

Voyages aboard
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
2019 & 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA

CONTENTS

MS Hebridean Sky & Deck Plan	04-05
Your Space On Board	06-07
Your Suite On Board	08-09
Your Dining On Board	10-11
Exploring Ashore & Expedition Cruising & Your Onboard Team	12-13
The Voyages 2019 & 2020	
Natural Wonders of the Pacific Coast	16-19
Sailing the Spanish Main	20-23
Spring in the Islands & Highlands of Scotland	24-27
Passage North	28-31
Scandinavian & Baltic Odyssey	32-33
Patagonia & the Chilean Fjords	34-37

Dear Traveller

We do hope you enjoy browsing through the following pages which detail the voyages and expeditions which the MS Hebridean Sky will be undertaking in 2019 and early 2020.

The voyages featured in this brochure are a diverse collection of expeditions including a sailing from Peru to Costa Rica with calls in Ecuador, Colombia and Panama ending with four days of exploration in some of Costa Rica's most remarkable national parks. The following voyage begins in Cartagena and sails to Nassau discovering the ancient and natural wonders of Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize and Mexico before spending three days in Cuba's vibrant capital city of Havana. Should you prefer something closer to home, we have a spring voyage around Scotland's islands and highlands and a new expedition travelling north from Scotland for an exploration of Iceland by way of the Faroe Islands. In the summer of 2019 the MS Hebridean Sky will be in the Baltic on a voyage from Aberdeen to Stockholm and finally after her Antarctic season, the vessel will once again undertake our ever popular voyage from Ushuaia, around Cape Horn, exploring Patagonia and the Chilean Fjords.

Whilst the itinerary is of course of paramount importance, we are fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. The 118-passenger, all-suite MS Hebridean Sky offers a comfortable base to return to after a day of exploration and her popular and friendly crew are dedicated to offering the best possible service on board. In addition our expert expedition team will enhance your experience immeasurably both whilst exploring ashore and during their informative lectures on board; their knowledge, enthusiasm and warmth make every trip a unique event.

There are some marvellous experiences to be enjoyed during these voyages aboard the MS Hebridean Sky from snorkelling and landing on pristine beaches to witnessing traditional ways of life in remote communities, exploring rainforests looking for endemic flora and fauna to visiting places of rich cultural and spiritual significance.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard.



Tim Cochrane
Managing Director

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



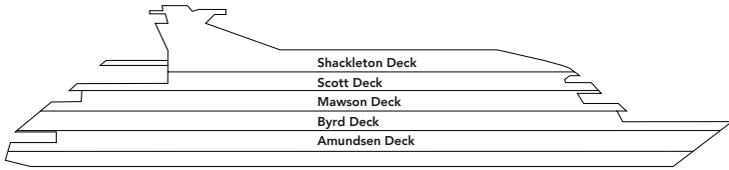
MS Hebridean Sky



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.

Deck and Cabin Plans

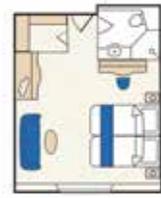
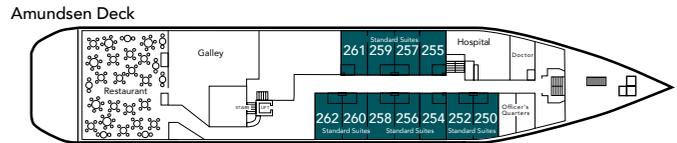
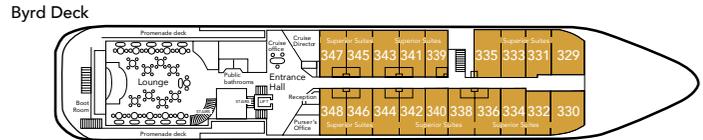
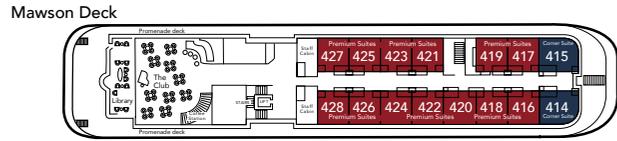
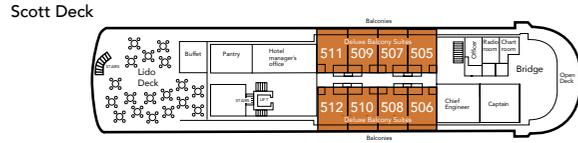
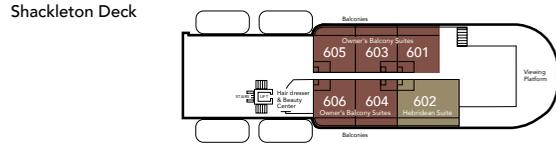


Technical Information

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.



Amundsen Deck – Standard Suites

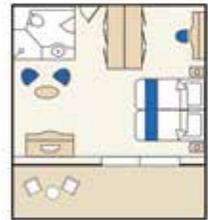
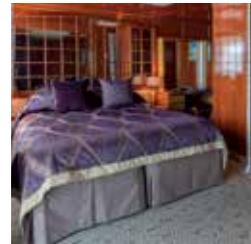
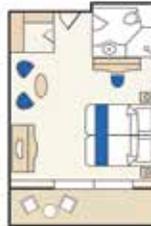
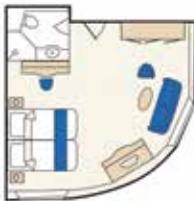
Standard Suites located on the Amundsen Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature large portholes.

Byrd Deck – Superior Suites

Superior Suites located on the Byrd Deck measure an average of 22 square metres with a large window.

Mawson Deck – Premium Suites

The Premium Suites located on the Mawson Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature a large window.



Mawson Deck – Corner Suites

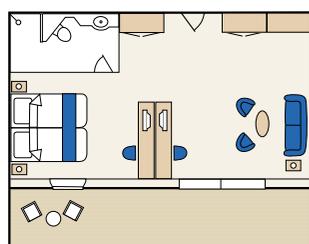
The two magnificent Corner Suites located on the Mawson Deck feature dual aspect windows and measure approximately 22 square metres.

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.



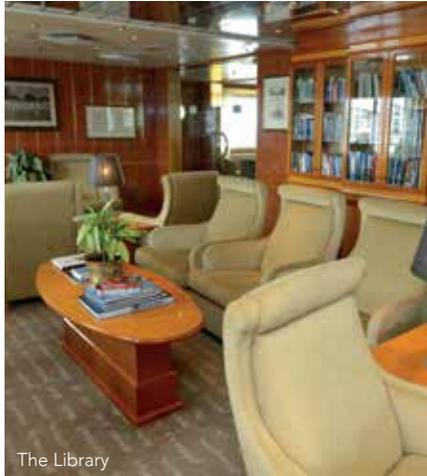
Your Space



Friendly service

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 on board 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 14 suites have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere

of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and 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 barbecues 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

Appetisers

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 Caramelised Lemon and Fresh Herbs, served with Pont Neuf Potatoes and Roasted Mediterranean Vegetables

Slow Roasted Chateaubriand 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 2019 & 2020. There are many more and full details of who will be joining you on board can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Sue Forbes – Expedition Team Member

Sue has been creating wildlife, landscape and travel photos for more than 20 years, travelling to over 80 countries on all seven continents. She has combined this passion with an unusual career including everything from the Royal Air Force to various executive roles in Silicon Valley, California. Sue left her last job, at Motorola, a few years back to focus solely on wildlife &

travel photography and her work has been published in newspapers, magazines & books in the UK and US since then. She spends most of the time on various Noble Caledonia ships as a member of the expedition staff helping passengers (and maybe the odd lemur as in this photo during her last visit to Madagascar!) take home great photos and learn more about their cameras / smartphones. Sue is an avid naturalist looking at wildlife behaviour from a photographers perspective and has taught about wildlife and photography on expedition ships around the world. Sue has a BSc in Electronic Engineering from Warwick University, UK and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, California.



Peter Warwick – Guest Speaker

Peter Warwick is an economist, historian, author, acknowledged authority on Horatio Nelson and organiser of major commemorative events, who chairs three organisations: The 1805 Club, which conserves the graves, monuments and memorials of the sailing navy of the Georgian era; The New Waterloo Dispatch, which arranged the ceremonial interpretation in June 2015 of

the news of Waterloo and is now developing the legacy of Waterloo based on the celebration of the idea that is Europe; and Thames Alive, which staged the Magna Carta 800 River Relay at Runnymede, and which in 2012 organised the manpowered squadron of The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant and on the Thames, Day 70 of the London 2012 Thames Olympic Torch Relay. In 2005 Peter was vice-chairman of the Official Nelson Commemorations Committee, which organised the Trafalgar bicentenary commemorations. He is a trustee of The Queen's Row Barge Gloriana and an accredited NADFAS lecturer.



Colin Munro – Expedition Team Member

Colin is a freelance marine biologist and photographer, with a strong interest in underwater photography. Originally from the north of Scotland, he now lives in Southwest England. As a marine biologist he has specialised in diving and camera surveys of the seabed, in particular he has worked on the monitoring of marine protected areas in temperate waters. His work has taken

him from the sea lochs of Scotland to the seagrass beds off Libya and deep water reefs of the Persian Gulf. He has been a professional scuba diver for over 30 years, first starting as military diver in the rivers of Germany. This was by a brief stints as a salvage diver in East Africa and diving instructor, before his passion for ocean life lead him back to university and a career as a diving biologist. When not diving or driving Zodiacs Colin spends his time restoring his own wooden sail boat or tinkering with old motorbikes.



John Dew – Guest Speaker

John Dew was Ambassador to Cuba and Colombia and has extensive experience in Latin America. After studying English at Oxford, he was posted to Venezuela in 1975 (in the heady days after the first huge oil price rise) and after postings in London and Paris he was Deputy Head of Mission in Dublin from 1992 (involved in the early stages of the peace process) and Madrid from 1996. From 2000-2003

he was Head of the FCO's Latin America and Caribbean Department, travelling extensively in the region. After a secondment to the now defunct investment bank Lehman Brothers, he was Ambassador to Cuba in 2004 and Colombia from 2008 until 2012, where he took a particular interest in human rights and drug trafficking. He retired in 2013. He is an active member of the Oxford Printmakers Co-operative and is married with three grown up children.



Bernabe Urtuby – Expedition Team Member

Born in Argentina and currently living in Patagonia, all of Bernabe's studies were orientated towards biology. During his Exchange Student time in Johannesburg, South Africa, Berna fell in love with nature and wildlife, travelling extensively around southern Africa, especially Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa and Botswana. For the

past 17 years he has been working as a Guide, Zodiac Driver, Lecturer and/or Expedition Leader to Antarctica, the Arctic and around South America. South America is his home, with a vast knowledge of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, from Tierra del Fuego to Brazil and as far North as Panama and Colombia. Berna's passions are the Polar Regions and travelling. During the excursions Berna will share his knowledge about wildlife, especially marine mammals, seabirds and the history of the area. From 2006 and until 2009 he has worked as an External Consultant for UN in Tierra del Fuego Province in a major program called Coastal Management of the Argentine Patagonia. He has worked at Punta Tombo Magellanic Penguin Colony for several years as well, enjoying every moment around wildlife in its fullest. During his little spare time, Berna is a Whale Watching, Tug and Pilot boat Captain around Peninsula Valdes, in the home of the Southern Right Whales.

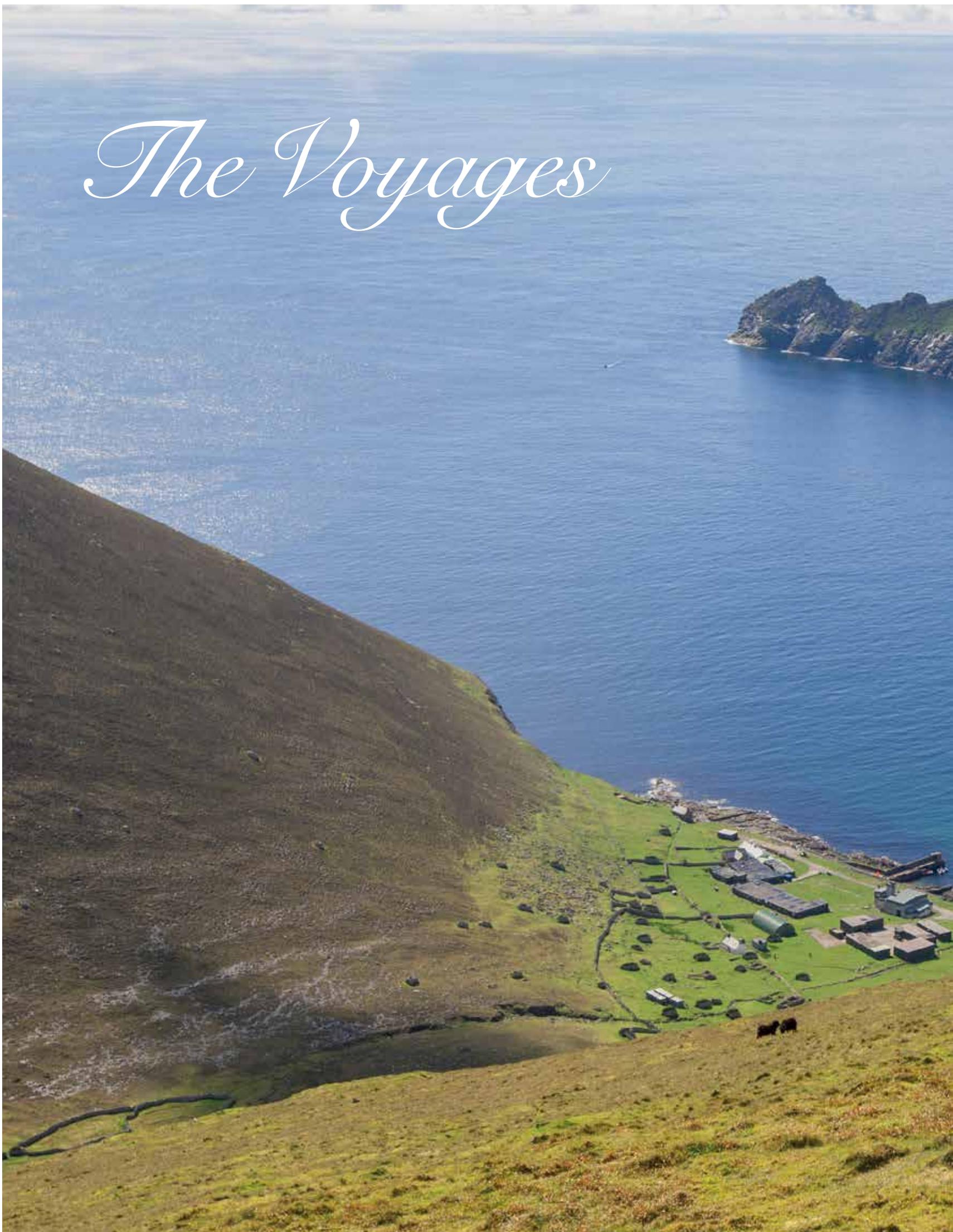


Jane Wilson – Expedition Leader

Jane was born and raised in Australia. She graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Science and then a Master of Environmental Studies. She worked for the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service for the following 15 years until she was bitten by the Antarctic bug. For several years Jane worked in remote field camps in Antarctica (near Davis Station and Macquarie Island) as a

wildlife research scientist specialising in the ecology of seabirds. This coincided with the boom in expedition cruising and Antarctic tourism in the late 1990s. For the last 20 years Jane has worked on expedition cruise 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 has also worked as Voyage Leader for the Australian Antarctic Division, being responsible for deploying support personnel, cargo and scientists to stations and field camps in Antarctica. She is a keen skier and now calls the Rocky Mountains in Canada home.

The Voyages





Natural Wonders of the Pacific Coast



A voyage from Peru to Costa Rica aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
27th March to 15th April 2019

Let us take you to some of the loveliest and least explored places along South and Central America's Pacific coastline. Beginning in Lima, we will sail north along the coast of Peru visiting Chan Chan, a pre-Columbian site of the Chimu culture and the largest adobe city in the world and land on Lobos de Tierra, a tiny island off the Peruvian coast, famous for its abundant marine and birdlife. After a day at sea we continue our exploration of this wildlife rich region visiting Ecuador's Machalilla National Park, a protected coastal haven for over 200 species of birds and wildlife and Colombia's Utria National Park with its dense rainforest, mangroves and home to many bird species, reptiles and monkeys. Finally, we arrive in Costa Rica where we have four days to explore this remarkably diverse region with its teeming rain forest, cool cloud forest and sugar-sand beaches.

Much of the itinerary is far from the 'big ship' routes and includes little known but fascinating destinations with magnificently diverse wildlife, beautiful beaches and fascinating indigenous cultures. With an amazingly rich biodiversity of flora and fauna seen against some of the lushest of landscapes to be found anywhere in the world, a voyage such as this would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise. The MS Hebridean Sky is the perfect vessel for such a journey and our Zodiacs will be put to good use in the more remote places allowing us to land and explore otherwise unreachable places.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Lima, Peru. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening into Lima and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay.

Day 2 Lima. After breakfast in the hotel we will have a free morning to relax or explore independently. In the early afternoon 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. 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. Return to the hotel and meet for dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Lima. Today we will head out of the city to the famous Pachacamac

Temple, a religious compound which dates from the 3rd century and made entirely of clay. Visit the impressive Temples of the Sun and Moon as we learn about the Inca and Pre-Inca people that lived here. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky, berthed in the port of Callao, where we enjoy a Welcome Dinner and Drinks as we sail tonight.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day on board the MS Hebridean Sky. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 5 Salaverry. Arrive this morning at Salaverry, our base for a full day of touring. From the port we will drive to 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 skillful irrigation and engineering projects. We also visit 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 Urquiaga, a mansion containing pre-Columbian ceramics and the Plaza de Armas with its imposing 17th century cathedral.

Day 6 Lobos de Tierra. Today, weather permitting, will be the first opportunity to use our Zodiacs as we visit the offshore island of Lobos de Tierra. In the 19th century this was the site of a large guano mining centre however today it is an important seabird sanctuary and home to Peruvian pelicans, blue footed boobies and cormorants. We will explore the coastline in the Zodiacs and take walks ashore watching for the birdlife and South American sea lions in the waters.

Day 7 At Sea. Maybe join one of the lectures in the lounge, read a book in the library or watch for wildlife from the deck as we have a day at sea sailing to Ecuador.

Day 8 Puerto Lopez, Ecuador. Today we start our exploration of coastal Ecuador and anchor at Puerto Lopez for an excursion to the Machalilla National Park, an area of great diversity on the juncture of the cold Humboldt current flowing north and the warm

El Nino current flowing south. It contains one of the world's largest tropical dry forests, at 55,000 hectares, and is an example of the vegetation that once covered 25% of Ecuador's land mass. We travel inland to a small village with an interesting archaeological site. Here we will split into groups for our walks to see the varied flora and fauna, including several types of cacti, kapok and palo santo trees that have adapted to the arid conditions, and the many varieties of birds including coastal parrots. We will take lunch in the park before returning to the pleasant fishing village of Puerto Lopez.

Day 9 Isla de la Plata. Around forty kilometres off the Ecuadorian coast is the small island of Isla de la Plata (Silver Island) where it is claimed Sir Francis Drake buried some of his treasure. The island is part of the Machalilla National Park and a sanctuary for sea birds such as the red footed, blue footed and Nazca boobies who share the steep cliffs with frigate birds, albatrosses and the red-billed tropic birds. Today our naturalists will lead nature walks searching for wildlife before sailing in the late afternoon.



Lima



Toucans



Chan Chan ruins



Blue footed boobie, Isla de la Plata



Isla Tortuga

Day 10 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea.

Day 11 Isla Gorgona, Colombia.

Once a high security prison island located 50 miles off the Colombian mainland, Gorgona Island has reinvented itself as a natural paradise with golden sandy beaches, fresh water streams, waterfalls and tropical forests. In the mid-1980s the island became a National Park, the prison converted to a research centre and one of the houses to a museum. We will spend the day on the island and offer a choice of activities including nature walks looking for some of the many species of birds, snakes, sloths and monkeys as well as the blue anole – the world's only blue lizard. Alternatively enjoy a swim or snorkel from the beaches or learn more about the history of the island from the local guides.

Days 12 & 13 Utria National Park & Bahia Solano.

Today we land on the Pacific coast of Colombia and have a day and a half to explore this beautiful area which is well off the traditional cruise routes. Here we find the Utria National Park, a tropical forest which reaches down to the sandy beaches. Using our Zodiacs to get ashore we will enjoy hikes and nature trails and observe the flora and fauna with our local guides. In Bahia Solano we will visit the small town whilst the more active amongst us may wish to join a walk to a private rainforest reserve which runs alongside the Rio Mecana and is part of a 170 hectare nature reserve. Made up of mangroves, tropical forest, native plants and trees of the Choco region, our local guides will point out the indigenous plants and birdlife and highlight the ongoing reforestation programmes. We also hope to offer a chance to swim from the beaches.

Day 14 Isla Coiba, Panama. Spend the morning at sea arriving at Isla Coiba during lunch. This once infamous prison island, now a National Park, has reverted to an island paradise. We will anchor off the ranger station and use our Zodiacs to land on the island. Here our onboard naturalists will lead some guided walks as we explore the main island, which boasts some 147 species of birds, and walk up to the observation tower. If time and conditions permit we hope to find a suitable spot to swim.

Day 15 Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica. After clearing immigration formalities into Costa Rica at Golfoito we make our way to Casa Orquideas (Orchid House) a five hectare private botanical garden cut out of the rainforest by Ron and Trudy MacAllister who now cultivate over 100 species of orchids which attract many different bird species. Plants of the tropics burst with colour and the air here is heady with the fragrance of flowers and humid soil. Due to the open space, it is often easy to spot a number of tropical birds here including toucans.

Day 16 Corcovado National Park.

Resting on the northern side of the Osa Peninsula, Drake Bay (Bahía Drake) is our gateway to the Corcovado National Park. We will use the Zodiacs to land on one of the beaches before enjoying a walk through the primary and secondary forest with our naturalist guides. The rich biological diversity of the biological corridor of Corcovado National Park is astounding and bird lovers will be enchanted by a wide variety of birds, including tanagers, flycatchers, kingfishers, manakins, trogons, crested guans, and spectacular scarlet macaws and toucans. We return to the ship for

lunch and this afternoon we will look for another landing site to explore this fascinating area.

Day 17 Manuel Antonio National Park.

From the port of Quepos we travel to the Manuel Antonio National Park which is one of the most stunning and bio-diverse areas of the world. Spread out over 683 hectares it is filled with diverse wildlife, has both primary and secondary forests, boasts a stunning shoreline ideal for bird watching or swimming and is home to a number of endemic species of plants and animals. We will make an early start this morning allowing for the best viewing of monkeys, vividly coloured birds and the lethargic three-toed sloth. This afternoon we will have time at leisure in Quepos as we sail later tonight.

Day 18 Curu National Park and Isla Tortuga.

We spend our last

morning exploring the Curu National Wildlife Refuge which boasts a rich and diverse wildlife in five different habitats ranging from marine zones, including a wide beach area, mangrove swamps and tropical forests. Here on a range of walks we will find over 200 species of birds, howler and capuchin monkeys, mammals such as otters, ocelots, pumas and turtles. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Tortuga Island where we have the chance to snorkel over the volcanic reef home to angelfish, morays and needlefish. Alternatively spend the afternoon relaxing on the white sand beaches.

Day 19 Puerto Caldera to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to San Jose for our scheduled flight to London. Alternatively join our extension programme to see more of Costa Rica.

Day 20 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	£9295	£8895
Byrd	Superior	£9495	£9095
Mawson	Premium	£9995	£9595
Mawson	Corner	£10495	£10095
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£11995	£11595
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£12395	£11995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£13995	£13595
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£12295	£11895
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£12495	£12095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Lima with breakfast • Dinner on day 2 • 16 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, visas.

Pre-Cruise Peru Extension including Machu Picchu & Sacred Valley

22nd to 27th March 2019

Discover the heart and soul of one of the most fascinating civilisations in the Americas - the Incas. Explore Cusco, capital of the Inca Empire; the Sacred Valley, a setting of picturesque communities, impressive terraces and some important archaeological sites; and the ultimate Inca site, Machu Picchu.



Machu Picchu



Sacsayhuaman ruins



Plaza de Armas, Cusco

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Lima, Peru. Fly by scheduled flight arriving into Lima this evening. On arrival transfer to an airport hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 2 Lima to Sacred Valley. After breakfast in the hotel we return to the airport for our scheduled flight to Cusco before transferring to the Sacred Valley where we have the afternoon to acclimatise before we meet for dinner this evening at the hotel.

Day 3 Cusco & Sacred Valley. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before visiting the local village of Chinchero, famous for its bustling, colourful market. The village of Chinchero is a quaint little town that houses an important Incan outpost, built at the end of the 1400s, as well as a lovely colonial church. The townsfolk are famous for having preserved traditional Andean spinning and weaving techniques, and they set up a market in the town square to sell their handmade crafts to visitors. After lunch, continue on to the massive fortress of Ollantaytambo.

The fortress, a formidable stone structure that climbs massive terraces reaching the top of a high peak, was the valley's main defence against the Antis and the site of the Incas' greatest victory against the Spanish during the wars of conquest. Below the fortress lies a complete Incan town, also called Ollantaytambo, still inhabited and with its original architecture and layout preserved. We board the train to Aguas Calientes and transfer to our hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 4 Machu Picchu & Sacred Valley. After breakfast this morning we will take a bus ride to Machu Picchu accompanied by our local guide. We explore the city's ruins and imagine the lives of the priests, craftsmen and servants who inhabited this incredible place. Excavations at the site have revealed skeletons, artefacts and woollen clothing, but no gold. The same precision of assembled stones exists here as in other Incan sites. We will enjoy lunch at Machu Picchu

Sanctuary Lodge and afterwards make our way to Cusco by train. Check in to the hotel for our two night stay and meet for dinner tonight.

Day 5 Cusco. Today we explore Cusco, including the Cusco Cathedral and Santo Domingo, a Dominican church and convent built upon the foundations of the Koricancha temple. This was the 'place of gold' - the Inca's principal religious building, which was dedicated to the worship of the sun. After seeing the sights of the ancient city, we continue to the ruins of Sacsayhuaman, a true testimonial to Incan architectural expertise. Compiled of massive stones we are challenged to try to slip a piece of paper into the cracks in between these blocks, cut and fitted together with incredible precision without a single drop of mortar to hold them in place. This ancient fortress (where the greatest battle between the Spanish and Incas took place) overlooks the red-tiled roofs of Cusco and the breathtaking countryside surrounding

the city. We head back into Cusco for lunch before spending the remainder of the day and evening at leisure. Dinner will be served at the hotel this evening.

Day 6 Cusco to Lima. After breakfast we transfer to the airport in Cusco for our scheduled flight to Lima. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel to join the main programme on day 1.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2495** Single: **£2995**

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel between Lima and Cusco, overnight hotel accommodation in Lima, Aguas Calientes and Sacred Valley on a bed and breakfast basis, two nights accommodation in Cusco on a bed and breakfast basis, dinner on days 2, 3, 4 and 5, lunch on days 3, 4, and 5, excursions, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.
NB. Please be advised that this extension will visit areas of high altitude.

Post-Cruise Costa Rica Extension

14th to 20th April 2019

Upon disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a five night extension in Costa Rica to explore this wonderful and biologically diverse country further. We will visit the Monteverde Cloud Forest, an area of extremely high biodiversity and home to many species of mammal, birds, butterflies, insects, trees and plants as well as Arenal Volcano National Park.

Poas Volcano National Park



Arenal National Park



Hummingbird, Monteverde Cloud Forest

The Itinerary

Day 1 Puerto Caldera to Monteverde, Costa Rica. Disembark this morning and transfer to Monteverde enjoying lunch along the way. On arrival we transfer to the El Establo Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay and will have dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 2 Monteverde. Today we will experience the hanging bridges of Monteverde Cloud Forest Sky Walk which cross the canyons below and bring us face to face with the upper level of the forest canopy. The trails extend for slightly over a mile and a half and we will be accompanied by local guides. Biologists now know that about 90 percent of all organisms in a rainforest are found in the canopy. Among the 400 species of birds, some of the best known species are: the quetzal, the bird bell, the black turkey bird, the mot-mot, the orange-bellied trogon, and the bare-neck umbrella bird. We will also have the opportunity to make our way up to one of the highest mountains in the area by Sky

Tram, a tranquil way to take in the natural beauty of the forest. After lunch we will enjoy further exploration of the forest with a walk in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve. Dinner tonight will be served at a local restaurant.

Day 3 Monteverde to Arenal. This morning we will start our stunning journey to Arenal including a stop for lunch at the Bon Appetit Restaurant. Afterwards enjoy some time at leisure absorbing the region's lush and verdant flora and fauna whilst taking in its rare and diverse biosphere. Continue on to Arenal and check in to the Kioro Hotel (or similar) for our two night stay. Tonight we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 Arenal. After breakfast, we depart for a guided visit to Arenal National Park. Here, we will take a walk through the area where the Arenal volcanic eruption took place in 1968, learning about the destruction this caused and

the subsequent rebirth of life via the rich mineral deposits the eruption provided to the region. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a treetop cable car ride and, for the more adventurous, to participate in a zip-line adventure, providing an exhilarating bird's eye view of the park. Following lunch, there will be time to relax and explore Arenal at leisure. This evening we will enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Day 5 Arenal to San Jose. Following breakfast at our hotel, we will make our way to San Jose including visits to the Doka Estate for an insight into one of Costa Rica's prime exports, coffee. We will learn the processes involved in the harvesting and manufacturing of this ubiquitous beverage. We will also visit the Poas Volcano National Park, where after a short walk, we will be treated to spectacular 180 degree views of the volcano's crater and the picturesque surrounding areas and the Tabacon Hot Springs which are heated by the nearby volcano and set in a tropical paradise.

Arrive into San Jose this evening and transfer to the Real Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 6 San Jose to London. Check out from the hotel after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 7 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1995** Single: **£2595**

PRICE INCLUDES: Overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose, two nights hotel accommodation in Arenal and Monteverde, all meals as mentioned in the itinerary, gratuities, excursions and transfers as described, English speaking guides.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

Sailing the Spanish Main



Discover the ancient and natural wonders of Central America aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
22nd April to 13th May 2019

Our voyage from Colombia to Nassau by way of Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, Mexico and Cuba is certainly an odyssey to some of Central America's most picturesque and enthralling destinations. We will begin in the charming, colonial walled town of Cartagena from where we sail to some little known, pristine and remote islands including Panama's San Blas archipelago, Colombia's Isla Providencia, Guanaja Island in Honduras and Livingstone in Guatemala.

Our time spent on these island paradises will be interspersed with visits to some of the region's most fascinating Mayan sites including the opportunity to explore Copan in Honduras, Chichen Itza in Mexico and the lesser known Lamanai Archaeological Reserve in Belize with its massive pyramids. Not forgetting the incredible biodiversity of the region, we also visit some national parks to view endemic and diverse flora and fauna including the Cahuita National Park in Costa Rica. Before reaching Nassau we spend three days in the vibrant Cuban capital of Havana.

If you have been contemplating a visit to Central America, then this captivating voyage offers you the perfect opportunity with its mix of cultural and natural wonders. Such a comprehensive and in-depth itinerary would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise and with the MS Hebridean Sky as our base, we are able to visit some remarkable places which the larger cruise vessels simply cannot access.



San Blas Islands

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Cartagena, Colombia.
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Cartagena. Arrive into Cartagena this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax. Later this evening we will meet for dinner in a nearby restaurant.

Day 3 Cartagena. This morning we will explore the colonial walled city of Cartagena on a guided tour including the 16th century Fort of San Felipe and Monastery of San Pedro Claver. After lunch in a local restaurant there will be some free time before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 4 San Blas Islands, Panama.
Spend the morning at sea before we arrive at the stunning San Blas Archipelago during lunch. The archipelago is made up of over 400 islands which line the north coast of Panama with white sandy beaches set in a turquoise sea. The islands are home to the indigenous Kuna Indians who gained self-rule from the government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molos'. This afternoon choose to explore the market, local museum or maybe enjoy a swim from the beach.

Day 5 Colon for the Panama Canal.
From our berth in Colon we will take

a full day tour to see the famous Panama Canal. The first attempt to build the canal was made by a French company, but ended in failure in 1889. The American government eventually bought out the French for 40 million dollars, and their attempt to build the Canal started in 1904. Through the efforts of over 80,000 workers and the loss of more than 30,000 lives, the greatest single construction project ever undertaken was completed. The canal finally opened in 1914 and it is now a vital artery of international trade, with nearly 14,000 ships travelling through it every year. We will visit the Panama Canal Observation Centre and learn about the expansion of the canal before visiting the Miraflores Locks Visitor Centre where we can

watch the ships as they pass through. Also discover the historic old town of Panama, declared a UNESCO Historical Monument. We will stroll along the cobblestone streets of the Casco Viejo visiting the colonial mansions and 17th century churches and convents before continuing to Panama Viejo and the original ruins of the city founded in 1517 and burnt to the ground by British pirate Henry Morgan.

Day 6 Bocos del Toro. Arrive this morning in the Bocas del Toro archipelago and the island of Isla Colon. After breakfast we will head the short distance to the Finca Los Monos, a privately run garden managed by David and Lin Gillingham. Over the years Finca Los Monos has evolved from a lush rainforest to a magnificently planned garden with large collections of heliconias, gingers, palms, flowering trees, fruits, spices and ornamentals whilst new plants are constantly being added. With such an abundance of fruit and flowers, a wide variety of birds reside here including parrots, tanagers, woodpeckers, orioles, flycatchers, green Ibis and many more. One may be lucky enough to see the small nests of the hummingbirds or the pendulous nests of the montezuma oropendulas. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to explore the small town.

Day 7 Puerto Limon, Costa Rica. This morning we head south to the Cahuita



Livingston



Sloth



Cartagena

National Park. The area is filled with wildlife that includes howler monkeys, white-faced capuchin monkeys, raccoons, sloths, otters, coatis, agoutis, armadillos and porcupines. Several avian species also live in the swamp forest, including the green ibis, the green kingfisher, the yellow crowned night-heron, the frigate bird and the boat-billed heron, among others. Our naturalist guides will lead us through the trails of the rainforest, sharing their vast knowledge of this fragile ecosystem. After lunch on board the MS Hebridean Sky the afternoon is free to relax or join a restored passenger train and travel through beautiful scenery to catch a glimpse of some more of Costa Rica's amazing wildlife such as sloths and monkeys. The train track is part of the 3' 6" gauge Atlantic Railway, opened in 1890 to link San José with the country's east coast but closed to regular services after severe damage by an earthquake in 1991. For the second part of the trip we will board a boat and travel along the scenic Tortuguero canals, where waterfowl, white-faced and spider monkeys can be spotted.

Day 8 Isla de Providencia, Colombia. Often referred to as 'Old Providence' in English, Providencia is a beautiful Colombian island that is little known and untouched by the hand of tourism. Along with its smaller sister island of Santa Catalina, it is enclosed by an extensive barrier reef system of some 35 kilometres in length, making it one of the most significant reefs in the world. Captured twice by Henry Morgan and his buccaneers who aimed to make it a British possession, it nevertheless ended up Spanish and is now a remote Colombian island. Arriving at lunchtime we have an opportunity to spend the afternoon on an island tour and travel in local boats to Crab Cay for snorkelling.

Day 9 At Sea. Relax on board, find a spot on deck to read or maybe join one of the lectures as we continue our journey north.

Day 10 Guanaja Island, Honduras. Arrive this morning in Honduras and the small island of Guanaja. The easternmost of the three Bay Islands, Guanaja is covered in a forest of Caribbean pine and when Christopher Columbus landed on the island in 1502, he named it the Isla de Pinos (Island of Pines). Unlike some of the surrounding islands only small ships like ours can anchor here and we will spend the day exploring the island and its surroundings. Visit the small town, use local boats to explore the mangrove channels, snorkel on one of the nearby cayes, visit the small turtle sanctuary or join nature walks with the local guides.

Day 11 Puerto Cortes. Our second day in Honduras will be at the mainland port of Puerto Cortes from where there will be a choice of excursions. A full day tour will travel to the archaeological site of Copán, famous for its magnificent Mayan ruins which were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Archaeological Site in 1980. One of the most important of all Maya civilisations lived, prospered, and then mysteriously crumbled around the site. The city produced remarkable sculptures and hieroglyphics, including a towering stairway, which we will explore before enjoying lunch in a local restaurant and returning to the ship. This will be a long but rewarding tour. Alternatively drive to the nearby Fortaleza de San Fernando do Omoa, a colossal fortress, at 4,400 square metres, built by the Spanish between 1759 and 1777 to combat the piracy prevalent in the region. Explore the fortress, the visitor centre and museum before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

Day 12 Livingston, Guatemala. Surrounded by water and jungle, Livingston is a settlement of Garifuna people accessible only by sea which is just one of the things that makes it unique among Guatemalan cities. We will transfer onto local boats and venture up the Rio Dulce hoping to see pelicans, cormorants and herons as we cruise up the river before arriving at the Ak'tenamit project, a local social development organisation supporting sustainable tourism. Here we will walk the trails viewing birds and plants before returning to spend time in Livingston itself.

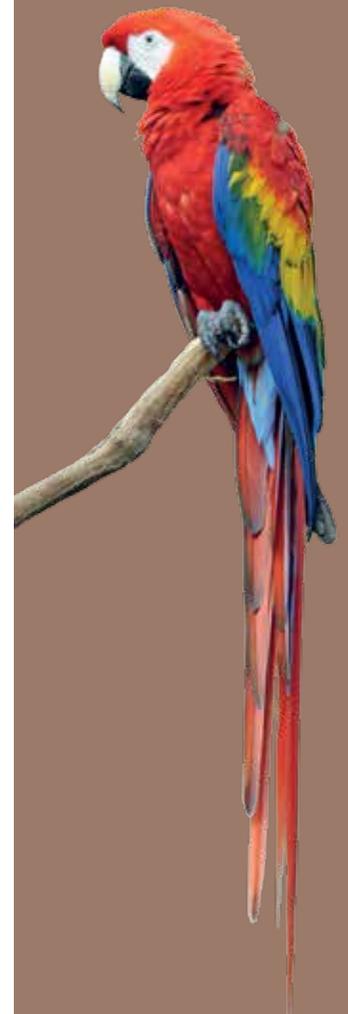
Day 13 Belize City, Belize. We have an interesting day ahead as we travel inland to the ancient Mayan city of Lamanai (translates to 'submerged crocodile'). From the nearby town of Orange Walk Bridge, we board local boats for a wildlife cruise through mangroves, wetlands and forests. Look out for egrets, herons, kingfishers, snail kites and black-collared hawks as we make our way up river past Morelet's crocodiles. A short walk through the jungle brings us to the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve with its massive pyramids which are in fact pyramids built upon pyramids. Local guides will tell the story of this site which is the only Mayan city known to have been inhabited through every age of Mayan civilisation.

Day 14 Costa Maya, Mexico. From the port of Costa Maya we will head inland to the Mayan archaeological sites of Dzibanche and Kinichna which formed a city that covered 40 square kilometres. The ruins, discovered in 1927 by Thomas Gann, include impressive temples, plazas and ceremonial centres whilst government buildings suggest this was a social and economic centre for the region. The site was settled during the 'classic period' between the 3rd and 9th

“

If you have been contemplating a visit to Central America, then this captivating and in-depth voyage offers you the perfect opportunity with its mix of cultural and natural wonders.

”





Havana



Isla Providencia



Pyramid in San Gervasio

centuries and was also the capital of the Kan dynasty in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. Recent excavations at Dzibanche have revealed tombs with rich jade offerings for members of the ruling family and inscriptions that indicate it could have been home to the most powerful Maya dynasty.

Day 15 Cozumel. The island of Cozumel is our base for a choice of tours today. We will travel by boat to mainland Mexico for our full day tour to the Mayan site of Chichen Itza, one of the new 'Seven Wonders of the World'. Our visit will include the great main plaza with the adjoining imposing El Castillo, also known as the Pyramid of Kukulcon. Other buildings include the Temple of the Carved Panels, the Temple of the Warriors and the nearby Group of the Thousand Columns, the Ball Court and the Caracolor Observatory. Alternatively stay on the island of Cozumel and visit the pre-Columbian Mayan site of San Gervasio. This was a hub of worship for the goddess Ix Chel, the deity of childbirth, fertility, medicine and weaving and women would make a pilgrimage to the site at least once in their lives. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in the local town.

Day 16 At Sea. After a busy few days enjoy a relaxing day at sea, maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to settle down with a book.

Days 17 to 19 Havana, Cuba. We have three days to explore Havana and will offer a number of excursions during our time here. Discover Habana Vieja (Old Havana) with its twisting, cobbled streets that lead to beautifully restored Baroque churches, castles and palaces and visit the 16th century Plaza de Armas, the oldest plaza in the city and its original administrative centre. Also learn more about Hemingway's Cuba and visit the legendary writer's finca in San Francisco de Paula and the Ernest Hemingway Museum. Later, call into Cojimar Village, the inspiration for 'The Old Man and the Sea'. Explore modern Havana on a drive along the Malecon, Havana's seafront to Vedado. See the Plaza de la Revolucion and the headquarters of President Fidel Castro and his Council of Ministers. We also hope to embrace one of the traditional industries of Cuba with a visit to a cigar factory learning about the traditional techniques still in practice today. For those wishing to venture further we will offer a full day tour to the Vinales Valley in the Pinar del Rio Province. It is here that some of the best tobacco is grown, harvested and processed. We will learn about the production techniques, see the traditional Cuban country lifestyle and enjoy lunch before our scenic drive back to the ship. We also hope to

have musicians join us on board for a concert as we moor overnight.

Day 20 At sea. Enjoy a final, relaxing day at sea as we cruise to Nassau.

Day 21 Nassau to London. After a leisurely morning on board followed by lunch, enjoy an afternoon tour of Nassau. We will continue to a local restaurant for dinner before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 22 London. Arrive this morning.

SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that this voyage is a mix of expedition and destination cruising and we will be making use of the vessel's Zodiacs in at least five ports of call including the San Blas Islands, Bocos del Toro, Isla de Providencia, Guanaja Island and Livingstone.

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	£10895	£10495
Byrd	Superior	£11095	£10695
Mawson	Premium	£11495	£11095
Mawson	Corner	£11995	£11595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£12495	£12095
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£12795	£12395
Shackleton	Hebridean	£14495	£14095
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£13495	£13095
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£13695	£13295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Cartagena on a bed and breakfast basis • Half day Cartagena tour with lunch • Dinner on day 2 • 18 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 • Transfers • Port taxes • Gratuities.
Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



Spring in the Islands & Highlands of Scotland



An exploration of Scotland's beautiful landscapes aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
24th May to 3rd June 2019

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. One of Europe's true last remaining wilderness areas, it 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.



Loch Scaivaig and the Cullin Mountains

The Itinerary

Day 1 Oban, Scotland. 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 Iona, Staffa & Lunga. The isle of Iona has been occupied for thousands of years and has also 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 AD 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 the south side of Staffa 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 cathedralesque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs

to explore closer. We then also sail to Lunga, the largest of the Treshnish Isles. Of volcanic origin, Lunga has been described as a 'green jewel in a peacock sea'. Populated until the 19th century, the island still bears the remains of black houses. There is also prolific birdlife including puffins, storm-petrels, kittiwakes and Manx shearwaters.

Day 3 Loch Scaivaig & Canna. Today our vessel will anchor in the lovely Loch Scaivaig. 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 morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals. We sail over lunch to the island of Canna. Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, 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 has an amazingly



Grey seal



Canna House



St Kilda

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.

Day 4 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 lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past one of the largest gannetries in the world, Stac Lee.

Day 5 Stornoway, Isle of Lewis & Shiant Islands. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, today's tour takes us across to the beautiful west coast of the island and to Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. 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. We then head north to Gearranan 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. This afternoon we will board the Zodiacs for a cruise around the spectacular basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis and home to many nesting seabirds.

Day 6 Inverewe Gardens & Handa. This morning we will drop anchor and use our Zodiacs to access one of Scotland's premier gardens, Inverewe. This botanical garden in the north-west Highlands presents an amazing collection of exotic trees and shrubs that are sheltered by well positioned windbreaks of native pine. After a guided tour of the gardens we will return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch as we sail towards Handa arriving later this afternoon. Here we will use our Zodiacs to explore the magnificent sea cliffs of Torridonian

sandstone which rise from the Atlantic. The island comes alive each summer when nearly 100,000 seabirds gather to breed, including internationally important numbers of guillemot, razorbill, puffins and great skua.

Day 7 Scrabster. Spend the day in Scrabster, the most northerly port on the Scottish mainland. This morning we will visit the Castle and Gardens of Mey, 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 renovated and restored it and created the beautiful gardens which we will see today. After lunch on board relax for the afternoon or choose to take a drive along the coast to Dunnet Bay, a glorious crescent of sand and dunes and home to many seabirds and unusual flora that 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. Before our return to the ship we will visit the Medieval Canisbay Kirk whose position over the Pentland Firth has made it a shipping landmark for centuries. We sail overnight north to the Orkneys.

Day 8 Westray and Papa Westray, Orkney Islands. Today we explore the islands to the north of the Orkney mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, an RSPB reserve on the sea cliffs and home to up to 100,000 nesting seabirds. We also see Notland Castle, an incomplete fortress built in the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour, Mary Queen of Scots Sheriff of Orkney whilst 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

“

There is no better way to explore this endlessly fascinating and beautiful region that will cast its spell on you whether your interest lies in wildlife, photography, ancient history or simply an appreciation of this unique corner of the kingdom.

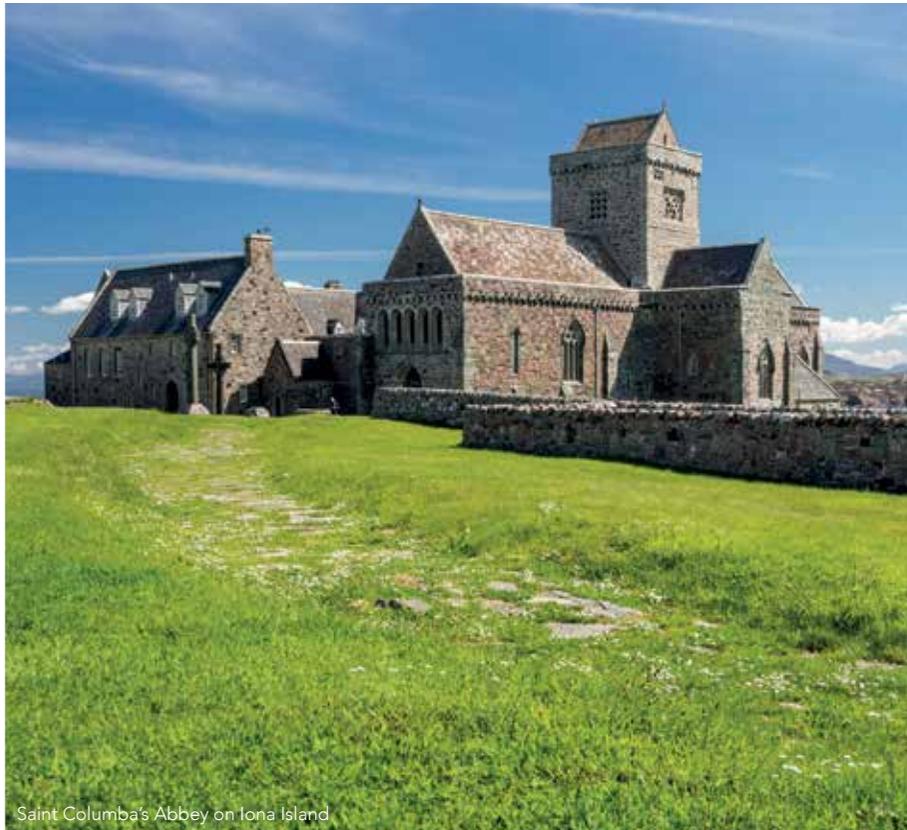
”



Gannet in flight



Stac Lee



Saint Columba's Abbey on Iona Island

your legs on a number of island walks. You can choose to visit the 3500 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 9 Lerwick, Shetland Islands.

After breakfast, we will begin our exploration of the Shetlands and travel to the southern point to visit the historic site of Jarlshof where the archaeological ruins date from the Stone Age up until the 17th century. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the historic

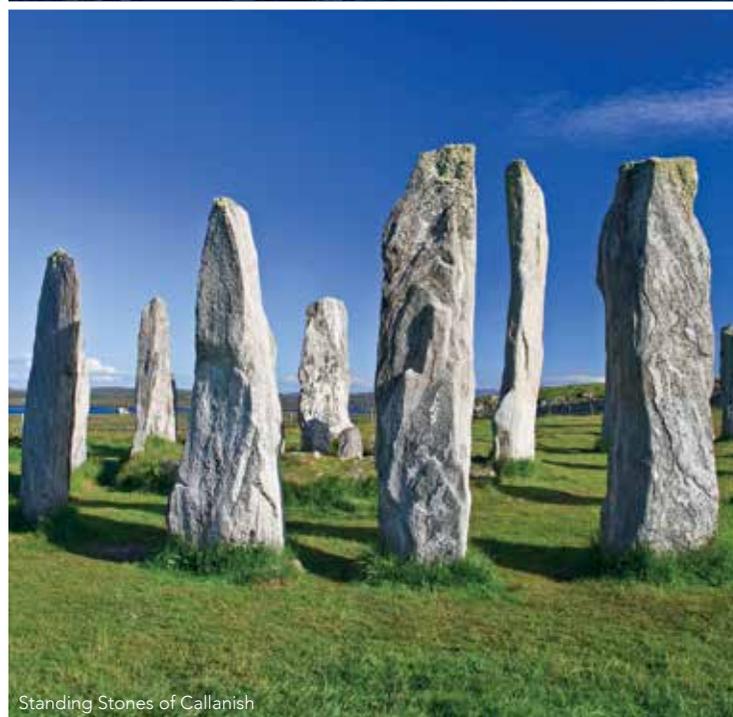
port town of Lerwick. Wander the narrow stone lanes and maybe visit the excellent Shetland Museum, containing artefacts from shipwrecks and the whaling era.

Day 10 Fair Isle. This morning we anchor off the remote island of Fair Isle. Located midway between the Shetland and Orkney islands, the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend us a warm welcome. Enjoy a walk across the island, perhaps visiting the Bird Observatory, searching out the puffin slopes, or continue to the community hall for a cup of tea.

Day 11 Aberdeen. Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Aberdeen Railway station and Aberdeen International Airport at a fixed time.



Noup Head, Westray



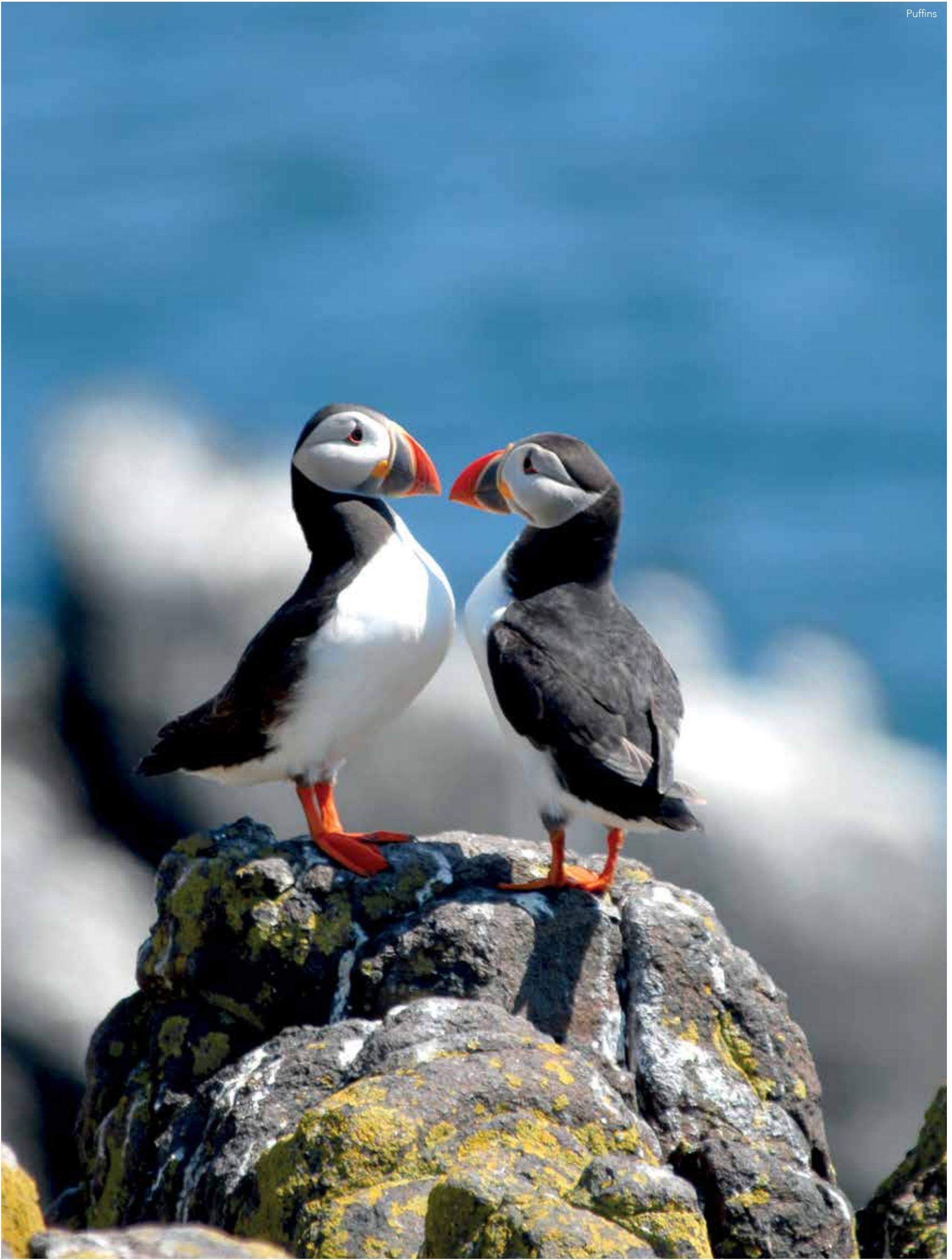
Standing Stones of Callanish

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	£4290
Byrd	Superior	£4675
Mawson	Premium	£5005
Mawson	Corner	£5195
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£5715
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6045
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7145
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6875

PRICE INCLUDES: Ten 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.



Passage North



A voyage from Scotland to Iceland including the Faroe Islands aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
3rd to 16th June 2019

Here is a voyage for those who want to see nature in the raw and one which combines an in-depth exploration of the remote and little visited Faroe Islands with time spent exploring Iceland, one of the most extraordinary and dramatic lands on the planet.

We set sail from Aberdeen, enjoying a morning on Fair Isle before sailing north to the Faroe Islands, once a stopping point for Viking explorers, this mysterious collection of 18 islands set in the North Atlantic, halfway between Norway and Iceland, is a paradise for walkers and bird watchers. The intriguing history of the islands can be traced back to the Irish monks who settled there in the 6th century and the 9th century seafaring explorers who traversed the North Sea and claimed Orkney, the Shetland Islands, Iceland and Greenland. Here, a highlight will be seeing the many puffins and other sea birds nesting and we will spend four days exploring the villages and rolling hills of these distant isles before venturing further north to Iceland.

Whilst in Iceland we will witness the immense scale of the landscape dominated by towering snow-capped mountains, thundering waterfalls and spontaneous erupting geysers as we learn of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage. Europe's least populated country offers the visitor a truly unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work and we will visit some of its most dramatic areas and whilst we sail its waters will look out for humpback whales, orcas, white-beaked dolphins and observe the colonies of seabirds.

Such a journey can of course only be taken by a small ship and with the use of our nimble Zodiacs we can get up close to nature and explore some of the most remote and untouched places. With just over 100 travelling companions, the atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht trip and ashore with our local experts we will divide into small groups thereby enjoying a more comprehensive and peaceful experience.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland.

Embark this afternoon, transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Airport and rail station at a set time.

Day 2 Fair Isle. This morning we anchor off the remote island of Fair Isle. Located midway between the Shetland and Orkney islands, the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend us a warm welcome. Enjoy a walk across the island, perhaps visiting the Bird Observatory, searching out the puffin slopes, or meet the local community and maybe purchase some of the famous knitwear. Spend the afternoon at sea as we continue our journey north to the Faroe Islands.

Day 3 Suduroy, Faroe Islands. Over breakfast we will arrive at Suduroy, the southernmost island of the Faroe Islands. From the port of Tvoroyri we have a choice of activities. Choose to join an island drive and 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 Beinivoro promontory to the north and the luscious grass slopes to the east. Alternatively the active may wish to join a hike to Hvaanagi, a beautiful, uninhibited place north of Tvoroyri on the east coast of Suduroy where the view is fantastic towards the three islands Litla Dimun, Stora Dimun and Skuvoy.

Day 4 Vestmanna. Spend the day in Vestmanna, our base as we discover the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. This morning 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. Call at Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse, which is now a museum and visit a traditional



Faeroese wooden church in Kollafjord. This evening we sail the short distance to Torshavn where we moor overnight allowing the opportunity for an after dinner stroll.

Day 5 Torshavn. We have the day to explore the capital of the Faroe Islands and surrounding area. There will be a choice of tours including 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 which is still in use. We also visit the 900-year old 'Roykstovan', the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. Alternatively join a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna or visit the island of Nolsoy situated just five kilometres from the capital. Enjoy time to explore the small village or visit some of the craft shops whilst the keen birders may join a walk with our onboard team to see one of Europe's largest colonies of storm petrels as well as Atlantic puffins and black guillemots.

Day 6 Klaksvik. Our last morning in the Faroe Islands will be spent exploring the island of Borooy in the north of the group. During our morning excursion we will learn more about the Faeroese and Viking traditions as we make our way via a three mile long tunnel 500 feet under the sea to Leirvik on the island of Eysturoy. Here we will see the archaeological excavations of a thousand year old Viking farm before continuing to Gota, located at the head of the broad Gotuvik fjord. This historic



area was the home of the famous Viking chieftain, Trondur i Gotu, who defended the old Viking ways against the desire of the Norwegian king and the Faroese chieftain, Sigmundu Brestisson, to convert the Faroese to Christianity. Ruins of his farm are found in Gota, whilst the Blasastova Museum provides an insight into the culture and way of life in the Faroes in past centuries. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea as we continue our voyage to Iceland.

Day 7 Seydisfjordur, Iceland. After a morning at sea we arrive this afternoon in Iceland at the natural harbour of 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 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.

Day 8 Husavik. Over breakfast we arrive in Husavik, 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 9 Grimsey Island & Siglufjordur. Spend the morning on 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. Over lunch we sail to Siglufjordur, 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. Be on deck early this evening as we sail down Eyafjordur, on the lookout for whales, during our approach to Akureyri.

Day 10 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 and visit Art Alley,

where artisans keep their workshops and galleries, or the local church with its beautiful views over the fjord. Our tour ends at the imposing Godafoss Waterfall. You can then choose to either return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon in the town or continue 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 later this afternoon.

Day 11 Hornbjarg & Vigur Island. In the early morning we will arrive at the Hornbjarg Cliffs. These stunning cliffs rise 534 metres from the sea and are one of the largest centres for puffins in Iceland. We will use our ship to view this wonderful sight before continuing to the Western Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. Arriving in the early afternoon 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, Europe's least populated country offers the visitor a truly unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work and we will visit some of its most dramatic areas. Whilst sailing we will look out for humpback whales, orcas, white-beaked dolphins and observe the colonies of seabirds.

”





Latrabjarg cliffs



Sunset in the fishing village of Arnastapi



Puffin

Iceland's only extant windmill dating from the 19th century.

Day 12 Latrabjarg & Breidafjordur. During breakfast we will cruise past the Latrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Europe and home to a huge number of birds including puffins, northern gannets, guillemots and razorbills. If time and weather permits we hope to launch the Zodiacs for a closer look. Later on we see 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.

Day 13 Snaefellsnes. Our final day in Iceland sees us at the Snaefellsnes Peninsula which is dominated by the Snaefellsjökull volcano, regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland.

Again we will use our Zodiacs to land in some of the more remote areas. Arnastapi is known as the setting for Jules Verne's 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' and is a stunning location with columnar basalt, ravines and grottoes and magnificent lava formations. The cliffs between Arnastapi and Hellnar became a Natural Reserve in 1979 and are home to Arctic tern, kittiwake and fulmar. We will explore local fishing villages, walk on the beaches and see the black lava that dominates the area whilst the active may enjoy a walk inside the Vatnshellir Cave, a lava cave accessible by a long staircase deep underground and where our guide will inform us of the geology, history and folklore associated here.

Day 14 Reykjavik to London Heathrow. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

Post-Cruise Reykjavik Extension 16th to 18th June 2019



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	£7395	£6995
Byrd	Superior	£7695	£7295
Mawson	Premium	£8095	£7695
Mawson	Corner	£8695	£8295
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9695	£9295
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10395	£9995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11895	£11495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£10645	£10245
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£11545	£11145

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Flight to Aberdeen: If you would like us to book a flight to Aberdeen from London Heathrow to join the cruise on 3rd June, we can do so at a cost of £90 per person (subject to availability).

If you would like to spend some time in Reykjavik after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night optional extension staying at a centrally located hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. During your stay there will be a half day Reykjavik city orientation tour and a full day tour to the Golden Circle including the Geysir geothermal area, Gullfoss Waterfall and Thingvellir National Park.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£725**; Single: **£1095**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Reykjavik on a bed and breakfast basis, ship to hotel and hotel to airport transfers, full day Golden Circle tour, half day city tour, Tour Manager.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Scandinavian & Baltic Odyssey

A voyage from Aberdeen to Stockholm aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

7th to 19th July 2019

The long sunny days of a Baltic summer are legendary and the perfect time to witness the spectacle of colour and joy that the sun brings to this northern world which, bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, is ideally suited to exploration by ship. Whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the fascinating Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters or the sheer delight of small Scandinavian ports with their unique architecture, the Baltic offers a real cornucopia of delights which are all accessible from the comfort of the MS Hebridean Sky.

With over twenty years of experience operating cruises in this region, we believe we have the most perfectly balanced cruise. Whilst not forsaking our old time favourites such as Tallinn and St Petersburg we also visit some smaller ports which the big cruise vessels are unable to access. These well-hidden treasures include the islands of Christianso and Bornholm in Denmark, Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland, a UNESCO World Heritage Site fortified by well-preserved 13th century walls and Kotka in Finland, a delightful town with a rich maritime heritage. Added to this, joining you on board will be an expert team who, together with the informative local guides, will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region.



Catherine Palace, St Petersburg

The Itinerary

Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Railway Station and Aberdeen Airport at a fixed time. Sail this evening.

Day 2 At Sea. Relax on board as we sail across the North Sea to Norway. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge, read a book in the library or find a spot on deck.

Day 3 Kragero, Norway. Surrounded by nearly 500 islands and skerries, Kragero is a charming town in the region of Telemark and a popular summer retreat. This morning we will head inland to the Telemark Canal. When completed in 1892, after five years of construction, it was described as the 'eighth wonder of the world'. We will join one of the local boats as

they transit the 18 locks, lifting the ship 72 metres above sea level and enjoy the changing scenery as we travel from the sea to the mountains. Returning to Kragero for lunch we have the afternoon free to explore the downtown area, walking through the narrow streets and alleyways amongst the old wooden houses.

Day 4 Aalborg, Denmark. Aalborg was founded by the Vikings in the late 10th century across the Limfjord and prospered from the fishing and sea trade on the fjord. On a morning excursion we will explore the ancient Viking site of Lindholm Hoje, one of the most important ancient monuments in Scandinavia which was dug out from a thick layer of sand. We will visit the burial site of 700 graves, scattered on a hilltop with a beautiful view of the fjord. Continue to the onsite museum that contains a fascinating exhibition on the Viking settlements found close to

the burial ground. We will end with the chance to enjoy authentic Viking cuisine with some small dishes prepared using traditional recipes. After lunch on board we will have an afternoon to explore the old town of Aalborg. A guided tour will include the Renaissance styled Merchant houses, the Baroque town hall, the 16th century Budolfi Cathedral and Aalborghus Castle. Alternatively, for anyone interested in sampling the local beers there will be the chance to join a guided walk of the old town including a tasting of the local specialities.

Day 5 Elsinore & Copenhagen. The Danish King, Eric of Pomerania built a fortress in the early 15th century to enforce the collection of dues for all ships wishing to enter the Baltic. In the following century Frederick II rebuilt the castle into a magnificent Renaissance castle, Kronborg was considered at the time to be the strongest fortress in Europe. The castle is known to many as 'Elsinore' the setting for Shakespeare's tragedy, Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. The play has been performed in the castle many times and included such prominent actors as Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud. We will enjoy a morning exploring the castle and the old town before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon you can choose to explore further or join a tour to Copenhagen where we will see the Palace of Amalienborg with its four identical Rococo buildings which have been the Royal Residence since 1784. Also see the Little Mermaid Fountain,

Christianborg Castle, the Royal Theatre and the Nyhavn district.

Day 6 Bornholm & Christianso. Over breakfast we arrive on Bornholm. Peaceful and scenic, Bornholm Island is a mixture of wheat fields, forest and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On an island drive we will see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudjem where we can sample the smoked herring. Also see Hammerhus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline. Over lunch we sail to the tiny island of Christianso. Here, we see the old fortress of King Christian V and learn about the island's past including its history as an island prison. Today, it is a very special and peaceful place where the eider ducks appear everywhere and on the bird sanctuary of Grasholmen thousands of herring gulls, razorbill and guillemot breed. *Please note that we will be at anchor at Christianso and will use Zodiacs to go ashore should weather conditions permit.*

Day 7 Visby, Sweden. Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town snuggles inside 13th century walls, housing 44 watchtowers. In Viking times and several centuries after, the Swedish island of Gotland and especially the city of Visby, became a centre of trade in the Baltic Sea and is a World Heritage Site. Walk its streets from the Middle Ages and see its gardens ablaze with flowers,



Kronborg Castle



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Tallinn



Bornholm Island

earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the Viking exhibits at the Gotland Museum and wander the paths of the botanical gardens. Return to the ship for lunch and maybe join a lecture this afternoon as we cruise the Baltic Sea.

Day 8 Tallinn, Estonia. This morning we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. Either return to the ship for lunch or remain in the city and enjoy some free time before we sail in the late afternoon.

Days 9 & 10 St Petersburg, Russia. We have two days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian city's. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be offering a number of tours during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, a canal cruise through the city, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, the Catherine Palace and a tour of the cities cathedrals of Kazan, St Isaacs and the Church of the Spilled Blood. On our first evening we will enjoy

a private tour and concert at the Hermitage Museum.

Day 11 Kotka, Finland. Built on the site where the River Kymijoki meets the Baltic Sea, picturesque Kotka has a long seafaring tradition. This morning we will explore the history of the region and visit the Langinkoski Imperial Fishing Lodge which was built in 1889 for Alexander III, the future Emperor of Russia who used it as a summer home. It is now a living museum situated in a stunning nature reserve on the river. Continue to the Maritime Centre Vellamo where local guides will enlighten us about the maritime and cultural heritage of the region. Return to the ship for lunch and relax on board as we spend the afternoon at sea.

Day 12 Mariehamn, Aland Islands. This morning we cruise through some of the 6700 islands of the Aland archipelago arriving over lunch into the attractive town of Mariehamn. Choose to join an afternoon drive where we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads, stopping at Badhausberget with panoramic views over the archipelago. Alternatively explore the town at leisure, maybe visit the sea quarter where boats are built and repaired using traditional techniques, walk along the esplanade an avenue of lime trees that link the harbours or enjoy time in the handicraft shops.

Day 13 Stockholm to London. Be on deck early this morning as we sail through the Swedish Archipelago into Stockholm. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-Cruise Stockholm Extension

19th to 21st July 2019



If you wish to explore Stockholm in more depth after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night extension which includes an orientation tour as well as time at leisure to explore this fascinating city.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Stockholm. After disembarking we will enjoy a morning guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum. The museum was built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the city we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner Harbour. The remainder of the day and lunch are at leisure to explore independently.

Day 2 Stockholm. A full day at leisure to explore Stockholm at your own pace.

Day 3 Stockholm to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£595**; Single: **£895**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, half day tour, gratuities, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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	£5795	£5595
Byrd	Superior	£6195	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6695	£6495
Mawson	Corner	£7095	£6895
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7595	£7395
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8995	£8795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9495	£9295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9695	£9495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from Stockholm to London
 • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions
 • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Group visa for Russia.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Patagonia & the Chilean Fjords



An exploration of the Land of Fire & Ice from Ushuaia to Valparaiso aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
8th to 26th March 2020

Those who have a passion for the wilder places on our planet usually have Patagonia on their must do list. Shaped by fire and ice, this rugged, yet hauntingly beautiful land of windswept pampas, hanging glaciers and cloud piercing peaks, remains today as enticing and fascinating as it did to Magellan, Drake and more latterly Darwin. We will be sailing these waters exactly 500 years after Ferdinand Magellan became the first European to navigate what is now known as the Magellan Strait in 1520.

Chile is made for cruising. Its shape and geographic location is just perfect; thousands of miles of coastline that you can of course explore aboard one of the many huge cruise vessels calling at the major cities of South America, or alternatively join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy the wonders of this magical country, some of which only small ships have access to. With our fleet of onboard Zodiacs we will be able to explore deep into the fjord system away from the larger cruise vessels which may be in the region.

Wildlife abounds here and the skies are filled with the cries of seabirds. Albatross' and petrels' wheel overhead and sea lions bark from their rocky outcrops. Helping us understand all the wonders we shall encounter will be our experts and expedition staff who will accompany us ashore and our highly adaptable Zodiac craft will allow us to enter tiny inlets and explore fjords and stretches of magnificent coastline.



What to Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule may be changed to maximise your experience. Each day holds something new and the below extracts from a past expedition log will provide you with an idea of what to expect during your voyage.

Friday 9 March 2018 – Cape Horn.

The night had passed smoothly and we awoke to a promising day as the sun rose over relatively calm waters at our anchorage off Cape Horn. Not many can say they have anchored off Cape Horn and enjoyed a quiet breakfast but today we had been blessed. A scouting Zodiac returned from the shore with the great news that a landing was possible so we all prepared for the first outing of our voyage. Remembering the details given in the Zodiac briefing the evening prior we boarded the Zodiacs for the short crossing from ship to shore to land on a boulder beach on the sheltered side of the island. The two main objectives of the visit were the Chilean Naval Station, encompassing the lighthouse and chapel, and the monument honouring all the sailors who lost their lives sailing around the Horn.

The climb to the top of the stairs proved to be unexpectedly very interesting botanically. The morning grew warmer as we traced the helpful, but occasionally rickety, boardwalk to the ingeniously crafted steel albatross monument. The on duty Chilean custodian of the lighthouse seemed pleased to welcome company on their isolated island. The sun continued to shine as we explored the lighthouse and environs. All too soon it was time to return to the Hebridean Sky, but lunch awaited, so life was not too bad. We were destined to travel back north, but as time and weather conditions permitted Captain Niklas Peterstam was able, and willing to take us on an anticlockwise circumnavigation of the whole island, completing the tour with a blast of the ship's horn to salute this very special place we had been privileged to visit.

Sunday 11 March 2018 – Punta Arenas and Magdalena Island

It was an early start to the day as we embarked in the Zodiacs at 7.30am on a calm but decidedly cool morning. Our objective for the day was Magdalena Island to visit the penguin colony that is home to maybe 58,000 pairs of Magellanic Penguins. We took a short journey by coach to board our exclusively chartered ferry which reached the island in under two hours. Our arrival coincided with the tail end of the penguin breeding cycle. Before us were many adult birds in the process of moulting. The birders amongst us took interest in the menacing looking skuas that were lurking with intent and also some ever active waders skipping along the tide line. The stars of the show though were undoubtedly the penguins which never fail to delight the eye, even when exhausted by family duties. Back aboard the Hebridean Sky Sebastian gave his second presentation



Zodiac landing



Cape Horn

entitled *Shackleton in Chile*, a stirring tale of derring-do from the early 1900s. Having only short experience of life in an open boat we marvelled once again at the exploits and fortitude of the stout bunch of men under the command of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Continuing our passage through the convoluted channels of the Chilean Fjords we rounded the southernmost tip of mainland South America. The ever changing lighting was fabulous as the angle of the sun's rays decreased casting bright and bluish search light shafts of light onto the white cross marking the cape, and the surface of the sea and land beyond.

Wednesday 14 March 2018 - White Narrows and Bernal Glacier

We pulled away from the pier at Puerto Natales retracing some of our track as we began to thread our way back through the narrow channels of these remote Chilean fjords. The weather was changeable throughout the morning as we penetrated further into the Reserva Nacional Alacufes amidst spectacular mountains topped with a white dusting of fresh snow. Time allowed for an extra landing. Running roughly north to south and joining Canal Valdez at right angles is the fjord Canal de las Montañas and this was our opportunity to explore a little visited area. Frozen fingers of ice grasping between the rock peaks thousands of feet above us indicated the presence of the huge lurking mass of ancient frozen water above. Glacier Zamudio had pushed all the way down to the sea but our destination was Bernal Glacier some kilometres further on. On arrival there was a keen wind and a little rain but the glacier looked too good to miss so many of us braved the Zodiacs to land on a makeshift shingle promontory. A brisk 20 minute walk along a dugout natural path took us through swamp berry bushes. At one point the raised path curved across a pale turquoise lagoon giving a Lord of the Rings feeling to the approach to the glacier. Creeping Magellanic gunneras bearing bright red fruits carpeted the edges of our walkway in such a picturesque style that this could easily pass for a designed garden, but this was purely a work of nature. There are not many glaciers in the world as approachable as the Bernal and we were able to touch the huge ice crystals on the face of the cascading frozen river. Time passed quickly in this little oasis of tranquillity but there was plenty to talk over at the evening recap when we returned to the ship and all who stepped ashore agreed that this extra mini adventure had been well worthwhile.



La Boca



Beagle Channel, Ushuaia



Chilean Fjords

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay. Rooms will be available on arrival and the remainder of the day and evening are free to relax and explore independently.

Day 3 Buenos Aires. During our guided morning tour we will visit the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo (Old City Hall) before we continue towards the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobblestoned streets. We will continue to the neighbourhood of La Boca to look around the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists. We will see the woods of Palermo with 741 acres of gardens and artificial ponds surrounded by elegant buildings. This afternoon is free to relax before we meet this evening for a tango show and dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel before we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. On arrival, transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and sail this evening. Enjoy the scenery as we enter the Beagle Channel, named after the HMS Beagle which Robert Fitzroy piloted through this extraordinarily beautiful channel with naturalist Charles Darwin in the 1830s.

Day 5 Cape Horn. We will make our way around Cape Horn, one of the best known maritime landmarks in the world. Magellan was the first European visitor here in 1520 and prior to the opening of the Panama Canal it was an important

staging post. Weather permitting we hope to use our Zodiacs to land and enjoy a walk to the monument. This afternoon we return to the Beagle Channel. Here the mountains, still partly unmapped, drop as sheer, densely wooded cliffs into the channel and six glaciers flow from the 8000 foot Mount Darwin into the sea. Penguins, dolphins and the South American sea lions abound here in the channel.

Days 6 to 12 Chilean Fjords, Punta Arenas & Torres del Paine National Park, Chile. During the next seven days we will enjoy some of the most stunning scenery imaginable. This vast area of mountains, glaciers, islands, lakes and waterfalls is untouched by man except for a few fishing villages which perch at 'the end of the world'. We will make good use of our time exploring the beautiful protected waters, enjoying the renowned fjords of southern Chile which rival those of southeast Alaska in their raw beauty and prolific wildlife. Crystal clear reflections of vertical walls and hanging glaciers are broken only by the ripples of dolphins and whales, whilst overhead, the sky is alive with seabirds. See how quickly you run out of suitable adjectives to describe all you are witnessing. Our route will be managed by our experienced Captain and Expedition Leader alongside the local pilots. As well as stunning scenic cruising, the area is ideal for Zodiac forays. From Punta Arenas we will travel to Magdalena Island to see the Magellan penguins that return each year to mate and live in large groups on the beach. This is now a protected area and the colony numbers are up to 10,000. As we continue our journey we hope to navigate the Kirke Narrows, a remarkable channel leading between lush, forested shores, so narrow it can only be sailed at low tide. Dropping anchor at Puerto Natales, we enjoy a full day in South America's largest national park, the Torres del Paine. This is one of

the most spectacular places on earth, a vast uninhabited wilderness of glacier-draped mountains, windswept pampas, turquoise glacial lakes and verdant valleys. Look out for herds of guanacos (a smaller version of the llama), rheas, Patagonian hares, foxes and rich birdlife and see the stunning rock formations of the Horns of Paine. We also hope to operate Zodiac excursions ashore in some of the remote fjords we pass on our journey.

Day 13 Chiloe Island. Chile's second largest island, Chiloe Island was one of the first Spanish strongholds in the Pacific Southern South America. Once the island had been conquered, it was hard for indigenous uprisings to reconquer and as a result it became a major link in the Spanish trade route around Cape Horn. The island was also visited by Darwin aboard the HMS Beagle in 1831. Our visit ashore on this mainly forested island will include Castro, one of the oldest towns in the Americas, known for its unique wooden architecture and stilted houses, see the wooden cathedral of St Francis and the historic old quarter.

Day 14 Puerto Montt. Just when you thought you had seen the best Chile has to offer, we land at picturesque Puerto Montt, a resort town in the Lake District. Settled by German colonists in the mid-19th century, much of its early Middle-European styled architecture remains, rendering a slightly bizarre feel in such an obviously un-European setting. Leaving the ship we will head to the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park which is the oldest in Chile and contains three commanding volcanoes in Osorno, Calbuco and Puntigudo. We will see the mighty Petrohue River and the rapids that crash through lava channels creating a series of magnificent waterfalls. We will return to the ship via Puerto Varas situated in a stunning location on Lago Llanquihue with a backdrop of the Osorno volcano.

“

With our fleet of onboard Zodiacs we will be able to explore deep into Chile's fjord system, away from the larger cruise vessels which may be in the region. Helping us understand all the wonders we will encounter will be our experts and expedition staff who will accompany us ashore.

”





Valparaiso

Day 15 Valdivia. After a morning at sea we arrive in Niebla the port that serves the nearby colonial city of Valdivia, one of the oldest European settlements in Chile. An afternoon excursion will include time visiting Niebla Fort, one of the largest strongholds in Valdivia, it played a vital role in the city's defence thanks to its strategic positioning and unhindered views of the Pacific Ocean. Learn how Lord Cochrane expelled the Spanish troops from the forts on behalf of the newly formed Chilean governments in the 1920s. We will spend some time exploring the anthropological museum and enjoy a beer tasting at the Kunstmann Brewery.

Day 16 At sea. Enjoy a relaxing day on board as we continue our journey north along the Chilean coast.

Day 17 Valparaiso to Santiago. Disembark this morning and enjoy a morning in Valparaiso. Visit Fisherman's Wharf, the Plaza Sotomayor and the Naval Academy before heading to the Casablanca Valley which is now one of the country's premier wine areas and we will enjoy a tasting and lunch at one of the vineyards. This afternoon on arrival in Santiago we transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) and have the remainder of the day to explore independently.

Day 18 Santiago to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 19 London. Arrive this morning.

Pre-Cruise Iguazu Falls Extension

5th to 9th March 2020



Iguazu Falls



Buenos Aires

Before joining your fellow travellers in Buenos Aires, prior to the cruise, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, considered by many to be the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires, Argentina. Arrive this morning and transfer to the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Rooms will be available on arrival and the remainder of the day and evening are free to relax and explore independently.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Iguazu Falls. On arrival transfer to our hotel the Loi Suites (or similar) for our two night stay and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the Brazilian side of the falls.

Day 4 Iguazu Falls. Enjoy a full day at the Iguazu Falls on a series of guided walks seeing the upper and lower circuits and also the Triple frontier the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning and join our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel (or similar) and join our fellow travellers (follow main itinerary from day 2).

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	£8695	£8495
Byrd	Superior	£8995	£8795
Mawson	Premium	£9495	£9295
Mawson	Corner	£9995	£9795
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£10995	£10795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£11495	£11295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£12895	£12695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£11995	£11795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£12595	£12395

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and overnight in Santiago on a bed & breakfast basis • Half day Buenos Aires tour • Tango show & dinner in Buenos Aires • 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

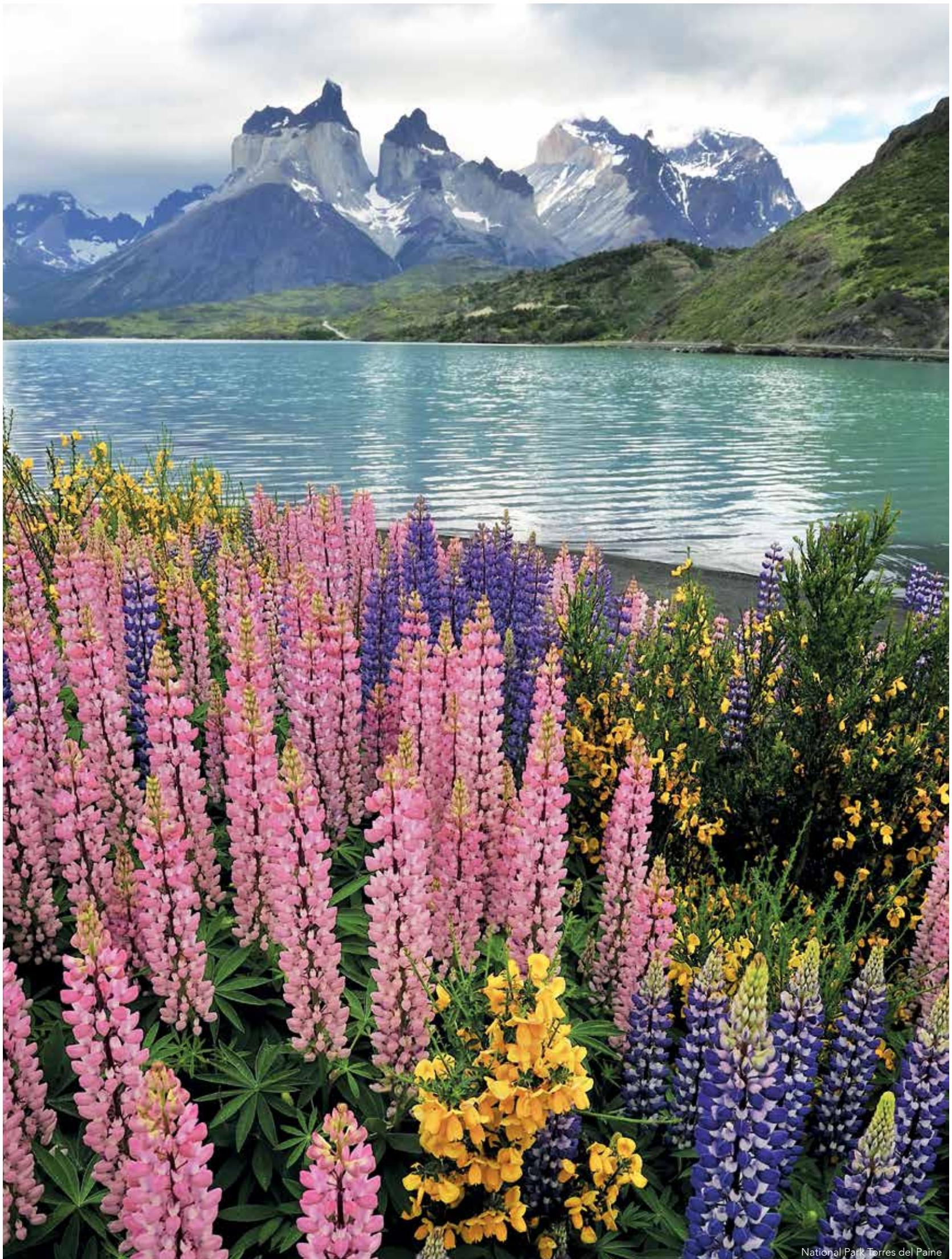
PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

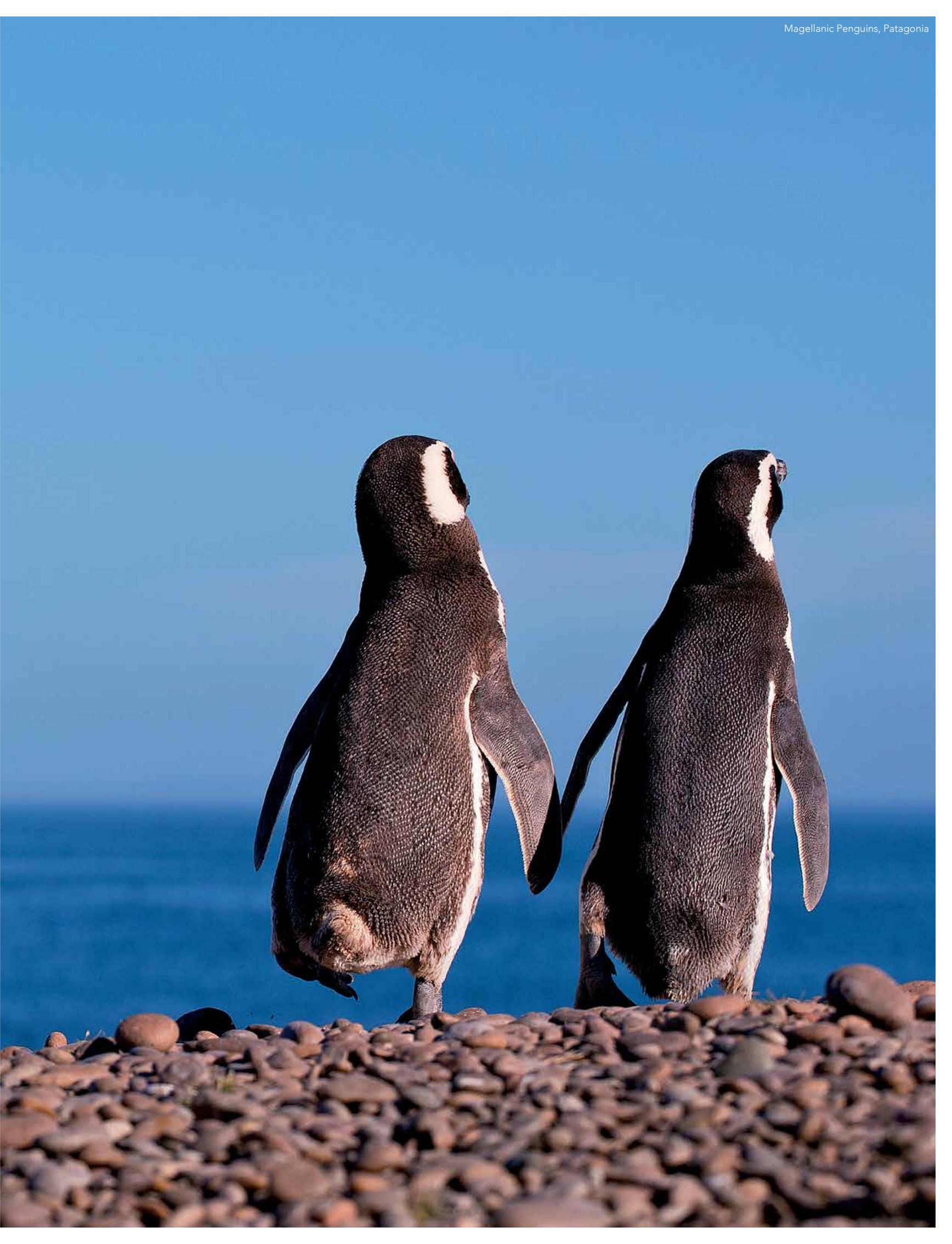
Twin: **£1545**; Single: **£1995**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights hotel accommodation in Iguazu Falls at the Loi Suites, breakfast daily, lunch and dinner on days 3 & 4, guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.









NOBLE CALEDONIA

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

www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



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