

Solomon Islands, the Great Barrier Reef, Tasmania, New Zealand and Antarctica.

Operations are expanding to include more remote parts of [Melanesia](#) with a focus shifting more towards expedition experiences from the emphasis to date on luxury.

Following OEC's takeover by Lindblad Expeditions announced in March 2013, they announced that it will continue to operate cruises to Orion's destinations of Indonesia, Borneo, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Kimberleys. But from March 2014 it will also include itineraries to more easterly and remote Pacific islands. It will be equipped with an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV), capacity for up to 24 scuba divers and ocean going kayaks, while cruises will be accompanied by a National Geographic photographer.

Further Vessel Specifications [[edit](#)]

Hull: Ice-reinforced for voyages in the Arctic and Antarctic

Ice Class: E3 (Germanischer Lloyd)

Engines: Mak; 8M25; 3,265HP

Stabilisers: Blohm & Voss, retractable fin stabilisers

Classification: Germanischer Lloyd; 100 A5 E3 Passenger Ship; MC E3 AUT

Regulations: *Orion* is built according to the latest international safety regulations, and the USL code in a 1a survey including those of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health, Canadian Arctic Shipping, St. Lawrence Seaway and to Lloyds.

Additional Craft: 10 Zodiac Heavy Duty MK5 Inflatables, 10 Sea Kayaks, 2 Jet Boats and a Fishing Boat

Sister Vessels [[edit](#)]

While she is essentially a unique ship, she was preceded by two slightly smaller but very similar vessels built at the Cassens Emden shipyard in Germany.

- ***Sun Bay***

The 88.5 m, 96 passenger *Sun Bay* was launched in 2001 and was originally operated by Sun Bay Cruises in the Bahamas before being transferred to [Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.](#) and is currently operated by their [Celebrity Cruises](#) division as [Celebrity Xpedition](#) in the [Galapagos Islands](#)

- ***Sun Bay II***

The 88.5m, 96 passenger *Sun Bay II* was launched in 2002 and as with the Sun Bay was originally operated by Sun Bay Cruises in the Bahamas. By 2002 the Sun Bay II had been renamed *Corinthian* and was operated by American cruise company [Travel Dynamics International](#). By 2004 the vessel had passed to private ownership and is now known as the *Constellation*.

References [[edit](#)]

- ↑ *[a b c d e f g h i j k l m](#)* Ward, Douglas (2008). *Complete Guide to Cruising & Cruise Ships*. London: Berlitz. pp. 507–508. ISBN 978-981-268-564-3.

External links [[edit](#)]

- [Official website](#)
- [Cruise Critic](#) review
- [Orion ship location](#) in Google Maps
- [Cassens-Werft Shipyard homepage](#)
- [Downloadable PDF specifications for MV Orion](#)

Categories: [Expedition cruising](#) | [Cruise ships](#) | [Ships built in Emden](#)

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