

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

Orion Expedition Cruises

5th July, 2006

PRO 066

IAATO announcement

[Orion Expedition Cruises voted full membership of IAATO](#)

Sarina Bratton, Managing Director of Orion Expedition Cruises, today announced that following *Orion's* inaugural season of voyages to the Antarctic Continent, members of IAATO (the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators), at their recent annual general meeting, voted that the company receive full membership of the organization.

IAATO developed a set of guidelines for tourists to Antarctica, which were subsequently adopted by the Antarctic Treaty parties as part of their Environmental Protocol.

IAATO advocates, promotes and practices safe and responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic and has established extensive procedures and guidelines that ensure appropriate, safe and environmentally sound private-sector travel to the Antarctic: regulations and restrictions on numbers of people ashore; staff-to-passenger ratios; site-specific and activity guidelines; wildlife watching; pre- and post-visit activity reporting; passenger, crew and staff briefings; previous Antarctic experience for staff; contingency and emergency medical evacuation plans. IAATO now represents about 95% of all annual tourists to Antarctica.

There is an independent Onboard Observer program to ensure that companies applying to become members meet their detailed and extensive regulations for visiting Antarctica. This past Antarctic season, Orion Expedition Cruises carried an observer onboard *ORION*, and met the program's standards.

"It is a measure of our operational integrity, the ship's environmental compliance, and the quality of our people that we are adjudged suitable to become full members of this important organization" said Mrs Bratton.

"It endorses our underlying corporate philosophy, to responsibly take our guests to remote and pristine parts of Australia and Antarctica, without compromise to the ecology or environment".

(continues)



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

Orion 2007 Antarctic Expedition Cruise Guide

Demand has been such that there are no spaces left onboard for the two *Orion* Antarctic summer season expeditions scheduled for January/February 2007. Those guests interested in travelling with *Orion* can have their names added to a waitlist for 2007 or apply for priority notification of 2008 season voyages.

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

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

For further media information please contact:

Michael Corbett
Public Relations Manager
Orion Expedition Cruises
Phone/Fax : (61-2) 4572 1855
Mobile : 0417 469 228
Email : mcorbett@orioncruises.com.au