

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Orion Expedition Cruises world-first: Join Dr Galdikas onboard Orion II and at Camp Leakey orangutan rehabilitation centre

Sarina Bratton, Founder and Managing Director of Orion Expedition Cruises, today announced securing a world-first marketing association with renowned primatologist Dr Galdikas and her Camp Leakey-based Orangutan Foundation International.

Scientist, conservationist and educator - for four decades Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas has studied and worked closely with the orangutans of Indonesian Borneo in their natural habitat and is today the world's foremost authority on the orangutan. Like Jane Goodall and Diane Fossey, Dr. Galdikas was mentored and inspired by Professor Louis Leakey the famed paleoanthropologist.

Following Sarina's recent scouting trip to Borneo, and subsequent meetings to finalise details, it has been agreed the two groups will work together to assist in the betterment of the future for endangered orangutans in Borneo.

Dr Galdikas has been hesitant to allow third party operators to link with her Camp Leakey rehabilitation project however the meeting of the minds between Dr Galdikas and Sarina Bratton opened the way for a co-operative agreement that will benefit her Orangutan Foundation International through support from Orion Expedition Cruises.

Commented Sarina Bratton:

"This is something out of the ordinary, exclusive to Orion. I am very excited to be able to take our guests to this remarkable destination in a responsible, controlled manner, and to help contribute to a positive future of an endangered species suffering from reduced natural habitat and poaching.

Our core beliefs are very much in harmony with Dr. Galdikas. Orion Expedition Cruises has a social responsibility to develop a marine tourism blueprint that is sustainable, one that is at the forefront of eco-sensitivity and a benchmark for internationally recognizable and environmentally sound operating practices.

It excites me to see this come to fruition and I am confident that our guests will enthusiastically embrace the program, especially when they see we can all make a positive difference with improved outcomes for the animals in their care".

Highlights of the agreement and the exclusive experiences afforded Orion guests visiting Borneo on Camp Leakey itineraries include:

- ***Orion II's* first Borneo season features eight voyages, three that include a visit to Camp Leakey: September 30, December 29, 2011 & January 8, 2012.**
- **Dr. Galdikas will travel onboard *Orion II* for all or part of the Camp Leakey voyages as a guest lecturer.**
- **On these visits Dr. Galdikas will personally escort *Orion's* guests in small groups while at Camp Leakey to visit the Orion Feeding Station, the Infant Care Centre & Rehabilitation area.**
- **December 29, 2011 marks Dr. Galdikas' 40th anniversary celebration of Camp Leakey. Dr. Galdikas will sail the full cruise & present 2 onboard lectures with opportunities throughout the cruise to socialize with her.**
- **Orion Expedition Cruises has donated funds for an orangutan feeding station at Camp Leakey that will be accessed exclusively by *Orion II* guests.**
- **Orion Expedition Cruises will purchase an Orangutan Adoption Kit for each guest onboard sailing on any 2011/2012 Borneo sailing.**

.....

[Additional background on Dr Galdikas](http://www.orangutan.org/dr-galdikas-bio), Camp Leakey and Orangutan Foundation International available at: <http://www.orangutan.org/dr-galdikas-bio>

[Background to all *Orion II* 2011 Borneo expeditions](#)

Nestled in the heart of the Malay Archipelago, Borneo is the third largest Island in the world. The southern two-thirds of the island is divided into the four provinces of West, Central, South and East Kalimantan. The northern coast is divided into the states of Sarawak and Sabah. The tiny nation of Brunei is wedged between these two Malaysian states. Borneo is home to the world's oldest tropical rainforests which, until recently, covered the entire island. Since 1950 almost 50% of the Island has been cleared to satisfy the western world's appetite for cheap timber and palm oil.

Borneo is amongst the planet's most biologically diverse ecosystems with 15,000 plants (400 only recently discovered), 222 species of mammals, 420 resident birds, 100 amphibians and 394 species of fish. Borneo falls within the "Coral Triangle", with 500 species of reef building corals, a global epicentre of marine biodiversity - the WWF has put this region on the top of its list for marine conservation.



Orion II 10 night voyages to Borneo in 2011

Rajahs, Riches & Rainforests - Voyage of Discovery

2011 Departures - August 21 & 31- Kota Kinabalu / Singapore and v.v.

Visit some of the key destinations in Malaysian Borneo, from the famous Bako National Park to the remote islands of Palau Tiga. The Semengoh Wildlife centre for orangutans, near Kuching, provides an opportunity to view, first hand, one of our closest relatives. The national parks of Tanjung Datu, Bako and Similajau provide a snapshot of the diverse ecosystems that once covered the entire island, and now provide refuge for the abundant wildlife. In addition, a visit to the Sarawak Cultural Village, near Kuching, will expand our understanding of the people of Borneo, and our visit to Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei highlights the diversity of cultures embedded through the island.

Secrets of Sabah - Voyage of Discovery

2011 Departure - September 10 – Kota Kinabalu / Tawau

Explore some seldom visited and very remote islands to take advantage of the marine diversity that exists in the heart of the coral triangle. Visit the key destinations of Sandakan and the Kinabatangan River. Described as Malaysia's gift to the earth, the Kinabatangan is a wildlife mecca and we immerse ourselves deep within its beauty with an inclusive overnight stay in the rainforest lodges of Sukau. We have the chance to view wild orangutans, Proboscis monkeys, macaques, Bornean pygmy elephants and countless bird species as we journey along the river. We will explore the tragic history of the WWII Sandakan Death Marches, where only 6 survived from the initial 6,000 participants.

Across the Wallace Line - Voyage of Discovery

2011 Departure - September 20- Tawau / Bali (Benoa)

From the clear tropical waters of the Derawan Islands to the remote Kutai National Park, our expedition will take us down the seldom visited eastern side of Borneo. Visit Samboja Lestari to view the reforestation projects and rehabilitation of the orangutans near Balikpapan. Cross the famous Wallace Line, named after the 19th century British naturalist, and take an overnight journey through Lore Lindu National Park, the Bada Valley and the ancient and mystical Toraja Land in Sulawesi. Finish the journey with an insight into the ancient Goan Kingdom and the more recent Dutch history of Makassar.

Camp Leakey – Faces in the Forest - Voyage of Discovery

2011 Departures - September 30 & December 29

2012 Departure - January 8 - Singapore / Bali (Benoa) and v.v.

Exciting destinations await as we voyage along the southern and western coastlines of Borneo. From isolated tropical islands to diverse National Parks, our itinerary will showcase some of Borneo's undiscovered jewels. The landmark Camp Leakey in Tanjung Puting National Park will be a highlight, allowing us the opportunity to view the rehabilitation of the ex-captive orangutans. Tanjung Puting is one of the great wonders of Borneo and is a wildlife mecca. We also visit Tanjung Datu, Gunung Palung and Bako National Parks to examine the complexity of ecosystems that once covered the entire Island.

PLEASE NOTE: some aspects of these itineraries may change as arrangements are finalised. Check for latest updates on www.orionexpeditions.com

Pricing onboard all *Orion* and *Orion II* voyages is in Australian dollars. Orion's voyages to Borneo all start and finish in places with easy international flight access.

Fares Guide:
Early booking savings available

2011 Borneo Expedition 10 night fares begin from \$8,150 per person for an Ocean View Suite/Category B. Junior Suites from \$11,300 per person and Penthouse Suites with balcony are \$16,400 per person

Expedition fares per person twin occupancy include accommodation, all meals, landings, port charges, gratuities and selected activities ashore.

Note to Editors:

Orion Expedition Cruises' itineraries for 2011 will include 49 voyages to 17 countries and more than 170 remote and exotic destinations stretching from Antarctica to the Russian Far East including Borneo, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and the Inland Sea of Japan (onboard *Orion II*) and Australia's Kimberley coast and Arnhem Land, New Zealand and the Sub Antarctic islands and Papua New Guinea (onboard *Orion*).

For further media information please contact:

Michael Corbett
Public Relations Manager
Orion Expedition Cruises
Phone: (61-2) 4572 1885
Mobile: 0417 469 228
Email: mcorbett@orioncruises.com.au