

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

AEGEAN COASTAL VOYAGE

A VOYAGE BETWEEN ISTANBUL & ATHENS ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER NIGEL MCGILCHRIST

22ND TO 30TH APRIL 2025

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Topkapi Palace



Myrina, Lemnos



The White Tower, Thessaloniki



Spring is a wonderful time of the year to cruise through the Aegean and discover some of the most historic and fascinating places in Turkey and Greece. The awe-inspiring sites of the region have attracted, inspired, and fascinated travellers throughout the centuries and during our eight night voyage between Istanbul and Athens, we will visit some splendid archaeological sites, learning of the great cities and civilisations that flourished and fell through ancient times. Spend time exploring the ruins of the ancient city of Troy, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Philippi, an exceptional example of Roman architecture and the Meteora (monasteries in midair), learn of the intriguing history of the Vergina Royal Tombs and spend time on two charming Aegean Islands, Lemnos and Syros.

By the end of the cruise you will have seen and learnt so much, all from the comfort of the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky which allows us access to some ports which the big ships simply cannot reach. With just over 100 fellow passengers, our trips ashore with local guides will be a pleasure and whether your interest lies in ancient history, culture and the myths of ancient Greece and Turkey or simply the joy of experiencing unfamiliar places, this journey has something for everyone.



Guest Speaker – Nigel McGilchrist



Nigel McGilchrist has lived and worked in the Mediterranean – Italy, Turkey and Greece – for nearly forty years. After graduating from Oxford with a starred First in English, he began teaching at the University of Rome and subsequently worked for the Italian Superintendence of Fine Arts. All his spare time was spent exploring the lands, coasts and the cultures of the Mediterranean world. He has lectured for many years on the art and history of the area for museums

and institutions in Europe and America – among them, the Getty Museum and the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. He has taken many specialist tours to Italy, Greece, Sicily and Malta; and has been a Guest Speaker for several Noble Caledonia cruises. He was formerly Dean of European Studies for a consortium of American universities. He is the author of a twenty-volume series of survey/guides of the archaeology, history and art of the sixty inhabited Aegean Islands. He lived previously in Umbria, where he produced wine and oil; he now lives in Greece.



Hagia Sophia

Ruins of the ancient city of Philippi



The Itinerary

Day 1 London or Manchester to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and embark. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Istanbul. Spend the morning at the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Since 1924 it has been preserved as a museum, and it is noted for its beautiful, shaded courtyards and elegant architecture. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the city further at your own pace. Maybe visit the Hagia Sophia, 6th century Basilica Cistern or find a bargain at the Grand Bazaar. Be on deck this evening as we sail along the Bosphorus.

Day 3 Canakkale for Troy. Arrive over breakfast into the port of Canakkale, our gateway for Troy. Ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was at one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. Our tour follows the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann, the archaeologist who discovered Troy and 'Priam's Treasure', the jewels that, Schliemann claimed, were worn by Helen of Troy. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. We can also visit the onsite Troy Museum. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon in Canakkale where you can visit one of the many museums or wander along the waterfront promenade.

Day 4 Kavala for Philippi, Greece. After a morning at sea we arrive at the ancient port of Neapolis, modern day Kavala, which is where St Paul first stepped on European soil following his journey from Troas in Turkey. From our berth we make our way to nearby Philippi. Founded in 360 BC and then occupied by Phillip II of Macedon, the city grew as an important stop on the Via Egnatia trading route between Europe and Asia. After the battle of Philippi in 42 BC, the city became the eastern cornerstone of the Roman Empire and it was here in 49 AD when St Paul preached and began the first steps of Christianity in Europe. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we will visit the ruins of the ancient city, the two Basilicas, the Forum, the Octagon, St Paul's Church and the classical theatre.

Day 5 Lemnos & Mount Athos. Awake in Myrina, the small capital of Lemnos in the northern Aegean, known for its romantic castle built over the rocky promontory. The castle foundations date back to classical times when it was the site of the temple of Artemis. Our guided morning walk will include the picturesque quay, Romeikos Gialos, lined with charming Neoclassical houses,

one of which contains the Archaeological Museum. Sail over lunch and in the late afternoon we arrive off the Athos Peninsula which is dominated by the peak of Mount Athos which rises to 2033 metres. Also known as Holy Mountain, a monastic community was established here in 963 when the monk Athanasios established the monastery of Great Lavra, the largest and most prominent of the 20 monasteries located here. We will cruise along the coastline viewing the monasteries from the sea whilst our onboard guides will provide commentary

Day 6 Thessaloniki. Since its foundation by King Cassander of Macedonia in 315 BC and named after his wife and stepsister of Alexander the Great, Thessaloniki has always been a metropolis. The long history of the city is evident by the varied architectural forms from the Hellenistic era up to the end of the 20th century as well as an astonishing Byzantine artistic heritage. This morning you may choose to join the guided tour of the city seeing the White Tower, the symbol of the city, the Galerious Arch, the Rotunda, St Dimitrios Church, the Citadel and the City Walls, from where there are marvellous views of the city and the Thermaic Gulf with Mount Olympus in the background. Alternatively drive to the Vergina Royal Tombs Museum which displays the superb, decorated facades of the temple-like tombs of King Philip II (father of Alexander the Great) and a young prince (thought to be Alexander IV, son of Alexander the Great), the treasures found within them and a reconstruction of the Great Mound that originally marked the site of the Royal Tombs. The tombs were discovered in 1977-78 by the archaeologist Manolis Andronikos and, until their discovery they were covered by a protective tumulus 13 metres high and 110 metres across. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

Day 7 Volos. Arrive today in Volos, the starting point of the expedition of Jason and the Argonauts from Greek Mythology. Located in the Pagasetic Gulf at the foot of Mount Pelion, there will be a choice of tours today. A full day tour will head through the fertile plains of Thessaly towards Meteora ("monasteries in midair"), one of the most extraordinary sights in Greece and in all Europe. Rising from Thessaly's valley are gigantic rocks on top of which are monasteries built by hermits some 600 years ago and which are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the monastery of Varlaam, originally founded in the 14th century and covered in fine frescoes and the monastery of Roussanou. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to the ship. Alternatively, you can join the Pelion Train which was constructed between 1894 and 1903 and ascends the beautiful slopes of the mountain to the historic village of Milea. We will view verdant slopes, dense vegetation of plane trees and oaks, arched bridges and tunnels as we climb. On arrival in Milea we walk the cobbled



Post-cruise Athens Extension

30th April to 2nd May 2025

If you would like to spend some time in Athens after your cruise, we are offering a two night hotel extension in the city inclusive of guided tours.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Athens, Greece. Disembark this morning and drive to the Acropolis, a symbol of the glory of ancient Greece. After exploring the fascinating site, a brief walk will bring you to the new Acropolis Museum before we make our way to Plaka for a traditional Greek lunch. Later check into our hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Cape Sounion. Leaving the city we drive south to Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon. It is one of the major monuments of the Golden Age of Athens and one of the “sacred triangle” of temples alongside the Parthenon in Athens and Temple of Aphaia in Aegina. Nearby, see the Temple of Athena and a fortress built in 413 BC during the Peloponnesian War against the Spartans. After lunch we return to our hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 Athens to London or Manchester. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£895**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Athens, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, tours as described, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



paths to the centre of the village where we find the 18th century church, the folklore museum and one of the oldest libraries in Greece. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon, relax on board or spend a leisurely afternoon in Volos, maybe take a walk along the pedestrianized seaside promenade, the Argonauts Way.

Day 8 Syros. Spend a relaxing morning on board cruising to the island of Syros which was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century and the capital Ermoupolis was Greece’s principal port. Arriving in the early afternoon, we will take a walk in the town of Ermoupolis, the capital of the Cyclades. The prosperity of the island in the 19th and early 20th century created through commerce and shipping is reflected in the architecture with a beautiful square, town hall and theatre. We will sail late this evening for those who wish to take a post-dinner stroll.

Day 9 Athens to London or Manchester. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London or Manchester.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5295	£4995
Byrd	Superior	£5495	£5195
Mawson	Premium	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Corner	£5995	£5695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6495	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795	£7495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Hebridean Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Hebridean Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or, outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Amundsen Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Scott Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

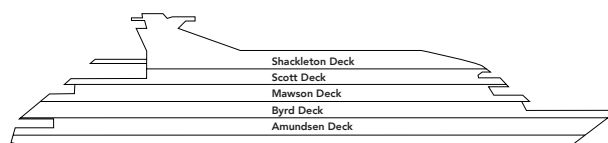
Your Comfort

The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

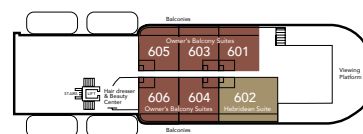
Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

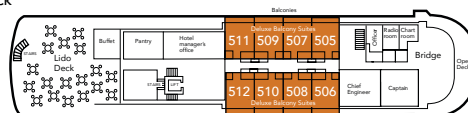
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



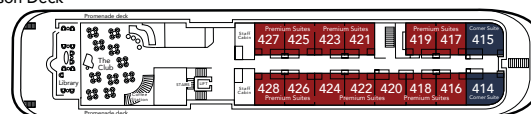
Shackleton Deck



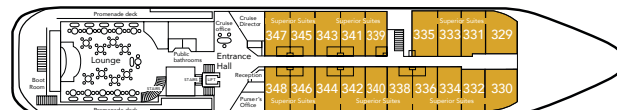
Scott Deck



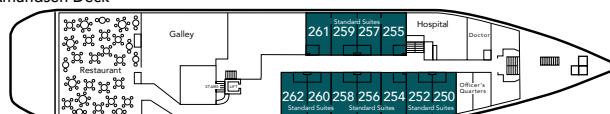
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Hebridean Suite
- Premium Suites

Please note that beds in each suite can be configured as double or twin with the exception of suites 601 and 602 which feature a fixed double bed.



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Meteora Monastery, Volos.