

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF COLOMBIA, PANAMA
& COSTA RICA INCLUDING A TRANSIT OF THE
PANAMA CANAL ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

21ST DECEMBER 2022 TO 5TH JANUARY 2023

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA



San Blas Islands



Toucans

If you have been contemplating a visit to Central America, then this fascinating voyage over Christmas and New Year could offer the perfect opportunity with its mix of cultural and natural wonders. During our expedition you will enjoy swimming and nature walks overseen by our expert onboard team. Some days you will be venturing into national parks and conservation areas teeming with wildlife or visiting remote communities where locals live following ancient ways of life. In addition, a highlight for many will be our transit of the Panama Canal which makes an itinerary such as this possible as we cross from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific, and as we do so we will toast both the engineering marvel and Christmas Day on board.



In Colombia we will spend time in the captivating city of Cartagena and with just 100 passengers, we will be able to explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere on board. We have the benefit of four days of exploring in Costa Rica which, although small in size is one of the most biologically varied places on earth with teeming rain forest, cloud forest, majestic volcanoes and a remarkably diverse landscape and culture. Added to this is the fabulous wildlife of the region: spider, howler and capuchin monkeys, coatimundis and over 300 species of birds including brilliant toucans and scarlet macaws.

Our voyage offers an easy and comfortable way to explore the region rather than arduous, lengthy land travel. You can relax on board as we sail between beautiful islands and interesting ports of call, and as much of the itinerary is far from the ‘big ship’ routes, we have been able to include some little known but fascinating ports of call.



Manuel Antonio National Park

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Cartagena, Colombia. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in the city. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Cartagena. 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. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 3 Capurgana & Sapzurro. Early this morning we will anchor off the town of Capurgana, a pretty yet remote village only accessible by sea or air. We will use the Zodiacs to land before we take a hike through the rainforest overflowing with tropical vegetation and home to howler monkeys, toucans, parrots and colourful frogs. The trail offers wonderful views of the ocean below before ending in the neighbouring village of Sapzurro from where we return to the ship.



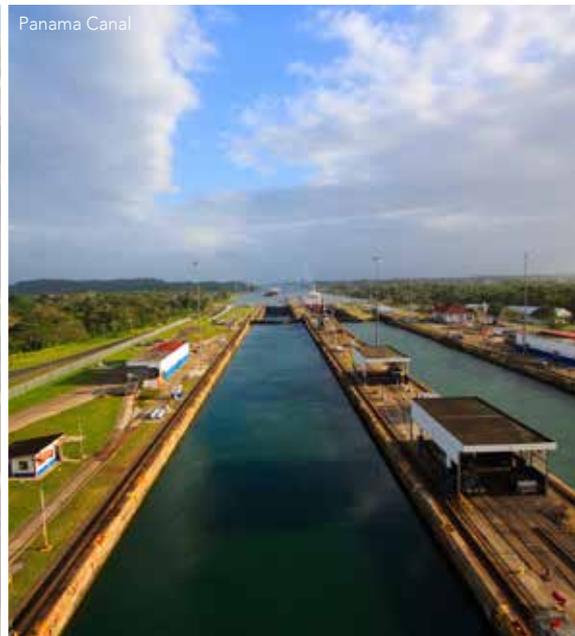
Squirrel Monkey



Exploring by Zodiac



Cartagena



Panama Canal

This afternoon is free to relax on the beaches, swim in the clear waters or mix with the locals in the town.

Day 4 San Blas Islands, Panama.

We arrive in Panama at 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'. There will be time to join a nature walk or perhaps enjoy a swim from the beach.

Day 5 Panama Canal Transit.

An undisputed destination on the travel bucket list must be the Panama Canal. The first attempt to build the canal was made by a French company but ended in failure in 1889. The American government eventually bought out the French for 40 million dollars, and their attempt to build the Canal started in 1904. Through the efforts of over 80,000 workers and the loss of more than 30,000 lives, the greatest single construction project ever undertaken was completed. The project ended in triumph, with the Canal opening in 1914, and it is now a vital artery of international trade, with nearly 14,000 ships travelling through it every year. The canal is around 50 miles long and takes between eight to ten hours to cross and we hope to confirm a daytime crossing as we celebrate Christmas day on board.

Day 6 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we cruise to the Pacific coast of Colombia.

Days 7 & 8 Bahia Solano & Utria National Park, Colombia.

Today we land on the Pacific coast of Colombia and have two days to explore this beautiful area which is well off the traditional cruise routes. Here we find the Utria National Park, a tropical forest that reaches down to the sandy beaches. Using our Zodiacs to get ashore we will enjoy hikes and nature trails and observe the flora and fauna with our local guides. In Bahia Solano we will visit the small town whilst those feeling active may wish to join a guided walk to a private rainforest reserve which runs alongside the Rio Mecana and is part of a 170 hectare nature reserve. Made up of mangroves, tropical forest, native plants and trees of the Choco region, our local guides will point out the indigenous plants and birdlife and highlight the ongoing reforestation programmes. We also hope to offer a chance to swim from one of the beaches.

Day 9 At Sea. Our lecture programme continues as we spend the day at sea.

Day 10 Chiriqui Gulf Marine Park, Panama. Return to Panama and the Chiriqui Gulf Marine Park which spreads over 36,000 acres and comprises of 25 islands and numerous coral reefs. Created in 1994, the Marine Park's aim is to aid the preservation of the region's ecosystems, diverse flora and fauna, scientific conservation projects and protect the islands'

endangered inhabitants. We will land on one of the islands where you may choose to take a nature walk to mangroves learning about the local flora and fauna or find a spot under a palm tree on the beach and take a swim.

Day 11 Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica.

After clearing immigration formalities into Costa Rica at Golfito we will make our way to Casa Orquideas (Orchid House), a five hectare private botanical garden cut out of the rainforest by Ron and Trudy MacAllister who now cultivate over 100 species of orchids which attract many different bird species. Plants of the tropics burst with colour and the air here is heady with the fragrance of flowers and humid soil. Due to the open space, it is often easy to spot several tropical birds here including toucans. This evening enjoy the festivities on board as we celebrate the arrival of New Year.

Day 12 Corcovado National Park.

Resting on the northern side of the Osa Peninsula, Drake Bay (Bahía Drake) is our gateway to the Corcovado National Park. We will use our Zodiacs to land on one of the beaches before enjoying a walk through the primary and secondary forest with our naturalist guides. The rich biological diversity of the biological corridor of the Corcovado National Park is astounding and bird lovers will be enchanted by a wide variety of birds, including tanagers, flycatchers, kingfishers, manakins, trogons, crested guans and spectacular scarlet macaws and toucans. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we hope to use our Zodiacs to land on one of the nearby beaches.

Day 13 Curu National Park & Isla Tortuga.

The Curu National Wildlife Refuge boasts a rich and diverse wildlife in five different habitats ranging from marine zones, including a wide beach area, mangrove swamps and tropical forests. This morning, on a range of walks we will find several species of birds, howler and capuchin monkeys and turtles. Over lunch we will sail the short distance to Tortuga Island where we have the chance to swim over the volcanic reef which is home to angelfish, morays and needlefish. Alternatively spend the afternoon relaxing on the white sand beaches.

Day 14 Manuel Antonio National Park.

Early this morning we will travel to Manuel Antonio National Park which is one of the most stunning and bio-diverse areas of the world. Spread out over 683 hectares it is filled with diverse wildlife, has both primary and secondary forests, boasts a stunning shoreline ideal for bird watching or swimming and is home to a number of endemic species of plants and animals. We will make an early start this morning allowing for the best viewing of monkeys, vividly coloured birds and the lethargic three-toed sloth. This afternoon we will have some time at leisure in Quepos before we sail later tonight.

Day 15 Puerto Caldera to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to San Jose where we join our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 16 London. Arrive today.



Sloth



Tortuga Island

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£9295	£8995
Byrd	Superior	£9495	£9195
Mawson	Premium	£9695	£9395
Mawson	Corner	£9995	£9695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£10995	£10695
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£11495	£11195
Shackleton	Hebridean	£12995	£12695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£11995	£11695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£12295	£11995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Costa Rica Extension

4th to 10th January 2023



Monteverde Cloud Forest Sky Walk

If you would like to see more of Costa Rica, we are offering an extension which includes time spent exploring the Monteverde Cloud Forest and Arenal.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Puerto Caldera to Monteverde, Costa Rica. Disembark the MS Hebridean Sky this morning and transfer to Monteverde with a stop for lunch en-route. On arrival check into El Establo Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay and enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 2 Monteverde. Today we will experience the hanging bridges of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Sky Walk which cross the canyons below and bring us face to face with the upper level of the forest canopy. Biologists now know that about 90 percent of all organisms in a rainforest are found in the canopy. The trails extend for slightly over a mile and a half and we will be accompanied by local guides. We will also have the opportunity to make our way up to one of the highest mountains in the area by Sky Tram, a tranquil way to take in the natural beauty of the forest. After lunch we will explore the forest further with a walk in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve. Dinner tonight will be served at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Monteverde to Arenal. This morning we will start our stunning journey to Arenal including a stop for lunch. Afterwards enjoy some time at leisure absorbing the region's lush and verdant flora and fauna whilst taking in its rare and diverse biosphere. Continue on to Arenal and check into Kioro Hotel (or similar) for our two night stay. This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Arenal. After breakfast, we depart for a guided visit to Arenal Park. Here, we will take a walk through the area where the Arenal volcanic eruption took place in 1968, learning about the destruction this caused and the subsequent rebirth of life via the rich mineral deposits the eruption provided to the region. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a treetop cable car ride whilst those feeling adventurous may wish to participate in a zip-line adventure, providing an exhilarating bird's eye view of the park. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Arenal to San Jose. Today we will make our way to San Jose, visiting the Poas Volcano National Park this morning. After a short walk, we will be treated to spectacular 180-degree views of the volcano's crater and the picturesque surrounding area. We will also visit the Doka Estate for an insight into one of Costa Rica's prime exports, coffee. Upon arrival in San Jose check in to our hotel for an overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 6 San Jose to London. Check out from the hotel after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

Day 7 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2295** Single: **£2795**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Arenal & Monteverde, overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), excursions, English speaking guide, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

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, flat screen 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.



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. 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.

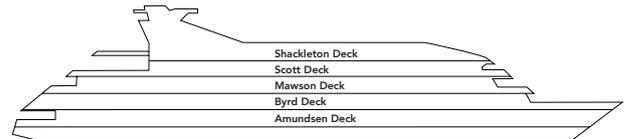
Your Comfort

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.

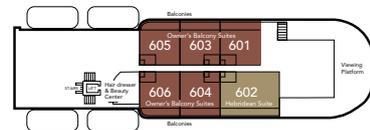
Your Life On Board

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.

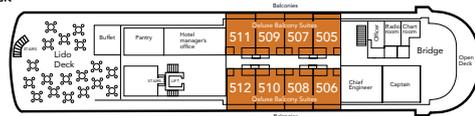
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



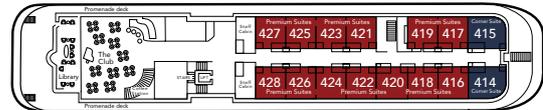
Shackleton Deck



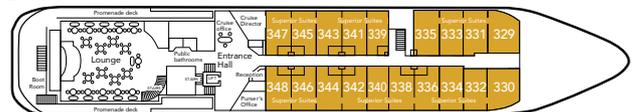
Scott Deck



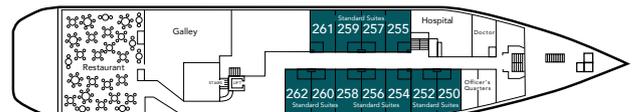
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Hebridean Suite
- Premium Suites

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.



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

