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# IN THE WAKE OF SHACKLETON

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF  
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, SOUTH GEORGIA  
& THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA  
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2023

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Exploring by Zodiac

In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthrall 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.

For centuries myths abounded of a southern land but early exploration was hindered by the ice. Maps dating back to the late Medieval period show a continent named Terra Australis Incognita, 'the unknown southern land'. Captain Cook became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773 but never sighted land. The first person to set foot on Antarctica is thought to be an American sealer, Captain John Davis in 1821. Since then it is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character to deeds requiring extreme courage. The expeditions of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, Ross, Byrd and many others are a shining example of honour, strength and perseverance which today still inspire us.

Our voyage begins in Ushuaia from where we will be followed by albatrosses as we sail to the Falkland Islands for our exploration of these isolated islands thriving with wildlife and a fascinating history. 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 peninsula where enormous tabular icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs. On our way to the Peninsula we hope to sail past Elephant Island, the island on which Shackleton's men endured 128 days before finally being rescued.

We have timed our expedition aboard the MS Hebridean Sky for what is regarded as summer when whale and dolphin sightings are at their peak, penguin chicks begin to fledge and the snow algae is in bloom.



Macaroni penguin



Shackleton's Grave, Grytviken

West Falklands

## MS Hebridean Sky 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. 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.



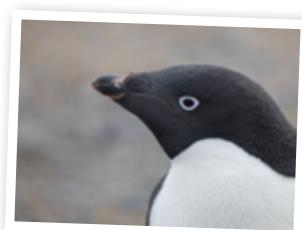
## What to Expect...

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 log from the MS Hebridean Sky which will provide you with an idea of what to expect if you choose to join this Antarctic adventure.

**Antarctic Sound & Brown Bluff:** Ahead of us to starboard was the northern end of the Antarctic Peninsula and on the other side were some large, ice-covered islands. There was lots of ice in the water too – brash ice, ice floes and icebergs of many shapes and sizes. Continuing southwards, it wasn't long before an interesting spot was noticed so the ship stopped and the Zodiacs were lowered. We were off on a Zodiac cruise amongst the pack ice and huge icebergs. The ship then headed further south still and eventually went in the direction of Brown Bluff, a favourite landing place. The scenery was stunning – geology on the one hand and sea and ice on the other. By now the sun had been out for some time, which added to both the 'warmth' and the colours all around us. Another very significant thing about Brown Bluff is that it is part of the continent itself so we could truly say that we had 'arrived'. For some it was their seventh continent too. The Adelie penguins were a big attraction, being the first ones that many of us had seen.

**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. The male fur seals often huge and intimidating were not a problem today. 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.

**Elephant Island:** Elephant Island came into sight at midday but at first it was indistinct, as it blended in with the murk so well. More and more of it became apparent as we got closer but it looked pretty daunting – largely snow covered cliffs that disappeared up into the clouds. Every now and then along the inhospitable coast there was a grounded iceberg. The captain did an excellent job of getting us into the relatively sheltered bay opposite the bust of Captain Pardo who was in command of the rescue vessel that eventually, with Worsley's knowledge, managed to get all of Shackleton's men off.



King penguin colony, South Georgia



Exploring by Zodiac



Chinstrap penguin

## 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. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to either relax in the hotel or join an orientation tour of the city which will include the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo (Old City Hall) 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. The tour will end 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. The evening is free for independent exploration.

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

**Day 4 At sea.** Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south are albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our expedition team will be

out on deck looking for whales and dolphins that may also be seen in the area. During our day at sea our onboard experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history and geology of the Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean.

**Days 5 & 6 Falkland Islands.** The Falkland Islands are isolated and windswept, a haven for wildlife. Our two days should coincide with the end of the breeding season for the many seabirds that make these islands their summer home. We hope to include stops at Grave Cove, home to the largest colony of gentoo penguins in the Falkland Islands and see the rockhopper penguin colony and black-browed albatross on West Point Island. We will use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and take walks ashore for a closer look with our expedition team. We also plan to call at Port Stanley, the charming capital of the Falkland Islands, and discover some of the many historic sites on the island.

**Days 7 & 8 The Southern Ocean.** As we cruise the Scotia Sea towards South Georgia, 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. During our cruise we cross the Polar Front, also called the Antarctic Convergence, and officially enter Antarctic waters.

### Days 9 to 11 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. For anyone interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches alongside 60,000 breeding pairs of king penguins. The colony has had an extraordinary population increase over the last century as only 350 breeding pairs were counted at this site in 1912. In Fortuna Bay we will see nesting light mantled sooty albatrosses and hope to witness their gracious courting flights as well as the few thousand king penguins that nest here. In Gold Harbour as well as gentoo and king penguin colonies, the adolescent fur seals of the season dominate the beaches while southern giant petrels constantly patrol the site for feeding opportunities. Whilst at St Andrew's bay we encounter the island's largest king penguin colony as well as being home to over 6,000 southern elephant seal cows during the pupping season.

Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respects at the grave of 'the boss' – Ernest Shackleton.

**Days 12 & 13 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, look out for



Elephant seals

Antarctic petrel, Kerguelan petrel and one of the most beautiful birds of the Southern Ocean, the snow petrel. The icebergs will also become more plentiful as we sail south. If conditions permit we may land at the South Orkney Islands. Meanwhile during our lecture programme we will learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

### Days 14 to 18 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands.

We have five days of exploration around the Peninsula 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 will make daily landings for unique close encounters with animals such as adelie and gentoo penguins, fur seals and petrels. We hope to visit the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, Paulet Island, home to countless 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 hope to sail through the



Whale surfacing



Albatross

breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent.

#### Days 19 & 20 The Drake

**Passage.** Enjoy a final two leisurely days on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Attend some lectures, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drakes Passage toward Ushuaia. 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. We will arrive on the final evening in Ushuaia and berth overnight.

#### Day 21 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires.

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay with the remainder of the day at leisure for independent arrangements.

#### Day 22 Buenos Aires to London.

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

**Day 23 London.** Arrive this morning.



Fur seal

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£13995	£12995
Byrd	Superior	£14995	£13995
Mawson	Premium	£15995	£14995
Mawson	Corner	£16595	£15595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£18395	£17395
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£19595	£18595
Shackleton	Hebridean	£21095	£20095
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£18095	£17095
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£20095	£19095

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast • 18 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 • Use of parka jacket and waterproof boots on board • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

#### Pre-cruise Iguazu Falls Extension 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023



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. The remainder of the day is 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. (B, L, D)

**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 the triple frontier, the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. A highlight of today will be the 80 metre fall "Garganta del Diablo" (Devil's Throat). (B, L, D)

**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 follow the main itinerary from day 2. (B)

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £2395 Single: £2895

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights hotel accommodation in Iguazu Falls, meals as shown (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flag ships 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, flat screen 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.



### 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 as well as 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

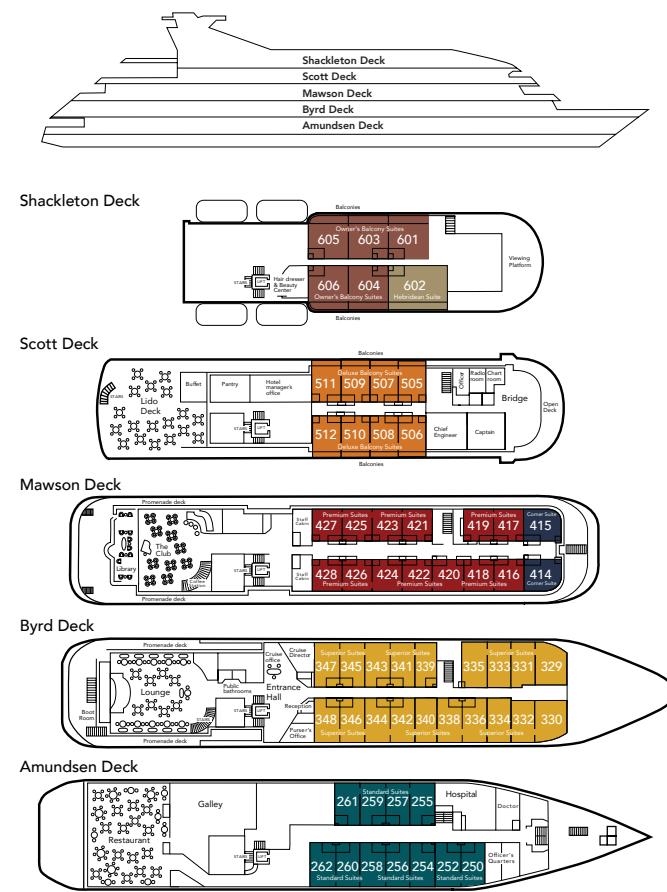
The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts 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



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.

*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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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Penguin crossing the ice.