

# BOTANICAL WONDERS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS & PORTUGAL

A VOYAGE FROM TENERIFE TO OPORTO
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY IN ASSOCIATION
WITH BOTANICA WORLD DISCOVERIES

14<sup>TH</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026



Join the MS Hebridean Sky and discover the beauty of three of the lesser-known Canary Islands, where you can enjoy nature at its very best, combined with some time on the beautiful island of Madeira, and calls in mainland Portugal, discovering somewhere new each day. This botanical themed journey is timed for May when the weather should be at its most pleasant allowing us to fully appreciate the diverse and intriguing topography of the islands, verdant pine forests, beautiful gardens and delightful towns. This voyage has been designed by our Australian associates at Botanica

World Discoveries who have exclusively chartered the vessel for this sailing and have made some suites available for Noble Caledonia passengers.

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Setting sail from Tenerife, we will explore the Canary Islands of La Gomera, El Hierro and La Palma, all of which boast beautiful scenery and

a diverse plant life. The unique landscapes of the islands have been shaped by volcanic activity over millions of years and impress with their rugged, rocky landscapes, evergreen cloud forests, metre-high ferns and bizarre-looking dragon trees. On the islands of La Gomera and El Hierro we will follow in the footsteps of plant hunters and discover the rare and endemic species still found here today. After our exploration of the islands, we make our way to the archipelago of Madeira where we spend two days on the 'floating garden in the Atlantic', the island of Madeira, and also discover the beautiful neighbouring island of Porto Santo. Continuing on to the Iberian Peninsula we spend our final days exploring mainland Portugal where there will be opportunities to visit some horticultural spendours including the gardens of Lisbon's Fronteira Palace and the architectural marvels of Sintra, Medieval Coimbra and the enchanting gardens of Quinta das Lagrimas, and the historic Quinta do Alao Garden in Oporto.

This springtime itinerary has been carefully designed to fully explore the dramatic beauty, colourful fauna and cultural vibrancy of these captivating and varied places, and on most days there will be a choice of excursion depending on your interest or how active you wish to be. Helping us to make the most of the region, we will be joined on board by a cultural historian and expert botanical guides, and with just over 100 fellow, like-minded companions, we will be able to explore ashore in small groups visiting places otherwise inaccessible to the larger ships. In addition, classical soprano Judith Dodsworth and pianist Philip Walsh will also be joining us for the voyage adding an extra musical dimension to your experience through performances and talks on board.



# The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tenerife, Canary Islands.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation as we sail tonight. Enjoy a recital of Spanish songs and opera pieces by soprano Judith Dodsworth and pianist Philip Walsh on board this evening.

Day 2 La Gomera. Today, we explore La Gomera, one of the smallest of the Canary Islands, and the closest to Tenerife. You may choose to join a guided tour to Garajonay National Park, whose dense green laurel forests are some of the best-preserved in the world. See the magnificent rock formation, Agando, and its curious companions. Alternatively, for those feeling active there will be a trek through Garajonay's lush forests, and travel to Vallehermoso Botanical Garden to admire its intriguing and rare endemic plants.

Day 3 El Hierro. Further west, we arrive at El Hierro, the smallest of the seven main islands within the archipelago. Plant hunter Tom Hart Dyke referred to this small island as 'the botanical Galápagos of Europe' owing to its many rare, endemic plant species. Explore the island's lava-sculpted landscapes. Your guide will also bring you to the Guinea Ecomuseum, where you will discover traditional houses composed of lava rock, as well as a sanctuary protecting the island's giant lizard population. Those feeling

active may instead choose to hike to La Llania, where spectacular views of the crater, La Hoya de Fireba, are on offer. This evening on board, settle in to enjoy more music from Judith and Philip, this time with more of a Latin flavour.

Figueira da Foz

Lisbon PORTUGAL

Day 4 La Palma. Due north of El Hierro, we discover the natural beauty of La Palma, which was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2002. The island's coastline, mountainous regions and volcanoes make for a diversity of terrain to explore. In the town of El Paso, pay a visit to the local silk museum, or perhaps opt for a more active option exploring the towering pines of the nearby El Pilar region. Alternatively, enjoy a guided walk through the forest of Los Tilos, to admire its wildflowers.

Day 5 Madeira, Portugal. After navigating the Atlantic's waters a little farther north, our ship arrives at Madeira's capital, Funchal. Set off on a garden discovery during a visit to Quinta da Boa Vista, which features an impressive collection of rare and prized orchids. We then travel to Quinta do Palheiro, also known as Palheiro Gardens. Renowned for its diversity of plants, the gardens occupy a delightful hillside setting to Funchal's east. Enjoy another performance by Judith and Philip this evening.













Day 6 Madeira. This morning board a cable car to Monte where we will discover the district's elegant palace, set within a garden paradise. Known as the Monte Palace Madeira, it houses a vast collection of plants from around the world. Close by, we visit the exquisite Madeira Botanical Garden. Boasting spectacular views over Funchal, the vibrant, colourful garden is home to more than 2,000 distinct plant species. Alternatively, head to the coast and arrive at the world-famous Belmond Reid's Palace. Take in stunning North Atlantic views while enjoying afternoon tea along the hotel's perfectly positioned clifftop terrace. Back aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, cruise to Porto Santo this afternoon.

**Day 7 Porto Santo.** Spend a relaxing morning in Porto Santo, the smallest inhabited island of Madeira's archipelago, and enjoy a tasting of the island's wines. At the viewpoint of Pico de Castelo, admire the contours of Porto Santo's coastline. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure back aboard the ship. Inspired by the flavours of the region, we then indulge in a matched wine and musical experience, joined by Judith and Philip.

Day 8 At Sea. As we cruise toward mainland Portugal, relax and enjoy the amenities of the MS Hebridean Sky. Perhaps attend a lecture given by your Botanical Guide, who will brief you on some of the sights we will encounter tomorrow. We will also hear from Judith on the music of Portugal, learning about Fado, the country's celebrated musical style. Take the opportunity to participate during this exploration of the language, rhythms and melodies of this popular folk music.

**Day 9 Lisbon.** Arriving in Lisbon, we begin our day with an appreciation of the spectacular views available from Serra de Sintra. Visit the Park and National Palace of Pena and admire the elaborate facades and gardens of Sintra. After lunch, we head to Fronteira Palace. The gardens here are known for their formal box parterre, surrounded by walls decorated with azulejo tiles.

Day 10 Figueira da Foz. Farther north along Portugal's coast, we arrive in the port city of Figueira da Foz. Considered the gateway to Portugal's Medieval centre, the seaside resort serves as a picturesque stopping point on our way to Coimbra. After an orientation tour, we visit the gardens of Quinta das Lagrimas. It was here that lnes de Castro and Pedro I of Portugal lived out their forbidden romance. After exploring the gardens, either return to the ship or spend some additional time in Figueria da Foz to explore independently.

This evening, learn more about Ines de Castro and Pedro I, whose story of love has been celebrated in literature, art and music. Judith will further illustrate their tragic tale by way of a lecture, as well as an operatic excerpt.

Day 11 Leixoes. From the port of Leixoes, there will be the option today to set out for Porto. Discover this city along the banks of the Douro River with its fascinating history and toast Porto's wine-making traditions at a local wine cellar. Alternatively, visit Quinta do Alao, a garden dating back to the 17th century, filled with Japanese trees, flowerbeds and sculptures. During our final night aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, Judith and Philip celebrate our voyage with a night of Latin jazz.

**Day 12 Oporto to London.** Disembark this morning 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
	Amundsen	Standard	£6995	£6495
	Byrd	Superior	£7295	£6795
Ī	Mawson	Premium	£7495	£6995
	Mawson	Corner	£7995	£7495
	Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£8495	£7995
	Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£8995	£8495
	Shackleton	Hebridean	£9495	£8995
	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 • Onboard team including Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.





# MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky. 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

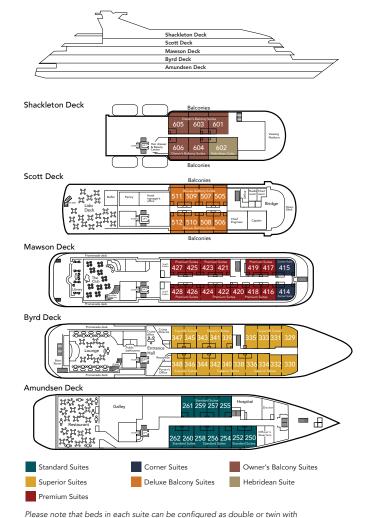
On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with ensuite 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 Noble Isle toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating.

# Your Dining

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. 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 the Club. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficinent notice.

## Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd Deck where daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck is the Library which is well stocked with reference books along with a collection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (signal strength varies depending on location and demand). On the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area.



the exception of suites 601 and 602 which feature a fixed double bed.



# Noble Caledonia

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