

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

Orion 2011 Calendar of Sailings

[Exciting new destinations added for Orion's 2011 expeditions](#)

With 24 diverse itineraries spanning the 'land of ice and fire' to the land of 'fragrant nails', visits to historic polar huts and encounters with orang-utans, Orion's expeditions provide an even greater range of adventures for adventurers in 2011.

Founded in 2005, the highly awarded Australian-based Orion Expedition Cruises is the leading operator of 5 star expedition cruising in the Australasian region, operating the 106 passenger expedition vessel *Orion* in the Kimberley region, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Antarctica.

Following the company credo "*a path less travelled*", the addition of the 100 passenger *Orion II* to the fleet in 2011 doubles capacity and allows expeditions to a wider range of rarely visited destinations; all enjoyed in a casual ambience, with 5 star facilities and attentive service onboard either *Orion* or *Orion II*.

Orion II's inaugural voyages in 2011 include the Russian Far East, also known as the 'land of ice and fire'; a circumnavigation of Borneo, the home to the orang-utan; fascinating Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia (including a visit to Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument), and the tranquil Inland Sea of Japan.

Orion's itineraries feature 13 voyages exploring Australia's Kimberley coast, the rarely visited indigenous art centres of Arnhem Land, and a voyage to the Spice Islands, known by the Chinese (referring to the abundance of cloves) as the 'land of fragrant nails'. Voyages to New Zealand and the Sub Antarctic islands will include the rarely visited Antipodes islands, while *Orion's* Papua New Guinea itineraries feature an exciting new voyage across northern Papua to West Papua and Maluku.

At year's end there are celebratory Centennial voyages to the historic Antarctic explorer's bases of Mawson, Scott and Shackleton.

Designed for travellers who seek intellectual and physical stimulation, while enjoying the company of like-minded adventurous spirits, Orion's ecologically sensitive expeditions provide authentic experiences in remote and seldom visited destinations, allowing time to relax and absorb the surroundings and cultures.

Discover worlds unknown to mainstream tourism. Explore hidden rivers, coves and fjords, photograph crocodiles, brown bears, Komodo dragons, penguins and humpback whales, visit ancient temples, stand inside Mawson's hut, dive on

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World War II wrecks, snorkel untouched coral reefs, learn about ancient and mysterious cultures and visit traditional tribal villages.

Onboard, biologists, ornithologists, marine biologists and historians - members of the dedicated Expedition Team - and specialist guest lecturers reveal secrets of destinations visited, sharing their knowledge and insight to enhance the travel experience and satisfy the curious.

Details of all 2011 voyages, itineraries and destinations are available at www.orionexpeditions.com

2011 voyages feature:

- 13 *Kimberley Expeditions*, each including Bungle Bungle flights
- *Orion's* inaugural *West Papua and Maluku Voyage of Discovery*
- *Orion II's* Voyage of Discovery to the *Russian Far East*
- Discover the ancient cultures on *Orion II's Inland Sea of Japan* voyage
- 7 Borneo voyages including a circumnavigation of Borneo
- 2 Tasmanian *Food and Wine* focused voyages
- *Orion's* inaugural *Exploration of the Antipodes*
- 3 *Orion* Antarctic Centenary voyages of celebration to the Ross Sea (Mawson's Hut) and Commonwealth Bay (Scott and Shackelton's huts)
- *Lord Howe Island and Aotearoa*, including the active volcano at Mt White island
- Christmas in New Zealand's spectacular fjordland and sub-Antarctic islands
- 8 voyages to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, including the Mekong Delta, Ho Chi Minh and Angkor Wat



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Seasonality / by ship:

Orion – Southern Hemisphere

- Winter
 - The Kimberley
 - Spice Islands
- Spring
 - Art of Arnhem Land
 - Lord Howe and NZ
 - Antipodes
- Summer
 - Antarctica
 - Sub – Antarctica
 - New Zealand
- Autumn
 - Melanesia
 - Papua New Guinea
 - West Papua

Orion II – Northern Hemisphere

- Summer
 - Russian Far East
 - Inland Sea of Japan
 - Ryuku Islands, Philippines & Sabah
 - Autumn
 - Borneo
 - Vietnam, Thailand & Cambodia
 - Winter
 - Borneo
 - Vietnam, Thailand & Cambodia
-

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Fares Guide:

All prices per person, twin share.

5 nights Great Barrier Reef / Orion: Fares from A\$3,715 for an ocean view Category B stateroom; A\$5,125 for a Junior Suite; Owners' Suites with French Balcony are A\$7,780.

7 nights Gulf of Siam Explorer / Orion II: Fares from A\$5,705 for an ocean view Category B Ocean Suite; A\$7,910 for a Junior Suite; Penthouse Suites with Balcony are A\$11,480.

10 nights Inland Sea of Japan / Orion II: Fares from A\$8,150 for an ocean view Category B Ocean Suite; A\$11,300 for a Junior Suite; Penthouse Suites with Balcony are A\$16,400.

10 nights Kimberley Expedition / Orion: Fares from A\$9,100 per person for an ocean view Category B stateroom; A\$12,550 for a Junior Suite per person; Owners' Suites with French Balcony are A\$19,055 per person. All prices twin share.

14 nights Ryuku Islands and Sabah / Orion II: Fares from A\$11,410 for an ocean view Category B Ocean Suite; A\$15,820 for a Junior Suite; Penthouse Suites with Balcony are A\$22,960.

18 nights Mawson's Antarctica / Orion: Fares from A\$19,365 per person for an ocean view Category B stateroom; A\$26,710 for a Junior Suite per person; Owners' Suites with French Balcony are A\$40,555 per person. All prices twin share.

For reservations or to obtain a brochure call Orion Expedition Cruises: 61-2 9033 8777 (Sydney callers) 1300 361 012 (regional and interstate) or your travel agent. Email: info@orioncruises.com.au

Ranked #2 expedition cruise ship in the world in the current Berlitz Cruise Guide, Orion is the world's youngest and Australia's only purpose-built luxury expedition cruise ship.

Featuring an unmatched range of onboard facilities, with 75 crew and a maximum of just 106 passengers, Orion offers the highest staff to guest ratio and guest to public space ratio of any ship based in Australian waters.

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