

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

FIRE & ICE

IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

AN EXPEDITION FROM RUSSIA TO JAPAN INCLUDING
THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA & KURIL ISLANDS
ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY

1ST TO 16TH JUNE 2020

NOBLE CALEDONIA

The remote reaches of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula and the distant and isolated Kuril Islands have fired the imagination of explorers and traders for centuries. Our past travellers have enthused about the spectacular scenery, the incredible array of wildlife and the native cultures known to only a few privileged visitors. The wildlife is some of the richest in the world and the region is truly a birdwatcher's paradise with puffins, guillemots, cormorants, Steller's sea eagle, brown-headed thrush, Siberian Ruby-throats, black legged kittiwakes, and crested or whiskered auklets just some of the species we hope to encounter as we cruise through a pristine environment that calls to nature lovers, history buffs, photographers and the intrepid explorer within.

The Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia's remote easternmost province is home to the brown bear and on arrival there we will be greeted by a dramatic landscape of fire and ice. Geysers, hot springs and active volcanoes set amidst towering mountains and fast flowing rivers make this area magnificently unique. Marvel at spouting whales, frolicking seals and huge populations of nesting and migratory seabirds. Following our time around the peninsula, we reach the Kurils, a necklace-like chain of volcanic islands where we will find vast forests and wildflower-dappled tundra, backdropped by soaring steam-breathing volcanoes. Basalt stacks rise from the sea, tailormade resting and nesting spots for an unimaginable number of seabirds. Once inhabited by the Ainu, who are thought to be descendants of migrating Mongolians, these islands are home to over 100 volcanoes, 35 of which are active.

Using our fleet of Zodiacs we can explore inlets, bird sanctuaries and land in otherwise inaccessible places and, although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is often the unscheduled events that become the highlight. Sailing in June, we will take full advantage of the mid-summer sun, travelling on nature's terms, enjoying dramatic scenery and encountering the region's ancient cultures and fascinating people whose lives are rarely touched by outsiders. We will be joined on board by an expert expedition team including naturalists, marine biologists and ornithologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board.



What to Expect

We have operated many voyages in the Russian Far East and whilst each expedition is different based on weather conditions and wildlife sightings, the extracts below from past ships' logs will provide you with an insight into what you can expect from a voyage in this fascinating region.



Zhupanova River: "We zigzagged our way through the channel arriving in the deeper area of the river. Here we soon spotted a Steller's sea eagle surveying the river from the shoreline, Aleutian terns, crows, the ever present gulls and many, common seals. With such a rich habitat full of trout, no wonder there was such a strong presence of these wonderful marine mammals."

"Later Colin spotted three bears. Spooked by the Zodiac they quickly made haste up the hill and into the woodland however just a few moments later we spotted a lone bear feeding 20-metres or so from the shoreline. All Zodiacs approached at very slow speed and then switched the engines off entirely so as not only to avoid scaring the bear, but also just to listen to the sounds of the forest which included the regular call of a cuckoo. We stayed with the

bear for some time as he was enjoying quite a feast just pausing from time to time to check we didn't pose a threat. After a little while we backed away using our Zodiac paddles before switching our engines back on and meandering back down the river. With our time almost up, we stopped by the Steller's sea eagle one more time then headed onwards to the ship."

Kamchatka Peninsula: "As Zodiacs started moving towards a waterfall at the north side of the bay to start the cruise, a bear was spotted almost straight away in one of the valleys. This bear moved off but minutes later a mother and two cubs were seen on the cliffs right above where we were cruising. Moving deeper into the bay we became aware that we were being watched by a pair of Steller sea eagles nesting in a tree at the top of the cliff."

"Three orcas flowed along with us for a while, coming close to the bow, and no sooner had they moved on than Brent spotted a sperm whale. The captain slowed down and gently manoeuvred the ship close, giving us spectacular views of this huge animal as he breathed for a while then fluked up for a deep dive."



"The river mouth was shallow and fast-flowing, and Sergey saw a bear near the huts when he went in to scout, so we stayed in the Zodiacs for a while to head upstream. After sighting a Steller's sea eagle and dozens of red-throated divers, we rounded a bend and sure enough, there was 'our' bear. For the next half hour or so, we stayed quiet and slowly edged the Zodiacs just a little further up the river until we were all against the bank watching this big bear, as he munched and snuffled in the vegetation."



Ariy Kamen & Nikolskoye, Bering Island, Commander Islands: "When we arrived we found a tiny columnar basalt island absolutely covered in seabirds. Thousands of black-legged kittiwakes were joined by hundreds of their smaller, dainty red-legged relatives. Every ledge was packed, clusters of kittiwakes and clusters of common and Brunnich's guillemots, interspersed with glossy black red-faced and pelagic shags. A handful of horned puffins seemed to almost pose for us on some of the ledges, and higher up on the grass we could see auklets."



Brown bears



Kuril Islands



Horned puffin



Wild flowers, Kamchatka

The Itinerary

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition. Although we have outlined an itinerary below, this is subject to change. Our exact route will depend on weather conditions, the wildlife we encounter and permissions from the Russian authorities.

Day 1 London to Seoul, South Korea. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Seoul. Arrive today and transfer to the Grand Hyatt Incheon (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure.

Day 3 Seoul to Petropavlovsk, Russia. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport to join our specially chartered flight to Petropavlovsk. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner this evening.

Day 4 Petropavlovsk. Petropavlovsk, town of Peter and Paul, derives its name from the two sailing ships used by Vitus Bering when the great explorer reached Avacha Bay in 1740. It is the only major city on the peninsula and one of the oldest towns in the Russian Far East. A tour of the city will include the museum of ethnography and

natural history, the art school, the gold-domed Orthodox Cathedral and the marketplace. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail this afternoon.



Sea otter

Day 5 Kamenistaya Bay, Kamchatka. Our exploration of Kamchatka will start this morning in Kamenistaya Bay located in the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve. The reserve was established in 1934 and is one of the oldest in Russia covering an area of almost 11,000 square kilometres which contains forest, tundra, taiga, mountains, volcanoes and geysers, a hugely diverse habitat for the abundant wildlife. The reserve is home to brown bears as well as caribou, otters, seals and multiple species of birds. If conditions permit we will offer walks with our expedition teams on land or Zodiac cruises to view the wildlife.

Day 6 Ariy Kamen & Nikolskoye, Commander Islands. The Komandorskiye or Commander Islands are named after famed Commander Vitus Bering who had been commissioned by the Russian Tsar to search for a land bridge between Asia and America. After having been to Alaska he was forced to overwinter here. He was buried on the island, but some of the crew managed to return to Petropavlovsk. Our experiences will be determined by weather, wildlife and sea conditions. We intend to visit Nikolskoye, which was established in 1826 by fur traders. This fishing village on Bering Island has a small museum where we will learn about the Aleut people and their culture. During our visit we will enjoy a concert and be entertained by a presentation of local games. After lunch we hope to take a Zodiac ride to tiny Ariy Kamen Island, a habitat for vast numbers of birds.

Days 7 & 8 Kamchatka Peninsula. This morning we will cruise back to Kamchatka for a further day and a half of exploration including the Zhupanova River. The Zhupanova River Estuary is a scenic maze of moist bogs, serpentine river channels and ponds against a snowy backdrop. The tall volcanic cone of Kronoskaya Sopka

(3528 metres) stands above this predominantly uninhabited land. The river is one of the most productive trout rivers in the world and is home to the richest rainbow trout habitat on Kamchatka. This afternoon we have the opportunity to take a long Zodiac cruise along the river looking for wildlife including Steller's sea eagles, Aleutian terns, seals and of course the iconic Kamchatka brown bears. We hope to Zodiac cruise at Cape Kekurnyy, well known for the population of Steller sea lions that haul onto the rocks and maybe also make a landing in Tikhirka Bay.



Crested auklets

Days 9 to 12 Kuril Islands. The Kuril Islands consist of a volcanic archipelago that stretches 1300 kilometres, through the Sea of Okhotsk, from northern Japan to the Kamchatka Peninsula.



Humpback Whale Breach

Exploring by Zodiac

Church, Petropavlovsk

Steller sea eagle, Zhupanova river

Arctic fox, Kuril islands

Our itinerary for these four days will be flexible as our Captain and Expedition Leader will plan landings based on weather and sea conditions. However we hope to visit Chirpoy Island. The origin of the names is uncertain, the original Ainu language name of the island was Repunmoshiri, a word meaning "place of many small birds". During a Zodiac cruise we search along the coast for the profusion of wildlife that lives in the area including Steller sea lions, fulmars, kittiwakes, puffins and auklets. Yankicha Island is impressive, accessible only by Zodiac and only during high tide, it is actually a sinking volcanic caldera. Inside the magnificent lagoon with its fumaroles and hot springs, we can still see traces of the tremendous forces that created the island long ago. The number of auklets which breed here is truly incredible. Alaid on Atlasova Island is the highest volcano in the Kurils with a height of over 2000 metres. Together with our expedition staff, we will land by Zodiac on the black lava beach of the island from where we will begin our walk to see the remains of the Taketomi tufa cone.

Day 13 Tyuleniy Island. We arrive later in the morning to explore

Tyuleniy Island. Tyuleniy means "seal" in Russian, and during the summer months the island is home to literally tens of thousands of northern fur seals and Steller sea lions. Our visit, at the height of the breeding season is well timed to see not only the seals and sea lions, but also tens of thousands of common guillemots and blacklegged kittiwakes that have made their nests in the cliffs above.

Day 14 Korsakov. Our last call in Russia will be at the port of Korsakov where we see Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk's beautiful Cathedral of the Resurrection. The church was only completed in 1995 and the gold on the onion domes has very recently been laid, shining brilliantly. From the church continue to the Sakhalin Regional Museum, which is housed in a beautiful Japanese style structure, due to the previous ruling of its southern neighbour. The museum covers all the facets of Sakhalin Island, from its flora and fauna, to its geology and history. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch as we clear Russian formalities and sail this afternoon towards Japan.

Day 15 Otaru to Tokyo, Japan. Disembark this morning and transfer to Sapporo airport for

our scheduled internal flight to Tokyo. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon we will have a brief city tour before an evening at leisure.

Day 16 Tokyo to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

LIMITED AVAILABILITY - SAVE £500 PER PERSON

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£13495	£12995
Caledonian	Superior	£13895	£13395
Promenade	Premium	£14395	£13895
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£14995	£14495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£15495	£14995
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£15995	£15495
Castle	Standard for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Seoul with breakfast • 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo with breakfast • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Russian visa.

IMPORTANT VISA INFORMATION: A visa is required for Russia and Noble Caledonia will provide all supporting documentation needed although the process to apply for the visa cannot be started until three months before departure and in some instances can take up to six weeks. To obtain a Russian visa it will be necessary for passengers to attend application centres in London, Manchester or Edinburgh. This information is correct at the time of printing and should the information change, we will be in touch with booked passengers with updated guidelines.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY



Deluxe Balcony Suite



On Deck



The Restaurant

The MS Caledonian Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three 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 Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.



Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. The passenger accommodation is arranged over four decks and all suites have outside views. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, heated towel rail, vanity unit and walk-in shower and/or bath tub. Facilities in the suites also include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table

with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, flat screen television, telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Your Dining

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



Standard Suite



Caledonian Lounge



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where briefings are given by the onboard team and talks from Guest Speakers take place. Also in the Lounge is a 24-hour tea and coffee station along with an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. In addition there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The Travel Library is the perfect place to relax with a good book and is well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting. A selection 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). Outside there is a rear Lido Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top deck there is a further observation and Sun Deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. There is also a small beauty salon with appointments made on request.

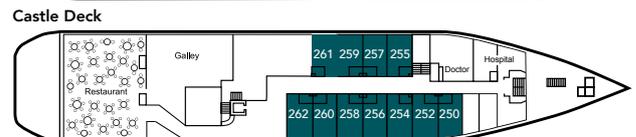
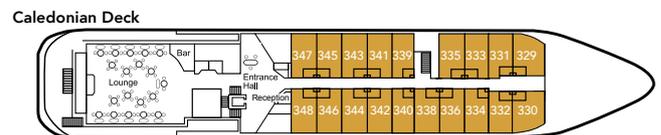
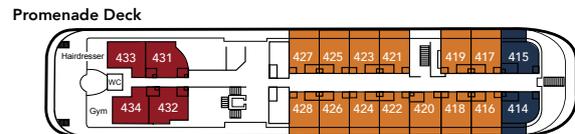
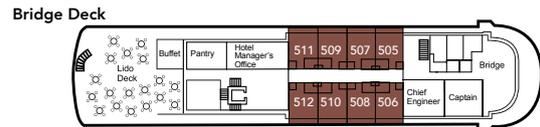
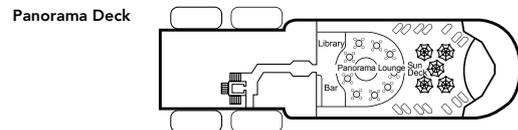
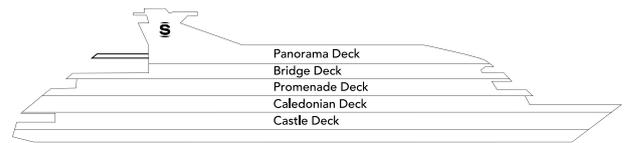
Your Comfort

The MS Caledonian 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. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no "black tie" evenings. 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. 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 from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



- Standard Suites
- Premium Suites
- Premium Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Corner Suites with Balcony

Please note that all suites on Castle Deck feature a minimum of two portholes.

During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Bear cubs in Kamchatka