

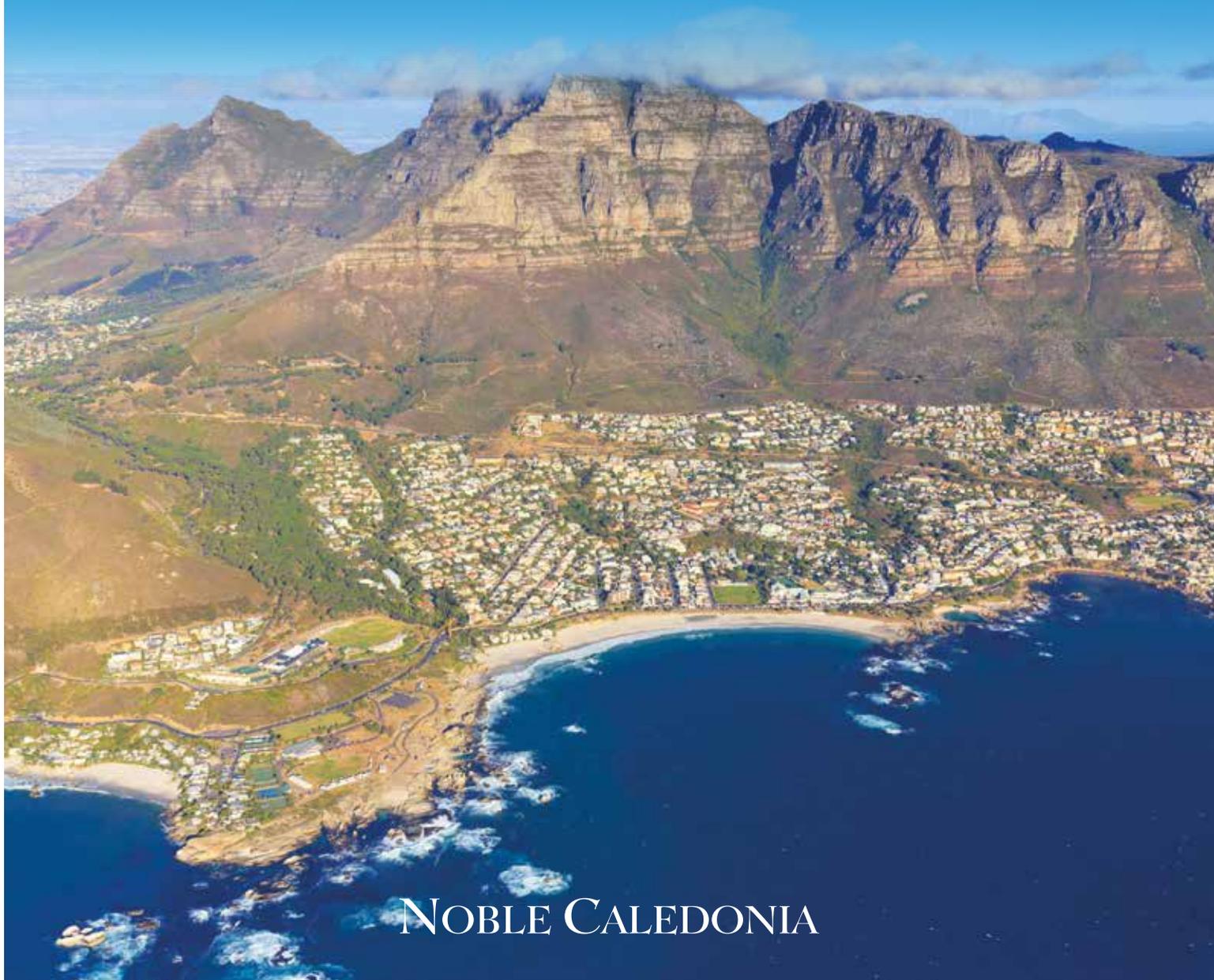
LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING

SPECIAL  
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**£500**  
PER PERSON

# COASTAL CITIES & CULTURES OF WEST AFRICA

A VOYAGE BETWEEN CAPE TOWN & GHANA  
OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR  
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2026 TO 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2027



NOBLE CALEDONIA

This remarkable journey along the southwest coast of Africa promises to be an adventure full of authentic experiences as we journey from the beautiful city of Cape Town in South Africa to Ghana. Without doubt the only comfortable means of experiencing the region's many wonders is by small ship and we are fortunate in having such a special vessel as the 118-passenger, all-suite MS Hebridean Sky for our exploration.

Our Christmas cruise begins in the stunning surroundings of Cape Town, a fitting place to commence our journey with its cosmopolitan culture and incredible scenery which we will explore before setting sail for Namibia. With our day cruising to Namibia you can become better acquainted with our onboard team and Guest Speaker during the series of lectures which will commence. Upon reaching Namibia we will visit the colonial coastal cities of Swakopmund and Luderitz and also traverse Namibia's bleak but beautiful Skeleton Coast. We continue to the former Portuguese colony of Angola which, with tourism in its infancy, is largely unexplored by all but the most intrepid of travellers. We will spend four days discovering this vibrant country including the capital of Luanda, a melting pot of cultures where modern skyscrapers stand side by side historic buildings dating from the colonial era. The country is also a treasure trove for wildlife enthusiasts with an array of national parks including the Kissama National Park where we will see some of the diverse species of flora and fauna. We will also venture inland to the Namib Desert with the opportunity to see some of the oldest plants on earth.

After calling into the Republic of the Congo for a fascinating afternoon of exploration we reach Gabon where we have the opportunity to explore the country's capital of Libreville on a guided city tour as well as travelling to the Pongara National Park which presents a varied range of forest types as well as savanna and a significant amount of sandy beach along with some of the continent's most iconic species of animal. Next, we call into the two-island nation of Sao Tome and Principe where natural wonders abound from beautiful untouched beaches to jungle-covered mountains and the emerald waters are a biodiversity hotspot. Our two days will perfectly demonstrate the advantages of small ship cruising as we land ashore using the vessel's Zodiacs. Principe still retains the atmosphere of an undiscovered place and we will anchor off the beautiful islet of Bom Bom.

Following a final two relaxing days at sea, our fascinating itinerary concludes in the bustling Ghanaian city of Accra where you can choose to discover the culture and heritage of the country on a city tour or opt to explore some of the country's flora and fauna at a game reserve.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Cape Town, South Africa.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Cape Town.** Arrive and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 3 Cape Town.** We have a choice of excursions today. You can choose to join a full day tour exploring Cape Town's stunning Cape Peninsula. We will travel through the vibrant coastal suburbs before continuing along Chapman's Peak to the famous Cape Point Nature Reserve at the very tip of the peninsula. The road then twists its way to Simon's Town, home to the Boulders Beach penguin colony as we return to the ship. Alternatively, visit Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden which are spread over 560 hectares on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain and contains over 8500 species of indigenous plants and where we take a leisurely stroll through these beautiful surroundings. There will also be an opportunity to visit one of the region's excellent vineyards where after learning about the production techniques, we can enjoy a tasting.

**Day 4 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we begin our journey north along the African coastline.

**Day 5 Luderitz, Namibia.** Sandwiched between the Namib Desert and the South Atlantic, Luderitz is an isolated settlement and one of the few towns and sheltered harbours on the Namibian coast. First landed by Portuguese mariners in the 15th century, it was not until 1883 when the land was bought by a wealthy merchant, Adolf Luderitz, that the town developed as part of German colonisation of the region. Our afternoon walking tour will include the Luderitz Museum and the colonial buildings including the Goerke Haus and Felsenkirche. Nearby, we will also visit the ghost town of Kolmanskop where the first diamonds were found in Namibia in 1908. Sparking a 'diamond rush' the town grew in the ensuing years, peaking in the 1920s, until the discovery of richer deposits further south. By the 1960s the population had left and the town is now at the mercy of the weather and encroaching sand dunes.

**Day 6 At Sea.** Enjoy Christmas celebrations on board as we spend a leisurely day at sea.

**Day 7 Walvis Bay.** Spend the day in Namibia's main coastal town of Walvis Bay. During our time here we will have the option to visit Swakopmund, Namibia's seaside resort on the west coast, and a place of singular charm. It resembles a small Bavarian village nestling between the desert and the sea and enjoys a restful and relaxing atmosphere. The source of Swakopmund's continental vibe are the graceful Art Nouveau buildings many of which, including the Lutheran Church and old railway station, are national monuments. We will also drive past the imposing sand dunes to the Welwitschia Plains in the Namib-Naukluft Park where we hope to see the prehistoric Welwitschia Mirabilis plants, unique to this region, as we drive through the lunar landscape. Those feeling active may wish to take 4x4 vehicles to Sandwich Harbour, a tidal lagoon located in the Namib-Naukluft Park surrounded by huge sand dunes which run into the ocean. Here we can experience the isolation and scenery which the Skeleton Coast is famous for.

**Day 8 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we sail along the coast of Africa. Enjoy some lectures in the lounge and take some time to relax on deck.

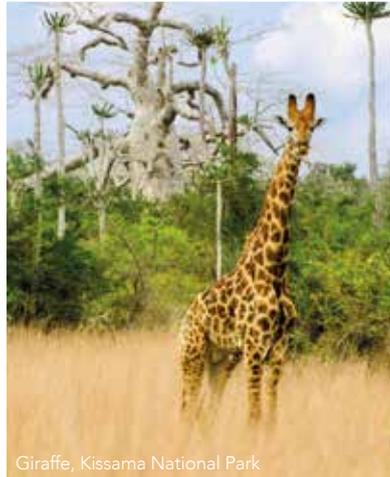
Sao Tome



San Miguel Fort, Luanda



Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, Ghana



Giraffe, Kissama National Park



Populo Church, Benguela

**Day 9 Mocamedes, Angola.** The town of Mocamedes was founded in the mid-19th century by the Portuguese but cut off from the rest of the country until the construction of the Namibe railway in 1905 and today it is one of Angola's busiest ports. Arriving at lunchtime we venture inland to the Arco Lagoon, a wonderful freshwater oasis located in the Namib Desert bordered by distinctive rock formations and we will also see the nearby rare Welwitschia plants, considered to be some of the oldest on earth at up to 1000 years old. We will explore the old city on a short sightseeing tour passing the church of Santo Adriaio and the military fortress before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

**Day 10 Lobito & Benguela.** After a morning at sea we arrive at the port city of Lobito. The town was created in 1903 as the sea terminal to the Benguela railway, developed to link with the mineral rich regions in Angola and over the border in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Built by a British concession, the railway became a major source of trade, linking with the port and providing the quickest routes to transport minerals to Europe. Today we will travel in some of the original Victorian carriages as we take the train line between Lobito and Benguela. The city of Benguela was founded in 1617 around the Sao Filipe Fortress and was one of the bases for Portuguese expansion in Africa. We will explore the town on a sightseeing tour viewing the Portuguese colonial buildings including the Igreja de Populo and the pretty gardens surrounding the town hall.

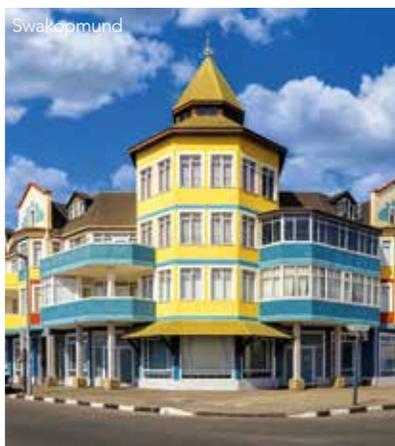
**Days 11 & 12 Luanda.** In the 19th century, the Angola capital city of Luanda, was one of the most successful cities in the Portuguese Empire with the port being a major trading centre for ivory, cotton, coffee and cocoa as well as being a key port in the slave trade. With access to vast natural resources including oil and diamonds, the city has recovered from the damages of the Civil War which ran from 1975 to 2002. During our time here our city tour will include the 16th century San Miguel Fort, the National Museum of Anthropology, Remedios Church, parliament buildings and the unique obelisk of the Agostino Neto Mausoleum dedicated to Angola's first president who fought for independence. There will also be the option to leave the city to visit Kissama National Park, a 12,000 square kilometre park that opened as a game reserve in 1938 but became a national park in 1957. Today, it is at the forefront of Angola's wildlife regeneration and home to a rich array of flora and fauna including antelopes, elephants, giraffes, wildebeest and a variety of bird species. On the evening of Day 12 we will welcome in the New Year on board.

**Day 13 Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo.** After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive in the Republic of the Congo and drive inland from our berth at Pointe Noire towards Dioso. Here we delve into Congolese history at the Ma Loango Regional Museum which houses 10 collections including art, documents and clothing alongside traditional tools and musical instruments. The museum is located next to the famous Gorges de Dioso, a beautiful natural phenomenon which flanks the green coast of Congo-Brazzaville and offers fantastic views. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky with a scenic drive along the coast.

**Day 14 At Sea.** Spend a relaxing day on board as we cruise to Gabon.

**Day 15 Libreville & Pongara National Park, Gabon.** From our berth in Port D'Owendo we have a choice of excursions today. Maybe spend some time in the city of Libreville where we will see the Presidential Palace, St Michel Cathedral and the city museum. After our tour you can return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively, continue to the Pongara National Park which is sandwiched between the Komo estuary and the Atlantic Ocean, the pristine beaches here are a nesting ground for leatherback turtles whilst the animal population includes elephants, red river Hog, buffalo, mangabeys and a variety of birds. After lunch we will join a 4x4 safari on the lookout for wildlife before returning to the ship this afternoon.

**Days 16 & 17 Sao Tome and Principe.** We will experience the benefits of our small ship as we spend a full day on each of the islands of Sao Tome and Principe which are well off the usual tourist route. Fortunately the islands have yet to succumb to mass tourism and we can enjoy their beautiful beaches, tropical rainforests and colonial architecture in relative peace. Colonised by the Portuguese in the 15th century, they were originally a holding centre for slaves en-route to the Americas. However, in the 1800s coffee and cacao plantations grew and by 1908 they became known as the Chocolate Islands being the world's leading producer of cacao. Today, production has slowed but the islands still produce high quality coffee and cacao. We will anchor off Sao Tome and land using the ship's Zodiacs. On a full day tour we will visit one of the plantation houses or 'rocas'. In the interior we will discover waterfalls and hope to see some of the many orchid species in the botanical gardens and endemic birdlife. Meanwhile in Sao Tome city we will see the National Museum, cathedral and visit the bustling markets. Principe is the smaller of the two islands at 136 square kilometres and with a population of just 6000 residents. In 2012 the waters around the island were classified as a UNESCO



Biosphere Reserve and from our anchorage off Bom Bom Island we will use ship's Zodiacs to land and have the option to relax on the beach and swim in the clear waters.

**Days 18 & 19 At Sea.** Spend two days at sea as we cross the Gulf of Guinea. Our lecture programme will continue in the lounge and there will be plenty of opportunities to relax on deck and enjoy some of the on board activities.

**Day 20 Accra & Shai Hills Game Reserve, Ghana.** We have a choice of options for our day in Ghana. You may wish to visit the capital city of Accra with time at the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography with artefacts showcasing the heritage of Ghana throughout history. Continue to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and Memorial Park before we enjoy lunch looking over the ocean at a beachside resort. Return to the ship via the Artists Alliance Gallery which has a wide range of art works including woodcarvings, paintings and sculptures by renowned Ghanaian artists. Alternatively, drive to the Shai Hills Game Reserve for a trek through the reserve's savannah plains to view antelopes, bushbucks, kobs, baboons, monkeys and many birds species including the Senegal Parrot, swallow-tailed bee-eater, Vieillot's barbet, piapiac and red-shouldered cuckoosrike. Lunch will follow offering views over the evergreen valley and plains of the surrounding Akwapim mountain range before we continue to the Aburi Botanical Gardens. Established in 1890 as a convalescent for the British Colonial officers governing the then Gold Coast (now Ghana). Over the years, the garden has cultured a variety of tropical plants which attract many birds and butterflies. After a walk through the gardens we return to the MS Hebridean Sky for our final evening on board.

**Day 21 Accra to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 22 London.** Arrive today.

### 2nd to 22nd December 2026 Voyage

A similar itinerary to that shown also operates aboard the MS Hebridean Sky from 2nd to 22nd December 2026. The 2nd of December itinerary operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Ghana to Cape Town and the full itinerary can be viewed online.

### EXPLORING ASHORE

This voyage will appeal to those who enjoy exploring off the beaten track. The route we are taking will take us to destinations that are not possible to visit on larger cruise ships and our journey promises to be a true adventure. Tourist infrastructure throughout many of the African countries visited during this cruise is very much in its infancy and flexibility will be key. Our onboard team will endeavour to arrange a selection of walks to include longer and shorter options to cater for different abilities but it is recommended that you have a good level of fitness and mobility to partake in this voyage. The excursions will be a mix of half and full day tours which will include periods of walking over uneven ground and steps combined with periods of standing. It will be warm during the days with high humidity levels. The road conditions will be mixed meaning the roads can be bumpy which will elongate some journey times. We will source the best transport options available but these will not always be up to European standards.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### LIMITED AVAILABILITY – SAVE £500 PER PERSON

| Deck       | Suite Category        | Brochure Price | Special Offer Price |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Amundsen   | Standard              | £13495         | £12995              |
| Byrd       | Superior              | £14795         | £14295              |
| Mawson     | Premium               | £15495         | £14995              |
| Mawson     | Corner                | £16195         | £15695              |
| Scott      | Deluxe Balcony        | £17595         | £17095              |
| Shackleton | Owner's Balcony       | £18295         | £17795              |
| Shackleton | Hebridean             | £18795         | £18295              |
| Amundsen   | Standard for sole use | £16195         | £15695              |
| Byrd       | Superior for sole use | £17495         | £16995              |

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 19 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, visas for Ghana, Congo, Namibia and Gabon (Noble Caledonia will endeavour to arrange for passengers to obtain visas on arrival for these countries at an additional cost. Further and full details will be provided three months before departure).

# 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, 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 Noble Isle 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 the Club. 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.

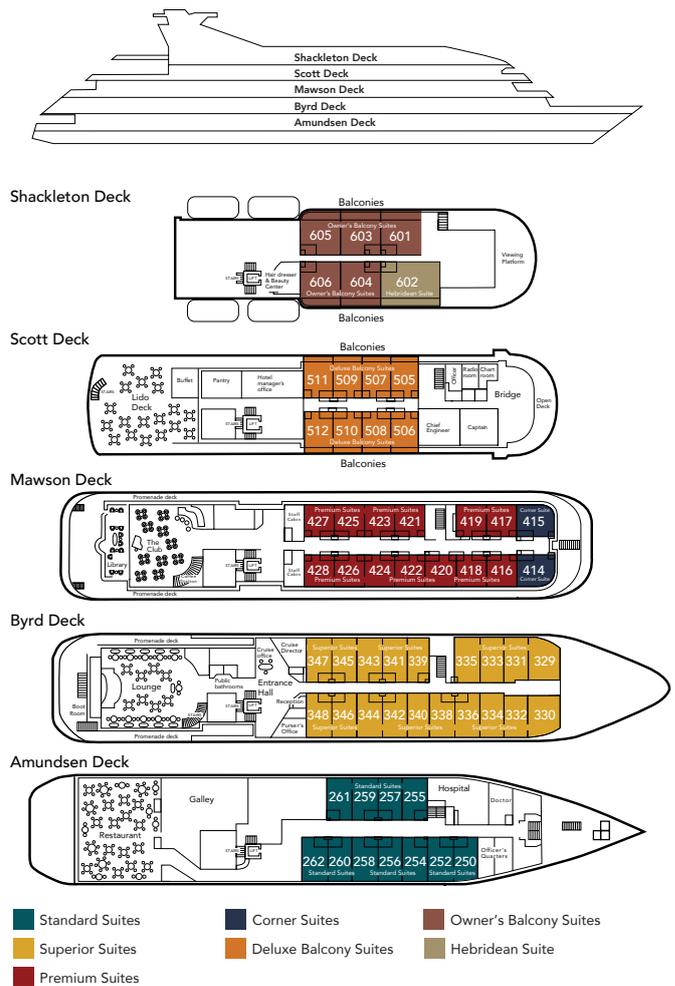
### Your Comfort

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



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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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
 Cover image: Cape Town and Table Mountain.