

LAUNCH
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

BALTIC RENAISSANCE

A voyage from Tilbury to Stockholm
aboard the MS Island Sky
16th to 30th July 2017

NOBLE CALEDONIA



The long sunny days of a Baltic summer are legendary and the perfect time to witness the spectacle of colour and joy that the sun brings to this northern world which, bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, is ideally suited to exploration by ship. The history of the region is fascinating, with countries vying for commercial and political influence for over a thousand years or more and we will explore its historic shores and look back over its colourful past from the Vikings and the Hanseatic era to more modern day events.

The cities of the Baltic offer a cornucopia of delights. Whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the newly independent Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters, or the sheer delight of small Scandinavian ports with their unique architecture and a freshness that is unique to the area.

For this exploration we are working with our American associates, Zegrahm Expeditions, who have chartered our very own MS Island Sky for the voyage. One of the finest small ships in the world, with just over 100 passengers, you can be assured of a high level of comfort and a relaxed voyage without the vast crowds that larger ships generate. Joining you on board will be an expert team who, together with the informative local guides, will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region.

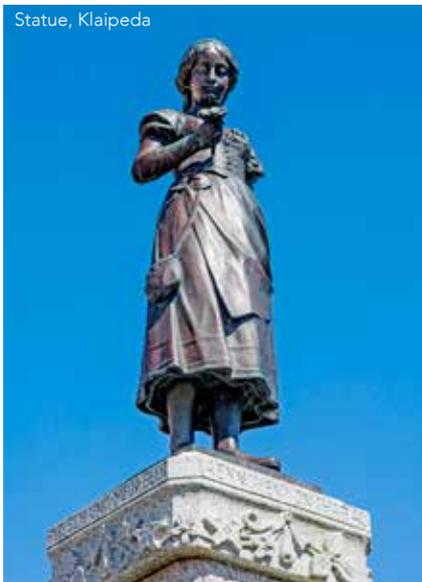


Voyage Highlights

- Discover the scenic beauty of Bornholm Island, graced with rolling countryside, charming villages, unique round churches and the impressive ruins of Hammershus Castle
- Step ashore in beautiful Visby; a World Heritage Site, this city of 'roses and ruins' was once the trading centre of the Hanseatic League
- Tour the historic districts of Gdansk, Riga, and Tallinn, which feature a treasure-trove of architectural styles
- Spend two days in St Petersburg—the Venice of the North—and enjoy a guided tour of the Hermitage Museum, Peterhof, and other important sites
- Enjoy a daylight transit of the 61 mile Kiel Canal, a fascinating example of 19th century engineering



Riga



Statue, Klaipeda



Senate Square, Helsinki



Turku castle



Gdansk



Tallinn

The Itinerary

Day 1 Tilbury, England. Embark the MS Island Sky early this afternoon in Tilbury. Transfers will be provided from Tilbury Town train station at a fixed time.

Day 2 At sea. Spend the day relaxing at sea and perhaps attend a lecture or two.

Day 3 Sylt Island, Germany. The beautiful, windswept, 24-mile-long island of Sylt (pronounced zoolt) is the northernmost point of Germany and part of the Frisian archipelago which stretches between Denmark and The Netherlands. Unique to the region is the architecture of the houses found in island villages; their thick reed roofs slope all the way down to the ground and blend with the surrounding vegetation. After lunch ashore there will be a choice of activities. Join a bicycle tour from the village of Kampen, a birding tour, or enjoy free time to explore Westerland, the charming capital of Sylt. *Please note that today we will be at anchor and the ship's Zodiacs will be used to transport us ashore.*

Day 4 Kiel Canal Transit. Early this morning we begin our transit of the historic 61-mile-long Kiel Canal

and sail from the North Sea into the Baltic. Kaiser Wilhelm I set the first foundation stone in place on June 3, 1887 in Brunsbuttel, and the final stone was laid by Kaiser Wilhelm II on June 21, 1895, in Holtenau. Today, the Kiel Canal is one of the busiest man-made waterways in the world.

Day 5 Bornholm Island, Denmark. After breakfast step ashore on serene Bornholm Island, with sugar-white sand beaches, dramatic cliffs, thick forests, and heather-clad hills. Visit the ruins of Hammershus Castle, Scandinavia's largest Medieval fortress; the unique, round 12th century churches, Osterlars and Nylars; and the charming half-timbered fishing hamlet of Gudhjem. You may also choose to visit art studios renowned for their glass blowing and pottery. *Please note that today we will be at anchor and the ship's Zodiacs will be used to transport us ashore.*

Day 6 Gdansk, Poland. Enjoy a full day in this city whose history spans nearly 1,000 years. Stop at the Solidarity Monument in front of the Gdansk shipyard, then view the exhibition, Roads to Freedom, a fascinating audio-visual portrayal

of those important, world-changing events. A walking tour through the lively Old Town reveals a magnificent collection of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque buildings and monuments. Pass through the Golden Gate and walk down Long Street to the 15th century Palace of Artus, where Neptune's Fountain commemorates Gdansk's Hanseatic past. We will also visit Medieval St. Mary's Church, the world's largest brick church. After lunch on board, there will be time at leisure for further exploration.

Day 7 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Today we will drive to the amber centre of Palanga. A stroll through the Botanical Park with its 500 varieties of trees and bushes takes you to the Amber Museum, housed in a 19th century neo-Renaissance-style mansion. Next we will drive to the Old Town for a walking tour. From beautiful Theatre Square, explore the narrow streets that meander between the charming half-timbered houses and shops. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea as we sail to Visby.

Day 8 Gotland Island, Sweden. Disembark this morning at Gotland Island, the largest island in the

Baltic. The splendid city of Visby, a World Heritage Site, is famous for its intact Medieval architecture, especially the 44 guard towers built as part of the city walls in the 11th and 12th centuries. Drive to Almedalen, a green oasis in the city centre, then walk past lovely Medieval granaries and the city's oldest building, the Powder Tower. Visit the Botanical Garden, known for its exotic plant collection, and take a ride up to a splendid panoramic viewpoint of the city and its spires. Continue your tour on foot along charming cobblestone streets, to visit the impressive St. Mary's Cathedral and the Gotland Museum with its excellent Medieval collections. Return to the ship for lunch and set sail for Riga.

Day 9 Riga, Latvia. Your day in Latvia showcases the riches of this 800-year-old Hanseatic river port. A walking tour takes you to multiple landmarks, including the Blackheads House, one of the oldest buildings in Riga; St. Peter's Church, a superb Gothic masterpiece; the 15th century Three Brothers merchant houses; and both St. Jacob and St. John churches. We will also visit the 13th century Dome



Summer Palace, St. Petersburg



Cathedral, whose organ concerts are legendary. We continue our exploration by bus, driving past lovely parks along the City Canal lined with the stunning Art Nouveau architecture built in 1899 during the Jugendstil movement. There is free time this afternoon to explore Riga independently.

Day 10 Tallinn, Estonia. We will arrive late morning and set off to explore old town Tallinn, a visual feast of soaring spires, towers, and turrets. After a renaissance in restoration and reconstruction, Tallinn proudly proclaims itself the finest preserved city in the Baltic. In the upper Old Town, visit Palace Square and the magnificent cupola-crowned Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. In the lower Old Town, visit the Town Hall Square, once a Medieval marketplace; one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe, founded in 1422; and stroll along St. Catherine's Passage in the Latin Quarter. We will also visit Kadriorg Palace and Park, built by Peter the Great as a summer residence.

Days 11 & 12 St Petersburg, Russia. Arrive in splendid St. Petersburg in the late morning and

enjoy two days of exploration. Visit St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Winter Palace which houses Catherine the Great's incomparable Hermitage Museum. Enjoy an advanced entry and special guided tour which includes the Gold Room—a dazzling display of jewellery, as well as the famous Scythian and Greek gold. Drive across the Neva River to the burial place of the tsars, Peter and Paul Cathedral, its 18th century spire dominates the skyline. Visit the spectacular Church of the Resurrection and drive along Russia's most famous street, the Nevsky Prospect, lined with magnificent palaces, churches, and theatres. A scenic drive takes you to the palace and gardens of Peterhof, a grand summertime residence built by Peter the Great.

Day 13 Helsinki, Finland. The capital of Finland since 1812, Helsinki is a cosmopolitan city with a small-town feel. A city tour reveals the beautiful neoclassical architecture of Senate Square and allows you the opportunity to stroll through picturesque Market Square, where numerous vendors offer a variety of Finnish foods and souvenirs. Alternatively choose

to tour Suomenlinna Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built by Sweden in 1748 to protect Helsinki's harbour. There is free time this afternoon to explore Helsinki independently.

Day 14 Turku. Today we will visit Turku, the oldest city in Finland and its one-time capital. Our tour includes the 13th century castle and cathedral, the handicrafts

museum and the lively market. Conditions permitting, we will board Zodiacs to cruise among verdant islands and rocky outcroppings of the scenic Turku archipelago.

Day 15 Stockholm to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your 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
Magellan	Standard Forward	N/A	N/A
Magellan	Standard	£9195	£8995
Columbus	Superior	£9995	£9795
Marco Polo	Premium	£12695	£12495
Marco Polo	Corner	£13895	£13695
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£16595	£16395
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£18365	£18165
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£10045	£9845
Marco Polo	Premium for sole use	£12795	£12595

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from Stockholm to London, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis including wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, gratuities, onboard Zeghran team, transfers, port taxes, group visa for Russia.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS Island Sky

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, 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.



Standard Suite



Dining on deck



Lounge

On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. Our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day.

There will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after

dinner, informative port briefings and presentations from our expedition team and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room, all contribute to making any voyage aboard the MS Island Sky a memorable experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly comfortable ship.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book. Daily newspapers and magazines are placed in the library depending on local availability. Outside there is a rear sun deck, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a further observation and sun deck.



Deluxe Balcony Suite



Restaurant



Library

Your Dining

Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order and lunch and dinner is à la carte. When weather permits, breakfast and a buffet-style lunch are also served on deck. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea and coffee are available 24 hours.

over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped 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, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Molton Brown toiletries, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, air-conditioning and heating.

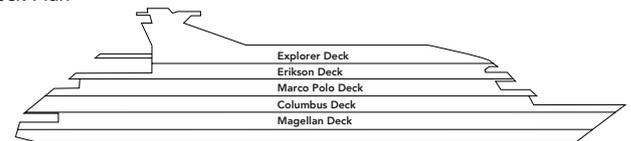


Friendly Staff

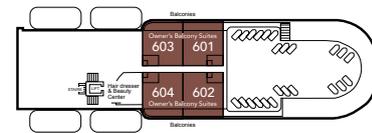
Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room 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

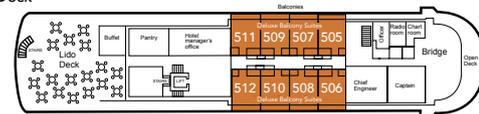
Deck Plan



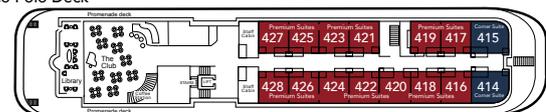
Explorer Deck



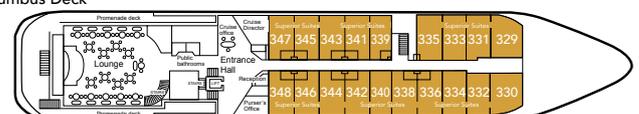
Erikson Deck



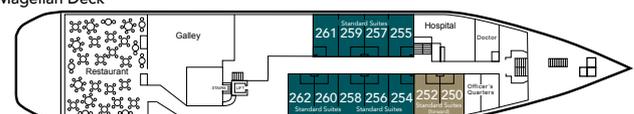
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites (Forward)
- Premium Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites

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