

# MALTA TO MADEIRA

AN ISLAND HOPPING VOYAGE ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER REAR ADMIRAL JOHN LIPPIETT

18<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
£300  
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Late October in the UK is certainly a month to be thinking about travelling south and setting sail from Malta, we have designed this 13-night itinerary to include the islands of the Mediterranean combining time in Sicily, Sardinia, Menorca and Mallorca where, owing to the fact that our small ship can moor centrally, we have the advantage of being able to access the towns by foot in many ports of call. Continuing to mainland Spain, our explorations will include the naval port of Cartagena with its fine Roman remains and the historic city of Malaga before we call into Gibraltar. Sailing further south we spend an afternoon in Morocco where a highlight of our visit to the city of Casablanca will be the opulent Hassan II Mosque with its beautifully decorated interior. After a relaxing day at sea, our final two days will be spent in the Madeira Archipelago where we will explore the scenic wonders of Porto Santo and spend a day on the ‘Garden Isle’ of Madeira.



Sailing aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky with just over 100 fellow travellers, we have the added benefit of excellent local guides and our knowledgeable Guest Speaker who will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region. Enjoy discovering timeless islands, historic cities and spectacular beauty as we travel a less well-trodden path from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic.

## Guest Speaker

### Rear Admiral John Lippiett



John Lippiett had a 36 year career in the Royal Navy, serving in a large number of ships from aircraft carriers to minesweepers and deployed to all of the world's operational theatres. He was second-in-command of the frigate HMS Ambuscade throughout the Falklands War. John commanded three ships, a Frigate Squadron, and then the School of Maritime Warfare.

On promotion to Rear Admiral, he flew his Flag at sea as Flag Officer Sea Training before serving in Naples as Chief of Staff of the NATO maritime forces in the Mediterranean. His final posting was as the Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College. John retired and for nearly 13 years was the Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust, during which time he led the project to build the award-winning new museum and ensure Henry VIII's flagship is conserved and displayed for future generations. John retired from the Mary Rose Trust in 2016 and spends much time back at sea as a speaker on maritime history. He much enjoys telling the stories both of exploration, often using old maps, and of naval ventures that have taken place on the world's oceans over the last two thousand years.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Valletta and sail this evening.

**Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily.** From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red

wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

**Day 3 Trapani.** Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This morning there is the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively visit Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love,





Cagliari



Temple of Segesta



Cathedral, Palma de Mallorca

the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour via cable car will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and courtyards. Return to the ship and have some free time to explore before we sail in the late afternoon.

**Day 4 Cagliari, Sardinia.** Spend the morning exploring the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. On a walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia. Alternatively, drive along the southwestern coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings, including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea.

**Day 5 Mahon, Menorca.** In the late morning we arrive in Menorca, the most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism. The island offers pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. There will be some free time to explore the town from our central berth before an afternoon island drive which

will include the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago. We continue to aristocratic Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca. Situated at the head of a long channel from the sea, the city has had its share of disputes over sovereignty, and its character reflects the influence of Moorish, Turkish and Spanish rule. We will sail late this evening for anyone wishing to take a pre-dinner stroll or drink ashore.

**Day 6 Palma, Mallorca.** Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under control of Carthage, the principal North African city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. From our berth in Palma we will take the beautifully maintained vintage train that connects Palma with the pretty town of Soller on the island's west coast and enjoy splendid mountain views of the Serra de Tramuntana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of just seven kilometres the railway rises 199 metres, runs through 13 tunnels and crosses several bridges. We will enjoy some time to explore Soller before taking a scenic drive to the village of Valldemossa. With a population of around 2000, Valldemossa is a quiet and traditional town with narrow streets and lanes. We will enjoy a walk around the town followed by lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Palma where we will have some time to explore at our own pace.

**Day 7 Cartagena, Spain.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. Enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for a morning of exploration in a historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it after Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative centre. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcion Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour, view the Roman amphitheatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

**Day 8 Malaga.** Our final call in Spain will explore the historic and reinvented city of Malaga. A morning tour will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to the Alcazabar, a citadel built by the Moors between 1057 and 1063 at the foot of the Gibralfaro Hill using materials from the nearby Roman Amphitheatre. Our tour ends at the Botanical Gardens, created in 1855 and home to more than 25,000 species of plants. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace, the art lovers may wish to visit the house where Picasso was born as well as the museum dedicated to his work.

See the impressive cathedral, the market or watch the world go by in the local park.

**Day 9 Gibraltar.** This morning we arrive in Gibraltar where we explore this strategic British outpost of the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783 and revered as one of the finest defensive systems. Also see the Gibraltar Museum where we can learn more about the Great Siege, the geological origins of the rock and also the areas natural history. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace.

**Day 10 Casablanca, Morocco.** Spend the morning at sea before arriving over lunch in Casablanca. We will visit the city's most important sights including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Olive Market. The highlight of our tour, however, is a visit to the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest religious monuments in the world. It took 3300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and splendid wood ceilings. The mosque also has the world's tallest minaret, soaring 200 metres above the city.

**Day 11 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we cross to the Madeira islands.

**Day 12 Porto Santo, Madeira.** Although one of the islands



Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca



Malaga, Spain



Botanical Gardens, Funchal

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 leisure.

**Day 13 Funchal.** Spend the day on Madeira, also known as the Garden Isle as the combination of the rich soils and mild temperatures create a perfect growing environment. We will include 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 also learn about the production of Madeira wines at one of the island's lodges. We remain moored overnight.

**Day 14 Funchal to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## 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	£6295	£5995
Byrd	Superior	£6595	£6295
Mawson	Premium	£6795	£6495
Mawson	Corner	£7295	£6995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7595	£7295
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8495	£8195
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Byrd	Superior for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Pre-cruise Malta Extension 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Valletta



Mdina



If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay in Valletta.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel and check in for our two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

**Day 2 Valletta.** Enjoy a morning walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street, containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

**Day 3 Valletta.** This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Citta Nobile" and is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. We will enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the ship moored in Valletta. (B, L)

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £795  
Single: £995

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

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# 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.

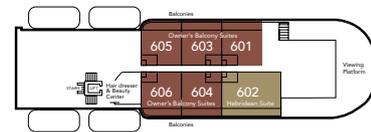
### Your Life On Board

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.

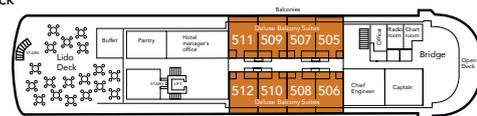
### MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



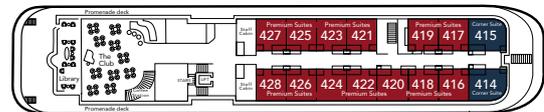
Shackleton Deck



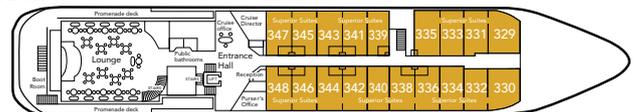
Scott Deck



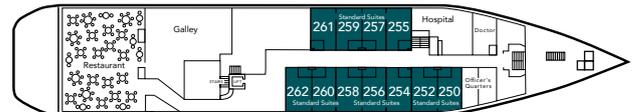
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Hebridean Suite
- Premium Suites

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

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