

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

Capture the energy of bustling modern Asia balanced by the serenity of the ancient

In addition to visiting some of Asia's major centres, *Orion II's Gulf of Siam and Thailand, Temples and the Mekong* expeditions provide the opportunity to experience traditional and modern Asia from a different perspective, often far from the clutter of the big cities.

From the flash of saffron robes in a Buddhist temple to the remote crystalline beaches of Tioman Island and the bustle of floating market stalls on the Mekong, the whiff of durian, a child's shy smile, the silence of a misty dawn in Halong Bay or the buzz of motor bikes in Ho Chi Minh City these two 7 night voyages combine the sensory contrasts of Asia into never to be forgotten experiences of sights, sounds and smells that encapsulate South East Asia.

Enjoy an inclusive overnight stay and visit to the world's largest religious complex, the World Heritage listed temples of Angkor Wat. Take an early morning elephant ride through the temples to see first-hand the technological and architectural wonder of the ancient Khmer kingdom, with its canals and reservoirs, and a rice economy able to support a million people.

Cross the broad muddy waters of the Mekong Delta and mix it with the locals on an exclusive Zodiac exploration of the river and floating markets – *Orion II* being the first foreign ship to be granted permission to do this.

Bargain for batik, beaten brassware and shot silk in dazzling colours, sip a dry martini, lounge on a untouched beach, snorkel transparent waters and photograph sampans with their distinctive timber hulls and sun-bleached yellow sails. These two itineraries reveal a balance of history, culture and relaxation that capture the energy of bustling modern Asia balanced by the serenity of the ancient.

Orion Expedition Cruises has released a pocket sized fold out map of the 2011 and 2012 *Orion II* expedition voyages to Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. A useful reference piece it captures all the important elements, including the highlights, for each voyage. A copy is available through your travel agent or on request by contacting Orion on info@orionexpeditions.com / Australia 1300 361 012 or New Zealand 0800 444 462

[Gulf of Siam Explorer and Thailand, Temples and the Mekong expeditions](#)

Across 2011 and 2012 there are three scheduled 7 night *Orion II Gulf of Siam Explorer* voyages alternating between Singapore and Bangkok, including Tioman Island, Kuala Terengganu, Ko Samui, Ang Thong Marine Park and Ko Kut.

2011 Departures - October 10 & December 22

2012 Departure - February 27

Thailand, Temples and the Mekong voyages alternate between Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City and include Ko Kut, Sihanoukville (for an overnight trip and stay at Angkor Wat), Phu Quoc and Can Tho (Mekong Delta).

2011 Departures - October 17 & December 15

2012 Departure - March 5

Fares: 7 night fares from \$5,705 per person for an Ocean Suite

Junior Suites begin from \$7,910 per person

Balcony Suites are \$10,290 per person

Penthouse Suites are \$11,480 per person

All prices twin share.

Details of *Gulf of Siam* and *Thailand, Temples and the Mekong* voyage itineraries available at www.orionexpeditions.com/expeditions/thailand/voyage_summary

Further information on Orion Expedition Cruises can be obtained by visiting the website www.orionexpeditions.com

For reservations or to obtain a brochure of 2011 or 2012 voyages call Orion Expedition Cruises: 61-2 9033 8777 (Sydney callers) 1300 361 012 (regional and interstate) / 0800 444 462 (New Zealand) or see your travel agent.

Email: info@orionexpeditions.com

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@orionexpeditions.com**