

it's in our nature to explore

ADVENTURES OF LORD HOWE & AOTEAROA

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes,
but in having new eyes.

Marcel Proust

'Aotearoa' is the most widely known and accepted Maori name for New Zealand, particularly the north island. The word, used by both Maori and non- Maori, can be translated as: ao = cloud, tea = white, and roa = long, hence "The land of the long white cloud."

This 14 night voyage features a myriad of islands, beautiful bays and beaches, remnant and active volcanoes, exquisite wine country, calm harbours and exploration in vibrant Auckland. Travel onboard *Orion* from Brisbane visiting World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island and Ball's Pyramid, the stunning Bay of Islands, Hawkes Bay and Marlborough Sounds enroute to Wellington. You will also appreciate time to simply relax and enjoy *Orion's* acclaimed 5 star comfort and facilities.

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA – embark

Latitude: 27°28'S | Longitude: 153°02'E

Situated midway up the east coast of Australia is Brisbane, capital city of Queensland. With the Gold Coast beaches to the south and the Sunshine Coast to the north, Brisbane is well situated to commence your *Orion* journey and it is well worth arriving a few days prior to enjoy the city and surrounds.

LORD HOWE ISLAND – dry landing

Latitude: 31°30'S | Longitude: 159°05'E

Positioned in the South Pacific Ocean, crescent shaped Lord Howe is a remarkable eroded remnant of one of a series of volcanic pinnacles, part of a submarine ridge that links to the north island of New Zealand.

Dominated by the twin volcanic peaks of Mount Gower and Mount Lidgbird, Lord Howe is known for its spectacular beauty, picturesque lagoon and amazing coral reef (the southern most coral reef in the world), and is one of just four island groups in the world possessing World Heritage status.

Discovered in 1788, early visitors to the island included ships travelling between Sydney and Norfolk Island, as well as American whaling and trading vessels. The island's extensive flora and fauna has been attracting botanists, zoologists and naturalists ever since. There are over 240 different species of native plants and at least 168 bird species either living at, or regular visitors to, this island group which comprises Lord Howe Island, Admiralty Islands, Mutton Bird Islands and Balls Pyramid.

BALLS PYRAMID – Zodiac cruising

Latitude: 31°45'S | Longitude: 159°15'E

Just 23km southeast of Lord Howe, spectacularly spearing 552 metres out of the sea is the jagged basalt spire of Balls Pyramid. Formed about 7 million years ago, windswept and inhospitable, it is regarded as the world's tallest sea stack.

Balls Pyramid has a few satellite islets. Adding to the drama of this almost mythological seascape are Observatory Rock and Wheatsheaf Islet, both located nearby, and Southeast Rock, some 3.5 km from Balls Pyramid.

If conditions permit, Zodiac exploration will take guests for a close-up view of this pinnacle and surrounding islets.

BAY OF ISLANDS – dry landing

Latitude: 38°34'S | Longitude: 142°46'E

On the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand we enjoy our first taste of Aotearoa. Here a coastline of bays and white sandy beaches embraces a sea dotted with 150 islands. The Maoris believe that the Bay of Islands was originally discovered by their legendary navigator Kupe. This is where the Maoris first arrived, and not so long ago was a base for whalers, sealers and sailors, preparing the way for a fusing of Maori and European culture. It is famously known as being the home of the Treaty of Waitangi, the first official agreement between the Maori people and the British.

HAURAKI GULF (WAIHEKE) – dry landing

Latitude: 36°53'S | Longitude: 174°46'E

The Hauraki Gulf is the marine gateway to Auckland and stretches between the Waitemata Harbour and the Coromandel Peninsula. Over 50 islands and islets sit within these sheltered waters. Waiheke Island, one of the largest islands in the Gulf is considered by many to be the most magical part of the Auckland experience (and is only 35 minutes from downtown Auckland by local ferry). Its beautiful beaches and native forest reserves harmonise with small cafes, vineyards, olive groves and art studios to make it a favourite leisure destination for Auckland residents.

TAURANGA – dry landing

Latitude: 37°57'S | Longitude: 117°58'E

When James Cook sailed into this bay onboard the Endeavour he was so impressed he named it The Bay of Plenty. You will not be disappointed, for this is a Bay of Plenty, with dazzling white sand, crystal clear water, surf beaches and beautiful harbours. The town of Tauranga is located at the head of a large harbour, protected by Matakana Island. Not surprisingly the word Tauranga comes from Maori, which roughly translates to "a sheltered anchorage".

WHITE ISLAND – *wet landing*

Latitude: 34°57'S | Longitude: 117°58'E

In 1769, James Cook gave the island its name because of the dense clouds of steam hanging over it. Today the island still emits visible plumes of steam, often ejecting clouds of ash that rise as high as 10km on clear, still days. The crater, containing a lake, often fluoresces green in colour, is over 100 metres deep.

This is a fascinating place to visit as there is continuous thermal activity on the surface of the island, with boiling pools, pot holes of sulphuric acid, steam and natural gas vents.

Located 48km offshore, White Island has built up over 15,000 years of ongoing volcanic activity. About 70 percent of the volcano remains under the sea, making this massive volcanic structure the largest in New Zealand.

NAPIER – HAWKE'S BAY – *dry landing*

Latitude: 38°37'S | Longitude: 142°59'E

Enjoying a sunny Mediterranean-style climate, Hawke's Bay is famous for its wineries, orchards and artisan food producers. Lavender gardens, orchards and olive plantations thrive under the Hawke's Bay sun.

The regional feature is the town of Napier, famous for its concentration of buildings in the styles of the 1930s – Stripped Classical, Spanish Mission, and above all Art Deco. Almost levelled by an earthquake in 1931, Napier rebuilt and today has one of the most outstanding collections of 1930's architecture to be seen anywhere in the world. This is a living film set where you can step back in time to an elegant era.

MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS MARITIME PARK– *wet landing*

Latitude: 41°30'S | Longitude: 174°52'E

Maori legend describes the entire South Island as Maui's waka (canoe), wrecked on a reef during a fishing expedition, the shattered bow of the canoe became the Sounds.

For centuries, Marlborough has offered safe harbour to travellers. First to Maori traders and war parties; then to European explorers, such as Captain James Cook and Dumont D'Urville; and now *Orion* guests seeking new landscapes and rejuvenating experiences.

This relaxed sojourn will provide opportunistic Zodiac exploration and landings, including historic Ship Cove (Endeavour Inlet) where Captain James Cook was based for a period during his 1770 voyage, Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary and the adjacent Long Island Marine Reserve.

WELLINGTON – *disembark*

Latitude: 41°15'S | Longitude: 174°50'E

Wellington, the Capital of New Zealand, is located at the southern end of the North Island, dominated by Wellington harbour and hills. It is the world's most southern capital and the only capital in the "Roaring Forties" latitudes.

With a population of around 170,000 Wellington has a relaxed, cosmopolitan style about it and with a city centre just 2 kilometres in diameter is a convenient twenty minutes walk from one side to the other.

The city is home to an astonishing number of art galleries, libraries, museums and schools of drama, music, dance and ballet yet with over 300 eateries has more restaurants, bars and cafes per head than New York! A vibrant city, there is always plenty to do for young and old and it is worth adding a few days to your *Orion* expedition to take advantage of its offerings.

COMBINATION EXPEDITIONS

Although there is a private charter of *Orion* operating for 6 nights between the Adventures of Aotearoa (dep 30 Oct to 13 Nov) and South Island Exploration Expeditions (dep 19 Nov to 30 Nov), there will be a combination savings of 5% applicable if you book them "back to back" and enjoy 6 nights of independent exploration between Wellington and Milford Sound.

14 Night Adventures of Lord Howe & Aotearoa

Day 1	Brisbane, Australia
Day 2	at sea
Day 3	Lord Howe Island
Day 4	Balls Pyramid
Day 5	at sea
Day 6	at sea
Day 7	Bay of Islands (Russell), NZ
Day 8	Bay of Islands (Te Rauhiti Inlet), NZ
Day 9	Hauraki Gulf (Waiheke), NZ
Day 10	Tauranga, NZ
Day 11	White Island, NZ
Day 12	Napier, NZ
Day 13	Marlborough Sounds (Ship's Cove), NZ
Day 14	Marlborough Sounds (Picton), NZ
Day 15	Wellington, New Zealand

2008: October 30

Expedition Fares

Ctgy	Type	14nt
B	Stateroom	\$ 9,575
A	Stateroom	\$11,110
JS	Junior Suite	\$13,210
DS	Deluxe Suite	\$14,470
BS	Balcony Suite	\$17,260
OS	Owners' Suite	\$20,055

**Expedition Fares – per person in Australian Dollars**

Early Booking Rewards are offered on a "First-in, best-dressed" basis - refer to page 5