

# MUMBAI, THE MALABAR COAST & SRI LANKA

A VOYAGE FROM MUMBAI TO COLOMBO ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY with guest speaker right reverend tim stevens

15<sup>th</sup> TO 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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F or those seeking an informative and relaxing experience whilst discovering India and Sri Lanka, what better way than a journey aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky in the company of just over 100 fellow travellers. Exploring by small ship, we are able to visit some of the most interesting regions allowing time for some leisurely interludes. The intricate nature of India and Sri Lanka's religions and cultures, together with the rich and absorbing history, will be brought to life by our Guest Speaker and the knowledgeable local guides who will accompany us ashore.

Setting sail from the vibrant and bustling city of Mumbai, amongst the many highlights of our time in India will be the Old Town of Goa with its interesting blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures and our time spent in the Malabar port of Cochin from where we will explore the serene 'backwaters', a network of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals. Boats carrying the local produce of copra, coir and cashews travel slowly through peaceful, palm-shaded waterways and keen birdwatchers can have a field day looking out for fish eagles, kingfishers, egrets, herons and more. During our time in Sri Lanka we will explore its wealth of both ancient and natural sites including the fortified, UNESCO World

Mangalore Cochin E in Colombo Galle Galle Hambantota

Heritage Site of Galle and the fascinating capital, Colombo. Sri Lanka is also a paradise for wildlife lovers and we have included game viewing in Yala National Park, which offers a great diversity of animal and birdlife and, further south, the lesser-visited coastal wetland area of Bundala National Park with its flocks of flamingos and rich birdlife.

Our journey will take us along some beautiful coastlines and we will visit bustling bazaars, witness daily life, learn something of the colourful cultures, ancient faiths, customs and traditions and see some of the remarkable wildlife. All this and more will be achieved with ease with the benefit of returning to the comfort of the MS Island Sky each evening to recharge the batteries with good food, caring service and a restful night's sleep ready to witness another day in these fascinating lands.



# The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mumbai, India. Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Mumbai.** Arrive and transfer to the MS Island Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 3 Mumbai.** Mumbai is a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fisherman, who still occupy parts of the city shoreline today. First ceded to the Portuguese, the British Government took possession of the islands in 1665 before leasing them to the East India Company who founded the port and saw the city grow in size and importance. This morning we explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi when he stayed in Mumbai from 1917 to 1934 and Dhobi Ghat where we can observe the vast open air Indian laundry. Alternatively, travel to Gharapuri Island, better known as Elephanta Island, and view the remarkable caves designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This labyrinth of cave temples features courtyards, shrines, remarkable statues and vibrant sculptures that date from the 5th to 7th century AD. Return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea.

**Day 4 Goa.** In the 15th century Goa was the largest trading centre on India's west coast and when the Portuguese arrived in the early 16th century they planned to set up a colony to seize control of the spice trade. Goa remained a Portuguese colony until 1961 when it became the 25th state of the Indian Republic. Whilst famous for her beautiful beaches,

## Guest Speaker - Right Reverend Tim Stevens



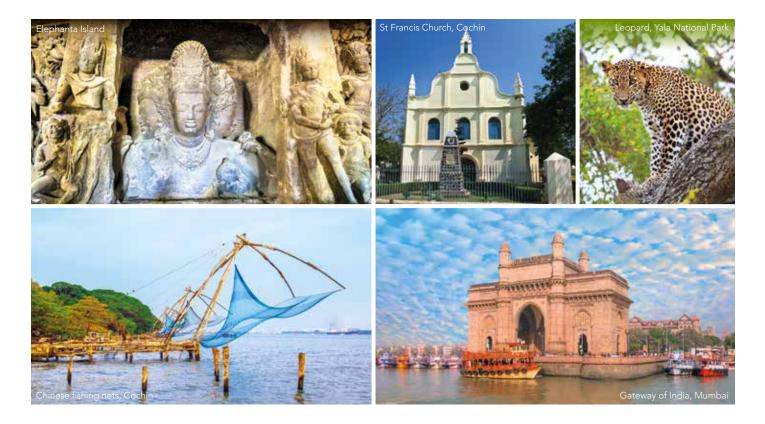
Tim Stevens read Classics and English at Cambridge. In 1968 he joined BOAC as a graduate trainee and entered the Foreign Office in 1972 working in the South Asian Dept until starting training for ordination in Oxford. He was a parish priest in East London and Essex before being appointed Archdeacon of West Ham, Bishop of Dunwich and eventually Bishop of Leicester where, from 1999 to 2015, he was heavily

engaged in interfaith relations and a visiting professor in Church and Society at De Montfort University. Tim was chair of the Children's Society between 2004 and 2010 and Convener of the Bishops in the House of Lords, between 2009 and 2015, where he spoke regularly on public policy issues especially on Welfare Reform and inter-faith relations. In 2015 he was responsible for planning and leading the events surrounding the re-interment of Richard III in Leicester Cathedral. Tim is now on the global governance board of St John International and a trustee of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge which researches and supports understanding between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Goa offers wonderful architecture with a mixture of Hindu and Catholic styles, unique history, rich culture and pretty natural scenery. This afternoon we will explore Old Goa with its fine Basilica of Bom Jesus and the Neo-Classical Church of St Cajetan. Alternatively, visit a spice plantation where the cultivation of cardamom, chilli, cloves and coriander can be seen. We will enjoy the smells and tastes whilst we learn about their uses in Indian life.

Day 5 Mangalore. In the 14th and 15th centuries Mangalore traded with Persian and Arab merchants and was fought over by the Nayaka princes and the Portuguese. In the 18th century its control was contested by Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan on the one hand, and the British on the other. The influences of its turbulent history are still apparent in the cosmopolitan attitude and diverse religions that exist here. Today it is a business and commercial centre and is India's ninth largest cargo handling port exporting 75% of the country's coffee and the bulk of its cashew nuts and spices. Spend the morning learning about the cashew processing industry before we visit Gokarnatha Temple and the remarkable St Aloysius Chapel, with a fascinating series of intricate paintings that cover virtually every square inch of the interior ceiling and walls. Created over a period of two years by Brother Antonio Moscheni, an Italian artist, the chapel with its magnificent artwork is one of the city's hidden gems. After our exploration we will return to the vessel for a leisurely afternoon at sea.

Days 6 & 7 Cochin. Cochin is an extraordinary city with strong influences of Portuguese, Chinese, Arab, Dutch and British cultures still much in evidence today and we have two days to enjoy this intriguing Malabar port. Visits will



include the serene Kerala backwaters at Alleppey where we will board a local boat for a cruise past colonial warehouses and coconut thatched houses. For centuries, these canals provided a safe and efficient means of transportation for goods and people moving between the heartland of Kerala and the port towns along the coast. Even today, traditional barges, or kettuvallams, haul coconut, pepper, rice and other goods along the waterways. We will also spend time in Cochin to explore the diverse mix of cultures and religions that together, with its strong trading past in spices and silks, make for a fascinating city. Discover Mattancherry Palace with its ornately decorated rooms including some marvellous ancient murals and see the oldest European church in India, St Francis, and the ruins of the fort. On our first evening as we moor overnight, we will enjoy a Kathakali performance on board after dinner. Based on the subject from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and stories from Saiva literature, Kathakali is one of the main forms of classical dance drama of India and indigenous to Kerala.

Day 8 At Sea. Relax on board as we spend the day sailing to Sri Lanka.

Day 9 Galle, Sri Lanka. Arrive this morning in Sri Lanka and the port of Galle from where we take a walking tour of the impressive Galle Fortress. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the port where the Portuguese first landed in Sri Lanka in the 16th century and was then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Also see the maritime museum, which is housed in an old Dutch house, the lighthouse, mosque and church before taking a stroll through the narrow streets with its shuttered mansions and cloistered courtyards. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to explore Galle further at your own pace or join the guided tour to a nearby tea plantation where we will learn about the growing processes and enjoy a tasting.

Days 10 & 11 Hambantota for Bundala National Park, Yala National Park &

Kataragama. We have one and a half days in Hambantota from where we will visit some of the region's highlights. We will explore Bundala National Park, a haven for birdwatchers and Sri Lanka's first declared Ramsar wetland. Located in the deep south of the island, the diversity of the park lies in its landscape, from dry thorny scrubland to sand dunes and salt marshes, to mangroves and lagoons. Take a jeep through the park and discover close to 200 species of bird as well as many species of butterflies, crocodiles, elephants, and deer. Also known as Ruhunu, Yala National Park was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1900 and is now home to 44 varieties of mammals and 215 bird species. This vast region of arid scrub interspersed with pockets of dense forest and open patches of grassland hosts one of the highest densities of leopards in the world. On a Jeep safari we also hope to see sloth bears, jackals, wild boar and elephants. In addition there will be a chance to visit Kataragama, one of the three most important religious sites in Sri Lanka and a popular place of pilgrimage for the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and the indigenous Vedda communities of Sri Lanka and South India. According to Buddhists this was one of the 16 places visited by Buddha during his visits to Sri Lanka. We will explore

the religious complex built across the Menik Ganga which contains buildings from all three religions including the mosque, temple, the small archaeological museum and the principal shrine of the god Kataragama.

Day 12 Colombo. Sri Lanka's commercial capital and largest city dates back over 600 years having been a trading hub for sea merchants and colonial rulers. Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, mosques and churches reflect the various beliefs practised all over the island and the beautiful facades of the old, colonial buildings contrast with the modern but elegant shopping arcades that have been developed inside. There will be a choice of activities today and you may wish to join a cultural tour including the Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple, the National Museum and Independence Square. Alternatively visit the Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, located on the outskirts of the city. It is said that Buddha visited and preached his doctrine to a gathering of serpent-kings. Today worshippers come to lay sprigs of lotus flowers around the great white dagoba, light oil lamps, and sprinkle the base of the Tree of Enlightenment with purifying water. We can see the fine carvings and lovely frescoes, fascinating geometrically patterned ceiling paintings, and three important images of Buddha.

**Day 13 Colombo to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this evening.

#### **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
Magellan	Standard	£8295	£7795
Columbus	Superior	£8495	£7995
Marco Polo	Premium	£8795	£8295
Marco Polo	Corner	£9295	£8795
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£10495	£9995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£10995	£10495
Explorer	Island Suite	£11495	£10995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£9295	£8795
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£9495	£8995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, Indian visa, Sri Lankan visa.

### Pre-cruise Agra & Jaipur Extension 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026



If you would like to spend some time in India before embarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering a five night escorted extension which will include the Taj Mahal and the 'pink city' of Jaipur.

## The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Delhi, India. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Delhi. Arrive and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax before we meet for dinner in the hotel. (D)

Day 3 Delhi to Agra. Spend the morning driving to Agra (approximately 4 hours). Agra's history dates back to the Mughals who proclaimed it their capital in 1565. Today the city is a kaleidoscope of India with various communities living in harmony. After lunch we visit Agra Fort, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565 before continuing to the city including the bazaars. We stay overnight in Agra and will have dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Agra. After breakfast we see the legendary beauty and the white marble domes of the elegant Taj Mahal which was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an exquisite mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. After our visit we will have lunch and the afternoon at leisure to relax in the hotel or partake in some independent sightseeing. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Agra to Jaipur.** This morning we drive to Jaipur (approximately 4.5 hours), our base for the next two nights. Almost the entire city was given a coat of pink paint in 1876 to coincide with the visit of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII) thus giving it the name 'The Pink City'. This afternoon we will visit the Birla Temple and Albert Hall before we return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Jaipur.** Located near the deserts of Rajasthan, the movement and collection of water play an important role for the city. This morning our guide will show us the ancient channels, aqueducts and reservoirs and explain about their history and creation. After lunch we will visit the Observatory and the City Palace which maintains the Maharaja's private collection of textiles and arms. Return to the hotel for some free time before dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 7 Jaipur to Mumbai.** After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our flight to Mumbai. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky. (B)

#### **PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £2895; Single: £3495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from Jaipur to Mumbai, overnight hotel accommodation in Delhi, two nights hotel accommodation in Agra, two nights hotel accommodation in Jaipur, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, tours as described, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes. Not Included: Travel insurance, Indian visa.

# Post-cruise Sri Lanka Extension 27<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026



After disembarking the MS Island Sky, you can extend your time in Sri Lanka with our six night escorted tour including many of the country's highlights.

# The Itinerary

Day 1 Colombo to Habarana, Sri Lanka. Disembark this morning and drive into the centre of Sri Lanka towards Habarana. After lunch we check into our hotel. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon before we meet for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 2 Anuradhapura & Minneriya National Park. A UNESCO World Heritage Site predominantly influenced by Buddhism; Anuradhapura was Sri Lanka's first Capital Kingdom. Upon arrival we will be greeted by the brilliant white dome shaped Ruwanweliseya and Jethawanarama stupas which have survived over two millennia. Next, admire the 'Samadhi' Buddha statue, a granite statue of Buddha in a meditative pose and a true masterpiece of sculpture. After lunch near the site we will continue to the Minneriya National Park, a wildlife reserve where during a safari we will witness the animals that call this park home including elephants. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 Sigiriya.** Easily the most iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site in Sri Lanka, Sigiriya Rock dramatically rises up out of the surrounding jungle, standing at nearly 200 metres tall. This incredible rock fortress was built by King Kashyapa I in the 5th century AD and served as a royal citadel for more than 18 years. Once at the top, enjoy the unparalleled views. Return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. (**B**, **L**, **D**)

Day 4 Dambulla to Kandy. Check out this morning before we visit the Dambulla Cave Temples. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a vast cave complex that dates back to the 1st century BC and it is still regarded as one of the most important Buddhist monasteries. After lunch we will drive to the hill capital of Kandy, the last kingdom of Sri Lanka. After checking into our hotel the remainder of the day is at leisure. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Kandy.** Kandy is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the famed Temple of the Tooth. This iconic monument was built during the 16th century AD and is one of the most important temples for Buddhists as it houses the Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha. Later we continue to the Royal Botanical Garden. (**B**, **L**, **D**)

**Day 6 Kandy to Negombo.** Transfer to Negombo Beach where we check in to our hotel for an overnight stay and spend the final afternoon relaxing. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Negombo to London. After breakfast we transfer to Colombo airport to join our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon. (B)

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£3495**; Single: **£4295** 

Price Includes: Three nights hotel accommodation in Habarana, two nights hotel accommodation in Kandy, overnight hotel accommodation in Negombo, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, tours as described, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes. Not Included: Travel insurance, Sri Lankan visa.

# MS ISLAND SKY



The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 Island 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 seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. 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 each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

#### Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island 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 The Club. 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 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. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo 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 Columbus 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 as well as 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 quests at one sitting, is located on the Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

#### Your Comfort

The MS Island 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

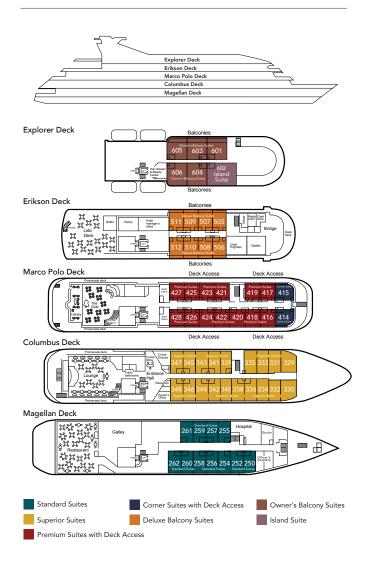
FEBRUARY 2024

Recommended Provider

OCEAN CRUISES

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 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 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 ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



# 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: Elephants, Yala National Park.