

BOOK BEFORE 30 DECEMBER 2011
AND SAVE £1000 PER PERSON

South Seas Odyssey

An epic voyage from Easter Island to Fiji
celebrating Christmas on Pitcairn Island

Aboard the MS Caledonian Sky

16th December 2012 to 21st January 2013



NOBLE CALEDONIA

The name Polynesia means ‘many islands’ and no one could argue with the suitability of this title. There are islands of low lying coral with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world and contrasting volcanic mountainous structures of lush, incomparable beauty.

Join us for Christmas and New Year in paradise on a leisurely passage through the South Seas to an area long associated with Captain Cook, Captain Bligh and the Bounty, and Gauguin. We can promise you an unforgettable voyage to a corner of the world which has lured adventurers and romantics alike ever since Magellan first sailed to these waters in 1521.

Of course the real age of European exploration did not take place until the 18th century and many of the islands we will visit have changed little since that time. Their sheer isolation has been

their saving grace and apart from an influx of missionaries in the late 19th century, western culture has made few inroads into most of the islands. The natural beauty of these islands is mesmerizing. From coral reefs teeming with life to powerful legends that shaped history, each island is unique, each culture distinct. On the more remote islands, villages are still composed of thatched houses, set amongst the shade of the breadfruit and coconut trees. Many islands are important nesting grounds for seabirds and sea turtles and the lagoons everywhere are breeding grounds for countless species of fish.

We embark our vessel, the MS Caledonian Sky, in Easter Island. Lying some 2300 miles off the coast of Chile, it is the most remote inhabited island in the world. Easter Island, a tiny volcanic triangle was aptly named ‘Navel of the World’ by its early settlers. Surrounded by the vast Pacific, over 1,200 miles from the nearest inhabited land, the island is an archaeological treasure.

From here our island hopping adventure begins. Highlights of our cruise are numerous, but for many it will be the Pitcairn Islands, final destination of the Bounty. Here we are lucky enough to spend Christmas day on Pitcairn Island itself. We continue through the beautiful Tuamotu archipelago, the Society Islands, the islands of Tonga with their

truly laid back lifestyles and finally the horseshoe of volcanic Fijian islands. This mix of islands and cultures is a fascinating journey where we can discover the range of lifestyles, traditions, people and landscapes of some of the most remote islands on earth.

With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we can explore inlets, bird sanctuaries and land in otherwise inaccessible places and although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is often the unscheduled events that become the highlight. We will be joined by a hand-picked expedition team, consisting of naturalists, marine biologists and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst onboard.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London Heathrow to Santiago, Chile. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Santiago. Arrive this morning and transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Rooms will be available on arrival. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to relax and explore independently.

Day 3 Santiago to Easter Island. After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Easter Island. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky for embarkation. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner onboard.

Day 4 Easter Island. Today we enjoy a full day of exploration on the island, visiting many of the different areas where moais (statues) can be found. We will see the volcano of Rano Raraku, the site where 95% of all moais were carved and today you will find near 400 statues in various stages of completion. A hike to the top of the volcano's crater will not only reveal many statues but also a beautiful fresh water lake.

We continue our exploration of the island with a visit to Ahu Tongariki, the largest ceremonial site in Polynesia restored in 1996. Lunch will be a specially arranged barbecue on Anakena beach, home to Easter Island's ancient paramount chiefs and one of the prettiest coves in the South Pacific.

Day 5 Easter Island. This morning we visit Rano Kau, the second oldest volcano on the island. Its huge caldera (1.5km at its base) contains one of the island's three fresh water lakes. From the look-out at the rim of Rano Kau we continue on to the ceremonial village of Orongo, best known for the birdman cult



Easter Island



ceremonies. The site was restored in 1974 and within the village you will see 47 restored houses. Continue to Ahu Tahai, another restored ceremonial site and one of the oldest, dating back to the 6th century. Return to the ship for lunch and sail this afternoon.

Days 6 & 7 At sea. Enjoy time relaxing on deck and joining the lectures from our experts on board.

Day 8 Ducie Island, Pitcairn Islands. Experience expedition cruising at its finest as we land on one of nature's wildlife sanctuaries. A remote coral atoll with superb snorkelling and birding, Ducie Island is so remote that no threats to its native wildlife exist, and it is one of the few places in the world where wildlife is relatively unaffected by man's presence. Snorkellers will view bright-hued parrotfish feeding off the coral beds.

Day 9 Henderson Island, Pitcairn Islands. This upraised former coral atoll has fascinating eroded rock formations, with giant blowholes flinging up tremendous sea-spray. Very rare birds inhabit the island, including the Henderson Island rail and Stephen's lori. Numerous underwater ravines and crevices

support a great diversity of fish such as soldier fish, butterfly fish and goat fish.

Days 10 & 11 Pitcairn Island, Pitcairn Islands. We arrive on Christmas morning on the island of Pitcairn, famous as the final destination of the Bounty in the late 18th century. Meet the Anglo-Tahitian descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty, who arrived here 200 years ago and see the ship's anchor outside the courthouse. We will have time to explore this inspiring island setting and visit with islanders who display memorable stamps and handicrafts. We will experience a Pitcairn welcome in the Town Hall before exploring the capital of Adamstown. There will be a number of walks with our expedition staff to explore the islands highlights including St



Masked boobies, Henderson Island, Pitcairn Islands

Paul's Pool and Christian's Cave (please note that access to Pitcairn is very weather dependent).

Day 12 Mangareva, Gambier Islands. Mountainous Mangareva is home to a remarkable cathedral with a stunning mother-of-pearl altar. Built under the malevolent order of a tyrannical priest, the building of this church cost the lives of many islanders. Today Mangareva is much more peaceful, as you will see during our island walks. There will be nature walks, a hike up to Mount Duff or you can simply wander around the small, fruit tree fringed village of Rikitea.

Day 13 At sea.

Day 14 Puka Rua, Tuamotus. Located on the outer fringes of French Polynesia, Puka Rua faces thousands of miles of open ocean. As we visit this small community, we will be enthusiastically greeted with genuine friendliness and lively music. We may also have a chance to swim or snorkel off the island's lovely beaches.

Day 15 Puka Puka, Tuamotus. Today we visit Puka Puka. To honour you and fellow guests, the islanders proudly decorate their tidy village with green palm fronds and flowers, and welcome you with a fragrant flower lei and entrancing dances. We will sample traditional coconut treats and watch a demonstration of how copra, the dried meat of the coconut, is prepared for its various uses. Snorkellers will find a bounty of vibrant corals and iridescent reef fishes in the warm waters, while beach walkers can investigate the inter-tidal zone with naturalists.

Day 16 Raroia, Tuamotus. After a morning at sea we arrive into Raroia at lunchtime. Raroia is known for its pearl farming and we will see the strings of oysters all around the local farms. We will explore the island on a variety of walks and observe the entertaining and beautiful black noddies.

Day 17 Motutunga & Tahanea, Tuamotus. Motutunga Atoll was first sighted by James Cook in 1773 who named it 'Adventure' after the name of his own ship. Both Motutunga and Tahanea are uninhabited atolls and offer some



of the finest snorkelling in the Tuamotu Archipelago. Activities here include nature walks, searching for the Atoll Fruit Dove and Tuamotu Sandpiper.

Day 18 Fakarava, Tuamotus. This protected atoll, along with its six neighbouring islands, makes up a UNESCO classified nature reserve. It supports some especially rare flora and fauna and also offers excellent snorkelling opportunities. The local villagers of Rotoava will demonstrate their handicrafts and cultural traditions.

Day 19 Rangiroa, Tuamotus. As one of the world's largest coral atolls, Rangiroa has a magnificent lagoon surrounded by small islets or motus, stretching as far as the eye can see, down its length of nearly 45 miles. Today, a variety of activities await. There will be a chance to tour a black pearl farm, enjoy free time in the enchanting local village of Avatoru or snorkel or swim from the local beaches.



Zodiac

arrived from Hawaii. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the centre of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this day. This morning's island tour will include a visit to the celebrated Mt. Temehani. This afternoon we move over to the neighbouring island of Taha'a.

Day 22 Bora Bora, Society Islands. One of the most stunning islands on the planet, Bora Bora's interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War Two relics, ending with a cocktail at the infamous Bloody Marys bar.

Day 23 At sea.

Day 24 Atiu & Takutea, Cook Islands. Our first stop in the Cook Islands is the small island of Atiu. With only 560 residents, we will be guaranteed a special welcome. There will be the chance to join the local expert "birdman George" on a walking tour to search for the Rarotonga monarch, chattering kingfisher, Cook Islands fruit dove and Atiu swiftlet. Alternatively discover the island on a tour which will include James Cook's landing site from 1777 and the coffee plantations and visit some of the local houses. This afternoon sail over to Takutea for an afternoon of snorkelling where we hope to sight turtles, white tip reef shark, Pacific steephead parrotfish and the rare and strange looking humpnose unicornfish.

Day 25 Aitutaki, Cook Islands. This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. There will be time to explore the sleepy village of

Arutanga and visit the oldest church in the Cook Islands.

Day 26 Palmerston, Cook Islands. The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers should catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds.



Clown fish

Day 27 At sea.

Day 28 Niue. We will explore Alofi Village and stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some of the world's most sought after stamps may be purchased. At Matapa Chasm, a secluded cliff in the sea cliffs, we will discover the perfect swimming hole.

Day 29 Niuatoputapu, Tonga. After crossing the International Date Line (so it is now 14 January), we arrive in Niuatoputapu in the kingdom of Tonga, a lovely untouched island where tourists are still a rarity.

Day 30 Niuafu'ou, Tonga. Niuafu'ou is the most northerly island in the kingdom of Tonga. The island is a volcano located on an underwater ridge, 190 kilometres west of the line of all the other volcanoes of Tonga. We will explore the lava flows on nature walks and enjoy some excellent snorkelling.

Day 31 Wallis Island. Well off the beaten track, Wallis Island, part of the smallest of France's three South Pacific territories, sits on the threshold of Polynesia and Melanesia and is isolated from its neighbours geographically, culturally and politically. We will explore the interior of the island visiting Mata Utu Cathedral, the crater lakes of Mt Lulu Fakahega and the recently excavated fort at Taliatumu.

Day 32 Futuna Island. This

morning we land at Futuna where we will see the famous Church of Pierre Chanel, a peculiar church with a stepped tower erected to honour Polynesia's first and only Catholic Saint. Later enjoy nature walks on the beaches to take in the amazing scenery and wildlife.

Day 33 Taveuni, Fiji. Today we visit the 'Garden Island of Fiji'. Explore Lake Tagimaucia which occupies a volcanic crater at an altitude of 800 metres and look out for the rare Tagimaucia flower. Alternatively visit the Tavoro Forest Reserve and see the waterfalls. On a guided nature walk we hope to discover some of the indigenous animals and birdlife of the island.

Day 34 Savusavu, Vanua Levu. Often referred to as Fiji's hidden



Hawksbill turtle

paradise, Savusavu is much the same as it was 30 years ago. It was originally established as a centre for sailing ships trading in sandalwood and copra. It is a small bustling town with an interesting heritage and the surrounding landscape is stunning.

Day 35 Fiji to London. Disembark in Lautoka and enjoy an island tour including lunch before transferring to the airport for your indirect flight to London.

Day 36 London Heathrow. Arrive this morning.

Prices per person

Based on double occupancy. Tour Code: **SCCSK16122**

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Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Promenade Corner	Promenade Premium Balcony	Bridge Deluxe Balcony
Double	£12995	£13995	£14995	£15995	£16995	£18495	£19495
Sole	£14995	£16495	£17995	-	-	-	-

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Santiago on bed and breakfast basis, 32 nights aboard the MS Caledonia Sky on full board with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, lunch on day 35, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, local departure tax.

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD PREFER A SHORTER VOYAGE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, IT IS POSSIBLE TO SAIL FROM EASTER ISLAND TO TAHITI OR FROM TAHITI TO FIJI.

In the Wake of the Bounty

Easter Island to Tahiti: 16th December 2012 to 6th January 2013

Prices per person

Based on double occupancy. Tour Code: **SCCSKBOUNT**

BOOK BEFORE 30 DECEMBER 2011 AND SAVE £500 OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Promenade Corner	Promenade Premium Balcony	Bridge Deluxe Balcony
Double	£7995	£8395	£8995	£9495	£9995	£10795	£11295
Sole	£8995	£9795	£10995	-	-	-	-

Nomads of the Wind

Tahiti to Fiji: 2nd to 21st January 2013

Prices per person

Based on double occupancy. Tour Code: **SCCSKNOMA**

BOOK BEFORE 30 DECEMBER 2011 AND SAVE £500 OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Promenade Corner	Promenade Premium Balcony	Bridge Deluxe Balcony
Double	£7295	£7695	£8295	£8795	£9295	£9995	£10495
Sole	£8295	£9095	£10295	-	-	-	-

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 1 or 2 nights pre-cruise hotel accommodation, 17 or 15 nights aboard the MS Caledonia Sky on full board with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, lunch in Fiji on Nomads of the Wind, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, local departure tax.

Previous Adventures in the South Seas

To give you a taste of what can be expected from an expedition cruise in the South Seas, here are a couple of extracts from a similar cruise aboard the MS Clipper Odyssey which we operated in 2009.

Pukarua Atoll

Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia
Tuesday September 22nd, 2009

Just after lunch, the Clipper Odyssey arrived at Pukarua, surrounded by a coral reef without any pass; it is 17 kilometres long by 4½ kilometres wide, with a long motu in its northeastern reef where the only village, Marautagaroa, is located and where most of the 190 inhabitants of the atoll live.

Going ashore was a little adventure. Indeed, in the absence of a clear pass, our zodiacs had to make their way through the breakers in a narrow channel leading to a little port. The experience was enjoyed by all as we waited for the right wave and then surfed it down towards the island. The experience was also enjoyed by the local inhabitants who had gathered on the shore to welcome us. The traditional lei were distributed and then we boarded a couple of buses (or walked) across the motu towards the village. The lagoon displayed splendid colours as we arrived along its shores. Coconuts were distributed to refresh us and then we gathered for the customary speech from the mayor of the village. This was followed by a show of traditional dances.

This tidy and very beautiful little atoll made a good impression on all of us. Some went swimming in the lagoon before we headed back to the zodiacs.



Pitcairn Island

Friday September 25th, 2009

The long awaited day finally arrived. At dawn, the Clipper Odyssey was going full speed toward Pitcairn Island, still beyond the horizon. Breakfast was followed by a presentation by Louis on the breadfruit voyages: the famous Bounty and its mutiny and the Pandora expedition. Just as Louis was finishing, John announced that Pitcairn Island had come in sight. The weather conditions were marvellous with glorious sunshine over flat calm sparkling waters and the rock of Pitcairn gradually revealed its many shades and 13 colours, due to both vegetation and geology. The seas were so calm that, as the ship closed in on Bounty Bay, we could see the bottom of the ocean through the crystal-clear layer of water.

The ride ashore was quite fast and soon we stood on the concrete jetty of Bounty Bay. The road to Adamstown, the settlement on Pitcairn Island, was quite steep so some of us hitched a ride on one of the quads or in little buggy-taxis. We gathered in the main square of the town - in fact in the church - for a presentation by the Pitcairners themselves, after which shopping was open with little stands selling locally-made handicrafts, honey and postcards. The post office (with its special Pitcairn-Island postal stamps), community hall and museum (containing the famous Bounty Bible) were all close by and most of us visited each of



them at some stage during the day.

Our naturalists then organised walks around and across the island. Pam and Stuart led a discovery expedition to the main points of interest of the island, the school, the cemetery where the graves bear the names of Brown, Young, McCoy or Christian besides just a handful of other names, John Adams's grave (the longest surviving mutineers), which is a little further away and next to those of his Polynesian wife and daughter, the Bounty's cannon and its anchor (in the main square). Guy guided a longer trek around the island, calling at its summit for 360° views and visiting the valleys which produce a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including citrus, watermelon, banana, yam, sugarcane. Louis took some of us on an exploring adventure to Christian's Cave, the place where Fletcher Christian reportedly kept a watch for possible ships passing in the area. We all enjoyed the luxuriant vegetation, the jungle trails, and all the colourful flowers that were on our paths. Geraldine organised quad-bike excursions for some of us who wanted to roam a little further afield. Back on the Clipper Odyssey in the evening, the conversations were very lively and all were thoroughly happy with our successful visit to Pitcairn Island, a highlight for many. The Pitcairners were invited onboard for appetizers and drinks and it was great to be able to chat with them one last time. At sunset, anchor was raised and the Clipper Odyssey drifted quietly away from Pitcairn Island, leaving the island and its small community once more alone in the middle of the Pacific Ocean; and we headed down the stairs towards our own lovely dinner.

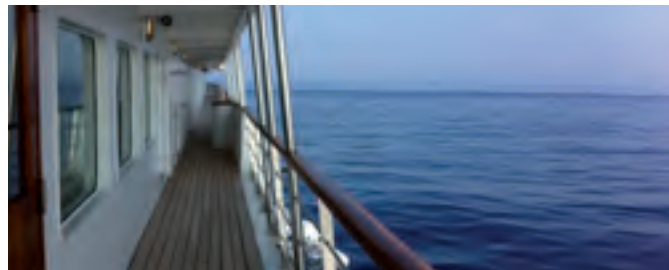


MS Caledonian Sky

We are delighted to have acquired the MS Caledonian Sky, sister ship to the MS Island Sky. Formerly known as Hebridean Spirit, this 114-passenger vessel begins her new life with Noble Caledonia in 2012 following an extensive refurbishment. Built in the same ship yard as the MS Island Sky, the MS Caledonian Sky shares the same attributes as her sister vessel, joining her as one of the finest small ships in the world.

Your Suite

Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. The passenger accommodation is arranged over four decks and all suites have outside views. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, hot towel rack and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or bath tub. Facilities in the suites also include walk-in or spacious



wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, flat screen television, telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. In addition there is the Club Lounge on the Panoramic Deck which features a bar. The onboard travel library is the

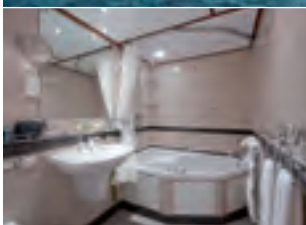
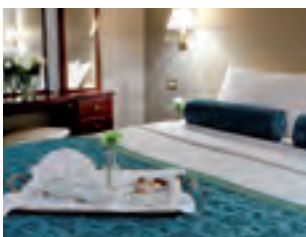
deck there is a further observation and sun deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. There is also a small gymnasium onboard and hairdressers with appointments made on request.

Dining Onboard

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the quality of cuisine will be of a consistent superior quality. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, our accomplished chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. Such

perfect place to relax with a book and is stocked with reference books pertaining to the places the vessel is visiting along with a selection of games and two computers with internet access.

Outside there is a rear Lido deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top



purchases enhance the well stocked larders and bring a local touch to the varied menus. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order and lunch and dinner is à la carte. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner.

For Your Comfort, Safety & Security

Our vessel is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. The Captain and officers operate an open-bridge policy that allows passengers onto the bridge at most times with the exception of arrival and departure from port and during times of complicated navigation. Here you can check the ship's progress by charts and learn more from the officers about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and doctor and a lift that serves all decks.

Your Day to Day Life Onboard

Onboard the MS Caledonian Sky, you will not find endless entertainment, round the clock buffets and the people management which is so much a part of today's big ship style. Instead the atmosphere on board is warm and peaceful and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded

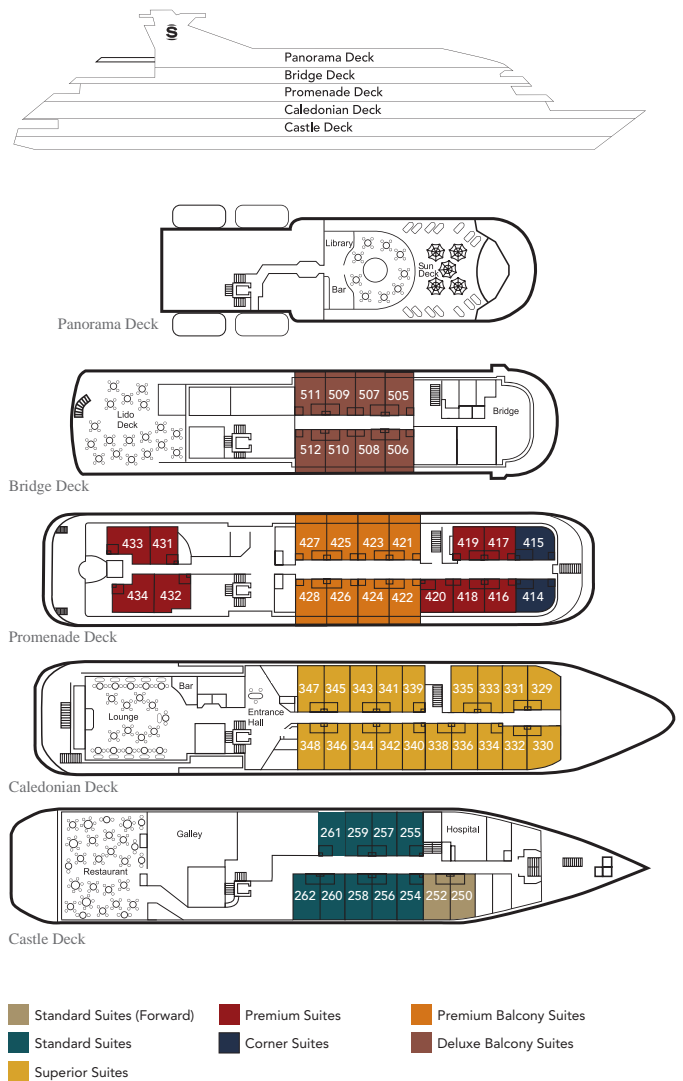


people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, guest speakers and informative port briefings from our expedition leader, all contribute to make any voyage aboard the MS Caledonian Sky a memorable and joyful experience. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no 'black tie' evenings.

Exploring Ashore

One of the joys of expedition cruising aboard a small vessel is the flexibility it allows. Although we set sail with a set itinerary it is the unscheduled events that often become the highlight of the journey and with our fleet of Zodiac landing craft, we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries, land in otherwise inaccessible places and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers.

Deck Plan



Due to the planned refurbishment of the vessel, there are currently very few images available. Once refurbishment of the vessel is underway, you will be able to keep up to date with progress being made via our website www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



This cruise visits out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and many landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Cruises such as this will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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