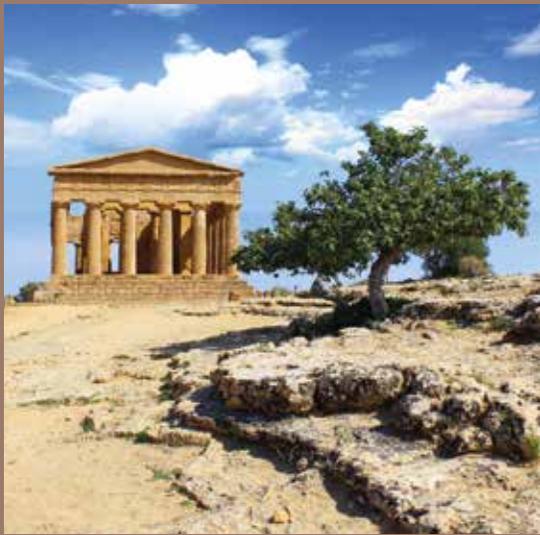


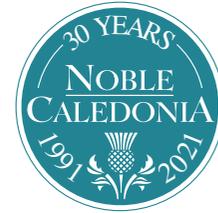
Voyages aboard
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
2021 & 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Dear Traveller

We are delighted to bring you this new brochure detailing the voyages which the all-suite, 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky will undertake in 2021 and 2022. During the recent period of inactivity for our vessels owing to the global pandemic, we have been busy working on our future schedules and are very much looking forward to welcoming you on board once more.

Over the following pages you will find details of some in-depth cruises around the Baltic, expedition cruises around the United Kingdom, voyages along the North African coast, cruises with a focus on Italy and her islands along with an expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Whichever voyage catches your interest, our commitment is the same, to provide travellers with opportunities to participate in journeys which explore the world with a sense of discovery. 2021 marks our 30th anniversary and as we look forward to the next 30 years, our ultimate aim remains the same as it has been since our establishment, to create travel experiences that are enriching, memorable and highly enjoyable for like-minded travellers.

Our Sky vessels have built up a remarkable following over the years and it is not uncommon to have cruises of which 80% are past travellers on board. Such loyalty from our clients has held us in good stead for the future and none of us in the company take this strong following for granted, each year striving to make the experience on board even better. However, equally as important as the facilities are the staff on board whether they are the onboard crew or our own expedition staff. Noble Caledonia's reputation has been built on providing the very best in all areas. Our crew not only offer an excellent service, they are also noted for their kindness and attention to detail. A well run ship with a warm atmosphere is what we are known for. Another hugely important factor is our expedition team and Guest Speakers who are in control of the day to day programme and shore visits, doing their utmost to make every day special. Their knowledge, enthusiasm and warmth make every trip a unique and rewarding experience.

In light of Covid-19 we are of course continually updating our policies in line with best practice plans for the cruise industry and will be in touch with passengers regarding any specifics when appropriate. In the meantime, we hope you find something of interest over the following pages and, together with our onboard teams, look forward to welcoming you back on board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Cochrane'.

Tim Cochrane
Managing Director



NOBLE CALEDONIA
CHARITABLE TRUST

NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST

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



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.



The Club bar



Friendly service



The Observation Deck



The Club



The Library

Your Space

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. 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. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (signal strength varies depending on location and demand).

The main 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.

For your Comfort, Security & Safety

The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. There is also a dedicated channel on your television in your suite showing the routing of the vessel along with technical information and estimated times of arrival and departure from port.



The Lounge



Owner's Balcony Suite, Shackleton Deck



Your Suite



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. Refillable water bottles, 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 mini-bar stocked with your preferences and complimentary laundry.



Hebridean Suite, Shackleton Deck



Superior Suite, Byrd Deck



Your Dining

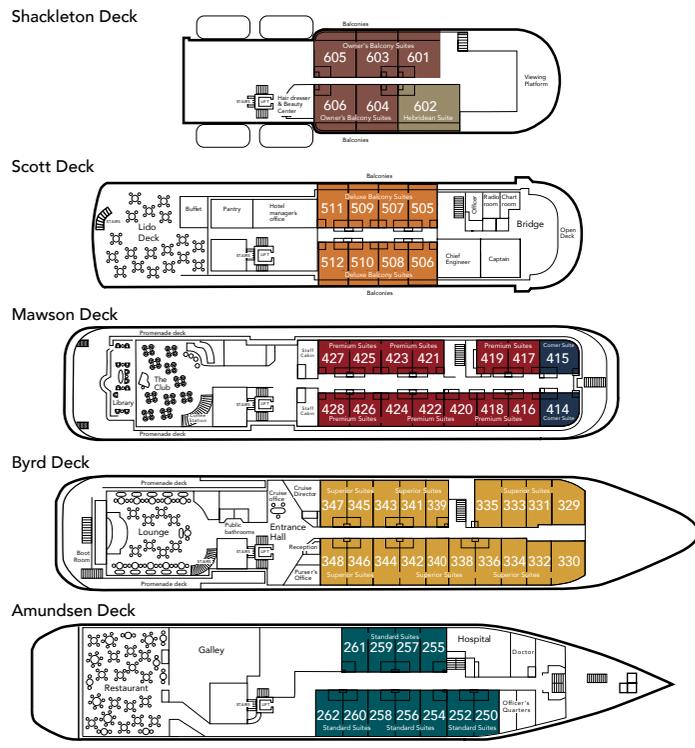


It is quite a task and takes a team of highly talented chefs to deliver fresh, varied dishes no matter where you are at sea. Fortunately, our catering team are well adapted to the world of small ship cruising where no two days are the same and the menus are often scheduled and tailored around the days' 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 on board to exhibit their culinary skills and bring a local touch to the varied menus, emphasising the international expertise of the chefs on board.

In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our onboard friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like-minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are à la carte with an excellent choice of dishes, with the menu often reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals and there is also a comprehensive wine list with a wide selection of new and old world wines from which to choose. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day in either the comfort of The Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. The onboard catering and restaurant staff are experienced at sea and enthuse a passion for superb service. Whether it be ensuring you have an outdoor blanket as you enjoy the crisp sea breeze on the Lido Deck or sharing their knowledge of the characteristics of the days' wine selections, you will experience a service on board like no other. You may also enjoy sumptuous barbeques on deck whilst at times, the chef will make your dish to order at special pasta or stir fry stations.



Deck and Cabin Plans



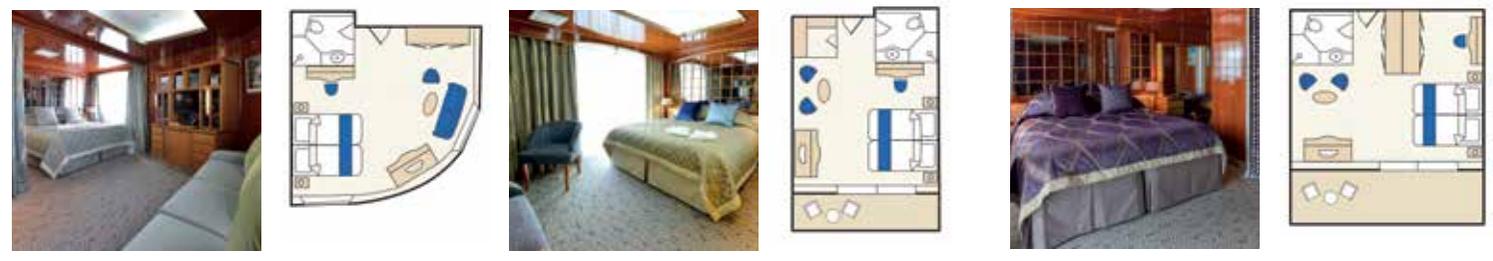

Expedition Cruising
 Some of the voyages in this brochure are expeditionary in nature and these feature the expedition logo. During expedition cruises you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. These hand-picked experts are naturalists, historians and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft and such cruises will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.




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.

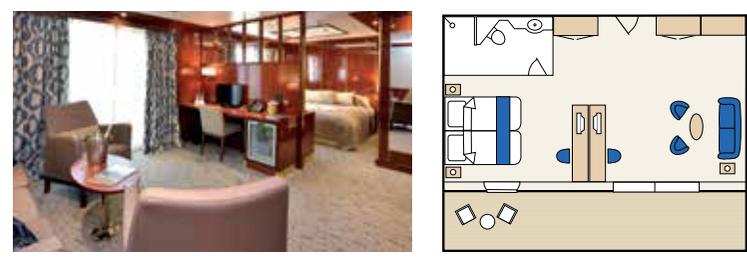
Mawson Deck – Premium Suites
 The Premium Suites located on the Mawson Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature a large window.



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.

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.

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 Guest Speakers we have lined up to join our voyages aboard the MS Hebridean Sky in 2021 and 2022. There are many more and full details of who will be joining you on board can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Professor Martyn Rady

Martyn Rady is Professor of Central European History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, a part of University College London. He has written books on German, Hungarian and Romanian history, and has edited and translated some of the leading texts for the history of Hungary – most recently the earliest Hungarian chronicle, written in Latin about the year 1200, and an eye-witness

account of the Mongol invasion of Hungary in 1241. He has broadcast extensively on television and radio, discussing subjects ranging from contemporary politics in Central Europe to vampirism and the history of the Habsburg Monarchy.



Major General Peter Williams

After studying History at Cambridge University Peter Williams spent more than 30 years in the British Army (Coldstream Guards) and enjoyed an unusually varied career. As an Infantryman he carried out ceremonial duties in London, spent two years in the mountains of Oman, served twice in Northern Ireland and commanded an armoured infantry battalion based in Münster, Germany.

During the Cold War he specialised in intelligence spending more than four years in the 1980s in Berlin and East Germany as an officer in the British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, in effect working as a military spy. From 1993-94 he commanded his Coldstream Guards armoured infantry battalion in Bosnia-Herzegovina on UN peacekeeping operations during the civil war there. He went on to do two more tours of duty in the former Yugoslavia. Finally in 1998 he was the Chief Faction Liaison Officer in NATO's HQ in Sarajevo. From 2001-02 he served first on the Western European Union Military Committee and then on the European Union Military Committee. His final military posting was in Moscow where he started up and led NATO's Military Liaison Mission to the Russian Federation, working on military cooperation projects with the Russian armed forces. He retired from the Army in 2005 and now enjoys giving talks on the Cold War and other current and historical issues and helps to train British military diplomats.



Michael Jones

Michael Jones is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a Member of the British Commission for Military History. He did his PhD at Bristol University, subsequently taught at the University of South West England, the University of Glasgow and Winchester College – and now works freelance as a writer, media consultant and travel guide. Mike is the author of twelve books, on

topics ranging from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century, and has been a presenter on Radio and TV. He has led tours of the Baltic for the last twenty years and loves bringing the region's remarkable history and culture to life. His book on the devastating siege of Leningrad (modern-day St Petersburg) in World War II has been translated into fourteen different languages, winning high praise from reviewers (the New York Post noted: 'If you think military history is dry this is a thirst-quencher') and is now being developed into a film.



Olga Stone

Olga Stone was born in Crimea, Ukraine. She graduated from the Odessa Conservatoire with distinction in piano, piano accompaniment and the teaching of music and then became a professional pianist and accompanist, performing in Moscow, Minsk, Kiev and other cities of the former Soviet Union. She has made many appearances on Ukrainian, Russian and Belorussian TV. She moved

to the Isle of Man in 1998 and, in 2001, was elected a Fellow of Trinity College of Music in London. Olga has performed in various venues around the world. She also teaches piano, Classics and Russian at King William's College (Isle of Man) and is the organist at St Andrew's Church, Isle of Man. Aside from degrees in Music, Olga has a MA in Classics and BA in the History of Arts, and is a part-time History lecturer for the University of Liverpool and for the University of Chester.



Chris Bradley

Chris Bradley has lived and worked in North Africa and the Middle East for over 40 years. He is now an Arts Society lecturer and professional tour guide having led many tours to Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. He first visited Algeria in 1985 as a Tour Leader and photographer, with one of his photographs chosen to be the Royal

Geographical Society membership card image. His published books include the Berlitz guides to Libya, Cairo, Egypt's Red Sea, Oman, Abu Dhabi, the Insight Guides to Egypt, Jordan, The Silk Road, Travel Photography and the Discovery Guide to Yemen. Over the years he has been an invited consultant for the United Nations World Tourism Organisation to conduct analysis on tourism developments across North Africa. He is a lecturer to noted societies, such as the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. He has been a cameraman and producer on many television documentaries for the BBC, Channel 4 and National Geographic TV. In Morocco he developed and filmed 'Atlas Biker' which was Nicholas Crane's first television adventure documentary. His talks on this cruise will help to uncover the rich layers of North African and Mediterranean history from pre-history through the classical era to the modern day, including the Roman period whose contemporary mosaics give us a fascinating insight into Roman life in Malta, Sicily, Algeria and Morocco.



Commodore Rupert Wallace CBE

Rupert Wallace retired from the Royal Navy in 2014 as a Commodore, after a career which included the Falklands War, three ship commands, heading a flotilla of destroyers and frigates, and strategic UK defence relations work throughout the Middle East and South Asia. On retirement he completed a Postgraduate degree in International Relations at

the London School of Economics. He now talks widely in schools, institutions and aboard cruise ships, concentrating on the Middle East, North America and Atlantic regions. He is History Director on an outreach programme to inspire disadvantaged pupils to apply to the top universities. Rupert travels extensively, including riding a bicycle across America, independently travelling the Silk Road from Iran to central China (with his wife, Kate), and is currently in the middle of a 10-year walk from the Atlantic to the Black Sea. To keep his feet wet he has a boat in Greece.



Martin Sixsmith

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

a consultant on the BBC2 political sitcom The Thick of It and the 2010 movie In the Loop. In 2011 he presented the BBC's 50-episode history of Russia on Radio Four. In 2013 his book The Lost Child of Philomena Lee was adapted into the film Philomena, starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. It was nominated for four Oscars. In 2014 he presented Radio 4's 25-part history of psychology and psychiatry. His latest book Ayesha's Gift is the story of a young woman's search to discover the truth after her father is murdered in Pakistan. Martin's next book, War of Nerves, about the Cold War, will be published in early 2022.



Captain Peter Hore RN rtd

Captain Peter Hore served worldwide as a logistician in the Royal Navy before spending ten years in the film and television industry, and then becoming a fulltime author. Peter's interests include naval history, strategy and biography, and he has written over 1,200 obituaries for the Daily Telegraph. He has also skippered STC Wyvern to a gold medal in the Tall Ships Race, and walked the

Camino de Santiago. As guest speaker he has appeared at Hay Festival and Chalke Valley History Festival, and his books include the award-winning Habit of Victory and HMAS Sydney, Cipher and Search. He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, Chartered Member of the Institute of Linguists, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and of the Society for Nautical Research, and an elected member of the Swedish Royal Society of Naval Sciences.



Rear Admiral John Lippiett

John Lippiett had a 36 year career in the Royal Navy, serving in a large number of ships from aircraft carriers to minesweepers and deployed to all of the world's operational theatres. He was second-in-command of the frigate HMS Ambuscade throughout the Falklands War. John commanded three ships, a Frigate Squadron, and then the School of Maritime Warfare. On promotion to

Rear Admiral, he flew his Flag at sea as Flag Officer Sea Training before serving in Naples as Chief of Staff of the NATO maritime forces in the Mediterranean. His final posting was as the Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College. John retired and for nearly 13 years was the Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust, during which time he led the project to build the award-winning new museum and ensure Henry VIII's flagship is conserved and displayed for future generations. John retired from the Mary Rose Trust in 2016 and spends much time back at sea as a speaker on maritime history. He much enjoys telling the stories both of exploration, often using old maps, and of naval ventures that have taken place on the world's oceans over the last two thousand years.



David Stuttard

David took an MA in Classics at St. Andrews University. He subsequently taught Classics for eleven years in Edinburgh, St. Andrews and York. David is a prolific author of books on classical history and literature including 'A Traveller's Guide to Roman Mythology' and 'Looking at Ajax' which were both published in August 2019. In 1993, David founded the theatre company,

Actors of Dionysus (aod), to perform productions of Greek drama throughout the UK and beyond, and for which he directed his own translations and adaptations of Greek tragedies. In 2013 David curated two events at The British Museum in association with their exhibition, Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum, while in 2015 he curated a further two events linked to their exhibition on the Greek body, Defining Beauty. In 2019 he was invited to reprise his programme of readings as a curtain raiser for the Ashmolean Museum's exhibition, Last Supper in Pompeii. An accredited lecturer for The Arts Society, David is an energetic champion of classics and writes for publications such as Minerva, The British Museum Magazine and The Wall Street Journal. David has served on the Council of the Roman Society and regularly chairs programmes of lectures on Greek tragedy. He speaks at a wide range of venues and events including literary festivals such as Oxford and Cheltenham.



Island Life

A springtime voyage of the British Isles from Inverness to Portsmouth
19th to 29th May 2021



This journey provides a wonderful opportunity to explore the splendours of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and England and offers a unique portrait of life in the islands. It is timed for the month of May when the western shores become alive with colour, the flowers are in bloom and the birdlife prolific; the most perfect time to explore the coastal paths, see the resident wildlife and enjoy the wonderful views on offer. From the East Coast of Scotland to the Isles of Scilly, where we have a full day and a half to explore, this diverse coastline makes for a most appealing sea journey whether you be an avid gardener, birdwatcher, or simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting places in the world.

The itinerary has been designed to ensure there is an enjoyable mix of history, culture and wildlife and amongst the many highlights will be our visits to Lundy where we hope to see puffins and Rathlin Island, off the north coast of Ireland and home to hundreds of seals and nesting seabirds, where we will learn of the island's long and eventful history. For those who appreciate time to wander around beautiful gardens, we have included visits to the splendid Bodnant Garden in Conway Valley and the subtropical Abbey Gardens on the charming island of Treviso.

The voyage will be made all the more enjoyable by the use of the Zodiacs which enable landings in remote places and make the otherwise inaccessible readily available. Whilst you could always drive, travel by train and coach and reach most of the itinerary with the help of a ferry, it is much more enjoyable to join the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky and travel in comfort without any of the hassle that independent exploration of these fascinating places would entail.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Inverness, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon in Inverness. Transfers will be provided from Inverness Railway Station and Inverness Airport at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Scrabster. Alight 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. Alternatively, enjoy a local walk to Holborn Head to enjoy views over the Atlantic coast. We will enjoy lunch on board and an afternoon at sea relaxing and listening to introductory talks from our expedition team.

Day 3 Isle of Lewis & Shiant Islands. Awake in Stornoway, the capital of Lewis, and join a morning tour which will take us across the island to the beautiful west coast and to Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There is a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design standing 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 Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses where people and animals lived in close proximity. The houses are made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. After lunch on board

we sail amongst the islands before anchoring off the spectacular basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands in the mid-afternoon. We will take to the Zodiacs for a coastal cruise as this small group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles.

Day 4 St Kilda & Stac Lee. This morning arrive at St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some 50 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 2000 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 and in 1957 it was bequeathed to the National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of the few 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 guided walks on the island. Later, we will cruise past one of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee. The impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 5 Staffa, Iona & Lunga. Awake this morning off the island of Staffa, where the perpendicular cliff face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which have been cut by the sea into cathedral-like caverns, most notably that of Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore the caves in greater detail. Later this morning we will visit Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 AD and established a monastery, here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. Visit the Abbey, where no less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried, walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the



Puffins, Lunga Island



Tresco Island



Iona Abbey



St Kilda

corncrake amongst the irises. Later today we hope to drop anchor off the nearby Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of uninhabited volcanic islets. The island of Lunga is the largest and has been described as ‘a green jewel in a peacock sea.’ It is a summer nesting place for hundreds of sea birds, in particular kittiwakes, shags, fulmars, guillemots, razorbills and puffins.

Day 6 Rathlin & Ailsa Craig, Northern Ireland. Be on deck early to catch a glimpse of the magnificent cliffs to the north of the island which is home to the largest sea bird colony in Ireland. Located just a few miles from the North Antrim coast, Rathlin has been settled for more than 6000 years. Today, there are only 80 or so inhabitants whereas before the famine there were 1200. History is everywhere with historic buildings and ruins abundant on the island. Enjoy a morning guided walk which will take in the prolific seabird life with astonishing numbers of auks, kittiwakes and grey seals. Relax on board during an afternoon at sea before approaching the granite island of Ailsa Craig located in the Firth of Clyde. This tiny island, just 2.5 miles in circumference was once a refuge for sailors and base to a 19th century lighthouse. Today it is an RSPB reserve and home to the third largest gannet colony in Britain. In the early evening we hope to cruise by for a closer look and search for puffins, guillemots and gulls.

Day 7 Llandudno, Wales. This morning will be spent at Bodnant

Garden, which is situated above the River Conwy with stunning views across Snowdonia. Begun in 1875, Bodnant Garden is the creation of four generations of Aberconways and features huge Italianate terraces and formal lawns on its upper level, with a wooded valley, stream and wild garden below. There are dramatic colours throughout the season, with herbaceous borders, roses, hydrangeas, water lilies and clematis that delight throughout the summer. Alternatively, take a drive across the Menai Straits to Anglesey and visit the RSPB's reserve at South Stack, a beautiful but fragile heathland which is home to a large population of guillemots and razorbills and if we are lucky, we might also see some choughs. This afternoon will be free to explore Llandudno at leisure. Developed as an upmarket holiday town for Victorian visitors, this seaside town still retains much of its 19th century grandeur, with graceful architecture lining its sweeping waterfront promenade.

Day 8 Lundy. Enjoy a morning at sea as we sail south to Lundy. Those on deck in the early morning may catch a glimpse of the islands off the Pembrokeshire coast, home to some of the world's largest gannetries with over 34,000 breeding pairs. During the afternoon discover Lundy, a remote and delightful island in the Bristol Channel. Walk along its traffic-free lanes and paths, explore the wide bays and coves by way of hanging valleys, observe the puffins nesting in abandoned rabbit warrens,

have a drink at the inn and buy ‘puffin stamps’ at the island shop.

Days 9 & 10 Isles of Scilly. We have one and a half days to explore some of the islands of this enchanting and uncrowded archipelago. We plan to visit traffic-free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. Additionally, we will explore St Agnes, the most southwesterly community in the

UK, surrounded by rocks and reefs this tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks. The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the ‘Old Man of Gugh’ dating back to the Bronze Age. We will also pay a visit to Bryher, the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly, where you can wander along the tracks that cross the island amongst hedgerows and fields bursting with wildflowers. The active may wish to climb Watch Hill, where in the past islanders would keep watch for ships in distress or take a stroll to one of the beautiful beaches.

Day 11 Portsmouth, England. Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station and London Heathrow Airport at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5095
Byrd	Superior	£5295
Mawson	Premium	£5595
Mawson	Corner	£5995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995

PRICE INCLUDES: 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis

- Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Noble Caledonia expedition team
- Shore excursions
- Gratuities
- Transfers
- Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance

White Nights in the Baltic

A voyage from Portsmouth to Stockholm aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
with Guest Speaker Professor Martyn Rady
29th May to 14th June 2021

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 small 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 all-suite MS Hebridean Sky.

Having operated voyages in the Baltic for over twenty five years, we believe this in-depth journey offers the perfect balance of time to explore cities, towns and islands during the included excursions combined with some time to relax or explore further at leisure. We have included three days in the magnificent city of St Petersburg to discover its many wonders as well as those of other old-time favourites such as Gdansk and Tallinn. We will also visit some smaller ports which the big cruise vessels are unable to access such as Nyborg and the island of 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 our knowledgeable Guest Speaker who, together with the informative local guides, will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Portsmouth, England. Embark this afternoon. A transfer will be provided from Portsmouth Train Station to the port at a fixed time. Enjoy a welcome dinner on board this evening as we set sail.

Day 2 The Hague, Netherlands. Spend the morning at sea before we call into the port of Scheveningen and visit The Hague, the Netherlands' third largest city. A stately, regal place it is filled with mansions, green boulevards and parks and some of the most stunning palaces and museums. On our tour this afternoon we pass the Peace Palace and explore the historical Binnenhof on foot. Also visit the delightful Mauritshuis Museum, the unique 17th century palace that houses "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" and "The Goldfinch" as well as many other world famous paintings by the Dutch Masters.

Day 3 Kiel Canal. Spend the morning at sea. In the late afternoon we begin our transit of the historic 61 mile long Kiel Canal. Kaiser Wilhelm I set the first foundation stone in place on June 3, 1887 in Brunsbuttel, and the final stone was laid by Kaiser Wilhelm II on June 21, 1895, in Holtenau. Today, the Kiel Canal is one of the busiest man-made waterways in the world.

Day 4 Nyborg, Denmark. Arrive today on the island of Funen and the small town of Nyborg. Being in the centre of the country it was chosen as Denmark's first capital city from 1183 to 1413 and it was in Nyborg Castle that the first Danish Constitution was signed. We will leave the town this morning to visit the fairytale Egeskov Castle. Built in 1554 it is one of the best-preserved Renaissance moat castles in Europe and is surrounded by one of Denmark's

finest gardens. Spend the morning exploring the rooms of the castle and see the remarkable Titania's Palace dolls house, made up of over 3000 individual components or wandering along the garden paths. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore Nyborg, maybe see the impressive castle, walk through the pretty town with its well-preserved historic buildings or learn about the local gin industry at the distillery.

Day 5 Ronne, Bornholm Island. Over breakfast we arrive at the peaceful and scenic island of Bornholm - a mixture of wheat fields, forests and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. During our morning excursion we explore the highlights of northern Bornholm. 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 Hammerhaus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline. The afternoon is free to explore the town of Ronne independently.

Day 6 Gdansk, Poland. Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning city tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon to relax or explore further independently. Alternatively join the guided tour to the 13th century

Malbork Castle which belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNSECO and now serves as a museum with grand exhibition halls displaying collections of armoury, ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber.

Day 7 Visby, Sweden. After a morning at sea we arrive in 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, 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.

Day 8 Saaremaa, Estonia. This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. An island drive will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills before we end at the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle. We will stroll through the streets of the enchanting old





Tallinn

town before taking a local lunch. This afternoon you can choose to have free time in Kuressaare before returning to the ship or alternatively join a visit to Vidumae Nature Reserve which is home to many rare plants. Join a hike on the trails, climb the observation tower to enjoy the views from the islands' highest point or visit the exhibition in the Nature Centre.

Day 9 Tallinn. Spend the day in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her 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.

Days 10 to 12 St Petersburg, Russia. We have the luxury of three days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. 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, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and gardens, the fascinating Hermitage

Museum, Catherine's Palace at Pushkin and a canal cruise through the city. In your free time you may wish to join the optional excursion to Yusupov's Palace, the famed scene of Rasputin's murder, or attend a folklore show. For anyone wishing to visit the ballet one evening we will be able to assist with bookings once the schedules for the theatres are released and we hope to send details of this 12 weeks prior to departure.

Day 13 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. The afternoon is free to explore the old city from our central berth.

Day 14 Helsinki. Arriving in Helsinki over breakfast a morning city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius



Saaremaa



The Hague



Helsinki

Monument and the impressive Temppeliaukio, the church in the rock, before returning to the vessel for lunch. This afternoon we journey to Ainola, the home of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius situated on the edge of the city on the shores of Lake Tuusula where, after exploring the museum, we will enjoy a private concert of his music.

Day 15 Mariehamn, Åland Islands.

Be on deck this morning as we sail through some of the 6700 islands of the Åland archipelago before arriving into the attractive town of Mariehamn. Explore the island on an afternoon drive where we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads towards the Jan Karlsgrunden Museum where we learn about the islander's farming traditions. At Badhausberget enjoy panoramic views over the town and islands before we visit the fascinating Åland Maritime Museum with its exhibits of model ships as well as highlighting the region's shipbuilding history.

Day 16 Stockholm, Sweden. We cruise this morning through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes. Arrive over lunch in the city and spend the afternoon on a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, 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 MS Hebridean Sky we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour.

Day 17 Stockholm to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-Cruise Stockholm Extension
14th to 16th June 2021



If you wish to explore Stockholm in more depth after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night hotel extension. This will be an independent stay allowing the opportunity to explore at leisure.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£645**; Single: **£945**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Bornholm Island



Catherine's Palace



Gdansk



Visby



Åland Islands

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£7795	£7495
Byrd	Superior	£8095	£7795
Mawson	Premium	£8395	£8095
Mawson	Corner	£8795	£8495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9195	£8895
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£9495	£9195
Shackleton	Hebridean	£10695	£10395
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£10195	£9895
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10495	£10195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from Stockholm to London • 16 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 including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Group visa in Russia • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional excursions in St Petersburg.



Sailing from the Baltic to Britain

A voyage from Stockholm to Portsmouth aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
with Guest Speaker Major General Peter Williams
14th to 30th June 2021

Exploring the Baltic by small ship is the most perfect way to visit this endlessly fascinating corner of Northern Europe. The history of the region is intriguing, with countries vying for commercial and political influence for over a thousand years and this complex past will be brought to life by our onboard Guest Speaker and informative local guides, helping us to gain a greater understanding of both old and new Baltic nations.

Our trip is certainly one of the most comprehensive, visiting as it does Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands before ending in the UK. We will spend time in the charming Scandinavian ports before arriving in St Petersburg, surely the most endlessly fascinating of all Baltic ports. Our three full days here will be spent exploring Peter the Great's magnificent city as well as venturing out to some of the fabulous country estates on the Baltic shores. We will visit some relatively new states with their charming Medieval old towns, especially striking are those of Tallinn and Riga where the old and new flourish like never before since the departure of their Soviet masters.

With over twenty five years of operating cruises in the Baltic, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary combining visits to the "must see" sights with some of the more remote ports and islands such as the Estonian island of Saaremaa and the islands of Christianso and Bornholm, places only accessible by a small ship like the MS Hebridean Sky.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Stockholm, Sweden. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Stockholm and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board and moor overnight.

Day 2 Stockholm. This morning we will enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, 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 MS Hebridean Sky we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner

harbour. Be on deck this afternoon as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes.

Day 3 Helsinki, Finland. This morning a guided city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Tempeliakio, the church in the rock, before returning to the vessel for lunch. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently before we set sail during tea time for St Petersburg.

Days 4 to 6 St Petersburg, Russia. We have the luxury of three days to explore this most endlessly captivating



of Russian cities. 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, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and gardens, the fascinating Hermitage Museum, Catherine's Palace at Pushkin and a canal cruise through the city. In your free time you may wish to join the optional excursion of Yusupov's Palace, the famed scene of Rasputin's murder, or attend a folklore show. For anyone wishing to visit the ballet one evening we will be able to assist with bookings once the schedules for the theatres are released, we hope to send details of this 12 weeks prior to departure.

Day 7 Tallinn, Estonia. After a morning at sea we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her 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.

Day 8 Saaremaa. This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During a morning drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea as we sail for Riga.

Day 9 Riga, Latvia. This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the

Baltic. Spend an afternoon exploring independently or relaxing on board.

Day 10 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. After a morning at sea, this afternoon we have a choice of touring options. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village life and visit the Memorial Museum dedicated to Lithuanians sent to Siberia or who fought against the Soviets during the Cold War years. Alternatively, take the scenic drive to the Zemaitija National Park, home to Lake Plateliali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. We will visit the bunkers, see the control centre and learn more about the weapons held at the site and their evolution.

Days 11 & 12 Gdansk, Poland. We will spend a day and a half in this charming city. Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Upon arrival we will leave the city and enjoy a full day tour to Malbork Castle and a journey on the Elblag Canal. The 13th century Malbork Castle belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. The 80 kilometre Elblag Canal is a wonder of engineering designed in 1860 to connect East Prussia with the Baltic Sea. The challenges of the 100 metre difference in water levels between Bruzno Lake and Piniewo Lake was solved by a series of slipways, locks and dams with boats being carried across dry land on rail mounted trolleys. We will take a boat trip along the canal before returning to the ship in Gdansk. The following morning enjoy a city tour where we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers.

Day 13 Ronne, Bornholm Island, Denmark. Over breakfast we arrive to the peaceful and scenic island of Bornholm - a mixture of wheat fields, forests with an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On a full day excursion we will see the famous

12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudjem where we can sample the smoked herring. We will then take local public ferry to cross over to the tiny island of Christianso, the easternmost part of Denmark. Here we will explore the area independently on foot, perhaps visit the old fortress of King Christian V and learn about the island's past including its history as an island prison. Alternatively, enjoy a morning drive in Bornholm and explore the picturesque town of Ronne at leisure in the afternoon.

Day 14 Travemunde, Germany. This morning we arrive into Travemunde and after breakfast we will take a tour through the scenic countryside of Schleswig-Holstein. This verdant landscape is interspersed with a string of some 200 lakes and we will enjoy a boat ride from Plon on the lakes of Edeburg, Hoft, Behl, Lange and Diek to Malente. From Malente continue on to the picturesque town of Eutin and explore the gardens of the Baroque castle followed by some time at leisure strolling through the narrow pretty streets. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon there will be the opportunity to visit Lubeck independently or relax on board.

Day 15 Kiel Canal. In the very early hours we begin our transit of the historic 61 mile long Kiel Canal and sail from the Baltic into the North Sea. Kaiser Wilhelm I set the first foundation stone in place on June 3, 1887 in Brunsbuttel, and the final stone was laid by Kaiser Wilhelm II on June 21, 1895, in Holtenu. Today, the Kiel Canal is one of the busiest man-made waterways in the world. Depart the canal just after breakfast and spend the remainder of the day cruising.

Day 16 The Hague, Netherlands. This morning we will call into the port of Scheveningen and visit The Hague, the Netherlands' third largest city. A stately, regal place it is filled with mansions, green boulevards and parks and some of the most stunning palaces and museums. On our tour this morning we pass the Peace Palace and explore the historical Binnenhof on foot. Also visit the delightful Mauritshuis Museum, the unique 17th century palace that houses "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" and "The Goldfinch" as well as many other world famous paintings by the Dutch Masters. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 17 Portsmouth, England. Arrive this morning. Transfers will be provided to London Heathrow and Portsmouth Train Station at a fixed time.

Pre-Cruise Stockholm Extension 12th to 14th June 2021



If you would like to spend some time in Stockholm we are offering a two night hotel extension. This will be an independent stay allowing the opportunity to explore at leisure before embarking MS Hebridean Sky.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£645**; Single: **£945**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, Tour Manager, gratuities, 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	£7795	£7595
Byrd	Superior	£7995	£7795
Mawson	Premium	£8295	£8095
Mawson	Corner	£8595	£8395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£8995	£8795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£9195	£8995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£10495	£10295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9995	£9795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10195	£9995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Stockholm • 16 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 including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Group visa in Russia • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional excursions in St Petersburg.

Summer in the Isles



Discover the Channel Islands & Isles of Scilly aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
30th June to 7th July & 7th to 14th July 2021

Here is a perfect getaway for those who enjoy visiting islands, small ship cruising and the chance to explore on foot. Join the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky in Portsmouth and visit some of the most idyllic islands including Alderney, Sark, Tresco and St Martin's with their crystal clear waters and fine white sandy beaches that would not disgrace a Caribbean island. We also visit Bryher, a rarely visited gem and almost never included on cruise schedules.



During our seven night island hopping voyage, we will explore on foot amazing little contained worlds as well as the stunning sub-tropical Abbey Gardens on Tresco. Such an itinerary would be difficult to arrange independently and the MS Hebridean Sky is the perfect small ship for such a venture. A maximum of 100 or so passengers allows us to explore places otherwise inaccessible to larger ships and with our nimble Zodiac craft, we can land on out of the way coves and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers.

Our View

“The United Kingdom is surrounded by a number of island groups offering wonderful scenery, wildlife and small communities and our voyage will include time in two of these groups: the Channel Islands and the Isles of Scilly. Our small ship, the MS Hebridean Sky, is able to anchor and use local boats or the ship's Zodiacs to land at the small harbours which serve the islands and, with just a small number of passengers we will not overrun the islands but instead will be absorbed into the towns and island life. Our time will be spent walking the nature trails, spotting marine wildlife and experiencing life in these remote communities.”



The Itinerary

Day 1 Portsmouth, England. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time, alternatively car parking facilities are available at the port. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Days 2 to 4 Alderney, Herm, Guernsey & Sark, Channel Islands. We will spend our first two and a half days exploring the islands of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. On Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers' there will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port harbour. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china, or join a cliff walk along the scenic coastline. We will sail the short distance to Herm, the smallest inhabited Channel Island and, at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, perfect for exploring on foot. Here, you will have free time to explore, perhaps take a stroll over to Shell or Belvoir Beach whilst our naturalists will be ashore on the lookout for wildflowers and birds. On Alderney, visit the island's only town, St Anne, which has all the old-world charm of a Normandy

village with tiny squares and pastel shaded cottages and shops. Maybe join a short walk to see the German fortifications or a longer walk with our naturalists heading to the cliffs to see the abundant birdlife. At Sark we will use our Zodiacs to land on this peaceful traffic-free island. Horse-drawn carriages take us along the narrow lanes alive with the songs of chaffinches, skylarks and mistle thrush as we see the narrow isthmus which joins Little Sark and Big Sark and the enchanting gardens at La Seigneurie. Those feeling active may wish to hire a bicycle and explore independently. On our final day we sail over lunch and have the afternoon at sea as we cross the Channel.

Days 5 to 7 Tresco, Bryher, St Martin's, St Agnes & St Mary's, Isles of Scilly. We continue our island exploration with two and a half days in the Isles of Scilly. From our central anchorage, we will use our Zodiacs and local tenders to visit a number of the islands in the group. We will visit traffic-free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. On St Agnes we find the most southwesterly

St Martin's, Isles of Scilly



community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks. The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age. We will tender ashore to Bryher, the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Take the chance to wander along the tracks that cross the island amongst hedgerows and fields bursting with wildflowers. The active may wish to climb Watch Hill, where in the past islanders would keep watch for ships in distress or alternatively take a stroll to one of the beautiful beaches. See the northernmost island of the group, St Martin's, a small island community of just 120 residents. Enjoy

time to explore independently, climb to one of the viewpoints for vistas over the islands and the offshore seal colonies or maybe join one of our expedition team on a guided walk. On St Mary's, the largest island in the archipelago yet still only six square miles, you can enjoy some time in the shops Hugh Town, walk the historic Garrison Walls or visit the Iron Age burial chamber at Bant's Carn. On our final day we sail over lunch and have the afternoon at sea as we return to Portsmouth.

Day 8 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour train station at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£3895	£3595
Byrd	Superior	£4195	£3895
Mawson	Premium	£4395	£4095
Mawson	Corner	£4695	£4395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£5295	£4995
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£5695	£5395
Shackleton	Hebridean	£6195	£5895
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£4895	£4595
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£5195	£4895

PRICE INCLUDES: Seven nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis
 • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.



Castle Cornet, Guernsey



Alderney



La Seigneurie gardens, Sark



St Peter Port, Guernsey

Islands on the Edge II



An exploration of the islands of England, Ireland & Scotland aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
14th to 26th July 2021

Due to the popularity of this unique expedition we are pleased to be able to add another departure date to our schedules for 2021. The itinerary has been devised to celebrate the stunning scenery of the British Isles from the outlying islands off the English coast to the highlands of Scotland. Every year the popularity of small ship cruising in our own waters grows and this is immensely rewarding as the vast majority of our passengers are from Britain. We have many years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of our remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new. Although we set sail with a fixed itinerary it is the unscheduled events that often become the highlight of the journey.

This is a truly unique voyage visiting as it does the remarkable islands on the edge of the British Isles with only one non-island call during our voyage; such is the advantage of having a self-sufficient vessel with the qualities of the MS Hebridean Sky. We will sail from Portsmouth and during our cruise visit both inhabited and uninhabited islands and places of great natural beauty, rich in wildlife and mystical history. We have also included a number of gardens which will be in bloom from the Isles of Scilly to the Hebrides. For keen birders, there are numerous highlights including sailing past the gannetries on the Skellig Islands and at St Kilda, as well as discovering the puffins on Lunga.

Each day there will be the opportunity to explore coastal paths, see the resident wildlife, enjoy the wonderful views on offer and appreciate the ancient and Medieval history of the region. Such a voyage is only possible aboard a small ship with the ability to reach these remote ports and, with the use of our Zodiacs, we will be able to explore in small groups, ensuring the solitude we find on these isles is not disturbed.



Bantry Bay House & Gardens



Callanish Standing Stones

The Itinerary

Day 1 Portsmouth, England.

Embark the MS Hebridean Sky in the afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time. Sail this evening for the Channel Islands.

Day 2 Guernsey & Herm, Channel Islands.

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

Day 3 Tresco & St Agnes, Isles of Scilly.

Spend the morning on traffic-free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous sub-tropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. On St Agnes we find the most southwesterly community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks. The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age.

Day 4 Garnish Island & Bantry, Ireland.

This morning we anchor off the sheltered harbour of Bantry. Local boats will take us to Garnish Island and the beautiful Innacullin Gardens where the sheltered position and Gulf Stream is favourable to the growth of ornamental plants, many normally only

found in sub-tropical or Mediterranean climates. We return by local boats sailing past "Seal Island", home to 250 common seals before enjoying lunch on board. This afternoon you may wish to stay on board, enjoy some free time in the small town or join a walk to Bantry House, overlooking Bantry Bay. We will explore the house, one of the finest historic houses in Ireland along with the gardens.

Day 5 Skellig Islands & Valentia Island.

Over breakfast we will arrive off The Skelligs, tiny islands just off the magnificent coast of the Dingle Peninsula. Weather permitting, we will sail around these mystical islands with their early Christian history. Skellig Michael is a World Heritage Site and atop this rugged pyramid, that rises from the sea, are the ruins of a monastery. Meanwhile at Little Skellig the sky can on occasion turn white as some of the 20,000 pairs of breeding gannets leave their roosts. We continue along the famous Kerry (Iveragh) peninsula and anchor at the port of Knightstown on Valentia Island. Spend the afternoon exploring the island, perhaps take a coastal walk, visit the tropical gardens at Glanleam or join an island drive including the Cromwell Point Lighthouse.

Day 6 Tory Island. After a morning at sea we arrive at Tory Island, located off the northwest coast of Ireland and home to 150 or so Gaelic speakers. It is the most remote inhabited Irish island; although only 14 miles offshore, it feels like many more and island life here is full of traditions. Meet some of the local community in the village hall and enjoy some of their legendary storytelling, music and dance. Tory Island is also famous for its migratory birds; seabirds nest here in large numbers and a puffin colony nests on the northern cliffs. Look out for guillemots, kittiwakes, fulmars, storm petrels and Manx shearwaters and we hope to hear the calls of the corncrake for which the island is known.

Day 7 Staffa, Iona & Lunga, Scotland.

Awake this morning as we approach and anchor off 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 cathedral-like caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. We then plan to cruise the short distance to the Isle of Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of

much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises. After lunch we cruise northwest to the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of uninhabited volcanic islets. The island of Lunga is the largest of the Treshnish Isles in Argyll and Bute. Of volcanic origin, Lunga has been described as 'a green jewel in a peacock sea' and is a summer nesting-place for hundreds of sea birds. Here we hope to land by Zodiac and explore on foot.

Day 8 Loch Scavaig & Canna. Awake in the lovely Loch Scavaig on the island of Skye. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country and our expedition team will run a series of hikes for all interests. For those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals. Enjoy lunch on board as we cross over to Canna. Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. 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 hornshaped haven. 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 and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore.

Day 9 St Kilda & Stac Lee. We spend the morning at 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 the few 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 guided walks on the island.



Later, we will cruise past one of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee. The impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 10 Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides.

Arrive today on the Isle of Lewis. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. 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. We also visit the 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. Our final stop is the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were 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 of this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. Spend the afternoon at sea as we sail north.

Day 11 Lerwick, Shetland Islands.

From the Shetland capital, we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. The site was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouses, a Medieval farmstead and the 16th century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore this historic port. Perhaps wander through its narrow stone lanes or maybe visit the excellent Shetland Museum, containing artefacts from shipwrecks and the whaling era. Tonight we will enjoy the company of local musicians on board.

Day 12 Fair Isle. This morning we arrive at 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 searching out the puffin slopes, visit the community hall for a cup of tea or maybe purchase some of the famous knitwear.

Day 13 Aberdeen. Disembark the MS Hebridean Sky after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to the Railway Station and Aberdeen Airport at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5795
Byrd	Superior	£6095
Mawson	Premium	£6895
Mawson	Corner	£7095
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7595
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8595
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7795

PRICE INCLUDES: 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis
 • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Summer in the Baltic

A voyage to the islands & cities of the Baltic aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Michael Jones

9th to 20th August 2021

The Baltic offers a real cornucopia of delights and summer is the perfect time to witness the spectacle of colour and joy that the sun brings to this northern world. Bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, the region is ideally suited to exploration by ship and aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, with no more than 118 passengers, you can be assured of a high level of comfort and a relaxed voyage without the vast crowds that larger ships generate. The history of the region is fascinating, with countries vying for commercial and political influence for over a thousand years or more and we will explore its historic shores and look back over its colourful past from the Vikings and the Hanseatic era to more modern day events.

Having operated voyages in the Baltic for almost thirty years, we believe this in-depth journey offers the perfect balance of time to explore cities, towns and islands during the included excursions combined with some time to relax or explore at leisure. We will explore the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the newly independent Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters, and the delightful small Scandinavian ports with their unique architecture. We also visit some smaller ports which are off the well-trodden tracks of the big ships such as Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the Estonian Island of Saaremaa, a gem with its Medieval Episcopal Castle and timeless countryside. Joining you on board will be our knowledgeable Guest Speaker who, together with the informative local guides, will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region.



Stockholm



Gdansk

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Stockholm, Sweden. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Stockholm. After breakfast we will enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, 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 MS Hebridean Sky we will drive through Stockholm's Old Town and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour. We will have some free time to explore from our central berth before we sail in the late afternoon. Be on deck as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes.

Day 3 Visby. Spend the morning at 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, earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the impressive St Maria Cathedral and wander the paths of the botanical gardens. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 4 Gdansk, Poland. Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning city tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon to relax or explore further independently. Alternatively join the guided tour to the 13th century Malbork Castle which belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in



Catherine's Palace



Saaremaa



Uspenski Cathedral



Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood

the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNSECO and now serves as a museum with grand exhibition halls displaying collections of armoury, ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber.

Day 5 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. This morning we have a choice of touring options. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village life and visit the Memorial Museum dedicated to Lithuanians sent to Siberia or who fought against the Soviets during the Cold War years. Alternatively take the scenic drive to the Zemaitija National Park, home to Lake Plateliali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. We will visit the bunkers, see the control centre and learn more about the weapons held at the site and their evolution. Return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 6 Saaremaa, Estonia. This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry, it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. An island drive will take you back in time

through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills before we end at the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle. We will stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town before taking a local lunch. This afternoon you can choose to have free time in Kuressaare before returning to the ship or alternatively join a visit to Vidumae Nature Reserve which is home to many rare plants. Join a hike on the trails, climb the observation tower to enjoy the views from the islands' highest point or visit the exhibition in the Nature Centre.

Day 7 Tallinn. Spend the day in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her 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.

Days 8 & 9 St Petersburg, Russia. We will spend two days exploring this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. 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, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and gardens, the fascinating Hermitage Museum, Catherine's Palace at Pushkin

and a canal cruise through the city. For anyone wishing to visit the ballet one evening we will be able to assist with bookings once the schedules for the theatres are released and we hope to send details of this 12 weeks prior to departure.

Day 10 Helsinki, Finland. Arriving in Helsinki over breakfast, a morning city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Temppeliaukio, the church in the rock, before returning to the vessel for lunch. This afternoon we journey to Ainola, the home of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, situated on the edge of the city on the shores of Lake Tuusula where after exploring the museum we

will enjoy a private concert of his music.

Day 11 Mariehamn, Aland Islands. Be on deck this morning as we sail through some of the 6700 islands of the Aland archipelago and into the attractive town of Mariehamn. Explore the island on an afternoon tour as we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads towards the Jan Karlsgarden Museum where we learn about the islander's farming traditions. Continue to Badhausberget which provides panoramic views over the town and islands before visiting the fascinating Aland Maritime Museum with its exhibits of model ships as well as highlighting the region's shipbuilding history.

Day 12 Stockholm to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

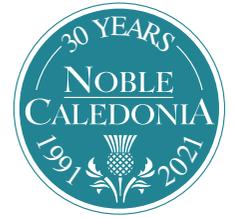
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5895	£5695
Byrd	Superior	£6195	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6695	£6495
Mawson	Corner	£7195	£6995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7695	£7495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£8095	£7895
Shackleton	Hebridean	£9095	£8895
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7795	£7595
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7995	£7795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 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 including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Group visa in Russia • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional excursions in St Petersburg.

Iberian Stepping Stones



A late summer celebratory voyage from Portsmouth to Mallorca aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Rear Admiral John Lippiett
7th to 19th September 2021

Join the all-suite, MS Hebridean Sky for this coastal journey along the Atlantic shores of France, Spain and Portugal as we sail from the UK to Mallorca visiting some marvellously historic and special places along the way. These are perfect sailing waters and in the main we will avoid the larger ports in the region, preferring instead to call into small cities and towns and out of the way places. September is the ideal time for our voyage, the crowds have dispersed and the weather is ideal for touring and sightseeing.

Setting sail from Portsmouth our first call will be the 'island of flowers', Guernsey, with its beautiful coastline and beaches before sailing to Brittany where we have the day to explore including a visit to the charming village of Locronan. Continuing on to Spain we will meander through the Galician countryside and step into the magnificent pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela before, a highlight for many, our visit to Portugal's Medieval city of Coimbra which is a wonderfully atmospheric place. Returning to Spain we will visit the great maritime city of Cadiz followed by a full day of exploration in the beautiful city of Seville with its Moorish and Christian treasures. We continue to Gibraltar, Malaga and finally the naval port of Cartagena with its fine Roman remains before reaching Mallorca.

Few itineraries in Europe can offer such a wide ranging and endlessly fascinating cultural experience and all of this combined with the rich maritime history of the region and the sheer beauty of the coastal landscapes makes for an endlessly fascinating cultural experience. In celebration of our 30th anniversary, we have included some special experiences during our voyage such as an exclusive Andalusian flamenco show in Seville and a sherry tasting in a bodega in Jerez.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Portsmouth, England. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour railway station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board this evening.

Day 2 Guernsey, Channel Islands. Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers', and take a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore the pretty town of St Peter Port or maybe join a walk along one of the cliff paths where, if the weather is fine, we should be able to see the nearby Channel Islands and possibly the French coast.

Day 3 Douarnenez & Locronan, France. This morning we anchor off the Finistere region of France and the port of Douarnenez which prospered as a major centre for the sardine industry in the 19th century. Traces of these days still show in the architecture and the old fisherman's houses that

line the harbour, whilst at the Port Musee you may find a number of traditional boats at anchor. Using the ship's Zodiacs to get ashore, we have planned a morning visit to Locronan, one of the most picturesque and preserved Medieval Breton villages which grew from the manufacture of sailcloth. Visit the 15th century church, remarkable for its stone vaulting and stained-glass windows, before walking through the craft workshops. You might also be tempted to taste the famous "kouignamann", a traditional Breton butter cake. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and there will be some time at leisure to relax on board, or to explore the town at your own pace, before we sail in the early evening.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we continue our journey to the Iberian Peninsula. Our lecture programme will continue in the lounge or alternatively find a spot on deck.

Day 5 Villagarcia de Arousa, Spain. Arrive in Galicia this morning from where we have a choice of excursions. Choose to visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the



autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the chance to hike a short section towards Santiago. Otherwise transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias; the Quintana Plaza; House of Parra; facade of Azabacheria; and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Enjoy lunch at a Parador and some free time before returning to the ship. Alternatively discover the Rias Baixas which translates as low estuaries. Visit

the 15th century Pazo de Rubianes where we find one of the three official lordships in Spain and the 11 hectare garden before we continue to a local vineyard and learn about the region's wine production and techniques and enjoy a tasting. After a tapas lunch we drive to El Grove and board a catamaran for a journey along the estuary towards the bateas, the floating docks used for mussel farming. Learn about the local industry before enjoying some freshly caught mussels on the way back to the vessel.

Day 6 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra, Portugal. Located at the mouth of the Mondego River, Figueira da Foz is one of central Portugal's prime beach resorts. However, the reason for our call is to visit the nearby city of Coimbra, the Medieval capital

of Portugal for over 100 years. On a walking tour we will view the stunning buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries before we head to the University which was recently appointed UNESCO status. Founded in the 13th century we will see the Chapel of Sao Miguel and the Joane Library which houses over 300,000 works dating back to the 16th century. After a local lunch, choose to return to Figueira da Foz or stay in Coimbra for some free time.

Day 7 Lisbon. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. Today there are distinct modern and ancient sections, combining great shopping areas with culture and sightseeing in the Old Town, built on the city's terraced hillsides. During a morning tour we will see the famous landmarks and places of interest such as the Monument to the Discoveries, Belem Tower and Jeronimos Monastery. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 8 Cadiz, Spain. After a morning cruising we arrive in Cadiz at lunchtime. Located on a peninsula jutting out into a bay Cadiz is almost entirely surrounded by water. It is the oldest surviving city in Spain, founded by the Phoenicians in 1100 BC and later occupied by the Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths and Moors. This afternoon you can join a guided tour during which we will discover the most beautiful monuments and landmarks of the city including the Santo Domingo Church, the Santa Catalina Fortress and finally the Cathedral of Cadiz in the old city. Alternatively join a visit to Jerez de la Frontera, the home of Spain's sherry and brandy industry which grew in the 18th and 19th centuries. After a visit to the old centre of Jerez, including the 11th century Alcazar, we will continue to one of the bodegas to learn about the sherry production and enjoy a tasting.

Day 9 Seville. Overnight we will have sailed up the lower reaches of the Guadalquivir River to our berth in vibrant Seville. On a morning walking tour we will explore the city's greatest monuments. Enter the Alcazar Palace with its ornate Moorish interiors and exotic terraced garden. Built by Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century with the help of Moorish craftsmen, it is still used as a residence by the King of Spain. We also visit the imposing La Giralda, Seville's cathedral, reputed to be the largest Gothic style church in the world with its distinctive Moorish tower. This afternoon will be at leisure for individual exploration. You may wish to explore the maze of cobbled streets which was once the Jewish Quarter of the city, taking in the atmosphere of this historic town. This

evening we will enjoy an exclusive Andalusian flamenco show in the city.

Day 10 Gibraltar. After a morning at sea we arrive in Gibraltar where we explore this strategic British outpost of the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783 and revered as one of the finest defensive systems. Also see the Gibraltar Museum where we can learn more about the Great Siege, the geological origins of the rock and also the areas natural history. After some time to explore at your own pace we will return to the ship.

Day 11 Malaga, Spain. Returning to Spain we will explore the historic and reinvented city of Malaga. A morning tour will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to the Alcazar, a citadel built by the Moors between 1057 and 1063 at the foot of the Gibralfaro Hill using materials from the nearby Roman Amphitheatre. Our tour ends at the Botanical Gardens, created in 1855 and home to more than 25,000 species of plants. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace, the art lovers may wish to visit the house where Picasso was born as well as the museum dedicated to his work. See the impressive cathedral, the market or watch the world go by in the local park.

Day 12 Cartagena. Arrive this morning in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. Enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for an afternoon of exploration in a historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it after Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative centre. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcion Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour, view the Roman amphitheatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Hebridean Sky. We spend our final afternoon at sea as we sail to the Balearic islands.

Day 13 Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Santiago de Compostela

Post-Cruise Mallorca Extension 19th to 21st September 2021



After disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to join a two night extension in Mallorca including a city tour, a full day excursion to the charming towns of Soller and Valldemossa as well as time to explore at leisure. The full itinerary for the extension can be viewed online.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£945**; Single: **£1395**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, excursions, lunch on day 1 and dinner on day 2, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£6095	£5795
Byrd	Superior	£6295	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6295
Mawson	Corner	£6995	£6695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7295	£6995
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7695	£7395
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8295	£7995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7095	£6795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7495	£7195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from Palma to London • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Passage to Morocco

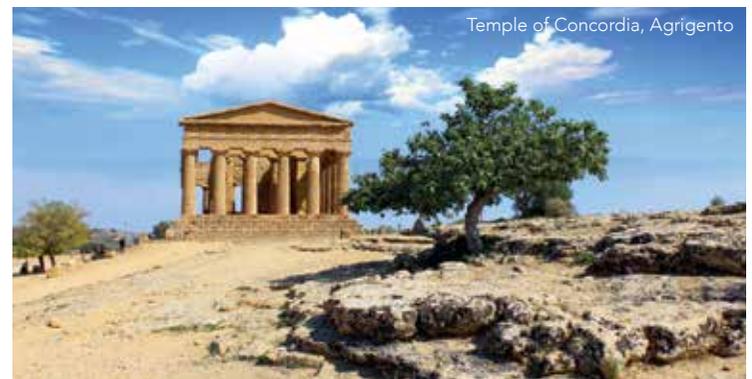
A voyage from Sicily to Morocco including Algeria aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
with Guest Speaker Chris Bradley

4th to 13th October 2021

Located in Sicily and on the North African coast, between the desert and the sea are some of Ancient Rome's most magnificent sites which we will discover during this fascinating voyage from Malta to Casablanca. Our cruise begins with two days of exploration in Sicily, an endlessly fascinating island which lends itself beautifully to discovery by small ship as most points of interest are close to the sea. We will visit the magnificently sited Doric temples of Agrigento and Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive.

Like Sicily, North Africa's Barbary Coast is best explored by sea and after a morning in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari we will sail south to Algeria where the favourable desert influenced climate has been remarkably kind to the historic sites. During our two days in Algeria we will visit Bejaia from where you can discover the Roman ruins of Djemila, some of the finest preserved in North Africa. We also spend a morning exploring the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans and Medieval Tlemcen, one of the country's finest cities.

For those who enjoy exploring the ancient world, this itinerary has it all. The magnificent sites provide an unparalleled experience of life in classical times which, with the help of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and local guides, will be brought vividly back to life.



Temple of Concordia, Agrigento



Cagliari

Erice



Ruins of Djemila

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Agrigento & Valley of the Temples, Sicily. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, and a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in the greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concord, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum where you can explore at leisure.

Day 3 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for the day. From the port choose to either travel to the

nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Alternatively, travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from which you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Both tour options will end at an 18th century family run olive oil farm where we will learn about the production process and also enjoy a lunch of locally sourced dishes and wines. After lunch there will be time to explore Trapani at your leisure or return to the ship before we sail later this evening.

Day 4 Cagliari, Sardinia. Arrive over breakfast in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. During our walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and

the 14th century Cathedral of St Mary. Alternatively, drive along the south-western coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of Carthaginian warehouses and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail this afternoon towards the North African coast.

Day 5 Bejaia, Algeria. Bejaia is built on a beautiful bay protected by mountains which give the city a splendid backdrop. A minor port in Roman times it was named Saldae having been founded by the Roman Emperor Vespasian and is our base for a choice of excursions today. Maybe choose a full day tour to Djemila, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981 due to its unique adaptation of Roman architecture to a mountain environment. In a remarkable setting the ruins are some of the finest preserved in North Africa. We will drive along a very scenic route and traverse spectacular scenery as we climb from little Kabylia towards the high plateau of Setif where the Roman ruins are located. View the Arch of Caracalla, the Forum, the Basilica and the Temples before seeing the mosaics which are displayed in the museum, representing the best collection in Algeria. This is a long but rewarding excursion. Alternatively, there is the option to drive through the valley of the Soumman, the legendary meeting place of the leaders of the Freedom Fighters. It was here that they launched the revolution of the 1st November 1954 which lasted for seven years until they gained independence for Algeria on the 5th July 1962. Afterwards visit a Berber village in Kabylia where we see a typical house and various workshops where things are still made in the old-fashioned unhurried way. Enjoy a "dégustation" of Berber olive oil whilst tasting the different types of bread and other local produce as we gain an insight into Berber culture and history.

Day 6 Algiers. Depart this morning for the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans. The city was extended by Emperor Claudius and grew wealthy on Mediterranean trade. It was built on three small hills which overlooked the sea. There are ruins of three Basilicas, two cemeteries, the baths, the theatre, the Nymphaeum and the unusual oval shaped Amphitheatre. After visiting the city we will enjoy a typical Algerian lunch before continuing to the

mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania, which lies in the hills above the sea about 18 kilometres away from Tipaza. It is one of the most breathtaking sights in Algeria. The vast pyramid-like structure is named the Tomb of the Christian on account of the large crosses that decorate the tomb which predates Jesus Christ. We return to the ship via the Martyrs' Monument which offers spectacular views over the city.

Day 7 At Sea. Spend the day at sea, maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax.

Day 8 Ghazaouet for Tlemcen.

This morning we reach the western side of Algeria and the port of Ghazaouet located close to the border with Morocco. From here we drive approximately 50 miles inland to Tlemcen, an interesting and cultured city. Our visit will include the 11th century Great Mosque and the deconsecrated Sidi Bel Hassan Mosque which was transformed into a museum in 1901 and houses a selection of mosaics, carvings and pottery. After a local lunch we will continue to El Mansourah to see the remains of an old minaret and El Mechouar, which was built as a citadel in 1145 before it became the royal residence of the Zianide dynasty in the 13th century.

Day 9 Tangier, Morocco. Having passed the Straits of Gibraltar this morning we arrive in Tangier at lunchtime. Since Tangier was founded in the 4th century BC, Carthaginians, Romans, Phoenicians, Vandals, Arabs, Spaniards, Portuguese and the English have jealously fought for the right to control it. On an afternoon walking tour we will explore the Medina, see the views from the Kasbah situated at the highest point of Tangier, and then wander through the Grand Souk. Alternatively, drive across the beautiful Rif Mountains to Tetouan. Visit the unique School of Art Dar Sanaa which is situated in a former palace and teaches the most traditional of Moroccan crafts to its students. We continue to the ancient Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, full of narrow alleys and streets with vendors selling local handicrafts, foods and spices. Our tour will end at the old Royal Palace, a 17th century building which is itself a reflection of the Hispano-Moresque architecture, and the nearby Hassan II square. Stop to savour the Moroccan tea and fresh pastries at a local Riad in the heart of the Medina before returning to Tangier.

Day 10 Casablanca to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Tangier kasbah

Pre-Cruise Malta Extension 2nd to 4th October 2021



If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night stay at the five-star Phoenicia Hotel with the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area. The full itinerary for the extension can be viewed online.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£745**; Single: **£1045**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, excursions, dinner on day 1 and lunch on day 3, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£4795	£4495
Byrd	Superior	£4995	£4695
Mawson	Premium	£5295	£4995
Mawson	Corner	£5695	£5395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6195	£5895
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6495	£6195
Shackleton	Hebridean	£6995	£6695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6195	£5895

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Passage to Cape Verde

A voyage along North Africa's Atlantic Coast from Morocco to the Cape Verde Islands
aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Commodore Rupert Wallace CBE
13th to 23rd October 2021

Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Hebridean Sky for a journey that will take us from the port of Safi along the Moroccan coast visiting the magnificent cities of Essaouira and Agadir on the Atlantic shoreline. We then continue our voyage to two little visited places along the coast of North Africa, Laayoune and Dakhla. This region promises to be a most memorable experience and, for those who enjoy visiting out of the way places where tourists are a rarity, it is a unique opportunity.

Reaching the Cape Verde archipelago, we will island hop between these remote islands and discover the salt pans of the island of Sal, bustling farming villages as well as spectacular mountain scenery and volcanic landscapes. It is a little world of its own, each island having a distinct culture and atmosphere and an ideal region for exploring by small ship.

Our voyage will be particularly enjoyable as it includes some daytime sailing, allowing for time to relax on deck and attend the informative lectures by our knowledgeable Guest Speaker who, along with the excellent local guides will bring to life all we see.



The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Safi. This morning we will depart the port of Safi and head along the coast to Essaouira. Founded in the 18th century, Essaouira was built to be a rival city to Agadir. Formerly known as Mogador, meaning small fortress, it was designed as a fortified

town surrounded by Vauban-style ramparts and played a major role as an international trading seaport, linking Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa with Europe and the rest of the world. On our full day tour, we will see the amazing mixture of Portuguese and Berber architecture, the 16th century sea bastions built to protect the city, the 18th century Medina and in the Mellah we will find the souks dedicated to gold, spices and fish. We enjoy a seafood lunch near the beach before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 3 Agadir. This morning we arrive in southern Morocco in the vast bay of Agadir. A morning tour will include time at the Kasbah, built to defend the Atlantic shoreline and offering wonderful views over the coast, and the Talborjit Mosque. After some time in the souk we will drive through the fertile Souss valley to the gold, pink and orange tinted imperial city of Taroudant, a past capital of the Saadian dynasty. Explore the medina with its souks, see the red ramparts and end with a visit to the Assarag and Tamaklotte Squares. After a local

lunch we return to the ship and sail this evening.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend the day at sea, maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax.

Day 5 El Marsa for Laayoune. From the port of El Marsa drive across the sand dunes to the city of Laayoune. There are not many travellers who can boast of a visit this far south in Morocco. Mostly consisting of flat desert, it is one of the least populated regions in the world. It makes for



Santo Antao



Mindelo



Safi

a really interesting morning as we take in the unique Spanish-Saharan architecture in the old town, visit the Roman Catholic church, the Moulay Abdelaziz Mosque and see the food and artisan markets. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 6 Dakhla. Enjoy a morning at sea and arrive after lunch in Dakhla. The town occupies a long peninsula which juts out into the Atlantic and is well off the traditional tourist routes. We will drive along the lagoon, a paradise for migratory birds, before visiting a Sahraoui camp in the sand dunes. Here we will learn about the nomadic Sahraoui culture, partake in a tea ceremony and use the 4x4 vehicles to see the stunning views from the top of the dunes. Return to the ship and sail this evening.

Day 7 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day spent at sea as we cruise to the Cape Verde Islands.

Day 8 Palmeira, Sal, Cape Verde. The island of Sal was relatively undeveloped until the mid-nineteenth century when the salt export business was established and this afternoon we will visit one of the original sites at Pedra de Lume. We will see the salt pans, learn of the salt extraction process and even have the chance to float in the waters. Alternatively transfer to the town of Santa Maria for a relaxing afternoon swimming from the beaches or exploring the local shops for Cape Verdean crafts.

Day 9 Tarrafal, Sao Nicolau. Sao Nicolau is a charming, peaceful and attractive island of plantations, small holdings and busy farming villages. It

also has impressive, almost untouched mountain scenery, friendly residents and lively traditions. On our tour we will drive through a spectacular landscape towards the historical capital Ribeira Brava. Here we will discover the lively centre of the island which reflects the character of the people and learn why Ribeira Brava was the bedrock of Cape Verdean intellect in the 19th century. After lunch enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 10 Porto Novo, Santo Antao & Mindelo, Sao Vicente. We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Santo Antao. Driving up the old trading route we pass the volcanic crater 'Cova' with its agricultural plantations and enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in the tiny picturesque mountain village of Fontainhas, on the northern side of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, the valley of Paul. Here we will enjoy a coffee break whilst learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. We will also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the islands and have a taste of it at the oldest traditional Grogue distillery of the island. Drive back along the coast to the southern side of the island and our waiting ship. This evening we will make the short hop over to Mindelo and after dinner we will be joined by local musicians and dancers for a spectacular farewell performance.

Day 11 Mindelo to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Pre-Cruise Fes Extension 10th to 13th October 2021



For those who would like to spend some time in Fes prior to embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we have arranged a three night extension. Fes is the world's largest living Medieval medina city and the cultural heart of Morocco and during our extension there will be guided tours each day. The full itinerary for the extension can be viewed online.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1095**; Single: **£1395**

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation at the Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace (or similar) with breakfast, lunch on day 4 and dinner on days 1 & 3, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-Cruise Sintra Extension 23rd to 25th October 2021



We have arranged a two night extension at the delightful Sintra Boutique Hotel for those who would like to spend some time in Portugal after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky. Sintra is a magnificent town located in the hills behind Lisbon and home to some of Portugal's finest palaces and gardens. Spend two days in this wonderful setting with two half day tours included as well as time to explore at leisure. The full itinerary for the extension can be viewed online.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£445**; Single: **£645**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Sintra Boutique Hotel (or similar) with breakfast, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5395	£5095
Byrd	Superior	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Premium	£5995	£5695
Mawson	Corner	£6295	£5995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7295	£6995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795	£7495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7495	£7195
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7795	£7495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Antarctica - The Great White Continent



Discover the wonders of the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia & the Falkland Islands
aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

7th to 28th November 2021

In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthral and enchant. Antarctica is certainly one of these. Mere words cannot do justice to the awe-inspiring spectacle of this most southern of continents, this desert of ice which is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of the landscape.

Our voyage begins in Ushuaia from where we sail to the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands where enormous tabular icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs. We continue to South Georgia where we have ample quality time ashore to explore what is one of the world's natural wonders with a remarkable concentration of wildlife. We will land on remote beaches, alive with great numbers of fur seals, elephant seals, wandering and sooty albatrosses, Macaroni and king penguins. These beach paradises are backed by some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery in the world. Finally we sail for the Falkland Islands for our exploration of these isolated islands thriving with wildlife and a fascinating history.

We have timed our expedition aboard the MS Hebridean Sky for what is regarded as spring as the pack ice begins to melt. This is the mating season for penguins and other species and you can witness their spectacular displays of courtship ritual, nest building and such antics as stone stealing. This is also the time when fur seals claim their breeding territories.

Small Ship Cruising at its Best

Antarctica is to be experienced, not just to be seen, and we believe the only way to do this is on board a small ship in order to maximise the time spent ashore. To enjoy the wonders of this icy paradise in the company of a small and enthusiastic party is the perfect way to achieve the most from a visit to this extraordinary place and travelling with you on board will be polar expedition experts and naturalists with many years of experience in Antarctica who will add immeasurably to your experience. In between our landings and while at sea, you can pass the time on deck looking for wildlife, attend the series of lectures by members of the expedition team and simply relax on board.

There are ships in Antarctica carrying higher numbers of passengers than the 100 guests on board the MS Hebridean Sky, however due to the restrictions placed on vessels as to how many passengers may land at any one time, the larger vessels can only offer very restricted landings, whereas with the MS Hebridean Sky, we are able to follow the strict Antarctic rules and yet have all guests ashore at the same time unlike passengers on board the larger vessels in the area. For most travellers the Antarctic experience is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible and our expedition aboard the MS Hebridean Sky will certainly be so both in terms of the educational experience on board and the number of opportunities to go ashore.



What to Expect

In Antarctica there is no such thing as a "typical" day. Flexibility is the key and sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from a previous voyage log which will provide you with an idea of what to expect if you choose to join this Antarctic adventure.



Salisbury Plain, South Georgia: From the ship we could see the huge extent of the king penguin colony, as well as a myriad of cigar-shaped rocks. The rocks were, of course, hundreds of seals of the elephant and fur kind. By the landing spot there was a group of elephants, including a pup that was still suckling. In addition, there were tiny fur seal pups around as well, which looked adorable. A route parallel to the beach had been flagged for us by the expedition team so it was a simple matter to get to and from the king colony in small groups. The birds were so curious that if we stopped they would often come sidling up towards us, to get a better look. In their black, white, grey and orange plumage the kings looked both regal and resplendent.

Cuvertville Island: Waiting for us at Cuvertville were more gentoo penguins; the largest colony of them in Antarctica in fact. Some of us went directly to the beach whilst others went cruising in the channel between Cuvertville and Ronge islands. Before landing we saw lots of ice, an old boat from the whaling days and a sleepy Weddell Seal or two. Once ashore there was a choice of directions to take. Left took us to an overview of the main part of the colony and pointed Spigot Peak to the north. Right took us along the level and up a slight rise for dramatic views of Ronge Island and beyond. At one point there was a large ice-fall from the ice wall opposite us. With hardly a breath of air and near-cloudless skies the landscape was picture-perfect. Anyway, there was more to come, in the shape of a barbecue lunch on the lido deck. Our restaurant must surely have had the best views in the world! Our friends in the hotel department had pulled out all the stops and had provided a feast fit for a king. The ship then headed out into a still flat-calm Gerlache Strait, en route to Paradise Bay. A pod of about 30 killer whales were spotted and the Captain slowed the ship and soon the whales were not far away.



The Itinerary

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition in Antarctica. Although we have outlined an itinerary below, this is only a preliminary plan, our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

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

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is free to relax or join an orientation tour of the city including the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo 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. End the tour in La Boca to look around the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists. This evening we will enjoy a tango show with dinner.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. On arrival we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and we start our adventure this evening as we cruise down the Beagle Channel.

Days 4 & 5 Drake Passage. Enjoy a lecture, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drake Passage toward the Antarctic Peninsula. Named after the 16th century English seaman, Sir Francis Drake, the Drake Passage separates the southernmost tip of South America from Antarctica. This is a particularly good area to spot royal albatross and blue petrel and we will also be on the lookout for pods of sperm whales.

Days 6 to 11 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands. We have six days of exploration around the Peninsula and South Shetland Islands which will include many of the best places for wildlife and magnificent scenery. Whilst we arrive with a planned itinerary the final schedule will be determined by our Captain and the Expedition Leader based on sea, weather and ice conditions. Using our Zodiacs we hope to make daily landings or Zodiac cruises for unique close encounters with animals such as Adelie and gentoo penguins, fur seals and petrels. Watch avidly on deck as we approach land or sail through breathtaking channels surrounded by lofty peaks looking down on ice-strewn waters where resting crabeater or leopard seals can be spotted. En-route south we plan to see Elephant Island with its rocky and inhospitable shore where

Shackleton's crew famously survived. We hope to sail past the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, Petermann Island, home to numbers of Adelie penguins, picturesque Neko Harbour, the Lemaire Channel where towering icebergs rise from the sea and Half Moon Island with its rookery of chinstrap penguins. We also endeavour to sail through the breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent.

Day 12 At sea. The waters between South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula are rich with fin whales, where in good conditions we have seen as many as a hundred in a day. If not whale-watching, lookout for Antarctic petrel, Kerguelen petrel and one of the most beautiful birds of the Southern Ocean, the snow petrel. Our onboard lecture programme continues as we learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

Days 13 to 15 South Georgia. We have three days of expedition cruising in and around South Georgia, a paradise island with snow-clad mountain peaks rising 9000 feet and with 165 glaciers tumbling down towards the sea. We arrive early in the season when parts of the island are

still covered by a thin layer of snow. For anyone interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. The beaches will be covered by elephant seal bulls and females with feeding pups. They share the beach with a myriad of nesting king penguins. Most of the other sea birds have arrived and started nesting. This is also the time when the great arrival of the fur seals starts. Millions of fur seals will, over a few weeks, return to the beaches to breed. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches alongside thousands of pairs of king penguins whilst in Fortuna Bay we will see nesting light mantled sooty albatrosses and hope to witness their gracious courting flights. A few thousand king penguins nest here. Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respect at the grave of 'the boss' – Ernest Shackleton.

Days 16 & 17 The Southern Ocean. As we cruise towards the Falkland Islands the richness of these waters will be evident in the marine mammal life, especially the fur seals on fishing forays. We have a good chance of spotting whales such as fins and minkies whilst the birds circling our stern will be

outstanding, especially the large albatrosses and numerous breeds of petrels.

Days 18 & 19 Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands are isolated and windswept, a haven for wildlife. We hope to land on Pebble Island, one of the most important wildfowl breeding areas in the Falklands with penguin colonies, king cormorants and sea lions. Also spend a day in the charming capital of Stanley visiting the cathedral, battle memorial and the Historic Dockyard and museum which documents the social, maritime, military and natural history of the islands. We also hope to offer nature walks or a 4x4 tour

to one of the beaches where we may find king, Magellanic and rockhopper penguins.

Day 20 Port Stanley to Santiago, Chile.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Santiago. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure for independent exploration.

Day 21 Santiago to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 22 London. Arrive this morning.



Seals

**Pre-Cruise Iguazu Falls Extension
4th to 8th November 2021**



Iguazu Falls

Before joining our group in Buenos Aires, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, often considered the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of day and evening at leisure.

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 check in to the hotel and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the falls. Today we will explore the Brazilian side of the falls walking through the tropical rainforest.

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. Highlights today include the 80 metre fall "Garganta del Diablo" (Devil's Throat).

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 hotel and join our fellow travellers (follow main itinerary from day 2).

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£13195	£12695
Byrd	Superior	£14195	£13695
Mawson	Premium	£15195	£14695
Mawson	Corner	£15695	£15195
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£17395	£16895
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£18595	£18095
Shackleton	Hebridean	£20095	£19595
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£17295	£16795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£19295	£18795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled international air travel • Specially chartered flight from Port Stanley to Santiago • Overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires & Santiago with breakfast • City tour, Tango show & dinner in Buenos Aires on day 2 • 17 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Group transfers • Use of parka jacket & rubber boots on board the MS Hebridean Sky • Port & Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

NB: The charter flight from the Falkland Islands is yet to be finalised and may involve a change in routing to that shown on the itinerary. Full details will be sent when available.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1895**; Single: **£2395**

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Palace of the Argentine National Congress



Scottish Island Odyssey



A springtime voyage through the Shetland, Orkney & Hebridean Islands aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

14th to 24th May & 31st May to 10th June* 2022

Join us aboard the 118 passenger MS Hebridean Sky for this wonderful journey around Scotland's magnificent coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic. If you have always had a hankering to visit some of the remotest and most inaccessible islands in Scotland, this is the ideal opportunity. Few cruise ships offer the chance to explore in-depth the islands off the northern coast of Scotland and this unique itinerary ventures far north to the Orkney and Shetland Islands as well as the magical Hebridean islands. We will visit both inhabited and uninhabited islands and places of great natural beauty rich in birdlife, wildlife and mystical history, many with a long history dating back to the Iron Age.

Such a trip would be almost impossible to arrange independently but with the aid of our nimble Zodiac craft, and in the company of our naturalists and local guides, we will explore the most remote islands that surround the Scottish Coast such as the Shiant Islands and St Kilda, land on remote beaches and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs dotted with birdlife. We will witness vibrant colours, explore deserted villages and learn of the history and ancient culture of unique island life. 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.



What to Expect

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule may be changed to maximise your experience based on weather or wildlife sightings, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from our vessel's logs from previous voyages which will provide you with an insight into what you can expect from this island hopping adventure:

Lunga, Staffa & Iona: After a leisurely breakfast we boarded the Zodiacs to set off for an exploration of the island of Lunga. The approach by sea to the landing point was fantastic, large rafts of puffins, razorbills and guillemots and the sky filled with kittiwakes as well as a few Great skuas. The landing itself, into a narrow gully, was patrolled by two sentinels taking the form of two very curious Atlantic grey seals! We disembarked the Zodiacs for quite a scramble up the rocks onto level ground and then a lovely walk up to cliff edges to watch the nesting puffins at their precariously positioned burrows. The island was wonderful with many wildflowers, a sheen of bluebells intermingled with primrose, trefoil and tormentil. A warming drink and tables laden with food awaited us back on board the MS Hebridean Sky and then it was off for another short Zodiac cruise to visit the famous Fingal's cave on the island of Staffa as we passed by. Fingal's cave is the largest sea cave in the world to be formed completely of volcanic Basalt columns. An otherworldly place with a real sense of magic, myth & legend; we were so lucky with the calm seas to be able to visit this cave. Well rested after a siesta, we headed out by Zodiac to visit the small island of Iona. Iona is a lovely place steeped in religious history. We explored the abbey and the expedition team birder showed us how to identify the call of the corncrake, some guests were lucky enough to spot one hiding amongst the Irises.

Shiant Islands: By breakfast the ship had anchored amongst the Shiant Islands in the Minch – Once more we were viewing tertiary basalt columns just like Staffa and Canna but this time several hundred feet tall and thronging with seabirds, many of whom sat on the calm sea as our Zodiacs cruised close off shore. We made first for the tall basalt cliffs where we enjoyed a fly-past of a white-tailed sea eagle which then landed near its mate on a grassy ledge. They sat side by side for the rest of our visit. We saw some grey and common seals hauled out ashore, and investigated some interesting sea caves before turning along the huge boulder scree along the east side of Garbh Eilean with its huge numbers of razorbills, puffins and shags. There were also some great skuas flying around, looking for an opportunity to rob the auks of the food they carried to feed chicks.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Airport and Rail Station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner this evening as we sail.

Day 2 Fair Isle & Noss Head, Shetland Islands. 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 searching out the puffin slopes, visit the community hall for a cup of tea or maybe purchase some of the famous knitwear. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we hope to sail around Noss Head. Here the cliffs will be full of nesting gannets, guillemots and fulmars and we may also see skuas in the skies above. This evening we moor overnight in Lerwick.

Day 3 Lerwick. From the Shetland capital, we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. The site was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several

Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead and the 16th century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore this historic port. Tonight we will be entertained by local musicians.

Day 4 Westray & Papa Westray, Orkney Islands. During our day in the Orkney Islands we will explore two of the islands to the north of the mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, an RSPB reserve on the sea cliffs and Notland Castle, an incomplete fortress built in the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour, Master of the Royal Household to Mary Queen of Scots, Sheriff of Orkney. Meanwhile in the main village of Pierowall we find the Westray Heritage Centre housing Neolithic carvings. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Papa Westray where there will be the opportunity for a number of island walks. You can also 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.

Day 5 Isle of Lewis & Shiant Islands, Outer Hebrides. Arrive today on the Isle of Lewis. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. 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. We also visit the 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. Our final stop is the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were made using dry stone masonry and which 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 of 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. This is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles.

Day 6 Inverewe & Handa. This morning we will visit one of Scotland's premier gardens, Inverewe. This botanical garden in the northwest 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 to Handa. 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 spring when nearly 100,000 seabirds gather to breed including internationally important numbers of guillemot, razorbill, puffins and great skua.

Day 7 St Kilda & Stac Lee. Arrive over breakfast at 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 a few 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. This afternoon we will cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Stac an Armin. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 8 Loch Scavaig, Isle of Skye. Spend the morning at sea as we return to the Inner Hebrides and the Isle of Skye. Arrive in the early afternoon at the lovely Loch Scavaig. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

Day 9 Staffa & Lunga, Inner Hebrides. Awake this morning at Staffa, the south side where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which has been cut by the sea into cathedralesque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. We continue to the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of uninhabited



Puffin



Iona



St Kilda

volcanic islets. The island of Lunga is the largest of the Treshnish Isles in Argyll and Bute. Of volcanic origin, Lunga has been described as 'a green jewel in a peacock sea' and is a summer nesting-place for hundreds of seabirds.

Day 10 Iona & Colonsay. Iona has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit

the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises. Spend the afternoon exploring the island of Colonsay, with her craggy, heather-clad hills and sparse woodland yet impressive array of plants and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated woodland gardens which protect the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross.

Day 11 Oban. Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Train Station at a fixed time.

*Please note that the 31st May departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Oban to Aberdeen, The full itinerary can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5095
Byrd	Superior	£5295
Mawson	Premium	£5595
Mawson	Corner	£5995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995

PRICE INCLUDES: 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis
 • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Spring in the Hebrides



An expedition exploring the majestic Hebrides aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
24th to 31st May 2022

You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places without realising that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be close to home. Nowhere is this truer than around Scotland's magnificent coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic. During this seven night expedition aboard the 118 passenger MS Hebridean Sky we will explore the spectacular beauty, rich wildlife and fascinating history of the Inner and Outer Hebrides and with our fleet of Zodiacs we will be able to visit some of the most remote and uninhabited islands including the Shiant Islands, Lunga and St Kilda, as well as the small island community of Iona.



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

What to Expect

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

Canna: The first Zodiac group went ashore at 8.30am and there were three activities offered this morning. Firstly, local guides from the Scottish National Trust led groups on a walk from the landing site along the road past an early twentieth-century stone church, the shop, the post office and the oldest inhabited house on the island. At this point each group in their turn left the road to walk over the fields to see an ancient Christian stone cross and also the Punishment Stone. Many legends are attached to both and no one is quite sure of their complete history. In the past as many as 500 people lived on the island whereas today there are just 16 people who live all year round on Canna. The path continued through woodland past two long-eared owl chicks on a tree and around the back of Canna House, home of the Gaelic folklorist John Lorne Campbell who owned the island before giving it to the Trust. A different option this morning was a shorter walk along the road and then an opportunity to hear Gaelic songs and stories with a local inhabitant. The third option was simply to wander and enjoy the beautiful countryside in the sunshine.

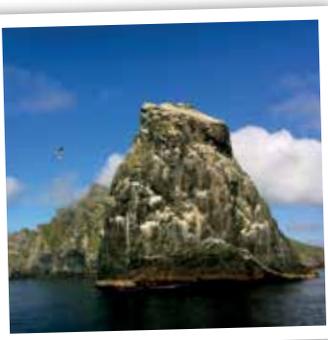


The Itinerary

Day 1 Oban, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Railway Station at a fixed time.

Day 2 Canna & Loch Scavaig. Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. 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 hornshaped haven. 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 and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Sail over lunch to the lovely Loch Scavaig. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

St Kilda & Stac Lee: We sailed through the night and dropped anchor in Village Bay opposite Hirta at 7.00am. Sue, the resident warden, came on board to give us an introduction to the islands and some pointers of what to see. On reaching shore, Hannah and Daniel led guided walks through the main buildings and along The Street, pausing periodically to add other pieces of information. Upon reaching the cemetery and Iron Age souterrain people wandered at will, some with Clive up to the quarry, some to the Gap with Scott overlooking Boreray and some to the gift shop for a little retail therapy. The wind was coming onto the cliffs at The Gap, which meant the fulmars were having an absolutely roaring time floating on the gusts. They seemed to be suspended in mid-air right in front of us as we stood at the edge of these wonderful 800 foot sheer cliffs. Back in the village, many people managed to see and photograph the St Kilda wren, an endemic sub-species. At 13:00 we headed back to the ship for lunch after which we had a ship cruise in Glen Bay



checking out the spectacular coastal scenery and sea birds on the ship's outer decks. Amazing views were all around us as we soaked in the atmosphere of the bay. But the day was not finished. The captain heaved anchor and sailed the short distance to nearby Boreray and the stacs which are home to the largest colony of Northern gannets. We circumnavigated Stac Lee, enabling us to appreciate the magnificence and magnitude of this gannet colony out here in the Atlantic.



Canna



Callanish Standing Stones



Inverewe Gardens

Day 3 Shiant Islands & Inverewe.

After breakfast 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. This is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles. In the afternoon we will visit one of Scotland's premier gardens, Inverewe. This botanical garden in the northwest 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 and sail to Stornoway where we moor overnight.

Day 4 Isle of Lewis & Handa. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island of Lewis to the beautiful west coast. 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. We also visit the 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. Our final stop is the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were 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 of this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. At Handa 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 5 St Kilda & Stac Lee.

Arrive over breakfast at 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 a few 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. This afternoon we will cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Stac an Armin. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 6 Staffa & Lunga. Awake this morning at Staffa, the south side

where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which has been cut by the sea into cathedralesque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. We continue to the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of uninhabited volcanic islets. The island of Lunga is the largest of the Treshnish Isles in Argyll and Bute. Of volcanic origin, Lunga has been described as 'a green jewel in a peacock sea' and is a summer nesting-place for hundreds of seabirds.

Day 7 Iona & Colonsay. Spend the morning on Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery.

Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises. Lying between Mull and Islay, we will spend the afternoon exploring the island of Colonsay with her craggy, heather-clad hills and sparse woodland yet impressive array of plants and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated woodland gardens which protect the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross.

Day 8 Oban. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Railway Station at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Price
Amundsen	Standard	£3895
Byrd	Superior	£4195
Mawson	Premium	£4395
Mawson	Corner	£4695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£5295
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£5695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£6195
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£4895
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£5195

PRICE INCLUDES: Seven nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Baltic Odyssey

A voyage between Stockholm and Copenhagen discovering the fascinating Baltic states aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

18th to 30th July & 30th July to 11th August* 2022

Join us on a voyage of discovery aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky as we explore eight nations of the Baltic. Nations who speak different languages, have a diverse culture and cuisine, worship in different churches, yet are united by a single sea. The cities of the Baltic offer a cornucopia of delights from the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates and the now independent Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters to the sheer delight of Scandinavian ports with their colourful architecture and a freshness that is unique to the area.

Exploring the Baltic by small ship is the most perfect way to visit this endlessly fascinating corner of Northern Europe and our in-depth journey between Stockholm and Copenhagen offers the perfect balance of time to explore cities, towns and islands during the guided excursions combined with some time to relax or explore at leisure. A highlight for many will be the fact that we have included three days in the magnificent city of St Petersburg to discover its many wonders. We also visit some smaller ports which larger cruise vessels in the region are unable to access such as the island of Bornholm in Denmark and the Estonian island of Saaremaa, a gem with its Medieval Episcopal castle and timeless countryside. Whether your interest lies in the region's Viking and Medieval history or the more recent events of the breakaway Baltic States, it is an endlessly fascinating region and our expert local guides and Guest Speaker will add much to your knowledge and understanding of this intriguing region.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Stockholm, Sweden. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Stockholm. Our morning city tour will include the Vasa Museum 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 MS Hebridean Sky we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour. Be on deck this afternoon as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes.

Day 3 Helsinki, Finland. Arriving in Helsinki over breakfast, our morning city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran

Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Temppeliaukio, the church in the rock, before returning to the vessel for lunch. This afternoon we journey to Ainola, the home of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius situated on the edge of the city on the shores of Lake Tuusula where, after exploring the museum, we will enjoy a private concert of his music.

Days 4 to 6 St Petersburg, Russia. We have the luxury of three days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. 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 including a number of tours during our time here with visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and gardens, the fascinating Hermitage Museum, Catherine's Palace at Pushkin and a canal cruise through the city. In your free time you may wish to join the optional excursion of Yusupov's Palace, the famed scene of Rasputin's murder, or attend a folklore show. For anyone wishing to visit the ballet one evening we will be able to assist with bookings once the schedules for the theatres are released, we hope to send details of this 12 weeks prior to departure.

Day 7 Tallinn, Estonia. Spend the day in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her 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.

Day 8 Saaremaa. This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During a morning drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 9 Riga, Latvia. Spend the day in Latvia's capital city. Founded in the 13th century, Riga became one

of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon exploring independently, maybe see the Art Nouveau district, visit one of the many local museums or the impressive central market housed in an old zeppelin hangar.

Day 10 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. Arriving at lunchtime we have a choice of touring options this afternoon. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village life and visit the Memorial Museum dedicated to Lithuanians sent to Siberia or who fought against the Soviets during the Cold War years. Alternatively, take the scenic drive to the Zemaitija National Park, home to Lake Plateliali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. We will visit the bunkers, see the control centre and learn more



about the weapons held at the site and their evolution.

Day 11 Gdansk, Poland. Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning city tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon to relax or explore further independently. Alternatively join the guided tour to the 13th century Malbork Castle which belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNSECO and now serves as a museum with grand exhibition halls displaying collections of armory,

ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber.

Day 12 Bornholm Island, Denmark. Over breakfast we arrive at the peaceful and scenic island of Bornholm with its mixture of wheat fields, forests and attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. During our morning excursion we will drive to the north of the island to see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and the imposing ruins of Hammershus Castle before we visit the town of Gudhjem where we can sample the local speciality of smoked herring. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the town of Ronne at your own pace.

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

** Please note that the 30th July itinerary operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Copenhagen to Stockholm. Full itinerary can be viewed online.*

Stockholm Extension
Pre-Cruise for 18th July cruise – 16th to 18th July 2022
Post-Cruise for 30th July cruise – 11th to 13th August 2022



If you wish to explore Stockholm in more depth, we are offering a two night hotel extension. Our stay will include a visit to Drottningholm Palace, Sweden's best preserved royal palace constructed in the seventeenth century and the permanent residence of the royal family. It features magnificent salons from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a beautiful park, a unique palace theatre and a Chinese Pavilion. The remainder of your stay in Stockholm will be at leisure for you to explore independently.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**; Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, half day tour including lunch, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Copenhagen Extension
Post-Cruise for 18th July cruise – 30th July to 1st August 2022
Pre-Cruise for 30th July cruise – 28th to 30th July 2022



If you would like to spend some time in Copenhagen we are offering a two night hotel extension. This will be an independent stay allowing the opportunity to explore at leisure.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£545**; Single: **£795**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, Tour Manager, gratuities, 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	£6295	£6095
Byrd	Superior	£6695	£6495
Mawson	Premium	£7195	£6995
Mawson	Corner	£7595	£7395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£8095	£7895
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£8495	£8295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£9495	£9295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8195	£7995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£8395	£8195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Group visa for Russia • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional excursions in St Petersburg.

Italy & Her Islands

An exploration of Italy's islands & Corsica aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
with Guest Speaker Captain Peter Hore

23rd September to 2nd October 2022

Here is a wonderful opportunity to discover the Italian islands of Elba, Sardinia and Sicily combined with two days on the beautiful French island of Corsica. All of the islands we will call into are easy enough to visit individually but difficult to combine independently in a nine night trip. The islands feature an array of ancient ruins, attractive towns and villages and we will have time on each each to visit the main sites but to also explore some of the smaller ports and less visited regions. We have ensured that each day has an enjoyable mix of culture with guided excursions as well as ample time at leisure. Our voyage is planned for late summer, the perfect time of year for exploration, when the crowds of August have dispersed but the weather is ideal for touring and sightseeing.

Sailing from the Tuscan port of Livorno, we will cruise to the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile. From there we continue to Corsica which, despite officially being a part of France, has its own identity in everything from customs to language and benefits from magnificent geographical diversity ranging from stunning natural harbours to picture perfect hilltop villages and a majestic countryside. Leaving the charms of Corsica behind we spend two days in Sardinia where from the Medieval city of Alghero we will discover Nuraghe Palmavera and from Cagliari, will have the opportunity to visit the wonderful ruins of Nora. Our last days are spent on Sicily which, with a history of 3000 years has a wealth of sites to discover from magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas.

In addition to our fascinating itinerary we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky which with just 118 passengers is able to visit atmospheric ports and villages which the big ships cannot access. This is a voyage that will appeal to those who love Italy, and who enjoy hopping between islands. Local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of these Italian gems and you will find yourself wanting to return time and time again.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Pisa, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight to Pisa. On arrival transfer to the port of Livorno to embark the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 2 Portoferraio, Elba. After breakfast we will explore the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. From our berth we set out for a delightful drive exploring the southern region of this charming island with superb views over the coastline. The first stop will be Villa San Martino which was the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte and has been transformed into a museum. Later enjoy some time at leisure in Porto Azzurro to explore this delightful town which is dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress and a picturesque harbour. Our drive continues along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa which is beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. As

with every self-respecting mansion on Elba, La Chiusa claims to have once housed Napoleon during his exile here. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is produced and enjoy a delicious sampling of the local wine. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy some free time in Portoferraio before we sail later this evening.

Day 3 L'Île Rousse & Calvi, Corsica. Arrive this morning on the island of Corsica and the prosperous Balagne region of the island. A morning tour will take us to Calvi where our guide will lead us through the alleyways and cobbled streets before continuing uphill to the imposing citadel. Built by the Genoese, this 15th century structure has seen off several assaults through the centuries and offers wonderful views from its five bastions. We will also see the Caserne Sampiero and 13th century Cathedral St Jean Baptiste. After lunch on board spend some time exploring L'Île Rousse at your own pace or see the flora of Corsica with a visit to the seven

hectare Parc de Saleccia where you can explore the range of paths through the gardens and see the tough plants of the maquis, pines, myrtles, figs and over 100 varieties of olive trees.

Day 4 Bonifacio. Be on deck this morning as we arrive in Bonifacio's stunning natural harbour. Well known by Odysseus as the home of the savage and giant laestrygonians, today Bonifacio's breathtaking cliff-top setting and relaxed pace make it one of the most welcoming ports in the Mediterranean. On our morning tour we will explore the narrow streets and the historical heart of the town. We will discover the Bosco quarter with the St Francis Convent, the 14th century Church of St Marie Majeure and take in the views from the cliff-top on which the city is built. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon in port to explore further at your own pace. Maybe take a local boat ride to the Lavezzi Islands or a walk in the nearby Marine Park which offers some stunning views.

Day 5 Alghero, Sardinia. The Medieval city of Alghero was colonised by the Catalans in the 14th century and today there is still a strong Catalan identity throughout the town, it is often even referred to as "Barceloneta". We will use the attractive port as our base for a day of exploration in the region. This morning's panoramic drive takes us to Nuraghe Palmavera with its main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling that dates back to 1100 years BC. The complex, which was abandoned in the 5th century BC due to fire, shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. Return to the ship for lunch or spend a little longer ashore to explore the town at your own pace. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs or local tender to transfer ashore.*

Day 6 Cagliari. Spend the morning exploring the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans.



On a walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively, drive along the southwestern coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre.

Day 7 Trapani, Sicily. Spend the morning at sea arriving at Trapani over lunch. This was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This afternoon there is the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively visit Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour via cable car will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards.

Day 8 Licata for Piazza Armerina. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial

Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch.

Day 9 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Dionysus' Ear,' a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently.

Day 10 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-Cruise Malta Extension 2nd to 4th October 2022



If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night extension providing the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area. The full itinerary for the extension can be viewed online.

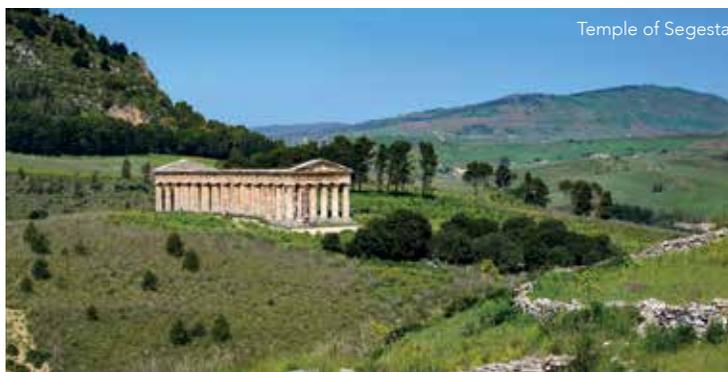
PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**; Single: **£945**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, with breakfast, lunch on day 1 and dinner on day 2, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5295	£4995
Byrd	Superior	£5495	£5195
Mawson	Premium	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Corner	£5995	£5695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6495	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795	£7495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Circumnavigation of Sicily

An in-depth exploration of the wonders of Sicily aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speakers Olga Stone & David Stuttard

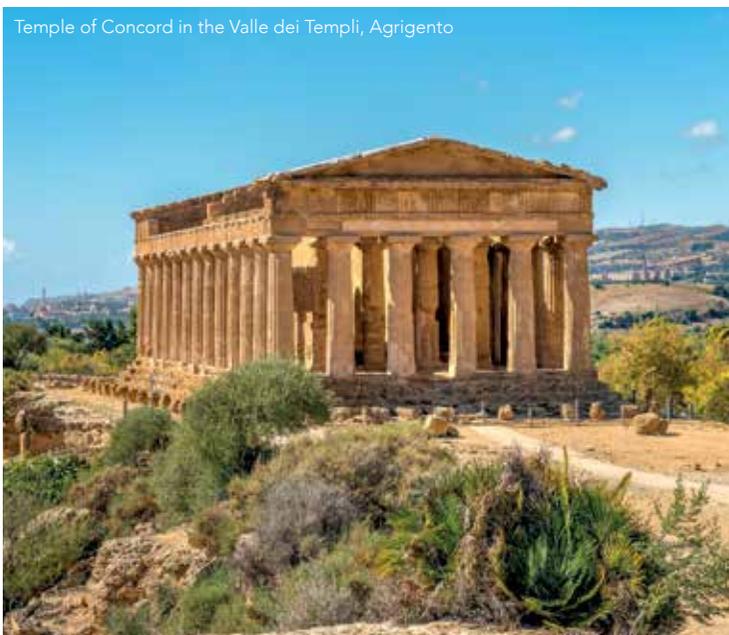
2nd to 10th & 10th to 18th October 2022

Join us aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky for this circumnavigation of Sicily and all its wonders in the company of just 118 fellow guests. This unique island has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, Sicily has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark. With our circumnavigation of the island we have the luxury of time allowing us to explore Sicily's rich heritage at a relaxing pace.

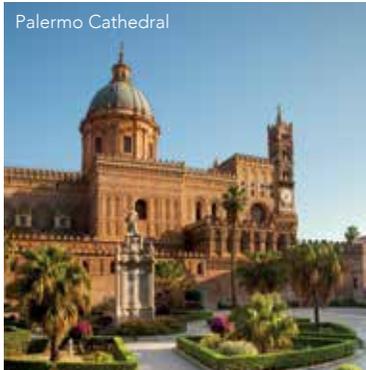
From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, there is so much to explore during our exploration of the island which we have timed for October when the crowds of summer will have departed and the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours. We will visit the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale, the Valle dei Templi, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral and the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina. We have planned some late departures from port which afford the opportunity to enjoy dining ashore or an after dinner stroll in some towns which are particularly atmospheric in the evening. In addition, local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of Sicily.



Temple of Concord in the Valle dei Templi, Agrigento



Palermo Cathedral



Syracuse



The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch before returning to the ship.

Day 3 Agrigento for Valley of the Temples. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery

of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum which you can explore at leisure.

Day 4 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This morning there is the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively visit Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour via cable car will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Both tours will then enjoy a Sicilian lunch at a nearby olive oil farm. We return to the ship later in the afternoon and there will be the opportunity to wander



around Trapani at leisure as we plan to sail later in the evening.

Day 5 Palermo. Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

Day 6 Messina for Taormina. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Those who wish to spend longer here will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and enjoy an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 7 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful

city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Dionysus' Ear,' a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 8 Noto & Ragusa. From our berth in Pozzallo we will explore the Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei among olive groves and almond trees. A guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, the cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon continue to charming Ragusa which has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list for its artistic architectural heritage with its Baroque palaces, churches, squares and winding narrow streets, all of which create an evocative and ancient atmosphere. We will discover the wonderful Ragusa Ibla: the "Pearl of the Baroque", the gardens, the magnificent palaces, the splendid church of San Giuseppe and the Dome of San Giorgio, built in the 18th century on the site where an older church stood before the earthquake of 1693.

Day 9 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-Cruise Malta Extension 10th to 12th & 18th to 20th October 2022



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PRICES PER PERSON

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Not Included: Travel insurance.







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