

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

CLASSICAL TREASURES OF SICILY & TUNISIA

DISCOVER THE ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

31ST OCTOBER TO 11TH NOVEMBER 2028

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Carthage



Few regions of the Mediterranean can rival Sicily and Tunisia for the richness and variety of their ancient heritage. During this fascinating voyage we will discover some of the most magnificent sites from the Greeks and Phoenicians to the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans, all of which will be brought vividly back to life with the help of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and local guides.

Setting sail from the historic port of Valletta, we begin with two days of exploration in Sicily, an endlessly fascinating island which lends itself beautifully to discovery by small ship with most points of interest located close to the sea. Here the Roman world will come vividly to life at the magnificent Villa Romana del Casale, renowned for its extraordinary mosaics, and at the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, a series of beautifully preserved Doric temples. Crossing to Tunisia, our explorations continue among the extraordinary remains of Roman North Africa. We will visit the Roman amphitheatre of El Djem and Carthage, with its Phoenician ruins, which later became an important Roman administrative centre. It is easy to imagine how daily life played out in Roman times in this great city which will transport you to another world and time. Returning to Sicily, we have five full days to further explore the island's rich heritage with visits to the impressive ruins of the ancient city of Selinunte, the superbly preserved Greek temples of Segesta, Monreale Cathedral in Palermo, the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina and the timeless city of Syracuse.

We have timed our voyage for autumn when the temperatures are pleasant and agreeable for exploration and we have planned a choice of excursions in many ports, as well as ample time for independent exploration, allowing you to maximise your enjoyment at each destination. All this will be achieved with great ease aboard the MS Hebridean Sky and with just over 100 like-minded travellers, we are able to explore in a way that is impossible from aboard a large cruise vessel.



Palermo Cathedral



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and embark. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Licata, Sicily, Italy. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in 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. After our visit, our return drive will take us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of the vineyards and enjoy a wine tasting over a Sicilian lunch before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 3 Agrigento for Valley of the Temples. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason

Tindari Cathedral



The 'Ear of Dionysius', Syracuse



Mosaic floor, Villa Romana del Casale



Hadrianera amphitheatre, Uthina



El Djem

for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is at leisure to explore Agrigento, and shuttle buses will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum which you can explore at leisure.

Day 4 Sousse for El Djem, Tunisia. After a leisurely morning at sea we begin our exploration of Tunisia in the port of Sousse. This afternoon we will drive out of the city to the small village of El Djem. Here we will see the great Roman Amphitheatre, constructed between 230 and 238 CE by order of the Imperial official Gordian and built to accommodate 35,000 spectators. After our visit we will continue to the excellent museum with its collection of well-preserved mosaics.

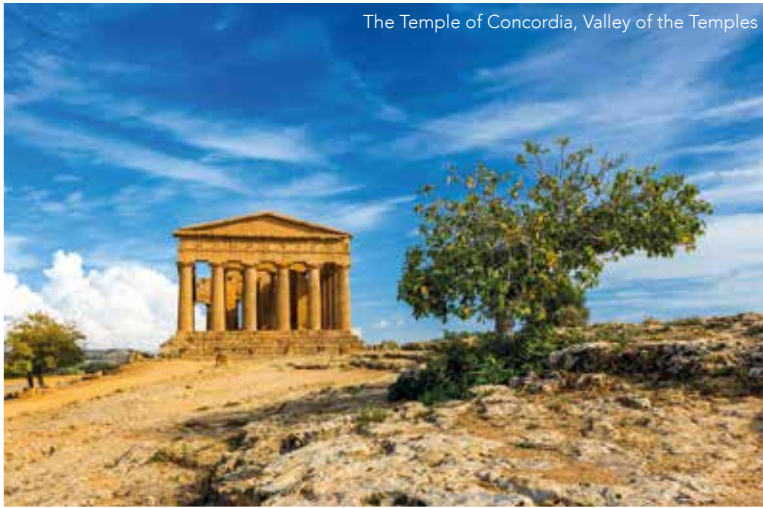
Days 5 & 6 Tunis for Carthage & Uthina. We will spend the next two days exploring from our berth in Tunis. During our time here we will drive to the site of Carthage which, founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BC, became one of the most influential cities in the Mediterranean. This prosperity led to rivalry with Rome and it was during the Third Punic War, in 146 BC, that the Roman forces destroyed the city. Due to its strategic location the Romans rebuilt Carthage in the 1st century AD to become one of the most important cities in their empire. See the Phoenician remains of Tophet, the sanctuary of the gods Tanit and Baal as well as some interesting monuments from the Roman era including the baths and the amphitheatre. We also hope to explore the Bardo Museum which houses some renowned Roman mosaics from the archaeological sites of El Djem, Sousse and Dougga as well as artefacts and sculptures from Carthage. We will also travel inland to the ruins of ancient Uthina, one of the Roman Empire's oldest cities in Africa. Here our guided walk will include the nearly fully restored Hadrian era amphitheatre which was dug into the hillside and could hold about 16,000 spectators, the grand Capitole, pinned down on one side by five partially reconstructed columns, and the baths of the Laberii, which take their name from an inscription found on a mosaic of Orpheus charming the animals, now in the Bardo Museum.

Day 7 Mazara del Vallo for Selinunte, Sicily, Italy. We return to Sicily today and the city of Mazara del Vallo which was founded in the 9th century BC by the Phoenicians. The city was used as a strategic location for their trans-Mediterranean trading interests, before it became part of Magna Graecia when it served as a port for the nearby city of Selinunte. Arriving at lunchtime we spend the afternoon visiting the impressive remains of the ancient city of Selinunte. 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 BC, massacring thousands of the inhabitants with the remainder 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.

Day 8 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This morning there will be the opportunity to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively, visit the fascinating salt pans that are located between Trapani and Marsala. This area, used by the Phoenicians who first understood how favourable the natural conditions were for salt extraction, is now a nature reserve, rich in colour thanks to the unique flora and fauna. We will visit the Museum of Salt before we continue to a nearby farmhouse which is dedicated to promoting Sicilian produce including olive oils and wines which we will sample before returning to the ship.

Day 9 Palermo. Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We will visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of

The Temple of Concordia, Valley of the Temples



this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

Day 10 Messina for Taormina or Tindari. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Alternatively, join an excursion to Tindari, a town which was founded by Syracusan merchants during the war against Carthage in 396 BC. The ruins of the ancient city are relatively well preserved and the structure that impresses above all others is the 4th century Greek Theatre which is a marvel of acoustic engineering. However, the foremost attraction is the Sanctuary of the Madonna Nera containing the sculpture of the Virgin and Child in citron wood, which is said to have reached Tindari in an attempt by the faithful to keep it safe from the 8th century Byzantine Iconoclast movement.

Day 11 Syracuse & Noto. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC 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. This morning you may wish to visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a 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 'Ear of Dionysius' a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. Alternatively visit the Baroque town of Noto, a picturesque city built in 1703 and located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei among olive groves and almond trees. A guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches. After lunch on board the afternoon is at leisure to explore the island of Ortigia at your own pace before we sail this evening.

Day 12 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Malta Pre-cruise Extension

29th to 31st October 2028

Valletta



If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night hotel stay which includes a guided tour in both Valletta and Mdina.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel and check in for a two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Valletta. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century 'Fortress City' which was built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will 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 St John's Cathedral. The remainder of the day and evening is free for independent exploration. (B)

Day 3 Valletta. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Known as the 'Silent City' at the heart of the island, Mdina was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Valletta. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895** Single: **£1295**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), local beer, wine and soft drinks with included meals, tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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	£8295	£7795
Byrd	Superior	£8495	£7995
Mawson	Premium	£8795	£8295
Mawson	Corner	£9295	£8795
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10495	£9995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£10295	£9795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10495	£9995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



The Restaurant



Deluxe Balcony Suite



Alfresco Dining

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, 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



Standard Suite



The Lounge

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.

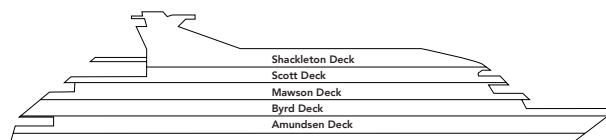
Your Comfort

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.

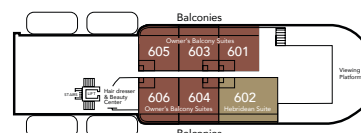
Your Life On Board

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.

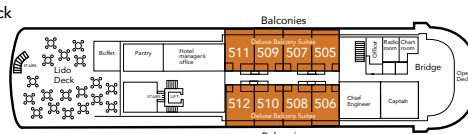
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



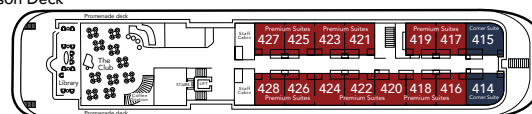
Shackleton Deck



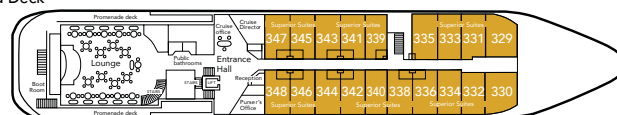
Scott Deck



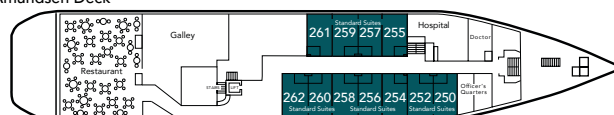
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



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

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.



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