

# MELANESIA

## DARWIN TO LAUTOKA



Melanesia has been topping wanderlust wish lists for years. Join our team of onboard experts aboard *Silver Cloud* and explore this lesser-known region. From Darwin, travel to hot springs and birds of paradise of Papua New Guinea, exploring the island's remarkable breadth of culture as you go. Sail on to the untouched Solomon Islands for some world class snorkeling and startling scenery. Vanuatu, home of the famous water music and Champagne Beach.



**DATES:** 2024 – SEP 10-OCT 03

**DURATION:** 24 DAYS/23 NIGHTS

**EMBARK:** CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA

**DISEMBARK:** LAUTOKA, FIJI

**SHIP:** *Silver Cloud*

**FROM:** \$23,600\*

\*Free Economy or reduced rate Business Class Air, Pre-Cruise transfers and hotels.

**\$18,850\*\***

\*\*Cruise Only – 22 Days

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – ARRIVE DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

Transfer to your included hotel. Australia's capital of the north is a uniquely tropical city, and a historically isolated outpost of this vast, diverse country.

### DAY 2 – EXPLORE DARWIN, EMBARKATION

Enjoy your free time to explore the city and surrounds. Transfer to the pier for embarkation and departure.

### DAY 3 – VICTORIA SETTLEMENT, AUSTRALIA

The outpost was founded in 1838 to serve as a re-supply post for ships passing through the Torres Strait, and to strengthen British territorial claims. Now, as you walk around the various crumbling structures, it's difficult not to appreciate the vibrant jungle enclosing the site.

### DAY 4 - ELCHO ISLAND (BANTHULA), AUSTRALIA

Banthula is one of the homelands on Elcho Island's north-western side facing the Arafura Sea. It was founded in 1979 when the Australian government encouraged the indigenous population to return to lands they had used before contact with the western world and to establish small settlements, the so-called homelands or outstations.



### DAY 5 – YIRRKALA, AUSTRALIA

Yirrkala is an aboriginal community in northeastern Arnhem Land and has a population of roughly 800 residents. The Yolngu have been in the area for more than 40,000 years, but they only congregated here in larger numbers when the township was founded after a Methodist mission was started in 1935.

### DAY 6 - THURSDAY ISLAND, AUSTRALIA

Thursday Island is the ultimate Aussie retreat. Grab a cold beer, find a spot on a wooden pub deck overlooking turquoise blue seas and contemplate the remote beauty of the island. The Torres Strait Islands is a 274-strong archipelago found scattered between the coasts of mainland Oz and Papua New Guinea.

## DAY 7 – DAY AT SEA

### DAY 8 – ALOTAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Alotau is the provincial capital of the Milne Bay Province located in the southeast bay of Papua New Guinea. The town and surrounding area was an important staging ground during World War II and we will see remains and memorials dating back or referring to the war.



### DAY 9 – DEI DEI HOT SPRINGS, FERGUSSON ISLAND - DOBU ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On Fergusson's south side are the famous Dei Dei geysers — natural hot springs that periodically erupt with vapor steam next to mud pools and a warm stream. The hot springs are still used by locals to cook food in palm frond and pandanus leaf baskets placed into the boiling hot water. Dobu is a small island formerly feared because of black magic and the local "witch" doctors cursing the healthy or treating the sick.

### DAY 10 – KUIAWA ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Kuiawa is one of the Trobriand Islands, the northernmost islands in the Milne Bay Province. Trobriand Islanders are famous carvers and dancers.

### DAY 11 – JACQUINOT BAY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Jacquinet Bay is a large open bay on the eastern coast of the island of New Britain. It is a tranquil place with white sandy beaches and tropical palm trees. There is also a beautiful waterfall that flows out of the mountainside with cold water right onto the beach.

### DAY 12 – RABAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Located on the north-eastern tip of New Britain Island, Rabaul, the former provincial capital, is inside the flooded caldera of a giant volcano and several sub-vents are still quite active today! The lively city was almost entirely devastated by Mount Tavurvur in 1994, covering the city in ashfall, but thankfully costing no lives.



## DAY 13 – DAY AT SEA

### DAY 14 – NJARI ISLAND; KENNEDY ISLAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Njari is a small island almost entirely covered in trees with just a small sand spit at its eastern end. Two hundred and seventy-nine different fish species have been seen during a single dive; the fourth-highest fish count ever recorded and a top spot for snorkeling in the Solomon Islands. Tiny Kennedy Island is where JFK was a cast-away with his crew when their torpedo ship, PT 109, was sunk by Japanese troops in August 1943.



### DAY 15 – LUMALIHE ISLAND, MAROVO LAGOON

Marovo Lagoon is one of the world's largest saltwater lagoons. Described by American author James A. Michener as, "one of the seven natural wonders of the world," Marovo is home to a double barrier reef system, and is one of two sites in the Solomon's currently under consideration for UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

### DAY 16 - RAUHI ISLAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS

A tiny isle of thick emerald vegetation, its alluring ring of crisp white sand invites you to lay back and let it all go. Or enjoy beautiful swimming and snorkeling in shimmering, untroubled waters. Dugongs - or sea cows - gently graze in the warm seas around the island, and are just one example of this tropical paradise's remarkable fauna, which comes in all shapes and sizes.

### DAY 17 – SANTA ANA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Port Mary is the name of the bay adjacent to Ghupuna, the main village in Santa Ana. A bright white sand beach with huge shade-giving trees runs along the shoreline in front of the tidy village. The houses here are made with local materials and most are built on stilts. Islanders welcome visitors with traditional songs and dances performed by members of the three different villages on Santa Ana. The Solomons are best known for strings of traditional shell money and elegant carvings based on local stories and legends.

## DAY 18 – DAY AT SEA

### DAY 19 - CHAMPAGNE BEACH, VANUATU

As world famous beaches go, Champagne Beach is one of the big hitters. It's one of the world's greatest natural beauties: white sand, turquoise water and nothing around – save for the occasional cow or curious turtle.

### DAY 20 – AMBRYM ISLAND, VANUATU

Unlike Espiritu Santo with its raised coral reefs and white sand, Ambrym is a volcanically active island with dark sand beaches. Some of Ambrym's magic takes place in the lush greenery of the local community of Ranon. Here the people perform a very special and traditional 'Rom' dance. Participants prepare their masks and costumes in secrecy and the dance is reserved for special occasions.



## DAY 21 – DAY AT SEA

### DAY 22 - YASAWA, FIJI

Nabukeru is the largest village on Yasawa, located within the grouping of the roughly 20 volcanic islands that make up the Yasawa Islands in Fiji. With their clear, aquamarine waters and ecologically diverse tropical, mountainous landscapes, these islands were the location for the filming of the romantic adventure film *The Blue Lagoon* (both the 1949 and 1980 versions).

### DAY 23 – LAUTOKA, FIJI - DISEMBARKATION

Fiji's second-biggest settlement opens up a world of blissful beaches and turquoise seascapes, while its dense jungle lures the adventurous deep into its embrace.

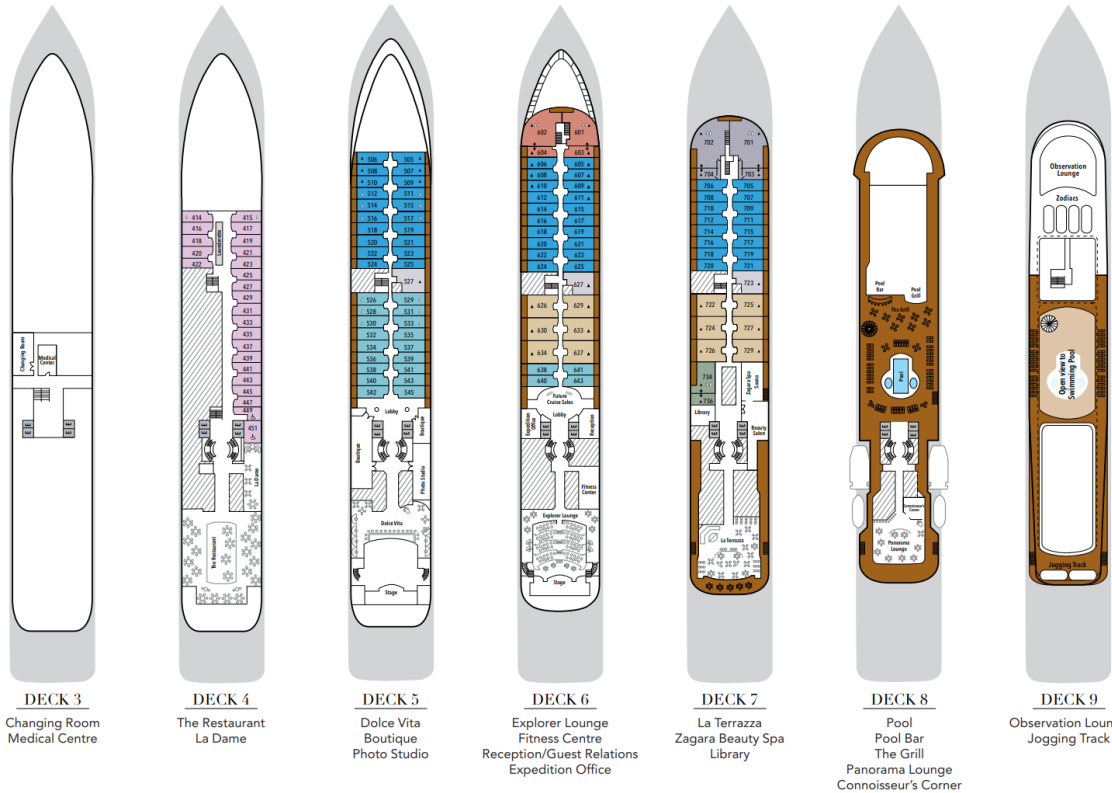
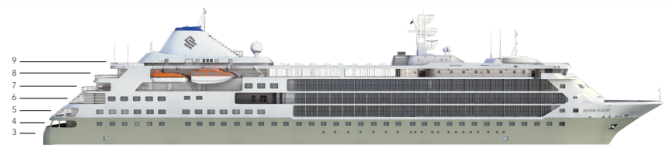
Silversea will offer a post-cruise hotel night/s prior to returning home, as indicated on your booking invoice, depending on Silversea's air program flight schedule.

### DAY 24 – FLIGHT HOME

Depart for home, plan to stay a day or two, or travel on to other areas of Fiji, or South Pacific.

**Pre- and post-cruise programs are available.**

# SILVER CLOUD- Deck Plans



- SUITE CATEGORIES**
- Owner's Suite . . . . .
  - Grand Suite . . . . .
  - Royal Suite . . . . .
  - Silver Suite . . . . .
  - Medallion Suite . . . . .
  - Deluxe Veranda Suite . . . . .
  - Veranda Suite . . . . .
  - Vista Suite . . . . .
- SPECIFICATIONS**
- Crew . . . . . 212
  - Guests . . . . . 240 in Polar waters
  - Officers . . . . . International
  - Tonnage . . . . . 17,400
  - Length . . . . . 514.14 Feet/156.7 Metres
  - Width . . . . . 70.62 Feet/21.5 Metres
  - Speed . . . . . 18 Knots
  - Passenger Decks . . . . . 7
  - Connecting Suites . . . . .
  - 3rd Guest Capacity . . . . .
  - Bath/Shower Combination . . . . .
  - Bath & Separate Shower . . . . .
  - Disabled Suites . . . . .
  - 449, 451
  - Refurbished . . . . . 2017
  - Registry . . . . . Bahamas
  - Ice-class Rating . . . . . 1C

Deck plans are for illustration purposes only and may be subject to change.  
 Suite diagrams shown are for illustration purposes only and may vary from actual square footage. Please refer to suite specifications for square footage.

**2024 RATES: PER PERSON – DOUBLE – ALL INCLUSIVE** - Port fees and taxes; gratuities to crew; open bar throughout ship; all excursions; team of Expedition leaders, and guided zodiac, sea and land tours. \*Included Economy air fare, or \$1,800 per person credit, or reduced Business Class for \$8,998 per person; one night hotel before and after the cruise; transfers. 100% refundable up to 150 days. \*\*Cruise Only, no air, or transfers. 85% refundable up to 150 days.

SUITE	FULL FARE*	CRUISE ONLY**
VISTA – Deck 4	\$23,600	\$18,850
VERANDA – Deck 5,6,7	\$27,300	\$22,050
DELUXE VERANDA – Deck 5,6,7	\$32,200	\$26,350
MEDALLION – Deck 5,6,7	WL	-
SILVER – Deck 6,7	\$54,300	-
ROYAL – Deck 6	WL	-
GRAND – Deck 7	\$117,400	-
OWNER – Deck 7	WL	-

**Silver Cloud features four dining venues:**

- La Terrazza** - Authentic Italian recipes and the freshest, sustainable ingredients come together in this restaurant at sea.
- The Grill** – Poolside – light fare and Hot Rock.
- The Restaurant** - Enjoy Continental and regional specialties, as well as sweeping ocean views in our main dining room.
- The Dame** - La Dame features a bespoke menu by our top chefs, and is the highest expression of excellence of French dining.



**Reservations & Information**  
**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**  
 Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)  
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