

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

CARIBBEAN ISLAND ODYSSEY

AN ISLAND HOPPING VOYAGE FROM
PANAMA TO THE WEST INDIES
INCLUDING COLOMBIA
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

9TH TO 23RD APRIL 2024





If you have been contemplating a visit to Central America and the Caribbean, then this fascinating voyage through sub-tropical waters could offer the perfect opportunity with its mix of cultural and natural wonders. Every island has its own culture and this colourful mix of island personalities, varied terrain and lifestyles makes for a marvellous spring break. By and large we will head for the smaller, less visited islands and having our small ship, the MS Island Sky, as the base for our cruise makes all the difference.

Much of the itinerary is far from the 'big ship' routes and we will discover some of the most beautiful tropical isles. Many are still untouched by the hands of mass tourism and in the San Blas Islands and the Colombian region of La Guajira we will have the opportunity to visit remote communities where locals live following ancient ways of life. We will also spend time in the captivating city of Cartagena and explore historical sites and forts of the Spanish, Dutch and British colonial periods combined with the pretty ports, pastel painted towns, wonderful beaches and the flora and fauna of the region.

Such a varied and comprehensive itinerary would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise and, in the company of just 100 or so passengers, we will be able to explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere on board. As we sail relatively short distances, we have the benefit of full days on many of the glorious islands allowing for time to join the included, guided excursions combined with the opportunity to explore further independently or perhaps relax on one of the beautiful beaches.





Pilon de Azucar, La Guajira



Panama Cathedral



St George's, Grenada

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Panama City, Panama. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel in the city for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure.

Day 2 Panama City to Colon. After breakfast in the hotel we take a scenic tour of the historic old town, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, visiting the colonial mansions and 17th century churches and convents. Continue to the Panama Canal Observation Centre to learn about the expansion of the canal before visiting the Miraflores Locks Visitor Centre where you can see the history of the canal and watch the ships as they pass through. Continue to Colon where we will embark the MS Island Sky and sail this evening.

Day 3 San Blas Islands. We awake in the stunning San Blas

archipelago. The archipelago is made up of over 400 islands that line the north coast of Panama with white sandy beaches set in a turquoise sea. The islands are home to the indigenous Kuna Indians who gained self-rule from the government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molas'. We will have time to take a nature walk or perhaps enjoy a swim from the beach. Spend the afternoon at sea as we cross to Colombia.

Day 4 Cartagena, Colombia. Cartagena is one of the most fascinating cities in South America and this morning we will enjoy a walking tour of the colonial walled city which is virtually surrounded by water and steeped in history, with a wealth of 16th and 17th century buildings and churches. Our guides will bring the history of the city to life as we walk its streets and ramparts. We will visit the 16th century Fort of San Felipe, Monastery of San Pedro Claver, the Plaza de la Aduana and Iglesia de Santo Domingo. The afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace.

Day 5 Santa Marta. We continue our exploration of Colombia in the Santa Marta area which is renowned for the eco-diversity and dramatic beauty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the highest coastal mountain range in the world, that sweep down to the sea. From our berth we will travel slightly inland

to the Tayrona National Park this morning. Covered in large part by virgin tropical forest, the park is home to many varied species of mammals, birds and reptiles. On a walk through this semi-tropical jungle we will be joined by a local guide who will offer insights into the park's vegetation, animals and eco-system. Alternatively, explore the town of Santa Marta, see Bolivar Plaza and the bustling streets with their eclectic mix of Spanish Colonial, Republican and contemporary architecture to the 17th century Cathedral, Colombia's oldest church. Also visit the small Gold Museum which houses some interesting gold and pottery objects from the indigenous cultures that inhabit the Sierra Nevada Mountains which rise up behind the city.

Day 6 Cabo de la Vela. Our final call in Colombia will be in the far northwestern region of La Guajira an area of wild desert, beautiful landscapes and stunning beaches that border the Caribbean Sea. The early risers will enjoy a desert walk to the Pilon de Azucar hill that offers fantastic 360 degree views of the area. This is an area sacred to the indigenous Wayuu people who have lived in the region for over 2,000 years since relocating from the Amazon rainforest and have battled Spanish invaders as well as more recently the Colombian Government to keep their traditions alive. Visiting a community, our local guides will teach us about their culture and we will see some of the crafts, including the famous Mochila

bags. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Curacao, Netherlands. Moor this morning at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Willemstad. The city has a rich history dating back to the 16th century and the island's colonial Dutch heritage sets a genteel tone amid markets, museums and cafes. Enjoy an excursion to explore the historic downtown district including Fort Amsterdam. The afternoon is free to either explore at your own pace or join an island drive which will include The Old Labour House where we learn about the history of slavery on the island, the dramatic Boca Table National Park and the Salt Pans plantation where, if lucky we may see some flamingos.

Day 8 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea.

Day 9 Port of Spain, Trinidad. Due to its location close to the South American mainland, Trinidad has a unique diversity of plant and animal species which we will discover today. From our berth at Port of Spain we will drive inland to the Asa Wright Nature Centre. Founded on a former cocoa and coffee plantation in 1967 it comprises 1500 acres of forest providing habitat for a range of wildlife. On a series of guided walks we will explore the area searching for the 166 species of birds. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and later this afternoon we head to the Caroni Nature Sanctuary, a mangrove swamp covering an area of 40 square miles. On arrival at the sanctuary we



Scarlet Ibis



Pitons, St Lucia



Willemstad, Curacao



Mount Soufriere, Montserrat

will board a flat-bottomed boat and slowly travel along the peaceful waterways and lagoons admiring the beauty of the landscape and a variety of birds including the scarlet ibis, a large bright red bird which feeds and nests here and we hope to catch sight of them as they return to their nests at sunset.

Day 10 Grenada. Explore this wonderful Windward Island which many regard as the most beautiful in the Caribbean. It is a lush and verdant island with spice plantations, rum distilleries, tropical forests, secluded coves, nature trails and select hotels which cling to the hillsides overlooking the ocean. We will moor in the picturesque capital of St George's before heading to Fort George. Built in 1706 with wonderful views over the harbour, it was here in 1983 that the Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, was assassinated which prompted the invasion by US troops. We will continue to a spice garden where we learn about the herbs that grow here before we end at one of the island's rum distilleries.

Day 11 St Lucia. St Lucia is a splendidly rugged island of towering mountains, lush green valleys and acres of banana plantations. Due to its strategic position, the island was fought over repeatedly by the French and British and changed hands fourteen times. We will anchor in sight of St Lucia's best-known feature, the twin peaks of the Pitons, which rise

dramatically from the sea to more than 2400 feet. In the nearby town of Soufriere we can visit the bubbling sulphur springs, part of a low lying volcano which erupted thousands of years ago. Our tour will also include the splendid botanical gardens.

Day 12 Dominica. Stepping back in time, the island of Dominica is still the primitive garden that Columbus first sighted in 1493. An area of tropical rainforests, there are flowers of incredible beauty and animals that exist nowhere else in the world. We arrive this morning in the small port of Cabrits, just below the national park and the former British garrison of Fort Shirley, which successfully repelled a French attack during the Trafalgar campaign in 1805. Here you can climb to the fort to explore the ruins, visit the small museum or perhaps simply wander the surrounding trails on the lookout for birds, hermit crabs and lizards. For the keen birders we will offer a tour to the Morne Diablotin National Park where from the viewpoint we hope to see the two endemic parrots of Dominica.

Day 13 Montserrat. Ask any Caribbean connoisseur about their favourite places and Montserrat will always be high on the list. We will discover some of the indigenous flora and fauna at the botanical gardens before we continue to the volcano observatory where we will learn

how the islanders coped with the devastation which the volcanic eruptions of 1995 and 2010 caused. From Richmond Hill we can see the impact of the eruptions before walking through the buried city of Plymouth itself. We will also see some of the untouched areas which are as beautiful as ever.

Day 14 Antigua to London.

Disembark this morning and on an island tour we will enjoy the views from Shirley Heights before heading to Nelson's Dockyard, beautifully located in English Harbour. See the impressive collection of restored historic

buildings which were occupied by the British Navy from 1707 till 1899. After lunch we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 15 London. Arrive this morning.

SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that this voyage is not classified as an expedition cruise although we will be at anchor in San Blas, Cabo de La Vela, St Lucia and Montserrat where Zodiacs will be used to shuttle guests ashore.

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 |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Magellan | Standard | £8995 | £8495 |
| Columbus | Superior | £9295 | £8795 |
| Marco Polo | Premium | £9495 | £8995 |
| Marco Polo | Corner | £9895 | £9395 |
| Erikson | Deluxe Balcony | £12295 | £11795 |
| Explorer | Owner's Balcony Suites | £12495 | £11995 |
| Explorer | Island Suite | £13995 | £13495 |
| Magellan | Standard for sole use | £9995 | £9495 |
| Columbus | Superior for sole use | £10295 | £9795 |

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Overnight hotel accommodation in Panama City with breakfast • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 Island 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 seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. 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 each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

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



Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus 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 Marco Polo 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 Columbus 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 as well as 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 Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

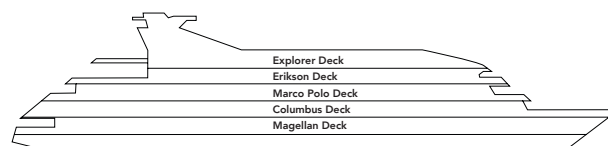
Your Comfort

The MS Island 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.

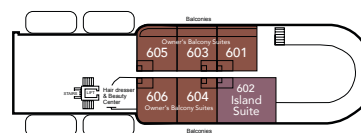
Your Life On Board

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 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 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 ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



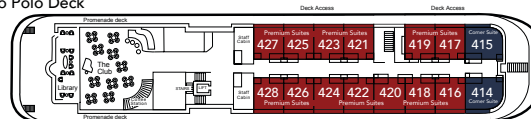
Explorer Deck



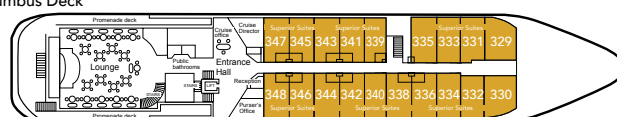
Erikson Deck



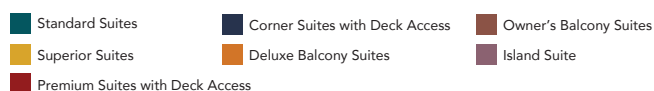
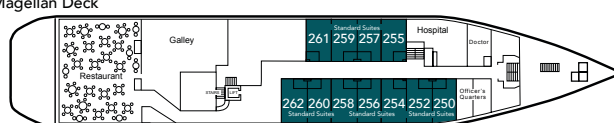
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



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