

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

ISLANDS & CITIES OF THE BALTIC

A VOYAGE FROM HELSINKI TO STOCKHOLM
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER MARTIN SIXSMITH
11TH TO 19TH AUGUST 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Whilst there is no shortage of cruise vessels plying the waters of the Baltic during the summer months, this new voyage aboard the all-suite, 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky will appeal to those who are looking for a less traditional Baltic cruise. We have developed the itinerary to be well balanced between spending time in some of our favourite cities in the Baltic such as the historic maritime city of Tallinn and Latvia's capital Riga, and visiting some of the islands in the region where you can experience the enchantment of island life. To further enhance our itinerary we have included some additional events in order for you to experience the local flavour of the region including a private concert at a palace in Tallinn, an evening of live music with drinks in a local venue in Klaipeda and a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic orchestra whilst in Gdansk.



This is certainly not an itinerary that one of the large cruise vessels could undertake but is perfect for one the size of the MS Hebridean Sky. Our voyage will be a leisurely one with the benefit of some daytime sailing allowing you to relax on board and experience the serenity of sailing through the region in summer. Our Guest Speaker will provide informative talks and our excellent local guides will bring the history and unique character of the cities and islands vividly to life as we explore in small groups during our guided walks. We have also ensured there is ample time for you to discover the timeless atmosphere of the islands at leisure.



Guest Speaker – Martin Sixsmith

Martin Sixsmith was the BBC's correspondent in Moscow, Washington, Brussels and Warsaw in the 1980s and 90s and worked as Director of Communications for the British Government from 1997 to 2002. He is now an author, presenter and journalist. His non-fiction books include *Moscow Coup*, *The Litvinenko File*, *Putin's Oil* and *Russia: A Thousand Year Chronicle of the Wild East*. He worked as a consultant on the BBC2 political sitcom *The Thick of It*. In 2011 he presented the BBC's 50-episode history of Russia on Radio Four. In 2013 his book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee* was adapted into the film *Philomena* and was nominated for four Oscars. His latest book *The War of Nerves – Inside the Cold War Mind* is a major new history of the Cold War: exploring the conflict through the minds of the people who lived it.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Helsinki, Finland. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board as we sail tonight.

Day 2 Tallinn, Estonia. Over breakfast we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the

15th century Town Hall. There will be some time at leisure this afternoon to explore further at your own pace before we meet this evening for a private concert at a local palace.

Day 3 Saaremaa. After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry, Saaremaa is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During an afternoon drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills.



Day 4 Riga, Latvia. This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including Medieval St Peter's Church, the tallest church in Riga. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon exploring independently, maybe see the Art Nouveau district, visit one of the many local museums or the impressive central market housed in an old zeppelin hangar.

Day 5 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. Arriving at lunchtime we will explore the old town of Klaipeda including a stop in Theatre Square before strolling along the atmospheric narrow streets where in the past craftsmen including shoemakers, blacksmiths and bakers used to live and work. Continue towards the resort town Palanga where, after a walk through the botanical garden, we arrive at a 19th century Neo-Renaissance style mansion which houses the largest Amber Museum in the Baltics. Here we will learn all about 'Baltic gold' before returning to Klaipeda where we will enjoy a drink and live music in a nearby restaurant before setting sail this evening.

Day 6 Gdansk, Poland. Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning city tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Alternatively choose a tour to the 13th century Malbork Castle which belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNSECO and now serves as a museum with grand exhibition halls displaying collections of armory, ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore further at your own pace before we meet this evening to enjoy a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic at a local venue.

Day 7 Kalmar, Sweden. We arrive in the early afternoon in Sweden at one of the country's oldest cities and ports, Kalmar, where we will berth close to the well preserved historical centre. An afternoon tour will include Kalmar Castle, one of the best-preserved Renaissance castles in Scandinavia and a stronghold of royal power. Originating from the 12th century, the current building represents the rule of the Vasa Kings who rebuilt it in the style of a

Renaissance palace. Alternatively, join a visit to the UNESCO island of Oland. Here we will visit Stora Alvaret, a giant limestone plateau containing ancient remains, unique flora and fauna as well as the royal palace of Solliden. Built by Queen Victoria of Sweden in 1903, it is still used as a summer retreat by the Swedish Royal Family and we will have time to explore the extensive gardens and pavilion.

Day 8 Visby. Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port on the island of Gotland. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town of Visby snuggles inside 13th century walls, housing 44 watchtowers. In Viking times and several centuries after, the Swedish island of Gotland and especially the city of Visby, became a centre of trade in the Baltic Sea and is a World Heritage Site. Walk its streets from the Middle Ages and see its gardens ablaze with flowers, earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the impressive St Maria Cathedral and wander the paths of the botanical gardens. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further and maybe view the Viking exhibits at the Gotland Museum.

Day 9 Stockholm to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5295	£4995
Byrd	Superior	£5495	£5195
Mawson	Premium	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Corner	£5995	£5695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6495	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795	£7495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Gdansk



Kalmar Castle



Palanga Amber Museum, Klaipeda



Riga

Pre-cruise Finnish Lakes Extension

8th to 11th August 2024

Before our voyage aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a three night stay in Finland to explore the beautiful lakes and scenery.



Aulanko

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Helsinki, Finland.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner. (D)

Day 2 Helsinki & Hameenlinna. After breakfast we will drive out of the city to Hameenlinna and Hame Castle where we enjoy lunch. Hame Castle is one of Finland's Medieval royal castles and is believed to have been built at the end of the 13th century. After our tour we will transfer to the hotel situated on a lake in the Aulanko Nature Park. Relax and enjoy the views before meeting for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Aulanko & Tampere. Today enjoy a full day cruise through the beautiful landscape of the lake district. Take in the scenery of Lake Aulanko, Pyhajarvi and Lake Vanajavesi before lunch on board. In the early afternoon we will make a stop at Visavuori, the house and studio of sculptor Emil Wikstrom. We then continue through the lake country to Tampere where we stay overnight by Lake Pynikki. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Tampere & Helsinki. This morning enjoy a scenic drive around Tampere finishing at the Nasineula Restaurant, renowned for its wonderful panoramic views. After lunch continue on to the Iittala Glass Centre, where the Aalto Vase is produced along with other signature glass pieces. Later, drive to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Helsinki and embark. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1995** Single: **£2245**

Price Includes: Overnight hotel accommodation in Helsinki, Hameenlinna and Tampere, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Stockholm Extension

19th to 21st August 2024

If you would like to spend some time in Stockholm after your cruise, we are offering a two night post-cruise extension.



Stockholm

The Itinerary

Day 1 Stockholm, Sweden. Disembark and drive to Drottningholm Palace, Sweden's best preserved royal palace constructed in the seventeenth century and the permanent residence of the royal family. It features magnificent salons, a beautiful park, a

unique palace theatre and a Chinese Pavilion. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Stockholm. Today is free to explore the many sights of Stockholm independently. (B)

Day 3 Stockholm to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Stockholm, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), half day excursion, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Hebridean Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Hebridean Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or, outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Amundsen Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Scott Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

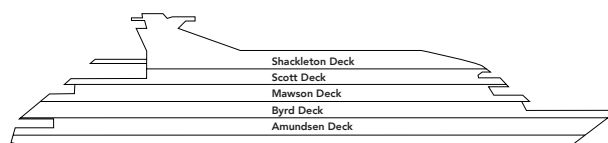
Your Comfort

The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

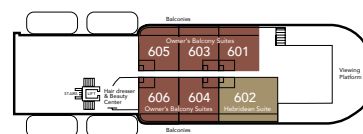
Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

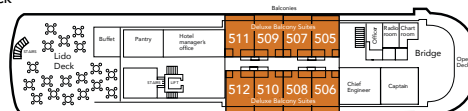
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



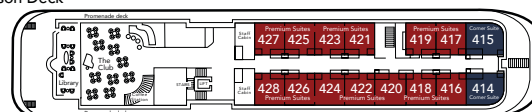
Shackleton Deck



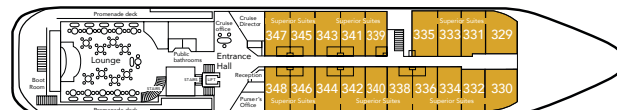
Scott Deck



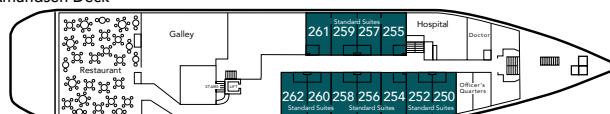
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



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

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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