

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

ART & HISTORY FROM ANDALUCIA TO THE FRENCH RIVIERA

A voyage from Malaga to Nice aboard the MS Island Sky
with Guest Speakers Brian Healy & Olga Stone

9th to 18th September 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild



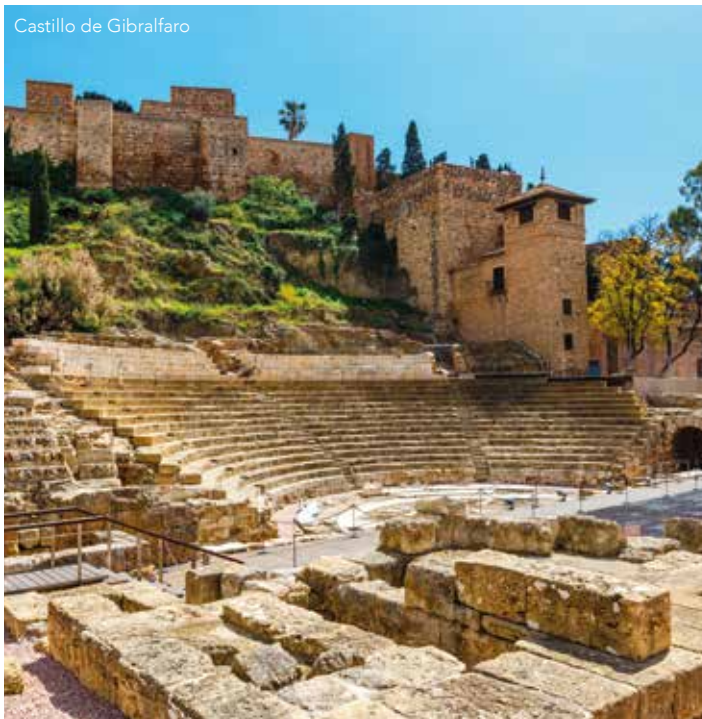
Join us aboard the MS Island Sky for a seven-night cruise from Malaga to Nice which we have timed for September when just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites. Our voyage promises to be an informative and relaxing journey allowing you to immerse yourself in the artistic, historical and cultural gems of the region.

Following an overnight stay in Malaga with time to discover the history and art of the city, we will embark the MS Island Sky and sail to the historic city of Tarragona in Catalonia, a veritable museum-town with remains of all the civilisations that have crossed the Iberian Peninsula and where we will discover the remnants of the Roman period. We continue to the Medieval town of Figueres, the birthplace of Salvador Dali and in the Dali Theatre Museum can view many of his surrealistic works; to balance the day the afternoon will be spent in the Graeco-Roman site of Empuries.

The second half of our journey focuses on the south of France starting with the 'Cote Vermeille' or rocky coast, one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean which has inspired some of the world's most famous artists and from where there will be the opportunity to visit the wonderful Musee d'Art Moderne. Sailing along the coast to Marseille we begin our exploration of the Cote d'Azur, a region which in the late 19th century witnessed an extraordinary flowering of art that transformed the area into the greatest concentration of modern art in Europe. You can choose to discover Aix en Provence, renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne, to view many of the painter's most celebrated works or spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes. Our voyage ends in Nice from where a feast for the eyes will be had at the Villa Rothschild with its stunning location and beautiful gardens, a fitting conclusion to our journey.



Castillo de Gibralfaro



Collioure



Montagne Sainte Victoire from the 'Terrain des Peintres', Aix en Provence

The Itinerary

Day 1 London or Manchester to Malaga, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Malaga. After breakfast in the hotel a morning tour will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. With its mix of Renaissance and Gothic styles it has been declared a national landmark. Alternatively, our Picasso tour will start in La Merced Plaza to view the house where he was born before we continue to the Museo Picasso which contains over 200 pieces of his works. After lunch we transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in the city and sail this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 3 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea, maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck.

Day 4 Tarragona. During the second Punic War in 218 AD the city of Tarraco was established as a garrison which developed into the main military base for the Roman army in Spain. Today we can still see remnants of the Roman period as we explore the city by foot. See the impressive walls that once surrounded the city, the 2nd century amphitheatre and the Roman Circus where chariot races were held. After lunch on board there will be time to explore more of Tarragona at your leisure. Maybe see the 12th century cathedral, visit one of the food stalls in the market or take in the street art whilst strolling in the old town.

Day 5 Palamos, Figueres & Empuries. Arriving on the Costa Brava at the port of Palamos we travel inland to Medieval Figueres, an impressive town of Modernist and Neoclassical architecture that is most renowned as the birthplace of Salvador Dali. Our tour includes the impressive 18th century castle of St Ferran and the old city walls before continuing to the Dali Theatre Museum. Designed by Dali himself, the museum takes us through the life of the artist. After lunch in the city you can choose to return to the ship and spend the afternoon at leisure or drive along the coast to the archaeological site of Empuries. Founded by Greek merchants in the 6th century BC as Emporion, it was a commercial hub and became a major port. In 218 BC the town was taken by the Romans who built an even greater city above the Greek town.

Day 6 Port Vendres, France. The 'Cote Vermeille', or rocky coast, is one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean and has inspired some of the world's most famous artists. We will drive the short distance to Collioure which has always been a source of inspiration for artists. Here we will have time to explore the colourful streets and visit the local artist studios and the 12th century Royal Castle. This afternoon choose to explore the historic town

Guest Speaker – Brian Healy



Brian has enjoyed a lifetime of artistic exploration and learning, pursuing parallel careers as a modern linguist, professional artist and director of his own design company. After a highly successful career teaching at prestigious public schools in both the UK and Austria, for the last fifteen years he has become widely known for his inspirational lectures and art workshops to which he brings a unique practical insight. A fully accredited Arts Society lecturer, he has undertaken an extensive programme of speaking engagements. Examples of his atmospheric watercolours can be seen in private collections all over the world.

Guest Speaker – Olga Stone

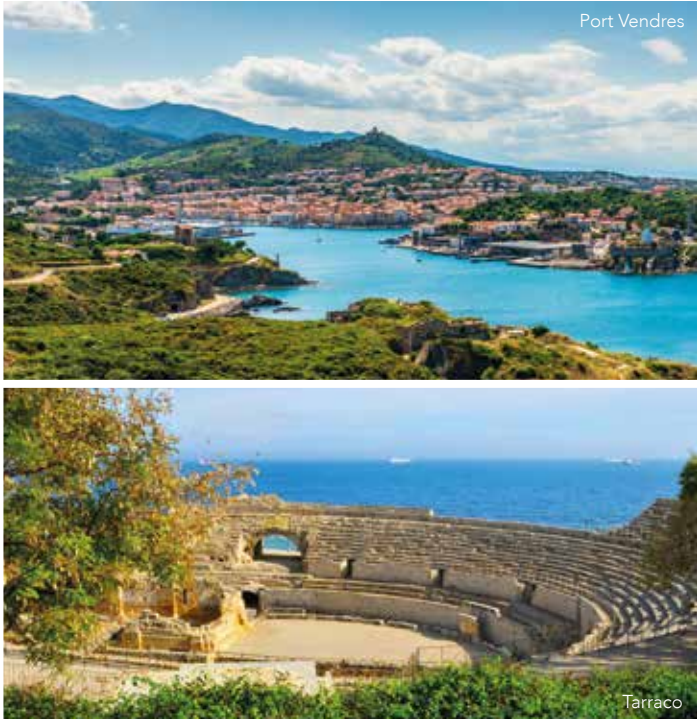


Olga combines her skills as a concert pianist, historian, art historian and classicist to make her talks entertaining, lively, informative, and unusual. Olga is an accredited lecturer for the Arts Society and has a PhD in Classics and a BA in Arts History. She was Head of Classics at King William's College on the Isle of Man and teaches various history classes, Latin and Russian at the University College Isle of Man. Olga also worked as a sessional Arts History lecturer for the University of Liverpool for 12 years, and for eight years was a history tutor for the University of Chester, lecturing on various art styles from Renaissance to 20th century, Medieval History and the Crusades. Olga was born in the Crimea and attended Conservatoire in Odessa, graduating with top marks in piano performance. She also has FTCL in Piano Performance, ATCL in Organ Performance and AMusTCL in music theory.

Saint Benezet bridge, Avignon



Port Vendres



of Port Vendres independently or join a tour to the charming town of Ceret located in the foothills of the Vallespir Mountains. After a walking tour of the town we visit the wonderful Musée d'Art Moderne containing works from Picasso, Chagall and Dali as well as pieces drawn in Collioure by Matisse.

Day 7 Aix en Provence & Avignon. From our berth in Marseilles, we will offer a choice of excursions today. You can choose to head inland to Aix en Provence which was founded by the Romans in the 1st century and is renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will visit the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' which is located on the heights of Aix en Provence, a few hundred metres from the Atelier Cezanne. It is famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant we will spend some time in Aix with its leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Alternatively spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe, built in the 14th century as a fortified palace for the pontifical court. We also visit the cathedral and the famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon, and the Pont du Gard, one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19 BC in order to provide the city of Nimes with fresh water from the Uzes area.

Day 8 La Seyne sur Mer & Le Castellet. Arrive this morning in the port of La Seyne sur Mer and enjoy a leisurely morning to explore the town. This afternoon we drive inland to the hilltop Medieval village of Le Castellet. This remarkable stronghold, formerly owned by the Lords of Les Baux, has well preserved ramparts, a carefully restored 12th century church and a castle dating back to the 11th century. We will have time to explore the village and its winding streets before enjoying a wine tasting at one of Le Castellet's centuries-old vineyards.

Day 9 Nice. Disembark this morning and join your choice of excursion. You may wish to enjoy a drive along the coast to the charming village of Eze perched on a rocky peak overlooking the Mediterranean. Fortified in the 14th century we will have some time to wander the cobblestone streets, admire the beautiful stone buildings and enjoy the magnificent views. Alternatively visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Built in 1900 in Italian palazzo style and surrounded by magnificent gardens, it houses an unbelievable collection of works including tapestries, furniture, candelabras, terracottas, porcelains and Chinese vases. Both tours will include lunch before we check into our hotel this afternoon and spend the remainder of the day and evening at leisure. Maybe choose to visit one of the city's museums dedicated to artists such as Henri Matisse or Marc Chagall, walk

amongst the charming architecture of the old city or enjoy a stroll along the palm tree-lined Promenade des Anglais. (B, L)

Day 10 Nice to London or Manchester. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London or Manchester. (B)



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	£5595	£5195
Columbus	Superior	£5795	£5395
Marco Polo	Premium	£5995	£5595
Marco Polo	Corner	£6195	£5795
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£5995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£6395	£5995
Explorer	Island Suite	£6995	£6595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5595
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6195	£5795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Malaga & Nice • Meals as indicated for hotel stays (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Seven nights aboard the MS Island 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 • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

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 flag ships 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, 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 Erikson 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.

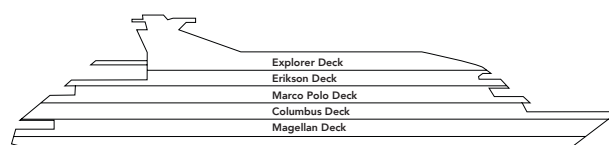
Your Comfort

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.

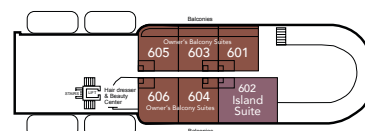
Your Life On Board

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.

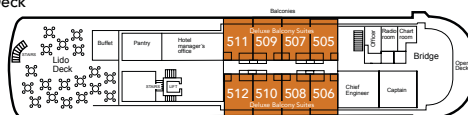
MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



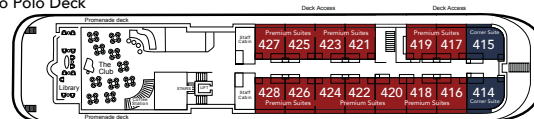
Explorer Deck



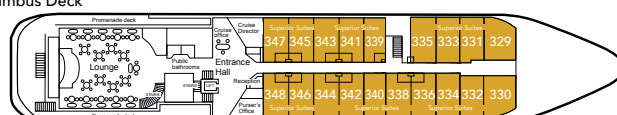
Erikson Deck



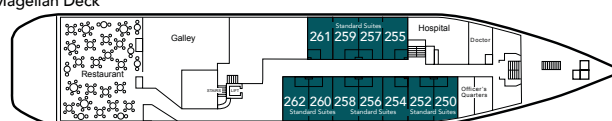
Marco Polo Deck



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



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