



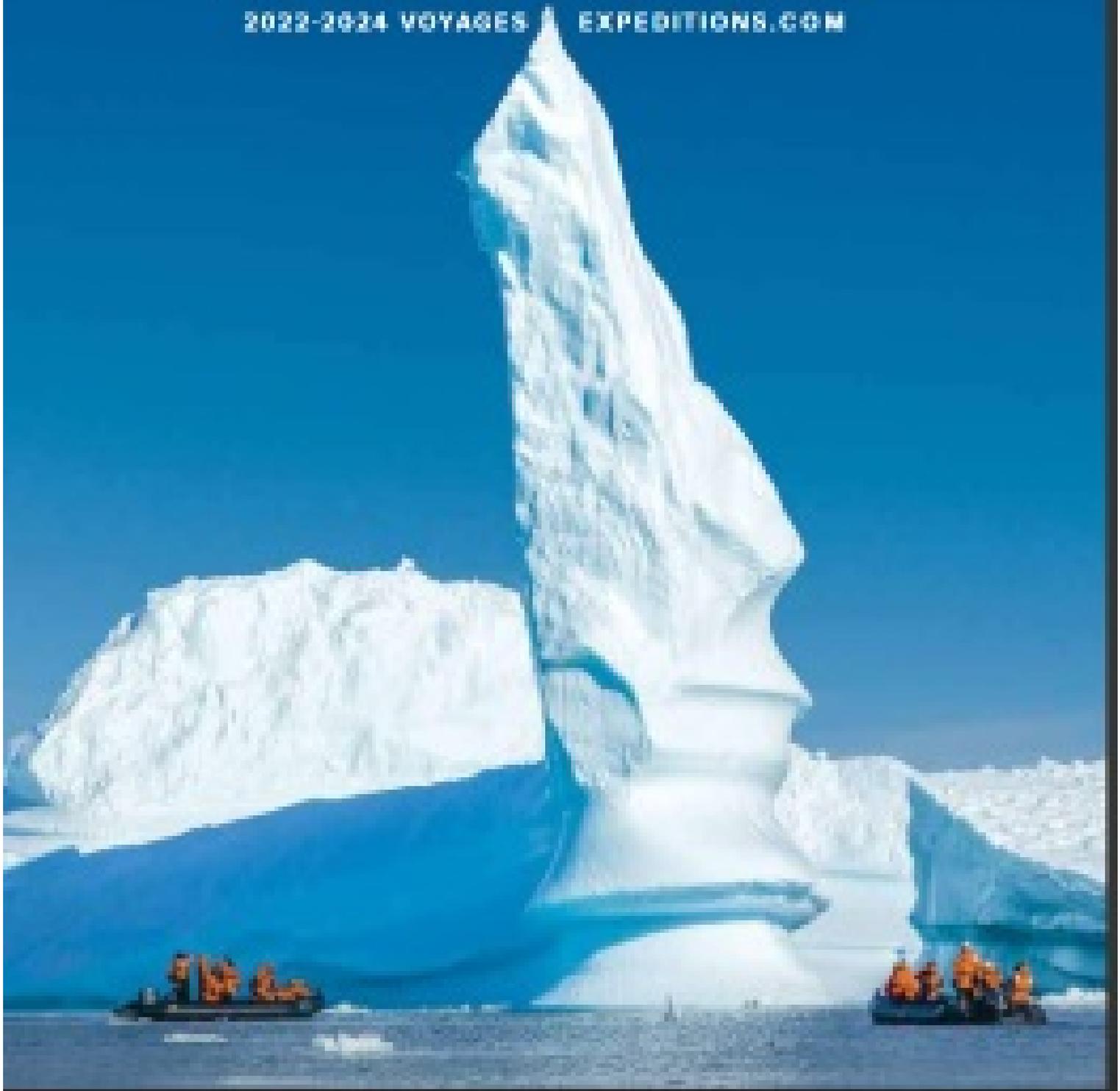
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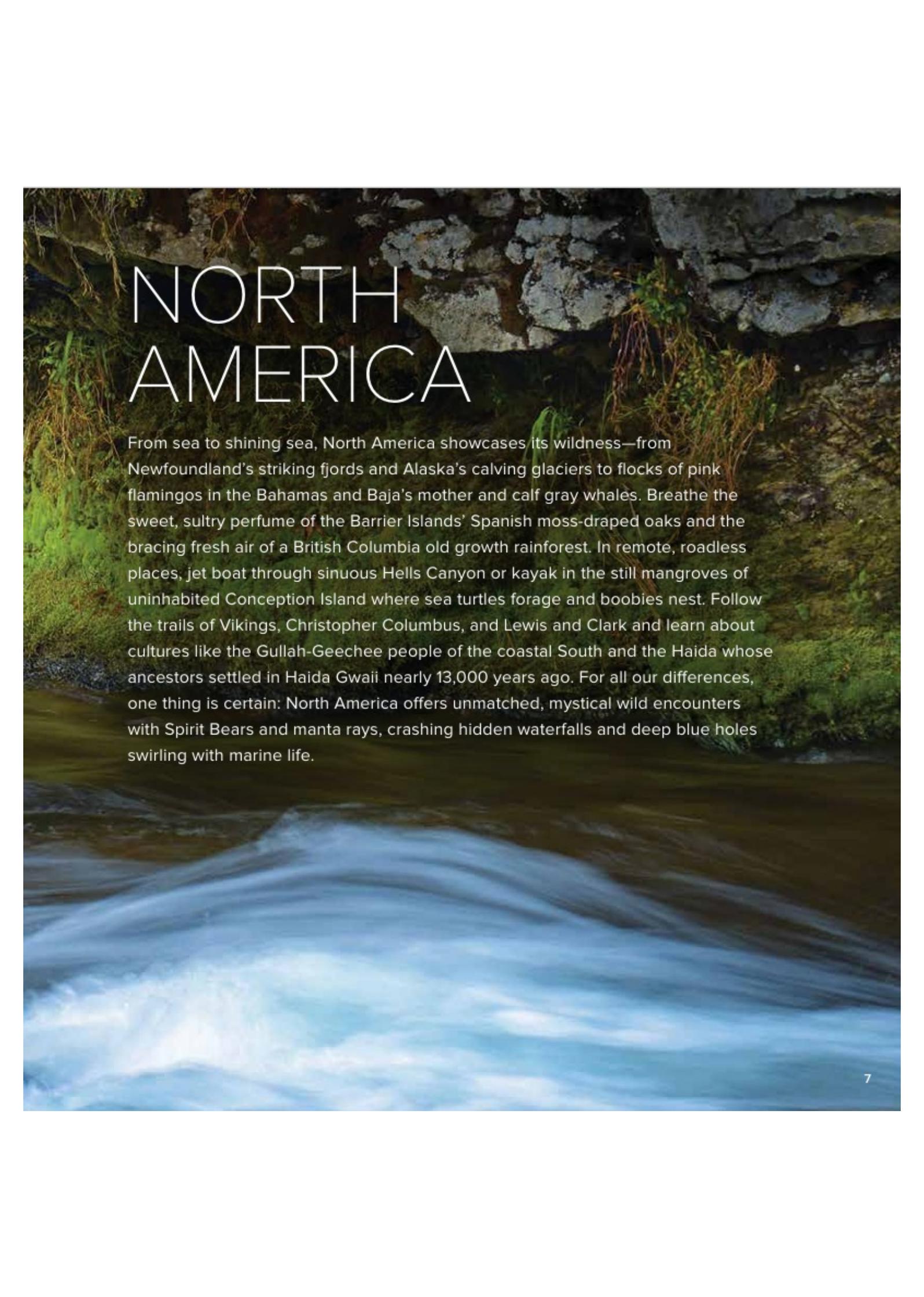


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NORTH AMERICA

From sea to shining sea, North America showcases its wildness—from Newfoundland's striking fjords and Alaska's calving glaciers to flocks of pink flamingos in the Bahamas and Baja's mother and calf gray whales. Breathe the sweet, sultry perfume of the Barrier Islands' Spanish moss-draped oaks and the bracing fresh air of a British Columbia old growth rainforest. In remote, roadless places, jet boat through sinuous Hells Canyon or kayak in the still mangroves of uninhabited Conception Island where sea turtles forage and boobies nest. Follow the trails of Vikings, Christopher Columbus, and Lewis and Clark and learn about cultures like the Gullah-Geechee people of the coastal South and the Haida whose ancestors settled in Haida Gwaii nearly 13,000 years ago. For all our differences, one thing is certain: North America offers unmatched, mystical wild encounters with Spirit Bears and manta rays, crashing hidden waterfalls and deep blue holes swirling with marine life.

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Inhabited by rare and magical creatures like pink river dolphins and giant tortoises, Central and South America are full of jaw-dropping wonders. Fly over Guyana's record-breaking yet little-visited Kaieteur Falls, marvel at the fabled lost city of the Incas from the Sun Gate, and transit the legendary Panama Canal. In Belize, discover Mayan temples deep in rainforests and a kaleidoscope of colorful fish darting around the Americas' largest coral reef. If you've ever wanted to see a cotinga, jacamar, tamandua, or motmot in the wild, you're in luck in Costa Rica and Guyana. Spot curious sea lions and zipping penguins on a Galápagos snorkeling expedition? Check. There are exceptional opportunities to revel in Brazil's mostly uninhabited UNESCO site Fernando de Noronha, a marine sanctuary; and to meet the indigenous Guna people of Panama's Guna Yala islands and the resourceful ribereños and caboclos who live along the otherworldly, inky Amazon.





ANTARCTICA & PATAGONIA

Navigating around the colossal, incandescent ice forms that dwarf our Zodiacs and kayaks, the sheer scope of the White Continent and its sheets of pristine white ice stretching as far as the eye can see will humble even the most intrepid of explorers. To the vast colonies of penguins—numbering in the tens of thousands on South Georgia Island alone—add majestic whales, leopard and elephant seals, and the Falklands' remarkable gathering of 70 percent of the world's albatrosses. Patagonia is also an enchantress, beckoning with its snowcapped saw-toothed peaks and the tumbling glaciers and gleaming icefalls of Glacier Alley. Dramatic landscapes—fjords, steppes, forests, and lakes—are stunning habitats for marine wildlife like humpback whales, dolphins, and penguins and avian species from massive condors and rheas to tiny parakeets and flamingos. Exclusive access to the remote island off the tip of Tierra del Fuego and a private nature reserve add to these expeditions' wow factors.

A polar bear is swimming in the water between icebergs. The bear is in the center of the frame, moving from left to right. The water is a deep, dark blue, and the icebergs are white and jagged. The bear's head is above water, and its body is partially submerged. The background shows more icebergs and a dark, shadowed area of the water.

THE ARCTIC

The sheer visual splendors of the distinct Arctic regions we explore remain indelibly imprinted long after a return to our more mundane surroundings. The dramatic sea cliffs of the Faroe Islands alive with thousands of nesting puffins. Iceland's otherworldly terrain of steaming volcanoes, geothermal springs, and crashing waterfalls. Norway's renowned fjords, carved by glaciers over millions of years; and Greenland's stunning Ilulissat Icefjord, where massive icebergs soar upwards of 300 feet. The wildlife we encounter is just as astounding as the landscapes they inhabit. The polar bear, of course, is king, and we offer expeditions to two of the best places on Earth to observe these magnificent creatures—Svalbard and Wrangel Island. Don't forget arctic foxes, reindeer, and musk ox; and in the icy seas we cross, beluga and bowhead whales, walruses, ringed seals, and perhaps even narwhals can make appearances.

AFRICA

On an epic Indian Ocean adventure from cosmopolitan Cape Town to intriguing Zanzibar, encounter the Big Five roaming across savannah grasslands, hippos and sea turtles in a wetlands preserve, and playful lemurs in the forests of Madagascar. Africa is by no means monolithic. An impressive range of habitats, animal and plant species—many rare and endemic—and cultures await discovery along the continent's east coast. With expert spotters we travel to areas known for black rhinos and red colobus monkeys, bush babies and duikers, fish eagles, and rufous vanga. Africa's exotic flora is on display in the King Protea and forest lily and ylang-ylang, orchid, and iconic baobab trees. The human history of the regions we discover include tales of sultans and slaves, voyages of discovery and competing global interests. With visits to villages and markets, experience local culture and gain a deeper and more holistic understanding of this exciting and diverse part of the world.





EUROPE & THE MEDITERRANEAN

From the North Sea to the Mediterranean and from Orkney to the Suez Canal, our expeditions deliver special experiences in iconic destinations. Walk with a historian in the footsteps of Allied troops on Omaha Beach, cruise the storybook canals of Bruges on a private boat tour, taste locally produced marzipan in Lübeck, and collect mussels with a Galician fisherman. History is brought to vivid life at legendary sights of antiquity like the Egyptian pyramids, Crete's Minoan city, and Scotland's Neolithic Skara Brae. Architectural wonders include the legendary palaces of the Alhambra and Sintra, Santiago de Compostela's medieval cathedral, glorious Mont-Saint-Michel, and the billowing metal façade of the Guggenheim Bilbao. Sail through Norway's dramatic fjords, stroll along Amsterdam's canals, taste whisky on Skye and port in Porto. Diminutive Shetland ponies can be seen in their natural habitat and minke whales, porpoises, and other marine animals often show themselves at sea. But it's pelagic birds that most often appear, sometimes in enormous numbers as in the tens of thousands of gannets, guillemots, fulmars, puffins, and kittiwakes that nest on the seabird skyscraper of Noss Island.



NEW ZEALAND

Sail into jaw-dropping Milford Sound with countless glacier-fed waterfalls plummeting down soaring peaks. Hop off a Zodiac to walk along a deserted white sand beach or hike into a rare podocarp forest. Navigating the verdant coastlines of the North and South Islands, we access special places not reachable by land. In the surrounding waters we can observe whales and dolphins including the diminutive Hector's dolphin, which is among New Zealand's extraordinary number of endemic species like kiwis and keas. The islands are alive with 300 species of birds including a colony of 20,000 gannets and a rare breeding colony of the magnificent royal albatross. If you really want to be wowed by major wildlife populations, head to the wildly beautiful sub-Antarctic islands that we visit by special permit. Few humans have observed their millions of penguins, thousands of seals, and other fauna and flora found nowhere else in the world. Integral to understanding New Zealand culture, we visit important Maori sites and spend time in sophisticated cities.

JAPAN & EAST ASIA

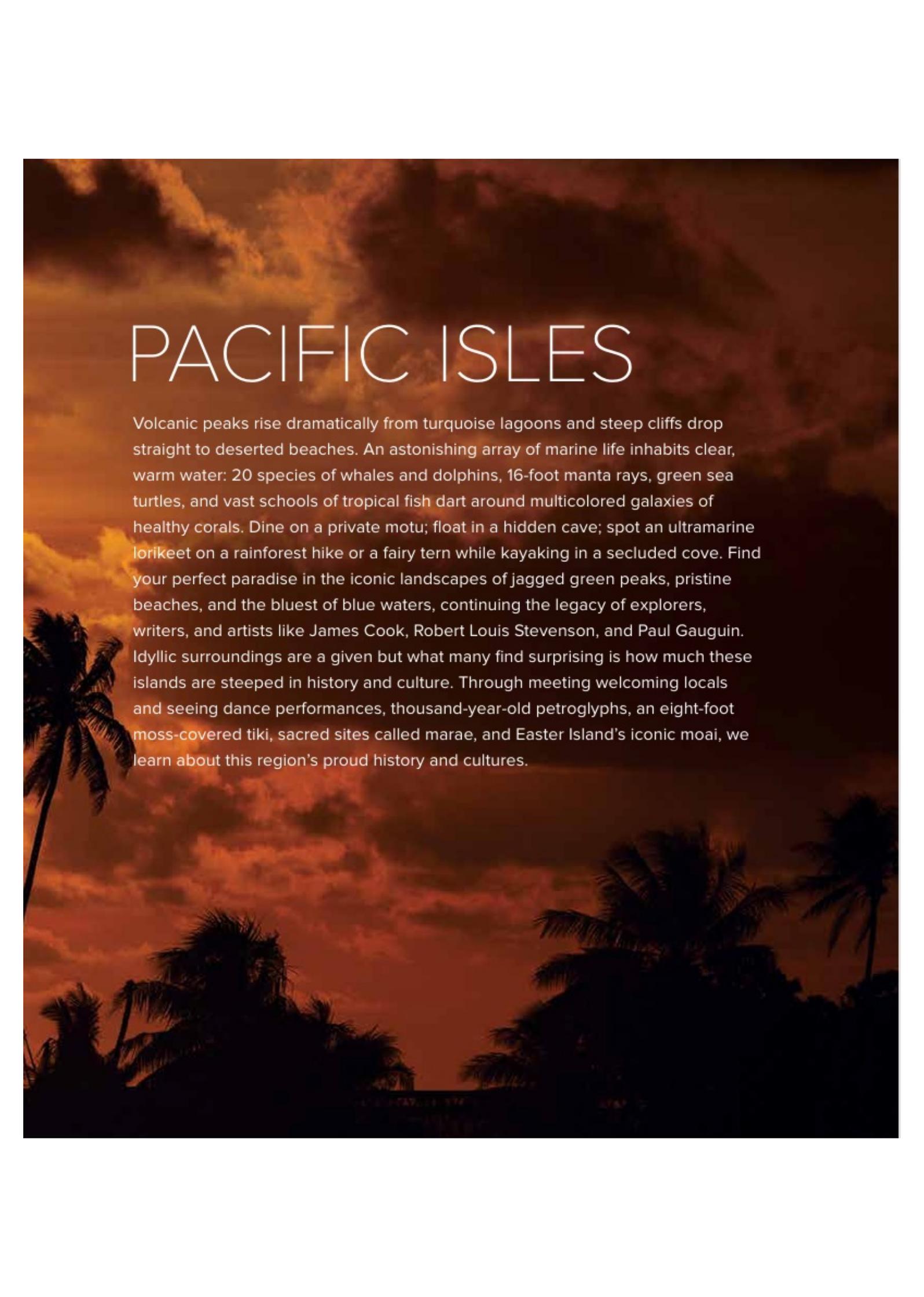
A closed society for many generations, Japan holds a special allure with its exquisite artistic sensibilities, iconic architecture, riveting history, and enduring cultural expressions from masterful gardens to tea ceremonies. With two exceptional new itineraries you can effortlessly discover Japan's most cherished sites from hilltop castles and elegant temples to forested lakes and far-flung atolls. Learn the history of the samurai walking the narrow, winding streets lined with traditional wooden homes where they once lived. On an island purposely developed as a destination for art and design, see works by luminaries including Tadao Ando and Yayoi Kusama. Tokyo's high energy Ginza district is well known but this island country's wild side is yours to discover. Hike under a canopy of thousand-year-old cedar trees in an enchanting island rainforest and snorkel in a thriving undersea world on the lookout for manta rays, sea turtles, and dugongs. Each itinerary also includes the outstanding sights of a neighboring country—South Korea or Taiwan.



INDONESIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Spice Islands, Raja Ampat, Komodo. Sumatra, West Papua, Kerimun Jawa. Remote and exotic, the islands we discover thrive in their wildness with tribes living nearly untouched by the outside world, dazzling undersea life, and hundreds of volcanoes including the remnants of the beautiful and powerful Krakatoa. Put your toes in the rose-colored sand of Pink Beach, come face to face with a Komodo dragon or glimpse a bird of paradise, and inhale the heady perfume of nutmeg and mace. Step back in time to see primitive rock art and be among the very few to encounter the Asmat people. Explore uninhabited islands, snorkeling among pygmy sea horses, giant clams, manta rays, dugongs, and hundreds of species of kaleidoscopic fish. The grandeur and sheer size of Borobudur Temple, the largest Buddhist temple in the world, is sure to leave an impression as will graceful terraced rice fields and stilt villages connected across mangrove forests by wooden boardwalks. Add the more cosmopolitan delights of Singapore and important World War II sites and the pull of this far-flung region becomes impossible to ignore.





PACIFIC ISLES

Volcanic peaks rise dramatically from turquoise lagoons and steep cliffs drop straight to deserted beaches. An astonishing array of marine life inhabits clear, warm water: 20 species of whales and dolphins, 16-foot manta rays, green sea turtles, and vast schools of tropical fish dart around multicolored galaxies of healthy corals. Dine on a private motu; float in a hidden cave; spot an ultramarine lorikeet on a rainforest hike or a fairy tern while kayaking in a secluded cove. Find your perfect paradise in the iconic landscapes of jagged green peaks, pristine beaches, and the bluest of blue waters, continuing the legacy of explorers, writers, and artists like James Cook, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Paul Gauguin. Idyllic surroundings are a given but what many find surprising is how much these islands are steeped in history and culture. Through meeting welcoming locals and seeing dance performances, thousand-year-old petroglyphs, an eight-foot moss-covered tiki, sacred sites called marae, and Easter Island's iconic moai, we learn about this region's proud history and cultures.

ATLANTIC ISLES

Cross a storied expanse of ocean punctuated by islands with dramatic volcanic features, strong seafaring traditions, and impressive flora and fauna. Cetaceans are the stars of this voyage, with 20 species thriving in the active waters. In the Azores, a local guides us on a whale-watching expedition using ancestral knowledge. In the remote and little visited Fernando de Noronha archipelago, acrobatic spinner dolphins delight guests in the aptly named Dolphins Bay. Cross the equator and the Tropic of Cancer, sip local wine inside a caldera on the Cape Verde Islands and sample a Portuguese specialty, cozido, cooked underground by Mother Nature's geothermal activity in the Azores. Examine the rare sight of the Earth's exposed mantle on a Zodiac excursion through the shallow rock outcroppings of St. Peter and Paul rocks along the Atlantic Ridge. From the pastel historic center of exuberant Salvador to the towering basalt peaks and emerald farmlands of the Azores, this Atlantic adventure is sure to open your eyes to the riches of this special region.



RUSSIAN FAR EAST

To explore the Bering Sea and North Pacific is to encounter fascinating little-known cultures, volcanic landscapes, and wild places barely on human radars. Well above the Arctic Circle, more polar bears give birth on Wrangel Island than anywhere else on Earth, and this island at the 180th meridian is also where the world's largest population of Pacific walrus gathers. In these remote regions, brown bears grab rainbow trout and salmon in pristine rivers, gray whales feed and sperm whales travel in pods, seals announce themselves in noisy rookeries, and rare avian species like the endangered Blakiston's fish owl, enormous Stellar's sea eagle, and sacred red-crowned crane can be spotted. The peoples of these distant coastlines and far-flung archipelagos have histories, cultures, and languages not widely known in the world. We'll meet Chukchi and Yupik villagers who follow their ancestral ways living on the bounties of the sea, Koryak reindeer herders, and Ainu in the Kuril Islands and Hokkaido.

