



MAIDEN VOYAGE SERIES

SMALL ISLANDS

~ of the ~

INDIAN OCEAN



coralexpeditions

New explorations OF THE INDIAN OCEAN and its ISLANDS

SMALL ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

For the first time, Coral Expeditions will venture into the vast expanses of the Indian Ocean, as we welcome the *Coral Geographer* with a maiden voyage series designed to explore island wonders. Rich history, abundant and rare wildlife experiences, exotic flavours and great cultural diversity await. This is a rare opportunity to experience remote islands and atolls – those less travelled and those known for their beauty – in complete comfort and with the company of expert guides and naturalists.

CORAL GEOGRAPHER: OUR NEW VESSEL

Coral Geographer will launch in December 2020. The sister ship to *Coral Adventurer*, she allows for an intimate and adventurous expedition experience, with advanced technology for remote cruising. With only 120 guests, she is small enough to go to untouched places in refined comfort, with the warm hospitality and personal attention of our Australian crew. All staterooms are outside facing, and expansive deck areas bring you closer to the extraordinary landscapes around you.

THE EXPEDITION EXPERIENCE

We explore remote locations that are hard to get to or not often touched by tourists, with a focus on cultural exchange and education. Our small group size ensures that excursions are comfortable and personal, with minimal impact on the places that we visit.

Expect one or two activities or excursions each day, all included in your cruise fare. Go ashore with zodiacs and our trademark Xplorer, or use kayaks, diving, and snorkelling equipment to experience each destination. Expedition Leaders and lecturers who are experts in the region accompany every voyage, providing commentary on history, culture, and the region's unique natural features.

INCLUSIONS

- › All excursions and sightseeing
- › Use of Xplorer, Zodiacs, kayaks and glass bottom boat
- › Snorkelling and Scuba introduction
- › Daily lectures and briefings
- › All meals, chef-prepared on board
- › Selected wines, selected beers, juices, and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner
- › Coffee and selection of teas
- › All entrance fees to National Parks and Ports
- › Tips and gratuities

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- › Pre and post flights, accommodation & travel insurance
- › Entry visas to Australia
- › Alcoholic beverages outside of lunch and dinner service
- › Telephone and Internet services
- › Laundry
- › Scuba diving
- › Helicopter Flights





IMAGE + Expedition map by Alex Hotchin

ISLAND TRADITIONS TO THE EDGE OF AFRICA

VOYAGE 1:
The Maiden Voyage of *Coral Geographer* ventures across the vast arc of the Indian Ocean to explore new coastlines

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Expedition Highlights

- > Special Event: A dusk safari experience at Yala National Park, with the chance to spot elephants and leopards, followed by a Sri Lankan Feast and overnight stay at a wilderness resort
- > Visit the bustling Malaysian cities of Melaka and Penang to be immersed in the cultural history and savour delicious traditional cuisine
- > Visit a Sri Lankan tea plantation, and wander through the streets of historic Galle
- > Explore the paradise of the Maldives, with time spent at remote atolls for snorkelling and diving
- > Marvel at a Coco de Mer palm forest on Praslin, and see the iconic giant seeds, known for their suggestive shape
- > Explore the beautiful island of La Digue, and spend time on 'the world's most beautiful beach', Anse Source d'Argent
- > Encounter the Aldabra giant tortoises of the Seychelles
- > Witness the diversity of cultures throughout your voyage and get closer to the local people and lifestyle

DEPARTURE & FARES

25 Nights - Departs: 06 Jan 2021 from Singapore aboard *Coral Geographer*

	Bridge Deck Balcony Suite	Explorer Deck Balcony	Promenade Deck	Coral Deck
Twin Share	\$43,180	\$30,480	\$25,400	\$21,590
Sole Use	n/a	\$45,720*	\$38,100*	\$32,385*

Prices are per person, listed in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST.
*Limited sole use occupancy available.

IMAGES +1 Snorkelling over vibrant coral reefs | 2 Elephant in Yala National Park
3 A warm welcome by local islanders | 4 *Coral Adventurer*



ITINERARY: 25 NIGHTS SINGAPORE TO SEYCHELLES



DAY 1: SINGAPORE

Coral Geographer will depart on her maiden voyage at 6:00pm.

DAY 2: MELAKA

Colonial influences and a colourful cultural history make Melaka a fascinating destination. Enjoy tours which unveil the city, and a cruise along the Melaka River.

DAY 3 & 4: AT SEA / PENANG

Enjoy lectures on the history and culture of Malaysia as we steam along the scenic coast. Arrive in bustling Georgetown, famous for its blend of colonial, Indian, Malay and Chinese culture and food. Free time to wander through the city allows you to soak up the atmosphere. In the morning, explore through Georgetown's architectural marvels of spectacular Chinese temples and the UNESCO World Heritage listed old town. Incredible street art and street food provide a feast for the senses.

DAY 5: AT SEA

Today, relax or attend a cooking lesson of classic Penang cuisine.

DAY 6: SABANG

This sleepy island city is known for its beauty and cleanliness. Ride a *becak* to see the Dutch colonial buildings, and visit the geothermal Jaboi Valley with its otherworldly bubbling pools. Later, explore the dive sites around Pulau Weh, where schools of fish flock around the coral walls in the clear water.

DAY 7: BANDA ACEH

Banda Aceh was hit hard by the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004, and we learn about that day at the remarkable memorial park. Tour the Grand Mosque and enjoy free time to explore, before a traditional meal and a display of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Practice, the Saman Dance.

DAY 8-10: AT SEA

As we steam towards Sri Lanka, enjoy lectures or simply relax.

DAY 11: HAMBANTOTA, SRI LANKA

Take a scenic overland journey from Hambantota, with stops at small villages. Arrive at Yala National Park for our special event: A dusk safari experience with the opportunity to spot wild elephants and elusive leopards, before we sit down to an elaborate Sri Lankan feast. Tonight, stay overnight at a wilderness resort on the edge of the National Park.

DAY 12: GALLE, SRI LANKA

An overland journey takes us to Galle, through charming southern Sri Lanka. Along the way, stop at pristine beaches and village markets, and visit one of Sri Lanka's iconic tea plantations. In Galle, have free time to explore the Fort and city.

DAY 13: GALLE, SRI LANKA

Today, see Galle and the surrounds your own way: tour with local guides, visit the Temple, cycle through paddy fields, or try your hand at making traditional Sri Lankan curry.

DAY 14: AT SEA

Relax on board while we cross the Laccadive Sea.

DAY 15: KULHUDHUFFUSHI, MALDIVES

This morning, begin your exploration of the exquisite coral atolls that comprise the nation of the Maldives, with snorkelling over the underwater coral gardens, strolling under the palm trees, and meeting the friendly and courteous Maldivians.

DAY 16: HANIFARU BAY & OIHUGIRI, MALDIVES

Hanifaru Bay is famous for its marine life. This is a protected area, and we may have the opportunity to swim and admire the underwater wonders. This afternoon, visit Oihugiri for more water activities, nature walks, and relaxation.

DAY 17: MAALHAVELI, MEEMU ATOLL, MALDIVES

Explore the uninhabited island of Maalhaveli. This atoll is a true paradise and geographic marvel. With incredible marine biodiversity, enjoy snorkelling and wall and drift dives over vibrant reefs, with the opportunity to spot fish, mantas, or reef sharks.

DAY 18: HITHADHOO, ADDU ATOLL, MALDIVES

Arrive in Hithadhoo in the afternoon, with time to explore the town, shop, relax, and enjoy Maldivian cuisine before we depart.

DAY 19-22: AT SEA

Relax on board while we steam towards the Seychelles. Enjoy onboard workshops and lectures.

DAY 23: PRASLIN, SEYCHELLES

We drive the scenic coastal road through quaint fishing villages and dense forest to the UNESCO World Heritage Vallée de Mai Nature Reserves. Here, marvel at the forest of 6000 Coco de Mer palms, with their enormous fan-shaped fronds and famously suggestive seeds. Later, Cote d'Or is perfect for a swim or walk.

DAY 24: LA DIGUE, SEYCHELLES

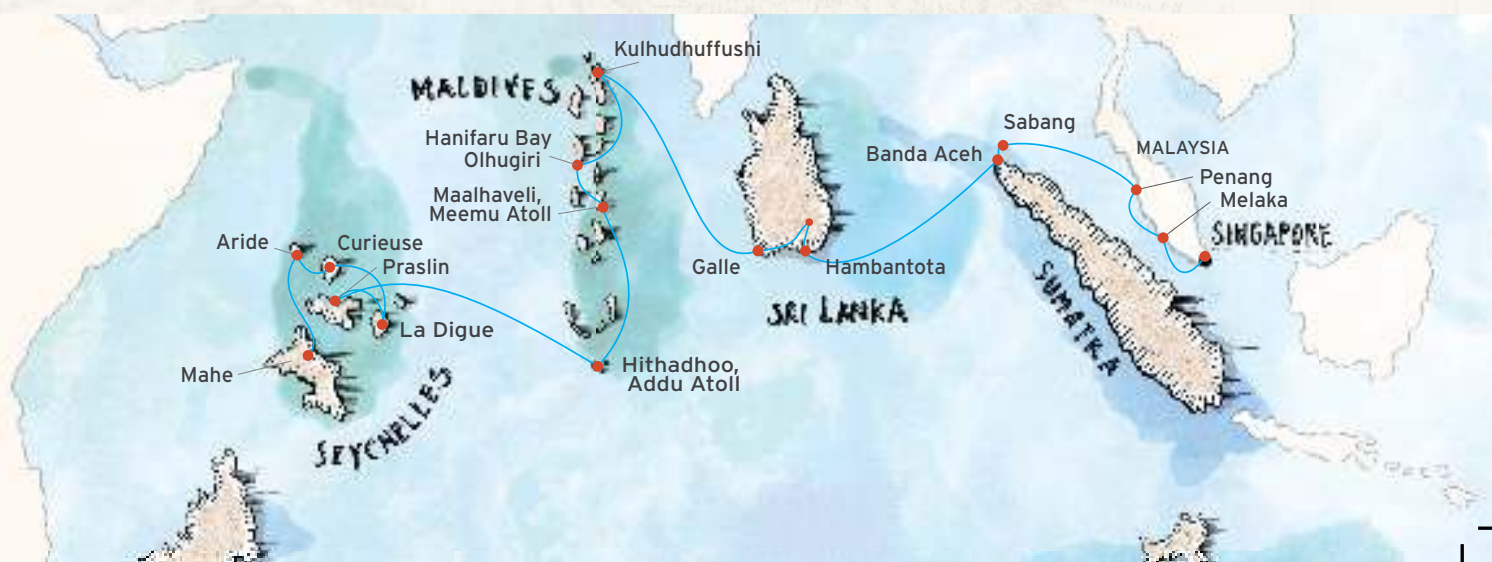
La Digue is known for spectacular beaches and huge granite boulders. Visit L'Union estate, a former coconut and vanilla plantation, and gain an insight into the colonial history of the island. Relax on 'the most beautiful beach in the world', Anse Source d'Argent. Later, visit Curieuse Island and learn about its tragic history. Here giant tortoises roam free and the Seychelles black parrot flits amongst the Coco de Mer palms.

DAY 25: ARIDE, SEYCHELLES

Aride is home to some of the most important seabird populations in the Indian Ocean. With the world's largest colonies of Lesser Noddy and Tropical Shearwater, the islands provides a huge amount of birdwatching opportunities. Go ashore for a nature walk, looking out for Sooty Terns, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Frigatebirds, Brown Noddy, and Wedge-tailed Shearwater.

DAY 26: ARRIVE MAHE, SEYCHELLES

This morning, we arrive at Mahe to disembark at 8:00am. Enjoy the opportunity to walk through the streets of the capital Victoria, and be immersed in the warm Seychelles culture.



SEYCHELLES TO MAURITIUS

VOYAGE 2:

Coral Geographer visits the remote atolls of the Outer Seychelles and explores the remarkably diverse coasts of magnificent Madagascar

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Expedition Highlights

- > Spend two days at the remote Aldabra Atoll, the world's second-largest atoll, home to thousands of giant tortoises
- > Dive and snorkel on some of the Seychelles' most remote and beautiful reefs at the Alphonse Islands
- > Have the chance to see the iconic lemurs of Madagascar in habitats at Nosy Mangabe and Masoala National Park
- > Enter a bird watcher's paradise at Desroches and the Farquhar Group, with multitudes of species to spot
- > Explore towns and plantations in Madagascar to soak in the history, diverse cultures, and aromas of vanilla, pepper, coffee, and ylang ylang.
- > Learn of the fascinating pirate history of Île Sainte-Marie
- > Marvel at Réunion's dramatic volcanic scenery, and taste delicious creole cuisine
- > Witness the immense diversity of cultures throughout your voyage and get closer to the local people and lifestyle

DEPARTURE & FARES

15 Nights - Departs: 01 Feb 2021 from Seychelles aboard *Coral Geographer*

	Bridge Deck Balcony Suite	Explorer Deck Balcony	Promenade Deck	Coral Deck
Twin Share	\$26,690	\$18,850	\$15,700	\$13,350
Sole Use	n/a	\$28,275*	\$23,550*	\$20,025*

Prices are per person, listed in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST.
*Limited sole use occupancy available.

IMAGES +1 Reunion | 2 A Ring-Tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*) in Madagascar

3 Coral Adventurer with Xplorer landing on remote beach



ITINERARY: 15 NIGHTS SEYCHELLES TO MAURITIUS



DAY 1: DEPART MAHE, SEYCHELLES

Board the *Coral Geographer* in Mahe, Seychelles at 3:00pm for a 4:00pm departure. We set sail overnight while you meet and mingle with your fellow guests.

DAY 2: DESROCHES & ST JOSEPH, AMIRANTE GROUP

This morning, arrive at the Amirante Group of islands, considered to be among the most untouched islands in the world. If conditions permit, we will explore Desroches and St Joseph Atoll. With the island's conservation team and our naturalists, we will take nature walks to observe the giant tortoises, as well as the unique plants that grow here. Birdwatching is rewarding, and frigatebirds, Blue Herons, and Crested Terns abound. Snorkelling may be possible over the coral reef.

DAY 3: ALPHONSE ISLANDS

Today, if conditions allow, we will stop at the islands of Alphonse, St. François and Bijoutier, which boast miles of spectacular beaches and lagoons brimming with marine life and brilliant coral. They are considered to be the most spectacular islands in the Seychelles. We will swim and snorkel in the crystal blue water and enjoy walks exploring the islands.

DAY 4: FARQUHAR GROUP

An Important Bird Area, the Farquhar Group provides incredible bird-watching. Green sea turtles and Hawksbill Turtles nest around the edges of the lagoon, and snorkelling or nature walks are the order of the day, should conditions allow.

DAY 5-6: ALDABRA GROUP, SEYCHELLES

The second-largest coral atoll in the world, Aldabra Atoll is UNESCO World Heritage protected and due to its isolation has remained untouched by humans. It is home to an estimated 152,000 giant tortoises, and abounds with other marine and bird life. With two days in the Aldabra Group, we have flexibility in our exploration, spending our time walking in nature, spotting wildlife, snorkelling, or relaxing on one of the many beaches.

DAY 7: ASSUMPTION ISLAND, SEYCHELLES

This morning, we arrive at Assumption Island, in the Outer Islands. This single coral island has a history of plantations and mining, leaving exposed rock and caves, with low growing vegetation. The 5km long white beach is a lovely base for snorkelling and Scuba diving, should conditions allow.

DAY 8: NOSY BE, MADAGASCAR

Nosy Be means Big Island in Malagasy. This is one of the primary locations in Madagascar for travellers, but still sleepy enough to intrigue, and we have no shortage of options for our visit. Choose to visit the Ylang Ylang distillery and vanilla plantation, explore the markets of Hell-ville, snorkel at the marine reserve of Nosy Tanikely, or visit Nosy Komba - island of lemurs.

DAY 9: ANTISIRANANA (DIEGO SUAREZ), MADAGASCAR

Antsiranana, the largest city in northern Madagascar, is a gateway to some of the wonders of this region. Our day includes a choice of expeditions - travel to Montagne d'Ambre National Park to experience the wildlife and nature, or for the fit - a journey to explore the famous *tsingy* of Ankarana.

DAY 10: AT SEA

Today, enjoy lectures by our expedition team, or simply relax as we steam towards our next destination.

DAY 11: NOSY MANGABE & MASOALA NATIONAL PARK

Nosy Mangabe is a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rain forest in Madagascar. Embark on a series of nature walks hoping to spot wildlife. For the birders we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers. At Masoala, be lured by the chance to spot red-ruffed lemur, red-fronted brown lemur, and ring-tailed mongoose, as well as a multitude of extraordinary chameleons. This area provides a variety of walks and hikes for all fitness levels, and we may also swim from the beach and visit the village.

DAY 12: NOSY BORAHA (ÎLE SAINTE-MARIE)

This island off the east coast of Madagascar has lush vegetation interspersed with many small villages. The bays and coves are protected by coral reefs and historically, it was a popular home for pirates. Walk the botanical trail to the church, before visiting the colourful fruit and vegetable market, with free time to purchase handicrafts and marvel at the entire sperm whale skeleton on display. In the afternoon, stop at a beautiful island beach for swimming and snorkelling.

DAY 13: AT SEA

Spend today relaxing, or enjoy the chef's cooking demonstration.

DAY 14: SAINT-DENIS, RÉUNION

Known for its dramatic natural wonders, Réunion is formed by a massive submerged volcano. A full day tour visits the huge volcanic amphitheatres known as cirques, with mountains towering overhead, and waterfalls plummeting hundreds of feet. Be surrounded by tropical plantations with spices, vanilla, and fruits. Enjoy the views from Nez des Boeufs and see Piton de la Fournaise. We will enjoy a Creole lunch before enjoying free time in St Denis in the afternoon.

DAY 15: SAINT-DENIS, RÉUNION

Our second morning in Réunion gives us time to explore the city of St Denis, or perhaps take a helicopter tour over the volcanic Piton des Neiges.

DAY 16: PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

Arrive in Port Louis, Mauritius, to disembark at 8:00am.



IN SEARCH OF SUB-ANTARCTIC LANDS

VOYAGE 3:

Coral Geographer completes an epic crossing of the Indian Ocean, with true adventure and unexpected discoveries along the way.

A True Expedition

The third voyage in our Maiden Series will see us complete an epic crossing of the southern Indian Ocean from Mauritius to arrive in home waters in Fremantle, Australia. With no definite confirmed itinerary, this voyage will take a research-based approach, have strictly limited guest numbers, and an extensive on-board program for the lengthy sea passages.

The 33-night voyage will potentially visit the French and Australian sub-Antarctic island territories, which have existed largely in isolation for millennia and are therefore home to rich plant, bird and sea life including rare species. Given the environmental and ecological considerations, a long consultation process with the relevant government bodies is required before the itinerary is finalised.

The vast and forbidding expanse of the southern ocean has captured the imagination of many past explorers. In April 1801, Nicholas Baudin sailed from Mauritius in the French corvette *La Géographe*. On 27 May, he sighted Cape Leeuwin, and later anchored in Geographe Bay on the Western Australian coastline. Our voyage aboard *Coral Geographer* pays homage to this intrepid explorer.

DEPARTURE & FARES

33 Nights - Departs: mid Feb 2021 from Mauritius aboard *Coral Geographer*

	Bridge Deck Balcony Suite	Explorer Deck Balcony	Promenade Deck	Coral Deck
Twin Share	\$46,950	\$34,950	\$27,950	\$22,950
Sole Use	n/a	n/a	\$41,925*	\$34,425*

Prices are per person, listed in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST.

*Limited sole use occupancy available.

IMAGES +1 Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis*), Ile Amsterdam

2 King Penguin on the Crozet Islands | 3 sub-Antarctic Heard Island



ITINERARY: 33 NIGHTS MAURITIUS TO FREMANTLE

DAY 1: DEPART PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS

Board the *Coral Geographer* in Port Louis, Mauritius at 4:00pm for a 5:00pm departure. Set sail overnight while you meet and mingle with your fellow guests.

DAYS 2-33:

Due to the expeditionary and developing nature of this voyage, the below highlights are given as potential stops only. Landings at remote islands are not guaranteed. There may be ongoing changes to the below itinerary. Please note this itinerary includes significant time at sea. This expedition will be subject to weather and tide conditions - your Master and Expedition Team will make adjustments to the itinerary to maximise your experience.

REUNION

Known for its dramatic natural wonders, Réunion is an overseas department of France, with a vibrant Creole culture that combines French, African, Chinese, Malagasy, and Indian. The island's volcanic activity has created spectacular canyons and gorges, with mountains towering overhead, and waterfalls plummeting hundreds of feet.

Here we will spend one and a half days, with options to explore. You may visit the huge volcanic amphitheatres known as cirques, and be surrounded by tropical plantations with spices, vanilla, and fruits. Savour a Creole meal and visit a vanilla plantation. There may be time to explore the city of St Denis, or perhaps take a helicopter tour over the volcanic Piton des Neiges.

CROZET ISLANDS

The Crozet Islands consist of 5 large and 15 tiny islands, scattered over 300 square kilometres. Temperatures on the Crozet Islands may rise to 18 °C in summer, and rarely go below -5 °C even in winter. A nature reserve, the Crozet Islands are uninhabited apart from the permanent research station Alfred Faure on Île de la Possession. The Islands are home to four species of penguins, notably 2 million breeding pairs of macaroni penguins, and half the world's population of king penguins. Accompanied by 25 million seabirds, the islands are unsurpassed in bird life. Subantarctic Fur Seals, Southern elephant seals, and orcas are also common in the Crozet Islands.

If conditions permit, we will visit Île de la Possession, the research base, and encounter the vast colony of king penguins at Baie du Marin. We may land at Bai Americaine, or take a short walk to cross the Moby Dick River and climb to Morne Rouge.

KERGUELEN ISLANDS

The Kerguelen Islands consist of 300 islands, islets, and reefs also known as the Desolation Islands. The main island, Grande Terre, is volcanic in origin, with a remarkable landscape sculpted

by fire and ice. Cook Glacier carves its way through the main island, supplying numerous streams and lakes. Although harsh weather of snow, sleet, or rain is common for most of the year, the surrounding sea remains ice free. Birdlife and marine mammals are abundant, with multitudes of penguin species, elephant and fur seals finding a haven here.

Approaching Kerguelen Island, observe the spectacular and rugged coastline. Conditions permitting, we may land and visit Port-aux-Français station, permanently occupied by 50 - 100 French researchers. We may also visit Courbet Peninsula, tour a partly restored Norwegian whaling station at Port Jeanne-d'Arc, or enjoy treks along the shore or to Jacky Refuge.

ÎLE SAINT-PAUL

Île Saint-Paul, the top of a dormant volcano, is a remarkable island only 2 kilometres across. The wall of the crater collapsed in 1780, allowing the sea to flood the caldera. The island is home to seals, albatross, penguins, and bird species which are recovering after the removal of non-native species of rats and rabbits. With no permanent human population, the only sign of life is a scientific research cabin, and the ruins of an ill-fated lobster cannery.

Here, conditions permitting, we will spot birds and wildlife from the ship or tender. A landing is not guaranteed due to often difficult local weather conditions, however the sight of this small and remarkable island will not disappoint.

ÎLE AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam Island, with a milder climate than many of the more southerly islands, is home to year-round Martin-de-Vivies station. This research station houses scientists and staff studying biology, meteorology, and geomagnetics.

Though it was first discovered by Juan Sebastian de Elcano during his circumnavigation of the earth in 1522, the first recorded landing was made in 1696. A later settlement attempt left cattle behind. Parts of the island are protected from the cattle, allowing the native *Phyllica* tree to recover.

Conditions permitting, we may enjoy a visit to the Martin-de-Vivies station, and a walk to the *Phyllica arborea* woodland or Antonelli Crater to take in the remarkable view and spot wildlife.

GEOGRAPHE BAY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Following our epic voyage across the Indian Ocean, we arrive in Geographe Bay to celebrate the conclusion of our Maiden Voyage Series, and *Coral Geographer's* arrival home to Australia. Enjoy a special event that remembers the exploratory voyage of Nicholas Baudin and your own extraordinary adventure.

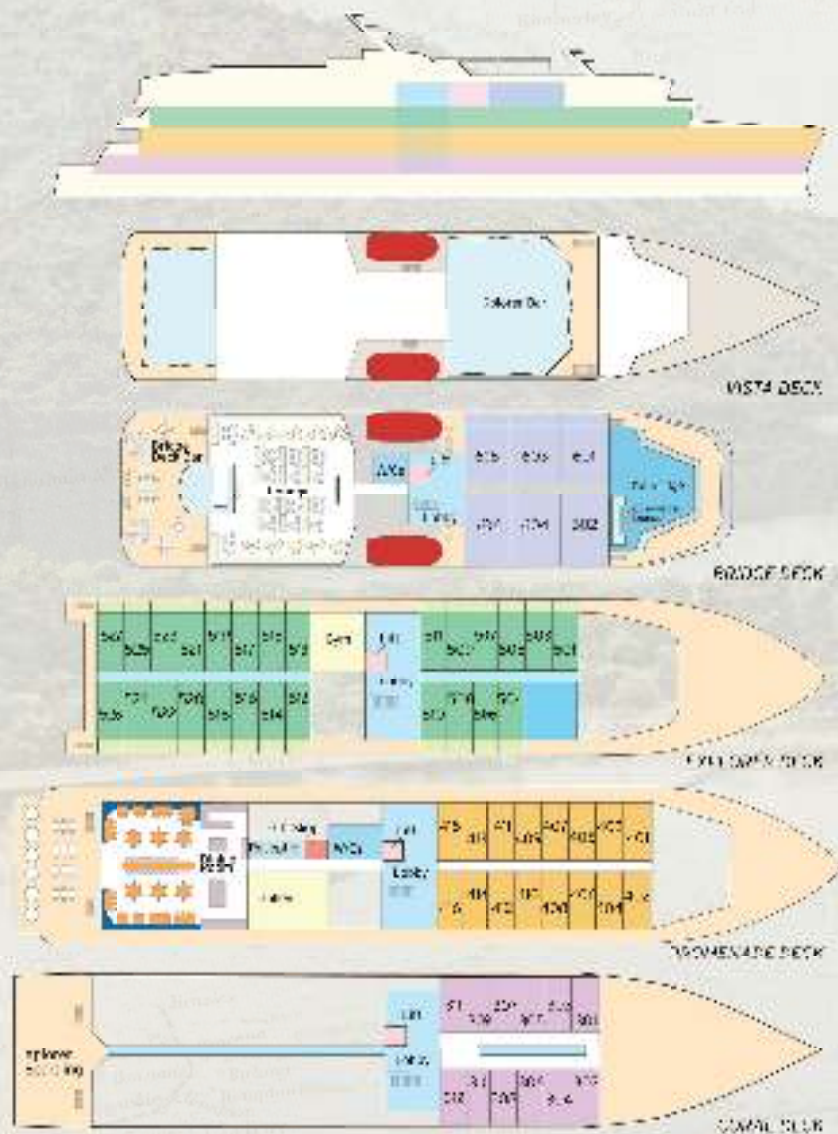
DAY 34: ARRIVE FREMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

Arrive Fremantle, to disembark at 8:00am.



CORAL GEOGRAPHER FOR TRUE EXPLORERS

Deck Plan



Stateroom Categories

- 6 Bridge Deck Balcony Suites
- 26 Explorer Deck Balcony Staterooms
- 16 Promenade Deck Staterooms
- 12 Coral Deck Staterooms

Specifications

Length	93.4 metres
Max Breadth	17.2 metres
Draught	4.5 metres
Gross Tonnage	5599
Construction	VARD
Guests	120
Staterooms	60

Features

- Two Xplorer tenders, six Zodiacs and kayaks
- Open Bridge with Navigator Lounge
- Single seating dining with communal 'wine table'
- Three cocktail bars
- Well-equipped gym
- Passenger elevator
- Anchor-free technology for sensitive marine areas



IMAGES + 1 Explorer Deck Stateroom | 2 Coral Adventurer Dining Room
3 Coral Geographer's sister ship Coral Adventurer



IMAGE + Xplorer with snorkellers at a remote atoll



EXPERIENCE CORAL ASSURANCE WHEN BOOKING DIRECT

- WE CARE:** Our team is motivated solely to ensure you have the trip of a lifetime.
WE KNOW: Our knowledge of our ships and itineraries ensure you get the best advice.
WE COMMIT: You will not get a better price elsewhere.



Contact us today or speak with your travel agent.

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