

# THE KIMBERLEY

- THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA

DISCOVER AUSTRALIA'S 'TOP END' ON AN  
EXPEDITION CRUISE ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£400**  
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Raft Point

Join us on a visit to the Kimberley, the real ‘Outback’ and an area the Australian’s refer to as “The Land of Wait A While”. It was the last great empty section of Australia to be explored, with European settlers arriving only just over a hundred years ago. Ignored by the early explorers, the Kimberley today is one of the richest areas of Australia. Record gold and diamond rushes, great cattle drives and hauls of pearl shells have put the Kimberley on the economic map, yet for all its latterly discovered wealth it still remains one of the most untouched areas in the world today. Covering nearly 423,000 square kilometres, the region has fewer people per square kilometre than almost any other place on earth and is truly one of the world’s last great wilderness areas with a complex landscape which encompasses spectacular gorges and waterfalls, fascinating cave systems and an incredibly diverse variety of wildlife.

Due to its wild and undeveloped nature, the Kimberley is a wonderful place for the genuine traveller to explore and it is perfect for expedition style cruising. There are so many highlights, it is difficult to know where to begin when extolling its virtues. From the King George River and Falls to the tidal phenomena at the Montgomery Reef, from the fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities of Bigge Island to the horizontal waterfalls near Talbot Bay and the hundreds of islands in the Buccaneer Archipelago. The whole vast area offers a cornucopia of natural world delights on a scale seldom witnessed anywhere else in the world.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Perth, Australia.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Perth.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Duxton Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 3 Perth.** After breakfast in the hotel join a guided tour of Perth which will include a walk of Kings Park, perched on Mount Eliza. Absorb impressive views of the city and the Swan River and visit the Caversham Wildlife Park. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore at your own pace before we meet tonight for a welcome dinner.

**Day 4 Perth to Wyndham.** This morning transfer to Perth airport for our flight to Kununurra. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky in Wyndham and sail this evening.

**Day 5 King George River.** At dawn we will start our 12 kilometre journey through some of the world’s most spectacular scenery along the mighty King George River. Millions of years of erosion have created vertical sheer walls that resemble stacks of sandstone. The highlight is sure to be King George Falls, the highest single drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley and our expedition team will get you to the

cascading waters. Those feeling active may like to accompany some of the expedition team on a trek to the top of the falls for breathtaking views. For those that remain at the foot of the falls we will run a series of Zodiac cruises through the gorge looking for wildlife such as flying foxes, dugong and crocodiles.

**Day 6 Bigge Island.** Off the coast of the Kimberley, approximately six kilometres from the mainland, Bigge Island is filled with fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities and is well known for its Indigenous Australian rock art, created by the Wunambal people. In caves throughout the

island, you will be able to see paintings including fascinating examples of first contact art and Wandjina figures.

**Day 7 Raft Point & Montgomery Reef.** This morning we arrive at Raft Point and use the Zodiacs to land on the beach. Either enjoy time to relax whilst the energetic can climb to a secluded Aboriginal rock art gallery to view Wandjina art which is over 4000 years old. Enjoy the spectacular views from the top before returning to the ship. Over lunch we position to the magnificent Montgomery Reef which ‘rises’ out of the ocean as the



Talbot Bay



Humpback whales



Brown Booby, Buccaneer Archipelago



Florence Falls



Hunter River

tidal waters cascade down in to the surrounding deep channels in an awesome display of the power of nature. Join our expedition team aboard the Zodiacs to experience this natural phenomenon up close and discover the reef's diverse marine life including turtles, manta rays and reef sharks.

**Day 8 Horizontal Falls, Talbot Bay.** Talbot Bay is known for its massive 12 metre tides that create an amazing spectacle, the unique Horizontal Falls. David Attenborough described the phenomena as "one of the greatest natural wonders in the world". Subject to tidal conditions we board local boats for an exhilarating ride through the falls. This afternoon we will use our Zodiacs to explore Cyclone Gorge. Here we hope to see crocodiles and fiddler crabs in the waters whilst observing the unique geology and amazing rock formations.

**Day 9 Adele Island, Buccaneer Archipelago.** Today we will cruise through the Buccaneer Archipelago, home to more than 800 islands and arrive at Adele Island. A hook shaped island off the central Kimberley coast, this is an important location for breeding seabirds including the lesser frigate bird and the brown booby.

**Day 10 Careening Bay.** This afternoon we arrive at Careening Bay. Visit the iconic site of the ancient carved double-trunked Boab tree bearing the engraving

'HMC Mermaid - 1820'. Carved by one of the crew, the inscription commemorates the site where the ship was grounded and repaired.

**Day 11 Prince Frederick Harbour, Hunter River & Naturalist Island.** The Prince Frederick Harbour is home to some of the most spectacular scenery we will see. Soaring red cliffs, green rainforest and mangroves paint a beautiful canvas for our arrival as we sail through Nine Pin Head, the sandstone bluff that marks the mouth of the river. We follow the Hunter River to reveal the spectacular backdrop of Mount Trafalgar while to the north Mount Anderson rises to an impressive 480 metres. We will drop anchor at Naturalist Island and have the choice to join a Zodiac excursion around the island and mangroves looking for wildlife, especially crocodile, or an optional helicopter excursion to Mitchell Falls. This amazing four-tiered waterfall drops 80 metres and is surrounded by the red escarpment lands of the Mitchell Plateau making the view from the air quite stunning. We will land at the top for a short walk to the lookout points and may even have a chance to swim in the river at the top of the falls.

**Day 12 Vansittart Bay & Jar Island.** We have the whole day to explore Vansittart Bay. First thing this morning we will use the Zodiacs to land on Jar Island to see the Gwion Aboriginal art gallery. Discovered by Joseph Bradshaw in 1891, some

of the art has been dated back over 17,000 years and is unique to this region. We will walk to the two rock art galleries and see the rocky burial mound between the sites. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon land on the Anjo Peninsula. Our onboard naturalists will lead various walks over the mud flats, rock pools and sand dunes looking for wildlife, birds and plants.

**Day 13 At Sea** Enjoy a relaxing day at sea and attend a lecture or two.

**Day 14 Darwin.** This morning we arrive in Darwin and join a full day tour to Litchfield National Park

which is famous for its spectacular waterfalls. See Florence Falls and enjoy an interpretive bush and monsoon vine forest walk. Travel onto Tolmer Falls for a magnificent view of the water cascading down to the deep waterhole at the base of the falls. We will return via Wangi Falls with its large crystal-clear pool; maybe take a dip in the cool waters and witness Litchfield's amazing stand of termite mounds.

**Day 15 Darwin.** Disembark and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

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

## 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
Magellan	Standard	£7995	£7595
Columbus	Superior	£8195	£7795
Marco Polo	Premium	£8695	£8295
Marco Polo	Corner	£8995	£8595
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£9495	£9095
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£9995	£9595
Explorer	Island Suite	£10695	£10295
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£9795	£9395
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£9995	£9595

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Perth with breakfast • Dinner on day 3 • 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Australian ETA visa, optional helicopter excursion.

## Post-Cruise Extension



## Post-Cruise Extension to Alice Springs, Uluru & Sydney

2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Upon disembarking the MS Island Sky we are offering a six night extension to further explore this varied and fascinating country.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Darwin to Alice Springs, Australia.** Disembark after breakfast and enjoy an orientation tour of Darwin followed by a light lunch before we make our way to the airport for our flight to Alice Springs. Upon arrival transfer to the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel (or similar) for our overnight stay. This evening we will travel south into the outback and enjoy a traditional Aussie style BBQ dinner before exploring the night sky with our local guide. (B, L, D)

**Day 2 Alice Springs to Uluru.** After an early breakfast we will visit Desert Park Alice Springs, located at the base of the spectacular West MacDonnell Ranges and closely connected to the local Arrernte people. Enjoy the self-guided walking trails through three distinct desert habitats and see some of the Australian native wildlife that call this harsh, remote environment home. We will then transfer to the airport for our flight to Uluru. Treasured as Australia's spiritual heart, the dual World Heritage-listed wilderness of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is an ancient desert landscape. Upon arrival transfer to the Sails in the Desert Resort (or similar) for our two night stay on full board basis. This evening travel to the Uluru sunset viewing area to witness the striking colour changes of Uluru before returning to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 Uluru.** Arise early and journey to ancient Uluru to learn about the history of the Mala people. Enjoy the Mutijulu walk at the base of this incredible monolith. The track leads to a special waterhole and the sacred site of Kuniya Piti where we will learn about the ancient Indigenous Kuniya Tjukurpa and the Liru. After lunch we will visit the mystical domes of Kata Tjuta (the Olgas). The Aboriginal people have lived in this region for 22,000 years. Kata Tjuta is one of the most sacred of sites in the region, used to perform many of the traditional men's ceremonies. Walk into the Walpa Gorge toward the heart of the site, where the trail follows the natural creek bed between two of the tallest domes. Our guided walk will include commentary on local stories, flora, fauna and geology. Return to the hotel for dinner before we visit the Field of Light. This award-winning exhibition was created by artist Bruce Munro and surrounds the sacred site of Uluru, bringing more than 50,000 stems topped with illuminated glass spheres to an

area that spans an area the size of more than nine football fields. The work of art is entirely illuminated by solar power and the spheres are connected with an illuminated optical fibre which lights up as darkness falls. (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Uluru to Sydney.** Enjoy a morning at leisure to explore independently, relax in the hotel or join one of the optional tours on offer. After a light lunch we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we will make our way to the Hyatt Regency Hotel (or similar) for our three night stay. (B, L)

**Days 5 & 6 Sydney.** The following two days will be at leisure to explore Sydney independently. (B)

**Day 7 Sydney to London.** After breakfast transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

**Day 8 London.** Arrive this morning.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2895** Single: **£3495**

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Overnight hotel accommodation in Alice Springs • Two nights hotel accommodation in Uluru • Three nights hotel accommodation in Sydney • Scheduled internal flights • Meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner) • Excursions as described • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinner on day 4 and lunch & dinner on days 5 & 6, optional excursions.  
*NB. Minimum numbers apply.*

# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Club

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 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

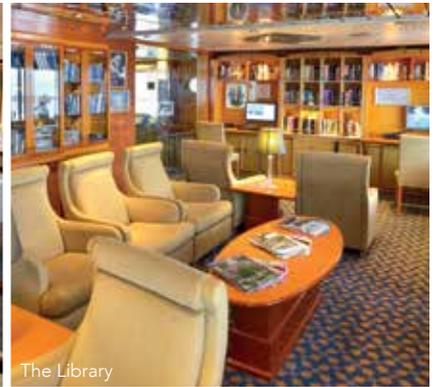
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants 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.



Standard Suite



The Restaurant



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 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 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.

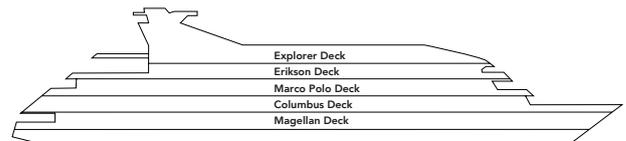
## Your Comfort

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 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 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.

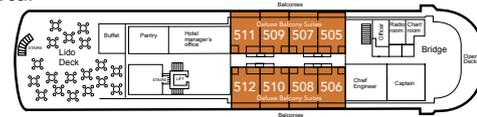
## MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



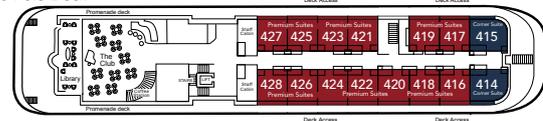
### Explorer Deck



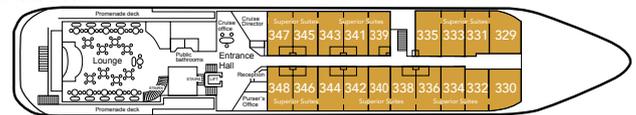
### Erikson Deck



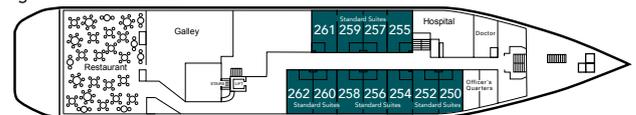
### Marco Polo Deck



### 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



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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