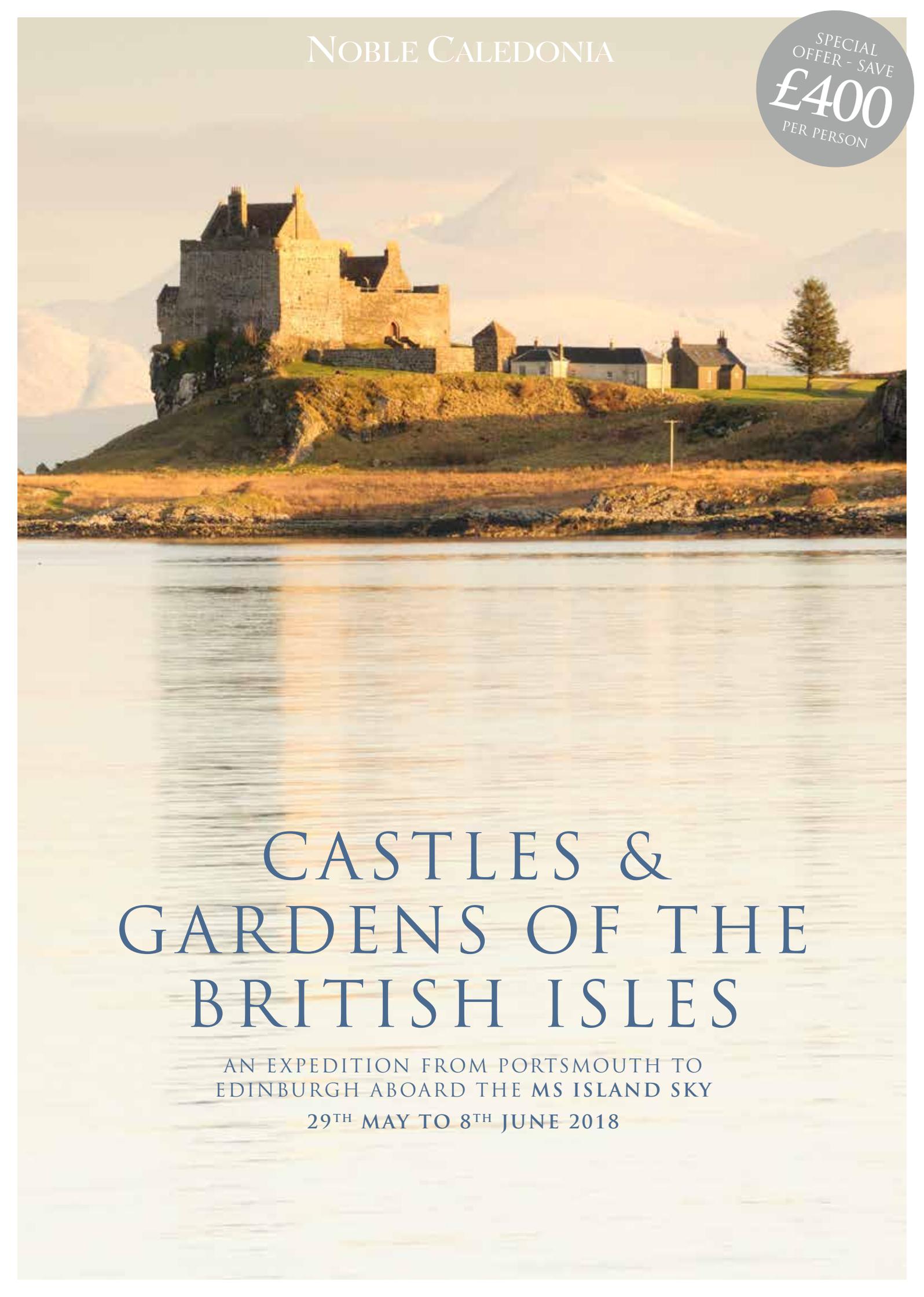


NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£400
PER PERSON



CASTLES &
GARDENS OF THE
BRITISH ISLES

AN EXPEDITION FROM PORTSMOUTH TO
EDINBURGH ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

29TH MAY TO 8TH JUNE 2018



For this exploration of the castles and gardens of the British Isles we are working with our Australian associates and experts in botanically themed tours, Botanica World Discoveries, and the all-suite MS Island Sky.

Our cruise is timed for when the shores of the UK and Ireland will be alive with colour, when many of the estates and gardens will be at their most appealing and the countryside will be lush and inviting. This, combined with the sheer diversity of the coastline, makes for a most appealing sea journey whether you be an avid gardener, birdwatcher or simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting places in the world.

The gardens of Britain and Ireland have a unique quality and from the formal and manicured to the wilder and more natural, our itinerary includes some of our most beautiful and diverse gardens which in spring are a sight to gladden any heart. We visit some stunning Irish gardens which have a unique quality, the 'soft' weather and green mountain backdrops make for lovely views whether you are in the dramatic Wicklows or in the more gentle countryside of Waterford and also the splendid gardens of Gigha which defy the Atlantic elements so admirably.

Having arranged hundreds of small ship cruises around the British Isles, we have learned that everyone takes something different from the experience. We are indeed fortunate in having such marvellous places so close to home and now more than ever there is a great appreciation for the peace, beauty and culture of the British and Irish Isles which we will explore with the use of the onboard Zodiacs and the expert onboard team.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Portsmouth. Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon. A transfer will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour train station to the port at a set time. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner on board this evening as we set sail.

Day 2 Tresco, Isles of Scilly. After a morning at sea this afternoon we explore the delightful island of Tresco in the Isles of Scilly. Tresco is leased by the Dorrien-Smith family, who have created a wonderful 40 acre sub-tropical garden near their Tresco Abbey home. Enjoy a relaxing stroll along the island's traffic-free lanes and wander along one of the lovely white sand beaches where the sea colour has more in common with the Aegean than the North Atlantic.



Day 3 Waterford, Ireland. From Waterford there will be a choice of tours today. The first option is to travel to Kilkenny, one of Ireland's most historic and attractive cities, and visit Kilkenny Castle and the design centre followed by a tour of the world-famous Waterford Crystal

Voyage Highlights

- Cruise around the Isles of Scilly and explore the picturesque Tresco Garden
- Enjoy a special lecture by BBC presenter Monty Don in Dublin
- Visit Plas Brondanw, Portmerion and Bodnant Garden in Wales
- Visit Mount Stewart, a famous 18th century house and garden
- Explore the Isle of Gigha and the Isle of Iona
- See Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull
- Visit one of Scotland's premier gardens, Inverewe, in the Scottish Highlands
- Taste some whisky on the Isle of Jura
- Visit the historic Glamis Castle



Kilkenny castle



Bodnant Garden



Belfast city hall



Portmeirion

Factory. The second option is to travel to Mount Congreve Gardens, a vast and visually inspiring woodland garden set on the banks of the River Suir and later return to County Waterford for a visit to Lismore Castle, which features the oldest continually cultivated gardens in Ireland.

Day 4 Dublin. We arrive in Dublin Bay this morning and enter the mouth of the River Liffey from where there are a choice of three excursions. Travel by coach into the Wicklow Mountains and visit the gardens of Powerscourt, with its charming walled garden, striking terraces, fine statuary, varied trees, carefully designed walking paths and more. Then travel to Mount Usher, a lovely romantic garden

on the banks of the River Vartry. Alternatively, visit Mount Usher Garden or a special private garden. Later on board enjoy a lecture by gardening writer and BBC Presenter, Monty Don.

Day 5 Holyhead, Wales. This morning we cruise into Holyhead to spend a full day exploring this spectacular part of Wales. Visit Portmeirion, an extraordinary Mediterranean style village designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975. Choose from a tour of the village and its gardens or the gardens of nearby Plas Brondanw, the family home of Williams-Ellis. Afterwards drive through the famous Snowdonia region to Bodnant Garden, one of the most

beautiful gardens in the United Kingdom. Spanning some 80 acres, the garden is set above the River Conwy and offers views to the Snowdonia range. Stroll through the Upper Garden, with its terraces and informal lawns, then continue into the Dell, the wild garden of the lower section formed by the valley of the River Hiraethlyn.

Day 6 Belfast, Northern Ireland. This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour of Belfast and this afternoon there is a choice of excursions, either visit the Titanic Exhibition or Mount Stewart, an 18th century house and garden in County Down. Planted in the 1920s by Lady Londonderry, the gardens today are owned by The National Trust and are of significant international importance. Here, a series of outdoor 'rooms' and vibrant parterres contain many rare plants that thrive in the mild climate of the Ards Peninsula. Enjoy time to explore the gardens as well as the opulent house, which boasts a fascinating heritage and contains world-famous artefacts and artwork.

Day 7 Isle of Gigha and Isle of Jura, Scotland. This morning visit the beautiful Isle of Gigha. Privately owned by its 120 inhabitants, the landscape consists of heather-covered hills, deserted sandy beaches, clear green seas and

just the one single-lane road, which meanders between quaint cottages and farms. Here we will enjoy time to wander the gardens of Achamore House. Laid out by Sir James Horlick from 1944, this stunning garden boasts a wonderful collection of azaleas, rhododendrons and exotic plants. Returning to the ship for lunch, we will cruise to the Isle of Jura, where there will be an opportunity to visit the 200 year-old single malt Scotch whisky distillery.

Day 8 Isle of Iona and Isle of Mull. This morning we arrive at the Isle of Iona, a place of tranquillity where more than 40 Scottish Kings, as well as Kings from Ireland, France and Norway are buried. After exploring Iona Abbey, perhaps take a short walk to the Bay at the Back of the Ocean – named because the next westward stop is North America. During lunch we will set off to the Isle of Mull where you have two touring options. The first option is to visit a quaint private garden and the second option is Duart Castle, a 13th century clifftop castle set in the Millennium Wood.

Day 9 Inverewe Gardens. This morning we will drop anchor and use our Zodiacs to access one of Scotland's premier gardens, Inverewe. This botanical garden in the north-west Highlands, presents an amazing collection of exotic



trees and shrubs that are sheltered by well positioned windbreaks of native pine. After a guided tour of the gardens we will return to the MS Island Sky and set sail during lunch for Aberdeen.

Day 10 Aberdeen. After breakfast drive through Royal Deeside, the picturesque valley of the River Dee and absorb the lovely scenery as we head to Crathes Castle, a 16th century castle famous for its splendid landscaped grounds and gardens. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch before enjoying an afternoon visit to Pitmedden

Garden with its elaborate parterres and herbaceous border. Moor overnight and enjoy a special Farewell Dinner this evening.

Day 11 Aberdeen. Disembark after breakfast. Transfers will be available to Aberdeen International Airport and Aberdeen Train Station at a fixed time.

SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that we will be at anchor at the following ports and will use Zodiacs to tender ashore: Tresco, Gigha, Jura, Iona, Mull & Inverewe.

PRICES PER PERSON

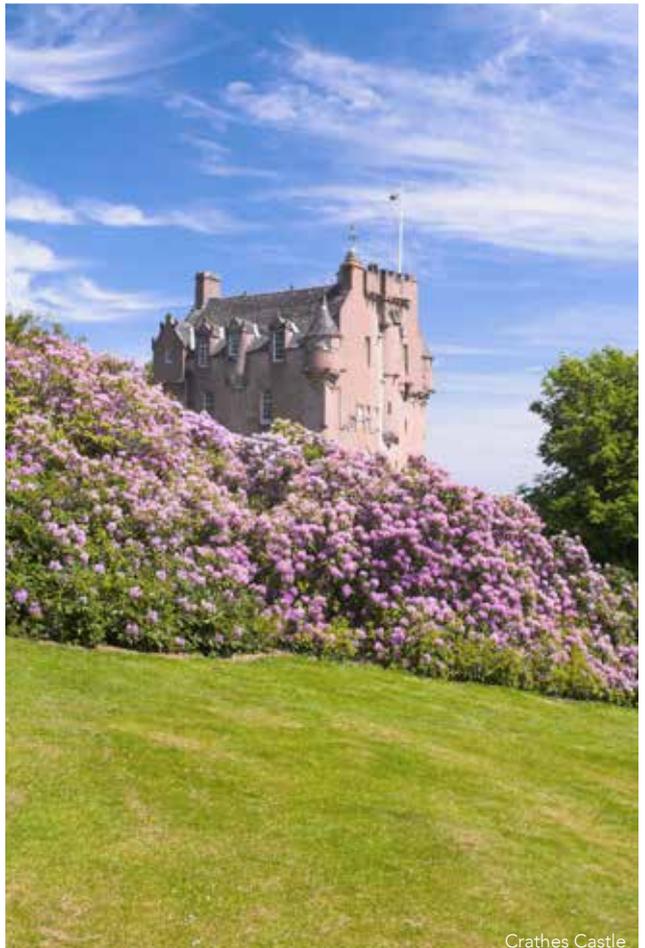
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£5120	£4720
Columbus	Superior	£5320	£4920
Marco Polo	Premium	£5680	£5280
Marco Polo	Corner	£5995	£5595
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6595	£6195
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£6995	£6595
Explorer	Island Suite	£7495	£7095
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6495	£6095
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7095	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Ten nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



Crathes Castle

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 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 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. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped 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, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Egyptian cotton sheets, 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 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.



Standard 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 where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. 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 selection of games and two computers offering complimentary internet access can also be found in the Library. 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. Throughout the vessel carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

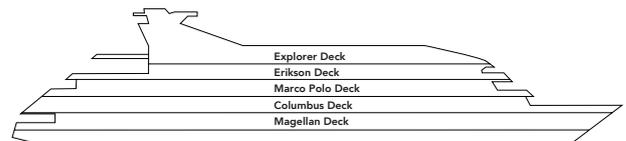
Your Comfort

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.

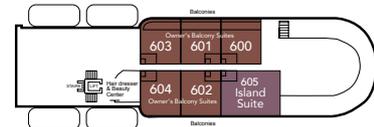
Your Life On Board

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 Scandinavian Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

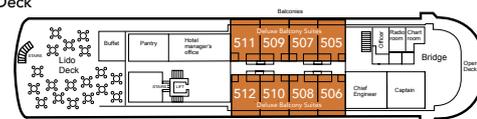
MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



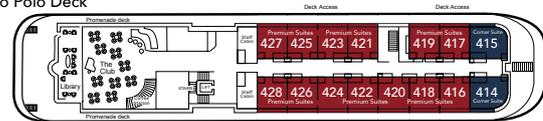
Explorer Deck



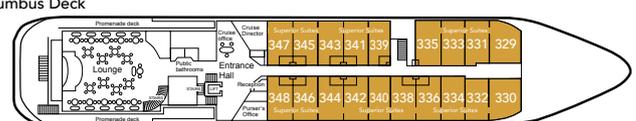
Erikson Deck



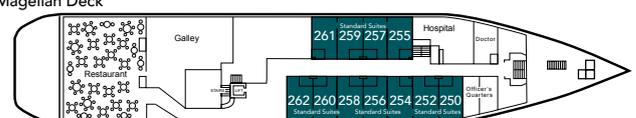
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Island Suite
- Premium Suites with Deck Access

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