

Victories in the Pacific Expedition Cruise

MARCH 4-17, 2012

ESCORTED BY HISTORIAN RICHARD B. FRANK

Walk in the footsteps of heroes

13 Nights May 4-17, 2012



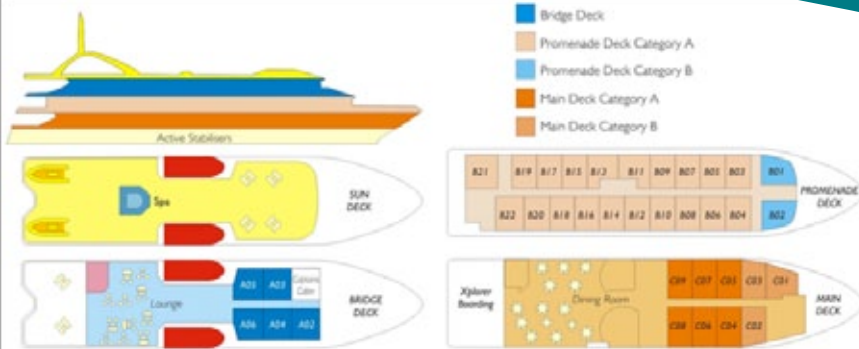
Victories in the Pacific is a rare opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought for freedom during World War 2.

Accompanied by historian Richard B. Frank, historical consultant on HBO's epic mini-series *The Pacific*, the cruise visits key battlefields in the South Pacific Theater where some of the world's most epic battles were fought from 1942-1944.

And there is no better way to do it than on *Oceanic Discoverer*, a luxury expedition ship that blends high levels of comfort and service with a spirit of adventure. *Oceanic Discoverer* carries only 72 passengers, and can visit places that other cruise ships can't.

If you've ever dreamed of walking in the footsteps of the soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors who liberated Guadalcanal, Tulagi, the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, New Guinea, Cape Gloucester and more, Victories in the Pacific is a once-in-a-lifetime journey.

Victories in the Pacific departs Noumea, New Caledonia, on March 4, 2012 and will arrive in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea 13 days later (post-cruise flights to Cairns, Australia, are also available). We look forward to welcoming you on this special voyage.



LENGTH	207 FEET	SPEED	14 KNOTS
BEAM	43 FEET	CABINS	36
DRAUGHT	10 FEET	PASSENGERS	72
TONNES	1779	CREW	20

Oceanic Discoverer

ONBOARD FACILITIES

What you would expect of a much larger cruise ship:

- Large sundeck
- Spa Pool
- Guest computer
- Comprehensive reference library
- Phone and fax facilities
- Lecture lounge with large plasma screen
- Limited laundry facilities
- Two fully stocked cocktail bars
- Boutique and dive shop
- Air-conditioned public areas

Oceanic Discoverer is equipped with the latest technology, active stabilizers and is fitted with state-of-the-art safety and navigational equipment and is the only Australian passenger ship registered with full SOLAS compliance allowing opportunities to explore a multitude of international voyages.

DINING

All meals during the cruise are included. Breakfast and lunch are served in the Dining Room located on the Main Deck and are buffet-style while dinner is table d'hôte. Coffee and tea is available 24 hours. Standard hours are breakfast from 7:00-8:30am, lunch

at 12:30pm and dinner at 7:30pm however meal times may vary according to the day's activities. Meal times will be advised in the onboard daily bulletins.

EXCURSION BOATS AND ZODIACS

The "Xplorer" is a specially designed aluminium excursion vessel used for the majority of our excursions. This vessel has high horsepower engines and will accommodate all passengers at one time. The "Xplorer" will be used for landings and for extensive exploration of rivers and tributaries. For your added convenience and comfort, the "Xplorer" is equipped with an awning and toilet.

We also carry two inflatable landing craft (Zodiacs). Designed for expedition work,

these large and heavy-duty inflatables are extremely safe. Separate air compartments retain a large reserve of buoyancy even if the boat is damaged. The flat bottom design permits these craft to land directly on the beaches. Expect nonetheless to wade through shallow water to reach the shore.

ONBOARD ACCOMMODATION

Onboard accommodation comprises 36 spacious modern staterooms. You can select from Bridge, Promenade or Main Deck staterooms offering a choice of twin through to junior king-size doubles. All staterooms have an ocean view, en-suite facilities, settee, large wardrobe, desk, luggage storage, individual air-conditioning control, and are serviced daily.

CABIN TYPE	AREA OF CABIN	BEDDING CONFIGURATION
Bridge	180-195 sqft	Junior King or Twin
Promenade A	172-190 sqft	Junior King or Twin
Promenade B	151-172sqft	Junior King
Main Deck A	195 sqft	Junior King or Twin
Main Deck B	190-200sqft	Junior King or Twin

Your itinerary

Victories in the Pacific is an expedition cruise to the rarely-visited battlefields of the Pacific War from 1942-44. Accompanied by Richard B. Frank, one of the world's leading authorities on the Pacific Theater of World War 2, *Victories in the Pacific* provides the once-in-a-lifetime chance to walk in the footsteps of the heroes of the Pacific.

Several battlefields that were featured in the epic HBO mini-series *The Pacific* will be visited on this cruise, giving us the opportunity to gain a new perspective on the service of Robert Leckie, John Basilone and Eugene Sledge.



DAY 1 – March 4, 2012

New Caledonia – Depart Noumea

Boarding commences at 9:00am for a 10:00am departure. This afternoon our Historian Richard Frank will present a briefing about the Pacific War and the pivotal events that occurred at the destinations we will be visiting in the coming days. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy a beach walk on beautiful Casey Island and perhaps enjoy a snorkel over the colourful corals. Tonight, join the Captain and crew for Welcome Aboard Cocktails.

DAY 2 – March 5, 2012

Lifou Island

Lifou Island's impressive beaches are amongst the best in the world, backed by sparkling lagoons and pine tree covered landscapes. Join the Expedition Leader on a walk to the island's churches and beautiful bays. Lifou is sensational for snorkeling with a panorama of sea-life unsullied by man.

DAY 3 – March 6, 2012

Vanuatu – Tanna Island Volcano

As we approach Tanna Island we see our first signs of volcanic activity; hot springs bubbling beneath the surface. Travel ashore and land on the black volcanic beach of Port Resolution. Join our Expedition Leader and naturalists on a drive, local style, through

the forest and up the slopes of Mount Yasur to view this active volcano that still regularly spews rocks and ash. This evening Richard Frank will present a briefing about Vanuatu's role in the war and in particular the vital Allied base at our next port of call, Espiritu Santo.

DAY 4 – March 7, 2012

Espiritu Santo and Million Dollar Point

Espiritu Santo was one of the main US air bases in the South Pacific for much of the war. By 1945 there were four airfields and a seaplane base on the island and more than 40,000 US troops were stationed there. James Michener wrote his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tales of the South Pacific* after being stationed on Santo during the war. The island was also the setting for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*. At the end of the war the US had thousands of tons of equipment and vehicles on Santo that would be too expensive to ship back to the US. After failing to negotiate the sale of the equipment to locals, most of it – from bulldozers to crates of Coca-Cola – was dumped in the sea. The site became known as Million Dollar Point, based on the estimate of the equipment's worth in 1945 dollars. Today Million Dollar Point is a popular dive and snorkel site, and we will have the opportunity to visit it during the day.

DAY 5 – March 8, 2012

Ureparapara Island and 'Kastom' Dancing

Imagine cruising into the cone of a volcano surrounded on three sides by thousand-foot cliffs. Ureparapara is one of the most spectacular islands in Vanuatu. The only way to experience this island is by sea and visits from cruise ships are rare. Be entertained by the local people with dancing and join a guided walk to the top of the caldera.

DAY 6 – March 9, 2012

Solomon Islands – Nendo Island

Our welcome to the Solomon Islands, Nendo Island is an excellent location to view and purchase quality artifacts. We enjoy a cultural performance and an opportunity to snorkel.

DAY 7 – March 10, 2012

Santa Ana

The locals of Santa Ana, a small island southeast of San Cristobal, welcome us ashore with village warriors bearing swords and blowing on conch shell horns. Santa Ana is known for its bone fishhooks and imaginative fishing floats. Join the naturalist for a guided walk across the island, through shady forests where a myriad of colorful orchids grow. Back on board, Richard Frank will present a briefing on the highlight of our WW2 cruise, our visit to Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the coming days.



DAY 8 – March 11, 2012

Guadalcanal

In mid-1942 Allied forces learned that the Japanese were building an airfield on the island of Guadalcanal, which could be used to launch attacks on US shipping lanes and effectively sever communications between Australia and the USA. On August 7, 1942, America launched its first offensive operation of the war when the 1st Marine Division landed on the north coast of Guadalcanal. The Marines quickly secured the airfield but over the next six months became entangled in some of the fiercest battles of the Pacific War, as the Japanese desperately tried to recover the airfield. By the time the Japanese gave up their attempts to recapture Guadalcanal in February 1943, almost 8000 American marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen had been killed, but a great victory had been won. The Guadalcanal Campaign marked the end of Japanese aggression in the Pacific. Every step they took for the rest of the war was a retreat that ended in 1945 in Tokyo Bay. Today we will explore this iconic World War Two battlefield, the ‘Gettysburg of

the Pacific’. Accompanied by Richard Frank and expert local guides, we will visit the US Memorial, the Japanese Memorial, Alligator Creek, Bloody Ridge, Red Beach and much more. We will also see the remains of US and Japanese planes, armor and guns at the outdoor museum at Vilu. A highlight of our day will be meeting local islanders who served as scouts for the American forces during the battle. Richard Frank is the author of *Guadalcanal: The Definitive Account of the Landmark Battle* and was also a historical consultant on HBO’s *The Pacific*. There is no better historian to guide us around the former battlefields of Guadalcanal. As the sun sets we will cruise across the famous Ironbottom Sound, scene of a series of savage naval battles during the Guadalcanal Campaign and so-named because of the huge number of Allied and Japanese ships that were sunk there.

Guadalcanal was the setting for Episodes 1 and 2 of the HBO mini-series *The Pacific*.

DAY 9 – March 12, 2012

Tulagi

Tulagi is a small island just north of

Guadalcanal that bears the distinction of being the first place American forces landed during the Pacific War. Several hours before the main landing on Guadalcanal, a force of Marine Raiders came ashore at Tulagi to neutralize the Japanese garrison on the strategically important island. After a short but tough fight the Raiders had captured the island, and today there is much to see from the war. In the morning we will anchor off the coast of Tulagi and use our *Xplorer* tender to come ashore. We will spend the morning walking around the island, exploring Japanese caves, anti-aircraft positions and Blue Beach, where the Marines landed in 1942. After lunch we will reboard *Xplorer* and explore Tulagi Harbor, a former PT-boat base where John F. Kennedy was stationed in 1943 on *PT-109*. We will also cruise past the islands of Gavutu and Tanambogo, scenes of fierce fighting during the US landings, and the wrecks of several Japanese ‘Mavis’ flying boats, sunk on the morning of the landings. We will also cruise to the wreck of the Japanese destroyer *Kikuzuki*, which was sunk by US planes in May 1942, and the wreck of the US landing ship *LST-342*, sunk with the loss of most of its crew by a



Japanese submarine in 1943. At the end of this memorable day we will return to *Oceanic Discoverer* and continue our voyage through the Solomon Islands.

DAY 10 – March 13, 2012

Arnavon Islands Marine Reserve

The Arnavon Islands are the only marine reserve in the Solomon Islands where, except for subsistence gathering, all marine life is protected and fishing is banned. The islands are home to endangered wildlife including the beautiful Hawksbill Turtle. Travel ashore to see how the conservation efforts are helping rejuvenate the island before enjoying snorkeling and glass bottom boat tours. Back on board, Richard Frank will present a briefing about the tough fighting in the northern Solomons in 1942/43.

DAY 11 – March 14, 2012

Ghizo and Kennedy Island

Discover tiny Kennedy Island, named in honor of John F. Kennedy who swam ashore with his crew after his patrol boat *PT-109* was sunk by a Japanese destroyer in August 1943. We explore the sandy beaches and snorkel or dive over the coral reef. There may even be the opportunity to meet a local islander who helped rescue JFK almost 70 years ago. In the afternoon we visit the small provincial capital on Ghizo Island. Wander through the open air markets, showcasing crafts by legendary wood carvers. Ghizo was occupied by the Japanese during the war and was subjected to dozens of US air raids. Wrecks of planes and ships litter the waters around the island. This evening Richard Frank will deliver a briefing on the Bougainville Campaign, the next chapter of World War Two history we will explore.

DAY 12 – March 15, 2012

Papua New Guinea – Bougainville

Today we farewell the Solomon Islands with our arrival on the New Guinean island of Bougainville. Bougainville was occupied

by Japanese troops in mid-1942 and was intended to form an important forward outpost of the Japanese Empire. There were even plans to move civilian workers to the island, to be housed in a settlement known as Little Tokyo. An American landing in November 1943 put an end to those plans and Bougainville became a major battle front for the rest of the war. Australian troops took over much of the fighting from US forces in late 1944 and launched a series of attacks which effectively wiped out the entire Japanese garrison. More than 20,000 Japanese were killed in the fighting and an additional 35,000 died of disease and starvation in the jungle. More than 1200 Americans and Australians were killed. We will come ashore at Torokina, the site of the original US landing and the main US and Australian base for the rest of the war. We will have the opportunity to meet the local villagers and see the remains of an Allied airstrip built on Cape Torokina. We will also visit Puruata, an idyllic uninhabited island in nearby Empress Augusta Bay that has a beautiful beach and many relics from the war.

DAY 13 – March 16, 2012

Buka Island

Traveling in the wake of 18th century French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville we sail the coast of Bougainville and embark on an expedition at the island of Buka. After the US landings at Torokina, the Japanese headquarters on Bougainville was transferred to Buka. An airstrip on the island was used by the Japanese for the remainder of the war. Even though Buka was not occupied by the Allies during the war, it was neutralized by constant air attacks and eventually surrounded and cut off from the rest of the Japanese forces. Back on board, Richard Frank will present a briefing on the New Britain Campaign, the final chapter in our tour of the Second World War battlefields.

DAY 14 – March 17, 2012

New Britain/Rabaul and Farewell

Rabaul was the provincial capital of the island of New Britain. It was first established

by German colonists in the early 1900s and was occupied by Australian troops during the First World War. In January 1942 Rabaul was again occupied by Australian troops when it came under attack from the Japanese. An invasion force landed on January 23 and within hours Rabaul was in Japanese hands. Within months Rabaul had become the Japanese Army and Navy Headquarters in the South Pacific and formed one of the largest and most important Japanese bases in the Pacific. The Allies had originally intended to capture Rabaul but decided in 1943 to encircle and isolate it, rather than take it directly in a costly frontal attack. This plan, known as Operation Cartwheel, involved the capture of several strategic points around Rabaul including New Georgia, Lae, Bougainville, Cape Gloucester, and several more. The strategy was extremely effective and Rabaul was cut off from the rest of the Japanese forces by early 1944. The undersupplied Japanese garrison held out until the surrender in August 1945 but their ability to wage war had been completely neutralized. Today Rabaul has many reminders of its important wartime history and makes for a fascinating visit. We will arrive in the morning and enjoy a half-day tour of the town's Second World War landmarks. The conclusion of the tour marks the end of our voyage through the Pacific battlefields of World War Two.

New Britain was the setting for Episode 4 of the HBO mini-series *The Pacific*.

A special charter flight from Rabaul to Cairns, Australia, is available to passengers for a small additional charge. Please ask us for details.

This itinerary is an indication of the destinations we visit and activities on offer. Whilst every effort will be made to follow the itinerary we do reserve the right to vary the itinerary to make allowances for weather, tidal conditions and any other event that may affect the operation of the vessel.



RATES

Victories in the Pacific is a luxury expedition cruise that visits some of the world's most idyllic and untouched destinations. Passengers are assured of a once-in-a-lifetime cultural and historic experience, combined with the comforts of traveling on a luxury vessel.

13-NIGHT CRUISE – PRICES IN AUD

	TWIN	SOLE USE
Main Deck (Category B) Stateroom	\$10,990	\$16,485
Main Deck (Category A) Stateroom	\$11,390	\$17,085
Promenade Deck (Category B) Stateroom	\$11,890	\$17,835
Promenade Deck (Category A) Stateroom	\$12,390	\$18,585
Bridge Deck Stateroom	\$12,990	N/A

ABOUT US

Victories in the Pacific is a partnership between Mat McLachlan Battlefields Tours and Coral Princess Cruises.

Mat McLachlan Battlefields Tours is Australia's leading battlefield tour company and is part of a family business that has operated in the Australian travel industry since 1979. The company was founded by Mat McLachlan, one of Australia's leading battlefield historians, who has been visiting battlefields all over the world for nearly 20 years. He is the author of two books about Australia at war and appears regularly on television and radio to discuss aspects of military history. Every year, Mat McLachlan Battlefields Tours sends thousands of travelers to battlefields all over the world including Normandy, the Somme, Vietnam, Korea, the Pacific Islands, England, Germany and many more.

Coral Princess Cruises pioneered Great Barrier Reef cruising in 1984 with a converted World War Two submarine-chaser carrying 24 passengers. Since then the company has grown to become Australia's most awarded small-ship cruise line, and indeed one of the leading small-ship cruise lines in the world. The company offers a range of itineraries to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Kimberley, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Melanesia. Coral Princess Cruise's expedition-style cruise ships are large enough to provide all the comforts and facilities of larger ships, yet small enough to visit reef and island sites inaccessible to other vessels. With an open bridge policy, small passenger numbers and a mix of astonishing destinations, guests are able to truly connect with the environment they are visiting, and enjoy a cruise experience which is both personal and memorable.

CONTACT US

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YOUR HISTORIAN



Richard B. Frank
Historical consultant on HBO's mini-series *The Pacific*, and one of the world's leading authorities on the Pacific War.

Richard B. Frank is a native of Kansas. After graduation from the University of Missouri, he served four years in the United States Army.

His assignments included a tour in Vietnam as a rifle platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Following graduation from Georgetown Law School, he worked for twenty-seven years with the Board of Veterans Appeals.

In 1990 his first book, *Guadalcanal*, was published. It won the General Wallace M. Greene Award from the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1999, his second work was published, *Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire*. It won the Harry S. Truman Book Award and has been called one of the six best books in English about World War II. Both books were published by Random House and were main selections of the History Book Club. In 2006, his work *MacArthur* appeared as part of the Palgrave Great Generals series.

He has appeared numerous times on or consulted for programs on television and radio, including ABC, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the BBC, NHK, NPR and The History Channel. He is currently working on a narrative history trilogy about the Asian-Pacific War. He was also a historical consultant and appeared as a key interviewee in the epic HBO mini-series *The Pacific*.

Richard is one of the world's foremost historians on the Pacific Theater of World War 2 and we are privileged to have him joining us as the historian on the Victories in the Pacific cruise.



A journey of a lifetime with Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours

Imagine standing on the sacred ground where some of the world's most epic battles were fought. Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours can turn that dream into a reality.



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