

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

ANTARCTICA LAND OF HEROES

AN EXPEDITION TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS,
SOUTH GEORGIA & THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

10TH NOVEMBER TO 3RD DECEMBER &
29TH NOVEMBER TO 22ND DECEMBER 2023



NOBLE CALEDONIA



King penguin colony, South Georgia

Antarctica has produced more than its fair share of heroes. It is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character to deeds requiring extreme courage. The expeditions of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, Ross, Byrd and many others are a shining example of honour, strength and perseverance which today still inspire us and it will be a privilege to explore these same waters aboard the 118-passenger MS Island Sky. Our expedition combines the wonders of the Antarctic Peninsula with the Falkland Islands and magnificent South Georgia.

Even today after many decades of exploration, Antarctica still remains a world apart, a majestic last frontier surpassing even the most jaded of travellers' expectations. It is hard to put into words the sheer grandeur of an Antarctic landscape. This most southern of continents, this desert of ice, is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of an Antarctic landscape. Enormous icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs dotted in the ocean; the sights, sounds and emotions will stay with you forever.

Our expedition begins with two days in the Falkland Islands, a truly enchanting place with a unique character and staggering wildlife. This is the last sanctuary of the elegant albatross which soars graciously against the blue sky, with colonies of elephant seals basking at the foot of vertiginous cliffs. We continue to South Georgia where you will experience one of the world's natural wonders, the 'Alps in mid-ocean', offering remarkable concentrations of wildlife against a backdrop of glaciers and snow-covered mountains. Hugging the coast to the wildest reaches of the island we will land on beaches alive with rampaging fur seals, somnolent elephant seals and truly astonishing numbers of King penguins. We have three days of exploration in this unique animal paradise and using the Zodiacs there will be landings each day allowing you the optimum time ashore to experience this rich animal kingdom. The final landings of our expedition will be on the Antarctic Peninsula where we have ample time to discover the icy wonders and wonderful array of wildlife before we sail to Ushuaia.





MS Island Sky Small Ship Cruising at its Best

Antarctica is to be experienced, not just to be seen, and we believe the only way to do this is on board a small ship in order to maximise the time spent ashore. To enjoy the wonders of this icy paradise in the company of a small and enthusiastic party is the perfect way to achieve the most from a visit to this extraordinary place and travelling with you on board will be polar expedition experts and naturalists with many years of experience in Antarctica who will add immeasurably to your experience. In between our landings and while at sea, you can pass the time on deck looking for wildlife, attend the series of lectures by members of the expedition team and simply relax on board. There are ships in Antarctica carrying higher numbers of passengers than the 100 guests on board the MS Island Sky, however due to the restrictions placed on vessels as to how many passengers may land at any one time, the larger vessels can only offer very restricted landings, whereas with the MS Island Sky, we are able to follow the strict Antarctic rules and yet have all guests ashore at the same time. For most travellers, the Antarctic experience is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible and our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky will certainly be so both in terms of the educational experience on board and the number of opportunities to go ashore.

Fur seal

What to Expect...

In Antarctica there is no such thing as a "typical" day. Flexibility is the key and sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from a previous log from the MS Island Sky which will provide you with an idea of what to expect if you choose to join this Antarctic adventure.

Antarctic Sound & Brown Bluff: Ahead of us to starboard was the northern end of the Antarctic Peninsula and on the other side were some large, ice-covered islands. There was lots of ice in the water too – brash ice, ice floes and icebergs of many shapes and sizes. Continuing southwards, it wasn't long before an interesting spot was noticed so the ship stopped and the Zodiacs were lowered. We were off on a Zodiac cruise amongst the pack ice and huge icebergs. The ship then headed further south still and eventually went in the direction of Brown Bluff, a favourite landing place. The scenery was stunning – geology on the one hand and sea and ice on the other. By now the sun had been out for some time, which added to both the 'warmth' and the colours all around us. Another very significant thing about Brown Bluff is that it is part of the continent itself so we could truly say that we had 'arrived'. For some it was their seventh continent too. The Adelie penguins were a big attraction, being the first ones that many of us had seen.

Salisbury Plain, South Georgia: From the ship we could see the huge extent of the king penguin colony, as well as a myriad of cigar-shaped rocks. The rocks were, of course, hundreds of seals of the elephant and fur kind. By the landing spot there was a group of elephants, including a pup that was still suckling. In addition, there were tiny fur seal pups around as well, which looked adorable. The male fur seals often huge and intimidating were not a problem today. A route parallel to the beach had been flagged for us by the expedition team so it was a simple matter to get to and from the king colony in small groups. The birds were so curious that if we stopped they would often come sidling up towards us, to get a better look. In their black, white, grey and orange plumage the kings looked both regal and resplendent.

Elephant Island: Elephant Island came into sight at midday but at first it was indistinct, as it blended in with the murk so well. More and more of it became apparent as we got closer but it looked pretty daunting – largely snow-covered cliffs that disappeared up into the clouds. Every now and then along the inhospitable coast there was a grounded iceberg. The captain did an excellent job of getting us into the relatively sheltered bay opposite the bust of Captain Pardo who was in command of the rescue vessel that eventually, with Worsley's knowledge, managed to get all of Shackleton's men off.





Antarctic landscape



Antarctic dolphin



Chinstrap penguin

The Itinerary – 10th November 2023 Departure

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition in Antarctica. Although we have outlined an itinerary below, this is only a preliminary plan, our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is free to relax or join an orientation tour of the city including the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo before we continue towards the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobbled streets. Our guided tour will end in La Boca where we will see the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Puerto Madryn. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Trelew and transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in Puerto Madryn. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Days 4 & 5 En-Route to the Falkland Islands. Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south are albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our expedition team will be out on deck looking for whales and dolphins that may

also be seen in the area. During our two days of sailing, our onboard experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history and geology of the Falkland Islands and the Southern Ocean. We hope to arrive in the Falkland Islands in the evening of Day 5 and if time permits make our first landing ashore.

Days 6 & 7 Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands are isolated and windswept, a haven for wildlife. Weather and wind conditions allowing, we may land on Steeple Jason, the north western outpost with the world's largest colony of black-browed albatross. See the rockhopper penguin colony and black-browed albatross on West Point Island whilst Grave Cove is home to the largest colony of gentoo penguins in the Falkland Islands. We also plan to call at Port Stanley, the charming capital of the Falkland Islands, and discover some of the historic sites there from the museums to the battlefields.

Days 8 & 9 The Southern Ocean. As we cruise towards South Georgia the richness of these waters will be evident in the marine mammal life, especially the fur seals on fishing forays. We have a good chance of spotting whales such as fins and minkies whilst the birds circling our stern will be outstanding, especially the large albatrosses and numerous breeds of petrels.

Days 10 to 12 South Georgia. We have three days of expedition cruising in and around South

Georgia, a paradise island with snow-clad mountain peaks rising 9000 feet and with 165 glaciers tumbling down towards the sea. We arrive early in the season when parts of the island will still be covered by a thin layer of snow. For anyone interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. The beaches will be covered by elephant seal bulls and females with feeding pups. They share the beach with a myriad of nesting king penguins. Most of the other sea birds will have arrived and begun nesting whilst millions of fur seals return to the beaches to breed. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches alongside thousands of pairs of king penguins. On Prion Island we visit the nesting place of the world's largest flying seabird, the wandering albatross and in Fortuna Bay we will see nesting light mantled sooty albatrosses and hope to witness their gracious courting flights. A few thousand king penguins also nest here. Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respect at the grave of 'the boss' – Ernest Shackleton.

Days 13 & 14 At sea. The waters between South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula are rich with fin whales, where in good conditions we have seen as many as a hundred in a day. If not whale watching, lookout for Antarctic petrel, Kerguelen petrel and one of the most beautiful birds of the Southern Ocean, the snow petrel. The icebergs will also become

more plentiful as we sail south. During our time at sea you can also join the lecture programme to learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

Days 15 to 19 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands. We have five days of exploration around the Peninsula which will include many of the best places for wildlife and magnificent scenery. Whilst we arrive with a planned itinerary the final schedule will be determined by our Captain and the Expedition Leader based on sea, weather and ice conditions. Using our Zodiacs we will make daily landings for unique close encounters with animals such as Adelie and gentoo penguins, fur seals and petrels. We hope to visit the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, Petermann Island, home to numbers of Adelie penguins, picturesque Neko Harbour, the Lemaire Channel where towering icebergs rise from the sea and Half Moon Island with its rookery of chinstrap penguins. We also hope to sail through the breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent.

Days 20 & 21 The Drake Passage. Two days to relax on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Enjoy a lecture, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. Named after the 16th century English seaman, Sir Francis Drake,



Exploring by Zodiac

the Drake Passage separates the southernmost tip of South America from Antarctica. This is a particularly good area to spot royal albatross and blue petrel and we will also be on the lookout for pods of sperm whales. We will arrive on the final evening in Ushuaia and berth overnight.

Day 22 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our

scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. This evening we will attend a tango show with dinner.

Day 23 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 24 London. Arrive this morning.

The Itinerary – 29th November 2023 Departure

Please note that the 29th November departure sails from Ushuaia instead of Puerto Madryn. The itinerary is shown in brief below and includes one day less at sea and six days on the Antarctic Peninsula. A full itinerary can be viewed online.

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is free to relax or join an orientation tour of the city.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. Embark the MS Island Sky moored in the city. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner and sail this evening.

Day 4 En-Route to the Falkland Islands.

Days 5 & 6 Falkland Islands.

Days 7 & 8 The Southern Ocean.

Days 9 to 11 South Georgia.

Days 12 & 13 At sea.

Days 14 to 19 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands.

Days 20 & 21 The Drake Passage.

Day 22 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Enjoy a tango show with dinner this evening.

Day 23 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 24 London. Arrive this morning.

Pre-cruise Iguazu Falls Extension

7th to 11th November & 26th to 30th November 2023



Before joining our group in Buenos Aires, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, often considered the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of day is at leisure.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Iguazu Falls. On arrival check in to the hotel and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the falls. Today we will explore the Brazilian side of the falls walking through the tropical rainforest. **(B, L, D)**

Day 4 Iguazu Falls. Enjoy a full day at the Iguazu Falls on a series of guided walks seeing the upper and lower circuits and also the triple frontier the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Highlights today include the 80 metre fall 'Garganta del Diablo' (Devil's Throat). **(B, L, D)**

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the hotel and join your fellow travellers and follow the main itinerary from Day 2. **(B)**

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2295** Single: **£2795**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights in Iguazu Falls, meals as per itinerary (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£13495	£12995
Columbus	Superior	£14495	£13995
Marco Polo	Premium	£15495	£14995
Marco Polo	Corner	£15995	£15495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£17995	£17495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£18995	£18495
Explorer	Island Suite	£20995	£20495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£17795	£17295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£19795	£19295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast • 19 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Buenos Aires city tour • Dinner & tango show in Buenos Aires • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes • Use of parka jacket & rubber boots on board the MS Island Sky.

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, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. 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, television and 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.

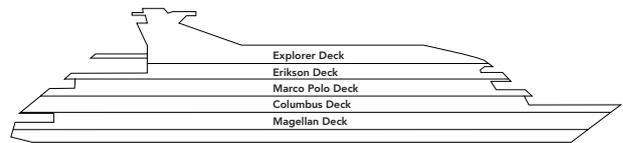


Lunch on the Lido Deck

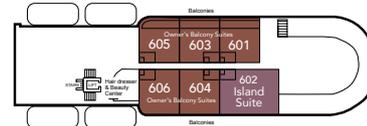
Your Life On Board

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



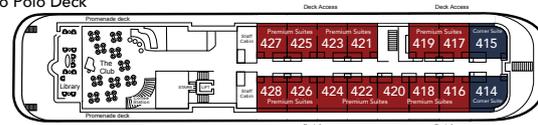
Explorer Deck



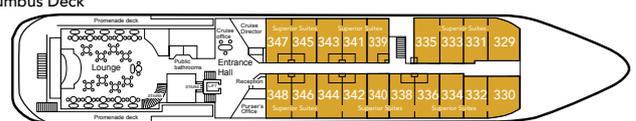
Erikson Deck



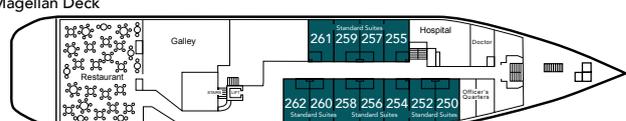
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Island Suite
- Premium Suites with Deck Access



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



Albatross

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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: Chinstrap penguin colony.