

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF SICILY

An in-depth exploration of the wonders of Sicily
aboard the MS Island Sky

13th to 25th May 2017

NOBLE CALEDONIA



The island of Sicily has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, Sicily has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark. With our circumnavigation of the island aboard the MS Island Sky we have the luxury of time allowing us to explore at a relaxing pace Sicily's rich heritage which is the result of so many invading civilisations.

From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, Sicily has much to explore and we have timed our voyage in May before the crowds of summer arrive and when the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours. During our circumnavigation we will visit the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Valle dei Templi, the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral, the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale and the beautiful Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Local guides and our onboard guest speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of Sicily.



Our View

"The ancient wonders of Sicily have appealed to travellers for hundreds of years and with many of them surrounding the coastline a cruise is the perfect way to see them. We can travel to the small ports of Licata, Pozzallo, Lipari, Mazara del Valle as well as the larger towns of Palermo and Catania without the need to change hotel rooms, join long coach journeys or the other hassles often associated with land travel. Our small ship can access the closest ports to the great sites and with short distances to cover we can spend longer in port each day allowing time for both an included guided tour and independent exploration. We will ensure we hear the music, taste the wines and enjoy the local foods during our time ashore whilst not missing any of the archaeological sites or charming towns."



Malta



Mazara del Vallo



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky. We sail out after dinner past the impressive sea fortifications of Valletta.

Day 2 Pozzallo, Sicily. Our first call in Sicily is the southern coast port of Pozzallo from where we will explore the hilltop Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa, travelling through Montalbano country on the way. Our morning tour will visit the beautiful antique town of Noto which was built in 1703. Here we will see numerous 18th century palaces of incredible architectural value including the Duomo, the Museo Civico and the Convento dei Francescani. We return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon you can either choose to relax on board in Pozzallo or join a tour to charming Ragusa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will visit the Duomo and the Baroque palaces of Ragusa Ibla.

Day 3 Licata. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site on Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics.

Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best wine making regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch. Return to the MS Island Sky in the late afternoon and sail this evening.

Day 4 Agrigento. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by, is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples, the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains and a grouping unique outside of Greece. Surrounded by greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concord, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. We will walk amongst the temples and visit the museum. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and an afternoon of cruising before arriving at Mazara Del Vallo where we will moor overnight.

Day 5 Mazara del Vallo. Founded in the 9th century B.C. by the Phoenicians, Mazara del Vallo was used as a strategic location

for their trans-Mediterranean trading interests. Mazara soon became part of Magna Graecia, when it served as a port for the nearby city of Selinunte and by the 9th century was the island's second city behind Palermo. It is the impressive remains of the ancient city of Selinunte which is our destination this morning. Once one of the most eminent cities of Magna Graecia it was ransacked by the Carthaginians, led by Hannibal, who sent 100,000 soldiers to attack in 409 B.C., massacring thousands of the inhabitants with the remainder being taken into slavery. The city was destroyed and forgotten until 1823 when excavations began. Situated on a high plain overlooking the sea it is a lovely place to walk and our guided tour will explore the acropolis, the eastern temples and the ancient city. Enjoy a free afternoon in the old town to see the bustling fishing harbour, the picturesque Piazza del Republica and also take time to see the famous bronze statue of the Dancing Satyr hauled up from the sea by a local fisherman.

Day 6 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for the day. From the port we have a choice of morning excursions. We travel to the nearby town of



Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterized by its winding cobbled stone streets and beautiful courtyards. Alternatively, travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 B.C. as well as the theatre from which you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. After both visits we will enjoy a lunch of traditional Sicilian foods including cheeses, olives and breads, returning to the ship later in the afternoon to enjoy some free time exploring the port of Trapani.

Day 7 Palermo. After breakfast we tour Palermo, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and

View from Taormina to Mount Etna



the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral and the Palatine Chapel in the Norman castle before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon we will be welcomed as a guest of the wonderfully engaging La Principessa de Raffadali at her 14th century home, Palazzo Raffadali, for a personal guided tour of her palazzo followed by homemade Sicilian ice cream. Alternatively, join an excursion to visit the remarkable Byzantine mosaics in the cathedral at Monreale.

Day 8 Lipari. This morning we arrive at the picturesque island of Lipari situated in the Aeolian Islands off the north coast of Sicily. Here we will find an amazing collection of ruins from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. Lipari town is a thriving little place prettily located between two harbours. Our morning tour includes a visit to the upper town set within fortress walls, a drive around the volcano followed by a visit to the Archaeological Museum with its impressive relics from nearby excavations. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch or dine ashore. Enjoy a free afternoon before we sail in the evening and return to the main island. *Today the MS Island Sky will be at anchor and we will use ship's Zodiacs to tender ashore.*

Day 9 Catania. We call for a full day in Catania, lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. A choice of morning excursions includes a visit to Taormina where on a guided walking tour we see the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and Greek Theatre or take a trip up the slopes of Mount Etna passing bare lava fields to reach the Silvestri crater. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Catania independently.

Day 10 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 B.C. and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. We will visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park to discover the well-preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Dionysus' Ear' – a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. Also enjoy an orientation walk in the old quarter of the island of Ortigia. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon enjoy time to explore at leisure. This evening we will transfer to the beautiful Palazzo Beneventano, a stunning

private 18th century palace, located in the central square near the cathedral where we will enjoy a private concert.

Day 11 Gozo, Malta. Thought to be the Calypso Isles of Homer's Odyssey, Gozo is a lovely place to spend the day. We will visit the Ggantija Temples in Xaghra, dating back to 3600 B.C. The temples, now recognised as a World Heritage Site, are one of the most significant archaeological finds in Malta. Continue to Our Lady of Victories Church, one

of the most richly embellished places of worship on the island which was elevated to the rank of a minor Basilica in 1967 and enjoy free time to explore in the afternoon and evening. We will depart late in the evening to take the opportunity to enjoy the island after the day visitors have departed.

Day 12 Valletta. In the early morning we sail into the Grand Harbour of Valletta, the 16th century 'Fortress City' built by the knights of St John. On a morning walking tour we will enjoy stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens; explore Merchants street containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at the richly decorated, St John's Cathedral. The barrel vault of the cathedral is painted with scenes from the life of St. John and the floor is inlaid with the glittering tombs of 400 Knights. Chapels around the sides belong to the different "tongues" of the Order, and in the oratory is Caravaggio's intensely moving picture, "The Beheading of St. John". We will return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon you can choose to relax on board or join a trip to Mdina which was originally given the name of "Citta Nobile" and now known as the "Silent City", it lies at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights.

Day 13 Malta to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£5595	£5395
Magellan	Standard	£6095	£5895
Columbus	Superior	£6395	£6195
Marco Polo	Premium	£6895	£6695
Marco Polo	Corner	£7095	£6895
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£7395	£7195
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7795
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£7895	£7695
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£8295	£8095

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS Island Sky

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, 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.



Standard Suite



Dining on deck



The Club

On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. Our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day.

There will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, informative port briefings

and presentations from our onboard team and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room, all contribute to making any voyage aboard the MS Island Sky a memorable experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly comfortable ship.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book. Daily newspapers and magazines are placed in the library depending on local availability. Outside there is a rear sun deck, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a further observation and sun deck.



Deluxe Balcony Suite



Restaurant



Library

Your Dining

Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order and lunch and dinner is à la carte. When weather permits, breakfast and a buffet-style lunch are also served on deck. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea is served in the lounge and tea and coffee are available 24 hours.

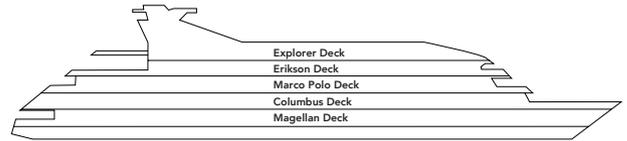
over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Molton Brown toiletries, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, air-conditioning and heating.



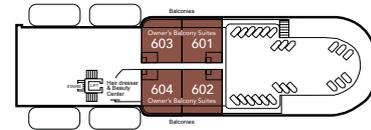
Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room 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

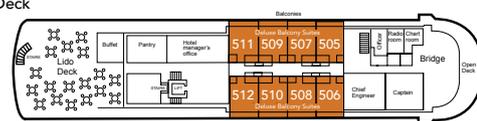
Deck Plan



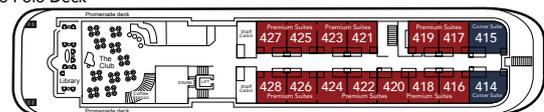
Explorer Deck



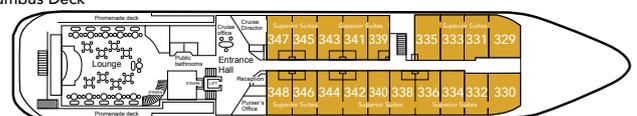
Erikson Deck



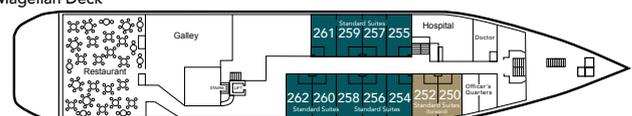
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites (Forward)
- Premium Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites

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