

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON

# IBERIAN COASTAL ODYSSEY

A voyage from Bilbao to Gibraltar exploring the wonders of  
Spain and Portugal aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Lake Ercina, Covadonga, Picos de Europa Mountains



Santiago de Compostela



Oviedo

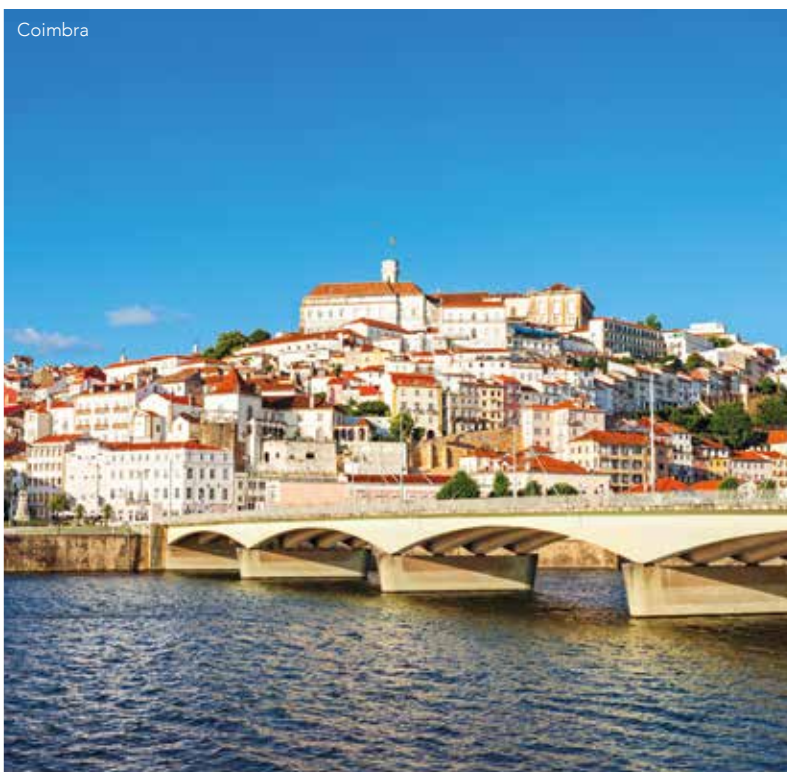
Our late summer voyage from Bilbao around the Iberian Peninsula to Gibraltar offers the opportunity to experience the wonderful wine and food of the area as well as to gain an insight into the region's splendid architecture, natural wonders and fascinating history. It is difficult to imagine a better time than the month of September for our journey, just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites.

Beginning in the Basque Country, we enjoy an overnight stay in the charming city of Bilbao with its impressive Guggenheim Museum and wonderful old town. Setting sail aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, we continue to Spain's Asturias region where on a full day tour we can discover the stunning Lakes of Covadonga or opt to explore Oviedo with its Medieval old town. Galicia is next, a unique region with its own distinctive culture where we will explore Santiago de Compostela, one of Spain's most beautiful cities and some of the region's beautiful pazos and gardens. Continuing to Portugal we have three days to discover Oporto's vibrant Ribeira district, the beautifully preserved Medieval city of Guimaraes, the wonderfully atmospheric university city of Coimbra and finally the captivating capital of Lisbon.

Our fascinating itinerary incorporates visits to vineyards, Medieval towns and natural wonders as well as allowing time for individual exploration. In addition we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the MS Hebridean Sky. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at moments like this we can be thankful that with just over 100 passengers, we are able to visit atmospheric ports and villages which the big ships cannot access.







Coimbra



Obidos



Oporto



Pazo de Oca

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Bilbao, Spain.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our central hotel for an overnight stay. After some time at leisure we meet for dinner this evening.

**Day 2 Bilbao.** Our morning tour will explore Bilbao, the centre of the Basque Country, lying along the banks of the Nervion River. The Romans discovered iron ore here which paved the way for the region's industrial heritage. We will drive to the Artxanda viewpoint looking down across the river to Bilbao followed by a visit to the impressive Guggenheim Museum which includes an unparalleled collection of twentieth century art including Picasso, Cezanne, Kandinsky and Warhol. We will also enjoy a walk in the old quarter, a labyrinth of stone lanes filled with bars and restaurants. After lunch we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in the city and sail this evening.

**Day 3 Gijón.** Gijón is the largest city in Asturias and our base for a day of discovery in the region. Choose from a full day at the lakes of Covadonga nestled in the Picos de Europa Mountains. Drive into the mountains where we will see the two glacial lakes of Covadonga: Lagos Enol and Lagos Ercina - the original centre of the Picos de Europa National Park. Marvel at the serene, mirrorlike waters before we continue to the beautiful pink-hued, twin-spired Basilica of Santa Maria la Real. Lunch will be served at the Parador of Cangas, before we return to Gijón. Alternatively, enjoy a morning in Oviedo, the modern capital of the Asturias region. Oviedo is recognised as the most culturally significant and historically interesting city of the province with many buildings dating back to the 8th and 9th century when Asturias first developed as a kingdom. After a panoramic drive inland, we begin a walking tour where we will see the Gothic San Salvador Cathedral before exploring the restored old town decorated with beautiful sculptures. Return to Gijón for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 4 La Coruna for Santiago de Compostela.** Today we visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the opportunity 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, the facade of Azabacheria and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Enjoy lunch at a parador and some free time before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

**Day 5 Vilagarcia de Arousa.** From our berth in Vilagarcia de Arousa we spend the morning at some of the wonderful houses and gardens of the Galicia region. Visit the Pazo de Oca, a Baroque stately home known as the 'Galician Versailles' and 'El Generalife of the north' due to the beauty of its gardens. See Pazo de Ribadulla which dates from the 16th century and is set in a beautiful location on the shores of the Ulla Valley. The garden was developed by the Armada family in the 1870s and is today renowned for its outstanding collection of camellia trees, giant magnolias, olive trees and liriodendrons. Also see the 15th century Pazo de Rubianes where we find one of the three official lordships in Spain. Visit the 11 hectare garden before we visit the Pazo's vineyards to learn about the local Albarino wine production and enjoy a tasting.

**Day 6 Oporto & Guimaraes, Portugal.** Arriving in Portugal we dock at Leixoes, the base for our day of activities around Oporto. You can choose to join the guided tour to Oporto including the impressive St Francis Church and the Ribeira before continuing to a local port wine cellar. Here we will be able to learn all about these wines and how they are produced before enjoying a tasting. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore independently. Alternatively, drive to Guimaraes, the birthplace of Afonso Henriques, the first independent King of Portugal. Guimaraes has beautifully preserved its illustrious past; its Medieval centre is a warren of lanes and picturesque plazas framed by 14th century edifices and on an adjacent hill stands the 1,000 year old castle and the palace built by the first duke of Braganca in the 15th century.

**Day 7 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra.** 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 Joanne 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.

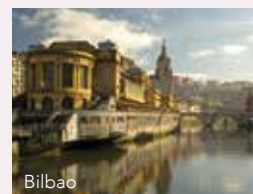
**Day 8 Lisbon or Obidos, Nazare & Alcobaca.** Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. It is a city famous for its majestic architecture, old wooden trams, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries of history. Following disastrous earthquakes in the 18th century, Lisbon was rebuilt by the Marquis de Pombal who created an elegant city with wide boulevards and a great riverfront and square. During our morning panoramic tour we will see the



## Pre-cruise Bilbao Extension

8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to join a three night extension in Bilbao including a full day excursion to San Sebastian, an afternoon visit to a vineyard as well as time to explore at leisure.



### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Bilbao, Spain.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner tonight. (D)

**Day 2 San Sebastian.** Today we drive along the coast to San Sebastian in the oyster-shaped bay of La Concha. We will see the modern part of the city including the Cathedral of the Buen Pastor and the Town Hall before we continue to the Old Quarter. We will take lunch in one of the local restaurants before returning to Bilbao this afternoon. (B, L)

**Day 3 Biscay Vineyards.** Enjoy a leisurely morning before we meet for lunch and spend the afternoon at one of the vineyards located on the Bay of Biscay. Here the native grapes of the Basque region, Hondarrabi Zuri, are used to make the local Txakoli wines. We will have time to learn about the growing techniques and enjoy a tasting. (B, L)

**Day 4 Bilbao.** Today is at leisure before meeting your fellow travellers arriving today for dinner (as per day 1 of main itinerary). (B, D)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1195 Single: £1595

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation in Bilbao, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Post-cruise Gibraltar Extension

20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>st</sup> September 2024

If you would like to spend some time in Gibraltar after your cruise, we are offering a two night post-cruise extension.



### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Gibraltar.** Disembark this morning and discover this strategic British outpost in the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from

Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783. Also see the Gibraltar Museum. After lunch we transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. (B, L)

**Day 2 Gibraltar.** Enjoy a day at leisure for independent exploration. (B)

**Day 3 Gibraltar to London.** After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £595 Single: £795

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Gibraltar, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), half day tour, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower, and visit the famous Jeronimos Monastery. Alternatively, leave Lisbon for a full day tour visiting a trio of traditional Portuguese towns including the walled town of Obidos where the cobbled streets and whitewashed houses are adorned with colourful blooms. The old fortress has been converted into a pousada, which affords wonderful views of the town and its surroundings. Continue to Nazare, the most colourful of Portuguese fishing villages. According to legend, the fishermen here are descendants of the Phoenicians, and old prints show that they once had to pull boats onto the beach with oxen. After lunch travel to Alcobaca, which was Portugal's spiritual centre until the 18th century, and visit the 12th century monastery where the Baroque façade conceals an early Gothic interior.

**Day 9 At Sea.** Join our lecturer in the lounge or find a spot on deck as we spend a relaxing day at sea.

**Day 10 Gibraltar to London.** Disembark after breakfast 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	£4995	£4795
Byrd	Superior	£5195	£4995
Mawson	Premium	£5295	£5095
Mawson	Corner	£5495	£5295
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6995	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7495	£7295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6195	£5995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Bilbao with breakfast • Dinner on Day 1 • Eight nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Hebridean Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

## Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some 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 those 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 shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

## Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Hebridean Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or, outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

## 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. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the 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 collection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Amundsen Deck, and 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, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

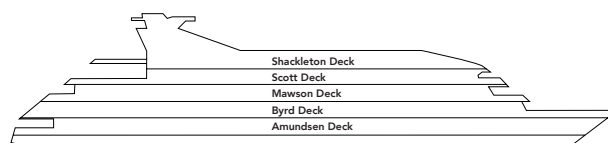
## Your Comfort

The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

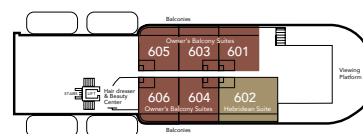
## Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

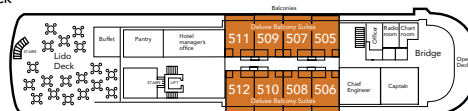
## MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



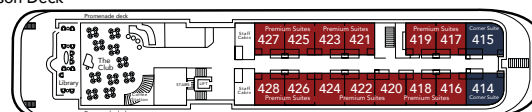
### Shackleton Deck



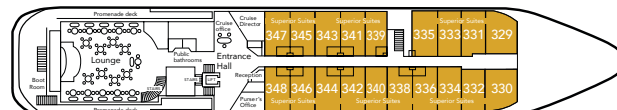
### Scott Deck



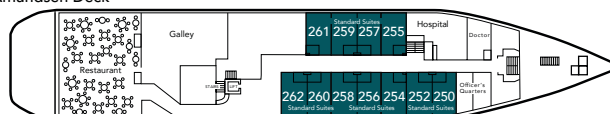
### Mawson Deck



### Byrd Deck



### Amundsen Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Hebridean Suite
- Premium Suites

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



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Church of San Anton, Bilbao.