

# CASTLES, ISLANDS & HISTORIC HOUSES OF BRITAIN

A VOYAGE FROM OBAN TO PORTSMOUTH  
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

7<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



If you have ever promised yourself that one day you will become better acquainted with some of the more remote regions and historically interesting parts of the United Kingdom, this late summer journey from Oban to Portsmouth provides a unique opportunity to explore the splendours of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England. Amongst the many splendid houses and gardens we will visit are the opulent Mount Stewart, beautiful Bodnant Garden, the famous, subtropical Abbey Gardens on the charming island of Tresco and Greenway, the wonderful historic house and garden that was once home to Agatha Christie. With regards to castles, we will visit some of the Kingdom's finest including the magnificent Castle Rushen on the Isle of Man and the impressive Pembroke Castle in Wales.

True, you can always drive, travel by train and coach and reach most of our itinerary with the help of a ferry, but how much more enjoyable to join the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky and travel in comfort accompanied by our expert onboard team without any of the hassle that independent exploration of these fascinating places would entail.





Bodnant Gardens



Portmeirion



Mount Stewart Gardens

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oban, Scotland.** Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon and sail this evening. A transfer will be available from Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time.

**Day 2 Colonsay & Jura.** Lying between Mull and Islay, we will spend the morning exploring the island of Colonsay, with her craggy, heather-backed hills, sparse woodland yet impressive array of plant and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated wooded gardens which protect the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross. Return to the vessel for lunch as we sail through the Sound of Islay to Jura, arriving in the late afternoon. We will go ashore at Craighouse and will be welcomed in the cooperage where we will be given an introduction to the Jura Distillery and an opportunity to taste the local product. Alternatively, join one of our naturalists on a walk along the shore or join the local bus for a short drive around the island.

**Day 3 Derry, Northern Ireland.** We will berth this morning in the historic city of Derry, renowned as one of the finest examples of a walled city in all of Europe. This morning we leave the city and drive to the Giant's Causeway an amazing array of 40,000 basalt columns which became widely known from the 1700s as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Admire the unique rock

formations which have, for millions of years, stood as a natural rampart against the unbridled ferocity of the Atlantic storms and the rugged symmetry of the columns never fail to intrigue. Return to Derry for lunch and enjoy an afternoon to explore the city independently.

**Day 4 Belfast.** Spend the morning exploring Belfast at your own pace or maybe visit the Titanic Experience. Located by the site of the ship's construction, the museum tells the story of the Titanic from her conception through her construction and launch in 1911. After lunch on board we drive the short distance to the famous house and gardens at Mount Stewart. The gardens, which were planted in the 1920s by Edith, Lady Londonderry are of international importance. The magnificent series of outdoor 'rooms' and vibrant parterres contain many rare plants that thrive in the mild climate of the Ards Peninsula. We will also explore the opulent house which reveals a fascinating heritage and historic world-famous artefacts and artwork.

**Day 5 Peel, Isle of Man.** Arrive this morning on the Isle of Man and the main fishing port of Peel. Settlements have been here since the Mesolithic Age and the island also claims to have the longest continuous parliament which was founded in 979AD. This morning we will travel to Tynwald Hill, located in the little village of St John's. This grass topped, tiered hill is made from the soil and stones from each of the island's 17 parishes and is the point from which, each 5 July all the laws enacted in the year preceding

are promulgated to the gathered government officials and the public at large, both in Manx and English languages. We continue to Castletown and the magnificent Castle Rushen, one of the best examples of a Medieval castle in Europe which was the former seat of the Kings and Lords of Mann. We end our tour at Castletown station and board the vintage steam train for a delightful and traditional journey to Douglas. Dating from 1874, the Isle of Man Steam Railway is the island's oldest Victorian rail system and this narrow gauge railway still runs with its original locomotives and carriages. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 6 Holyhead, Wales.** This morning we will arrive in Holyhead which is our base for a choice of excursions. Choose from a full day tour exploring this spectacular part of North Wales which will include a visit to Portmeirion, an extraordinary Mediterranean-style village designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975. Enjoy a tour of the village before a drive through Snowdonia where we will enjoy lunch in the National Park before continuing 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. Alternatively cross the island of Anglesey and spend the morning at Plas Newydd, an enchanting mansion set on the shores of the Menai Strait enjoying wonderful views over Snowdonia. Spend time exploring the elegant house including the military museum of Henry Paget, the first

Marquess of Anglesey who led the cavalry in the Battle of Waterloo, before heading into the gardens or taking a walk in the surrounding woodland. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon.

**Day 7 Steep Holm Island, England.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea as we cruise around the Welsh coastline. This afternoon we hope to land on Steep Holm Island located in the Bristol Channel. This small island, just one kilometre long by 400 metres wide, has a fascinating history having been inhabited since the Stone Age and was used by the Romans as a signal station and the Vikings as a base for their raids on the mainland. In the 1860s Lord Palmerston commissioned the fortification of the island to blockade the ports of the area from Napoleon's forces and these were enhanced in 1941 during the Second World War. Today the island is a Nature Reserve and after landing we have the freedom to explore the trails that cross the island. You may wish to visit the Victorian Barracks, see the gun emplacements at Split Rock Battery or look out for some of the wildlife including Muntjac deer.

**Day 8 Pembroke, Wales.** We spend the day on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast. From our nearby berth we will visit the 12th century Pembroke Castle, the second largest castle in Wales and birthplace of Henry VII. Its vast walls, towers and keep were impregnable to cannon fire during the Civil War and so much of this impressive fortress remains intact today that it will be the focus of our tour. We will then enjoy a short drive to the ancient town of Tenby, a picturesque walled, Medieval town that has remained largely unchanged from when it was built 500 years



Dartmouth

ago. We will take time to stroll through this town's delightful centre before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon the active may wish to stretch their legs on a scenic walk along a section of the Pembrokeshire coastal path past lighthouses, cottages and Mill Bay where Henry Tudor landed in 1485. Alternatively take the scenic drive to St Davids, Britain's smallest city, and explore the magnificent 12th century cathedral and Bishop's Palace.

**Day 9 Isles of Scilly, England.**

Spend the morning on traffic free Trecco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths. Sail over lunch to St Agnes, the most south westerly community in the United Kingdom. Surrounded by rocks and reefs, this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks with over one third designated as "sites of special scientific interest". The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age.

**Day 10 Dartmouth.** Sail this morning along the River Dart to our anchorage off the town of Dartmouth. If time permits we hope to explore ashore before lunch on board. On a choice of excursions this afternoon you may decide to visit 'Greenway', the wonderful historic house and garden that was once home to Agatha Christie. Visit

the gardens, including the Camellia Garden, a wonderful place to sit and ponder on the history of the house and the notable residents and visitors that have included Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake. Alternatively visit the 1920s country retreat of the D'Oyly Carte family at Coleton Fishacre. Lose yourself in the RHS accredited garden by the sea as we wander the paths through glades and past tranquil ponds. Meanwhile the house interior is imbued with 1920s elegance and Art Deco features.

**Day 11 Guernsey & Herm, Channel Islands.** Our last day is spent in the Channel Islands. We awake in Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers' where there will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive to see the beautiful coastline and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes. This afternoon we make the short crossing over to Herm which at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, is perfect for exploring on foot.

**Day 12 Portsmouth.** Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time.

**SHIP TO SHORE**

This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts are integral to the operation of the voyage due to some of the small ports we will be visiting where we will be at anchor.

**Pre-Cruise Extension – Gleneagles Hotel**  
5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018



If you would like to spend some time at the five star, Gleneagles Hotel before joining the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night independent stay. The hotel is within an hour's drive of Edinburgh and Glasgow airports. There are also direct trains from London arriving in five hours to the hotel's very own station, just two minutes from the hotel. To join the MS Hebridean Sky, there will be a Noble Caledonia transfer from the hotel to the vessel in Oban.

Whilst at the hotel you can simply relax and enjoy the wonderfully comfortable surroundings or partake in an extensive range of optional country pursuits and leisure activities including a round of golf on one of the iconic courses, archery, horse riding or fishing. There are a number of walking trails around the grounds and a wonderful health club which is complimentary for guests and includes two indoor pools, a bubble pool and thermal suite and well equipped gym.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£395** Single: **On request**

**Price includes:** Two nights accommodation in a Classic Room at Gleneagles Hotel including breakfast, transfer from hotel to MS Hebridean Sky.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, transport to hotel.

**NB:** Minimum numbers apply.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

**SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£5120</b>	<b>£4620</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£5320</b>	<b>£4820</b>
Mawson	Premium	<b>£5680</b>	<b>£5180</b>
Mawson	Corner	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£6595</b>	<b>£6095</b>
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
Shackleton	Hebridean	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£6495</b>	<b>£5995</b>
Byrd	Superior for sole use	<b>£7095</b>	<b>£6595</b>

**PRICE INCLUDES:** 11 nights aboard the MS Hebridean 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 • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

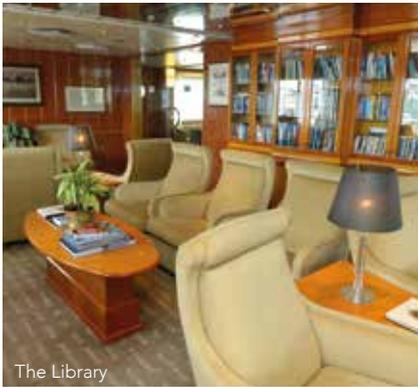
The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Caledonian 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, 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 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.



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

### 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 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 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 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 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. Throughout the vessel, carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

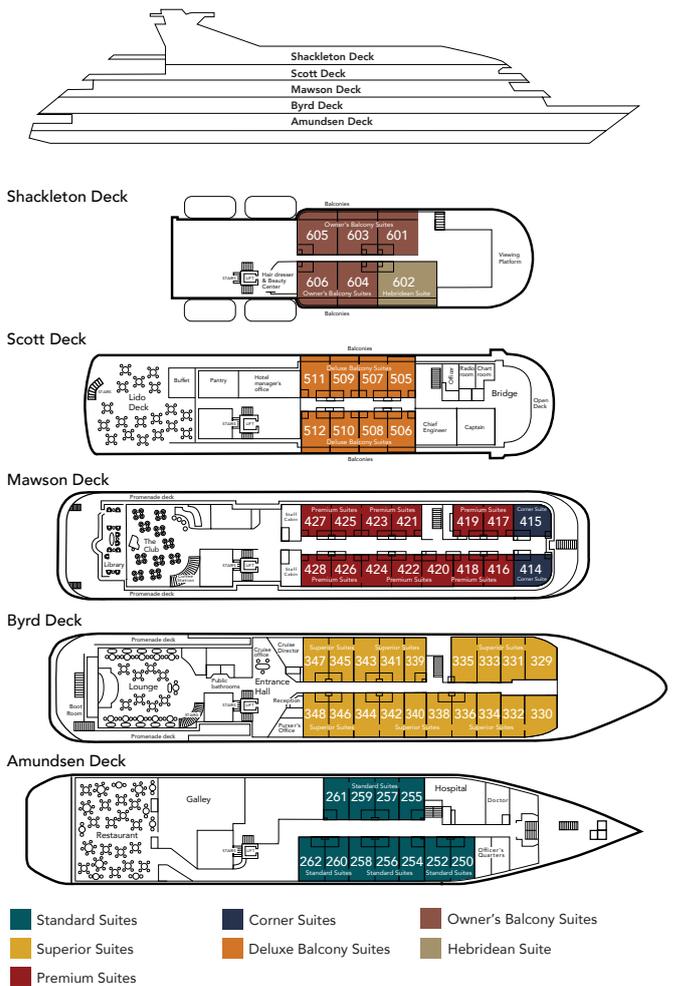
### Your Comfort

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 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 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: Castle Rushen.