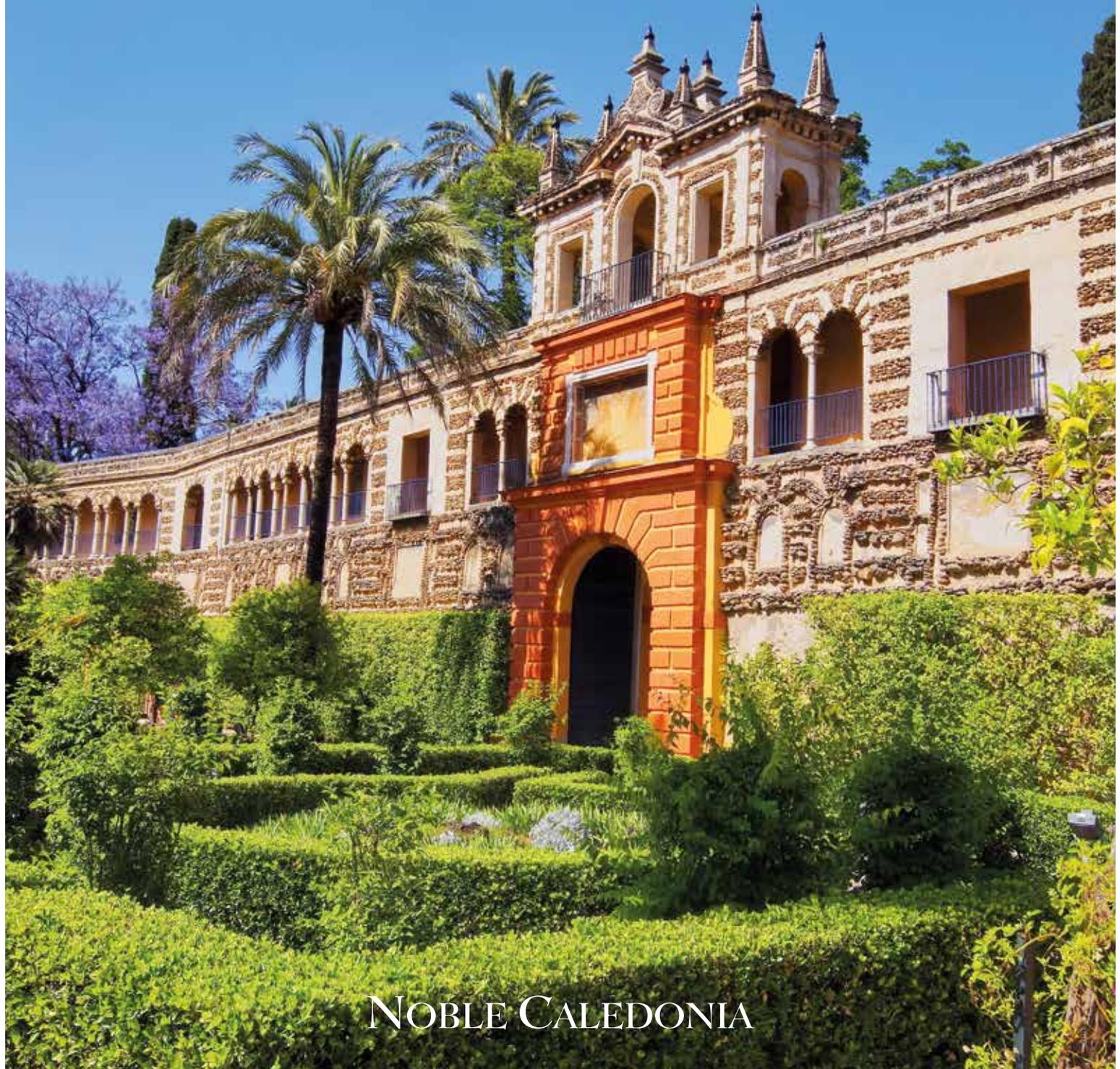


SPECIAL
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£500
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EMPIRES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A VOYAGE FROM VALLETTA TO SEVILLE INCLUDING
THE BARBARY COAST ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER OLGA STONE

23RD OCTOBER TO 4TH NOVEMBER 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Greek Temple of Concordia, Valley of the Temples

Located in the Mediterranean and on the North African coast, between the desert and the sea, are some of Ancient Rome's most magnificent sites which we will discover during this fascinating voyage from Malta to Seville. Our cruise begins with two days of exploration in Sicily, an endlessly fascinating island that lends itself beautifully to discovery by small ship as most points of interest are close to the sea. Here our visits include beautiful Syracuse and the magnificently sited Doric temples of Agrigento.

Like Sicily, North Africa's Barbary Coast is best explored by sea and from Sicily we will sail south to Tunisia for our exploration of the great city of Carthage with its Phoenician ruins. A highlight for many, Carthage will transport you to another world and time and here it is easy to imagine how daily life played out in Roman times. Continuing to Algeria we will visit Bejaia from where we will discover the Roman ruins of Djemila, some of the finest preserved in North Africa. We also spend a morning exploring the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans and Medieval Tlemcen, one of the country's finest cities. Our exploration of North Africa continues with a visit to Morocco where we will have an afternoon to enjoy the sites and sounds of Tangier or to visit Tetouan in the beautiful Rif Mountains. With its links to Ancient Rome, we also visit the Spanish port of Cartagena which was used by Hannibal as a strategic base and later became a Roman administrative centre with the amphitheatre and archaeological sites remaining today. Our voyage concludes in the wonderful city of Seville where we have a full day and benefit from an overnight mooring to discover the vibrant Andalucian city.

All this will be achieved with great ease aboard the MS Island 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. For those who enjoy exploring the ancient world, this itinerary has it all. The magnificent sites provide an unparalleled experience of life in classical times which, with the help of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and local guides, will be brought vividly back to life.



Guest Speaker – Olga Stone



Olga is an accredited lecturer for the Arts Society (former NADFAS), has a PhD in Classics and a BA in Arts History. She was Head of Classics at King William's College on the Isle of Man and teaches various history classes, Latin and Russian at the University College Isle of Man. Olga has also worked as sessional Arts History lecturer for the University of Liverpool for 12 years, and for eight years was a history tutor for the

University of Chester, lecturing on various art styles from Renaissance to 20th century, Medieval history and the Crusades. Olga was born in the Crimea and attended Conservatoire in Odessa, graduating with top marks in piano performance. She also has FTCL in Piano Performance, ATCL in Organ Performance and AMusTCL in music theory. Olga has a wide range of lectures on all aspects of art and history, including topics on European history covering the period from Classical times to World War I, on European art from the Classical period through Early Renaissance to Late Romanticism and early 20th century art, and on music.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta.

Fly by scheduled flight to Malta. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Syracuse, Sicily. 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. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now



'Ear of Dionysius'



Carthage



Cartagena



El Mansourah, Tlemcen



Cadiz

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. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. After lunch on board enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore independently.

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 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. This afternoon is free to explore Agrigento and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum which you can explore at leisure.

Day 4 Carthage & Tunis, Tunisia. From the nearby port of Tunis drive to the site of Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BC it 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 the 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. Later, 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.

Day 5 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we continue our journey along the North African coast. Our lecture programme continues in the lounge or maybe find a spot on deck.

Day 6 Bejaia, Algeria. Bejaia is built on a beautiful bay protected by mountains which give the city a splendid backdrop. A minor port in Roman times it was named Saldae having been founded by the Roman Emperor Vespasian and is our base for a choice of excursions today. Maybe choose a full day tour to Djemila, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981 due to its unique adaptation of Roman architecture to a mountain environment. In a remarkable setting the ruins are some of the finest preserved in North Africa. We will drive along a very scenic route and traverse spectacular scenery as we climb from little Kabilya towards the high plateau of Setif where the Roman ruins are

located. View the Arch of Caracalla, the Forum, the Basilica and the Temples before seeing the mosaics which are displayed in the museum, representing the best collection in Algeria. This is a long but rewarding excursion. Alternatively, there is the option to drive through the valley of the Soumman, the legendary meeting place of the leaders of the Freedom Fighters. It was here that they launched the revolution of the 1st of November 1954 which lasted for seven years until they gained independence for Algeria on the 5th of July 1962. Afterwards visit a Berber village in Kabylia where we see a typical house and various workshops where things are still made in the old fashioned unhurried way. Enjoy a "dégustation" of Berber olive oil whilst tasting the different types of bread and other local produce as we gain an insight into Berber culture and history.

Day 7 Algiers. Depart this morning for the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans. The city was extended by Emperor Claudius and grew wealthy on Mediterranean trade. It was built on three small hills which overlooked the sea. There are ruins of three Basilicas, two cemeteries, the baths, the theatre, the Nymphaeum and the unusual oval shaped Amphitheatre. After visiting the city we will enjoy a typical Algerian lunch before continuing to the mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania, which lies in the hills above the sea about 18 kilometres away from Tipaza. It is one of the most breathtaking sights

in Algeria. The vast pyramid-like structure is named the Tomb of the Christian on account of the large crosses that decorate the tomb which predates Jesus Christ. We return to the ship via the Martyrs' Monument which offers spectacular views over the city.

Day 8 Cartagena, Spain. After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. Enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for an afternoon of exploration in this historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it after Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative centre. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcio Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour, view the Roman amphitheatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Island Sky.

Day 9 Tlemcen, Algeria. This morning we reach the western side of Algeria and the port of Ghazaouet located close to the border with Morocco. From here we drive approximately 50 miles inland to Tlemcen, an interesting and cultured city. Our visit will include the 11th century Great Mosque and the deconsecrated Sidi Bel Hassan



Medina, Tangier

Mosque which was transformed into a museum in 1901 and houses a selection of mosaics, carvings and pottery. After a local lunch we will continue to El Mansourah to see the remains of an old minaret and El Mechouar, which was built as a citadel in 1145 before it became the royal residence of the Zianide dynasty in the 13th century.

Day 10 Tangier, Morocco. Having passed the Straits of Gibraltar this morning we arrive in Tangier at lunchtime. On an afternoon walking tour we will explore the Medina, see the views from the Kasbah situated at the highest point of Tangier, and then wander through the Grand Souk. Alternatively, drive across the beautiful Rif Mountains to Tetouan. Visit the unique School of Art Dar Sanaa which is situated in a former palace and teaches the most traditional of Moroccan crafts to its students. We continue to the ancient Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, full of narrow alleys and streets with vendors selling local handicrafts, foods and spices. Our tour will end at the old Royal Palace, a 17th century building which is itself a reflection of the Hispano-Moresque architecture, and the nearby Hassan II square. Stop to savour the Moroccan tea and fresh pastries at a local Riad in the heart of the Medina before returning to Tangier.

Day 11 Cadiz, Spain. Arrive this morning in Cadiz. Situated on a peninsula jutting out into a bay and almost entirely surrounded by water, it is amongst the oldest surviving cities in Spain which was

founded by the Phoenicians in 1100 BC and was later occupied by the Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths and Moors. During our guided tour we will discover the most beautiful monuments and landmarks of the city including the Santo Domingo Church, the Santa Catalina Fortress and the cathedral of Cadiz and Diocesan Museum in the old city. After lunch on board we travel to Jerez de la Frontera, the home of Spain's sherry and brandy industry which grew in the 18th and 19th centuries. After a visit to the old centre of Jerez, including the 11th century Alcazar, we will continue to one of the bodegas to learn about the sherry production and enjoy a tasting.

Day 12 Seville. Overnight we will have sailed up the Guadalquivir River to Seville where a morning walking tour will explore the city's greatest monuments. Enter the Alcazar Palace with its ornate Moorish interiors and exotic terraced garden. Built by Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century with the help of Moorish craftsmen, it is still used as a residence by the King of Spain. We also visit the imposing La Giralda, Seville's cathedral, reputed to be the largest Gothic style church in the world with its distinctive Moorish tower. We return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace.

Day 13 Seville to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Pre-cruise Malta Extension 21st to 23rd October 2022



If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Island Sky we are offering a two night hotel stay which will include a guided tour of Valletta and a tour of Mdina.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the hotel and check-in for our 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" 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. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 3 Mdina. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Citta Nobile" and is now known as the "Silent City" 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. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Island Sky moored in Valletta. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), 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
Magellan	Standard	£5995	£5495
Columbus	Superior	£6195	£5695
Marco Polo	Premium	£6595	£6095
Marco Polo	Corner	£6995	£6495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£7995	£7495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£8295	£7795
Explorer	Island Suite	£9295	£8795
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£7495	£6995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7795	£7295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Algeria visa.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 Island 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 seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. 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 each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island 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.



Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus 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 Marco Polo 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 Columbus 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 as well as 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 Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

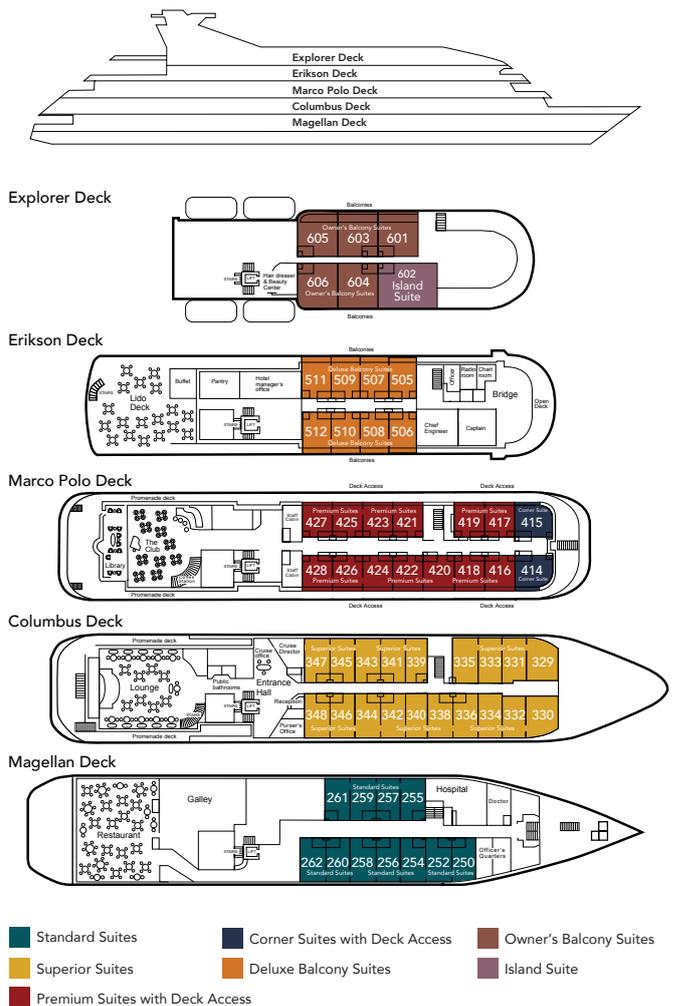
Your Comfort

The MS Island 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 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 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 ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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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: Gardens of Reales Alcazares, Seville.