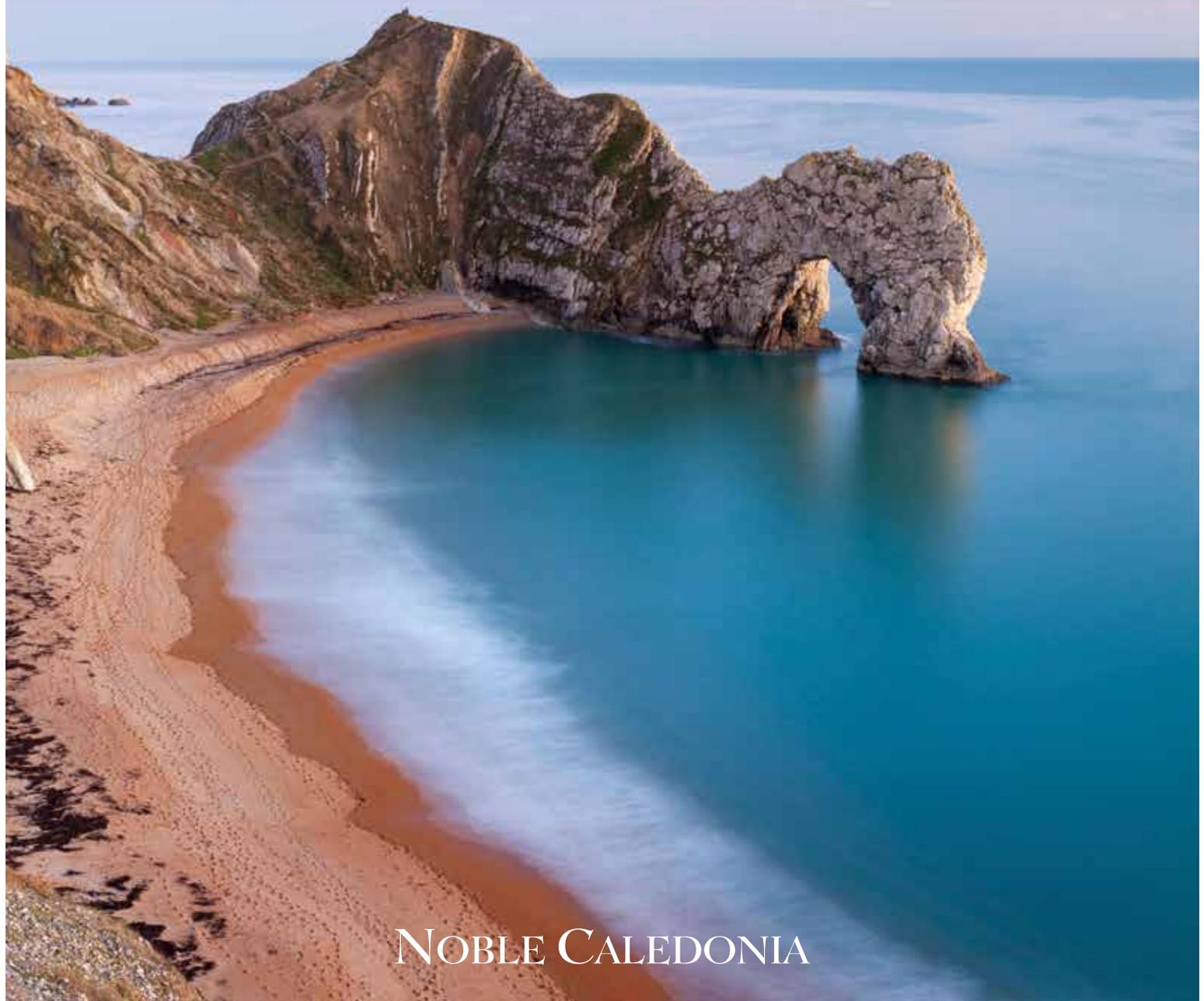


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

FROM THE BARBARY TO THE JURASSIC COAST

A VOYAGE EXPLORING THE GARDENS OF PORTUGAL,
SPAIN AND ENGLAND ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER CAROLINE HOLMES

10TH TO 19TH MAY 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join the 118-passenger MS Island Sky in Casablanca for this springtime voyage from Morocco to the UK visiting some marvellously historic and scenic places along the way. We have chosen the perfect time of year for our voyage and, in the absence of high season crowds, we will explore the horticultural splendours and delightful towns of the region in depth. Our itinerary has been planned to ensure the balance is just right between exploring ashore and time at leisure in the picturesque ports to soak up the atmosphere at your own pace and there will also be two relaxing days at sea.

Each day holds something new and during our time in Portugal we will visit the gardens of Queluz Palace and spend a full day exploring the fascinating city of Oporto including a visit to the beautiful Vinho Verde wine region. Whilst in Spain we will visit some of the gardens of Galicia's great 'pazos' including Pazo de Oca and Pazo de Rubianes, and we will also step into the pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. A highlight for many will be our call in the Isles of Scilly where we visit Tresco's stunning sub-tropical Abbey Gardens and, upon reaching the English Channel and the Isle of Portland, we will visit Minterne House and tour the secluded woodland garden with its many rare trees and beautiful flowers including Himalayan rhododendrons and azaleas. Our final afternoon will be spent exploring the beauty of the Jurassic Coast where we will witness the unique geology of Durdle Door and enjoy a picturesque coastal walk to Lulworth Cove.

Our voyage offers an insight into the contrasting cultures of the regions visited and, in the company of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and excellent local guides, we will be able to learn more about the gardens we visit and of their history. Our journey includes fabulous coastal scenery and timeless beauty which, combined with the rich maritime history of the region and opportunities to sample the local ports and wines, makes for an endlessly fascinating voyage.

Guest Speaker – Caroline Holmes



Caroline Holmes is a garden historian of places, people and plants, a speaker, author of 12 books, TV and radio broadcaster and consultant designer who specialises in evoking historic, artistic and symbolic references. She has travelled extensively across, researched in and written on France and Italy, both rich sources of the harmony we find in architecture, gardens and music. Caroline has been a speaker on every continent except Antarctica, she is a lecturer for The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) for whom she has also toured in Australia and New Zealand as well as Europe. She is a Course Director for the University of Cambridge's ICE International Summer Programme exploring English Houses and Gardens, how they define Englishness or express personalities, politics, British royalty and wealth. She has lectured on many specialist tours around Florence, Siena and Rome. Garden design

consultancies include: Humanist Renaissance inspired gardens for Notre Dame de Calais; Knots, Orchards and Operatic Borders for the Royal Opera House at High House, Essex; and devising the plantings and lore for the Poison Garden in The Alnwick Garden, Northumberland. She has devised two theatrical productions celebrating gardens 'Impressionists in their Gardens – living light and colour' and 'How does your garden grow Mr Shakespeare?'





The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Casablanca, Morocco. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 At Sea. A relaxing day at sea as we sail to the Iberian Peninsula.

Day 3 Lisbon, Portugal. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. Today there are distinct modern and ancient sections, combining great shopping areas with culture and sightseeing in the Old Town, built on the city's terraced hillsides. A morning tour includes a visit to Queluz Palace to explore these very formal, yet intimate gardens. Often referred to as the Versailles of Portugal, this former royal palace is surrounded by extensive grounds. See the Malta Garden famous for its musical concerts, the Hanging Garden, its statues, ponds, grotto and the azulejo-tiled canal where the royal family would go boating. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore the city at your own pace or join a city tour to see the famous landmarks and places of interest such as the Monument to the Discoveries, Belem Tower and Jeronimos Monastery.

Day 4 Oporto. The port of Leixoes is our base for a day of activities around Oporto. We will visit the Quinta de Aveleda, located in the heart of the Vinho Verde Demarcated Region which creates a young fresh wine with a

low alcoholic content and a lightly fruity flavour. After exploring the beautiful park and gardens with rare specimens of trees, shrubs and flowers which surround the Manor House, we will learn about the wine which has been produced here since 1947. This afternoon we explore Oporto including the impressive St Francis Church and the Ribeira, a riverside quarter made up of narrow, twisting streets and shadowy arcades. We will end at one of the many port wine cellars where we hear all about the wines and how they are produced.

Day 5 Vilagarcia de Arousa, Spain. Arriving into Galicia we will visit the gardens of the grand country mansions, known as 'pazos', which were built by noble families in the 17th and 18th centuries and are typical of this region. This morning we will drive to the Pazo de Oca, often referred to as the "Galician Versailles". These French-style gardens were recently restored to their 18th century glory and the beauty is the fusion of formal garden with a working farm. Here the magnolias and azaleas sit amongst water fountains and ponds. Continue to the Pazo de Ribadulla which dates back to the 1500s. The English-style gardens, which were laid out in the 19th century, are subtler and more natural than the French-style gardens of the Pazo de Oca and include a pretty waterfall and a wonderful grove of olive trees, some of which are nearly 300 years old. After lunch on board we drive the short distance

to the Pazo de Rubianes which was originally founded in 1411 and was one of the three official lordships in Spain. Enjoy a guided walk through the stunning gardens which are home to eucalyptus trees, sequoias and camphors. Also visit the Pazo's extensive vineyards to learn about the local Albarino wine production and enjoy a tasting before exploring the historical palace itself.

Day 6 La Coruna. From our berth in La Coruna we visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. Visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias; the Quintana Plaza; House of Parra; facade of Azabacheria; and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Return to the ship via the Pazo de Marinan, an old Galician Manor with splendid French style gardens. There are beautiful groups of azaleas, aucuba specimens, spiraeas, ivies, roses, and also yew trees and centuries-old specimens of clethra.

Day 7 At Sea. After a busy few days take the opportunity to relax as we spend a day at sea. Join our lecture programme in the lounge or find a spot on deck to watch the world go by.

Day 8 Isles of Scilly, England.

From our central anchorage, we will use local tenders to visit a couple of the islands in the group. Spend the morning on traffic-free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. This afternoon we head to Bryher, the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Take the chance to wander along the tracks that cross the island amongst hedgerows and fields bursting with wildflowers. Those feeling active may wish to climb Watch Hill, where in the past islanders would keep watch for ships in distress or alternatively take a stroll to one of the beautiful beaches.

Day 9 Portland. Arrive this morning at the "isle" of Portland. The area's unique geology and its position are ideal for a wide variety of birds, animals and plant life whilst many parts of the island, including the whole of the coastline, are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. A morning excursion will take us to Minterne House, home of the Churchill and Digby families since 1620. Here the 20-acre woodland garden is landscaped in the manner of Capability Brown containing a unique collection of Himalayan rhododendrons and azaleas, with



spring bulbs, cherries, maples and many fine and rare trees. Wander the trail with its small lakes, waterfalls and streams. After lunch on board we will discover the fascinating Jurassic Coast visiting the natural limestone arch of Durdle Door before walking the coastal path to the charming village of Lulworth Cove. See the panoramic views of Portland Bill as we return to the ship.

Day 10 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time.



Tresco, Isles of Scilly

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	£5295	£4795
Columbus	Superior	£5495	£4995
Marco Polo	Premium	£5995	£5495
Marco Polo	Corner	£6495	£5995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£7495	£6995
Explorer	Island Suite	£8395	£7895
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6885	£6385
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7145	£6645

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-cruise Marrakech Extension 8th to 10th May 2022



Bahia Palace



Les Jardin De La Koutoubia

Before embarking the MS Island Sky in Casablanca we are offering the opportunity to join a two night extension to the "Red City" of Marrakech staying at Les Jardin De La Koutoubia, a luxury riad set in a peaceful location within the medina.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Marrakech, Morocco. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our riad and enjoy free time before we meet this evening for dinner. (D)

Day 2 Marrakech. A morning tour of the "Red City" will include the 19th century Bahia Palace where we see the intricate work undertaken by the local artisans on wood, plaster and tile to decorate this splendid home and garden. Continue to the Majorelle Garden, home to the late Yves Saint Laurent, which houses a collection of plants from the four corners of the earth, flourishing amongst elegant ornamental ponds. We end in the souks, a maze of colourful alleys and squares selling an array of crafts. Return to the hotel and spend the afternoon and evening at leisure. (B)

Day 3 Marrakech to Casablanca. Check out this morning as we drive to Casablanca. After lunch, an orientation drive will include the Mohammed V Square as well as the awe-inspiring Hasan II Mosque, the second largest Mosque in the world with space for 25,000 worshippers. Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£945**

Single: **£1245**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the five-star Les Jardins De La Koutoubia in Marrakech, tours as described, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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

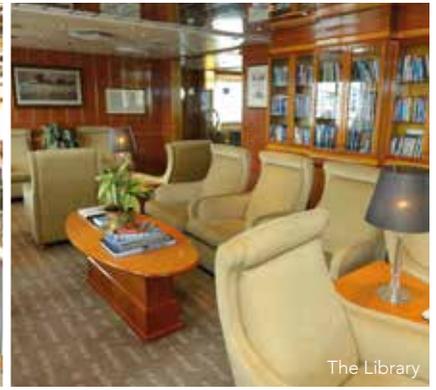
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants 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.

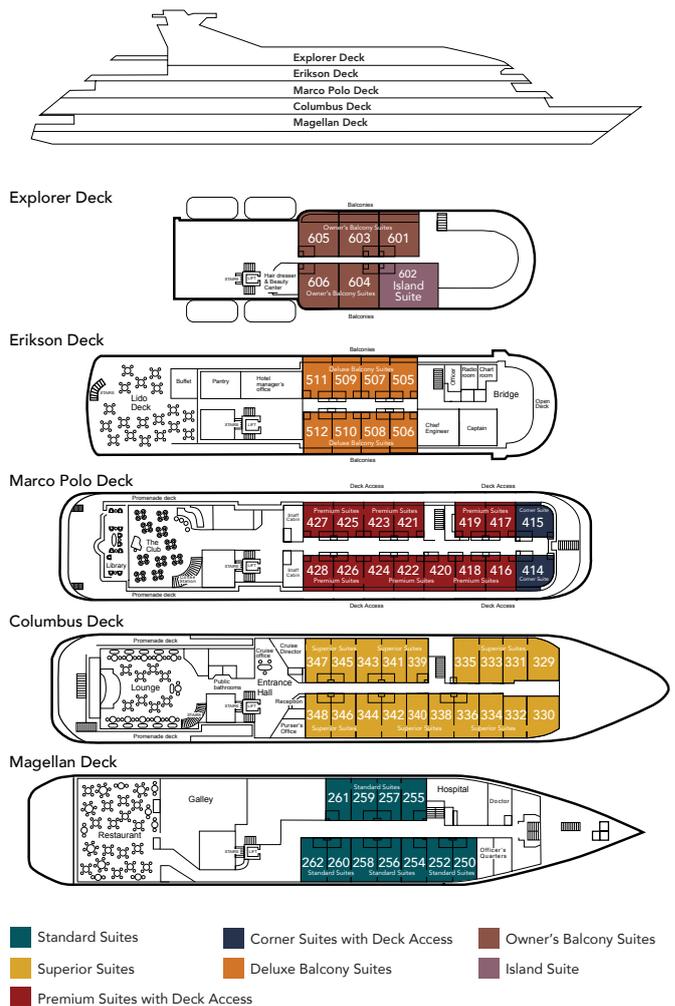
Your Comfort

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: Durdle Door..