



2013-2015

# MS Caledonian Sky & MS Island Sky

Exploring the World by Small Ship

## NOBLE CALEDONIA







# Dear Traveller

## Two Ships - Three Oceans

I trust you will enjoy looking through the pages of our first ever brochure that includes our two ships, the MS Island Sky and the MS Caledonian Sky. It has long been our ambition to offer small ship cruising in the world's three main oceans. Here, you will find the MS Island Sky sailing the Atlantic including Europe from the Mediterranean to the White Sea and from the Caribbean Sea to the Indian Ocean, whilst, the MS Caledonian Sky explores from Easter Island right across the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean shores of Sumatra.

Our well informed and well travelled London based staff have created a captivating and diverse collection of journeys. No one else in the world of small ship cruising offers such a range of travel experiences. Constantly on the move from region to region our vessels specialise in one-off itineraries. It is rare that identical itineraries are offered within the same year, and if they are it is for very special reasons. Our policy of operating continuously different itineraries allows those who prefer longer voyages to combine two or three trips without duplication and keeps our experiences onboard fresh and challenging.

Within the pages of this brochure you will find inspiringly different trips up until the early 2015. Numerous requests from regular travellers have led us to launch itineraries earlier than usual and by combining both ships in one brochure we have hopefully made your choice of voyage easier.

## Back to the Indian Ocean

After a four year absence we are delighted to be back in the Indian Ocean from December 2014 to March 2015 with the MS Island Sky. We have sorely missed some of our favourite places, especially Aldabra. There will be a number of opportunities to visit this 'Galapagos of the Indian Ocean' as well as other extraordinary places in the Inner and Outer Seychelles, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and the Comores.

I should also like to draw your attention to some of the amazing places we will be visiting with the MS Caledonian Sky. It has been many years since we have been able to offer comprehensive trips in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia, in fact not since the days of the MS Caledonian Star, which I know many of our regular travellers still fondly remember. In addition, the MS Caledonian Sky will travel to the far north of the Pacific to Alaska and the Russian Far East and on the way there spend some time exploring Japan. We will travel as far south as New Zealand and include explorations in Melanesia and Micronesia including such extraordinary places as the Solomon Islands.

Noble Caledonia is a rarity in today's cruising world where the vast majority of vessels are owned and operated by multi-nationals. Being an independent company where the owners are involved in all aspects puts us in a unique place. From this position of freedom and not having to pander to shareholders and financial institutions we operate for the benefit of our passengers who reward us by returning time and time again. We are immensely proud of our two fine vessels and look forward to welcoming back onboard our past travellers and introducing some new first timers in the coming years.



Andrew Cochrane  
Managing Director

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# MS Caledonian Sky & MS Island Sky

## Two of the finest small ships in the world

Noble Caledonia is very fortunate to have the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky as our flagships. These ex-Renaissance Cruises sister vessels accommodate just 114 guests and are not only two of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships in the world, but also two of the friendliest and most efficiently run. Our crews of just over 70, many of whom have been with us for many years, are dedicated to offering the best possible experience. It is this gentle, kind and efficient atmosphere onboard that makes these vessels so popular.











## Life Onboard

If large resort-style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers are your ideal, then our ships are not for you as you will not find endless entertainment, round the clock buffets and the people management which is so much a part of today's big ship onboard style. However, if like us you prefer a more peaceful life at sea you will find our flagships the perfect vessels.

When choosing your next voyage the choice of vessels is astounding. You can select a ship carrying in excess of 3000 passengers with impersonal service or join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky or MS Island Sky where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. We promise there will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. Instead, onboard the MS Caledonian Sky and MS Island Sky, the atmosphere is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers

and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard these wonderful vessels a memorable and joyful experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of an exceedingly comfortable ship. The daily programme onboard is in the capable hands of our Cruise Director or Expedition Leader and staff who coordinate with the Captain and Officers to make the most of each day. Briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage together with a 'Daily Programme' that is distributed every evening to your suite outlining the next day's activities. Dress onboard is casual and relaxed and there will be no 'black tie' evenings. During the voyage there will be an evening or two when a jacket and tie are requested.

### **Our All Inclusive Policy**

Unlike many other cruise vessels, onboard the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky you do not need to worry about tipping staff as we have included this in your holiday price. In addition we tip all our guides and drivers along the way, thereby





taking away the hassle of always having to remember to have some small change with you. We also include excursions and drinks with meals onboard.

**For your Comfort, Security & Safety**

Our vessels are equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimize the ship's motion. During your voyage you will have the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessels progress by charts and learn more about your journey. There is also a dedicated channel on your television in your suite showing the routing of the vessel along with technical information and estimated times of arrival and departure from port. Onboard you will also find a clinic and doctor and a lift that serves all decks. Smoking onboard is restricted to deck 4 aft on both vessels.

“  
The team visits local markets to pick up fresh fish, meat, dairy products and fruit and vegetables. This could be crab in Scotland, fresh sole from the White Sea or coconut for pre-dinner cocktails in the Caribbean  
”





## Dining Onboard

It is quite a task to create a dining experience as exquisite as that found onboard the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky when you are cruising in far-flung corners of the globe, indeed it takes a team of highly talented chefs to deliver fresh, varied dishes no matter where you are at sea. Fortunately, our catering teams are well adapted to the world of small ship cruising where no two days are the same and the menus are often scheduled and tailored around the days' excursions.

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine onboard both vessels is of a consistent superior quality that befits such vessels. Where possible and when it meets their high standards, our accomplished chefs will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and enable the chefs onboard to exhibit their exotic culinary skills and bring a local touch to the varied menus, emphasising the international expertise of the chefs onboard. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day 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.

In keeping with the informal atmosphere onboard, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other like minded passengers outside on the Lido deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our onboard friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are an à la carte five course affair, with the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals and there is also a comprehensive wine list with more than fifty new and old world wines from which to choose.

The onboard catering and restaurant staff are experienced at sea and enthuse a passion for superb service. Whether it be ensuring you have an outdoor blanket as you enjoy the crisp sea breeze on the Lido deck or sharing their knowledge of the characteristics of the days' wine selections, you will experience a service onboard like no other.

### Typical Menu - Welcome Dinner

#### Appetizers

Carpaccio of Peppered Beef Tenderloin with Pesto and Truffle Oil  
Fire Roasted Red Pepper Hummus with Grilled Courgettes

-

#### Soups

Atlantic Shrimp Bisque  
Chilled Cantaloupe Soup with Champagne

-

#### Salad

Traditional Caesar Salad with Garlic Croutons

-

#### Main Dishes

Trellis of Salmon and Sole with Champagne, Saffron Cream Sauce, Basil, Spring Onion Potatoes and Pearl Vegetables  
Rack of Lamb with Herb Crust and Rosemary Gravy Mont Sauce, Gratin Potatoes and Asparagus  
Grilled Tenderloin Steak, Horseradish Jus with Mashed Potato and Bouquet of Vegetables  
Grilled Vegetables Parmigiana on a Plum Tomato Sauce

-

#### Desserts

Grand Marnier Souffle with Orange Flavoured Vanilla Custard Sauce  
Bitter Chocolate Marquise with Pistachio Ice Cream  
Seasonal Fresh Fruits  
Selection of International Cheese









## Your Space - MS Caledonian Sky

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge featuring comfortable seating and classic winged armchairs to enhance the modern country-style furnishings throughout. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and Expedition staff take place in the main lounge which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. For your convenience it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your cabin or in the Panorama Lounge where the presentations will be streamed daily. Also featured in the Lounge is an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station.

In addition to the main Lounge on the Caledonian Deck, there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which features a bar, library and internet area and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise

to your next destination. The travel library is the perfect place to relax with a good book. 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 onboard. A selection of games and two computers complete with internet access can also be found in the library along with newspapers and magazines which are placed there depending on local availability.

The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Castle Deck. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Bridge Deck which is complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade and often occasions such as sail away parties and barbeques are held here.





Further to this on the Panorama Deck towards the front of the vessel there is a further observation deck, complete with bar service and comfortable cushioned deck furniture for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. On the Promenade Deck there is also a small gymnasium featuring a treadmill, bicycle and cross trainer, and a hairdressers with appointments made on request. For your wellbeing, there is also a clinic with doctor onboard and a lift which serves all decks.

As is the joy of small ship cruising, you will be able to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the progress of the vessel (subject to weather conditions).

“  
Afternoon tea complete with  
scones, cupcakes and freshly  
baked fruit cakes always  
proves popular

”









## Your Suite MS Caledonian Sky

Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites, 23 of which have private balconies located on the Promenade or Bridge Decks. Each cabin exudes great character and grandeur with wood panelling and brass features found throughout.

The large suites are arranged over four decks and all have outside facing views. All suites feature a sitting room area complete with coffee table, armchairs and flat screen televisions (DVD players and DVDs can be borrowed from reception for use in your suite). The beds in each cabin offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and pillows and can be configured as large double beds or twins.

Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, a hot towel rack, shaver outlet and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or corner bath tub. Towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Further facilities in the suites include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, cabin to cabin telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, bottled water replenished daily, as well as extra blankets and pillows. Ship announcements made from the Bridge and Reception area are also broadcasted in your suite. A laundry service is also available onboard.

“  
Nothing captures the  
adventurous but well-  
cushioned spirit of the cruises  
quite like sipping a hot  
chocolate and whiskey and  
cream liqueur while whale  
watching on a late summer  
night in the wilds

”





## Your Space - MS Island Sky

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 which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. For your convenience, it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your suite.

In addition to the main Lounge on the Columbus Deck, 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 Marco Polo 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 onboard. A selection of games and two computers complete with internet access can also be found in the Library. Daily newspapers and magazines are also placed in the library depending on local availability.

The main dining room 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, complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is a observation area complete





with sun loungers ideal for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. Here there is also a hot tub Jacuzzi. There is also a small hairdressers onboard with appointments made on request. For your comfort, there is also a clinic with doctor onboard and a lift which serves all decks.

As is the joy of small ship cruising, you will be able to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the progress of the vessel (subject to weather conditions).

“  
A voyage aboard the MS Island Sky is as far removed from the traditional concept of big ship cruising as it's possible to get. Imagine a sleek little ship, more akin to a yacht, with a cosy bar where the bartender knows how many slices of lime you prefer in your G&T  
”









## Your Suite MS Island Sky

Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room 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. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The suites on each deck have their own colour theme. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

“

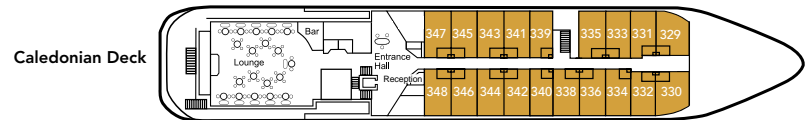
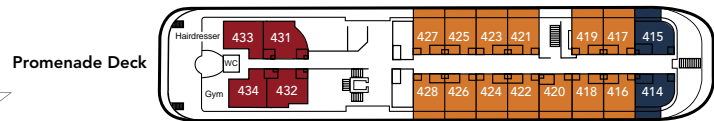
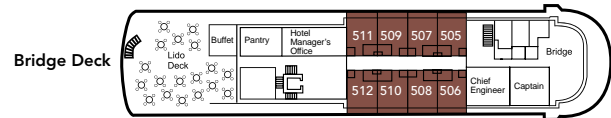
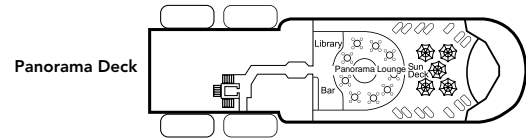
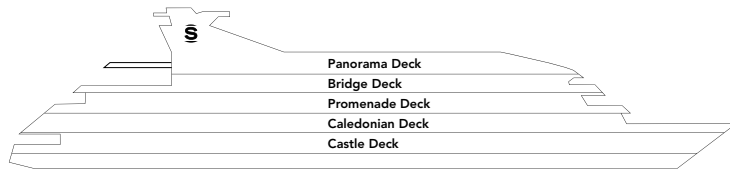
Not only is the MS Island Sky one of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships in the world, she is also one of the friendliest and most efficiently run. Our crew of over 70, many of who have been with us for many years are dedicated to offering the best possible experience.

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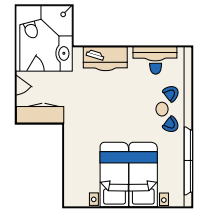
# MS Caledonian Sky Deck and Cabin Plans



## Technical Information

Cruising speed: 11 knots  
 Length overall: 90.6 m  
 Width overall: 15.3m  
 Draught maximum: 4.2m  
 Flag/Registry: Bahamas

Built: 1991  
 Tonnage: 4200  
 Guest capacity: 114  
 Classed by: BV  
 Upgraded: 2010 & 2011/2012



### Castle Deck – Standard/Forward Suites

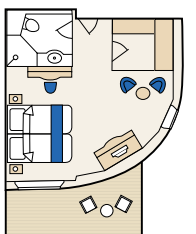
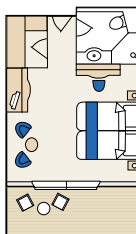
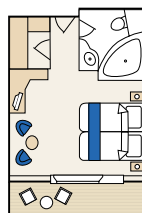
Standard Suites on the Castle Deck measure 22.7 square metres and feature four port holes, an en-suite bathroom with shower and spacious wardrobes.

### Caledonian Deck – Superior Suites

Suites on the Caledonian Deck measure 21.6 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with bath tub and shower (suites 329, 330 and 331 which feature only a shower), a spacious wardrobe and large window.

### Promenade Deck – Premium Suites

Premium Suites on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with shower (cabins 431 & 432 feature a bath tub), spacious wardrobes and a large window.



### Bridge Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

Suites on the Bridge Deck measure 20 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with bath tub and shower and a private balcony measuring 4.2 square metres.

### Promenade Deck – Premium Balcony Suites

The Premium Balcony Suites on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with shower and a private balcony measuring 5.6 square metres.

### Promenade Deck – Owner's Corner Balcony Suites

The two corner suites on the Promenade Deck measure 22.6 square metres and feature a 5.6 square metres balcony and two forward facing portholes, a walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom with shower.

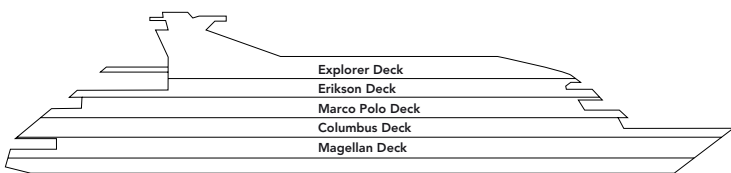








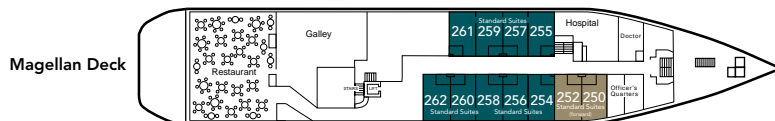
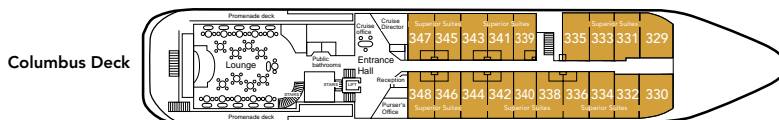
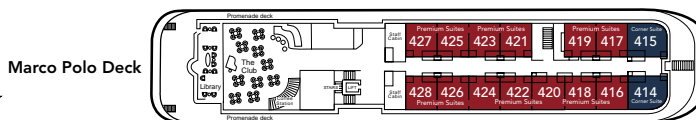
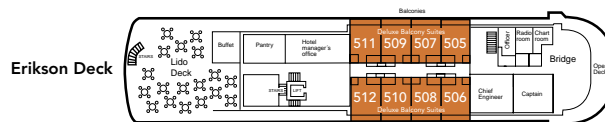
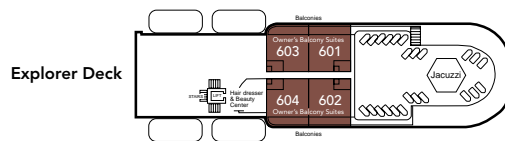
# MS Island Sky Deck and Cabin Plans



## Technical Information

Cruising speed: 11.5 knots  
 Length overall: 90.6 m  
 Width overall: 15.3m  
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Built: 1992  
 Tonnage: 4200  
 Guest capacity: 114  
 Classed by: BV  
 Upgraded: 2010 & 2013



### Magellan Deck – Standard/Forward Suites

Suite numbers 250 to 262 located on the Magellan deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature large portholes.

### Columbus Deck – Superior Suites

Suite numbers 329 to 348 located on the Columbus deck measure an average of 22 square metres with a large window.

### Marco Polo Deck – Premium Suites

The premium suites numbers 416 to 428 measure approximately 21 square metres and feature a large window.



### Marco Polo Deck – Corner Suites

The two magnificent corner suites which have dual aspect windows measure 22 square metres.

### Erikson Deck – Premium Balcony Suites

Our deluxe balcony suites on the Erikson deck, suite numbers 506 to 512 measure 20.9 square metres and boast a 4 square metre private balcony with table and chairs.

### Explorer Deck – Owner's Balcony Suites

The owner's balcony suites on the Explorer deck, suite numbers 601 to 604 measure 22 square metres and feature a large private balcony measuring 8 square metres with table, chairs and sun loungers.







# Exploring Ashore and Expedition Cruising



Our inclusive pricing policy means that the majority of shore excursions are included in the price of your cruise. It is our belief that you do not go on holiday to be part of the all engulfing masses which descend on a town when a number of large ships dock at the same time. Arriving at a port for the first time should be an invigorating experience and can certainly be so when the right place is chosen and your arrival is on a small ship. With only 114 passengers, there is no queuing to disembark or embark the MS Caledonian Sky or MS Island Sky for an excursion and when required there will only be three coaches waiting on the quayside to transport you to the day's attraction as opposed to a whole fleet waiting for the passengers travelling on the big ships. Due to their size, the vessels have the freedom of the seas and can come alongside in small docks or drop anchor in any suitable spot.

Many of the voyages undertaken by the MS Caledonian Sky and MS Island Sky are expeditionary in nature and therefore in place of the customary Cruise Director and entertainment staff, you will be joined by an Expedition Team. These hand-picked experts are naturalists, historians and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst onboard. They will supervise the daily programme and hold talks and briefings throughout the cruise. The expedition teams have one aim, to make your trip as enjoyable, relaxing and informative as possible. We have over twenty years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of the remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new and although we set sail with a set itinerary it is sometimes the unscheduled events that become the highlight of the journey.

## Zodiacs

Expedition cruising is about getting off the beaten track, out of the way of other ships, of other visitors; it is about leaving the infrastructures of civilisation behind. We may not be far from civilisation, but we will often be out of sight of it. Our fleet of onboard Zodiac landing craft are invaluable for our expeditions. These inflatable craft offer marvellous manoeuvrability allowing us access to otherwise impossible landing places. With these we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries, land in otherwise inaccessible places and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers. Zodiacs are safe, reliable and convenient boats that allow us to go from ship to shore, whether we land on a beach, on rocks, or on a concrete jetty. Zodiacs can negotiate shallows, river estuaries, coral reefs and ice floes. In many places which we visit during expedition cruises, they are the only way to go ashore. Zodiacs also enable the Expedition Team to offer Zodiac cruises along the voyage: near a seabird colony, next to a cliff, along a glacier front, or a beach where polar bears dwell. Zodiacs will also be used as platforms from where swimming and snorkelling can be conducted. Expedition is defined by the use of Zodiacs, our versatile, inflatable boats, which provide a unique platform for observing wildlife or enjoying majestic landscapes from sea level, or a fast and safe way of going ashore in remote places.

There is snorkelling equipment onboard and when weather and location permits, the expedition team will set up a snorkelling platform. In addition to our onboard team of experts, local guides will meet us along the way adding much to our knowledge.

We have classified some of the voyages in this brochure as 'soft expedition' which means that although the Zodiacs will not be used as regularly as they are on our expedition cruises, they will still be used on some days to explore coastlines and transport passengers ashore. If you have any concerns or queries pertaining to expedition cruising and what it entails, please do not hesitate to contact one of our experienced travel consultants.





A group of people in a black inflatable boat on a body of water, with a bear visible in the foreground. The boat is in the middle ground, and the bear is in the foreground on the left. The background is a forested hillside.

“

The ship is big enough to sail the seven seas and take anything that mother nature can throw at her, but small enough to make port, or drop anchor, in hideaway places, off the beaten track, avoiding the regular, crowded tourist stops whenever possible

”





## Your Captains

An unusual aspect, but one which we consider of paramount importance is the involvement of our Captains in all aspects of the operation both onboard and ashore. In addition to their time onboard they also assist in running the management office ashore. This rather unique coordination creates a rounded style of operation which is perfect for the smooth running of a small ship.



### Captain Niklas Peterstam

Niklas began his nautical career in 1979 and for the next eleven years he worked on different kinds of cargo ships in various positions. In 1991, he switched to passenger ships when he started working on board the expedition cruise ship Caledonian Star operated by Salén Lindblad Cruising, an expedition cruise company based in the US. In 1996, Niklas started to work for Star Cruises based in

Malaysia, working on board several vessels and on shore. He was then assigned new duties at Meyer Ship Yard in Germany, and was involved in the delivery of three mega cruise ships from 1998-2001. The Norwegian Star, the third of these ships, was delivered to Miami with Niklas at the helm. Before joining Salén Ship Management in 2009, Niklas was the Vice President of Nautical & Safety Operations / Fleet Captain at Norwegian Cruise Line in Miami.



### Captain Dan Wikingson

Dan Wikingson is captain and technical superintendent of the M/S Island Sky. Dan began his nautical career in 1974 and has worked on a vast range of cargo ships, ferries, charter vessels and cruise ships. In 1997 Dan was employed by Star Cruises and was quickly introduced to their new-building program. Over the next few years Dan would oversee the start-up of three of the world's

largest cruise ships at the time – Superstar Leo, Superstar Virgo and Superstar Libra. Dan moved on to Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) as staff Captain and Captain of several mega cruise ships. Before joining Salén Ship Management in 2009, Dan was Team Leader Hull in the NCL new-building team based in St Nazaire, France for the construction/building of two post-PanMax cruise vessels (153 000GRT/4 700 pax).



### Captain Peter Fielding MNI

Peter Fielding hails from the North East of England, an area steeped in nautical history and tradition. Although previous generations of his family were employed in the ship manufacturing process, Peter decided to sail on ships rather than build them. Most of his career was spent on larger cruise vessels until in 2006 the opportunity arose to experience what was for him a new sector of the

cruise industry, Expedition Vessels. The varied itineraries and the intimacy of these smaller vessels really appealed and Peter decided to focus his career on this sector of the industry. Since being handed his first command on the Island Sky in 2008 Peter has taken ships to the Arctic, Baltic, North Atlantic, Africa, Europe and the Indian Ocean. Most of his expedition cruising however has been in the North and South Pacific onboard the Clipper Odyssey. He is very much looking forward to welcoming you onboard to show you the most exciting places he has discovered in these remote destinations.



### Captain Henrik Karlsson

As a young boy Captain Henrik Karlsson spent a lot of time with his Grandfather, who once was Captain of one of the big windjammers in the Grain Trade from Australia to the UK. Coming from a family of seafarers on the Åland Islands of Finland in the Northern Baltic, he has spent many years on board sailing ships of various sizes. The Sea Cloud II, well-known with us here at Noble Caledonia,

was one of the ships under his command. He has also worked on cargo ships and various passenger vessels. After a period as Vice-Rector at the Maritime Academy of Åland University of Applied Sciences, with shorter spells at sea in between, Captain Karlsson recently gave up his job on the shore to enjoy life at sea again full time. The operation of the the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky is in many ways similar to the cruises on the Sea Clouds, apart from the sails. So when the offer to join the Island Sky as Captain came, he comments; "It was impossible to resist. Many of the destinations are familiar, and some new, exotic places are yet to come".





## Your Onboard Team

Working with the captain and crew are our cruise staff who are responsible for the day to day organisation of the itinerary and briefings and who are in daily contact with Noble Caledonia office. We have the very best in their field and they are also joined by guest speakers who are chosen for their in-depth knowledge of a specific subject or geographical area. Briefings by the cruise staff and after dinner informal talks by our guest speakers add an extra dimension to all we see and do.



### **Louis Justin - Expedition Leader**

After graduating from Europe's leading business and management school, Louis spent four years in Australia and New Zealand, taking every opportunity to explore these countries and their neighbours. While completing his Master's Degree, he wrote a research document on the geographical and economic history of Australia, New Zealand and the South-West Pacific Ocean. Louis then

joined the expedition cruising industry where he now shares his knowledge of geography and the history of exploration. His interest for the natural world enables him to discuss subjects such as geophysics, navigation, weather, volcanoes, and related sciences. As Expedition Leader and lecturer, Louis organises voyages and leads itineraries.



### **Jan Cloete- Cruise Director**

After obtaining a degree, Jannie travelled extensively throughout Europe and during this time he met up with two cruise line entrepreneurs and joined their company. It was during his first cruise season sailing around South Africa and the remote islands of the Indian Ocean that he found his sea legs - and his calling. Twenty years later, Jannie's career as Cruise Director has included work

aboard ships carrying between 114 guests to the mega liners carrying upwards of 2500 passengers. Jannie's career at sea has taken him to all seven continents, including participating in four expeditions on a Russian nuclear-powered ice breaker to the geographical North Pole. When not cruising, Jannie calls Johannesburg, South Africa, home.



### **Pamela Le Noury - Expedition Leader**

Coming from Durban, South Africa, Pam is a marine scientist, PADI dive instructor, Zodiac skipper and sailor, and has worked in and on the ocean just about every day for the past 11 years. She owns a whale watching business with a marine monitoring program in Durban, and has managed diving and boating operations for many years. She has participated in several marine research cruises,

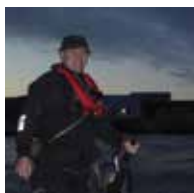
dabbling in everything from satellite tagging dolphins to coral reef transects and fisheries stock assessment, also contributing to reef fish guides, is co-author of a digital shark guide and several scientific papers. Pam started expedition cruising in 2008, and has since been around the world.



### **Jane Wilson - Expedition Leader**

Jane was born and raised in Australia. She graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Science and then a Masters in Environmental Studies. She worked for the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service for the following 15 years until she was bitten by the Antarctic bug. For several years Jane worked in remote field camps in Antarctica as a wildlife research scientist, specialising in the

ecology of seabirds, including several petrel and penguin species. This coincided with the boom in expedition cruising and Antarctic tourism in the late 1990s. For the last 10 years Jane has worked on expedition cruise vessels as a Zodiac driver, lecturer and Expedition Leader in many remote corners of the world.



### **Niall Johnson - Expedition Leader**

Niall Johnson is a highly respected outdoor professional, he has pioneered adventure training in the Outer Hebrides and his knowledge and skills are sought all over the world. As well as accepting training commissions in, amongst other places, the Arctic, Australia, South America, Russia, Scandinavia and the Caribbean, he has worked in Antarctica since 1997, during the austral

summers, where he leads and trains a powerboat team. He holds five major Instructor qualifications in four key disciplines Power Boating, Sea Kayaking, Mountaineering and Scuba Diving.



### **Hannah Lawson - Expedition Leader**

For the past twelve years Hannah has divided her time between working on expedition cruise ships as a wildlife guide, Zodiac driver and Expedition Leader and creating artwork from her studio in West Yorkshire. She worked as an artist and mural painter for several years at Chester Zoo and also in East Africa. She joined the Noble Caledonia team for the first time in 1999 and her love of wildlife and

wild places has taken her annually from Antarctic and South Georgia in the Austral summer to the high Arctic, via South America, Macronesia, the UK and Norway. Penguin and albatross sightings are swapped for polar bears and ivory gulls.





**Dennis Wille - Lecturer/Expedition Team**

Dennis Wille first became enamored by birds as a youngster in his native Costa Rica. He even has a passion for bird sounds and has a collection of them — he worked on the creation of a CD together with a talented pianist that mixes the piano with the sounds of the birds. Dennis has lent his expertise to international institutions such as The National Audubon Society, The Organization for

Tropical Studies, The Rainforest Aerial Tram, The Nature Conservancy Group, and The American Birding Association. His experience and knowledge has enabled him to guide in Central America, The Caribbean, South America, New Zealand, Australia, Russia, Alaska, the Arctic, the Antarctic, Europe and Africa among others.



**Brent Stephenson - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver**

Brent was born in New Zealand and has been a birder since childhood and in 2005 completed his Ph.D., studying the breeding biology of Australasian gannets in New Zealand. In 2003, he rediscovered the "extinct" New Zealand storm-petrel, a bird known previously from only three museum specimens collected during the 1800s.

With support from National Geographic, he has been

leading a team conducting further research on this enigmatic seabird. His passion for travel, birds, and the ocean has led him to many corners of the world working on small expedition cruise ships. His passion and knack for wildlife photography has led to increasing publication of photos and articles in books and magazines, both within New Zealand and overseas.



**Michael Moore - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver**

A Chicago native, Mike earned both his degree in Biology and his masters in Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution. Since then he has spent 10 years doing research around the Pacific Rim, studying endangered honey creepers in Hawaii, native hens in Tasmania, and everything from pythons to wallabies in Northern Queensland. He has lived in the Highlands of New Guinea, logged hundreds

of hours beneath its waters working for conservation organizations, taught field biology courses for the University of PNG, and is working on the second edition of the field guide, Birds of New Guinea. Currently Mike is a visiting scholar at Columbia University, studying the social and environmental changes wrought by oil palm plantations in coastal areas of New Ireland.



**John Love - Lecturer/Zodiac Driver**

Born in Inverness, John Love graduated in Zoology at Aberdeen University. In 1975 he went to live on the Isle of Rum where he managed a highly successful project to reintroduce the white-tailed sea eagle. While he remains involved with birds of prey, seabirds are another passion. For over forty years he has been cruising the Hebrides and visiting remote islands but in that time he has also

travelled extensively throughout the world. He has written and illustrated several books on wildlife and now, recently retired from Scottish Natural Heritage as Area Officer in the Outer Hebrides, he spends his time writing, drawing, lecturing, travelling, taking photographs and playing the fiddle.



**Richard Price - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver**

Rick Price began his career as a marine biologist in 1978, working for the British Antarctic Survey. He spent five winters at the BAS base on Signy Island in the South Orkney Islands, two of them as Base Commander. In 1988, he was awarded the Polar Medal by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Life as a marine biologist sparked an interest in underwater photography

that evolved into a career as a freelance wildlife cameraman. Since the early 1990s, Rick has filmed for the BBC Natural History Unit and The Discovery Channel and has worked on David Attenborough's documentary series, Life of Birds and Life in the Freezer.



**Toby Musgrave - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver**

Dr Toby Musgrave is one of the UK's leading authorities in garden history and design. With a degree in horticulture and a Ph.D. in garden history, since 1994 Toby has embarked on a freelance career as a television and radio presenter and consultant, author, journalist and photographer, designer and lecturer. Since 2004 he has divided his time between the UK and Denmark.

In Denmark, Toby wrote a weekly gardening article for the leading Danish broadsheet in 2004 and 2005, and contributes regularly to magazines. In the UK Toby continues to build on 10 years of experience as a regular contributor to a number of British national magazines and newspapers.



**Ian Bullock - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver**

Ian Bullock is a British biologist who lives in St.Davids, Pembrokeshire. Since 1978 he has specialised in seabird surveys, habitat management for endangered species and the conservation of remote island nature reserves. For 25 years he worked for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds as both research biologist and warden, establishing new reserves for conservation and managing offshore

islands. In spare moments since 1990 he has worked as guide and lecturer on board expedition ships in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, as well as Arctic and Antarctic environments. He loves the sea, wildlife and wilderness and relishes any opportunity to share this enthusiasm with fellow adventurers.



**Guy Esparon - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver**

Guy Esparon was born in the Seychelles and migrated to Australia in 1971, where he spent 30 years living between many of Australia's cities and the outback. However, his heart never left the Seychelles. Guy lived his dream when he worked on the Aldabra World Heritage Site as Chief Warden. He has an incredible passion and love for Aldabra. He has worked on various expedition ships

calling at the Seychelles, and has shared his love for nature and Aldabra with those fortunate enough to visit.



**Kit van Wagner - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver**

Inspired by her experiences growing up in Japan, Norway and England, Kit has been steadily working her way around the globe while sharing her enthusiasm for wilderness, wildlife and remote cultures as she goes. Kit has earned a living as a science educator, scuba instructor, Captain, backcountry kayak guide and sailing instructor. Most recently she worked with the U.S. National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developing initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of estuaries, water quality, and coastal climate change impacts. Over the years, Kit has also enjoyed working as a naturalist, lecturer and Zodiac skipper on small expedition ships around the world. Kit now works full-time on conservation projects and expedition travel.



**Craig Ward - Naturalist/Zodiac Driver/Lecturer**

Craig is a peripatetic marine professional. Dive instructor, marine biologist and ship Captain, for over twelve years he has been involved in marine research and education throughout the Indo-Pacific and the Americas. Craig is credited on a number of scientific papers, has been published in a variety of magazines and has co written and edited several natural history works. Post studies saw him

involved in coral, jellyfish and conservation research, before going on to work for several years in the Northern Territory on a number of endangered species. In 2003, he established a marine expedition services company, Severe, which was designed to bridge the gap between tourism and conservation. Craig is based in tropical northern Australia, where he is still actively involved in conservation research.





**Chantal Cookson - Expedition Team**

Chantal was born in Suffolk and now lives in Northumberland where her husband farms. Chantal has been associated with Noble Caledonia since the company was founded in 1990, having worked for Serenissima Travel before. She was part of the Expedition Team for many years on the MS. Caledonia Star and has led tours, be it cruising or land, all over the world. Chantal's initial

experience of cruising in British waters was in 1990 when Noble Caledonia did the first cruise around the British Isles. Chantal's main job, however, for the past 20 years has been working as a consultant for Sotheby's.



**Colleen Batey - Lecturer/Expedition Team**

Dr Colleen Batey is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Glasgow with extensive experience of both excavation and publication in the arena of Viking and Late Norse Culture in the North Atlantic and Scotland. She has held the post of Curator of Archaeology at Glasgow Museums, the largest Metropolitan Museum service in the UK. She was the

British advisor for the Smithsonian Institute Vikings North Atlantic Saga exhibit which toured widely in the US and Canada. More recently she has also held the post as Finds Research Manager for the Archaeological Institute of Iceland. She has lectured and travelled widely in the British Isles, Scandinavia and the Baltic as well as and North America, as both expedition staff and guest lecturer.



**Peter Warwick - Guest Speaker**

Peter is chairman of three organisations: The 1805 Club, the International Committee of Waterloo 200 and Thames Alive, a new campaign promoting the River Thames with distinctive events and pageants. He was vice-chairman of the Official Nelson Commemorations Committee and organised the reconstruction, in 2005, of Lord Nelson's river-borne funeral procession. Peter is a published author

and lectures widely on polar and naval history, notably Horatio Nelson. After graduating in Economics at Hull University he worked for over twenty years as an investment consultant and subsequently branched out on his own into marketing and communications and an historical event organiser.



**Dr Alan Borg - Guest Speaker**

Alan started his career teaching in American universities. In 1970 he joined the Royal Armouries in the Tower of London and in 1978 he was appointed the first Keeper of the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia. In 1982 he became Director General of the Imperial War Museum, and in 1996 was appointed Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. He is

currently Librarian of the Order of St John and St John Ambulance and Vice-President of the Foundling Museum. He is married to (Lady) Caroline Borg.



**Prof Ludmilla Selezneva - Guest Speaker**

Professor Ludmilla is a graduate with honours from Rostov State University and received her first doctorate there in history in 1982. She attained her second doctorate in 1996 from the Russian State University of Humanities in Moscow. Since 2001, Ludmilla Selezneva has worked as a professor of history and politics at the University of the Humanitarian Education in Moscow. Professor Selezneva has published

more than 50 articles and authored or co-authored 10 books. She is a well-recognised authority on 20th century Russia, the Russian political movements and parties, and the modern political history. Speaking tours have taken her to universities, schools, and business conferences, local communities in UK (London, Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh.), USA, Canada, Netherlands, France, and Austria.



**Major General Stephen Carr-Smith - Guest Speaker**

Major General Stephen Carr-Smith served throughout much of the Cold War in Europe (10 years) and then with NATO (6 years) before, during and after it was adjusting to its new role with the demise of the Warsaw Pact and the USSR. On leaving the Army, he worked for a company providing security and mine clearance services in remote and hostile countries; was the Senior Military Advisor

to an operational analysis company owned by British Aerospace; and was the Chairman of a company developing opportunities to marry up Russian technology with western finance and production. From 1996 to 2006, he was the Honorary Colonel of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY). He has also lectured on many cruises including several in the Black Sea area.



**Imogen Corrigan - Guest Speaker**

Imogen Corrigan served for twenty years in the British Army retiring in the rank of Major. In 2004 she graduated from the University of Kent with a 1st in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval History and is currently studying for PhD at Birmingham University. She runs study tours and has lectured extensively on Anglo-Saxon and Medieval subjects in Britain and Europe and is a NADFAS lecturer

as well as being a speaker for the Kent Federation of History and East Kent National Trust. Amongst other lecturing agencies. Her first book, The Race for the Sky: the Building of the English Cathedrals is to be published by Atlantic Books in 2011.



**Brigadier Philip Sanders - Guest Speaker**

After training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Philip served 30 years in the British Army retiring in the rank of brigadier. He had commanded the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, the British Army of the Rhine's reconnaissance forces, the tri-national Berlin Relief Force and was a Director of Operations at Joint Force Headquarters during the 1st Gulf War. He was awarded the CBE in

1986. On retiring from the army he joined the NHS and was Chief Executive of an NHS Community and Mental Health Trust for 7 years. He is an accomplished speaker and his specialisms are Military History including 20th Century Wars, the Development of tanks and Associated Armoured Vehicles, the history of Cyprus and Health Policy and Practice.



**Major JGH Corrigan - Guest Speaker**

Commissioned from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1962, Gordon Corrigan was an officer of the Royal Gurkha Rifles before retiring from the Army in 1998. He served mainly in the Far East but also in Berlin, Cyprus, Belize and Northern Ireland. His last appointment was Commanding Officer of the Gurkha Centre in Hampshire. He is now a military historian. He is

the author of Sepoys in the Trenches, The Indian Corps on the Western Front 1914 – 1915, (Spellmount, 1999) and Mud, Blood and Poppycock: Britain and the First World War (Cassell & Co, 2003), to name a mere few, and his next book, on the Hundred Years War, is to be published by Atlantic Books shortly.



**Olga Stavarakis - Lecturer**

Olga holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology specialising in peoples and cultures of Central America and the Caribbean. She started her graduate career in the jungles of Guatemala and then continued her studies in northern Belize, leading to a career as the regional coordinator for a major agricultural development project funded by USAID. At the end of this project she continued in

international development working with the World Bank, the UN, and IFAD on projects in the Caribbean, Central America, Asia and Eastern Europe. She has a passion for the peoples of the Caribbean and is writing the first major guidebook for the site of Tikal, and volunteers with various economic development projects around the world.





## Artwork Onboard

by Chantal Cookson

In 2010 the MS Island Sky completed refurbishment and underwent an artistic overhaul, bringing her stark walls to life and replacing the existing artwork, which had long hung in the public areas and cabins. No more job lots, endless Norwegian abstract pieces, numerous fading contemporary photographs or discoloured flower prints of no beauty. Now was the chance to fill the Island Sky with an interesting diverse art collection – not fabulously expensive paintings but lithographs, prints, wall hangings and two oils that were subtle in appearance, but pleasing to the eye.

Reflecting many of the destinations and oceans she would be sailing in, be it circumnavigating the British Isles, gently sailing along the Mediterranean Coast – or across the Atlantic to South Georgia, the collection consists, like on the MS Caledonian Sky, of many first and limited edition signed prints bought from the well known Tryon Gallery in Bury Street, London. The gallery specialises in the very best of sporting and wildlife art, and maritime pictures respectively.

Many of the pictures onboard are by Susan Crawford, equestrian artist, Lionel Edwards, one of the most popular illustrators of hunting and sporting subjects of the 20th century, and Rodger McPhail, leading sporting and wildlife artist. He is to wild animals and birds, what Susan Crawford is to horses and camels; A class on his own. Also included onboard are pieces by David Shepherd, whose paintings such as 'Wild Old Elephant' have made him internationally famous. His daughter, Mandy Shepherd with her drawing of an otter also shares his talent for detail and is featured, as is Ralph Thompson, born in Yorkshire and specialising in pencil and ink sketches of animals, and Margaret Mee, who made a significant contribution to the world of science and conservation with her many paintings of plants and flowers of the Amazon rainforest in pencil with gouache. Also showcased internally are artists such as Gilbert Holiday, Archibald Thorburn, Terence Lambert, Charles Tunnicliffe, and Coral Guest.

Our collection of maritime pieces are particularly impressive and feature several renowned artists in the field. Steven Dews is a highly experienced yachtsman as well as artist and brings his sailing expertise to the composition and detail of his paintings with many of his prints depicting famous yachts like Rainbow and Endeavour. Tim Thompson's pictures of The Great Yachts, The America's Cup from 1800 to date, and historical yachting scenes are particularly noteworthy and many of the suites feature signed prints by Axel Amuchastegui's. Amuchastegui is a self taught Argentinean artist, who is one of the few artists able to paint fur, feather and backgrounds with equal facility. The ship also features a small collection of signed prints by Roland Svensson, a Swedish painter who visited far flung islands like Tristan de Cunha. In the onboard library 19th century prints of Africa, maps of the Principe Trade Routes for Clippers Ships and pictures of the cricket match Kent v Lancashire at Canterbury in 1906, are all curated. Two impressive oil paintings painted by Laurence Dingley were commissioned for The Club. This small collection showcases the spontaneity and freshness of his style when depicting the north coast of Cornwall.

Perhaps the most surprising to find aboard the Island Sky, are the illustrated suite of Salvador Dali's Carmen (1970), lithographs on Arches, signed and numbered in pencil. These include The Habenera, Life is Like a Gypsy if She Loves You be on Your Guard, The Bird has Flown, Mountain Scene, and the most famous of all, Whoever Takes Carmen Away Must Pay with His Life. These pictures have been kindly loaned to the ship by Barbara Salen.

The Restaurant features a very unique type of artwork; framed textile wall hangings sourced by Joss Graham, from the Indian subcontinent. These are mostly late 19th century and 20th century pieces and are embroidered floss silk on hand spun cotton.

The MS Caledonian Sky, bought in September 2011 again needed bringing to life with pictures, so another art collection was sourced and assembled in early 2012 to do justice to Noble Caledonia's flagship. We could repeat, but not over do, some of the artists we had onboard the Island Sky, such as Alex Amuchastegui and Ralph Thompson whose lovely sketches of cheetahs, zebras and giraffe felt ideal, as did David Shepherd's pictures of elephants and Kuhnert's african lions. To keep the British flag flying, we sourced more of Stephen Dawe's yachting pictures as well as pieces by Tim Thompson. It was difficult to resist not having a few of the wonderful colourful Coral Guest botanical pictures framed this time in lacquered black. A sea chart of the Alaskan coast illustrated by Hannah Lawson, a member of Noble Caledonia's field staff, certainly adds to the mix and hangs in Reception.

Due to being based predominantly in the South Pacific, visiting Australia and New Zealand, Indonesia, Japan and the Russian Far East, the collection needed to reflect the destinations where the MS Caledonian Sky would be based. The Restaurant includes prints of exotic flowers and the suites include Japanese woodcut pictures. Scenes from Indonesia and Indian views line the stairways and images of parrots, parakeets, American lilies, cactuses, American aloes, amaryllis, orchids, agapanthus, and some Lucinda Oake's orchids bring a more tropical feel to the ship. Hand coloured engravings of toucans after Gould, and another hand coloured engraving of a pair of toucans after Barrand are featured onboard as are compositions of rustic pavilions, fruits and butterflies. Also part of the collection are four large prints of Indian elephants, and leading up to the Panorama Lounge are several prints by famous Scottish colourists including Samuel Peploe and Francis Cadell. To bring a bit of fun to the Panorama Lounge are a collection of Demerge 'Ladies' prints and Sem's cartoons bought from Johnny Ramsay Prints in Pimlico, London.

Perhaps the most fascinating pictures onboard both the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky are the photographs hanging in the cabin corridors. Most destinations the ships visit have a stunning photograph featured in one of the hallways, be it of a landscape, birds, mammals, a cityscape, portrait, or one of the tropical islands the ships call into. Many of these photographs were taken by members of Noble Caledonia's field staff and Salen Ship Management staff. Far from a valuable original art collection on both ships, each picture was, however, chosen and framed with thought.





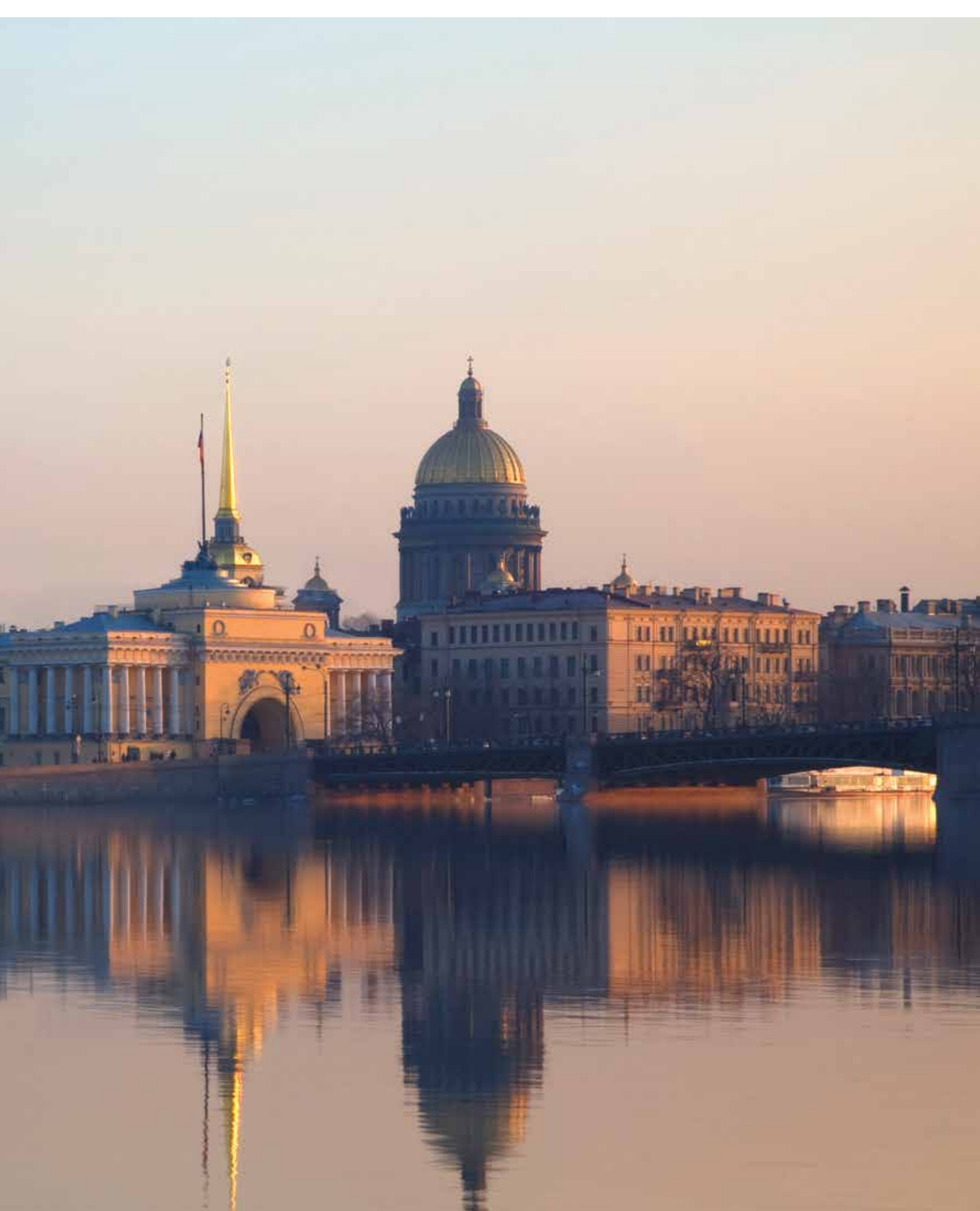


# Europe

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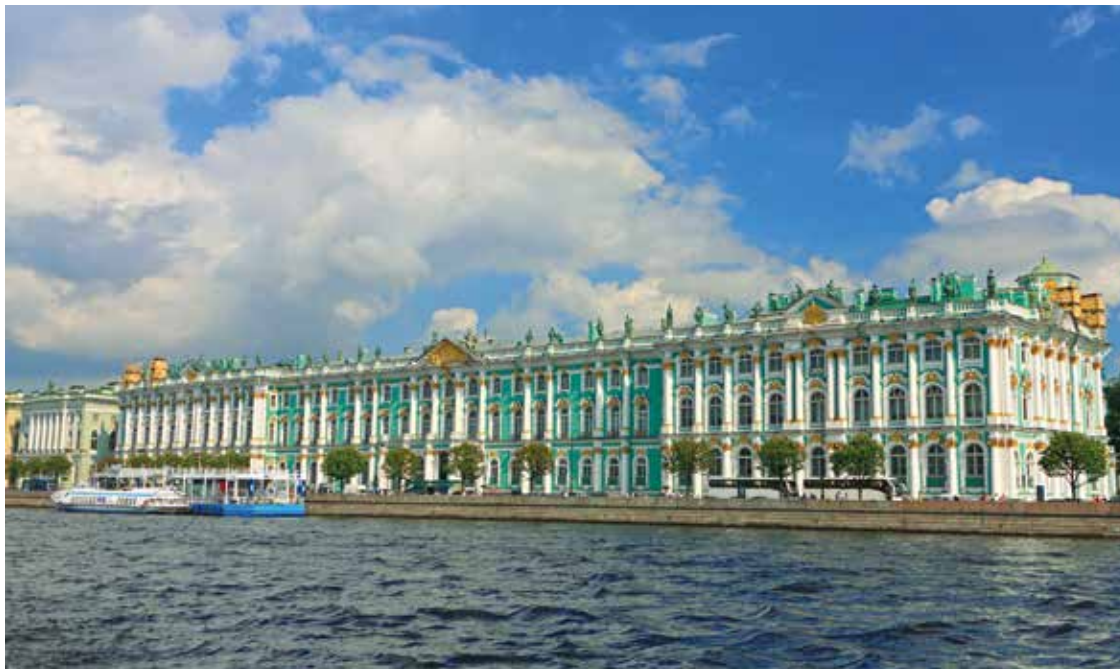




# Summer in the Cities of the Baltic

A voyage of discovery from Edinburgh to Stockholm aboard the MS Island Sky  
21st June to 4th July 2013

Join us on a voyage of discovery as we explore the eight nations of the Baltic. Nations who speak different languages, have a diverse culture and cuisine, worship in different churches, yet are united by a single sea. Over the centuries, wars and conflicts may have divided them, but as always trade has been the great unifier as the Hanseatic ports brought wealth and knowledge to the Baltic shores.



Winter Palace, St Petersburg

After almost twenty years of operating cruises in the Baltic, we believe we have the most perfectly balanced cruise. We start our journey from Edinburgh, sailing to Copenhagen via the Kiel Canal and continue north for the MS Island Sky's maiden visit to Karlskrona, a charming town in Sweden, famous for being the country's only Baroque city. We view more architectural delights in Gdansk and Riga, and take in the restored Klaipeda before enjoying three days in St Petersburg, surely the most endlessly fascinating of all Baltic ports.

On this particular visit to St Petersburg we have the rare opportunity to enjoy a special private reception at the Yusupov Palace. The Palace features original interiors of the 19th and 20th centuries and is superbly decorated in

Baroque, Empire and the Neoclassical style, to name but a few.

Visiting Helsinki and departing from Stockholm, our cruise is one of the most comprehensive trips available and added to this, we will be onboard one of the finest small ships in the world.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Leith, Edinburgh.** Embark the MS Island Sky in the late afternoon and sail. A transfer will be provided to the vessel from Edinburgh Waverly train station and airport, at a fixed time.

**Day 2 At sea.** Enjoy a day relaxing onboard and take the opportunity to attend a lecture in the Lounge.

**Day 3 Kiel Canal.** Today we navigate the Kiel Canal en-route to Copenhagen.

## Day 4 Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dock this morning in wonderful Copenhagen. See something of the city including the Palace of Amalienborg (exterior only); the four identical Rococo buildings have been the Royal Residence since 1784. Also see Christianborg Castle, the Royal Theatre and Nyhavn. Afternoon free to explore at leisure.

## Day 5 Karlskrona, Sweden.

Today we will call into the charming town of Karlskrona on the island of Trossö. Its unique layout, with roots in the Baroque and the well-preserved dockyards dating back from the 17th and 18th centuries, have placed Karlskrona on UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage list. There will be the opportunity to explore the area, including the Maritime Museum or enjoy a boat trip in the beautiful skerries.

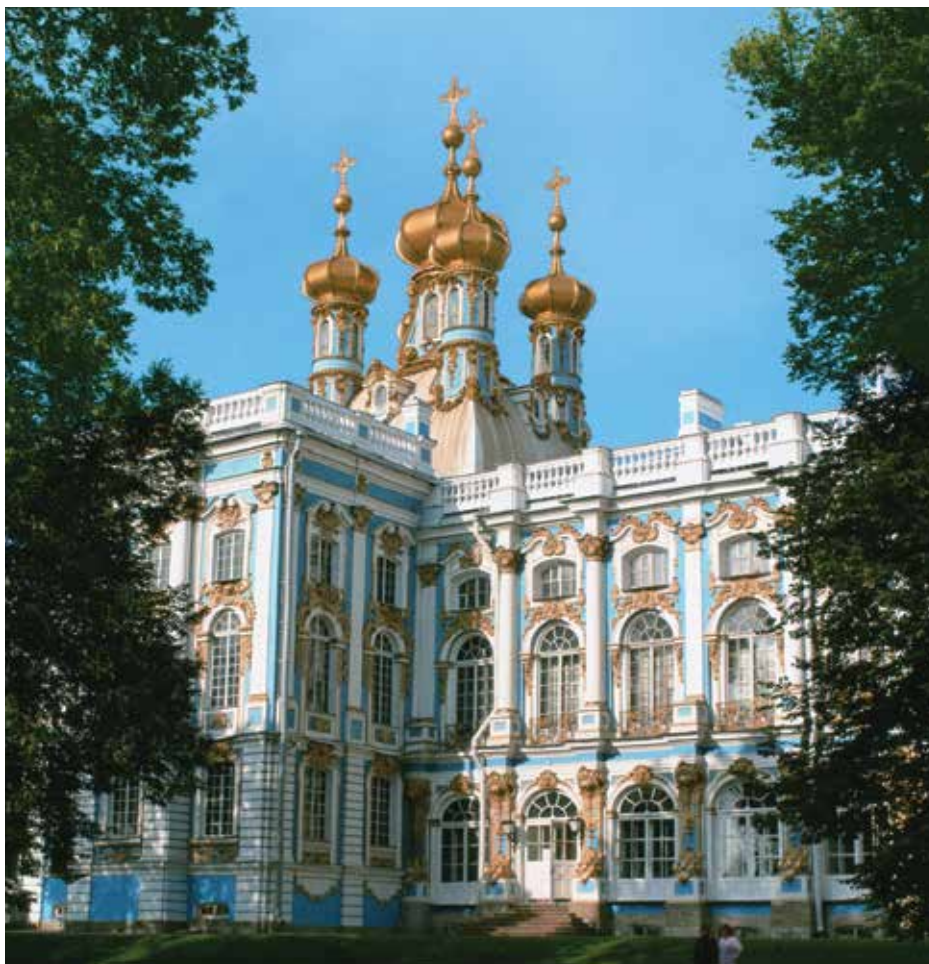
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A highlight for many will be the private evening reception that we have arranged at the Yusupov Palace exclusively for passengers travelling on the MS Island Sky.

”







Catherine's Palace, St Petersburg



Copenhagen

**Day 6 Gdansk, Poland.** This old Hanseatic port has been lovingly restored. See the old quarter including the Gothic St Mary's church and the 17th century Artus Court.

**Day 7 Klaipeda, Lithuania.** Klaipeda is the third largest city in Lithuania and a centre for amber jewellery. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, the city was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War Two. Much of the city has now been restored.

**Day 8 Riga, Latvia.** Riga is a beautiful Hanseatic city dating from 1201 and one of the best preserved in the Baltic. Explore the cobbled streets; every corner is an architectural gem, reflecting styles from all periods.

**Day 9 Tallinn, Estonia.** Observe Tallinn's awe-inspiring city walls and fortifications, the narrow medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. From Dome Hill, see the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables.

**Days 10 to 12 St Petersburg, Russia.** We have the luxury of three days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Join a guided city tour, an excursion to the Peterhof Palace and a tour of the fascinating Hermitage Museum.

Originally commissioned by Catherine the Great as a winter palace, the museum now houses over two million exhibits. Some of the highlights include the Ambassador's Staircase, the Throne Room and the Ballroom. For the remainder of your time you can explore independently or there will be a number of optional excursions available. Our experienced staff onboard will help you plan your time ashore to make the most of this beautiful Russian city.

We hope that a highlight for many will be the private evening reception that we have arranged at the Yusupov Palace exclusively for passengers travelling on the MS Island Sky. It

was here that Grigori Rasputin was murdered in 1916 and our exclusive visit to the palace provides us with a fascinating insight into the mystery surrounding his death.

**Day 13 Helsinki, Finland.** Very much the water city, we shall moor close to the city centre and explore Helsinki. Visit the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral.

**Day 14 Stockholm to London.** Disembark after breakfast and return to London by scheduled flight.

### Stockholm Post-Cruise Extension



For those who would like to extend their stay in Stockholm after disembarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering two nights at the Diplomat Hotel (or similar) on bed and breakfast basis. The price includes transfers from the vessel to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport.

**Prices per person**  
Twin: £345 Single: £575

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK21063**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4695	£5195	£5395	£5795	£6195	£6395	£6795
Sole	£7095	£7795	£8095	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel from Stockholm to London (supplement for indirect flight from Stockholm to Edinburgh: £80pp, subject to availability), 13 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, use of quietvox earphones during excursions, guest speaker, shore excursions, private evening reception in St Petersburg, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, Russian visa, optional excursions in St Petersburg (full details will be available approximately 12 weeks prior to departure). **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability



# Baltic Odyssey

A cruise to the islands and cities of the Baltic aboard the MS Island Sky  
24th July to 7th August 2013

Bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, the Baltic is perfect for exploration by small ship. The history of the region is fascinating, with countries vying for commercial and political influence for over a thousand years or more. Summer is the perfect time to explore its historic shores and look back over its colourful past from the Vikings and the Hanseatic era to more modern day events.



Neptune Fountain, Gdansk

The cities of the Baltic offer a cornucopia of delights. Whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the newly independent Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched medieval quarters, or the sheer delight of Scandinavian ports with their colourful architecture and a freshness that is unique to the area.

For our exploration we have one of the finest small ships in the world. With just over 100 passengers we are able to offer a relaxed and informative voyage without the vast crowds that larger ships generate. When you go ashore it will be quick and easy with two or three coaches on the quayside instead of ten to twenty. One thing is for sure, there are plenty of cruise ships plying the Baltic, but if you prefer a comprehensive itinerary, a peaceful environment and a high degree of comfort, the MS Island Sky is the best by far.

Our guest lecturer, naval historian Peter Warwick, has been to the Baltic with Noble Caledonia for the last six years. He says he never tires of the experience because, "it is an exceptional part of the world with an exceptional story to tell. I discover something new every time!" Peter believes the Baltic story is "essentially

a maritime one" and his lectures illustrate how the countries we visit lapped by its waters, have a shared history that has fashioned their slightly different cultures. "Until twenty years ago, a voyage to these beautiful shores and historic cities aboard the MS Island Sky would have been unthinkable. The Iron Curtain saw to that", he says. "But today it is possible to visit all nine countries by sea, and in almost as many days! Try that by road, rail or aeroplane; it would be shattering and with little chance to relish the Baltic's fascinating thousand year history with the sea at its heart. The truth is that a voyage round the Baltic will only leave you wanting more."

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to Stockholm, Sweden.

Fly by scheduled flight. Upon arrival, transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Stockholm.** This morning explore this most handsome of Baltic cities, built on 14 small islands among open bays and narrow channels. The architectural mix of medieval with modern is wonderful.

**Day 3 Helsinki, Finland.** Very much the water city, we shall moor close to the city centre and explore Helsinki. Visit the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive

architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral.

### Days 4 - 6 St Petersburg, Russia.

We have the luxury of three days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Join a guided city tour, excursion to the Peterhof Palace and a tour of the fascinating Hermitage Museum. For the remainder of your time in this wonderful city you can explore independently or there will be a number of optional excursions available. Rest assured, our experienced staff on board will help you plan your time ashore to make the



Stockholm





Catherine's Palace, St Petersburg



Cathedral, Helsinki



Gdansk

most of this, the most beautiful of all Russian cities.

**Day 7 Tallinn, Estonia.** Observe Tallinn's awe-inspiring city walls and fortifications, the narrow medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. From Dome Hill, see the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables.

**Day 8 Riga, Latvia.** Riga is a beautiful Hanseatic city dating from 1201 and one of the best preserved in the Baltic. Explore the cobbled streets; every corner is an architectural gem, reflecting styles from all periods.

**Day 9 Klaipeda, Lithuania.** Klaipeda is the third largest city in Lithuania and a centre for amber jewellery. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, the city was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War Two. Much of the city has now been restored.

**Day 10 Gdansk, Poland.** This old Hanseatic port has been lovingly restored. See the old quarter including the Gothic St Mary's Church and the 17th century Artus Court.

**Day 11 Ronne, Bornholm Island, Denmark.** Peaceful and scenic, Bornholm Island is a mixture of wheat fields, forest and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. See the

unique 12th century round churches and sample the smoked herring.

**Day 12 Copenhagen.** Dock this morning in wonderful Copenhagen. See something of the city including the Palace of Amalienborg (exterior only), the four identical Rococo buildings have been the Royal Residence since 1784. Also see Christiansborg Castle, the Royal Theatre and Nyhavn.

**Day 13 Kiel Canal.** Today we navigate the Kiel Canal through Schleswig Holstein en-route for the North Sea.

**Day 14 At sea.** Enjoy a relaxing day at sea and perhaps attend a lecture given by a guest speaker.

**Day 15 Harwich, UK.** Arrive this morning in the port of Harwich and disembark after breakfast. Transportation will be provided to Harwich rail station and London Heathrow airport at a fixed time.



Bornholm island

“ One thing is for sure, there are plenty of cruise ships plying the Baltic, but if you prefer a comprehensive itinerary, a peaceful environment and a high degree of comfort, the MS Island Sky is the best by far. ”



## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK24073**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4995	£5495	£5795	£6195	£6595	£6895	£7295
Sole	£7495	£8295	£8695	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Stockholm, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, guest speaker, shore excursions, use of quietvox earphones during excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Russian visa, earphones during excursions, optional excursions in St Petersburg (full details will be available approximately 12 weeks prior to departure). **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability



# Island Hopping in the Mediterranean

A voyage from Seville to Kusadasi aboard the MS Island Sky  
11th to 25th August 2013

Join us aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky as we visit some unspoiled islands, timeless villages and ancient sites. As well as some must-see sites, we will visit some ports well away from the big cruise ships as we make our journey eastwards. Taking advantage of long sunny days, we begin in Seville and head for the Balearics, then over to Sardinia, Corsica, the Aeolian Islands, Sicily and on to some of Greece's tiny islands before reaching Turkey.



“

Timeless islands with their aura of history, unique island lifestyles and spectacular beauty will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean.

”



Added to this fascinating mix, we have the pleasure of cruising aboard one of the finest small ships in the world. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at times like this we can be thankful that with just over 100 passengers, we can visit atmospheric ports and villages that the big ships cannot access. Only a few Mediterranean Islands have managed to keep big-time tourism at bay and during the course of our 15 day cruise we will visit some of the best. Timeless islands with their aura of history, unique island lifestyles and spectacular beauty will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Seville, Spain.** Fly by indirect scheduled flight. Upon arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky in Cadiz and set sail.

**Day 2 At sea.** Enjoy a day at sea to relax or attend a lecture or two.

**Day 3 La Savina, Formentera.** Arrive this afternoon in the least known of the main Balearic Islands. From the nearby port of La Savina, join an excursion to picturesque San Francisco Javier with its 18th century fort and quaint houses. Then continue to the eastern extreme of the island to Far de la Mola where it is said that the lighthouse, on a windswept cliff overlooking the blue waters of the Mediterranean, inspired Jules Verne in the writing of 'Journey Around the Solar System'.

**Day 4 Mahon, Menorca.** Most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism, the island of Menorca offers a pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches.



Santorini

See the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago. Stroll the streets of aristocratic Ciudadela, the architectural showpiece of Menorca, and see the 18th century buildings in the island's capital of Mahon, built during the British occupation. At the height of British Naval superiority in the Mediterranean the island of Menorca featured strongly resulting in its capture on a number of occasions in the late 18th century and is an excellent example of an English 18th century dockyard.

**Day 5 Oristano, Sardinia, Italy.** This afternoon we moor in Oristano for an excursion to Tharros and San Giovanni. The ancient town of Tharros was erected by the Phoenicians in

the 8th century B.C. on the ruins of a nuragic settlement. In the 6th century B.C. it became a Punic stronghold and trading centre and grew further in importance under the Romans. The site still shows chamber and cremation burial grounds, temples and Roman baths together with buildings belonging to the early Christian period. The Church of San Giovanni di Sinis is a small early Christian structure of the 6th century AD, and one of the oldest in Sardinia.

**Day 6 Bonifacio, Corsica.** This morning we will arrive in the stunning natural harbour of Bonifacio and enjoy a morning tour of the town. Bonifacio's cliff top setting and relaxing pace make it one of the most welcoming ports in the western Mediterranean.



**Day 7 Agropoli, Italy.** Arrive in Agropoli in the late morning and enjoy an afternoon tour to one of southern Italy's greatest attractions; ancient Paestum. Settled by Greek colonists in the 6th century BC, Paestum was later occupied by Lucians, Romans and Christians. We will visit the well-preserved temples and the Basilica.

**Day 8 Lipari Island.** Arrive this morning in the Aeolian archipelago. On Lipari we will find an amazing collection of ruins from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. Lipari town is a thriving little place prettily located between two harbours. Our excursion will include a visit to the upper town set within fortress walls and a drive around the volcano followed by a visit to the Archaeological Museum.



Paestum

**Day 9 Syracuse, Sicily.** This morning we will land at Syracuse, a city which once rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. Our exploration will begin with a visit to the Archaeological Zone and a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from the limestone. Paradise Quarry was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Dionysus' Ear' - a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance.

**Day 10 At sea.**

**Day 11 Itea, Greece.** This morning we dock at Itea in southern Greece, our only non island call. Depart by coach for an excursion to the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The ruins here are exceptional. We explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, site of the sacred Delphic oracle, and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5,000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. Back on board for lunch and a transit through the Corinth Canal will bring us into the Aegean.

**Day 12 - Folegandros & Santorini.** Over breakfast we will cruise to the western edge of the Cyclades to

the little known island of Folegandros. Visit the cliff top capital of Chora, a wonderfully picturesque village with alleys lined with bougainvillea and hibiscus and a dramatic seascape over an edge which drops some 700 feet directly into the Aegean. During lunch sail to Santorini. Once a single volcanic cone, Santorini is now an island archipelago. We will first visit Santorini's highest peak, crowned by the Mount Profitis Ilias monastery from where there are spectacular views of the island. Continue to the north of the island, to the village of Oia and explore the narrow cobbled streets, many with tiny shops offering unusual crafts.

**Day 13 Tilos & Rhodes.** Close to the Turkish coast is magical and timeless Tilos. This lovely Dodecanese island has still to find its way onto the pages of tour operators brochures so retains its time-warp and traditional atmosphere. See Livadia, a lively little town and Megalo Chorio, its tiny capital rich in Crusader castles. In the afternoon continue across to Rhodes. This historic island was known in antiquity for its schools of philosophy, rhetoric and sculpture. On a guided tour explore the Old Town, one of the great medieval towns of the Mediterranean.

**Day 14 Kusadasi for Ephesus, Turkey.** This morning drive to the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where excavations have been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings including the library of Celsus and the temples of Serapis and Hadrian. It was once the capital of Ionia and St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey. We will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus. Alternatively, for those who may have already been to Ephesus, there will be a full day tour to the fascinating archeological sites of Priene, Miletus and Didyma.

**Day 15 Izmir to London.** After breakfast transfer to Izmir for your indirect return scheduled flight to London.



Syracuse, Sicily



Lipari



Delphi, Greece

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCISK11083

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

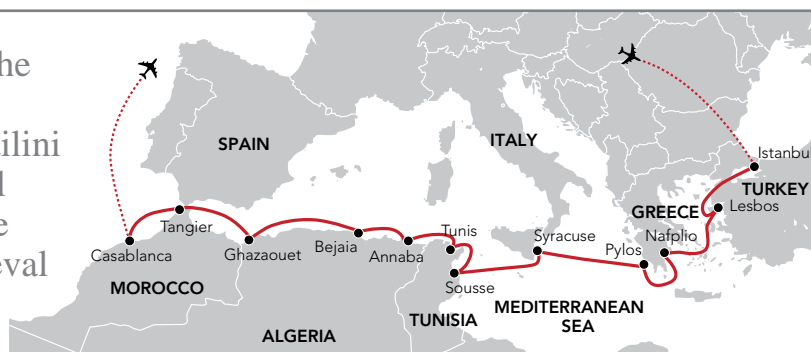
Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£5695	£5995	£6595	£7295	£7495	£7995	£8295
Sole	£8295	£8995	£9495	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy scheduled air travel, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, guest speaker, shore excursions, use of quietvox earphones during excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, Turkish visa. **NB. Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability**

# Lost Empires

A passage from the Golden Horn to the Barbary Coast aboard the MS Island Sky  
8th to 22nd October 2013

Join us aboard the all suite MS Island Sky in the captivating city of Istanbul as we sail into the Aegean for a visit to the charming port of Mytilini and on to the Peloponnese and Nafplio, capital of the First Hellenic Republic and Pylos where we discover two of the most impressive medieval fortresses in Greece.



“With a maximum of 114 passengers, our trips ashore will be a pleasure and whether your interest lies in ancient history, modern politics or simply the joy of experiencing new places, this journey has



Carthage

On our voyage westwards we visit the island of Sicily before crossing the Mediterranean to the Barbary Coast. Here, betwixt the desert and the sea are some of Rome's most magnificent sites stretching from El Djem in Tunisia to the Roman ruins of Djemila in Algeria. Africa's Mediterranean coast has always been a magnet for travellers, and after the events of the 'Arab Spring' this is a fascinating time to be visiting, even though our main focus will be some of Roman Africa's most stunning sites.

First colonised by the Phoenicians and Greeks around the 7th century B.C., the region eventually fell to Rome who developed the narrow coastal band as a breadbasket. Vast quantities of grain were grown and transported to sustain Rome's armies and with agricultural development came cities; many impressive and said to rival Rome in their magnificence. Tunisia has a wealth of sites from the Phoenician ruins of Carthage to the great Roman amphitheatre at El Djem. In Algeria, visit the well-preserved Roman ruins of Djemila and venture to Hippo Regius. St Augustine was bishop

here until his death in A.D. 430 and everywhere there are reminders of the Phoenicians, Berbers and Romans. The favourable desert influenced climate has been remarkably kind to the sites and they provide an unparalleled experience of life in classical times. Perhaps not an itinerary that will appeal to the inexperienced traveller, but for those who enjoy exploring the ancient world, this itinerary has it all.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and sail this evening.

**Day 2 Lesbos.** After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at Lesbos in the capital of Mytilini. This is a charming port with much character. See the once grand 19th century mansions which are gradually being renovated, its jumbled ancient streets and the imposing Byzantine castle with its well preserved walls.

**Day 3 Nafplio, Greece.** Looking out across the translucent water of the bay towards the Arcadian Mountains,

Nafplio's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivalled in Greece. From here you will enjoy a scenic drive through the Argos Plain, once ruled by Agamemnon, conqueror of Troy, to the famous citadel of Mycenae. High above the confluence of two boulder-strewn ravines, Mycenae is entered by way of the Lion Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. An archaeological briefing within the Treasury of Artreus (also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon) will add to our understanding and appreciation of the sights.

**Day 4 Pylos.** From our berth in Navarino Bay we will drive through the enchanting countryside to Methoni and Koroni, two of the most impressive medieval fortresses in Greece. The Venetians built Methoni on the Ionian Sea and Koroni on the Gulf of Messenia in the 13th century to safeguard their newly acquired Greek empire. The fortress at Koroni encloses a number of whitewashed and pastel village houses and a flourishing convent. We will return to Pylos and time permitting explore Nestor's Palace, the best preserved of the existing Mycenaean palaces.

**Day 5 At sea.** Relax onboard and attend a lecture.

**Day 6 Syracuse, Sicily.** This morning we will land at Syracuse, a city which once rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. Our tour will begin with a visit to the Archaeological Zone and a well preserved spectacular 15,000 seat Greek theatre. We then continue to the old town to the remains of the Temple of Apollo, the Fountain of Arethusa and the Temple of Athena which is located in the cathedral.







Casablanca



Mithilini, Lesbos



Methoni

**Day 7 Sousse, Tunisia.** After a morning at sea we will arrive in Sousse for our excursion to El Djem. We will explore its great Roman amphitheatre, built in the 3rd century A.D. to accommodate 35,000 spectators. Later, visit the excellent museum with its collection of mosaics.

**Day 8 Tunis for Carthage.** From the nearby port of Tunis drive to the site of Carthage, founded in the 8th century B.C. See the Phoenician remains of Tophet, the sanctuary of the gods Tanit and Baal as well as some interesting monuments from the Roman era. Later, explore the Bardo Museum which houses some renowned Roman mosaics.

**Day 9 Annaba, Algeria.** Settlements have existed here from Phoenician times, but it was Rome that left the most powerful legacy. Here, St Augustine chose to live out his last years, known by various names over the centuries- Hippo Regius, Hippone, Annabe, Bone and now Annaba. We will explore the site of Hippo Regius, seeing the largest and oldest Roman Forum in North Africa and the baths dedicated to Septimius Severus. There will also be an opportunity to see some of this charming city which is surrounded by hills and has at its heart an elegant colonial-period centre.

**Day 10 Bejaia.** This area of the Barbary coast has witnessed invasions and colonisers through the ages, from Romans to Germanic Vandals, Byzantines, the Berber Hammadid dynasty, Moroccans, Spanish,

Ottomans and the French to name a few. We will take a drive through the charming countryside to the well preserved Roman ruins of Djemila. The site includes the Triumphal Arch to Emperor Caracall, Grand Baths, market and Old Forum. We will also visit the excellent museum with its fine mosaics and other artefacts.

**Day 11 At sea.**

**Day 12 Ghazaouet.** Today, we reach the western side of Algeria and the port of Ghazaouet located close to the border with Morocco. From here we drive approximately 50 miles inland to Tlemcen, an interesting and cultured city. Our visit will include the 11th century Great Mosque and the deconsecrated Sidi Bel Hassan Mosque which is now a museum.

**Day 13 Tangier, Morocco.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Tangier at lunchtime. Our afternoon tour will

explore the Medina and the Dar el Makhzen, a magnificent 17th century palace.

**Day 14 Casablanca.** Our tour this morning will start with a drive around Casablanca's most important sights, including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Place des Nations. The highlight of our tour, however, is a visit to the Hassan II Mosque, the largest religious monument in the world after Mecca. It took 3,300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and the splendid wood ceilings. The mosque also has the world's tallest minaret, soaring 200 metres above the city. Time permitting we will make a final stop at the Central Market to browse the colourful stalls. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Casablanca or continue to Rabat to see the modern, French inspired town and explore the historic area, centred on the 12th century walled medina.

**Day 15 Casablanca to London.**

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

### Istanbul Pre-Cruise Extension



If you would like to extend your stay in Istanbul before your cruise, we can arrange an independent three night stay at the Eresin Crown Hotel (or similar) on breakfast only basis. The price of the extension includes transfers from the airport to the hotel and from the hotel to the vessel.

#### Prices per person

Twin: £495 Single: £795

Minimum numbers required.

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCISK08103

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£5395	£5795	£6395	£6995	£7395	£7895	£8295
Sole	£7995	£8895	£9595	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, guest speaker, shore excursions, use of quietvox earphones during excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Island Hopping in the Azores

A voyage around the Azores archipelago aboard the MS Island Sky  
13th to 25th April 2014

Tired of the Mediterranean? Not interested in the West Indies or further afield? Then take a moment to consider the attractions of the Azores. For those seeking an informative cruise around some extraordinarily beautiful and untouched islands, the Azores offer so much. After the success of our last visit to the region with the MS Island Sky, we are delighted to be bringing our much loved small ship back to the archipelago in 2014.



**F**ar 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, walking through verdant mountain landscapes, exploring islands where time appears to be standing still, watching for passing whales and learning about the local people and their customs, then this cruise could be for you.

In the times of sailing, the Azores was the confluence of the great trade routes from Africa and beyond and from the continent of South America to Great Britain. On leaving the Azores we will follow in their wake looking out for whales and migrating birds on a 1200 mile crossing that will bring us to the enchanting Isles of Scilly.



Misericordia Church, Terceira



Dolphins



Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel Island

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel.** Fly by scheduled flight via Lisbon and, upon arrival, transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure as we will be moored overnight.

**Day 2 Sao Miguel.** Today we will explore the Furnas Valley, an enormous valley and luxuriant garden

in the east of the Island. This is an area of diverse volcanic activity and we will see the famous lake, surrounded by the calderas and boiling sulphur pools. After a visit to the village of Furnas and the botanical gardens we return to the ship this afternoon and set sail for the island of Terceira.

**Day 3 Terceira.** This morning explore Angra do Heroismo, a charming UNESCO heritage town with a distinct Mediterranean flavour. 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 to see the fortification and view, or relax and wander the historic town.

**Day 4 Flores & Corvo.** Named after its abundant flora, Flores is often regarded as the prettiest 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, conditions permitting, visit the tiny island of Corvo, comprised of one large caldeira. Zodiacs will be used to reach the island.

**Day 5 Faial.** Our day begins with an exploration of fairly recent volcanic activity at Ponta dos Capelinhos. See





Azores coastline

how a 1957-1958 volcanic eruption transformed the area and created a new land mass. This afternoon, weather permitting, we enjoy a walking tour of Horta, including the Scrimshaw Museum and Peter Café or enjoy a whale watching cruise.

**Day 6 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 and we will learn about whaling life in the Azores at the Museum of Lajes. We will sail to Velas for an evening arrival so you may take a stroll after dinner in this charming old world harbour town.

**Day 7 Sao Jorge.** This largely rural island has many more cattle than people and is known for its strong cheddar-like cheese. It is of geographical interest with its cliff shoreline marked with flat fajás sweeping to the sea. After visiting the charming old world harbour town of Velas and a cheese factory, the ship cruises the coastline to find a tranquil fajá where, weather permitting, we hope to make a Zodiac landing. We will moor overnight in Graciosa.

**Day 8 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

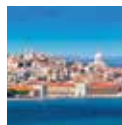
one of the original examples of the volcanic Azores, and take the winding stairway down to the magnificent volcanic cavern and lake. We will return to the ship and set sail at lunchtime.

**Days 9 to 11 At sea.** Enjoy three days at sea. Keep a lookout for birdlife, whales and dolphins. Attend some lectures or just relax on deck.

**Days 12 Tresco, UK.** This morning we will moor off Tresco, which to many is the loveliest of the Scillies. It is leased by the Dorrien-Smith family, who have done much to preserve the island's great charm and created a wonderful 40 acre subtropical garden, close to their Tresco Abbey home. There will be a tour of the gardens and some free time to explore at leisure. Sail at lunchtime.

**Day 13 Poole.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Poole train station.

### Lisbon Pre-Cruise Extension



Before embarking the MS Island Sky in Ponta Delgada, extend your stay by joining our two night Lisbon extension at the Hotel Sana Lisboa (or similar). The price of the extension includes two nights at a centrally located Lisbon hotel on bed and breakfast basis, airport transfers and a panoramic city tour.

**Prices per person**  
Twin: £395 Single: £545



### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCISK13044

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4395	£4895	£5295	£5595	£5895	£6395	£6895
Sole	£6495	£7195	£7895	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy scheduled air travel from London to Ponta Delgada, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, onboard team and lecture programme, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Britain & Ireland in Bloom



A spring cruise of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales aboard the MS Island Sky  
25th April to 6th May 2014

For the past twenty one years Noble Caledonia has undertaken at least one 'British Isles in Bloom' cruise each year. In spring 2014 we shall be returning to many of our favourite places which have proven so popular with our passengers. High on our list is the lovely traffic free island of Tresco in the Isles of Scilly where the Abbey Gardens are an absolute delight. Likewise, we find it difficult to contemplate such a trip without a call at the island of Iona, a place of rare spiritual power and exceptional natural beauty.



Iona, Scotland

Of course our main emphasis will be on gardens and without doubt we shall visit some of the best in the Kingdom and Ireland; the splendid gardens of Inverewe and Gigha which defy the Atlantic elements so admirably. Irish gardens have a unique quality, the 'soft' weather and green mountain backdrops make for lovely views whether you are in the dramatic Wicklows or in the more gentle countryside of Waterford. Added to these scenic delights, we will also touch upon ancient history – Iron Age villages, mysterious standing stones and early Christian culture.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Poole.** In the afternoon, embark the MS Island Sky. A transfer will be available from Poole station at a fixed time. Sail in the late afternoon.

**Day 2 Sark & Alderney.** For our visit to the Channel Islands, we have chosen two of the smaller and less developed islands. We will start the day with a morning on Sark, a beautiful and peaceful place where we will visit the lovely Seigneurie Gardens. During lunch we will sail across to Alderney, just eight miles off the French coast. Visit the Alderney Museum which is set in the Old Schoolhouse and gives a dramatic picture of the island's past. Then stretch the legs on a cliff top walk, admiring the dramatic views.

**Day 3 Isles of Scilly.** Our next archipelago is the Scilly Islands, located some 30 miles off the Cornish coast. We will go ashore and spend the morning on the beautiful island of Tresco. Walk from the beach along pretty, traffic free lanes to the Abbey Gardens. These amazingly attractive sub-tropical gardens are an absolute

delight and at this time of year will be at their most colourful. In the afternoon we will travel by boat to St Agnes, an island of rare charm which is totally unspoilt. Enjoy a few hours walking along its many traffic free paths that offer stunning coastal views.

**Day 4 Waterford, Ireland.** From our berth in the town of Waterford we will drive to Mount Congreve, a spectacular woodland garden on the banks of the River Suir. This privately owned seventy acre garden is particularly stunning in spring when the gardens are awash with magnificent sweeps of flowering azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore Waterford. Maybe take a chance to visit the world famous Waterford Glass Showroom and artisan works. Sail in the early evening.

“ We have many years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of our remotest places and yet every year we discover something new. ”







Portmeirion



Zodiac & Island Sky, Scotland



Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye

**Day 5 Dun Laoghaire, Dublin.** Drive out into the Wicklow Mountains and the wonderfully sited gardens of Powerscourt, 47 acres of Italian, Japanese and walled gardens. Continue to Mount Usher, a lovely romantic garden on the banks of the Vartry.

**Day 6 Portmeirion & Bodnant, North Wales.** From our berth at Holyhead we will embark on a full day tour visiting Portmeirion, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis extraordinary Mediterranean village in the shadows of Snowdonia and Bodnant Garden, an 80 acre garden in the most divine of settings. Explore the formal Upper Garden and the lower Dell in the valley of the River Hiraethlyn.

**Day 7 Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland.** This morning we will drop the Zodiacs to cruise the peaceful Strangford Lough, surrounded by the lovely scenery of County Down. After an early lunch we land on the eastern

shore for an afternoon at Mount Stewart. Planted in the 1920s by Lady Londonderry, it is a stunning mix of Mediterranean influenced planting in a series of outdoor rooms which give way to a wilder woodland space with plants from every corner of the world. Later, tour the great house with its splendid art and elegant furniture.

**Day 8 Gigha & Islay, Scotland.** Our first call in Scotland will be to the beautiful island of Gigha where we will spend the morning in the gardens of Achamore House. The Horlick family, better known for the eponymous milk drink, have created a stunning garden with their collection of azaleas, rhododendrons and exotic plants. During lunch sail across to the island of Islay. Landing at Port Ellen, there will be a choice of visiting the nearby privately owned Bowmore Distillery, with a history dating back to 1779, or the more energetic might prefer a walk around Kilnaughton Bay.

**Day 9 Colonsay & Iona.** Start your day with a walk on the attractive island of Colonsay. Explore the gardens around Colonsay House and enjoy the natural woodland and coastal settings. Listen out for the rare corncrake and be back on board for lunch as we sail across to nearby Iona. For more than 1000 years, the island of Iona has been a place of deep spiritual significance. St Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD and early Christianity spread through northern Britain from this remote island community.

**Day 10 Inverewe, Loch Ewe.** Here amongst the grandeur of the West Coast Highland scenery we will visit the splendid Inverewe Gardens where windbreaks made of local pines provide shelter for an amazing collection of exotic trees and shrubs. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon as we cruise along Scotland's North West Coast, spending a few hours cruising in lovely Loch Torridon.

**Day 11 Dunvegan, Isle of Skye.** This morning we land at the MacLeod stronghold of Dunvegan Castle. Remarkably, the castle has been almost continuously occupied by the MacLeod's for nearly eight centuries. Tour the castle, a fascinating place that contains work of at least ten building periods. Then explore the gardens, following paths through woodland glades past pools and burns fed by a waterfall. The formal gardens were laid out in the 18th century and make a wonderful contrast to the moorland hills and sea. Look out for the seal colony before re-boarding for lunch. Relax as we sail along the south coast of Skye and the Cuillin Hills on our way back to the mainland.

**Day 12 Oban.** Disembark this morning. Transportation will be provided to Glasgow International airport and Glasgow Central train station.



Tresco Abbey Gardens, Scilly Isles

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK25414**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4295	£4595	£4895	£5295	£5695	£6295	£6795
Sole	£6443	£6893	£7343	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

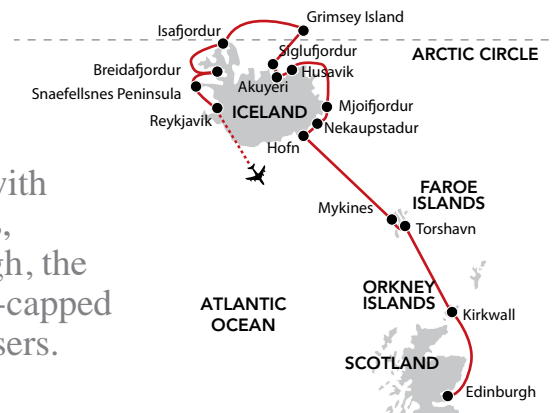
**NB.** Ports subject to change. Local weather conditions may affect itinerary. All special offers are subject to availability

# Epic Iceland



An exploration of Iceland's natural wonders aboard the MS Island Sky  
3rd to 15th June 2014

If you want to see nature in the raw, where better than the 'Land of Ice and Fire' - Iceland. Europe's least populated country offers the visitor an unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work. Its largely deserted interior is dotted with huge icecaps and glaciers, active volcanoes, gurgling mud pools, steaming hot springs and lava fields. And, if this were not enough, the immense scale of the landscape is dominated by towering snow-capped mountains, thundering waterfalls and spontaneous erupting geysers.



“  
A journey by small ship is the ideal way to explore the wonders of Iceland, allowing us to get up close to nature and explore areas inaccessible to larger vessels.  
”



The island provides a unique historical, cultural, geological and oceanographic experience. Under the surface, this island simmers with the sparks that are the telltale signs of its youthfulness as Europe's most recent geological addition, only 16-20 million years old. Iceland is continuously being created; some of its newest land is a mere 35 years old.

Our exploration of Iceland will take us to some of its most dramatic areas and whilst we sail its waters, we will look out for humpback whales, orcas and white-beaked dolphins taking advantage of weather conditions and possible sightings to achieve the maximum with our time. Join us on our summer expedition as we explore the magnificent landscapes and learn more of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Leith, Edinburgh.** Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon and sail this evening. Transfers will be provided from Edinburgh airport and Waverley station at a fixed time.

**Day 2 Kirkwall.** After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive in the Orkney Islands. This afternoon we head into the west of Mainland, Orkney's largest island. We pass through the gentle rolling landscape and into the Neolithic Heartland of Orkney; an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of pre-historic archaeology. Here we will see the Standing Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar; a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5000 years. We continue to the 5000-year-old village of Skara Brae to see the remarkable dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms



Gulfoss Waterfall

only 150 years ago. On our return to Kirkwall we will see the magnificent St Magnus Cathedral.

**Day 3 Torshavn, Faroes.** We arrive in the Faroe Islands at lunchtime. From our berth in Torshavn we will join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St. Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church. We also visit the 900-year old "Røykstovan", the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. We will moor overnight for those that wish to explore the town this evening.

**Day 4 Mykines.** Today we will use our Zodiacs to explore the westernmost islands of the Faroes. We will visit Mykines which is wonderfully green and its single village with bright turf roofed houses and turf streets is a delight. One of the best walks in the Faroes can be found here at

"Lundaland" (land of the puffin) on the islet of Mtkinesholmur, connected to Mykines by a small bridge. This is a strenuous hike but rewarding as the island is inhabited by a large number of puffins and gannets.

**Day 5 Hofn, Iceland.** Today we will see the shimmering white Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest glacier, sometimes called an icecap. The 600 metre thick ice surmounts active volcanoes, one of which erupted in 1996, creating a crater on the surface of the glacier, a most unusual phenomenon. We will venture out on a guided excursion and, after a local seafood lunch, watch the glacier which calves icebergs into the land-locked lagoon of Jokulsarlon.

**Day 6 Mjoi fjordur & Nekaupstadur.** This morning we enjoy the benefits of our small ship as we explore the lesser known fjords in the south east of Iceland. At first light we cruise through Mjoi fjordur where we can enjoy the





Geysir



Snæfellsnes Peninsula



Puffins

wilderness of this remote area. We also hope to land at the small town at Neskaupstaður for a chance to visit the excellent museum which features the local art gallery, Museum of Natural History and Maritime Museum. The more active amongst us can hike to the avalanche barriers behind the town, offering great views of the surrounding areas.

**Day 7 Husavik.** From Husavik we travel by bus to the Lake Mývatn-Krafla area, a fine example of the volcanic world with lava fields, boiling and steaming mud pools and steam vents of sulphur and craters. The area illustrates the sheer magnitude of Iceland's forces at work. The lake itself, with beautiful natural rock formations and hot springs, is also a unique ecosystem and the largest migratory bird sanctuary in Europe. Our route will then take us by Godafoss (falls of the Gods), an imposing sight, and the excellent Husavik whale museum.

**Day 8 Akureiri.** This delightful town on the north coast of Iceland is not what you would expect to find in such a remote location. In summer months the gardens and window boxes are ablaze with colour and in the botanic garden you find species from Africa, China and the Mediterranean growing alongside the Alaskan, Greenlandic and indigenous specimens. We will also have time to explore the town to visit Art Alley, where artisans keep their workshops and galleries, or the local church with its beautiful views over the fjord. Stay out on deck to enjoy the long evening as we sail along the beautiful Eyafjordur while keeping an eye out for whales. If conditions permit we may explore in the Zodiacs.

**Day 9 Siglufjordur and Grimsey.** The Arctic Circle bisects Grimsey Island which is known for its tiny

community, basalt cliffs and large variety of birdlife. From Grimsey we head to Siglufjörður, an unbelievably picturesque town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the early 1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture. Stroll through the town and visit the Herring Era Museum.

**Day 10 Western Fjords.** This morning we are in the Western Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We cruise round the north coast of Iceland at the Hornbjarg Cliffs. These stunning cliffs rise 534m from the sea and this is one of the largest centres for puffins in Iceland. This afternoon we will use our Zodiacs to explore Isafjordur and Jokulfjordur and, whilst the itinerary will be dependent on local weather conditions, we hope to land on Vigur Island or find a remote landing for a nature walk.

**Day 11 Breidafjordur.** We will again use our small ship to explore. We hope to visit the Latrabjarg cliffs this morning, the westernmost point of Europe and home to millions of birds including puffins, northern

gannets, guillemotts and razorbills. Sailing at lunchtime we continue to Breidafjordur to enjoy expedition cruising in the small islets where we will see thousands of birds. We will also keep an eye out for whales.

**Day 12 Snæfellsnes.** Our final day in Iceland sees us at the Snæfellsnes Peninsula dominated by the Snæfellsjökull volcano which is regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland. Again we will use our Zodiacs to land in some of the more remote areas. Arnastapi is known as

the setting for Jules Verne's "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" and is a stunning location with columnar basalt, ravines and grottoes and magnificent lava formations. The cliffs between Arnastapi and Hellnar became a Natural Reserve in 1979 and are home to Arctic tern, kittiwake and fulmar.

**Day 13 Reykjavik to London.** Disembark after breakfast and enjoy a morning in Reykjavik with a local lunch before transferring to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.



Lake Myvatn

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK03064**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

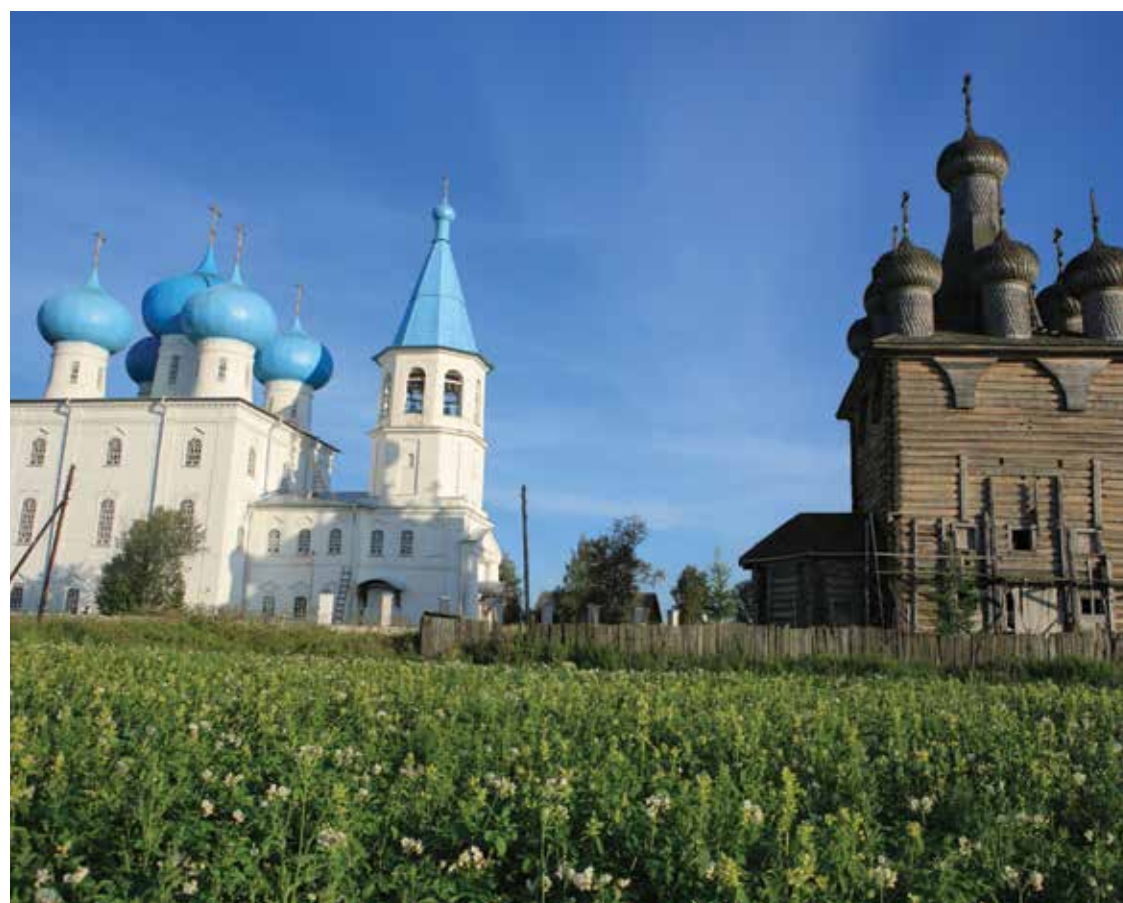
Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4595	£4995	£5495	£5795	£6295	£6795	£7195
Sole	£6495	£7195	£7995	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Exploring the White Sea

A journey to the North Cape and beyond to Russia's White Sea aboard the MS Island Sky  
12th to 22nd July 2014

For decades the White Sea was a forbidden area and today because of its geographic isolation it remains a region of great mystery. During this voyage we will have six days in the region where we will concentrate on Archangel and the Solovetsky Islands. It was on the Solovetsky Islands that Stalin built one of his infamous Gulags, the 'Red Army' established a vital submarine base and an important shipbuilding industry was founded.



Archangel

The most fascinating aspect of the Solovetsky islands is the 16th century Solovetsky Monastery. This vast medieval fortress with its fascinating and turbulent history is remarkably well preserved. It is believed that Vikings, both English and Norman came to the White Sea to fish and trade for furs up until the 13th century when global cooling made navigation difficult. In 1553 captain Richard Chancellor was shipwrecked in the White Sea whilst seeking a northern sea route to China. Never one to miss an

opportunity, he negotiated trade privileges with Ivan the Terrible which opened diplomatic relations between England and Russia and resulted with a monk from the ancient Nikol-Karelski Monastery becoming the first Russian ambassador to England.

The region is awash with intriguing history, much of which both ancient and modern will be brought to life by our speakers. Beginning our journey in Norway's northern port of Tromsø we also have the opportunity of exploring the region of the North Cape as well

as Murmansk, the largest city north of the Arctic Circle in the world. Here we will visit the cemetery of the officers and soldiers of the Allied Forces who bravely manned the convoys during World War II.

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tromsø, Norway.** Fly by scheduled flight via Oslo. Arrive this evening and transfer to the MS Island Sky, sail this evening.

**Days 2 & 3 North Cape.** We will spend two days taking a close look at the magnificent landscape of the area known as Finnmark. This wilderness area is home to many thousands of Sami people and we will visit North Cape Hall with its panoramic views and exhibits of the history of the Cape. There will be the opportunity to explore the wildlife and scenery on foot and by Zodiac. The deeply carved fjords and unspoiled islands of this little-known area are just perfect for expedition cruising. We hope to use our Zodiacs to explore the magnificent bird cliffs at Gjesvaerstappen Island home to thousands of gannets, guillemots, puffins and razorbills. We will round the North Cape and see the monument erected on top of the 307m cliff of Mageroya Island and drive to the North Cape Plateau.

**Days 4 & 5 Murmansk, Russia.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Murmansk where we have a day and a half to explore. Founded in 1916, the city of Murmansk today has a population of approximately half a million. Murmansk was the last city founded in the Russian Empire and during the Cold War was a centre of Soviet submarine activity. During our time in the city we will see the National Museum where you will be able to learn of the region's history including the indigenous Sami people and the first hardy Russian settlers. We will see the monuments erected to commemorate the struggle against Hitler, the Allied Forces War Graves, Savior-on-Waters Orthodox Cathedral and the headquarters of the Murmansk Shipping Company.

**Day 6 At sea.**





Solovetsky Islands



Beluga whales



Zayatsky Island



Solovetsky Monastery

**Days 7 to 9 Solovetsky Islands.** Sitting in the middle of the White Sea is the Solovetsky archipelago, a mythical, ethereal and timeless place. We will spend two and a half days exploring this UNESCO site of outstanding natural beauty. It is on this isolated archipelago that we will find the Solovetsky Monastery. Within its extensive defensive walls are two 16th century cathedrals, housing some stunning icons and many other buildings including watchtowers and gates, icon-painting workshop, residential chambers and a number of workrooms which allowed this impressive monastery to exist in almost complete isolation. We will visit the botanical gardens, developed by the monks in the 19th century, where because of its microclimate all manner of vegetables and fruit are able to grow. The monastery was used by Stalin as a particularly harsh gulag, but in the past couple of years a great effort has been made to restore the complex to some of its former glory. For the active there will be an opportunity to hike to Beluga Cape to view the Beluga whales that make this area home in the summer months. Making the most of the almost perpetual daylight we will call into some of the smaller islands and weather permitting will enjoy a Zodiac cruise to view the birdlife on Muksalma Island and a walk on Zayatsky Island.

**Day 10 Archangel.** Archangel lies on both banks of the Northern Dvina

River near its exit into the White Sea and is spread over 40 kilometres along the banks of the river and numerous islands of its delta. In the 18th century this city was the centre of Russian ship building. Today, it is a timber-logging and fishing area. On our guided walk through its streets we will learn of its intriguing history and the area's occupation by 'White Russians' immediately after the 1918 Revolution. During World War II, Archangel was a major port for both receiving from the allies and as a base for the North Sea Fleet. Amazingly, the surrounding waters are blocked by ice for up to 190 days a year, but through the use of ice-breakers remain open for most of the year. A city excursion will include the old quarter with its wooden houses, the Museum of Fine Arts, Trotsky Prospect and the Orthodox Church.

**Day 11 Archangel to London.**

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London via St Petersburg.

### St Petersburg Post-Cruise Extension



After disembarking the MS Island Sky, it is possible to enjoy three nights in St Petersburg at the Ambassador

Hotel (or similar), on bed and breakfast basis. The price of this extension includes three half day tours and transfers between the hotel and airport.

**Prices per person**  
Twin: £660 Single: £960



### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK12074**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4495	£4895	£5295	£5695	£6195	£6695	£7295
Sole	£6745	£7345	£7945	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 nights aboard MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, onboard team and lecture programme, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, Russian visa. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# To the Lands of Gods and Heroes

A voyage of discovery across the Ionian, Mediterranean and Aegean aboard the MS Island Sky  
10th to 21st September 2014

Crossing the Ionian Sea, dipping into the Mediterranean and island hopping through the turquoise waters of the Aegean, our small ship will take us on a voyage through the playground of the Greek Gods learning of the myths and legends that surround these enchanted islands.



“  
To look forward to a day of exploration in good company, with knowledgeable leaders and lecturers, is still as enjoyable as ever it was, even in the days of the grand tour.  
”

**F**or our voyage we are indeed fortunate in having the most perfect time of year. When the intense summer heat has cooled off, but the days remain long and balmy, Sicily, the Greek Islands and Turkey can be best appreciated. To be on deck before breakfast as the ship approaches landfall, with the sun burning off the early mist is to experience one of the true delights of sea travel. To look forward to a day of exploration in good company, with knowledgeable leaders and lecturers, is still as enjoyable as ever it was, even in the days of the grand tour.

We will sail through turquoise waters, call into whitewashed villages, admire rugged landscape and stroll along pristine beaches. This journey has been planned to reveal the history and legacy of the Greeks, from the emergence of the great Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations to the magnificent artistic and architectural achievements of the Byzantines. Our journey will conclude in one of the world's most captivating cities, Istanbul, a fitting end for our voyage of discovery.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight to Malta. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky, sail this evening.

**Day 2 Syracuse, Sicily.** This morning we will land at Syracuse, a city which once rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. Our tour will begin with a visit to the Archaeological Zone and 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 'Dionysus' Ear' - a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance.

**Day 3 Katakolon, Greece.** Pastoral and lush, Olympia's plentiful ruins are shaded by Aleppo pines and olive trees. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra, or wrestling school. We will explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland.

**Day 4 Kefalonia & Ithaca.** Arrive this morning in Kefalonia where from the port of Fiscardo we will take

the chance to visit one of the local vineyards for a wine tasting of the local Robala variety. We will return to Fiscardo where there will be free time to explore the picturesque harbour village and perhaps enjoy a coffee in a local taverna before sailing over lunch to Ithaca, one of the most legendary of all Greek islands. This jewel of the Ionian Sea is unspoiled by tourism, yet has a fascinating history. Relics date back to 4000 B.C. and by Mycenaean times it was the capital of a kingdom that included surrounding islands and part of the Peloponnese coast. It was under Odysseus that this kingdom reached its zenith, sending 12 ships to the Trojan War. From the charming port of Vathy we will explore the island including the ruins of Stavros and the medieval capital of Perachori with its Byzantine and Venetian architecture.



Kefalonia

**Day 5 Itea & Corinth Canal.** From our berth at Itea we depart on an excursion for the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The ruins here are exceptional. We will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, site of the sacred Delphic oracle, and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting



Syracuse, Sicily



the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5,000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century B.C. Sail this afternoon and be on deck in the early evening for the transit of the Corinthian Canal.

**Day 6 Nafplio.** Looking out across the translucent water of the bay towards the Arcadian Mountains, Nafplio's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivaled in Greece. From here you will enjoy a scenic drive through the Argos Plain, once ruled by Agamemnon, conqueror of Troy, to the famous citadel of Mycenae. High above the confluence of two boulder-strewn ravines, Mycenae is entered by way of the Lion Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. An archeological briefing within the Treasury of Artreus (also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon) will add to our understanding and appreciation of the sights. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to wander the twisting labyrinthine streets and view the Venetian and Turkish architecture in Nafplio.

**Day 7 Folegandros & Sifnos.** Today we enjoy the advantages of small ship cruising as we land on the little known island of Folegandros. Visit the cliff top capital of Chora, a wonderfully picturesque village with alleys lined with bougainvillea and hibiscus and a dramatic seascape over an edge which drops some 700 feet directly into the Aegean. This afternoon we will explore the island of Sifnos with its white traditional houses, picturesque churches and narrow alleyways. Visit the capital of the island, Apollonia with its Byzantine churches, traditional shops and courtyards. We will also visit Virysianni Monastery and the villages of Kastro and Artemos, both delightful places to wander and admire the traditional architecture.

**Day 8 Kos.** According to Myth, Kos was the homeland of the Giants. The island has given to the world Hippocrates, father of medicine, Pythagoras, and the 4th century painter Apelles. We will drive the short distance to the Asklepon, the infirmary of Antiquity, which was constructed in the 4th century BC. Among the ruins are part of the Doric Temple of Aesculapius, the altar and the Stoa which housed the famous Hippocrates Medical School. We also visit the Roman Odeon and the Casa Romana, a large restored Roman style villa, with wonderful mosaics. This afternoon is free to further explore this delightful island.

**Day 9 Patmos.** Walk up the ancient pilgrim's path to the town of Patmos which is clustered round the great fortified monastery of St John the

Divine. The Library houses rare manuscripts and the Treasury displays one of the finest collections of Byzantine liturgical art in Greece, representing a period of more than 1000 years.

**Day 10 Kusadasi, Turkey.** Drive to the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings including the library of Celsus and the temples of Serapis and Hadrian. Once the capital of Ionia, St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey and we will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus.

**Day 11 Cannakale.** From Cannakale we will visit ancient Troy. It was here that archaeologist, Heinrich Schlieman, rediscovered the 'treasure of Priam'. Visit the town's museum which houses an interesting collection of Trojan artefacts. Return to the vessel for lunch. During the afternoon there will be an optional excursion to the Gallipoli Peninsula to see the World War I memorials which commemorate the famous battle of Gallipoli which left 600,000 dead.

**Day 12 Istanbul to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

### Istanbul Post-Cruise Extension



If you would like to extend your stay in Istanbul post tour, we can arrange an independent three night stay at the Eresin Crown Hotel (or similar) on breakfast only basis. The price of the extension includes transfers from the vessel to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport.

**Prices per person**  
Twin: **£520** Single: **£835**  
*Minimum numbers required.*



Monastery, Patmos



Ephesus



Patmos

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK10094**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4995	£5395	£5695	£5895	£6095	£6495	£6695
Sole	£6995	£7595	£7995	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, guest speakers, shore excursions, use of quietvox earphones during excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel Insurance, optional Gallipoli excursion, Turkish visa.  
**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Black Sea Voyage

An exploration of the Black Sea aboard the MS Island Sky

14th to 25th October 2014

The great salt-water Black Sea has seen settlements on its shores for nearly 3000 years which along with the wars of the 19th and 20th centuries have all greatly influenced the surrounding lands, making the Black Sea one of the most fascinating and historically rich regions in the world.



Swallow's Nest, Ukraine

From the Golden Horn we will enter the Black Sea and follow the Turkish coast to Trabzon (Trebizond). We then cross to Georgia where the richness of its culture reflects the influence of Greeks, Byzantines, Persians, Turks and Mongols. Georgia's 'Golden Age' reached its height between the reigns of David the Builder and his granddaughter Queen Tamara in the 11th and 12th centuries. From Georgia we follow the lovely coastline with its mountain backdrop to Russia's premier resort and spa, Sochi. Here the microclimate produces wonderful year round weather and a lush countryside.

We then cross to the Crimean Peninsula for a day of exploration in beautiful Yalta with its magnificent palaces and Sevastopol, which until the 1990s was a 'closed city'. Staying in Ukraine, our next port will be Odessa,

at the mouth of the great River Dnieper, following which we arrive in Constanta, Romania, an ancient metropolis and Romania's largest sea port. Finally we reach Nessebur, a delightful Bulgarian town with a fascinating history. Our journey ends where it all began, in the captivating city of Istanbul.

Such a journey as this would be totally impractical by any means other than a cruise. In just twelve days we will have seen and learnt so much. Whether your interest lies in ancient or military history, architecture, literature, contemporary politics or just in visiting some of the most atmospheric and fascinating places on earth, the Black Sea has a lot to offer. Local guides and our onboard guest speakers will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of this intriguing corner of the world where East meets West.

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey.

Fly by scheduled flight. Drive to the MS Island Sky and embark in the late afternoon.

**Day 2 Amasra.** From the port of Bartın in ancient Paphlagonia, we drive along the coast to nearby Amasra (ancient Sesamus) which is located on a headland in between two bays. Local guides will lead us through the attractive old town which was founded by the Milesians in the 6th century B.C. and later became an important possession of both Byzantium and Genoa. See the Genoese citadel and learn more about its Greek and Roman past. Sail in the afternoon.

**Day 3 Samsun.** Today we will drive inland to Amasya which according to legend was founded by the Amazon queen Amasis. The setting is beautiful,

“ Whether your interest lies in ancient or military history, architecture, literature, contemporary politics or just in visiting some of the most atmospheric and fascinating places on earth, the Black Sea has a lot to offer.







Sumela Monastery, Trabzon



White Palace, Yalta



Amasra, Turkey

in a deep narrow gorge of the river Iris. From the cliff-top fortress there are marvellous views. See the rock tombs of the Pontic kings which were carved into the cliff face and later visit the 15th century Sultan Beyazit mosque. After lunch spend some time in the Archaeological Museum before returning to the vessel.



**Day 4 Trabzon.** On today's excursion see the church of Aya Sofia (1200) and the old town, then travel to the outskirts to visit Atatürk's lovely villa set high on a cliff above the city. Continue on through the picturesque mountain scenery to Sumela, a dramatic Byzantine monastery carved out of a sheer rock face.

**Day 5 Batumi, Georgia.** Spend the day in charming Batumi. Visit the Botanical Gardens, the chaotic market and the Gonio-Asparos Fortress, one of the best-preserved Roman forts in the world.

**Day 6 Sochi, Russia.** We have this morning to explore delightful Sochi, framed by the Caucasus Mountains and famous for its marvellous climate and health spas. Take a walk along the sea

front or join a trip to the world's most northerly tea plantation.

**Day 7 Yalta, Ukraine.** Join an excursion, which begins with a visit to the Chekov House Museum followed by a tour of the Lividia Palace, an Italian Renaissance style villa built in 1911 as a summer residence for Tsar Nicholas II. It was here that Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt held the Yalta Conference in 1945. After lunch continue to Alupka, the most exotic of all Crimean estates.

**Day 8 Sevastopol, Ukraine.** A morning tour will start at the Panorama Museum where the siege of the city in the Crimean War comes vividly to life in the painted murals. Later drive out of the city to the 'Valley of Death', the site of the 'Charge of the Light Brigade'. In the afternoon there will be an excursion to Chersonesus, a Greek colony founded in 433 B.C.

**Day 9 Odessa.** Founded by Catherine the Great in 1794 following the Russian

victory over the Turks, Odessa today is a busy port and popular resort. On our tour we will see the famous Promenade and the acoustically perfect Opera House where, after dinner onboard and, availability permitting, you may wish to attend a performance.

**Day 10 Constanta, Romania.** After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive in Constanta, known as Tomis to the Greeks but named Constanta by the Romans. This afternoon we will visit the excellent Archeological Museum including a visit to the Treasury to see the gigantic 3rd century Roman Mosaic. Later, stretch your legs with a walk along the Black Sea waterfront promenade.

**Day 11 Nessebur, Bulgaria.** After a morning at sea we will arrive in the ancient town of Nessebur, a delightful place to spend an afternoon. A guided tour of the town will include the 5th century Bishopric, the 12th century St Stephen's church and some of the traditional-style houses with their

overhanging first floors above winding cobbled lanes.

**Day 12 Istanbul to London.** Disembark after breakfast and return to London by scheduled flight.

### Istanbul Post-Cruise Extension



If you would like to extend your stay in Istanbul post tour, we can arrange an independent three night stay at the Eresin Crown Hotel (or similar) on breakfast only basis. The price of the extension includes transfers from the vessel to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport.

#### Prices per person

Twin: £520 Single: £835

Minimum numbers required.

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCISK14104

SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4995	£5495	£5795	£6195	£6495	£6795	£7195
Sole	£7495	£8195	£8695	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, guest speaker, shore excursions, use of quietvox earphones during excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, evening performance in Odessa.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. Local weather conditions may affect itinerary. All special offers are subject to availability



# Africa & Islands of the Indian Ocean

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# Sumatra: Isle of Gold



A voyage from Singapore to Jakarta around the island of Sumatra aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
20th October to 4th November 2013

This fascinating exploration of Sumatra will take us on a voyage of contrasts, from lush rainforests to diverse cultures, spectacular wildlife and an intriguing history, all of which will be made all the more captivating by our onboard expedition team who are experts in the natural world. With the MS Caledonian Sky as our base, there really is no better way to explore this region which is well off the usual cruise route.



“ Sumatra is home to twelve ethnic groups speaking more than 25 languages and the cross cultural exchanges of past centuries have created a unique and diverse land. ”

Opportunities to visit Sumatra, a land of history and mystery are scarce and usually limited to one region. Here we have an all encompassing voyage which virtually circumnavigates the island and includes opportunities to snorkel over coral reefs, to visit remote offshore islands where native stone-age indigenous people still live in isolation, free to practice their timeless tribal lore and to explore where few have been before.

Known in ancient times as the 'Island of Gold', Sumatra was an early arrival point for trade and new religions. Gold and other natural resources made it a land of wealthy chiefs and princes between the 7th and 13th centuries. Today, the island is home to twelve ethnic groups speaking more than 25 languages and the cross cultural exchanges of past centuries have created a unique and diverse land. However, for many the greatest draw is the island's incomparable natural history and stunning mountain and jungle landscapes. Larger than life in all respects, it is one of the world's last untouched frontiers.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.**  
Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to your centrally located hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 3 Singapore.** Enjoy a leisurely morning to either explore independently or relax at the hotel. In the early afternoon a tour of Singapore will include the National Orchid Garden, Chinatown and the Sultan Mosque before we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky for embarkation. Welcome drinks and dinner will be served as we sail the Malacca Strait,

named after the Malacca Sultanate that ruled over the archipelago between 1414 and 1511. It is from here that early traders from Arabia, Africa and Persia would trade glassware, camphor, ivory, sandal wood and perfumes and today the Strait is one of the most important shipping lanes in the world.

**Day 4 Malacca, Malaysia.** With more than its fair share of colonisers from Malaysian princes, the Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese, Malacca has a fascinating history brought vividly to life in the excellent Ethnographical Museum. Other places we visit will include the 16th century Portuguese fortress, the former Dutch Governors house and the impressive Christ Church. We return to our vessel for lunch and continue up the Strait of Malacca to Belawan.

**Day 5 Belawan for Berastagi, Sumatra.** After an early breakfast we will drive up into the Karo Highlands. Here, the volcanoes Gunung Sinabung and the smoking Gunung Sibayak rise dramatically from the lush, fruit

growing countryside. On arrival in Berastagi we will explore the local markets humming with activity. In Dokan, a Batak tribal village with beautifully carved traditional houses, we can experience the daily life. After a local lunch we will return to the ship in the afternoon.

**Day 6 Belawan for Bukit Lawang.** Today will be a long but rewarding day as we depart at sunrise to drive inland to the eastern side of the Gunung Leuser National Park and visit the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre at Bukit Lawang, which is now one of the world's most important conservation projects. Orphaned orangutans are brought here to learn how to live in the wild again. We can watch them at play and feeding and learn how the six month programme works. For the more active, there will also be the option to enjoy a jungle trek with local guides before returning to the ship in the late afternoon.

**Day 7 At sea.** A day to relax and perhaps enjoy a lecture by the onboard experts.



Orangutan





Singapore



Mentawai archipelago

**Day 8 Pulau Weh & Banda Aceh.** This morning we are on Pulau Weh off the northern tip of Sumatra. We will use our Zodiacs to land on a local beach and have a chance to snorkel in the clear waters which are considered the best in Indonesia. Sail over lunch to Aceh. Many will recall the destruction caused to this port on the northern tip of Sumatra by the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. Enormous effort has been made to rebuild since that fateful day. We will visit the Tsunami Museum and educational centre that documented the impact.

**Day 9 Simeulue Islands.** After a morning at sea we arrive in the archipelago of the Simeulue islands at lunchtime. Located 100 miles from the Sumatran coast and with white sand beaches, vast coral reefs, and a pristine blue sea dotted with a multitude of seamounts, atolls, and small islets, Simeulue Island has rarely been visited or explored. We will use our Zodiacs to land on one of the local beaches for snorkelling and island walks.

**Day 10 Nias Island.** We continue south and land on the island of Nias some 70 miles from the west coast of Sumatra. Its very isolation has protected its cultural heritage. We will see some wonderful examples of tribal art and unique architecture. After an island drive we will witness a stone jumping demonstration in a traditional village. Here, talented local villagers leap over six foot tall stone megaliths in a rite of passage. The higher they jump, the better chance they have of acquiring a wife. However, the tradition originated to train them for warfare and defence. This colourful culture developed separately to Sumatra and the island has a history of head hunting, warfare, slaves and gold.

**Day 11 Siberut Island.** Tonight we cross the Equator as we continue south to the Mentawai archipelago.

Like Nias, these islands have a unique culture. Zodiacs take us upriver to a small village for a walking tour followed by a cultural performance. The island is rich in wildlife and along the river almost 140 bird species and rare monkeys can be found. Look out for the Kloss gibbon, pig-tailed langur and the Mentawai langur. Time permitting there will be the opportunity to snorkel over the island's fringing coral reefs.

**Day 12 Padang for Bukittinggi.**

From the port of Padang we will head inland to Bukittinggi, home to the Mingangkabau culture. The architecture in the area is also unique as the rooflines are shaped like a buffalo's horns. We will have lunch in a local restaurant before an afternoon visit to Sianok Canyon, the Japanese Caves built in WWII, before returning to the ship.

**Day 13 Bengkulu.** We now reach the southern half of the island and the city of Bengkulu. The British East India Company established a garrison here in 1685 and stayed until 1824 when the Dutch took over. After a drive around the city whose original wealth was based on pepper, we drive up into the hills above the city in search of the world's largest flower, the rafflesias.

**Day 14 Pulau Krakatau.** This afternoon we sail into the Suna Strait and the island of Krakatau. We will use our Zodiacs to cruise around Anak Krakatau and if time permits will land on Rakata for snorkelling on the coral reef.

**Day 15 Ujung Kulon National Park, Java.** Just a few miles separates Sumatra from the island of Java. We will land at the far western tip of Java for a morning of exploration in the

Ujung Kulon National Park which is a World Heritage Site. It is a stunningly beautiful area and contains the largest remaining area of lowland rainforest on the Java Plain. It is a wonderful area for bird watching.

**Day 16 Jakarta to London.** Arrive this morning in Jakarta and transfer to the airport for our flight to London via Singapore. Arrive this evening.



Malacca

**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK20103

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£6495	£6795	£7195	£7695	£8195	£8495	£9495
Sole	£7995	£8495	£8995	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore on a bed and breakfast basis, 13 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# Five Seas - Two Worlds



From Java to Northern Australia aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
2nd to 22nd November 2013

On our journey ever eastwards, the MS Caledonian Sky ventures from Java to the islands east of Bali known as Nusa Tenggara. To many seasoned travellers this chain of islands is the most fascinating in all the Indonesian Archipelago. Certainly they are not on the mass tourism circuit and their beauty and customs are relatively unscathed by the modern world.



Volcano, Flores Island

As we sail from one island to another we enter a timeless world that is blessed with pure white sandy deserted beaches that in turn give way to stunning coral reefs in dazzlingly clear water. As we island hop we will encounter many diverse and splendid sights. The awesome Komodo dragons, vast crater lakes with surrealistic hues, lush spice growing islands contrasting with lunar like landscapes and extraordinary islanders.

We leave Indonesia at the proudly independent East Timor and the beautiful region of Dili. This is the crossroads of our island hopping as we now head for Australia's remote northern regions, crossing the Timor Sea to the Arafura Sea, its waters alive with marine and birdlife and home to the famous estuarine crocodile. Here we visit national parks in a landscape where the monsoons bring life to the rivers and floodplains. The 'Top of Australia' is a magnet to all genuine travellers, remarkable larger than life landscapes, the ancient customs and cultures of the Aboriginal and the tales of early settlers and explorers. Our journey ends in Cairns, Queensland.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to your centrally located hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 3 Singapore to Jakarta.** After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our flight to Jakarta. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening along the north Java coast.

**Day 4 Cirebon.** This morning we visit the Cirebon Palaces, the only 16th century Javanese city kingdoms, complete with palaces Kanonam and Kasepuhan, and a royal family which has survived the times. We will see local dance performances before touring the palace museum with royal carriages, weaponry, masks and artwork and the Sunyaragi royal baths.

**Day 5 Semarang.** Sailing along the north coast of Java we reach Semarang, the nearest point for our day long excursion to the UNESCO site of Borobudur. This is one of the

world's truly great ancient monuments and the single largest Buddhist structure anywhere on earth. The site consists of six square platforms topped by three circular platforms, and is decorated with no less than 2,672 relief panels and 504 Buddha statues of various types. We will enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant before returning to the ship.

**Day 6 At sea.**

**Day 7 Probolinggo.** Today we reach eastern Java and from Probolinggo visit Mount Bromo National Park. We will leave the ship early to make our way towards the active volcano, Mt Bromo, driving through the awe inspiring surrounding landscapes. For the energetic there will be the opportunity to climb to the rim. We will enjoy a local lunch before returning to the ship and sailing in the late afternoon.

**Day 8 Moyo.** This afternoon finds us anchored off the lovely island of Moyo, a nature reserve with wild oxen, deer, wild boars and a great variety of bird species. If conditions allow there will be the opportunity to snorkel and explore by Zodiac.

**Day 9 Rinca Island, Komodo.** This morning we arrive at the small Indonesian island of Rinca. The highlight for many will be our visit to see the distant cousins of the dinosaurs, the Komodo dragons. These rare huge lizards grow up to twelve feet in length and were only known to the western world in 1910 when a Dutch lieutenant first laid eyes on them. Escorted by the island's wardens in the national park, we will walk to the dragons' old feeding station, seeing dragons in the wild. We also hope to see frigate birds, white buffalo and long tailed monkeys. This afternoon we will relax on Pink Beach which offers fantastic snorkelling opportunities.

**Day 10 Flores Islands.** The Portuguese were the first westerners to land here in the 16th century and their influence is still evident in the Christianity of the island. Today, the island is known for its active volcanoes, fascinating indigenous cultures and hand woven textiles. On our tour today we will explore the island including the south coast village of Sikka.

**Day 11 Alor.** Today we reach the Solor Alor archipelago and the island of Alor, home to indigenous tribal groups renowned for their Moko drum culture. This is a stunningly beautiful island with its smouldering volcanoes reaching down into crystal clear waters fringed with pristine coral reefs, coconut palm beaches of pure white sand and traditional villages built half way up mountainsides.

**Day 12 Dili, East Timor.** We have the full day to explore East Timor's coastal and mountainous areas. It is a stunningly beautiful place and our explorations will include Dili and the old hilltowns of Maubisse and Aileu.

**Day 13 At sea.**

**Day 14 Darwin, Northern Territory.** From the port of Darwin we head south for a full day at Litchfield National Park. This fascinating national park features numerous waterfalls which cascade from a sandstone plateau called the Tabletop Range, monsoon



Clown Fish





Rinca Island



Komodo Dragon



Borobudur Temple

“ We visit Borobudur, one of the world’s truly great ancient monuments and the single largest Buddhist structure anywhere on earth. ”



rainforests, intriguing magnetictermite mounds and historical sites. We will visit Florence and Wangi Falls before relaxing at Buley Rock Hole for a swim. A local lunch will be served before we return to the ship.

**Day 15 Coburg Peninsula.** Today we arrive at the Garig Gunak Barlu National Park. It is known for its pristine wilderness and its Aboriginal culture. While it is only sparsely inhabited today, it was once the site of two failed attempts at founding a major trading port on its northern shores, Fort Wellington at Raffles Bay and Fort Victoria at Port Essington, of which the ruins are still accessible today.

**Day 16 Wessell Islands.** We explore the beautiful islands of the Wessel Group. Here our expert guides and lecturers will share with you the fascinating history of the Macassan traders and early discoverers. The islands are also home to the largest Aboriginal community in northeast Arnhem Land.

**Day 17 At sea.**

**Day 18 Cape York and Thursday Island.** In the morning we alight from Zodiacs on Cape York to stand on Australia’s northernmost tip. Watch for the tall black-necked stork, the jabiru, patrolling the shoreline for fish. During World War Two, Cape York was a major staging area for the battles taking place against the Japanese in New Guinea

and the Coral Sea. Later we will visit the Gab Titui Cultural Centre.

**Day 19 At sea.**

**Day 20 Cairns to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London via Brisbane and Singapore.

**Day 21 London.** Arrive this morning.



Litchfield National Park

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK02113

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£7495	£7895	£8395	£8795	£9295	£9495	£9995
Sole	£8995	£9795	£10495	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore on breakfast only basis, 17 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# Exploring the Cape Verde Islands

Island hopping in the Cape Verde archipelago aboard the MS Island Sky  
6th to 15th November 2013

Escape the British winter and enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Cape Verde archipelago aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary that suits her best. Like the Azores but even more remote, the Cape Verde Islands are an intriguing archipelago located off the coast of Senegal.



“

Like the Azores but even more remote, the Cape Verde Islands are an intriguing archipelago located off the coast of Senegal and are perfect for exploration by small ship.

”



Porto Novo harbour, Santo Antao

**T**hey are an amazingly varied group of islands that have been used as a staging post by mariners through the ages. There is truly no better way to explore this archipelago, with its dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy than by small ship, and with the MS Island Sky as our base we can island hop with great ease.

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Praia, Sao Tiago.** Fly direct by exclusively chartered flight to Sao Tiago. Embark the MS Island Sky this evening and moor overnight.

**Day 2 Praia.** The island of Sao Tiago and in particular the busy capital of Praia, has a wonderful African feel. We

drive to nearby Cidade Velha the old Portuguese capital with a rich history. See the fort and cathedral which dominate the narrow cobbled lanes and stone houses which were once the centre of the slave trade. Later, visit the National Maritime Museum of Marine Archaeology where treasure retrieved from the deep is on display.

**Day 3 Maio.** Spend the day on the tiny island of Maio, a peaceful island with vast deserted beaches. Due to winds and erosion this relatively flat island shows little evidence of its volcanic past. Today will be a relaxing day allowing time at leisure to walk in the sand dunes and along the long beach next to the capital of Vila do Maio with its huge white Baroque church and pretty pastel painted houses.

**Days 4 & 5 Fogo & Brava.** Over the next couple of days we will visit both Fogo and Brava. Fogo is an extraordinary place. Known as the 'Mother Island' it has its own unique character and people. It's a volcano

that rises steeply out of the Atlantic and has become an island, the summit reaching some 3000 metres.

An island drive will take us through dramatically contrasting areas of fertile valleys that are dominated by the massive grey volcanic cone of Pico de Fogo. Later, call into the main town of Sao Filipe, a gracious town of faded grandeur with its pretty squares and wide boulevards of colonial houses. Brava is often referred to as the 'Secret Island'. It is sometimes mist shrouded and the humid conditions produce wonderful conditions for the flora. It is also one of the most mountainous of the islands with soaring peaks and deep valleys. There will be opportunities here for walkers and a tour which will include arguably the most beautiful bay in the islands at Faja d'Agua with its pretty nearby village. The capital of Nova Sintra, named after its namesake in Portugal is a charming town full of colour from the blooming hibiscus and bougainvillea.





Sao Filipe



Sao Vicente

**Day 6 Sao Nicolau.** Sao Nicolau is a charming, peaceful and attractive island of plantations, small holdings and busy farming villages. It also has impressive, almost untouched mountain scenery, friendly residents and lively traditions. On our tour we will drive through a spectacular landscape towards the historical capital Ribeira Brava. Here we will discover the lively centre of the island which reflects the character of the people and learn why Ribeira Brava was the bedrock of Cape Verdean intellect in the 19th century.



Local Market

**Day 7 Santo Antao.** We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Santo Antao. Driving up the old trading route, enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in a tiny picturesque mountain village on the northern side of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, the valley of Paul. In this green valley you will enjoy a coffee break while learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. Also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the islands and have a taste of it at the oldest traditional Grogue distillery of the island. Drive back along the coast to the southern side of the island to admire the views.

**Day 8 Porto Novo, Santo Antao & Mindelo, Sao Vicente.** Leaving the port, the scenery becomes more and

more volcanic. Before approaching the driest part of the island we will turn into the valley of Ribeira das Patas to see the bizarre rock formation volcanic eruptions have left behind. Enjoy the spectacular view over two valleys at Selada de Altomira. On our way back we will visit a socio-cultural tourism and agriculture project and enjoy some snacks organised by the project itself with local specialties. This afternoon we will drive back to the harbour and sail the short distance to Mindelo, the cultural capital of the Cape Verde. The afternoon is free to explore the vibrant town and, after dinner, we will be entertained by local music and capoeira onboard.

**Day 9 Mindelo.** Mindelo is one of the most attractive of all Cape Verde towns with its colonial buildings, cobbled streets, cafes and lively restaurants. We will go on a discovery tour of the lively markets and the secret corners of the harbour town. After a coffee break in a typical Capeverdean bar, learn about the life of the local artists and their works by visiting the national museum of handicraft. In the afternoon there will be time to explore at leisure.

**Day 10 Mindelo to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered direct flight to London.



Cape Verde



Cape Verde Beach

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK06113**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£4295	£4795	£5095	£5295	£5495	£5895	£6095
Sole	£5895	£6295	£6695	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Exclusively chartered return air travel, 9 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, lecture programme, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, visa. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Cape Verde to Cameroon

An exploration of western Africa's coastline aboard the MS Island Sky  
15th to 30th November 2013

Join the MS Island Sky on her visit to the western side of Africa. After exploring the remote, but beautiful Cape Verde Islands we head for the continent of Africa and begin our voyage along the Atlantic coast from Senegal to Cameroon. The countries we visit may well sound like an itinerary from the pages of an intrepid 18th century explorer's diary, and they are without doubt some of the most captivating places on earth.



*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Mindelo, Sao Vicente.** Fly by specially chartered flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. The afternoon is free to explore the vibrant town and we moor overnight for those wishing to have a drink ashore and enjoy some Capeverdean music.

**Day 2 Porto Novo, Santo Antao.** We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Santo Antao. Driving up the old trading route, enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in a tiny picturesque mountain village on the northern side of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, the valley of Paul. In this green valley you will enjoy a coffee break while learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. Also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the islands and have a taste of it at the oldest traditional Grogue distillery of the island. Drive back along the coast to the southern side of the island to admire the views.

**Day 3 Praia, Sao Tiago.** The island of Sao Tiago, and in particular the busy capital of Praia, has a very African feel. We drive to nearby Cidade Velha the old Portuguese capital with a rich history. See the fort and cathedral which dominate the narrow cobbled lanes and stone houses which were once the centre of the slave trade. Later, visit the



Goree Island, Senegal

National Maritime Museum of Marine Archaeology where treasure retrieved from the deep is on display.

### Day 4 At sea.

**Day 5 Dakar, Senegal.** Our first call in Africa will be the city of Dakar. Join a tour across to the Ile de Goree. With its colonial style houses and wonderfully tranquil atmosphere, it is difficult to believe that this island was one of the busiest slave centres in West Africa during the 18th and 19th centuries. See the Slave House, now a museum and the Historical Museum in the Fort d'Estrees. From the old fort, Le Castel, there are marvellous views of the island and over Dakar.

**Day 6 Banjul, The Gambia.** We have the day to enjoy this colourful land with its many ethnic groups each with their own language and traditions. You will have a choice of two excursions today. Take a trip to Bakau where we will see "Katchikally", the sacred crocodile pool. It is home to approximately 70 crocodiles and considered to be a sacred place. Before returning to the ship we will visit a batik factory to discover the secrets of tie-dyeing. Shop with the locals at Albert Market before heading to explore the National Museum with its exhibits on the history and cultures of The Gambia. Alternatively visit Makasutu Forest; a palm forest situated on a beautiful meandering

tributary of the Gambia River (Madina Bolong). This lush green wilderness is home to many different eco-systems, from mangroves, sand flats, savannah and dense riverine forest. We hope to see hooded vultures, inquisitive Guinea baboons, a large variety of African birds and even some European birds like the Pied Wagtail, spending time here as a resident tourist.

**Days 7 & 8 Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau.** The next two days will be spent off the beaten track exploring the Bijagos Archipelago, which comprises a group of small islands, several of which are uninhabited, and most of which are very rarely visited by foreigners. From





Fort between Accra and Takoradi, Ghana



Senegalese dugout



Guinea Bissau

“  
The countries we visit may well sound like an itinerary from the pages of an intrepid 18th century explorer’s diary, and they are without doubt some of the most captivating

our Zodiacs we will cruise among the mangroves and land ashore for beachcombing or swimming. Our programme by Zodiac and ashore will be determined by tidal and weather conditions but one thing is for sure, you will not be disappointed by these extraordinary islands.

**Day 9 At sea.**

**Day 10 Freetown, Sierra Leone.** Spend the morning in Sierra Leone’s capital which has grown into a busy, energetic city in the 225 years since the British first settled 400 freed slaves in the area around the famous cotton tree, on a site that was said to have been a slave market. Charming Creole buildings intermingle with Freetown’s notable buildings, and our tour will include sites such as the St. George’s Cathedral, Railway Museum, National Museum, Maroon Church, Martello Tower and Fort Thornton (where the Presidential State House now stands).

**Days 11 & 12 At sea.**

**Day 13 Takoradi, Ghana.** This morning we arrive in the central region of Ghana, the former administrative

centre of the Gold Coast. Ghana is famous for its great natural beauty and nowhere is this more evident than in this area which the British colonial government occupied until the 1870s. The area is rich in forts and castles and we will begin the day with a visit to the Cape Coast Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which played a prominent role in the slave trade. Later, visit Elmina Castle which dates back to 1482 and is reputed to be the oldest European structure in Africa.

Alternatively you may choose to spend the day at the Kakum National Park, an area of virgin rainforest where we will enjoy a guided canopy walking tour.

**Days 14 & 15 At sea.** Relax onboard and attend some lectures as we head towards Cameroon.

**Day 16 Douala, Cameroon to London.** Disembark this morning and return to London by scheduled indirect flight. Morning arrival.



Albert Market, Banjul, Gambia



**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK15113**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

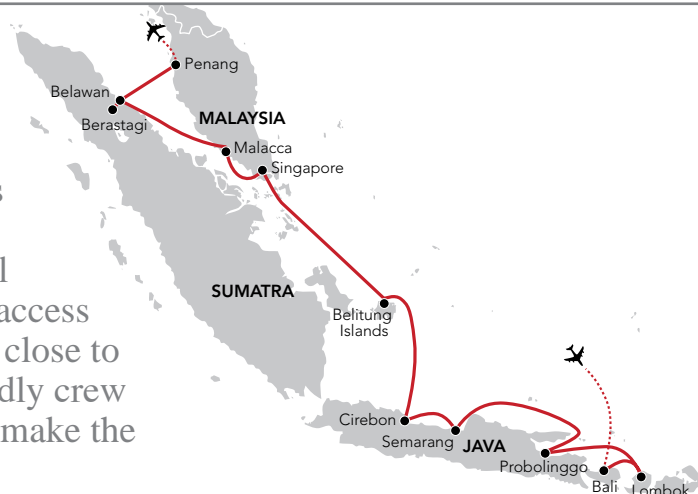
Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£7295	£7595	£8095	£8495	£8695	£9195	£9695
Sole	£10895	£11295	£12095	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class air travel, 15 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, lecture programme, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Borobudur & Beyond

An exploration from Bali to Penang aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
21st January to 4th February 2014

Made up of over seventeen thousand islands, the world's fourth most populous country is a land of diverse cultures, histories and languages, unique flora and fauna and breathtaking scenery. During this exploration of Indonesia we will visit places of deep spiritual significance and areas of outstanding natural beauty. With our perfectly suited small ship, we can access islands and bays that the big ships simply cannot get close to and with our fleet of ten Zodiac landing craft, a friendly crew of 74 and an excellent expedition team we will truly make the most of our time in this unique part of the world.



We embark the MS Caledonian Sky in Bali, setting sail through turquoise tinted waters for Lombok where we visit the Nusa Tenggara Barat Museum learning of the island's geology, history and culture and from Probolinggo in Java we explore the stunning landscape of Mount Bromo National Park. We learn of Buddhism in Semarang, 16th century Javanese history in Cirebon and explore ribbons of pristine beaches in the Belitung Islands. From Singapore we call into fascinating Malacca before reaching Penang where our voyage concludes.

A trip to Indonesia is so much more than a holiday, it promises to be an adventure shared with like-minded travellers. Accompanied by a team of experts, we will explore smoking volcanoes, lush and verdant jungle, fascinating nature and a sculpted underwater landscape teeming with life.

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Bali.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Bali.** Arrive this evening and transfer to the Komaneke Resort at Rasa Sayang (or similar) in Ubud for an overnight stay.



Borobudur

**Day 3 Bali.** Enjoy a leisurely morning to either explore independently or relax at the hotel. In the early afternoon you will be collected for a brief tour in Ubud including the Goa Gajah Temple, a collection of caves carved by the Buddhist people of Bali around the time that Buddhism and Hinduism were both practiced on the island. According to inscriptions found on the walls, the caves were created in the 11th century, but it lay undetected for centuries before it was rediscovered in 1923 by a team of Dutch archaeologists. Excavations carried out in 1954 unearthed bathing places in front of the cave with six female figures, representing nymphs

or goddesses holding water spouts. In the late afternoon we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening to Lombok.

**Day 4 Lombok.** Our morning tour will include the Nusa Tenggara Barat Museum with its collection of hand woven cloth collections, the intricately detailed Kris knives, and a small Dongson drum. The museum is also home to excellent displays of ancient tools and craft works. We continue to the Narmada Water Palace, with its central artificial lake whose shape resembles Segara Anak in the caldera of the Rinjani volcano and hope to have time to explore the bustling

markets before returning to the ship for lunch. Afternoon at sea.

**Day 5 Probolinggo.** Today, we reach eastern Java and from Probolinggo visit Mount Bromo National Park. We will leave the ship early to make our way towards the active volcano, Mount Bromo, driving through the awe inspiring surrounding landscapes. The active will have a chance to climb to the rim. We will enjoy a local lunch before returning to the ship and sailing in the late afternoon.

**Day 6 At sea.**

**Day 7 Semarang.** Sailing along





Balinese Temple Shrines



Lombok



Rice Terraces, Ubud

“

A trip to Indonesia is so much more than a holiday, it promises to be an adventure shared with like-minded travellers. We will explore smoking volcanoes, lush jungle and a underwater

the north coast of Java we reach Semarang, the nearest point for our day long excursion to the UNESCO site of Borobudur. This is one of the world's truly great ancient monuments and the single largest Buddhist structure anywhere on earth. The site consists of six square platforms topped by three circular platforms, and is decorated with no less than 2,672 relief panels and 504 Buddha statues of various types. We will enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant before returning to the ship.

**Day 8 Cirebon.** This morning we visit the Cirebon Palaces, the only 16th century Javanese city kingdoms, complete with palaces Kanonam and Kasepuhan and a royal family which has survived the times. We will see local dance performances before touring the palace museum with royal carriages, weaponry, masks and artwork and the Sunyaragi royal baths.

**Day 9 Belitung Islands.** After a morning at sea we will arrive at the Belitung Islands, a group of islands off the coast of Sumatra famed for their long clean beaches and crystal clear sea water. We will use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location for walking, snorkelling or simply relaxing on a beach.

**Day 10 At sea.**

**Day 11 Singapore.** This morning we sail into the great harbour at Singapore. Our morning excursion will include the National Orchid Garden, Chinatown and the Sultan Mosque. We sail this evening up the Malacca Strait, named after the

Malacca Sultanate that ruled over the archipelago between 1414 and 1511. It is from here that early traders from Arabia, Africa and Persia would trade glassware, camphor, ivory, sandal wood and perfumes and today the Strait is one of the most important shipping lanes in the world.

**Day 12 Malacca.** We spend the morning in the historic port of Malacca. With more than its fair share of colonisers from Malaysian princes, the Portuguese, Dutch, British and Japanese, this strategically placed city has a fascinating history brought vividly to life in the excellent Ethnographical Museum. Other places will include the 16th century Portuguese fortress, the former Dutch Governor's house and the impressive Christ Church. We return to our vessel for lunch and continue up the Strait of Malacca to Belawan.

**Day 13 Belawan for Berastagi, Sumatra.** After an early breakfast we

will drive up into the Karo Highlands. Here, the volcanoes, Gunung Sinabung and the smoking Gunung Sibayak, rise dramatically from the lush, fruit growing countryside. On arrival in Berastagi we will explore the local markets humming with activity. In Dokan, a Batak tribal village with beautifully carved traditional houses we can experience the daily life. After a local lunch we will return to the ship in the afternoon.

**Day 14 Penang to London Heathrow.** Disembark this morning in Penang, the "Pearl of the Orient" and enjoy a morning tour including the Khoo Kongsi Temple, Wat Chayamangkalaram Temple – a Thai temple that is home to a 33 metre long reclining Buddha, one of the largest in the world and the Botanical Gardens. In the afternoon transfer to the airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London Heathrow.** Arrive today.

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## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK21014

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£5495	£5995	£6495	£6995	£7295	£7795	£8295
Sole	£6495	£6995	£8495	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight stay in Ubud, Bali on bed and breakfast basis, Ubud city tour, 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

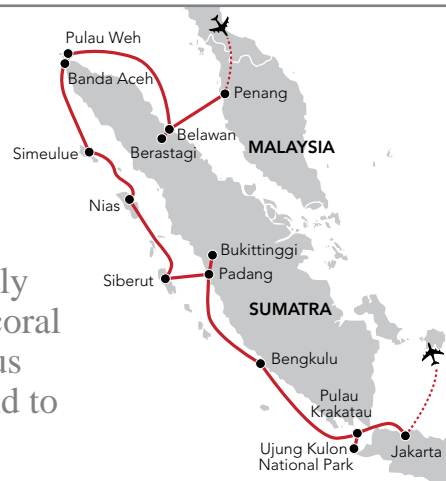
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports and itinerary are subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# Hidden Sumatra



An in-depth exploration of the wonders of Sumatra aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
1st February to 15th February 2014

Escape the winter and join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky as she explores the fascinating island of Sumatra. This will be a journey of contrasts, from lush rainforests to diverse cultures, spectacular wildlife and intriguing history. Opportunities to visit Sumatra, a land of history and mystery are scarce and usually limited to one region. Here we have an all encompassing voyage which virtually circumnavigates the island and includes opportunities to snorkel over coral reefs, to visit remote offshore islands where native stone-age indigenous people still live in isolation, free to practice their timeless tribal lore and to explore where few have been before.



Known in ancient times as the 'Island of Gold', Sumatra was an early arrival point for trade and new religions. Gold and other natural resources made it a land of wealthy chiefs and princes between the 7th and 13th centuries. Today, the island is home to twelve ethnic groups speaking more than 25 languages and the cross cultural exchanges of past centuries have created a unique and diverse land.

However, for many the greatest draw is the island's incomparable natural history and stunning mountain and jungle landscapes. Larger than life in all respects it is one of the world's last untouched frontiers. The privilege of exploring this remarkable land from a small ship and in the company of knowledgeable speakers, expedition team members and local guides is an opportunity not to be missed.

## Our View

Our Expedition Leader, Louis Justin recently visited Sumatra on behalf of Noble Caledonia to ensure that our voyages to the island will be comprehensive, comfortable, safe and rewarding for our passengers. Below he describes what he found on his travels and what passengers can



Coral Reef

expect to experience when visiting Sumatra with Noble Caledonia.

*'Full of colours, Sumatra is the world's sixth largest island and straddles the equator. Separated from mainland Asia by the Strait of Malacca and from Java by the Strait of Sunda, it lies at the heart of geological and cultural crossroads. Spectacular volcanoes and mysterious caldeiras are many along the Barisan Mountains, the long spinal range of the island following Sumatra's west coast. Perpetual warmth and the presence of high peaks have made the natural environment of this large landmass one of the most diverse in the world: the many national parks of the island are an attempt to protect this increasingly endangered treasure. Lush tropical rainforest used to dominate the landscapes before agricultural plantations took over large swathes of the island's lowlands: it can still be found in Sumatra's remote mountains and along its west coast where orangutans roam. We will attempt to spot one of the last great apes. With the Indian Ocean to the west and the south-east Asian archipelagoes to the east, Sumatra's history is rich and the island is home to many fascinating peoples. Our voyages will explore their cities, towns and villages, from Aceh at the north-western tip of Indonesia, to the Bataks and Minangkabau of the central highlands, and the Nias of offshore archipelagoes. Sumatra was revealed to the western world by Marco Polo and is often referred to as the Isle of Gold: sailing around its diverse shores, exploring its coastal communities and occasionally venturing inland, we will try to understand why.'*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Penang, Malaysia.**  
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Penang.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to your centrally located hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 3 - Penang.** Enjoy a leisurely morning to either explore independently or relax at the hotel. In the early afternoon we will explore the "Pearl of the Orient" including the Khoo Kongsi Temple, Wat Chayamangkalaram Temple – a Thai temple that is home to a 33-metre long reclining Buddha, one of the largest in the world and the Botanical Gardens. In the afternoon transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.

**Day 4 Belawan for Berastagi, Sumatra.**

After an early breakfast we will drive up into the Karo Highlands. Here, the volcanoes, Gunung Sinabung and the smoking Gunung Sibayak, rise dramatically from the lush, fruit growing countryside. On arrival in Berastagi we will explore the local markets humming with activity. In Dokan, a Batak tribal village with beautifully carved traditional houses we can experience daily life. After a local lunch we will return to the ship in the afternoon.

**Day 5 At sea.** Enjoy a day to relax and attend a lecture by the onboard experts.

**Day 6 Pulau Weh & Banda Aceh.**  
This morning we are on Pulau Weh



Traditional house, West Sumatra





Rafflesia Flower



Orangutan



Gunung Sinabung Volcano

“

Ujung Kulon National Park is a stunningly beautiful area and contains the largest remaining area of lowland rain forest on the Java Plain. It is a wonderful area for bird watching.

”

off the northern tip of Sumatra. We will use our Zodiacs to land on a local beach and have a chance to snorkel in the clear waters considered the best in Indonesia. Sail over lunch to Aceh. Many will recall the destruction caused to this port on the northern tip of Sumatra by the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. Enormous effort has been made to rebuild since the fateful day but the power of the Tsunami is still evident as we see a 250 foot vessel perched several miles inland where it was deposited after riding a huge wave. We will visit the Tsunami Museum and educational centre that document the impact.

**Day 7 - Simeulue Islands.** After a morning at sea we arrive in the archipelago of the Simeulue islands at lunchtime. Located 100 miles from the Sumatran coast and with white sand beaches, vast coral reefs, and a pristine blue sea dotted with a multitude of seamounts, atolls, and small islets, the Simeulue Islands have rarely been visited or explored. We will use our Zodiacs to land on one of the local beaches for snorkelling and island walks.

**Day 8 Nias Island.** We continue south and land on the island of Nias some 70 miles from the west coast of Sumatra. Its very isolation has protected its cultural heritage. We will see some wonderful examples of tribal art and unique architecture. After an island drive we will witness a stone jumping demonstration

in a traditional village. Here, talented local villagers leap over six foot tall stone megaliths in a rite of passage.

**Day 9 Siberut Island.** Tonight we cross the Equator as we continue south to the Mentawai archipelago. Like Nias, these islands have a unique culture. Zodiacs take us upriver to a small village for a walking tour followed by a cultural performance. The island is rich in wildlife and along the river almost 140 bird species and rare monkeys can be found. Look out for the Kloss gibbon, pig-tailed langur and the Mentawilangur. Time permitting there will be the opportunity to snorkel over the island's fringing coral reefs.

**Day 10 Padang for Bukittinggi.** From the port of Padang we will head inland to Bukittinggi, home to the Minangkabau culture which despite their Islamic faith has the largest matrilineal society where the woman is the head of the house and controls family affairs. The architecture in the area is also unique as the rooflines are shaped like a buffalos horns. We will have lunch in a local restaurant before an afternoon visit to Sianok Canyon, the Japanese Caves built in WWII before returning to the ship.

**Day 11 Bengkulu.** We now reach the southern half of the island and the city of Bengkulu. The British East India Company established a garrison here in 1685 and stayed until 1824 when the

Dutch took over. After a drive around the city whose original wealth was based on pepper we drive up into the hills above the city in search of the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia.

**Day 12 Pulau Krakatau.** This afternoon we sail into the Sunda Strait and the island of Krakatau. The volcano famously exploded in 1883, killing 36,417 people. The explosion is considered to be the loudest sound ever heard in modern history, with reports of it being heard nearly 3,000 miles (4,800 km) from its point of origin. We will use our Zodiacs to cruise around Anak Krakatau and if time permits will land on Rakata for snorkelling on the coral reef.

**Day 13 Ujung Kulon National Park.** Just a few miles separate Sumatra from the island of Java. We will land at the far western tip of Java for a morning of exploration in the Ujung Kulon National Park which is a World Heritage Site. It is a stunningly beautiful area and contains the largest remaining area of lowland rainforest on the Java Plain. It is a wonderful area for bird watching.

**Day 14 Jakarta to London.** Arrive this morning in Jakarta and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London Heathrow.** Arrive this morning.

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK01024

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£5495	£5995	£6495	£6995	£7295	£7795	£8295
Sole	£6495	£6995	£8495	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Penang on bed and breakfast basis, Penang tour, 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

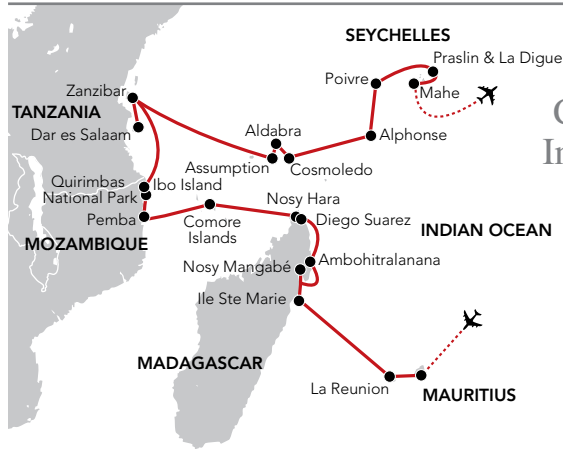
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports and itinerary are subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.



# Grand Indian Ocean Safari



An epic journey from Mauritius to the Seychelles aboard the MS Island Sky  
13th December 2014 to 8th January 2015



Surely a trip such as this must count as one of the best ever Christmas presents. The opportunity to escape to the islands of the Indian Ocean in mid-December for an unforgettable Christmas and New Year aboard the MS Island Sky. Explore the warm seas of the Indian Ocean visiting some of the most beautiful and isolated tropical islands on earth. Here is an extraordinary cruise for those who enjoy the natural world and all its wonders. Our journey links Mauritius and Reunion with Madagascar, the Comores and the little known coast of northern Mozambique.



Quirimbas Archipelago

The second half of the cruise takes us to the remote Outer Seychelles, tiny untouched islands and atolls of the Aldabra, Cosmoledo and Amirante archipelagos. These minute dots on an atlas are truly magical places. For many the greatest highlight will be our visit to Aldabra, the world's largest coral atoll and the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise. Totally untouched by the modern world, Aldabra was described by Jacques Cousteau as 'the last unprofaned sanctuary on this planet'. It is one of the most difficult places on earth to access and a lack of fresh water has saved Aldabra from any tourism development. There is no landing strip and the only viable means of reaching this and other Outer Seychelles islands is with an expedition vessel such as the MS Island Sky. This really is a veritable feast of beauty, the natural world

and island culture. You will witness the bounty of the islands, the wildlife from the giant tortoises of Aldabra to the lemurs of Madagascar, amazingly prolific birdlife and a mesmerising under water world.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London Heathrow to Mauritius.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Mauritius.** Arrive this morning and transfer to your deluxe hotel for an overnight stay. Day at leisure.

**Day 3 Mauritius.** This morning we will explore this melting pot of an island, with a distinctly Indian flavour and a fascinating, cultural mix of Franco-Mauritians, Creoles, Chinese, Muslims and Hindus. After lunch in the island's capital of Port Louis we will embark the MS Island Sky and sail in the afternoon.

**Day 4 La Reunion.** This little bit of France in the middle of the Indian Ocean is a truly stunning place. We will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns with a uniquely French atmosphere. Fields of sugar cane and plantations of tropical fruits, vanilla and all manner of spices perfume the air.

**Day 5 At sea.**

**Day 6 Ile Ste Marie, Madagascar.** We make our first call in Madagascar on Ile Ste Marie, also known as Nosy Bohara. In the 17th and 18th century it was a popular base for pirates that used the secluded bays to plunder ships returning from the East Indies. Today it is a lush tropical island offering us sandy beaches, coral reefs and natural beauty. This morning we will explore the capital of Ambodifotatra including the pirate cemetery and the oldest church in Madagascar built in 1837. Over lunch we will find a spot to launch the Zodiacs and enjoy the first snorkel of our voyage.

**Day 7 Nosy Mangabe.** We have a full day to explore Nosy Mangabe, a 520 hectare island reserve in Antongil Bay and part of the Masaola National Park containing one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar. It has also been an important research centre since the mid 1960s when several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest.

We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees, plants and ferns and also hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers.

**Day 8 Ambohitralanana, Cap Est.** This morning we drop anchor at Madagascar's easternmost point, Cap Est, which lies near the lush wilderness of the Masaola Peninsula National Park. Here there will an opportunity to walk in the forest searching for wildlife including lemur, fossa and mongoose, or snorkel in the warm waters.

**Day 9 Diego Suarez.** At daybreak we will enter the dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants-Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans, and Arabs. After a brief tour of the town we will make our way to the Malagasy rainforest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and explore the rainforest. In the towering vegetation we may spot several species of lemurs, as well as endemic birds, including parrots.

**Day 10 Nosy Hara.** Our last morning in Madagascar will be at Nosy Hara, an archipelago of 12 uninhabited islands off the northern coast. At dawn we will use our Zodiacs to explore the fascinating limestone cliffs and hope to spot fish eagles and Madagascar black swifts. Later in the morning we will relocate to one of the remote beaches to either snorkel over the magnificent coral reefs or take a nature walk.





Zodiac cruise, Aldabra



Green Chameleon

**Day 11 Anjouan, Comore Islands.**

This afternoon finds us in Nzwani, better known by its French name of Anjouan. It is an incredibly picturesque island with forested hillsides and rivers tumbling down to the sea. An island drive will include some of the beauty spots including Mount Ntingi with its wild orchids.

**Day 12 Pemba, Mozambique.**

This afternoon we will reach Africa and the coastline of Mozambique. We will arrive at Pemba which is located on an enormous turquoise bay ringed by groves of Africa's botanical icon — the baobab tree. Enjoy a stroll in town with its Portuguese history. Pemba's highlight is exquisite snorkelling and diving over its rainbow of offshore reefs, abounding in reef fish and pelagics.

**Day 13 Quirimbas Archipelago, Mozambique.**

Travelling north along the coast we enjoy Christmas Day in the Quirimbas National Park, one of Mozambique's most biologically diverse regions. A coastal park set aside recently with assistance from World Wildlife Fund.

Our itinerary will be flexible and our Captain and Expedition Leader will decide based on local conditions. We hope to make an expedition stop to view extensive reef and islet complexes offering outstanding snorkeling amidst 400 species of fish. A coastline of spectacular dunes provides nesting and feeding grounds for turtles and migratory birds. We may also visit Ibo, a former Portuguese island of once-elegant palatial mansions. The colony

owed its wealth to 18th century slave and ivory trading. The battlements of the pentagonal main fortress house renowned silversmiths today. Local guides will escort us around the fort and for the birders a separate walk will be arranged. Ibo also serves as headquarters of the Quirimbas National Park. We may also visit Mogundula Island a marvellous place for snorkelling, beachcombing and birdwatching.

**Day 14 At sea.**

**Day 15 Zanzibar, Tanzania.** Here the colourful harbour will be crowded with dhows, very much setting the scene for our visit to the Arab style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. Out of town there are magnificent brilliant white sandy beaches and lush vegetation with plantations of cloves, cinnamon, vanilla and nutmeg which fill the air with heady aromas. On a morning tour soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultans Palace, the slave market and the old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax.

*For those who would prefer to explore Zanzibar in some more depth we can arrange for a two night hotel stay from the afternoon of day 15 until the morning of day 17 when the vessel returns to Zanzibar. Further details available on request.*

**Day 16 Dar Es Salaam.** After breakfast we will enjoy full day tour to Bagamoyo, the oldest town in Tanzania and a Unesco World Heritage site. We will explore the Kaole ruins dating to the 13th century, the Bagamoyo church built in 1868 and considered the first church in East Africa. At the museum we will

find relics from the slave trade and visit the chapel where the remains of Livingstone were laid before being returned to England.

**Day 17 Zanzibar.** This morning we will drive out of Stone Town to explore the link with Zanzibar and spices. We will visit a spice farm and enjoy an explosion of tastes and smells from the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island. Everything from jackfruit to coconuts, turmeric and vanilla to lipstick trees. Return to the ship for lunch and sail this afternoon.

**Day 18 - At sea.**

**Day 19 Assumption.** Close to Aldabra is the island of Assumption. Early in the 20th century the island was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano. Happily, peace has returned to the islands and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. We will celebrate New Year as we sail to Aldabra this evening.

**Day 20 Aldabra, Outer Seychelles.** Start 2015 surrounded by the wonders of Aldabra. Our exploration will begin on Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs. We will include as much as possible with our time on Aldabra making landings on South Island and trips into the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea-world and snorkel in colourful coral waters teeming with marine life. Our programme ashore will be determined by weather conditions. One thing is for sure, you will not be disappointed by these extraordinary islands and atolls, which are arguably the most pristine and untouched in the Indian Ocean.



traditional canoe, Madagascar

“

This voyage really is a veritable feast of beauty, the natural world and island culture. You will witness the bounty of the islands, the wildlife from the giant tortoises of Aldabra to the lemurs of Madagascar, amazingly prolific birdlife and mesmerizing underwater life.

”



Sifaka Lemur

**Day 21 - Cosmoledo.** Arrive in Cosmoledo this morning. Here a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we shall explore some of them by Zodiac.

**Day 22 At sea.**

**Day 23 Alphonse.** There are three islands in the Alphonse group which is located directly south of the Amirantes. As we approach the islands at first light you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers perfect snorkelling and on the island walk we hope to spot the extremely rare magpie robin.

**Day 24 Poivre.** Reaching the Amirantes in the morning we will make a call at Poivre, a wonderfully lush

island which is split in two and joined by a natural causeway at low tide. The coral reefs here are spectacular.



Coconut Crab

**Day 25 Praslin and La Digue.** In the morning explore Praslin's 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high-canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural

beauty which so overpowered General Gordon. Sail during lunch to nearby La Digue. There is a hint of Henry Moore in the huge granite boulders that lie like giant sculptures on the brilliant white beaches of the island. Tour the forested nature reserve and the L'Union Estate, a superbly restored 19th century colonial house. Rent a bicycle, ride in an ox-drawn cart or relax, swim and snorkel from one of the amazingly beautiful beaches. During dinner sail across to the island of Mahe and the Seychelles capital of Victoria where we moor overnight.

**Day 26 Mahe.** Disembark after breakfast and join a morning excursion which will include Victoria, with its own 'Big Ben', the Botanic Gardens and the ruins of a Capuchin mission. After a local lunch we transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 27 London Heathrow.** Arrive today.

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK13124**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£11295	£11695	£11995	£12195	£12395	£12795	£12995
Sole	£13495	£14295	£15295	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled return air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Mauritius on breakfast only basis, 23 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on full board, with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, local departure taxes. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability





La Digue Island, Seychelles

# Aldabra - Last Sanctuary



A voyage from the Seychelles to Mauritius via Madagascar aboard the MS Island Sky  
4th to 20th January 2015

The Seychelles are some of the most captivating tropical islands in the world. Spread out over a vast swathe of the Indian Ocean they offer everything from quiet sophistication and enchanting scenery to wild, remote and uninhabited nature reserves. Our 2000 mile journey will concentrate on the rarely visited Outer Seychelles. Here we will sail all the way to Aldabra, the world's largest coral atoll and a World Heritage site. Totally untouched by the modern world, Aldabra has been described by Jacques Cousteau as "the last unprofaned sanctuary on this planet".



Being one of the most difficult places in the world to access and having a lack of freshwater has saved Aldabra from any tourism development. There is no landing strip and the only viable means of reaching this untouched region is by ship. The MS Island Sky will be making only a couple of visits during the winter season. Only small vessels are allowed to visit Aldabra and even such visits as these are rare events.

Be one of the few who have explored this 'Galapagos of the Indian Ocean'. Aldabra is the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures you should also encounter dolphins, turtles and whales as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean.

On our way to Aldabra we shall visit some amazing islands, mere dots in the vast ocean. Each has a unique feature, some are inhabited, others not, but all are stunningly beautiful. On leaving



Wild dolphins

the Seychelles we head for north east Madagascar. We will have three days exploring the incredible verdant and beautiful island. Madagascar is unique; the animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand-mile long island are unlike anywhere else. This extraordinary country long remained obscure as a destination and is still relatively unknown even amongst the most serious of travellers.

Prior to reaching Mauritius we will land on its nearest neighbour, Reunion where we will spend the day exploring its truly awesome and dramatic scenery.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Mahe.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Mahe.** Arrive and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy time to relax and use the hotel facilities and beach.

**Day 3 Mahe.** After breakfast join the 'Island Drive' to the nation's capital of Victoria with its own 'Big Ben', the Botanic Gardens and the ruins of a Capuchin mission from where there are splendid views up towards Morne Seychellois, the highest point of the island at almost 3000 feet. This afternoon is free to enjoy the hotel's facilities.

**Day 4 Mahe.** Enjoy a morning at leisure before an early afternoon transfer to the MS Island Sky. Sail in the early evening.

**Day 5 Amirante Islands.** We will spend the morning exploring the island of St Joseph. It is an ideal spot for some beachcombing, nature walks and bird watching. In the island's lagoon there is a huge population of stingrays, healthy numbers of turtles and giant

blue mud crabs. There is also a large colony of frigate birds, blue heron and crested terns on the island.

**Day 6 Alphonse.** There are three islands in the Alphonse Group which are located directly south of the Amirantes. We will call into Alphonse regarded by many as one of the most beautiful of all the 115 islands in the Seychelles. Its circular lagoon offers perfect snorkelling and on an island walk we hope to spot the extremely rare magpie robin.

**Day 7 Farquhar.** Anchoring off Farquhar, we will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of this remote atoll ringed island of coconut and casuarina trees. The island is a haven for many species of migratory birds providing us with a delightful afternoon of birdwatching or snorkelling. Here we will also find the single administrator of the island who is kept busy by also being the boat master, storekeeper, accountant, postmaster, doctor, policeman and sometimes priest.

**Days 8 & 9 Aldabra.** Go ashore to the islands referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and we are privileged visitors by kind permission of the Seychelles' government. Every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white-throated rail, and indeed whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with colourful life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore, giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years.

“Aldabra is magnificent, the clear blue seas abound with colourful life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years.”







Exploring by Zodiac, Aldabra



Fairy tern



Aldabran giant tortoise



Seychelles Beach

**Day 10 Astove.** Famous for its most beautiful butterflies, this remote coral atoll has an almost completely landlocked lagoon which we will explore today.

**Day 11 Diego Suarez, Madagascar.** At day break we will enter the dramatic Diego Suarez harbour and make our way to the Malagasy rainforest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and explore the rainforest.

**Day 12 Ambohitralanana, Cap Est.** Ambohitralanana is at Madagascar's easternmost point, Cap Est which lies near the lush wilderness of the Masoala Peninsula National Park. Here there will be an opportunity to walk in the forest searching for wildlife including lemur, fossa and mongoose or snorkel in the warm waters.

**Day 13 Ile St Marie.** Located off the north eastern coast of Madagascar is the island of St Marie. It is a fascinating place and in the 17th and 18th centuries was a notorious haunt of pirates including Captain Kidd. It is one place on earth to have a special pirates cemetery. Lemurs are plentiful

here and botanists will be intrigued by one of the most magnificent orchids (6ft tall) to be found here on the adjoining island of Ile aux Nattes.

**Day 14 At sea.** Relax on board today and attend a lecture or two.

**Day 15 La Reunion.** Our full day excursion will take you along the only road that crosses the island to view the volcanoes. From La Plaine des Cafres a forest path takes you to a large expanse of volcanic sand and a strange lunar-like landscape. At Pas de Bellecombe there are

marvellous views across the Piton de la Fournaise. The more energetic may choose to walk on the 'twisted lava' to the Formica Leo crater among the 'enclos', a natural overflow of the volcano. After lunch visit the fascinating Volcano Museum.

**Day 16 Mauritius to London.** Arrive this morning in Port Louis and disembark after breakfast. Return to London by scheduled flight.

**Day 17 London Heathrow.** Arrive this morning.

### Mauritius Post-Cruise Extension



If you would like to extend your stay in Mauritius we are offering a two night extension at Le Victoria Resort (or similar) on an all-inclusive basis. The extension includes a half day city tour and transfers.

**Prices per person**  
Twin: £525 Single: £675

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK05015**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£6995	£7395	£7695	£7895	£8095	£8495	£8695
Sole	£9795	£10395	£10795	-	-	-	-

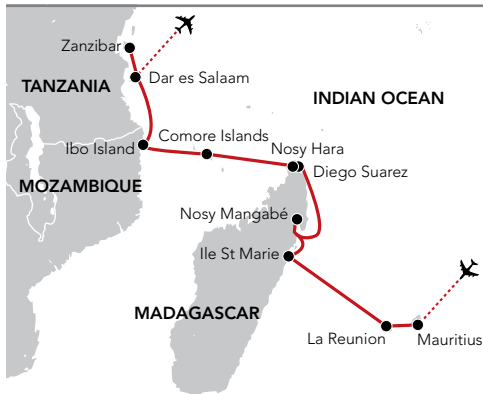
**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled return air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Mahe on breakfast only basis, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on full board with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# The Wonders of Madagascar



A voyage from Mauritius to Tanzania including Madagascar aboard the MS Island Sky  
16th January to 1st February 2015



There is something rather special about Mauritius from where we begin our voyage to Reunion, Madagascar, the Comores, Mozambique and Zanzibar. We have two days to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of Mauritius before boarding the MS Island Sky and sailing to Reunion a little bit of France in the Indian Ocean and a truly stunning place. The Central Highlands with their spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant volcanoes cradle huge natural amphitheatres known as cirques.

“  
Madagascar is a truly extraordinary country which has long remained obscure as a destination and it is still relatively unknown even amongst the most serious of travellers.  
”



We will enter Madagascar at the north east corner and gradually make our way round the top of the island. This region has great attractions for nature lovers. In addition to the breathtaking scenery the area abounds with strange and wonderful plants and trees, countless varieties of birds and abundant wildlife including the iconic lemur. From Madagascar we head for Africa, stopping in the delightful Comores archipelago before reaching the coast of Mozambique and the endlessly fascinating island of Zanzibar.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London Heathrow to Mauritius.**  
Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Mauritius.** Arrive this morning and transfer to your hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 3 Mauritius.** This morning we will explore this melting pot of an island, with a distinctly Indian flavour and a fascinating, cultural mix of Franco-Mauritians, Creoles, Chinese, Muslims and Hindus. We will visit the famous Pamplémousses Botanical Gardens, home to over 500 species of plants, 80 of which are palms. We end at the local market, full of scent and colours. Return to the hotel for a free afternoon.

**Day 4 Mauritius.** After a free morning we transfer to the MS Island Sky in the early afternoon and sail this evening.

**Day 5 La Reunion.** We will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet.



Reunion island

The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns with its uniquely French atmosphere.

**Day 6 At sea.**

**Day 7 Ile St Marie, Madagascar.** We make our first call in Madagascar on Ile St Marie, also known as Nosy Bohara. In the 17th and 18th century it was a popular base for pirates that used the secluded bays to plunder ships returning from the East Indies. Today it is a lush tropical island offering us sandy beaches, coral reefs and natural beauty. This morning we will explore the capital of Ambohidratra including the pirate cemetery and the oldest church in Madagascar built in 1837. Over lunch we will find a spot to launch the Zodiacs and enjoy the first snorkel of our voyage.

**Day 8 Nosy Mangabe.** We have a full day to explore Nosy Mangabe, a

520 hectare island reserve in Antongil Bay and part of the Masaola National Park containing one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar. It has also been an important research centre since the mid 1960s when several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees, plants and ferns and also hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers.

**Day 9 Ambohitralanana, Cap Est.** Arrive at dawn at Madagascar's easternmost point, Cap Est, which lies near the lush wilderness of the Masoala Peninsula National Park. Here there will an opportunity to walk in the forest searching for wildlife including lemur, fossa and mongoose or snorkel in warm waters.





Baobab tree, Madagascar



Zanzibar

**Day 10 Diego Suarez.** At day break we will enter the dramatic Diego Suarez a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants- Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans, and Arabs. After a brief tour of the town we will make our way to the Malagasy rainforest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and explore the rainforest.

century slave and ivory trading. The battlements of the pentagonal main fortress house renowned silversmiths today. Local guides will escort us around the fort and for the birders a separate walk will be arranged. Ibo also serves as headquarters of the Quirimbas National Park, which stretches northward — a coastal park set aside recently with assistance from World Wildlife Fund.



Sunset, Diego Suarez

**Day 11 Nosy Hara.** Our last morning in Madagascar will be at Nosy Hara, an archipelago of 12 uninhabited islands off the northern coast. At dawn we will use our Zodiacs to explore the fascinating limestone cliffs and hope to spot fish eagles and Madagascar black swifts. Later in the morning we will relocate to one of the remote beaches to either snorkel over the magnificent coral reefs or take a nature walk.

**Day 14 At sea.**

**Day 15 Zanzibar, Tanzania.** Here the colourful harbour will be crowded with dhows, very much setting the scene for our visit to the Arab style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. On a morning tour soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultans palace, the slave market and the old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax and explore independently or join an optional tour to a spice farm to experience the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island.

**Day 16 Dar es Salaam to London.** Disembark after breakfast and return to London by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 17 London Heathrow.** Arrive today



Ring Tailed Lemurs



Diego Suarez

**Day 12 Anjouan, Comore Islands.** This afternoon finds us in Nzwani, better known by its French name of Anjouan. It is an incredibly picturesque island with forested hillsides and rivers tumbling down to the sea. An island drive will include some of the beauty spots including Mount Ntingi.

**Day 13 Quirimbas Archipelago, Mozambique.** Land this afternoon at Ibo, a former Portuguese island of once-elegant palatial mansions. The colony owed its wealth to 18th

**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK17015**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£7295	£7695	£7995	£8195	£8395	£8795	£8995
Sole	£8695	£9595	£10295	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled return air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Mauritius on breakfast only basis, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, optional excursion. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability



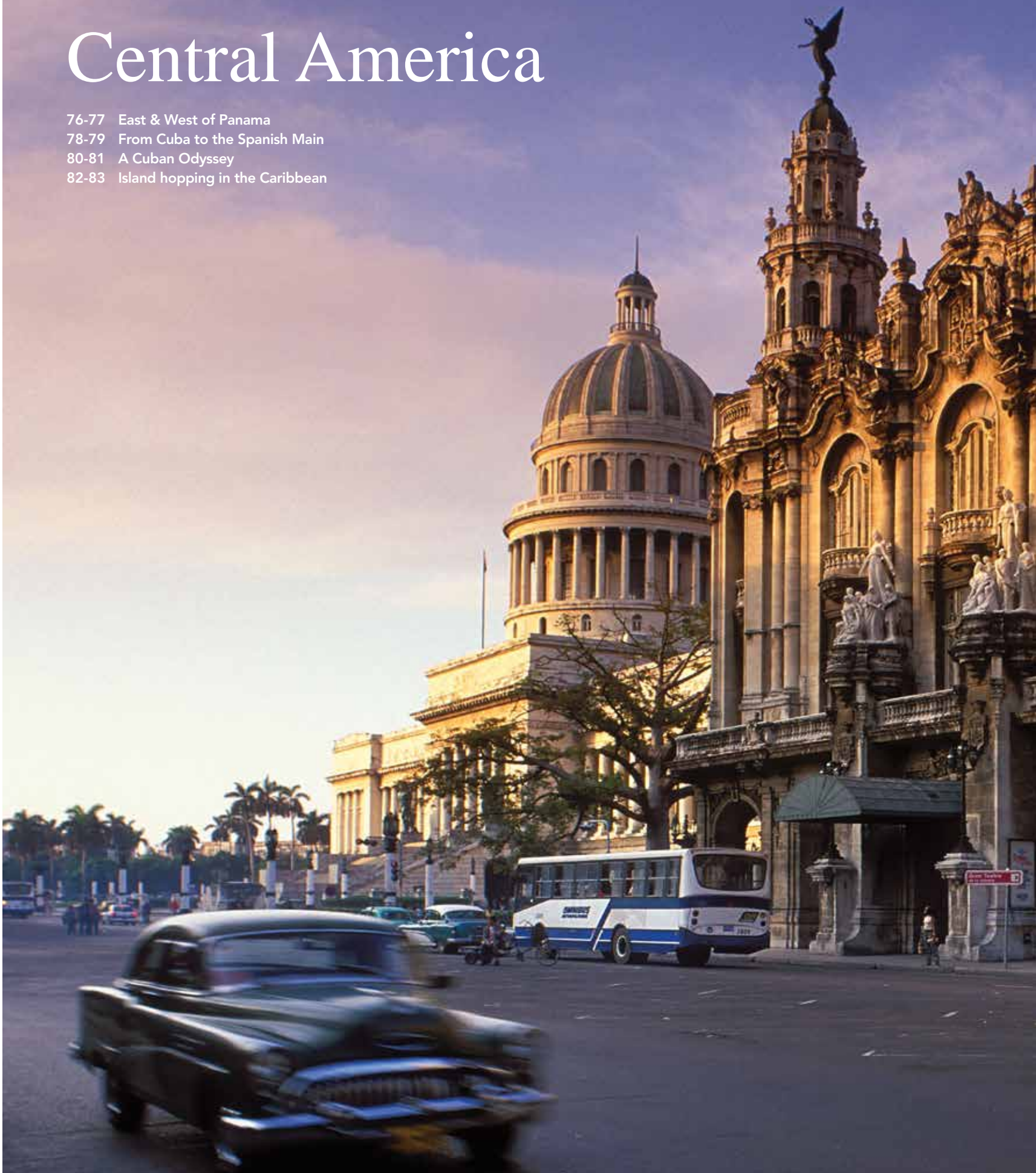
# Central America

76-77 East & West of Panama

78-79 From Cuba to the Spanish Main

80-81 A Cuban Odyssey

82-83 Island hopping in the Caribbean









# East & West of Panama



A voyage from French Guiana to Costa Rica over Christmas aboard the MS Island Sky  
21st December 2013 to 6th January 2014

Our unique journey begins on the northern shores of South America and includes French Guiana, Guyana, Venezuela and its islands, the Dutch Antilles, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica. Much of the itinerary is far from the 'big ship' routes and includes little known but fascinating countries such as French Guiana, the former British colony of Guyana, the Orinoco Delta and the remote Venezuelan islands of Los Testigos and Los Roques.



**B**efore heading for the Panama Canal we will call into the island of Bonaire in the Dutch Antilles with its evident Dutch heritage, and Cartagena, a marvellously colourful and historic port on the Colombian Caribbean coast. The highlight for many will be the Panama Canal transit and once in the Pacific we will head for the Peninsula de Osa, one of the many coastal gems of Costa Rica.

Our voyage will end in the Costa Rican port of Caldera from where you can return to the UK or, if you prefer, stay on with visits to the Monteverde Cloud Forest and the capital of San José. This will be the last opportunity for some years to undertake this fascinating route through the Southern Caribbean to Costa Rica as the following winter will find the MS Island Sky in the Indian Ocean.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Paris.** Fly by scheduled flight to Paris and transfer to your airport hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 2 Paris to Cayenne, French Guiana.** Continue our journey with a morning scheduled flight from Paris to Cayenne. Upon arrival transfer to the Novotel (or similar) for a two night stay.

**Day 3 Cayenne.** Often described as the crossroads of the Caribbean, South America and Europe, the Guianese capital is a city of many cultures surrounded by all the colours and influences of the Caribbean. Here, in this transplanted piece of France the streets are lined with colonial wrought-iron balconies, with louvered shutters painted in

tropical pinks, yellows and turquoise. The vibrant markets and excellent Brazilian, Creole, French and Chinese restaurants make this town a gourmet delight.

After a late breakfast we will explore the city with its unmistakable French atmosphere. Our day will include a visit to Fort Ceperou with its marvellous views over the city, the Botanic Gardens full of diverse Guianese colour, the Cultural Museum and the main market. After a late light lunch in Le Café Crème (or similar) return to your hotel for some relaxation.

**Day 4 Cacao.** After a late breakfast drive south to Cacao, a tiny slice of Laos in Guiana. The Hmong refugees from Laos landed here in the 1970s and have created a peaceful haven of stilted houses and vegetable plantations. Drive back to Cayenne for lunch and embark the MS Island Sky in the early afternoon. Sail this evening.



Guyana, surrounding of georgetown



Los Roques

**Day 5 At sea.** A special day of Christmas celebrations as we cruise past Surinam heading for Guyana.

**Day 6 Georgetown, Guyana.** Arrive today in South America's only English speaking country. Georgetown was called Longchamps under the French, and Stabroek under the Dutch, so it comes as no surprise that the tree lined streets are a wonderful mix of colonial styles. There is a choice of excursions here, choose from either a half day city tour to include St Georges Cathedral, St Andrew's Kirk, the Walter Roth Museum and Botanical Gardens or an optional visit by air to the Kaieteur National Park. Here, the mighty Kaieteur Falls plunge 822 feet to the bottom of a rocky gorge. It is five times the height of Niagara Falls and an amazing 30,000 gallons of water per second crashes to the depths below. Afternoon at sea.

**Day 7 Orinoco Delta, Venezuela.**

Today we hope to explore the Mariusa National Park on the lower delta of the Orinoco. Here an intricate labyrinth of channels, some 60 waterways and 40 rivers converge into forests, swamps and lagoons. Very few have the privilege of exploring this vast and ever changing landscape which teems with life both terrestrial and aquatic.

**Day 8 Los Testigos.** Sail to the untouched Los Testigos where there are wonderful empty beaches with only a handful of resident fishermen. The island has a huge colony of frigate birds and behind the line of coconut trees are high dunes with stunning views for those prepared for the steep climb.

**Day 9 Los Roques.** This group of tiny Venezuelan islands is just the type of place small yachts seek out, certainly not the normal larger ships. The





Cartagena Old Town



Kaieteur Falls, Kaieteur National Park

“ We will visit some truly amazing beaches which are virtually deserted with fine coral sand, and the lagoons and atolls are surrounded by the clearest water imaginable ”

beaches here are amazing, virtually deserted with fine coral sand, and the lagoons and atolls are surrounded by the clearest water imaginable. We will spend the afternoon here exploring this pristine archipelago which is an important national park with an abundant marine life.

**Day 10 Bonaire.** The island of Bonaire is a naturalist's paradise. World famous for the variety of its corals, fish and exceptionally clear waters, we visit the Washington-Slagbai National Park, created to protect some of the Caribbean's last remaining desert habitat. The island's bird life is remarkable including flocks of native parrots and in one of the lagoons a resident flock of flamingos. Bonaire's largest town, Kralendijk, is a charming place with many fine examples of classic Dutch colonial architecture.

**Day 11 At sea.** Today we celebrate New Year as we sail past the Lesser Antilles and the coast of Colombia.

**Day 12 Cartagena, Colombia.** Steeped in history, Cartagena is one of the most fascinating cities in South America. We will explore the old walled city that is virtually surrounded

by water. There is a wealth of 16th and 17th century buildings to be seen including some fine churches. Our local guides will bring the history of Cartagena to life as we walk its streets and ramparts. Afternoon at sea.

**Day 13 Panama Canal.** We will arrive in the Panamanian city of Colon in the early afternoon and later begin our transit which will take between eight to ten hours. It is a fascinating journey as we pass through the canal into Lake Gatun, one of the largest man-made lakes in the world, where the islands are in fact the top of hills that once looked down on jungle.

**Day 14 At sea.** We reach the Pacific side of the canal this morning and cruise along the Panama coast heading for Costa Rica.

**Day 15 Peninsula de Osa, Costa Rica.** We will spend the afternoon on this remote peninsula with its beautiful beaches, mangroves and lush rainforest. In the Corcovado National Park the bird watching opportunities are unrivalled and this area is also excellent for spotting rare forest mammals including tapirs, ocelots and on rare occasions jaguars.

**Day 16 Puerto Caldera to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the Costa Rican capital of San José. Fly by indirect scheduled flight to London. Alternatively extend your stay with our post-cruise extension in Costa Rica.

**Day 17 London Heathrow.** Morning arrival.

**Monteverde Cloud Forest Post-Cruise Extension**  
5th to 9th January 2014



After your cruise, join us for an extension in Costa Rica and explore the remarkable Monteverde Cloud

Forest. The extension includes 2 nights accommodation in Monteverde, overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose, breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, excursions and transfers. Full details available on request.

**Prices per person**  
Twin: £595 Single: £795

**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK21123**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£6495	£6895	£7295	£7695	£8295	£8695	£8895
Sole	£9395	£9995	£10695	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Paris on full board basis, two nights hotel accommodation in Cayenne with dinner on day 2 and breakfast and lunch on days 3 & 4, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, UK airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, optional excursion to Kaieteur National Park, local departure taxes.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability. Schedule subject to change once flight schedules are known.



# From Cuba to the Spanish Main



A voyage from the Bahamas to Belize including Cuba aboard the MS Island Sky  
25th January to 9th February 2014



Cuba is a beautiful and extraordinary place. Glorious landscapes, powder white beaches against a turquoise sea, delightful people and a lifestyle that is more 1930's than that of today. Very few cars travel the roads through the soft and gentle countryside, horse drawn carriages or pedal power are the order of the day. This is your chance to step back in time and enjoy the beauty of the landscape, the historic cities and take a rest from 21st century capitalism.

“

Nowhere in the whole of the West Indies do the centuries of New World history come to life in such a dramatic way as in old Havana.

”



Tulum, Mexico

With the MS Island Sky as our base, we can enjoy great comfort and excellent food as we navigate our way around Cuba, the surrounding islands and over to Mexico and Belize to visit the ancient Mayan sites of Tulum and Lamanai. A flexible itinerary and knowledgeable onboard team enables us to make the most of each day, whether we are landing on remote beaches by Zodiac, watching out for whales or learning more of the history and culture of the places we are visiting. With just over 100 passengers, we can explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere onboard.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Nassau.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Upon arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation.

**Day 2 Egg Island, Eleuthera Islands, Bahamas.** This morning we will visit the uninhabited island of Egg. This is a perfect stop for our first Zodiac landing. The beach is simply stunning with excellent swimming and snorkelling; the island is the antithesis of what you would expect to find in the Bahamas.

**Day 3 Acklins Island.** This afternoon we will drop anchor off Acklins Island. There are only a few inhabitants on Acklins and they will give us the warmest of welcomes at the community centre. We will then have time to explore some of the island. The beaches are wonderful for swimming, snorkelling and beach-combing. Nature is all around, including flamingos and vast numbers of seabirds.

**Day 4 Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.** Set in an attractive bay surrounded

by the impressive Sierra Maestra Mountains, Santiago de Cuba is a vibrant, cultured city that used to be the country's capital. We will arrive in the early evening and, since the city is renowned as a music lover's dream, we have arranged for a group of Cuban musicians and dancers to come onboard after dinner. The performance is sure to be a memorable and fitting start to our time in Cuba. Moor overnight.

**Day 5 Santiago de Cuba.** This morning our tour will commence with a panoramic drive through the city including stops at the Moncada Garrison, which still bears bullet holes from Fidel Castro's attempted coup in 1953 and also take in the imposing Plaza de la Revolucion. We will also drive out of the city through lush tropical scenery to the Castillo del



Morro which guards the entrance to the harbour, affording magnificent views. In the early afternoon drive out to the village of El Cobre to see the Virgen de la Caridad in the basilica and then enjoy an exclusive concert in the famous Case de la Trova.

**Day 6 At sea.** Spend the day relaxing onboard and perhaps attend a lecture.

**Day 7 Casilda for Trinidad.** The compact colonial centre of Trinidad is one of the most sublime in Latin America. The cobbled streets, terracotta rooftops and pastel coloured houses are a delight. We will spend the morning here exploring the town and visit either the Romantic Museum or the City Museum. Lunch will be in a local restaurant before returning to the ship in the afternoon.



Lamanai Temple, Belize

**Day 8 Cienfuegos.** Cienfuegos is a laid back maritime city with a lazy, tropical atmosphere. In colonial times it was known as the 'Pearl of the South', a name earned from its lovely location on a picturesque Caribbean bay. Explore the town including a visit to the botanical gardens which are spread over 90 hectares and include 2000 species of plants, the majority being exotic.

**Day 9 Punta Frances, Isla de la Juventud.** Located some 50 miles from Cuba's south coast, this attractive island is famous for its beaches, coral reefs and densely forested hills. Spend the day enjoying the beach and swimming and snorkelling in the magnificent waters.

**Day 10 Havana.** The three 'c's, colonialism, capitalism and communism have left their indelible mark on this historic city. On arrival in the afternoon we will focus on Habana Vieja (old Havana) which was once enclosed within fortified walls. We will explore its twisting, cobbled streets past both beautifully restored Baroque churches, castles and palaces to the

16th century Plaza de Armas, the oldest plaza in the city and its original administrative centre. Nowhere in the whole of the West Indies do the centuries of New World history come to life in such a dramatic way as in old Havana. Moor overnight.

**Day 11 Havana.** This morning we will drive along the Malecon, Havana's seafront to Verdadero. See the Plaza de la Revolution and the headquarters of President Fidel Castro and his Council of Ministers. After lunch visit Finca Villa Vigia, the former residence of Ernest Hemingway and today a museum. We will also visit the village of Cojimar, the inspiration for "The Old Man and the Sea".

**Day 12 At sea.**

**Day 13 Cozumel, Mexico.** From the island of Cozumel we shall travel by boat to mainland Mexico. This morning we will visit the Mayan site of Tulum, perched 40 feet above the sea on a cliff. It has a fascinating history and architecture with the pyramid, El Castillo, being the most impressive.

**Day 14 Belize City, Belize.** We have an interesting day ahead as we travel inland to the ancient Mayan city of Lamanai (which translates to 'submerged crocodile'). From the nearby town of Orange Walk Bridge we board local boats for a wildlife cruise through mangroves, wetlands and forests. Look out for egrets, herons, kingfishers, snail kites and black collared hawks as we make our way up river past Morelet's crocodiles. A short walk through the jungle brings us to the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve with its massive pyramids which are in fact pyramids built upon pyramids. Local guides will tell the story of this site which is the only Mayan city known to have been inhabited through every age of Mayan civilisation.

**Day 15 Belize City to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Belize City for your indirect return flight to London.

**Day 16 London.** Morning arrival.



Trinidad, Cuba



Turtle, Mexico



Church of El Cobre, Santiago de Cuba

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCISK25014

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£6695	£7095	£7595	£7995	£8295	£8695	£9195
Sole	£9995	£10595	£11395	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled return air travel, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas, local departure taxes.

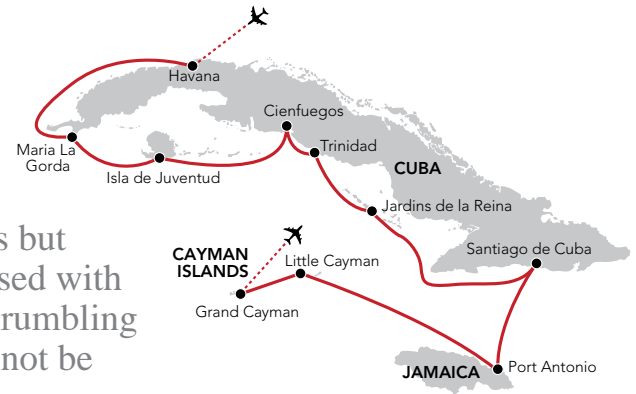
**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# A Cuban Odyssey



An voyage of reefs, rainforest and ruins aboard the MS Island Sky  
8th to 20th March 2014

Cuba pulsates to a rhythm of a bygone age. A kaleidoscope of colour in the Caribbean Sea, the island is a visual feast for the traveller. Despite a famously controversial political system and a humbled economy, the culture, architecture and landscape of the country remain as rich as ever. It is fascinating to be transported back to the 1930's but equally captivating is the natural beauty of the region. Blessed with cocooned bays, verdant mountains, rolling tobacco fields, crumbling forts and vibrant coral ribboning pristine beaches, you will not be disappointed by our time spent here.



On our journey through a Caribbean that is off the well-trodden tourist path we will visit the banana capital of the world, Port Antonio in Jamaica, and the isolated Little Cayman, where there are more iguanas than humans living.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Havana, Cuba.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive in Havana and transfer to the MS Island Sky. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Havana.** This morning we will discover Habana Vieja (Old Havana) which was once enclosed within fortified walls. Nowhere in the whole of the West Indies do the centuries of New World history come to life in such a dramatic way as in Old Havana. We will explore its twisting, cobbled streets that lead to beautifully restored Baroque churches, castles and palaces and visit the 16th century Plaza de Armas, the oldest plaza in the city and its original administrative centre.

After lunch we will drive along the Malecon, Havana's seafront to Varadero. See the Plaza de la Revolución and the headquarters of President Fidel Castro and his Council of Ministers. This evening we hope to be entertained after dinner by local musicians on the ship.

**Day 3 Havana.** This morning we will explore Hemingway's Cuba. Visit Ernest Hemingway's finca in San Francisco de Paula and the Ernest Hemingway Museum and later, call into Cojimar Village, the inspiration for 'The Old Man and the Sea'. We will return to the ship via the fortress offering great views over Havana



Havana, Cuba

Bay. This afternoon is free to explore Havana independently before we set sail in the early evening.

**Day 4 Maria La Gorda.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea as we cruise around the West Coast of Cuba and the resort of Maria La Gorda. Renowned as one of the top diving sites in Cuba we will use our Zodiacs to land and then offer the chance to snorkel amongst the 6,500 varieties of fish, sponges and molluscs. Alternatively

join a nature walk or simply relax on the white sand beaches.

**Day 5 Isla de Juventud.** Located some 50 miles from Cuba's south coast, this attractive island is famous for its beaches, coral reefs and densely forested hills. We have the morning to enjoy its natural beauty as we moor off Punta Frances and enjoy the opportunity to snorkel or swim in the clear waters. Enjoy an afternoon at sea as we sail back to the Cuban mainland.

**Day 6 Cienfuegos.** Cienfuegos is a laid back maritime city with a lazy, tropical atmosphere. In colonial times it was known as the 'Pearl of the South', a name earned from its lovely location on a picturesque Caribbean bay. Explore the town including a visit to the botanical gardens which are spread over 90 hectares and include 2000 species of plants, the majority being exotic.

**Day 7 Casilda for Trinidad.** The compact colonial centre of Trinidad





Green Iguana



Port Antonio, Jamaica



Isla de la Juventud, Cuba



Cienfuegos, Cuba

“  
Cuba is an extraordinary place; glorious landscapes, delightful people and lifestyle that is more 1930's than that of today.  
”

is one of the most sublime in Latin America. The cobbled streets, terracotta rooftops and pastel coloured houses are a delight. We will spend the morning here exploring and visiting either the Romantic Museum or City Museum, and perhaps a bar for a local speciality.

**Day 8 Cruising Jardins de la Reina.**

We continue cruising the south coast of Cuba and will pass through the Jardins de la Reina archipelago. The area was named by Christopher Columbus to honour the Queen of Spain and at 75 miles long contains the third longest barrier reef in the world. The reef is home to many species of marine fauna and large fish but is famous for its shark population. Meanwhile the 250 islands support crocodiles, turtles and iguanas amongst the impassable mangrove trees. We will use our ship to search for wildlife and launch the Zodiacs if an opportunity arises.

**Day 9 Santiago de Cuba.** After a morning at sea, arrive in Santiago de Cuba. Our tour will commence with a panoramic drive through the city including stops at the Moncada Garrison, which still bears bullet holes from Fidel Castro's attempted coup in 1953 and also take in the imposing Plaza de la Revolucion. We will drive out of the city through lush tropical scenery to the Castillo del Morro which guards the entrance to the harbour, affording magnificent views.

**Day 10 Port Antonio, Jamaica.** Arrive this morning on the North Coast of

Jamaica and the small bustling port of Port Antonio renowned as the world's banana capital. We will have a chance to explore the town including the Musgrave market, Titchfield Hill and Trident Castle. For the more active amongst us there will be a chance to visit the Blue Lagoon, one of the most legendary beauty spots in the world fed by a fresh water mineral spring.

**Day 11 Little Cayman.**

After a morning at sea we arrive in one of the most unspoilt and least developed parts of the Caribbean. First discovered in 1503 by Christopher Columbus the island has more iguanas than human residents and is a great place to head for solitude and tranquility. We will use our Zodiacs to land and have an afternoon to swim or snorkel.

**Day 12 Georgetown, Grand Cayman to London.** Disembark this morning

and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 13 London.** Arrive this morning.



Trinidad, Cuba



**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCISK08034**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£5995	£6395	£6695	£6895	£7095	£7495	£7695
Sole	£8395	£8995	£9795	-	-	-	-

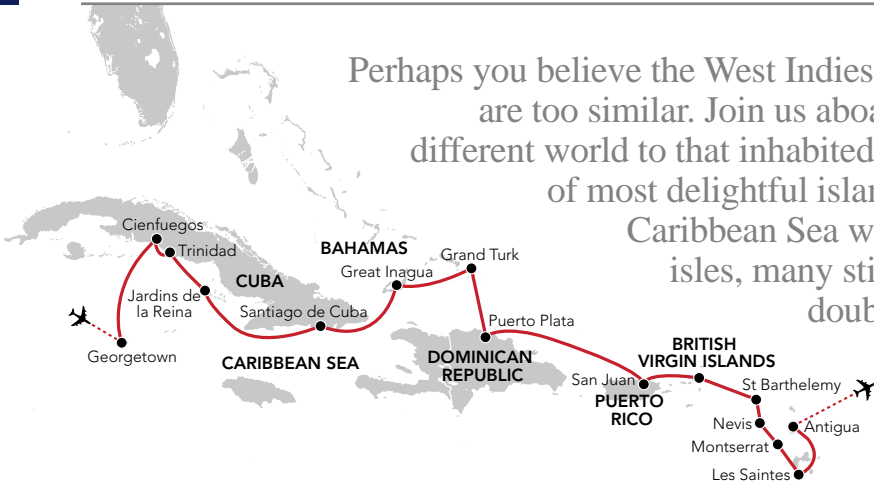
**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Island hopping in the Caribbean

A voyage exploring the secret Caribbean aboard the MS Island Sky  
19th March to 3rd April 2014

Perhaps you believe the West Indies is a little too tame for you and that all the islands are too similar. Join us aboard the MS Island Sky and let us show you a very different world to that inhabited by the new breed of mega-cruise ships and some of most delightful islands. On our island hopping adventure through the Caribbean Sea we will explore some of the most beautiful tropical isles, many still untouched by the hands of tourism. There is no doubt that the less commercialised of the islands have enormous charm and great natural beauty. But, beyond the fabulous beaches and pastel painted towns there is more.



During the 17th and 18th centuries the West Indies attracted all manner of adventurers, buccaneers, pirates, slave traders and the navy's of the major European seafaring nations. This colourful history makes for an intriguing background to a voyage as we are able to island hop from island to island and experience the heritage left by the Spanish, French, Dutch and British. We will learn of the great sea battles, including those of Nelson and of the rise of the sugar plantations where son's of the landed gentry were sent to increase the families' fortunes.

This combined with opportunities to snorkel in some of the most enticing sub-tropical waters, beach comb, bird watch and enjoy the colourful flora makes this area an ideal location for the MS Island Sky.

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise,*

*however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Georgetown, Cayman Islands.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive in the early afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky. Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Cienfuegos, Cuba.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Cuba. Cienfuegos is a laid back maritime city with a lazy, tropical atmosphere. In colonial times it was known as the 'Pearl of the South', a name earned from its lovely location on a picturesque Caribbean bay. Explore the town including a visit to the botanical gardens which are spread over 90 hectares and include 2000 species of plants, the majority being exotic.

**Day 3 Casilda for Trinidad.** The compact colonial centre of Trinidad is one of the most sublime in Latin America. The cobbled streets, terracotta rooftops and pastel coloured houses are a delight. We will spend the morning here exploring the town and visiting either the Romantic Museum or City Museum, and perhaps a bar for a local speciality.

**Day 4 Cruising Jardines de la Reina.** We continue cruising the south coast of Cuba and will pass through the Jardines de la Reina archipelago. The area was named by Christopher Columbus to honour the Queen of Spain and at 75 miles long contains the third longest barrier reef in the world. The reef is home to many species of marine fauna and large fish but is famous for its shark population. Meanwhile the 250 islands support crocodiles, turtles and iguanas amongst the impassable mangrove trees. We will use our ship to search for wildlife and launch the Zodiacs if an opportunity arises.

**Day 5 Santiago de Cuba.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Santiago de Cuba. Our tour will commence with a panoramic drive through the city including stops at the Moncada Garrison, which still bears bullet holes from Fidel Castro's attempted coup in 1953 and also take in the imposing Plaza de la Revolución. We will also drive out of the city through lush tropical scenery to the Castillo del Morro which guards the entrance to the harbour, affording magnificent views.

**Day 6 Great Inagua, Bahamas.** Situated just 55 miles from the eastern



French Angelfish

tip of Cuba, Inagua is the third largest island in the Bahamas. We will dock at the small capital Matthew Town for our excursion to the Inagua National Park, home to the worlds largest population of West Indian flamingoes with over 60,000. We also hope to see Bahamas parrots, brown pelicans and herons.

**Day 7 Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos.** These islands are about as idyllic as you get. Surrounded by one of the world's largest coral reefs, this little visited group of some 40 islands is a haven for wildlife on sea and land. We will call into Cockburn Harbour on the island of Grand Turk. This is a marvellous area for snorkelling and exploring the deserted cays and reefs of the marine parks and wildlife reserves. Alternatively join an island drive visiting the local lighthouse and museum including displays of objects rescued from a 16th century Spanish shipwreck.

**Day 8 Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.** This morning there will be a choice of excursions as we arrive in the Dominican Republic. Either join an historical tour of Puerto Plata including the colonial San Felipe Fort, the oldest military fortification in



Gustavia Harbour, St Barts





Sugar Mill, Nevis



British Virgin Islands

“ The colourful history of the islands we visit combined with opportunities to snorkel in some of the most enticing waters, makes the area an ideal region for exploration ”

the Americas and where the hero of the independence movement, Juan Pablo Duarte was briefly confined. We will also see the amber museum and have time to walk amongst the colonial buildings. Alternatively join a nature tour to the Gri Gri Lagoon and take the cable car up Mount Isabel for outstanding views of the town and the botanical gardens.

**Day 9 San Juan, Puerto Rico.** Today we land in the capital of Puerto Rico. First discovered by Columbus in 1493 it was founded in 1521 and is the oldest city in US territory. In the 16th century the harbour was used by Spanish explorers as a base for chartering the New World and its fortifications repulsed Sir Francis Drake in 1595. We will walk the cobbled streets of Old San Juan, visit the bustling plazas and see the forts of San Felipe del Morro and San Cristobal which were fundamental in the defence of the island.

**Day 10 British Virgin Islands.** These islands are recognised throughout the seafaring world as one of the finest sailing areas. The thirty-six islands and cays sit in a dazzling turquoise sea surrounded by beautiful coral reefs.

We will drop anchor at Virgin Gorda, one of the principal islands of this charming and unspoiled British Crown colony and later sail across to Jost Van Dyke dropping anchor at the little visited hideaway island.

**Day 11 St Barthelemy.** We spend the day at St Barthelemy, a gem of an island. Very French in atmosphere it is only eight square miles, yet is one of the most beautiful in the whole of the Caribbean. Mellow green mountains, coral sand coves and dollhouse-size capital make this one of the most appealing ports in the area. It is also one of the most sophisticated with excellent French restaurants, ultra-expensive hotels, smart yachts in the harbour and a relaxed atmosphere.

**Day 12 Nevis.** True, most of the old plantations are now deluxe resorts, but then you can see why they have chosen this little bit of paradise. The island of Nevis featured significantly in Nelson's time in the West Indies. It was here that he met Fanny Nisbet and later married her in the old Montpellier House, on the site where a hotel now stands. Prince William, later to become William IV who was under Nelson's command attended the wedding and gave the bride away.

On an island drive we will visit the Nelson Museum and Botanical Gardens.

**Day 13 Montserrat.** Ask any Caribbean connoisseur about their favourite places and Montserrat will always be high on the list. Following the damaging volcanic eruptions a few years ago, much of the island is now returning to normal. We will visit the volcano observatory and learn how the islanders coped with the devastation it caused. Even now we will drive through areas where volcanic material lies in the roads. We also see some of the untouched areas which are as beautiful as ever.

**Day 14 Les Saintes.** This eight-island archipelago dots the waters of the southwest coast of Guadeloupe. Still untouched by the hand of tourism these attractive islands offer lovely coves and beaches and colourful fishing villages, populated by fair-haired and blue-eyed descendants of Breton and Norman fisherman.

**Day 15 Antigua to London.** 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

Tour Code  
SCISK19034

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Magellan Std Forward	Magellan Standard	Columbus Superior	Marco Polo Premium	Marco Polo Corner	Erikson Deluxe Balcony	Explorer Owner's Balcony
Double	£6595	£6995	£7295	£7495	£7695	£8195	£8395
Sole	£9295	£9795	£10295	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 14 nights aboard MS Island Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**NB:** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability



# The Pacific

- 86-87 New Zealand Coastal Odyssey
- 88-89 Passage Across The Tropic of Capricorn
- 90-93 Oceania to Indonesia
- 94-95 Papua New Guinea - Last Frontier
- 96-97 From Papua New Guinea to Micronesia
- 98-99 Timeless Japan
- 100-101 Passage to Kamchatka
- 102-103 Fire & Ice in the Far Arctic
- 104-105 In the Wake of the Bounty
- 106-107 Nomads of the Wind
- 108-111 Circumnavigation of New Zealand
- 112-113 New Zealand Coastal Voyage
- 114-115 South Seas Voyage



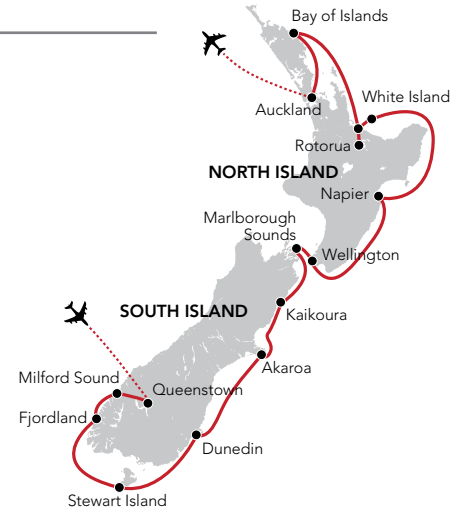




# New Zealand Coastal Odyssey

An exploration of New Zealand's North and South Islands aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
7th to 27th December 2013

If you have promised yourself that one day you will tour New Zealand, but have not been enticed by the thought of touring by coach or self-drive car, then our coastal cruise could be the answer. After all, the islands of New Zealand are perfect for exploration by sea as most of the main scenic attractions are close to the coast. We have many years of operating cruises in New Zealand and are delighted to now have our own vessel, the MS Caledonian Sky in the region as we know from experience she is the perfect style of vessel for such a cruise. Our voyage will introduce you to an unspoiled and unpolluted landscape of remarkable natural beauty.



“  
Our voyage will allow us to drop anchor in the remote bays, navigate channels, fjords and rivers and call into harbours both large and small.  
”



There are steep-sided glacial fjords, geysers and boiling mud, coastal rainforests, snow-capped mountains, rolling green pasture lands and enchanting sandy bays and coves. In the cities, towns and villages you will encounter that unique combination of New World and British heritage. See some of the most splendid gardens in the Southern Hemisphere, visit some world famous vineyards, encounter fascinating marine and bird life and meet the people, renowned for their warmth and openness. All this will be achieved with great ease and with Zodiac landing craft we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of New Zealand's extraordinary natural attractions.

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Fullerton Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay.

**Day 3 Singapore.** After breakfast enjoy a tour including the 53 hectare botanical garden and National Orchid Garden, Little India with the gold domed Sultans Mosque and also some time at Raffles Hotel.



Bay of Islands

### Day 4 Singapore to Queenstown.

Enjoy a morning at leisure in Singapore before transferring to the airport for the scheduled flight to Queenstown via Auckland.

**Day 5 Queenstown.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Novotel Queenstown for a two night stay.

**Day 6 Queenstown.** Today you have the choice of an optional Dart River Wilderness Safari or a day to discover Queenstown independently.

**Day 7 Queenstown to Milford Sound.** Check out of the hotel after breakfast and transfer to Milford Sound to embark the MS Caledonian Sky this afternoon. Sail tonight.

**Days 8 & 9 Fjordland.** We have two full days to explore the incredible

wilderness of fjords to the south of Milford Sound. This is an area of majestic scenery, rich in wildlife, which is only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may include Doubtful Sound, Resolution Bay, Dusky Sound and Deep Cove, but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and Expedition Leader based on weather conditions.

**Day 10 Stewart Island.** New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place and the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will visit Oban, to see the fascinating Rakiura Museum and drive to some of the beauty spots. We also hope to use our Zodiacs around Half Moon Bay and the Paterson Inlet. The birdlife here is amazing.





Dunedin



Whale watching, Kaikoura



Marlborough Sounds



Geysers, Rotorua

**Day 11 Dunedin.** This morning we will explore Dunedin on a guided tour. See the gracious 19th century buildings and beautiful botanical gardens. Alternatively join an optional excursion to Taiaroa Head to see the Royal Albatross Centre.

**Day 12 Akaroa.** This morning we use our Zodiacs to explore Otanerito Bay and hopefully have the opportunity to swim with one of the smallest and rarest dolphins – the Hector's or New Zealand Dolphin. After lunch onboard, we cruise in to the secluded Akaroa Harbour, where we will have time to explore the picturesque town originally settled by the French in the early 19th century, which retains its Gallic heritage and ambience.

**Day 13 Kaikoura.** Today we are in Kaikoura, a famous whale watching area due to its nutrient rich waters. The combination of very deep waters and the mixing of cold and warm waters brings the nutrients to the top. After breakfast, there will be opportunities to join a whale watching cruise looking out for sperm whales, pods of dusky dolphins and common seals and the wandering albatross. Spend the afternoon exploring the town independently, join one of the nature walks or, alternatively take an optional trip on one of the bird watching cruises.

**Day 14 Marlborough Sounds.** Enjoy a day at Marlborough Sounds Maritime Park which is dotted with hundreds of jewel-like emerald islands. Enjoy Zodiac tours of secluded shores and guided nature walks. At Ship's Cove go ashore to view the monument commemorating the visits of Captain Cook. Our naturalist leads a walk through the rainforest, introducing us to botanical species unique to New Zealand.

**Day 15 Wellington.** This morning enjoy a tour of the nation's capital. The excursion will include the Parliament buildings, Old St Paul's Cathedral,

a lovely all-wood structure which was erected in 1866, and the superb Botanic Gardens.

**Day 16 Napier.** Arrive this morning in Napier and join a tour of the town which will include its charming Art Deco buildings. Totally rebuilt after the 1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake, it has enormous style. Nowhere else can you see such a variety of buildings in the styles of the 1930s - Stripped Classical, Spanish Mission, and above all Art Deco, the style of the 20th century. Walk along Marine Parade, see the Botanical Gardens and take in the view from Bluff Hill Lookout before visiting a local vineyard to sample the local wines. This afternoon is free to explore independently or alternatively join the



Wellington harbour

optional excursion to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers where you are able to get amazingly close to the birds.

**Day 17 White Island.** Arrive this afternoon at White Island. Weather permitting there will be an excursion to explore the active volcano, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. We will use the Zodiacs to reach the island and then spend approximately three hours on a guided walk to the crater.

**Day 18 Tauranga for Rotorua.** Drive to the famous thermal springs at Rotorua to see the geysers and pools of bubbling mud. We also enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch.

**Day 19 Bay of Islands.** After a morning at sea we will enjoy a Christmas lunch onboard before arriving in the finest maritime park in New Zealand with its 144 islands, secluded bays and an abundance of marine life. Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, it is the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. This afternoon we will enjoy a walk in the Puketi Kauri Forest which is home to 370 species of plants.

**Day 20 Auckland to London.** Disembark this morning in the 'City

of Sails' and enjoy a morning tour of the city's highlights. This afternoon is free to explore independently before transferring to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 21 London Heathrow.** Arrive this morning.

**Hong Kong & Auckland New Year Extension**  
26th December 2013 to 1st January 2014



On disembarking the MS Caledonian Sky extend your stay in Auckland by two nights. Explore the downtown

area and soak up the atmosphere in the harbour, alternatively spend time on Waiheke or Great Barrier Island. We then fly to Hong Kong for a three night stay including a New Year's Eve celebration.

**Price person**

Twin: **£725** Single: **£995**  
Price includes two nights hotel accommodation in Auckland on bed and breakfast basis, three nights in Hong Kong on bed and breakfast basis, New Year's Eve Celebratory dinner airport transfers, and Hong Kong city tour.

**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£7295	£7595	£7995	£8495	£9495	£9995	£10295
Sole	£8795	£9295	£9995	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in both Singapore and Queenstown on a bed and breakfast basis, 13 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, optional excursions, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# Passage Across The Tropic of Capricorn



A South Seas adventure from Auckland to Rabaul aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
21st December 2013 to 10th January 2014

If you were the owner of a large yacht based in the Pacific, this is exactly the type of itinerary you would plan. A fascinating mix of islands all the way from the northernmost reaches of New Zealand to Melanesia, taking in remote, but splendidly sophisticated Norfolk Island and Iles des Pins in the French Collectivity of New Caledonia. From here we follow the chain of Melanesian islands through Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and finally to the northern islands of Papua New Guinea.



All are beautiful in their different ways and all have unique features and cultures. This region is ideal for exploring by small ship and particularly one as suitable as our MS Caledonian Sky. Her fleet of Zodiac craft will allow us to explore some magnificent places especially tiny coral islets and lagoons. At New Georgia on the outer reaches of the Solomon's we will explore the majestic Marovo Lagoon, the world's largest double barrier lagoon, a truly awe-inspiring place.

These islands form one of the most culturally complex regions of the entire world, with 1293 languages spoken across the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and the island of New Guinea. It is also a region of great antiquity; New Guinea has been settled for around 45,000 years, the Solomon Islands for 35,000 years, and Vanuatu and New Caledonia for about 4,000.

There will be much of the natural world to occupy us as we sail in a northerly

direction through the South Pacific along much of the same route as Captain James Cook. The maritime history of the region is a constant wonder from the early explorers and native migrations to the fierce battles of the Second World War. Join us in this faraway haven, where there still exists a savage beauty, which cannot fail to stir the most jaded of travellers. Many of the islands still possess a pristine beauty, much the same as they were when first discovered by the great explorers.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Fullerton Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to relax or explore independently.

**Day 3 Singapore to Auckland.** Enjoy a morning at leisure before joining a city tour. After the tour we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Auckland.



Rainbow Lorikeet

**Day 4 Auckland.** Arrive this afternoon in the "City of Sails" and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel for our two night stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration.

**Day 5 Auckland.** Enjoy Christmas Day in Auckland. A lunch will be arranged at a local restaurant and the remainder of the day is free.

**Day 6 Auckland.** A morning tour will include the city's highlights and the Auckland Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Polynesian artefacts. We will then enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in the city. Sail this evening.

**Day 7 Paihia, Bay of Islands.** Arrive this morning in the finest maritime park in New Zealand with its 144 islands, secluded bays and an abundance of marine life. Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, it is the cradle of European civilisation in New

Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. We will visit the Waitangi Treaty House where on February 6th 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was first signed between Maori and the British Crown.

**Day 8 Three Kings Islands.** This morning we arrive at the Manawatawhi Nature Reserve, a haven for native species with many rare and unique plants and animals, found nowhere else in the world. Whilst we are unable to land on the islands we will use our Zodiacs to explore the coastline and view the abundant birdlife.

**Day 9 At sea.**

**Day 10 Norfolk Island.** This morning we awake at Norfolk Island which Captain Cook encountered in 1774 and named after the Duchess of Norfolk. We have the full day to



Nanda Blue Hole, Espiritu Santo





Spine-cheeked Clownfish



Haruru Falls, New Zealand

explore and will have the opportunity to visit the historical Georgian settlement of Kingston with its convict settlements and the beautiful St Barnabas Chapel. Stroll through the Botanical Gardens with its 40 endemic, or unique species, including 15 plant species considered to be critically endangered. The more active may wish to take a walk in the National Park. We will also take the chance to snorkel in the coral reefs surrounding the island.

**Day 11 At sea.** Enjoy a day relaxing onboard. This evening as we sail to New Caledonia, toast in the New Year and celebrate with your fellow travellers.

**Day 12 Iles des Pins, New Caledonia.** Arrive at first light in New Caledonia at the islands named by Captain Cook in 1774 on his second voyage to New Zealand. These remote islands are close to paradise and we will use our Zodiacs to land at one of the remote beaches and snorkel in the crystal clear waters. The more active may wish to climb the 262 metres Nga Peak.

**Day 13 Port Vila and Moso Island, Vanuatu.** We arrive today in Vanuatu and the capital of Port Vila. We will spend the morning exploring the town and local markets before sailing to Moso Island over lunch. Moso is home to a significant nesting beach for Hawksbill Turtles and we hope to visit the sea turtle sanctuary at Tasariki village.

**Day 14 Espiritu Santo Island.** Espiritu Santo is the largest of Vanuatu's islands and with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches, amazing blue holes, caves and renowned snorkelling. It was also a huge military base during World War II. Join an island tour taking in some of the relics, including Quonset huts, three bomber strip, US hero Park and Million Dollar Point.

**Day 15 At sea.** Relax onboard and attend a lecture or two.

**Day 16 Santa Ana, Solomon Islands.** Arrive this morning at Port Mary on Santa Ana Island. We are welcomed by a stunning dance by the villagers with spears and mud face masks. Soak in the culture as we set foot on the shores of this lovely island. There will be opportunities for snorkelling and nature walks, or exploring the town.



Hawksbill Turtle

**Day 17 Honiara.** This morning we cruise through Iron Bottom Sound, the site of intense World War Two naval battles, and so named for the large numbers of Japanese and American ships and aircraft that sank beneath the sea, before arriving into Honiara. During World War Two the British founded Honiara as a military base. The town and the Mataniko

River, which runs through it, were the front for many months during the battle of Guadalcanal. Today, this is a bustling town with lovely hibiscus and palm-tree-lined avenues. We enjoy a morning tour of Honiara and its environs.

**Day 18 Marovo Lagoon, New Georgia.** This morning we arrive at the largest double barrier lagoon in the world. Thousands of islands scatter the lagoon, from tiny coral islets on the fringing reef to massive 1600m volcanic islands. Inside the lagoon, the islands are surrounded by spectacular coral formations and white sand beach, the lagoon waters shimmering in every shade of blue, turquoise and jade green. We will use our Zodiacs to land on a remote beach and snorkel.

**Day 19 At sea.**

**Day 20 Rabaul, Papua New Guinea to Singapore.** Disembark this morning in Rabaul and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Singapore via Port Moresby. Arrive in Singapore this evening and transfer to the Fullerton Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

**Day 21 Singapore to London.** After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

“ Join us in this faraway haven, where there still exists a savage beauty, which cannot fail to stir the most jaded of travellers. The region is ideal for exploring by small ship.



## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK21123

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£7295	£7595	£7995	£8495	£9495	£9995	£10295
Sole	£8795	£9295	£9995	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in both Singapore and Auckland on a bed and breakfast basis 14 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# Oceania to Indonesia



A passage through Melanesia to Indonesia aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
5th to 24th January 2014

Escape the winter and join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky in the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean for exactly the type of itinerary which suits her many talents best. Our voyage includes an in-depth exploration of Papua New Guinea in addition to some beautiful islands as we make our way to Bali. The unique ports of call we will visit are certainly not on the mass tourism circuit and their beauty and customs are relatively unscathed by the modern world.



Our fleet of purpose built Zodiacs gives us the freedom of spontaneity to explore and land in places where few travellers have been before us. We will land on otherwise inaccessible beaches, explore lagoons and coral reefs and encounter some truly remote communities. Obviously, such beauty and serenity is best enjoyed with a small number of travelling companions. After all, it would be disappointing to find yourself in the company of hundreds on what was a deserted beach.

New Guinea is a revelation of exquisite wild beauty and exotic cultural wealth. With its incomparable biodiversity, both on land and in the surrounding waters, it also remains one of the most mysterious places on earth. In these times of jaded notions that the entire world has been 'discovered', New Guinea is testimony to the contrary. Astonishing recent discoveries of dozens of new land and marine species in the region have focused international attention on protecting this fragile environment. The incredible statistics speak for themselves, of the 284 known mammal species on New Guinea, 69% are endemic, as are half of the 578 species of breeding birds. Raja Ampat and Bird's Head Seascape off the northwest coast are home to more than 1200 species of fish and 600 of coral, nearly 75% of the world's known total.

Afloat and ashore, our exploration of New Guinea will be filled with unforgettable images, sky-piercing volcanoes, remote idyllic islets, tribal villages unchanged for centuries, astonishing ceremonial dances,

kaleidoscopic reefs, soaring white-tailed tropic birds and sweet scented frangipani trees. Among the many highlights are opportunities to snorkel in coral wonderlands considered some of the finest on the planet. The cultural component of the region is equally unique and the spectrum of traditions, spiritual beliefs and artistic craftsmanship is mindboggling.

On leaving New Guinea, our adventure continues as we island hop our way to Bali experiencing many diverse and splendid sights along the way including the awesome Komodo dragons, vast crater lakes with surrealistic hues, lush spice growing islands contrasting with lunar like landscapes and extraordinary islanders. This epic voyage has something for everyone, whether your interest lies in natural history, military history, bird watching, photography, the undersea world or just simply being one of the few privileged travellers who are able to set foot on islands of astonishing richness and beauty. This is a truly unique trip and it is unlikely that we will encounter any other vessels in the area. We hope you will join us for this unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive in Singapore and transfer to the Fullerton Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration or to relax in the hotel.



Volcano, Flores

**Day 3 Singapore.** After breakfast in the hotel enjoy a morning city tour which will include the 53 hectare botanical garden and National Orchid Garden, Little India with the gold domed Sultan Mosque and also some time at Raffles Hotel. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 4 Singapore to Rabaul.** Morning at leisure in Singapore before an early afternoon transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to Rabaul via Port Moresby.

**Day 5 Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. Embark and sail past Mount Tavuvur this afternoon into the Bismarck Sea.

**Day 6 Garove Island, Witu Islands.** This morning we arrive at the Witu

Islands, a small group of volcanic reef-ringed islands situated within the archipelago of Bismarck, Papua New Guinea within the Southwest Pacific. We spend the morning on the largest of these, Garove Island. The fringing reef surrounding the island offers fine swimming and snorkelling whilst we also have a chance to tour the church and recently built community house.

**Day 7 Madang.** Madang is often dubbed the 'prettiest town in the Pacific' perched on a peninsula surrounded by picturesque islands and sprinkled with parks, ponds and water-lily-filled waterways. Madang's warm, wet climate and fertile soil produce luxuriant growth and any of the huge casuarina trees that tower over the Madang streets support huge colonies of flying foxes. The trees may have escaped World War



It relatively unscathed but Madang itself was not so lucky. The town was rebuilt after it was virtually destroyed during the Japanese occupation and subsequent fighting. In addition the excellent visibility, stunning tropical coral and fish life and countless World War II wrecks make the diving and snorkelling around Madang world famous. We will explore the town this morning including the vibrant market and museum before using our Zodiacs to find a snorkelling site in the afternoon.

**Day 8 Wewak.** Wewak is the capital of the East Sepik province of Papua New Guinea. Located on the northern coast of the island of New Guinea, Wewak is the capital of the East Sepik province and the site of the largest Japanese airbase in New Guinea during World War II. This morning we will visit Cape Wom, the site of the Japanese forces surrender of New Guinea in World War II and see the war memorial and Peace Park. We will enjoy Wewak's main food and artefact markets that are awash with local crafts and visit the large Gothic style cathedral. The afternoon will be free to explore the town further or join a snorkelling trip from one of the local beaches.

**Day 9 Jayapura, Indonesia.** Arrive this morning in Jayapura, the capital and largest city in Papua. We will drive inland to Lake Sentani, one of the largest lakes which is still virtually untouched by tourism. The people who call the shores of this magnificent lake home still live in a traditional manner and are renowned for their woodworking and pottery. We will drive up to Gunung Ifar to view the World War II monument of General



Raja Ampat

McArthur with its spectacular view of Sentani Lake and Cyclope Mountain. Later, enjoy an excursion by boat to a small island in the middle of the lake where we can visit the village of Assei. We will walk into the village to learn of the local people's lives and share in their daily activities.

**Days 10 & 11 Cruising the Papua Coast.** Over the next two days we will take advantage of our small ship and fleet of Zodiacs to explore the islands off the coast of Papua. Our itinerary will be flexible and be guided by our Captain, Expedition Leader and local weather conditions. We hope to visit the Padaido Islands, a chain of 31 mainly uninhabited islands and the site of some of the world's most intact and biologically diverse coral reef systems. Padaido is a local word, meaning undescrivable beauty and we will snorkel in the reefs which harbour 95

coral species and 155 fish species. We may also visit Biak which again offers superb snorkelling opportunities. Biak was also used as a base by both Allied and Japanese forces in World War II and we can visit the Cenderawasih Museum to witness a remarkable collection of Japanese and US weapons, equipment and photos.

**Day 12 Raja Ampat.** Watch from on deck as our ship sails through the narrow channels between the islands off New Guinea's northwestern tip known as Bird's Head. Birders can watch for species such as the sulfur-crested cockatoo and crested tern in the dense forests that line the passageway. More than 1500 karst limestone islands off this coast make up the archipelago of Raja Ampat, also known as "Four Kings," after its four main islands. Few outsiders have ever explored

this remote region. The waters off Bird's Head are heralded as the most bio-diverse on earth and include 600 species of hard coral and 1200 types of reef fish. We will use our Zodiacs to land on one of the islands or operate a snorkelling excursion.

**Day 13 Kokas, MacCluer Gulf.** Our last day in New Guinea will not disappoint as we sail into the MacCluer Gulf (Teluk Berau) with its breathtaking coastline of natural bays, tiny islets, pristine rainforest and soaring mountains. Dozens of local tribes, speaking different languages, populate the shores. We board our Zodiacs to visit Kokas, strongly fortified by the Japanese during World War II and today a prosperous fishing town of 3000 residents. A unique cultural heritage presentation of harmonic songs, drumming and the traditional Gabagaba or stick dance awaits.



Tribesman



New Guinea



Komodo dragon



Lake Sentani

**Day 14 Banda Neira.** Little Banda Neira is Banda's main port and administrative centre. Remnants of an extravagant European lifestyle remain from the Dutch era when the port was almost exclusively the world's only source of nutmeg – reputed to ward off the bubonic plague. It is a charmingly friendly place and almost devoid of tourism as it is so difficult to reach. We will visit the 1608 Dutch fortress of Benteng Nassau and hear of its tragic history. Next is Rumah Budaya museum with its collection of Dutch artefacts and historical memories. Snorkellers may wish to visit the Coral Gardens of Tanah Rata village.

**Day 15 At sea.**

**Day 16 Flores.** The Portuguese were the first westerners to land here in the 16th century and their influence is still evident in the Christianity of the island. Today, the island is known for its active volcanoes, fascinating indigenous cultures, hand woven textiles and its coral reefs which offer spectacular diving. On our afternoon tour we will visit the south coast village of Sikka and learn about the making of Ikat and see some of the wonderful examples of their craft.

**Day 17 Rinca Island, Komodo.** The highlight of our visit here for many will be our visit to Komodo to see the distant cousins of the dinosaurs, the Komodo dragons. These rare huge lizards grow up to twelve feet in length and were only known to the western world in 1910 when a Dutch lieutenant first laid eyes on them. Escorted by the island's wardens in the national park we will walk to the dragon's old feeding station, seeing dragons in the wild. We also hope to see frigate birds, white buffalo and long tailed

monkeys. Later, spend some time on Pink Beach just relaxing, swimming or snorkelling.

**Day 18 Satonda Island & Moyo Island.** Awake this morning at Satonda Island, the tip of an ancient volcano. Close to the beach is a small mystical crater lake where the trees are decorated with 'wishing' stones, shells and pieces of coral. Here also is a snorkeller's paradise with pristine reefs and abundant fish. Sail over lunch to the lovely island of Moyo, just to the north of Sumbawa. Moyo is a nature reserve with wild oxen deer, wild boars and a great variety of bird species. However, its greatest attraction is below water. The coral reefs here are amazingly beautiful and inhabited by countless brightly coloured fish. If conditions allow there will be the opportunity to snorkel and explore by Zodiac.

**Day 19 Bali to London.** Disembark this morning in the port of Benoa and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London via Singapore.

**Day 20 London.** Arrive this morning.

### Ubud, Bali Post Cruise Extension



For those who would like to extend their stay in Bali, we are offering a two night extension to Ubud – the cultural heart of the island.

Ubud is located amongst lush rice paddies and soaring coconut trees, perched on the gentle slopes leading up towards the central mountains. It has been the epicentre of Bali's fine arts, dance and music for over a century. Our two night extension offers you the chance to immerse yourself in Balinese culture, visit ancient caves and temples, interact with local villages and stroll through the stunning rice terraces, with the chance to learn how to plant and harvest rice.

**Prices per person**  
Twin: £395 Single: £495

*Price Includes: A two night stay in a first class hotel in central Ubud, breakfast and lunch on both days, dinner on first night, excursions, transfers.*

“  
Our fleet of Zodiacs gives us the freedom of spontaneity to explore and land in places where few travellers have been before us.  
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### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCCSK06014**

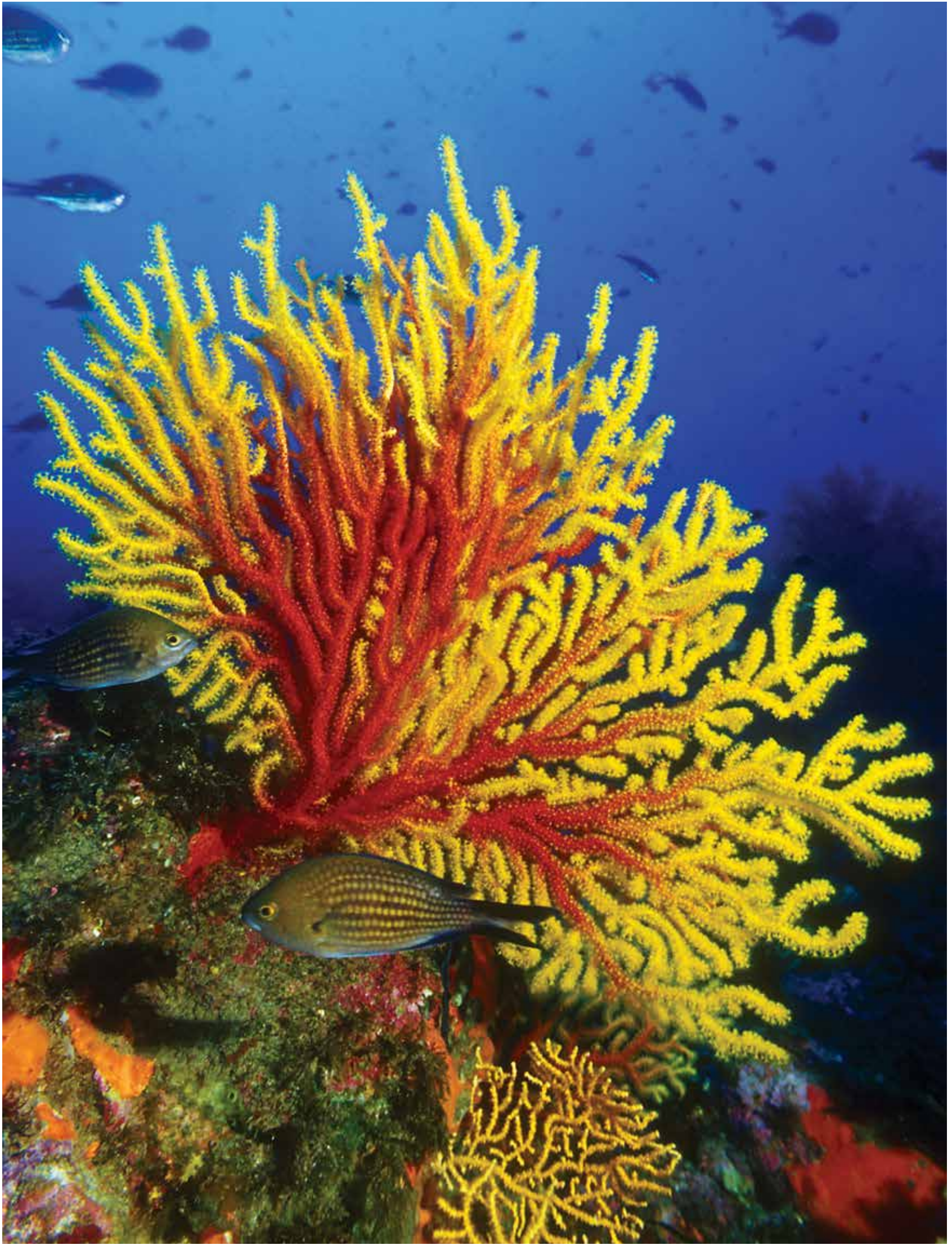
**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£6995	£7595	£8295	£8995	£9295	£9595	£10295
Sole	£8495	£8995	£10795	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Singapore with breakfast, Singapore city tour, 14 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, port taxes, transfers, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.



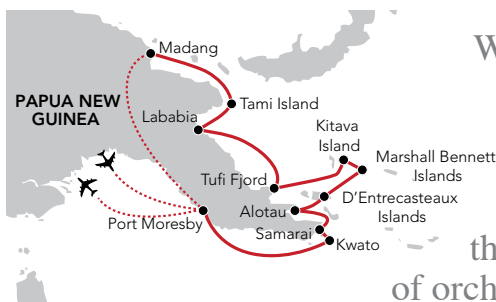




# Papua New Guinea - Last Frontier



An exploration of Papua New Guinea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
26th February to 12th March 2014



With exotic wildlife, turquoise seas, tropical rainforest, volcanoes and more than 1000 tribal groups, Papua New Guinea has all the ingredients for a truly memorable expedition cruise, and is, in the truest sense, the last untouched frontier on earth. Reach into the heart and soul of Papua New Guinea, and see your expectations of the place and its people soar. Its secret forests nurture over 3000 kinds of orchids, and the world's largest butterfly and moth inhabit its rainforests.

There is no such thing as a typical Papua New Guinean; as more than 1000 tribal groups, each with different traditions, are now recognised. On this journey of contrasts we will witness an astonishing array of cultural ceremonies from fascinating villages, to the exquisite Tami, Trobriand and D'Entrecasteaux Islands offering exceptional underwater experiences.

We hope you will join us for this unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Hong Kong.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of day free to explore independently.

**Day 3 Hong Kong to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.** After breakfast enjoy a morning city tour including a ferry ride across Victoria Harbour before taking the Peak tram to climb 373 metres above the city. We will take in

the views of the harbour and Kowloon before continuing to Aberdeen and Stanley market. We will enjoy a dim sum lunch in a local restaurant before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to Port Moresby.

**Day 4 Port Moresby.** Arrive this morning in the capital of Papua New Guinea. On a city tour we visit the National Museum with over 30,000 anthropological collections and 20,000 war relics providing an introduction to our upcoming exploration of Papua New Guinea. We also see the botanical gardens with a huge collection of plants from all over the island including an extensive orchid house and wildlife displays. We will enjoy dinner at our hotel this evening.

**Day 5 Port Moresby to Madang.** This morning we transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Madang. Madang is often dubbed the 'prettiest town in the Pacific' perched on a peninsula surrounded by picturesque islands and sprinkled with parks, ponds and water-lily-filled waterways. Madang's warm, wet climate and fertile soil produce luxuriant growth and any of the huge casuarina trees that tower over the Madang streets support huge colonies of flying foxes. The trees may have escaped World War II relatively unscathed but Madang itself wasn't so lucky. The town was rebuilt after it was virtually destroyed during the Japanese occupation and subsequent fighting. We will enjoy a drive around the city before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky this afternoon. Sail this evening.

**Day 6 - Tami Islands.** Arrive this morning on the Tami Islands, four tiny atolls situated seven miles off the Huon Peninsula with around 400 inhabitants. We will be welcomed by

“  
The only comfortable way to explore this vast and intriguing land is by sea and we are fortunate in having one of the finest expedition vessels in the world for our explorations.  
”





the islanders and have a chance to see the distinctive wooden bowls, figure carvings and masks of the region. We return to the ship for lunch before using our Zodiacs and taking the opportunity to snorkel in the crystal clear waters.

**Day 7 Lababia.** Arrive at breakfast time in Lababia our entry to the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. It is accessible only by boat and the area has been formally protected but is under the control of local landowners. It includes a wide range of lowland and mid-montane rainforest, together with inshore marine areas including lush coral reefs, and has a rich array of plants, animals and ecosystems. We can take a rainforest walk on the David Suzuki Trail, seeking hornbills, parrots and palm cockatoos or enjoy time in the local village.



Mandarin Fish

**Day 8 Tufi Fjords.** Arrive at first light in the fjordland of Papua New Guinea. These fjords are over 90 metres deep and rise vertically to 150 metres from the water. The faces of the fjord are covered with moss and orchids and waterfalls fall into the sea. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the fjords and also visit the local villages. In the markets we will see the local pottery, jewellery and tapa cloth typical of this region. Due to the protection of the fjords the coral reefs are rich in colour and variety and have remarkable visibility. We will find a suitable spot with our Zodiacs to snorkel amongst the gobie, Mandarin Fish, pigmy seahorses, sponge and shelf corals.

**Day 9 Kitava, Trobriand Islands.**

We sail overnight to the Trobriand Islands first discovered by the French vessel, Esperence, in 1793 and named after the first lieutenant. They are also known as the "Islands of Love" after the study by anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski. The islanders have made great efforts to preserve their culture and when we land on the island of Kitava where we will receive a traditional welcome. We will also have the opportunity to visit the local village to learn about their unique culture and customs and visit the Trobriand Yam House. This

afternoon we visit Narutu with the chance to snorkel these amazing coral reefs populated by parrotfish and neon damsel, or join our naturalists on a walk around the island in search of flying foxes, sulphur-crested cockatoos, and helmeted friarbirds.

**Day 10 Gawa, Marshall Bennett Islands.** We arrive this morning on the raised atoll of Gawa. The islanders will welcome us before a steep walk takes us to the village of Kweupa where we can see their way of life and the local crafts. Keep an eye out for the traditional Kula ring trading canoes and local fishing boats.

**Day 11 D'Entrecasteaux Islands.** Awake this morning in the D'Entrecasteaux Islands. We will use our Zodiacs to land on Fergusson Island, the largest of the chain, in a small fishing village. From here we will walk to the local hot springs and bubbling mud pools surrounded by lush vegetation. This afternoon we will cruise through the spectacular Dobu passage and use our Zodiacs to explore and snorkel on the local reefs.

**Day 12 Alotau, Milne Bay.** Today we will visit our first "big" town as we arrive in Alotau, the provincial capital. As the centre for Milne Bay many of the islanders come here to sell their wares and the vibrant local market is a trove of local artefacts including Trobriand carvings. We will have time to explore the town whilst our naturalists will take walks to explore the surrounding rainforest.

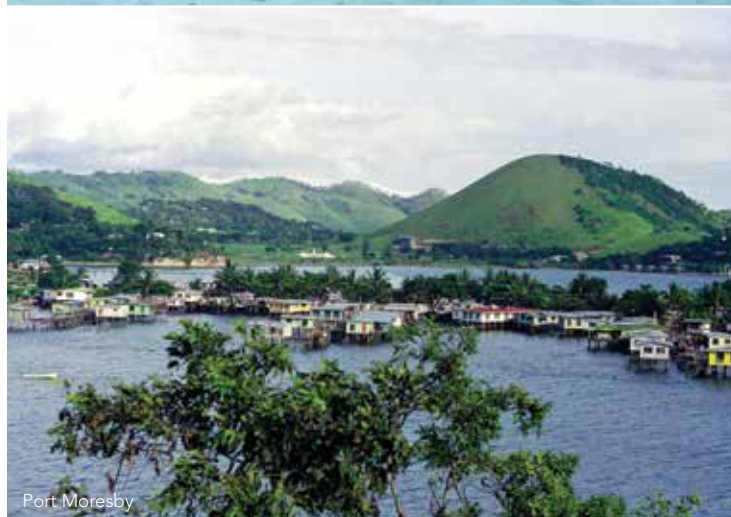
**Day 13 Samarai.** This morning we will explore Samarai which was once known as the "Pearl of the Pacific" and was the Provincial capital until 1968. Samarai was the country's first provincial headquarters and the faded colonial charm of the buildings is indicative of its former importance.

**Day 14 Port Moresby to London.** Disembark this morning in Port Moresby and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London.** Arrive this morning.



Kitava, Trobriand Islands



Port Moresby



Local's fishing

**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCCSK26024**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£5995	£6495	£6995	£7995	£8495	£8795	£8995
Sole	£7295	£7795	£8495	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in both Hong Kong and Port Moresby on breakfast only basis, dinner on day 4, 9 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# From Papua New Guinea to Micronesia



An expedition cruise from Port Moresby to Guam aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
1st to 16th April 2014

Travelling independently in Papua New Guinea can be difficult, with little infrastructure in place to accommodate for tourists and information about getting around often scarce. This is of course what makes the region alluring to the genuine traveller, but also why travelling with 100 or so other passengers aboard the MS Caledonian Sky an ideal way to explore this fascinating part of the world in comfort.



**P**apua New Guinea is a land of striking natural beauty and a hybrid of diverse and unique cultures, with more than 1000 tribal groups, each with different traditions. The region possesses exotic wildlife, turquoise seas, tropical rainforest and steep sided volcanoes with breathtaking islands scattered to its east and north.

On this journey of contrasts we will witness an astonishing array of cultural ceremonies, and explore the beautiful D'Entrecasteaux Islands and the Trobriand Islands offering exceptional underwater experiences.

The little visited islands of the Federated States of Micronesia are divided into four unique states; Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap. Jutting out of the sea are lush grand land masses, haloed by pristine white sands and brightly coloured coral formations, their cultures and identities remain distinctive from one another and on



Exploring by Zodiac

our exploration of the area we will learn of these fascinating differences formed by a turbulent history. The only comfortable way to explore this vast and intriguing region is by sea and we are fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. We hope you will join

us for this unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Hong Kong.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Harbour Plaza Hong Kong Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of day free to explore independently.

**Day 3 Hong Kong to Port Moresby.** After breakfast enjoy a morning city tour including a ferry ride across Victoria Harbour before taking the Peak tram to climb 373 metres above the city. We will take in the views of the harbour and Kowloon before continuing to Aberdeen and Stanley market. We will enjoy a dim sum lunch in a local restaurant before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to Port Moresby.

**Day 4 Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.** Arrive this morning in the capital of Papua New Guinea. We will explore this vibrant city on a tour including the National Museum with over 30,000 anthropological collections and 20,000 war relics providing an introduction to our exploration of Papua New Guinea. We also see the botanical gardens with a huge collection of plants from all over the island including an extensive orchid house and wildlife displays. This afternoon transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.

**Day 5 Bonarua.** As we follow the coast of Papua New Guinea, the peaks of the dramatic Stanley Owens Range come into view. After a leisurely morning at sea we arrive at the island of Bonarua (officially: Badila Bedda Bedda Bonarua Island) in Milne Bay. We will



Tufi, Papua New Guinea

go ashore to view fishing and weaving demonstrations, and wander through the enchanting village, sampling local delicacies. Birders have the chance to trek into the thicket for their first sightings, and the warm inviting waters of the Coral Sea offer a perfect introduction to the undersea wonders on our first snorkel of many to come.

**Day 6 D'Entrecasteaux Islands.** Awake this morning in the D'Entrecasteaux islands. We will use our Zodiacs to land on Fergusson Island, the largest of the chain, in a small fishing village. From here we will walk to the local hot springs and bubbling mud pools surrounded by lush vegetation. This afternoon we will cruise through the spectacular Dobu passage and use our Zodiacs to explore and snorkel on the local reefs.

**Day 7 Kitava, Trobriand Islands.** We sail overnight to the Trobriand Islands first discovered by French vessel, Esperence, in 1793 and named after the first lieutenant. They are also known as the "Islands of Love" after the study by anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski. The islanders have made great efforts to preserve their culture and when we land on the island of Kitava we will receive a traditional welcome. We will also have the opportunity to visit the local village to learn about their unique culture and customs and visit the Trobriand Yam House. Relax onboard this afternoon or attend a lecture as we continue our journey north.

**Day 8 Rabaul.** We arrive at lunchtime in the spectacular setting of Rabaul's Simpson harbour. Six cone-shaped





Micronesia



Clown Fish

“

Jutting out of the sea, the little visited islands of the Federated States of Micronesia are lush grand land masses, haloed by pristine white sands and brightly coloured coral formations.

”

volcanoes ring Rabaul's dramatic flooded-caldera harbour. One of these, Mt Tavurvur is still active last erupting in 1994 and covering Rabaul in volcanic ash. Rabaul also had a significant role in World War II as a Japanese stronghold. We will see some of the 700km of tunnels built by the Japanese during the occupation, they were used as a hiding place for barges from enemy aircraft and some of these can still be seen in the tunnels. We also visit Admiral Yamamoto's bunker from where he led the South Pacific campaign.

**Day 9 Tingwon Island.** Today we take advantages of our small ship. Completely encircled by an oblong reef, few passenger vessels are able to visit this small group of islands. Land on a sandy beach this afternoon and meet the 350 inhabitants of charming Tingwon - a picture-perfect village - and enjoy their hospitality and dances. After our visit snorkel or dive along the islets' surrounding reef.

**Day 10 Mussau Island, Tsoi.** Villagers warmly welcome you ashore with a cultural performance and dances accompanied by a superb local choir. Sample traditional foods, then take a walk around the island's perimeter to find orchids, butterflies,

skinks, and birds along the way. On Tsoi Lik search for megapodes nesting along the sandy beach. After lunch our lecture series continues as we cruise toward Micronesia.

**Day 11 At sea.**

**Day 12 Satawal, Federated States of Micronesia.** This afternoon we make our first stop in Micronesia at Satawal Island. This tiny island measures only two kilometres by 0.8 kilometres and can only be accessed by a small ship such as the MS Caledonian Sky. Some of the best traditional navigators in the Pacific live here, still navigating by the stars and ocean swells. The local population of 500 will welcome us as we have the morning to snorkel on the fringing reef or explore the thickly wooded interior with coconut and breadfruit trees.

**Day 13 Ifalik.** Today we have the day to explore the four coral atolls that make up Ifalik. We will again be welcomed by the local villagers and can spend the morning walking on the island, admire the island handicrafts and see the traditional thatched roofed houses set under the trees. In the afternoon we can choose to revisit the island with our naturalists or take the opportunity to snorkel in the warm waters.

**Day 14 Gaferut.** Birds and turtles have discovered Gaferut's charms, but few others visit this migratory resting place. Birdwatchers keep a lookout for noddies, terns and boobies. Just a few steps offshore, great snorkelling awaits.

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

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



Local boy

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK01044

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

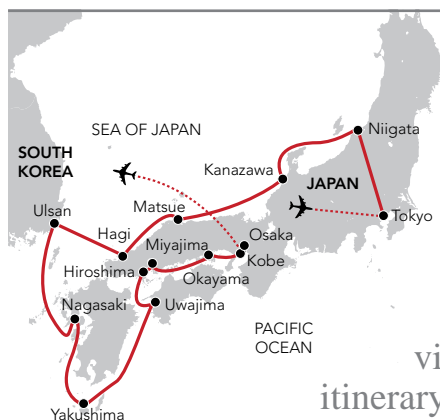
Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£6395	£6795	£7195	£7395	£7595	£7795	£8395
Sole	£8395	£8895	£9395	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Hong Kong on bed and breakfast basis, 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.



# Timeless Japan

A voyage of around Japan including South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
29th April to 11th May 2014 & 20th April to 2nd May 2015\*



Japan is a fascinating balance of unique heritage and culture contrasting with the sprawling metropolises of the world's most advanced technological civilisation. Made up of 6,852 islands, the perfect way to explore the Land of the Rising Sun is by sea. On our journey we will voyage around the stunning coastline and offshore islands of the archipelago, and discover ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens and opulent temples and shrines. Although we will visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo, what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where tourists rarely set foot.

“ Although we will visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo, what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where tourists rarely set foot.



Our vessel, the 114 passenger MS Caledonian Sky, allows us to visit out of the way destinations and remote stretches of coast that would not be practical on a land tour. In addition to our circumnavigation of Japan, our course takes us past the south eastern tip of Korea, where we will spend a day in Kyongju, the 'Museum Without Walls'. Here, history comes vividly to life among the tombs, temples, shrines and pleasure gardens. Join us on this voyage of discovery and venture along the historic shores and off the well beaten tourist paths. April and May is the ideal time to see the countryside at its most verdant and whilst temperatures are still pleasant.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tokyo.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Tokyo.** Arrive this morning and transfer to the New Otani Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 3 Tokyo to Niigata.** After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour. We will then transfer to the train station to join our shinkansen service to Niigata, enjoying lunch along the way. On arrival in Niigata transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this afternoon.

**Day 4 Kanazawa.** Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquer ware, outstanding collectible pottery of the Kutani style, gold-leaf workmanship, and delicate hand-painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm. Around each bend is a traditional



Fujiyama Shrine, Nagasaki

house, museum, art gallery, crafts shop, historic samurai residence and even a geisha house to explore. The fascinating open-air market displays a vast variety of items from flowers to fish to local handicrafts. Next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins is one of Japan's premier highlights – the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top gardens.

**Day 5 Matsue.** Matsue, called the 'town of water,' nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including Matsue Castle. This afternoon is free to relax or explore the town at leisure. Alternatively join an optional excursion to the Adachi Museum. Set in a beautiful natural environment, Adachi Museum of Art is well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary paintings.

**Day 6 Hagi.** Japan's revolution began here in Jokamachi's old samurai residential quarter, where we will tour a samurai's home. Also visit Daisho Temple, the resting place of the two first Mori daimyo and all the even numbered daimyo. We will also take time to explore Hagi Castle, Shizuki Park and Tokoji Temple.

**Day 7 Ulsan for Kyongju.** Today embark on a full-day excursion to magnificent Kyongju, a World Heritage Site which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Kyongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum. At lunch, sample Korean delicacies





Miyajima Shrine



Yakushima



Matsue Castle

and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

**Day 8 Nagasaki & Dejima.** Arrive this morning in Nagasaki, the second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War II. We will tour the Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum and Glover Garden. We will continue to Dejima Island which was built during the Edo Period to accommodate Portuguese Christian missionaries and prevent the propagation of their religion. It also used to be the residential quarters of the Dutch, the only foreigners allowed to trade in Japan during the Sakoku (Isolation) Period. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19th century, Dejima was its only window to the world.

natural wonders will astound you as Yakushima has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend our time here on nature walks including Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees, such as the Buddhasugi, Futagosugi and Sennensugi. This afternoon we relax at sea.

**Day 10 Uwajima.** After a morning at sea we arrive at Uwajima situated deep inside the saw-toothed coast of Uwajima Bay. The city of Uwajima is emerging as the nation's largest pearl cultivation centre. Learn the process of implanting, harvesting, extracting and sorting pearls on a visit to a pearl farm. We will continue to Sakiya Square and Dairakuji Temple.

**Day 11 Hiroshima & Miyajima.** Arrive in Hiroshima to visit the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the cenotaph that contains the names of all the known victims of the A-bomb. Return to the ship for lunch and then continue to Miyajima. Considered one of Japan's top scenic wonders,

Miyajima provides a picture-postcard vista of the scarlet Torii gate, the giant camphor wood gates at the entrance to the Shinto Shrine. We will go ashore to explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses. The shrine is a designated World Heritage Site.

**Day 12 Okayama & Kurashiki.** This morning we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en. 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 local lunch 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.

**Day 13 Kobe to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Osaka Kansai Airport for scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

### Tokyo/Kyoto Pre/Post Cruise Extensions



For those that wish to enjoy more time in Tokyo we have arranged a two night extension which

includes accommodation at the New Otani Hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, airport transfers and a full day tour to Nikko.

#### Prices per person

2014: Twin: £495 Single: £775

2015: Twin: £545 Single: £825



On disembarking the cruise we have also arranged a two night stay in Kyoto. This includes two nights at the Westin

Miyaka Kyoto Hotel (or similar), a full day tour of Kyoto & Nara on a bed and breakfast basis and transfers.

#### Prices per person

2014: Twin: £545 Single: £745

2015: Twin: £595 Single: £795



Torii Gate & Miyajima

**Day 9 Yakushima.** This morning we arrive on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993. Its

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK29044/SCCSK20045\*

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£6295	£6595	£6995	£7495	£8295	£8795	£9295
Sole	£8395	£8895	£9395	-	-	-	-

**\*This departure date operates from Kobe to Niigata. Itinerary available on request.**

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis, 10 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, cruise director, guest speaker, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB. Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability**

# Passage to Kamchatka



An expedition cruise from Japan exploring the Russian Far East aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
17th May to 4th June 2014



The remote reaches of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula and the distant and isolated Kuril Islands have fired the imagination of explorers and traders for centuries. Our past travellers have enthused about the spectacular scenery, the incredible array of wildlife and the native cultures known to only a few privileged travellers. Join us on this remarkable voyage of unparalleled exploration along the 'Pacific Ring of Fire'. From Niigata, Japan to Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, we cruise through a pristine environment that calls to nature lovers, history buffs, photographers and the intrepid explorer within. Among the Kurils, a necklace-like chain of volcanic islands, we find vast forests and wild-flower-dappled tundra, back-dropped by soaring steam-breathing volcanoes. Basalt stacks rise from the sea, tailormade resting and nesting spots for unimaginable numbers of seabirds.

Reaching the Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia's remote easternmost province, we are greeted with a dramatic landscape of fire and ice. Geysers, hot springs and active volcanoes set amidst towering mountains and fast flowing rivers make this area magnificently unique.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tokyo.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Tokyo.** Arrive this morning and transfer to the New Otani Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to explore independently in this dynamic city.

**Day 3 Tokyo to Niigata.** After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a half day city tour including Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and Imperial Palace Plaza. We will then transfer to the station to join the bullet train to Niigata where we will embark the MS Caledonian Sky. Sail this afternoon.



Kamchatka

**Day 4 Aomori.** After a morning at sea we arrive on the northern coast of Honshu. From Aomori we head inland to Towada Hachimantai National Park to see the Hakkoda Mountain Range. We will take the ropeway to 1,324metres above sea level which gives us stunning views of the surrounding forests and lakes, and we will walk through the wetlands. Our tour ends at Sukayu Onsen, a 300 year old hot spring which is famous for its 1,000 person bath.

**Day 5 Hakodate.** Arrive in the port of Hakodate on the island of Hokkaido. Our morning excursion will include a visit to Onuma Park, known for its picturesque island dotted lakes and majestic dormant volcano, Mount Komagatake. There will be a chance to walk amongst the lakes and islands and the surrounding forest.

**Day 6 Rishiri.** After a morning cruising we arrive at the island of Rishiri located 20 kilometres off the Hokkaido Coast and part of the Rishiri Rebun Sarobetsu National Park. The skyline is dominated by the dormant volcano of Mount Rishiri and we have timed our voyage perfectly to see the islands alpine flora in bloom at Nime Huma Pond and Kutsugata Cape Park, alternatively the birders can visit the Forest Park where we hope to see Black Woodpecker.

**Day 7 Korsakov.** This morning we arrive into Russia on Sakhalin Island. After clearing custom formalities we will drive to the capital Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Originally a small Russian settlement founded in 1882, the city became a Japanese prefect



Bear catching salmon

capital when the southern half of the island was declared a Japanese colony in 1905; after World War II it was occupied by Russian troops and returned to Russia. We will view the Orthodox Church, Museum and vibrant market.

**Day 8 Tyuleniy.** We land this morning at Tyuleniy Island in the Sea of Okutsk. Tyuleniy means seal in Russian, and you will immediately understand why the island is so-named. Hundreds of northern fur seals and Steller sea lions cover the beaches. Birds fill whatever space the seals and sea lions leave unclaimed.

**Day 9 Chirpoy Island.** The indigenous Ainu people, all of whom now live on Hokkaido, once inhabited these remote islands and remains of settlements can be found. These islands are populated with profuse wildlife and birds. We will use the Zodiacs to search the coastline for Steller sea lions and the huge

numbers of kittiwakes, guillemots and cormorants.

**Day 10 Yankicha & Matua.** Yankicha, a sinking volcanic caldera offers access during high tides. Inside the magnificent lagoon, we witness the ongoing volcanic activity. The island is also home to crested auklets nesting in the cliffs. One of the Kuril's most active volcanoes rises from Matua, with more than 14 eruptions documented in the past 250 years. During World War II the Japanese established an airfield here, and during our landing and walks on the old roads we witness old bunkers and the remains of equipment and artillery.

**Day 11 Lovyshki & Onekaton Island.** The Lovyshki Islands are home to huge populations of sea lions and northern fur seals and our Zodiacs are greeted with a raucous soundtrack and photogenic antics. This afternoon we land on the volcanic island of





Tikhirka Bay, Kamchatka



Bering Sea Horned puffins

“ Our destinations are virtually inaccessible by any means other than our manoeuvrable expedition ship and countless seabirds will accompany us - northern fulmars, Laysan albatrosses and tufted puffins. ”



Onkotan, for a series of walks along the coast.

**Day 12 Atlasova & Shumshu.**

A nature walk on Atlasova Island, with the highest volcano in the Kurils, will take us past an abandoned prison for Russian women, with time to explore the lakes and hillsides. This afternoon on Shumshu we will use the Zodiacs to search for sea otters and also explore the beaches of the island.

**Day 13 Vestnik Bay & Listvenichnaya.**

This morning in Vestnik Bay we spot evidence of the powers of Kamchatka's volcanoes, such as lightweight pumice scattered on the shoreline. During a walk through a coastal forest we are likely to find such sought-after species as the Eurasian nutcracker, taiga flycatcher and red-flanked bluetail. This afternoon we will use the Zodiacs to land in Listvenichnaya Bay where we should have a chance to see bears.

**Day 14 Petropavlovsk.**

After breakfast we set out for an exploration of Petropavlovsk, the only major city on the peninsula and one of the oldest towns in the Russian Far East. Local guides bring us to the Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, the art school, the gold-domed Orthodox cathedral and

the marketplace. Alternatively take an optional helicopter excursion to the Valley of the Geysers (details will be released in 2014).

**Day 15 Kamenistaya Bay & Chazma River.**

This morning we land at Kamenistaya Bay where we will see the amazing landscape of extinct volcanoes and rugged coves. This afternoon at Chazma River there will be a variety of nature walks on offer. We hope to see bears and reindeer before the opportunity to soak in a hot spring.

**Day 16 Bering Island.**

The Commander Islands are named after famed Commander Vitus Bering. In 1741 Bering became the first European to sail to the Alaskan Coast. On his return to Russia he fell ill and sought refuge on the Commander Islands where he died. We will visit the village of Nikolskoye to explore the Aleut museum and to meet our island hosts who will introduce the local culture and perform Aleut dances. In the afternoon, take a Zodiac ride to tiny Ariy Kamen Island a habitat for vast numbers of birds.

**Day 17 Zhupanova River.**

We board Zodiacs to negotiate the Zhupanova River. Heading upstream, we are likely to

spot up to 40 species of birds including the Steller sea eagles. This evening we will moor at Morzhovaya Bay for a final chance to search for bears

**Day 18 Petropavlovsk to Moscow.**

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to Moscow. Arrive this evening and transfer to the Marriott Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay

**Day 19 Moscow to London.**

This morning enjoy a city tour of Moscow before transferring to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

**Tokyo Pre Cruise Extension**



For those that wish to enjoy more time in Tokyo we have arranged a two night extension which

includes accommodation at the New Otani Hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, airport transfers and a full day tour to Nikko.

**Prices per person**

Twin: £495 Single: £775

**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCCSK17054**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£8195	£8595	£8995	£9195	£9395	£9595	£10195
Sole	£11095	£11595	£12095	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo and Moscow on breakfast only basis, 15 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, optional excursions, Russian visa **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Fire and Ice in the Far Arctic



Cruise from the Russian Far East to Alaska aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
1st to 20th June 2014

Join the MS Caledonian Sky on an expedition cruise to the Russian Far East and islands of the North Pacific. This remarkable voyage takes you to the coast of Kamchatka and along the Aleutian islands of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire'. For seafaring explorers this is one of the world's greatest journeys. Smoking volcanoes rise above the clouds and everywhere life abounds with vast onshore colonies of seabirds, whilst lush verdant hillsides lure walkers and botanists to explore the vividly coloured wildflowers.



This pure and breathtakingly beautiful wilderness is a designated Biosphere Reserve and the wildlife is some of the richest in the world. The Aleutian archipelago of almost two hundred islands, islets and rocks form stepping stones between Asia and the Americas. Here, amongst the steep cliffs' grass covered headlands we find millions of nesting seabirds. Northern fulmars, red-faced cormorants, tufted and horned puffins, crested parakeet and auklets are joined by 25 million or so visitors from the far south, mostly shearwaters.

This is your opportunity to see a seldom visited corner of the world. To witness the timeless processes of nature taking place without the hindrance or help of man. Here where the vast Pacific

meets the Bering Sea nature can be appreciated in the raw. The sea with its abundance of food sustains an incredible varied life both below and above water. Sperm, minke, fin, orcas and grey whales swim along this 'Chain of Life' in the company of sea otters, harbour seals, Dall's porpoise and the now rare Steller sea lions.

Before setting off for the Aleutians we will spend a couple of days on Kamchatka, Russia's remote eastern-most province. We will explore this dramatic landscape of fire and ice. Geysers, hot springs and active volcanoes set amidst towering mountains and fast flowing rivers make this area magnificently unique. This is home to the huge brown bears which can sometimes be spotted on

river banks and shorelines. Few places in the world can offer experiences beyond one's imagination. But here, as we navigate these islands with their spectacular scenery and skies dominated by vast colonies of seabirds, we can enjoy one of the last true wilderness areas. All this and much more including some important World War II battles which took place between Japan and the USA and the history and lives of the native Unangan's will be brought to life by our knowledgeable expedition team.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Moscow.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Marriott Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight.

**Day 2 Moscow to Petropavlovsk.** After breakfast in the hotel enjoy a brief city drive in Moscow before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to Petropavlovsk.

**Day 3 Petropavlovsk.** Arrive this morning in the regional capital which has the real atmosphere of a frontier town. We will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and in the evening sail out of the world's largest deep sea harbour, curving some 15 miles with a dramatic mountain backdrop.

**Day 4 Kameninstaya & Chazma River.** This morning we land at Kameninstaya Bay where we will have a chance to walk in the meadows and see the amazing landscape of extinct volcanoes and rugged coves. This afternoon at Chazma River there will be a variety of nature walks on offer. We hope to see bears and reindeer before the opportunity to soak in a hot spring.

**Day 5 Commander Islands.** The Commander Islands are named after famed commander Vitus Bering. In 1741 Bering became the first European to sail to the Alaskan Coast. On his

return to Russia he fell ill and sought refuge on the Commander Islands where he died. We will visit the village of Nikolskoye to explore the Aleut museum and to meet our island hosts who will introduce the local culture and perform Aleut dances. In the afternoon, take a Zodiac ride to tiny Ariy Kamen Island, whose moss-green rocky landscape provides a habitat for vast numbers of birds, including horned and tufted puffins.

**Day 6 Zhupanova River.** We board Zodiacs to negotiate the Zhupanova River, with superb opportunities for both birding and nature walks. Heading upstream, we are likely to spot up to 40 species of birds including the Steller sea eagles. This evening we will moor at Morzhovaya Bay for a final chance to search for bears.



Walrus

**Day 7 Petropavlovsk.** After breakfast we set out for an exploration of Petropavlovsk, the only major city on the peninsula and one of the oldest towns in the Russian Far East. Local guides bring us to the Museum of Ethnography and Natural History, the art school, the gold-domed Orthodox cathedral and the marketplace. Alternatively take an optional helicopter excursion to the Valley of the Geysers. This afternoon we will clear Russian customs and sail.



Exploring by Zodiac





Kronotsky Volcano, Kamchatka

**Day 8 At sea.** Relax onboard and attend a lecture.

**Days 9 to 13 Aleutian Islands.**

Cross the International Date Line and gain a day. For the next five days we will follow the Aleutian chain with a fairly flexible itinerary making the best of the weather and local reconnaissance. Attu is the westernmost of the Aleutians and figured prominently in World War II. As serious birders know, Attu is famed for its Asiatic accidentals. We may call into Kiska where remnants of World War II encampments can be found among the rye grass and wildflowers. Considered one of the most important marine bird colonies in the Aleutians, Sirius Point hosts the world's largest crested and least auklet populations, numbering over 1.4 million. From the deck you can look out for the usually prolific numbers of bald eagles which greet our arrival to Unalaska Island. Dutch Harbour is a busy ice free port which serves the North Pacific and Bering Sea fishing industry. This Aleutian port is very much a frontier town. We will see the World War II bunkers and the spectacular Russian Orthodox Church.

**Day 14 Shumagin Islands** We will explore the islands by Zodiac, watching the sea lions laze on the rocky shores and the delightful sea otters playing in the extensive bull kelp beds which surround the islands. The island of Unga reveals a spectacular petrified ancient forest, embedded in its sea cliffs.

**Day 15 Semidi Islands.** The wildlife-rich Simidis are known as the breeding grounds for about 25% of the resident seabirds in the Gulf of Alaska, including hundreds of thousands of horned puffins and northern fulmars, plus the unusual parakeet auklet. This is also great territory for whale spotting.

**Day 16 Kukak Bay & Katmai National Park.** Cruising through these waters of the emerald green Katmai Peninsula, watch out for foraging brown bears with their cubs, and waterfalls which often at this time of year are heavy and impressive.

**Day 17 Kodiak.** Alexander Baranov established a trading post at St. Paul Harbor in 1792 when Kodiak became the first capital of Russian America and was a major fur trading center for many years. Visit the Baranov Museum, the Alutiq Museum and the Fish Tech Centre, all in Alaska's first Russian-American settlement. We

sail in the afternoon and will sail past islands with thousands of birds whilst we are also in a prolific area for whales.

**Day 18 Chiswell Islands.** Our last day on board will be at the uninhabited Chiswell Islands, part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and home to millions of marine birds and mammals. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the rocky outcrops and hope to see horned puffins, black legged kittiwakes, auklets and also Stellar sea lions.

**Day 19 Seward to Seattle.** Disembark this morning in Seward and transfer to Anchorage for our scheduled flight to Seattle. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 20 Seattle to London.** After breakfast i transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London

**Day 21 London.** Arrive this morning.

“ As we navigate through the Aleutian islands with their spectacular scenery and skies dominated by vast colonies of seabirds, we can enjoy one of the last true wilderness areas.



**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCCSK01064**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£8395	£8795	£9195	£9395	£9595	£9795	£10395
Sole	£11295	£11795	£12295	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in both Moscow and Seattle on breakfast only basis, 16 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

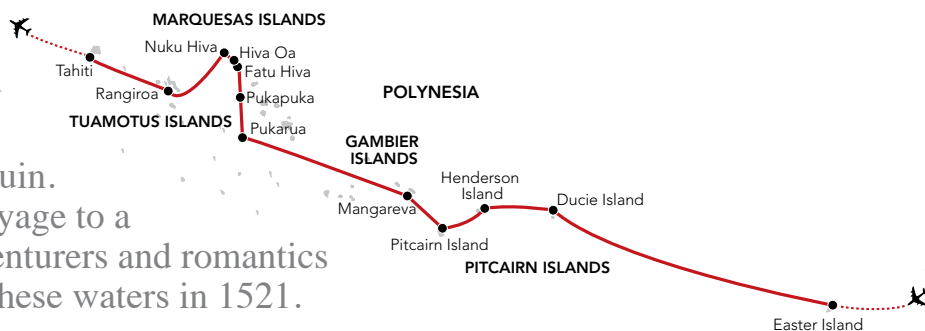
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, optional helicopter excursion, Russian visa. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# In the Wake of the Bounty



An epic voyage through the South Seas aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
13th October to 3rd November 2014

Join us in paradise on a leisurely passage through the South Seas to an area long associated with Captain Cook, Captain Bligh and the Bounty, and Gauguin. We can promise you an unforgettable voyage to a corner of the world which has lured adventurers and romantics alike ever since Magellan first sailed to these waters in 1521.



“The name Polynesia means ‘many islands’ and no one could argue with the suitability of this title. There are islands of low lying coral with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.”



From Easter Island, blessed with an extraordinary collection of remarkable archaeological sites, we embark on our exploration of the South Pacific's islands and atolls. From coral reefs teeming with life to powerful legends that shaped history, each island is unique, each culture distinct. On the more remote islands, villages are still composed of thatched houses, set amongst the shade of the breadfruit and coconut trees. Many islands are important nesting grounds for seabirds and sea turtles and the lagoons everywhere are breeding grounds for countless species of fish.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Santiago, Chile.**  
Fly by scheduled indirect flight

**Day 2 Santiago.** Arrive this morning and transfer to the Radisson Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Rooms have been pre-booked so we can check in on arrival this morning. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to relax and explore independently.

**Day 3 Santiago to Easter Island.**  
After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Easter Island. On arrival transfer to HangaRoa Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. This afternoon we explore Rano Kau, the second oldest volcano on the island. Its huge Caldera (1.5km at its base) contains one of the island's three fresh water lakes. From the look-out at the rim of Rano Kau we continue on to the ceremonial village of Orongo, best known for the birdman cult ceremonies. The site was restored in 1974 and within the village you will see 47 restored houses. Continue to Ahu Tahai, another restored ceremonial site and one of the oldest, dating back to the 6th century. Return to the hotel for dinner this evening.

**Day 4 Easter Island.** Today we enjoy a full day tour, visiting many of the different areas where moais (statues) can be found. We will see the volcano of Rano Raraku, the site where 95% of all moais were carved and today you will find nearly 400 statues in various stages of completion. A hike to the top of the volcano's crater will not only reveal many statues but also a beautiful fresh water lake. We continue our exploration of the island with Ahu Tongariki, the largest ceremonial site in Polynesia restored in 1996. Lunch will be a specially arranged barbecue on Anakena beach, home of Easter Island's ancient paramount chiefs and one of the prettiest coves in the South Pacific. In the late afternoon we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.



Cutrigger Canoe

**Days 5 & 6 At sea.** Enjoy time relaxing on deck and joining the lectures from our experts on board.

**Day 7 Ducie Island, Pitcairn Islands.**  
Experience expedition cruising at its finest as we land on one of nature's wildlife sanctuaries. A remote coral atoll with superb snorkelling and birding, Ducie Island is so remote that no

threats to its native wildlife exist, and it is one of the rare places in the world where wildlife is relatively unaffected by man's presence.

**Day 8 Henderson Island.** This upraised former coral atoll has fascinating eroded rock formations, with giant blowholes flinging up tremendous sea-spray. Very rare birds inhabit the island, including the Henderson Island rail and Stephen's Lori. Numerous underwater ravines and crevices support a great diversity of fish.

**Days 9 & 10 Pitcairn Island.** We arrive this morning on the island of Pitcairn, famous as the final destination of the Bounty in the late 18th century. Meet the Anglo-Tahitian descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty, who arrived here 200 years ago and see the ship's anchor outside the courthouse. We will have time to explore this inspiring island setting and visit with islanders who display memorable stamps and handicrafts. We will have a Pitcairn welcome in the Town Hall before exploring the capital of Adamstown. We will set up a number of walks with our expedition staff to explore the islands highlights. (Please note that access to Pitcairn is very weather dependent).

We will stay overnight or if weather permits will sail to Oeno Atoll, three uninhabited islands situated around 75 nautical miles from Pitcairn. It is an important bird area due to the colony of 12,500 pairs of Murphys petrels that nest here alongside sooty tern and brown noddy. We will have the morning to explore the island.

**Day 11 Mangareva, Gambier Islands.**  
Mountainous Mangareva is home to a remarkable cathedral with a stunning mother-of-pearl altar. Today Mangareva is much more peaceful, as





Wild Flowers

you will see during our island walks, we will include nature walks, a hike up to Mount Duff or you can simply wander around the small village.

**Day 12 At sea.**

**Day 13 Pukarua, Tuamotu Islands.**

Located on the outer fringes of French Polynesia, Pukarua faces thousands of miles of open ocean. Onshore, its small population lives in a spirit of cooperation and friendship, living largely on coconuts and the bounty of the sea. As we visit this small community, we will be enthusiastically greeted with genuine friendliness and lively music. We may also have a chance to swim or snorkel.

**Day 14 Pukapuka.** Today, we visit Pukapuka. To honour you and fellow guests, the islanders proudly decorate their tidy village with green palm fronds and flowers, and welcome you with a fragrant flower lei and entrancing dances. Sample traditional coconut treats and watch a demonstration of how copra – the dried meat of the coconut – is prepared for its various uses. Snorkellers will find a bounty of vibrant corals and iridescent reef fishes in the warm waters, while beach walkers can investigate the inter-tidal zone with naturalists.

**Day 15 Fatu Hiva, Marquesas Islands.**

After a morning at sea we arrive in the Marquesas Islands far removed from the rest of the South Pacific in everything from language and culture to geology. With a landscape of spectacular pinnacles towering over the cobalt Bay of Virgins, Fatu Hiva is one of the most floral and pristine islands. Villagers will perform their traditional dances and demonstrate their handicrafts

**Day 16 Hiva Oa.** This morning will be dedicated to Gauguin, iconic artist of the South Pacific. We will visit his museum and make a pilgrimage to his final resting place, soaking up the landscape that inspired him to



Easter Island

leave it all behind and go native. This afternoon we visit Puamau and the Oipona me'ae temple and the eight foot tall tiki.

**Day 17 Nuku Hiva.** Our last morning in Marquesas will be at Nuka Hiva, the largest of the Islands and the island group's economic capital. Today we will immerse ourselves in local culture and geography. Traditional Marquesan dancers welcome us to their village. We will visit the archeological centres and view the temples, petroglyphs and tiki.

**Day 18 At sea.**

**Day 19 Rangiroa, Tuamotu Islands.** As one of the world's largest coral atolls, Rangiroa has a magnificent lagoon surrounded by small islets or motus, stretching as far as the eye can see. Today, a variety of activities await. There will be a chance to tour a black pearl farm, enjoy free time in the enchanting local village of Avatoru or have a last chance to snorkel or swim.

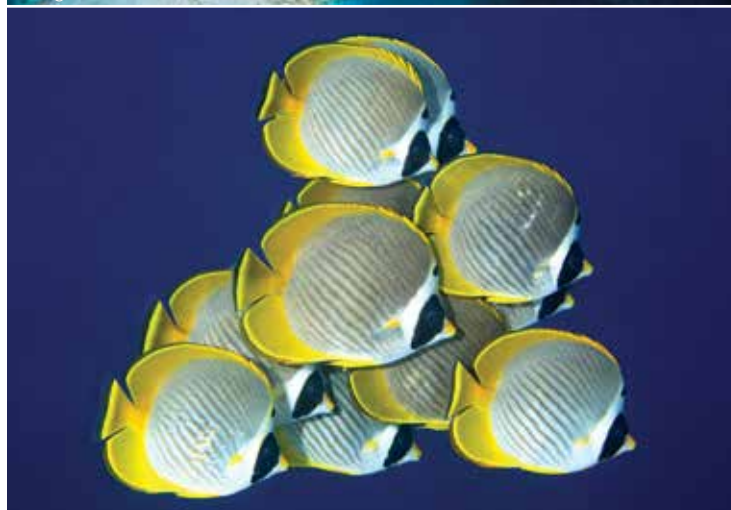
**Day 20 Papeete, Tahiti to London.** Disembark and transfer to the airport for the return indirect scheduled flight to London.

**Day 21 En route.**

**Day 22 London.** Arrive this morning.



Rangiroa



Butterflyfish

**Prices per person**

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCCSK13104**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£8495	£8895	£9295	£9495	£9695	£9895	£10495
Sole	£11095	£11595	£12095	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in both Santiago and Easter Island on breakfast only basis, dinner on day 3, 16 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes, overnight hotel in Santiago on bed and breakfast basis, full day tour in Papeete including lunch.

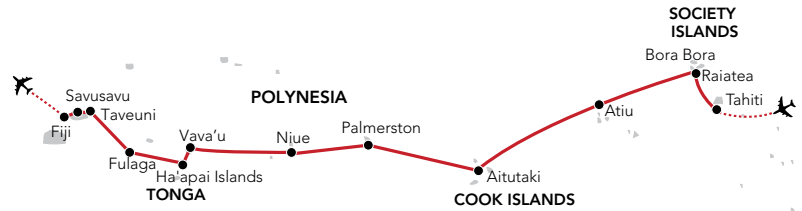
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Nomads of the Wind



A journey from Tahiti to Fiji aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
30th October to 17th November 2014

By wind, wave and star the ancient people of Polynesia ventured to the farthest reaches of the South Pacific. Isolated by miles of ocean over thousands of years, these, the world's first island cultures, developed a pantheon of gods, myths and legends. This voyage tells the story of Polynesia and uncovers its history and legends as we sail through the South Seas and visit the captivating islands.



Bouma Waterfall, Taveuni, Fiji

The real age of European exploration did not take place until the 18th century and many of the islands we will visit have changed little since that time. Their sheer isolation has been their saving grace and apart from an influx of missionaries in the late 19th century, western culture has made few inroads. The natural beauty of these islands is mesmerising. You are invited to join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky to explore the Pacific in all its vastness, diversity and warmth. To experience the description-defying beauty of its islands, its culture and its ambience which have attracted generations of adventurers, explorers and travellers to its magical shores.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London Heathrow to Los Angeles.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to Santa Monica for an overnight stay.

**Day 2 Los Angeles to Tahiti.** After a morning at leisure in Santa Monica we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Tahiti. Arrive this evening and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 3 Tahiti.** We have a morning at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore Tahiti on an optional island tour. This afternoon we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.

**Day 4 Raiatea & Taha'a, Society Islands.** Raiatea is recognised throughout Tahiti as its "Sacred Island" the cultural heart of all Tahiti Polynesia. It is believed by historians that Raiatea was the main stopover point for early Polynesians newly arrived from Hawaii. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the centre of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this day.

This morning's island tour will include a visit to the celebrated Mt. Temehani. This afternoon we move over to the neighbouring island of Taha'a. With the rich aroma of vanilla lingering heavily in the air, Taha'a offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians.

**Day 5 Bora Bora.** One of the most stunning islands on the planet, Bora Bora's interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War II relics ending with a cocktail at the infamous Bloody Marys bar. This afternoon explore independently or alternatively take a chance to snorkel in the clear waters.

**Day 6 At sea.**

**Day 7 Atiu, Cook Islands.** Our first stop in the Cook Islands is the small island of Atiu. With only 560 residents we will be guaranteed a special welcome. There will be the chance to join the local expert "birdman George" on a walking tour to search for Rarotonga monarch, chattering kingfisher, Cook Islands fruit dove and Atiu swiftlets. Alternatively discover the island on a tour which will include James Cook's landing site from 1777, the coffee plantations and a visit to some of the local houses.

**Day 8 Aitutaki, Cook Islands.** This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. Choose this morning from an island drive which will explore the sleepy village of Arutanga including a visit to the oldest church in the Cook Islands. We will see the lush forest of Nikaupara and from the top of Mount Piraki will see the bunkers built during World War II. From the top of Maunga

Pu we are treated to breathtaking views of the island and lagoon. Alternatively you may wish to join our naturalists and snorkel in the lagoon.

**Day 9 Palmerston.** The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walking tour with our local guides. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers should catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. There will also be a chance to snorkel from the beach where large coral blocks team with goatfish, boxfish, groupers, stingray and turtles.

**Day 10 At sea.**

**Day 11 Niue.** We will explore Alofi Village and stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some of the world's most sought after stamps may be purchased. At Matapa Chasm, a secluded cleft in the sea cliffs, we will discover the perfect swimming hole.

**Day 12 Vava'u, Tonga.** After crossing the International Date Line (so it is now 11th November), we arrive in Vavau in the kingdom of Tonga. We will use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and set up snorkelling activities. There are more than 150 different species of colourful tropical fish here and we hope to see the graceful black-and-yellow angelfish and curious clown fish on the surrounding reefs.

**Day 13 Ha'apai Islands.** Today we arrive at the Ha'apai group which consists of 62 islands comprising of lagoons, barrier reefs and active volcanoes. The islands have a rich maritime history with Abel Tasman being the first European to visit the





Coral Reef



Exploring by Zodiac



Bora Bora

“ With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we can land in otherwise inaccessible places and although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is often the unscheduled events that become the highlight. ”

islands in 1643 whilst Captain James Cook visited twice in the 1770s. However the most famous event was Mutiny of the HMS Bounty which occurred between the islands of Lifuka and Tofua. It was on the island of Tofua that Captain William Bligh landed after being cast off from the Bounty with limited provisions and nautical equipment. A hostile reception from the islanders meant they quickly fled to sea again but we hope to receive a warm welcome as we land today. Tropical forests grow along gentle slopes here and at the centre of the island is the volcanic crater, with a clear blue lake at its base. You may choose to hike to a lake with our naturalists along a trail that leads through a spectacular forest full of birds, unique tree ferns and ironwood.

**Day 14 Fulaga, Fiji.** Our first call at a Fijian island will be on Fulaga, famous for its woodcarving and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone.

**Day 15 Taveuni.** Today we visit the ‘Garden Island of Fiji’. We will have a choice of excursions this morning. The nature lovers can take a four-wheel

drive to Dos Voeux Peak. At the summit we will be treated to fantastic views of Taveuni and across to Lake Tagimoucia. Here we will see the tropical plants, palms and rainforest and hope to spot spectacular birdlife such as orange breasted doves, silktails, ferntails and parrots. Alternatively join a walking trip to the Bouma Heritage Park to see three Bouma waterfalls and enjoy a swim. The view from the highest waterfall is spectacular. Our cultural tour will give the opportunity to see lifestyles in a traditional Fijian village and see cooking demonstrations. In the afternoon we will head to one of the neighbouring islands for some fantastic snorkelling opportunities.

**Day 16 Savusavu, Vanua Levu.** Often referred to as Fiji’s hidden paradise, Savusavu is much the same as it was 30 years ago. It was originally established as a centre for sailing ships trading in sandalwood and copra. It is a small bustling town with an interesting heritage and the surrounding landscape is stunning.

**Day 17 Fiji to London.** Disembark in Lautoka and enjoy an island tour including lunch before transferring to the airport for your indirect flight to London.

**Day 18 London Heathrow.** Arrive today.



### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK30104

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£7595	£7995	£8395	£8595	£8795	£8995	£9595
Sole	£9895	£10395	£10995	-	-	-	-

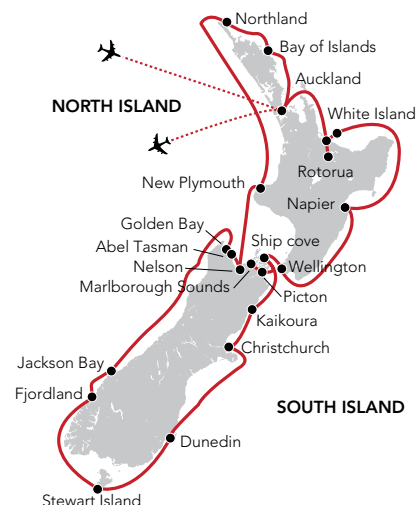
**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 15 nights on a full board basis with house wine, and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes, overnight hotels in Los Angeles and Tahiti on bed and breakfast basis.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas, optional tours. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability

# Circumnavigation of New Zealand

An exploration of New Zealand's North and South islands aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
17th November to 11th December 2014

If you are going to travel half way around the world, you need a good reason, and what better reason could you have than the desire to visit one of the most beautiful places on earth? New Zealand is a land of stunning landscape and warm people, which is why it is always high on travellers' wish lists. With vast open spaces filled with stunning rugged landscapes, gorgeous beaches, often spectacular geothermal and volcanic activity, a temperate climate and fascinating animal and plant life, New Zealand is a land of rare natural beauty and breathtaking contrasts. There are steep-sided glacial fjords, geysers and boiling mud, coastal rainforests, snow-capped mountains, rolling green pasture lands and enchanting sandy bays and coves.



In the cities, towns and villages you will encounter that unique combination of New World and British heritage. See some of the most splendid gardens in the Southern Hemisphere, visit world famous vineyards, encounter fascinating wildlife and meet the warm people.

Our voyage around the North and South Island is our most comprehensive itinerary to date, and we will visit many places which we have not been able to on shorter voyages. We will drop anchor in the remote bays, navigate channels, fjords and rivers and call into harbours both large and small. With our Zodiac landing craft we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of New Zealand's extraordinary natural attractions.

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*



Exploring by Zodiac



Botanic Gardens, Christchurch

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Hong Kong.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Harbour Grand Kowloon Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 3 Hong Kong.** This morning is free to relax before an afternoon Hong Kong tour including Victoria Peak and Stanley Market. We will then transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Auckland.

**Day 4 Auckland, New Zealand.** Arrive this morning and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free for individual exploration in this city famous for its wonderful diversity of landscape, two sparkling harbours and the attractions associated with a sophisticated, cosmopolitan city. Auckland's unique blend of European and Polynesian themes will add a special flavour to your stay. Perhaps take a harbour cruise, travel on the ferry to Devonport, experience the Sky Tower or visit the Auckland Art Gallery. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight.

**Day 5 Auckland.** A morning tour will include the city's highlights and the Auckland Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Polynesian artefacts. After lunch in a local restaurant we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky which is moored in the city.

**Day 6 Tauranga for Rotorua.** This morning we will drive to the famous thermal springs Wai-O-Tapu at Rotorua to see the geysers and pools of bubbling mud. We also visit a local Maori Marae where we will enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch.





Tranz Alpine Express



Kiwi



Rotorua

**Day 7 White Island.** Arrive this morning at White Island. Weather permitting, there will be an excursion to explore the active volcano, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. We will use the Zodiacs to reach the island and then spend approximately three hours on a guided walk to the crater. Afternoon cruising.

**Day 8 Napier.** Arrive this morning in Napier and join a tour of the town which will include its charming Art Deco buildings. Totally rebuilt after the 1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake, it has enormous style. Nowhere else can you see such a variety of buildings in the styles of the 1930s - Stripped Classical, Spanish Mission, and above all Art Deco, the style of the 20th century. Napier's Art Deco is unique, with Maori motifs and the buildings of Louis Hay, admirer of the great Frank Lloyd Wright.

Walk along Marine Parade, see the Botanical Gardens and take in the view from Bluff Hill Lookout before visiting a local vineyard to sample the local wines. This afternoon is free for independent exploration of the town or alternatively join the optional excursion to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers where you are able to get amazingly close to the birds. The 13 hectare reserve includes the Saddle and Black Reef gannet colonies.

**Day 9 Wellington.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea. We have the afternoon in the nation's capital. An excursion will include the Parliament buildings, Old St Paul's Cathedral, a lovely all-wood structure which was erected in 1866, and the superb Botanic Gardens.

**Day 10 Ship Cove, Marlborough Sounds and Picton.** Morning expedition cruising in Ship Cove where Captain James Cook spent much of his time in New Zealand.

We will look out for playful dolphins and a variety of seabirds. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon in Picton including a tour to the famous Marlborough wine producing region. See some of the 3000 hectares of vineyards and taste some of the Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon for which the area is justly famous.

**Day 11 Kaikoura.** Today we are in Kaikoura, a famous whale watching area due to its nutrient rich waters. The combination of very deep waters and the mixing of cold and warm waters brings the nutrients to the top. After breakfast, there will be opportunities to join a whale watching cruise looking out for sperm whales, pods of dusky dolphins and common seals and the wandering albatross. Spend the afternoon exploring the town independently or join one of the nature walks, or maybe take an optional trip on one of the bird watching cruises. There is an abundance of birdlife in the area including great albatross, shearwater, petrels, prions and shag.

**Day 12 Christchurch.** Today enjoy a morning city tour of this most British

of cities. The tour will include an overview of the city and see how it has recovered from the devastating earthquake. We will view the Southern Alps from the Port Hills and a tour of the International Antarctic Centre. Alternatively, join an optional full day tour on the Tranz Alpine Express Train to Arthurs Pass in the heart of the Southern Alps.

**Day 13 Dunedin.** Morning cruising. This afternoon we will explore Dunedin on a guided tour. See the gracious 19th century buildings including the magnificent railway station and the beautiful botanical gardens, the oldest in New Zealand and containing over 6800 plant species.

**Day 14 Stewart Island.** New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will visit Oban, see the fascinating Rakiura Museum and drive along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots. We also hope to use our Zodiacs around Half Moon



Milford Sound

“ During our comprehensive exploration of New Zealand we will see some of the most splendid gardens in the Southern Hemisphere, visit some world famous vineyards, encounter fascinating marine and bird life and meet the people, renowned for their warmth and openness.

”





White Island Volcano



Whale, Kaikoura



The Octagon, Dunedin

Bay and the Paterson Inlet. The bird life here is amazing, red crowned parakeets, black oyster catchers, sooty shearwaters, tuis, bellbirds, kakas and fearless wekas.

**Days 15 to 17 Fjordland.** We have three days to explore the incredible wilderness of fjords in the south west corner of South Island. This is an area of majestic scenery, rich in wildlife, which is only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may include Resolution Bay, Dusky Sound, Deep Cove and Milford Sound but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and Expedition Leader based on weather conditions.

**Day 18 Jackson Bay.** The Haast is a diverse region offering a wide variety of scenery and chances to view wildlife. Today we will enjoy a river safari on a jet-powered river craft along the Waitoto River with the chance to visit a local crayfish plant and meet the fishermen. We will continue by coach to the inter-tidal zone where local guides will explain the ecology of the estuary and the rich birdlife including a large kiwi reserve. This afternoon we continue cruising the West Coast and will hopefully be treated to views of Mount Cook on land whilst this region is also a popular spot for dolphin sightings.

**Day 19 Golden Bay.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea as we continue sailing north. We will arrive into the small harbour of Tarakohe in Golden Bay in the late afternoon and hope to have time to use our Zodiacs to land

at the small town to stretch our legs. Golden Bay is nestled into the South Island's north-west corner and is New Zealand's most diverse and appealing holiday destination with golden beaches, alpine valleys and tranquil fishing rivers. We moor overnight in the secluded bay.

**Day 20 Abel Tasman National Park & Nelson.** There will be a choice of options today. Either choose to disembark after breakfast to visit Abel Tasman is New Zealand's smallest national park, protecting over 23 000 hectares of the most easily accessible coastline in the country. This marine reserve offers some marvellously scenic coastal walks and excellent wildlife opportunities including seal colonies and numerous aquatic birds including penguins. The tour will end in Nelson where you will re-embark the ship. Alternatively enjoy a morning at sea sailing to Nelson and arriving at lunchtime. Nelson has for many

years attracted resident artists. There are more than 350 working artists and craftspeople living in Nelson, including traditional and contemporary Maori artists. Their work is often inspired by the region's exceptionally beautiful geography – coastal, forest and valley landscapes. Join the excursion of the area's highlights which includes popular Tahunanui Beach.

**Day 21 New Plymouth.** We have the day in this pretty city sandwiched between the sea and Mt Taranaki. A morning tour will visit Pukekura Park, one of the premier botanical gardens in New Zealand. We will have a chance to explore the diverse landscape of formal gardens, bushwalks and lakes as well as the fernery and display houses.

**Day 22 Northland.** Today we will cruise in this remote area of New Zealand. If conditions permit we will take the opportunity to use our Zodiacs and hope to land on a remote

beach which is only accessible by sea and explore. The final decision will be made by the Expedition Leader on board.

**Day 23 Bay of Islands.** Arrive today in the finest maritime park in New Zealand with its 144 islands, secluded bays and an abundance of marine life. Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, it is the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. Choose today to either visit the Waitangi Treaty house where in 1840 the treaty was signed between the Maori and the British Crown. Alternatively join a tour to the Puketi Kauri Forest an ancient native forest of 15,000 hectares.

**Day 24 Auckland to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

**Day 25 London.** Arrive this morning.

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK17114

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£8995	£9395	£9795	£9995	£10195	£10395	£10995
Sole	£11695	£12295	£12795	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 19 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes, overnight accommodation in Hong Kong and Auckland on a bed and breakfast basis, dinner in Auckland.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, optional excursions.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.





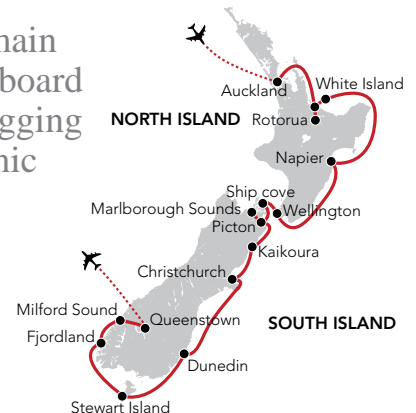
Abel Tasman National Park



# New Zealand Coastal Voyage

An exploration of New Zealand's coastal waters aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
17th December 2014 to 5th January 2015

New Zealand's 27 regions stretch more than 1,600 kilometres across two main islands and offers the traveller a journey of breathtaking natural wonder. Aboard our nimble small ship the MS Caledonian Sky, we will start our coastal-hugging exploration on the North Island learning of Maori culture, exploring volcanic and geothermal terrains, calling into tranquil bays and visiting its iconic cities. The South Island is a sweeping, vast area of unparalleled landscape; towering Alps tumbling into azure waters, rolling green hills cradling rugged coastline and sweeping plains dotted by world-renowned vineyards. New Zealand is a nature lover's paradise and rewards the traveller with unique marine, bird and wildlife.



“ We will visit Stewart Island, New Zealand's third island which is well off the usual beaten tourist track and is a wonderfully tranquil place. ”



**O**ur voyage around the North and South Islands will allow us to drop anchor in the remote bays, navigate channels, fjords and rivers and call into harbours both large and small. With our Zodiac landing craft we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of New Zealand's extraordinary natural attractions.

*Soft expedition: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. On some days we will be visiting remote destinations which are only accessible by Zodiacs.*

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Hong Kong.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Harbour Grand Kowloon Hotel (or similar) for an overnight night stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 3 Hong Kong to Auckland.** Morning Hong Kong tour including Victoria Peak and Stanley Market. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Auckland.

**Day 4 Auckland.** Arrive this morning and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free for individual exploration in this city famous for its wonderful diversity of landscape, two sparkling harbours



Wellington Cable-car

and the attractions associated with a sophisticated, cosmopolitan city.

**Day 5 Auckland.** A morning tour will include the city's highlights and the Auckland Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of Polynesian artefacts. After lunch in a local restaurant we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky which is moored in the city.



Dolphins, Marlborough Sound

**Day 6 Tauranga for Rotorua.** This morning we will drive to the famous thermal springs Wai-O-Tapu at Rotorua to see the geysers and pools of bubbling mud. We also visit a local Maori Marae where we will enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch.

**Day 7 White Island.** Arrive this morning at White Island. Weather permitting, there will be an excursion to explore the active volcano on White Island, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. We will use the Zodiacs to reach the island and then spend approximately three hours on a guided walk to the crater. Afternoon cruising.

**Day 8 Napier.** Arrive this morning in Napier and join a tour of the town which will include its charming Art Deco buildings. Totally rebuilt after the 1931 Hawkes Bay earthquake, it has





Marlborough Sounds



Auckland

enormous style. Nowhere else can you see such a variety of buildings in the styles of the 1930s - Stripped Classical, Spanish Mission, and above all Art Deco, the style of the 20th century. Napier's Art Deco is unique, with Maori motifs and the buildings of Louis Hay, admiral of the great Frank Lloyd Wright. Walk along Marine Parade, see the Botanical Gardens and take in the view from Bluff Hill Lookout before visiting a local vineyard to sample the local wines. This afternoon is free for independent exploration of the town or alternatively join the optional excursion to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers where you are able to get amazingly close to the birds. The 13 hectare reserve includes the Saddle and Black Reef gannet colonies.

**Day 9 Wellington.** Enjoy a relaxing Christmas morning at sea and lunch onboard. We have the afternoon in the nation's capital. An excursion will include the Parliament buildings, Old St Paul's Cathedral, a lovely all-wood structure which was erected in 1866, and the superb Botanic Gardens.

**Day 10 Ship Cove, Marlborough Sounds and Picton.** Morning expedition cruising in Ship Cove where Captain James Cook spent much of his time in New Zealand. We will look out for playful dolphins and a variety of seabirds. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon in Picton including a tour to the famous Marlborough wine producing region. See some of the 3000 hectares of vineyards and taste some of the Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon for which the area is justly famous.

**Day 11 Kaikoura.** Today we are in Kaikoura, a famous whale watching area due to its nutrient rich waters. The combination of very deep waters and the mixing of cold and warm waters

brings the nutrients to the top. After breakfast there will be opportunities to join a whale watching cruises looking out for sperm whales, pods of dusky and common seals and the wandering albatross. Spend the afternoon exploring the town independently or join one of the nature walks or maybe take an optional trip on one of the bird watching cruises. There is an abundance of birdlife in the area including Great Albatross, Shearwater, Petrels, Prions and Shag.

**Day 12 Christchurch.** Today enjoy a morning city tour of this most British of cities. The tour will include an overview of the city and we will see how it has recovered from the devastating earthquake. We will view the Southern Alps from the Port Hills and a tour of the International Antarctic Centre. Alternatively, join an optional full day tour on the Tranz Alpine Express Train to Arthurs Pass in the heart of the Southern Alps.

**Day 13 Dunedin.** Morning cruising. This afternoon we will explore Dunedin on a guided tour. See the gracious 19th century buildings including the magnificent railway station and the beautiful botanical gardens, the oldest

in New Zealand and containing over 6800 plant species.

**Day 14 Stewart Island.** New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will visit Oban, see the fascinating Rakiura Museum and drive along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots. We also hope to use our Zodiacs around Half Moon Bay and the Paterson Inlet. The bird life here is amazing, red crowned parakeets, black oyster catchers, sooty shearwaters, tuis, bellbirds, kakas and fearless wekas.



Fur Seal

**Days 15 & 16 Fjordland.** We have two days to explore the incredible wilderness of fjords to the south of Milford Sound. This is an area of majestic scenery, rich in wildlife, which is only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may include Resolution Bay, Dusky Sound and Deep Cove, but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and Expedition Leader based on weather conditions.

**Day 17 Milford Sound to Queenstown.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Queenstown for a two night stay at the Novotel Queenstown (or similar). Remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 18 Queenstown.** Today you have the choice of exploring Queenstown independently or joining an optional Dart River Wilderness Safari.

**Day 19 Queenstown to London.** Morning free before an early afternoon transfer to the airport for the flight to Auckland and onward flight to London.

**Day 20 London.** Arrive this afternoon.

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
**SCCSK17124**

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£7895	£8295	£8695	£8895	£9095	£9295	£9895
Sole	£10295	£10795	£11395	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in both Hong Kong and Auckland and two nights in Queenstown on breakfast only basis, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, optional excursions. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# South Seas Voyage



A passage from New Zealand to Papua New Guinea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky  
7th January to 28th January 2015

This voyage is a fascinating mix of islands all the way from the northernmost reaches of New Zealand to Melanesia, taking in remote, but splendidly sophisticated Norfolk Island and Iles des Pins in the French Collectivity of New Caledonia. From here we follow the chain of Melanesian islands through Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and finally to the northern islands of Papua New Guinea.



Iles des Pins, New Caledonia

All are beautiful in their different ways and all have unique features and cultures. This region is ideal for exploring by small ship and particularly one as suitable as our MS Caledonian Sky. Her fleet of Zodiac craft will allow us to explore some magnificent places especially tiny coral islets and lagoons. At New Georgia on the outer reaches of the Solomon's we will explore the majestic Marovo Lagoon, the world's largest double barrier lagoon, a truly awe inspiring place.

These islands form one of the most culturally complex regions of the entire world, with 1293 languages spoken across the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and the island of New Guinea. It is also a region of great antiquity; New Guinea has been settled for around 45,000 years, the Solomon Islands for 35,000 years, and Vanuatu and New Caledonia for about 4,000.

There will be much of the natural world to occupy us as we sail in a northerly

direction through the South Pacific along much of the same route as Captain James Cook. The maritime history of the region is a constant wonder from the early explorers and native migrations to the fierce battles of the World War II. Join us in this faraway haven, where there still exists a savage beauty, which cannot fail to stir the most jaded of travellers. Many of the islands still possess a pristine beauty, much the same as they were when first discovered by the great explorers.



Tribal dancers, Port Vila

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Singapore.** Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Singapore.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Fullerton Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

**Day 3 Singapore to Auckland.** This morning is free and in the afternoon we will depart for a city tour. After the tour we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Auckland.

**Day 4 Auckland.** Arrive this afternoon in the "City of Sails" and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

**Day 5 Auckland.** A morning tour will include the city's highlights and the Auckland Museum. We will then enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in the city.

**Day 6 Paihia, Bay of Islands.** Arrive this morning in the finest maritime park in New Zealand with its 144 islands, secluded bays and an abundance of marine life. Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, it is the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. We will visit the Waitangi Treaty House.

**Day 7 Three Kings Islands.** This morning we arrive at the Manawatawhi Nature Reserve, a haven for native species with many rare and unique plants and animals, found nowhere else in the world. Whilst we are unable to land on the islands we will use our Zodiacs to explore the coastline viewing the abundant birdlife.

**Day 8 At sea.**

**Day 9 Norfolk Island.** This morning we awake at Norfolk Island which Captain Cook encountered in 1774 and named after the Duchess of Norfolk. We have the full day to explore and will have the opportunity to discover the historical Georgian settlement of Kingston with its convict settlements and the beautiful St Barnabas Chapel. Visit the Botanical Gardens with its 40 endemic, or unique, species.

**Day 10 At sea.**

**Day 11 Iles des Pins, New Caledonia.** Arrive at first light in New Caledonia at the islands named by Captain Cook in 1774. These remote islands are close to paradise and we will use our Zodiacs to land at one on the remote beaches and snorkel in the crystal clear waters.

**Day 12 Port Vila, Vanuatu.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Vanuatu and the capital of Port Vila, built around a horseshoe shaped bay, with excellent





Ni-Vanuatu warrior



Paihia, New Zealand



Emerald Tree Monitor

“Join us in this faraway haven, where there still exists a savage beauty, which cannot fail to stir the most jaded of travellers.”

views of the outlying islands from its steep hills. We will have time to explore this beautiful town.

**Day 13 Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu.** Espiritu Santo is the largest of Vanuatu's islands and with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches, amazing blue holes, caves and renowned snorkelling. It was also a huge military base during World War II. We will have the opportunity to snorkel over the unique corals of the region or join an island tour.

**Day 14 At sea.**

**Day 15 Santa Ana, Solomon Islands.** Arrive this morning at Port Mary on Santa Ana Island. We are welcomed by a stunning dance by the villagers with spears and mud face masks. Soak in the culture as we set foot on the shores of this lovely island. There will be opportunities for snorkelling and nature walks, or exploring the town.

**Day 16 Honiara.** This morning we cruise through Iron Bottom Sound, the site of intense World War II naval battles, and so named for the large numbers of Japanese and American ships and aircraft that sank beneath the sea. Later we arrive into Honiara. During World War II the British founded Honiara as a military

base. The town and the Mataniko River, which runs through it, were the front for many months during the battle of Guadalcanal. Today, this is a bustling town with lovely hibiscus and palm-tree-lined avenues. We enjoy a morning tour of Honiara and its environs. This afternoon we will immerse ourselves in the local beaches for snorkelling and nature walks.

**Day 17 Marovo Lagoon, New Georgia.** Marovo Lagoon is the largest double barrier lagoon in the world. Inside the lagoon, the islands are surrounded by spectacular coral formations and white sand beach. We will use our Zodiacs to land on a remote beach and snorkel.

**Day 18 Laughlan Atoll, Papua New Guinea.** This morning we anchor the ship off of Wabola and Bolaluna Islands, which we will approach by Zodiac in small groups. Once there we'll see the undeveloped landscape with thatched huts, which we will enter on invitation by the locals.

**Day 19 Fergusson & Dobu Island.** Awake this morning in the D'Entrecasteaux islands. We will use our Zodiacs to land on Fergusson Island, the largest of the chain, in a small fishing village. From here we will walk to the local hot springs and bubbling mud

pools. This afternoon we will cruise through the spectacular Dobu passage.

**Day 20 Bonarua Island.** As we follow the coast of Papua New Guinea, the peaks of the dramatic Stanley Owens Range come into view. Arrive at the island of Bonarua in Milne Bay. We will go ashore to view fishing and weaving demonstrations, and wander through the enchanting village, sampling local delicacies. Birders have the chance to trek into the thicket whilst the warm inviting waters of the Coral Sea offer a perfect final chance to explore the underwater world.

**Day 21 Port Moresby to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London via Singapore.

**Day 22 London.** Arrive this morning.



Trigger Fish

## Prices per person

Based on double occupancy

Tour Code  
SCCSK07015

**SAVE £400 PER PERSON OFF THE PRICES SHOWN BELOW FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES**

Occupancy	Deck/Suite Category						
	Castle Std Forward	Castle Standard	Caledonian Superior	Promenade Premium	Bridge Deluxe Balcony	Promenade Premium Balcony	Promenade Owner's Corner
Double	£8295	£8695	£9095	£9295	£9495	£9695	£10295
Sole	£10795	£11395	£11895	-	-	-	-

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore and Auckland on breakfast only basis, 16 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas. **NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability





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Please note that itineraries departing from November 2013 onwards are subject to flight schedules which are still yet to be released at the time of going to print (January 2013).  
Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.