or could, put such exceptionally beautiful, natural destinations together in one cohesive itinerary. Ships who do voyage here merely “cruise” by—National Geographic Orion brings you into close, personal contact. A private concert by renowned Scottish folk artist, Julie Fowlis in Kirkwall, tasting Brunost (a brown goat cheese crafted only here) in gorgeous Sognjefjord—are some of the indelible experiences this itinerary provides.”



—Jana Tvedt Joham, Regional Experience Designer



Portsmouth waterfront.

WILD AND WINDSWEPT: EXPLORING THE COASTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

2016 DATES: JUN. 5, 26*

*This voyage travels in reverse.

The windswept shores of England and Wales showcase stunning and rugged landscapes scattered with picture-postcard villages and world-class gardens. Journey aboard *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.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

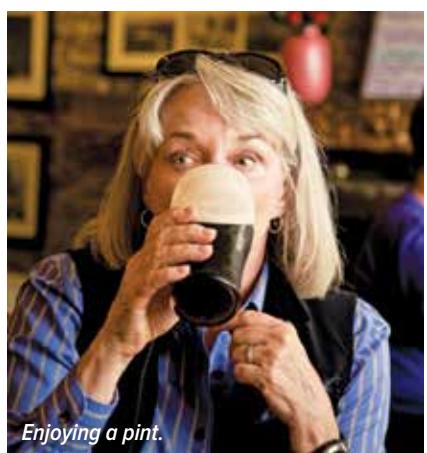
"Lindblad Expeditions has virtually pioneered this itinerary, being among the first to take small groups of curious travelers into the U.K. of the Brontes, where being aboard ship, with Zodiacs to get in close, reveals the true nature and the history of these dashing isles—and gives you a perspective few travelers are privileged to get." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: LONDON, ENGLAND

Arrive in London, and embark *National Geographic Orion*, docked on the Thames. As we set sail, take in views of the city's iconic landmarks and hear a presentation from a maritime expert on the importance of Portsmouth as a seaport.

DAY 2: PORTSMOUTH

Our first anchoring is England's maritime capital of Portsmouth. Delve into Great Britain's nautical history with a behind-the-scenes look at the perfectly preserved historic



Enjoying a pint.

ships docked in the harbor, including the HMS Victory. Wander the city's atmospheric waterfront, and perhaps stop for a pint at a traditional pub.

"Opt to venture through the English countryside to Southwick House, the Allied headquarters during the D-Day landings. We have exclusive permission to enter the fascinating D-Day Map room. Or, learn more about Portsmouth's famous son, Charles Dickens, guided by one of his direct descendants."

DAY 3: ALDERNEY & SARK, CHANNEL ISLANDS

Dock at Alderney and take a walking tour of the island to learn about its important role in World War II under German occupation. Then, weather permitting, kayak across surrounding waters in search of migratory seabirds: puffins, gannets, and lesser black-backed gulls. After lunch, we sail to nearby Sark. Take in the colorful sights and intoxicating scents of La Seigneurie Gardens.

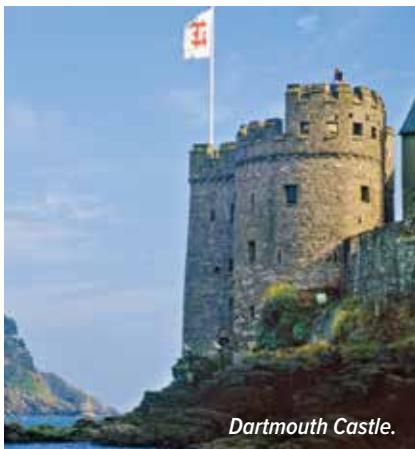
"The coastal paths of Alderney are perfect for heading off on your own to cycle or hike with stops at must see viewpoints. On Sark, you may wish to explore the blooming headland of the Gouliot Caves."

DAY 4: DARTMOUTH

Enjoy breakfast on deck as our vessel navigates the River Dart en route to Dartmouth, a colorful town that cascades across a steep riverside hill. In small groups, discover the guardrooms, battlements, and winding

passages of the 14th-century Dartmouth Castle. Spend the rest of the day exploring Dartmouth's lively lanes on your own.

"Contrary to popular belief, we've discovered the U.K. does make wine, and it is quite good. Opt to visit a winery and vineyard, and sample the wines and local cheeses. Or, if you're a mystery book fan, don't miss a visit to Greenway House for a curator-led look at Agatha Christie's house and gardens."



Dartmouth Castle.

DAY 5: ISLES OF SCILLY/TRESCO

According to Arthurian legend, the Isles of Scilly are all that remain of Lyonesse, a lost land off Cornwall's coast that is said to have vanished into the Atlantic. Discover Tresco Island and the world-class Tresco Abbey Gardens, where a surprising variety of tropical plants flourishes. Then stroll the village of Tresco, or join our naturalists for a nature walk, spotting the flora and fauna of these mythical islands.



Tresco Abbey Gardens.



DAY 6: SKOMER ISLAND, WALES/ FISHGUARD

Beautiful Skomer Island overflows with wildlife. Hop on a Zodiac to spot whales, dolphins, seals, and nesting seabirds. This afternoon stretch your legs along the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, which winds along the cliffs and pristine beaches surrounding Fishguard. Or, discover the prehistoric archaeology of Pembrokeshire, the area that yielded the stones for Stonehenge. Or, venture to St. David's Cathedral for a guided walk of the lovely little town, before dinner ashore in Fishguard.

"This evening we've arranged a special hog roast dinner in the Welsh countryside, complete with a private musical performance."

DAY 7: SNOWDONIA/ANGELSEY ISLAND

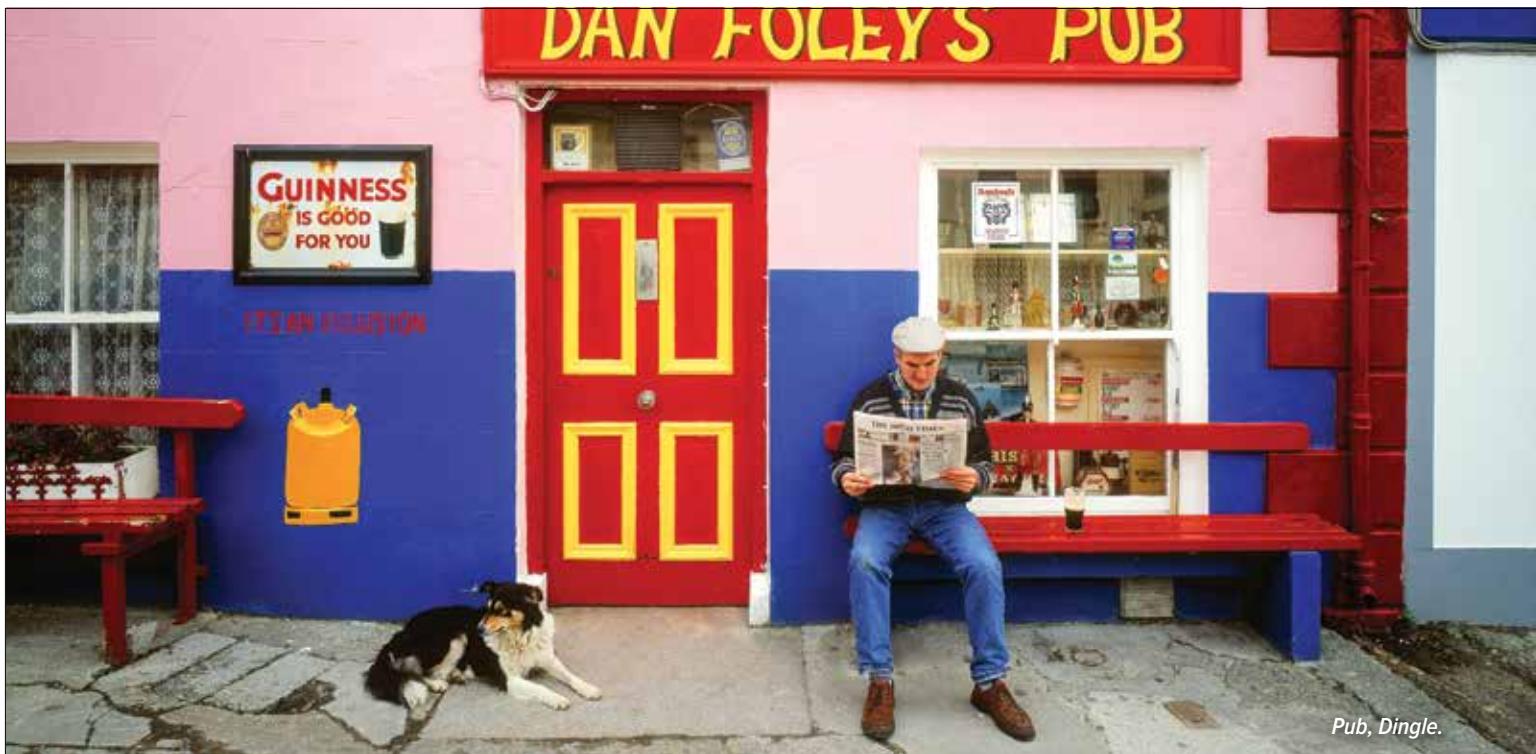
Dock at Holyhead and take a scenic drive to Snowdonia National Park. There are river gorges, waterfalls, lakes, and valleys to explore, whether you are coming for pulse-raising activities or for simply standing and admiring the Snowdonia Mountains. Or, visit Wales' famed Bodnant Gardens, backed by the Snowdonia range. Continue to Anglesey, a recognized GeoPark, to hike or cycle past intriguing rock formations. Enjoy a festive musical celebration before setting sail to Dublin.

DAY 8: DUBLIN, IRELAND

Wake up in Dublin, disembark and head to the airport for your flight home, or remain in Dublin for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in London and rest up at the Royal Horseguards before embarking. Or savor a night in Dublin at the Westin Dublin before traveling home or onward.



Pub, Dingle.

HIDDEN IRELAND: LOUGHS AND ISLES OFF THE BEATEN PATH

2016 DATES: JUN. 12, 19

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, 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 Sligo and County Donegal and explore the fascinating shores of Northern Ireland.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"While many have visited the Emerald Isle by land, few have had the experience of seeing its rugged beauty from the sea. Thanks to our alliance, a National Geographic grantee will share her insights from her seabird and seal research. And perhaps we'll contrast the science with the remembered poetry of the 'The Secret of Roan Inish,' as well. This is definitely a 'pack your camera' itinerary!" See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: DUBLIN, IRELAND

Arrive in Dublin, Ireland and embark *National Geographic Orion*. After lunch, explore the Kilmainham Gaol (jail) for great insight into the course of Irish history during the centennial year of the Easter Rising. Sail south from Dublin.

DAY 2: BALLYCOTTON/KINSALE

Set out for tiny Ballycotton in County Cork this morning for a walk around a working farm. Continue to Kinsale, a picturesque fishing town with a fascinating history: the Battle of Kinsale in 1601 marked the collapse of Gaelic power in Ireland. Local scholars take us for a guided walk before free time to wander the quaint streets, galleries and shops.

"Tonight we are joined by National Geographic grantee Michelle Cronin, who has studied puffins and gannets in the Skelligs and 'wrestled' seals in the Blasket Islands."

DAY 3: SKELLIG MICHAEL/DINGLE

Explore the dramatic Skellig Islands, where monastic ruins dating as far back as the sixth century perch high atop a rocky peak jutting out from the sea. Circle Skellig Michael in Zodiacs if weather permits, or, if you wish, hike to the top to view the beehive-shaped stone

huts. Spend the rest of the day in delightful Dingle: enjoy a walking tour, explore the archaeology and intriguing history of the area, visit a local distillery, or explore on your own. Shackleton aficionados will want to visit Tom Crean's Pub; Crean accompanied "The Boss" on the *Endurance* in Antarctica.

"Dingle is the largest Irish-speaking community in the southwest, and we'll have a chance to meet them: drop in on artists and craftspeople in their homes, or breathe in the salt air and beachcomb with a seaweed forager!"

DAY 4: ARAN ISLANDS/CLIFFS OF MOHER

Wake up in the Aran Islands, a hub of Gaelic language and culture. On the main island of Inishmore, see the mystical ring fort of Dun Aengus, poised on steep cliffs above the crashing Atlantic, and pop in to the 18th-century stone Kilmurvey House for scones. Enjoy lunch as we sail to the Cliffs of Moher. If conditions permit, get a spectacular and rare perspective of the cliffs, gliding beneath them in a Zodiac. Gather for an authentic Irish dinner and a performance of traditional music ashore.

DAY 5: CONNEMARA

The tranquil and starkly beautiful region of Connemara is a great place to wander—the ultimate fulfillment of travelers' romantic dreams of Ireland. Hiking with our naturalists (gentle walks or energetic hikes) or cycling on the quiet backroads—many of which were built

to provide employment during the Famine—is probably the best way to get to know the area. Perhaps launch a kayak or even try your hand at fly fishing. A late dinner timed with sunset will cap off a memorable day.



Northern gannets, Little Skellig Island.

DAY 6: DONEGAL

Dock at the fishing harbor of Killybegs in County Donegal, a wild, windswept peninsula. Coastal walks and rural life in this traditional Gaelic-speaking area will be our focus. This afternoon photograph the spectacular Slieve League cliffs, the highest in Europe, or learn more about the historical heritage of the region at nearby Stone Age and early Christian sites. Or hit the streets of the lively town of Donegal for some independent exploration.



Giant's Causeway.



"Cycling is a great way to absorb the landscape. We've set up an optional cycling tour of the Glencolmcille region, riding over a high boggy plateau, through remote glens and along Atlantic bays to the colorful village of Ardara, with stops at the homes of traditional hand-knitters, and tweed weavers."

DAY 7: NORTHERN IRELAND

Enter Northern Ireland today. The ancient city of Derry has a rich, if sometimes troubled, history over the centuries. A walking tour along the city walls this morning will provide a fascinating insight into The Troubles of Northern Ireland, the legacies left by former times, and the peaceful present and hopes for a bright future. This afternoon discover the wonders of County Antrim: visit a clifftop Gaelic castle, see the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge stretching between high seaside bluffs, call at Bushmills, the oldest distillery in the world, and explore the incredible hexagonal basalt columns at Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO site. Meander among the columns as a guide explains the myths and scientific theories behind this intriguing geology.

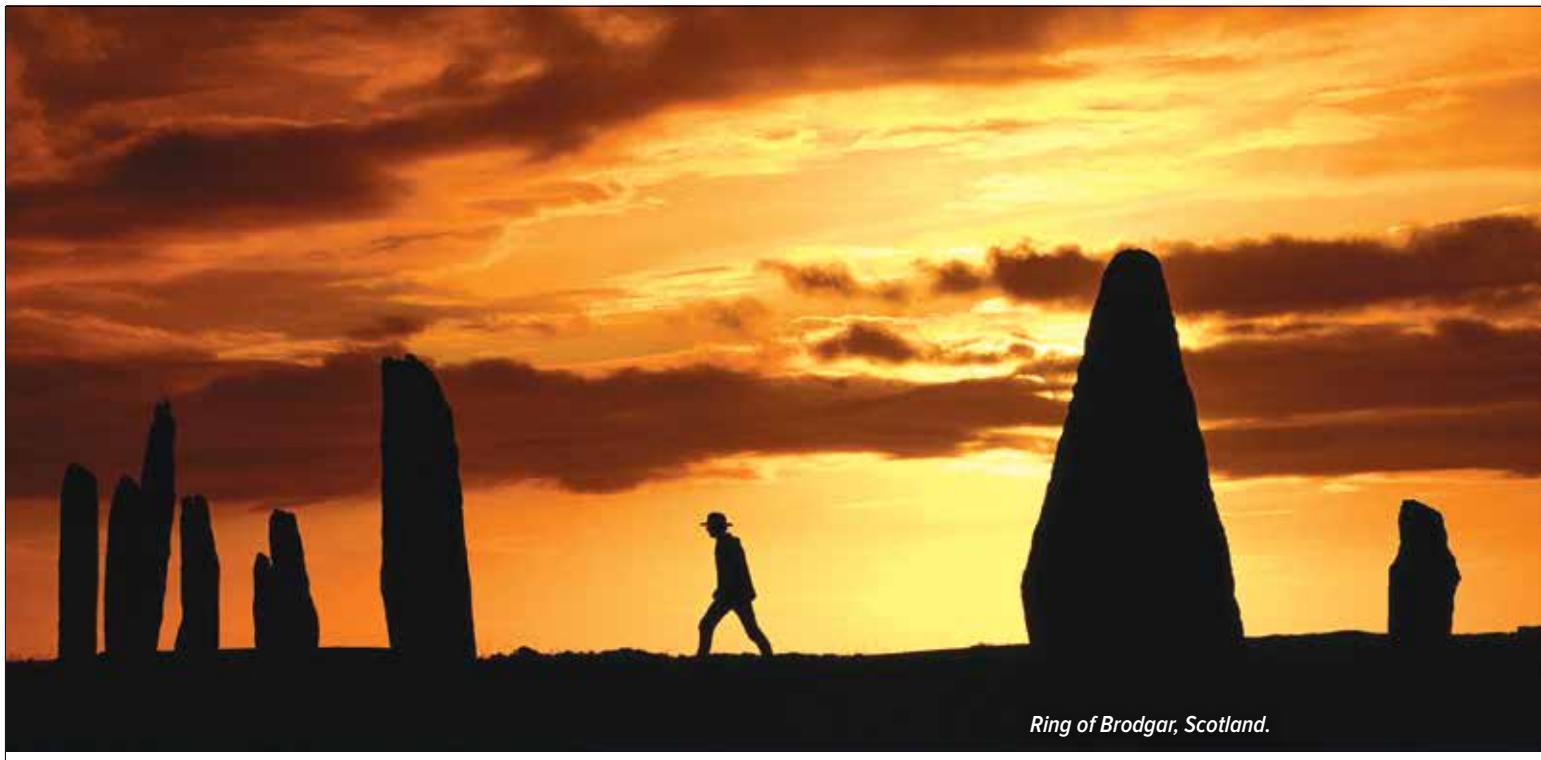
"Fresh from the historic achievement of being crowned the U.K. City of Culture 2013, Derry's city leaders will meet with us to share how the city is transforming."

DAY 8: DUBLIN

After breakfast, disembark in Dublin and transfer to the airport for your flight home, or remain in Dublin for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Dublin and rest up at the **Westin Dublin** before embarking. Or savor a night in Dublin before traveling home or onward.



Ring of Brodgar, Scotland.

NORWAY AND SCOTLAND: FJORDLANDS TO THE INNER HEBRIDES

2016 DATES: JUL. 17, 24*

**This voyage travels in reverse.*

Join us aboard *National Geographic Orion* for an unforgettable voyage from the fjord-carved coast of western Norway to the windswept isles of Scotland. Kayak below emerald mountains in the dramatic Sognefjorden, and step ashore at Undredal to explore its stave church and traditional Nordic culture. Then sail across the North Sea to encounter the stunning seascapes, ancient ruins, and rich marine life of Scotland's evocative islands. Follow the Viking trail from the Shetlands to the Orkneys, and discover the unique heritage of the Inner Hebrides on our way to cosmopolitan Glasgow.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"What other travel company has the expertise or creativity to develop an itinerary this uncommon, linking as it does, two regions renowned for their natural beauty? The quality of what you'll see and do, coupled with the concerts arranged by our musicologist, will make this distinct voyage uniquely rewarding." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: BERGEN, NORWAY

Arrive in Bergen, perched on a fjord and ringed by seven hills. After an overview of this beautiful city, we embark *National Geographic Orion* in time for lunch and set sail into the heart of Norway's fjord country.

DAY 2: SOGNEFJORDEN

Norway's glacier-carved western coast boasts some of the most dramatic landscapes in the world. Cruise deep into the sublime Sognefjorden, the third longest in the world, and launch kayaks and Zodiacs to explore its mirror-like waterways. In the picturesque village of Undredal, take a hike up the mountain for an amazing fjord view, see the town's 12th-century stave church and sample its famous brown goat cheese, Brunost.



Sognefjorden.

DAY 3: ISLE OF NOSS AND LERWICK, SHETLAND ISLANDS, SCOTLAND
 Sail across the North Sea to Scotland's Shetland Islands, a rugged archipelago of about 100 islands and islets. Glide past the cliffs of Noss to view nesting seabirds before docking at Lerwick. Explore this town where Norse and Gaelic cultures intermingle, and see the countryside dotted with Shetland ponies. Then examine Bronze Age ruins and Viking longhouses at the extraordinary prehistoric settlements of Jarlshof and nearby Old Scatness—UNESCO candidates which are part of "The Crucible of Iron Age Shetland." Later, take in a cacophony of puffins, guillemots, and razorbills as we walk to the lighthouse at Sumburgh Head.

"Learn Shetland dancing, or watch your fellow guests learn! A local dance troupe performs for us in Lerwick."



DAY 4: MOUSA AND FAIR ISLE

Zodiac in to the uninhabited isle of Mousa, a UNESCO World Heritage candidate and the third element in "The Crucible of Iron Age Shetland." Hike to an Iron Age *broch*, or stone tower, built circa 100 BC, looking for storm petrels along the way. Our next landing is tiny and remote Fair Isle, situated between the Shetland and Orkney Islands. Visit the island's bird research station, and spot some of the roughly 250 species of flowering plants that grow here. Browse local handicrafts including intricately-patterned Fair Isle knitwear, which is renowned worldwide.

DAY 5: ORKNEY ISLANDS

The Vikings held a strategic foothold in the Orkney Islands for hundreds of years, and their Norse heritage is apparent in local legends and traditions that endure today. Explore a treasure trove of Stone Age sites, including the megaliths of the Ring of Brodgar and the 5,000-year-old stone-slab village of Skara Brae. Step inside the medieval St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, which took nearly 300 years to complete. This evening our musical event will feature Julie Fowlis, whose Gaelic voice is recognizable from the soundtrack of Disney Pixar's "Brave."

"For experienced scuba divers, we have planned a fantastic dive in Scapa Flow (an added cost.)"

DAY 6: STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS

Along the wild, western coast of Scotland lies the Isle of Lewis, steeped in history and legend. We'll visit to marvel at the massive neolithic Standing Stones of Callanish, which rival Stonehenge in the majesty of their setting.

"There's a saying in these isles that if you scratch the surface, it bleeds archaeology."

DAY 7: IONA AND STAFFA, INNER HEBRIDES

Sail through the Sea of the Hebrides to the isle of Iona, the site of Scotland's first Christian settlement. Venture into an ancient nunnery and a 13th-century abbey. Explore



St. Oran's Chapel and its royal burial grounds, where Celtic high crosses mark the graves of generations of Scottish kings. Then dock at Staffa, famed for its geometric basalt columns and deep-sea caves.

"A special treat will be a Zodiac ride to the awe-inspiring Fingal's Cave for a close-up look at the place that inspired Felix Mendelssohn to write his 'Hebrides Overture.'"

DAY 8: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Disembark this morning and take a scenic drive through the countryside on the way to the airport for your flight home, or remain in Glasgow for an added stay.

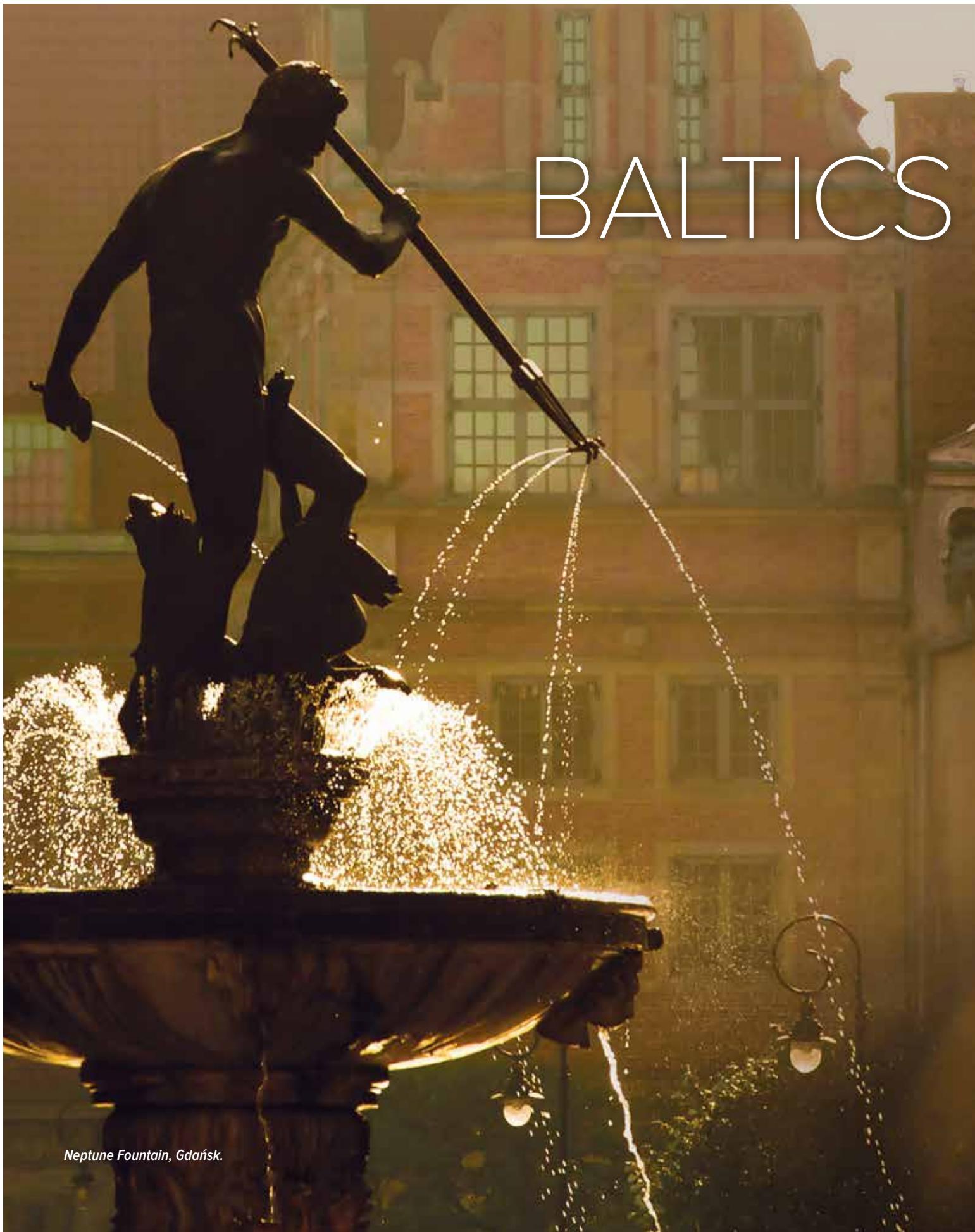
PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Bergen and rest up at the **Radisson Blu Royal** before embarking. Or savor a night in Glasgow at the **Grand Central Hotel** before traveling home or onward.



Guests explore Fingal's Cave by Zodiac.

BALTICS



Neptune Fountain, Gdańsk.

FIELD NOTES FROM OUR EXPERIENCE DESIGN TEAM | EUROPE

& SCANDINAVIA

SCANDINAVIA BY SEA: DENMARK, SWEDEN AND NORWAY

"In the best Scandinavian tradition, this voyage is about simplicity and the senses—hiking, cycling, kayaking in the Weather Islands, washing down the famous 'Skagen Sild' herring with an ice-cold Danish beer, and much more—this is inhaling the essence of the world's cleanest air and freshest vistas with every breath."



BALTIC ARCHIPELAGOS: ISLANDS OF DENMARK, SWEDEN & FINLAND

"The joys of a Swedish summer are legendary, and whether Orion is technically in Swedish, Danish or Finnish waters matters not a bit—this is an opportunity to steep in the beauty of this region, with its overlay of characteristic Scandinavian sophistication. The medieval loveliness of Visby and Gotland; kayaking off Utö in the Swedish archipelago; and a safety-harnessed trek (if you choose to!) across the rooftop off classic Stockholm are a few of the opportunities ahead."



BEST OF THE BALTICS: CITIES & ISLANDS FROM TALLINN TO COPENHAGEN

"In a world beset by strife and dissension, it felt genuinely life-enhancing to be in the Baltic states, where democracy is very young and very proud. Their various fights for freedom make for some very stirring narratives—Zodiac cruising through the Gdańsk shipyards brought the story of Lech Walesa's 1980 strike against the Communist regime to vivid life for us, and will for our guests. And touring the Riga food markets with Orion's chef should be high on everyone's list."



—Jana Tvedt Joham, Regional Experience Designer



Oslo Opera House.

SCANDINAVIA BY SEA: DENMARK, SWEDEN, AND NORWAY

2016 DATES: JUL. 10, 31*

**This voyage travels in reverse.*

Set sail aboard *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 and Zodiac cruise amid tiny islets and vast fjords, and explore vibrant cities where contemporary life gracefully mingles with centuries of history.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"We developed this itinerary inspired by the region's natural beauty and active, fit cultural habits—the tang of fresh salt air, hiking scenic trails, kayaking, exploring iodine-rich islets and skerries, dining on fresh-caught fish. This is the quintessential Scandinavian experience." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Arrive in Copenhagen, and prior to embarking *National Geographic Orion*, we have a canal boat ride or a leisurely walk, stopping for your first taste of Danish pastries and coffee. We cast off this afternoon, sailing north toward the Kattegat strait.

DAY 2: SKAGEN

Dotted with yellow and red clapboard houses, Skagen is perched along windswept dunes at the northern tip of Denmark. Explore this charming fishing village, and delve into the history of the Skagen Painters—a community of Scandinavian artists who settled here beginning in the late 19th century, drawn by the town's magnificent landscapes and remarkable light. Discover rich birdlife with our naturalists, or bike along the peninsula's white beaches. Cap off the day with a taste of the famous "Skagen Sild," a special herring dish that can only be enjoyed with a cold Danish beer.

"Skagen is perfect for a cycling jaunt. Grab a bike and head out along the beaches."

DAY 3: WEATHER ISLANDS, SWEDEN

Journey across the Skagerrak Strait to Sweden's westernmost archipelago: the



Väderöarna, or Weather Islands. This seascape of rugged islets, skerries, and picture-perfect villages boasts some of the most stunning scenery in Scandinavia. Set out by kayak or Zodiac to encounter seal colonies and an array of seabirds. Dock at Grebbestad where you can bike or we will drive you to the evocative Bronze Age rock carvings in Tanum, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

"Summer in Sweden is a special time, so we've arranged a traditional Swedish dinner on shore to savor the long hours of daylight."

DAY 4: OSLO, NORWAY

Cruise up the epic Oslofjorden to discover the delights of Norway's cosmopolitan capital. Visit the *Fram* Museum and learn about the early Norwegian polar expeditions, or take a private, backstage tour of Oslo's newest landmark, the Opera House, with its white sloping marble roof which rises directly from the fjord. Spend the afternoon with our team and a National Geographic photographer at Vigeland Park, training your lens on more than two hundred life-size human figures by native sculptor Gustav Vigeland.

"For further insight into the Norwegian consciousness, hear a talk from Thor Heyerdahl, Jr. the son of the Norwegian explorer and ethnographer of the same name. And since food is at the core of any culture, opt to join a cooking class at the Mathallen Gourmet Food Market to learn to cook Norwegian style."

DAY 5: RISØR

Sail back down the Oslofjorden and anchor outside the attractive coastal town of Risør to experience the "town of wooden houses," protected on Norway's heritage list. Risør has not only preserved its old wooden buildings, but it has also taken care of the archipelago. Zodiacs ferry us over to Stangholmen skerry for a walk to the lighthouse—and perhaps a unique experience kayaking near one of the "potholes" or small lagoons.

"Enjoy a relaxing outdoor seafood lunch on Stangholmen, with a Norwegian folk revival musical performance."

DAY 6: HIDRA

Arrive on the shores of Flekkefjorden, and go for a morning hike on Hidra—a lush island steeped in a rich maritime history dating back to before the Vikings. Visit the World War II-era Hågasåń Fort, stroll past quaint wooden houses, and cruise in a Zodiac through the scenic channel that splits the island in two. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon at sea as we sail along Norway's southern fjords.

DAY 7: HARDANGERFJORDEN

Awaken this morning in the heart of Norway's western fjords, considered one of Europe's greatest natural attractions. Deep in the Hardangerfjorden—the fourth-longest fjord in the world—cruise beneath staggering cliffs, snow-dusted mountains, and rolling valleys dotted with tiny settlements. From our quiet anchorage, head out with our naturalists to explore the area on a variety of Zodiac, kayak, and hiking excursions.



"Hardangerfjord offers a number of different level hikes to allow you to enjoy this amazing fjord. So, either paddle yourself over to the trail with a kayak or let our naturalists take you over in a Zodiac."

DAY 8: BERGEN

Our final port of call is the lovely city of Bergen, perched on a fjord and ringed by seven hills. Disembark after breakfast, and have an overview of this beautiful city before heading to the airport for your flight home, or extend your stay in Bergen.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Copenhagen and rest up at the **Phoenix Copenhagen** before embarking. Or savor a night in Bergen at the **Radisson Blu Royal** before traveling home or onward.





Visby, Gotland, Sweden.

BALTIC ARCHIPELAGOS: THE ISLANDS OF DENMARK, SWEDEN, AND FINLAND

2016 DATES: AUG. 7, 21

Trace the northern shores of the Baltic Sea from Copenhagen to the Gulf of Finland, encountering beautiful islands and historic cities along the way. Navigate 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.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"The past here—in the architecture of small villages, lovely towns—including the deep past of the Vikings and the medieval Hanseatic League glory—is both uncommon and honored by today's inhabitants. It's captured too in the folk sound of Väsen performing for us in Visby. Preview them at expeditions.com/vasen." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Arrive in Copenhagen, and prior to embarking *National Geographic Orion*, we have a canal boat ride or a leisurely city walk, stopping for your first taste of Danish pastries and coffee. Settle into your cabin, and after lunch, enjoy the scenery as we sail east into the Baltic Sea.

DAY 2: CHRISTIANSØ

Zodiacs take us to the almost uninhabited island of Christiansø, where Danish fortifications date from 1684. Explore the craggy shores and lighthouse—the first in Denmark to have a flashing light. There are no cars on



Café, Stockholm.



Christiansø, and just one type of mammal, the hedgehog. Look for eider ducks, razorbills, and more nested on the small island of Græsholmen, a bird sanctuary.

DAY 3: VISBY, GOTLAND, SWEDEN

Spend the day exploring Visby, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Scandinavia. Founded as a Viking settlement, the town became a center of the Hanseatic trade in the 12th to 14th centuries. Stroll the cobblestone streets of the enchanting old town and walk along its nearly two-mile-long, 13th-century wall. Ride a bike through town or along the many bike paths across the island of Gotland. This evening join us for a special night on Gotland with a Swedish dinner and a private concert by Swedish folk music group, Väsen.

"Extremely picturesque, Visby is perfect for a guided photo walk through medieval neighborhoods capped off with a visit to the Gotland Museum."

DAY 4: STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO

Anchor near the small island of Utö and explore its quiet coves by kayak. Or, take a Zodiac to the island to walk through Utö's nature preserve. Keep your camera handy as we maneuver through the scenic Stockholm Archipelago to dock in the heart of Stockholm, the city built on 14 islands.

"You'll arrive in Stockholm like no one else: via Zodiac through the lush greenery of the Djurgården Canal."

DAY 5: STOCKHOLM

The great Scandinavian maritime capital of Stockholm provides some favorite experiences: view the royal *Vasa* warship (which capsized in Stockholm harbor in 1628 and was salvaged and restored 350 years later.) Take a walking

tour of Old Town Gamla Stan, or learn about Sweden's living history at the Skansen open-air museum. This afternoon enjoy time on your own or take a tasting tour of Swedish sweets in the Gamla Stan. We stay docked overnight so you can enjoy this magical Scandinavian city. *"Take a rooftop walk across the Old Town. Yes, opt to buckle up in your safety harness and step along the narrow rooftop path that only we will follow. You'll be stunned by the fantastic views and the fascinating stories that your guide will narrate."*



DAY 6: MARIEHAMN, ÅLAND, FINLAND

Sail to the Åland Islands, an autonomous, Swedish-speaking, Finnish territory. In Mariehamn, the capital, visit the four-masted merchant sailing ship *Pommern*, and visit the Åland Maritime Museum, or bicycle out into the countryside. Tonight we have a special beer tasting ashore while we hear traditional sea shanties from the Age of Sail.

DAY 7: TURKU

Visit Turku, the oldest city in Finland. Explore Turku Castle, the Luostarinmäki Handicrafts Museum, or the artwork and underground ruins at Aboa Vetus and Ars Nova museum. This afternoon cruise via Zodiac to a small island for nature hikes and a relaxing swim.

"Experience an authentic Finnish sauna in the good ol' outdoors. Take a sauna or a swim in the waters of one of the many islands in Turku's Archipelago."

DAY 8: TALLINN, ESTONIA

Crossing the Gulf of Finland to Estonia, disembark in Tallinn, where we have a walking tour of the walled, cobblestoned old town with its Kiek in de Kök, a 15th-century defensive tower. Transfer to the airport and catch your return flight home, or remain in Tallinn for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Copenhagen and rest up at the **Phoenix Copenhagen** before embarking. Or savor a night in Tallinn at the **Hotell Palace** before traveling home or onward.



Central market, Riga, Latvia.

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

2016 DATES: AUG. 14, 28

The Baltic Sea, sheltered from the North Sea by Sweden and Denmark, 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.

ONE OF THE TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE US

"Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, all products of the foment created by Glasnost, shared a similar incredible, historic expression of their yearning for freedom from Soviet oppression—spontaneous singing as a form of protest. This 'best of' itinerary brings guests in close, for personal encounters with the spirit and beauty of these cultures, preserved through song." See pages 52-53 for more.

DAY 1: TALLINN, ESTONIA

Arrive in Tallinn, Estonia. After lunch, we have an overview of the walled, cobblestoned Old Town with its Kiek in de Kök, a 15th-century defensive tower. Embark *National Geographic Orion* and set sail towards one of Estonia's most beautiful islands.

DAY 2: SAAREMAA ISLAND

Sail along the coast of Saaremaa Island this morning before docking near its capital Kuressaare. Head straight to Mati and Airi's private farm for a hearty traditional Estonian lunch in a rural setting complete with local music. Later, choose to take a hike to the north



The sand dunes at Klaipeda, Lithuania.



side of the island, where you'll encounter seabirds and interesting geological formations. Or, head to the countryside for a visit to the only working wooden windmill on the island. Either way, you'll stop at the Kaali meteorite craters for a photo opportunity. Later in the afternoon, feel free to stroll the streets of Kuressaare or visit its medieval castle and garden.

"Photo enthusiasts may wish to join your naturalist and National Geographic photographer for a panoramic walk along Saaremaa's beaches and the Panga cliffs."

DAYS 3 AND 4: RIGA, LATVIA

Explore the largest city in the Baltics on a walking tour through Riga's UNESCO-recognized center, passing wooden houses, art nouveau architecture, and funky cafés, and climbing to the top of St. Peter's Church tower for 360-degree views. Choose to bike across the Daugava River and explore the quiet island of Kipsala and its old fishermen's houses, or take a boat ride through the canals of Riga with free time before sailing to Lithuania. On one evening we venture into Riga to experience the sounds of "Illi," a famous Estonian folk music band.

"Explore with all your senses. Taste, see, and smell Latvian food specialties at the airy Central Market on an optional tour with your Orion chef and a local guide."

DAY 5: KLAIPĒDA, LITHUANIA

Explore the wild barrier peninsula called the Curonian Spit, a UNESCO World Heritage site shared by Lithuania and Russia. Choose one of

two options: Take a cultural tour to a seaside resort town to learn of folk tales at the Hill of Witches and see some of Europe's tallest sand dunes. Or, spend the afternoon at the Ventė Cape Ornithological Station to explore the lighthouse and dunes while learning about migratory bird populations.

"We've set up a cycling option, too, along the sea, down the wild Curonian Spit with its sand dunes, harbors and seaside wildlife."

DAY 6: GDAŃSK, POLAND

Arrive in Poland and take in Gdańsk's art and architectural highlights including the Gothic-Renaissance Town Hall and the National Museum, featuring the Last Judgment triptych by Hans Memling. Or, learn about the significance of ship building and trade at the Maritime Museum. Zodiacs take us through the shipyards of Gdańsk, an important area for the organized resistance against the communist regime in 1980. We take a guided tour of the European Solidarity Center, commemorating the trade union that made Lech Wałęsa a household name.

"History buffs may opt for a morning visit to the Westerplatte peninsula, where World War II began with the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, and the Polish Post Office Museum, still marked by signs of the attack. In order to maximize your time in Gdańsk, we've arranged an authentic Polish style lunch in town with open seating so you can arrive at your convenience."



DAY 7: BORNHOLM, DENMARK

Stop at the small fishing port of Gudhjem on Bornholm Island. Hike up to the cliff-top ruins of Hammershus fortress or explore the island's round churches and white sandy beaches. Then do as the locals do with a taste of some of the island's famous smoked herring accompanied by a cold locally brewed beer. Celebrate your journey with a final dinner aboard *National Geographic Orion*.

DAY 8: COPENHAGEN

Disembark in Copenhagen and transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or, remain in Copenhagen for an added stay.

PRE/POST—EFFORTLESSLY

Arrive in Tallinn and rest up at the **Hotell Palace** before embarking. Or savor a night in Copenhagen at the **Phoenix Copenhagen** before traveling home or onward.

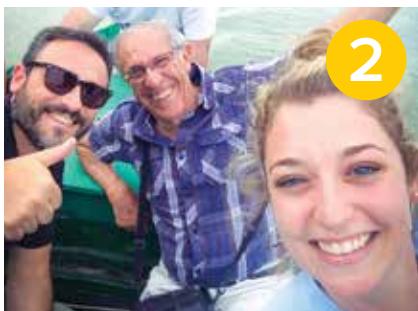


TOP 10 REASONS TO EXPERIE WITH LINDBLAD-



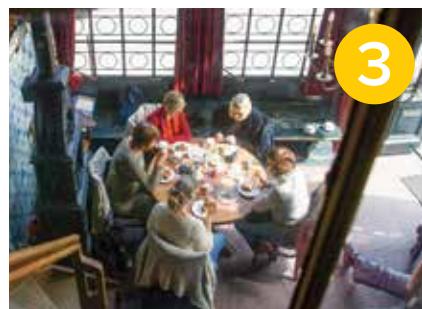
1

The 102-guest National Geographic Orion is easily the smallest luxury ship navigating Europe's picturesque coastlines and waterways, for an intimate, personal engagement with every destination. Thrill to arrival as we enter historic cities and towns the time-honored way—through the front door: the sea.



2

Expert itinerary development and curation Our European field team, which includes members who live, or have lived, in various European cities, spent weeks in the field to devise our itineraries, and to orchestrate the singular, exclusive, thoroughly engaging activities and events that will make your *National Geographic Orion* experience uniquely memorable.



3

A different pace Our itineraries offer perfect pacing. We've scheduled earlier embarkation times than ever before, boarding by 1:00 pm, so you can settle in, relax and enjoy lunch aboard the ship as the crew prepares to set sail. Another valuable aspect of our pacing is more time in ports to explore deeper, with at least one evening ashore for a local dinner. And free time is always built in, because strolling unknown streets, or sitting at an outdoor café to enjoy the summer street life, art, and music is a vital part of a Europe experience.



4

Small groups and personal transport Our itineraries, focused on choice, preserve small guest groups. No ungainly herding to and through thronged tourist sites. We've arranged for vans, jeeps, and other appealingly-scaled options to avoid that "If it's Tuesday, it must be Belgium" feeling.



5

Cool tools for exploring aboard

National Geographic Orion is the only luxury ship voyaging in Europe with a fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks and bicycles aboard to make 'getting out there' to enjoy up-close, personal explorations uniquely fun and genuinely effortless.

NCE EUROPE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



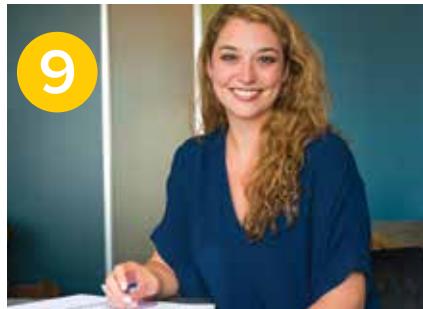
6
A National Geographic photographer accompanies every European departure. There to inspire and assist whether you're a beginner or an advanced hobbyist, he or she will help you capture the moments, avoid the inevitable clichés, and return home with your best photos ever.



7
An ethnomusicologist on the team For a unique perspective on Europe's cultural diversity, our musicologist Jacob Edgar (see page 21 for more) has curated a series of exclusive performances and special concerts by each region's top musicians for you.



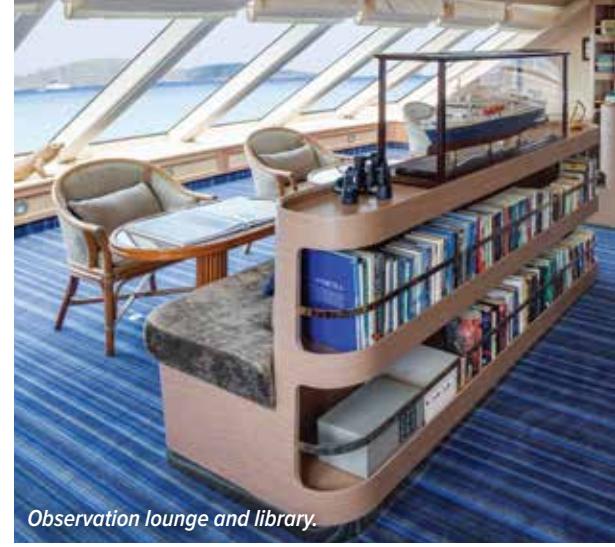
8
An all five senses approach to travel Lindblad-National Geographic's commitment to sustainably produced food and sea food means that you will have uniquely satisfying opportunities to savor interactions and food on all 11 of our Europe itineraries—including small-scale farmers, exceptional boutique vintners, olive growers, distillers of the world's finest ports, chocolatiers, and oyster harvesters. Taste a goat cheese one can only have in Norway's fjordlands, or a local grilled Sardinia sausage with Sardinian wine—exclusively prepared for us in a private farm kitchen that has been featured in top shelter magazines.



9
An onboard concierge In keeping with the spirit of curation, our concierge will assist with a wide variety of daily event choices to suit your individual interests, including active, cultural, or more sedentary options, independent exploration, special arrangements, off-ship dining, and more.



10
Take any 2 or more, in any sequence & save 10% Take advantage of 10% savings to explore a whole region. Or linger in one location and re-join the ship later in another. Save 10% on any combination, in any sequence. And we provide flight booking assistance to make potentially complex flight arrangements easy. Pricing includes all the many daily options, plus your bar tab and crew tips.



Observation lounge and library.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

OUR NEWEST EXPEDITION SHIP

The state-of-the-art *National Geographic Orion* is the newest addition to the Lindblad-National Geographic fleet. Fully stabilized, she is spacious and modern, with a variety of public rooms that offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. Friendly and informal, *Orion* fosters a welcoming atmosphere where like-minded guests share in exceptional experiences and enrichment.

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

All 8-day European voyages

CATEGORY 1: Main Deck with oval window #316, 318, 319-321	\$7,990
CATEGORY 2: Main Deck with oval window #302-312, 314, 315, 317	\$9,260
CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck—Suite with window #401-412, 414-419	\$10,990
CATEGORY 4: Bridge Deck—Deluxe suite with window #511, 515	\$11,990
CATEGORY 5: Bridge Deck—Suite with French balcony #501, 503-506, 508	\$14,320
CATEGORY 6: Bridge Deck—Owner's suite with French balcony. #502, 507, 509*, 510. *Cabin 509 has two windows in lieu of a French balcony.	\$16,610
CATEGORY 1 SOLO: Main Deck with oval window or two portholes #301, 322, 323	\$11,990
CATEGORY 3 SOLO: Bridge Deck—Suite with two windows #512	\$16,490

All cabins feature ocean views, private facilities, climate controls, internet access for your own laptop, and a flat-screen TV with movie programming.

Note: Sole occupancy cabins available in Categories 1 and 3 include #301, 322, 323, and 512.

Shared accommodations available in Categories 1 and 2.

Note: Third person rates available at one-half the double occupancy rate in designated triple occupancy cabins.

SAMPLE AIRFARES:

Portugal and Spain: From the Algarve to Catalonia: New York/Lisbon, Barcelona/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$980; Business from \$3,768.

Mediterranean Isles: Sardinia, Corsica, and Menorca: New York/Barcelona, Monaco/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$1,200; Business from \$4,640.

Culture and Cuisine from Oporto to Basque Country: New York/Lisbon, Bordeaux/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$1,150; Business from \$3,800.

Bordeaux to London: The French Atlantic Coast: New York/Bordeaux, London/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$1,100; Business from \$4,080.

The North Sea: London to Copenhagen: New York/London, Copenhagen/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$1,100; Business from \$2,300.

Wild and Windswept: The Coasts of England and Wales: New York/London, Dublin/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$1,300; Business from \$3,243.

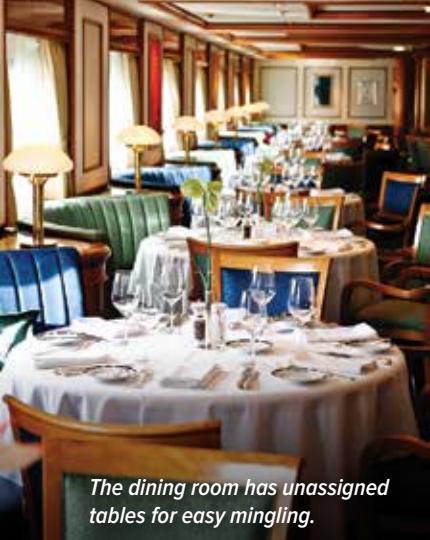
Hidden Ireland: Loughs and Isles off the Beaten Path: New York/Dublin, Dublin/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$850; Business from \$2,919.

Norway and Scotland: Fjordlands to the Inner Hebrides: New York/Bergen, Glasgow/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$970; Business from \$2,600.

Scandinavia by Sea: Denmark, Sweden and Norway: New York/Copenhagen, Bergen/New York (or vice-versa): Economy from \$900; Business from \$2,082.

Baltic Archipelagos: Islands of Denmark, Sweden and Finland: New York/Copenhagen, Tallinn/New York: Economy from \$970; Business from \$2,300.

Best of the Baltics: Cities and Islands from Tallin to Copenhagen: New York/Tallinn, Copenhagen/New York: Economy from \$1,100; Business from \$2,900.



The dining room has unassigned tables for easy mingling.



Category 5 cabin.



Category 3 cabin.

All cabins face outside with ocean views, private facilities and climate controls. Some cabins have French balconies. Decorated in rich jewel tones, with deluxe bedding, all cabins feature flat screen TVs with movie programming, as well as internet access for your own laptop.

CAPACITY: 102 guests in 53 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: Bahamas.

OVERALL LENGTH: 338 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: Outdoor café, lounge with bar, restaurant, global gallery, observation lounge and library, sundeck, marina platform, and whirlpool hot tub.

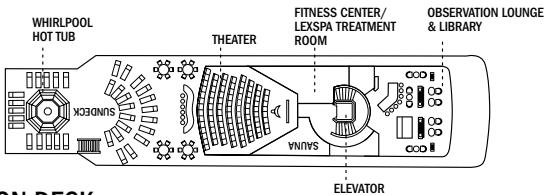
OPEN BRIDGE: Provides guests with an opportunity to meet our officers and captain and learn about navigation.

MEALS: All meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. The cuisine is international with local flair, featuring tastes of the regions we explore.

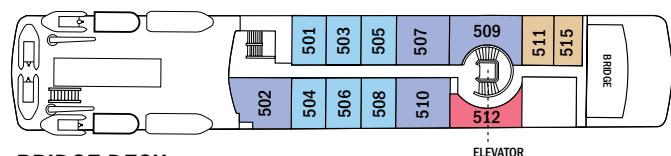
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of 24 double kayaks and 20 bicycles, snorkeling gear for all guests, glass-bottom Zodiac, & crow's nest camera.

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

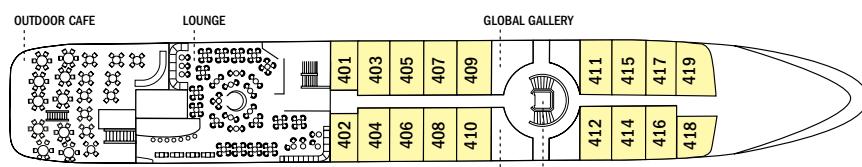
SPECIAL FEATURES: A full-time doctor, National Geographic photographer, and a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor. Laundry service available.



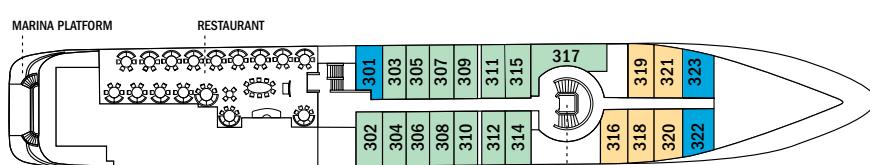
OBSERVATION DECK



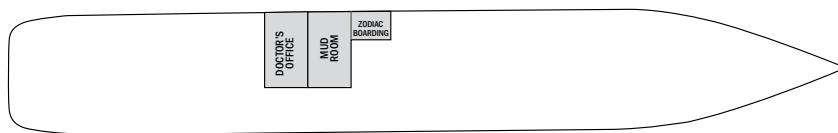
BRIDGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



EXPEDITION DECK

► See videos, photos, & learn what it's like to expedition aboard NG Orion at EXPEDITIONS.COM/NGORION

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

MULTIPLE VOYAGE SAVINGS: Save 10% when you book two or more voyages in Europe aboard *National Geographic Orion*. You may take these voyages as back-to-back or non-consecutive journeys. This savings is applicable on voyage fares only, and is not valid on extensions or airfare.

TRAVELING AS A GROUP: Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Take advantage of these great savings, while enjoying traveling with your friends and family. This savings is applicable to voyage fares only, and is not valid on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies.

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 two or more expeditions, and take advantage of both savings!

BRINGING THE KIDS: We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

We include just about everything you have the opportunity to do as part of your expedition aboard ship and ashore. The only things not included are scuba diving in Scapa Flow and those of a personal nature—internet usage, wellness treatments and other specialized arrangements.

ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Cappuccinos, lattes & complimentary refillable water bottle
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during lounge recap
- ✓ Sauna & Fitness Center
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ The guidance and company of our expedition staff
- ✓ Gratuities to ship's crew

ASHORE

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

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All shore activities
- ✓ Zodiac, kayak and bicycle explorations
- ✓ Snorkeling, including wetsuits, masks, fins
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge



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RESERVATION INFORMATION

Costs Include: All accommodations aboard ship, all meals and beverages (including alcohol) aboard ship and on land, shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of snorkeling equipment and wet suits (where available), use of bicycles and kayaks (where available), tips, gratuities to ship's crew, taxes and service charges, services of a ship physician, and services of our expedition staff.

Not Included: Air transportation, hotels, passport, visa, immigration fees, one lunch on Day 3 of "The North Sea," scuba diving in Scapa Flow, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as e-mail, wellness treatments and laundry.

Airfare: For all programs, airfare is an additional cost. Sample airfares (as listed on page 54) are subject to change. We will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations: To reserve your place, an advance payment of \$1,000 per person is required at the time of reservation. Payment is accepted by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or by check.

Receipt of your initial payment indicates your acceptance of our complete Terms and Conditions. We require written notice at the time of reservation for any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention.

Once your reservation is confirmed, we urge you to use your personalized online account for important information to help you prepare for your voyage. Managing your documents online will facilitate fast and accurate communication, and allow you to provide us with pertinent details we require, in order to complete your reservation. Your online account gives you access to your Expedition Guide, which includes valuable information specific to your voyage. You can also use your online account to make easy payments, view recommended flights and reading material, packing list, and so much more.

Final Payment: Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. Payment schedules may vary for holiday departures and certain longer voyages, due to high demand for these voyages. We reserve the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

Travel Protection Plan: We strongly recommend that you 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, damaged or lost baggage, medical assistance and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S., and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date. Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

Smoking Policy: Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and the National Geographic Society's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure, and are also available on our website at www.expeditions.com/terms, or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Note: Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are valid as of publication date, and are subject to change. Under normal conditions, the total expedition cost is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, the published price is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event we determine that current costs create an unsustainable financial model, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to pass on these costs to you, to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide a transparent accounting of the reason for such an increase in costs.

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United States Tour Operators Association \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program



Lindblad Expeditions, as an Active Member of USTOA, is required to post \$1 Million with USTOA to be used to reimburse, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program, the advance payments of Lindblad Expeditions customers in the unlikely event of Lindblad Expeditions bankruptcy, insolvency or cessation of business. Further, you should understand that the \$1 Million posted by Lindblad Expeditions may be sufficient to provide only a partial recovery of the advance payments received by Lindblad Expeditions. More details of the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program may be obtained by writing to USTOA at 345 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1801, New York, New York 10001, or by email to information@ustoa.com or by visiting their website at www.USTOA.com.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
180 or more days	\$750*
179–120 days	Advance payment cost
119–90 days	25% of trip cost
89–60 days	50% of trip cost
59–0 days	No refund

*\$750 will be rewarded in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate.

This cancellation policy applies to expeditions as well as pre- or post- extensions.

The effective date of a cancellation will be the date on which your cancellation notice is received. Note: Airline cancellation policies vary by carrier, as well as the type of fare used to issue your ticket.

Any revisions you make within the cancellation penalty period, such as departure date or choice of voyage, are subject to cancellation fees.

Cancellation policy for certain longer voyages and Holiday departures may vary due to high demand for these voyages. Our Group cancellation policies are listed in the Terms and Conditions section of our website, or you may call us for details. We stress the importance of purchasing a travel protection plan to protect yourself from fees in the event you need to cancel your reservation.

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For Reservations:

Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions

1.800.EXPEDITION (1.800.397.3348)

**Reservation Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 8pm ET
Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET**

**Lindblad Expeditions, Inc., 96 Morton Street, New York, NY 10014
Phone: 212.261.9000 • Fax: 212.265.3770**

**email: explore@expeditions.com For additional information and
online reservations, visit us on the Web: www.expeditions.com**



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EUR-165

SAVE 10%: BOOK ANY 2 OR MORE VOYAGES, IN ANY COMBINATION OR SEQUENCE

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

- » Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Award—Top Small Ship Cruise Lines, 2014
- » Condé Nast Traveler's 2014 Readers' Poll—Top 20 Small Cruise Ships in the World, 2014
- » Condé Nast Traveler World Savers "Doing it All" Award, 2013
- » Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Award—Top 25 Cruise Lines, 2013
- » Condé Nast Traveler "Gold List", 2013, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
- » Virtuoso "Sustainable Tourism Leadership-Supplier" Award, 2013
- » Travel + Leisure "World's Best" Award for Small-Ship Cruise Lines, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008
- » Travel + Leisure "World's Best for Families" Award for Small-Ship Cruise Lines, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009
- » Cruise Critic Editor's Pick Awards "Best for Adventure," 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010
- » Climate Champion Award to Sven Lindblad by Clean Air-Cool Planet, 2009
- » Conservation Achievement Award for Corporate Achievement from National Wildlife Federation, 2008
- » Tourism for Tomorrow "Global Tourism Business Award," 2007

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