

# PASSAGE TO THE CARIBBEAN: FROM BRAZIL TO THE BAHAMAS

Your 21-night journey includes: 16-night small ship cruise with Devil's Island (French Guiana), St. George's (Grenada), Bridgetown (Barbados), Soufrière (St. Lucia), Pointe Simon (Martinique), Basseterre (St. Kitts) & Samaná (Dominican Republic); 2 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Belém; 2 nights at a Deluxe hotel in Nassau

This enchanting voyage immerses you in some of the most culture-rich destinations throughout the Caribbean. You'll explore the azure waters and emerald-hued islands of the Bahamas, visit a historic fortress in St. Kitt's, view the volcanic splendor of St. Lucia, and savor tasty rum in Martinique. Best of all, you'll explore in luxury aboard Vantage Deluxe World Travel's 5-star Ocean Explorer.

Make your way through the crystalline waters of the Caribbean and admire breathtaking beaches, lush islands, and local cultures while sailing aboard a luxurious small ship. Explore the laid-back charms of Samaná in the Dominican Republic, tour an old rum distillery in Martinique and a sugar mill in St. Lucia; dock overnight in Barbados for fuller explorations of this island paradise, and step into the past when you visit Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park on St. Kitts. Beyond the tourist crowds, a roster of 15 included features and Cultural Discoveries immerse you in the nuanced heritage of these islands. If you prefer some time to relax on the beach, you'll have ample opportunity to indulge at your leisure with the help of our onboard Destination Manager.

Bookending your journey are extended stays in Nassau, the colorful capital of the Bahamas; and Belém, Brazil. Along the way, indulge in the exquisite amenities of the Ocean Explorer. Relax on deck or in the spa, watch gorgeous vistas unfold from the Observation Lounge or the open-air sundeck, and savor delicious meals prepared by our talented chefs.

## JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

### OCEAN EXPLORER CRUISING



Come aboard this 5-star small ship, visiting eight Caribbean destinations, while also enjoying state-of-the-art technology, an onboard spa, fitness

#### NASSAU



Explore the colorful Bahamian capital of Nassau, part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

#### CARIBBEAN BEACHES

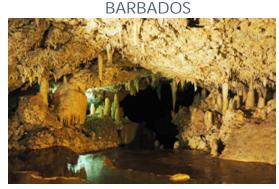


Enjoy the clear turquoise waters and powder-white sand with leisure time to relax on some of the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches

ST. KITT'S



Take in the lush beauty and turquoise waters of St. Kitts during a scenic openair train ride



Venture into a glittering world of crystallized limestone, stalagmites, and stalactites in Harrison's Cave

AMAZON JUNGLE



Explore the Amazon jungle during a boat tour and guided walk in Belém

### ONBOARD ENTERTAINMENT



Enjoy entertainment by local performers during special evenings on board

## YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Purchase your airfare from Vantage and your airport transfers, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees are included
- Accommodations for 20 nights, with 16 nights aboard the Ocean Explorer, 2 nights in Belém at the Radisson Hotel Maiorana Belém (or similar), and 2 nights in Nassau at the Margaritaville Beach Resort Nassau (or similar)
- **54 meals:** 20 breakfasts, 16 lunches, and 18 dinners, with complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks during dinner on board
- 15 included features and Cultural Discoveries
- 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Nassau, part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network; Pitons of St. Lucia; Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park
- The services of a Vantage Cruise Director and Program Manager, plus shipboard commentary,

regional experts, and private motorcoach for excursions

- Complimentary Destination Manager service on board ship to assist with all your personal requests such as spa reservations, hotel reservations, and other special requests in port
- Complimentary Vantage Deluxe Concierge Service prior to your journey, to plan celebrations, activities, or provide regional expertise. Log into My Portfolio and submit a request, or send an email any time up to two weeks prior to your departure at Concierge@vantagetravel.com
- Complimentary unlimited Wi-Fi
- All transfers and baggage handling overseas
- Vantage 5% Travel Reward, received upon your return, to use toward your next Vantage journey

# SPECIAL INTEREST



## SMALL SHIP CRUISING HIGHLIGHTS

Our 5-star fleet offers an authentic sailing experience to make your journey unforgettable. While onboard, indulge in a relaxing massage at the spa, or try hot-rock cooking at the onboard restaurant. Then, disembark for an eye-opening visit to a local winery or a walking tour of some of the world's most iconic cities and undiscovered gems. All the while, enjoy these world-class ship amenities:

- 77 cabins, including a landmark 15 solo cabins, most of which have full walk-out balconies, for the most flexible style of travel
- plus, suites designed for comfortable triple-occupancy as well as adjoining room options
- A culinary program offering gourmet dining incorporating regional fare, with wine and beer included at dinner
- Spa, massage, and hair services available at the onboard spa
- Sauna
- Fitness center
- Curated lectures, programs, musical performances, and cultural events
- Low passenger-to-crew ratio, plus onboard Destination Manager
- Knowledgeable staff by region
- Onboard medical doctor (travelers are responsible for medical fees associated with doctor visit and medications)
- Gift Shop
- Library with over 200 titles
- Separate, intimate dining space for groups or special events (available upon request)
- Complimentary unlimited WiFi (WiFi on certain segments of trips may not be available)
- Entertainment programming with 100 movie titles
- Environmentally friendly standards with reduced emissions into air and sea and lower energy consumption
- Dynamic positioning technology
- State-of-the-art safety technology, Polar Code 6 compliant, and fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements in expedition cruising
- Rolls-Royce stabilizer system; "Safe Return to Port" technology

ACTIVE HIGHLIGHTS During the course of your adventure, you will have opportunities for active walks and city explorations, including climbs to overlooks for spectacular views. There will also be opportunities for swimming (weather dependent). Here are some other activities you may participate in:

- Swim at the private beach at your Nassau, Bahamas hotel
- Enjoy a walking tour of the Amazon jungle in Belém

ART & CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS A long and storied history of arts and culture await during this enriching itinerary.

- Explore the colorful folk art and crafts traditions of the Bahamian capital of Nassau, part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network
- Stop by the 1789 Buena Vista Estate in Nassau, where you may sample the rum at the John Watlings Distillery
- Immerse yourself in the rich culture of the Dominican Republic during visits to a cheese factory, a bread factory, an artisan's home, and a tobacco plantation
- Learn about rum production during a tour of a Martinique

distillery

- Tour St. Lucia's Old Sugar Mill, once central to the island's economy and history
- Enjoy expert guest lectures on the histories, cultures, and natural beauty of your various destinations during your time on board the Ocean Explorer

UNESCO & HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS Discover some of the most significant cultural and historic treasures in the world throughout your cruise.

- Visit 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, Pitons of St. Lucia, historic Bridgetown and its garrison, and Paramaribo's inner city; plus Nassau, part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network
- Tour La Pagerie on Martinique, the childhood home of French Empress Josephine
- Visit Barbados's Sunbury House, the 1650 manse that today is a

repository of artifacts, including the Caribbean's largest collection of carriages and the first optical machinery in the West Indies









#### NATURE HIGHLIGHTS

Soul-stirring beauty greets you at every turn, from the emerald islands and azure waters of the Caribbean to the lush jungles of the Amazon.

- See monkeys, flamingos, lorikeets, and other Bahamian wildlife during your visit to Aradastra Gardens
- Take in the lush beauty and turquoise waters of St. Kitts during a scenic two-hour ride on an open-air train
- Marvel at an endless parade of colorful tropical blooms at the Botanical Gardens of the Dominican Republic, Martinique, and

St. Lucia

- Witness pools of gurgling hot springs at the Caribbean's only drive-in volcano, on St. Lucia
- Cruise past St. Lucia's iconic landmark, the twin volcanic spires of the Pitons
- Venture into a glittering world of crystallized limestone, stalagmites, and stalactites in Harrison's Cave on Barbados
- Embark a small boat to view the remarkable Meeting of the Waters, where the differently colored Amazon and Tapajós rivers flow alongside each other for several miles
- Take in the tranquility of Lake Maica, a natural outlet of the Amazon, and cast a line to fish for the notorious piranha
- Enjoy scenic cruising along the Amazon River, its dense rainforests hugging the river's shores and harboring all manner of wildlife, from monkeys to a rich array of birds



#### MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Music reveals the heart and soul of a place. You'll have ample opportunity to celebrate the rhythms of the Caribbean, and even sing and dance along!

- Enjoy entertainment by local performers during special evenings on board ship
- Relax to the tempo of a local band during your visit to St. Lucia's Old Sugar Mill



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS You'll enjoy a spectrum of picturesque sights and scenes on this journey. Here are a few tips to help you photograph them along the way:

- Change your perspective. Try shooting from a different angle, for example. Climb a stairwell and shoot a landscape from up high or, alternately, get low and shoot a scene from the ground.
   Wherever you are, embrace this artistic challenge by getting out of your comfort zone!
- Take a selfie! You'll be glad to have a few portraits of yourself at the distinctive landmarks you'll find on this journey
- Look beyond the landmarks sometimes everyday scenes are just as inspiring, and provide a lesson in embracing the unexpected and seizing the moment in front of you



## SOLO TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

On this small ship ocean cruise, independent travelers will enjoy solo-friendly features, such as:

- Onboard Concierge services to personalize your expedition
- Water-sport opportunities, depending on the location
- A lively social media night and musical performances most nights
- Solo-friendly social activities, including a Solo Connection mixer
- Onboard entertainment, lectures, and cooking demonstrations
- Health and wellness options, including onboard spa, jacuzzis, and a gym



gathering in the lounge, and more

#### CONCIERGE SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Prior to your expedition cruise, our complimentary Concierge service will be available to help you customize your journey. Here are just a few services your Concierge can provide:

- Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, family reunion or other important event you want to celebrate on board? Let your Concierge know and he or she can make all the special arrangements, whether it's a private reception in your suite, a
- Restaurant reservations. Just notify your Concierge of your interests, and he or she will be happy to make recommendations, and will call ahead to reserve your table

- Special excursions. Would you like a limo to take you for a special night in the city? Perhaps you'd like to look up long-lost relatives. Your Concierge is here to help!
- Extend your stay! Your Concierge can help modify your hotel reservations and flights if you decide to stay on
- Tickets to local concerts, exhibits, theater, sporting events, and more

Take advantage of this free, start-to-finish service by making your requests prior to your journey or during your journey. We are one of the only companies to offer this level of service! Call 1-888-982-6824 or email Concierge@vantagetravel.com to speak to a Concierge today, or simply log into My Portfolio up to two weeks prior to departure.During your journey, your onboard Destination Manager can assist with any special requests such as spa reservations, hotel reservations, and more.

# BELÉM TO NASSAU

DAY 1:	Fly to Belém, Brazil
DAY 2:	Arrive in Belém and check into your hotel
	Radisson Hotel Maiorana Belém or similar
DAY 3:	Discover the best of Belém today
	Radisson Hotel Maiorana Belém or similar
DAY 4:	Discover Belém by boat and then embark the Ocean Explorer Ocean Explorer >
DAYS 5-6:	Two days of bliss and relaxation at
27.110 0 01	sea
	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 7:	Explore the Devil's Island, French Guiana
	Ocean Explorer >
DAYS 8-9:	Enjoy two days at your leisure aboard the Ocean Explorer
	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 10:	Explore the sites of St. George's, Grenada
	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 11:	Experience the magnificence of Harrison's Cave Ocean Explorer >
DAY 12:	Design your own day in Barbados
DAT 12.	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 13:	Volcanic splendors of St. Lucia Ocean Explorer >
DAY 14:	Savor the sites — and rum — of Martinique
	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 15:	Ride the rails to a historic fortress on St. Kitts
	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 16:	Relax on board the Ocean Explorer
	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 17:	Indulge in the natural riches of the Dominican Republic in Samaná Ocean Explorer >

DAYS 18- 19:	Relax on board with two days at sea
	Ocean Explorer >
DAY 20:	Disembark the Ocean Explorer and tour Nassau
	Warwick Paradise Island Bahamas or similar
DAY 21:	Have a day at leisure in Nassau Warwick Paradise Island Bahamas or similar
DAY 22:	Return home





DAY 1: Fly to Belém, Brazil

Board your overnight flight to Brazil today.

## DAY 2: Arrive in Belém and check into your hotel

Welcome to Brazil! If you purchased your airfare from Vantage, upon arrival at the airport a Vantage representative will meet you and arrange transfer to your centrally located hotel. Settle in and relax, or perhaps do some exploring on your own. This evening, enjoy dinner at your hotel. Included meals: Dinner Radisson Hotel Maiorana Belém or similar

## DAY 3: Discover the best of Belém today

You'll have a day at leisure to explore Belém on your own today. Often overlooked by visitors who favor the Amazonian wonders found inland, this city is a cultural gem worthy of your time.

Head to the Ver-O-Peso market to chat with local sellers and shop for unique wares and souvenirs. Visit the Theatro da Paz, a 19th-century Neoclassical theater that provides a peek into Brazil's belle epoque past. Or, make your way to the Complexo Feliz Lusitania, a cluster of significant historical buildings located in Belém's old town district. The day is yours to enjoy at your pace.

Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Join us today for a full-day guided tour of Belém's best sights. Learn More

#### Included meals: Breakfast Radisson Hotel Maiorana Belém or similar

# DAY 4: Discover Belém by boat and then embark the Ocean Explorer

Following breakfast this morning, you'll check out of your hotel and head to the pier to begin the cruise portion of your journey! Along the way you'll enjoy a boat tour of the Amazon River, where you will see canoes, fishing boats, and other river-craft making their way along the tributaries that lead in and out of the rainforest. After crossing Combu Island, you will reach the Boa Vista do Acará jungle area where you can take part in a leisurely 45-minute guided walk through the jungle as your local guide points out the varied species of vegetation found here. There will be time for lunch on your own before you board the Ocean Explorer. Settle in and perhaps have a drink on deck as you set off on

your adventure. Tonight, enjoy a special Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers.

## **Included Feature:**

• Amazon River boat tour Included meals: Breakfast & dinner Ocean Explorer >

## DAYS 5-6: Two days of bliss and relaxation at sea

You'll have two days to indulge in the amenities of your elegant small ship. Relax on the sun deck, visit the spa for a soothing treatment, or perhaps get in a workout at the gym. At mealtime, savor incredible culinary creations thoughtfully prepared by your onboard chefs. In the evening, head up to the Observation Deck for some magnificent stargazing.

Onboard Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional onboard experience. Enhance your time on board with one of our Vantage-exclusive activities, including wine and whiskey tastings, a multicourse Chef's Table Dinner, or an exclusive wine-pairing dinner.

Learn More Included Meals: 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners Ocean Explorer >

#### DAY 7: Explore the Devil's Island, French Guiana

Home to one of history's most feared penal colonies, Île du Diable, or Devil's Island, is now one of South America's most enthralling sites. This prison, where France sent its most notorious criminals, was long considered inescapable until two convicts broke out against all odds. The unbelievable story was depicted in the novel Papillon by Henri Charrière and its subsequent film adaptation. You'll have time on your own here to explore the prison's buildings and grounds, made all the more atmospheric by resident monkeys cavorting in the tree canopy and distant bird calls echoing through the forest.

#### **Included Feature:**

• Devil's Island prison tour

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

# DAYS 8-9: Enjoy two days at your leisure aboard the Ocean Explorer

You'll enjoy two additional days to indulge in the luxurious amenities found aboard your ship. Visit the spa, relax in the well-stocked library, sip a cocktail as you take in the panoramic views from the sundeck, or perhaps get a workout in the gym. At mealtime, savor incredible culinary creations thoughtfully prepared by your onboard chefs. In the evening, head up to the Observation Deck for some of the most magnificent stargazing you're ever likely to experience. Onboard Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional onboard experience. Enhance your time on board with one of our Vantage-exclusive activities, including wine and whiskey tastings, a multicourse Chef's Table Dinner, or an exclusive wine-pairing dinner.

Learn More Included Meals: 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners Ocean Explorer >

## DAY 10: Explore the sites of St. George's, Grenada

Your tour of Grenada begins with a scenic drive through this popular Caribbean destination. You'll head to De La Grenade Industries, where you can sample delicious local products such as jams, jellies, and nutmeg syrup. Their prizewinning nutmeg liqueur and rum punch are not to be missed. You'll continue on to Laura Herb and Spice Garden, an amazing botanical garden that grows herbs and spices used in medicinal remedies. Enjoy a guided educational tour of the grounds, and discover the cornucopia of vegetation grown here. Following your guided tour, you'll have time to explore the gift shop before we continue on to Grenada Distillers. Opened in 1937, you will be welcomed by knowledgeable guides who will explain the history of rum-making in Grenada. After the tour, you will be invited to sample their award-winning rums at the bar. Later, you'll return to the ship for an evening on board.

#### **Included Feature:**

• St. George's island tour and rum distillery visit Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

DAY 11: Experience the magnificence of Harrison's Cave

Head out this morning to visit what many call the Caribbean's most spectacular natural sight —

Harrison's Cave. What makes this cavernous chamber so spellbinding is the crystallized limestone from which it was formed over millennia. An electric tram takes you down into its depths, a stunning canvas of stalagmites, stalactites, gurgling streams, and waterfalls plunging into emerald pools.

The rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to enjoy — check with your onboard Destination Manager for suggestions on what to see and do in Barbados. Perhaps you'll lounge on one of its warm white sand beaches or explore Bridgetown's history on a stroll around the Careenage, the city's original harbor around the Constitution River.

#### **Included Feature:**

· Guided visit to Harrison's Cave

#### **Cultural Discovery:**

• Onboard evening entertainment Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

DAY 12: Design your own day in Barbados

You'll have a free day in Barbados to explore on your own today.

Established in 1628, Bridgetown is the heart of Barbados. Both its capital and largest city, it's a vibrant and vivacious place steeped in history, where its unique blend of African, British, and American heritage comes alive. Head out and explore one of the island's many glorious beaches, dive into Barbadian history at the Barbados Museum, or shop for handcrafted souvenirs at the Pelican Craft Centre. The day is yours to do as you wish.

Destination Enhancement: Customize your

## journey when you add an optional excursion. Take in Barbados best highlights on a full-day guided bus tour. Learn More Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

#### DAY 13: Volcanic splendors of St. Lucia

Arrive in Soufriére this morning, the scenic and pastel-hued capital of St. Lucia, and set out on a scenic drive showcasing its beautiful colonial architecture. Continue to Sulphur Springs Park, the Caribbean's only drive-in volcano where pools of bubbling hot springs create an otherworldly landscape. Then, stop to admire the vivid, exotic hues and melodious birdsong at the Diamond Botanical Garden and Waterfall. Later, visit the island's Old Sugar Mill. Its waterwheel, built in 1765, once generated the island's first electricity. During your visit, sway to the rhythms of a local band, and savor a refreshing drink and snacks before returning to the ship for lunch. Later, you'll have the afternoon at leisure. Perhaps explore more of St. Lucia with a tour set up by your onboard Destination Manager or stroll the streets of Soufrière in search of a handcrafted souvenir. As you leave St. Lucia behind, you will cruise past the twin volcanic spires of the Pitons, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### **Included Feature:**

• St. Lucia island tour

#### **Cultural Discoveries:**

• Enjoy live music at the Old Sugar Mill Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

**DAY 14**: Savor the sites — and rum — of Martinique

Today, you'll explore magnificent Martinique and

sample its world-famous rum on an included heritage tour. You'll board a private bus and set out past the village of Trois llets and make your way to La Pagerie Museum, a quaint cottage that boasts a royal history as the birthplace of the future Empress Joséphine of France, the first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte. A guided tour of this former sugar estate will provide insight into her life here. You'll continue on to L'Habitation Clément. This former 19th-century sugar plantation, once the private home of the Clément family, is now a shrine to Homère Clément, a doctor and politician who pioneered the production of Caribbean rum using sugarcane. From here you'll head to the Jardin de Balata, a lush botanical garden containing close to 3,000 varieties of tropical plants and 300 different types of palm trees. Finally, you'll learn about Martinique's industrial history and the manufacturing of rum when you visit a local distillery where you will have an opportunity to sample the rich rum for yourself. Following your tour, you will return to the ship for lunch and have the remainder of the day at your leisure.

#### **Included Feature:**

• Martinique heritage tour and rum distillery visit Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

DAY 15: Ride the rails to a historic fortress on St. Kitts

Dock this morning in Basseterre, the capital of the sovereign nation of St. Kitts and Nevis. These lush islands were first colonized by France and Britain in the 1620s and became independent in 1983. Today, you'll venture to Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Erected by the British, this was the largest fortification ever built

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in the Western Caribbean. You'll arrive at the fort via a splendid two-hour rail trip aboard the openair carriages of the St. Kitts Scenic Railway, a thrilling experience through lush countryside and past sweeping vistas awash in the Caribbean's azure waters and distant emerald-hued islands. After visiting the fort, you'll return to the ship for lunch and then have the rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

#### **Included Feature:**

Tour of Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park

#### **Cultural Discovery:**

• Ride the scenic railway in St. Kitt's Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

## DAY 16: Relax on board the Ocean Explorer

Treat yourself to your ship's amenities as you cruise through the legendary Caribbean Sea. Take advantage of this time to read a book from our library or enjoy a soothing massage at the spa. The day is yours to spend as you wish.

Onboard Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional onboard experience. Enhance your time on board with one of our Vantage-exclusive activities, including wine and whiskey tastings, a multicourse Chef's Table Dinner, or an exclusive wine-pairing dinner.

#### Learn More

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

DAY 17: Indulge in the natural riches of the Dominican Republic in Samaná

Immerse yourself in the history and culture of "DR" today during an enlightening tour that reveals the island's flavors, bucolic way of life, and remarkable past. During your exploration you'll visit a whale exhibit, a cigar museum, and even have time for shopping. Samaná is a lush, laid-back slice of this island, and you'll get to see its beaches and natural glory on a tour today, as well as meet with some locals. Back on board, relax on the sundeck and enjoy the late afternoon sun.

#### **Included Feature:**

Samaná History & Traditions tour

#### **Cultural Discovery:**

• Learn about local culture Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner Ocean Explorer >

#### DAYS 18-19: Relax on board with two days at sea

Enjoy a couple of days at sea as you sail across the crystalline waters of the Caribbean. Visit the spa, get in a workout at the gym, and relax on the sun deck catching up with a great book. Tonight, join your fellow guests for a special Farewell Dinner.

Onboard Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional onboard experience. Enhance your time on board with one of our Vantage-exclusive activities, including wine and whiskey tastings, a multicourse Chef's Table Dinner, or an exclusive wine-pairing dinner.

#### Learn More

Included Meals: 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners Ocean Explorer >

# DAY 20: Disembark the Ocean Explorer and tour Nassau

After breakfast, you'll disembark the Ocean Explorer as your journey winds down in Nassau, the Bahamas. Begin your island tour at the Rawson and Parliament squares, lined with colorful stucco Georgian neoclassical buildings. The Supreme Court, Senate Chambers, and House of Assembly are here. Leaving here, you'll pass the Queen's Staircase, 66 limestone steps that connect Fort Fincastle to the lower town. It was carved out of the sheer rock by slaves in 1793. You'll also see the Government House and Graycliff, a stunning mansion built in 1740 that is now a famous hotel. After a photo stop at historic Fort Charlotte, you'll pass other landmarks such as the College of the Bahamas, Sir Harry Oakes Monument, and Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre. You'll also pass colorful Arawak Cay, a jumble of multicolored shacks and cafés that are collectively known as "Fish Fry." Be sure to come back during your free time to enjoy the famous conch fritters and tropical conch salad, and hear a local storyteller share some Bahamian lore.

During your tour, you'll stop at the historic 1789 Buena Vista Estate, home of the John Watlings Distillery, where you will enjoy a self-guided tour and rum tasting. Upon departing the distillery you'll visit Aradastra Gardens, a lush tropical setting where you'll be introduced to some local denizens such as monkeys, flamingos, snakes, lorikeets, and other native species. Dinner is on your own tonight.

#### **Included Feature:**

Nassau city tour

#### **Cultural Discoveries:**

- Tour with rum tasting at John Watlings Distillery
- Exotic animal encounters at Aradastra Gardens Included meals: Breakfast Warwick Paradise Island Bahamas or similar

#### DAY 21: Have a day at leisure in Nassau

The Bahamas lays claim to the clearest water on Earth. A full day of leisure lets you immerse yourself in its many pleasures — by water and by land — as you like. Your hotel is within walking distance to downtown Nassau, so everything is within easy reach. Perhaps you'll visit the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, or shop for handicrafts at the Straw Market. If you're feeling adventurous, there are spectacular dive sites and plenty of opportunities to swim with dolphins, feed sharks, or enjoy water sports from kayaking to jet skiing and more. At the Pirates of Nassau museum, you can learn about infamous privateers like the notorious Blackbeard through fun, interactive exhibits and performances. You might also join an excursion to the Atlantis Resort, where you will find the Aquaventure water park, walk-in aquariums, 11 pools, the largest open-air marine habitat, a golf course, casino, and more. Nassau is also part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), thanks to its prolific and colorful Crafts and Folk-Art traditions, so you're sure to come upon island-made handicrafts and other creative pursuits.

Included meals: Breakfast & dinner Warwick Paradise Island Bahamas or similar

#### DAY 22: Return home

Today, you'll head to the airport to board your return flight home. Included meals: Breakfast

**Please Note:** Ocean cruising is not the same experience as river cruising; as such, you may experience fluctuating tides and weather patterns that may involve some rocking of your vessel. Itineraries will include all activities as planned except in extreme cases that can't be controlled by your shipboard crew. Day-byday itineraries are preliminary and therefore subject to change. If changes occur while on tour, you will be notified by your Cruise Director or regional expert.

## ACCOMMODATIONS



## Ocean Explorer

## **Quick facts**

Launch: 2021

Length: 104.4 Meters

Max Capacity: 162 guests — 134 for polar expeditions

**Cabins:** 77, including a landmark 15 solo cabins — 80% of all cabins feature a private veranda The intimate Ocean Explorer and Ocean Odyssey are the cruise industry's newest and most premier small ships built for global expedition travel, and ready to go to some of the world's most far-reaching destinations. Accommodating just 134 guests, the ship is outfitted with the latest satellite, sustainability, and navigation capabilities, including SOLAS "Safe Return to Port" requirements and ULSTEIN X-BOW® technology, a significant enhancement for smooth sailing in polar seas. On all Vantage expedition cruises, education is an essential component of the journey. Enjoy talks from notable scholars, onboard historians who travel alongside you, and handpicked regional experts. On polar expeditions with Vantage, you'll attend lectures, lessons, and activities offered by a 17member Expedition Team of experts in fields ranging from biology to oceanography. In your downtime, you'll find relaxation and luxury aboard the Ocean Explorer and Ocean Odyssey. Visit the gym or onboard spa for a facial, massage, even a haircut. Soak in the hot tub after a rewarding day of sightseeing. Enjoy gourmet fare for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus outstanding culinary experiences built into your journey. And because there's no more than 134 fellow travelers on expedition cruises, you'll enjoy small group outings by day and share meals, stories, and fun with new friends by night. These fabulous expedition vessels offer:

•77 cabins, including a landmark 15 solo cabins

•30 triple-ready cabins available

•Vantage offers FREE roommate-matching services if you'd like to be paired while you travel

- •Spacious, all outside-facing cabins
- •134-guest capacity
- •Zodiac trips to get as close as possible to nature
- •The latest satellite and navigation capabilities, including ULSTEIN X-BOW® technology
- •Intimate crew-to-passenger ration, plus onboard Destination Manager
- •Environmentally friendly standards with reduced emissions into air and sea and lower energy consumption

## Amenities:

A culinary program offering gourmet dining and regional fare, with wine and beer included at dinner
Hot-rock cooking restaurant

- •Multistory lounge and lobby
- •Three bars and various lounges
- •Top deck observation deck for gatherings, lecturers, performances, and more
- •Spa, massage, and hair services available at the onboard spa
- •Sauna
- Two hot tubs
- •Fitness center
- •Curated lectures, programs, musical performances, and cultural events
- •Low passenger-to-crew ratio, plus onboard Destination Manager (not available on expeditions)
- •On expeditions, enjoy the services and curated lectures of a 5- or 17-person Expedition Team, comprised of experts in their field
- Knowledgeable staff by region; expedition cruises will be led by an experienced Expedition Team
  Onboard medical doctor (travelers are responsible for medical fees associated with doctor visit and medications)
- •Gift Shop
- •Library with over 200 titles
- •Separate, intimate dining space for groups or special events (available upon request)
- •Complimentary unlimited WiFi (WiFi on certain segments of trips may not be available)
- •20+ live TV channels featuring popular US news channels, the Food Network, the Travel Channel, and National Geographic
- •Entertainment and video on demand for 250 classic movies

Ocean Explorer Gallery



## Margaritaville Beach Resort Nassau ★★★★

Set along a white-sand beach on the North Atlantic Ocean, this sleek resort is 2 km from Queen's Staircase and 15 km from Lynden Pindling International Airport. Chic rooms offer TVs and Wi-Fi, plus balconies, and tea and coffeemaking facilities. Dining options consist of 3 restaurants, 3 bars, 2 cafes and a bakery. Other amenities include a spa, a gym, a water park and a marina, plus a movie theater, a game room, and meeting and event space.



## Radisson Hotel Maiorana Belém ★★★★

Set in affluent Nazaré, Radisson Hotel Maiorana Belém offers guests comfortable accommodations in one of the city's best neighborhoods, steps away from upscale boutiques and quiet tree-lined streets. On-site amenities include an outdoor pool, fitness center, sauna, hot tub, and restaurant and bar. Inroom amenities include a minibar, hairdryer, coffeemaker, flat-screen television, free Wi-Fi, and room service.



## JW Marriott Hotel Rio de Janeiro ★★★★

The Superior First class JW Marriott Hotel Rio de Janeiro offers easy access to the city's best attractions, including Sugarloaf Mountain, Christ the Redeemer, and world-famous Copacabana Beach, which is just steps away. Guest rooms feature elegant décor, plush bedding, marble bathrooms and LCD TVs with international cable. In addition, you'll enjoy the hotel's state-of-the-art fitness center, sparkling rooftop pool, massage rooms, and on-site dining.