

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE AEGEAN

A VOYAGE FROM ISTANBUL TO LIMASSOL
WITH GUEST SPEAKER
DR DAVID PRICE-WILLIAMS
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY
12TH TO 24TH OCTOBER 2021

The awe-inspiring sites of the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean have attracted, inspired, and fascinated travellers throughout the centuries and during this voyage we will concentrate on the splendid archaeological sites of the Eastern Aegean, an incomparable region of Greek and Roman architectural treasures. Visiting some of the most historic and scenically beautiful places in Turkey and Greece, our itinerary represents small ship cruising at its best and is timed for October when the absence of high summer crowds will contribute towards making this a very memorable journey. By the end of the cruise you will have seen and learnt so much, all from the comfort of the all-suite MS Island Sky which allows us access to ports which the big ships simply can't reach.

Our cruise begins in Istanbul, a city of endless fascination and a fitting starting place for our voyage to the great sites of antiquity.

We continue to some truly magnificent ancient sites including Pergamum, one of the cultural capitals of antiquity and one of the finest archaeological sites in Turkey, and Ephesus, one of the most famous Graeco-Roman sites in the Mediterranean. We continue to Greece enjoying some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in the Mediterranean, learning more about the great cities that flourished and fell and the intriguing civilisations that so coveted these ancient lands before returning to the Turkish coast and finally across to Cyprus.

After many years of experience of operating cruises in the Aegean, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with a mix of guided excursions and time at leisure to explore the charming villages independently. We have planned some late departures from port, which affords the opportunity to enjoy an after dinner stroll in some towns which are particularly atmospheric in the evening. With just over 100 fellow passengers, our trips ashore with local guides will be a pleasure and whether your interest lies in ancient history, modern politics or simply the joy of experiencing new places, this journey has something for everyone.



Guest Speaker – Dr David Price-Williams



David Price-Williams has a first degree from the University of Wales in Ancient Near Eastern languages with a subsidiary in Attic and Koine Greek. His post-graduate work and his doctorate, from the University of London, is in Near Eastern archaeology. His first overseas archaeological field work in the eastern Mediterranean was in 1969 as a field surveyor at the classical site of Knidos in Turkey. He then worked for the Smithsonian Institution as an archaeological field

surveyor on excavations in the Near East before directing his own field research in the same area through the early 1970s. David has just retired after almost forty years lecturing on the Archaeology of Western Asia (Eastern Mediterranean) at the Institute of Archaeology for the University of London Extra Mural Department. He is the author and co-author of numerous academic papers on the area and several books. David has designed and lectured on many tours to Greece, Turkey and the Near East and is very familiar with the archaeological sites of Turkey. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, an elected life member of the Society for Old Testament Studies as well as the Southern African Quaternary Research Association.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey.

Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner and be on deck after dinner as we depart our berth and sail down the Bosphorus.

Day 2 Canakkale for Troy.

Enjoy a leisurely morning at sea arriving in the early afternoon at 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 new Troy museum on site.

Day 3 Pergamum. From the port of Dikili we will drive inland to Pergamum with its splendid Acropolis towering above the valley of the Caicus River. This city, built by Alexander's warring generals became one of the cultural capitals of antiquity, its library rivaling those of Athens and Alexandria. Today Pergamum is



Celsus Library, Ephesus



one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. We will take a cable car up to the Acropolis to see the remains of the citadel and the city walls, the foundations of the Zeus Altar and the Royal Palace. We will enjoy a local lunch and time in the archaeological museum before returning to the MS Island Sky and sailing this evening.

Day 4 Kusadasi for Ephesus. From our berth in Kusadasi we will drive to the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings including the library of Celsus and the temples of Serapis and Hadrian. Once the capital of Ionia, St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey and we will see the spectacular Grand Theatre, originally built in the 3rd century BC by the Greeks, and later expanded by the Romans. This afternoon is at leisure to explore Kusadasi independently.

Day 5 Patmos, Greece. Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western; it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into the beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. From here we continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Return to the ship for

lunch and enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 6 Kos. According to myth, Kos was the homeland of the Giants. The island has given to the world Hippocrates, father of medicine and the 4th century painter Apelles. We will drive the short distance to the Asklepion, the infirmary of Antiquity, which was constructed in the 4th century BC. Among the ruins are part of the Doric Temple of Aesculapius, the altar and the Stoa which housed the famous Hippocrates Medical School. After lunch on board you have the afternoon to explore Kos Town at your own pace, maybe head to the once impregnable Castle of the Knights, the 3rd century BC Agora, see the museum housing fine mosaics or simply relax at one of the cafes in the squares.

Day 7 Rhodes. Our tour this morning will take us to the ancient Acropolis of Lindos. From here the views of the Pelagus and St Paul's Bay, where the apostle anchored during his voyage to Ephesus, are stunning. The Medieval walls which guard Lindos were constructed by the Knights of St John. This afternoon there will be the opportunity to relax on board, explore at leisure or join a guided Rhodes Town walk before sailing in the late evening.

Day 8 Xanthos & Patara, Turkey. From the harbour at Fethiye, we travel south east to discover the rich Lycian towns of the past. Drive along the Esme River to the ancient city of Xanthos, Lycia's prominent

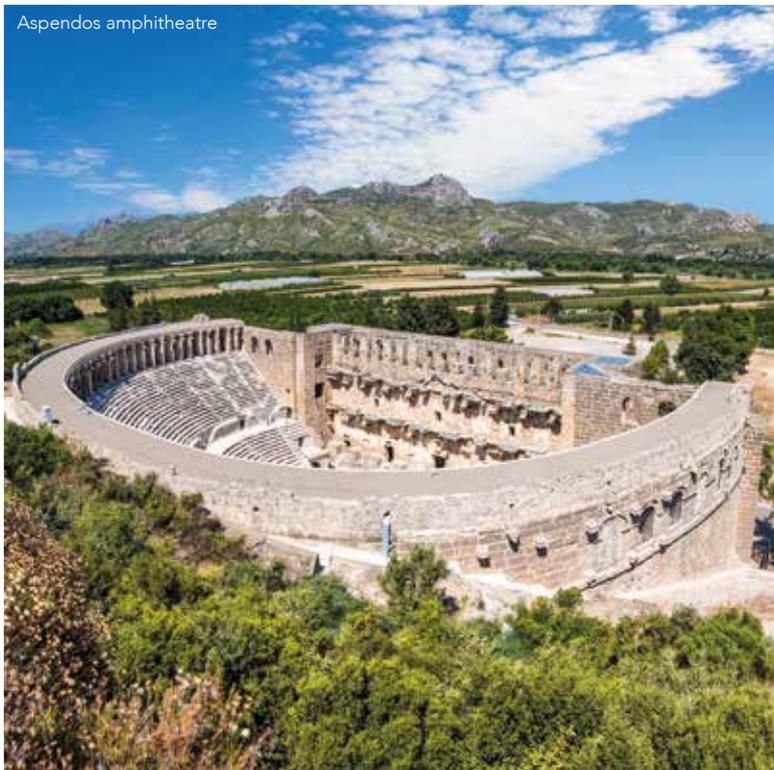
capital city built on a great cliff overlooking the river. Xanthos boasts several significant ruins, including the Nereid Monument, an exquisite iconic building whose figured friezes are in the British Museum. Continue to Letoon, a city named after Leto, mother Goddess of Lycians. We will see the ruins of the temples dedicated to Leto, Artemis and Apollo and the amphitheatre. Enjoy a local lunch before visiting Patara, located amidst sand dunes and by a long sandy beach. The city was conquered by Alexander the Great and St Paul stopped here on his way to Rome in AD 60. It was also the birthplace of St Nicholas. See the Grand Theatre and the ruins of the temples.

Day 9 Myra & Kekova. From our anchorage in the Bay of Cayagzi we will use local boats to visit the ancient port of Myra, the former capital of Lycia and the departure point of Paul to Rome in 60 AD. Surrounded by orchards and miles of greenhouses stands a large, well-preserved Roman theatre backed by splendid Lycian cave-tombs with delicately carved façades. In the town of Myra, the birthplace of St Nicholas, we visit the 11th century Church of St Nicholas, only recently excavated, with its faded frescoes and beautiful mosaic floors. After lunch on board, this afternoon is free to relax or join a local boat excursion into Kekova Bay. Here we can view the half-submerged ruins of the ancient city of Simena. We will also land at the village of Kalekoy where a strenuous walk will take us up to

the Lycian castle with sarcophagi overlooking the sea.

Day 10 Antalya. Over breakfast we will arrive in Antalya from where we explore the principal Roman ruins along Turkey's southern coast. We will pass the modern city of Antalya en-route to the ancient city of Perge which dates back to 1000 BC and was founded by Mopsus and Calchas after their retreat from Troy. See the Basilica of Perge, which played an important role in the spread of Christianity, the 2nd century AD stadium, the baths complex and two magnificent round towers of the Greek Gate. We drive further east for a visit to Aspendos, whose amphitheatre built in the 2nd century AD is considered the best preserved in the Mediterranean. After lunch in a local restaurant continue to Antalya to visit the excellent Archaeological Museum.

Day 11 Alanya. Our final day in Turkey will be based in Alanya. After breakfast we will drive through the town, with views of the Taurus Mountains in the east, then towards Incekum along the Turkish Riviera to the west, where we pass citrus and banana plantations and visit Damlatas Cave which is a masterpiece of nature, known for its curative effect on asthma. Drive along the beautiful Turkish Riviera towards the ancient city of Side which was one of the leading Pamphylian cities on the south coast of Anatolia. Visit the Grand Theatre, a perfect example of a Roman theatre built on vaults on flat land. Walk through the town, view the old harbour and see the remains



Aspendos amphitheatre

of the Apollo Temple. After lunch on board, this afternoon is free to explore the town of Alanya with its Medieval fort perched on a rocky peninsula.

Day 12 Paphos, Cyprus. After a leisurely morning at sea we arrive at our anchorage at Paphos over lunch. Paphos was the ancient capital of Cyprus and birthplace of Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love and Beauty symbolised by the legendary Aphrodite's Rock. We will visit the 13th century Chrysopolitissa Church which is shared by the Anglican and Catholic congregation. Saint Paul

visited Paphos in 45 AD in an attempt to convert the ruler of the time to Christianity. He was successful in his efforts, but not before being tied and whipped to an otherwise unremarkable lump of stone, the Pillar of Saint Paul, which we will see during our visit. Also see the archaeological park, known as the House of Dionysos with the fabulously preserved mosaics which date back to the 2nd century AD.

Day 13 Limassol to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£6995	£6595
Columbus	Superior	£7195	£6795
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£8195	£7795
Marco Polo	Premium Balcony	£8395	£7995
Marco Polo	Corner Balcony	£8995	£8595
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£8995	£8595
Explorer	Island Suite	£9995	£9595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£9395	£8995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£9595	£9195

Please note that for this sailing the MS Island Sky is configured differently to usual with more balcony cabins and the relevant deck plan can be viewed overleaf.

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Turkish visa.

Istanbul Pre-cruise Extension

9th to 12th October 2021



Blue Mosque

For those who wish to spend some time discovering Istanbul before embarking the MS Island Sky we are offering a three night hotel extension with included sightseeing.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to the Pera Palace Hotel for our three night stay. Meet tonight for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 2 Sultanahmet. After breakfast at the hotel we start our exploration of Istanbul at the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Next, visit the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles and Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire. After lunch at a local restaurant we will return to the hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 3 Istanbul. This morning we will venture into Istanbul's famous Spice Market to enjoy the sounds and smells before making our way to the Rustem Pasha Mosque. After our visit we will take a cruise on the Bosphorous. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner.

Day 4 Istanbul. Take some time to explore independently or relax in the hotel before we check out in the late morning. After a local lunch we will continue to the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica, later an imperial mosque and today a museum. A short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent covered cisterns in Istanbul. In the late afternoon we will transfer to the MS Island Sky.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£995** Single: **£1495**

Price Includes: Three nights hotel accommodation at the Pera Palace Hotel in Istanbul with breakfast • Lunch on days 2 & 4 • Dinner on days 1 & 3 • Tours as described • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, Turkish visa.

Limassol Post-cruise Extension

24th to 26th October 2021



Kolossi Castle

For those who wish to spend some time exploring Limassol before returning to London, we are offering a two night hotel extension at the Mediterranean Beach Hotel in Limassol.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Limassol, Cyprus. Disembark the MS Island Sky this morning. During our tour of Limassol we will see the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus. We will continue to the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre which has been completely restored and is used today for open-air musical and theatrical performances. We will also visit Kolossi Castle. After lunch we will transfer to the Mediterranean Beach Hotel for check in. The remainder of the day is at leisure before dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 2 Limassol. Spend the day at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel or take the local bus into Limassol town centre. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Larnaca to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deluxe Sea View Room: **£495**

Deluxe Sea View Room for sole use: **£645**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation in a sea view room at the Mediterranean Beach Hotel in Limassol on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner daily) • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Guided tours on day 1 as described • Lunch on day 1 • Gratuities • Transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 Island 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 seating 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 each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

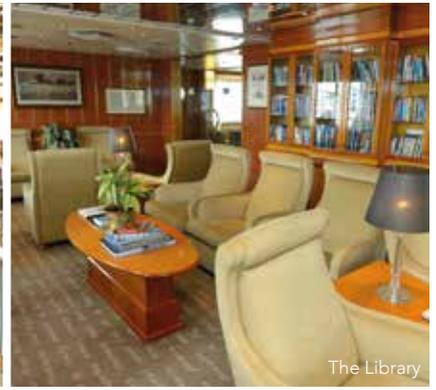
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants 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.



Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus 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 Marco Polo 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 Columbus 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 as well as 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 Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

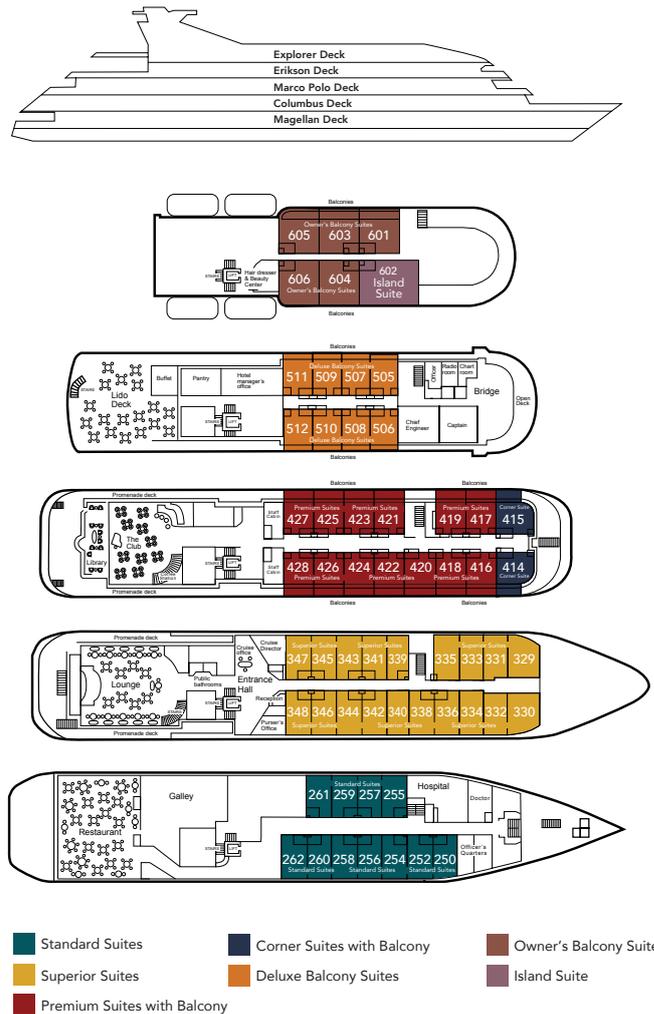
Your Comfort

The MS Island 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 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 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 ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



Please note that for this sailing, the vessel will be configured differently to usual with suites on the Marco Polo Deck featuring private balconies.



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