

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£300**  
PER PERSON

# LATE SUMMER IN SICILY & THE AMALFI COAST

A VOYAGE FROM THE BAY OF NAPLES TO MALTA  
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY WITH  
GUEST SPEAKER DR STEVE KERSHAW  
26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Temple of Concordia, Agrigento



Sailing from Naples, this wonderful voyage aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky takes us along the Amalfi coast to Salerno from where we explore this beautiful region of Italy with options to visit Amalfi or the ancient site of Paestum. We continue to the island of Sicily for an in-depth discovery of this unique island and in the company of just 100 or so fellow, like-minded travellers we will explore Sicily's rich heritage. Our voyage is timed for September when the crowds of summer will have departed and the temperature will be pleasant for our guided tours. Your enjoyment and understanding of the history of the island will be further enhanced by our expert local guides and onboard Guest Speaker.

The geography of Sicily lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea, as most points of interest are close to the coast. The island is a celebration of the greatest achievements of Mediterranean cultures and with such a wealth of ancient sites, it is certainly not somewhere which should be visited in a hurry. With seven days to explore the island, we will visit the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Valle dei Templi, the Arab-Norman styled Palermo Cathedral, the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale and the beautiful Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa.

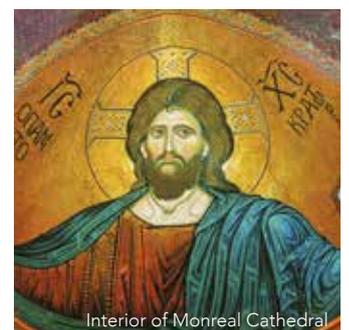


## Guest Speaker – Dr Steve Kershaw



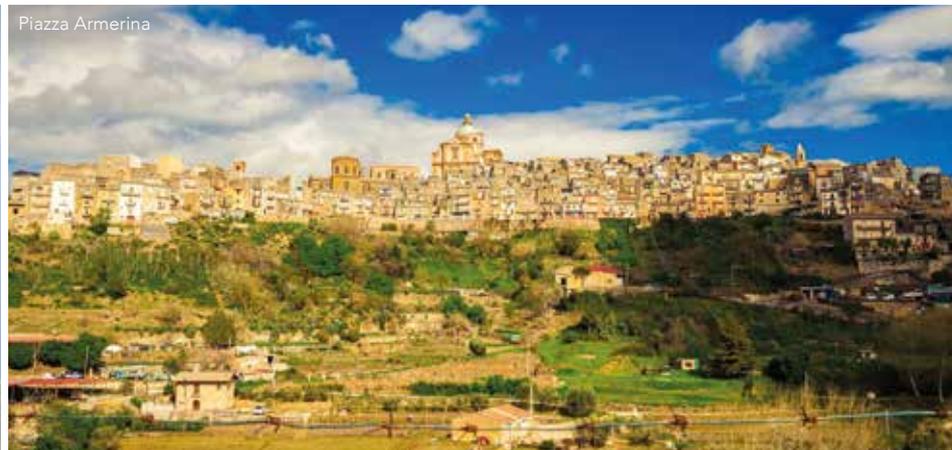
Dr Steve Kershaw is a tutor in Classics for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society (ex-NADFAS), and lectures for the Victoria and Albert Museum's Early Medieval: 300-1250 and The Classical World and Classical Revivals courses. His publications include *The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology*, *A Brief Guide to the Greek Myths*, *A Brief Guide to Classical Civilization*, *A Brief History of the Roman Empire*, *A Brief History of Atlantis: Plato's Ideal State*, *Barbarians: Rebellion and Resistance to Rome*, and *Mythologica* (a children's book on the Greek myths). Steve is the author and tutor for Oxford

University's online courses in Greek Mythology, The Fall of Rome, and Minoans and Mycenaeans. In 2016 he appeared as an Expert Contributor to The History Channel's *Barbarians Rising* series, and he has travelled widely in the world of the Greeks and Romans, both physically and intellectually. Steve is also an honors graduate of the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles, and is regarded as one of the finest jazz double bass players in the UK.





Amalfi coastline



Piazza Armerina



Castello di Venere, Erice



Noto

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to Naples, Italy.

Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

### Day 2 Salerno.

From our berth in Salerno we will offer a choice of tours today as we explore this beautiful region of Italy. Maybe board a local boat and sail to Amalfi which boasts a splendid cathedral dating from the 11th century. Also visit St Andrew's Cathedral and the Basilica of the Crucifix dating back to 596 AD before some free time to stroll along the impressive marina and discover the picturesque shops and cafes. Alternatively head to Paestum which, founded by the Greeks in 600 BC, is a well preserved and fascinating site that was rediscovered in 1752. We will see the impressive Temple Poseidon, the Basilica, Amphitheatre and Athenian before spending some time in the museum, adjacent to the site. Spend the afternoon at sea as we sail to Sicily, perhaps join a lecture in the Lounge or find a spot on deck.

**Day 3 Trapani, Sicily.** This morning there is the option to travel inland from Trapani to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric

monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively visit Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour via cable car will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Both tours will then enjoy a Sicilian lunch at a nearby olive oil farm. We return to the ship later in the afternoon and there will be the opportunity to wander around Trapani at leisure as we plan to sail later in the evening.

**Day 4 Palermo.** Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore

independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174.

**Day 5 Catania & Taormina.** After a morning at sea we arrive into Catania where the architecture is particularly impressive but a little forbidding being mainly constructed from black lava stone from Mount Etna. On a walking tour we will see the magnificent Piazza del Duomo, a World Heritage Site, St Agatha's Cathedral and the imposing 13th century Castello Ursino. Alternatively drive up the coast to Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna where our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys, the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre.

**Day 6 Syracuse.** Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and

orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently and we sail late for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

**Day 7 Noto & Ragusa.** From our berth in Pozzallo we will explore the Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city and our guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon continue to charming Ragusa which has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list for its artistic architectural heritage with its Baroque palaces, churches, squares and winding narrow streets, all of which create an evocative and ancient atmosphere. We will discover the wonderful Ragusa Ibla: the "Pearl of the Baroque", the gardens, the magnificent palaces, the splendid church of San Giuseppe and the Dome of San Giorgio.



**Day 8 Licata for Piazza Armerina.**

From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch before returning to the ship.

**Day 9 Agrigento for Valley of the Temples.** Although handsome

in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum which you can explore at leisure.

**Day 10 Valletta, Malta to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Post-cruise Malta Extension**  
5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023



If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night hotel stay providing the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area.

**The Itinerary**

**Day 1 Valletta, Malta.** After breakfast we will disembark and begin a walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and check in. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. (B, L)

**Day 2 Mdina.** A morning tour will take us to Mdina which is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Spend the afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner. (B, D)

**Day 3 Valletta to London.** Check out and 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, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**From Mallorca to Malta – Combined Voyage**  
18<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

If you would prefer a longer voyage, it is possible to combine this cruise with the previous one which sails from Mallorca to Naples. The itinerary for the 17-night voyage along with the prices can be viewed online.

**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	£5495	£5195
Byrd	Superior	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Premium	£5895	£5595
Mawson	Corner	£6195	£5895
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6695	£6395
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6995	£6695
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 • Nine nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.  
**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.

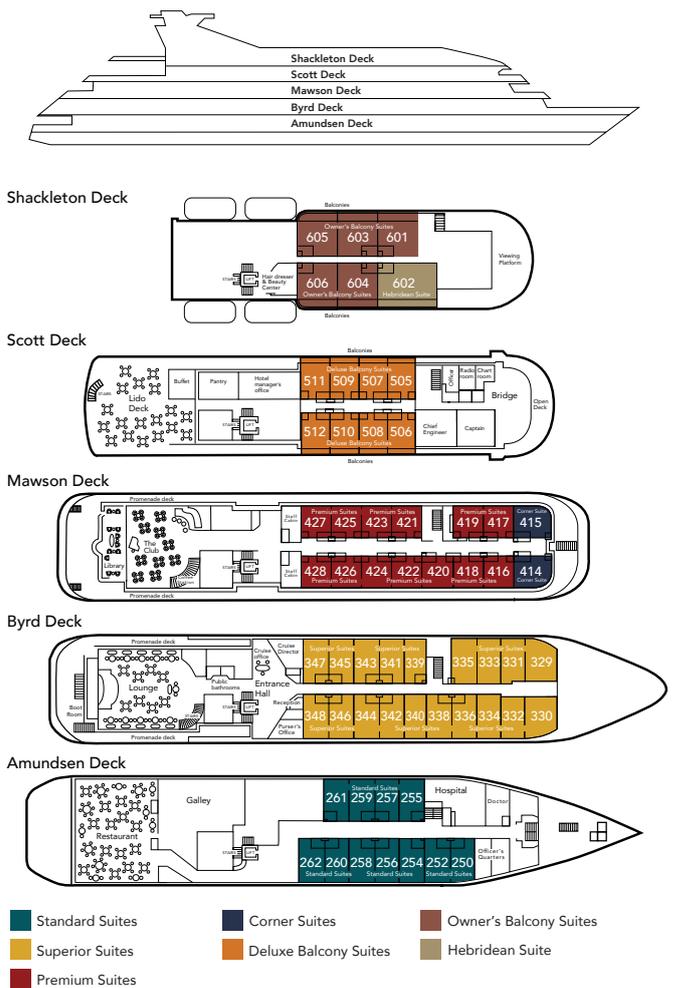
### Your Comfort

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



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.



# 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: Taormina.