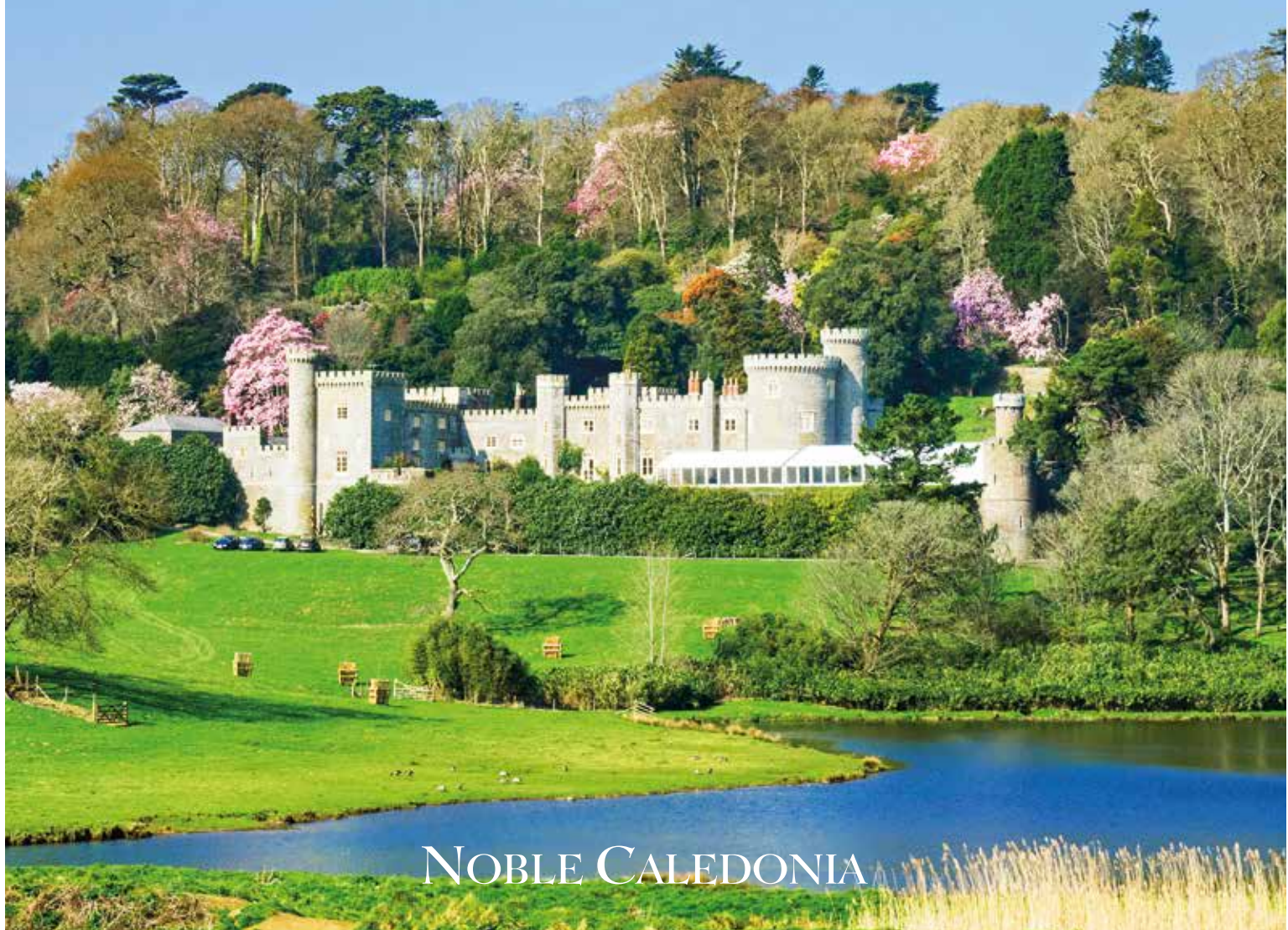


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

ICONIC GARDENS, BIRDLIFE & HISTORY OF BRITAIN & IRELAND

AN EXPEDITION FROM PORTSMOUTH TO OBAN
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BOTANICA WORLD DISCOVERIES

25TH MAY TO 4TH JUNE 2024



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Powerscourt House & Garden



For this exploration of the gardens of the British Isles we are working with our Australian associates and experts in botanically themed tours, Botanica World Discoveries, and the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky. Botanica have exclusively chartered the vessel for this sailing and are making a limited number of suites available for Noble Caledonia guests. The voyage is timed for when the shores of the UK and Ireland will be alive with colour, when many of the estates and gardens will be at their most appealing and the countryside will be lush and inviting.

We will journey from the South Coast of England to Scotland by way of the Isles of Scilly, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland as well as the Hebrides. The gardens of Britain and Ireland have a unique quality and from the formal and manicured to the wilder and more natural, our itinerary includes some of our most beautiful and diverse which in spring are a sight to gladden any heart. This, combined with the sheer diversity of the 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.

Travelling by small ship in the company of just 118 fellow guests we have the advantage of being able to reach remote islands and, with the use of Zodiacs we will be able to explore some of the loveliest places from seductive coastal towns to stunning seascapes and idyllic isles.

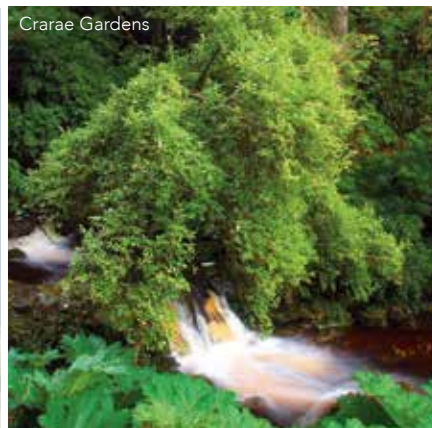


VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Tresco's subtropical Abbey Gardens on the remote Isles of Scilly, home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries.
- Visit Dyffryn Fernant Garden or walk the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path from the port of Fishguard.
- Spend the day in Ireland visiting exceptional gardens around the Waterford region.
- See Bodnant Garden, renowned as one of the UK's most beautiful gardens.
- Discover Mount Usher, a Robinsonian garden and one of Monty Don's favourites.
- Visit the Hebridean islands of Iona, with its AD 563 Abbey, and Lunga, famous for its breeding bird colonies.

Mount Usher Gardens on the River Vartry





Guest Speakers



Anthea Guthrie

Winner of five RHS gold medals, and many accolades, Anthea is a garden designer and teacher who has exhibited at Chelsea, Gardeners' World Live, Cardiff and Hampton Court Palace RHS shows. She has travelled all over the world as a speaker on gardens and gardening. She has a special interest in garden history and medicinal plants.



Sophie Thomson

Australian media personality Sophie Thomson's career in TV, radio and print media work focuses on the gardening arena. She is a popular gardening author and her latest book Sophie's Patch is a best-seller. The avid horticulturist's enduring love affair with gardening stems from growing up in the family nursery in Australia's Adelaide Hills.



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. Sail in the early evening.

Day 2 Fowey. Anchor this morning in the River Fowey, our base for a day exploring this picturesque part of Cornwall. This morning choose to visit Caerhays Castle and Gardens. Situated between St Mawes and Mevagissey in a secluded valley above Porthluney Cove, this is one of the great gardens of Cornwall. The estate is one of the oldest in the country and home to a National Magnolia Collection whilst the 120 acre woodland gardens are a springtime wonderland. Alternatively, visit the Lost Gardens of Heligan. The seat of the Tremayne family for 400 years, the garden fell into disrepair after World War I and was lovingly restored between 1990 and 2000. Its pre 1920 camellias and rhododendrons, which we hope will be in bloom for our call, are now part of the National Collection and provide a living link to the past. The extensive grounds include a Victorian Kitchen Garden and atmospheric paths lead through the Pleasure Grounds. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Fowey at your own pace.

Day 3 Isles of Scilly. This morning we arrive at the traffic-free island of Treco, 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. This afternoon local tenders take us to Bryher Island which was the setting of the film, "When the Whales Came", based on Michael Morpurgo's novel inspired by the island. The island is home to a number of nationally recognised rare plants. We take a walk around the island in search of wildflowers, including the dwarf pansy which grows nowhere else in Great Britain.

Day 4 Fishguard, Wales. From our berth in Fishguard you can choose to take a scenic drive to St Davids, Britain's smallest city. Explore the magnificent 12th century cathedral and see the Bishop's Palace before enjoying some free time in the city. You may also wish to join our naturalists for a walk along the Pembrokeshire coastal path. The path covers 186 miles around the Welsh coast and we will join a section to enjoy the wonderful scenery. Alternatively visit Dyffryn Fernant Garden, a relatively new garden created from scratch in 1996. It has quickly become one of the most interesting and innovative gardens in Wales. The garden is known for its



eclectic mix of plants and planting styles, and it is nestled in a secluded valley with stunning views of the Preseli Mountains. Enjoy free time in Fishguard this afternoon.

Day 5 Waterford, Ireland. Arriving into Ireland we visit two exceptional gardens around the Waterford region. Mount Congreve Gardens is home to one of the ‘Great Gardens of the World’, including one of the world’s largest private collections of plants. Curraghmore Estate was the home of the 9th Marquess of Waterford. Explore the house and gardens, including the Shell House, and artwork from the 18th and 19th centuries. This afternoon, you can choose to take a shuttle bus from the ship to Waterford where you have free time to maybe visit the famous Waterford Crystal Factory or follow the Waterford Viking Triangle, whose cluster of museums detail the city’s history.

Day 6 Dun Laoghaire. Arrive in the Dublin port of Dun Laoghaire, then travel south to Powerscourt Estate which is comprised of a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statues and ornamental lakes. Continue to Mt Usher, one of Monty Don’s favourite gardens, and a world-class example of a Robinsonian garden. This afternoon, choose free time or perhaps take a city tour of Dublin.

Day 7 Holyhead, Wales. Returning to Wales we visit Bodnant Garden, renowned as one of the most beautiful gardens in the UK. This Grade I-listed historic garden comprises formal gardens, shrub-filled glades, meadows and water gardens. Afterwards, visit Snowdonia National Park where we explore Maenan Hall Garden, the private garden of Christopher McLaren. He is part of the Aberconway family who were responsible for the creation of Bodnant Garden.

Day 8 Belfast, Northern Ireland. Spend the day in Belfast where we take a tour of the city, which includes the Cathedral Quarter and St George’s Market, while learning about the layers of history that make Belfast such a compelling place to visit. We also visit the Titanic Experience to learn more about the ill-fated vessel’s history. This afternoon, visit Northern Ireland’s much-loved family home, Mount Stewart, located on the shores of Strangford Lough. The garden was planted by Edith, Lady Londonderry, who had a passion for bold planting schemes.

Day 9 Ardfern, Scotland. On our first day in Scotland we visit Crarae Gardens, Britain’s finest example of a Himalayan-style garden, with tumbling waterfalls and rippling burn. The garden was created by Lady Grace Campbell, the aunt of intrepid plant hunter Reginald Farrer. This afternoon

visit Ardmaddy Castle Garden set in a most spectacular setting. This garden is shielded to the north by mature woodlands, carpeted with bluebells and daffodils and protected from the Atlantic winds by the elevated castle.

Day 10 Iona & Lunga. Arrive on the Isle of Iona, within the Inner Hebrides. Here we visit its abbey, founded by St Columba in 563. The abbey survived several Viking attacks and once housed a community of around 1,200 Benedictine monks. We then take a walk, in search of wildflowers, including wild iris and yellow bird’s-foot trefoil, along with fields of buttercups. We return to the ship, sailing to the Isle of Lunga as we enjoy lunch on board. Keep an eye out for the nesting slopes of the resident puffins. Described as ‘a green jewel in a peacock sea’, this uninhabited island is a designated site of special scientific interest, which seeks to protect the marine life and seabird colonies of the area, as well as its rare and endangered plants, including primrose, bird’s-foot trefoil and orchids. Get up close to the island’s thousands of breeding puffins which live on the island.

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

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	£5995	£5795
Byrd	Superior	£6195	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6395
Mawson	Corner	£6995	£6795
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7495	£7295
Shackleton	Owner’s Balcony	£7995	£7795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8995	£8795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£10295	£10095
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10495	£10295

PRICE INCLUDES: 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Expedition team • Guest Speakers • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • 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.

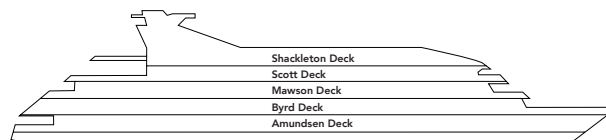
Your Comfort

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.

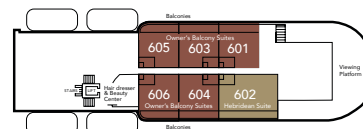
Your Life On Board

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.

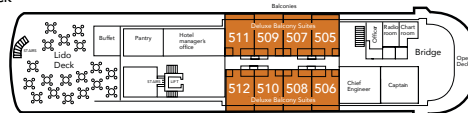
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



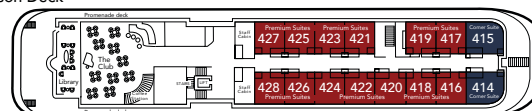
Shackleton Deck



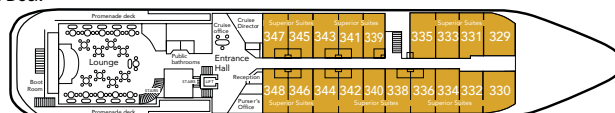
Scott Deck



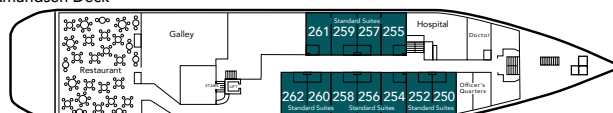
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



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

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.



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.



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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: Caerhays Castle.