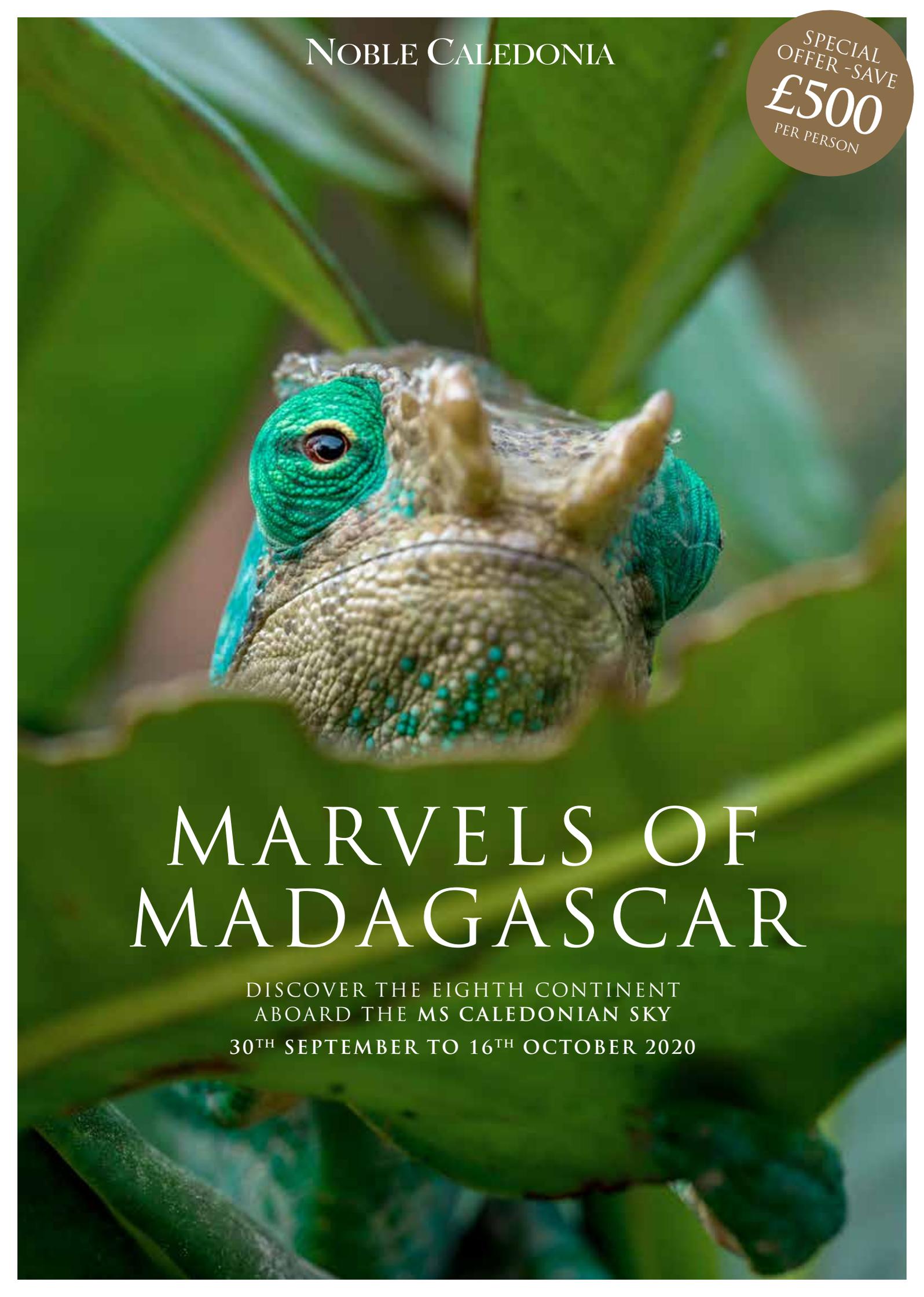


NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON



MARVELS OF MADAGASCAR

DISCOVER THE EIGHTH CONTINENT
ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY
30TH SEPTEMBER TO 16TH OCTOBER 2020

The term ‘unique’ is often an overused description in the travel world but certainly applies to the island of Madagascar. The animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand mile long island are unlike anywhere else in the world. This extraordinary country long remained obscure as a destination and is still relatively unknown amongst even the most serious of travellers. There is minimal infrastructure in many parts of the island and for those wishing to explore the island in some depth, doing so by small ship, especially one as well-suited as the MS Caledonian Sky is far preferable to exploring by any other means. With the vessel’s fleet of Zodiacs for forays ashore, allowing access to the wonderful places denied to larger ships and, accompanied by our onboard experts you can learn and enjoy encounters with fabulous endemic wildlife in this immensely rich and timeless corner of the Indian Ocean.

In addition to the breathtaking scenery, the region abounds with strange and wonderful plants and trees, countless varieties of birds and abundant wildlife including the iconic lemur. The long separation from the African mainland has given rise to its amazing number of endemic species of flora and fauna and its people are also unique having descended from Malay-Polynesian mariners who sailed from South East Asia between 1500 to 2000 years ago. Later arrivals included slaves from Africa, traders from Arabia, India and Portugal and more latterly French colonials. Our experienced expedition team will provide commentary on all that we see and will reveal the wonders of the world’s ‘eighth continent’.



Our View

“We are delighted to have been able to plan this in-depth exploration of Madagascar into our schedule for the MS Caledonian Sky. Madagascar is special in the diversity of flora and fauna and the amount of endemic species that call it home. During our expedition we are able to visit a number of national parks where we hope to spot rare lemurs, unique baobabs, endemic birdlife and explore the underwater world on snorkelling trips. The great advantage we offer is after a day exploring on untarred roads with basic transportation we return to the comfort of the MS Caledonian Sky to recharge before the next adventure. Our expert onboard team will add immeasurably to our experience as we explore this wonderful island.”

What to Expect

During an expedition, each day holds something new and below are some extracts from the logs of some of our most recent expeditions in Madagascar which will provide you with an idea of what to expect if you choose to join this Madagascan adventure.



Sunday 24th January, 2016.
Mahajanga & Ankarantsafika National Park, Madagascar: No such thing as a Sunday lie-in this morning as we were up bright and bushytailed in readiness for an exciting day. The sea was a millpond. Large fleets of prawn trawlers lined the quay side, while traditional ‘dhows’ passed us on their way out to sea. Women in traditional dress greeted us on the slipway and our transport waited at the end of a strip of market stall selling local crafts. The convoy of minibuses departed Mahajanga driving through the busy streets before heading out in the countryside. Savannah like landscape could

be seen for miles on either side of the tarmac road. The savannah gave way to large swathes of rice paddies. Local rice farmers were seen harvesting the rice, children waved from the road side, as we passed through beautiful villages. We arrived at the Ankarantsafika National Park, a mere two hours after leaving the dock.

Immediately after arriving, we saw a troop of brown lemur and the gorgeous Coquerel’s sifaka expertly negotiating their way through the canopy. Already we could see this was a special place and we hadn’t even left the car park! We were on the lookout for creatures great and small, and we found them. Our guides took us on prepared trails through the dry forest, spotting a variety of bird species, reptiles, and of course, lemur. Highlights included an eye-height view of a paradise fly-catcher incubating on a nest; a female Milne-Edwards sportive lemur with her juvenile resting on a tree trunk, iguanas basking in a variety of different body positions in spots of sunlight and, the fantastic spot of the Madagascan fish eagle. Combined we saw 51 different species of bird and reptile, and five species of lemur. What an incredible day! Lunch was a tasty BBQ and local snacks, accompanied by much required cool drinks. Even lunch didn’t distract from the wildlife

viewing as there was a group of sifaka, could be seen clearly from the table, sleeping through the heat of the day. Post-lunch was flexible and some of us couldn’t resist another opportunity to walk around the forest, while others were lucky to be shown the Durrell conservation project.



Tuesday 26th January, 2016.
Morondava, Madagascar: Driving through the busy town of Morondava took some time as we negotiated our way among the many zebu-carts, bicycles, rickshaws, and street vendors. The market seemed to sell everything and anything one could want. Fruit, vegetables, meats, clothes, and all manner of colourful household utensils were on display. The tarmac gave way to dirt roads and we bumped our way through rice paddies for a short while before the silhouettes of the grand baobab trees started to appear in the distance. Our first stop was at

‘the Twins’ baobab, two baobabs growing up from the same base root system. It provided a good photo opportunity with the large tree but also of the surrounding open landscape. A mere 10 minutes later we arrived on the Avenue de Baobabs in all its majesty. The dusty dirt road lined with towering Adansonia grandidieri. The world famous vista is far more impressive in person. We wondered among the giants freely. It was a serene scene. The sun was beating down so we retreated under the shade of a raintree where our guide explained the uses of the baobab fruit with its velvet like husk and white ‘meringue’ flesh. It was also an opportunity to find out about the baobab replanting project on the site run by Fanamby. We were each given the privilege to plant a baobab seeding to help strengthen the population of these famous trees. Great to get one’s hands dirty and covered in Madagascan soil.





Panther chameleon



Waterfalls, Reunion

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mauritius. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mauritius. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the hotel facilities before we meet for dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Mauritius. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and a morning at leisure. After checking out, our island tour will include the Trou-aux-Cerfs volcano, the Grand Bassin Lake and Black River Gorges before we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky in the late afternoon. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 4 Reunion. We arrive at breakfast in Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour 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. We will enjoy views from the Nez des Bouefs and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the "Cite du Volcan" museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in St Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. We will also enjoy some free time in St Denis before returning to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure before we set sail this evening.

Day 5 At Sea. Spend the day at sea. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge, enjoy a book in the library or spend time on deck as we cross to Madagascar.

Day 6 Ile Sainte Marie, Madagascar. Our first call in Madagascar is at Ile Sainte Marie, also known as Nosy Bohara, a lush tropical island offering sandy beaches, coral reefs and natural beauty. This morning we will explore the capital of Ambodifotatra including the oldest church in Madagascar built in 1837 and the vibrant market. Over lunch we sail the short distance to La Crique and Natori. Here we will use the Zodiacs to land on the beach from where our naturalists will

lead some walks into the gardens and small forest. Alternatively enjoy the chance for a swim or snorkel off the beach.

Days 7 & 8 Nosy Mangabe & Masoala National Park. Over breakfast we arrive at Nosy Mangabe, a 520 hectare island reserve in Antongil Bay. Here we find one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar which 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 the Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers. We remain in Antongil Bay overnight to visit Madagascar's largest protected area, the Masoala National Park which comprises coastal rainforest, flooded forests and marsh and mangroves. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur and the ring-tailed mongoose. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured Mantella frogs and all manner

of extraordinary chameleons. Masoala is also a refuge of the endangered Madagascar red owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. We will run a series of walks for all levels during our time here whilst you will also have the option to swim off the beach or perhaps visit the local village.

Day 9 Diego Suarez. After a morning at sea we will enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. This afternoon choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre, or the Malagasy Rain Forest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore the rain forest.

Day 10 Nosy Hara. Sail overnight over the northern tip of Madagascar where strangely shaped limestone islets dot the aquamarine-coloured sea. The expedition team will decide on the most suitable island for landing, such as Nosy Hara, with its abundant birdlife and a great place to swim off the beach. We will explore the island on foot, walking through dense



Exploring by Zodiac



Sainte Marie Island



Lemurs



Ankarafantsika National Park

woodland and observing the unusual vegetation. Alternatively join a Zodiac cruise around the islands and a chance to snorkel over the coral.

Day 11 Nosy Tanikely. We arrive this morning at the Nosy Tanikely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island which offers snorkelling opportunities and wonderful beaches. We will take the chance to either swim in the clear waters or snorkel over the corals keeping an eye out for reef fish, turtles and morays. Alternatively our naturalists will lead guided walks on the island where we may see the resident lemurs, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the lighthouse on the island's highest point. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 12 Mahajanga. Mahajanga is a major port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River and is our base for a full day excursion to Ankarafantsika National Park.

This deciduous forest is a haven for birds, lemurs and reptiles and on a choice of walks, we will explore with our guides. Eight species of lemur have been observed here including the famous *Microcebus*, the smallest primate in the world. Meanwhile over 120 species of birds nest here and we will keep an eye out for the Madagascar fish eagle and banded kestrel whilst the 44 species of reptile include chameleon, turtles and crocodiles that live in Lake Ravelobe. We will enjoy lunch in the park and in the afternoon there will be options to join further walks, watch for birdlife at the nearby lake or we have requested permission to visit the Durrell breeding programme which was established at Ampijora and is dedicated to protecting the ploughshare tortoise, one of the most threatened breeds in the world.

Day 13 At Sea. Our lecture programme continues as we continue our journey around the Madagascar coast.

Day 14 Morondava. From our anchorage off the town of Morondava, we will use the Zodiacs to land on the local beach. From here there will be a choice of excursions to explore the local region. A half day morning tour will visit the Avenue de Baobabs. Of the eight baobab species in the world, six are endemic to Madagascar and here we will see the *Adansonia grandidieri* species with a row of 20 to 25 trees which border the gravel road. We will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance before returning to Morondava and exploring the local market. Alternatively, join a full day excursion to Kirindy Forest. Situated approximately a two hour drive from Morondava, we will pass the Avenue de Baobabs as we travel north. Kirindy is a 10,000 hectare, dry deciduous forest, one of the most endangered in the world where the flora and fauna includes many endemic species. Here we find three species of baobab, many birds and reptiles including snakes, tortoises and lizards.

Eight species of lemur reside here including the pale form marked lemur.

Day 15 Tulear. Our last call in Madagascar will be Tulear on the southwest coast. Arriving at lunchtime we have a choice of activities this afternoon. Maybe drive to the Antsokay Arboretum which is entirely devoted to the conservation of the plants from the south west of Madagascar and, after more than 30 years of hard work, offers a densely kept selection of flora presenting a typical sub-arid thicket with baobab trees towering over the smaller plants. We will see the four hectare botanical garden which comprises over 900 species of plants of which 90% are endemic to the region. Alternatively visit the Reniala Private Reserve, a small area of just 60 hectares but containing a spiny forest which is unique to south eastern Madagascar. The park is home to 200 plant species including baobabs as well as being a haven for birders with sightings of paradise flycatchers,



Day gekko



Traditional dhow



Broad-billed Roller

Madagascar hoopoe and Madagascar crested drongo.

Day 16 Tulear to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Johannesburg. Connect here with

our scheduled onward flight to London. Alternatively for further wildlife experiences join our extension to the Kruger National Park.

Day 17 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£9495	£8995
Caledonian	Superior	£9795	£9295
Promenade	Premium	£9995	£9495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10995	£10495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£11295	£10795
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£12495	£11995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11495	£10995
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11795	£11295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mauritius on a half board basis • 13 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes
Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

Pre & Post-cruise Extensions



Pre-cruise Mauritius Extension 29th September to 2nd October 2020

Before embarking the MS Caledonian Sky we are offering the opportunity to spend two nights in Mauritius at a luxury resort (Westin or similar) located on the protected northwest coast of Mauritius.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mauritius. Fly by scheduled flight.
Day 2 Mauritius. Arrive today and transfer to our resort for a two night stay.
Day 3 Mauritius. A full day to relax at the hotel.
Day 4 Mauritius. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and continue with the same programme as per Day 3 of the main itinerary.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695** Single: **£845**

PRICE INCLUDES: Two nights hotel accommodation on half board basis • Transfers • Gratuities • Taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.
Please note that the hotel used will be different to the one included on Day 2 of the main cruise itinerary.



Lions, Kruger National Park

Post-cruise Kruger Extension

15th to 19th October 2020

After your expedition around Madagascar, we are offering the opportunity to explore the wildlife of the Kruger National Park.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Tulear to Johannesburg, South Africa. Arrive from our chartered flight from Madagascar as per Day 16 on the main cruise itinerary. We will overnight at a Johannesburg hotel. Meet tonight for dinner.
Day 2 Johannesburg to Kruger National Park. After breakfast in the hotel we return to the airport for our scheduled flight to Kruger Airport. Upon arrival transfer to the Lukimbi Safari Lodge (or similar) where we enjoy lunch before embarking on our first game drive. Return to the lodge for a traditional Boma dinner this evening.
Day 3 Kruger National Park. Enjoy an early morning game drive and after breakfast at the lodge, embark on an optional morning bush walk, followed by free time and a leisurely lunch. Later this afternoon there is the option of another game drive before dinner.
Day 4 Kruger to London. After another dawn game drive we will enjoy breakfast and check out of the lodge before driving to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport for our short flight to Johannesburg. Connect here with our onward scheduled flight to London.
Day 5 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2395** Single: **£2795**

PRICE INCLUDES: Overnight hotel accommodation in Johannesburg on a bed and breakfast basis • Dinner on day 1 • Scheduled air travel between Johannesburg and Kruger National Park • Two nights accommodation at the Lukimbi Safari Lodge (or similar) on a full board basis • Game drives • Transfers • Gratuities • Taxes **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY



Deluxe Balcony Suite



On Deck



The Restaurant

The MS Caledonian Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.



Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. The passenger accommodation is arranged over four decks and all suites have outside views. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, heated towel rail, vanity unit and walk-in shower and/or bath tub. Facilities in the suites also include walk-in or spacious wardrobes,

dressings table with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, flat screen television, telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Bottled water, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Caledonian 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.



Library



Standard Suite



The Lounge

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. In addition there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library with two computers offering complimentary internet access and further seating ideal for watching the world go by. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top deck there is a further observation and Sun Deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. There is also a small beauty salon with appointments made on request. Throughout the vessel carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

Your Comfort

The MS Caledonian 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 you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

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. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no "black tie" evenings. On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. Our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

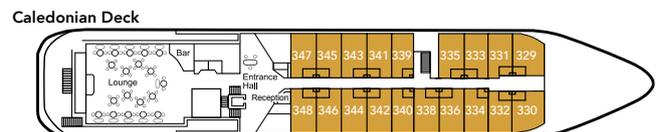
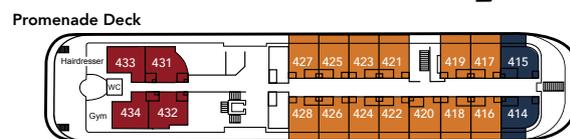
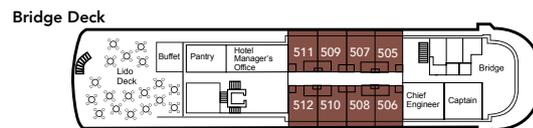
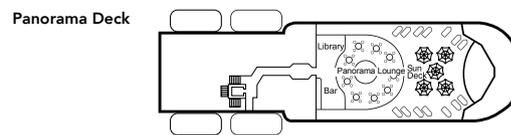
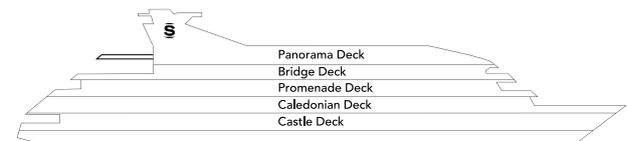


Alfresco Dining

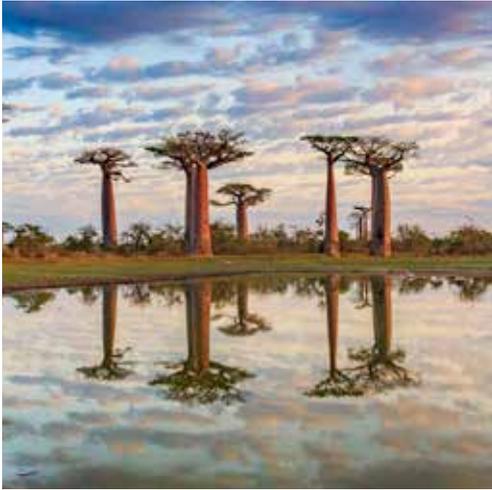


Panorama Lounge

MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



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



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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