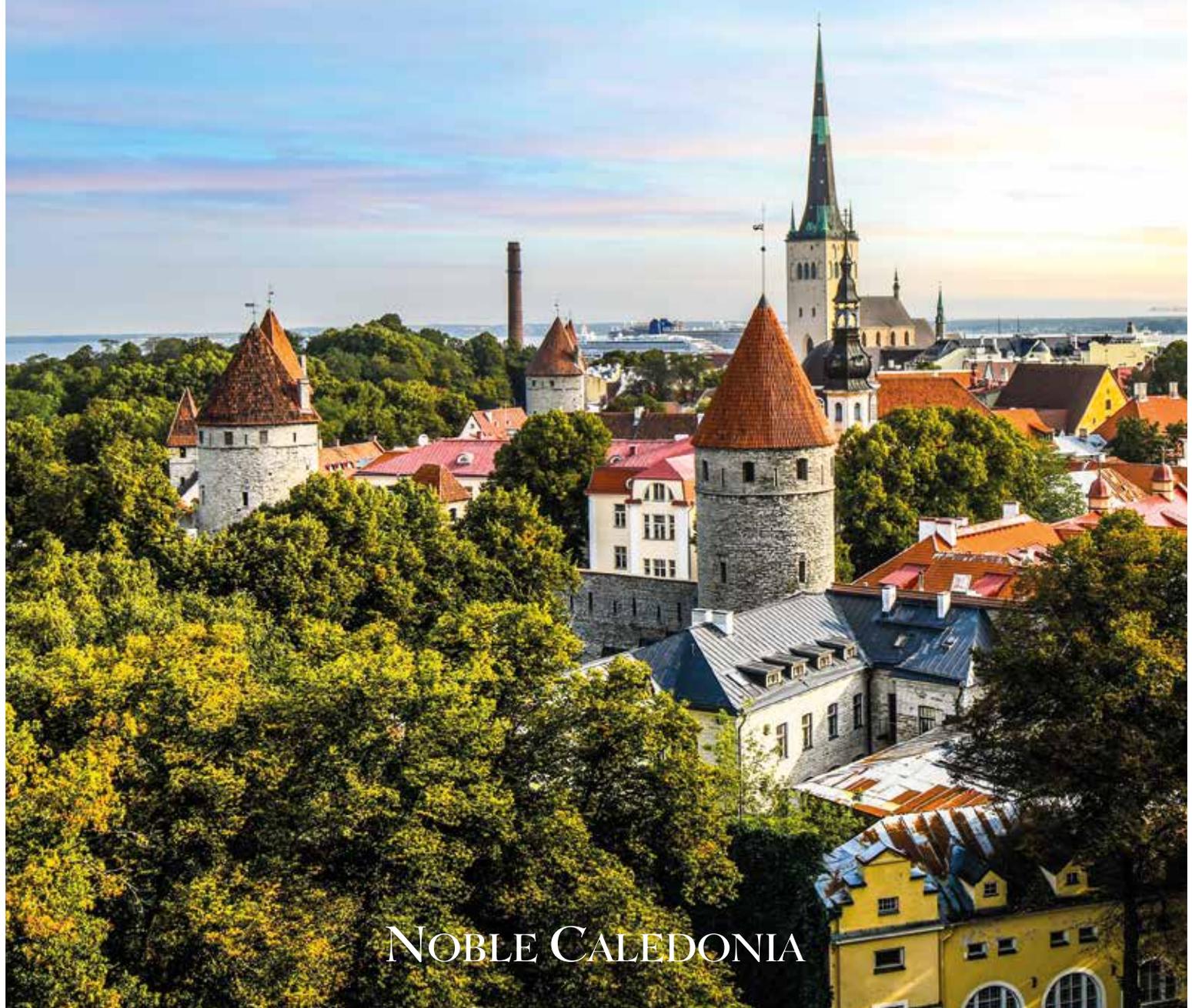


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

BALTIC ODYSSEY

SUMMER IN THE ISLANDS & CITIES
OF THE BALTIC ABOARD THE
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY WITH
GUEST SPEAKER NEIL TAYLOR
29TH JULY TO 10TH AUGUST 2023



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Bornholm Island

Join us on a voyage of discovery aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky as we explore Scandinavia and the Baltic States. The cities of the Baltic offer a cornucopia of delights with their marvellously untouched Medieval quarters whilst the Scandinavian ports impress with their colourful architecture and a freshness that is unique to the area.

Exploring the Baltic by small ship is the most perfect way to visit this endlessly fascinating corner of Northern Europe and our in-depth journey offers the perfect balance of time to explore the cities, towns and islands during the guided excursions combined with some time to relax or explore at leisure. During our 12-night voyage, in addition to the delightful cities of Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki and Stockholm, we will also visit some smaller ports which larger cruise vessels in the region are unable to access. These include the charming island of Bornholm in Denmark, the Estonian island of Saaremaa, a gem with its Medieval Episcopal castle and timeless countryside and picturesque Mariehamn in Finland with its strong seafaring traditions. Meanwhile we have the benefit of an overnight stay in the beautiful city of Gdansk which enables us to enjoy a private concert by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic.

Whether your interest lies in the region's Viking and Medieval history or the more recent events of the breakaway Baltic States, it is an endlessly fascinating region and our expert local guides and Guest Speaker will add much to your knowledge and understanding.



Guest Speaker – Neil Taylor



We are delighted that Neil Taylor will be joining us on board as Guest Speaker. Neil is a leading expert on the former Communist world and travels there frequently as a visiting university lecturer and tour leader. Neil read Chinese at Cambridge and has worked in tourism in China, Russia and many developing countries.

Neil also studied German history at Cambridge and, having visited Germany frequently as a child, has kept abreast of its developments along with those of neighbouring Austria. Neil writes and broadcasts on travel topics and is active in the British Guild of Travel Writers. In 2000 Neil was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by BGTW, in 2011 he was awarded the President of Estonia's medal for services to tourism and in 2021 he received an MBE for his outstanding contribution to the UK's bilateral relationship with Estonia. His latest publication is *Estonia: A Modern History* (published by Hurst, July 2020) and others include *The Bradt Guide: Estonia*, *The Bradt Guide: Tallinn* and *The Bradt Guide: Baltic Cities*.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Copenhagen, Denmark. Fly by scheduled flight to Copenhagen. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in Malmo and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Bornholm Island. Over breakfast we arrive to the peaceful and scenic island of Bornholm - a mixture of wheat fields, forests and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On a morning excursion we will drive to the north of the island including the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and the imposing ruins of

Hammershus Castle before we visit the town of Gudhjem where we can sample the local speciality of smoked herring. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the town of Ronne at your own pace.

Days 3 & 4 Gdansk, Poland. After a leisurely morning of cruising we arrive in Gdansk where 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. We have the benefit of a day and a half to discover the highlights of the city and the surrounding



area and our city tour will include a walk along the cobble streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter viewing the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. We will visit the 13th century Malbork Castle which belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNSECO and now serves as a museum with grand exhibition halls displaying collections of armoury, ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber. During our evening in port we will enjoy a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic at a local venue.

Day 5 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. This morning we explore the old town of Klaipeda including a stop in Theatre Square before strolling along the atmospheric narrow streets where in the past craftsmen used to live and work. Continue towards the resort town Palanga where, after a walk through the Botanical park, we arrive at a 19th century Neo-Renaissance style mansion which houses the largest Amber Museum in the Baltics. Here we will

learn all about "Baltic gold" before returning to Klaipeda, where we can enjoy a drink and live music in a nearby restaurant before sailing this afternoon.

Day 6 Riga, Latvia. This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon exploring independently, maybe see the Art Nouveau district, visit one of the many local museums or the impressive central market housed in an old zeppelin hangar.

Day 7 Saaremaa, Estonia. After a morning cruising we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During an afternoon drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills.

Day 8 Tallinn. Spend the day in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her awe-inspiring city walls

and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. There will be free time to explore further at your own pace this afternoon before we meet this evening for a concert at the Church of the Holy Spirit.

Day 9 Kotka, Finland. Built on the site where the River Kymijoki meets the Baltic Sea, picturesque Kotka has a long seafaring tradition. This morning we will explore the history of the region and visit the Langinkoski Imperial Fishing Lodge which was built in 1889 for Alexander III, the future Emperor of Russia who used it as a summer home. It is now a living museum situated in a stunning nature reserve on the river. Continue to the Maritime Centre Vellamo where local guides will enlighten us about the maritime and cultural heritage of the region. The afternoon is free to explore the town at leisure from our central berth.

Day 10 Helsinki. Arriving in Helsinki over breakfast, a morning city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square

including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Temppeliaukio, the church in the rock, before returning to the vessel for lunch. This afternoon we journey to Ainola, the home of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius situated on the edge of the city on the shores of Lake Tuusula where, after exploring the museum we will enjoy a private concert of his music.

Day 11 Mariehamn. This morning we sail through some of the 6700 islands of the Aland archipelago and into the attractive town of Mariehamn. On an island tour we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads towards the Jan Karlsgrunden Museum where we learn about the island's farming traditions. We continue to Badhausberget which provides panoramic views over the town and islands before visiting the fascinating Aland Maritime Museum with its exhibits of model ships as well as highlighting the region's shipbuilding history.

Day 12 Stockholm, Sweden. Be on deck this morning as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago into Stockholm. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes. After lunch we will enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in



marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the MS Hebridean Sky we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks

the inner harbour. Moor overnight in Stockholm and from our central mooring you may wish to spend the evening ashore.

Day 13 Stockholm to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£6295	£6095
Byrd	Superior	£6695	£6495
Mawson	Premium	£7195	£6995
Mawson	Corner	£7595	£7395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£8095	£7895
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£8495	£8295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£9495	£9295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8195	£7995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£8395	£8195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 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.

Pre-cruise Copenhagen Extension 27th to 29th July 2023



If you would like to spend some time in Copenhagen before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night hotel extension. This will be an independent stay allowing the opportunity to explore at leisure.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£595** Single: **£895**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Stockholm Extension 10th to 12th August 2023



If you wish to explore Stockholm in more depth, we are offering a two night hotel extension. Our stay will include a visit to Drottningholm Palace, Sweden's best preserved royal palace constructed in the seventeenth century and the permanent residence of the royal family. It features magnificent salons from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a beautiful park, a unique palace theatre and a Chinese Pavilion. The remainder of your stay in Stockholm will be at leisure for you to explore independently.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£1245**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, half day touring with lunch, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

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 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.

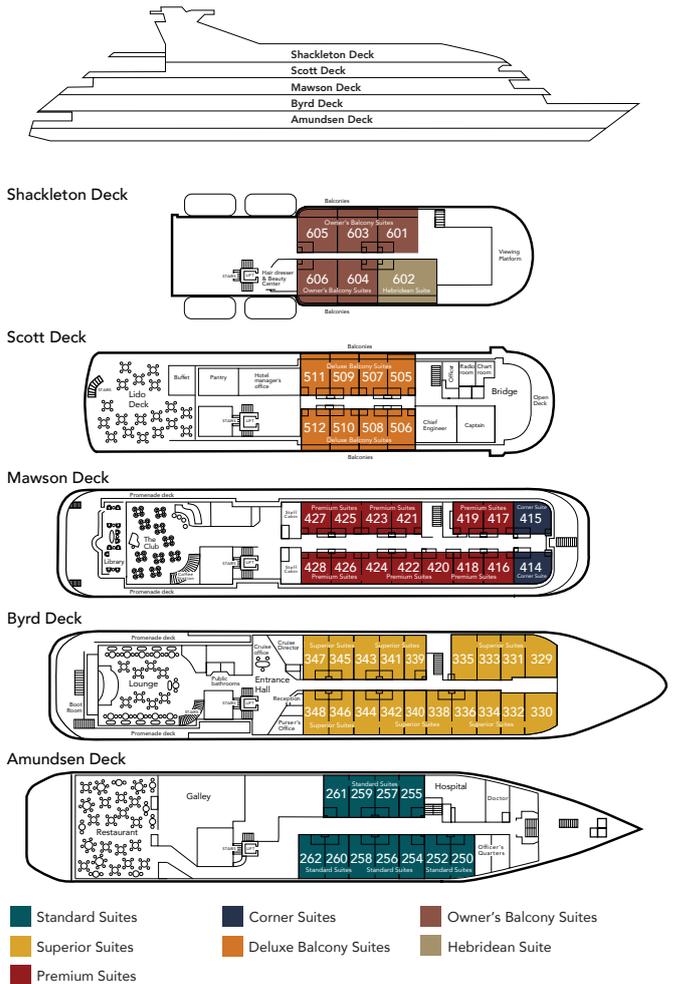
Your Comfort

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



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.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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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: Tallinn.