

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

# ISLANDS OF THE EAST CHINA SEA

AN ISLAND HOPPING VOYAGE FROM HONG KONG TO KOBE  
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

2<sup>ND</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

NOBLE CALEDONIA





Here is a unique voyage offering the opportunity to visit little known and remote regions that are well away from the usual cruise routes in the Far East. Setting sail from the vibrant city of Hong Kong to Tawain, we will explore this culturally alluring country with its blend of tradition and technology before we continue on to the islands of Japan which form an archipelago stretching some 500 miles bordered by the East China Sea and Pacific Ocean. Cruising amongst these delightful outpost islands which are probably best described as Japan's Outer Hebrides, offers an altogether different experience from Japan's mainland.

Taiwan, a relatively unexplored treasure in the Far East offers breathtaking scenery and a remarkable diversity for an island of its size. During our exploration, we will discover Tainan, Tawain's oldest city where tradition lives on, and the ultra modern capital, Tapei which is an interesting place to learn more about the Japanese colonial period and the more recent era of Chiang Kai Shek. Whilst in Taiwan we also have a day to explore one of the country's natural wonders, the spectacular Taroko Gorge National Park. Sailing on to Japan, we reach the southernmost inhabited islands which are home to idyllic beaches, crystal clear waters and an abundance of natural wonders. Largely unspoilt, we will enjoy three days cruising amongst these delightful outposts including the Yaeyama and Amani islands. Then on to Yakushima Island which is a world away from the hustle and bustle of Japan's megacities with its towering mountains and ancient forest and here we can enjoy nature at its very best whilst on guided walks to appreciate the diverse fauna including the impressive

old cedars. Finally, we reach Japan's mainland for an altogether different experience where we will visit Uwajima to learn about pearl cultivation and spend time in the iconic gardens of Koraku-en.

This unusual itinerary will appeal to those who have perhaps visited Japan's mainland and would now like to explore her islands combined with the treasures of Tawain, or those simply looking for something different, combining explorations of the natural world with a look at the culture of the region visiting a number of ports which are off the usual cruise route. All this will be achieved with great ease sailing aboard the MS Island Sky and in the company of just over 100 fellow like-minded passengers, our expert Guest Speaker and Japanese guides who will bring to life all that we see and experience.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Hong Kong.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Hong Kong.** Arrive and transfer to the MS Island Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

**Day 3 At Sea.** Spend a relaxing day at sea as we sail towards Taiwan.

**Day 4 Tainan, Taiwan.** This morning we arrive at our first port of call in Taiwan, the southern city of Kaohsiung which is our base for our 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. The museum houses a number of permanent exhibitions about the life of Buddha, Buddhist festivals and relics. We will enjoy lunch here before exploring this impressive site.

**Day 5 Penghu Islands.** Staying in the Taiwan Straits we visit the Penghu archipelago made up of 64 islands of which only 20 are inhabited. We will base ourselves in the historic capital of Magong where we find an array of historical buildings and temples. See the 16th century Queen of Heaven Temple (Mazu Temple) which is Taiwan's oldest and finest temple and is classified as the first grade relic. Whilst on Zhongyang Street, one of the oldest in the islands, we will hear about the "Four-eyed well". Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon we will continue to explore the island.

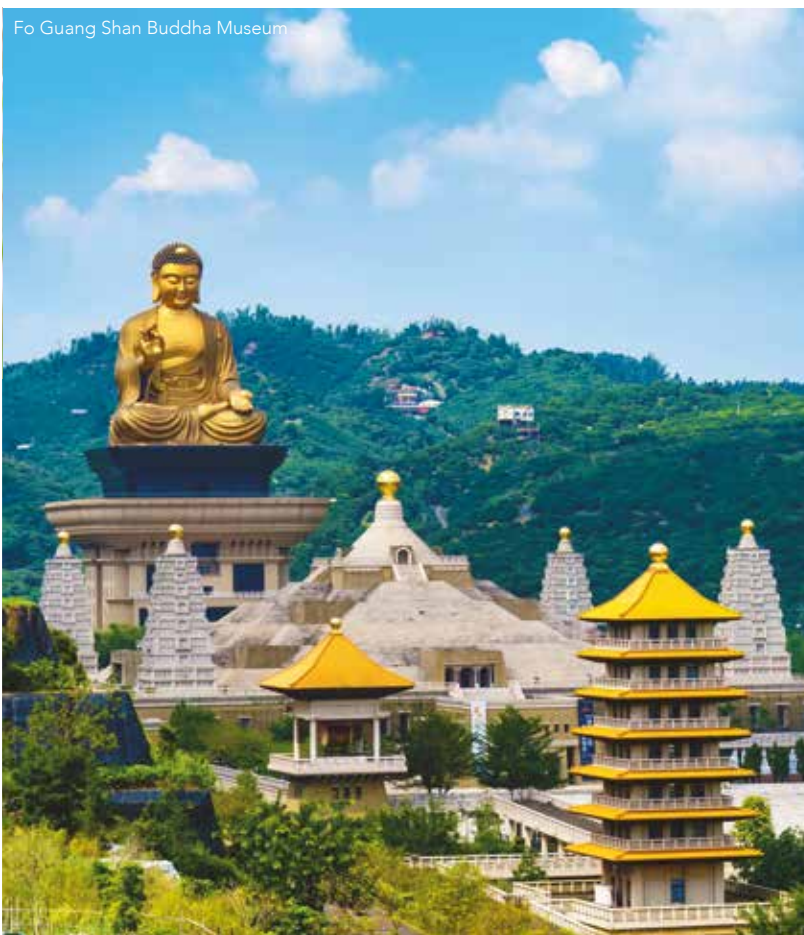
**Day 6 Taichung.** From our berth in Taichung we have a choice of tours. Choose from a full day tour inland to the Sun Moon Lake, the largest lake in Taiwan and so named as the eastern part of the lake is round like the sun and the western side is shaped like a crescent moon. Its crystalline, emerald green waters reflect the hills and mountains which rise on all sides and provide one of Taiwan's most mesmerising landscapes. We will spend time on the lake and also visit one of the temples on the banks before enjoying lunch. We return to the ship via the Chung Tai Chun Monastery, a lavish monument to Chan Buddhism which has

Amami jay



Queen of Heaven temple, Penghu

Fo Guang Shan Buddha Museum



fused ancient traditions with modern architecture. Alternatively, join a half day tour to Lukang, one of Taiwan's oldest port towns which was used as a major harbour by Dutch traders in the 17th century. We will see the 17th century Lungshan Temple, one of the best preserved in Taiwan, whilst in Old Street we can see the historic buildings or purchase some of the rare handicrafts produced here. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon in Taichung.

**Day 7 Keelung for Taipei.** After breakfast we will travel by coach to Taiwan's capital, Taipei. We will delve into the history and heritage of Taiwan and explore how Taipei fuses the past with modernity. We begin our exploration at the National Palace Museum which houses over 600,000 priceless treasures of Chinese art, many dating back almost 5,000 years. Many of the items were removed from the Forbidden Place before the Communist revolution. From here we will visit the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, which pays tribute to the former President of Taiwan. Lunch will be at a local restaurant where we will enjoy a range of dishes including dumplings. Later we will ride the lift to the 89th floor of the Taipei 101 building for panoramic views of the city and after some time at leisure will return to the ship.

**Day 8 Hualien.** From our berth in Hualien we will enjoy a full day tour of the Taroko Gorge National Park. Taroko means "magnificent and beautiful" in the local Truku language, and it is clear to see why the name was used. The gorge itself stretches for 20 kilometres with marble cliffs rising hundreds of metres above the Liwu River. We will see the Swallow Grotto and the Tunnel of Nine Turns, a 1.9 kilometre path cut into the cliffs following the route of the original tracks along the gorge and the Changuang Temple, a Buddhist monastery with commanding views of the river. Enjoy a local lunch before returning to the ship later in the afternoon.

**Day 9 Ishigaki, Japan.** Our first call in Japan will be at the Yaeyama Islands, a cluster of coral reefs and forested mountains. This morning, from our base in Ishigaki we will explore the island. Our tour will start with a visit to the Yoneko-Yaki Pottery to learn about the craft of making the famous Shisa – half dog, half lion statuettes, typically sold in pairs. From here we will drive along the scenic roads to Ishigaki Yaima Village. We will explore this open-air museum that has preserved traditional Japanese houses. Located in the forests, keep an eye out for the local wildlife such as squirrel monkeys. There will also be a chance to walk through the mangroves along the boardwalk and see the unique flora and fauna. Later, after lunch on board, we will take in more of the island with a visit to the Tamatoizaki Cape, where from the

observatory there are wonderful views of the Hiraokubo Peninsula and the sea of Ishigaki. We will continue to Kariba Park located on Kariba Bay, taking in the stunning views while exploring the shrines and statues that decorate the park. Our final stop will be the Yaesen Brewery which produces awamori, a sake-like Okinawan spirit.

**Day 10 At Sea.** Enjoy a day at sea with time to relax on deck and join the lecture programme in the lounge.

**Day 11 Naze, Amami Oshima.** Today we arrive on Amami Oshima, a natural sub-tropical paradise situated in the Amami Islands and surrounded by transparent waters, brightly coloured coral reefs and tropical fish. The island is almost entirely covered in forest and mangrove and offers fantastic bird watching and wildlife sightings. We have the day to explore and will visit the Nature Observation Park where we can walk through the forest and hope to see the Amami jay, ruddy kingfisher, Ryukyu akashobin, butterflies and possibly the rare black hare. We will also see local industry and watch the process of making tsumugi and kasuri silk-cotton fabrics, used for making kimonos, at the Oshima Tsumugi Village, a craft complex in a beautiful hillside setting amongst flowers. Many of the local plants are used in dyeing. In the afternoon we will visit the Amami Park which focuses on the artist Tanaka Isson with a museum of his works which depict the natural beauty and life of Amami.

**Day 12 Miyanaoura, Yakushima.** Today we spend the morning on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first World Heritage Site in 1993. Yakushima is famous in botanical circles for many great garden plants, including dwarf plants that have evolved to grow smaller than their mainland cousins. We will spend time here on nature walks, including Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon at sea.

**Day 13 Uwajima.** Arrive this morning in Uwajima, situated deep inside the saw-toothed coast of Uwajima Bay. Today there is a choice of morning tours; Uwajima is the nation's largest pearl cultivation centre and you can learn the process of cultivating and sorting pearls on a visit to a pearl farm before continuing on to Tensha-en Garden which is a typical example of a Japanese garden built during the Samurai era. Alternatively, explore the ancient Uwajima Castle and Tensha-en Garden. The afternoon is at leisure to relax on board or explore further independently.





Lungshan Temple



Koraku-en Gardens

## Pre-cruise Hong Kong Extension 31<sup>st</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

If you would like to spend some time in Hong Kong before embarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering the opportunity to join a two night extension.



Hong Kong

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Hong Kong.**  
Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Hong Kong.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the hotel for our two night stay. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening. (D)

**Day 3 Hong Kong.** Today we will explore the highlights of Hong Kong including riding the Peak Tram up Victoria Peak for wonderful views of the city. We will also board a sampan and experience life on the water and after a local lunch will visit Stanley and Kowloon. Enjoy an evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 4 Hong Kong.** Enjoy a leisurely morning. After lunch in a local restaurant we will transfer to the MS Island Sky. (B, L)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£995** Single: **£1195**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Hong Kong, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Post-cruise Kyoto Extension 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

If you would like to spend some time in Kyoto and discover the city of Nara, we are offering a two night extension.



Kyoto

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Kobe to Nara & Kyoto, Japan.** Disembark this morning and we will drive to Nara. During the 8th century Nara was Japan's capital for 74 years and many of the temples and shrines from this era still remain. We will see the Todaji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before taking lunch in a local restaurant. Afterwards we continue our journey to Kyoto and check into our hotel. (B, L)

**Day 2 Kyoto.** After breakfast at the hotel discover Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1,000 years. A morning tour will include the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) and the Ryoanji Temple which is the site of one of Japan's famous rock gardens. After our visit return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

**Day 3 Kyoto.** Check out after breakfast and transfer to Osaka airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

**Day 4 Kyoto to London.** Arrive today.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1245** Single: **£1595**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**Day 14 Uno-Ko.** From the port of Uno-Ko we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en, which translates as "Garden of pleasure after". This 17th century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a Japanese lunch in a local restaurant, we will continue to Kurashiki where we explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses painted white with traditional black tiles, along a canal framed with weeping willows and filled with koi. There is also a chance to visit the Ohara Museum of Art which includes rare works by Matisse, Picasso and Renoir as well as collections from Japan's Mingei movement including ceramics by Hamada Shoji.

**Day 15 Kobe.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 16 London.** Arrive this morning.

### 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	£10495	£9995
Columbus	Superior	£10895	£10395
Marco Polo	Premium	£11195	£10695
Marco Polo	Corner	£11595	£11095
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£12795	£12295
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£13295	£12795
Explorer	Island Suite	£13995	£13495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£12495	£11995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£12895	£12395

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 13 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



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, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player 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 Molton Brown 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 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.





Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

## 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.

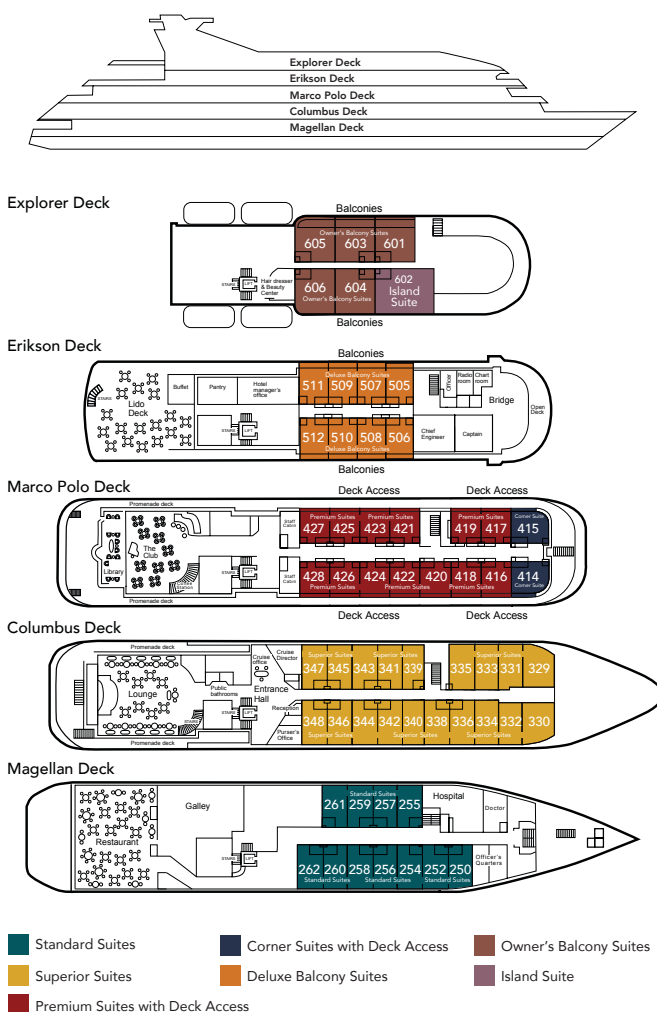
## Your Comfort

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



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE  
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | [info@noble-caledonia.co.uk](mailto:info@noble-caledonia.co.uk)  
[www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://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: Kariba Bay.