SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £500 PER PERSON PLUS NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

# CAPE VERDE, THE CANARY ISLANDS & MOROCCO

A VOYAGE FROM CAPE VERDE TO GIBRALTAR Aboard the MS Hebridean Sky 17<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Hebridean Sky for a journey that will take us from the Cape Verde archipelago to Gibraltar with explorations in the Canary Islands, where we will visit some of the lesser-known islands, and some enchanting places in Morocco along the way. Our itinerary has been carefully designed so that we can take the opportunity to escape to warmer climes and fully appreciate the fascinating history, dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy of the region.

Gibralta

Casablanca Safi Essaouira

MOROCCO

CANARY

El Hierro

×

Tenerife

WESTERN SAHARA

La Palma 🚬

We will begin our exploration in the remote and intriguing Cape Verde archipelago and there is no better way to explore the dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy of the islands than by small ship. Each island is a little world of its own; some are arid and flat with extraordinary beaches and sand dunes whilst others by contrast are more mountainous and lush. After a relaxing two days at sea we arrive in our next island group, the Canary Islands. We have three days here during which time we will visit the islands of La Palma, El Hierro and Tenerife where we can enjoy nature at its very best. These volcanic islands impress with their unique flora and fauna and boast rugged, rocky landscapes, evergreen cloud forests, metre-high ferns and bizarre-looking dragon trees. We then set Sao Antao sail for the coast of North Africa where we will call into two charming places Sao Vicente CAPE VERDE ISLANDS along the coast of Morocco. From the port of Safi we will explore charming Sao Tiago Essaouira and in Casablanca we will enjoy a morning discovering the city's wonders before setting sail for our final call, Gibraltar.

In the company of just 100 or so like-minded travel companions, we will be able to make the most of the region and in our small groups we can explore places that are otherwise inaccessible to vessels larger than the MS Hebridean Sky. Whether your interests lie in botany, geology, history or walking, this region offers something for everyone.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Praia, Cape Verde.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive tonight and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Praia, Sao Tiago. Today we explore the historic capital of Praia on the island of Sao Tiago. Praia has a wonderful African feel and we will visit Cidade Velha, the old Portuguese capital with a rich history which was once the centre of the slave trade. See the fort and cathedral which dominate the narrow, cobbled lanes and stone houses. Enjoy a traditional performance of Batuco dance before we continue into the green interior, climbing the steep mountains and enjoying the colours as we make our way to Rui Vaz where we enjoy a lunch of local produce in the shadow of Pico da Antonia. We will see local farms and drive past the only water dam in Cape Verde before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 3 Porto Novo, Sao Antao. We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Sao Antao. Driving up the old trading route, we pass the volcanic crater 'Cova' with its agricultural plantations and enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in the tiny, picturesque mountain village of Fontainhas, on the northern side of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, the valley of Paul. Here we will enjoy a coffee break whilst learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. Also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the island. Drive back along the coast to the southern side of the island and our waiting ship. This evening we sail the short distance to Mindelo and will be entertained by local music and capoeira on board.

Day 4 Mindelo, Sao Vicente. Enjoy a full day in Mindelo, one of the most attractive of all the Cape Verde towns with its colonial buildings, cobbled streets, cafes and lively restaurants. Depart on a morning discovery tour of the lively markets and the secret corners of the harbour town followed by a coffee break in a typical Cape Verdean bar. There will be some free time to further explore the vibrant town independently before we sail in the late afternoon.

**Days 5 & 6 At Sea.** Enjoy a relaxing two days at sea as we cruise to the Canary Islands. Choose to join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 7 La Palma, Canary Islands. La Palma is known by locals as the 'Beautiful Island', and it is easy to see why. It is a simply stunning, peaceful and most importantly an un-spoilt destination that has deservedly been declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve. This afternoon there will be a choice of excusions. You may wish to join the tour to Caldera de Taburiente, a massive eight kilometre wide depression which scientists agree was a majestically tall volcanic mountain that collapsed in on itself. We will explore on foot and whilst all may seem stoic and still, the forces of erosion are hard at work and some geologists estimate that it will finally disappear in just 5,000 years. Alternatively, take a drive to visit Los Tilos Forest, nestled between colossal mountains it is one of the few surviving Laurisilva forests on the planet. Continue to the charming town of San Andres where we will visit the El Tendal Museum and learn more about the island and its history. Before returning to the ship we will enjoy a tasting at the Rum Factory. Finally, for those who would prefer a more energetic excursion there will be a guided trek on offer through the El Pilar area; see remains of volcanic eruptions, the magnificent views of the Valley of Aridane and the crater wall that surrounds the Taburiente National Park.

**Day 8 El Hierro.** Probably the least known of the Canary Islands and once considered to be the end of the world, El Hierro is unique and utterly captivating. This morning is free to explore the town or relax on board before our exploration of the island. It will be impossible not to be entranced by the island's slow pace and simple style; by its craggy coast, where waves hurl themselves against lava sculpted rock faces; by the pretty farmland and flower meadows of the interior; by the eerily beautiful juniper groves; and by the desolate volcanic badlands that stretch out like moonscapes in the south. We will also sample some of El Hierro's local wine and visit the lizard house where the island's unique giant lizards are bred; near extinction, they are protected by international law. Alternatively, opt for the La Llania hiking excursion which will take us through primaeval forests, along ancient cisterns and mythical witches dance floors to El Hierro's top viewing point affording spectacular views of the western parts of the island.

**Day 9 Tenerife.** This morning we arrive in Tenerife and have a choice of tours. Join us as we drive inland, along the base of the mountain range through





beautiful pine forests to the Parque Nacional del Teide. The area was declared a National Park in 1954 and includes 14 species of plant found nowhere else in the world. Geologically the park is fascinating; of the many different types of volcanic formations examples of more than 80% can be found here. Alternatively, visit the island's gardens including the Jardin Botanico which was founded in 1788 by Charles III of Spain. The purpose of the gardens was to create an area where the plants, shrubs and flowers brought back from the New World could acclimatise to Spanish soil. In contrast to the Botanical Gardens, we will then explore the Sitio Litre Garden which boasts a luscious orchid collection. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Santa Cruz at your own pace.

Day 10 At Sea. Relax on board as we sail to the North African coast.

Day 11 Safi for Essaouira, Morocco. Arriving into Morocco we will depart the port of Safi and head along the coast to Essaouira. Founded in the 18th century, Essaouira was built to be a rival city to Agadir. Formerly known as Mogador, meaning small fortress, it was designed as a fortified town surrounded by Vauban-style ramparts and played a major role as an international trading seaport, linking Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa with Europe and the rest of the world. On our full day tour we will see the amazing mixture of Portuguese and Berber architecture, the 16th century sea bastions built to protect the city, the 18th century Medina, and in the Mellah we will find the souks dedicated to gold, spices and fish. Enjoy a seafood lunch near the beach before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky and sailing tonight.

Day 12 Casablanca. This morning we will visit the city's most important sights including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Olive Market. The highlight of our tour will be our visit to the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest religious monuments in the world after Mecca. It took 3,300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and splendid wood ceilings. Returning to the ship for lunch we can enjoy a final, relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 13 Gibraltar to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-cruise Gibraltar Extension 29<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025



If you would like to spend some time in Gibraltar after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay including a morning tour.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Gibraltar.** Disembark this morning and discover this strategic British outpost in the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783. Also see the Gibraltar Museum. After lunch we transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. (**B**, **L**)

**Day 2 Gibraltar.** Enjoy a day at leisure for independent exploration. Maybe take the cable car up the famous rock, see the Botanical Gardens or visit the Garrison Library. **(B)** 

Day 3 Gibraltar to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£995** 

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Gibraltar, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), half day tour, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. Not Included: Travel insurance.

#### **PRICES PER PERSON** Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON PLUS
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£7995	£7495
Byrd	Superior	£8295	£7795
Mawson	Premium	£8495	£7995
Mawson	Corner	£8795	£8295
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10295	£9795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£10995	£10495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7995	£7495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£8295	£7795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes. Not Included: Travel insurance.

# MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Hebridean Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

#### Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

#### Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Hebridean Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or, outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice



#### Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (signal strength varies depending on location and demand). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Amundsen Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Scott Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

#### Your Comfort

The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

#### Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

#### MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



Please note that beds in each suite can be configured as double or twin with the exception of suites 601 and 602 which feature a fixed double bed.



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Cover image: Teide National Park, Tenerife.