



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

### Orion Expedition Cruises continues its winning ways

Building on its reputation as the premier expedition cruise product in Australasia, last night (6<sup>th</sup> December 2010) *Orion* received the prestigious ***Cruise Passenger Magazine*** Readers' Choice Award for **Best small/adventure ship** - for the sixth year in a row.

Orion Expedition Cruises continues to receive recognition from around the world as much for its approach to environmental responsibility and tourism sustainability as for the way it manages to balance luxurious accommodation and quality service with expedition style remote-location experiences.

This award caps off a successful year for Orion Expedition Cruises that, in November, included recognition as the **Best Responsible Cruise Operator** at the international **2010 Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards** and, earlier in the year, an **Honorable Mention, Education** in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual **Conde Nast Traveler Save the World Awards** for initiatives undertaken with local schools in Papua New Guinea.

Locally, at the **2010 Australian Gourmet Traveller Travel Awards** in the single category for cruising, Orion Expedition Cruises scooped the **Best Cruise Line (Global)** accolade ahead of other finalists including Cunard, Silversea and The Yachts of Seabourn.

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#### **Orion Expedition Cruises – background.**

**Founded in 2005, the highly awarded Australian-based Orion Expedition Cruises is the leading operator of 5 star expedition cruising in the Australasian region.**

Based in Australia and operating year round, the 106 passenger expedition vessel *Orion* offers a range of voyages that include the Kimberley, Arnhem Land, Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait Islands, Tasmania, the Sub Antarctic Islands and Antarctica as well as Papua New Guinea and Melanesian Islands.

The addition of the 100 passenger *Orion II* to the fleet in 2011 doubles capacity and allows expeditions to a wider range of destinations - Borneo, the Inland Sea of Japan, Russian Far East and South East Asia including Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.

*Orion* and *Orion II*'s range of expeditions - 49 voyages to 17 countries and more than 170 destinations - are created for travellers who seek intellectual and

physical stimulation in the company of like-minded adventurous spirits, enjoyed in a casual ambience, 5 star facilities and attentive yet unobtrusive service.

Following the company credo "*a path less travelled*", discover worlds unknown to mainstream tourism. Orion's ecologically sensitive expeditions provide authentic experiences in remote and seldom visited destinations.

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.

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

Explore more about Orion Expedition Cruises at [www.orionexpeditions.com](http://www.orionexpeditions.com)

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@orionexpeditions.com.au](mailto:info@orionexpeditions.com.au)

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