

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

ISLAND HOPPING IN CAPE VERDE

Explore the natural beauty and culture of the Cape Verde Archipelago
aboard the MS Island Sky

29th March to 8th April & 18th to 28th October 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA

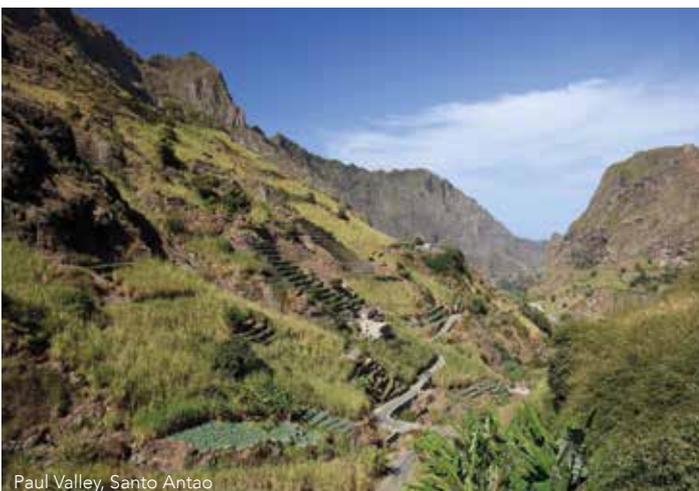
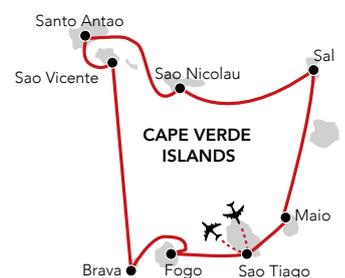
Colourful Fishing Boats, Tarrafal, Santiago Island



Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky as she undertakes an island hopping adventure; exactly the type of itinerary that suits her best. The Cape Verde Islands are an intriguing archipelago located off the coast of Senegal. They are an amazingly varied group of islands that have been used as a staging post by mariners through the ages and there is truly no better way to explore this region, with its dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy than by small ship, and with the MS Island Sky as our base we can island hop with great ease.

Our voyage provides an in-depth exploration of the culture, wildlife and lifestyle of the islands, some of which are arid and flat with extraordinary beaches and sand dunes contrasting with lush mountainous islands. It is a little world of its own, each island having a distinct culture and atmosphere and an ideal archipelago for small ship cruising. On some islands the infrastructure is minimal but with our nimble Zodiacs we are able to land on the remotest of islands and explore on foot.

Our in-depth discovery of the Cape Verde archipelago will begin and end on the island of Sao Tiago and from here we will island hop, exploring volcanic landscapes, colonial towns and villages and breathtaking beaches. For those who enjoy visiting out of the way islands where tourists are a rarity, this is a unique opportunity.



Paul Valley, Santo Antao



Cape Verde from Monte Verde



Mindelo Bay

Mindelo, Sao Vicente

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Praia, Sao Tiago, Cape Verde. Fly by scheduled flight via Lisbon. Arrive in the late evening and transfer to the MS Island Sky. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Maio. Depart Praia after breakfast and make the short hop over to tiny Maio, a peaceful island with vast deserted beaches. Due to winds and erosion this relatively flat island shows little evidence of its volcanic past. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon allowing for time at leisure to walk in the sand dunes and along the beach next to the capital of Vila do Maio with its huge white Baroque church and pretty pastel painted houses. Alternatively join an informal guided walking tour of the town or join the expedition team on a nature walk.

Day 3 Palmeira, Sal. The island of Sal was relatively undeveloped until the mid-nineteenth century when salt export business was developed and this morning we will visit one of the original sites at Pedra de Lume. We will see the salt pans, learn of the salt extraction process and even have the chance to float in the waters. After lunch we have the option to stay on board or transfer to the town of Santa Maria for a relaxing afternoon swimming from the beaches or exploring the local shops for Cape Verdean crafts.

Day 4 Tarrafal, Sao Nicolau. Sao Nicolau is a charming, peaceful and attractive island of plantations, small holdings and busy farming villages. It also has impressive, almost untouched mountain scenery, friendly residents and lively traditions. On our tour we will drive through a spectacular landscape towards the historical capital Ribeira Brava. Here we will discover the lively centre of the island which reflects the character of the people and learn why Ribeira Brava was the bedrock of Cape Verdean intellect in the 19th century. After lunch enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 5 Porto Novo, Sao Antao. We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Sao Antao. Driving up the old trading route, we pass the volcanic crater 'Cova' with its agricultural plantations and enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in the tiny picturesque mountain village of Fontainhas on the northern side of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, the valley of Paul. Here we will enjoy a coffee break whilst learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. Also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the islands and have a taste of it at the oldest traditional Grogue distillery of the island. Drive back along the coast to

the southern side of the island and our waiting ship. Moor overnight.

Day 6 Porto Novo, Sao Antao & Mindelo, Sao Vicente. Leaving the port, the scenery becomes more and more volcanic. Before approaching the driest part of the island we will turn into the valley of Ribeira das Patas to see the bizarre rock formation volcanic eruptions have left behind. Enjoy the spectacular view over two valleys at Selada de Altomira. On our way back we will visit a socio cultural tourism and agriculture project and enjoy some snacks organised by the project itself with local specialties. This afternoon we sail the short distance to Mindelo, the cultural capital of the Cape Verde. Enjoy an island drive to Monte Verde with its plantations and spectacular views over the island. We will be entertained by local music and capoeira on board as we moor overnight.

Day 7 Mindelo, Sao Vicente. Enjoy a further full day in Mindelo, one of the most attractive of all Cape Verde towns with its colonial buildings, cobbled streets, cafes and lively restaurants. Depart on a morning discovery tour of the lively markets and the secret corners of the harbour town. After a coffee break in a typical Cape Verdean bar, learn about the life of the local artists and their works by visiting the national museum of handicraft. The

afternoon is free to further explore the vibrant town independently.

Days 8 & 9 Sao Filipe, Fogo & Furna, Brava. Over the next couple of days we will visit both Fogo and Brava. Fogo is an extraordinary place. Known as the 'Mother Island' it has its own unique character and people. It is a volcano that rises steeply out of the Atlantic and has become an island, the summit reaching some 3000 metres. An island drive will take us through dramatically contrasting areas of fertile valleys that are dominated by the massive grey volcanic cone of Pico de Fogo. Later, call into the main town of Sao Filipe, a gracious town of faded grandeur with its pretty squares and wide boulevards of colonial houses. Here we enjoy lunch and listen to local guides talk of the eruption of 1995 over local wines. Brava is often referred to as the 'Secret Island'. It is sometimes mist shrouded and the humid conditions produce wonderful conditions for the flora. It is also one of the most mountainous of the islands with soaring peaks and deep valleys. There will be opportunities here for walkers and a tour which will include arguably the most beautiful bay in the islands at Faja d'Agua with its pretty nearby village. The capital of Nova Sintra, named after its namesake in Portugal is a charming town full of colour from

Fogo



Salt Fields, Sal Island

São Pedro Village, São Vicente Island



the blooming hibiscus, coconut trees and bougainvillea.

Day 10 Praia, Sao Tiago. The island of Sao Tiago and in particular the busy capital of Praia, has a wonderful African feel. On a full day excursion visit Cidade Velha the old Portuguese capital with a rich history and once the centre of the slave trade. See the fort and cathedral which dominate the narrow cobbled lanes and stone houses. Enjoy a traditional performance

of Batuco dance. Continue into the green interior, climbing the steep mountains and enjoying the colours as we climb to Rui Vaz where we enjoy lunch of local produce in the shadow of Pico da Antonia. We will see local farms and drive past the only water dam in Cape Verde on our way back to the ship.

Day 11 Praia, Sao Tiago to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return flight to London via Lisbon.

Pre-Cruise Lisbon Extension



For those who would like to spend some time in Lisbon prior to embarking the MS Island Sky we have arranged a two night extension. Our package includes two nights hotel accommodation on a breakfast only basis at a centrally located four star hotel, a half day city tour and transfers from and to Lisbon airport.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£355**; Single: **£465**

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Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£5295	£4895
Magellan	Standard	£5395	£4995
Columbus	Superior	£5595	£5195
Marco Polo	Premium	£5795	£5395
Marco Polo	Corner	£5995	£5595
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£5995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£6595	£6195
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6295	£5895
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6595	£6195

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to land on the islands which have minimal infrastructure.



Terraced Mountain, Top of Santo Antao



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.



Standard Suite



Dining on deck



Lounge

On board 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 on board 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 onboard 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

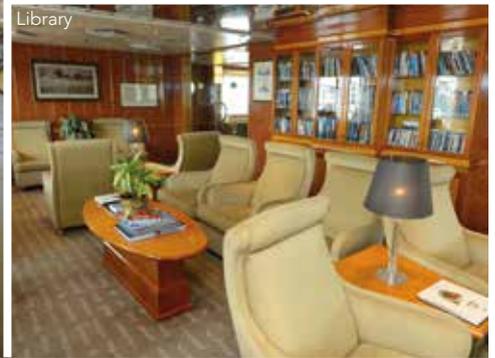
The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book. Daily newspapers and magazines 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.



Deluxe Balcony Suite



Restaurant



Library

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. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked 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.

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, air-conditioning and heating.

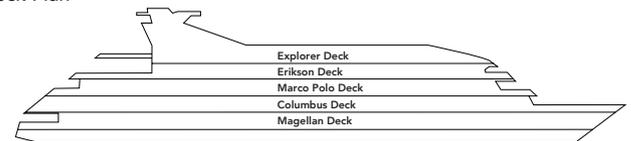


Friendly Staff

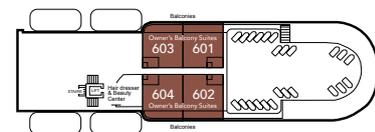
Your Suite

On board 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

Deck Plan



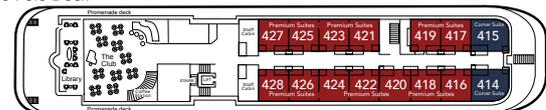
Explorer Deck



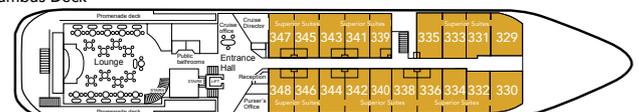
Erikson Deck



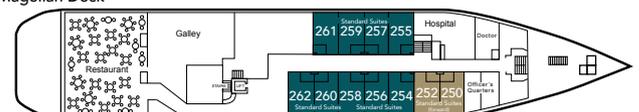
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



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

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

