



 Commonwealth
Club Travel

Presents

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, YAP & PALAU

April 16 – May 2, 2013 • Aboard the *Clipper Odyssey*



DEAR CLUB MEMBER

Discover one of the least-traveled and most magical corners of the far western Pacific. The range of biodiversity here is simply astonishing and you will have ample opportunities to explore, both above and below the warm, tropical waters. This lush landscape of soaring, jungle-draped volcanoes and tiny, sandy islets are also home to some of the most traditional cultures of Oceania—their exuberant, ceremonial hospitality offers a truly authentic experience.

Expedition Highlights

- Witness the spectacular fire dances of the Baining tribe, where men don huge symbolic masks and leap over flames to the hypnotic beat of a bamboo band.
- Explore waters teeming with tropical fish, hundreds of colorful coral species, and an amazing variety of sea creatures of all sizes.
- Step ashore on the legendary Trobriand Islands, dubbed “The Islands of Love,” and visit the remote Yap State where the traditional clans of Satawal and Ifalik greet us with pounding drums and intricate dances.
- Enjoy spectacular birding with a wealth of both widespread species, such as the greater frigatebird, and rare endemics, such as the megapode.
- In Palau, snorkel amid thousands of stingless jellyfish in Jellyfish Lake, considered one of the seven underwater wonders of the world.
- Expand your knowledge during presentations on the region’s geology, culture, history, and biology from our expert team of naturalists and lecturers.

This itinerary strings together some of the most fascinating islands in Melanesia and Micronesia, ensuring that you will experience the very best that Papua New Guinea, Yap, and Palau have to offer.

Best regards



Kristina Nemeth
Director of Club Travel
(415) 597-6720



THE CLIPPER ODYSSEY

The *Clipper Odyssey* is an elegant 110-passenger vessel, ideally suited for expedition cruising. Her fleet of Zodiacs allow us to explore anywhere nature or curiosity dictates. All cabins have an ocean view, safe, minibar, individually controlled heat/air conditioner, in-room music system, sitting area with sofa, and en suite bathroom. Facilities on board include a dining room, lounge, small library and gym, outdoor pool, massage room, and gift shop.

ITINERARY | 17 DAYS

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 16 & 17, 2013

USA

Depart on your independent flight, losing a day as you cross the International Date Line.

Thursday, April 18

Brisbane, Australia / Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Arrive in Brisbane and connect with your flight to Port Moresby. Gather at our hotel for a welcome dinner and overnight. (D)

Friday, April 19

Port Moresby / Embark *Clipper Odyssey*

After a morning at leisure and lunch at the hotel, enjoy a city tour, visiting the National Museum which exhibits one of the finest collections of primitive art in the world, including Sepik River carvings. You may also view, and purchase, fine-quality carvings and handicrafts at PNG Arts. This afternoon embark the *Clipper Odyssey*. (B,L,D)

Saturday, April 20

Halihoa Island, Suau Islands

Enjoy a relaxing morning on board and attend informative lectures on the culture and natural history of the region. After lunch board Zodiacs to visit Halihoa where you are warmly welcomed by dancers, local children, and fishermen in *lakatois*, small sailing canoes. Unique gravesites line the shore of the island; traditionally the dead were buried standing up, with their heads poking out of the ground and covered by clay pots. Later, enjoy your first opportunity to snorkel or dive in the warm waters of the Coral Sea. (B,L,D)

Sunday, April 21

Kitava and Narutu Islands, Trobriand Islands

The Trobriands are legendary for their yam cults, Kula Ring of trading, and overwhelming friendliness toward visitors. Go ashore on Kitava and visit the tidy village lined with fragrant frangipani trees. Dancers greet



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© Giovanna Fasanelli



KITAVA

you with performances that are among the best of the South Pacific. Spend the afternoon at the nearby idyllic island of Narutu, with superb opportunities for snorkeling, diving, swimming, as well as beachcombing from the palm-lined, white-sand beach. Join naturalists for a hike where you may spot flying foxes, helmeted friarbirds, and channel-billed cuckoos. (B,L,D)

Monday, April 22

Iwa Island, Marshall Bennett Islands

Approaching Iwa's beach, watch for traditional Kula Ring trading canoes and local fishermen in small outriggers. Ascend carved steps up a limestone cliff to a plateau for a tour through Iwa's three small villages: Oporo, Okaito, and Obomatu. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, April 23

Rabaul, East New Britain Island

Six cone-shaped volcanoes, some of which are still active, ring Rabaul's dramatic flooded-caldera harbor. Visit the bubbling hot springs and take in magnificent views from Observatory Ridge. And, learn about the island's WWII history—Rabaul was a Japanese stronghold under Admiral Yamamoto. Tonight attend an astonishing performance of the Baining tribe's fire dance. Tribe members in huge, magnificently crafted masks, leap and dance over crackling, red-hot coals in a centuries-old ritual to honor the local deity-spirits. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, April 24

Tingwon Islands

Completely encircled by an oblong reef, few passenger vessels are able to visit this small group of islands. Land on a sandy beach this afternoon and meet the 350 inhabitants of charming Tingwon—a picture-perfect village—and enjoy their hospitality and dances. After our visit, snorkel or dive along the islets' surrounding reef. (B,L,D)

Thursday, April 25

Tsoi Islands

Villagers warmly welcome you ashore with a cultural performance accompanied by a superb local choir. Sample traditional foods, then take a walk around the island's perimeter to find orchids, butterflies, skinks, and birds along the way. On Tsoi Lik search for megapodes nesting along the sandy beach. After lunch our lecture series continues as we cruise toward Micronesia. (B,L,D)

Friday, April 26

Cruising the Pacific Ocean

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as lecturers enlighten you on the natural and cultural wonders that lie ahead. (B,L,D)

Saturday, April 27

Satawal Island, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia

This afternoon the women of Satawal greet us with a welcome dance. Later, meet the men



RABAUL



MEGAPODE



© Giovanna Fasanelli



IFALIK ATOLL

© Giovanna Fasanelli

of the island, who still navigate their outrigger canoes without instruments, steering by the sun, stars, and swells. With luck, we may witness traditional canoes in various stages of construction. (B,L,D)

Sunday, April 28

Ifalik Atoll

This classic, tiny circular atoll represents the most authentic aspects of Micronesia’s traditional state, Yap. The chiefs are intent upon maintaining cultural integrity—motor-powered boats are banned within the lagoon, as are televisions in the village. You are free to wander around the island and admire the handicrafts. Often locals are happy to give tours of their traditional thatched-roofed houses and discuss life on this idyllic island. In the afternoon choose to snorkel, dive, sail in one of the handsome large canoes, or go birding with our ornithologist. (B,L,D)

Monday, April 29

Sorol Island

An idyllic, uninhabited island, Sorol offers shady groves of coconut palms bordering a crystal-clear lagoon. This afternoon explore the sandy beaches for nesting sooty terns and white-tailed tropicbirds, or slip into the warm waters for a snorkel or dive excursion. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, April 30

Ngulu Atoll

Ngulu is a large, stunning atoll, its ring-shaped lagoon bordered by tiny islets with

swaying palm trees and beaches that offer a nesting ground to sea turtles. Go ashore to meet with the chief and the small number of villagers living on Ngulu Island. Afterwards visit the nearby palm-clad sandy islets for nature walks, birding, snorkeling, and diving. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 1

Koror, Republic of Palau / Disembark

Lush, dense jungle covers these stunning islands, while underwater coral “jungles” boast more than 1,400 species of brilliantly-hued tropical fish. This morning take a leisurely hike to world-famous Jellyfish Lake for an extraordinary snorkeling experience. After centuries of biological isolation and subsequent evolution, the melon-sized jellyfish that live here have lost their ability to sting. The afternoon is free to explore Koror, visit the Belau National Museum and the Coral Reef Center, or do a bit of souvenir shopping. After your final dinner on board disembark for a late evening transfer to the airport for your independent overnight flight. (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 2

USA

Arrive in the USA and continue with your homeward flights.

Itinerary dates based on travel to/from USA.



SOROL

© Jonathan Rossouw



PALAU

© Thomas Baechtold



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

OPTIONAL PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION • April 11 - 19, 2013

From spectacular lowland rain forests on the coastal plains to 15,000-foot-high peaks, Papua New Guinea is rightly called “the land of the unexpected.” The lush green canopy of the tropical rain forest of the highlands is home to 38 species of ornately plumaged birds of paradise and over 2,700 species of orchids; we enjoy two nights here at the *Ambua Lodge*. Then, visit the Sepik region considered by museums and collectors as one of the best sources of primitive art in the world. Spend three days exploring fascinating culture and villages along the Sepik River aboard the 18-passenger *Sepik Spirit*, a shallow draft vessel ideal for navigating the inland waterways.

Price: \$4,980 per person, double occupancy; \$2,480 single supplement (limited number of singles available). Space is limited.



PALAU

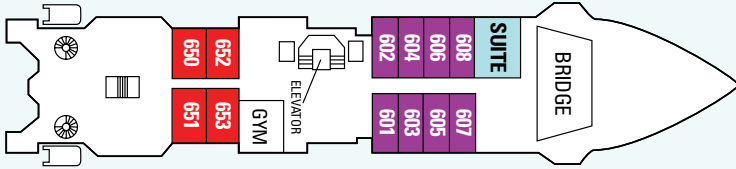
OPTIONAL POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION • May 2 - 5, 2013

Hailed as one of the seven underwater wonders of the world, Palau's highlights include both marine marvels as well as a rich cultural legacy of early island trade and commerce. Stay at the luxurious oceanside *Palau Pacific Resort* and explore the amazing underwater realm which boasts more than 1,400 species of fish in spectacular and legendary sites. In addition, enjoy a kayaking expedition among Palau's hidden network of marine lakes, mangrove channels, and tropical beaches, complete with a picnic lunch.

Price: \$2,480 per person, double occupancy; \$890 single supplement (limited number of singles available). Space is limited.

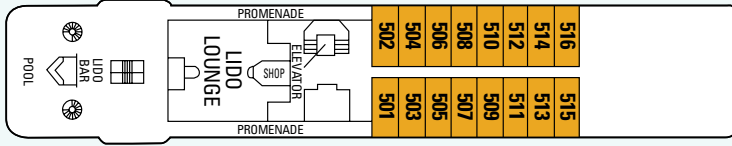
Note: For terms and conditions, air fare, and cancellation policies, please refer to the main voyage.

CLIPPER ODYSSEY DECK PLAN



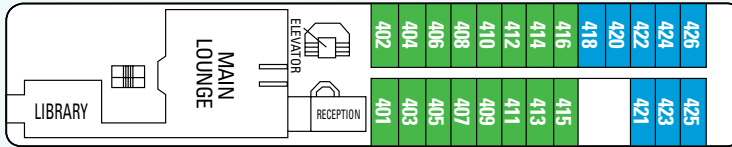
BRIDGE DECK

SUITE
CATEGORY 6
CATEGORY 5



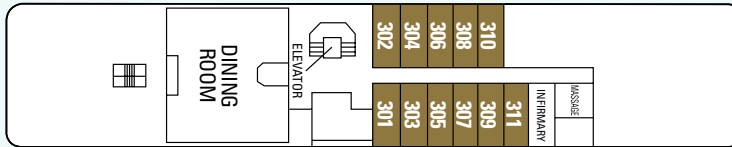
LIDO DECK

CATEGORY 4



MAIN DECK

CATEGORY 3
CATEGORY 2



A-DECK

CATEGORY 1

RATES

Included: All gratuities; accommodations in our hotels and on board the *Clipper Odyssey* as outlined in the itinerary; all onboard meals; all group meals on land; arrival and departure transfers on group dates; services of the expedition staff, including lectures, briefings, slide/film shows; all group activities and excursions; landing and port fees; \$50,000 of medical expense coverage and \$75,000 in emergency evacuation insurance.*

Not Included: All air transportation; excess baggage charges; airport arrival and departure taxes; transfers for independent arrivals and departures; passport and/or visa fees; baggage/trip cancellation insurance; scuba diving fees and equipment where required; items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar charges, alcoholic beverages, e-mail/Internet/fax/telephone charges.

Air Fare: Please contact Zegrahm Expeditions' in-house Air Department at 206.285.4000 or 800.628.8747 for fare quotes, reservations, or other air related questions. You will need to purchase air fare from your home city/Port Moresby and Koror/home city. Plus, charter air, if participating in the Papua New Guinea pre-voyage extension.

*Insurance is underwritten by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. The Policy will contain reductions, limitations, exclusions and termination provisions. All coverages may not be available in all states.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

For most activities, a relatively moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs and tenders for diving and snorkeling activities and excursions ashore (staff and crew members will be on hand to assist). Ashore, you must be able to walk moderate distances, unaided, over beaches and sometimes rough terrain. Average daily temperatures will range from the lower to the upper 80s°F throughout our itinerary.

CATEGORY 1	\$10,980
CATEGORY 2	\$11,980
CATEGORY 3	\$12,980
CATEGORY 4	\$14,380
CATEGORY 5	\$15,780
CATEGORY 6	\$17,280
SUITE	\$20,680
SINGLE/CAT 2	\$14,980
SINGLE/CAT 3	\$16,280
SINGLE/CAT 4	\$17,980

Limited singles are available at the special single rates listed above. Additional singles may be available at 1.6 times the share rate. All rates are per person, quoted in U.S. dollars, and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Rates and itineraries are subject to change.



WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS

On this expedition, virtually everything is included in the cost of your trip.

- All gratuities, from porters and ship's crew to tour guides
- All accommodations
- Daily activity options, including cultural tours, nature walks, Zodiac cruises, and snorkeling and diving
- World-class lecture and expedition team
- All meals on board and with the group ashore
- All entrance fees, taxes, and landing and port charges
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates
- Gift certificates for recommended expedition gear and reading materials
- Comprehensive pre-departure packet to prepare you for your trip
- Medical and emergency evacuation insurance
- Dedicated staff to answer all your questions and assist with flight arrangements

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, YAP & PALAU

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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RESERVATION FORM

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, YAP & PALAU

April 16 – May 2, 2013

PAPUA NEW GUINEA PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION | April 11 - 19, 2013

PALAU POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION | May 2 – 5, 2013

Name #1 *(as it appears on passport)*

Date of Birth

Name #2 *(as it appears on passport)*

Date of Birth

Address

City

State

ZIP/Postal Code

Country

Phone *(Home)*

(Office)

E-mail

Fax

Cabin Category: 1 2 3 4 5 6 Suite

Accommodations: Double Share *(roommate to be assigned)* Single

Scuba Diving: Limited to **Advanced Open Water** (AOW or equivalent) certified scuba divers. You must complete two open water dives within the 12 months prior to the trip's departure.

_____ I am/will be an AOW certified scuba diver and I intend to dive on this program.
(Name)

_____ I am/will be an AOW certified scuba diver and I intend to dive on this program.
(Name)

Deposit Information:

Enclosed is a deposit check for \$ _____ *(\$1,500 per person.) Please make check payable to Zegrahm Expeditions. (Full payment is due 120 days prior to departure.)*

Charge \$1,500 deposit per person to: VISA MasterCard American Express

Card Number

Expires

CCV Code

Authorized Cardholder Signature

Date

I/We have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions for this program and agree to abide by them.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Please complete and return the Reservation Form with your deposit of \$1,500 per person to:



COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL

595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

tel: 415-597-6720 fax: (415) 597-6729 • email: travel@commonwealthclub.org

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Commonwealth Club (CWC) has contracted Zegrahm Expeditions, Inc. (ZE), to organize this tour.

1. Reservations: A \$1,500 per person deposit, along with a completed and signed Reservation Form, will reserve a place for CWC participants on this program. The balance of the expedition fare is due 120 days prior to departure. Air fare is due at time of air ticket issuance. All prices are quoted in US dollars and must be paid in US dollars.

2. Cancellation and Refund Policy: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by CWC. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:

- 120 days or more prior to departure: \$750 per person
- 60 through 119 days prior to departure: 50% of expedition fare
- 1 through 59 days prior to departure: 100% of expedition fare

Some air fare may be nonrefundable. We urge you to check airline cancellation penalties before purchasing airline tickets, since international departure times and flights can change. Tours can also be cancelled due to low enrollments. Neither CWC nor ZE accepts liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased in conjunction with the tour. Once an expedition has departed, there will be no refunds from ZE/CWC for any unused portions of the trip. The above policy also applies to all extensions and independent travel arrangements made in conjunction with this program.

3. Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance: We strongly advise that all travelers purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance as coverage against a covered unforeseen emergency that may force you to cancel or leave an expedition while it is in progress. A brochure describing coverage will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

4. Share Policy: Accommodations on all ZE/CWC programs are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, a roommate will be assigned to you whenever possible. When pairing roommates, we will always pair participants of the same sex. All shared accommodations are nonsmoking. If it is not possible to pair you with a roommate, you may be asked to pay a single supplement for the land portion of the program.

5. Medical Information: Participation in a ZE/CWC program requires that you be in generally good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure. We can counsel you on whether the expedition you have selected is appropriate for you.

The tour leader has the right to disqualify any participant at any time during the tour if he or she feels the participant is physically incapable and/or if a participant's continued participation will jeopardize either the individual involved or the group. There will be no refund given under these circumstances.

6. Scuba Diving: Limited to the first 16 **Advanced Open Water certified scuba divers** who complete provided forms; due dates strictly enforced. Must have completed two open water dives within the 12 months prior to trip departure.

7. Luggage Restrictions: Luggage size and weight limitations for both checked and carry-on luggage, imposed by the airlines or as an operational requirement due to type of aircraft, will apply for flights to/from within this program. Specifications will be provided with pre-departure materials.

8. Currency Fluctuation and Fuel Cost Increases: In order to keep rates as low as possible, we do not build into the trip fare an allowance to cover possible increases from currency fluctuations or fuel costs. **Therefore, as currencies do fluctuate around the world and as fuel-cost increases may occur, it may be necessary for us to initiate a minor rate surcharge at any time before departure if there are exceptional cost increases beyond our control.**

9. Itinerary Changes & Trip Delay: Itineraries are based on information available at the time of printing and are subject to change. ZE/CWC reserves the right to change a program's dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. If a trip must be delayed, or the itinerary changed, due to bad weather, road conditions, transportation delays, airline schedules, government intervention, sickness or

other contingency for which ZE/CWC or its agents cannot make provision, the cost of delays or changes is not included.

10. Itinerary Cancellation: Itineraries are based on information available at the time of printing and are subject to change. ZE/CWC reserves the right to cancel an itinerary before departure for any reason whatsoever, including too few participants or logistical problems such as strikes, wars, acts of God, or any other circumstances which may make operation of the trip inadvisable. All trip payments received will be promptly refunded, and this refund will be the limit of ZE/CWC's liability. ZE/CWC is not responsible for any expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the trip, including nonrefundable or penalty-carrying airline tickets, special clothing, visa or passport fees, or other trip-related expenses.

11. Participation: ZE/CWC reserves the right to decline to accept any individual as a trip member for any reason whatsoever.

12. Authorization to Use Photographs and/or Audio-Visual: ZE may use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to me—including my image, likeness, and/or voice without compensation. I understand that this material may be used in brochures, e-mails, and online to promote ZE and its product offerings.

13. Limitations of Liability: This section defines ZE/CWC's responsibility with respect to all of our trips, including extensions and independent arrangements. Please read it carefully.

ZE/CWC, its Owners, Agents, and Employees give notice that they act only as the agent for any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with this expedition ("other providers"), and the other providers are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger; the carriers are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time our participants are not aboard their conveyance. ZE/CWC shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, watercraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider, and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause(s) beyond their control. The participant waives any claim against ZE/CWC for any such loss, damage, injury, or death. By registering for the expedition, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants. ZE/CWC shall not be liable for any air carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket to or from the departure city of the expedition. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the traveler. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.

As described in item 8 above, all prices are subject to change.

As described in item 10 above, in the event that an expedition must be cancelled, ZE/CWC is not responsible for any personal expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the program.

Certain ship owners require use of preprinted ticket forms that limit the ship owner's and operator's liability. When such tickets are used, you are generally bound by the terms of these tickets with respect to your legal relationship to the owner and operators of the ship, their agent ZE/CWC, and the ship's crew.

On advancement of deposit to ZE/CWC, the depositor acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the above recited terms and conditions, and agrees to be bound by them.

California sellers of travel The Commonwealth Club
CST#2096889-40; Zegrahm Expeditions CST#2031043-40