A photograph of two King penguins standing on a rocky shore. The penguins are the central focus, with their distinctive black and white plumage and bright yellow-orange throat patches. The background is a blurred natural setting.

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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£1000
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In the Wake of Shackleton

An expedition discovering the wonders
of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& Antarctica aboard the MS Island Sky

9th November to 3rd December 2018



Icebergs

In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthral 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. No amount of travel books, travelogues or travel films can prepare you for Antarctica. It is somewhere that has to be seen to be believed. Your first sighting of a great landscape of ice can leave you breathless and so it progresses as each day you encounter more marvellous sights of ethereal icescapes and a surprisingly abundant wildlife.



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 Ingognita, '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 expedition starts in Puerto Madryn 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. The albatrosses will be enthusiastic in courtship and the penguins will come and

visit you if you sit quietly on the beach. 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.



King penguins



Shackleton's Grave, Grytviken



Puerto Madryn



Elephant Island

The MS Island Sky Difference

Whilst we have been sending our travellers to Antarctica for almost 25 years on various vessels, we are delighted to be visiting the peninsula with our very own MS Island Sky for the first time in 2017. There are ships in Antarctica carrying higher numbers of passengers than the 100 guests on board the MS Island Sky and these are more suitable for those who wish to see rather than experience Antarctica. 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 our vessel we can provide a landing for all guests each day, weather permitting. 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 Island Sky will certainly be so both in terms of the educational experience on board and the number of opportunities to go ashore.

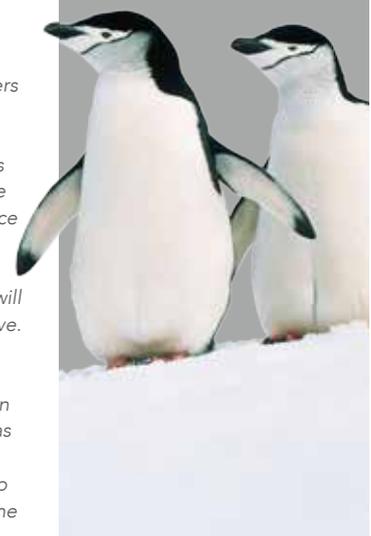
Our View

“Over the years we have operated many Antarctic tours with our partners but we are delighted to be able to bring our very own MS Island Sky to the region. Having the luxury of designing our own itinerary for our own vessel has allowed us to build in ample time in both the Falkland Islands and South Georgia as well as benefitting from spending five days on the Antarctic Peninsula. For our regular and loyal customers this is the chance to enjoy the scenic beauty and natural world wonders of Antarctica aboard our much-loved vessel in the company of our expert onboard team which includes some of the most experienced polar experts who will ensure that our time in the region will be both interesting and informative. The added benefit of our small ship accommodating only 100 guests means we can follow the strict Antarctic rules and yet have all guests ashore at the same time unlike passengers on board the larger vessels in the area. We have timed our expedition for what is regarded as spring as the pack ice begins to melt. This is the mating season for penguins and other species and you can witness their spectacular displays of courtship ritual, nest building and such antics as stone stealing. This is also the time when fur seals claim their breeding territories.”

“

We know that 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. Our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky will certainly be so both in terms of the educational experience on board and the number of opportunities to go ashore.

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Humpback Whale



Albatross



Crab eater seals



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 the centrally located Melia Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Rooms will be available on arrival to rest. This afternoon choose to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore independently before meeting this evening for a tango show and dinner in a local restaurant.



Gentoo penguins

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Puerto Madryn. After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Buenos Aires before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to Trelew and transfer to Puerto Madryn. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 4 Puerto Madryn. Located in the Patagonian province of Chubut, Puerto Madryn is a popular destination for wildlife excursions. Today you have the chance to explore the town or

join an excursion to the Reserva Faunistica Punta Loma, home to a colony of around 600 South American sea lions, which reside on the beach on the outskirts of the city. Our guide will educate us about the local flora as we walk towards the beach. November is traditionally the time when the reproduction season begins and we may be lucky to see the males fight to form their harem. Return to Puerto Madryn this afternoon and embark the MS Island Sky. Sail this evening.

Days 5 & 6 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 two days of sailing, 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 7 & 8 Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands are isolated and windswept, a haven for wildlife. We hope to land on New Island, the westernmost island with one inhabitant and 40 species of breeding sea birds including rock hopper penguins. Weather and wind conditions allowing, we may also land on Steeple Jason, the north western outpost with the world's largest colony of black-browed albatross. We will make sure to visit some of the many historic sites on the island and to call at Port Stanley, the charming capital of the Falklands.

Days 9 & 10 The Southern Ocean. As we cruise 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.



Elephant seal

Days 11 to 13 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. We arrive early in the season when parts of the island are still covered by a thin layer of snow. For anyone interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. In November the beaches will be covered by elephant seal bulls and females with feeding pups. They share the beach with a myriad of nesting King penguins. Most of the other sea birds have arrived and started nesting. November is also the time when the great arrival of the fur seals starts. Millions of fur seals will, over a few weeks, return to the beaches to breed. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches

alongside thousands of pairs of King penguins. On Prion Island we visit the nesting place of the world's largest flying seabird, the wandering albatross and in Fortuna Bay we will see nesting light mantled sooty albatrosses and hope to witness their gracious courting flights. A few thousand King penguins nest here and it is not unusual to see a herd of South Georgia reindeer wandering through the penguin colony. Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respect at the grave of 'the boss' – Ernest Shackleton.

Days 14 & 15 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, lookout for Antarctic Petrel, Kerguelen 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. Alternatively join the lecture programme as we learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

Days 16 to 20 Antarctic Peninsula and 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 adie and gentoo penguins,



Exploring by Zodiac

fur seals and petrels. We hope to visit the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, Petermann Island, home to numbers of Adelle 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 breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent.

Days 21 & 22 Drakes Passage. Two days to relax on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Enjoy a lecture, 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 Drakes 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.

Day 23 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the Melia Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The evening is free for independent arrangements.

Day 24 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 25 London. Arrive this morning.

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
Magellan	Standard Forward	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Magellan	Standard	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Columbus	Superior	£12995	£11995
Marco Polo	Premium	£13995	£12995
Marco Polo	Corner	£14595	£13595
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£16295	£15295
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£17495	£16495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£17995	£16995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and overnight accommodation in Puerto Madryn on a bed and breakfast basis, 19 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, expedition team, expedition log, use of a parka jacket and rubber boots onboard the MS Island Sky.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Pre-Cruise Extension



Pre-Cruise Iguazu Falls Extension

6th to 10th November 2018

Before joining our group in Buenos Aires, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, considered one of the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of day 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 transfer 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.

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 also the triple frontier the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Highlights today include the 80 metre fall 'Garganta del Diablo' (Devil's Throat).

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the Melia Hotel and join our fellow travellers continuing with the main itinerary shown from day 2.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1245; Single: £1595

Price includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights hotel accommodation in Iguazu Falls on a bed and breakfast basis, guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, lunch and dinner on days 3 and 4, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS Island Sky

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.



Magellan Deck Standard Suite



Library



Lounge

Onboard there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. Our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day.

There will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere onboard is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, informative port briefings and presentations from our expedition team and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room, all contribute to

making any voyage aboard the MS Island Sky a memorable experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly comfortable ship.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book. Daily newspapers and magazines are placed in the library depending on local availability. Outside there is a rear sun deck, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a further observation and sun deck.

Your Dining

Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked



Owner's Balcony Suite



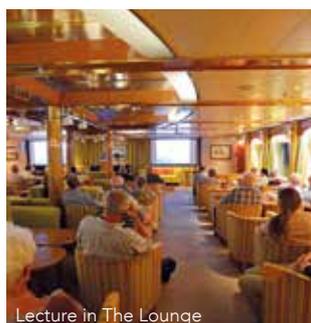
Restaurant

to order and lunch and dinner is à la carte. When weather permits, breakfast and a buffet-style lunch are also served on deck. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea is served in the lounge and tea and coffee are available 24 hours.

Your Suite

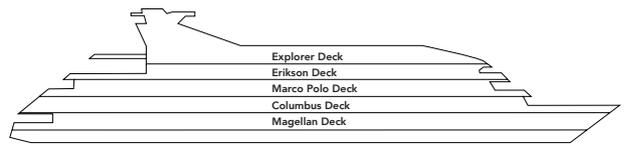
Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each 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 with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Molton Brown toiletries, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries and air-conditioning and heating.

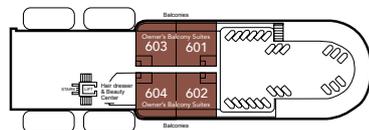


Lecture in The Lounge

Deck Plan



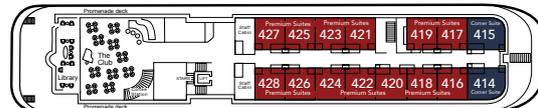
Explorer Deck



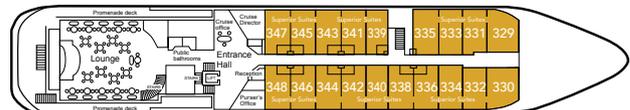
Erikson Deck



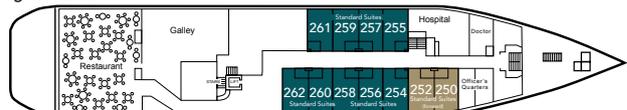
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



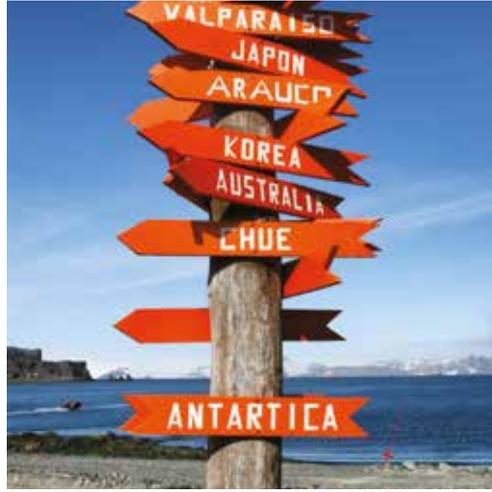
Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites (Forward)
- Premium Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites



This cruise visits out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and all landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Cruises such as these 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: Couple of King Penguins. Falkland Islands.