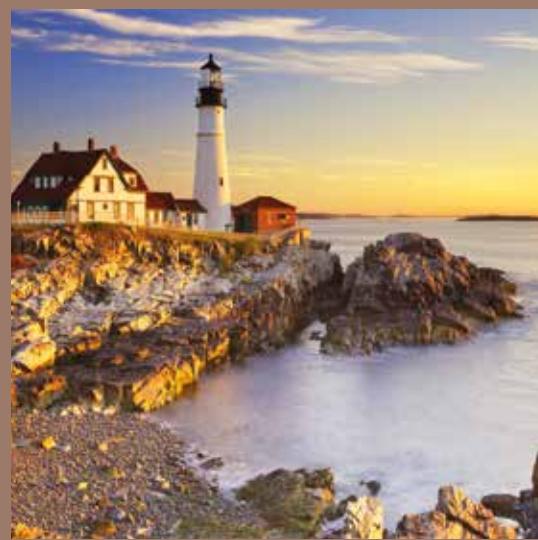
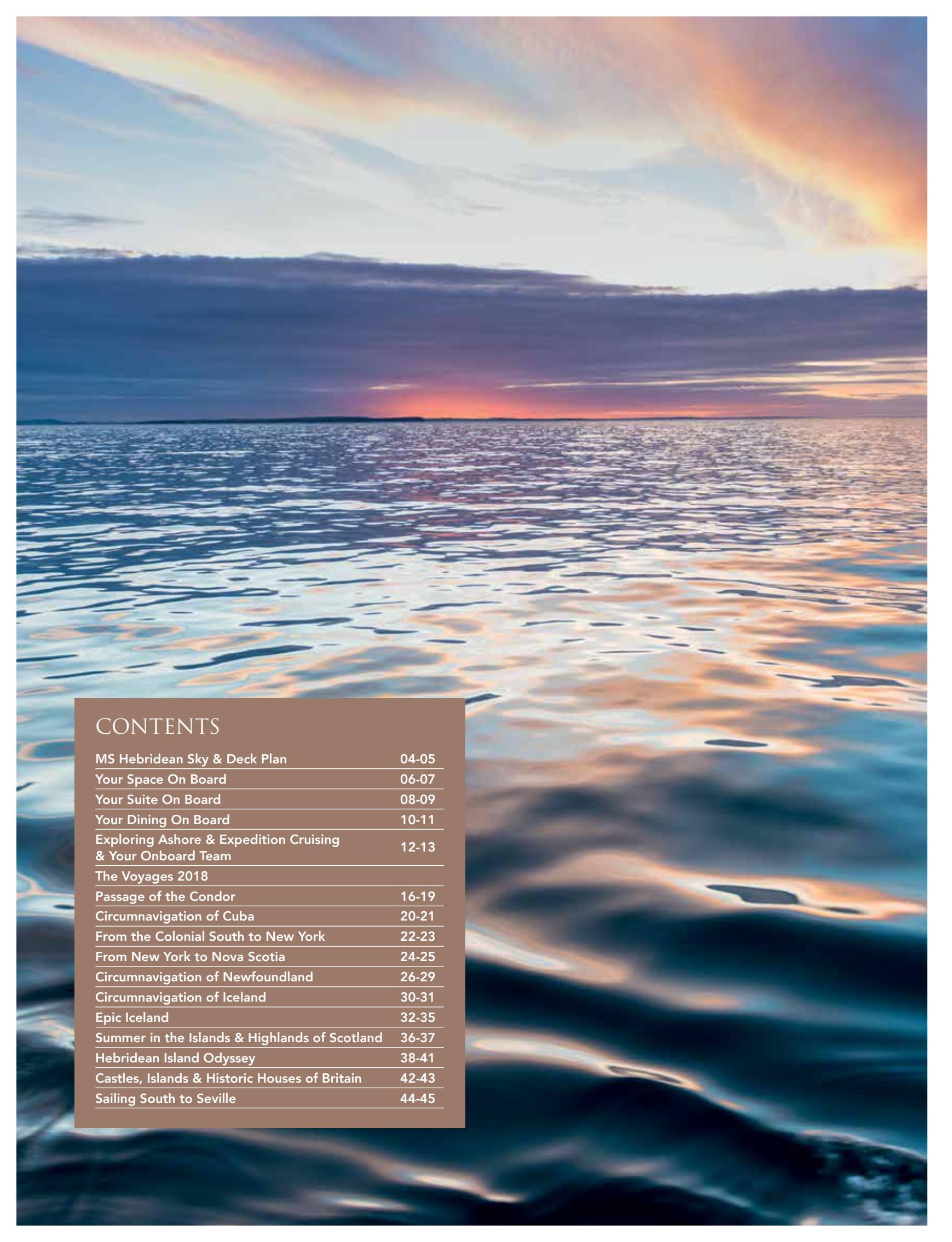


*Voyages aboard*  
**MS HEBRIDEAN SKY**  
2018



**NOBLE CALEDONIA**



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# Dear Traveller

We trust you will enjoy looking through our new brochure which details the voyages the MS Hebridean Sky will undertake in 2018. The MS Hebridean Sky joined our fleet in 2016 and enables us to offer some wonderful journeys along America's east coast in the spring and some in-depth explorations closer to home in Iceland and the Scottish Isles.

As anyone who keeps up to date with our itineraries will be aware, exploring and circumnavigating islands is one of our passions and over the following pages you will find details pertaining to our circumnavigations of Cuba, Newfoundland and Iceland as well as explorations of the Scottish Isles, all destinations that are geographically suited to detailed exploration aboard a small ship. For our journey south from Portsmouth to Seville we have ensured there are some island calls including charming Herm in the Channel Islands and Ile de Batz and Belle Ile off the coast of Brittany.

Of course having the ideal vessel and a fascinating itinerary are only two elements, albeit extremely important ones which contribute to making a voyage aboard the MS Hebridean Sky a unique experience. Another major contributor is the people and in addition to our popular and friendly crew who are dedicated to offering the best possible service on board, our onboard team of expedition staff and guest speakers will enhance your experience immeasurably both whilst exploring ashore and during their informative lectures on board. They are in control of the day-to-day programme and shore visits, doing their utmost to make every day special. Their knowledge, enthusiasm and warmth make every trip a unique event.

Whether you join one of the trips close to home in the Hebrides or join the MS Hebridean Sky for a voyage along the coasts of Chile and Peru, we are committed to providing travellers with opportunities to participate in voyages and expeditions which explore the world with a sense of discovery and hope to welcome you aboard soon.



Tim Cochrane  
Managing Director

## NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST



NOBLE CALEDONIA  
CHARITABLE TRUST

During our worldwide explorations over the years, we have come across many situations where help is desperately needed, be it following a natural disaster, civil unrest, abject poverty or to save an endangered species. To this end we established the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust in 2013 (NCCT). It is our vision to use the Noble Caledonia framework to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the areas we work and visit. Our on board teams are uniquely positioned to identify projects and lead fundraising initiatives, whilst many of our guests genuinely care about the people and places we visit and want to make a difference. 100% of all donations go directly to the beneficiaries as Noble Caledonia Ltd covers all the administration costs and donates a percentage of profits annually. Details of our projects can be found on our website [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)



## MS Hebridean Sky



The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian 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. Formerly known as the Sea Explorer, the vessel underwent a multi-million pound refurbishment in Sweden in Spring 2016 before being re-launched as the MS Hebridean Sky.

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. On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Hebridean Sky the perfect ship. You will not find endless entertainment or any of the usual big ship experiences on board but instead, a vessel where high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no 'black tie' evenings. The atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, informative port briefings and presentations from our onboard team and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room, all contribute to making any voyage aboard the MS Hebridean Sky a memorable experience.

# MS Hebridean Sky

## Deck and Cabin Plans



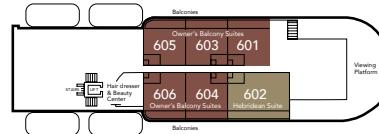
### Technical Information

Cruising speed: 11.5 knots  
Length overall: 90.6 m  
Width overall: 15.3m  
Draught maximum: 4.2m  
Flag/Registry: Bahamas

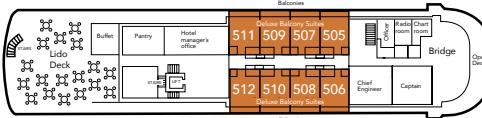
Built: 1992  
Tonnage: 4200  
Guest capacity: 118  
Classed by: BV  
Upgraded: 2016

Please note that all beds can be configured as twin or double with the exception of suites 601 and 602 which both feature a fixed double bed.

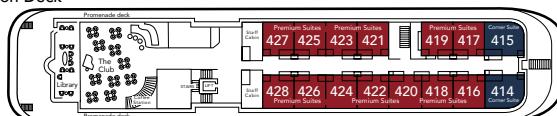
Shackleton Deck



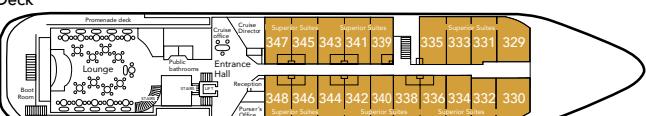
Scott Deck



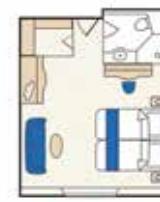
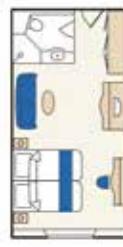
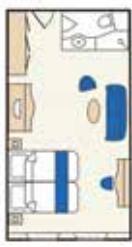
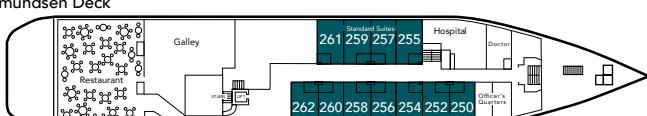
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck

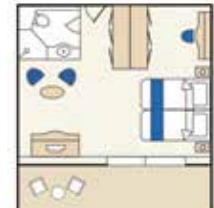
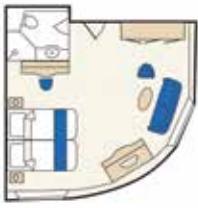


Amundsen Deck



### Amundsen Deck – Standard Suites

Standard Suites located on the Amundsen Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature large portholes.



### Mawson Deck – Corner Suites

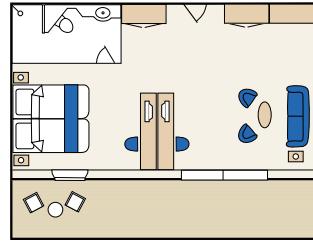
The two magnificent Corner Suites located on the Mawson Deck feature dual aspect windows and measure approximately 22 square metres.

### Scott Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Scott Deck measure 20.9 square metres and boast a 4 square metre private balcony with table and chairs.

### Shackleton Deck – Owner's Balcony Suites

The Owner's Balcony Suites located on the Shackleton Deck measure an average of 22 square metres and feature a large private balcony measuring 8 square metres with table and chairs. Please note the configuration of suite 601 varies slightly, please see website for details.



### Shackleton Deck – Hebridean Suite

The spacious Hebridean Suite located on the Shackleton Deck measures approximately 24.5 square metres and boasts an extra large balcony with table, chairs and sun lounger. This suite features a fixed double bed.



Al fresco dining on the Lido Deck

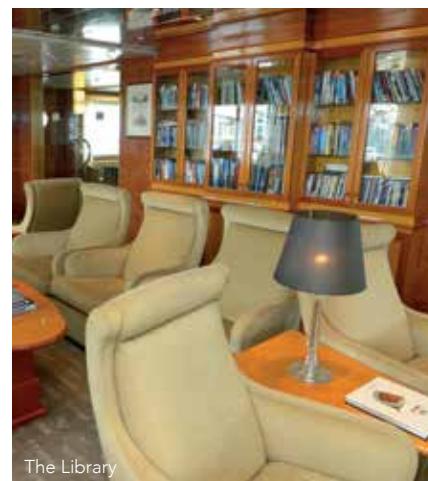
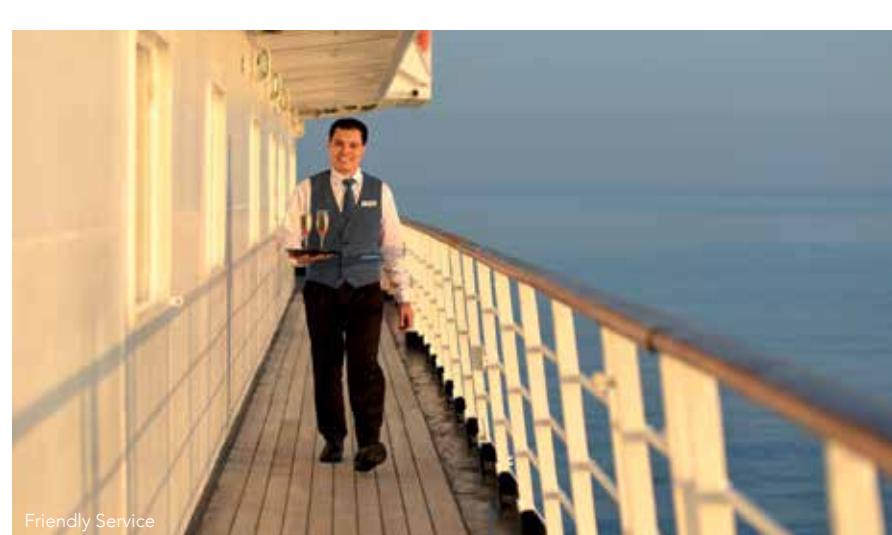
## Your Space



Reception

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 which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens.

In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The Club also offers 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 selection of games and two computers complete with complimentary internet access can also be found in The Library.



The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Amundsen Deck and is a bright and charming setting to enjoy the delicious meals on board.

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 which offers a fantastic platform for spotting wildlife complete with deck furniture, ideal for relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. You will also find a clinic and doctor on board and a lift that serves all decks. There is also a small hairdressers with appointments made on request. Smoking onboard is restricted to a specific area on deck.

Throughout the vessel you will notice a wide selection of artwork. With the assistance of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, we were able to secure some wonderful prints from the expeditions of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

“  
Afternoon tea complete with scones, cupcakes and freshly baked fruit cakes always proves popular.  
”



Owner's Balcony Suite, Shackleton Deck



## Your Suite MS Hebridean Sky



On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and fourteen suites have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood paneling 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 suites 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 rainfall shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Additional facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones will enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. The beds in each suite can be configured as twins or double with the exception of suite 601 and 602 which feature fixed double beds.

The impressive Hebridean Suite, located on the Shackleton Deck consists of a separate bathroom and sitting room with extra large balcony stretching the length of the suite. Additional benefits of booking this marvellous suite include complimentary internet usage, complimentary mini-bar stocked with your preferences and complimentary laundry.



Hebridean Suite, Shackleton Deck



Superior Suite, Byrd Deck



## Your Dining



It is quite a task and takes a team of highly talented chefs to deliver fresh, varied dishes no matter where you are at sea. Fortunately, our catering team are well adapted to the world of small ship cruising where no two days are the same and the menus are often scheduled and tailored around the days' excursions. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board is of a consistent superior quality. Where possible and when it meets their high standards, our accomplished chefs will obtain local produce in markets. Such purchases enhance the well-stocked larders and enable the chefs onboard to exhibit their culinary skills and bring a local touch to the varied menus, emphasising the international expertise of the chefs on board.

In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our onboard friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like-minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are à la carte with an excellent choice of dishes, with the menu often reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals and there is also a comprehensive wine list with a wide selection of new and old world wines from which to choose. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day 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. The onboard catering and restaurant staff are experienced at sea and enthuse a passion for superb service. Whether it be ensuring you have an outdoor blanket as you enjoy the crisp sea breeze on the Lido Deck or sharing their knowledge of the characteristics of the days' wine selections, you will experience a service on board like no other. You may also enjoy sumptuous barbeques on deck whilst at times, the chef will make your dish to order at special pasta or stir fry stations.

### *Captain's Welcome Dinner*

#### **Sample Menu**

##### **Appetizers**

Baby Shrimp Cocktail with Rhode Island Dressing  
Oven Baked Fresh Figs wrapped in Parma Ham with Wild Rocket and Balsamic Reduction

##### **Soups**

"Crème Ninon"  
Green Pea Soup topped with Champagne and Chantilly Cream  
Tomato Consommé with Tomato Concasse

##### **Salad**

"Caesar Salad"  
Crisp Romaine Lettuce with Croutons, Anchovies, Parmesan Cheese and Caesar Dressing

##### **Sorbet**

Citrus Sorbet on Pink Grapefruit Granite

##### **Main Dishes**

Fresh Local Catch of the Day  
Whole Oven Baked Fresh Sea Bass with Caramelized Lemon and Fresh Herbs, served with Pont Neuf Potatoes and Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables  
Slow Roasted Chateau Briand of Aberdeen Angus Tenderloin of Beef with a Truffle Sauce served with Cocotte Potato and Asparagus Wrapped in Bacon

Roast Breast and Confit of Duck Leg with Cointreau Sauce, served with Almond Potato and Braised Red Cabbage

Goats Cheese, Spinach and Wild Mushroom Lasagne, served with Gruyère Cheese Sauce and Parmesan Crisp

##### **Desserts**

Grand Marnier Soufflé with Orange Flavoured Vanilla Custard Sauce  
Bitter Chocolate Marquise with Pistachio Ice Cream  
Seasonal Fresh Fruits  
Selection of International Cheese



# Exploring Ashore & Expedition Cruising

Our inclusive pricing policy means that the majority of shore excursions are included in the price of your cruise. It is our belief that you do not go on holiday to be part of the all engulfing masses which descend on a town when a number of large ships dock at the same time. Arriving at a port for the first time should be an invigorating experience and can certainly be so when the right place is chosen and your arrival is on a small ship. With a maximum of only 118 passengers, there is no queuing to disembark or embark the MS Hebridean Sky for an excursion. When required there will only be three coaches waiting on the quayside to transport you to the day's attraction as opposed to a whole fleet waiting for the passengers travelling on the big ships. Due to its size, the MS Hebridean Sky has the freedom of the seas and can come alongside in small docks or drop anchor in any suitable spot.



## Expedition Cruising

Some of the voyages undertaken by the MS Hebridean Sky are expeditionary in nature and these will feature the expedition logo. On expedition cruises, in place of the customary Cruise Director and accompanying staff, you will be joined by an expedition team.

These hand-picked experts are naturalists, historians and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board. They will supervise the daily programme and hold talks and briefings throughout the cruise. The expedition teams have one aim, to make your trip as enjoyable, relaxing and informative as possible. We have over twenty five years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of the remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new and although we set sail with a set itinerary it is sometimes the unscheduled events that become the highlight of the journey.

## Zodiacs

Expeditions are defined by the use of Zodiacs, our versatile, inflatable boats, which provide a unique platform for observing wildlife or enjoying majestic landscapes from sea level, or a fast and safe way of going ashore in remote places. Expedition cruising is about getting off the beaten track, out of the way of other ships, of other visitors; it is about leaving the infrastructures of civilisation behind. We may not be far from civilisation, but we will often be out of sight of it. Our fleet of onboard Zodiacs are invaluable for our expeditions. These inflatable craft offer marvellous manoeuvrability allowing us access to otherwise impossible landing places. With these we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries, land in otherwise inaccessible places and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers. Zodiacs are safe, reliable and convenient boats that allow us to go from ship to shore, whether we land on a beach, on rocks, or on a concrete jetty. In many places which we visit during expedition cruises, they are the only way to go ashore. Zodiacs also enable the expedition team to offer Zodiac cruises during the voyage: near a seabird colony, next to a cliff, along a glacier front, or a beach where polar bears dwell. Zodiacs will also be used as platforms from where swimming and snorkelling can be conducted.

If you have any concerns or queries pertaining to expedition cruising and what it entails, please do not hesitate to contact one of our experienced travel consultants.



# Your Onboard Team



On all our voyages you will find informative staff on board and whilst exploring ashore you will be accompanied by excellent English-speaking local guides. Working with the Captain and crew,

our cruise staff are responsible for the day to day organisation of the itinerary and briefings and they are in regular contact with the Noble Caledonia office. We have the very best in their field and they are also joined by Guest Speakers who are chosen for their in-depth knowledge of a specific subject or geographical area. Briefings by the cruise staff and informal talks by our Guest Speakers add an extra dimension to all we see and do. Below are just some of the excellent team we have lined up to join our voyages aboard the MS Hebridean Sky in 2018. There are many more and full details of who will be joining you on board can be viewed at [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)



## Andrew Joynes – Guest Speaker

Andrew Joynes spent his childhood in Canada and worked as a researcher in Ottawa prior to reading Modern History at Oxford where he took a particular interest in 18th century naval expansion in the North Atlantic. During his career as a BBC producer Andrew made a number of programme-making trips to Canada, travelling extensively in Newfoundland gathering material for a series of BBC

World Service programmes about the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the territory by the Bristol-based seafarer John Cabot. He and his wife Daphne have recently been involved in researching the early Newfoundland years of James Cook, the Pacific explorer, who spent a number of surveying seasons in the North Atlantic before setting off on his first journey to the South Pacific in 1768. Andrew now works as a freelance writer and lecturer. Andrew lives in East Kent and is a registered guide at Canterbury Cathedral.



## Daphne Joynes – Guest Speaker

Daphne Joynes is an art historian who has worked for the Open University and University of Surrey. She is also a freelance lecturer who, since 1996, has led regular study tours to Italy. She also leads study days at the National Gallery in London and at the V&A and lectures for NADFAS and other groups. Although her principal professional field of interest relates to Renaissance art and culture, she takes a great interest in 19th-20th century North Atlantic art and has given talks about the land and seascapes of the North Atlantic as they feature in the work of North American, Canadian and European painters. Daphne also has a longstanding interest in 18th and early 19th century British naval history relating to the North Atlantic and Gulf of St Lawrence and, in 2012, published a paper under the aegis of the International Map Collectors' Society about a previously unknown chart of Newfoundland by Admiral Sir William Parker, a family ancestor. She has published a number of articles about Sir William Parker for the Captain Cook Society and, together with her lecturer husband Andrew has given a series of talks for various historical societies about Parker, Cook and the historical context of their times.



## Jeremy Black – Guest Speaker

Jeremy Black is a prolific historian with specialties in world military history, the history of tourism, and both the 18th and 20th century. Educated at Cambridge and Oxford, he is Professor at Exeter having previously been Professor at Durham. He received his MBE for services to stamp design.



## Major General Stephen Carr-Smith – Guest Speaker

Major General Stephen Carr-Smith served throughout much of the Cold War in Europe and then with NATO. On leaving the Army, he worked for a company providing security and mine clearance services in remote and hostile countries. He was also the Senior Military Advisor to an operational analysis company owned by British Aerospace and the Chairman of a company developing

opportunities to marry up Russian technology with western finance and production. He was the Ombudsman for Estate Agents (1999-2006), dealing with redress and financial compensation for buyers and sellers of residential property throughout the UK and is now a non-executive director on the Council that runs the National Land and Property Information Service (NLIS). Stephen Carr-Smith was the Honorary Colonel of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) from 1996-2006 – an all women, uniformed volunteer body that has supported the British Army for 100 years.



## Martin Sixsmith – Guest Speaker

Martin Sixsmith was the BBC's correspondent in Moscow, Washington, Brussels and Warsaw in the 1980s and 90s and worked as Director of Communications for the British Government from 1997 to 2002. He is now an author, presenter and journalist. His non-fiction books include Moscow Coup, The Litvinenko File, Putin's Oil and Russia: A Thousand Year Chronicle of the Wild East. He worked as

a consultant on the BBC2 political sitcom The Thick of It and the 2010 movie In the Loop. In 2011 he presented the BBC's 50-episode history of Russia on Radio Four. In 2013 his book The Lost Child of Philomena Lee was adapted into the film Philomena, starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. It was nominated for four Oscars. In 2014 he presented Radio 4's 25-part history of psychology and psychiatry. His new book Ayesha's Gift is the story of a young woman's search to discover the truth after her father is murdered in Pakistan.



## Jane Wilson – Expedition Leader

For the last 10 years Jane has worked on expedition cruise vessels (including some Russian polar ice strengthened and icebreaker vessels) as a Zodiac driver, lecturer and Expedition Leader in many remote corners of the world including South America, the Arctic and Antarctica, Europe, South-east Asia and the South Pacific. She also keeps her hand in the science pie as Voyage leader for the Australian Antarctic Division, being responsible for deploying support personnel, cargo and scientists to stations and field camps in Antarctica on the Australian research and re-supply icebreaker Aurora Australis. She is a keen skier and now calls the Rocky Mountains in Canada home.



## Neil James Horrocks – Cruise Director

Neil has been at sea since 2001, a year after he graduated in Pure Maths from the University of Manchester. During his career to date he has experienced everywhere from the Arctic to Antarctica and due to his passion for small-ship cruising was delighted to be welcomed into the Noble Caledonia family. An accomplished pianist, Neil is very much an all-rounder, with a keen sense of humour and eye for detail. He is equally comfortable interviewing political heavyweights, driving Zodiacs ashore or even writing evening quizzes. When not at sea, Neil lives on the south coast of England and tries to enjoy following the misfortunes of his local football team, Brighton & Hove Albion, and visiting steam railways up and down the country.



# *The Voyages*

“ Ships, especially little ships, have auras like people and houses. The aura is built up of many things. Human encounter is the main brace; add to this the company and shared experience, bad days and good, achievement and disappointment, even moments of danger. All this rubs off on the ship, growing with the places that she visits like richly colored beads threaded with string.

Keith Shackleton “Ship in the Wilderness” ”,

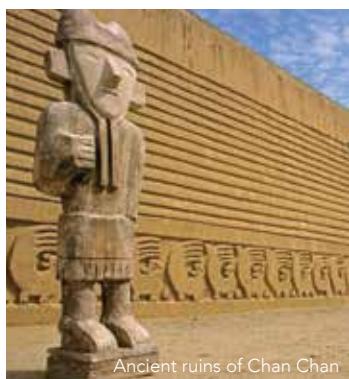


# Passage of the Condor

A Pacific coastal odyssey of Chile & Peru aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
19<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Our coastal cruise along the Pacific shores of South America will be dominated by the ever present Andes as we make our way from central Chile to Peru. This is one of the world's great expedition cruises. Few regions in the world offer the diversity and ecosystems of those found in this intriguing part of South America. From the towering snow-capped Andes to barren coastal desert, the landscapes are unparalleled.

Our voyage takes us along the nutrient-rich Humboldt Current that is a haven for an amazing concentration of seabirds, marine mammals and wildlife. To highlight the wildlife, we will be visiting the Islas Ballestas National Reserve, the Humboldt Penguin Nature Reserve and many other remote coastal sites and islands. This trip is as equally rich in geological, archaeological and cultural interest as well with visits included to the Pintados Geoglyphs, the Peruvian capital of Lima and the ruins of Chan Chan. There will also be the opportunity to join optional excursions to both the Atacama Desert and the Nazca Lines.



Ancient ruins of Chan Chan

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Santiago, Chile.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Santiago.** Arrive this morning and transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon join a city tour including the Presidential Palace, Plaza des Armas and the Cathedral before enjoying the view from San Cristobal Hill over the city. The remainder of the day and evening are free for independent arrangements.

**Day 3 Valparaiso.** After breakfast in the hotel we will make our way to the port of Valparaiso. Our route will take us through the Casablanca Valley, one of the country's premier wine areas and we will enjoy a tasting and lunch at one of the vineyards. We continue to Valparaiso, a city built on 42 hills, where we will enjoy a scenic drive to the Alegre

Hill to see the colourful houses before enjoying the views from the Yugoslavian Terrace over the bay. We will then take the funicular to Plaza Sotomayor to re-join our coach and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in the late afternoon.

**Day 4 Coquimbo.** This morning we enjoy a glimpse of the important port city of Coquimbo, with its strong British influence, and the regional capital of La Serena. One of Coquimbo's highlights is the picturesque Barrio Ingles. This historical quarter opposite the port stands as a testament to the strong British influence in this port city. British settlers arrived to the area in the mid-1800s and the legacy remains in the architecture of this barrio. Rising impressively above the city is the 91 metre Cross of the Third Millennium. After lunch in a local restaurant we head inland where the landscape transforms itself into a lush array of plantations and vineyards set amongst rolling hills. We will stop at the Gabriela Mistral Museum in the village of Montegrande, enjoy a pisco tasting in the Elqui Valley and have a stroll through the Main Square.

**Day 5 Isla Pajaros & Isla Chanaral.** Today we enjoy the benefits of small ship cruising as we use our Zodiacs to view the islands off the Chilean coast. Spend the morning at Isla Pajaros to view the colonies of cormorants, boobies and Humboldt penguins that reside here. Over lunch we continue our journey north to Isla Chanaral,

the largest in a series of islands once known as an important site for guano, a valuable agricultural fertilizer. The islands are protected today as a nature reserve that is home to sea lion colonies, nesting boobies, pelicans, cormorants as well as marine otters.

**Day 6 At sea.** Enjoy a day at sea as we continue our journey north.

**Day 7 Antofagasta.** Originally part of Bolivia and captured by Chile in the war of the Pacific in the late 19th century, Antofagasta is today a hub for the Chilean mining industry and handles most of the minerals from the Atacama. There will be the opportunity to join an optional overnight tour to the Atacama Desert to enjoy the sites of pre-Colombian, colonial and contemporary culture, the unique geology, volcanoes and lagoons and stay overnight in one of the desert hotels. We return to the ship in the evening of day 8 in Iquique. For those remaining on board we will take a walking tour around Plaza Colon and see the Clock Tower, the Old Customs House and the former Railway Station. Continue to the Huanchaca Ruins where we see the striking remains of a Bolivian silver refinery built in 1868 and closed in 1903 and see La Portada, a natural erosion-carved arch-like rock formation.

**Day 8 Iquique.** Arrive this morning in Iquique which grew in the 19th century due to the large deposits of sodium nitrate found in the area. On a morning excursion we will discover the desert and pampa region inland from Iquique and see the remains of a once flourishing nitrate town in Humberstone. Founded in 1872 at the junction of the Pan-American Highway and the road to Iquique, it is today a ghost town after it stopped operations in 1960. We continue to the Pintados Geoglyphs where over 60,000 square yards of hill slopes are decorated by more than 400 figures depicting humans, animals, birds or abstract shapes, isolated or arranged into thematic groups. The geoglyphs are estimated to date from 1,000 to 1,400 A.D. and are thought to be part of a votive centre.

**Day 9 Arica.** Enjoy a choice of excursions today from the port of Arica. A morning tour will provide an introduction to Arica's monuments



and historic buildings including the Customs House and Church of San Marcos, constructed by Gustave Eiffel in 1876. Afterwards continue outside of the city to see the geoglyph art on the nearby hillsides. A visit to the San Miguel Archaeological Museum reveals its fascinating display of Chinchorro Mummies, the oldest known mummies in the world dating back 7,000 years. We return to Arica via the Morro where the history and arms museum offers an insight into the battles of the War of the Pacific and also wonderful views over the city. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon. Alternatively have an early start and choose a full day tour to the Lauca National Park which straddles the Chilean / Bolivian border and offers a wealth of flora and fauna, interesting culture and history, and outstanding natural beauty. This journey features the region's unique Altiplanic scenery, from green agricultural oasis to desert hills, pre-Inca archaeological sites to snow-capped peaks, magnificent volcanoes and one of the highest altitude lakes in the world at Lake Chungara home to pink flamingos. (Please note that this tour will reach altitudes around 4,500m).

**Day 10 Matarani for Arequipa, Peru.** Here in the far south of Peru we call into the port of Matarani. Drive to the 'White City', as Arequipa is known. Our tour includes bustling Plaza de Armas dominated by the stunning neo-Renaissance Cathedral, set amidst colonial buildings. Later, visit Santa Catalina Convent, a beautiful walled citadel, which for four centuries housed a closed order of nuns. We will also take in the colonial district of Yanahuara, a short distance from the heart of the city. It is a charming area of narrow



cobblestone streets and old, white, volcanic stone houses. From here, there are magnificent views of the three volcanoes which overlook the city: Misti, Chachani and Pichu Pichu.

**Day 11 At sea.** Relax on board.

**Day 12 Isla Ballestas & Tambo Colorado.** Influenced by the cold Humboldt Current, Isla Ballestas marine preserve area serves as a breeding refuge for birds, resting areas for mammals and spawning grounds for many marine organisms. We take local boats from the port of Pisco to explore these unparalleled, fascinating islands where we should see a variety of seabirds, such as the very localised Peruvian booby, and mammals such as the southern sea lion. On our way back to the mainland we will pass the "candelabro" a giant figure etched into the coastal cliffs. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we travel to the Tambo Colorado, one of the best preserved Inca archaeological sites in Peru. Named after the abundant use of colour on the walls it was one of the administrative and military centres controlling the Pisco valley from its base on the main road between the coast and mountains. We will explore the site and see the structures built around the central plaza. Alternatively, there will be an opportunity to join an optional tour aboard a small aircraft for a bird's eye view of the famed Nazca Lines. These enormous geoglyphs etched in the desert floor date back to 2000 B.C. and can really only be truly appreciated from the air.

**Day 13 Callao for Lima.** This morning we arrive in Callao, the port for Lima. After breakfast we enjoy a tour of Lima city, which was founded by the conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535, and then named the 'City of Kings' by the Spaniards who took the city in name of the Spanish Crown. During

the vice royalty the city became the most important capital in the region, and as testament to this, today you can still see the imposing buildings that were constructed principally in the city centre. We will see the most important buildings in the Plaza Mayor, such as the Government Palace, the beautiful cathedral and the various small palaces and colonial balconies that adorn the capital of the Peruvian Republic, all of which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO thanks to its well preserved architecture.

**Day 14 Salaverry.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Salaverry at lunchtime and enjoy a choice of activities this afternoon. Either visit Huaca de la Luna to see the Huaca del Sol pyramids from the Moche culture, a remarkable pre-Inca civilisation. Continue on to the ruins of Chan Chan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the imperial capital of

the Chimu, where we explore the ruins of the largest adobe city in the world, marvelling at their skilful irrigation and engineering projects. Alternatively choose to drive a few miles inland to the intriguing desert city of Trujillo. This oasis city was founded by Pizarro in 1536 and still exudes much Spanish colonial charm. Visit the Casa Urquiza, a mansion containing pre-Columbian ceramics and the Plaza de Armas with its imposing 17th century cathedral.

**Day 15 At sea.** Our lecture programme will continue today and you will also view a slideshow of photos from your voyage before enjoying a Farewell Dinner this evening.

**Day 16 Guayaquil, Ecuador to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this afternoon.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£6995</b>	<b>£6695</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£7345</b>	<b>£7045</b>
Mawson	Premium	<b>£7700</b>	<b>£7400</b>
Mawson	Corner	<b>£8145</b>	<b>£7845</b>
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£9045</b>	<b>£8745</b>
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	<b>£9495</b>	<b>£9195</b>
Shackleton	Hebridean	<b>£10695</b>	<b>£10395</b>
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£9795</b>	<b>£9495</b>
Byrd	Superior for sole use	<b>£10285</b>	<b>£9985</b>

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight accommodation in Santiago on a bed and breakfast basis, half day Santiago tour, 13 nights' aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis including wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia onboard team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, excursions shown as optional.

**Ship to Shore:** Please note that we will be at anchor on day 5 and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to explore Isla Pajaros and Isla Chanaral and on day 12 when we will use local boats to tender ashore.

“

Few regions in the world offer the diversity and ecosystems of those found in this intriguing part of South America. From the towering snow-capped Andes to barren coastal desert, the landscapes are unparalleled.

”



## Pre & Post Cruise Extensions



### Pre-Cruise Easter Island Extension - 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Lying some 2300 miles off the coast of Chile is Easter Island, the most remote inhabited island in the world. A tiny volcanic triangle it was aptly named 'Navel of the World' by its early settlers. Surrounded by the vast Pacific, over 1200 miles from the nearest inhabited land, Easter Island is an archaeological treasure.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Santiago, Chile.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Santiago.** Arrive this morning and transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

**Day 3 Santiago.** This morning join a city tour including the Presidential Palace, Plaza des Armas and the Cathedral before enjoying the view from San Cristobal Hill over the city. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure.

**Day 4 Santiago to Easter Island.** After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to Easter Island where on arrival we will transfer to the Hotel Hanga Roa for a two night stay. After lunch, drive up the extinct volcano Rano Kau, appreciating on the way the view over the whole island and see its distinct geological features and proceed to a lookout point

at the Crater Lake. Afterwards drive to the ceremonial village of Orongo, where the birdman competition takes place and where the spectacular petroglyphs related to this culture can be seen. Return to our hotel where we will enjoy dinner this evening.

**Day 5 Easter Island.** This morning drive to the south coast and visit representative examples of un-restored platforms, Ahus Vaihu and Akahanga and then to Rano Raraku, a quarry with almost 900 stone statues, 397 of them still lying or standing at the slopes of the extinct volcano with a crater lake. From here visit Ahu Tongariki (restored with 15 Moais), the most recent and largest restoration on the island. Drive to the east coast and visit Ahu Te Pito Kura and the "Navel of the World". Last but not least visit we will visit the beach of Anakena with its restored Ahus Nau and Ature Huke. Here you will have the opportunity to enjoy the warm Pacific Ocean and a beach barbecue.

**Day 6 Easter Island to Santiago.** After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Santiago. Upon arrival transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel for your overnight stay. (Please then follow the main itinerary from Day 3).

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £2095 Single: £2595

**Price includes:** Two nights accommodation in Santiago including breakfast, return flights between Santiago and Easter Island, transfers, two nights accommodation at Hotel Hanga Rose on full board, excursions as detailed.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, gratuities.



### Post-Cruise Amazon Extension – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Enjoy a true jungle adventure in safety and comfort, staying at La Selva Lodge, an ecological reserve located in Ecuador's Amazon region. This is an accessible, yet pristine area of the Amazon where you can discover the wonders of nature.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Guayaquil to Quito.** Disembark the MS Hebridean Sky after breakfast and after a panoramic tour of Guayaquil transfer to the airport for our flight to Quito. On arrival, transfer to the Marriott Hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure or alternatively join a tour of Quito. Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.

**Day 2 Quito to the Amazon.** From Quito we will take a breathtaking 30 minute flight over the Andes to the Amazon basin and the small town of Coca. Upon arrival transfer to the Napo River where we embark covered motorised canoes for the two and a half hour journey to La Selva. Look out for herons, kingfishers and spoonbills and enjoy a packed lunch

on board. Once at La Selva, after an introductory rainforest briefing and short activity, the remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure to relax and choose your activities for the following few days before dinner this evening in the Lodge restaurant.

**Days 3 & 4 La Selva Lodge.** For the rest of our time at La Selva, activities will be designed in accordance to the number of groups at the lodge, weather, facilities, logistics and specific season of the year. The lodge offers a certain number of activities that will be provided in different schedules for each group. *For an overview of some of the activities offered please refer to our website.*

**Day 5 La Selva to Quito to London.** Depart this

morning and fly to Quito for our scheduled indirect return flight to London.

**Day 6 London.** Arrive this afternoon.

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1895 Single: £2195

**Price includes:** Overnight accommodation in Quito including dinner and breakfast, economy flight from Guayaquil to Quito, return flight between Quito and Coca, transfer by boat from Coca to La Selva Lodge, three nights accommodation at La Selva Lodge on full board, excursions and activities at La Selva with guides.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, gratuities.





# Circumnavigation of Cuba

Discover the hidden delights of Cuba aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

17<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

Cuba pulsates to a rhythm of a bygone age. A kaleidoscope of colour in the Caribbean Sea, the island is a visual feast for the traveller with glorious landscapes, powder white beaches set against a turquoise sea, verdant mountains, rolling tobacco fields, crumbling forts, delightful people and a lifestyle that is more 1930s than that of today. Despite a famously controversial political system and a humbled economy, the culture, architecture and landscape of the country remain as rich as ever. Very few cars travel the roads through the soft and gentle countryside, horse drawn carriages or pedal power are the order of the day. This is your chance to step back in time and enjoy the beauty of the landscape, the historic cities and take a rest from 21st century capitalism.

For this exploration we are working with our American associates, Zegrahm Expeditions and, with the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky as our base, we can enjoy great comfort and excellent food as we navigate our way around Cuba. A flexible itinerary and knowledgeable onboard team will enable us to make the most of each day, whether we are landing on remote beaches by Zodiac, watching out for wildlife or learning more of the history and culture of the places we are visiting. With just over 100 passengers, we can explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere on board.



## VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in Cuban culture as you visit with friendly locals, savour traditional cuisine, tour the Arte Corte interactive museum and enjoy musical performances, including a visit to the Casa de la Musica.
- Visit the citadel of San Pedro de la Roca in Santiago and take a walk through charming, colonial Cienfuegos; both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Snorkel over healthy coral reefs to view colourful tropical fish, turtles, stingrays, and other sea creatures.
- Stroll the atmospheric streets of Havana to discover stunning colonial architecture and plazas, where classic American cars complete the scene of a by-gone era.

a hair salon and museum that preserves the history of hairdressing in Cuba. This afternoon, embark the MS Hebridean Sky and set sail during dinner.

village of Moron, which offers horse-drawn carriages and small shops to browse. Spend the afternoon at sea as we make our way to Antilla.

**Day 4 Varadero.** Disembark in Varadero and today there will be a choice of tours. Either drive to Matanzas, intersected by three rivers and called the "City of Bridges" for the 17 bridges crossing them, and enjoy a morning city tour, including the Matanzas Museum which traces the city's history from 1693 to the present. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively, choose an excursion to La Arboleda, a riverside ranch where you can enjoy a nature walk, go horseback riding, take a swim, or simply relax in this peaceful setting. After a typical Cuban lunch, head out on a 4x4 jeep excursion through Rio Canimar Nature Park and take a cruise to admire the flora and fauna along the riverbanks. Continue to Cuevas de Bellamar, a fantastical cave system, before returning to the ship.

**Day 6 Antilla.** Disembark in Antilla and depart overland for a morning tour of Gibara. Enjoy stunning views from a hilltop Spanish fortress and stroll through the leafy Parque Calixto Garcia on your way to the wonderful Museum of Natural History. Our tour will end at Baker's Cave, where you may choose to take a dip in the underground lake before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively, board a private catamaran for a full day excursion to Cayo Saetia, an island nature reserve with a wealth of local and exotic wildlife, such as zebra, wild boar, water buffalo, and a variety of birds.

**Day 7 Santiago de Cuba.** After a relaxing morning at sea arrive in the port of Santiago de Cuba. Founded in 1514, this World Heritage Site was the starting point for expeditions led by Cortés and de Soto. Our afternoon tour will begin at San Juan Hill where, during the Spanish-American War, the conquest of Spanish troops led to Spain's surrender in 1898. Next visit Moncada Garrison, where a young

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Havana, Cuba.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Upon arrival transfer to the Melia Cohiba Hotel (or similar) for your two night stay.

**Day 2 Havana.** After an early breakfast, depart overland to Pinar del Rio, Cuba's primary tobacco growing region. Visit a local family-run farm to witness the process of creating Cuba's legendary cigars. After lunch at the farm continue to the Viñales Valley. This World Heritage Site offers some of the most spectacular scenery in

Cuba, with dramatic karst outcroppings punctuating the verdant landscape. In Cueva del Indio (Indian Cave), board a boat for a cruise along the subterranean river. Return to Havana for dinner and an overnight stay.

**Day 3 Havana.** Get acquainted with Old Havana - a UNESCO World Heritage Site - on a walking tour this morning. After lunch make a stop at El Floridita Bar - the birthplace of the daiquiri and one of Hemingway's favourite watering holes. En route we will visit Arte Corte,

Fidel Castro led an armed assault on the barracks in 1953—the first salvo in the Cuban Revolution. Inside you will find the Museo de la Clandestinidad, covering the period from the Spanish conquest to the guerrilla movement of the 1959 revolution in the Sierra Maestra Mountains. Admire some of the island's most amazing architecture and historical sites in Parque Céspedes, the heart and soul of Santiago de Cuba. Visit the Cathedral and the First Governor's House, home to the Colonial History Museum, as well as the Emilio Bacardi Moreau Museum. After dinner on board, step out to enjoy some local nightlife with Cuban music at Casa de la Musica.

**Day 8 At Sea.** Enjoy a relaxing day at sea and perhaps attend a lecture or two.

**Day 9 Casilda for Trinidad.** Arrive in Casilda this morning and drive to Trinidad, a picture-perfect Spanish colonial town which seems frozen in time. Take a walking tour around Trinidad; a living-museum of Spanish colonialism, the entire city was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and an afternoon at leisure or opt for a full day at Guanaya National Park. Hike through the jungle and learn about the various species of indigenous plants, some of which are still used as herbal remedies. Enjoy lunch at Casa La Gallega, a delightful Creole restaurant surrounded by tropical flowers 1,800 feet above sea level.

**Day 10 Cienfuegos.** With its French spirit and fabulous setting along Cuba's most spectacular bay, Cienfuegos has earned UNESCO status for its outstanding architecture, which you will discover on a guided walking tour. Then depart overland for the UNESCO-designated Zapata Wetland region. View some of the local wildlife at the Fiesta Campesina zoo-park before touring the Playa

Giron (Bay of Pigs) Museum; located at the site of the unsuccessful military invasion by US-backed anti-Castro forces in April 1961.

**Day 11 Cayo Largo.** This idyllic Caribbean island offers pristine white-sand beaches, mangrove forest, and crystal-clear waters. Spend the day snorkelling, beachcombing, or simply relaxing on a picture-perfect beach.

**Day 12 Punta Frances, Isla de la Juventud.** Arrive this morning on stunning Isla de Juventud with its breathtaking beaches, lush forests and healthy coral reefs. Join naturalists on walks to search for indigenous flora and fauna, explore the rich marine environment or soak in your surroundings on an exquisite tropical beach.

**Day 13 Maria la Gorda.** Isolated Maria La Gorda is one of the most diverse biological regions in the world—home to a variety of different natural habitats, including coral reefs, beaches, mangroves, scrublands, and evergreen forests with more than 170 species of birds and dozens of reptile and mammal species. Spend the morning snorkelling and searching for wildlife on nature walks before we set sail for Havana and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea.

**Day 14 Havana to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London.** Arrive this morning.



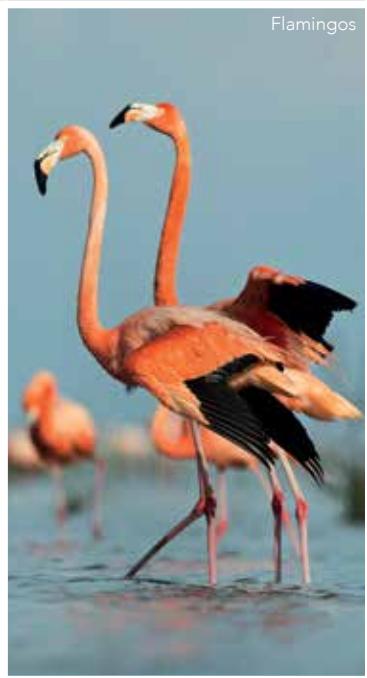
Exploring by Zodiac



Cayo Guillermo



Cienfuegos



Flamingos



Trinidad



Havana

## 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
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£7795</b>	<b>£7295</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£7995</b>	<b>£7495</b>
Mawson	Premium	<b>£8295</b>	<b>£7795</b>
Mawson	Corner	<b>£8595</b>	<b>£8095</b>
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£8995</b>	<b>£8495</b>
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	<b>£9495</b>	<b>£8995</b>
Shackleton	Hebridean	<b>£10195</b>	<b>£9695</b>
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£9795</b>	<b>£9295</b>
Byrd	Superior for sole use	<b>£9995</b>	<b>£9495</b>

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Havana on a full board basis, 11 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visa.

# From the Colonial South to New York

A springtime voyage along the East Coast of America aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
6<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Here is a fascinating voyage along the United States eastern seaboard and the perfect springtime journey for those who enjoy stunning coastal scenery, alluring architecture and quaint colonial towns contrasting with large metropolises – a veritable mix of culture and history. During our two week journey, the MS Hebridean Sky will traverse a great swathe of North America whilst our Guest Speaker and enthusiastic local guides will bring the history of the region to life. From the arrival of the British to the American Revolution and beyond, we will learn of the history of the United States from early exploration through to modern times.

After embarking the MS Hebridean Sky in Nassau, there will be a relaxing day at sea before we arrive into Florida and commence our voyage along the coastline of the Southern States. We arrive into Savannah, an elegant city founded in 1733 and see some of its enchanting architecture before heading to beautifully preserved Charleston in South Carolina, the birthplace of the Civil War. Of course when planning a voyage along the eastern coast we couldn't omit the great cities of Washington, Philadelphia and New York however, for many, it will be the less well known ports of call we will visit which will be the most memorable. We will spend time exploring North Carolina's historic Wilmington and, further north, elegant Beaufort, an attractive fishing town with magnificent antebellum homes and gardens. Next we step back in time in colonial Williamsburg which is a living museum of the 18th century with its cobble streets, reconstructed houses and authentically dressed guides.

Continuing our passage north, we explore Washington D.C. and Philadelphia before sailing along the Hudson River for Poughkeepsie where one of America's most famous sons, Franklin D Roosevelt, is immortalised in the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, and his wife Eleanor is honoured in her home Val-Kill. As our voyage approaches its end, we continue along the Hudson to the iconic city of New York, a fitting end for our voyage.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Nassau, Bahamas.**  
Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Sail before dinner.

**Day 2 At sea.** Spend a relaxing day at sea as we make our way to the American coast.

**Day 3 Port Canaveral, Florida.** Arrive this morning in Port Canaveral, our base for the day and from where there will be a choice of tours. You can choose to either tour the Kennedy Space Centre, offering a rare and behind the scenes look at one of mankind's most fascinating and remarkable achievements – the space programme. Alternatively, enjoy an airboat trip through the fresh water marshes and wetland hammocks of beautiful St Johns River and be on the lookout for alligators and bald eagles.

**Day 4 Savannah, Georgia.** After a morning at sea we will arrive in Savannah and this afternoon discover Fort Jackson which was built in 1808 and is the oldest standing fort in Georgia. We continue to the Historic District of Savannah and explore its restored 18th and 19th century buildings and the waterfront where cotton warehouses are now restaurants, hotels, and shops. Here we find exquisite ironwork, ancient cobblestones, splendid mansions and picturesque cottages. We will visit one of the most elegant houses in Savannah and see the magnificent



Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and the Massie Heritage Centre which interprets the history of Savannah.

**Day 5 Charleston, South Carolina.** The city of Charleston is brimming with history and culture. It was the scene of the major Revolutionary War naval battles, tales of pirates and Civil War sieges. We will moor for the day in the heart of this living museum on the banks of the Ashley River, one of the best places to appreciate the southern antebellum culture. Our tour will include a boat ride to Fort Sumter and the historic district including St Michael's Church and the Confederate Museum. The afternoon will be at leisure to explore the city independently or relax on board.

**Day 6 Wilmington, North Carolina.** Situated between the sea and Cape Fear River, historic Wilmington was founded in 1739. It was named in honour of Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington, who was a patron of North Carolina's Governor at the time. To this day, visitors are reminded of its rich history by the grand old homes and tree-lined boulevards making Wilmington one of the most beautiful small cities in the south. Our visit will include the beautiful antebellum Bellamy Mansion and Thalian Hall, a working historic 1858 theatre which is listed on the national register of historic places. After lunch on board shuttle buses will be available for those who wish to explore the city independently.

Capitol Building, Washington D.C.



Bellamy Mansion, Wilmington



**Day 7 Morehead City for Beaufort, North Carolina.** Arrive this morning in Morehead City from where we travel across to elegant Beaufort, a quaint fishing town with magnificent antebellum homes and gardens. There will be an opportunity to tour the North Carolina Maritime Museum and stroll around the old town or visit the wild horses of Shackleford Banks, a unique historic and cultural legacy, where their descendants reportedly swam ashore from a sinking Spanish ship in the 16th century. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea sailing south to Norfolk, Virginia.

**Day 8 Norfolk, Virginia.** From the port of Norfolk, our excursion this morning leads to historic Colonial Williamsburg, the capital of the Virginia colony from 1699 to 1780. Once the political and economic centre of the Virginia colony, Williamsburg is the nation's premier living museum, offering visitors a glimpse of life as it was in the 17th and 18th centuries. A guided tour leads us along the Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg's main thoroughfare, past the Capitol, the courthouse, the Governor's Palace and the historic Bruton Parish Church, where Episcopal services have been held since 1715.

**Days 9 & 10 Baltimore, Maryland.** Arrive this morning in Baltimore, a truly great American city full of colonial and maritime history and our base for the next two days. Join a full day tour to Washington D.C. and Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington. For more than forty years, George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the American forces in the Revolutionary War and the first President of the United States, called Mount Vernon home. We will

visit the Mansion, more than a dozen original structures, Washington's Tomb, and nearly 50 acres of his extensive plantation. The estate also includes a working blacksmith shop and the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. After lunch we will set off for Washington, D.C., enjoying a drive around the US capital including the Capitol Building, Washington Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and the White House. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky in the late afternoon and remain moored overnight. The following day our morning tour will include Fort McHenry, best known for its role in the War of 1812 and now a National Monument and the vibrant hub of Fells Point, steeped in maritime history. We will end at the inner harbour where we climb to the "Top of the World" observation deck with views over the harbour and beyond. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore Baltimore at leisure, relax on board or shuttle buses will be provided for those who wish to return to Washington.

**Day 11 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** Philadelphia is where Americans defended their liberty, achieved technological success and forged the ideals of the American Dream. The city was once the second largest in the British Empire and the social centre of the original 13 American colonies. Furthermore, it was the home of many ideas and actions which gave birth to the American Revolution and American independence, and it is where the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776. Spend the morning exploring the city including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Centre before we set sail for Poughkeepsie during lunch.

**Day 12 Poughkeepsie.** Spend a relaxing morning on board as we

sail along the Hudson River for Poughkeepsie where we arrive after lunch. Our afternoon tour will include a visit to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, conceived by Franklin D. Roosevelt to house the many historic papers, books and memorabilia he accumulated throughout his life. After privately raising funds to build the site, he donated it to the National Archives to ensure that the public would have access to such important documents. We also visit Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, a National Historic Site. Wander the bucolic grounds and visit the cottage where Eleanor lived until her death.

**Day 13 New York.** To stand on deck whilst we sail into New York City past the Statue of Liberty is a truly breathtaking experience. On arrival into New York, enjoy the city highlights of Manhattan as we pass the Empire State building, Central Park and Times Square. The afternoon is free to explore independently. Maybe visit the

legendary artists and writers' quarter of Greenwich Village, enjoy shopping on Fifth Avenue, visit one of the world famous galleries such as the Guggenheim in the Upper East Side or the Museum of Natural History. If you prefer to escape from the hubbub, enjoy a stroll around Central Park or along the Highline. We will remain moored overnight and so have the whole evening to enjoy this iconic city.

**Day 14 New York to London.** We will disembark after breakfast and will take one of the ferries at Battery Park to enjoy a morning at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Here we will see the location where around 12 million steerage and third class steamship passengers were processed for immigration into the USA between 1892 and 1954. Now a museum, we will get a fascinating insight into the immigrant's experience. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before we transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

**Day 15 London.** Arrive this morning.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£7795</b>	<b>£7395</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£7995</b>	<b>£7595</b>
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Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£9795</b>	<b>£9395</b>
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**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, gratuities, onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

# From New York to Nova Scotia

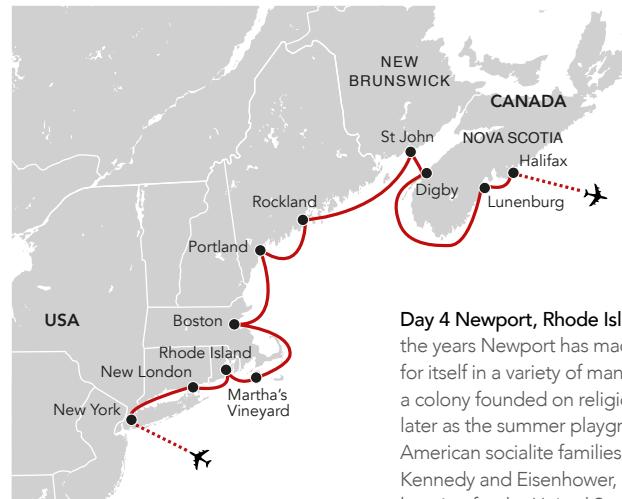
A voyage along America's East Coast to Canada aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
19<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Join us for what promises to be a fascinating voyage from New York to Nova Scotia including the beautiful and dramatic coast of New England. We explore both charming coastal towns that boast the best preserved colonial architecture in North America and the sprawling metropolises of New York City and Boston, brimming with culture, history and entertainment. There is plenty for nature lovers too from the rich flora and fauna along the Connecticut River Valley to the great natural beauty of the Canadian Maritimes.

We begin our journey in the iconic city of New York from where we have the added advantage of an overnight mooring allowing you to perhaps take in a show on Broadway or dine ashore. Setting sail from New York, to name just a few highlights, we visit Martha's Vineyard, filled with charming shops, restaurants and glorious beaches upon which to take a gentle stroll and Boston, elegant and sophisticated, with cobbled streets and turn of the century homes. From here we discover Cambridge, with its plethora of arts and culture, a seat of learning like its English namesake before a relaxing journey north takes us to Portland where we explore the fascinating history of this region that played such an influential role in the settlement of the British and eventually their expulsion. We continue along the rugged and beautiful coastline of the sprawling state of Maine where we call into the charming port of Rockland.

Upon reaching Maritime Canada we witness a slower pace of life and one that honours land and sea with a cultural mix of early French, Irish, Scottish and English influences. We will visit the expansive coastal wilderness and birdlife of the Fundy Trail, the charming countryside and vineyards of the Annapolis Valley and the picturesque village of Lunenburg, in Nova Scotia, the region's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. Nestled on a hilly peninsula, this 19th century village is known for its shipbuilding, seafaring expertise and its natural beauty. We end our cruise in the bustling city of Halifax with its pretty waterfront area and centuries-old maritime heritage.

Cliff Walk Mansion, Newport, Rhode Island



## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to New York, America.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. We will remain moored overnight and so have the whole evening to enjoy this iconic city.

**Day 2 New York.** This morning enjoy the city highlights of Manhattan as we pass the Empire State building, Central Park and Times Square. The afternoon is free to explore independently. Maybe visit the legendary artists and writers' quarter of Greenwich Village, enjoy shopping on Fifth Avenue, visit one of the world famous galleries such as the Guggenheim in the Upper East Side or the Museum of Natural History. If you prefer to escape from the hubbub, enjoy a stroll around Central Park or along the Highline. We will set sail this evening after dinner. To stand on deck whilst we sail out of New York City past the Statue of Liberty is a truly breathtaking experience.

**Day 3 New London, Connecticut.** Arrive this morning into the lovely sea port city of New London. It was founded in 1646 by John Winthrop Jr, who led the first English to settle here and is named after our very own capital city of England. On our tour today we will join the Essex steam train followed by a cruise on a river boat and both rides will showcase the blooming flora and fauna along the Connecticut River Valley, enjoy close up views of wildlife in the tidal wetlands of Pratt Cove and Chester Creek and see historic sites such as the East Haddam Swing Bridge, Goodspeed Opera House, and Gillette Castle.

**Day 4 Newport, Rhode Island.** Through the years Newport has made a name for itself in a variety of manners, first as a colony founded on religious freedom, later as the summer playground for the American socialite families including Kennedy and Eisenhower, also as a key location for the United States Navy, and then as the yachting centre it is today. A principal 18th century port city, Newport now boasts amongst the highest number of surviving colonial buildings of any city in the United States. Our morning tour will explore the opulent Oceanside mansions including the Breakers and Marble house designed for the Vanderbilts in the late 19th century. We return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore independently.

**Day 5 Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.** Over a century ago, Martha's Vineyard was one of the world's most important whaling centres. Today, its picturesque landscape of fishing villages and beautiful beaches is home to local, summertime and celebrity residents. On a morning tour we will visit the village of West Tisbury, see the 'gingerbread cottages' of Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, an architectural gem of 18th and 19th century sea captains' houses and other historic buildings. Later, you will have the opportunity to stroll along the harbour or discover the town's fine boutiques and restaurants.

**Day 6 Boston, Massachusetts.** This morning we explore Boston and Cambridge. Founded in 1630 as the first seat of government for the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Cambridge has developed into an international community, merging history, education, arts and culture. Stroll the historically elegant Brattle Street with its outstanding collection of Tory mansions including the Longfellow House National Historic Site, a treasure chest of historic artefacts. In Boston, visit the Old North Church, where Paul Revere began his famous ride, and discover the Beacon



Portland Head Lighthouse, Maine



Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Hill neighbourhood, with lovely turn-of-the-century homes and cobblestone streets.

**Day 7 Portland, Maine.** Arrive this morning into Portland's historic Old Port district brimming with charming boutiques and quaint cafes. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow immortalized Portland when he wrote 'My Lost Youth.' We will enjoy a tour of the city highlights including a stop at the Portland Head Light, America's first lighthouse. It was commissioned by George Washington and built in 1787 to guard what was then the state's busiest harbour. The Old Port Exchange with its cobblestone streets is the core of the cultural revival that extends to the art district with its marvellous museum and art school. Alternatively, we hope to be able to offer a full day tour to the summit of Mount Washington, offering spectacular views, spanning the mountains and valleys of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont and north into Canada.

**Day 8 Rockland, Maine.** Called Catawanteak, meaning "great landing place" by the Abenaki Indians, Rockland harbour is one of the finest shipping and recreational boating harbours on the East Coast. Rockland combines historic preservation with chic stores and is a great place to spend a day. On a morning tour our local Rockland guide will inform us of the history of this harbour town as we visit the highlights including the famous Farnsworth Art Museum including the permanent collection called "Maine in America," which focuses on Maine artists and The Wyeth Centre. After the tour you may wish to return to the ship or alternatively continue to Sharp's Point South Marina, situated on the grounds of the historic Snow Shipyard, where before the turn of the last century, more schooners were built than anywhere in New England. Upon arrival watch the unveiling of a traditional, old-fashioned lobster bake luncheon and enjoy music performed by a local band while you dine before

returning to the MS Hebridean Sky and setting sail for Canada.

**Day 9 St John, New Brunswick, Canada.** Arrive this morning into St John, the only city on the shore of the Bay of Fundy and home to the world's highest tides. Saint John is Canada's first incorporated city, a celebrated wooden shipbuilding centre with a colourful history. Today, the quaint "Uptown" area is laden with Victorian-influenced architecture, brick walkways, historic churches, town squares and flowers blooming around old-fashioned lamp posts. On our morning tour we will have the opportunity to see the Reversing Rapids, a unique phenomenon created by the collision of the Bay of Fundy's monstrous tides and the mighty St John River. After lunch choose to discover St John at leisure or join a scenic drive to the picturesque hamlet of St Martins, an area of great natural beauty and the gateway to the Fundy Trail, the last undeveloped stretch of wilderness coast in North America. Famous for its red cliffs, echo caves and birdwatching there will be time to explore the area before we return to the ship.

**Day 10 Digby, Nova Scotia.** Arrive this morning into Digby, a small town nestled in a protected inlet off the Bay of Fundy. Digby will be our base for today and from where we will visit the Annapolis Valley, an area of great natural beauty and rich history, including the expulsion in 1755 of the Acadians, descendants of French colonists. The main breadbasket for colonial Canada, it still produces much of Nova Scotia's fresh produce and with a climate and soil that favours unique and distinctive grape varietals, Annapolis Valley is now producing several of Canada's award winning wines. We will visit one of the wineries and enjoy a tasting before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

#### Day 11 Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

After a relaxing morning at sea we will arrive into Lunenburg during lunch. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour through the UNESCO World Heritage awarded town of Lunenburg. Established in 1753, the Old Town is the best surviving example of a planned British colonial settlement in North America. Named in honour of King George II who was also the Duke of Braunschweig-Lunenburg, the architecture of this seaside town reflects a strong European influence due to the settlement of 'Foreign Protestants' from Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. We visit stunning historical buildings and stately heritage homes as we explore the Old Town and visit the aquarium at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.

**Day 12 Halifax.** The capital of Nova Scotia and the largest city in Canada's Atlantic Provinces, Halifax was once Great Britain's major

military bastion in North America. The beautifully restored waterfront buildings of Halifax's Historic Properties recall the city's centuries-old maritime heritage. Our morning tour will include the Halifax citadel which lies on a natural drumlin overlooking the entire city with superb views of the harbour. Explore the restored barrack, magazine and corridors before continuing to the Fairview Lawn Cemetery where 121 victims of the Titanic disaster are buried and finally see the Victorian Public Gardens, an oasis in the centre of the bustling city. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax on board or return to further explore Halifax.

#### Day 13 Halifax to London.

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

**Day 14 London.** Arrive this morning.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
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**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team including Guest Speaker, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**Ship to Shore:** Please note that we will be at anchor at the following ports and will use local boats to tender ashore: Newport, Martha's Vineyard, Rockland, Digby and Lunenburg.

# Circumnavigation of Newfoundland

An in-depth exploration of Newfoundland aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
31<sup>st</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018

In creating an extraordinary itinerary such as this, there are a few dilemmas regarding the highlights of the trip. There are just too many and it is therefore difficult to list them in order of merit. Top of the list for many will be the excellent opportunities for whale watching – humpback, minke and even orcas, whilst others will be fascinated by the colonial and maritime history and for some the majestic scenery will be reason enough.

If all this were not enough, we will see the remains of an ancient Viking settlement, visit both France's oldest and smallest overseas territory, St Pierre, as well as North America's oldest city, St John's. We will see some extraordinary geological formations, perhaps cruise past some floating icebergs and learn more of the flora and fauna of this picturesque region. In many places we will meet the people, particularly in the small settlements, learn about their lives and their heritage.

The itinerary offers a comfortable mix of sophisticated cities and towns with the great Canadian outdoors. We will see some stunning scenery, encounter marine-life and enjoy the interesting blend of cultures for which Eastern Canada is famous whilst returning each day to the comfort of the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Halifax, Canada.**  
Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Set sail this evening before dinner.

**Day 2 Louisbourg, Nova Scotia.**  
Spend a relaxing morning at sea as we sail along the Canadian coast. Arrive

during lunch in Louisbourg where we visit the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, the largest historical reconstruction in North America. The French began building the fortress in 1719 to serve as the first line of defence against the British in their struggle for North America.

**Day 3 St Pierre & Miquelon, France.**  
Arrive this morning in St Pierre, France's oldest and smallest overseas territory. Jacques Cartier claimed the islands of St Pierre and Miquelon for France in 1536, after they were discovered by the Portuguese in 1520. At the end of the Seven Year's War in 1763, the islands were turned over to Britain, only to be given back to France in 1816, where they have remained ever since. This morning there will a choice of tours, enjoy a walking tour of St Pierre, a charming town, which maintains a truly French heritage and see Hotel Robert the "home away from home" of Al Capone during the prohibition years. Alternatively take the ten minute ferry journey over to Ile aux Marins, a beautiful island with spectacular



Humpback whale breaching

coastal vistas, wildflowers and interesting architecture. Explore independently or join your guide on a visit including the town hall, school house museum and see the colourful local houses.

**Day 4 St John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada.** North America's oldest city sits on the slopes of an inviting and sheltered harbour and since 1497, explorers, adventurers and pirates have all found their way here. In 1583 it was claimed by Sir Humphrey Gilbert for Elizabeth I, an event hailed as the birthplace of the British Empire. On a morning tour we will take a scenic drive along the coast to Cape Spear and enjoy the dramatic setting of the continent's extreme edge while exploring the tunnels and fortifications that protected the gateway to the New World during the wars of the 20th century. Return to St John's and on our tour of the city see the colourful wooden houses, stone churches and modern structures offering a wonderful blend of old and new. We will end our tour at Signal Hill, where Marconi received the first transatlantic wireless

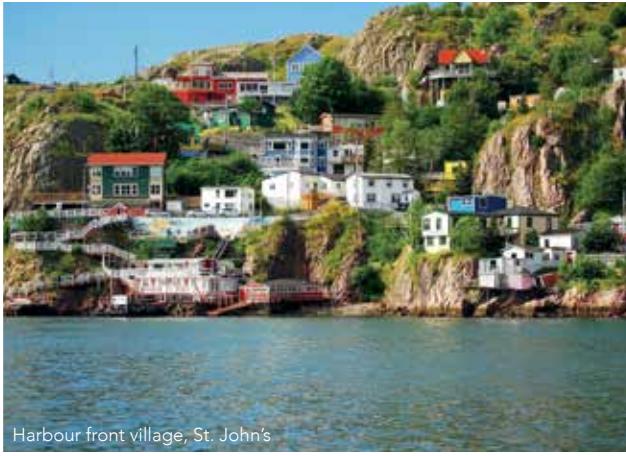
signal, before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch. The afternoon will be at leisure for independent exploration.

**Day 5 Twillingate.** After a morning at sea arrive at the picturesque island of Twillingate. Originally named Toulinquet by the French, in the early 1700s it became Twillingate to the English settlers who could not speak or read the French language. This is an island that embodies everything so many Newfoundland and Labrador outports are famous for: stunningly-rugged coastline, historical, picturesque streets and lush countryside roads. On our afternoon tour we will make use of the school buses and be accompanied by local guides to see the Auk island winery, Long Point Lighthouse and the Twillingate Museum.

**Day 6 L'Anse aux Meadows and St Anthony.** We will disembark this morning in L'Anse aux Meadows and visit the only authenticated Viking settlement in North America and a UNESCO Site. The site features a



L'Anse aux Meadows



Harbour front village, St. John's



Cape Spear

recreation of sod houses where you can experience life as it was 1000 years ago and the Interpretation Centre tells the story of the hearty adventurers who braved the North Atlantic in small boats. From here we will make our way to St Anthony, a staging point for many northern expeditions, and enjoy lunch en-route. Arctic explorers used its sheltered harbour to take on sled dogs and other supplies as the world raced for the North Pole. Our afternoon tour will include the interpretation centre that tells the story of the inspirational Dr Grenfell, the young English doctor who, in 1892, visited St Anthony and founded the Grenfell Mission. We will visit his home and view the artefacts gathered from a life of arctic adventures and global philanthropy before re-embarking the MS Hebridean Sky in St Anthony.

**Day 7 Red Bay.** Beginning in the 1500s, Basque whalers operated out of the Red Bay harbour, making it at one time the largest whaling station in the world. The area includes six hundred acres of terrestrial and aquatic protected area. Among the important artefacts found at Red Bay is the whaling ship San Juan which was lost in a storm in 1565 and found

centuries later submerged in the harbour in only ten metres of water. A large number of tools, personal items, and navigational instruments have been recovered from the wreck. On our morning tour enjoy a tour of the surrounding countryside, drive through scenic Labrador villages, see the Pointe Armour lighthouse and be on the lookout for whales. After lunch on board our afternoon tour will concentrate on Red Bay and its history. We will visit the Parks Canada Museum and learn about the story of the whales, the whalers and the vessels they used before making our way to the Community Museum dedicated to the people who, over the centuries, have called Red Bay their home. Our tour will end with a trip to Saddle Island, an archaeological site that gives an insight into the first large-scale whaling station in the world, 500 years since it closed.

**Day 8 Woody Point.** Woody Point will be our base today as we explore Gros Morne National Park. Stretching across 1805 square kilometres of western Newfoundland, the park encompasses tiny seaside communities, forests, bogs, barren lowlands and striking

shorelines. The area is world renowned for its complex geology, it was here that geologists proved the theory of plate tectonics. This morning we will visit Tablelands, a 600-metre plateau which forms one of the world's best examples of ancient rock exposed from the earth's mantle, we will appreciate its unique physical nature and the distinctive plants that make this landform home. In the afternoon there will be the option to explore the north coast of Gros Morne and the Western Brook Pond or, for the more active, the opportunity to join a spectacular hike through the wetlands and forest to a series of waterfalls and look out for wandering moose.

**Day 9 Cap aux Meules, Iles de la Madeleine.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea and arrive at Cap aux Meules, part of the Iles de la Madeleine archipelago, after lunch. Here spectacular red sandstone cliffs jut out of the sea on the northern coasts of the 12 main islands. Sand dunes creating lagoons, adjacent wetlands, and miles of windswept beaches link most islands. On our afternoon tour we will make use of the school buses and visit the island including La Vernière Church, the second largest

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During our exploration of Newfoundland, we will see some stunning scenery, encounter marine-life and enjoy the interesting blend of cultures for which Eastern Canada is famous whilst returning each day to the comfort of the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky.

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wooden church in North America and constructed from wood retrieved from ship wrecks.

**Day 10 Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.** Arrive this morning in Charlottetown, where in 1864, the Confederation Conference set in motion a series of events that led to the birth of the nation of Canada. A picturesque town with colourful clapboard houses, converted warehouses and striking churches it is a lovely place to spend the day. Enjoy a morning tour inland, passing through a green patch work of rolling fields and gabled farm houses, to Cavendish and Green Gables, the farmstead that inspired the setting for LM Montgomery's famous character Anne of Green Gables. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore Charlottetown independently.

**Day 11 Pictou, Nova Scotia.** The town of Pictou, located on the beautiful Northumberland shore of Nova Scotia, Canada, is renowned as the "Birthplace of New Scotland" as it was here where the first wave of Scottish immigrants landed in 1773. A short, scenic drive from the port will take us to Atlantic Canada's largest museum to discover the people, places and machines of Nova Scotia's industrial past. A selection of food and drink producers will be on hand to explain their techniques and offer tastings of their goods, providing exposure to some of the best of Nova Scotia. This afternoon is

at leisure, perhaps relax on board or visit Heritage Quay independently and learn more about the first wave of Scottish settlers to land on Pictou on board the sailing ship Hector.

**Day 12 Port Hawkesbury.** On our full day tour today we will travel from Port Hawkesbury to the beautiful resort town of Baddeck situated on an inlet of the lovely Bras d'Or lakes. It was here that Alexander Graham Bell spent the last 37 years of his life and the location of the Alexander Graham Bell Museum which does full justice to his outstanding accomplishments. As well as inventing the telephone he made remarkable contributions to the fields of medicine, genetics, electricity, sound and speech, as well as aeronautics and marine engineering. The Museum itself is architecturally striking, as its design is based on the tetrahedron form Bell used for his flight test kites. After lunch in a local restaurant we will further explore Cape Breton's scenic beauty as we discover a small section of the Cabot trail, the historic route that linked the isolated Scottish, English and Acadian communities during colonial times. Return to the ship mid-afternoon and set sail for Halifax.

**Day 13 Halifax to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

**Day 14 London.** Arrive this morning.



Red cliffs, Ile du Cap aux Meules

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£7395</b>	<b>£6995</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£7595</b>	<b>£7195</b>
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**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**Ship to Shore:** This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside on many days, on others we may be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the planned itinerary for days 6 to 8 especially. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.



# Circumnavigation of Iceland



Discover Iceland's wonders from aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
27<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018



If you want to see nature in the raw, where better than the 'Land of Ice and Fire' - Iceland. Europe's least populated country offers the visitor an unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work. Its largely deserted interior is dotted with huge ice-caps and glaciers, active volcanoes, gurgling mud pools, steaming hot springs and lava fields. And, if this is not enough, the immense scale of the landscape is dominated by towering snow-capped mountains and thundering waterfalls. Under the surface, this island simmers with the sparks that are the telltale signs of its youthfulness as Europe's most recent geological addition, only 16-20 million years old.

A journey by small ship is an ideal way to get up close to nature and explore areas inaccessible to larger vessels. Our circumnavigation of Iceland will take us to some of its most dramatic areas and, whilst we sail its waters, we will look out for humpback whales, orcas, white-beaked dolphins and observe the colonies of seabirds. We will also explore the magnificent landscapes and learn more of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage.



## VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Full circumnavigation of Iceland.
- Excellent bird and whale watching opportunities.
- Explore Latrabjarg and the smaller fjords such as Mjoifjordur which the larger ships are unable to access.
- Cross the Arctic Circle on Grimsey.
- Land on the small islands of Vigur and Flatey with their wildlife and nature spotting opportunities.
- Explore on guided hikes along the way.
- Experienced expedition team bringing knowledge of the flora, fauna, geology and cultures of Iceland.

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to Reykjavik, Iceland.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky which will be moored in the city.

### Day 2 Breidafjordur & Latrabjarg.

This morning we will experience the advantages of our small ship as we start to explore the fjords north of Reykjavik. We will start in Breidafjordur where we hope to make a landing at the quaint little island of Flatey with its old village, painted houses, church and the oldest and smallest library in Iceland. Return to the ship for lunch and later this afternoon we will cruise past the Latrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Europe and home to thousands of birds including puffins, northern gannets, guillemots and razorbills. If time and weather permits we will launch the Zodiacs for a closer look.

### Day 3 Western Fjords.

Awake this morning in the Western Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We will explore Isafjordur with the MS Hebridean Sky and depending on local weather conditions, we hope to land on Vigur, a serene little island with only five residents but home to many more eider ducks, black guillemots and Arctic terns. We can also visit Iceland's only extant windmill dating from the 19th century. Ensure you are on deck this afternoon as we cruise round the north coast of Iceland at the Hornbjarg cliffs. These stunning cliffs rise 534 metres from the sea and are one of the largest centres for puffins in Iceland.

### Day 4 Siglufjordur & Grimsey Island.

Siglufjordur is a picturesque town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the early 1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture. Stroll through the town and visit the Herring Era Museum. In the afternoon we head to Grimsey Island. The Arctic Circle bisects this island which is known for its tiny community, basalt cliffs and large variety of birdlife. On arrival join our expedition team for a nature walk on the island. Be on deck

after dinner as we sail down Eyafjordur, on the lookout for whales, heading to Akureyri.

### Day 5 Akureyri.

This delightful town on the north coast of Iceland is not what you would expect to find in such a remote location. In summer months the gardens and window boxes are ablaze with colour and on a morning tour we will explore the botanic garden where we find species from Africa, China and the Mediterranean growing alongside the Alaskan, Greenlandic and indigenous specimens. We will also have time to explore the town to visit Art Alley, where artisans keep their workshops and galleries, or the local church with its beautiful views over the fjord. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore further or maybe enjoy a hike in nearby Kjanaskogur. Alternatively enjoy a full day tour and travel by bus to the Lake Myvatn-Krafla area, a fine example of the volcanic world with lava fields, boiling and steaming mud pools and steam vents of sulphur and craters. The area illustrates the sheer magnitude of Iceland's forces at work. The lake itself, with beautiful natural rock formations and hot springs, is also a unique ecosystem and the largest migratory bird sanctuary in Europe. We will offer time in the natural baths or on a bird watching walk before returning to the ship via Godafoss (Falls of the Gods), an imposing sight.

**Day 6 Husavik.** Over breakfast we arrive in Husavik, known as the whale capital of Iceland. We will use local boats to explore Skjalfandi Bay looking for one of the 15 species of whales, the most popular being humpback, minke and blue whales, as well as white beaked dolphins and many different species of birds. After lunch on board we have the afternoon to explore the pretty town including time at the excellent whale museum, the exploration museum and quaint local church.

### Day 7 Mjoifjordur & Nekauptstadur.

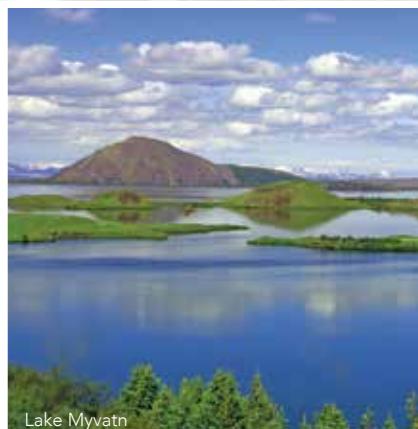
Enjoy the benefits of our small ship today as we explore the lesser known fjords in the south east of Iceland. We cruise through Mjoifjordur where we can enjoy the wilderness of this remote area. We also hope to land at the small town at Neskaupstadur for a chance to visit the excellent museum which features the local art gallery, Museum



Icelandic Waterfall



Puffins



Lake Myvatn

of Natural History and Maritime Museum. The more active amongst us can hike to the avalanche barriers behind the town, offering great views of the surrounding areas.

**Day 8 Hofn.** Today we will see the shimmering white Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest glacier, sometimes called an icecap. The 600 metre thick ice surmounts active volcanoes, one of which erupted in 1996, creating a crater on the surface of the glacier, a most unusual phenomenon. We will have a choice of excursions today. You may choose to drive to the land locked Jokulsarlon lagoon where on a boat trip we can see the icebergs calve into the water. After a local lunch we will view the Hoffellsjokull glacier before returning to Hofn and the MS Hebridean Sky. Alternatively the more active may wish to partake in a 4x4 drive to the ice cap itself where we can spend time walking on the ice enjoying this stunning scenery with views from the mountains to the Atlantic Ocean.

**Day 9 Heimaey & Surtsey.** Our last morning in Iceland is spent at the Vestmannaeyjar (Westmann Islands). Islanders here live with a dramatic volcanic history. In 1973 the island of Heimaey experienced an eruption which created a new mountain, Eldfell, known as Mount Fire. We will explore the only community, Heimaey, where half buried houses can be partially seen peeking out through the lava and ash. If time permits we may also launch the Zodiacs for an exploration of the nearby bay. Later this afternoon we will circumnavigate Surtsey Island which was created volcanically in 1963 and is a closed nature reserve. Few places in the world illustrate more dramatically the powerful forces of nature.

**Day 10 Reykjavik to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

## Pre-Cruise Reykjavik Extension – 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018



If you would like to spend some time in Reykjavik before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night optional extension staying at a centrally located hotel on a bed and breakfast basis.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Reykjavik.** Fly by scheduled flight arriving in Reykjavik this afternoon. On arrival transfer to the Fosshotel (or similar) for our two night stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration.

**Day 2 Reykjavik.** After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a full day 'Golden Circle' tour including a visit to the Pingvellir National Park, Gullfoss waterfall and the great Geysir. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel this evening.

**Day 3 Reykjavik.** Enjoy a city tour of Reykjavik and lunch before we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in the late afternoon.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £595; Single: £845

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation at the Fosshotel Reykjavik on a bed and breakfast basis, full day Golden Circle tour, half day Reykjavik tour, lunch daily, gratuities, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinners in Reykjavik.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£5395</b>	<b>£4995</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£5595</b>	<b>£5195</b>
Mawson	Premium	<b>£5895</b>	<b>£5495</b>
Mawson	Corner	<b>£6295</b>	<b>£5895</b>
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£6995</b>	<b>£6595</b>
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	<b>£7495</b>	<b>£7095</b>
Shackleton	Hebridean	<b>£8495</b>	<b>£8095</b>
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£7895</b>	<b>£7495</b>
Byrd	Superior for sole use	<b>£8395</b>	<b>£7995</b>

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**Ship to Shore:** This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside on some days, on others we may be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the planned itinerary. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.

# Epic Iceland

An exploration of Iceland, the Faroe Islands & Scottish Isles aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
5<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018



Iceland, Europe's least populated country offers the visitor an unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work. Its largely deserted interior is dotted with huge ice-caps and glaciers, active volcanoes, gurgling mud pools, steaming hot springs and lava fields. If this were not enough, the immense scale of the landscape is dominated by towering snow-capped mountains and thundering waterfalls.

The first half of our unique voyage is focused on Iceland and we will visit some of its most dramatic areas, whilst we sail its waters looking out for humpback whales, orcas, white-beaked dolphins and observing the colonies of seabirds. Our journey will also include some time in the Faroes. Little known, but endlessly fascinating, we will spend three days exploring these mysterious islands before sailing on to the Shetland Islands and finally to Scotland's east coast.

Such a journey can of course only be undertaken by a special vessel with the self-sufficient qualities of the MS Hebridean Sky. With our Zodiacs we will be able to land on remote beaches and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs. Enabling us to land in secluded places, the Zodiacs make the otherwise inaccessible readily available. We will keep a flexible approach allowing for the opportunity to fully experience the unexpected whether it be a sighting of dolphins, a whale or any unusual event.

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to Reykjavik, Iceland.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky.

northern gannets, guillemots and razorbills. If time and weather permits we hope to launch the Zodiacs for a closer look.

**Day 2 Stykkisholmur & Latrabjarg.** We will arrive this morning at Stykkisholmur located in Breidafjordur Bay and surrounded by an archipelago of islands. The town is famed for its beautiful and well-preserved old houses and is also the gateway to the Snaefellsnes Peninsula which is dominated by the Snaefellsjökull Volcano regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland and known as the setting for Jules Verne's 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'. During our morning tour we will drive through the lava landscape to the glacier visiting pretty fishing ports and beaches along the way. Alternatively enjoy a Zodiac excursion amongst the islands of Breidafjordur Bay looking for some of the local fauna and flora. Return to the ship for lunch and in the early evening we will cruise past the Latrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Europe and home to many birds including puffins,

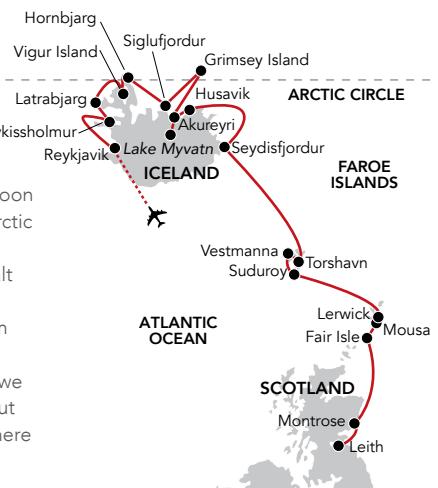
**Day 3 Vigur Island & Hornbjarg.** Awake this morning in the Western Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We will explore Isafjordur with the MS Hebridean Sky and depending on local weather conditions, we hope to land on Vigur, a serene little island with only five residents but home to many more puffins, eider ducks, black guillemots and Arctic terns. We can also visit Iceland's only extant windmill dating from the 19th century. Ensure you are on deck this afternoon as we cruise round the north coast of Iceland at the Hornbjarg Cliffs. These stunning cliffs rise 534 metres from the sea and are one of the largest centres for puffins in Iceland.

**Day 4 Siglufjordur & Grimsey Island.** Siglufjordur is a picturesque town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the

early 1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture. Stroll through the town and visit the Herring Era Museum. In the afternoon we head to Grimsey Island. The Arctic Circle bisects this island which is known for its tiny community, basalt cliffs and large variety of birdlife. On arrival join our expedition team members for a nature walk on the island. Be on deck after dinner as we sail down Eyafjordur, on the lookout for whales, heading to Akureyri where we moor overnight.

**Day 5 Akureyri.** This delightful town on the north coast of Iceland is not what you would expect to find in such a remote location. In summer months the gardens and window boxes are ablaze with colour and on a morning tour we will explore the botanical garden where we find species from Africa, China and the Mediterranean growing alongside the Alaskan, Greenlandic and indigenous specimens. We will also have time to explore the town to visit Art Alley, where artisans keep their workshops and galleries, or the local church with its beautiful views over the fjord. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore further or maybe enjoy a hike in nearby Kjanaskogur. Alternatively travel by bus to the Lake Myvatn-Krafla area, a fine example of the volcanic world with lava fields, boiling and steaming mud pools and steam vents of sulphur and craters. The area illustrates the sheer magnitude of Iceland's forces at work. The lake itself, with beautiful natural rock formations and hot springs, is also a unique ecosystem and the largest migratory bird sanctuary in Europe. We will offer time in the natural baths or on a bird watching walk before returning to the ship via Godafoss (falls of the Gods), an imposing sight.

**Day 6 Husavík.** Over breakfast we arrive in Husavík, known as the whale capital of Iceland. This morning we will use local boats to explore Skjalfandi Bay looking for one of the 15 species of whales, the most popular being Humpback, Minke and Blue whales, as well as white beaked dolphins and many different kinds of birds. After



lunch on board we have the afternoon to explore the pretty town including time at the excellent whale museum, the exploration museum and quaint local church.

**Day 7 Seydisfjordur.** Today we arrive at the natural harbour at Seydisfjordur which has preserved its fishing heritage from the early 19th century and its architectural style. On a walking tour we will pass brightly painted and well preserved Norwegian style wooden buildings and visit the shops famous for their Icelandic patterned woollens. The keen walkers might prefer an energetic hike up the river trail through a verdant landscape of wildflowers. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea as we sail towards the Faroe Islands.

**Day 8 Torshavn, Faroe Islands.** After a morning cruising we arrive in the Faroe Island capital of Torshavn. From our berth we will join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St. Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900-year old 'Royksstovan', the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. For the more active we will arrange a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna. We remain in the port overnight for anyone who wishes to explore the town or enjoy a nightcap ashore.

**Day 9 Vestmanna.** Before breakfast we will sail the short distance to

Vigur Island



Vestmanna, our base as we discover the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. Here we will board local boats to explore the vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the thousands of sea birds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. After lunch on board we will drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We visit Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse, which is now a museum and visit a traditional Faeroese wooden church in Kollafjord.

**Day 10 Suduroy.** Our last morning in the Faroes will be on Suduroy, the southernmost island of the group. From the port of Tvoroyri we have a choice of activities. Choose to join an island drive passing the beautiful scenery as we travel between the villages seeing the stunning geology, fjords, tunnels and architecture of the island and end at the southernmost point and the Akraberg lighthouse. In Porkeri we will take the ridge-top road which winds up the mountain side for wonderful views towards the steep cliffs on the west coast, the Beinisvørð promontory to the north and the luscious grass slopes to the east. Alternatively the active may wish to join a hike to Hvaanhagi a beautiful, uninhabited place north of

Tvøroyri on the east coast of Suðuroy. The view is fantastic towards the three islands Lítla Dímun, Stóra Dímun and Skúvoy. There are sheep and birds, a valley with a lake and beautiful high mountains. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea as we sail to Scotland.

**Day 11 Lerwick, Shetland Islands.** Arriving in Scotland at the Shetland capital we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. The site was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze- Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead and the 16th-century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore this historic port. Perhaps wander through its narrow stone lanes or maybe visit the excellent Shetland Museum, containing artefacts from shipwrecks and the whaling era. We remain in port overnight for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

**Day 12 Mousa & Fair Isle.** At dawn we sail the short distance to the island of Mousa where we will see the forty-foot defensive tower built by the Picts more than 2000 years ago, and the tallest, best preserved example of an Iron Age broch (tower) in Britain.

Kingfisher, Montrose Basin



Husavik



Spend the morning walking around this fascinating site before we return to the ship and sail to Fair Isle arriving in the early afternoon. Here the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend us a warm welcome. Enjoy an afternoon to explore, maybe walk across the island, visit the Bird Observatory or meet the local community and maybe purchase some of the famous knitwear. Return to the ship for dinner and sail this evening.

**Day 13 Montrose.** Spend the morning at sea before we arrive in Montrose during lunch, the gateway to Angus known as the birthplace of Scotland. It was the Battle of Dunnichen, between

the Picts and Northumbrians in 645 which led to the creation of the Kingdom of Alba. Whilst in 1320 the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath marked Scotland's creation as an independent country. This afternoon you may choose to visit nearby Glamis Castle, setting for Macbeth and childhood home of the Queen Mother. Alternatively keen birders may want to join a walk in the Montrose Basin, an important roosting and feeding area for migrating birds, waders and wildfowl.

**Day 14 Leith.** Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Edinburgh Central Station and international airport at a fixed time.



Lake Myvatn



Exploring by Zodiac



Arctic Tern



Grimsey Island

## Pre-Cruise Reykjavik Extension – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018



If you would like to spend some time in Reykjavik before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night optional extension staying at a centrally located hotel on a bed and breakfast basis.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Reykjavik, Iceland.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Fosshotel (or similar) for our two night stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration.

**Day 2 Reykjavik.** After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a full day 'Golden Circle' tour including a visit to the Pingvellir National Park, Gullfoss Waterfall and the great Geysir. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel this evening.

**Day 3 Reykjavik.** Enjoy a city tour of Reykjavik and lunch before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky in the late afternoon.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £595; Single: £845

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation at the Fosshotel Reykjavik on a bed and breakfast basis, full day Golden Circle tour, half day Reykjavik tour, lunch daily, airport transfer, gratuities, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinners in Reykjavik.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

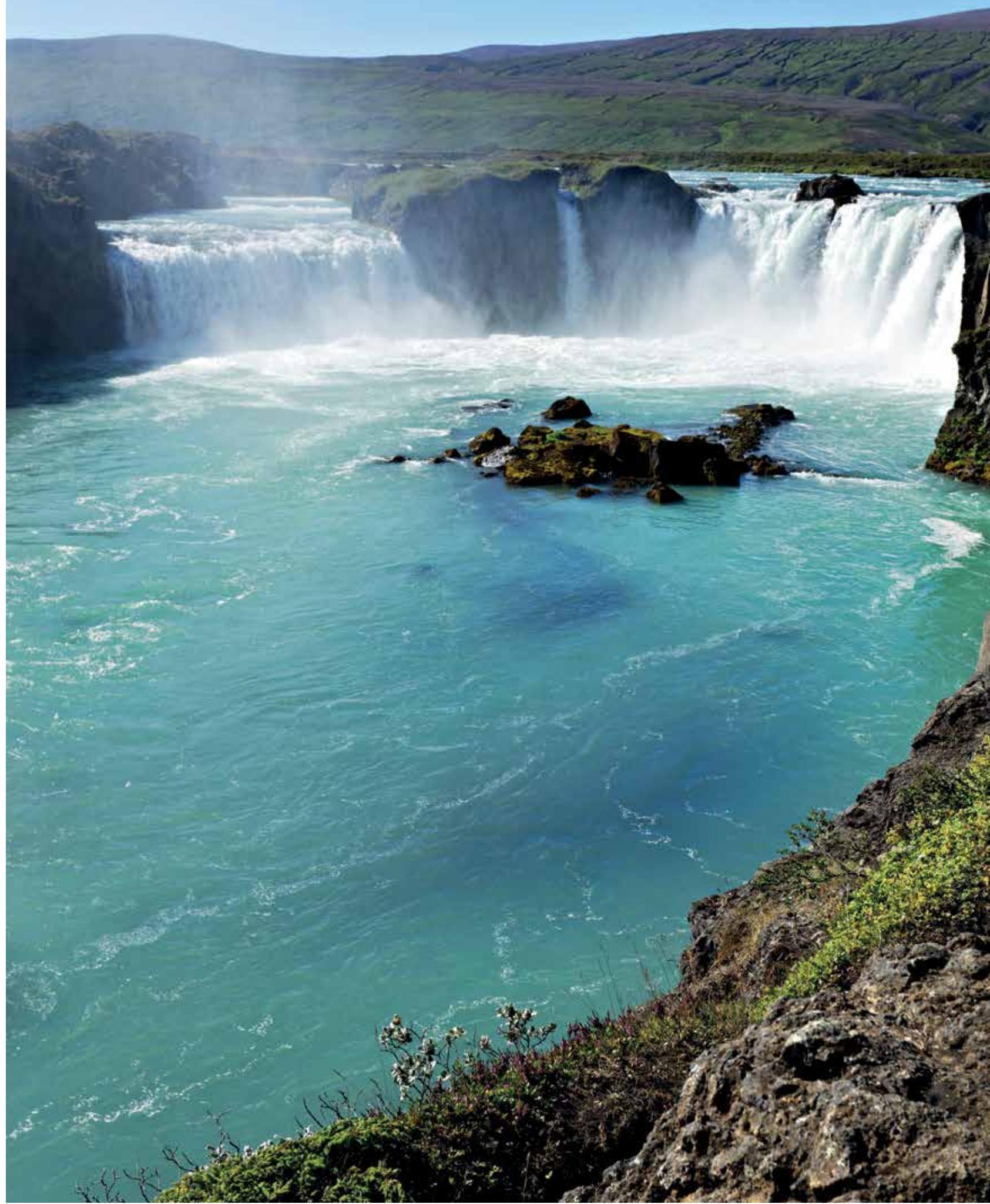
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£7395</b>	<b>£6995</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£7695</b>	<b>£7295</b>
Mawson	Premium	<b>£8095</b>	<b>£7695</b>
Mawson	Corner	<b>£8695</b>	<b>£8295</b>
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£9695</b>	<b>£9295</b>
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	<b>£10395</b>	<b>£9995</b>
Shackleton	Hebridean	<b>£11895</b>	<b>£11495</b>
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£11045</b>	<b>£10645</b>
Byrd	Superior for sole use	<b>£11945</b>	<b>£11545</b>

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Reykjavik, 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**Ship to Shore:** This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside on some days, on others we may be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the planned itinerary. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.

Godafoss Falls





# Summer in the Islands & Highlands of Scotland

An exploration of Scotland's beautiful landscapes aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Words do not do justice to the spectacular beauty, rich wildlife and fascinating history of the Inner and Outer Hebrides which we will explore during this expedition aboard the MS Hebridean Sky. We have timed our voyage to take place in the northern summer when the sun barely shrinks below the horizon and when you will experience a stillness and an almost wistful feeling in the air. This is the time when you cannot help but be moved and seduced by the majesty of the islands, lochs and seascapes.

One of Europe's true last remaining wilderness areas affords the traveller a marvellous island hopping journey through stunning scenery accompanied by spectacular sunsets and prolific wildlife and there is no better way to discover the beauty of this region than by small ship. With our naturalists and local guides we will explore using the nimble Zodiac craft which allow us to reach some of the most remote and untouched places. Whether your interest lies in the natural world, history or bird watching or simply being there to witness the timeless beauty of the islands, this trip will lift the spirits and gladden the heart.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Leith, Scotland.** Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon and sail this evening. A transfer will be available from Edinburgh Waverley Station and Edinburgh Airport at a fixed time.

**Day 2 Kirkwall, Orkney Islands.** Spend a relaxing morning at sea and arrive during lunch into the Orkney capital of Kirkwall. From here we will drive into the west of Mainland, Orkney's largest island, passing through gentle rolling landscape and into the Neolithic Heartland of Orkney; an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of pre-historic archaeology. We will see the Standing Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar; a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5,000 years. We continue to the 5,000 year

old village of Skara Brae and see the remarkable dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms only 150 years ago. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore independently. This evening we will be entertained by local musicians on board as we moor overnight.

**Day 3 Westray & Papa Westray.** We sail in the early hours from Kirkwall for our exploration of the islands to the north of the Orkney mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, an RSPB reserve on the sea cliffs and Notland Castle, an incomplete fortress built in the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour, Mary Queen of Scots Sheriff of Orkney. Meanwhile in the main village of Pierowall we find the Westray Heritage Centre housing Neolithic

carvings. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Papa Westray. Here you have time to stretch your legs on a number of island walks. You can choose to visit the 3,500 year old Knap of Howar a Neolithic farm building that claims to be the oldest standing house in Europe and the 12th century St Boniface Kirk. In the north of the island is the North Hill reserve, home to Arctic terns and skuas and also the extremely rare Scottish primrose. In the early evening we will meet at the Papay Pub for a well-deserved pre-dinner drink with the locals.

### Day 4 Unst & Fetlar, Shetland Islands

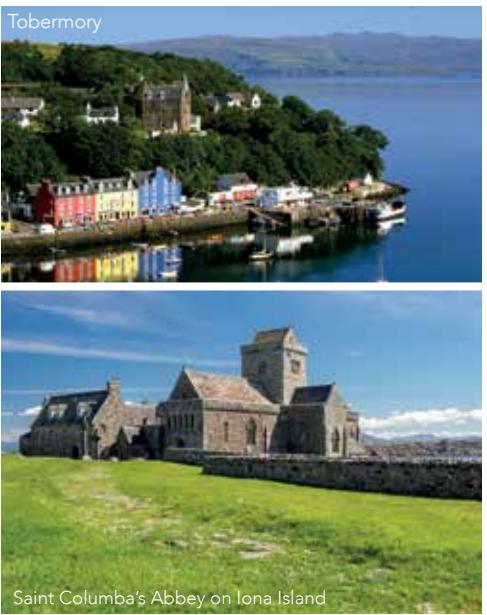
**Islands.** We start our exploration of Shetland in the northern islands of Unst and Fetlar. Unst is Britain's most northerly inhabited island and at the Heritage Centre we will learn about the islanders' struggles over the centuries and the industries that have prospered whilst the Unst Boat Haven is dedicated to the history of the islands distinctive wooden boats which descend from Viking craft. We also visit Saxa Vord with views over Hermaness National Nature Reserve and Muckle Flugga stacks and home to thousands of gannets and puffins as well as rare arctic-alpine plants. Over lunch we sail to Fetlar, inhabited for over 5,000 years the island lays claim to being the first Norse landing site in the Shetlands. Known as the most fertile of the Shetland Islands the wildflowers bring colour to the landscape whilst the birdlife on the



island is prolific. Our expedition team will lead walks ashore including the Fetlar Interpretative Centre and Museum we will learn about the wildlife and archaeological history of the island.

**Day 5 Lerwick.** This morning, from the Shetland capital we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. Uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, it reveals an extraordinary settlement embracing at least 5,000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead, and the 16th century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore this historic port. Perhaps wander through its narrow stone lanes or maybe visit the excellent Shetland Museum, containing artefacts from shipwrecks and the whaling era.

**Day 6 Scrabster.** This morning we arrive in Scrabster, the most northerly port on the Scottish mainland. On a morning tour we visit the Castle and Gardens of Mey which was built between 1566 and 1572 by George Sinclair, 4th Earl of Caithness. The castle was purchased by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 1952 who restored the castle for use as a holiday home and created the beautiful gardens we will see today.



This afternoon we will drive along the coast to Dunnet Bay, a glorious crescent of sand and dunes which is home to many seabirds and unusual flora which we will discover on a guided walk with the local ranger. We continue to Dunnet Head to see the lighthouse built in 1831 by Robert Stevenson and enjoy the views over to Orkney. As we return to the ship we will visit the Medieval Canisbay Kirk whose position over the Pentland Firth has meant it has been a landmark for shipping for centuries. Back on board for dinner we sail around Cape Wrath tonight on our way to the Hebrides.

**Day 7 Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.** On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, today's tour takes you across the island to the beautiful west coast of the island and to Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. Visit the excellent visitor centre to learn more about the site and venture out amongst the stones themselves to experience their mysterious atmosphere. Continue around the west coast to the site of Dun Carloway Pictish Broch. Probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. It would also have served as a visible statement of power and status in the local area. We then head north to Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses where people and animals lived in close proximity. The houses are made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted

down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast.

**Day 8 St Kilda & Stac Lee.** Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff led a number of guided walks on the island. Later this afternoon, cruise past one of the largest ganneries in the world Stac Lee.

**Day 9 Canna & Loch Scavaig.** Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by The National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn-shaped haven. Canna and Sanday have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean

that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House, once the home of the previous owners, John and Margaret Fay Campbell and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Sail during lunch to lovely Loch Scavaig. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

**Day 10 Muck & Tobermory, Isle of Mull.** Spend this morning on the smallest of the Small Isles, Muck. A peaceful low-lying island, we will land in the southeast corner at the small settlement of Port Mor. From here it is a gentle wander across the island before returning to the ship. Over lunch we sail to the Isle of Mull and the pretty port of Tobermory. Spend the afternoon at leisure in the town walking amongst the colourful buildings or maybe take the coastal walk to the Rubha nan Gall lighthouse.

**Day 11 Staffa & Iona** This morning we hope to drop anchor off Staffa, the south side where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which have been cut by the sea into cathedral-like caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. This afternoon we will call into Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years, but also a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean Island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches.

**Day 12 Oban.** Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow Airport at a fixed time to arrive in the late morning.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£5120</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£5320</b>
Mawson	Premium	<b>£5580</b>
Mawson	Corner	<b>£5865</b>
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£6240</b>
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	<b>£6540</b>
Shackleton	Hebridean	<b>£7795</b>
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£6420</b>
Byrd	Superior for sole use	<b>£6620</b>

**Price Includes:** 11 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, Noble Caledonia on board team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# Hebridean Island Odyssey

An expedition voyage exploring the majestic beauty of the remote Hebrides aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
29<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places without realising that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be close to home. Nowhere is this truer than around Scotland's magnificent coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic. The sheer diversity of the landscapes and lifestyles will amaze you, as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter. With our fleet of Zodiacs we are able to visit some of the most remote and uninhabited islands that surround the Scottish Coast including St Kilda, North Rona and Mingulay as well as the small island community of Iona.

This is not a cruise in the conventional sense, more an exploration with like-minded companions to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the islands. Learn something of their history, see the abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world. There is no better way to explore this endlessly fascinating and beautiful region than by small ship and ashore, with our local experts we divide into small groups thereby enjoying a more comprehensive and peaceful experience. Having arranged hundreds of small ship cruises around Scotland, we have learned that everyone takes something different from the experience. We are indeed fortunate in having such marvellous places so close to home. Now, more than ever there is a great appreciation for the peace, beauty and culture of this special corner of the UK.



St Kilda



Gannet in flight



## What to Expect

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule may be changed to maximise your experience based on weather or wildlife sightings, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from our vessel's logs from our last Hebridean voyages which will provide you with an idea of what to expect should you choose to join our Hebridean adventure;



**21st June – Shiant Islands:** By breakfast the ship had anchored amongst the Shiant Islands in the Minch – Eilean Mhuire (Mary's Isle) to the north, Eilean Tighe (House Island) and the spectacular Garbh Eilean (Rough Island) to the south, the two joined by a boulder beach. Once more we were viewing tertiary basalt columns just like Staffa and Canna but this time several hundred feet tall and thronging with seabirds, many of whom sat on the calm sea as our Zodiacs cruised close

off shore. The islands are owned by Adam Nicholson who wrote about them so eloquently in his book 'Sea Room' and are uninhabited. We made first for the tall basalt cliffs where we enjoyed a fly-past of a white-tailed sea eagle which then landed near its mate on a grassy ledge. They sat side by side for the rest of our visit. This very cliff housed one of the very last breeding pairs early in the 20th century but a highly successful reintroduction programme (begun on the Isle of Rum in 1975) has resulted in some 60 pairs now nesting in Britain (mainly the Hebrides) once again. We saw some grey and common seals hauled out ashore, and investigated some interesting sea caves before turning along the huge boulder scree along the east side of Garbh Eilean with its huge numbers of razorbills, puffins and shags. There were also some great skuas flying around, looking for an opportunity to rob the auks of the food they carried to feed chicks.

**22nd June – St Kilda:** The early risers were rewarded with fine views of our approach to the archipelago of St Kilda, its tops draped mysteriously in mist. It had been a calm crossing and some dolphins and minke whales had been spotted on route. We breakfasted quickly so as to hear an introduction to the islands by the ranger. Soon after the Zodiacs began shuttling people ashore to the pier, although several options had been offered, many people opted first to join John on a guided historical walk along the village street from the Manse (now the staff quarters which also housed the shop). Many then progressed up The Gap to find Jamie and his party of longer walkers, while Karin had led an energetic walk up the road to the summit ridge and the radar installation. John's group then dispersed to explore on their own and most of us, of course, found time to visit the shop for postcards and souvenirs.



Exploring by Zodiac



Iona



Callanish Standing Stones

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oban.** Embark this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow Central Railway station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time. Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Colonsay & Oronsay.** Awake this morning off Colonsay. Lying between Mull and Islay, we will spend the morning exploring this lovely island, with her craggy, heather-backed hills and sparse woodland yet with an impressive array of plant and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated wooded gardens, which protect the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross. Oronsay is separated from Colonsay by a wide expanse of shell sand -The Strand- that can be crossed by foot when the tide is out. The ruins of a fine Augustinian Priory in 1380 contain the tall Oronsay Cross, a superb example of late Medieval artistry from Iona. This island is owned by Mrs. Frances Colburn and managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds who run a trim, environmentally friendly farm.

**Day 3 Mingulay & Pabbay.** Today we explore the remote islands at the tip of South Uist including Mingulay and Pabbay. We will use the Zodiacs to explore and hope to make some beach landings. Mingulay, which is nearly 1,600 acres and the largest of the group of islands south of Barra boasts towering cliffs and stacks that face the Atlantic while the east side slopes gradually down to the sandy beach of Mingulay Bay. Despite there being a continuous population on

the island for at least two thousand years, evacuation began in 1907 and the island was completely abandoned in 1912.

**Day 4 St Kilda, Stac Lee & the Flannan Islands.** Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past one of the largest ganneries in the world, Stac Lee and the Flannan Isles where we hope to see the famous lighthouse.

**Day 5 North Rona & Sula Sgeir.** Spend the morning around North Rona, an isolated island some fifty miles north of Cape Wrath. The last islanders left North Rona in 1844 and today it is home to thirteen species of breeding seabirds including large colonies of great black-backed gulls, great skuas and puffins. There is also a large population of grey seals which we hope to observe on a Zodiac cruise. If weather permits this

afternoon we will also visit the gannet colony on Sula Sgeir home to over 5,000 breeding pairs and renowned as the least visited national nature reserve in Britain.

**Day 6 Isle of Lewis & Shiant Islands.** On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, today's tour takes you across the island to the beautiful west coast of the island and to Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000B.C. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. Visit the excellent visitor centre to learn more about the site and venture out amongst the stones themselves to experience their mysterious atmosphere. Continue around the west coast to the site of Dun Carloway Pictish Broch. Probably built sometime in the last century B.C., it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. We then head north to Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses where people and animals lived in close proximity. The houses are made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. Sail after lunch and this afternoon we will board the Zodiacs for a cruise around the spectacular

“ ”

With our fleet of Zodiacs we are able to visit some of the most remote and uninhabited islands that surround the Scottish Coast including St Kilda, North Rona and Mingulay as well as the small island community of Iona.

“ ”



basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis.

#### **Day 7 Canna & Loch Scavaig.**

Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by The National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn-shaped haven. Canna and Sanday have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House, once the home of the previous owners, John and Margaret Fay Campbell and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Sail during lunch to lovely Loch Scavaig. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

**Day 8 Loch Moidart.** Spend the day in Loch Moidart, a beautiful area renowned for its wild, remote and

rugged landscapes. We will offer a number of different activities including Zodiac cruising, hiking with our expedition team or simply exploring the area at leisure including the stunning white beaches and Castle Tioram, built in the 13th century and the ancient fortress of the MacDonalds.

#### **Day 9 Iona & Staffa.**

This morning call into Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean Island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches. This afternoon we hope to drop anchor off Staffa, the south side where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which have been cut by the sea into cathedral-esque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer.

**Day 10 Oban.** Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Central Station at a fixed time.



Loch Moidart

#### **PRICES PER PERSON**

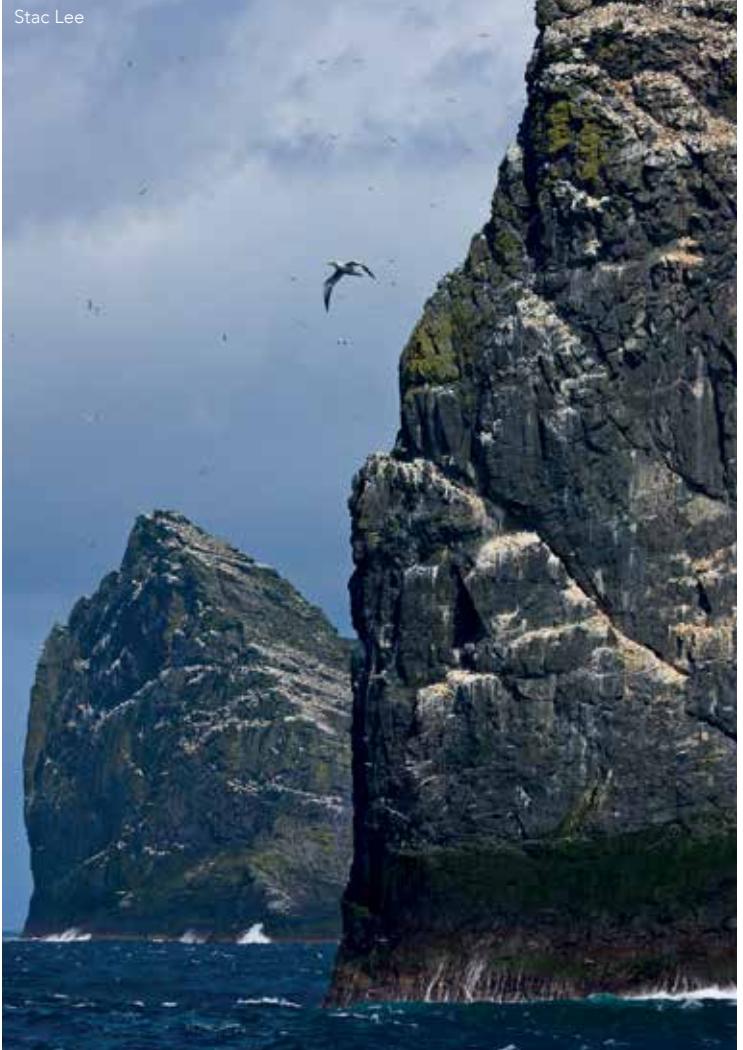
Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	<b>£3900</b>
Byrd	Superior	<b>£4250</b>
Mawson	Premium	<b>£4550</b>
Mawson	Corner	<b>£4720</b>
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£5195</b>
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	<b>£5495</b>
Shackleton	Hebridean	<b>£6495</b>
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	<b>£5450</b>
Byrd	Superior for sole use	<b>£6250</b>

**Price Includes:** Nine nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Stac Lee



Skua



Celtic Cross, Iona



Loch Scavaig



# Castles, Islands & Historic Houses of Britain

A voyage from Oban to Portsmouth aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

If you have ever promised yourself that one day you will become better acquainted with some of the more remote regions and historically interesting parts of the United Kingdom, this late summer journey from Oban to Portsmouth provides a unique opportunity to explore the splendours of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England. Amongst the many splendid houses and gardens we will visit are the opulent Mount Stewart, beautiful Bodnant Garden, the famous, subtropical Abbey Gardens on the charming island of Tresco and Greenway, the wonderful historic house and garden that was once home to Agatha Christie. With regards to castles, we will visit some of the Kingdom's finest including the magnificent Castle Rushen on the Isle of Man and the impressive Pembroke Castle in Wales.

True, you can always drive, travel by train and coach and reach most of our itinerary with the help of a ferry, but how much more enjoyable to join the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky and travel in comfort accompanied by our expert onboard team without any of the hassle that independent exploration of these fascinating places would entail.



Bodnant Gardens



Giant's Causeway

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oban, Scotland.** Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon and sail this evening. A transfer will be available from Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time.

**Day 2 Colonsay & Jura.** Lying between Mull and Islay, we will spend the morning exploring the island of Colonsay, with her craggy, heather-backed hills, sparse woodland yet impressive array of plant and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated wooded gardens which protect the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross. Return to the vessel for lunch as we sail through the Sound of Islay to Jura, arriving in the late afternoon. We will go ashore at Craighouse and will be welcomed in the cooperage where we will be given an introduction to the Jura Distillery and an opportunity to taste the local product. Alternatively, join one of our naturalists on a walk along the shore or join the local bus for a short drive around the island.

**Day 3 Derry, Northern Ireland.** We will berth this morning in the historic city of Derry, renowned as one of the finest examples of a walled city in all of Europe. This morning we leave the city and drive to the Giant's

Causeway an amazing array of 40,000 basalt columns which became widely known from the 1700s as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Admire the unique rock formations which have, for millions of years, stood as a natural rampart against the unbridled ferocity of the Atlantic storms and the rugged symmetry of the columns never fail to intrigue. Return to Derry for lunch and enjoy an afternoon to explore the city independently.

**Day 4 Belfast.** Spend the morning exploring Belfast at your own pace or maybe visit the Titanic Experience. Located by the site of the ship's construction, the museum tells the story of the Titanic from her conception through her construction and launch in 1911. After lunch on board we drive the short distance to the famous house and gardens at Mount Stewart. The gardens, which were planted in the 1920s by Edith, Lady Londonderry are of international importance. The magnificent series of outdoor 'rooms' and vibrant parterres contain many rare plants that thrive in the mild climate of the Ards Peninsula. We will also explore the opulent house which reveals a fascinating heritage and historic world-famous artefacts and artwork.

**Day 5 Peel, Isle of Man.** Arrive this morning on the Isle of Man and the main fishing port of Peel. Settlements have been here since the Mesolithic Age and the island also claims to have the



Pembroke Castle



Portmeirion  
Mount Stewart Gardens



Tresco Abbey Gardens



Dartmouth

longest continuous parliament which was founded in 979AD. This morning we will travel to Tynwald Hill, located in the little village of St John's. This grass topped, tiered hill is made from the soil and stones from each of the island's 17 parishes and is the point from which, each 5 July all the laws enacted in the year preceding are promulgated to the gathered government officials and the public at large, both in Manx and English languages. We continue to Castletown and the magnificent Castle Rushen, one of the best examples of a Medieval castle in Europe which was the former seat of the Kings and Lords of Mann. We end our tour at Castletown station and board the vintage steam train for a delightful and traditional journey to Douglas. Dating from 1874, the Isle of Man Steam Railway is the island's oldest Victorian rail system and this narrow gauge railway still runs with its original locomotives and carriages. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 6 Holyhead, Wales.** This morning we will arrive in Holyhead which is our base for a choice of excursions. Choose from a full day tour exploring this spectacular part of North Wales which will include a visit to Portmeirion, an extraordinary Mediterranean-style village designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975. Enjoy a tour of the village before a drive through Snowdonia where we will enjoy lunch in the National Park before continuing to Bodnant Garden, one of the most beautiful gardens in the United Kingdom. Spanning some 80 acres, the garden is set above the River Conwy and offers views to the Snowdonia range. Alternatively cross the island of Anglesey and spend the morning at Plas Newydd, an enchanting mansion set on the shores of the Menai Strait enjoying wonderful views over Snowdonia. Spend time exploring the elegant house including the military museum of Henry Paget, the first Marquess of Anglesey who led the cavalry in the Battle of Waterloo, before heading into the gardens or taking a walk in the surrounding woodland. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon.

**Day 7 Steep Holm Island, England.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea as we cruise around the Welsh coastline. This afternoon we hope to land on Steep Holm Island located in the Bristol Channel. This small island, just one kilometre long by 400 metres wide, has a fascinating history having been inhabited since the Stone Age and was used by the Romans as a signal station and the Vikings as a base for their raids on the mainland. In the 1860s Lord Palmerston commissioned the fortification of the island to blockade the ports of the area from Napoleon's forces and these were enhanced in 1941 during the Second World War. Today the island is a Nature Reserve and after landing we have the freedom to explore the trails that cross the island. You may wish to visit the Victorian Barracks, see the gun emplacements at Split Rock Battery or look out for some of the wildlife including Muntjac deer.

**Day 8 Pembroke, Wales.** We spend the day on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast. From our nearby berth we will visit the 12th century Pembroke Castle, the second largest castle in Wales and birthplace of Henry VII. Its vast walls, towers and keep were impregnable to cannon fire during the Civil War and so much of this impressive fortress remains intact today that it will be the focus of our tour. We will then enjoy a short drive to the ancient town of Tenby, a picturesque walled, Medieval town that has remained largely unchanged from when it was built 500 years ago. We will take time to stroll through this town's delightful centre before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon the active may wish to stretch their legs on a scenic walk along a section of the Pembrokeshire coastal path past lighthouses, cottages and Mill Bay where Henry Tudor landed in 1485. Alternatively take the scenic drive to St Davids, Britain's smallest city, and explore the magnificent 12th century cathedral and Bishop's Palace.

**Day 9 Isles of Scilly, England.** Spend the morning on traffic free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical

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. Sail over lunch to St Agnes, the most south westerly community in the United Kingdom. Surrounded by rocks and reefs, this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks with over one third designated as "sites of special scientific interest". The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age.

**Day 10 Dartmouth.** Sail this morning along the River Dart to our anchorage off the town of Dartmouth. If time permits we hope to explore ashore before lunch on board. On a choice of excursions this afternoon you may decide to visit 'Greenway', the wonderful historic house and garden that was once home to Agatha Christie. Visit the gardens, including the Camellia Garden, a wonderful place to sit and ponder on the history of the house and the notable residents and visitors that have included Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake.

Alternatively visit the 1920s country retreat of the D'Oyly Carte family at Coleton Fishacre. Lose yourself in the RHS accredited garden by the sea as we wander the paths through glades and past tranquil ponds. Meanwhile the house interior is imbued with 1920s elegance and Art Deco features.

**Day 11 Guernsey & Herm, Channel Islands.** Our last day is spent in the Channel Islands. We awake in Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers' where there will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive to see the beautiful coastline and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes. This afternoon we make the short crossing over to Herm which at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, is perfect for exploring on foot.

**Day 12 Portsmouth.** Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5120	£4920
Byrd	Superior	£5320	£5120
Mawson	Premium	£5680	£5480
Mawson	Corner	£5995	£5795
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6595	£6395
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6995	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7495	£7295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6995	£6795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7185	£6985

**Price Includes:** 11 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**Ship to Shore:** This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts are integral to the operation of the voyage due to some of the small ports we will be visiting where we will be at anchor.

# Sailing South to Seville

A voyage from Portsmouth to Seville aboard the MS Hebridean Sky  
18<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Join us aboard the elegant MS Hebridean Sky for a voyage that will take us along the beautiful Brittany and Aquitaine coasts to Spain's remarkable Galicia and then continue around Iberia and along the Guadalquivir River to Seville. Follow in the footsteps of early seamen who undertook this classic voyage as they traded between the Mediterranean and Europe's northern realms. We will see the legacy of many civilisations and kingdoms as we visit the coastal regions and towns steeped in history. In the main we will give the large ports a wide berth, preferring to call into small islands and out of the way places. We have ensured our voyage is a well-balanced itinerary incorporating guided excursions along with time for individual exploration as well as some day time sailing.

September is the perfect time to enjoy a cruise from the United Kingdom to France, Spain and Portugal. School holidays are over, the crowds have dispersed and the weather is cooling down, making it ideal for explorations ashore. Who could fail to be enchanted by the natural splendour of the coastal scenery, the fishing villages and picturesque harbours, or by the timeless beauty of Medieval Coimbra and Lisbon. Likewise who could not be impressed as they enter the modern world of Bilbao's iconoclastic Guggenheim Museum to view some of the world's greatest works of modern art and admire the splendid Moorish and Christian treasures of Seville.

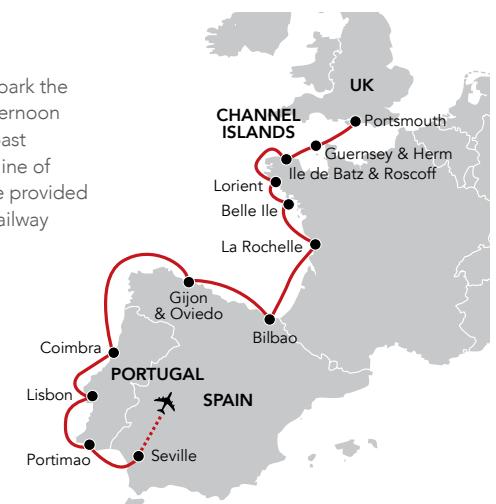
## VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the small and charming islands off the coast of Brittany, Ile de Batz and Belle Ile as well as Guernsey & Herm
- Visit the cities of Oviedo and Coimbra with their rich Medieval history
- Explore the iconic cities of Lisbon and Seville
- Admire distinctive architecture from Moorish Alcazar Palace, Manueline Jeronimos Monastery to 17th century French Chateau and the modern Guggenheim Museum.
- Enjoy an exclusive Flamenco performance



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Portsmouth, UK.** Embark the MS Hebridean Sky in the afternoon and sail out in the evening past the historic docks and coastline of Portsmouth. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway station at a fixed time.



**Day 2 Guernsey & Herm, Channel Islands.** Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers' and anchor off St Peter Port. There will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china. Over lunch we will sail the short distance to Herm, the smallest inhabited Channel Island and at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, perfect for exploring on foot. You will have free time to explore, perhaps take a stroll over to Shell or Belvoir Beach.

**Day 3 Ile de Batz & Roscoff, Brittany.** This morning we arrive in Roscoff, on the coast of Brittany with its impressive, granite Renaissance mansions built by wealthy merchants, and the beautifully restored Gothic Church. It was here that Mary Stuart landed en-route to join the French court. We will take a short ferry ride to the nearby charming Ile de Batz, a small traffic free island which at only three square miles, is a wonderful place to spend a morning. Wander at leisure or join us as we walk to the Jardin George Delaselle. This exotic garden was developed in 1897 and now contains more than 2500 different varieties of plants originating from as far afield as New Zealand and Chile as well as an excellent collection of palms. We return to MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and sail later in the afternoon allowing for some time to explore Roscoff at leisure.

**Day 4 Lorient and Belle Ile.** From the port of Lorient we travel the short distance to discover the Neolithic site at Carnac where unique rows of

standing stones indicate civilisations dating back to 4,000BC. We also discover the charming harbour of Saint Goustan with its half-timbered buildings. Originally a fishing port on the shores of the River Loc'h, Benjamin Franklin landed here during a storm in December 1776. Enjoy some free time wandering the quays and picturesque streets. During lunch on board we sail the short distance to Belle Ile. Lying just off the coast of Morbihan, Belle Ile the largest of all Breton islands with a dramatic coastline comprising cliffs, creeks and beaches. We land at the small port of Le Palais for some time to explore the town at leisure, maybe visit the citadel which was stormed by British troops in 1761 as they took control of the island for two years. Alternatively enjoy time to wander through the streets of the town or stop for a coffee.

**Day 5 La Rochelle, France.** Explore the western shores of France with a call to the port of La Pallice from where we have a choice of morning activities. Maybe choose a tour to Ile de Re, the light and landscapes here have attracted artists over the centuries. After a sightseeing drive stop at the picturesque harbour town of St Martin de Re where there will be some time to explore at leisure. Alternatively drive inland and discover the splendid Chateau La Roche Courbon. Built in the 15th century, this fortified castle was transformed into a comfortable residence in the 17th century by Jean-Louis de Courbon. Inside the Chateau, there is a Louis XII room with painted beams, a kitchen typical of the local style and a guard's room with vaulted roof and beautiful furniture. Outside, the double half turn stairs will

lead you to the French styled gardens with terraces, flowerbeds, orchards, statues and an ornamental lake. During the afternoon enjoy some time at leisure to discover La Rochelle's old town and the harbour before we sail this evening.

**Day 6 Bilbao, Spain.** Spend the morning relaxing on board and enjoy a talk by our Guest Speaker. We arrive at noon to discover Bilbao, the centre of the Basque Country, lying along the banks of the Nervion River. The Romans discovered iron ore here which paved the way for the region's industrial heritage. We will drive inland to Artxanda viewpoint looking down across the river to Bilbao followed by a visit to the impressive Guggenheim Museum which includes an unparalleled collection of twentieth century art including Picasso, Cezanne, Kandinsky and Warhol. We will also enjoy a walk in the old quarter, a labyrinth of stone lanes filled with bars and restaurants before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky and sailing in the early evening.

**Day 7 Gijon & Oviedo.** Gijon is the largest city in Asturias and our base for exploring nearby Oviedo, the modern capital of the Asturias region. Oviedo is recognised as the most culturally significant and historically interesting city of the province with many buildings dating back to the 8th and 9th century when Asturias first developed as a kingdom. After a panoramic drive inland we begin a walking tour where we will see the Gothic San Salvador Cathedral before exploring the restored Old Town decorated with beautiful sculptures. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore Gijon before sailing later in the evening.

**Day 8 At Sea.** Enjoy a day at sea as we cruise around the coast of Galicia. Relax with a book from the Library and listen to enlightening talks from our Guest Speaker.

**Day 9 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra, Portugal.** Located at the mouth of the Mondego River, Figueira da Foz is one of central Portugal's prime beach resorts. However our reason for coming is actually inland and the nearby city of Coimbra, the Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years, and the site of the country's greatest university for the past five centuries. On a walking tour we will view the stunning buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries, including the Paço das Escolas (Royal Palace) and the Monastery of Santa Cruz before we head to the university with its recently appointed UNESCO status. Founded in the 13th century we will see the Chapel of São Miguel and the Joanine Library which houses over 300,000 works dating back to the 16th

century. We will have lunch here and this afternoon you can choose to return to Figueira da Foz or stay in Coimbra for some free time.

**Day 10 Lisbon.** 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. During a morning tour we will see the famous landmarks and places of interest such as the Monument to the Discoveries, Belém Tower, Jerónimos Monastery as well as the renowned Azulejo (Tile) Museum. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in this historic city.

**Day 11 Portimao.** This morning the MS Hebridean Sky arrives on the Algarve Coast at the fishing port of Portimao on the banks of the Arade River. During a morning call we head west to explore the more rugged Algarve and discover its place in history. We visit the historic town of Lagos, its sturdy Medieval walls testify to its importance as a 15th century ship building and trading post. We then head to wild headland of Cabo São Vicente, its 200 foot cliffs face the Atlantic waves and it lies at the extreme south western corner of Europe. At nearby Sagres, Henry the Navigator built his school of Navigation and it was from here that many sailors set out to discover the New World. Spend the afternoon on board as we approach the coast of Andalucia.

**Day 12 Seville, Spain.** Having sailed up the lower reaches of the Guadalquivir River in the early morning, we will disembark this morning in the centre of vibrant Seville and enjoy a morning walking tour to 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 Hebridean Sky for lunch and in the afternoon continue our exploration of Seville with an orientation drive passing the Tobacco Factory, made famous in the opera 'Carmen', and also visit Casa de Pilatos, one of the finest civil palaces in Seville with magnificent patio and mudéjar decoration. Later in the afternoon we will enjoy an exclusive, typical Andalucian flamenco show.

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



## Post-Cruise Seville Extension – 30th September to 2nd October 2018



If you would like to extend your trip with an independent two night stay in Seville to further explore and soak up the atmosphere in this vibrant Andalucian city, we have arranged a two night extension staying at the Gran Melia Colon (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis. We have included a full day tour to Cordoba, an historic city which demonstrates a past in which Jews, Christians and Muslims peacefully coexisted and left a beautiful legacy of architecture. We will visit the Mezquita with its exquisite interior decorations and arches.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £475; Single: £695

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, full day excursion to Cordoba with lunch, group transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

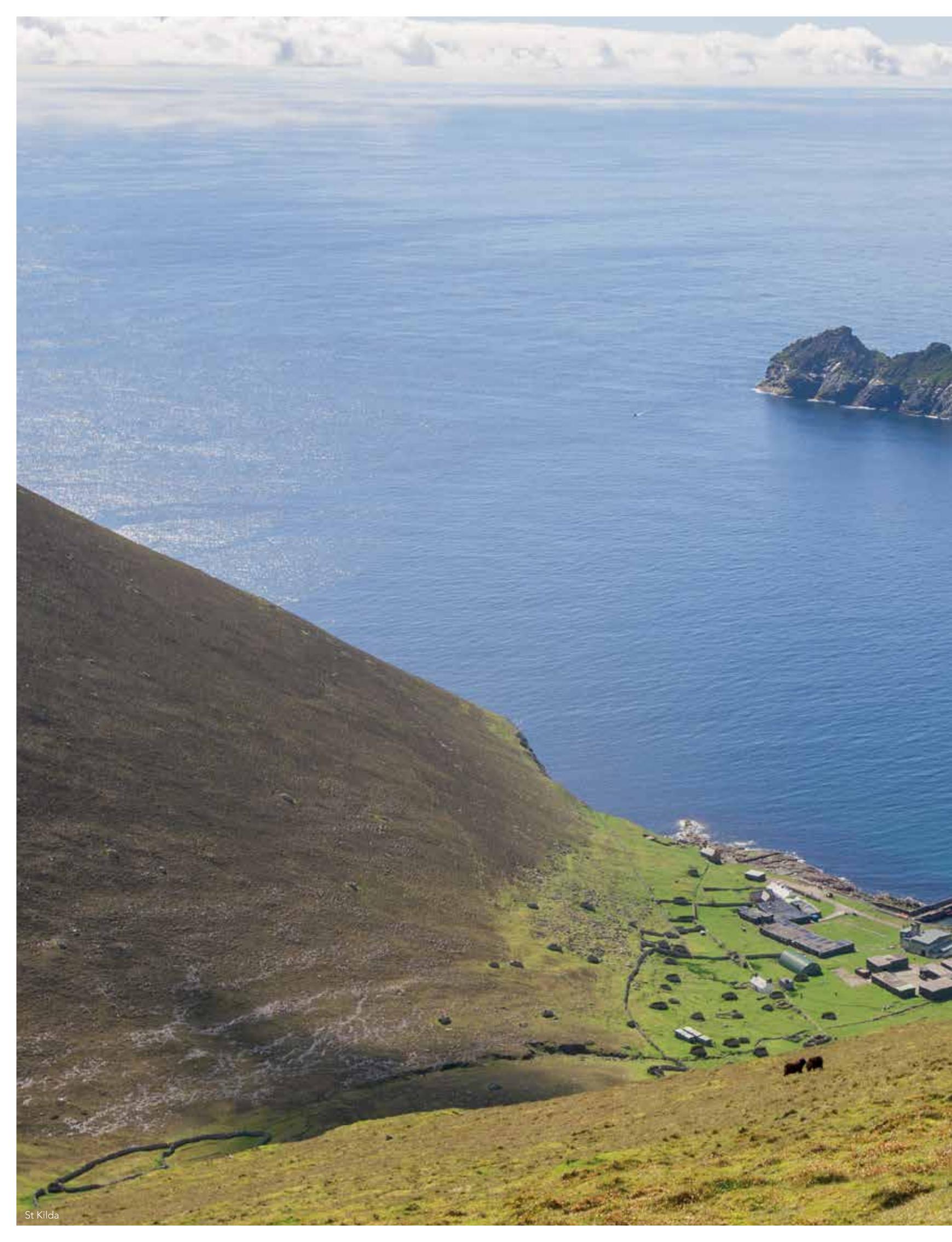
### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5595	£5395
Byrd	Superior	£5790	£5590
Mawson	Premium	£5990	£5790
Mawson	Corner	£6195	£5995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6595	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795	£6395
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7295	£6895
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5990	£5790
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6290	£6090

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia onboard team, group transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**Ship to Shore:** Please note that we will be at anchor at St Peter Port, Herm and Belle Ile where we will utilise the vessel's Zodiacs to transport guests ashore.



St Kilda





# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.