

*it's in our nature to explore*

# MELANESIA & SOLOMON ISLANDS

**It is not down on any map; true places never are.**

*Herman Melville.*

In early 2008 *Orion* embarks on an exploration of the beautiful and remote islands of the South Pacific. Threading our way from New Zealand to Papua New Guinea we'll visit outlying islands settled as early as 25,000 BC by skull-worshipping tribes.

#### **AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND** – *embark*

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

In the Maori language Auckland is known as Tamaki Makau Rau, the city of 100 lovers, having been "a place desired by all and conquered by many".

#### **ISLE OF PINES, NEW CALEDONIA** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 22°40'S | Longitude: 167°28'E

Known as Kunie to its Melanesian inhabitants, the island is part of the French-Pacific territory, New Caledonia.

#### **PORT RESOLUTION, TANNA IS., VANUATU** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 19°30'S | Longitude: 167°20'E

As we approach the first thing we'll sight is the island's active volcano, Mt. Yasur. A guided walk up the side of the volcano's rim affords views of the crater which often spews rocks and ash in a spectacular pyrotechnic display.

#### **ESPIRITU SANTO, VANUATU** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 15°33'S | Longitude: 167°10'E

Relics and reminders of the war remain everywhere today. Around town you will still see military-constructed Quonset huts, there are four airfields and a mecca for divers is the 22,000 ton luxury liner/wartime troopship President Coolidge, the largest intact shipwreck accessible to scuba divers in the world.

#### **UTUPUA ISLAND, SOLOMON IS.** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 11°15'S | Longitude: 166°30'E

Part of the volcanic Santa Cruz Island group, the remote and rarely visited Utupua has been described as a small Bora Bora with a lagoon and barrier reef surrounding the high island.

#### **SANTA ANA ISLAND, SOLOMON IS.** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 10°50'S | Longitude: 162°27'E

The islanders of Santa Ana are well known for preserving ancient traditions such as songs and elaborately costumed dancers.

#### **SAVO ISLAND, SOLOMON IS.** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 9°6'S | Longitude: 159°49'E

Savo Island is a small dormant volcano sitting just off the coast of Guadalcanal in what is now known as Iron Bottom Sound (due to the large amount of WWII shipping sitting on the bottom).

#### **NGGELA ISLAND, SOLOMON IS.** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 9°1'S | Longitude: 106°70'E

Nggela has a stunning white sand beach with huge trees growing right down to the waters edge with abundant marine life living in colourful coral reefs a few metres off shore in the crystal clear waters awaits us here.

#### **MAROVO LAGOON, SOLOMON IS.** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 08°23'S | Longitude: 157°56'E

In the heart of the New Georgia Islands is a place James A. Michener once described as the eighth wonder of the world – Marovo Lagoon. This isolated spot in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands has been proposed for UNESCO World Heritage listing.

#### **GIZO, GHIZO ISLAND, SOLOMON IS.** – *dry landing*

Latitude: 08°07'S | Longitude: 156°50'E

Capital of the Western Province, and the largest town in the Solomons after Honiara, Gizo is a remnant of times past.

#### **KENNEDY ISLAND, SOLOMON IS.** – *wet landing*

Latitude: 08°05'S | Longitude: 156°54'E

During WWII John F. Kennedy was captain of PT-109 when, on 2 August 1943, his patrol boat was cut in two

by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri in Blackett Strait. The survivors clung to wreckage before swimming ashore to this tiny island later named in his honour.

#### **RABAUL, PAPUA NEW GUNIEA** – *disembark*

Latitude: 04°12'S | Longitude: 152°10'E

The tropical port town of Rabaul has always been famous for its spectacular setting at the eastern end of the island of New Britain. Nestled on Simpson Harbour, the township is surrounded by six volcanoes providing a sensational backdrop for our visit.

#### **16 Night Melanesia & Solomon Is.**

Day 1	Auckland, New Zealand
Day 2-4	at sea
Day 5	Isle of Pines, New Caledonia
Day 6	Tanna Island, Vanuatu
Day 7	at sea
Day 8	Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu
Day 9	at sea
Day 10	Utupua Island, Solomon Is.
Day 11	Santa Ana Island, Solomon Is.
Day 12	Savo Island & Nggela Island, Solomon Is.
Day 13	Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Is.
Day 14	Ghizo & Kennedy Islands
Day 15	at sea
Day 16	Rabaul, PNG (overnight on board)
Day 17	Rabaul, PNG (disembark) Optional charter flight to Cairns

2008 : February 28

#### **Expedition Fares**

Ctgy	Type	16nt
B	Stateroom	\$11,530
A	Stateroom	\$13,370
JS	Junior Suite	\$15,890
DS	Deluxe Suite	\$17,410
BS	Balcony Suite	\$20,770
OS	Owners' Suite	\$24,130
One way charter flight		\$ 550



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

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

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# CORAL SEA, LOUISIADE & TROBRIAND ISLANDS

**If you reject the food, ignore the customs, fear the religion and avoid the people, you might better stay at home.**

*James A. Michener*

The Coral Sea is rich in history, beauty and culture. Primitive tribal cultures illustrated through vibrant costume and dance, active volcanoes, unique flora and fauna, superb indigenous artwork and artifacts, villages ringing with the laughter of curious children, world-class snorkelling and scuba diving, wartime history and relics – all combine to create an unforgettable experience.

## CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA – embark and disembark

Latitude: 16°55'S | Longitude: 154°46'E

The Cairns region is internationally recognised for world class attractions, superb natural features and friendly north Queensland hospitality. It is the focal point for the magnificent World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and is surrounded by tropical rainforests.

## MILNE BAY (Alotau), PAPUA NEW GUINEA

– dry landing

Latitude: 10°18'S | Longitude: 150°27'E

Alotau, the capital of Milne Bay Province, is located at the eastern tip of mainland Papua New Guinea. Many of the population still rely on the sea for their livelihood and the busy harbour and nearby market are focal points for the town. We will receive the first of many warm welcomes, with dancers in local costume.

## FERGUSSON ISLAND, MILNE BAY PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – wet landing

Latitude: 9°31'S | Longitude: 150°41'E

On Fergusson Island the islanders still follow ancestral traditions and cook meals in a beachside lake of boiling water. Our landing will be made in isolated Dei Dei Village and will involve a short walk through the bush where a network of hot springs is revealed.

## KITAVA ISLAND, TROBRIAND ISLANDS, PNG

– wet landing

Latitude: 8°36'S | Longitude: 151°17'E

In 1793 the French vessel Esperance marked the first European visit to the Trobriand Islands, and the area soon became a hub for trading ships from Europe, American whalers and German ships seeking supplies of yams.

## DOBU, D'ENTRECASTEAUX ISLANDS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – wet landing

Latitude: 9°46'S | Longitude: 150°53'E

Dobu is a small, lush and beautiful island with a mystical past – renown for witchcraft, cannibalism and headhunting.

## EGUM ATOLL, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – wet landing

Latitude: 9°25'S | Longitude: 151°55'E

Scenic and picturesque, rising out of the turquoise waters, Egum Atoll will offer *Orion* guests an active day of snorkeling and bird watching. Egum Rock rises in the middle of the sea from a depth of 600-700 metres to 30 metres above the surface of the water.

## LOUISIADE ARCHIPELAGO, PNG – wet landing

Latitude: 10°48'S | Longitude: 152°23'E

The residents of each island in the Louisiades are skilled in different crafts – Panaeati is home to the Louisiades' master sailing canoe builders; the other islands specialize in shell necklaces and clay pottery which are used to trade with neighbouring islands.

## DOINI ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – wet landing

Latitude: 10°41'S | Longitude: 150°43'E

Another day, another movie set island location for *Orion* to anchor in. Doini is a secluded tropical island retreat with white sand, turquoise waters and jungle tracks.

## SAMARAI & KWATO ISLANDS, MILNE BAY PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA – wet landing

Latitude: 10°36'S | Longitude: 150°39'E

In the early 1900's tiny Samarai Island was the thriving colonial capital of the territory of Papua and the town's streetscape carries reminders of those bygone, halcyon days.

### 11 Night Coral Sea, Louisiade & Trobriand Islands

Day 1	Cairns, Australia
Day 2	at sea
Day 3	Milne Bay, PNG
Day 4	Kitava Island, Trobriand Islands, PNG
Day 5	Fergusson Island, PNG
Day 6	Dobu, D'Entrecasteaux, PNG
Day 7	Egum Atoll, PNG
Day 8	Louisiade Archipelago, PNG
Day 9	Doini Island, PNG
Day 10	Samarai & Kwato Islands, PNG
Day 11	at sea
Day 12	Cairns, Australia

2008 : October 14

### Expedition Fares

Ctgy	Type	11nt
B	Stateroom	\$ 8,315
A	Stateroom	\$ 9,655
JS	Junior Suite	\$11,470
DS	Deluxe Suite	\$12,565
BS	Balcony Suite	\$14,990
OS	Owners' Suite	\$17,415



### Expedition Fares – per person in Australian Dollars

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