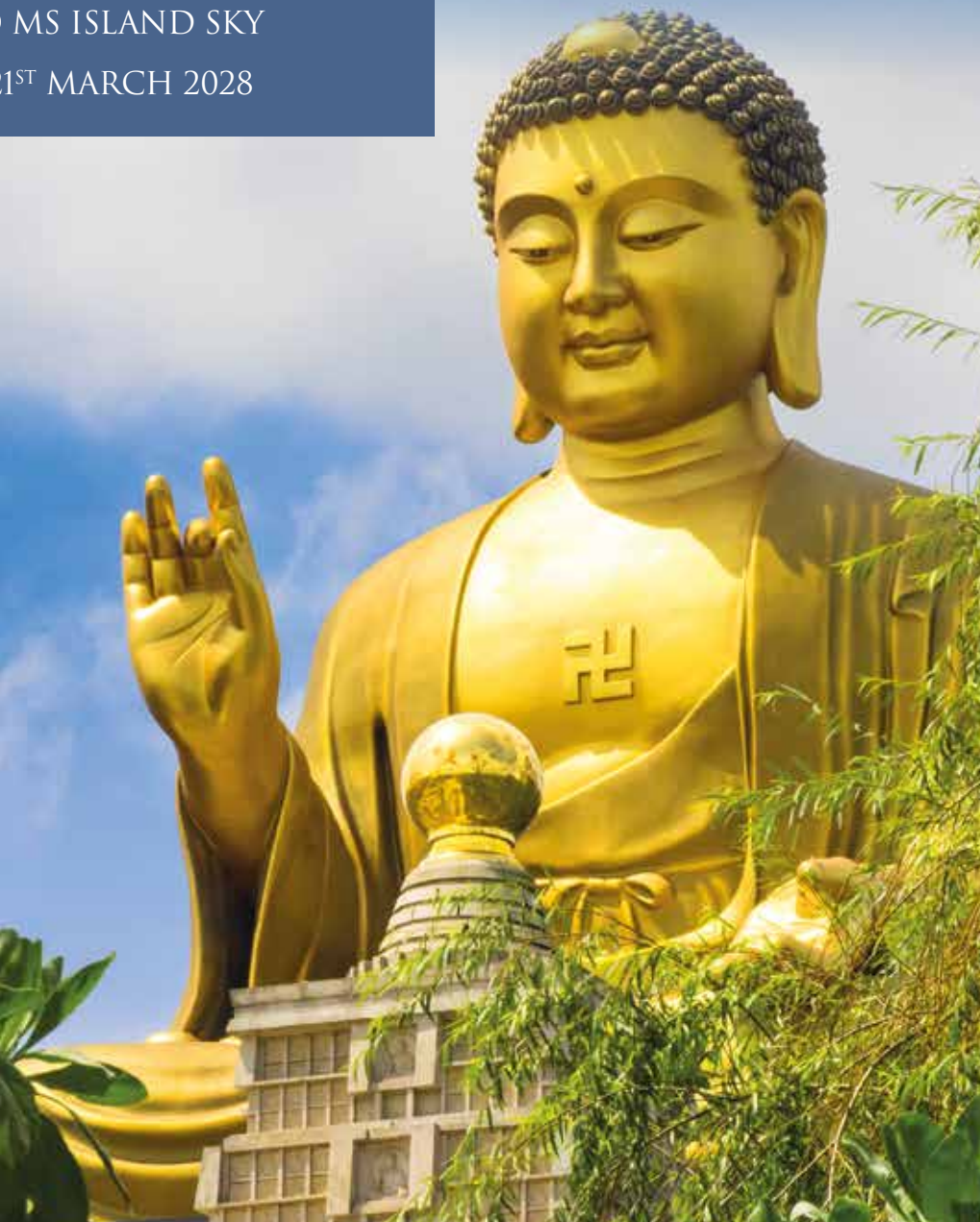


ISLANDS & CULTURES
OF THE
**PHILIPPINES
& TAIWAN**

A VOYAGE FROM MALAYSIA TO TAIWAN
ABOARD MS ISLAND SKY

6TH TO 21ST MARCH 2028

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£500
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Discover a fascinating corner of Asia on this journey that combines the vibrant cities, rich history and extraordinary natural beauty of Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan. This unique voyage aboard the MS Island Sky from Kuala Lumpur to Borneo, through the Philippines and on to Taipei offers a wonderful opportunity to visit some little known and remote islands of southeast Asia that are well away from the usual cruise routes. Exploring these remarkable lands from a small ship in the company of just over 100 fellow passengers and knowledgeable local guides is a privilege not to be missed. Marvellous experiences are to be had as we explore towns with their Spanish colonial heritage, land on pristine beaches, witness traditional ways of life in remote communities and explore mangrove forests looking out for endemic flora and fauna, returning each evening to the considerable comforts of the all-suite MS Island Sky.



Our journey begins in Malaysia where we explore the vibrant city of Kuala Lumpur before joining the MS Island Sky in Borneo where we can observe the diverse range of plants, trees and wildlife of the region including of course the ‘wild man of Borneo’ – the orangutan. We then make our way to the Philippines where we will experience the legendary Filipino hospitality with visits to traditional villages and remote island communities and discover the rich cultural history with Chinese traders, Spanish conquistadors and American rulers all having left their mark. One of the highlights for many will be our visit to the Subterranean River National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is home to long-tailed macaques, blue-naped parrots and other indigenous wildlife. Here local boats carry us deep into an extraordinary limestone cave system where vast chambers reveal a landscape shaped over millions of years. We will spend time in the capital city of Manila where quaint street stalls sit side by side with Spanish colonial churches and modern high-rise buildings, and here within the ancient walls of Intramuros, we will discover cobbled streets, historic churches and fortifications dating from the 16th century. We will also spend time in Vigan, one of the Philippines’ most beautifully preserved historic towns and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and as we continue through the staggeringly beautiful islands, there will be opportunities to swim from the white-sand beaches.

Our voyage continues to southern Taiwan, where the historic city of Tainan reveals a fascinating mixture of Chinese, Dutch and Japanese influences before we visit the islands of Penghu, an archipelago scattered across the Taiwan Strait. Our final day takes us to Taipei, Taiwan’s cosmopolitan capital, where we visit the National Palace Museum, home to an extraordinary collection spanning thousands of years of Chinese art and history.

With its combination of rainforest wildlife, remote islands, tropical seas, ancient temples, colonial towns, distinctive local cultures and remarkable natural landscapes, we hope you can join us for this voyage which offers a fascinating opportunity to explore three very different countries while enjoying the relaxed pace and comfort of the MS Island Sky.





Orangutan



Manila Cathedral



Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Kuala Lumpur. Arrive and transfer to our centrally located hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 3 Kuala Lumpur. We will spend today in Malaysia's capital city of Kuala Lumpur and our morning walking tour will begin in Independence Square, also known as Dataran Merdeka. This is the historical place where the Union Flag was lowered and the Malayan flag raised for the first time on 31st of August 1957. Continue to the Masjid Jamek Mosque, the oldest Islamic place of worship in Kuala Lumpur. Overlooking the Klang River, it offers a striking setting with its combination of Moorish, Islamic and Mughal architectural styles, verdant surroundings and distant views of the city's other iconic landmarks. Also see the Central Market, Chinatown and the extravagantly decorated Sri Mahamariamman Temple before our tour concludes at the Petronas Twin Towers which were once the tallest buildings in the world. After lunch the remainder of the day and evening is free to explore further at your own pace.

Day 4 Kuala Lumpur to Sandakan. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Sandakan. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board as we moor overnight.

Day 5 Sandakan. This morning we will travel to the Sepilok Centre to learn about the rehabilitation of the orangutans and hear about their threats to survival. We will visit the Sepilok Forest Reserve feeding platform and see orangutans in the third stage of their rehabilitation programme; the orphaned and injured orangutans are brought to Sepilok to be rehabilitated before returning to forest life. Sepilok is a primary lowland forest and one of the few remaining rainforests in Sabah. Here we can observe the fascinating diversity of plants, trees and wildlife as Sepilok is known to have more than 450 species of trees and more than 250 species of birds, and we also have a good chance of sighting macaques, leaf monkeys and other mammals. Close by is the Sun Bear Conservation Centre which was opened in 2014 and provides rehabilitation to the smallest bears in the world which are at risk from deforestation and poaching. An alternative option today will be a city tour of Sandakan which will include the lively market and the old-fashioned stone building of St Michael's Church, one of the few surviving pre-war stone buildings built in 1893. We will also visit Newlands, the former home of author Agnes Newton Keith.

Day 6 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we sail towards the Philippines. Maybe find a spot on deck or join a lecture in the lounge.

Day 7 Puerto Princesa, Philippines. Our first call in the Philippines is the island of Palawan where we have a choice of tours from our berth at Puerto

Princesa. Perhaps cross the island, passing through picturesque countryside to Sabang where we board local boats to discover the Subterranean River National Park which is home to long-tailed macaques, blue-naped parrots and other indigenous wildlife. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was also listed as one of the new seven wonders of the world and whilst sailing along the underground river we will be treated to a spectacular display of rock formations and cathedral-like chambers sculpted over millions of years. Alternatively, you can choose to explore Puerto Princesa and surrounding areas including the Binuatan Creations where we see the art of handloom weaving using local materials, the nearby butterfly eco-garden, the Immaculate Conception Cathedral and the Palawan World War II Museum.

Day 8 Coron Island. Today we enter the spectacular bay of Coron Island. Known to only a few, this remarkable area will one day most likely be a major tourist resort but for now you can enjoy the peace and beauty here without the crowds. This afternoon you can choose an island tour including St Agustin Church and Lualhati Park before ending at the Maquinit Hot Springs where warm saltwater springs are said to have therapeutic qualities. Alternatively, explore the coastline by local boat and take in the towering limestone cliffs, rock formations, idyllic lagoons and abundant reefs of the marine park. We plan to land on one of the white sand beaches for a swim in the crystal-clear waters before returning to the MS Island Sky. Finally, nature lovers can join a tour to the Coron watershed where forest, river and village life coexist in a delicate and thriving balance. Guided by local experts, we will walk the forest trails, where endemic birds flourish including three resident kingfisher species.

Day 9 Manila. In the late morning we will arrive in the capital of the Philippines. Our afternoon tour will explore the colonial area within the well preserved 16th century walled district of Intramuros which was created by the Spanish elite during their colonisation of the Philippines. See the San Agustin Church, one of four Philippine churches constructed during the Spanish colonial period to be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and which withstood heavy bombardment during World War II. Later we visit Baluarte San Diego, Baluarte Dilao, Manila Cathedral and Plaza Roma before ending at Fort Santiago, one of the oldest forts in Manila strategically built in 1571 on the tongue of land where the Pasig River flows into Manila Bay.

Day 10 Hundred Islands National Park. This morning we cruise to the 123 islands that make up the Hundred Islands National Park in the Lingayen Gulf. The park is made up of mostly coral islands and mangrove forests, which creates a healthy ecosystem for both marine and birdlife as well as various lizards and mammals. We will spend the afternoon travelling between the islands on local boats, swimming amongst the coral or taking a walk on one of the islands.

Day 11 Salomague for Vigan. The port of Salomague will be our base to explore the UNESCO town of Vigan, one of the oldest towns in the Philippines



and considered the best preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia. We will walk its cobblestone streets, including the pedestrianised Calle Crisologo, and discover a unique architectural style that fuses Philippine building design and construction with colonial European architecture. See the St Vincent Ferrer Church, built in 1795, before we visit the Hidden Garden where we will enjoy a lunch of traditional Ilocano cuisine.

Day 12 Batanes Islands. After a morning at sea we arrive at the Batanes Islands, a chain of ten isolated islands in the north of the Philippines. Rugged and windswept, the three largest islands are inhabited by the Ivatan people who are famed for their distinctive typhoon-resistant houses and for wearing the vakul, headgear which is designed to protect against the weather. During our island tour we will see the verdant pasturelands, the volcano, Basco Lighthouse, the pretty village of Mahatao and Ivana with its picturesque yellow church and Batan's oldest stone house. Also, see one of the Japanese tunnels which were built during World War II.

Day 13 Kaohsiung for Tainan, Taiwan. Our first port of call in Taiwan is the southern city of Kaohsiung which is our base for an excursion to nearby Tainan, the former capital of Taiwan. During our tour we will see the Chikan Tower, built by the Dutch in 1653 as an administrative centre, and the Koxinga Shrine, dedicated to General Chenggong. We will continue to the beautiful Confucius Temple which is over three hundred years old and played a key role in education, and is now a venue for cultural festivals and events. This afternoon we will drive to the Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum which covers over 100 hectares and is home to the 108 metre high bronze Buddha, the largest seated bronze Buddha in Asia. We will explore this impressive site and the museum which houses a number of permanent exhibitions about the life of Buddha, Buddhist festivals and relics.

Day 14 Magong, Penghu Island. Sailing in the Taiwan Straits, we visit the Penghu archipelago which is made up of 64 islands of which only 20 are inhabited. From our berth in the historic capital of Magong, our morning tour will visit the Tongliang Great Banyan Tree, a centuries-old landmark shaded by sprawling branches, along with nearby Bao An Temple. We then continue over the Penghu Great Bridge to Erkan Historical Village, a well-preserved traditional settlement known for its distinctive coral stone houses and rich cultural history. We will stroll through the village to experience local architecture and heritage. Finally, we will stop at Daguoeye Columnar Basalt, one of Penghu's most remarkable geological formations, featuring dramatic hexagonal basalt columns created by volcanic activity. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 15 Taipei to London. We will disembark this morning in Keelung for our tour of Taipei. See the National Palace Museum which houses over 600,000

priceless treasures of Chinese art, some of which date back almost 5,000 years. Many of the items were removed from the Forbidden Palace before the Communist Revolution. From here we will visit the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, which pays tribute to the former President of Taiwan. After lunch we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 16 London. Arrive today.

EXPLORING ASHORE

During our voyage, the MS Island Sky will be alongside on most days, but is likely to be at anchor in Batanes, Salomague and Hundred Islands where the Zodiacs will be used to transfer guests ashore. We will endeavour to offer a choice of excursions for all mobility levels but please be aware that the conditions will be hot and humid for some of the walks, such as in Sandakan, Coron and Puerto Princesa and a good level of mobility will be required to participate.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£9995	£9495
Columbus	Superior	£10495	£9995
Marco Polo	Premium	£10995	£10495
Marco Polo	Corner	£11495	£10995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£11995	£11495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£12495	£11995
Explorer	Island	£12995	£12495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£10995	£10495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£11495	£10995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Kuala Lumpur with breakfast • Lunch on days 3 & 15 • 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on days 2 & 3.

MS ISLAND SKY



The Library



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 Island 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 seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. 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 each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island 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 the Club. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



Standard Suite



The Lounge



Alfresco Dining on the Lido Deck

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus 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 Marco Polo 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 Columbus Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games as well as devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the Library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

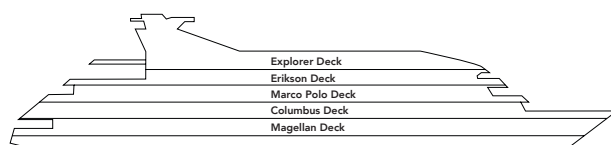
Your Comfort

The MS Island 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.

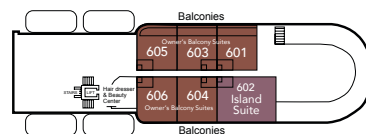
Your Life On Board

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 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 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.

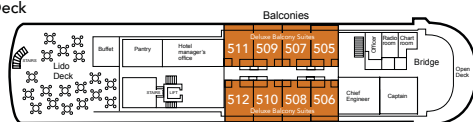
MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



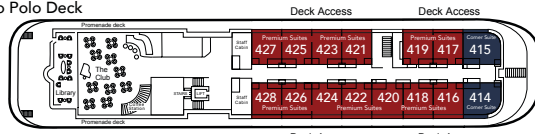
Explorer Deck



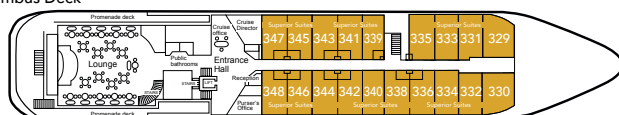
Erikson Deck



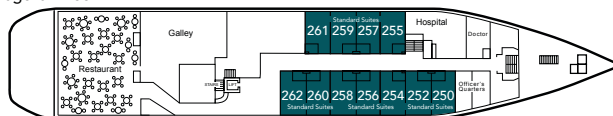
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Island Suite
- Premium Suites with Deck Access



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Bronze Buddha, Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum.