

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

**Orion Expedition Cruises voted Best Cruise Line in the Australian Gourmet Traveller Awards 2010**

Thursday, 27 May 2010: The winners of the annual Australian Gourmet Traveller travel awards were announced last night at the Sydney Opera House. The results represent 34,000 public votes from Gourmet Traveller readers and viewers of the travel show Getaway, in addition to an expert panel of writers, editors, authors and independent experts.

In the single category for cruising, Orion Expedition Cruises again scooped the **Best Cruise Line (Global)** accolade ahead of other finalists Cunard, Silversea and The Yachts of Seabourn.

Gourmet Traveller editor Anthea Loucas hosted the event and presentation of trophies for the 12 reader-voted awards and six expert-judged categories. The innovators, pioneers and legends of Australian tourism were feted at the Sydney Opera House as singer Katie Noonan entertained and host and Getaway presenter Catriona Rowntree revealed the 2010 winner's circle.

"These awards have become an annual highlight of the Australian tourism industry calendar," said Anthea Loucas. "In the space of just four years they have garnered huge public support to become awards of record and a tribute to the innovation, vision and dedication of Australia's most impressive tourism operators."

Orion also received the Best Cruise Line and Best Adventure Tourism awards in the 2009 Australian Gourmet Traveller awards.



**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

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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 further information or to obtain brochures 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) Details of all 2011 voyages, itineraries and destinations are available at [www.orionexpeditions.com](http://www.orionexpeditions.com)

***Ranked #2 expedition cruise ship in the world in the current Berlitz Cruise Guide, Orion is the world's youngest and Australia's only purpose-built luxury expedition cruise ship.***

***Featuring an unmatched range of onboard facilities, with 75 crew and a maximum of just 106 passengers, Orion offers the highest staff to guest ratio and guest to public space ratio of any ship based in Australian waters.***

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