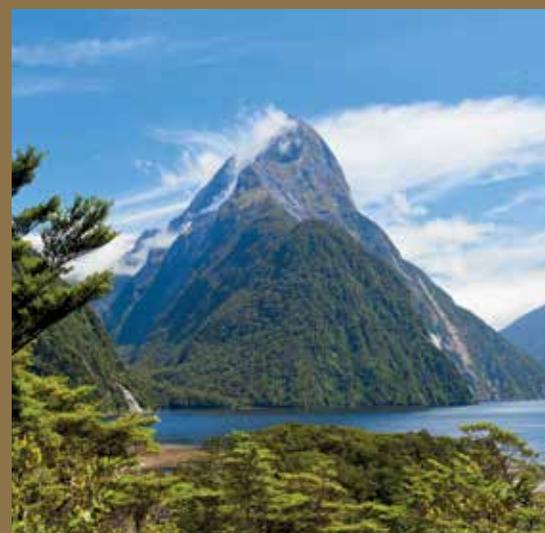
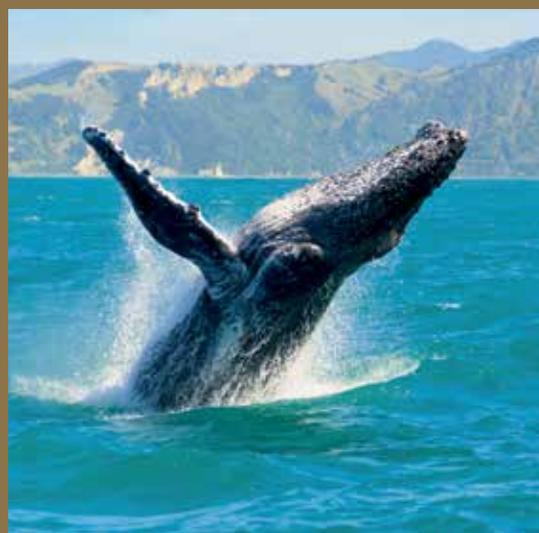
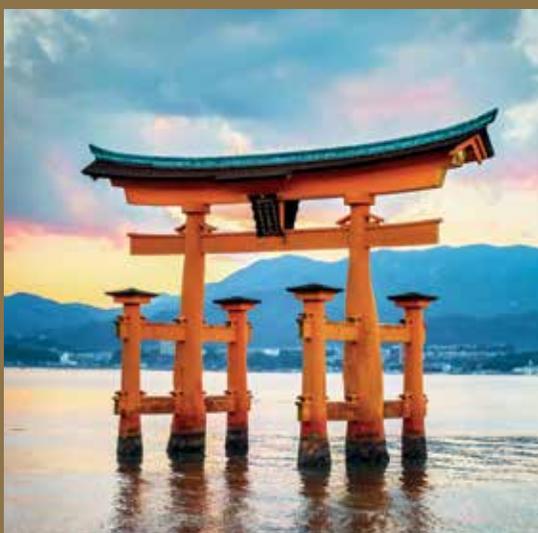


*Voyages aboard*  
MS CALEDONIAN SKY  
2018 & 2019



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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# Dear Traveller

Each brochure we issue for cruises aboard one of our Sky vessels is likely to include some new and unique cruises as our regular passengers are so well travelled we are always endeavouring to create new adventures for them. However, with this new brochure detailing the cruises the MS Caledonian Sky will undertake from September 2018 to June 2019, we have exceeded the norm with five brand new expeditions and voyages.

We have an in-depth exploration of Tasmania which, due its isolated position has a refreshingly 'untouched' feel both in its landscape and heritage. There is also an expedition to the wondrous Sub-Antarctic Islands, a relatively rare event due to the islands being so well protected and therefore only a limited number of permits are issued each year to explore their shores and remarkable wildlife. Whilst in Japanese waters, we will be circumnavigating the island of Hokkaido which is a world away from the traditional view of Japan with more than two million acres of national parkland and an extraordinary and diverse flora and fauna, and we also have a voyage dedicated to the small ports and island groups of southern Japan which offer an altogether different experience to that of Japan's mainland.

However, the highlight of this new brochure is perhaps the one cruise which we have been wanting to schedule in ever since we first acquired the MS Caledonian Sky, our Australian Coastal Odyssey, which we are delighted we will be able to operate in October 2018. We have devised our itinerary to take you from the extreme north of Queensland to the far south in the state of Victoria and have incorporated remote islands, natural parks and stunning landscapes along the way allowing you to appreciate just what makes this vast New World so endlessly fascinating.

In addition to these exciting new expeditions, we have our ever popular voyages around New Zealand, expedition cruises exploring the many exotic wonders of Papua New Guinea and Melanesia and for those who want to explore the cultural treasures of Japan, we have a partial circumnavigation of the mainland combined with calls into South Korea.

Whilst the itinerary is of paramount importance, we are of course fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. The 114-passenger, all-suite MS Caledonian Sky offers a comfortable base to return to each day after a day of exploration and her popular and friendly crew are dedicated to offering the best possible service on board. In addition our expert expedition team will enhance your experience immeasurably both whilst exploring ashore and during their informative lectures on board; their knowledge, enthusiasm and warmth make every trip a unique event.

There are some marvellous experiences to be enjoyed during our expeditions from snorkelling amongst multi-coloured waters, landing on pristine beaches, witnessing traditional ways of life in remote communities and exploring jungle looking for endemic flora and fauna to visiting places of rich cultural and spiritual significance.

We look forward to welcoming back our past passengers and also to meeting some new faces aboard the MS Caledonian Sky.



Tim Cochrane  
Managing Director

## NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST



NOBLE CALEDONIA  
CHARITABLE TRUST

During our worldwide explorations over the years, we have come across many situations where help is desperately needed, be it following a natural disaster, civil unrest, abject poverty or to save an endangered species. To this end we established the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust in 2013 (NCCT). It is our vision to use the Noble Caledonia framework to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the areas we work and visit. Our onboard teams are uniquely positioned to identify projects and lead fundraising initiatives, whilst many of our guests genuinely care about the people and places we visit and want to make a difference. 100% of all donations go directly to the beneficiaries as Noble Caledonia Ltd covers all the administration costs and donates a percentage of profits annually. Details of our projects can be found on our website [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)



On Deck

## MS Caledonian Sky



The much loved MS Caledonian Sky is one of our three flagships and 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 Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our European 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 Caledonian 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 join us on board the MS Caledonian Sky 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, instead 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 onboard team and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room or on the Lido Deck all contribute to making any voyage aboard the MS Caledonian Sky a memorable experience.

The daily programme on board is in the capable hands of our Cruise Director or Expedition Leader and onboard team who coordinate with the Captain and Officers to make the most of each day. Briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage together with a 'Daily Programme' that is distributed each



On Deck



The Restaurant



Lecture in The Lounge

evening to your suite outlining the next day's activities. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no 'black tie' evenings.

**For your Comfort, Security & Safety**

MS Caledonian Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimize the ship's motion. As is the joy of small ship cruising, during your voyage, we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessels progress by charts and learn more about your journey (subject to weather or security conditions). There is a navigation channel on the television in your suite showing the routing of the vessel. On board you will also find a clinic and doctor and a lift that serves all decks. Smoking on board is restricted to a specific area on deck.

“ Not only is the MS Caledonian Sky one of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships in the world, she is also one of the friendliest and most efficiently run. Our crew of over 70, many of whom have been with us for many years are dedicated to offering the best possible experience. ”



Panorama Lounge

## Your Space



The spacious and finely decorated public rooms on board the MS Caledonian Sky include a large lounge featuring comfortable seating. Daily briefings given by the onboard team and talks from Guest Speakers take place in the main lounge which is fitted with multiple screens. For your convenience it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your suite. Also featured 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 to the main Lounge on the Caledonian Deck, there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and internet area 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. 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 literature on board. A selection of games and two computers complete with complimentary internet access can also be found in the library along with newspapers and magazines which are placed there depending on local availability. The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Castle Deck. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck which is complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade and often occasions such as sail away parties and barbeques are held here.



Promenade Deck



The Library



The Lounge

On the Panorama Deck towards the front of the vessel there is an additional Observation Deck, complete with bar and comfortable cushioned deck furniture for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. On the Promenade Deck there is also a small gymnasium featuring a treadmill, bicycle and cross trainer, and a hairdressers with appointments made on request. For your wellbeing, there is a clinic with Doctor on board and a lift which serves all decks.

“  
Nothing captures the adventurous spirit of the cruises quite like sipping a hot chocolate, whiskey or cream liqueur while whale watching on a late summer night in the wilds.  
”



Deluxe Balcony Suite



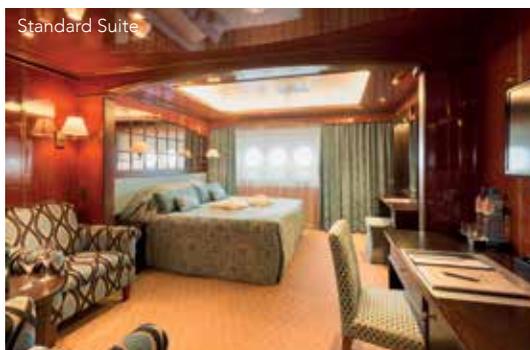
## Your Suite



On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites, 23 of which have private balconies located on the Promenade or Bridge Decks. Each cabin exudes great character and grandeur with wood panelling and brass features found throughout. The large

suites are arranged over four decks and all have outside facing views. All suites feature a sitting area complete with coffee table, armchairs and flat screen televisions (DVD players and DVDs can be borrowed from reception for use in your suite). The beds in each cabin offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and pillows and can be configured as large double beds or twins. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, a heated towel rail, shaver outlet and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or corner bath tub. Dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Further facilities in the suites include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, cabin to cabin telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, bottled water replenished daily, as well as extra blankets and pillows. Ship announcements made from the Bridge and Reception area are also broadcasted in your suite. A laundry service is also available on board.





## Your Dining On Board



It is quite a task to create a dining experience as that found on board the MS Caledonian Sky whilst cruising in far-flung corners of the globe, indeed it takes a team of highly talented chefs to deliver fresh, varied dishes no matter where you are at sea. Fortunately, our catering teams are well adapted to the world of small ship cruising where no two days are the same and the menus are often scheduled and tailored around the days' excursions.

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. Where possible and when it meets their

high standards, our accomplished chefs will obtain local produce in markets. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and enable the chefs on board to exhibit their culinary skills and bring a local touch to the varied menus, emphasising the international expertise of the chefs on board. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day 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.

In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are à la carte with an excellent choice of dishes, with the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals and there is also a comprehensive wine list with a wide selection of new and old world wines from which to choose.

The onboard catering and restaurant staff are experienced at sea and enthuse a passion for superb service. Whether it be ensuring you have an outdoor blanket as you enjoy the crisp sea breeze on the Lido Deck or sharing their knowledge of the characteristics of the days' wine selections, you will experience a service on board like no other. You may also enjoy sumptuous barbecues on deck whilst at times, the chef will make your dish to order at special pasta or stir fry stations.

## *Captain's Welcome Dinner*

### Sample Menu

#### **Appetizers**

Shrimp Cocktail with Rhode Island Dressing  
Oven Baked Fresh Figs wrapped in Parma Ham  
with Wild Rocket and Balsamic Reduction

#### **Soups**

"Crème Ninon"  
Green Pea Soup topped with Champagne and Chantilly Cream  
Tomato Consommé with Tomato Concasse

#### **Salad**

"Caesar Salad"  
Crisp Romaine Lettuce with Croutons, Anchovies, Parmesan Cheese  
and Caesar Dressing

#### **Sorbet**

Citrus Sorbet on Pink Grapefruit Granite

#### **Main Dishes**

Fresh Local Catch of the Day  
Whole Oven Baked Fresh Sea Bass with Caramelized Lemon  
and Fresh Herbs, served with Pont Neuf Potatoes and Roasted  
Mediterranean Vegetables  
Slow Roasted Chateaubriand of Aberdeen Angus Tenderloin of Beef  
with a Truffle Sauce served with Cocotte Potato and  
Asparagus Wrapped in Bacon  
Roast Breast and Confit of Duck Leg with Cointreau Sauce,  
served with Potato and Braised Red Cabbage  
Goats Cheese, Spinach and Wild Mushroom Lasagne,  
served with Gruyère Cheese Sauce and Parmesan Crisp

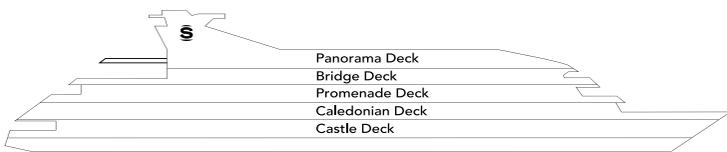
#### **Desserts**

Grand Marnier Soufflé with Orange Flavoured Vanilla Custard Sauce  
Bitter Chocolate Marquise with Pistachio Ice Cream  
Seasonal Fresh Fruits  
Selection of International Cheese



# MS Caledonian Sky

## Deck and Cabin Plans

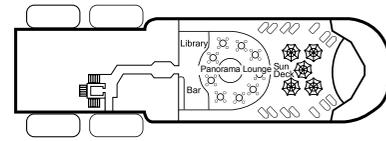


### Technical Information

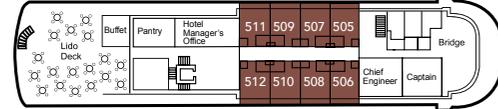
Cruising speed: 11 knots  
 Length overall: 90.6 m  
 Width overall: 15.3m  
 Draught maximum: 4.2m  
 Flag/Registry: Bahamas

Built: 1991  
 Tonnage: 4200  
 Guest capacity: 114  
 Classed by: BV  
 Upgraded: 2016

Panorama Deck



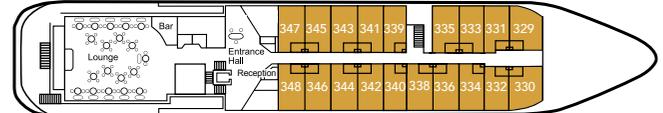
Bridge Deck



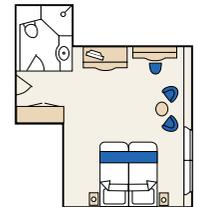
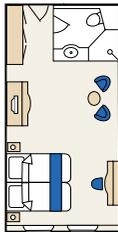
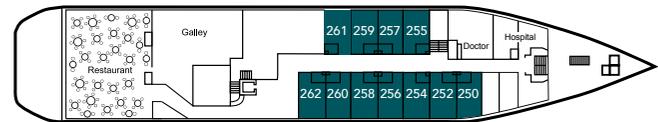
Promenade Deck



Caledonian Deck



Castle Deck



### Castle Deck – Standard Suites

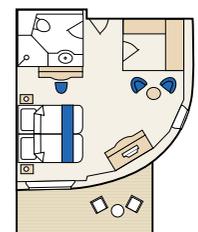
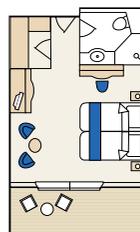
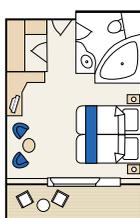
The Standard and Standard Forward Suites located on the Castle Deck measure 22.7 square metres and feature port holes, an en-suite bathroom with shower and spacious wardrobes.

### Caledonian Deck – Superior Suites

The Superior Suites located on the Caledonian Deck measure 21.6 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with bath tub and shower (suites 329, 330 and 331 which feature only a shower), a spacious wardrobe and large window.

### Promenade Deck – Premium Suites

The Premium Suites located on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with shower (cabins 431 & 432 feature a bath tub), spacious wardrobes and a large window.



### Bridge Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Bridge Deck measure 20 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with bath tub and shower and a private balcony measuring 4.2 square metres.

### Promenade Deck – Premium Balcony Suites

The Premium Balcony Suites located on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with shower and a private balcony measuring 5.6 square metres.

### Promenade Deck – Owner's Corner Balcony Suites

The two Corner Suites on the Promenade Deck measure 22.6 square metres and feature a 5.6 square metre balcony and two forward facing portholes, a walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom with shower.

# Exploring Ashore and Expedition Cruising

Our inclusive pricing policy means that the majority of shore excursions are included in the price of your cruise. It is our belief that you do not go on holiday to be part of the all engulfing masses which descend on a town when a number of large ships dock at the same time. Arriving at a port for the first time should be an invigorating experience and can certainly be so when the right place is chosen and your arrival is on a small ship. With a maximum of only 114 passengers, there is no queuing to disembark or embark the MS Caledonian Sky for an excursion and when required there will only be three coaches waiting on the quayside to transport you to the day's attraction as opposed to a whole fleet waiting for the passengers travelling on the big ships. Due to her size, the MS Caledonian Sky has the freedom of the seas and can come alongside in small docks or drop anchor in any suitable spot.



## Expedition Cruising

The majority of the voyages undertaken by the MS Caledonian Sky are expeditionary in nature and therefore in place of the customary Cruise Director and accompanying staff, you will be joined by an Expedition Leader and team. These hand-picked experts are naturalists, historians

and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board. They will supervise the daily programme and hold talks and briefings throughout the cruise. The expedition teams have one aim, to make your trip as enjoyable, relaxing and informative as possible. In addition to our onboard team of experts, local guides will meet us along the way adding much to our knowledge. We have over twenty five years of experience in designing expedition cruises to the hidden corners of the remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new and although we set sail with a set itinerary for each expedition, it is sometimes the unscheduled events that become the highlight of the journey.

## Zodiacs

Our fleet of onboard Zodiacs are invaluable for our expeditions. These inflatable craft offer marvellous manoeuvrability allowing us access to otherwise impossible landing places. With these we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries, land in otherwise inaccessible places and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers. Zodiacs are safe, reliable and convenient boats that allow us to go from ship to shore, whether we land on a beach, on rocks, or on a concrete jetty. In many places which we visit during expedition cruises, they are the only way to go ashore. Zodiacs will also be used as platforms from where swimming and snorkelling can be conducted. There is snorkelling equipment on board and when weather and location permits, the expedition team will set up a snorkelling platform. If you have any concerns or queries pertaining to expedition cruising and what it entails or the use of Zodiacs, please do not hesitate to contact one of our experienced travel consultants.

# Your Onboard Team

On all our voyages you will find informative staff on board and whilst exploring ashore you will be accompanied by excellent English-speaking local guides. Working with the Captain and crew, our onboard team are responsible for the day to day organisation of the itinerary and briefings and they are in regular contact with the Noble Caledonia office. We have the very best in their field and they are also joined by Guest Speakers who are chosen for their in-depth knowledge of a specific subject or geographical area. Briefings by the onboard team and informal talks by our Guest Speakers add an extra dimension to all we see and do.

Full details of who will be joining you on board can be viewed at [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)



“

The ship is big enough to sail the seven seas and take anything that mother nature can throw at her, but small enough to make port, or drop anchor, in hideaway places, off the beaten track, avoiding the regular, crowded tourist stops whenever possible.

”



# The expeditions

“

Ships, especially little ships, have auras like people and houses. The aura is built up of many things. Human encounter is the main brace; add to this the company and shared experience, bad days and good, achievement and disappointment, even moments of danger. All this rubs off on the ship, growing with the places that she visits like richly colored beads threaded with string.

*Keith Shackleton "Ship in the Wilderness"*

”





# Papua New Guinea – The Last Frontier



Discover the Wonders of Papua New Guinea  
28<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Few lands have such an exotic and mysterious allure as Papua New Guinea. The world's second-largest island sits off the north coast of Australia and is home to more than 1,000 indigenous tribes — each with their own traditions — as well as flamboyant birdlife, tropical forests rich with orchids, steep-sided volcanoes, pristine coral wonderlands and golden beaches. Our past travellers and field staff who have visited this mysterious land, where nothing is contrived and every experience is truly authentic, have enthused about the spectacular scenery and truly astounding array of native cultures which are known to only a few privileged travellers.

Travelling independently in Papua New Guinea can be difficult, with little infrastructure in place to accommodate for tourists and information about getting around often scarce. This is of course what makes the region alluring to the genuine traveller, but also why travelling with just 100 passengers and our expert onboard team aboard the all-suite MS Caledonian Sky, is an ideal way to explore this fascinating part of the world in comfort. Afloat and ashore, our exploration will be filled with unforgettable images and we hope you will join us for this unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.

## What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from the ship's log from a previous voyage in the region which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.



*Lababia:* This morning we took to dugout canoes paddled by villagers, and set off up a wild river in convoy. The west side of this river has been designated the Kamiali Wildlife Management Reserve, 27,000ha where no crops are grown, nor trees

*felled. It remains pristine rainforest and because the only sound we were making was the plashing of canoe paddles, we could hear the cicadas, falling leaves and the liquid calls of many forest birds from the surrounding trees. On our way back there were lorikeets screeching overhead, swiftlets above the treetops, a sulphur-crested cockatoo creaking to one side of the river, the huge dusky crested Palm Cockatoo in a tree on the other. At one point a Grey Goshawk swept across the river carrying a small bird in its talons, and a kingfisher raced past us upstream. Once back at the river mouth, we walked past thatched wooden houses on stilts, to reach the central square just back of the beach. Here the local primary school children gathered to sing us the moving National Anthem, and then a fearsome group of warriors with headdresses adorned with hornbill, cockatoo and goshawk feathers leapt and stamped to the insistent beat of kundu drums. What a spectacle, a performance enjoyed as much by the villagers themselves as by our appreciative audience. By*

*now the day was heating up so many returned to the cool haven of the ship while the more active made for the snorkel Zodiac and enjoyed the soothing balm of clear coral reefs and their myriad fish shoals. After such an action-packed morning, the afternoon was a welcome respite, as the Captain hauled anchor and we headed south to a new destination. The afternoon was a quiet time to recuperate and attend two lectures on offer: Tony on the Birds of New Guinea and Micronesia, and Ian on Coral Reefs and their fishes.*



island of Bonarua in Milne Bay at lunchtime. We will go ashore to view fishing and weaving demonstrations, and wander through the enchanting village, sampling local delicacies. Birders have the chance to trek into the thicket whilst the warm inviting waters of the Coral Sea offer a first opportunity to explore the underwater world.

## The Itinerary

**Days 1 & 2 London to Cairns, Australia.**  
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 3 Cairns.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

**Day 4 Cairns.** After breakfast at the hotel enjoy a full day in Cairns. Choose to spend the day exploring the underwater world on the Great Barrier Reef or discover the wildlife at the Daintree Rainforest. We meet this evening for dinner at the hotel.

**Day 5 Cairns to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.** After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Port Moresby. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board as we sail this evening.

**Day 6 Bonarua.** Enjoy a morning at sea. As we follow the coast of Papua New Guinea, the peaks of the dramatic Stanley Owens Range come into view and we arrive at the

**Day 7 Alotau.** Today we arrive in Alotau, the provincial capital. As the centre for Milne Bay many of the islanders come here to sell their wares and the vibrant local market is a trove of local artefacts including Trobriand carvings. We will have time to explore the town whilst our naturalists will take walks to explore the surrounding rainforest looking for birds. The more adventurous may wish to investigate the local caves which are home to thousands of bats.

**Day 8 Tufi.** Arrive at first light in the fjordland of Papua New Guinea. These fjords are over 90 metres deep and rise vertically to 150 metres from the water. The faces of the fjord are covered with moss and orchids and waterfalls fall into the sea. We will use our Zodiacs or local boats to explore the fjords and also visit the local villages. In the markets we will see the local pottery, jewellery and tapa cloth typical of this region. Due to the protection of the fjords the coral reefs are rich in colour and variety and have good visibility. We will find a suitable spot with our Zodiacs to snorkel amongst the gobie, mandarin



Tufi Tribe



Exploring by Zodiac



Palm cockatoo



Fergusson Island, hot springs



Trobriand Islands

fish, pigmy seahorses, sponge and shelf corals.

**Day 9 Lababia.** Arrive at breakfast time in Lababia, our entry to the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. It is accessible only by boat and the area has been formally protected but is under the control of local landowners. It includes a wide range of lowland and mid-montane rainforest, together with inshore marine areas including lush coral reefs, and has a rich array of plants, animals and ecosystems. We can take a rainforest walk on the David Suzuki Trail, seeking hornbills, parrots and palm cockatoos or enjoy time in the local village. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at one of the nearby reefs swimming or snorkelling.

**Day 10 Madang.** After a morning at sea we arrive at Madang, which is sometimes dubbed the ‘prettiest town in the Pacific’ perched on a peninsula surrounded by picturesque islands and sprinkled with parks, ponds and water-lily filled waterways. Madang’s warm, wet climate and fertile soil produce luxuriant growth and any of the huge casuarina trees that tower over the Madang streets support huge colonies of flying foxes. The trees may have escaped World War II relatively unscathed but Madang itself wasn’t so lucky. The town was rebuilt after it was virtually destroyed during the Japanese occupation and subsequent fighting. A morning tour will include the Catholic Mission and Coastwatcher’s Memorial Lighthouse and vibrant market.

**Day 11 Tami Islands.** Arrive this morning on the Tami Islands, four tiny atolls situated seven miles off the Huon Peninsula with around 400 inhabitants. We will be welcomed by the islanders and have a chance to see the distinctive wooden bowls, figure carvings and masks of the region. Alternatively we will use our Zodiacs taking the opportunity to snorkel in the crystal clear waters. Enjoy lunch on board as we sail this afternoon.

**Day 12 Kuiawa & Nakwaba, Trobriand Islands.** Over breakfast we arrive in Kuiawa in the Trobriand Islands. First discovered by the French vessel, Esperence in 1793 and named after the first lieutenant, they are also known as the “Islands of Love” after the study by anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski who wrote about them in his study “The Argonauts of the Western Pacific”. We will be welcomed to the island by the local villagers before having time to explore and learn about their culture. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Nakwaba, a sand cay emerging from the blue waters of the lagoon. Spend the afternoon lounging on the beach, snorkelling along the surrounding reef or the birders may take a walk and hope to see a variety of terns and Pacific golden plovers.

**Day 13 Fergusson & Dobu Islands, D’Entrecasteaux Islands.** Our Papua New Guinea adventure continues in the D’Entrecasteaux islands. We will use our Zodiacs to land on Fergusson Island, the largest of the chain, in a

small fishing village. From here we will walk to the local hot springs and bubbling mud pools surrounded by lush vegetation, birders can keep a lookout for parrots and cockatoos. A welcome dance will be accompanied by local foods cooked in the hot pools. This afternoon we will cruise through the spectacular Dobu passage and use our Zodiacs to explore and snorkel or alternatively land to meet the villagers and visit the local church.

**Day 14 Samarai.** This morning we will explore Samarai which was once known as the “Pearl of the Pacific” and was the Provincial capital until 1968. Samarai was the country’s first provincial headquarters and the faded colonial charm of the buildings

is indicative of its former importance. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea as we return to Port Moresby.

**Day 15 Port Moresby to Cairns, Australia.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Cairns. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration.

**Day 16 Cairns to London.** After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

## 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
Castle	Standard	£8795	£8395
Caledonian	Superior	£8995	£8595
Promenade	Premium	£9295	£8895
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10395	£9995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10595	£10195
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£11595	£11195
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9795	£9395
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995	£9595

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Cairns, specially chartered flights between Cairns and Port Moresby, three nights hotel accommodation in Cairns on bed and breakfast basis, 10 nights aboard MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, group transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

# Australian Coastal Odyssey



An expedition from Cairns to Melbourne exploring Australia's many wonders  
9<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018

What is the best way to see Australia? To us the answer is simple, by sea. After all the vast majority of interest to see is either on Australia's islands, coast or immediate hinterland, and travelling by sea on a small ship with a fleet of Zodiacs opens up the area in the most perfect way. The next big question, is which itinerary, the country is so large it's impossible to include all points of interest unless you are prepared to invest a number of months. We believe the best option is an itinerary that takes you from the extreme north of Queensland to the far south in the state of Victoria. After this the decisions come a little easier. Do we plan a mixture of the usual cities, towns and tourist haunts or do we concentrate our time on Australia's unique natural world. Our view is most certainly the latter, so much about this fascinating country's wildlife, geology and culture is unique and we have therefore designed this expedition to incorporate remote islands, national parks and stunning landscapes allowing us to begin to understand what makes this vast New World so endlessly fascinating.

We will travel from the very top of Australia to its bottom. A momentous voyage along the entire length of its Pacific Ocean coast. Just beyond Cape York, the most northerly point of Australia is Thursday Island where our expedition begins. Here in the Torres Strait islands archipelago, Australia's most northern frontier, life moves slowly and centuries old cultures are passed down in song. From Cape York we journey south visiting remote communities each with their own culture, seeing indigenous rock-art and exploring some fascinating national parks.

Our Zodiacs will be so valuable as we explore the off shore islands of the Great Barrier Reef, landing on remote beaches and taking in the sights which have not changed since Captain Cook landed here in the 18th century. There will be so many intriguing places to see as we make our way south, Dunk Island with its spectacular rainforest, the pristine Whitsundays in the heart of the Barrier Reef and Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Leaving the Queensland coast we enter New South Wales, a state with an equally splendid scenery and wildlife as well as some famous vineyards and botanic gardens, and lastly on to the state of Victoria. Here, Wilson's Promontory awaits, Australia's most southerly national park and a drive along the Great Ocean Road, surely Australia's most scenic journey. Our journey ends in the cosmopolitan city of Melbourne, having taken us some 2000 miles by sea. Travelling with our team of experts and being joined by guides and naturalists along the way, will make for a magical and enlightening experience 'Down Under'.



## The Itinerary

**Days 1 London to Cairns, Australia.**  
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Cairns.** Arrive into Cairns this evening and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax after our flight.

**Day 3 Cairns.** This morning we will take the scenic railway to Kuranda, known as the "village in the rainforest". Constructed between 1882 and 1891, even today it is considered an engineering feat to build the 15 hand-made tunnels and 37 bridges. Rising from sea level to 328 metres, the journey to Kuranda passes through World Heritage protected tropical rainforest, past spectacular waterfalls and into the awesome Barron Gorge. Spend some free time in Kuranda, maybe visit the markets or the butterfly sanctuary, home to over 1500 species of tropical butterflies, before we return to the hotel this afternoon. Remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 4 Cairns to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.** After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Port Moresby. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and embark. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail this evening.

**Day 5 At Sea.** Spend a relaxing day on board, join the lecture programme or find a spot on deck.

**Day 6 Thursday Island & Cape York, Australia.** Our Australian voyage starts on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. The island's hidden past will be revealed during our morning coach tour. Step back in time with a visit to Green Hill Fort, which was built in response to a Russian War scare. Once used as munitions storage space, the fort's underground tunnels and rooms today house the Torres Strait Museum where you can see informative displays on the region's pearling, shipping and military history. Continue to the Gab Titui Cultural Centre where we receive an insight into the Aboriginal art and culture of the Torres Strait islanders which depict myths and legends. Over lunch we will reposition to Cape



York and if weather permits land on the northernmost tip of the Australian mainland.

**Day 7 Piper Islands, Queensland.** Cruising along the Cape York Peninsula we arrive at the Piper Islands National Park. These five islands are owned by the Kuuku Ya'u aboriginal people who have given us permission to visit. The islands are made up of low, vegetated cays and support over 75 species of seabirds, shorebirds and forest birds including terns, pied-imperial pigeons, beach stone-curlews and one of the largest roosting population of black noddy in Queensland. This is also an important nesting area for hawksbill and green turtles have also been spotted in the waters around the island. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the coastline and land for nature walks.

**Day 8 Cape Melville National Park.** Anchor this morning in Bathurst Bay, our gateway to the Cape Melville National Park. This is one of Australia's more remote national parks and is best accessed by sea. The park mixes rainforest, mangroves, heathlands and woodland and isolation has produced a high proportion of endemic plants not found elsewhere in Australia, including foxtail palms which decorate the boulder strewn from the Melville Range. We will also keep an eye out for wildlife such as Godmans rock wallaby and endemic lizards and frogs, whilst birders can search for beach stone-curlews and red-tailed

black cockatoo. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we will find a spot to lower the Zodiacs for a swim or snorkel.

**Day 9 Lizard Island.** Designated as a National Park in 1937 and a Marine Park in 1974, Lizard Island boasts a wonderful number of natural wonders and is a lovely place to spend a day. The island was first visited by Captain Cook in 1770 and he named it after the large number of lizards he found here. We will use our Zodiacs to land on one of the sandy beaches where our naturalists will lead nature walks along the island's trails. Keen birders can keep an eye out for lesser golden plovers and pied imperial pigeons whilst we may see the yellow spotted monitor or another of the eleven species of lizard that reside here. Meanwhile the fringing reef offers a chance to snorkel and we may see the "Clam Garden" where we find giant clams up to two metres long living among an array of hard and soft coral. The active may wish to take a strenuous walk to the top of Cook's Look, the highest point on the island at 363 metres offering wonderful views over the island group and reef.

**Day 10 Cooktown.** Modern day Cooktown is located on the site where, in 1770, Captain Cook brought the Endeavour for repairs after damaging the ship on the offshore reefs. Known as Waymbuurr in the native aboriginal language it was a popular meeting place for the local tribes and when Cook arrived it was the first recorded meaningful meeting between the indigenous Australian population and Europeans. A morning walk will include the James Cook Museum, housed in a 19th century convent and showcasing the history of the town from Cook's arrival to the Palmer gold rush period of the late 19th century as well as an insight into the culture and history of the indigenous Guugu Yimithiir aborigines. Also see the 150 hectare botanical gardens before we return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea.

**Day 11 Dunk Island.** Spend the morning on Dunk Island, a spectacular tropical rainforest island and the largest island in the Family Islands National Park. Known as Coonanglebah which translates as "the island of peace and plenty" it sums up this stunning location. During nature walks through the eucalypt forest we will keep an eye out for the many species of birds, with over 100 species having been recorded on the island, as well as monitors, tree snakes and the brilliant blue Ulysses butterfly. With their metallic blue wings they are easier to spot against the rainforest backdrop.

In the waters, the reefs are home to a plethora of fish and corals whilst the seagrass beds are feeding grounds for turtles and dugong. Over lunch we will set sail and continue our journey along the Australian coast.

**Day 12 Whitsundays.** Located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef are the 74 islands of the Whitsundays. Surrounded by warm tropical waters, the majority of the islands are uninhabited and remain pristine and untouched. We will anchor over breakfast in one of the stunning bays and use our Zodiacs to land on a sandy beach. From here our onboard naturalists will lead nature walks through the forests where we may see brush turkeys, goannas and wallabies. Keen snorkellers can enjoy time in the clear waters with thousands of brightly coloured fish and diverse variety of corals.

**Day 13 Great Keppel Island.** After a morning at sea we arrive during lunch at Great Keppel Island, situated just above the Tropic of Capricorn and one of the 18 islands of the Keppel group. Fringed by turquoise waters, hard coral reefs and sun drenched beaches it looks like a perfect tropical island. On land the island covers over 1500 hectares with 90% of the interior made up of native bushland and winding walking trails which are abundant with wildlife. More than 100 species of bird life have been recorded including kookaburras, ospreys, beach curlews and rainbow lorikeets and we may also see blue tongued lizards and possums. We will spend the afternoon on nature walks, snorkelling on the reef or maybe choose to relax on one of the sandy beaches.

**Day 14 Fraser Island.** At over 184,000 hectares, Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Created over hundreds of thousands of years by sand blown from the Australian mainland it is a wonder of freshwater lakes, crystal clear creeks and immense dunes of coloured sands which continue to evolve. It is also the only place in the world where rainforests are found growing on sand dunes whilst the wallum heaths on the island's interior provide magnificent displays of wildflowers in the spring. On shore we can see a profusion of wildlife including the infamous dingo whilst the waters are home to dugong and dolphins. The great sandy strait that divides the island from the mainland is a recognised wetland area with mangrove colonies, seagrass beds and thousands of migratory seabirds. We will anchor in Kingfisher Bay and spend the day exploring this natural wonder on a series of island drives and walks.



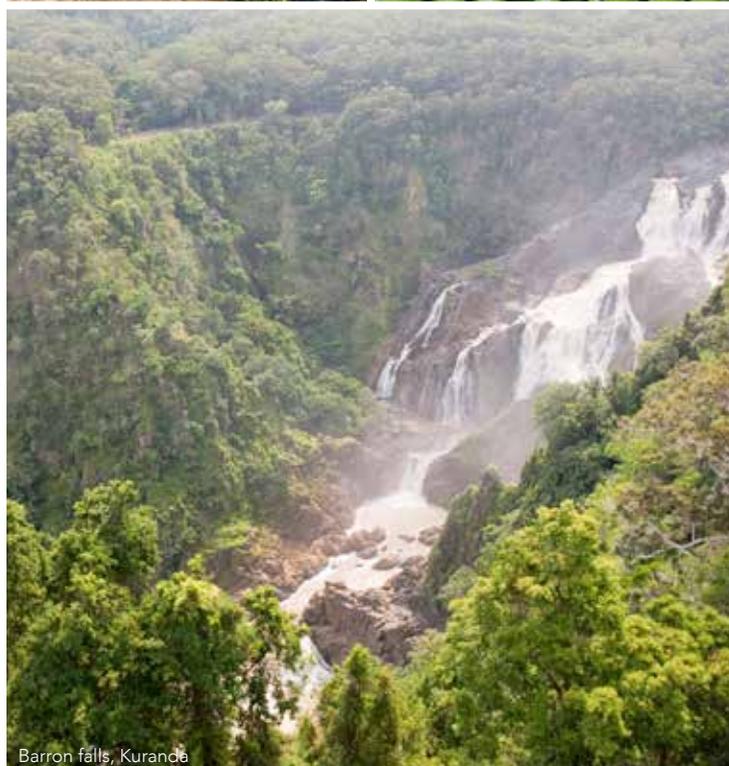
Whitsundays



Maria Island



Ulysses butterfly, Dunk Island



Barron falls, Kuranda



Melbourne



Twelve Apostles



Kangaroos, Batemans Bay

**Day 15 At Sea.** Spend a leisurely day at sea as we sail towards New South Wales.

**Day 16 Yamba.** Over breakfast we arrive at the mouth of the Clarence River and the popular holiday resort town of Yamba famed for its spectacular beaches and local seafood. This morning we will retrace the steps of the explorer Mathew Flinders who visited Yamba in 1799, as we explore the historical highlights and landmarks such as the Flinders Well, Yamba Lighthouse, and the Yamba Historical Museum which showcases the importance of the River Clarence to the area. Alternatively take a walk in the nearby Iluka Nature Reserve, part of the Gondwana rainforests and home to numerous bird species. We will make our way through the canopy of trees to Iluka Bluff to enjoy the views along the rocky coastline and glorious beaches. Enjoy lunch on board as we continue our journey south this afternoon.

**Day 17 Newcastle for Hunter Valley.** Founded in 1804, Newcastle grew as a major centre for exporting coal which was delivered along the Hunter River to the port. Today it is not only renowned for its historical heritage, but also as a popular gateway to the Hunter Valley, one of the finest wine regions in New South Wales and one of Australia's oldest wine producing areas. James Busby is credited for starting the wine industry here way back in 1824 and today the region boasts a wide variety of winemaking styles from traditional to modern. After a scenic drive we will visit a couple of the region's vineyards where we will enjoy tastings of the famed Hunter Valley Semillon. Alternatively spend time in Newcastle and see the Christ Church Cathedral,

Nobby's Headland and Lighthouse, Honeysuckle Harbour and the Art Deco Civic Centre.

**Day 18 Batemans Bay.** This morning we cruise up the Clyde River into Batemans Bay. The expansive waterway at the mouth of the Clyde River was named by Cook on his voyage of discovery along this coast in 1770. However it was not until well into the 19th century that the township of Batemans Bay appeared. While Batemans Bay is the largest on the coast south of Nowra, it maintains its small town atmosphere. We have the chance to explore the region known for native kangaroos, wallabies, possums, bandicoots, sea eagles and brilliantly coloured parrots. We will visit the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens and historic Mogo where the rustic atmosphere has been preserved resulting in a quaint village in which you can find a wide variety of unusual and attractive craft and antique items. Meanwhile in Mogo State Forest we can walk in the bush for sightings of kookaburras, rosellas and black cockatoos. Alternatively a full day tour to Canberra will cross the Great Dividing Range to the Australian Capital Territory. Here we will visit the Australian Parliament buildings and have some free time to explore the capital city.

**Day 19 Eden.** Cruise this morning into the port of Eden situated in magnificent Twofold Bay, the third deepest natural harbour in the Southern Hemisphere. A morning excursion will take us to the Ben Boyd National Park, a stunning coastal park of sheltered inlets, Aboriginal middens, historic buildings and wildlife. There will be a choice of walks for all levels and the chance to visit Boyd's Tower with views over the Pacific Ocean where, at this time of

year, we may see humpback whales on their migration back to Antarctica or watch for white bellied sea eagles in the skies. We will also have some free time in Eden where you may visit the Killer Whale Museum to learn more about the whaling history of the region and the unique relationship between whalers and the wild killer whales. Alternatively find a spot to try some of the region's famous oysters.

**Day 20 Wilsons Promontory.** After a morning at sea we arrive in the Gippsland area of Victoria. Wilson's Promontory is mainland Australia's southernmost National Park, an isolated area of granite headlands, with unique vegetation and geology. The park is affectionately known as "The Prom", and is famous for its abundance of native animals, birds, reptiles and plants, magnificent beaches and thick coastal forest. After using the Zodiacs to land on one of the beaches our onboard naturalists will lead a series of nature walks.

**Day 21 Melbourne.** Disembark after breakfast in the port of Geelong as we embark on a full day tour of the Great Ocean Road. On this glorious coastal drive we will visit Bells Beach, spot koalas in the wild, enjoy a guided tour of the Otways rainforest and marvel at the amazing rock formations of the Port Campbell National Park, including the Twelve Apostles and Loch Ard Gorge. Along the way we see pristine beaches and rugged rocky outcrops of the Great Ocean Road. We arrive in Melbourne this afternoon and will check into our hotel for an overnight stay. The evening is free to enjoy independently.

**Day 22 Melbourne to London.** After breakfast in the hotel spend a morning at leisure before we transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 23 London.** Arrive this morning.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER- SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£11995	£10995
Caledonian	Superior	£12395	£11395
Promenade	Premium	£12995	£11995
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£13995	£12995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£14595	£13595
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£15595	£14595
Castle	Standard for sole use	£15295	£14295
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£15695	£14695

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel between London and Cairns and Melbourne to London, specially chartered flight from Cairns to Port Moresby, two nights hotel accommodation in Cairns and overnight accommodation in Melbourne on bed and breakfast basis, 17 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, group transfers, permits and port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.



# Wilderness & Wonders of Tasmania & New Zealand

A voyage from Melbourne to Auckland  
25<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The world's smallest continent has it all. Extraordinary wildlife, unique flora, forests which appear to go on forever, rolling pastureland, vineyards, plantations, mountains, rivers, and dramatic coastal scenery. Nowhere is this more true than on the island of Tasmania which, because of its isolated position, has retained a refreshingly 'untouched' feel both in its landscape and heritage.

The old cliché of 'more British than the British' sits easily with Tasmania, where the predominant settlers were Anglo-Saxon in origin. Due to its small population and isolation, the island has been by-passed by any massive economic development and the result for the visitor is sheer bliss. Unlike most of Australia, where the old has been torn down and replaced with new, Tasmania has a wealth of historic homes and buildings. During our seven days exploring the island we will spend time on Maria Island, a special place with historical ruins and remarkable wildlife. Created with convict labour, we will also discover Port Arthur with its impressive architecture and delightful gardens. To experience the Tasmanian Wilderness which is recognised by UNESCO, there will be opportunities to join guided walks with our naturalists through the Freycinet National Park and the Tarkine Wilderness, a 447,000 hectare area which includes Australia's largest patch of temperate rainforest as well as sand dunes, mountain ranges, moorland, wild rivers, caves and coastal heathland.

After crossing the Tasman Sea, we begin our exploration of New Zealand which will include three islands off the usual cruise route, Ulva Island, Stewart Island and White Island. In addition we will explore New Zealand's capital of Wellington, Dunedin's 19th century buildings and botanical gardens, the Art Deco town of Napier and the famous thermal springs at Rotorua. Our voyage aboard the all-suite MS Caledonian Sky has been perfectly timed for the spring when temperatures will be comfortable for touring with the added advantage that flowers should be in bloom. The itinerary is brimming with highlights and includes a good balance of history, culture, flora, fauna and architecture. With the added advantage of our Zodiac landing craft we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of the region's extraordinary natural attractions and our knowledge will be enhanced by the expert onboard team.

## What To Expect...

Each day in Tasmania will hold something new but to give you an idea of what to expect, below is an extract from the ship's log from the last time the MS Caledonian Sky visited Tasmania:

*Maria Island National Park, Tasmania: After another quiet night at anchor, we woke up to beautiful pink skies off the coast of Maria Island, separated from the Tasmanian mainland by*

*the Mercury Passage. We were all welcomed at the island's visitor centre for a short history and orientation briefing by the Head Ranger before setting off in our separate directions.*

*First to depart were our long walkers who set off on an ambitious hike to the Fossil Cliffs and the summit of Bishop and Clerk. After leaving the settlement of Darlington we walked through the grasslands, past the old*



*cemetery and airstrip, past Cape Boullanger and on to the Fossil Quarry and Fossil Cliffs. Here Susan explained a little more about the geology of the area and continued with those of us who preferred to complete the circuit back to Darlington, while the keen hikers continued on with Craig and Kit to the summit. It was a long hard climb through open forest and woodland however as we went we encountered several birds species, skinks and even a bandicoot. Finally after hiking approximately six kilometres to an elevation of approximately 620 metres we reached the summit for fabulous views out over the bay before making a much quicker descent back to Darlington, arriving for a very well deserved drink back at the bar in time for the ship to sail.*



*Next ashore were our medium walkers who set off with Tony, Louis and Judith on the Reservoir Circuit Walk through open woodland, tall eucalypt woodland and on to the convict-built reservoir. The highlights of our walk however had to be the sightings of two wallabies just off the path about a third of the way through the circuit. They sat mesmerised by us for a couple minutes and long enough for us to take a few photos before they leapt off into the bush. After approximately one and a half hours we returned to Darlington where we had time to explore the historical buildings of the penal colony.*

*Our final group took a historical stroll with Ingrid and local Rangers James*

*and Rachel around the key areas of the penal settlement. After our respective medium walkers and historical strollers had completed the walks we had further time to explore the shore line and its wildlife which included rare Australian pied oyster catchers, the endangered little hooded plover and Tasmanian native hens. An even more unexpected sighting however was a female elephant seal who was mid-way through her seasonal catastrophic moult.*



*With everyone all aboard at 13:30, we started our sail north up the coast of Tasmania in the early afternoon sunshine. Late afternoon however we were in for a fantastic surprise and for some the highlight of our voyage so far when we were approaching Ile des Phoques, or Seal Island in French. The reason for the name soon became abundantly clear. We were encouraged to come out on deck and as we did we saw huge numbers of seals playing in the water around the island as well as others hauled out on the rocks. The team lowered the Zodiacs for us to take a closer look. For the next hour we circumnavigated the island getting extremely close to the playful seals as well as exploring the many caves. In addition to the Australian fur seals, we also saw small colonies of shags as well as sea eagles sitting high on the cliffs of the island. A perfect ending to a fabulous day of activities!*



Rainbow Lorikeet



Koala



Wineglass Bay, Freycinet National Park

## The Itinerary

For this cruise, there is a choice of flying to Melbourne via Hong Kong or Singapore, please indicate your preference when making your booking.

**Day 1 London to Hong Kong or Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Hong Kong or Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 3 Hong Kong or Singapore to Melbourne, Australia.** Enjoy a relaxing morning before meeting in the early afternoon for a city tour. Continue to the airport for our scheduled overnight flight to Melbourne.

**Day 4 Melbourne.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our central hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to explore the city independently or relax after our journey and enjoy the hotel facilities.

**Day 5 Melbourne.** After breakfast in the hotel join a full day tour of the Great Ocean Road. On this glorious coastal drive we will visit Bells Beach, spot koalas in the wild, enjoy a guided tour of the Otways Rainforest and marvel at the amazing rock formations of the Port Campbell National Park, including the Twelve

Apostles and Loch Ard Gorge. Along the way we see pristine beaches and rugged rocky outcrops of the Great Ocean Road. We will arrive at the MS Caledonian Sky later in the afternoon where we will enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner before sailing tonight.

**Day 6 King Island, Tasmania.** Located in the Bass Strait which separates Tasmania with Victoria lies King Island, a peaceful paradise with rugged coastlines, beautiful beaches and wonderful nature walks. King Island's largest town is Currie, with 700 residents, set on a scenic harbour with amazing views of the vast Southern Ocean. Currie has a history of shipwreck salvage, agriculture and fishing, with a sleepy seaside village atmosphere. On our tour we will see the Currie Lighthouse which was built in the 1870s to help prevent shipwrecks in a dangerous stretch of water known as the 'Eye of the Needle' and still stands guard over the ocean today. For nature lovers, Seal Rocks State Reserve has stunning cliffs and calcified forests to explore whilst Lavinia Nature Reserve has wetland bird habitats. Meanwhile food lovers will enjoy the King Island Dairy which produces a wide range of award winning specialty cheeses.

**Day 7 Stanley.** We arrive on the main island of Tasmania at the

north western port of Stanley. This is a town of well-preserved colonial buildings sheltering in the shadow of "the Nut", an imposing volcanic plug which rises 150 metres above the town. We will learn more about the region's history this morning on a town tour including Highfield House, where European settlers first established themselves in Tasmania. Built in 1834 as a residence for Edward Curr, chief agent for the British Van Diemen's Land Company, the estate is a rare example of residential architecture and graceful design from the Regency period. Our tour will end at the Nut, an old volcanic land formation created from dried magma. It has steep sides with a flat top and we can either take the steep walking path or a more leisurely chairlift ride to the top to enjoy the views. Alternatively drive to the Tarkine Wilderness a 447,000 hectare area which includes Australia's largest patch of temperate rainforest as well as sand dunes, mountain ranges, moorland, wild rivers, caves and coastal heathland. Wildlife here includes wombats, platypus, bandicoot, giant crayfish and Tasmanian devil as well as rare birds such as the orange bellied parrot and grey goshawk. Guided walks will take us through the eucalyptus and giant myrtles as we learn more about this important wilderness area.

“

Due to its isolated position, Tasmania has retained a refreshingly untouched feel both in its landscape and heritage. The island has been by-passed by any massive economic development and the result for the visitor is sheer bliss.

”



Forester kangaroos



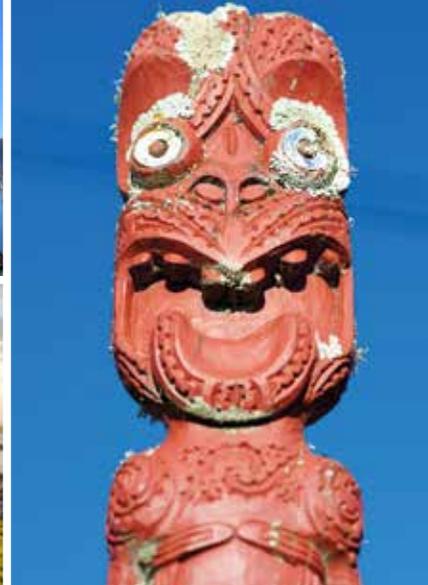
Lighthouse, Akaroa



King Island



Maori carving, Rotorua



**Day 8 Launceston.** One of Australia's oldest cities, Launceston is situated at the meeting of the North and South Esk rivers, where the Tamar River begins its journey to Bass Strait, and has one of the best-preserved early cityscapes in Australia with its elegant colonial and Victorian architecture and century-old parks. On a full day tour we have the morning to enjoy some sightseeing around the city taking in the architecture of the historical buildings and the gardens that lace the streets. We will then take to the water. The Tamar River once served the city of Launceston as a major shipping and transport 'highway' and remains central to the lifestyle of more than a quarter of Tasmania's population. Steeped in romance and studded with tales of bushrangers, we will enjoy a cruise along the river and through the magnificent Cataract Gorge and learn about the fascinating collection of history, fauna and people of this region. We will return to the ship via one of the vineyards of the Tamar Valley which is renowned as one of the premium wine growing regions of Tasmania and where we will enjoy a tasting.

**Day 9 Bicheno & Freycinet National Park.** The fishing village of Bicheno will be our base for the day and is known for its safe beaches and interesting coastal walks which include its famous Rocking Rock and spectacular blowholes. This morning we will explore the Freycinet National Park. The majestic beauty of Freycinet's granite mountains and white, sandy beaches have also long been admired by naturalists, artists and writers and the area was reserved as a national park in 1916. From Great Oyster Bay we will see the stunning red and pink granite peaks known as The Hazards and later take a short

trek to the lookout for views over the iconic, picture postcard, Wineglass Bay. This evening, after dark, we will make our way to the local beach and watch hundreds of fairy penguins as they come ashore in Bicheno crossing the beach to their burrows.

**Day 10 Maria Island.** Be on deck first thing this morning as we cruise by the Iles de Phoques, a small island which is home to huge numbers of Australian fur seals that haul onto the rocks whilst we may also see sea eagles on the cliffs. We will continue to Maria Island National Park which is perhaps best known as the site of Tasmania's second penal settlement which opened in 1821. By the early 1830s it was decided that the site was too expensive to be viable so the convicts were returned to the penitentiaries of the mainland and the whalers, sealers, farmers and smugglers moved in. Today the only reminder is the remains of the penal settlement in Darlington, however Maria Island is also home to diverse flora and fauna including reintroduced animals such as forester kangaroos, Bennetts wallabies, Tasmanian native hens and Cape Barren geese that had been wiped out during the European occupation. The very things that made the island a convict settlement, now make it an ideal refuge for plant and animal species that are under threat elsewhere. The island's ranger and our onboard team will lead a number of walks on the island whilst, if weather permits we may be able to use Zodiacs to see the sandstone "Painted Cliffs".

**Day 11 Port Arthur & Hobart.** Named after Van Diemen's Land Lieutenant Governor, George Arthur, Port Arthur started as a timber station in 1830, but it is best known for being a penal

colony. From 1833, until 1853, it was the destination for the hardest of convicted British and Irish criminals, those who were secondary offenders having re-offended after their arrival in Australia. Our full day tour will include the penitentiary which housed 480 convicts. We will view the dockyard and also have time to explore the beautiful gardens and grounds surrounding the complex. After our visit we will take the scenic drive to Hobart where the ship will have sailed to meet us. Our journey will take us via Eaglehawk Neck, the thin strip of land that connects the Tasman and Forestier Peninsula and was once guarded by the "dog line" which prevented convicts escaping from Port Arthur to the main island. Also see the striking geological formations at the Tasman's Arch, Tessellated Pavement and Devils Kitchen. This evening you may wish to take an after dinner stroll in Hobart's Salamanca Place to enjoy the bustling waterfront area.

**Day 12 Hobart.** Tasmania's capital was founded in 1804 as a penal colony but today Hobart is a cosmopolitan city. We have a day to explore the city and surrounding areas on a choice of tours. Maybe learn more about the history of the city built by the early convicts. See the cathedral, the old gaol and treasury and end in the wharves Salamanca built for the whaling industry. Alternatively take a journey to the summit of Mount Wellington measuring 4,000 feet with wonderful views over the city returning via the Royal Botanical Gardens built along the Derwent River. Created in 1818 they are home to an extensive collection of native flora. Maybe enjoy a taste of the local beers at the Cascade Brewery situated in the foothills of Mount Wellington. Built in 1824 by an ex-

convict Peter Degraives, the use of local water and Tasmanian barley has created an award winning beer. Further afield is the Mount Field National Park, a World Heritage Site, where we can take guided walks in the diverse range of vegetation, from tall swamp gum forests and massive tree ferns at the base of the mountain, through rainforest to alpine vegetation at the higher elevations as well as waterfalls. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky as we clear customs formalities and depart Australia this evening.

**Days 13 to 15 At Sea.** We have three days to cross the Tasman Sea which divides Australia from New Zealand. Our lecture programme continues in the lounge whilst you may prefer to relax in the library or find a spot on deck to watch for wildlife. We will arrive into the New Zealand port of Bluff on the evening of day 15 and clear immigration and customs formalities.

**Day 16 Ulva & Stewart Island, New Zealand.** Early in the morning we arrive at New Zealand's third island which is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will enjoy a morning on the small Ulva Island where we will use Zodiacs to go ashore for a choice of walks with our local guides. We will explore the dense vegetation and keep an eye out for the amazing birdlife. This afternoon we land at Oban on Stewart Island and have the chance to wander amongst the shops and see the museum or join a drive along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots including Observation Rock with views over Iona and Ulva Island and the beaches lining the east coast.



Stanley



Blowhole, Bicheno



Gannet colony, Cape Kidnappers



Hobart

**Day 17 Dunedin.** Arrive this morning in Dunedin and enjoy a guided tour including the gracious 19th century buildings and the beautiful botanical gardens, the oldest in New Zealand containing over 6800 plant species. Alternatively, choose to drive to the Otago Peninsula to visit Penguin Place where we learn about the breeding and conservation programme of the rare Yellow-eyed penguins as well as the Royal Albatross Centre at Taiaroa Head. This afternoon is free for independent exploration or maybe choose to join the optional excursion on the Taieri Gorge Railway through the rugged and spectacular scenery of inland Otago.

**Day 18 Akaroa.** Akaroa meaning, 'Long Harbour', in Maori, was founded by French whaling Captain Jean Langlois on his ship Cachelot in 1838. He returned in 1840 with 60 settlers on the Comte de Paris to create a French colony. We will arrive over breakfast and this morning have a choice of excursions including a dolphin watching trip using local boats to explore the scenic coastline and search for the rare Hector's dolphin or a guided historic walk in Akaroa and through the native bush of the Garden of Tane. We also hope to offer a chance to visit a working farm in the countryside outside the town. We will hear about the history of the farm, have demonstrations of sheep shearing and see the working dogs in action as well as enjoying tea in the farm grounds. Or if you prefer you can simply wander in the town and enjoy the local atmosphere. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we sail to the North Island.

**Day 19 Wellington.** Arrive this morning in the nation's capital as we explore the city from our central berth. A morning tour will include

St Paul's Cathedral, the parliament buildings, a stroll through the Botanical Gardens and spend time in the excellent Te Papa National Museum of New Zealand with its impressive interactive displays and marvellous Maori collection. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon at sea.

**Day 20 Napier.** We spend the day in Napier and join a tour of the town which will include its charming Art Deco buildings. Totally rebuilt after the 1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake, it has enormous style. Nowhere else can you see such a variety of buildings in the styles of the 1930s - Stripped Classical, Spanish Mission, and above all Art Deco, the style of the 20th century. Napier's Art Deco is unique, with Maori motifs and the buildings of Louis Hay, admirer of the great Frank Lloyd Wright. Walk along Marine Parade, see the Botanical Gardens and take in the view from Bluff Hill Lookout. We will also take the chance to enjoy a tasting of some of Hawkes Bay's famous wines. This afternoon is free to explore further independently or maybe join the excursion to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers where you are able to get amazingly close to the birds. The 13 hectare reserve includes the Saddle and Black Reef gannet colonies.

**Day 21 White Island.** This morning our lecture programme continues as we sail arriving just after lunch at White Island. Weather permitting there will be an excursion to explore the active volcano on White Island, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. The sights are surreal: the main crater with towering walls, steaming vents, and hissing fumaroles, glittering yellow sulphur crystals, bubbling mud pools and a spectacular steaming

lake. This call is well off the usual cruise routes and we will use the Zodiacs to reach the island and then take a guided walk to the crater.

**Day 22 Tauranga for Rotorua.** From our berth in Tauranga we drive inland to the famous thermal springs at Rotorua. Discover Wai-O-Tapu, meaning Sacred Waters, an active geothermal area with colourful hot springs, steaming ground and boiling mud pools. Marvel at the incredible palette of vibrant hues displayed

in the pools, lakes and craters, and enjoy the melodic sounds of birds singing in the native forest. From here we visit a local Maori Marae where we will enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch before returning to the ship in the late afternoon.

**Day 23 Auckland to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 24 London.** Arrive this morning.

## 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	£12195	£11695
Caledonian	Superior	£12395	£11895
Promenade	Premium	£12895	£12395
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£13495	£12995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£13995	£13495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£14995	£14495
Castle	Standard for sole use	£15295	£14795
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£15395	£14895

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Hong Kong or Singapore and Melbourne on a bed and breakfast basis, 18 nights aboard MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, group transfers, permits, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, optional Taieri Gorge Railway excursion.

**Cruise Only Option:** For guests that wish to arrange their own flights, we are offering a discount of £1940 per person for the non-use of the round trip flights to Melbourne and from Auckland and the pre-cruise hotel and excursion arrangements. Your holiday will therefore start on 29 October in Melbourne and end on 16 November in Auckland.

**Ship to Shore:** This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside in some ports, on many days we will be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the itinerary as shown. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.

# Christmas & New Year in New Zealand

A circumnavigation of New Zealand  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

New Zealand is a land of contrasts and deserves more than a fleeting visit. We believe our circumnavigation of the country offers the best of all worlds and has been devised on the basis that most travellers from the UK will only tour New Zealand once. Therefore the trip should be as comprehensive and as full of contrasts as possible. Certainly, this itinerary qualifies on all these important demands. With our perfectly suited small ship, our coastal-hugging voyage around the North and South Island will allow us to drop anchor in the remote bays, navigate channels, fjords and rivers and call into harbours both large and small. With the added advantage of our Zodiac landing craft we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of New Zealand's extraordinary natural attractions.

During our voyage, we will explore the dramatic southern coast fjords, hop across to Stewart Island in the south, walk in the stunning Abel Tasman National Park as well as historic Ship Cove and admire the unique Art Deco architecture of Napier in the North Island. All of this is best achieved by travelling on a small ship such as the MS Caledonian Sky in preference to some of the larger resort style vessels which can only visit the larger places.



Dusky dolphin, Kaikoura

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 3 Singapore to Wellington, New Zealand.** After breakfast in the hotel spend a relaxing morning enjoying the hotel facilities or explore independently. An afternoon tour will include the National Orchid Garden which displays the largest collection of orchids in the world with 2,000 hybrids and Chinatown. Continue to the airport where we join our scheduled overnight indirect flight to Wellington.

**Day 4 Wellington.** Arrive in the New Zealand capital city this afternoon and transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration or to relax on board. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board this evening as we moor overnight.

**Day 5 Wellington.** Enjoy a full day in the nation's capital. From our central berth we will explore Wellington on a morning guided walk seeing St Paul's Cathedral, the parliament buildings as well as strolling through the Botanical Gardens and spending time in the excellent Te Papa National Museum of New Zealand with its impressive interactive displays and marvellous Maori collection. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city at your own pace.

**Day 6 Resolution Bay & Ship Cove.** Sail through the Marlborough Sounds which divide the North and South Islands of New Zealand and arrive in the early morning at Resolution Bay on the South Island. Keen walkers can enjoy a hike over to Ship Cove along the Queen Charlotte Track affording fantastic views over the archipelago of islands. Alternatively alight a little later at Ship Cove where Captain James Cook spent much



of his time in New Zealand. View the monument dedicated to Cook or maybe walk the forest trail to the nearby waterfall. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea as we cruise back to the North Island.

**Day 7 Napier.** Arrive this morning in Napier and join a tour of this beautiful town including its charming Art Deco buildings. Totally rebuilt after the 1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake, Napier's Art Deco is unique, with Maori motifs and the buildings of Louis Hay, admirer of the great Frank Lloyd Wright. We also visit a local vineyard to sample the local wines. This afternoon is free for independent exploration of the town or alternatively join the excursion to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers where you are able to get amazingly close to the birds. The 13 hectare reserve includes the Saddle and Black Reef gannet colonies. Tonight we hope to enjoy Christmas Eve events in the town at your leisure, before sailing late this evening.

**Day 8 At Sea.** We will spend Christmas Day at sea as we sail around the New Zealand coast. Our lecture programme will continue whilst our chef and galley team will prepare a delicious Christmas meal.

**Day 9 Tauranga for Rotorua.** From our berth in Tauranga we drive



Mount Taranaki



Dunedin



Wellington Cable-car

inland to the famous thermal springs at Rotorua. Discover Wai-O-Tapu, meaning Sacred Waters, an active geothermal area with colourful hot springs, steaming ground and boiling mud pools. Marvel at the incredible palette of vibrant hues displayed in the pools, lakes and craters, and enjoy the melodic sounds of birds singing in the native forest. From here we visit a local Maori Marae where we will enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch before returning to the ship in the late afternoon.

**Day 10 Auckland.** Arrive today in the "City of Sails" and spend the morning seeing some of the city's highlights including the Domain and the excellent Auckland Museum, overlooking Waitemata Harbour and housing the world's largest collection of Polynesian artefacts. After lunch on board we have a free afternoon to explore Auckland further or relax on board.

**Day 11 Bay of Islands.** Famous for spectacular beaches, breathtaking bays and an abundance of water activities, the Bay of Islands, which was discovered by Captain Cook in 1769 is the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand and boasts crystal clear waters and 144 islands. On a morning tour we will visit the Waitangi Treaty house where in 1840 the treaty was signed between the Maori and the British crown. We then continue to Kerikeri where the Maori first welcomed

missionaries in 1819 and see the oldest buildings of New Zealand dating from the 1820s. After lunch on board spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the charming historic town of Russell.

**Day 12 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we cruise around the tip of the North Island.

**Day 13 New Plymouth.** Today we explore the western port of New Plymouth. We have the whole day in this pretty city sandwiched between the sea and Mount Taranaki. Our tour will visit the highlights of the town including the spectacular Te Rewa Rewa Bridge and Pukekura Park, one of the premier botanical gardens in New Zealand. We will have a chance to explore the diverse landscape of formal gardens, bushwalks and lakes. Alternatively, drive to Mount Egmont and join one of the walking trails ranging in difficulty for all levels of fitness. You will be joined by our naturalists who will keep you informed on the flora seen en-route. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in the town or remain at Mount Egmont and partake in a longer hike.

**Day 14 Abel Tasman National Park & Nelson.** Return to the South Island and the harbour of Tarkohe in Golden Bay which is our base for a full day visit to Abel Tasman, New Zealand's smallest national park. This marine reserve offers some marvellously scenic coastal walks

and cruises with excellent wildlife opportunities including seal colonies and numerous aquatic birds including penguins. The tour will end in Nelson where we will re-embark the ship which will have sailed during the day. Alternatively, you may prefer to sail with the ship to Nelson and enjoy some free time to explore the town. We will moor overnight in Nelson and have the opportunity to join the New Year's Eve festivities in the town at your leisure.

**Day 15 Nelson.** The town of Nelson has for many years attracted resident artists, inspired by the region's exceptionally beautiful geography with coastal, forest and valley landscapes. Join an excursion of the area's highlights which includes the World of Wearable Art Museum with its acclaimed visual exhibits and also the Classic Car Collection. There will also be time at leisure to explore at your own pace, and tonight we will be joined on board by one of the local vineyards for a tasting of the excellent regional wines.

**Day 16 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea. As we cruise along the west coast of the South Island we will hopefully be treated to views of Mount Cook on land whilst this region is also a popular spot for dolphin sightings.

**Days 17 & 18 Fiordland.** We have two days to explore the incredible wilderness of fjords in the south west corner of the South Island. This is an

area rich in history, majestic scenery and abundant wildlife. Many areas are only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may include Milford Sound, Astronomers Point, Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and expedition team based on weather conditions. Zodiacs will be used daily either to shuttle from the ship to a landing site or as our transport to explore the fjords.

**Day 19 Ulva Island & Stewart Island.** New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will enjoy a morning on the small Ulva Island where we will use Zodiacs to go ashore for a choice of walks with our local guides. We will explore the dense vegetation and keep an eye out for the amazing birdlife. This afternoon we land at Oban on Stewart Island and have the chance to wander amongst the shops and see the museum or join a drive along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots including Observation Rock with views over Iona and Ulva Island and the beaches lining the east coast.

**Day 20 Dunedin.** Arrive this morning in Dunedin and enjoy a guided tour including the gracious 19th century buildings and the beautiful botanical gardens, the oldest in



Christmas plant, Akaroa



Abel Tasman National Park

New Zealand containing over 6800 plant species. Alternatively, choose to drive to the Otago Peninsula to visit Penguin Place where we learn about the breeding and conservation programme of the rare yellow eyed penguins as well as the Royal Albatross Centre at Taiaroa Head. This afternoon is free for independent exploration or to join the optional excursion on the Taieri Gorge Railway through the rugged and spectacular scenery of inland Otago.

**Day 21 Akaroa.** We spend a full day in Akaroa and there will be a choice of excursions including a dolphin

watching trip, using local boats to explore the scenic coastline and search for the rare Hector's dolphin, or a guided historic walk in Akaroa and through the native bush of the Garden of Tane. We also hope to visit a working farm in the countryside outside the town.

**Day 22 Christchurch to London.** After breakfast we will disembark in Lyttelton port and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 23 London.** Arrive this morning.

## 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	£11295	£10795
Caledonian	Superior	£11595	£11095
Promenade	Premium	£11895	£11395
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£12495	£11995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£12895	£12395
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£13295	£12795
Castle	Standard for sole use	£12795	£12295
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£12995	£12495

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore on bed and breakfast basis, 18 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, group transfers, permits, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, optional excursion on the Taieri Gorge Railway.

**Cruise Only Option:** For guests that wish to arrange their own flights, we are offering a discount of £1350 per person for the non-use of the round trip flights to Wellington and from Christchurch and the Singapore hotel and excursion arrangements. Your holiday will therefore start on 21 December in Wellington and end on 8 January in Christchurch.

**Ship to Shore:** This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside in some ports, on many days we will be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the itinerary as shown. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.

## Post-Cruise Extension



Christchurch tram

## Christchurch Post-Cruise Extension

8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

If you would like to spend some more time in Christchurch before returning to London, we are offering a two night extension at the Rydges Latimer Hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis including a Christchurch half day tour and transfers.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Christchurch.** Disembark the MS Caledonian Sky and discover Christchurch on a morning excursion. We will view the Southern Alps from the Port Hills, ride a restored tram and tour the Canterbury Museum with its acclaimed Antarctic collection. Enjoy a local lunch before checking into our hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 2 Christchurch.** Enjoy a day at leisure or choose an optional full day tour on the Tranz Alpine Express to Arthur's Pass in the heart of the Southern Alps. Wonderful views are revealed from the train's huge windows as we pass snow-capped mountains, boulder strewn rivers and beech forests. On the return journey by coach we enjoy lunch at a farmstead.

**Day 3 Christchurch to London.** Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for your indirect flight to London.

**Day 4 London.** Arrive this morning.

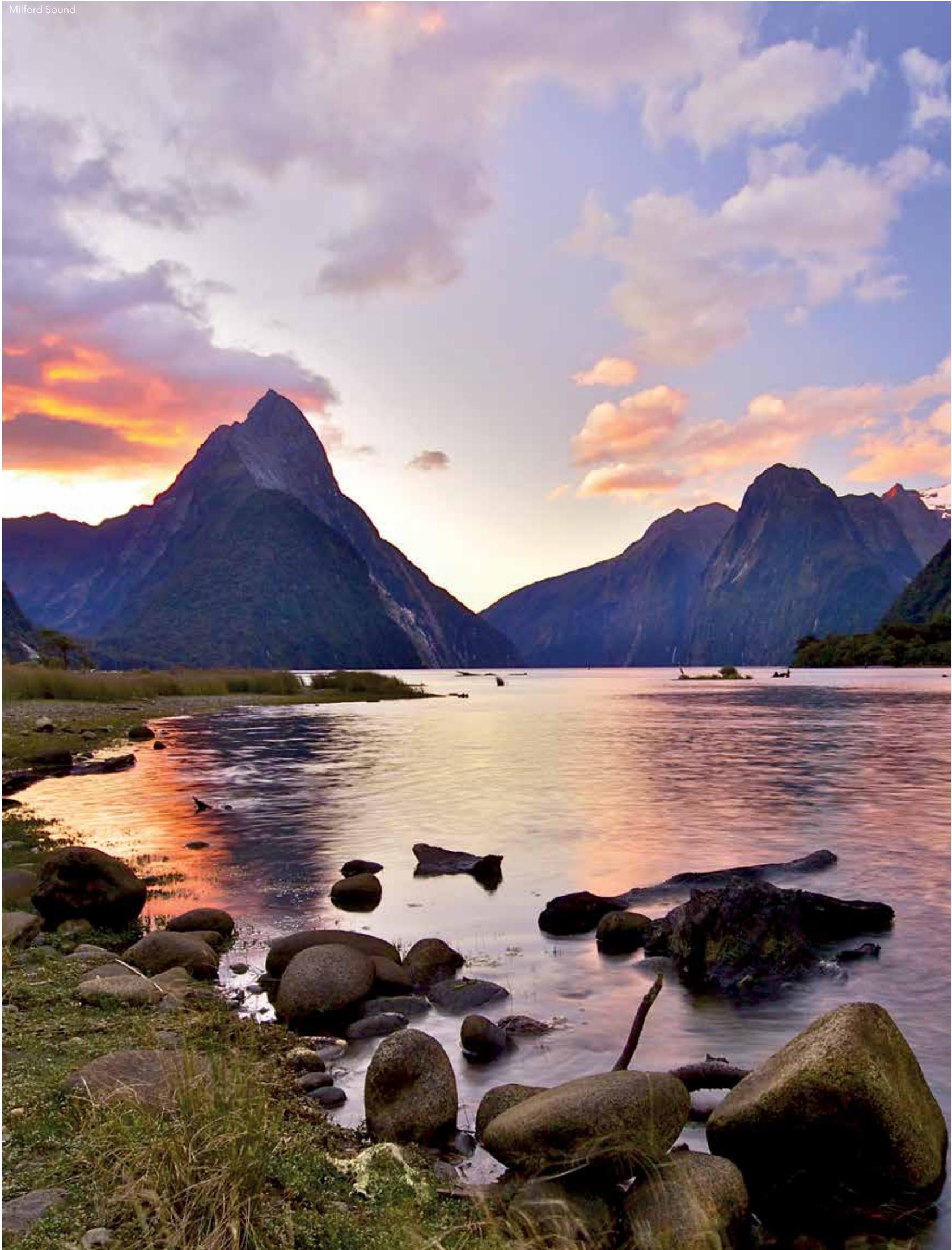
## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £345 Single: £485

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation at Rydges Latimer hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, half day Christchurch excursion, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, optional Tranzalpine Express excursion, visas.



# Sub-Antarctic Island Odyssey



An opportunity to discover the astonishing wildlife of Macquarie, Campbell, Auckland & Snares Islands  
20<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The spectacular, isolated, wild and seldom visited Sub-Antarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia are recognised as some of the world's great "biodiversity hotspots" and listed as World Heritage Sites. Home to almost half of the world's albatross and penguin species, these islands are true havens for anyone interested in wildlife and pristine nature.

During our expedition we will visit four island groups - the Snares, Auckland, Campbell and Macquarie Islands. There is no other comparable expedition in the world and for an introduction to and understanding of the dynamic and diverse Southern Ocean ecosystem this is an expedition of a lifetime. The region hosts the most diverse collection of seabirds in the world, with over 40 seabird species breeding here and we will have the opportunity to hopefully spot up to eleven different species of albatross and even more penguin species during our voyage. Several of these are endemic to the area and can be found nowhere else on earth. Be one of the privileged few lucky enough to explore these magnificent and fragile islands, all of which are protected nature reserves and only a limited number of permits are granted each year to an exclusive number of operators.

## The Itinerary

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition. Although we have outlined our itinerary, this is only a preliminary plan, and our exact route will depend on weather conditions and the wildlife we encounter. The use of Zodiacs will be integral on this trip.

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 3 Singapore to Queenstown, New Zealand.** After breakfast in the hotel spend a relaxing morning enjoying the facilities or explore independently. An afternoon tour will include the National Orchid Garden which displays the largest collection of orchids in the world with 2,000 hybrids and Chinatown. Continue to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to Queenstown.

**Day 4 Queenstown.** Arrive this afternoon in Queenstown and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day and evening is free for independent exploration.

**Day 5 Queenstown.** Enjoy a full day in Queenstown. This morning we will take a scenic cruise on Lake Wakatipu enjoying wonderful views of the Remarkables Mountain range and Mount Nicholas. The afternoon is at leisure to explore independently before we meet this evening for a Welcome Dinner.

**Day 6 Queenstown to Milford Sound.** After breakfast in the hotel we will travel via the town of Te Anau to Milford Sound to embark the MS Caledonian Sky later in the afternoon. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board as we sail this evening.

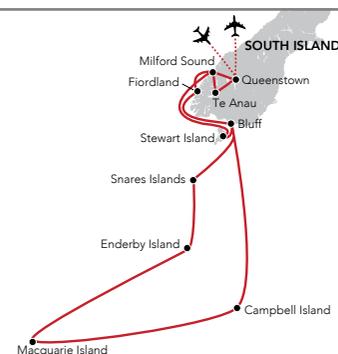
**Day 7 Stewart Island & Bluff.** New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place and the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. After a relaxing morning at sea we will arrive at Oban on Stewart Island and have the chance to wander amongst the shops and see the Rakiura museum. The island is rich with European, Maori and nautical history and the museum offers displays showing how early Stewart Islanders lived, the industries they were involved in and how they travelled. Alternatively join a drive

along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots including Observation Rock with views over Iona and Ulva Island and the beaches lining the East coast. This evening we will clear New Zealand customs at Bluff before setting off towards the Sub-Antarctic Islands.

**Day 8 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we cross the Southern Waters. Maybe join one of the onboard lectures or find a spot on deck to look out for some of the wildlife that may follow the ship including albatross and southern ocean petrels.

**Day 9 Campbell Island.** The most southerly of the Sub-Antarctic Islands, Campbell Island is a magnificent island offering great birding and unique photographic opportunities. It is home to six species of albatross including black-browed and grey-headed and holds the world's largest population of nesting southern royal albatross. The regeneration of the megaherbs since the removal of the sheep is another spectacle to behold. We should also sight Hooker's sea lions whilst birders search for the endemic Campbell teal and Campbell snipe which were previously believed to be extinct.

**Day 10 At Sea.** Our lecture programme continues as we make our way to Macquarie Island whilst our naturalists will be on deck keeping an eye out for wildlife.



**Days 11 & 12 Macquarie Island, Australia.** We have two days to explore Macquarie Island, a geological wonder where 3.5 million seabirds and 80,000 elephant seals come each year to breed against a backdrop of mountains and tussock covered headlands. It is the only island in the world composed entirely of oceanic crust and rocks from the mantle - deep below the earth's surface. We hope to visit the King penguin colony where up to 100,000 pairs breed each year as well as colonies of Gentoo and rockhopper penguins and fur seals. Several species of albatross also breed here including wandering, black-browed, grey-headed and light-mantled sooty. During our time here we will use the Zodiacs to land whilst our onboard naturalists run a series of walks on the island.

**Day 13 At Sea.** Spend a day at sea as we cruise towards the Auckland Islands. Here we border the Sub-Antarctic Convergence Zone so we expect abundant birdlife including albatross and petrels.



King Penguins, Macquarie Island



Buller's albatross



Snares Crested penguins, Snares Island



Exploring by Zodiac, Enderby Island



Milford Sound



Hooker's sea lion

**Day 14 Enderby Island, Auckland Islands.** Spend the day on Enderby Island, regarded as one of the most diverse wildlife havens that fringe the Antarctic continent. A series of nature walks through lush vegetation and rata forest will take us to the nesting sites of the southern royal albatross with the chance to spot giant petrels, shags, parakeets and tomtits as we walk. We will also visit the beaches covered with Hooker's sea lions and keep an eye out for the shy yellow eyed penguins, one of the rarest species in the world.

**Day 15 Snares Island & Bluff.** After breakfast we will lower the Zodiacs for a morning cruise around the Snares Islands. More seabirds nest on this small island than around the entire British Isles and we should see the endemic Snares crested penguins and the endemic Buller's albatrosses soaring overhead. There are also an estimated six million sooty shearwaters nesting here. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea arriving back into Bluff this evening where we will clear immigration back into New Zealand.

**Days 16 & 17 Fiordland, New Zealand.** We have two days to explore the incredible wilderness of fjords in the South West corner of the South Island. This is an area rich in history, Captain Cook landed here on HMS Resolution in 1773 and offers majestic scenery and abundant wildlife. It is only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may

include Astronomers Point, Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and expedition team based on weather conditions. Zodiacs will be used daily either to shuttle from the ship to a landing site or as our transport to explore the fjords.

**Day 18 Milford Sound to Queenstown.** Be on deck this morning to watch the panorama of Milford's sheer cliff faces, which rise thousands of feet almost vertically

from the water's edge, as well as the crashing waters of Bowen and Stirling Falls and the stunning mile-high Mitre Peak. Disembark the MS Caledonian Sky and drive to Queenstown, with lunch en-route, for an overnight stay.

**Day 19 Queenstown to London.** After breakfast transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 20 London.** Arrive this morning.

### 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	£10495	£9995
Caledonian	Superior	£10695	£10195
Promenade	Premium	£11295	£10795
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£11795	£11295
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£11995	£11495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£12295	£11795
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11495	£10995
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11695	£11195

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore and three nights in Queenstown on bed and breakfast basis, dinner on day 5, 12 nights aboard MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, group transfers, permits and port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**Cruise Only Option:** For guests that wish to arrange their own flights, we are offering a discount of £1945 per person for the non-use of the round trip flights to Queenstown, the Singapore and Queenstown hotels and excursion arrangements. Your holiday will therefore start on 25 January in Milford Sound and end on 6 February in Milford Sound.

“

There is no other comparable expedition in the world and for an introduction to and understanding of the dynamic and diverse Southern Ocean ecosystem this is an expedition of a lifetime.

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# New Zealand Coastal Discovery

A voyage from Queenstown to Auckland  
1<sup>st</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019

If you are going to travel half way around the world, you need a good reason. What better reason could you have than the desire to visit one of the most beautiful places on earth? The scenery, people of New Zealand and their lifestyle has enormous appeal which is why it is always high on travellers' wish lists. The country's 27 regions stretch more than 1600 kilometres across two main islands and offer the traveller a journey of breathtaking natural wonder.

With vast open spaces filled with stunning rugged landscapes and a temperate climate, New Zealand is a land of rare natural beauty and contrasts. There are steep-sided fjords, geysers and boiling mud, coastal rainforests, snow-capped mountains, rolling green pasture lands, often spectacular geothermal and volcanic activity, enchanting sandy bays and coves, fast-flowing rivers and a variety of birdlife. By contrast, in the cities, towns and villages you can experience that unique combination of New World and British heritage, see some of the most splendid gardens in the Southern Hemisphere, visit world famous vineyards, encounter fascinating wildlife and meet the friendly people. Exploring New Zealand from aboard the MS Caledonian Sky allows us access to small inlets and bays on remote islands and coastlines that would not normally be possible to explore using other modes of transport or larger cruise ships.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day is free.

**Day 3 Singapore to Queenstown, New Zealand.** After breakfast in the hotel spend a relaxing morning enjoying the facilities or explore independently. An afternoon tour will include the National Orchid Garden which displays the largest collection of orchids in the world with 2,000 hybrids and Chinatown. Continue to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to Queenstown.

**Day 4 Queenstown.** Arrive this afternoon in Queenstown and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day and evening is free for independent exploration.

**Day 5 Queenstown.** Enjoy a day in Queenstown. This morning we will take a scenic cruise on Lake Wakatipu enjoying wonderful views of the Remarkables Mountain range and

Mount Nicholas. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a Welcome Dinner.

**Day 6 Queenstown to Milford Sound.** After breakfast in the hotel we will travel via the town of Te Anau to Milford Sound to embark the MS Caledonian Sky later in the afternoon. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board as we sail this evening.



**Days 7 & 8 Fiordland.** We have two days to explore the incredible wilderness of fjords in the South West corner of the South Island. This is an area rich in history, that offers majestic scenery and abundant wildlife. It is only accessible by sea,

making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may include Astronomers Point, Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and expedition team based on weather conditions. Zodiacs will be used daily either to shuttle from the ship to a landing site or as our transport to explore the fjords.

### Day 9 Ulva Island & Stewart Island.

New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will enjoy a morning on the small Ulva Island where we will use Zodiacs to go ashore for a choice of walks with our local guides. Explore the dense vegetation and keep an eye out for the amazing birdlife. This afternoon we land at Oban on Stewart Island and have the chance to wander amongst the shops and see the Rakiura museum. The island is rich with European, Maori and nautical history and the museum offers displays showing how early Stewart Islanders lived, the industries they were involved in and how they travelled. Alternatively join a drive along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots including Observation Rock with views over Iona and Ulva Island and the beaches lining the east coast.

**Day 10 Dunedin.** Arrive this morning in Dunedin and enjoy a guided tour including the gracious 19th century buildings and the beautiful botanical gardens, the oldest in New Zealand containing over 6800 plant species. Alternatively, choose to drive to the Otago Peninsula to visit Penguin Place where we learn about the breeding and conservation programme of the rare yellow eyed penguins as well as the Royal Albatross Centre at Taiaroa Head. This afternoon is free for independent exploration, or to join the optional excursion on the Taieri Gorge Railway through the rugged and spectacular scenery of inland Otago.

**Day 11 Akaroa.** Akaroa meaning, 'Long Harbour', in Maori, was founded by French whaling Captain Jean Langlois on his ship Cachelot in 1838. He returned in 1840 with 60 settlers on the Comte de Paris to



create a French colony. We spend a full day in Akaroa and there will be a choice of excursions including a dolphin watching trip using local boats to explore the scenic coastline and search for the rare Hector's dolphin or a guided historic walk in Akaroa and through the native bush of the Garden of Tane. We also hope to visit a working farm in the countryside outside the town. We will hear about the history of the farm, have demonstrations of sheep shearing and see the working dogs in action as well as enjoying tea in the farm grounds. Or if you prefer you can simply wander in the town and enjoy the local atmosphere.

**Day 12 Kaikoura.** Spend the day in Kaikoura, a famous whale watching area due to its nutrient rich waters. The combination of very deep waters and the mixing of cold and warm waters brings the nutrients to the top. After breakfast, there will be opportunities to join a whale watching cruise looking out for sperm whales, pods of dusky dolphins and common seals. Spend the afternoon exploring the town independently, join one of the nature walks or maybe take a trip on one of the bird watching cruises. There is an abundance of birdlife in the area including Great Albatross, Banded Albatross, Shearwater, Petrels, Prions and Shag.

**Day 13 Wellington.** From our central berth we will explore Wellington on a morning guided walk seeing St Paul's Cathedral, the parliament buildings,



Dunedin



White Island



Rotorua

stroll through the Botanical Gardens and spend time in the excellent Te Papa National Museum of New Zealand with its impressive interactive displays and marvellous Maori collection. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city at your own pace.

**Day 15 Napier.** Arrive this morning in Napier and join a tour of this beautiful town including its charming Art Deco buildings. Totally rebuilt after the 1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake, Napier's Art Deco is unique, with Maori motifs and the buildings of Louis Hay, admirer of the great Frank Lloyd Wright. We also visit a local vineyard to sample the local wines. This afternoon is free for independent exploration of the town, or alternatively join an excursion to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers where you are able to get amazingly close to the birds.

**Day 16 White Island.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea, arriving just after lunch at White Island. Weather permitting there will be an excursion to explore the active volcano, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. The sights are surreal: the main crater with towering walls, steaming vents, and hissing fumaroles, glittering yellow sulphur crystals, bubbling mud pots and a spectacular steaming lake. This call is well off the usual cruise routes and we will use the Zodiacs to reach the island and then take a guided walk to the crater.

**Day 17 Tauranga for Rotorua.** From our berth in Tauranga we drive inland to the famous thermal springs at Rotorua. Discover Wai-O-Tapu, meaning Sacred Waters, an active geothermal area with colourful hot springs, steaming ground and boiling mud pools. Marvel at the incredible palette of vibrant hues displayed in the pools, lakes and craters, and enjoy

the melodic sounds of birds singing in the native forest. From here we visit a local Maori Marae where we will enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch before returning to the ship in the late afternoon.

**Day 18 Auckland to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 19 London.** Arrive this morning.



Humpback whale

**Day 14 Resolution Bay & Ship Cove.** Sail through the Marlborough Sounds which divide the North and South Islands of New Zealand and arrive in the early morning at Resolution Bay on the South Island. Keen walkers can enjoy a longer hike over to Ship Cove along the Queen Charlotte Track affording fantastic views over the archipelago of islands. Alternatively alight a little later at Ship Cove where Captain James Cook spent much of his time in New Zealand, view the monument dedicated to Cook, or maybe walk the forest trail to the nearby waterfall. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea.

## 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	£8495	£7995
Caledonian	Superior	£8795	£8295
Promenade	Premium	£8995	£8495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9495	£8995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9995	£9495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10295	£9795
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9995	£9495
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10495	£9995

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore and two nights in Queenstown on bed and breakfast basis, dinner on day 5, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, group transfers, permits and port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, optional shore excursions.

**Cruise Only Option:** For guests that wish to arrange their own flights, we are offering a discount of £1730 per person for the non-use of the round trip flights to Queenstown and from Auckland and the Singapore and Queenstown hotel and excursion arrangements. Your holiday will therefore start on 6 February in Milford Sound and end on 18 February in Auckland.

**Ship to Shore:** This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside in some ports, on many days we will be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the itinerary as shown. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.

# Islands of Melanesia



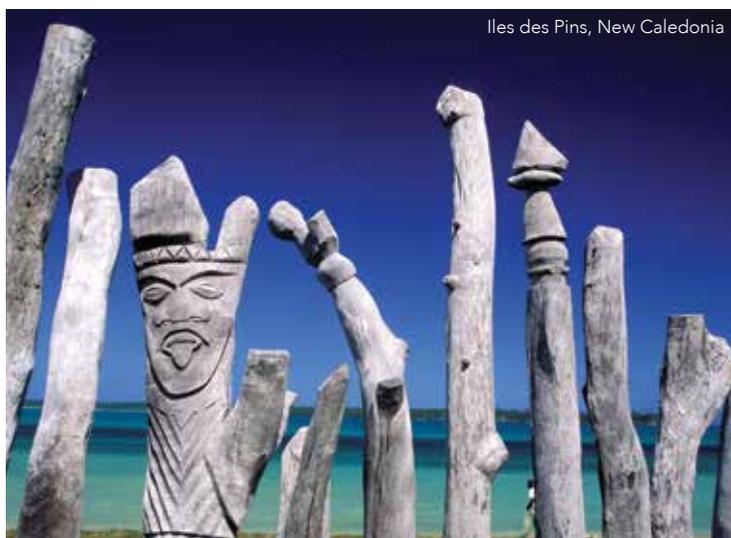
A voyage from New Zealand to Papua New Guinea  
14<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019

If you were the owner of a large yacht based in the Pacific, this is exactly the type of itinerary you would plan. A fascinating mix of islands all the way from the northernmost reaches of New Zealand to Melanesia, taking in remote, but splendidly sophisticated Norfolk Island and Iles des Pins in the French Collectivity of New Caledonia. From here we follow the chain of Melanesian islands through Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and finally to the northern islands of Papua New Guinea.

All are beautiful in their different ways and all have unique features and cultures. This region is ideal for exploring by small ship and particularly one as suitable as our MS Caledonian Sky. Her fleet of Zodiac craft will allow us to explore some magnificent places, especially tiny coral islets and lagoons.

At New Georgia on the outer reaches of the Solomon's we will explore the majestic Marovo Lagoon, the world's largest double barrier lagoon, a truly awe-inspiring place. These islands form one of the most culturally complex regions of the entire world, with 1293 languages spoken across the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and the islands of New Guinea. It is also a region of great antiquity; New Guinea has been settled for around 45,000 years, the Solomon Islands for 35,000 years, and Vanuatu and New Caledonia for about 4,000.

There will be much of the natural world to occupy us as we sail in a northerly direction through the South Pacific along much of the same route as Captain James Cook. The maritime history of the region is a constant wonder from the early explorers and native migrations to the fierce battles of the Second World War. We hope you can join us in this faraway haven, where there still exists a savage beauty, which cannot fail to stir even the most jaded of travellers. Many of the islands still possess a pristine beauty, much the same as they were when first discovered by the great explorers.



Iles des Pins, New Caledonia



Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. On a morning tour we will visit the Waitangi Treaty house where, in 1840, the treaty was signed between the Maori and the British crown. We then continue to Kerikeri where the Maori first welcomed missionaries in 1819 and see the oldest buildings of New Zealand dating from the 1820s. During the afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the charming historic town of Russell.

**Day 7 At Sea.** Enjoy a day at sea as we follow in the wake of past navigators sailing north. Maybe attend at a lecture given by the expedition team or find a spot on deck to relax.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our central hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of day and evening is at leisure.

**Day 3 Singapore to Auckland, New Zealand.** Enjoy a relaxing morning before an afternoon city tour of Singapore including the National Orchid Garden and China Town. After the tour we will continue to the airport for our scheduled flight to Auckland.

**Day 4 Auckland.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight.

**Day 5 Auckland.** On a morning tour we explore the Auckland Domain and Auckland Museum which overlooks picturesque Waitemata Harbour and has an outstanding collection featuring exhibits on the New Zealand and the Pacific Island cultures showcasing an extensive collection of Polynesian artefacts. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky later in the afternoon.

**Day 6 Paihia.** Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, this area is the cradle of European civilisation in New

**Day 8 Norfolk Island, Australia.** This morning we awake, for a full day call, at Norfolk Island which Captain Cook encountered in 1774 and named after the Duchess of Norfolk. We will have the opportunity to explore on a morning tour visiting the beautiful St Barnabas Chapel. In the afternoon a further choice of excursions will be available. Discover more of the historical Georgian settlement of Kingston with its convict settlements or visit the Botanical Gardens with its 40 endemic, or unique, species, including 15 plant species considered to be critically endangered. The more active may wish to walk in the National Park towards Mount Pitt. The tracks wind through lush palm forests and stands of Norfolk Island pine leading to remarkable views of the island and the surrounding ocean. Keen birders may also spot noddies, tropic birds and parrots.

**Day 9 At Sea.** Cruise the South Pacific as we head toward New Caledonia.

**Day 10 Iles des Pins, New Caledonia.** Arrive at first light in New Caledonia, the islands named by Captain Cook in 1774 during his second voyage to New Zealand. These remote islands are close to paradise and we will use our zodiacs to land at one of the remote beaches. From here we will have the option to join a nature walk climbing the 262 metre Nga peak from where you will be rewarded with fantastic views over the whole



Vanuatu warrior



Solomon Islands



Auckland

island. Alternatively join one of the snorkelling trips or simply find a spot on one of the beaches before we sail in the afternoon.

**Day 11 Tanna, Vanuatu.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Vanuatu at the island of Tanna, meaning earth in the local Kwamera language. Captain Cook was the first European to visit the island in 1774, landing at Port Resolution, having been attracted by the glowing light of Mount Yasur. This 361 metre active volcano is situated in the South East of the Island and dominates the landscape. The adventurous may wish to join a journey to the crater. We will use local trucks to drive through the rainforest that covers the mountain before walking to the rim. Alternatively we may have the chance to visit local villages where traditional lifestyles are maintained and the local culture has been largely unaffected by western influences. Here we will learn of customs and also learn of traditional medicines, crafts and cooking styles.

**Day 12 Port Havannah.** Awake this morning off Port Havannah, situated on the north coast of Efate Island and our base for today's activities. There are a number of outer islands that we may be able to explore depending on weather and sea conditions. Lelepa Island is a 160 acres of un-spoilt tropical rainforest and palm fringed beaches. On a nature walk we will see the herbs used in local medicines before exploring Feles cave thought to be the resting place of the legendary Polynesian Chief, Roi Mata. Meanwhile on Moso Island we can meet the volunteers at the Tasiriki Turtle Sanctuary who will teach us about the rehabilitation of the Hawksbill turtles and the attempts to increase their numbers. If time and weather permit we will also set

up a snorkelling platform or offer a chance to swim from the beach.

**Day 13 Espiritu Santo Island.** Espiritu Santo is the largest of Vanuatu's islands and with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches, amazing blue holes, caves and renowned snorkeling. It was also a huge military base during World War II. We will have a choice of activities this morning. Either choose to snorkel amongst the corals and fish of the region at Million Dollar Point, named after the value of the military equipment dumped into the sea. Alternatively join an island tour including the Nekar Custom Village where we will learn about local traditions and customs, including their unique water music, before enjoying time to swim in one of the nearby blue holes. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

**Day 14 Vanikoro, Solomon Islands.** After breakfast we land on Vanikoro Island in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands, where French Explorer Jean-Francois de la Perouse became stranded in 1788 after both his vessels, La Boussole and the Astrolabe, hit the then unknown reefs of the island. Learn more about the island's history and the mystery of the lost La Perouse expedition that captured the imagination of the European public. We will be welcomed ashore by the local villagers before choosing to explore the village further, join nature walks where we can look out for the endemic birds, the Vanikoro monarch and Vanikoro white-eye, or alternatively enjoy a swim or snorkel from the beach. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

**Day 15 Santa Ana.** After a morning at sea, arrive at Port Mary on Santa Ana Island. We are welcomed with a

stunning dance by the villagers with spears and mud face masks. Soak in the culture as we set foot on the shores of this lovely island. After the performance we have the opportunity to explore the town further with its plethora of local handicrafts, join a nature walk through the forests, walk to meet the students at the village school or swim from the local beach.

**Day 16 Honiara.** This morning we cruise through Iron Bottom Sound, the site of intense World War II naval battles, and so named for the large numbers of Japanese and American ships and aircraft that sank beneath the sea, before arriving into Honiara. During World War II the British founded Honiara as a military base. The town and the Mataniko River, which runs through it, were the front for many months during the battle of Guadalcanal. Today, this is a bustling town with lovely hibiscus and palm-tree-lined avenues. We enjoy a morning tour of Honiara including the bustling central market, parliament building and National Museum where we get an insight into Solomon Islands history. Alternatively discover the World War II sites including Henderson Field, the Japanese Peace Park and the US Memorial at Skyline Ridge. After lunch on board return to the city for some free time or join a snorkel excursion to Bonegi Beach to swim amongst war wrecks now colonized by tropical fish.

**Day 17 Tetepare.** Tetepare is the largest uninhabited tropical island in the Southern Hemisphere and home to one of the Solomon Islands leading conservation projects. Managed by the Tetepare Descendants Association, they have ensured the island was saved from the threat of loggers and many areas remain untouched. A wide variety of plants and animals now live in the

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As we sail in a northerly direction through the South Pacific, we will be following much of the same route as Captain James Cook. The maritime history of the region is a constant wonder from the early explorers and native migrations to the fierce battles of the Second World War.

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Daintree Rainforest



Wooden Carving, Solomon Islands



Turtle



Blue Hole, Espiritu Santo Island



Exploring by Zodiac

120 square kilometers of lowland rainforest that blankets the island. A total of 76 bird species, 25 reptile and 13 mammal species have been recorded here including skinks, dugong and the endemic Tetepare white eye whilst the beaches support three species of turtle including the endangered leatherback. Enjoy guided walk in the forest with the local conservationists who will explain the work they are doing on the island.

**Day 18 Marovo Lagoon, New Georgia.** Marovo Lagoon is the largest double barrier lagoon in the world. Thousands of islands scatter the lagoon, from tiny coral islets on the fringing reef to massive 1600 metre volcanic islands. Inside the lagoon, the islands are surrounded by spectacular coral formations and white sand beach, the lagoon waters shimmering in every shade of blue, turquoise and jade green. We have a full day here to explore the villages which produce some of the finest wood carvings in the region. We will also find a suitable spot to snorkel and swim from the beaches as well as Zodiac cruises to look for local wildlife.

**Day 19 At Sea.** Enjoy a relaxing sea day as we cruise the Soloman Sea to Papua New Guinea.

**Day 20 Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.** Arrive this morning at Rabaul's dramatic harbour which is ringed by six cone-shaped volcanoes. Our morning tour will include a visit to the Volcanic Observatory, which monitors 14 active and 23 dormant volcanoes in Papua New Guinea, and from where we will enjoy magnificent views over the bay and the volcanoes. Our next stop will be Mount Tavurvur, which violently erupted in 1937 and 1994, and where we will witness the Hot Springs. Before returning to MS Caledonian Sky we will pass old Rabaul Airport, destroyed by the 1994 volcanic eruption, and visit the Rabaul Museum. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently, relax on deck or attend a final lecture.

**Day 21 Rabaul to Cairns, Australia.** After breakfast on board we will make our way to the airport for our flight to Cairns. Arrive in Cairns this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay.

**Day 22 Cairns.** After breakfast in the hotel enjoy a day at leisure or choose to take a full day excursion to enjoy the underwater world on the Great Barrier Reef or the wildlife at the Daintree Rainforest.

**Day 23 Cairns to London.** After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 24 London.** Arrive this morning.

**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
Castle	Standard	£10995	£10595
Caledonian	Superior	£11395	£10995
Promenade	Premium	£11895	£11495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£12395	£11995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£12895	£12495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£13895	£13495
Castle	Standard for sole use	£13995	£13595
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£14395	£13995

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel between London and Auckland and Cairns and London, specially chartered flight from Rabaul to Cairns, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore and Auckland on bed and breakfast basis, Welcome Dinner in Auckland, lunch on day 5, 16 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, two nights hotel accommodation in Cairns, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Australia visa.



# Circumnavigation of Hokkaido

An exploration of Japan's remote island wilderness  
17<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost and least developed island is often considered by the Japanese to be the country's last frontier and is a world away from the traditional view of Japan. Every year the island emerges from a bitter Siberian winter into the warmth of spring, when the thaw reveals a glorious landscape littered with wild flowers. Only colonised by Japan in the past 150 years, we won't find a land of ancient temples and shrines or developed cities with skyscrapers during our visit, but what the island lacks in regard to 21st century development, it more than makes up for in natural wonders with large swathes of wild, open spaces, primeval forests, crystal clear lakes, beautiful alpine flowers, active volcanoes and bubbling hot springs. During our circumnavigation of this remarkable island, we will visit the outlying Rebun and Rishiri Islands, explore nature trails, watch for wildlife in the national parks, learn more of the indigenous Ainu people and hopefully see the multitude of colourful flowers that should be in bloom to coincide with our visit.

More than two million acres on Hokkaido are dedicated to national parkland and we will visit some of the most remarkable including the Shiretoko National Park located on the north eastern tip of the island and which in Ainu means 'end of the world'. UNESCO has called it one of the richest integrated ecosystems in the world and in 2005 designated it as a World Heritage Site. We will have a full day to explore the national park, home to brown bears, Yezo shika deer and red fox whilst birders can keep an eye out for Steller sea eagles, Blakiston fish owl and white-tailed eagles. Whilst in the Kushiro Marshlands we visit the home of Hokkaido's resident red-crowned cranes, Japan's iconic bird, known as the bird of happiness. We hope you can join us for this rare circumnavigation of Japan's most enchanting isle.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Hakodate, Japan.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Hakodate.** Arrive this afternoon in Hakodate on the south coast of the island of Hokkaido. Transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay and spend the rest of the evening at leisure to explore or relax in the hotel.

**Day 3 Hakodate.** Spend the morning at leisure. Early risers may wish to make their way to the market where you will find many stalls and restaurants selling fresh seafood and local specialties including Ika-somen, a squid sashimi. Alternatively, explore the 19th century Fort Goryokaku, built as a citadel but now a public park, take the cable car up Mount Hakodate for views over the city or simply relax in the hotel. In the early afternoon we will make our way to Onuma Park, on

the outskirts of the city and known for its picturesque, island-dotted lakes and majestic dormant volcano, Mount Komagatake. We have the option to take a series of walks around the lake's peninsulas and islands, several of which are connected with each other by small bridges and surrounded by birch and maple forests. Return to the city and embark the MS Caledonian Sky later in the afternoon. Enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks as we sail late this evening.

**Day 4 At Sea.** We have a day at sea as we start our cruise around Hokkaido. Enjoy our onboard lecture programme and learn more about the culture, flora and fauna of this northern region of Japan.

**Day 5 Teuri-Jima & Rishiri Island.** At dawn we arrive at the tiny island of

Teuri Jima, part of the Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri National Park and an important sanctuary for nesting seabirds including common murre and black-tailed gulls. We will use our ship to sail by the cliffs and if time permits we will use the Zodiacs for a closer look. Later this morning we continue our journey to the Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park, arriving at lunchtime. At Rishiri Island the skyline is dominated by the dormant volcano of Mount Rishiri which climbs to 1721 metres. On an afternoon tour we will see the beautiful scenery and alpine wildflowers in bloom at Himenuma Pond and Kutsugata Cape Park whilst we hope to see black woodpecker during a walk at the Forest Park.

**Day 6 Rebun Island.** We remain at anchor overnight in the National Park and will spend the day at neighbouring Rebun Island which is famous for its rich flora, including many alpine flowers some of which cannot be found anywhere else on the world, and which carpet the island from late April to mid September. Today we will take a series of walks around the coastline offering views over to Rishiro volcano and Cape Gorota. We also hope to see the protected "Rebun Usuyukiso" alpine flower. Return to the ship for lunch and sail this afternoon. We will clear immigration formalities from Japan this evening as we sail to Russia.



**Day 7 Korsakov, Russia.** Arrive this morning at Korsakov where we will clear into Russia. Once the formalities are concluded we will explore part of this city which was founded in 1853 as Sakhalin's first Russian military post. From here we drive to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the capital of the island with a population of just over 160,000. Founded as a small Russian settlement in the 1880s, the city became a Japanese prefect capital when the southern half of Sakhalin was declared a Japanese colony in 1905;



after World War II it was returned to Russia. Highlights include a visit to the Russian Orthodox Church, the Regional Museum housed in an impressive former Japanese mansion, and the bustling market. Return to the ship this afternoon as we return to Japanese waters.

**Days 8 Shiretoko National Park, Japan.** We return to Hokkaido this morning at the port of Abashiri where we will spend a day and a half. From here we will make a full day excursion to the Shiretoko National Park which covers the majority of the Shiretoko Peninsula. This remote and untouched park combines rivers, forests, mountains and waterfalls and is home to an array of wildlife including brown bears, Yezo shika deer and red fox whilst birders can keep an eye out for Steller sea eagles, Blakiston fish owl and white-tailed eagles. If weather permits we will also take the Shiretoko pass offering stunning views of Mount Rausu. We will return to the ship via the Koshimizu Gensai-kaen, an eight kilometre long dune covered in over 40 varieties of wildflowers against a backdrop of the Sea of Okhotsk. Return to the ship this evening as we moor overnight in Abashiri.

**Day 9 Abashiri.** There will be a choice of activities this morning. Choose to take a trip to Lake Kussharo, a beautiful caldera lake where we can enjoy the scenery or join a nature walk and maybe take a dip in one of the hot spring baths. As we return to the ship we hope to see the Shibzakura Park in Ozora, an eight hectare park which is covered in tiny red, pink, white and purple flowers during the spring. Alternatively spend a more leisurely morning in Abashiri and learn



more about the Ainu at the Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples and visit the Okhotski Sea Ice Museum which offers insight into the sea ice that surrounds the city during the winter. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon on deck as we sail this afternoon around the Shiretoko Peninsula and into the Nemuro Channel where we will keep an eye out for wildlife ashore, the abundant birdlife and minke, orca and sperm whales who inhabit these waters.

**Day 10 Kushiro.** Today we will visit Kushiro Marshlands, Japan's largest wetland and marsh habitat and home to the only known population of Japan's sacred red-crowned cranes. The cranes were thought to have been made extinct due to overhunting and habitat destruction. However in 1926 a group of 20 birds were discovered in this area and with conservation efforts now number more than 1000. We will visit the observatory with displays of the fauna and flora of the region and views over the marshlands before taking the walking trails. Return to the ship via the small but excellent Kushiro City Museum that offers an insight into Ainu culture and natural history of the area.

**Day 11 Tomakomai.** Spend the morning at sea as we arrive into Tomakomai in the early afternoon. Choose to visit the Shiraoi Poroto Kotan Museum, one of the country's best museums about the Ainu people, situated on the banks of Lake Poroto. Made up of five traditional thatched houses each demonstrate different aspects of Ainu traditions and culture and offer a rare chance to see traditional dance and music.

Alternatively visit Hokkaido's capital city of Sapporo where we can explore the colourful botanical gardens, visit the small Ainu museum displaying around 2500 artefacts and enjoy a tour of the famous brewery.

**Day 12 Muroran.** Our final day in Hokkaido will be spent around the Shikotsu-Toya National Park named after the two caldera lakes which offer wonderful scenery and excellent hiking and walking opportunities. This area is still an active area and a geological wonder with the volcano Showa Shinzan only created in the 1940s. Our day will be flexible around the weather but if clear we may take the cable car to the top of Mount Usu for the wonderful views to Lake Toya, visit Jigokudani, "Hell Valley", a steaming lunar like valley of steam vents and sulphurous streams formed over 10,000 years ago or enjoy scenic walks in the volcanic peaks that surround Lake Shikotsu.

**Day 13 Aomori.** This morning we arrive on the northern coast of Honshu. From our berth in Aomori we offer a choice of options. Maybe join the tour to Towada Hachimantai National Park, which involves a scenic drive through the Kayano plateau, Hakkoda mountains and scenic Oirase Valley. We will take the Hakkoda cable car which climbs to 1324 metres above sea level and offers stunning views before continuing to Lake Towada, a magnificent ancient caldera lake surrounded by deciduous forests. Enjoy walking along the paths and through the woodlands to the viewpoints around the lake. Alternatively, visit the former Feudal town of Hirosaki which was the political capital of the region in the

Edo Period. A tour of the city will include the three storey castle, which was the focal point of the old city and the base of the powerful Tsugaru clan. Surrounding the castle was the samurai and merchant district where we can visit the preserved houses and the Fujita Kinen Teien, a Japanese landscape garden built in 1919.

**Day 14 Akita.** Spend the day in Akita Prefecture, known for its rice farming, traditional festivals and treasured dog breed of the same name. This morning we will drive inland to Kakunodate. Established in 1620 by the Lords of Akita as a military outpost with a castle built on Mount Furushiroyama. Two distinct areas were then developed, one for samurai and the other for merchants. Today it remains one of the best examples of a castle town in Japan and the Uchimachi samurai quarter maintains a number of the original wooden houses and well

maintained gardens which we can explore. The afternoon is free to explore Akita. At the centre lies Senshu Park, built from the ruins of Kubota Castle, a former samurai fortress. Lotus flowers now fill the remnants of old moats, and tree-lined walking trails lead to its watchtower, temple and shrine. Whilst the Akita Museum of Art includes a large collection of work by Fujita Tsuguharu including his giant "Annual Events in Akita" mural.

**Day 15 Niigata to Tokyo.** Disembark this morning and take the bullet train to Tokyo. On arrival we enjoy an afternoon city tour including Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and the Imperial Palace Plaza. We then transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 16 Tokyo to London.** After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this evening.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Castle	Standard	£7995
Caledonian	Superior	£8295
Promenade	Premium	£8795
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9295
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9595
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10595
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9995
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10295

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Hakodate and Tokyo on bed and breakfast basis, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, permits, port taxes, group Russian Visa.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

# Timeless Japan

Discover the cultural treasures of Japan & the ancient wonders of South Korea  
29<sup>th</sup> May to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Japan is a fascinating balance of unique heritage and culture contrasting with the sprawling metropolises of the world's most advanced technological civilisation. Made up of 6,852 islands, the perfect way to explore the Land of the Rising Sun is by sea. During our voyage we will visit the historic and serene castle town of Matsue and the ancient feudal town of Hagi, experience the tranquility of sacred Miyajima and discover one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en. Although we will also visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo, what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where relatively few tourists set foot such as the remote and fascinating Oki Islands and our excursion inland to the picturesque five-storied Pagoda of Rurikoji Temple which dates back to 1442. In addition to our partial circumnavigation of Japan, our course takes us past the south eastern tip of Korea, where we will spend a day in Kyongju, the 'Museum Without Walls' and also visit the Haeinsa Temple, considered one of the three great temples in Korea.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tokyo, Japan.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Tokyo.** Arrive this morning and transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure.

**Day 3 Tokyo to Niigata.** After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Tokyo. Continue to the train station to join the bullet train to Niigata enjoying lunch along the way. On arrival in Niigata we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner onboard. Sail this evening.

**Day 4 Kanazawa.** Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquer ware, outstanding collectible pottery of the Kutani style, gold-leaf workmanship and delicate hand-painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm with old-fashioned streetlamps and wooden-lattice windows hiding elegant restaurants and craft galleries. Around each bend is a traditional house, museum, art gallery, craft shop, historic samurai residence and even a geisha house to explore. The fascinating open-air market displays a vast variety of items from flowers to fish and local handicrafts. Next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins is one of Japan's premier highlights, the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among

the country's top three gardens. Enjoy a morning garden visit and an afternoon city walking tour.

**Day 5 Urago, Oki Islands.** We have a real treat in store today as we will venture off the beaten track and call into the remote and fascinating Oki Islands. The archipelago is made up of four large inhabited islands and 180 smaller uninhabited islands. The natural beauty of the islands led to them being included in the Daisen-Oki National Park in 1963 and more recently, in 2013, they were classified as a UNESCO Global Geopark. From the port of Urago on Nishinoshima we will offer a choice of tours that will enable us to fully appreciate this tranquil and stunning part of Japan.

**Day 6 Matsue.** Called the 'town of water,' Matsue nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including the 17th century Matsue Castle before enjoying a boat ride on the local canals. This afternoon is free to relax or explore the town at leisure. Alternatively join a full day excursion visiting both Matsue Castle and the Adachi Museum of Art which is set in a beautiful natural environment and well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.

**Day 7 Hagi.** Hagi was a minor fishing port until Mori Terumoto fortified it in 1604 and it was Mori Samurai that helped spark off the anti-Tokugawa revolt in the mid-19th century. Today it is better known for its traditional pottery making traditions. On our morning tour we will explore the Teramachi District with its temples and shrines, the Jokamachi District, where we find the old samurai houses and also take time to explore Hagi Castle, Shizuki Park and Tokoji Temple. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax or perhaps travel to the outskirts of the city and the Yoshika Taibi Memorial Museum which is dedicated to a large collection of Hagi-yaki pottery which was highly prized in the Edo Period as wares for tea ceremonies.

**Day 8 Ulsan for Kyongju, South Korea.** Today we embark on a full-day excursion to magnificent Kyongju, a World Heritage Site, which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Kyongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunch time, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

**Day 9 Masan for Haeinsa, South Korea.** From our berth in Masan we head inland to the Haeinsa Temple. Regarded as one of the three great temples in Korea, it was first settled in 802 AD and its name derives from a verse in a Buddhist Sutra as "reflections on a smooth sea". In the 13th century when Korea was at war with the Mongols, the government commissioned the Triptaka Koreana, a complete copy of Buddhist scriptures, in the hope of Buddha's intervention in the war. They were carved onto 81,258 double sided wooden blocks and stored on floor to ceiling shelves in the Janggyeong Panjeon building. We also visit the

Daejokkwangjeon, the main worship hall of the temple. After lunch in a nearby restaurant we will return to Masan this afternoon, here you may want to visit the vibrant fish market selling the daily catch as well as dried and salted fish and seaweed and try a sample at one of the raw fish restaurants.

**Day 10 Ube, Japan.** After a morning at sea we continue our exploration of Japan and visit some sites of historic, southern Yamaguchi prefecture. From our base at the port of Ube we travel inland to visit the picturesque five-storied Pagoda of Rurikoji Temple and the surrounding park. Dating back to 1442 the pagoda was built in memory of Yoshihiro Mori Terumoto who ruled the area during this period. We also hope to visit the Fujigochi Tea Plantation and enjoy a tour of the tea factory and plantation where the local Ono Tea is produced from 70 hectares of gentle rolling countryside.

**Day 11 Miyajima & Hiroshima.** Considered one of Japan's top scenic wonders, Miyajima provides a picture postcard vista of the scarlet Torii gate, the giant camphor wood gates at the entrance to the Shinto Shrine. We will use the vessel's Zodiacs to go ashore and explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses. The shrine is a designated World Heritage Site. Over lunch we sail to Hiroshima for our visit to the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the cenotaph which contains the names of all the known victims of the A-bomb and the permanently lit "Flame of Peace". Just outside the park, the A-Bomb Dome is a haunting reminder of the destructive forces that were unleashed on the city being one of the few original buildings to survive. In the museum we will see photos, videos and victim's personal effects relating to the bomb.





Itsukushima jinja shrine, Miyajima



Haeinsa



Matsue Castle



Old Merchant Quarter, Kurashiki

**Day 12 Uno-Ko for Koraku-en & Kurashiki.** From the port of Uno-Ko we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en, which translates as "Garden of pleasure after". This 17th century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a Japanese lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Kurashiki where we explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses painted white with traditional black tiles, along a canal framed with weeping willows and filled with koi. There is also a chance to visit the Ohara Museum of Art which includes rare works by Matisse, Picasso and Renoir as well as collections from Japan's mingei movement including ceramics by Hamada Shoji.

**Day 13 Himeji.** Today we arrive at Himeji where we will visit the recently renovated Himeji Castle. Built in the 16th century, Himeji Castle is a World

Heritage Site and a national treasure being one of the few original feudal era fortresses remaining. The castle's name means "white egret," and the gleaming white walls that soar high above the plains below justify its name. A guided tour will take us through the castle, past the main keeps walls featuring "ishiotoshi", narrow openings that allowed defending soldiers to fire arrows or pour boiling oil onto anyone trying to scale the walls. From the top of the keep there are wonderful views to the inland sea. Continue to the Himeji Koko-en, a reconstruction of the former samurai quarters containing nine Edo period style homes and gardens including koi ponds and intricately pruned trees. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore further independently.

**Day 14 Kobe to London.** Disembark this morning in Kobe and transfer to Osaka airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Castle	Standard	£7295
Caledonian	Superior	£7795
Promenade	Premium	£8295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10495
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9495
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis, 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**NB:** The ship will be at anchor at Miyajima and the Oki Islands and Zodiacs or tenders will be used to transport passengers ashore.

**Pre & Post-Cruise Extensions**



**Tokyo Pre-Cruise Extension**

27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

If you would like to spend some more time in Tokyo we have arranged a two night extension.

**The Itinerary**

- Day 1 London to Tokyo, Japan.** Fly by scheduled flight.
- Day 2 Tokyo.** Arrive this morning and transfer your hotel for your stay. Remainder of the day at leisure to explore the vibrant metropolis independently.
- Day 3 Tokyo.** Full day tour of Tokyo, including Hamarikyu garden, Edo Tokyo Museum and Tokyo Tower.
- Day 4 Tokyo.** Day at leisure (main group arrive).

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £695 Single: £985

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Tokyo on bed and breakfast basis, full day tour, transfer from airport to hotel. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.



**Kyoto Post-Cruise Extension**

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

If you would like to spend some time in Kyoto after your cruise we are offering a two night extension.

**The Itinerary**

- Day 1 Kobe to Kyoto.** Disembark this morning in Kobe and join a tour of Kyoto and Nara, before transferring to your hotel for a two night stay.
- Day 2 Kyoto.** Day at leisure to explore.
- Day 3 Kyoto to London.** Check-out this morning and transfer to Osaka airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £765 Single: £995

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto on bed and breakfast basis, full day tour, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# Island Realms of Japan

A voyage from Kyoto to Taiwan exploring Japan's many island groups  
8<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Join the MS Caledonian Sky for this unusual voyage which focuses on the small islands and ports of southern Japan. Sailing south from the cultural capital of Kyoto, we visit Japan's intriguing and diverse islands including the subtropical Amami and Yaeyama Islands where a slower pace of life is enjoyed and which offer an altogether different experience from Japan's mainland. Over the course of just twelve nights we will be able to see a variety of cultures, natural wonders and architectural styles. Amongst the many highlights will be the iconic gardens of Koraku-en and Ritsurin, the shrines and pagodas at Miyajima and Rurikoji and Obi Castle which harks back to an era dominated by feudal lords. For the natural world enthusiasts we will explore the natural and underwater worlds of the southern archipelago and for those who prefer a historical perspective, we will see the Peace memorial at Hiroshima and the remnants of the World War Two battle at Okinawa. Our expert Guest Speaker and local guides will provide an insight into Japanese culture and history along the way.

Our voyage will end in Taiwan. Sitting between China and Japan it is a surprisingly beautiful island about half the size of Scotland and we will visit one of its natural wonders, the Taroko Gorge National Park. Chiang Kai-shek, the Chinese nationalist leader and Mao's great adversary crossed the sea from China with a million and more of his followers in 1949, together with many great treasures from the Forbidden City. These treasures are now housed in the magnificent National palace Museum in the nation's capital of Taipei which we will visit before returning to London, a wonderful epilogue to a fascinating trip.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Osaka, Japan.**  
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Kyoto, Japan.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel in Kyoto for our two night stay. Spend the rest of the evening at leisure to explore or relax in the hotel.

**Day 3 Kyoto.** After breakfast at the hotel discover Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1000 years. On a morning tour we will visit Kinkakuji Temple and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore independently.

**Day 4 Kyoto to Kobe.** Depart the hotel after breakfast and discover Nara en-route to embark the MS Caledonian Sky. During the 8th century Nara was Japan's capital for 74 years and many of the temples and shrines from this era still remain. We arrive in Kobe to embark later in the afternoon and enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner before sailing later in the evening, along Japan's Inland Sea.

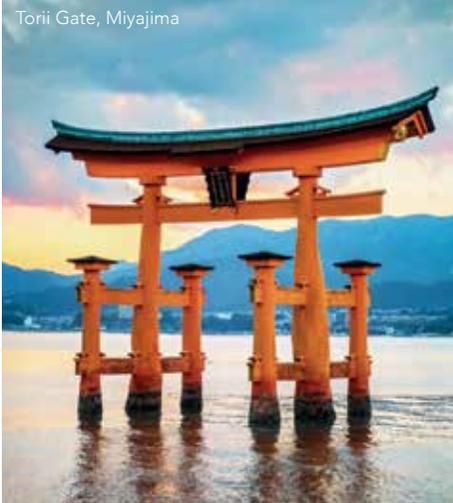


**Day 5 Koraku-en & Kurashiki.** From the port of Uno-Ko we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en, which translates as "Garden of pleasure after". This 17th century

formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a Japanese lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Kurashiki where we explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses painted white with traditional black tiles, along a canal framed with weeping willows and filled with koi.

**Day 6 Takamatsu.** The MS Caledonian Sky will berth in Takamatsu located on Shikoku Island on the northern shores of the Seto Inland Sea. This morning we visit Kinashi Town preserving a rich history of producing bonsai for 250





Torii Gate, Miyajima



Yakusugi Land, Yakushima Island



Koraku-en

years. We will explore the town, visit a Bonsai nursery and make our way to Ritsurin Garden, recognised as one of the most beautiful in Japan and built by feudal lords in the early Edo Period. With a backdrop against the wooded Mount Shiun, we will wander along the paths of this historic landscape garden dotted with ponds, historic trees and pavilions. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring Takamatsu town.

**Day 7 Miyajima & Hiroshima.**

Considered one of Japan's top scenic wonders, Miyajima provides a picture postcard vista of the scarlet Torii gate, the giant camphor wood gates at the entrance to the Shinto Shrine. We will use the vessel's Zodiacs to go ashore and explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses. The shrine is a designated World Heritage Site. Over lunch we sail to Hiroshima for our visit to the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the cenotaph which contains the names of all the known victims of the A-bomb and the permanently lit "Flame of Peace". Just outside the park, the A-Bomb Dome is a haunting reminder of the destructive forces that were unleashed on the city being one

of the few original buildings to survive. In the museum we will see photos, videos and victim's personal effects relating to the bomb.

**Day 8 Ube, Yamaguchi.** We continue our exploration of Japan and visit some sites of historic, southern Yamaguchi prefecture. From our base at the port of Ube we will travel inland to visit the picturesque five-storied Pagoda of Rurikoji Temple and the surrounding park. Dating back to 1442, the pagoda was built in memory of Yoshihiro Mori Terumoto who ruled this area during this period. We also hope to visit the Fujigochi Tea Plantation and enjoy a tour of the tea factory and plantation where the local Ono Tea is produced from 70 hectares of gentle rolling countryside.

**Day 9 Aberatsu.** Today we will visit Obi castle in southern Miyazaki, a region off the well beaten tourist trail. The castle was ruled by the Ito Clan for fourteen generations during the Edo Period (1603-1867). We will see the castle and stroll in the grounds known for their serene grove of 140 year old cedar trees. The nearby town has several traditional streets, former samurai houses and quarter, as well as quaint streams. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 10 Yakushima Island.** We sail to the very south of Kyushu and the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993 and has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend the afternoon on a choice of nature walks in Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees, such as the Buddhasugi, Futagosugi and Sennensugi, which are over 3000 years old.

**Day 11 Amami Oshima, Amami Islands.** We continue sailing south and arrive this morning in Amami Oshima, a natural sub-tropical, paradise situated in the Amami Islands and surrounded by transparent waters, brightly coloured coral reefs and tropical fish. The island is almost entirely covered in forest and mangrove and offers fantastic bird watching and wildlife sightings. We have the whole day to explore and will visit the Nature Observation Park where we can walk through the forest and hope to see the Amami Jay, Ruddy kingfisher, Ryukyu Akashobin, butterflies and possibly the rare black hare. We will also see local industry and watch the process of making tsumugi and kasuri silk-cotton

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Made up of 6,852 islands, the perfect way to explore the Land of the Rising Sun is by sea and our vessel, the 114 passenger MS Caledonian Sky, allows us to visit out of the way destinations, small islands and remote stretches of coast that would not be practical on a land tour.

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Water Buffalo Cart, Taketomi



Whistling Green Pigeon, Amami Islands



Miyako-Jima

fabrics, used for making kimonos, at the Oshima Tsumugi Village, a craft complex in a beautiful hillside setting amongst flowers. Many of the local plants are used in dyeing. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring the local area.

**Day 12 Okinawa, Ryuku Islands.**

Arrive today in the largest of the Ryuku Island archipelago, Okinawa. It is probably best known for the long and bloody battle of World War II which lasted 82 days. There will be a choice of excursion this morning, either choose to learn more about this significant encounter when we visit the former Japanese Navy Underground Head Quarters, the Peace Memorial Park and Himeyuri Tower, which commemorates the fate of female high school students, who worked in army field hospitals in caves under horrendous conditions. Alternatively, stretch your legs as we walk through the Gangala Valley, a working excavation site with human pre-historic remains dating back some 18,000 years. We will walk past the "walking Banyan tree" and see the caves, the history of which our guides will explain. Before returning to the vessel we will see the Shuri Castle, perched on a hill overlooking Naha which used to be a centre of the Ryuku Kingdom. Enjoy an afternoon of exploring independently.

**Day 13 Miyako-Jima, Miyako Islands.**

After a morning cruising we arrive around midday at Miyako-Jima, the largest of the eight islands of the Miyako Island Chain. The island bears many historical relics and beautiful white sandy beaches including

Maehama, Painagama, Sunakawa and Shigira Beach. For our afternoon tour, we will embark on a glass bottom boat ride and scenic tour including a walk around the narrow Higashi Henna Cape the point where the Pacific Ocean meets the South China Sea. We also hope to offer a snorkelling opportunity.

**Day 14 Ishigaki & Taketomi, Yaeyama Islands.**

Our final call in Japan will be at the Yaeyama Islands, a cluster of coral reefs and forested mountains. This morning, from our base in Ishigaki we take the short journey by local ferry to neighbouring Taketomi. This tiny island, just 1500 metres at its widest point and home to 300 people still offers a traditional Ryuku way of life. We will be transported by traditional buffalo drawn carts to view the traditional bungalow style houses with low slung terracotta roofs and rocky walls covered in hibiscus and bougainvillea. Alternatively enjoy a glass bottom boat experience on Kabira Bay before visiting Yaima village. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax on board or ashore.

**Day 15 Hualien, Taiwan.** From our berth in Hualien we will enjoy a full day tour to the Taroko Gorge National Park. Taroko means "magnificent and beautiful" in the local Truku language and it is clear to see why the name was used. The gorge itself stretches for 20 kilometres with marble cliffs rising hundreds of metres above the Liwu River. We will see the Swallow Grotto and the Tunnel of Nine Turns, a 1.9 kilometre path cut into the cliffs following the route of the

original tracks along the gorge and the Changuang Temple, a Buddhist monastery with commanding views of the river. We will have a local lunch before returning to the ship later in the afternoon.

**Day 16 Keelung to London.**

Disembark this morning and join a tour of Taipei after which we transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Our tour will include a visit to the outstanding National Palace Museum, a repository of over 600,000 priceless Chinese artefacts which is located in the green hills just outside the city as well as the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

**Post-Cruise Extension**



**Taiwan Post-Cruise Extension**

23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

For those that wish to enjoy more time discover Taiwan we are offering a three night post-cruise extension in Taipei.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£525** Single: **£825**

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, full day excursion, airport transfers.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Castle	Standard	<b>£8295</b>
Caledonian	Superior	<b>£8495</b>
Promenade	Premium	<b>£8895</b>
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£9495</b>
Promenade	Premium Balcony	<b>£9795</b>
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	<b>£10795</b>
Castle	Standard for sole use	<b>£10495</b>
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	<b>£10695</b>

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto on bed and breakfast basis, 12 nights aboard MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia on board team, shore excursions, group transfers, permits, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**NB:** The ship will be at anchor at Miyajima and Zodiacs or tenders will be used to transport passengers ashore. In the event that we are unable to anchor off due to bad weather we will call into larger nearby ports where we are able to berth.









# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.