

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

MACARONESIA TO IBERIA & BEYOND

A VOYAGE FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS TO THE UK VISITING
MADEIRA, PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND FRANCE ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKERS REAR ADMIRAL ROY CLAIRE & HENRY BLOFELD

21ST APRIL TO 5TH MAY 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA

This unique springtime voyage aboard the 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky will take us to some of the smaller of the Canary Islands and the Madeira Islands followed by an exploration of the Iberian Peninsula, France and the Channel Islands. We will visit some wonderfully historic and scenic places along the way, many of which can only be accessed by a small ship.

Our voyage will begin in the delightful Atlantic Archipelago of the Canary Islands where there is much to discover including some marvellously varied landscapes and an absorbing, multifaceted culture. We will visit the three lesser-known islands of La Palma, El Hierro and La Gomera where we can enjoy nature at its very best. These volcanic islands impress with their unique flora and fauna and boast rugged rocky landscapes, evergreen cloud forests, metre high ferns and bizarre-looking dragon trees. Continue on to the delightful island of Madeira where we have two full days to explore this “floating garden in the Atlantic” visiting the island’s wonderful gardens and experiencing the breathtakingly beautiful scenery on offer. After a day at sea to relax and enjoy some interesting talks we reach Lisbon where we visit the gardens of Queluz Palace and, from Figueira da Foz, we will explore the atmospheric city of Coimbra. Whilst in Spain we will visit one of Galicia’s great ‘pazos’, Pazo de Rubianes, and we will also step into the pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Finally, we spend a day exploring Brittany and the charming village of Locronan before reaching Guernsey where you can choose between a walking tour of St Peter Port and Castle Cornet or a scenic island drive.

Our journey includes fabulous coastal scenery which combined with the rich maritime history of the region makes for an endlessly fascinating experience and whether your interests lie in botany, geology, history or walking this itinerary offers something for everyone. Our voyage will be particularly enjoyable as it includes some daytime sailing, allowing for time to relax on deck and attend the informative and entertaining talks by our Guest Speakers who, along with the excellent local guides will bring to life all we see.



Guest Speakers



Rear Admiral Roy Clare

We are delighted to be joined on board by Rear Admiral Roy Clare who has almost three decades’ experience as a professional museum director and as a non-executive in social businesses. His roles have included Director National Maritime Museum, Queen’s House & Royal Observatory, Greenwich, Chief Executive Museums, Libraries & Archives Council and Director Auckland War Memorial Museum, New Zealand. Previously in the Royal Navy, Roy served worldwide from Junior Seaman to Rear Admiral. His commands included destroyers, the aircraft carrier Invincible and Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He retired voluntarily to develop opportunities in museums. An active yachtsman, Roy has raced in the Fastnet and Sydney-Hobart races. Nowadays he sails purely for pleasure, mainly in British waters. In 2007 Roy was made CBE ‘for services to museums’.



Henry Blofeld

Henry Blofeld is an English sports journalist whose rich, plummy tones are known and loved worldwide thanks to his extensive cricket commentary career on both television and radio. Since 1962, he has been a newspaper journalist and written for publications including The Guardian, The Observer, The Daily Mirror, The Daily Telegraph, The Independent, and The Express. He tours theatres around the country with fellow cricket commentator Peter Baxter and is regularly invited to events across the country as an after dinner and motivational speaker.



Coimbra



La Gomera



El Hierro



Queluz Palace, Lisbon

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Las Palmas, Canary Islands. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 El Hierro. Probably the least known of the Canary Islands, and once considered to be the end of the world, El Hierro is unique and utterly captivating. On our morning island tour it will be impossible not to be entranced by the island's slow pace and simple style; by its craggy coast, where waves hurl themselves against lava sculpted rock faces; by the pretty farmland and flower meadows of the interior; by the eerily beautiful juniper groves; and by the desolate volcanic Badlands that stretch out like moonscapes in the south. We will also have the opportunity to sample some of El Hierro's excellent wine and visit the lizard house where the island's unique giant lizards are bred; near extinction, they are protected by international law. Alternatively, opt for the La Llanía hiking excursion which will take us through primeval forests, along ancient cisterns and mythical witches' dance floors to El Hierro's top viewing point affording spectacular views of the western parts of the island. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon will be free to explore at leisure or relax on board.

Day 3 La Gomera. La Gomera is a paradise of natural beauty with lush valley and awe-inspiring cliffs dotted with charming, whitewashed

villages and gives the impression of being lost in a time warp. On a full day tour we will explore the island including Garajonay National Park, home to the world's only surviving laurel forest and visit the villages of Hermigua, Agulo and Las Rosas before making our way to a local restaurant for lunch. Before returning to the ship experience a demonstration of Silbo Gomero, the island's unique whistling language, and visit the magnificent rock formations of Agando. Alternatively, you may wish to join a guided morning trek through the Garajonay National Park commencing in the village of El Cedro which offers some interesting examples of Canarian architecture. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon will be at leisure for individual exploration.

Day 4 La Palma. La Palma is known by locals as the 'Beautiful Island', and it is easy to see why. It is a simply stunning, peaceful and most importantly an un-spoilt destination that has deservedly been declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve. This morning drive inland to the beautiful village of El Paso and visit the Silk Museum. This is the only place in Europe where the 500-year-old tradition and processes have been preserved. From here we will continue onto the Caldera de Taburiente, a massive depression eight kilometres wide which scientists agree was a majestically tall volcanic mountain that collapsed on itself. Explore on foot and whilst all may seem stoic and still, the forces of erosion are hard at work

and some geologists estimate that it will finally disappear in just 5,000 years. Alternatively, for those who would prefer a more energetic excursion there will be a guided trek on offer through the El Pilar area; see remains of volcanic eruptions, the magnificent views of the Valley of Aridane and the crater wall that surrounds the Taburiente National Park. Return to the ship for lunch and have an afternoon at sea as we sail to Madeira.

Days 5 & 6 Funchal, Madeira.

Spend the next two days on Madeira where there will be a choice of excursions including a visit to Monte, a charming village high in the hills overlooking Funchal. We will reach Monte by cable car experiencing wonderful views along the way and visit the Monte Palace Tropical Gardens. This garden collection has been enriched with plants from all over the world and about 100,000 plant species have been planted. We also plan to visit the Botanical Gardens. Situated in the grounds of a former private house, the gardens are host to a profusion of plants and flowers, from all parts of the world, which thrive in the island's temperate climate. We will learn about the production of Madeira wines at one of the lodges whilst the active may wish to join a Levada walk. Levada are irrigation channels that were created by the Portuguese settlers in the 19th century, who painstakingly carved them out of the rock by hand. Designed to carry freshwater from the north to the drier southern regions of the island, they

helped to create many of the lush landscapes that can be seen today. The walk will follow the course of 'levadas' for over three miles, seeing the verdant plants, mountain views and green farmland that cover Madeira.

Day 7 Porto Santo. Although one of the islands constituting the archipelago of Madeira, Porto Santo and Madeira could not be more different. Whilst lush green predominates Madeira, Porto Santo is arid and the southern coast is bordered by a nine kilometre long beach of golden sand. Our morning tour will introduce us to the island and will include some beautiful vistas, a tasting of Porto Santo wine and a visit to the Christopher Columbus Museum, where he once lived. Return to the ship and spend the afternoon at sea.

Day 8 At Sea. Spend a leisurely day at sea as we make our way to Portugal. Our lecture programme will continue in the lounge, alternatively find a spot on deck or enjoy a book in the library.

Day 9 Lisbon, Portugal. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. Today there are distinct modern and ancient sections, combining great shopping areas with culture and sightseeing in the Old Town, built on the city's terraced hillsides. A morning tour includes a visit to the Queluz Palace to explore these very formal, yet intimate gardens. Often referred to as the Versailles of Portugal, this former royal palace is



surrounded by extensive grounds. See the Malta Garden famous for its musical concerts, the Hanging Garden, its statues, ponds, grotto and the azulejo-tiled canal where the royal family would go boating. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore the city at your own pace or join a city tour to see the famous landmarks and places of interest such as the Monument to the Discoveries, Belem Tower and Jeronimos Monastery.

Day 10 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra. Located at the mouth of the Mondego River, Figueira da Foz is one of central Portugal's prime beach resorts. However, the reason for our call is to visit the nearby city of Coimbra, the Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years. On a walking tour we will view the stunning buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries before we head to the university which was recently appointed UNESCO status. Founded in the 13th century we will see the Chapel of Sao Miguel and the Joanne Library which houses over 300,000 works dating back to the 16th century. After a local lunch, choose to return to Figueira da Foz or stay in Coimbra for some free time.

Day 11 Vilagarcia de Arousa, Spain. Arriving in Northern Spain we will make our way to Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is

still walked today. We will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias; the Quintana Plaza; House of Parra; facade of Azabacheria; and the facade of San Martin Pinario. After lunch on board we drive the short distance to the Pazo de Rubianes which was originally founded in 1411 and was one of the three official lordships in Spain. Enjoy a guided walk through the stunning gardens, famous for their thousands of camellias but also home to eucalyptus trees, sequoias and camphors. Also visit the Pazo's extensive vineyards to learn about the local Albarino wine production and enjoy a tasting before exploring the historical palace itself.

Day 12 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we continue our journey north.

Day 13 Douarnenez, France. This morning we arrive in the Finistere region of France and the port of Douarnenez which prospered as a major centre for the sardine industry in the 19th century. Traces of these days still show in the architecture and old fisherman's houses that line the harbour, whilst at the Port Musee you may find a number of traditional boats at anchor. A morning drive will take us to Locronan, one of the most picturesque and preserved Medieval Breton villages which grew from the manufacture of sailcloth. Visit the 15th century

church, remarkable for its stone vaulting and stained-glass windows, before walking through the craft workshops. You might also be tempted to taste the famous "kouignamann", a traditional Breton butter cake. This afternoon will be at leisure to relax on board or to explore this lovely town at your own pace.

Day 14 Guernsey, Channel Islands. We spend the day on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers' where there will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port harbour. Alternatively, enjoy

a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china. This afternoon is free to explore at your own pace or those feeling active may wish to join a cliff walk where, if the weather is fine, we should be able to see the nearby Channel Islands and possibly the French coast.

Day 15 Portsmouth, England. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station and our London departure airport at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5495	£5195
Byrd	Superior	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Premium	£5895	£5595
Mawson	Corner	£5995	£5695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£6095
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6695	£6395
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7295	£6995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7495	£7195
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7695	£7395

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Las Palmas • 14 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speakers • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Hebridean Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Hebridean Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or, outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Amundsen Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Scott Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

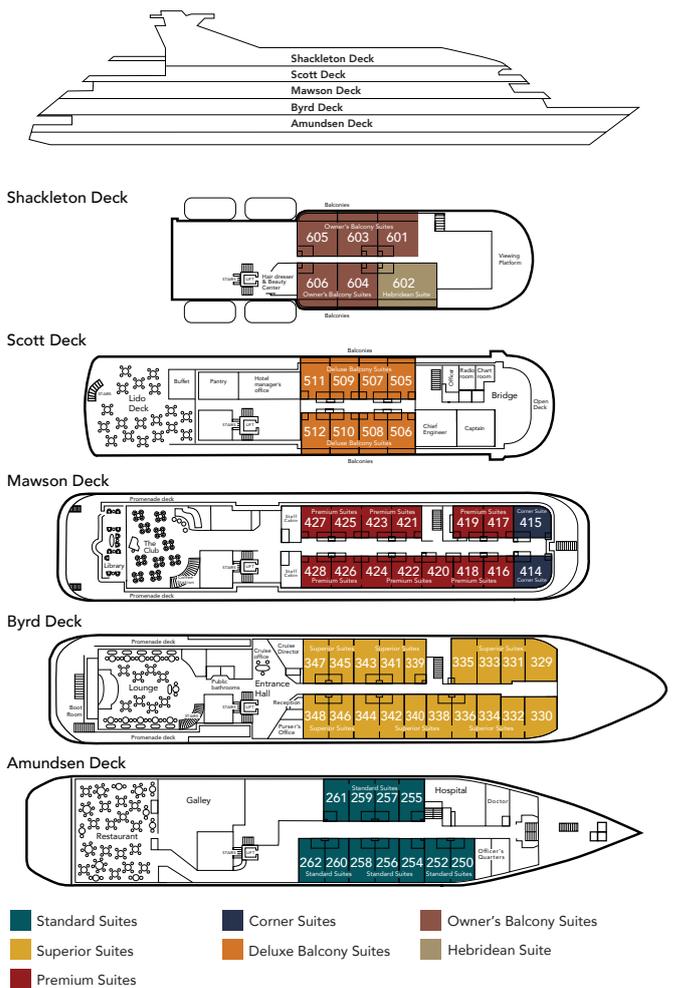
Your Comfort

The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



Please note that beds in each suite can be configured as double or twin with the exception of suites 601 and 602 which feature a fixed double bed.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Porto Santo.