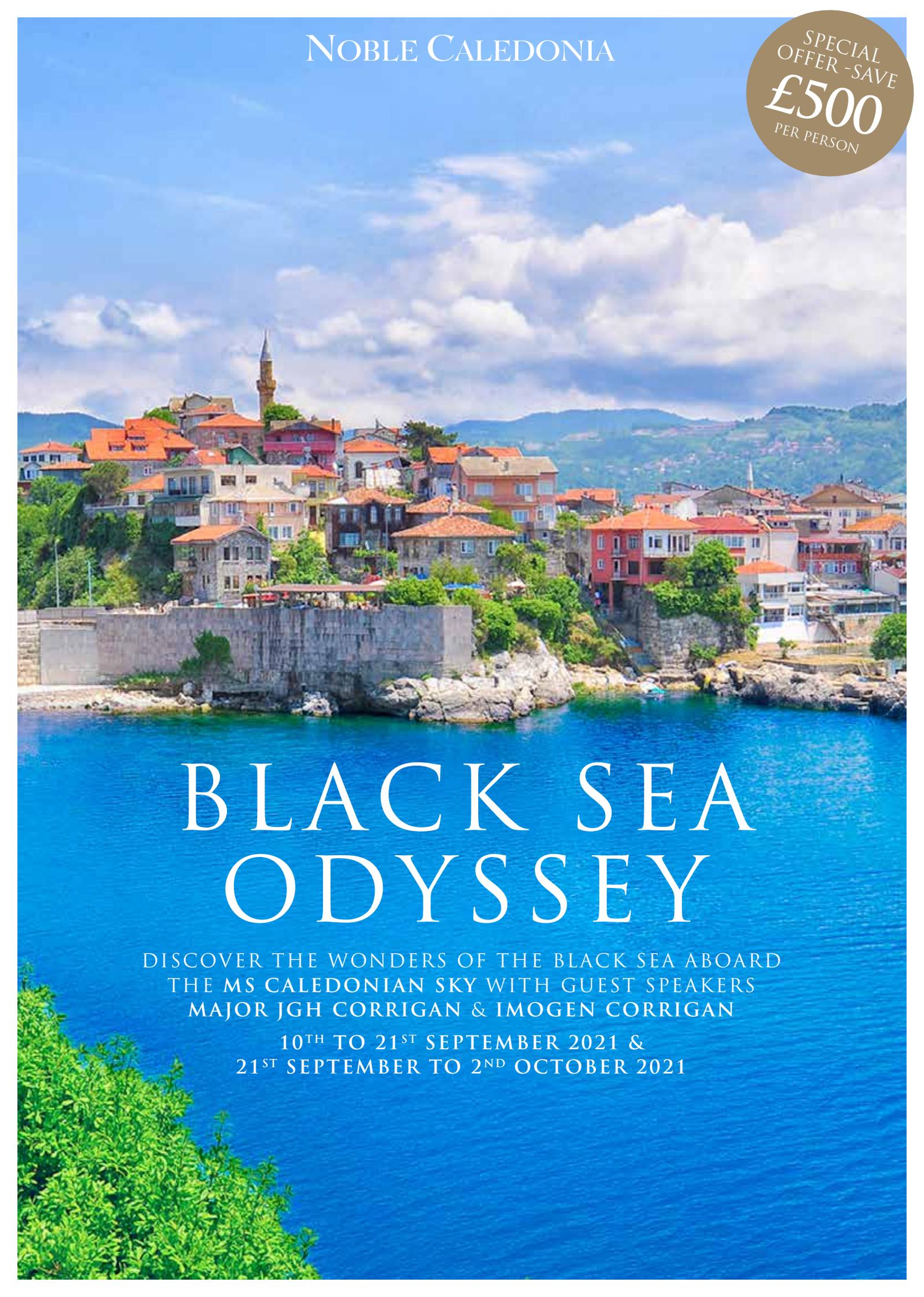


NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON



BLACK SEA ODYSSEY

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF THE BLACK SEA ABOARD
THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY WITH GUEST SPEAKERS
MAJOR JGH CORRIGAN & IMOGEN CORRIGAN

10TH TO 21ST SEPTEMBER 2021 &
21ST SEPTEMBER TO 2ND OCTOBER 2021



Join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky as we explore the shores of the Black Sea, one of the most fascinating and historically rich regions in the world. Our voyage begins in Istanbul and from the Golden Horn follows the Turkish coast to Trabzon (Trebizond) before crossing to Georgia where the richness of its culture reflects the influence of Greeks, Byzantines, Persians, Turks and Mongols. Georgia's 'Golden Age' reached its height between the reigns of David the Builder and his granddaughter Queen Tamara in the 11th and 12th centuries.

From Georgia we follow the coastline to Russia's premier resort and spa, Sochi. Here the microclimate produces wonderful year round weather and a lush countryside. After a day at sea which will be filled with interesting lectures by our onboard Guest Speakers, we reach Odessa, the historic city founded by Catherine the Great at the mouth of the great River Dnieper where we have the benefit of an overnight stay. We continue to Constanta, Romania, an ancient metropolis and Romania's largest seaport. Finally, we reach Nessebar, a delightful Bulgarian town with a fascinating history before our cruise ends where it all began, in the captivating city of Istanbul.

Such a journey as this would be totally impractical by any means other than a cruise. Whether your interest lies in ancient or military history, architecture, literature, contemporary politics or just in visiting some of the most atmospheric and fascinating places on earth, the Black Sea has a lot to offer. Local guides and our onboard Guest Speakers will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of this intriguing corner of the world where East meets West.



Guest Speakers



Major JGH Corrigan

Gordon Corrigan spent most of his adult life as an officer of the Royal Gurkha Rifles. He is now a military historian and the author of a number of books on subjects ranging from the Hundred Years War to the Peninsula War to the First and Second World Wars. To date he has been the presenter of five TV series dealing with various aspects of military history,

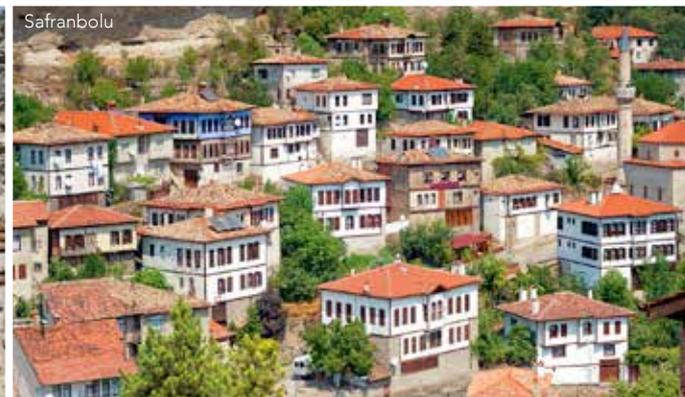
in addition to regular appearances in documentaries. He conducts military history study tours and is a regular speaker on Noble Caledonia cruises. He is an Honorary Research Fellow of the Universities of Birmingham and Kent, a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, a Member of the British Commission for Military History, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farriers. During our cruise he will be lecturing on the history of the nations and the areas that we will be visiting or travelling through.



Imogen Corrigan

Imogen served for nearly twenty years in the British army, retiring in the rank of Major at the end of 1994. She then went to the University of Kent to study Anglo-Saxon and medieval history and art, graduating with 1st Class Honours. She became a freelance lecturer, running study tours

for several travel companies and lecturing for the Arts Society and Noble Caledonia. She has a wide range of lecture subjects encompassing most of Europe from the west of Ireland to Istanbul, and from North Cape to Morocco, covering 1,000 years of history. Imogen is always interested in ideas, artistic techniques and motifs and especially in trying to understand the mindset of the people who lived at that time.



Sumela Monastery, Trabzon

Sochi

Nessebar

Safranbolu

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and embark in the late afternoon. Set sail this evening.

Day 2 Bartin. From the port of Bartin in ancient Paphlagonia, we have a choice of excursions today. The morning tour will include a drive along the coast to nearby Amasra (ancient Sesamus) which is located on a headland in between two bays. We will explore the attractive old town which was founded by the Milesians in the 6th century BC and later became an important possession of both Byzantium and Genoa. See the Genoese citadel and learn more about its Greek and Roman past. Alternatively join a full day tour to the UNESCO site of Safranbolu, a preserved Ottoman style town named for its prominence in saffron production. On a walking tour we will visit the marketplace, the streets where copper makers, iron makers and Turkish delight makers work, the Mosque and a Turkish Hammam all from the time of Suleiman the Magnificent. Our tour will end at a typical Safranbolu house which is now an ethnographical museum. Enjoy lunch in an Ottoman caravanserai before returning to the MS Caledonian Sky and sailing this evening.

Day 3 Sinop. Founded by the Greeks in the 7th century BC Sinop flourished as a Black Sea

port on the caravan route. On a walking tour this morning we will discover this walled city including the 13th century Alaaddin Mosque, constructed after the Seljuk conquest of the Sinop Province. The architecture is representative of the Seljuk period consisting of a rectangular plan featuring five domes. A fountain adorns the courtyard, which also contains ancient tombs. We will visit the Archaeological Museum of Sinop with a collection of objects dating from the Hittite, Hellenistic, Phrygian, Roman and Byzantine periods and the Ethnography Museum located in a typical Ottoman House. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon cruising.

Day 4 Trabzon. Trabzon is a gateway to Eastern Turkey and Iran which was founded in the 7th century BC. On our morning excursion we drive through the picturesque mountain scenery to Sumela to see the dramatic Byzantine monastery carved out of a sheer rock face in the Pontic Alps. After lunch on board we discover the church of Aya Sofia and the old town of Trabzon, then travel to the outskirts to visit Atatürk's lovely villa set high on a cliff above the city.

Day 5 Batumi, Georgia. Enjoy a day amongst the sights and sounds of charming Batumi. On a full day tour visit the ancient Gonio fortress dating back to the first

century AD and the Ethnographic Museum that highlights the varied and fascinating history of the country. Continue to the impressive botanical garden 'Dendrarium', and see the golden statue of Medea before heading to the bustling farmers market. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant where we will also enjoy a truly exhilarating private performance of Georgian song and dance by the Adjara State Assembly of Music and Dance.

Day 6 Sochi, Russia. We have a day to explore delightful Sochi, framed by the Caucasus Mountains and famous for its marvellous climate and health spas. On a morning tour we will visit Dagomy's tea plantation, the most northerly in the world where we learn about the cultivation processes and challenges before having the chance to enjoy a local brew. After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit Stalin's Dacha, built in 1937 as his summer residence it remains intact as it was in Stalin's time.

Day 7 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we cruise to Odessa. Maybe join one of the lectures or relax with a book in the library.

Days 8 & 9 Odessa, Ukraine. We have two days to explore this fascinating city. Founded by Catherine the Great in 1794 following the Russian victory over the Turks, Odessa today is a

busy port and popular resort. On our morning tour we will see the famous Potemkin Steps, Primorsky Boulevard and the Preobrazhensky Cathedral. Explore the city's Fine Arts Museum before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon is free to explore at leisure and we hope to enjoy a concert this evening at the acoustically perfect Opera House (details will be provided approximately 12 weeks prior to departure). Return to the ship and moor overnight. On our second day we recall Odessa's former splendour by visiting two of the city's many mansions. First visit the Tolstoy Mansion, built in 1832 in a Russian classical style, which belonged to Count Mikhail Tolstoy, a cousin of the famed Russian writer, Leo Tolstoy. After a short drive we will reach the Gagarin Mansion, designed by Otton in the middle of the 19th century for the nobleman, Prince Gagarin. This now houses the Museum for Russian & Ukraine Literature. Tour the museum before enjoying a superb violin recital in the Golden Hall. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 10 Constanta, Romania. During breakfast we arrive in Constanta, known as Tomis to the Greeks but named Constanta by the Romans. Choose this morning to stay in Constanta and enjoy a tour to include the excellent Archaeological Museum and a visit



Ataturk Mansion, Trabzon

to the Treasury to see the gigantic 3rd century Roman Mosaic. Later, stretch your legs with a walk along the Black Sea waterfront promenade. Alternatively join a full day tour to Bucharest. We will explore the main sights of the city and see the boulevards with their decidedly French style. After lunch in a local restaurant we visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world at 3.77 million square feet and renowned as former dictator Ceausescu's most infamous creation.

Day 11 Nessebar, Bulgaria. After a morning at sea we will arrive in the ancient town of Nessebar, a delightful place to spend an afternoon. A guided walk of the town will include the 5th century Bishopric, the 12th century St Stephen's Church and some of the traditional-style houses with their overhanging first floors above winding cobbled lanes.

Day 12 Istanbul, Turkey 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 £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

| Deck | Suite Category | Brochure Price | Special Offer Price |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Castle | Standard | £5895 | £5395 |
| Caledonian | Superior | £6295 | £5795 |
| Promenade | Premium | £6795 | £6295 |
| Bridge | Deluxe Balcony | £7495 | £6995 |
| Promenade | Premium Balcony | £7995 | £7495 |
| Promenade | Owners Corner Suite with balcony | £8495 | £7995 |
| Castle | Standard for sole use | £7895 | £7395 |
| Caledonian | Superior for sole use | £8495 | £7995 |

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speakers • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Russian group visa • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, Turkish visa.

Pre-cruise Istanbul Extension

7th to 10th September & 18th to 21st September 2021



Istanbul is blessed with a magnificent natural setting on the Bosphorous Strait and our pre-cruise extension offers an opportunity to discover the many facets of this deeply fascinating and historically important city where East meets West.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to Pera Palace Hotel for our three night stay. Meet tonight for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 2 Istanbul. After breakfast at the hotel we start our exploration of Istanbul at the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire and the site of speeches, chariot races, and riots. Next, visit the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica, later an imperial mosque and today a museum. Known for its massive domed roof and colourful mosaics, this structure is widely regarded as the world's finest example of Byzantine architecture. A short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent covered cisterns in Istanbul. Lunch is taken at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel where the remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure.

Day 3 Istanbul. Our day begins with a visit to the Suleymaniye Mosque, the largest in the city and a masterpiece of the 16th century architect Sinan before we continue to the small yet lavishly decorated Chora Church. Part of a Byzantine monastery complex (now a museum) it was originally built outside the city walls of Constantine the Great. View the many frescoes and mosaics here depicting the beginnings of Christianity. Before lunch in a local restaurant stop at the Fener Greek Quarter, visiting the Greek Patriarchate and Orthodox Church and Balat, the Jewish Quarter, which dates back to the Byzantine period. Return to the hotel and the remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure.

Day 4 Istanbul. Take some time to explore independently or relax in the hotel before we check out in the late morning. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before continuing to the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Since 1924 it has been preserved as a museum, and it is noted for its beautiful shaded courtyards and elegant architecture. In the late afternoon we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky for embarkation.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£995** Single: **£1495**

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation at the Pera Palace Hotel in Istanbul with breakfast, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, excursions, gratuities, lunch on days 2, 3 & 4, dinner on day 1.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Turkish visa.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY



Deluxe Balcony Suite



On Deck



The Restaurant

The MS Caledonian Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three 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 Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.



Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. The passenger accommodation is arranged over four decks and all suites have outside views. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, heated towel rail, vanity unit and walk-in shower and/or bath tub. Facilities in the suites also include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table

with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, flat screen television, telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Caledonian 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.



Standard Suite



Caledonian Lounge



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where briefings are given by the onboard team and talks from Guest Speakers take place. Also in the Lounge is a 24-hour tea and coffee station along with an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. In addition there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The Travel Library is the perfect place to relax with a good book and is well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting. A selection 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). Outside there is a rear Lido Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top deck there is a further observation and Sun Deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. There is also a small beauty salon with appointments made on request.

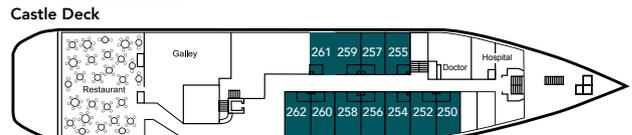
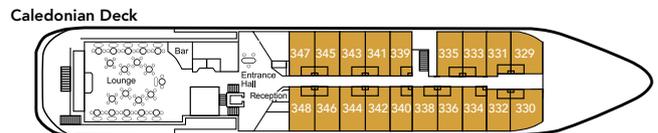
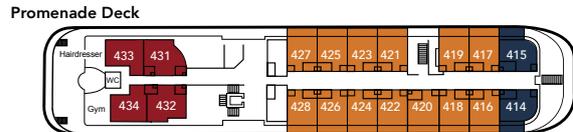
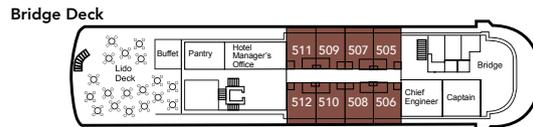
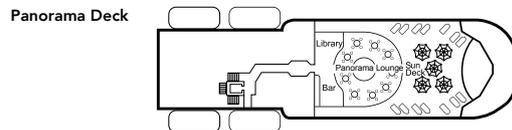
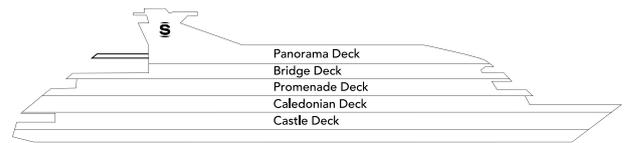
Your Comfort

The MS Caledonian 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. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no "black tie" evenings. 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. 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 from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



- Standard Suites
- Premium Suites
- Premium Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Corner Suites with Balcony

Please note that all suites on Castle Deck feature a minimum of two portholes.



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: Amasra