

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

ISLANDS OF THE AZORES

AN ISLAND HOPPING DISCOVERY
OF THE AZORES ARCHIPELAGO ABOARD
THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
21ST APRIL TO 1ST MAY 2020

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Mount Pico



Far out in the Atlantic, some 800 miles from the Portuguese coast, the nine islands of the Azores are known for their spectacular volcanic scenery, abundant flora and peaceful lifestyle. But, the appeal of this remote and unsophisticated archipelago is difficult to define in words. If you appreciate dramatic scenery, exploring islands where time appears to be standing still, watching for passing whales and learning about the local people and their customs, then this could be the voyage for you. The islands are also perfect for walking enthusiasts with paths through verdant mountain landscapes and we are offering some hiking opportunities which, weather permitting, will be a joy for the keen walkers in our group.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Lisbon, Portugal.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the charming Palacio Estoril Hotel for an overnight stay. Located in the heart of Estoril, just 20 minutes from the centre of Lisbon, the Palacio is set in beautiful gardens with outstanding views over Estoril and the Bay of Cascais. Take the chance to explore independently before meeting for dinner this evening.

Day 2 Lisbon to Sao Miguel, Azores. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ponta Delgada. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 3 Sao Miguel. Enjoy a full day exploring the island of Sao Miguel, known as Ilha Verde, the green

island and home to some of the most stunning viewpoints in the Azores. This morning we head west towards the Sete Cidades volcano from where we can enjoy excellent views over the Lagos de Canarios. We will continue our drive along the attractive northern coast before arriving in the Furnas Valley, an enormous valley and luxuriant garden in the east of the island where we enjoy lunch. We will also visit the village of Furnas and the botanical gardens before returning to the ship and sailing this evening. For the keen hikers, if weather permits, we will arrange to walk the 13 kilometre trail in Sete Cidades.

Day 4 Santa Maria. Today's planned itinerary includes a visit to the remote settlement of Sao Lourenco, known for vineyards which rise steeply up high sea cliffs in terraces and admire Maia from a spectacular view point. This coastline is accentuated by a



dramatic waterfall, lava tube caves, seabirds and marine life. Time and conditions permitting, the MS Hebridean Sky will continue its circumnavigation of Santa Maria and cruise around the Formigas (or Ant Islands).

Day 5 Terceira. This morning explore Angra do Heroismo, a charming UNESCO heritage town with a distinct Mediterranean flavour of cobblestone streets with a certain quiet charm. Enjoy a walking tour that takes in the Misericordia church, Convent do

Sao Francisco, public gardens and museum. In the afternoon there will be free time to hike to Monte Brasil, offering wonderful views over the island, or alternatively relax and wander the historic town at your own pace.

Day 6 Graciosa. Known as the 'White Island', Graciosa has a gentle rolling landscape, dotted with windmills and traditional whitewashed houses. Visit Furna do Enxofre ('Cave of Sulphur'), a geologically unique phenomenon and one of the original examples



of the volcanic Azores and take the winding stairway down to the magnificent volcanic cavern and lake. Also see the village of Santa Cruz and the charming Matrix church. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the small town of Vila da Praia.



Day 7 Flores & Corvo. Named after its abundant flora, Flores is often regarded as the prettiest island of the Azores. A rugged terrain island with flowers growing in the deep canyons and waterfalls casting hues of blues and green as they splash down to the sea. Visit the vertical basalt cliffs of Rocha do Bordoos, formed by the cooling of lava. See a stunning array of natural features including calderas, fajas, rivers, waterfalls and valleys. This afternoon we will use our small ship to circumnavigate the tiny island

of Corvo, the smallest island in the archipelago.

Day 8 Sao Jorge. This largely rural island is of geographical interest with its cliff shoreline marked with flat fajas sweeping to the sea. We start our morning tour on the western part of the Island, Ponta dos Rosais, visiting a Forest Park and cheese factory. As we move to the north we enjoy the view over the Fajas, an area of flat land at sea level resulting from the erosion of cliffs. From here we make our way to Urzelina to visit the remaining tower of a church buried under lava from the eruption of 1808. Now it is surrounded by fruit trees and vegetation. Upon our return to Velas we will take a walking tour of this charming old-world harbour town. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently or relax on board. Moor overnight.

Day 9 Pico. Explore distinctive Pico, home to Portugal's highest peak and numerous black lava flows. The UNESCO-designated Lajido Acros tells the story of early winemakers who used the volcanic soil for the grapes and, on a visit to a vineyard, we will enjoy a tasting of the local product. After a typical Azorean lunch we will learn about whaling life in the Azores at the Museum of Lajes returning to the

ship via the Lagoa do Capitao offering views over the north of the island.

Day 10 Faial. This morning enjoy an island drive where we explore the fairly recent volcanic activity at Ponta dos Capelinhos. See how a 1957-1958 volcanic eruption transformed the area and created a new land mass. Continue to the impressive Caldera, now a nature reserve, which is 400 metres deep

and nearly 1500 metres in diameter. After lunch, weather permitting, there will be the opportunity to join a whale and dolphin watching boat trip and learn more about the varied marine life and rich history of whaling in the Azores.

Day 11 Sao Miguel to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Ponta Delgada airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£4995	£4595
Byrd	Superior	£5395	£4995
Mawson	Premium	£5895	£5495
Mawson	Corner	£6295	£5895
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6795	£6395
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7195	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8195	£7795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6895	£6495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7095	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Estoril with dinner & breakfast • Nine nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Transfers • Gratuities • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Ruined church, Faial



Sperm Whale



Morro Grande stone tower, Sao Jorge



Lisbon

Post-Cruise Sintra Extension

1st to 3rd May 2020



For those who would like to spend some time in Portugal after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we have arranged a two-night extension at the delightful Sintra Boutique Hotel. Sintra is a magnificent town located in the hills behind Lisbon and home to some of Portugal's finest palaces and gardens. Spend two days in this wonderful setting with two half day tours included as well as time to explore at leisure.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Ponta Delgada to Lisbon, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival in Lisbon we transfer to the Sintra Boutique Hotel for our two night stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax at the hotel or for independent exploration.

Day 2 Sintra. After breakfast enjoy a morning walking tour of Sintra which will include the National Palace, an interesting mix of styles with the original building dating back to the 15th century. Lunch will be under your own arrangements and then for our afternoon tour we will head to the Monserrate Gardens, a wonderfully romantic place designed by Sir Francis Cook in the mid-19th century. Return to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Day 3 Lisbon to London. This morning transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£395** Single: **£595**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Sintra Boutique Hotel with breakfast, two half day tours, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Graciosa



Windmill, Pico

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

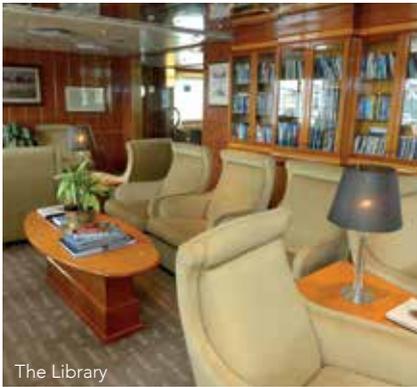
The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum 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, flat screen 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 where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. 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.

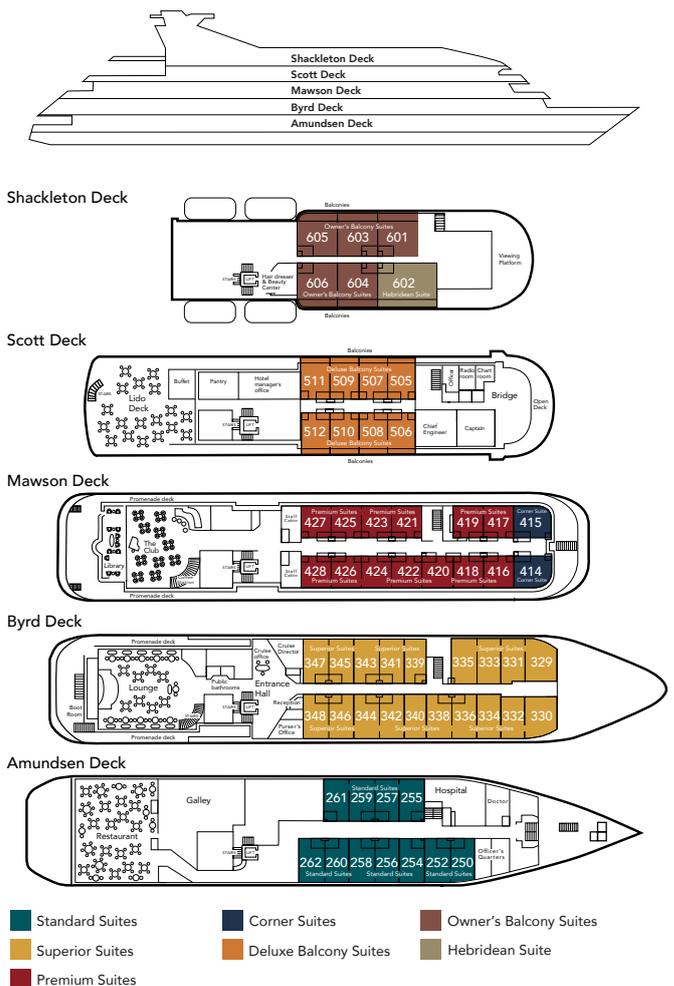
Your Comfort

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 Scandinavian 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



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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