



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

Three in a row - Orion Expedition Cruises continues its winning ways at Australian Gourmet Traveller Awards

Furthering its reputation as the premier expedition cruise product in Australasia, last night *Orion Expedition Cruises* received the prestigious **2011 Australian Gourmet Traveller Magazine** Readers' Choice Award for **Best Cruise Line** - for the third year in a row – ahead of other finalists Silversea, Crystal and Seabourn.

Accepting the award on behalf of Sarina Bratton (who is in the US about to embark on the inaugural voyage of *Orion II*), was Chris Perkins, General Manager Sales and Marketing for Orion Expedition Cruises.

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.

Additional information:

Reference: <http://gourmettraveller.com.au>

GT 2011 Travel Awards

Best Cruise Line: Orion Expedition Cruises

Runner-up: Silversea

Homegrown cruise line Orion once again scoops the pool as our favourite operator at sea with its range of high-end, small-ship expeditions to some of the world's most exotic destinations. With the launch this year of its second vessel, Orion II, Australia's flagships now venture beyond the signature itineraries of the Kimberley, Antarctica and our island neighbours to explore the wilds of Russia, Japan, and south-east Asia, with itineraries including the volcanic Kuril Islands, Japan's Ryukyu Islands, and Sabah. Defined by its commitment to quality and innovation, Orion's unique approach to luxury cruising has resulted in such industry firsts as menus by noted Australian chef Serge Dansereau, and distinguished guest lecturers such as the renowned primatologist Dr Biruté Mary Galdikas, who shares her lifetime's research into orangutans aboard Orion II's new Borneo voyages. www.orionexpeditions.com

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 in 2011 - 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.

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

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Further information on Orion Expedition Cruises 2011 and 2012 Calendar of Sailings can be obtained by visiting the website 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

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