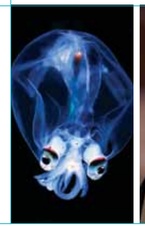
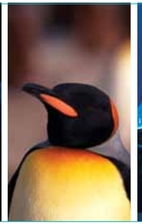
# MV ALUCIA

183' EXPEDITION YACHT

Main salon and dining area


*"Alucia is a filmmaker's and scientist's dream."*

—Mike deGruy, Filmmaker

## A Fusion of Luxury, Exploration and Adventure

A one-of-a-kind expedition yacht, MV Alucia combines luxury with undiluted exploration potential. Her remote cruising abilities extend far beyond those of most superyachts, yet her interior comfort, elegance and ambience meet the highest international standards.

Having just completed a profound rebuild to specifications that are nothing if not provocative, Alucia is poised to make a splash in expedition sailing circles. Every inch of her 183 feet is deployed to maximum effect, yet Alucia is spacious and stylish.

Alucia's twin Deep Rovers, the deepest diving private submarines in the world, offer entry into a mysterious and tantalizing frontier. Together with an astonishing array of other state-of-the-art science and exploration assets, Alucia grants unprecedented access to the ocean.

Alucia was built to be the consummate expedition ship, an embodiment of the freedom to roam. She will appeal to those who savour superyacht comfort and ambience but also yearn to truly explore the Blue Planet.

Like no other expedition yacht afloat today, Alucia offers unsurpassed opportunities for adventure and discovery across—and under—the ocean.

Alucia's luxury decks are highlighted by bird's eye maple, brushed steel and black marble in an elegant and understated theme by designer Joseph Artese.

## Spacious and Elegant

Alucia's three luxury decks provide first-class amenities for twelve passengers. Her stylish interior creates a sense of tranquillity and space—ideal for an expedition yacht designed for extended cruising.

The hand-finished maple and brushed steel theme unifies spaces throughout, while large tinted windows reveal magnificent vistas and supply natural illumination.

Alucia's owner's suite, VIP suite and yacht-styled cabins offer superb accommodations, and her upper deck lounge and dining areas are very well appointed. The flybridge, with its bar, deck loungers and outdoor dining, creates a secondary social hub.

Master stateroom

Master bathroom

VIP guest stateroom

Twin guest stateroom

Galley

*"Alucia is an enigma. Sipping tea in her elegant and stylish lounge, it's hard to believe that a pair of deep-diving submarines are at rest only two decks below."*

# Into the Great Wide Open

## DeepOcean Quest Founder Mike McDowell describes the vision behind MV Alucia

Upper deck lobby

Bridge

'We wanted an expedition yacht with formidable capabilities', explains Mike McDowell, founder of DeepOcean Quest, 'And that's what we got'.

He's talking about MV Alucia, a unique and luxurious discovery yacht with unprecedented exploration potential.

For several years now the buzz about Alucia—her fusion of luxury cruising and undersea exploration capability—has permeated the superyacht community. By all accounts this is a ship very much out of the ordinary. I'm more than a little curious to meet her.

McDowell sets the scene, 'Alucia is for those who seek new ocean experiences, those who yearn to explore.'

'With Alucia you can be island hopping in luxury one day, and find yourself thousands of feet beneath the sea exploring an undersea volcano the next. She was built to satisfy a universal, mind-expanding need—the human desire to roam new pastures and seize unimagined opportunities.'

Walking alongside Alucia I get my first real impression. She is peculiarly massive for a 183-foot vessel. Her size and solid, muscular lines make her easily the most distinctive yacht in the harbor, a lion surrounded by gazelles.

She was built by DeepOcean Quest, a private venture conceived by McDowell and his European partner for a mission of global ocean exploration. Alucia is no flight of fancy however. Her design draws from McDowell's long, and often challenging, career in remote marine expedition logistics.

Once aboard, Alucia's sense of purpose becomes evident. Her massive A-frame towers over the deck. Its 22-ton capacity provides lifting capacity for submarine operations and other heavy lifting duties.

Entering her submarine hangar I get my first opportunity to examine the twin Deep Rovers up close. DeepOcean Quest is one of only two twin-sub operations in the world. The Rovers add the third dimension to Alucia's exploration abilities.

I'm struck by the submersibles' presence, a pair of futuristic machines at rest. They are unique space-age vehicles, bristling with equipment and gear mounts. I'm reminded of a Swiss Army knife.

The Rovers can dive more than 3,200 feet, alone or together, taking them to a world accessible by only a handful of undersea vehicles worldwide.

At 3,000 feet darkness is total and eternal, the only light coming from strange, bioluminescent creatures and the submersible itself. This is where the wild things are: the lantern shark, the black seadevil and the giant squid.

'DeepOcean Quest is the real thing, says McDowell, 'a private ocean exploration initiative with capabilities on a par with the world's leading government-run oceanographic operations.'

I ask McDowell what compelled him to commission a new expedition ship. He pauses, eyes twinkling as he recalls why he got interested in shipbuilding.

'When it comes to expedition yachts there's often a disconnect between a vessel's design and the actual needs of its users. Yes, Alucia is luxurious, but more than anything she is built to be functional. Alucia can go places most other ships could never go, do things that most other ships could never do. That's what mattered to us.'

Glancing at the Deep Rovers I get a sense of where he's coming from. Is Alucia the biggest thing in private marine exploration since Cousteau's Calypso?

Alucia's hull was built by the French Auroux shipyard as a submersible support ship in 1974. After an auspicious career RV Nadir was acquired by DeepOcean Quest in 2004, to be reborn, phoenix-like, into a new role tailored for 21st Century exploration.

Nadir's transformation into Alucia was nothing short of profound. An almost complete rebuild was commissioned to meet DeepOcean Quest's multi-role requirements. Her former crew would have great difficulty recognizing her today, inside or out.

Every major system has been replaced, from powerplant to electronics, to the bridge and the submersibles themselves.

Answering the call for VIP-level facilities, Alucia's three accommodation and leisure decks sport an elegant new interior designed by Joseph Artese, creating an ambience rarely seen beyond traditional superyachts.

I ask McDowell about the philosophy behind Alucia's rebuild.

'First we wanted a very comfortable discovery ship capable of exploring remote places for long periods. In practical terms that means extended range, reliable equipment, versatility and systems redundancy.'

'Alucia can work comfortably in tropical to polar latitudes. She's solid. She is ice-strengthened. Extended capability is built into every aspect of the ship. Alucia's mixed gas diving facilities, for example, would not be out of place on a North Sea oil rig.'

'Our second requirement was that Alucia function as an oceanographic research vessel and submersible mothership. This was vital for DeepOcean Quest's exploration goals and those of our clients.'

McDowell pauses, 'In practice Alucia's science role required a lot of infrastructure: laboratories, coldwater aquarium facilities, winches, mixed gas diving facilities, hazchem storage, multibeam sonar, remote sensing, good communications and massive onboard computing power.'

'Alucia's science facilities lend themselves well to direct participation for all aboard. Features like the aquarium lab and media studio open up eye-opening experiences for anyone that appreciates the wonders of the natural world. There's never a dull moment.'

'Then there's the Deep Rovers. Submersible diving is an extraordinary, spine-tingling experience, one that's hard to convey to those who haven't done it. I liken it to being in a hole in the water, a very visceral experience, serene and otherworldly. I used to dream about it for months after a dive.'

'The Rovers can take Alucia's owners, family and associates on breathtaking personal explorations into the deep ocean. And these dives can be far from joyrides—the Rovers are mission-oriented vehicles, they can film in high-definition, collect samples and artifacts, search and survey unknown targets.'

'At night Alucia can create astonishingly detailed maps of unknown canyons or seamounts with her multibeam sonar, then send down her subs down in the morning to explore and study them. Anyone can call their boat a research vessel, but the bottom line is we've made Alucia a very capable oceanographic research and discovery yacht.'

'Filmmaking and communications is another key role for MV Alucia. The deep ocean is completely inaccessible for the vast majority of people. It might as well be on Mars. Understandably, DeepOcean Quest is driven by a desire to communicate the ocean's wonders to a wider audience.'

'To meet this vision, Alucia's state-of-the-art studio facilities complement the Deep Rovers' underwater filming capabilities. In theory we can shoot, edit and broadcast a documentary film without leaving the ship. We have already set up a side company, 'DeepOcean Quest Productions', to help deliver on Alucia's incredible outreach potential.'

'In addition to offering seamless phone, VOIP and Web communications, Alucia's giant satellite dome can transmit HD footage live via satellite from anywhere on the planet's surface for real-time multimedia broadcast. We can pipe our explorations right into the living rooms of millions of people in real time. It's tremendously exciting.'

'Finally, given Alucia's hybrid concept, a critical requirement was an exceptional level of comfort and ambience. Her three upper decks have been designed to meet high expectations from her owner and entourage. They are elegant and comfortable, and very well appointed by any standard.'

'Overall, as a private sector enterprise, DeepOcean Quest had a unique opportunity to break the mold and create something new—a hybrid superyacht and multi-role expedition ship. Alucia is the result.'

I find myself nodding in agreement: Having seen the ship firsthand it's clear that Alucia's unique hybrid concept and mission is very cool, a definite selling point that adds to the ship's natural charisma. She has a definite science-meets-science-fiction vibe. I'm reminded of the starship Enterprise's five-year mission 'to boldly go' explore the galaxy.

It's obvious why McDowell is confident that Alucia will make a splash when she commences operations. She is an altogether new kind of expedition yacht, hard to define—the very definition of 'outside the square'.

McDowell concludes with a heartfelt observation:

'Most of the deep ocean—basically the majority of Planet Earth—has never been explored. Tell that to a ten-year-old and watch their eyes widen. It's a revelation to them. I believe all human beings need new frontiers to explore. To retain a little mystery and excitement in our lives is a very good thing. What is life, if not an adventure?'

'I'm one of the lucky ones. I've journeyed down into the deep ocean many times and seen some incredible things, things you wouldn't believe. I know instinctively that we've barely scratched the surface of what's down there.'

He pauses briefly. 'Nautical charts once indicated remote uncharted regions with the phrase 'Here be Dragons'. That's what MV Alucia is all about. We built her to go find the dragons.'

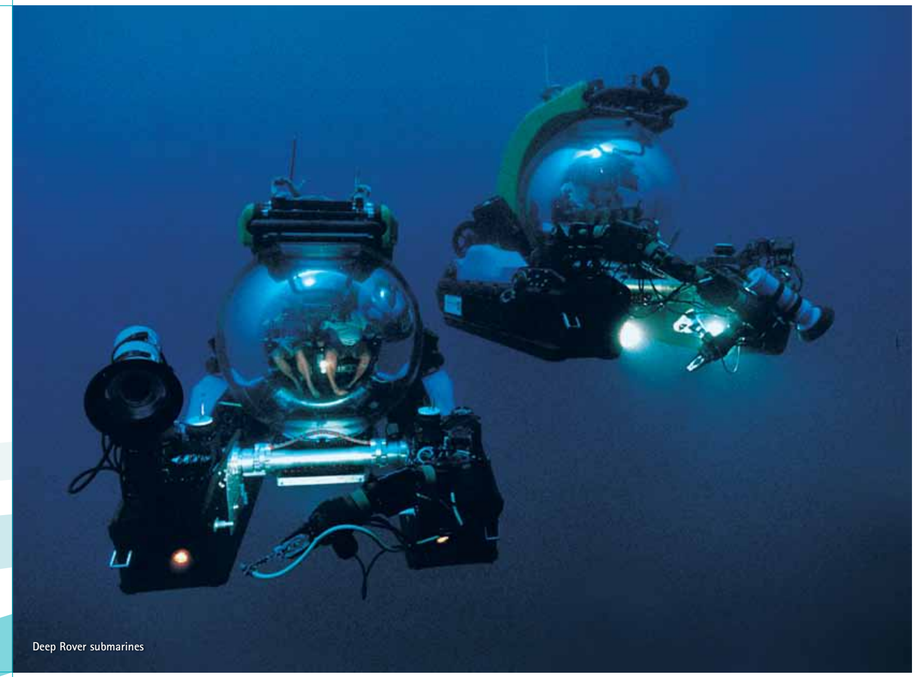
# Exploration and Science

Conceived to go far off the beaten track, MV Alucia has exploration capabilities that rival some of the world's leading oceanographic institutions. Her twin Deep Rover submersibles, DR1 and DR2, can dive 3,280 feet and take divers into the dark zone, where life takes unexpected new forms and strange seascapes abound.

In addition to the Deep Rovers, Alucia's submarine deck is home to a sophisticated diving mixed gas generation and storage system, a decompression chamber, wet and dry laboratories, a deep-sea aquarium laboratory, a professional film editing suite, extensive computing power and the submersibles' mission control room.

Deck gear including a 22T A-frame, cranes and winches enable deployment of various watercraft and scientific equipment. Alucia's advanced multibeam sonar enables detailed seafloor mapping for dive site visualization and study.

A well-equipped helipad, the 32-foot Northwind tender 'Australis' add to Alucia's operational independence.



Deep Rover submarines

Mission control room

Media studio

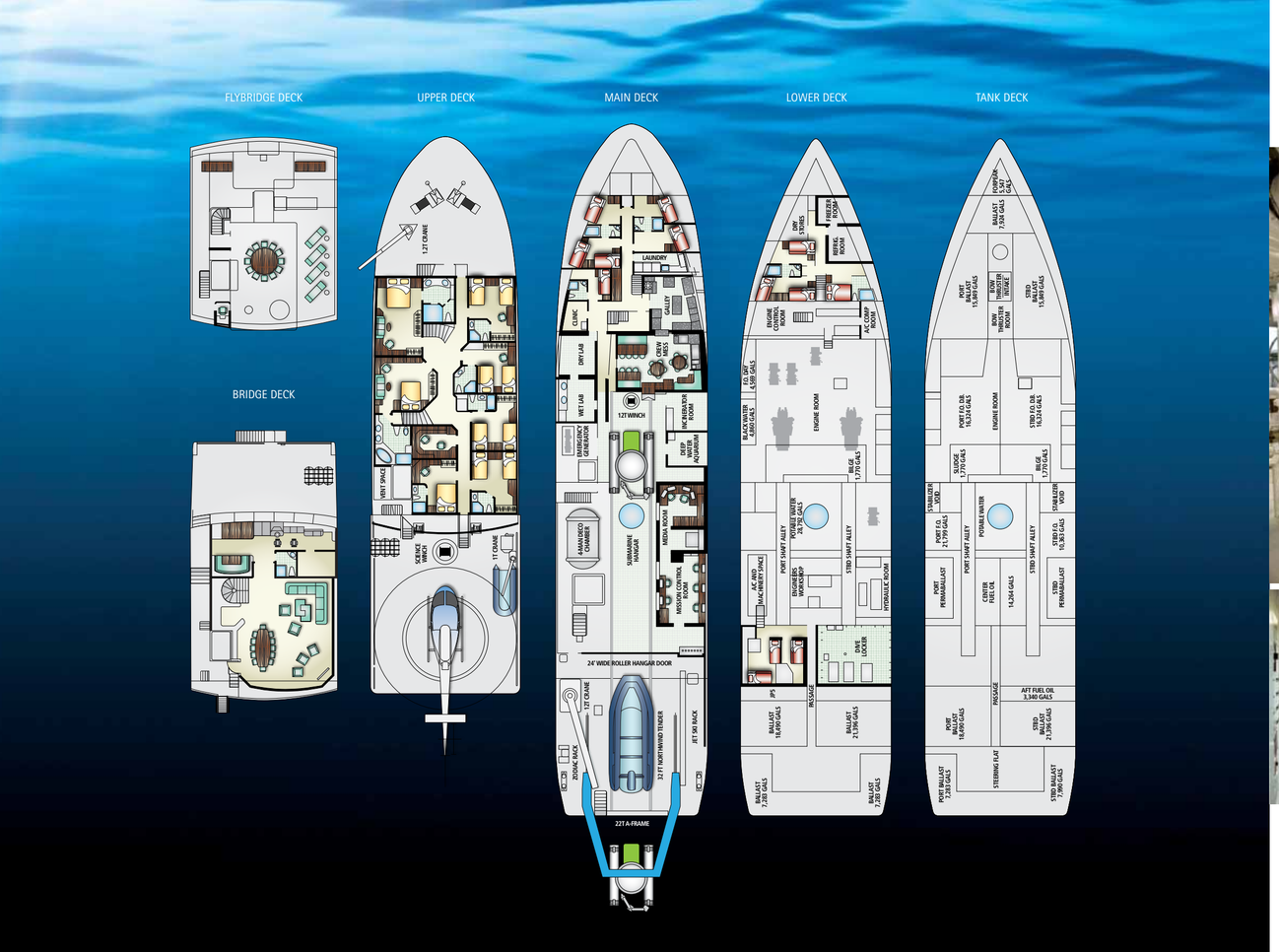
Aquarium lab

Decompression chamber

Wet lab and mission support

Dive locker

Rover claw

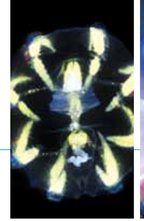


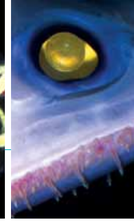


Engine room


Engine control room


Crew mess





# Specifications

**Type:** Expedition Yacht
**LOA:** 183 ' (55.78m)
**Beam:** 39' (12.0m)
**Draft:** 15.4' (4.95m)
**Hull build:** 1974 | **Rebuild:** 2008/09
**Rebuild:** Coastal Marine / Deep Ocean Expeditions
**Classification:** Bureau Veritas 'I' + Maltese Cross / Ice III

### Accommodations

- 12 guests (1 owners suite / 1 VIP suite / 4 twin cabins)
- 14 ship crew / 5 submersible crew as required
- 7 extra berths for science / miscellaneous support (extendible)
- Facilities for fully supported 20 ft ( 6 m) accommodation container for 6 berths

### Hull & Powerplant

**Engines:** 2 x Cummins KTA50M2 1600hp (New)
**Bow Thruster:** Gil Jet 500bhp
**Generators:** 3 x Detroit series 60 400bhp (New)
**Speed:** 14 knots maximum, 12 knots cruise
**Range:** Approx 7,800 nm Endurance: 22-41 day duration.
**Fuel:** 92,500 USG; Water Tankage: 22,690 USG
**Hull:** Steel hull and superstructure

### Communications & Navigation

- VSAT global C-Band Sea Tel 9707 phone, email, internet
- **Iridium phone:** 4 x Sailor SC4000
- **Voice/Fax/Email:** Inmarsat Sailor Fleet 77
- Science GPS positioning Max, C-nav and F180 DGPS (Nav backup)
- **Radar | S-Band:** Furuno FAR-2837S/10
- **Radar | X-Band:** Furuno FAR-2117
- Weather Fax

### Audio-Visual & Computer Systems:

- Ship-wide Kaleidescape audio-visual system
- 3 TB ship computer system networked w/ Cat 5/6 cabling and 10 workstations
- 10.5 Tb Apple Media film editing system
- 6 TB storage Raid 5 (multibeam)
- **Off-Ship connections:** V-Sat, Fleet 77, Iridium

### Secondary Vessels/Vehicle Support

- 2 twin-person Deep Rover Submarines (rated to 3,200 ft /1,000 m depth)
- Custom-built 32' / 10m twin-jet Towmaster tender 'Australis' (Northwind Marine)
- Zodiac rescue boat w/ self-powered davit
- Helipad w/ safety installation/5,000 gal Jet A-1 fuel storage/night landing system

### Science, Exploration & Filmmaking Assets

- **Diver support:** mixed gas / nitrox / air generation and 270,000 L gas storage
- 54" twin lock decompression chamber
- **Multibeam Sonar:** Reson 8111 ER
- Wet and Dry Laboratories
- Deep-Sea Aquarium Laboratory/Studio
- Fully equipped media studio for professional filmmaking

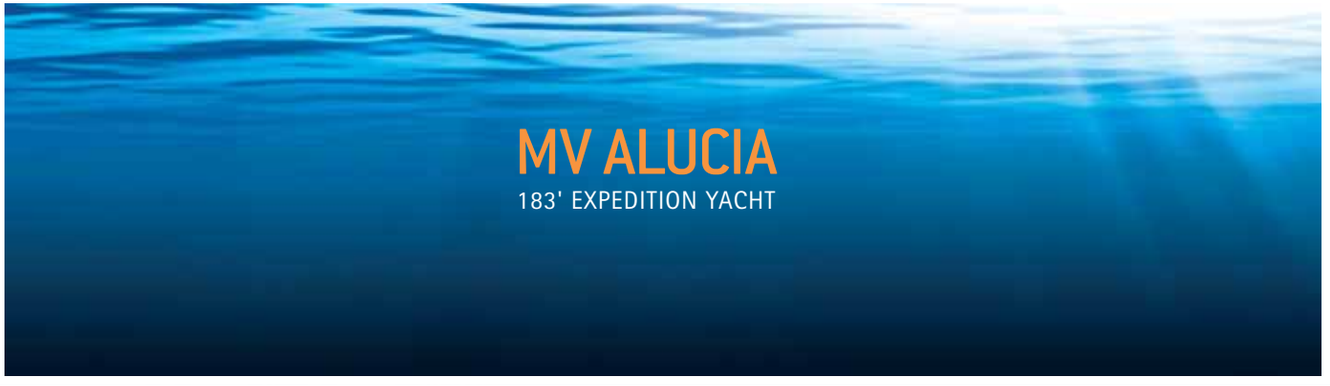
### Deck Installations

- Markey DUSE 4 hydraulic science winch w/ 13,123 ft (4,000 m) of co-ax cable
- Kolstrand Hydro winch for CTD w/ 6,800 ft (2073 m) co-ax cable
- Swinging stern 22T A-frame
- **Aft Crane:** SWL 12 ton
- **Fore Crane:** 1 ton
- Pullmaster M25 Hydraulic Winch, 12.5 ton

*Comprehensive specifications list available*

*"From her manned submersibles to the elegant quarters for the owner, guests and scientific staff, Alucia has the best of everything on board."*

—Don Walsh, Deep-Sea Explorer



# MV ALUCIA

183' EXPEDITION YACHT

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BROCHURE COORDINATION: FRASER YACHTS WORLDWIDE
ALUCIA PHOTOS: NEIL RABINOWITZ, MV ALUCIA
DEEP-SEA ANIMAL PHOTOS: DEEPSEAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM