

# MOROCCO, MADEIRA & THE CANARY ISLANDS

A VOYAGE FROM GIBRALTAR TO TENERIFE INCLUDING MOROCCO & MADEIRA ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

2<sup>ND</sup> TO 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025





Whilst winter is approaching the UK, Morocco and the sub-tropical Atlantic islands still have many months of sunshine ahead and this delightful voyage aboard the MS Hebridean Sky offers the opportunity to escape to warmer climes, and fully appreciate the fascinating history, dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy of the region.

Embarking in Gibraltar, we head for Morocco and the port of Tangier which has been a strategic gateway between Africa and Europe since Phoenician times. We continue to Casablanca and discover the wonders of the city before we sail to Safi for our exploration of charming Essaouira. Leaving Morocco we head out into the Atlantic bound for the 'floating garden in the Atlantic' of Madeira before we make our way to the Canary Islands.



Located some 700 miles off Saharan Africa, far from being a sun and fun package destination, there is much to see in this delightful Atlantic Archipelago. In fact, you do not have to stray far from the resorts to discover some marvellously varied landscapes and an absorbing, multifaceted culture. Exploring the hinterlands, back roads and villages brings you in touch with a unique side of Spanish culture, much removed from the mainland. The melting pot of Andalucian, Berber, Portuguese, Italian, French and British migration, together with los Guanches, the original inhabitants who were displaced by the Spanish conquest in the 15th century, have all left their mark, making this a unique destination. We will explore two of the lesser known islands, only accessible by a small ship such as the MS Hebridean Sky: La Palma and El Hierro 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.

In the company of just 100 or so like-minded travel companions we will be able to make the most of the region and in our small groups we can explore places that are otherwise inaccessible to the larger ships. Our itinerary has been designed to offer a choice of excursions on most days and we are confident that you will find this cruise the perfect antidote to the cold and grey skies at home.







#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Gibraltar.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Tangier, Morocco. Having passed the Strait of Gibraltar we arrive in North Africa and the port of Tangier. A short drive will bring us to the Donabo Gardens located on the coast with wonderful sea views. Divided into ten sections we can explore the Moroccan garden that celebrates the tradition of tea, the mint maze where multiple varieties blend their fragrances along the alleys, a rose garden thriving in the cool shade and a pollinators garden purposely designed to attract bees. Later we can explore the city where on a walking tour we will visit the Medina, enjoy the views from the Kasbah situated at the highest point of Tangier, and wander through the Grand Souk. Alternatively drive across the beautiful Rif Mountains to Tetouan. Visit the unique School of Art Dar Sanaa which is located in a former palace and teaches the most traditional of Moroccan crafts to its students before we continue to the Medina which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient medina is full of narrow alleys and streets with vendors selling local handicrafts, foods and spices. Our tour will end at the old Royal Palace, a 17th century building which is itself a reflection of the Hispano-Moresque architecture, and the nearby Hassan II square. Stop to savour the Moroccan tea and fresh pastries at a local Riad in the heart of the Medina before returning to the ship.

**Day 3 Casablanca.** Arriving in Casablanca at lunchtime we will visit the city's most important sights including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Olive Market. The highlight of our tour will be our visit to the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest religious monuments in the world after Mecca. It took 3,300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and splendid wood ceilings.

Day 4 Safi for Essaouira. This morning we will depart the port of Safi and head along the coast to Essaouira. Founded in the 18th century, Essaouira was built to be a rival city to Agadir. Formerly known as Mogador, meaning small fortress, it was designed as a fortified town surrounded by Vauban-style ramparts and played a major role as an international trading seaport, linking Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa with Europe and the rest of the world. On our full day tour we will see the amazing mixture of Portuguese and Berber architecture, the 16th century sea bastions built to protect the city, the 18th century Medina, and in the Mellah we will find the souks dedicated to gold, spices and fish. Enjoy a seafood lunch near the beach before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

**Day 5 At Sea.** Spend the day at sea as we sail towards Madeira. Our lecture programme will continue in the lounge or maybe find a spot on deck to relax.

Days 6 & 7 Madeira. Spend the next day and a half on Madeira where there will be a choice of excursions, including a beautiful panoramic exploration of the western part of the island taking in Ribera Brava and Porto Moniz. There will also be the opportunity to visit the Botanical gardens which cover an area of over 35,000 square metres and has more than 2000 exotic plants from all continents, some of which are endangered species. This fantastic garden has several ornamental trees and shrubs, an orchid area, lawns, and lovely viewpoints. Those feeling more 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 8 La Palma, Canary Islands. 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. Arriving at lunchtime we drive inland taking in the beautiful scenery to Santuario Virgen de Las Nieves, after visiting the small, whitewashed church we travel through mountain roads to La Caldera de Taburiente. Located within the National Park Caldera de Taburiente, a massive depression eight kilometres wide which scientists agree was a majestically tall volcanic mountain that collapsed on itself. We will 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 5000 years.

Day 9 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. This morning will be free to explore the town at your own pace. Later, during our afternoon 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 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 Llania hiking excursion which will take us through primeval forests, along ancient cisterns to El Hierro's top viewing point affording spectacular views of the western parts of the island.

Day 10 Tenerife to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight.









### 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	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior	£6295	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6295
Mawson	Corner	£6895	£6595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7595	£7295
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8495	£8195
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6295	£5995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6595	£6295

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

• Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

# Pre-cruise Gibraltar Extension 31st October to 2nd November 2025



If you would like to spend some time in Gibraltar before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay at The Rock Hotel which has been the landmark and most historic luxury hotel in Gibraltar since 1932.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Gibraltar.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to The Rock Hotel for a two-night stay. Meet this evening for dinner. **(D)** 

**Day 2 Gibraltar.** Enjoy a day at leisure for independent exploration. Maybe take the cable car up the famous rock, see the Botanical Gardens or visit the Garrison Library. **(B)** 

**Day 3 Gibraltar.** This morning during our guided tour we will discover this strategic British outpost in the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783. Also see the Gibraltar Museum. After lunch transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation. **(B, L)** 

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£995** 

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation at the Rock Hotel in Gibraltar, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch), half day tour, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

# Post-cruise Tenerife Extension 11th to 13th November 2025

After our cruise we are offering the opportunity to join a two night hotel stay on the island of Tenerife staying at the Hotel Botanico.



#### The Itinerary

Day 1 Tenerife. Disembark after breakfast this morning and enjoy a morning tour to explore the beautiful gardens of Tenerife. We will start with a visit to the Botanical Gardens which were founded by Charles III of Spain in 1788. From here we will visit the Orchid Gardens which is abundent with colour and tranquility. After lunch in a local restaurant we will transfer to the Hotel Botanico in Puerto de la Cruz for our two night stay. (B, L)

 $\mbox{\bf Day 2 Tenerife.} \ \mbox{Your day is at leisure to relax in the hotel or maybe} \ \mbox{explore the local area at your own pace. (B)} \ \mbox{}$ 

Day 3 Tenerife to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight. (B)

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£995** 

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation at Hotel Botanico, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch), tours as described, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

# MS HEBRIDEAN SKY









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

#### Your Suite

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

#### Your Dining

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







#### 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.

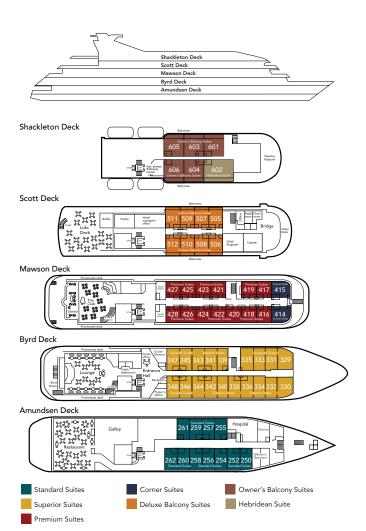
#### Your Comfort

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.



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