

NOBLE CALEDONIA

EARLY  
BOOKING  
OFFERS  
INSIDE



# Island Hopping Adventures in the South Pacific

Aboard the MS Caledonian Sky

French Polynesia – Tuamotu Islands – Marquesas Islands  
Society Islands – Cook Islands – Tonga – Fiji

December 2015 & January 2016

# MS Caledonian Sky

Formerly known as the Hebridean Spirit, the MS Caledonian Sky began her life with Noble Caledonia in May 2012. Accommodating a maximum of 114 passengers in 57 spacious outside suites, she is more akin to a country hotel than the big cruise ships of today. The vessel is the ideal partner to our MS Island Sky, both were built in the same yard and at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world and we are very proud to have them as our flagships.



## Your Cabin/Suite

Onboard the MS Caledonian Sky there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites, 23 of which have private balconies located on the Promenade or Bridge Decks. Each suite exudes great character and grandeur with wood panelling and brass features

found throughout. The large suites all measure between 20 and 23 square metres and the balconies range in size from 4.2 to 5.6 square metres. Suites are arranged over four decks and all have outside facing views. All suites feature a sitting room area complete with coffee table, armchairs and flat screen televisions (DVD players and DVDs can be borrowed from reception for use in your suite). The beds in each cabin offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and pillows and can be configured as large double beds or twins.

Each suite affords considerable comfort with an en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, a hot towel rack, shaver outlet and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or corner bath tub. Towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Further facilities in the suites include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, minifridge, cabin to cabin telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, bottled water replenished daily, as well as extra blankets and pillows.

## Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge featuring comfortable seating and classic winged armchairs to enhance the modern country-style furnishings throughout. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director or Expedition Leader and talks from Guest Speakers and Expedition staff take place in the main lounge which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. Also featured in the Lounge is an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station.

In addition to the main lounge on the Caledonian Deck, there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which features a bar, library and two computers and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The travel library is the perfect place to relax with a good book. The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Castle Deck. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Bridge Deck which is complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade.

Further to this on the Panorama Deck towards the front of the vessel there is a further observation deck, complete with bar service and comfortable cushioned deck furniture for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. On the Promenade Deck there is also a small gymnasium featuring a treadmill, bicycle and cross trainer, and a hairdressers with appointments made on request.





### Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine onboard is of a consistent superior quality. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day in either the comfort of the lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. In keeping with the informal atmosphere onboard,

when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other like minded passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our onboard friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like minded travellers. 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 reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals.

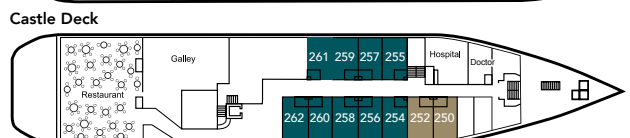
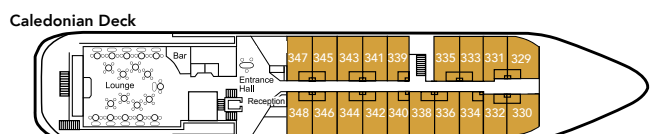
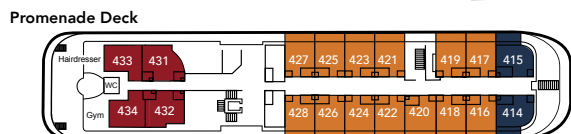
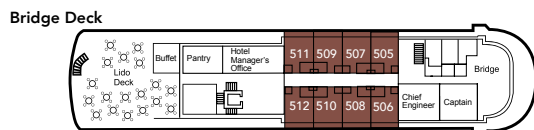
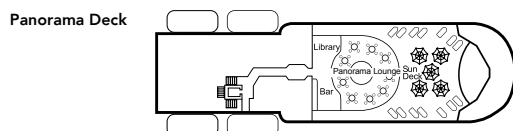
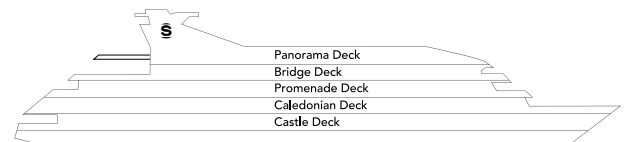
### Life Onboard

The atmosphere onboard 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, culture and ancient civilisations 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. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of an exceedingly comfortable ship. The daily programme onboard is in the capable hands of our Expedition Leader and staff who coordinate with the Captain and Officers to make the most of each day. Briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage together with a 'Daily Programme' that is distributed every evening to your suite outlining the next day's activities. .

### For your Comfort, Safety & Security

The MS Caledonian Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage you will have 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. Onboard you will also find a clinic and doctor and a lift that serves all decks.

These cruises visit out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and some landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Cruises such as this will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



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

# Lost Islands of Polynesia



An island hopping adventure in the South Pacific aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
2nd to 18th December 2015

By wind and wave and star the ancient people of Polynesia ventured to the farthest reaches of the South Pacific. Isolated by miles of ocean over thousands of years, these, the world's first island cultures, developed a pantheon of gods, myths and legends. This voyage tells the story of Polynesia and uncovers its history and legends as we sail through the South Seas and visit the captivating islands learning more of man and nature in this wonderful corner of the world, each shaping the destiny of the other. The name Polynesia means 'many islands' and no one could argue with the suitability of this title. There are islands of low lying coral with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world and contrasting volcanic mountainous landscapes of lush, incomparable beauty.

Join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky as we explore this paradise on a leisurely passage to a corner of the world which has lured adventurers and romantics alike ever since Magellan first sailed to these waters in 1521. The natural beauty of these islands is mesmerising, and on the more remote islands, villages are still composed of thatched houses, set amongst the shade of the breadfruit and coconut trees. Many islands are important nesting grounds for seabirds and sea turtles and the lagoons are breeding grounds for countless species of fish.

Our voyage begins in Tahiti, the iconic island of the Pacific dream. Envision if you will the evocative paintings of Paul Gauguin, a Paris stockbroker who ditched it all to pursue his art in Tahiti. Gauguin's images of exuberant outdoor settings with vivid lagoons and statuesque palms will become the backdrop of your first days in paradise.

With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we will explore inlets, lagoons and land in otherwise inaccessible places and although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is often the unscheduled events that become the highlight. We will be joined by a hand-picked expedition team, consisting of naturalists, marine biologists and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst onboard.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tahiti, French Polynesia.** Fly by scheduled flight via Los Angeles.

**Day 2 Tahiti, French Polynesia.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our beach hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax and use the hotel facilities.

**Day 3 Tahiti, French Polynesia.** After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a full day tour of Tahiti. We will start at "One Tree Hill", located on the east coast of the island and offering excellent views over to the neighbouring island of Moorea. We continue to the Arahoho Blow Hole, a lava tube designed by liquid lava flowing under cold and hard lava and creating a channel. When waves crash against the rocks and enter the channel the result is a powerful

sea water geyser. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before visiting the Gauguin Museum with displays on the life and works of Paul Gauguin, the botanical gardens and the Museum of Tahiti. We continue to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail tonight.

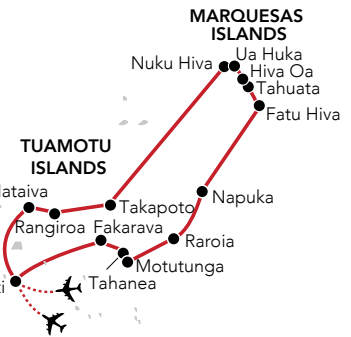
**Day 4 Mataiva, Tuamotu Islands.** Mataiva means "nine eyes," it was named for the nine narrow channels around the encircling reef that connect the lagoon to the sea. We will go ashore at the village of Pahua which is perched on both sides of a narrow pass and spanned by an unusual bridge - the only one of its type in the Tuamotu Islands. Enjoy a village walk then spend the morning on hikes learning about the native vegetation. Snorkelling at the pass reveals triggerfish, jacks, and goatfishes, among many others.

**Day 5 Rangiroa, Tuamotu Islands.** As one of the world's largest coral atolls, Rangiroa, whose name translates into "vast sky", has a magnificent lagoon surrounded by small islets or motus, stretching as far as the eye can see. Today, a variety of activities await. There will be a chance to tour a black pearl farm where we learn of the processes of farming these gems. Alternatively return to the water and enjoy snorkelling with unicornfish, masked bannerfish and triggerfish or enjoy free time in the enchanting local village of Avatoru.

**Day 6 Takapoto, Tuamotu Islands.** On the atoll of Takapoto we will be welcomed by the local population and treated to local fruits and demonstrations. Enjoy walks with our expedition team, see the local church and swim in the lake. For those who prefer the underwater world a snorkelling platform will be set up with our Zodiacs. Return to the vessel for lunch and sail.

**Day 7 At sea.** Enjoy a day relaxing on the sun deck and join a lecture in the lounge as we sail north.

**Day 8 Nuku Hiva & Ua Huka, Marquesas Islands.** Arrive this morning in the Marquesas Islands far removed from the rest of the South Pacific in everything from language and culture to geology. Our first call will be at Nuku Hiva, the largest of the Islands and the island group's economic capital. Traditional Marquesan dancers



welcome us to their village. We will visit the archaeological centres and view the temples, petroglyphs and tiki. Over lunch we sail to Ua Huka where the local mayor has been instrumental in preserving traditional Polynesian handicrafts especially woodcarving. Go ashore for a four-wheel drive tour to the Museum of Vaipee and the villages of Hane and Hokato, where traditional woodcarving is still a fine art.

**Day 9 Hiva Oa & Tahuata, Marquesas Islands.** This morning will be dedicated to Gauguin, iconic artist of the South Pacific. We will visit his museum and make a pilgrimage to his final resting place in the cemetery perched high on a hill overlooking the town. We will soak up the landscape that inspired him to leave it all behind and go native. Over lunch we sail to the neighbouring island of Tahuata. This is the smallest inhabited island of the Marquesas but was the first to be visited by Protestant and



Tuamotu Atolls



Traditional sail boat



Haka dancers



Catholic missionaries and the first church in the Marquesas was built here. With no airport the island is only accessible by sea and is off the usual tourist trail. We will land this afternoon and explore Hapatoni village, meet the local population and learn about their history and ways of life.

**Day 10 Fatu Hiva, Marquesas Islands.** With a landscape of spectacular pinnacles towering over the cobalt Bay of Virgins, Fatu Hiva is one of the most floral and pristine islands. We will use our Zodiacs to land at the little port of Hanavave where villagers will welcome us to the island. We then join our naturalists on a variety of walks to discover waterfalls, village life and the flora and fauna of the island before returning to the vessel for lunch and an afternoon at sea.



Exploring by Zodiac

**Day 11 Napuka Island, Tuamotu Islands.** After a morning at sea we arrive at the small Napuka Atol home to just 250 inhabitants. The first recorded European to reach the island was John Bryon in 1765 who named this the "disappointment islands" due to the hostile reception he received. Today if the weather and sea conditions permit we will aim to land on the island and explore the beach with our naturalists or set up a snorkelling platform on the surrounding reef.

**Day 12 Raroia, Tuamotu Islands.** After a morning at sea we arrive into Raroia at lunchtime. Raroia is known for its pearl farming and we will see the strings of oysters all around the local farms. After the traditional welcome to the island including a selection of local fruits and fish we will have the chance to explore the island on a variety of walks or snorkel in the beautiful coral garden with parrotfish, angelfish and butterfly fish.

**Day 13 Motutunga & Tahanea, Tuamotu Islands.** Motutunga Atoll was first sighted by James Cook in 1773 who named it 'Adventure' after his own ship. Both Motutunga and Tahanea are uninhabited atolls and offer some of the finest snorkelling in the Tuamotu archipelago. We will be able to see amazing corals and marine life including triggerfish and surgeonfish. At Tahanea there is another chance to snorkel or alternatively join our birders on a walk to find the endemic Tuamotu Sandpiper or our join naturalists as we beachcomb.

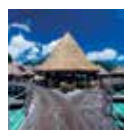
**Day 14 Fakarava, Tuamotu Islands.** This protected atoll, along with its six neighbouring islands, make up a UNESCO classified nature reserve. It has been the home to Robert Louis Stephenson in 1888 and Henri Matisse in 1930 whose art was influenced by the landscape for many years. The local villagers of Rotoava will welcome us and demonstrate their handicrafts and cultural traditions. We will have a chance to sample local delicacies before enjoying walks on the island with our naturalists or explore independently at your own pace.

**Day 15 Tahiti, French Polynesia to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London via Los Angeles.

**Day 16 En-route.** Transit in Los Angeles for our onward flight to London.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

### Moorea Post-cruise Extension – 16th to 18th December 2015



Upon disembarking the MS Caledonian Sky, extend your time in French Polynesia with our two night stay on the island of Moorea, the heart shaped island situated close to the main island of Tahiti and renowned as one of the most beautiful in the world. From our hotel base there will be the opportunity to enjoy water sports or alternatively you may wish to explore the island seeing the plantations of cotton, coffee, sugarcane and pineapples and the majestic mountains with views over the island and wonderful waterfalls.

**Prices per person** based on double occupancy  
Twin: £395 Single: £495

**Price Includes:** Two nights' hotel accommodation on breakfast only basis, transfer from MS Caledonian Sky to hotel and from hotel to airport.  
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

| LAUNCH OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON |                                   |                |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Deck                                | Suite Category                    | Brochure Price | Launch Price |
| Castle                              | Standard Forward                  | £7995          | £7795        |
| Castle                              | Standard                          | £8295          | £8095        |
| Caledonian                          | Superior                          | £8695          | £8495        |
| Promenade                           | Premium                           | £8995          | £8795        |
| Bridge                              | Deluxe Balcony                    | £9395          | £9195        |
| Promenade                           | Premium Balcony                   | £9895          | £9695        |
| Promenade                           | Owner's Corner Suite with balcony | £10395         | £10195       |
| Castle                              | Standard for sole use             | £11495         | £11295       |
| Caledonian                          | Superior for sole use             | £11995         | £11795       |

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tahiti on a bed and breakfast basis, Tahiti island tour, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis including wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia Expedition Team, transfers, port taxes, all gratuities.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**NB.** Flights schedules are yet to be released at the time of going to print and the itinerary may change on their release.

# Christmas and New Year in the South Pacific



Celebrate in the warm waters of the South Pacific aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
14th December 2015 to 4th January 2016

No other place on earth holds the enchantment of the mystical islands of the South Pacific. From coral reefs teeming with life to powerful legends that shaped history, each island is unique, each culture distinct. Perhaps the most intriguing part of a trip to this remote region is to discover new cultures, ancient traditions and to observe how these change as we journey effortlessly between islands. Being welcomed by friendly islanders into a remote village virtually untouched by the modern world is truly a memorable experience.

Join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky as we celebrate Christmas and New Year whilst island hopping in the South Pacific in all its vastness, diversity and warmth and experience the description-defying beauty of its islands, its culture and its ambience which have attracted generations of adventurers, explorers and travellers to its magical shores. The islands of the South Pacific are an extraordinary world that exceed everyone's expectations. They are as sensuous as the paintings of Gauguin, more adventurous than the tales of Robert Louis Stevenson and more romantic than James Michener's fabled Bali Hai.

This mix of islands and cultures we have included in our voyage is a fascinating journey where we can discover the range of lifestyles, traditions, people and landscapes of some of the most remote islands on earth. From coral reefs teeming with life to powerful legends that shaped history, each island is unique, each culture distinct and this diversity will be brought to life by our onboard team who between them have many years' experience operating in the region. Our voyage ends in the horseshoe of volcanic Fijian Islands and here we will be amongst the first people in the world to welcome in the New Year.

## The Itinerary

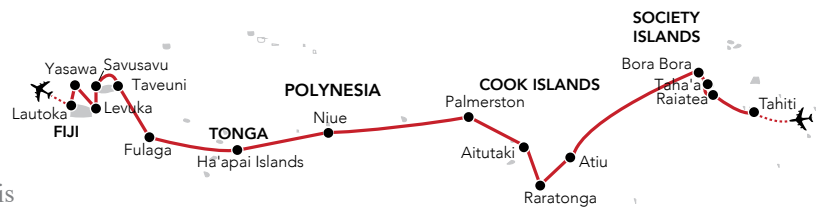
**Day 1 London to Tahiti, French Polynesia.** Fly by scheduled flight via Los Angeles.

**Day 2 Tahiti, French Polynesia.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our beach hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax and use the hotel facilities.

**Day 3 Tahiti, French Polynesia.** After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a full day tour of Tahiti. We will start at "One Tree Hill", located on the east coast of the island and offering excellent views over to the neighbouring island of Moorea. We continue to the Arahoho Blow Hole, a lava tube designed by liquid lava flowing under cold and hard lava and creating a channel. When waves crash against the rocks and enter the channel the result is a powerful sea water geyser. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before

visiting the Gauguin Museum with displays on the life and works of Paul Gauguin, the botanical gardens and the Museum of Tahiti. We continue to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail tonight.

**Day 4 Raiatea & Taha'a, Society Islands.** Raiatea is recognised throughout Tahiti as its "Sacred Island" the cultural heart of all Tahiti Polynesia. It is believed by historians that Raiatea was the main stopover point for early Polynesians newly arrived from Hawaii. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the centre of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this day. This morning's island tour will include a visit to the celebrated Mt. Temehani and the Taputapuatea marae which dates back over 1000 years. This afternoon we sail over to the neighbouring island of Taha'a. With the rich aroma of vanilla lingering



heavily in the air, Taha'a offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians.

**Day 5 Bora Bora, Society Islands.** One of the most stunning islands on the planet, Bora Bora's interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War II relics ending with a cocktail at the infamous Bloody Marys bar. This afternoon explore independently or alternatively take a chance to snorkel in the clear waters.

**Day 6 At sea.** Relax onboard, spend time on deck and attend a lecture or two.

**Day 7 Atiu, Cook Islands.** Our first stop in the Cook Islands is the small island of Atiu. With only 560 residents we will be guaranteed a special welcome. There will be the chance to join the local expert "birdman George" on a walking tour to search for the Raratonga monarch, chattering kingfisher, Cook islands fruit dove and Atiu swiftlets. Alternatively discover the island on a tour to include James Cooks landing site from 1777 as well as the coffee plantations and visit some of the local houses.

**Day 8 Raratonga, Cook Islands.** Arrive this morning in Raratonga, the hub of the Cook Islands where we have a day to explore. Either choose to join our nature walk in the Takitumu Conservation area, a 155 hectare forested area in the interior of the island. Here we can look for some endemic birds such as the Raratongan flycatcher, Pacific pigeon and fruit dove whilst walking in the beautiful scenery of the park. Alternatively explore the history and culture of the island on a drive including the sacred marae, site of the seven canoes

and local churches. We also see the inland plantations where locals use an agricultural system which dates back hundreds of years. If time permits we also hope to swim and snorkel in the sparkling blue lagoon that surrounds the island.

**Day 9 Aitutaki, Cook Islands.** This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. Choose this morning from an island drive which will explore the sleepy village of Arutanga including a visit to the oldest church in the Cook Islands. We will see the lush forest of Nikaupara and from the top of Mount Piraki will see the bunkers built during World War II. From the top of Maunga Pu we are treated to breathtaking views of the island and lagoon. Alternatively you may wish to join our naturalists and snorkel in the lagoon.

**Day 10 Palmerston, Cook Islands.** The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walking tour with our local guides. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers should catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. There will also be a chance to snorkel from the beach where large coral blocks teem with goatfish, boxfish, groupers, stingray and turtles

**Day 11 At sea.**

**Day 12 Niue, New Zealand.** Spend Christmas morning on the island of Niue on the edge of the International Date Line. Choose to either stretch your legs and explore Alofi village with our onboard team or alternatively take a Christmas

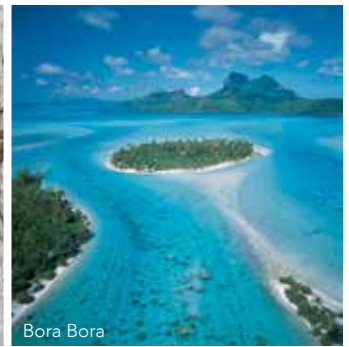




Butterfly fish



Coconut crab



Bora Bora

morning swim or snorkel in the warm waters. Return to the vessel for Christmas lunch as we sail towards Tonga.

**Day 13 At sea.** As we cross the International Date Line (so it is now 27th December) we continue our journey to the Kingdom of Tonga.

**Day 14 Ha'apai Group, Tonga.** Today we arrive at the Ha'apai group which consists of 62 islands comprising of lagoons, barrier reefs and active volcanoes. The islands have a rich maritime history with Abel Tasman being the first European to visit the islands in 1643 whilst Captain James Cook visited twice in the 1770s. However the most famous event was Mutiny of the HMS Bounty which occurred between the islands of Lifuka and Tofua. It was on the island of Tofua that Captain William Bligh landed after being cast off from the Bounty with limited provisions and nautical equipment. A hostile reception from the islanders meant they quickly fled to sea again but we hope to receive a warm welcome as we land today. Tropical forests grow along gentle slopes here and at the centre of the island is the volcanic crater, with a clear blue lake at its base. You may choose to hike to a lake with our naturalists along a trail that leads through a spectacular forest full of birds, unique tree ferns and ironwood.

**Day 15 Fulaga, Fiji.** Our first call at a Fijian island will be on Fulaga, famous for its woodcarving and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone.

**Day 16 Taveuni, Fiji.** Today we visit the 'Garden Island of Fiji'. We will have a choice of excursions this morning. The nature lovers can take a four wheel drive to Dos Voeux Peak. At the summit we will be treated to fantastic views of Taveuni and across to Lake Tagimoucia.

Here we will see the tropical plants, palms and rainforest trees and where we hope to spot spectacular birdlife such as orange breasted doves, silktails, fentails and parrots. Alternatively join a walking trip to the Bouma Heritage Park established in 1990 to conserve the rainforests of Taveuni. You have the choice to walk to three Bouma waterfalls and swim. The view from the highest waterfall is spectacular. Our cultural tour will give the opportunity to see lifestyles in a traditional Fijian village and see cooking demonstrations. In the afternoon we will head to one of the neighbouring islands for some fantastic snorkelling opportunities.

**Day 17 Savusavu, Vanua Levu.** Often referred to as Fiji's hidden paradise, Savusavu is much the same as it was 30 years ago. It was originally established as a centre for sailing ships trading in sandalwood and copra. It is a small bustling town with an interesting heritage and the surrounding landscape is stunning. We will enjoy a traditional Kava ceremony and learn about modern life in a Fijian village. Tonight we will be some of the first people in the world to welcome in the New Year with a celebration onboard.

**Day 18 Levuka, Fiji.** The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau has a special place in Fijian history as it was here in 1874 that the Fiji islands were ceded to the British and also where in 1970 Fiji was declared independent again. The town is unlike any other Fijian town having retained the colonial buildings which made it the first Fijian site to be granted UNESCO status. Choose to either join a walking tour with our local guide including the museum and site of cessation or alternatively join an island drive passing local villages and beautiful bays and visiting the crater of Lovoni with views over the island. This afternoon we will relocate to Leleuvia where we can relax on the beach or join our organised snorkelling trip.

**Day 19 Yasawa Islands, Fiji.** Our final call will be at the fabulous Yasawa Group, a chain of 16 volcanic islands and many more smaller islands. The islands are everything you would expect of paradise. The British navigator William Bligh was the first European to sight these islands in the north west of Fiji in 1789 but they were not charted until 1840. Tourism is still in its infancy here and using our small ship and Zodiacs we can access some of the remote islands in the chain. We will have the opportunity to visit

a local village and have a chance to interact and see them at work weaving baskets. This will also be our last chance to snorkel and swim in the beautiful Fijian waters as we set up a platform on one of the local reefs.

**Day 20 Lautoka, Fiji to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London via Los Angeles. We cross the date line during the flight.

**Day 21 London.** Arrive this morning.

## Fiji Post-cruise Extension – 3rd to 6th January 2016



Upon disembarking the MS Caledonian Sky, relax on the island of Fiji before your return flight to London with our three night extension at Lomani Island Resort on Malolo Lalai Island. An adults only boutique resort and spa located in the stunning Mamanuca group of islands, the resort offers a tranquil setting

for the perfect end to your holiday. Sit back and relax amongst the tropical gardens, miles of pristine white sand beaches and crystal clear sea, with the added benefits of complimentary daily laundry, water sports and excursions.

**Prices per person** based on double occupancy  
Twin: £495 Single: £945

**Price Includes:** Three nights' accommodation at Lomani Island Resort including breakfast, transfers, daily laundry, complimentary watersports, selected excursions.  
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### LAUNCH OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON - PLUS LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES AVAILABLE WITH NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

| Deck       | Suite Category                    | Brochure price | Launch price |
|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Castle     | Standard Forward                  | £9795          | £9595        |
| Castle     | Standard                          | £10095         | £9895        |
| Caledonian | Superior                          | £10495         | £10295       |
| Promenade  | Premium                           | £10795         | £10595       |
| Bridge     | Deluxe Balcony                    | £11195         | £10995       |
| Promenade  | Premium Balcony                   | £11695         | £11495       |
| Promenade  | Owner's Corner Suite with balcony | £12195         | £11995       |
| Castle     | Standard for sole use             | £10095         | £9895        |
| Caledonian | Superior for sole use             | £10495         | £10295       |

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 17 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis including wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia Expedition Team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities on board the ship and on excursions, overnight accommodation in Tahiti on a bed and breakfast basis Tahiti island tour.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**NB.** Flights schedules are yet to be released at the time of going to print and the itinerary may change on their release. Ports and itinerary subject to change.

# Log Extracts

Below are some extracts from the MS Caledonian's ship's log to provide you with an idea of what to expect when exploring the South Pacific on our expedition voyages.

## Raroia – 31st December 2012

After an early lunch we arrived just outside the Atoll of Raroia. This is the largest Atoll we have visited so far with more than 300 motu and the lagoon stretching as far as the eye could see. The ship anchored just outside the lagoon and the expedition team commenced operations to and from the main village which was picture perfect with calm, pale turquoise water, lapping at the shore of a palm fringed white-coral beach. After a traditional musical welcome, we made our way over to a shaded area, where the villagers were displaying local handicrafts and pearl jewellery for sale. With the rest of the afternoon at leisure we dispersed in different directions to either swim in the lagoon off another beautiful beach approximately 500 metres from the village or take a Zodiac transfer to an area just inside the shelter of the lagoon where snorkelling platforms had been set up by the expedition team. In the shallow water there were beautiful corals with all sorts of marine life including Butterfly, Angel, Parrot and a variety of Damsel fish species as well as Moorish Idols, Chromis and little Cleaner Wrasse. It was a fantastic snorkelling experience in the sheltered waters of the lagoon which we all enjoyed very much and a perfect way to end the year!



## Motutunga & Tahanea – 1st January 2013

Captain Peter anchored the ship just outside the entrance to the atoll and a large Zodiac platform was established nearby. We were shuttled to the Zodiac platform and could explore the reef at our leisure. The corals were beautiful and we once again enjoyed just drifting and watching this incredible underwater world. For those more adventurous snorkellers the expedition team offered the chance to experience an accompanied 'drift snorkel' through the mouth of the lagoon. In the afternoon we sailed on to Tahanea where guests joined Brent, Tony and Damon for an afternoon birding expedition. They had a very specific mission in mind and set off across the lagoon to a distant motu in search

of the endemic and exceptionally rare Tuamotu Sandpiper. Throughout the course of the rest of the afternoon the die-hard snorkellers were back in the water exploring the coral gardens around a new Zodiac platform which was established by the team and Ingrid and Alex took another small group beach combing along the shores of a nearby motu. They had a fabulous afternoon as there were many small pools of seawater running throughout the motu and at low tide all sorts of wildlife was swimming waiting to make their return at high tide.



## Hiva Oa – 8th November 2013

As the sun rose, we woke to find ourselves anchored off Atuona village on the island of Hiva Oa. Atuona is the largest town we visit in the Marquesas Islands and is situated at the mouth of the Vaioa River on the southern coast of Hiva Oa: it is best known as the final resting place of both French painter Paul Gauguin and Belgian singer Jacques Brel. The weather was glorious; clouds clung to the upper peaks of this volcanic high island but sun shone on the slopes. Before breakfast, we enjoyed the sight of spectacular manta rays feeding around the ship. Once disembarked, we boarded a couple of coaches and our first stop was the cemetery, perched high on a hill overlooking the town. The various headstones, some covered in vegetation, were arranged in terraces, and we located both Brel's and Gauguin's. The site offered a wonderful view of the town and bay below as well as the towering mountains above. Many photos were taken before we headed down the road to the bottom of the hill where we visited the Gauguin and Brel museums which sheltered reproductions of the painter's work and Brel's restored little plane.

## Atiu – 8th January 2013

After our day at sea, today we arrived at the Cook Islands, aptly named after Captain James Cook who first sighted Manuae (Hervey Island) in 1773. The first settlers to the island were however the Polynesians who arrived in approximately 800 A.D. as part of the great Polynesian migration from the Society Islands. We would spend three days in total exploring the Cook Islands and our first stop was Atiu where Captain Cook landed on the west side

of the island in 1775. Today we were offered a choice of two local tours. The first was a wildlife tour led by local Birdman George (accompanied of course by our own Birdmen Tony and Brent) and the second a cultural tour with a variety of guides who would drive small groups of us around the island visiting some of the key points of interest. Over the course of the next couple of hours we visited the site where Captain James Cook is believed to have taken his first footsteps on the island as well as coffee plantations, taro patches, churches and many of us were invited to the local island homes and gardens of our guides providing even more personal insight to life on the island. Meanwhile on the eco tour, Birdman George led a convoy of three vans around the island to take a closer look at local birds and plants. Between the three ornithologists both the endemic Atiu Swiftlet and the Rimatara Lorikeet were spotted. In addition to these rare birds, the groups also enjoyed sightings of the Chattering Kingfisher resting on power lines and football posts, the Lesser Frigate bird and the beautiful White or Fairy Terns. After two tours, all of the vehicles brought us back to congregate at the Atiu Villas where the local villagers had gathered to give us a further taste of their customs with traditional music and dancing in the sunshine and even enticed many of us to join in.

## Palmerston – 10th January 2013

Overnight we travelled a further 203 nautical miles to the remote atoll of Palmerston. This small island was discovered by Captain James Cook on 17 June 1774. The atoll also has a more intriguing recent history associated with the arrival of William Marsters on the island with his first wife in 1863. He subsequently took two further wives. Together they lived on the island, with each wife living in a separate corner of the atoll. Three distinct village areas were established and the descendants of these unions live in the same villages approximately 45 people live on the atoll and with the exception of nurses and teachers employed from New Zealand, all of the inhabitants belong to the Marsters clan. We landed on the white sand beach, covered in tiny hermit crabs and welcomed by a row of villagers who introduced themselves by name and shook our hands in welcome. We visited the church as well as the home and final resting place of William Marsters in addition to the atoll's small administration building, medical centre and school. After our tour we returned to the beach area where we enjoyed the luxury of three hours of free time to further explore, swim, snorkel or just sit under the shade of the coconut palms to admire the stunning landscapes looking out on remote islands and motu. Our thirst was quenched by cold water and a seemingly endless supply of the sweetest, softest fresh coconuts that we had tasted.

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