

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

ICELANDIC WONDERS

A CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF ICELAND
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

8TH TO 18TH JULY 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Gullfoss Falls

Expedition Highlights

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



There is nowhere better to see nature in the raw than Iceland, the ‘Land of Ice & Fire’ and during our expedition aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky we will witness huge ice-caps and glaciers, active volcanoes, gurgling mud pools, steaming hot springs and lava fields. If this were not enough, the immense scale of the landscape is dominated by towering snow-capped mountains, thundering waterfalls and volcanic landscapes.

Europe’s least populated country offers the visitor an unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work and whilst we sail its waters, we will look out for humpback whales, orcas, white-beaked dolphins and the colonies of seabirds. In addition to the wildlife, the island also provides a unique historical, cultural and geological experience. Under the surface, Iceland simmers with the sparks that are the tell-tale signs of its youthfulness as Europe’s most recent geological addition, only 16-20 million years old. Iceland is continuously being created; some of its newest land is a mere 40 years old.

A journey by small ship is the ideal way to get up close to nature and explore areas inaccessible to larger vessels. With an expert expedition team and the fleet of onboard Zodiacs, we will be able to land on remote beaches and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs crowded with birdlife. Join us on our summer expedition as we explore the magnificent landscapes and learn more of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage. Whether your passion lies in the natural world or discovering lesser visited sites this itinerary will have something for you.

Exploring by Zodiac



Akureyri



Puffin

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Reykjavik, Iceland. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in the city.

Day 2 Snaefellsnes. Our first landing 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 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 with here.

Day 3 Breidafjörður & Latrabjarg. This morning we see the advantages of our small ship as we start to explore the fjords north of Reykjavik. We will start in Breidafjörður where we hope to make a landing at the quaint little island of Flatey with its old village, painted houses, church and the oldest and smallest library in

Iceland. Return to the ship for lunch and later this afternoon we will cruise past the Latrabjarg cliffs, the westernmost point of Europe and home to a huge number of birds including puffins, northern gannets, guillemots and razorbills. If time and weather permits we hope to launch the Zodiacs for a closer look.

Day 4 Vigur Island & Hornbjarg. Awake this morning in the Western Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We will explore Isafjörður with the MS Hebridean Sky and depending on local weather conditions, we hope to land on Vigur, a serene little island with only five residents but home to many more puffins, eider ducks, black guillemots and Arctic terns. We can also visit Iceland's only extant windmill dating from the 19th century. Ensure you are on deck this afternoon as we cruise round the north coast of Iceland at the Hornbjarg Cliffs. These stunning cliffs rise 534 metres from the sea and are one of the largest centres for puffins in Iceland.

Day 5 Siglufjörður & Grimsey Island. Siglufjörður is a picturesque town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the early 1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture. Stroll through the town and visit the Herring Era Museum. In the afternoon we head to Grimsey Island. The Arctic Circle bisects this island which is known for its tiny community, basalt cliffs and large variety of birdlife. On arrival

join our expedition team members for a nature walk on the island. Be on deck after dinner as we sail down Eyafjörður, on the lookout for whales, heading to Akureyri.

Day 6 Akureyri. This delightful town on the north coast of Iceland is not what you would expect to find in such a remote location. In summer months the gardens and window boxes are ablaze with colour and on a morning tour we will explore the botanic garden where we find species from Africa, China and the Mediterranean growing alongside the Alaskan, Greenlandic and indigenous specimens. We will also have time to explore the town to visit Art Alley, where artisans keep their workshops and galleries, or the local church with its beautiful views over the fjord. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore further or maybe enjoy a hike in nearby Kjanaskogur. Alternatively travel by bus to the Lake Myvatn-Krafla area, a fine example of the volcanic world with lava fields, boiling and steaming mud pools and steam vents of sulphur and craters. The area illustrates the sheer magnitude of Iceland's forces at work. The lake itself, with beautiful natural rock formations and hot springs, is also a unique ecosystem and the largest migratory bird sanctuary in Europe. We will offer time in the natural baths or on a bird watching walk before returning to the ship via Godafoss (Falls of the Gods), an imposing sight.

Day 7 Husavik. Over breakfast we arrive in Husavik, known as

the whale capital of Iceland. This morning we will use local boats to explore Skjalfandi Bay looking for one of the 15 species of whales, the most popular being Humpback, Minke and Blue whales, as well as white beaked dolphins and many different kinds of birds. After lunch on board we have the afternoon to explore the pretty town including time at the excellent whale museum, the exploration museum and quaint local church.

Day 8 Mjóifjörður & Nekaupstaður. Enjoy the benefits of our small ship as we explore the lesser known fjords in the south east of Iceland. We cruise through Mjóifjörður where we can enjoy the wilderness of this remote area. We also hope to land at the small town at Neskaupstaður for a chance to visit the excellent museum which features the local art gallery, Museum of Natural History and Maritime Museum. The more active amongst us can hike to the avalanche barriers behind the town, offering great views of the surrounding areas.

Day 9 Hofn. Today we will see the shimmering white Vatnajökull Glacier, Europe's largest glacier, sometimes called an icecap. The 600 metre thick ice surmounts active volcanoes, one of which erupted in 1996, creating a crater on the surface of the glacier, a most unusual phenomenon. We will have a choice of excursions today and you may choose to drive to the land locked Jokulsarlon lagoon where, on a boat trip, we can see the icebergs calve into the water. After a local



Geothermal landscape with geyser



Jokulsarlon glacial lagoon



Lake Myvatn

lunch we will view the Hoffellsjokull glacier before returning to Hofn and the MS Hebridean Sky. Alternatively the more active may wish to partake in a four by four drive to the ice cap itself where we can spend time walking on the ice enjoying this stunning scenery with views from the mountains to the Atlantic Ocean.

Day 10 Heimay & Surtsey. Our last morning in Iceland is spent at the Vestmannaeyjar (Westmann Islands). Islanders here live with a dramatic volcanic history. In 1973 the island of Heimaey experienced an eruption which created a new mountain, Eldfell, known as Mount Fire. We will explore the only community, Heimaey, where half buried houses can be partially seen peeking out through the lava and ash. If time permits we may also launch the Zodiacs for an exploration of the nearby bay. Later this afternoon we will

circumnavigate Surtsey Island which was created volcanically in 1963 and is a closed nature reserve. Few places in the world illustrate more dramatically the powerful forces of nature.

Day 11 Reykjavik to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.



Humpback Whale

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5595	£5195
Byrd	Superior	£5795	£5395
Mawson	Premium	£6095	£5695
Mawson	Corner	£6495	£6095
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7195	£6795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7695	£7295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8695	£8295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8095	£7695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£8595	£8195

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

Ship to Shore: This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. 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



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

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.

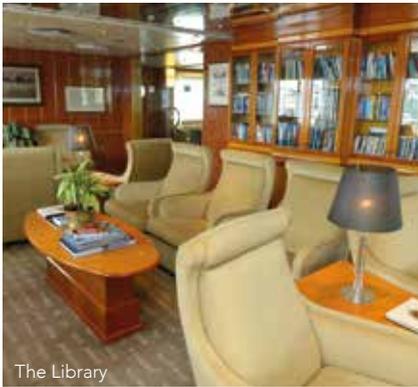
Your Cabin/Suite

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 those 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 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 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.

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. 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 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 sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. There is also a small hairdressers 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 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 or Cruise Director and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

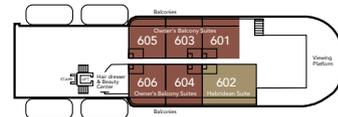


During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

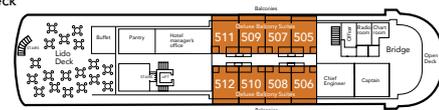
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



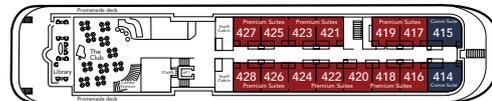
Shackleton Deck



Scott Deck



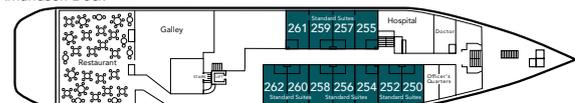
Mawson Deck



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: Waterfall, Snæfellsnes peninsula.