

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

ICELAND & THE FAROE ISLANDS

AN EXPLORATION OF OTHERWORLDLY ICELAND
AND THE REMOTE FAROE ISLANDS
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

8TH TO 18TH JULY 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA

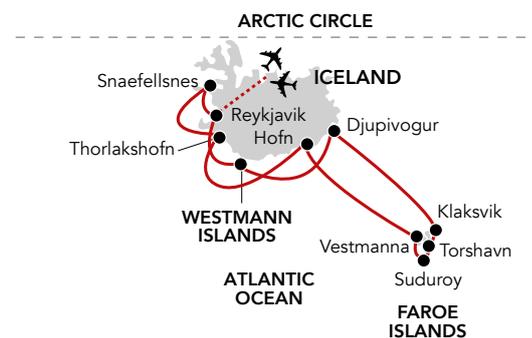


Gullfoss Falls

Iceland is without doubt one of the most extraordinary and dramatic lands on the planet and we are offering the opportunity to join this unique itinerary combining the ‘Land of Ice and Fire’ with an in-depth exploration of the remote and little-visited Faroe Islands. Once a stopping point for Viking explorers, this mysterious collection of 18 islands set in the North Atlantic, halfway between Norway and Iceland, is a paradise for walkers and bird watchers.

Setting sail from Reykjavik our voyage takes us to some of Iceland’s stunning landscapes from huge ice-caps and glaciers to active volcanoes, gurgling mud pools, steaming hot springs and lava fields. Witness the immense scale of the landscape dominated by towering snow-capped mountains and thundering waterfalls and spontaneous erupting geysers as we learn of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage. We continue on to the wild and ruggedly beautiful landscapes of the Faroe Islands, whose history can be traced back to the Irish monks who settled here in the 6th century and the 9th century seafaring explorers who traversed the North Sea and claimed Orkney, the Shetland Islands, Iceland and Greenland. Here, a highlight will be seeing the many puffins and other sea birds nesting and we will spend four days exploring the villages and rolling hills of these distant isles before venturing north and back to Iceland for some further time in this truly unique country.

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





Exploring by Zodiac



Puffin



Torshavn

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Reykjavik. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and sail this evening.

Day 2 Westmann Islands, Iceland. Spend the day at the Vestmannaeyjar (Westmann Islands). Islanders here live with a dramatic volcanic history. In 1973 the island of Heimaey experienced an eruption which created a new mountain, Eldfell, known as Mount Fire. This morning we will arrive at the only community, Heimaey Town and enjoy a sightseeing drive with half buried houses partially seen peeking out through the lava and ash. If time permits we will also use the Zodiacs to explore the cliffs and coves. This afternoon we will circumnavigate Surtsey Island which was created volcanically in 1963 and is a closed nature reserve. Few places in the world illustrate more dramatically the powerful forces of nature.

Day 3 Djupivogur. Located at the foot of the imposing Bulandstindur Mountain, the quaint port of Djupivogur is our base for a morning of exploration. The village developed as a trading port in the late 16th century but today is a base to see the regions natural beauty. Maybe spend the morning on the nearby island of Papay. This tiny island was once used by Irish monks fleeing the 9th century Viking expansion and was inhabited until the 1960s. On a nature walk we will keep an eye out for seals, nesting seabirds and eider ducks whilst

also visiting the lighthouse and Iceland's smallest church built in 1807. Alternatively, the more active may wish to hike in the Fossardalur valley. The river Fossa runs through the rugged valley with more than thirty waterfalls on the way towards the sea and we will hike a section of the route. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we sail to the Faroes.

Day 4 Klaksvik, Faroe Islands. After a morning at sea we will arrive in the Faroes and the island of Borooy, in the north of the group. During our afternoon excursion we will learn more about the Faroese and Viking traditions as we make our way via a three mile long tunnel 500 feet under the sea to Leirvik on the island of Eysturoy. Here we will see the archaeological excavations of a thousand year old Viking farm before continuing to Gota, located at the head of the broad Gotuvik fjord. This historic area was the home of the famous Viking chieftain, Trondur i Gotu, who defended the old Viking ways against the desire of the Norwegian king and the Faroese chieftain, Sigmundu Brestisson, to convert the Faroese to Christianity. Ruins of his farm are found in Gota, whilst the Blasastova Museum provides an insight into the culture and way of life in the Faroes in past centuries. We sail in the evening and moor overnight at Torshavn.

Day 5 Torshavn. Today we explore Torshavn, the capital of the Faroe islands and we will visit the town and surrounding area. During the day there will be a choice of

activities including a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St. Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900-year old 'Roykstovan', the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. Maybe join a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna or visit the island of Nolsoy situated just 5 kilometres from the capital. Enjoy time to explore the small village or visit some of the craft shops whilst the keen birders may join a walk with our naturalists to see one of Europe's largest colonies of storm petrels as well as atlantic puffins and black guillemots.

Day 6 Suduroy. Today we land on Suduroy, the southernmost island of the group for a full day call. From the port of Tvoroyri we have a choice of activities. Choose to join an island drive passing the beautiful scenery as we travel between the villages seeing the stunning geology, fjords, tunnels and architecture of the island and end at the southernmost point and the Akraberg lighthouse. In Porkeri we will take the ridge-top road which winds up the mountain side for wonderful views towards the steep cliffs on the west coast, the Beinivoro promontory to the north and the luscious grass slopes to the east. Alternatively, the active may wish to join a hike to Hvaanhagi a beautiful, uninhabited place north of Tvoroyri on the east coast of Suuroy. The view is fantastic

towards the three islands Litla Dimun, Stora Dimun and Skuvoy. There are sheep and birds, a valley with a lake and beautiful high mountains.

Day 7 Vestmanna. We spend our last morning in the Faroe Islands in Vestmanna, our base as we discover the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. This morning choose either to board local boats to explore the vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the many sea birds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. Alternatively join a drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We visit Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse, which is now a museum and visit a traditional Faeroese wooden church in Kollafjord. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we follow in the wake of the Vikings and return to Iceland.

Day 8 Hofn, Iceland. We continue our time at sea this morning arriving into Hofn at lunchtime. Here we will see on the hills, the shimmering white Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest glacier, sometimes called an icecap. The 600 metre thick ice surmounts active volcanoes, one of which erupted in 1996, creating a crater on the surface of the glacier, a most unusual phenomenon. This afternoon we will drive to the land locked Jokulsarlon lagoon where on a boat trip we can see the icebergs that calve into the water. Return to



Geothermal landscape with geyser

Jokulsarlon glacial lagoon

Hofn and enjoy some free time to explore the town, the visitor centre near the port houses an exhibition about the region's geology, glaciers, wildlife and culture.

Day 9 Thorlakshofn. Enjoy the lecture programme on board this morning before we arrive into Thorlakshofn at lunchtime. This afternoon we head inland to the infamous "Golden Circle" with three of Iceland's most iconic landmarks. We will start at Pingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is situated in a rift valley that offers incredible views of the Reykjanes Ridge. This is the only place in the world where the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which separates the Eurasian and North American plates, is above sea-level. Not only is Pingvellir of tremendous geological interest, it is where the legislative parliament, the Althing, was founded in the year 930 AD. Also see the Gullfoss Waterfall, the most famous of the country's numerous waterfalls. Here, a huge amount of water rushes down a stone cascade into a deep ravine with incredible force, creating a powerful spectacle. Our last stop is the Geysir geothermal area, the place where the word "geyser" originates and where Strokkur, an explosive geyser, erupts every few minutes.

Day 10 Snaefellsnes. Our final day in Iceland sees us at the Snaefellsnes Peninsula dominated by the Snaefellsjokull volcano which is regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland. Here we



Faroe Islands

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

Day 11 Reykjavik to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your 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	£5395	£5195
Byrd	Superior	£5595	£5395
Mawson	Premium	£5895	£5695
Mawson	Corner	£6295	£6095
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7495	£7295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8495	£8295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7895	£7695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£8395	£8195

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. We will be alongside at most ports whilst at others we may be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised for transport ashore and at times for Zodiac cruising.



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.

Your Cabin/Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting room 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 suites on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped 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, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, 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 will enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

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 where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. 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 selection of games and two computers complete with internet access can also be found in the Library. The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Amundsen Deck and 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 ideal for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. There is also a small hairdressers on board with appointments made on request.





Deluxe Balcony Suite



Restaurant



Lido Deck



The Club



Standard Suite

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. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable.

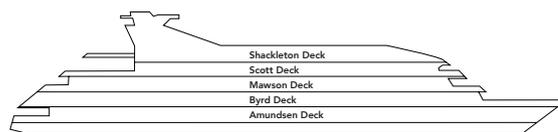
In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are an à la carte five course affair, with the menu often reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines are included with both meals.

Your Comfort

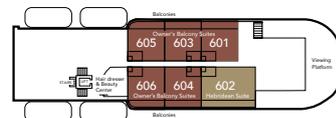
The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks.

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 wonders of nature in the company of like-minded people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.



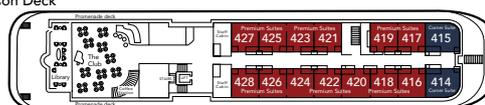
Shackleton Deck



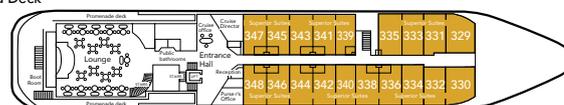
Scott Deck



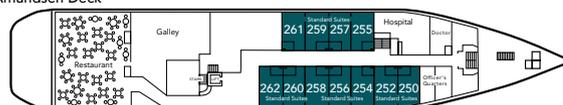
Mawson Deck



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.

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