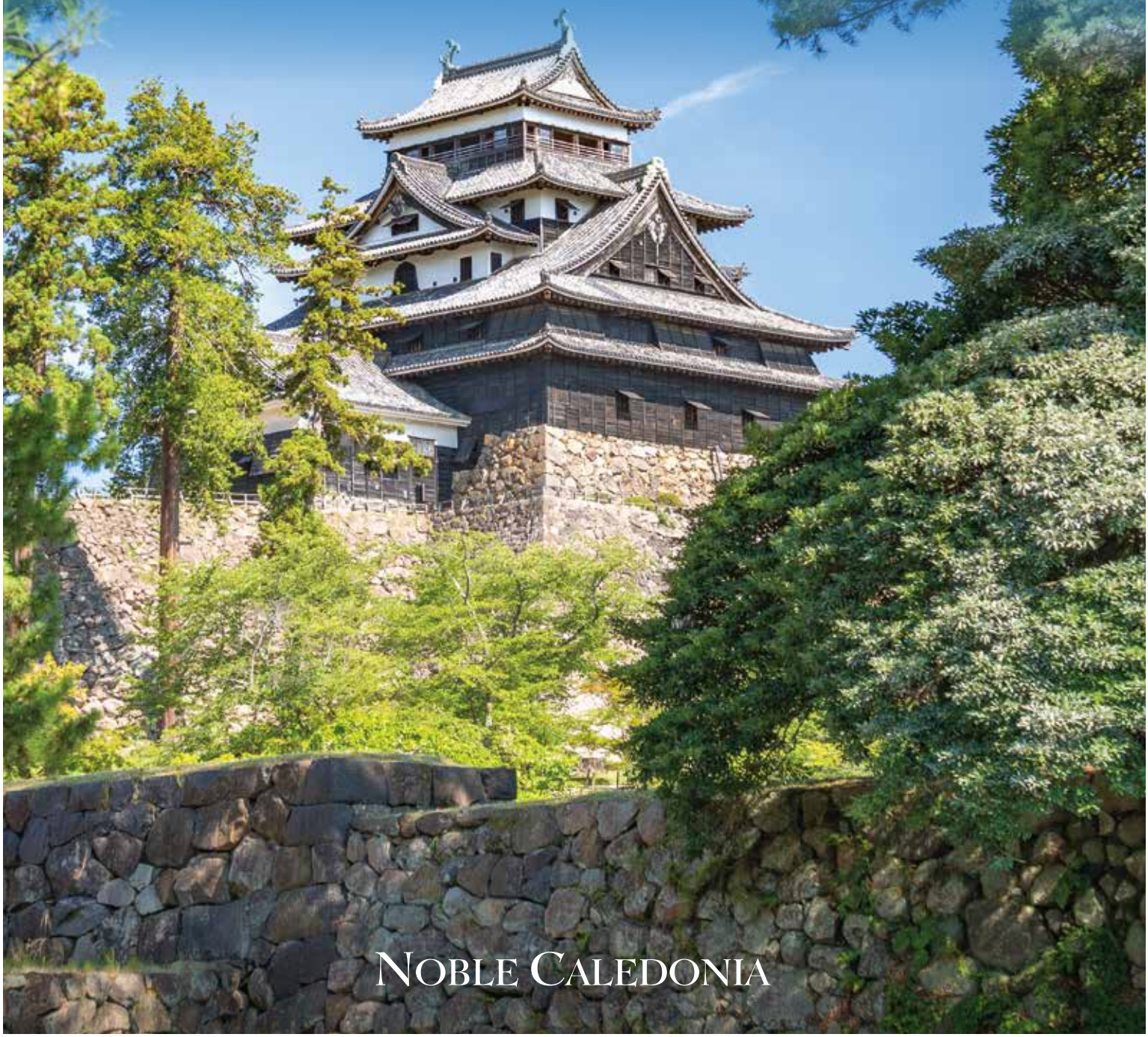
SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON

GRAND VOYAGE OF JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA

DISCOVER THE CULTURAL & NATURAL SPLENDOURS OF JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA ON A JOURNEY FROM TOKYO TO SEOUL ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

3RD TO 22ND JUNE 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Discover the fascinating contrasts of Japan and South Korea during this grand voyage aboard the MS Island Sky and explore with us historic cities, tranquil islands, spectacular landscapes and culturally rich coastal communities. From the vibrant energy of Tokyo to the royal heritage of Seoul, our journey offers a wonderful insight into two countries whose ancient traditions sit harmoniously alongside the modern world.

Beginning in Tokyo, we will experience a taste of Japan's dynamic capital before travelling by bullet train to the historic city of Kanazawa to embark the MS Island Sky. Here, the serene beauty of Kenroku-en Garden, traditional samurai residences and centuries-old craft traditions provide an introduction to Japan's rich artistic heritage. Sailing north along the coast of Honshu towards Hokkaido, we will discover a diverse landscape of volcanic peaks, forested gorges, peaceful lakes and remote wetlands. We will discover the natural beauty of Oirase Gorge and Shikotsu-Toya National Park, and hope to catch sight of the elegant, red-crowned cranes in Kushiro. Our journey will also reveal the character of Japan's historic towns and island communities as we explore the samurai quarter of Kakunodate, discover the traditions of Sado Island, admire some of the country's most celebrated temples and gardens in Kyoto and enjoy the scenic waterways of Matsue. Along the way, there will be opportunities to appreciate Japan's distinctive architecture, craftsmanship and enduring cultural traditions.

Crossing the Sea of Japan, we continue to South Korea, a country with an equally compelling history and culture. In Gyeongju, the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom, we discover an extraordinary collection of temples, royal tombs and archaeological treasures. Further along the coast, traditional walled towns, the wetlands of Suncheon Bay and the volcanic landscapes of Jeju Island offer additional insights into Korea's heritage and natural beauty. Our voyage concludes in Seoul, where magnificent royal palaces, traditional markets and historic neighbourhoods contrast with the impressive skyline of this dynamic capital, a fitting finale to our voyage.


Amanohashidate

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Tokyo, Japan. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure.

Day 3 Tokyo to Kanazawa. After our morning tour which will include the Meiji Shrine, we will continue to the train station to join the bullet train to Kanazawa. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 4 Kanazawa or Inami. Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquerware, outstanding collectable pottery of the Kutani style, gold leaf workmanship, delicate hand painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm with old fashioned streetlamps and wooden lattice windows hiding elegant restaurants and craft galleries. There will be a choice of tours today and you can choose to visit one of Japan's premier highlights, the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top three gardens which is located next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins. Alternatively, you can choose to head towards the mountains and explore the town of Inami, built by expert wood carvers, whose magnificent craftsmanship can be seen in Zuisenji Temple. Today the town is home to 120 woodworking studios, with craftsmen keeping the traditional practice alive. From here we will drive to Gokayama where we will see the traditional gassho-zukuri style houses. Walking through the village here we will experience the history and heritage of Japan.

Day 5 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea with time to relax on deck and join the lecture programme in the lounge.

Day 6 Aomori. This morning we arrive on the northern coast of Honshu and from our berth in Aomori there will be a choice of tours. Maybe head inland to the mountains of the Aomori prefecture to the spectacular Oirase Gorge. The gorge runs for 14 kilometres from Lake Towada to Yakeyama and we will walk alongside the crystal clear Oirase Stream enjoying the beautiful scenery, and will return to the ship after lunch. Alternatively, spend the morning exploring the lovely town of Aomori with a visit to the tranquil Seiryuji Temple which was founded in 1982 and is home to Showa Daibutsu, the largest seated Buddha in the country. We will also visit the Warasse Nebuta Museum to learn about the famous Nebuta Festival and see some of the impressive floats used during the festival. Afterwards there will be some time at leisure to explore the waterfront area and A-Factory before returning to the MS Island Sky.

Day 7 Muroran. We will spend our morning around the Shikotsu-Toya National Park, named after the two caldera lakes which offer wonderful scenery and excellent hiking and walking opportunities. This is still an active area and a geological wonder with the volcano Showa Shin-zan only created in the 1940s. We will take the cable car to the top of Mount Usu for the wonderful views to Lake Toya and enjoy scenic walks in the volcanic peaks that surround Lake Shikotsu. After a visit to the Volcanic Science Museum we will return to the ship and enjoy a leisurely afternoon at sea.

Day 8 Kushiro. This morning we will set out to explore the Kushiro Marshland National Park which was established in 1987 to support the habitat of the endangered Japanese crane. Thought to be extinct, a group of 20 birds was discovered in the marshes around Kushiro in 1926, and through conservation efforts they have made a dramatic recovery and there are now more than 1000 birds, the only known population. We will visit the Onnenai Visitor Centre to learn about the park's history and work before a nature walk along the Onnenai Boardwalk offers a wonderful opportunity to take in the unique wetland ecosystem and wildlife. Hopefully the rare red crowned cranes will make an appearance. There will also be the opportunity to visit the Kushiro City Museum and visit Washo Market.


Oirase Gorge


Kenroku-en gardens


Kyoto


Drumming, Sado Island


Gyeongju, Bulguksa Temple

Day 9 Tomakomai for Sapporo. Today there will be a choice of tours with the full day option being a tour to the vibrant city of Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido Island. It is the largest city north of Tokyo and is surrounded by nature, with a backdrop of mountains. During our visit we will see the Sapporo TV Tower, the historic clock tower and the former government building known as the Red Brick Building. We will stop at the University Botanical Gardens and visit the small Ainu museum as well as taking the cable car up Mount Moiwa to its observation deck for beautiful views of the city and mountains. Alternatively we will visit the National Ainu Museum and Park that promotes the life and culture of the Ainu people. Within the grounds is the museum with its permanent exhibitions as well as the Kotan (traditional Ainu village) where you can see traditional houses and learn about life in those villages.

Day 10 Hakodate. We will make our way to Onuma Park, on the outskirts of the city and known for its picturesque, island-dotted lakes and majestic dormant volcano, Mount Komagatake. There will be the opportunity to join a series of walks around the lake's peninsulas and islands, several of which are connected by small bridges and surrounded by birch and maple forests. Alternatively join a tour of the historic city of Hakodate. As one of the first port cities opened to international trade after the country's long era of isolation, the city has a noticeable foreign influence on its architecture. We will visit the 19th century Fort Goryokaku, built in the western star shaped style, once a citadel now a lovely public park, as well as the bayfront area and the red brick warehouses that have been restored and are now a trendy shopping and leisure area. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to relax or continue to explore this historic city independently.

Day 11 Akita. Spend the day in the Akita Prefecture, known for its rice farming, traditional festivals, and treasured dog breed of the same name. This morning we will drive inland to Kakunodate which was established in 1620 by the Lords of Akita as a military outpost with a castle built on Mount Furishiroyama. Two distinct areas were then developed, one for samurai and the other for merchants. Today it remains one of the best examples of a castle town in Japan and the Uchimachi samurai quarter maintains a number of the original wooden houses and well maintained gardens which we can explore. This afternoon we will explore Akita including a visit to the Akita Museum of Art which includes a large collection of work by Fujita Tsuguharu including his giant 'Annual Events in Akita' mural.

Day 12 Sado Island. Sado Island was once remote enough to become a place of exile for politicians and intellectuals who fell out of favour with the government, then when gold was discovered in the 17th century, the fate of what was once a sleepy island changed forever. More recently, the island is famous for its dynamic drumming groups and we will visit the Sado Island Taiko Centre to learn about taiko drumming and watch a taiko demonstration. Afterwards we will visit the pretty fishing village of Shukunegi and explore the maze like narrow lanes of this historic village and see the unique architecture of the houses built with vertical timbers to protect them from the strong winds blowing off the Sea of Japan.

Day 13 Kyoto or Amanohashidate. From our berth in Maizuru there will be a choice of tours today. You may wish to explore Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1000 years. Our full day tour will begin with a visit to the bamboo forest before continuing to the World Heritage Site of Tenryu-ji Temple, ranked first amongst the city's five great Zen Temples. After lunch we continue to the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), which was built as a retirement villa for the Shogun and converted into a Buddhist Temple after his death. Built on the edge of a tranquil pond with the second and third stories covered in gold leaf we can walk through the peaceful gardens and marvel at the reflection in the still waters. Alternatively, spend the morning in Amanohashidate, one of the three most scenic spots in Japan. This coastal gem offers a mix of natural beauty and culture and we will walk the iconic pine tree covered sand bar, explore the Motoise Kono shrine and take the cable car to Kasamatsu Park which offers wonderful views over the bay.

Day 14 Matsue. From the port of Sakaiminato we visit Matsue, the 'town of water,' which nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. There will be a choice of tours this afternoon and you can choose to visit the cultural attractions of the town including the 17th century Matsue Castle before enjoying a boat ride on the local canals. Alternatively you may choose to visit the Adachi Museum of Art which is set in a beautiful natural environment and well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.

Day 15 Ulsan, South Korea. Crossing over to South Korea we embark on a full day excursion to magnificent Gyeongju, a World Heritage Site which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Gyeongju's cultural heritage dates to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunchtime, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

Day 16 Yeosu. This morning, we arrive into Yeosu whose name means 'beautiful (Yeo) waters (su)' and this picturesque coastal city certainly lives up to the name. The city and surrounding area has a rich history paired with beautiful scenery and coastline. We will use Yeosu as our base to explore the local area with a choice of tours this morning. You can choose to visit the historic Naganeupseong Walled Town which contains a fortress town of over 59,504 square metres in size. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is considered the best preserved fortress town in the country. We will walk through the town and learn of its history, witness the traditional craftsmen at work and see the traditional houses, some of which are still occupied. Many families have lived in the village for generations keeping this traditional lifestyle alive. Alternatively we will delve into the natural beauty of the area with a visit to Suncheon. We will start at Suncheon Bay National Garden, a stunning landscape of themed gardens, flower fields and ecofriendly design showcasing Korea's commitment to sustainability. From here we will travel by


Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Kyoto


Fort Goryokaku, Hakodate


Jeju Island

Skycube (driverless electric train) to Suncheon Bay Wetland Reserve, one of South Korea's most important ecological sites, home to reed fields, mudflats and migratory birds. We will walk along the boardwalks taking in this stunning setting and hope to catch sight of some of the wildlife that inhabits the area. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Yeosu and a shuttle bus will run from the ship to a central point in the city.

Day 17 Jeju Island. We will spend today exploring the lovely island of Jeju. We will learn about the famous Haenyeo female divers whose tradition goes back centuries. Women started diving in Jeju in the 17th century in order to provide seafood for their families as men were conscripted to the army or had lost their lives fishing at sea, also at the time the Korean rulers imposed heavy taxes on the earnings of men, but women were exempt. The women today train from a young age and dive to depths of 20 metres holding their breath for over two minutes. We will also take in the geological wonders of the island with a visit to the UNESCO listed Manjanggul Lava Cave and for those interested in botany there will be a visit to the Spirited Garden, a beautifully landscaped garden known for its arrangement of bonsai trees and sculptures. The garden is a wonderful example of Korean gardening techniques.

Day 18 Daesan. After a relaxing morning at sea we will sail into Daesan over lunch today and set out to explore Haemieupseong Walled Town which was built in 1491. The perimeter of the town measures 1.8 kilometres and the walls are over five metres high, making it one of the largest fortress' in South Korea. As we explore this historic site we will learn about the persecution of Catholics during the 19th century when many lost their lives in the fortress. We will see the International Shrine of Haemi Martyrs which marks the place where 1000 Catholics were buried during the persecutions of the 18th and 19th centuries. From here we will visit Gaesimsa Temple which was founded in the 7th century and then restored in the 14th century and is known for its beautiful setting nestled into dense woodlands.

Day 19 Seoul. From our berth in Incheon, we will head to the capital Seoul, where grand palaces, traditional markets and sacred shrines sit side by side with skyscrapers, malls and karaoke bars. Seoul is a fast paced city with a deep traditional heritage at its heart. We will start our day with a visit to Gyeongbokgung Palace with its splendid architecture, serene pagodas and maze like grounds. It is the largest and most elegant of Seoul's five royal palaces. From here we will explore Namsangol Hanok Village, a historic district with hundreds of charming hanok (traditional Korean houses) that are a mix of cafes, teahouses, museums and shops as well as remaining homes for many people. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will visit Gwangjang Market, the first permanent market in Korea. Starting as a small trading centre that bought in goods from nearby regions, it has grown into a large market selling a variety of goods including groceries, dried fish, traditional goods as well as street food. We will return to the ship this evening for our final evening on board.

Day 20 Seoul to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Incheon Airport for the scheduled flight to London.


Gyeongbokgung Palace, Seoul

VIDEO FOOTAGE

For further insight into what to expect from a cruise around Japan aboard the MS Island Sky, please refer to the video section on our website for our new video.

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	£13495	£12995
Columbus	Superior	£13995	£13495
Marco Polo	Premium	£14495	£13995
Marco Polo	Corner	£14995	£14495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£15995	£15495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£16495	£15995
Explorer	Island Suite	£16995	£16495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£15995	£15495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£16495	£15995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo with breakfast • Lunch on day 3 • 17 nights aboard the MS Island 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, dinner on day 2.

MS ISLAND SKY




The Library


Deluxe Balcony Suite


The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships 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, television 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 Noble Isle 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 the Club. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.


Standard Suite


The Lounge


Alfresco Dining on the Lido Deck

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.

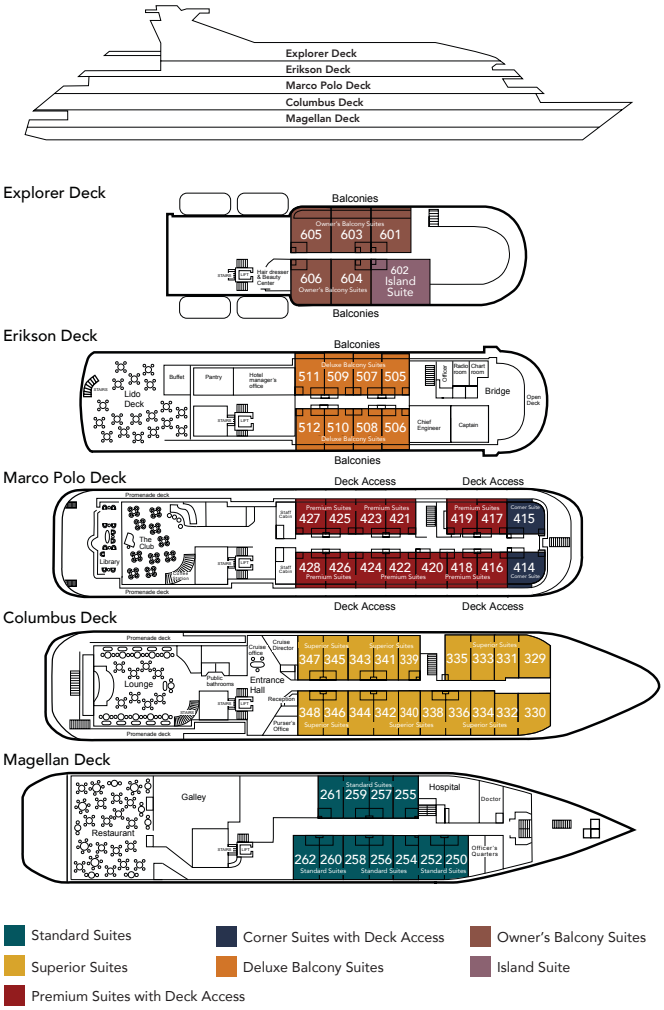
Your Comfort

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

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

MARCH 2025 Which? Recommended Provider OCEAN CRUISES

3108 PACK PROTECTED

ABTA V321X

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C015900

All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Matsue Castle.