

CITIES & ISLANDS OF THE BALTIC

A voyage from Stockholm to Dover
aboard the MS Island Sky
10th to 24th September 2018

LAUNCH
OFFER - SAVE
£400
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Stockholm



Tallinn

Exploring the Baltic by small ship is the most perfect way to visit this endlessly fascinating corner of Northern Europe. The history of the region is intriguing, with countries vying for commercial and political influence for over a thousand years and this complex past will be brought to life by our onboard Guest Speaker, helping us to gain a greater understanding of both old and new Baltic nations.

Our trip is certainly one of the most comprehensive, visiting as it does Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands before ending in the UK. We will visit some relatively new states with their charming Medieval Old Towns, especially striking are those of Tallinn and Riga where the old and new flourish like never before since the departure of their Soviet masters. We also spend time in some charming old Hanseatic ports and on delightful and scenic islands as well as the magnificent city of St Petersburg where we have two full days of exploration.

We have ensured that in addition to the included, guided excursions there is time to relax on board and attend some informative lectures by our Guest Speaker with time at leisure in some of our ports of call to explore independently.

Tour Highlights

- A comprehensive exploration of the Baltic States including a mixture of cities and islands.
- Visit 10 countries in 14 nights from the comfort of the all-suite MS Island Sky
- Transit of the historic Kiel Canal
- Exclusive, private tour of the Hermitage Museum
- Private concert in Tallinn



The Itinerary

Day 1 London Heathrow to Stockholm, Sweden. Fly by scheduled flight and transfer to the MS Island Sky on arrival. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Stockholm. We spend the morning exploring this handsome city, known as the 'city on the water'. It is built on 14 small islands among open bays and narrow channels. Enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the MS Island Sky

we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace. After lunch be on deck as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish Archipelago, this is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes.

Day 3 Helsinki, Finland. Spend a relaxing morning at sea and arrive during lunch into Helsinki. A guided city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Temppeliaukio, the church in the rock before returning to the MS Island Sky.

Days 4 & 5 St Petersburg, Russia. We have two days to explore this



Sibelius Park, Helsinki

Saaremaa



Gdansk

most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. There will be a number of included guided tours for you to choose from during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and gardens, Catherine's Palace at Pushkin and Yussupov's Palace. There will also be the opportunity to join a private evening tour of the fascinating Hermitage Museum.

Day 6 Tallinn, Estonia. After a busy couple of days in St Petersburg we will have a relaxing morning at sea. During lunch we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of homes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. After dinner on board this evening we will enjoy a private concert ashore.

Day 7 Saaremaa, Estonia. After a morning at sea we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse

of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During an afternoon tour we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Later, an island drive will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills.

Day 8 Riga, Latvia. This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Enjoy an afternoon to explore independently or relax on board before we set sail for Lithuania.

Day 9 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. This afternoon there will be a choice of touring options. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village life and visit the Memorial Museum dedicated to Lithuanians sent to Siberia or who fought against the Soviets during the Cold War Years. Alternatively take the scenic drive to

the Zemaitija National Park, home to Lake Plateliali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. We will visit the bunkers, see the control centre and learn more about the weapons held at the site and their evolution.

Day 10 Gdansk, Poland. We have a full day in this charming city. This old, Hanseatic port's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture before ending at the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Situated in the centre of the Old Town, this Medieval church took 159 years to build, and its deceptively plain exterior belies a bright, spacious interior with large windows and more than 30 beautifully decorated chapels. This afternoon is free for further independent exploration.

Day 11 Christianso & Bornholm Island, Denmark. Over breakfast we arrive at the tiny island of Christianso,

the easternmost part of Denmark. This is a very special and peaceful place where eider ducks appear everywhere and on the bird sanctuary of Grasholmen, thousands of herring gulls, razorbill and guillemot breed. We will land using the vessel's Zodiacs and explore at leisure. Over lunch we sail to neighbouring Bornholm where we will also use the Zodiacs to land. Peaceful and scenic, Bornholm Island is a mixture of wheat fields, forest and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. There will be a choice of touring options. You may wish to explore by bicycle or alternatively on an island drive we will see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudjem where we can sample the smoked herring. Also see Hammerhaus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline.

Day 12 Wismar, Germany. The Medieval town of Wismar was a major trading centre of the Hanseatic League in the 14th and 15th centuries before coming under Swedish rule in the 17th century. Today the small, photogenic city is a lovely place to explore the cobbled streets and picturesque old harbour. It is also our base for a visit to one of Germany's most decorative castles in Schwerin, the capital of Mecklenburg. After a relaxing lake cruise we will visit the grand residence of the former Dukes of Mecklenburg gaining an insight into the ancestors and royalty of Mecklenburg Western Pomerania. While here, enjoy viewing the



Bornholm island



Zemaitija National Park



The Catherine Palace, St Petersburg



Wismar



lovely painted oil canvasses and admire intricate wooden carvings and inlays in this fairy-tale castle museum. We return to the ship for lunch followed by an afternoon at leisure in Wismar.

Day 13 Kiel Canal. Early this morning we begin our transit of the historic 61-mile-long Kiel Canal and sail from the North Sea into the Baltic. Kaiser Wilhelm I set the first foundation stone in place on June 3, 1887 in Brunsbüttel, and the final stone was laid by Kaiser Wilhelm II on June 21, 1895, in Holtenau. Today, the Kiel Canal is one of the busiest man-made waterways in the world. We will spend a relaxing afternoon at sea sailing to the Netherlands. .

Day 14 Harlingen, Netherlands. Harlingen lies on the shores of the Wadden Sea and is one of the eleven cities that make the beautiful and quaint Dutch province of Friesland. It is often referred to as the undiscovered jewel of northern Europe with its charming canals, listed houses and scenic harbours. Our morning walking tour will include the city hall, the Great Church housing the majestic Hinsz organ and the historic city centre. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and set sail for Dover.

Day 15 Dover, England. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to London Heathrow or Victoria Coach Station at a fixed time.

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 Forward	£6295	£5895
Magellan	Standard	£6495	£6095
Columbus	Superior	£6895	£6495
Marco Polo	Premium	£7395	£6995
Marco Polo	Corner	£7795	£7395
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£8295	£7895
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£8695	£8295
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£10495	£10095
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£10695	£10295

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, transfers, gratuities, onboard team including Guest Speaker, Russian group visa, 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



Lounge

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 expedition 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 with inbuilt DVD/CD player 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.

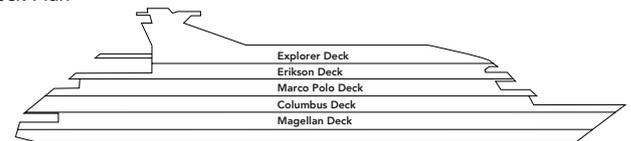


Friendly Staff

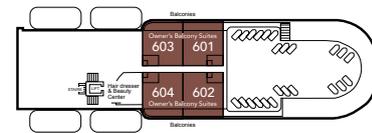
Your Suite

Onboard 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

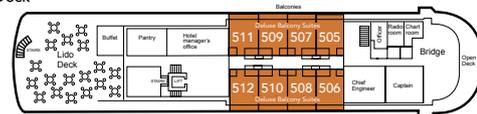
Deck Plan



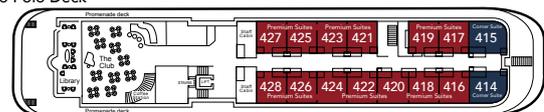
Explorer Deck



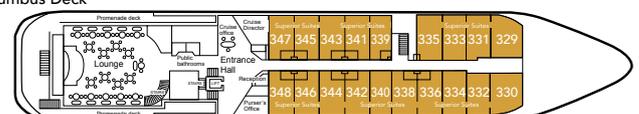
Erikson Deck



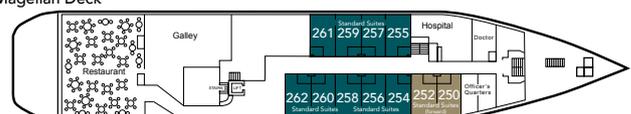
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



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

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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

