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SUPPLEMENT

ARABIAN ODYSSEY

A cruise along the Arabian Peninsula
aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

16th to 27th March 2025

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Sheikh Zayed Mosque



Come with us to a corner of the world that has fascinated travellers for centuries. Our cruise aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky offers a comprehensive look at an area richly influenced by its ancient history and recent wealth. The diverse nature of the people, customs and the landscapes they inhabit make for an enthralling experience as we venture through the mosaic of lands bordered by vast deserts, through green wadis and pass in the shadow of spectacular mountains. The contrast between old and new is staggering, from the ancient villages and souks of the old towns to the magnificent cities of glass and steel, which include some of the world's most impressive, modern buildings.

All this will be achieved with great ease aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, an ideal vessel for serious exploration. With just over 100 fellow like-minded travellers, we are able to discover the region in a way that is impossible from aboard a large cruise vessel. The shimmering waters of the Gulf should make for a comfortable journey with pleasant temperatures and the obvious bonus of having a ship for our base, rather than a sequence of hotels, leaves us free to relax and enjoy all the marvellous sights that surround us.

Experiences during our voyage are many and varied and joining you on board will be our Guest Speaker who will add much to your experience and knowledge of the region. For those looking for something a little different, this trip offers a wonderful opportunity to explore in some depth an area which in the main has been thankfully neglected by the world of mass tourism.



The Corniche, Doha

Corniche, Muscat



Camels feeding in Salalah



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Doha, Qatar. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Doha and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board and moor overnight.

Day 2 Doha. This morning after driving along the Corniche, we visit the National Museum of Qatar, designed in the shape of a desert rose and dedicated to bringing alive the story of Qatar and its people. At the heart of the museum lies the Sheikh Abdulla Bin Jassem Palace. Following the museum tour, we head to the charming fishing village of Al Wakrah and the atmospheric Souq Wakrah where the traditional architecture, old clay structures, stables and mosque all tell a unique story about Qatar's history and where we can enjoy some traditional Arabic sweets and freshly brewed tea at a seafront café. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 3 Abu Dhabi & Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. Arriving into Abu Dhabi we have a choice of excursions today. A morning city tour will drive along the 'Corniche' waterfront promenade before we arrive at the magnificent Sheikh Zayed Mosque, one the largest in the world with the capacity to accommodate an astonishing 30,000 worshippers. Afterwards continue to the Louvre Abu Dhabi and walk through twelve galleries curated masterfully in partnership with the Louvre in Paris. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore further. Alternatively, take a full day excursion to the Oasis city of Al Ain, the birthplace of Sheikh Zayed, with its markets, forts, museums and a famous date palm oasis. We will see the Al Ain Palace Museum which was Sheikh Zayed's residence from 1937 to 1966, explore the courtyards and see the rooms where he received guests. Also discover the archaeological park, the ancient irrigation systems, and walk in the water green oasis. We end at the chaotic camel market, an immersion into traditional Arabic culture.

Day 4 Dubai. Arriving in modern Dubai we visit the historical districts with time in the Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood where we will walk the labyrinthine lanes lined with century old buildings built by textile and pearl merchants. Today the area is a haven for artists with small galleries and shops. We will then take a local abra water taxi across the creek to Beira where we will explore the lanes of the spice and gold souqs selling everything from frankincense and chillies to all kinds of jewellery imaginable. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. Maybe visit the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, the Jumeirah Mosque or one of the city's excellent museums.

Day 5 Khasab, Musandam Peninsula, Oman. From our berth in Khasab, we visit the beautiful Musandam Peninsula, often referred to as the "Norway of

Arabia". This is without doubt the most dramatic of all mountainous locations in the Gulf and a difficult region to visit other than by sea. Here, Bedouin boatmen will take us upon their dhow to explore the spectacular arid, fjord-like landscapes. We hope to see cormorants and terns that inhabit the cliffs, whilst if we are lucky dolphins may accompany us on the journey. We will visit Telegraph Island, where the British laid the first cable in the region in 1864 before anchoring off Seebi Island.

Day 6 Kumzar. This morning we will arrive off the isolated village of Kumzar, located in the far north of Oman and only accessible by boat. This remote region of Oman is so isolated that the inhabitants speak their own language, "Kumzari" which has influences of Arabic, Farsi, English, Hindi and Portuguese. Take the opportunity to swim from the beach or for a walk in the village to meet the locals. During lunch we will set sail for Muscat. *Please note we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs for transportation ashore.*

Day 7 Muscat. Muscat became the capital of Oman in 1793 and the focus of Oman's great seafaring empire of the 18th and 19th centuries. The sea has always been at the centre of Muscat's identity and the historic ports of Old Muscat and Mutrah constitute a major part of the city. A morning city tour of Muscat will include the imposing Grand Mosque and the fascinating Bait al Zubair Museum situated in a converted townhouse which exhibits Omani Heritage with photos and traditional handicrafts and furniture. We also pass the Sultan's Palace "Al Alam" which is flanked by two 16th century Portuguese forts. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Maybe stroll along the Corniche, visit the Mutrah Souk or relax on board.

Day 8 Muscat for Nizwa. From our berth in Muscat, on a full day excursion we will drive inland through fascinating scenery to see one of the most impressive forts in Oman starting at the sultanate of Nizwa, Oman's ancient capital. Here we find a 17th century fort which has a unique 40 metre tall round tower. We will continue to Jabrin Castle, built in 1675 as a centre of learning for astrology, medicine and Islamic Law. We will visit one of the oldest souqs in the country before we take lunch in a nearby restaurant. Return to Muscat and sail this evening.

Day 9 Sur. The port of Sur has been on seafarers' maps for centuries, as both an important port and a historic shipbuilding centre. Dhows built here traded and plundered the East African coastline and islands of the Indian Ocean. Today, it is a quiet and picturesque town with a peaceful air. Our tour will take us to a dhow yard where vessels are still made without a plan or blueprint as well as the fish market and the impressive restored Sineslah Fort where you can enjoy views over the town and coastline. Return to the ship for lunch and



Sur, Oman



Grande Mosque, Muscat

enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea. *Please note we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs for transportation ashore.*

Day 10 At Sea. Spend the day relaxing on board as we sail to Salalah. Maybe join the lecture programme or find a spot on deck to enjoy a book.

Day 11 Salalah. Benefitting from the Indian summer monsoon, Salalah, Oman's second city in the Southern Omani region of Dhofar is a surprisingly lush corner of the Arabian Peninsula which has long been associated with frankincense. Ancient cities such as Samahran were trading throughout Arabia over 3,000 years ago from the ports of the region. Arrive during lunch and this afternoon drive out of Salalah towards the north and the isolated Nabi Ayoub, Prophet Job's tomb, which is located high in the mountains offering wonderful views towards the plains below. Returning to the coast we will drive past Al Husn Palace and visit the Al Husn Souq where we can purchase frankincense crystals and typical Dhofari frankincense burners before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 12 Salalah to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.



Musandam Peninsula



Desert Oasis, Al Ain

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON PLUS NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£8495	£7995
Byrd	Superior	£8795	£8295
Mawson	Premium	£9095	£8595
Mawson	Corner	£9495	£8995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10495	£9995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8495	£7995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£8795	£8295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 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 • Shore excursions • 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.

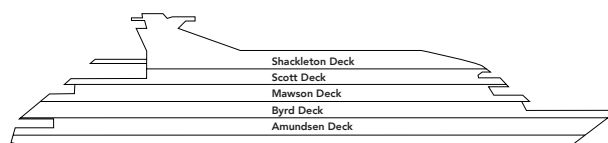
Your Comfort

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.

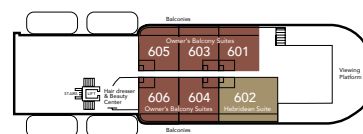
Your Life On Board

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.

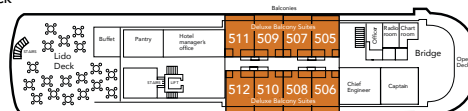
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



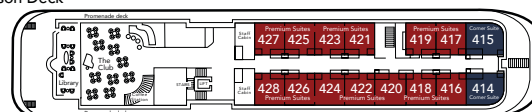
Shackleton Deck



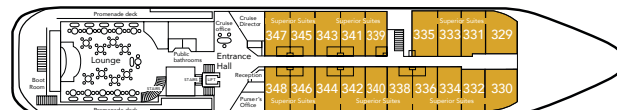
Scott Deck



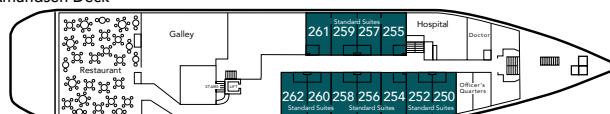
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



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