

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

**Orion's Highlights of New Zealand voyage**

Join Australia's 5 star expedition cruise ship *Orion* to explore the amazing land and seascapes of New Zealand's North and South Islands.

Experience the overwhelming grandeur of magnificent World Heritage-listed fjords, with spectacular glacial hanging valleys and plunging waterfalls, as Orion explores deep into Fjordland.

You'll see abundant wildlife on New Zealand's southern island and extraordinary lush tropical rainforests. From the natural beauty of Milford Sound to the spectacular Dusky and Doubtful Sounds, you will experience the best that this sought after destination has to offer.

This visually spectacular 10 night **New Zealand Highlights** voyage includes world famous Marlborough Sounds and the historic French settlement of Akaroa (population 680), an historic French and British settlement nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano. Hawke's Bay is famous for its wineries, orchards and artisan food producers, and elegant Napier features some of the most outstanding 1930's Art Deco architecture to be seen anywhere in the world.

Enjoy the charm of Dunedin, settled by Maoris over four centuries ago, and a visit to the world's most southern capital, Wellington, the only capital in the "Roaring Forties" latitudes. Kaikoura features a dedicated wildlife habitat affording plenty of opportunities to see whales, dolphins, fur seals, albatross and mollymawks.

Orion's expeditions invariably include contrasting highlights and in this instance a visit to the actively-volcanic White Island with its fluorescent green lake, sulphurous ponds and thermal vents is an exciting adventure not to be missed.

This voyage features beautiful bays, remnant and active volcanoes, exquisite wine country, calm harbours, wildlife and the scenic grandeur of exquisite National Parks and fjords all wrapped up in the 5 star comfort and service of Orion and her 75 crew.

**10 -night New Zealand Highlights:**

**Invercargill/Bluff to Wellington, 3 February 2010**

*Bluff, Milford Sound, Dusky Sound, Otago Harbour (Dunedin), Akaroa, Kaikoura Peninsula, Wellington, Marlborough Sounds, Napier, White Island, Auckland*

*Fares begin from A\$8,175 per person for an ocean view category B stateroom; Junior Suites from A\$11,280 per person and spacious Owners' Suites with French Balcony are A\$17,125 per person*

Further information on Orion Expedition Cruises can be obtained by visiting the website [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@orioncruises.com.au](mailto:info@orioncruises.com.au)

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

***With 75 crew and a maximum of just 100 passengers for Antarctic voyages 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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