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OF THE BEST

Expedition cruises

Cruising isn't all about lounging on the top deck drinking cocktails. For adventurous individuals, an expedition itinerary is ideal, as **Melissa Moody** discovers

1 Born in the USA
Passengers on this trip can sail up the North American West Coast for a unique expedition. From the towering redwoods of Portland to the Space Needle in Seattle and the quaint town of Astoria, Oregon, there's good news for all. Animal lovers will be in for a treat too, with humpback whales breaching along California's coast, orcas in Victoria Island, Canada, and osprey, bald eagle and red-tailed hawk circling the skies overhead. Departing on 9 October 2021 on *Silver Cloud*, prices start at £5,400pp.

2 Cool coral
Sailing on the *Coral Discoverer*, travellers will be able to experience the best parts of the Great Barrier Reef, rainforest trails and tropical islands including Lizard and Dunk, and Sudbury Cay. The seven-night itinerary provides the opportunity for guests to snorkel over corals, with private moorings away from crowds and guidance from an expert marine biologist on tours in a glass-bottom boat. There's even a chance for customers to join in a certified dive on the outer reef. Prices start from approximately £1,960pp, departing 14 July 2021.

3 See the stars
This is a chance for guests to view the pristine night sky and Norway's changing landscape. Immersed in the beauty of the Arctic with *Hurtigruten*, the programme provides a whistle-stop tour of the northern part of the world, while also attempting to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights. Departing on 8 February 2021 for 12 days aboard *MS Nordkapp*, prices start from £1,349pp with flights included from a number of UK regional airports. It also includes a Northern Lights promise, giving guests another classic voyage free of charge if the Northern Lights don't appear.



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5 Sun, sea and the Seychelles
Guests can set sail for the sunshine on a 13-day expedition voyage to discover the beautiful islands of the Seychelles while enjoying the delights of Ponant's *Le Bougainville*. Departing Victoria, the ship calls first at Curieuse Island, renowned for the hundreds of Aldabra giant tortoises that live there. Guests will have many opportunities to dive or snorkel, notably in Poivre, Astove and at the coral reef in the Alphonse lagoon. Prices begin at approximately £4,300pp, departing 1 May 2021.

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4 The edge of the world
The outer edge of the world awaits on an adventurous nine-day journey along the same waterways that inspired Charles Darwin. Sailing on Australis' *Stella Australis*, the itinerary departs from Punta Arenas, crossing the Strait of Magellan, to visit the Tuckers Islets penguin colony and wildlife-rich Ainsworth Bay before cruising across Patagonia and sailing through Glacier Alley. There are also stops at historic Wulaia Bay and the fabled Cape Horn. Departing on 16 January 2021, prices start from £5,375pp.



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6 Adventure in Costa Rica
On a round trip from San Jose on 15 April 2021 for seven days, guests can explore a slice of Costa Rica rarely visited. Sailing on Aurora Expeditions' *Greg Mortimer*, they can see the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Guanacaste Conservation Area, try kayak or stand-up paddleboard, or snorkel among pristine coral. For £2,500pp, they can also hike into wildlife-rich rainforests and glimpse Costa Rica's ancient past. 📍

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