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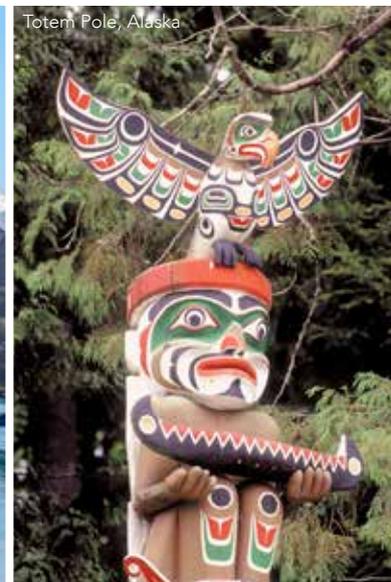


NATURAL WONDERS OF ALASKA

AN EXPEDITION EXPLORING THE
ALASKAN COAST AND INSIDE PASSAGE
ABOARD THE SILVER EXPLORER

1ST TO 16TH JUNE 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA



There are few places left on earth which offer the traveller as much untamed scenic grandeur as the great land of Alaska and the coastal waters between Vancouver and Seward are amongst the most beautiful. For more than 1600 miles, nature puts on a show with each day presenting new wonders. Cliffs that soar 3000 feet from the water's edge, spectacular glaciers that press into narrow channels and break into thunderous roars and dense forests which crowd the coastline and cradle entire ecosystems. Witnessing this vast landscape has a humbling effect on those who journey along the dramatic fjord and coastal scenery and viewing the Alaskan wildlife in their natural habitat is a wonderful experience.



There is no shortage of vessels plying the Alaskan waters. However, we believe the small ship experience is far preferable to cruising on one of the vast resort ships with their 2000 passengers and have therefore chartered the Silver Explorer for our expedition which explores the many facets of Alaska. Unlike the big resort ships who have a set course on the wide channels, our expedition vessel will be able to navigate narrow fjords and passages and for a real close up experience we will use the onboard Zodiacs. For those who really wish to experience the magic of the wilderness, to come close to nature and enjoy the serenity of the vast landscape, this is the perfect voyage and ship. Travelling with approximately 120 fellow passengers, we will explore in small parties ashore and visit places which the passengers aboard the big ships will never be taken.

Our itinerary will be kept flexible allowing us the opportunity to fully experience nature's unplanned events. Gaze skyward in awe of the sheer cliffs of Tracy Arm, listen for the sound of thundering waterfalls and the crack of glaciers calving into the sea, witness the magnificent and diverse wildlife including sea lions, whales, eagles and with a bit luck brown bears and visit remote villages learning of the fascinating culture of the Tlingit people. Furthermore your experience will be enhanced by our onboard team of experts who will accompany you on the Zodiacs, hold daily lectures and briefings and lead guided nature walks ashore.

OUR VIEW

"There are many ships operating cruises in Alaska but we feel the best way to experience this remarkable wilderness is by small ship. Alaska is a destination where nature comes to life and by using a small ship with a fleet of Zodiacs enables us to get a close, but safe distance, from calving glaciers or sea lion colonies. Whilst cruising we also hope to see whales, bears and eagles in their natural habitat and call into the small communities which call this remote land home, learning about their traditional way of life. Using the Silver Explorer as our base we have a comfortable and welcoming vessel to return to after a day spent exploring whilst the onboard naturalists ensure we make the most of the experience with their wealth of knowledge of the region."

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness Alaska's glorious glaciers
- Marvel at the vast icy blue Hubbard Glacier
- Discover the untamed snowcaps of Alaska
- Witness prolific marine life including whales and sea lions
- Cruise by Zodiac to secluded islands to see the superb wildlife
- Wander amidst impressive Sitka spruce and western hemlock forests
- Learn of the Tsimshian culture visiting their Longhouses and viewing the fascinating Totem Poles



Humpback Whale

Misty Fjord

Birdwatching

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Vancouver, Canada. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Fairmont Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening is free for independent exploration.

Day 2 Vancouver. This morning enjoy breakfast in the hotel and then either choose to spend some time at leisure to explore independently or join a city tour including Chinatown, Gastown and Stanley Park. This afternoon we will meet at the hotel and transfer to the Silver Explorer. After settling into your cabin there will be a safety briefing followed by an introduction to your Expedition Team before enjoying dinner on board as we set sail.

Day 3 Johnstone Strait & Canada's Inside Passage, British Columbia, Canada. Be out on deck very early this morning, looking for birdlife, whales and other marine mammals as we cruise the spectacular 110 kilometre Johnstone Strait before breakfast. The strait is between 2.5 and 5 kilometres wide and is home to large numbers of orcas during the summer months. The largest member of the dolphin family, orcas (also known as killer whales) can measure nearly ten metres in length and weigh up to six tons. Enjoy a leisurely day on board attending some of the informative lectures about Alaska's varied history, wildlife and nature.

Day 4 Metlakatla, Alaska, USA. Our first stop in the USA will be on Annette Island, Alaska. During the morning, while we approach the island, either spend time looking out for wildlife on the outer decks or attend one of the informative lectures. The indigenous people of

this area, the Tsimshian are famous for their Totem Poles and during our visit to the town we will get to see at least 12 of these emblematic pieces of art and we will experience a dance performance at their longhouse. After the ceremony we will be led to the William Duncan Memorial Museum to understand their culture and history, specifically why and when they moved to Annette Island. You can also take one of the many trails around Skaters Lake which will provide an insight into the different plants used by the Tsimshian.

Day 5 Rudyerd Bay, Misty Fjords & Walker Cove. Located within the Tongass National Forest is the wilderness area and Misty Fjords National Monument. Extending over 2.3 million acres, it is the largest wilderness area in Alaska's forests and the second largest in the nation. It has been described as an almost untouched coastal ecosystem with outstanding geological features, and Misty Fjords National Monument is sometimes called "The Yosemite of the North". Be prepared for a broad spectrum of wildlife that we hope to see during the early morning in and around Rudyerd Bay. During our excursion we will be looking for marbled murrelets in the air, which unlike most members of the auk family nest in trees, and bald eagles, brown and black bears on the ground, and harbour seals and sea otters in the water. We also visit Walker Cove where we will use the Zodiacs to look for marine mammals and birds.

Day 6 Ketchikan. Ketchikan is one of the larger towns of the area and today there will be a variety of excursions to choose from. You may like to participate in a

truly unique "Alaskan Wilderness Survival" programme which involves travelling by local boat with a wilderness skills instructor to a remote island where he will lead a small group through an old growth temperate rainforest and show you a few tricks of the survivalist's trade. This hands-on experience engages all in tasks like building a shelter, collecting wild edibles and signalling from the beach. Back on board the Silver Explorer you will haul sampling pots in search of the elusive (and invasive) green crab and other fascinating creatures that inhabit the ocean floor. Alternatively depart the pier for the scenic coastal drive en-route to the private Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary, an exclusive reserve located in the forested mountains at rustic Herring Cove. Here you will enjoy a guided temperate rainforest walk where your guide will bring to life the local flora and fauna and provide you with an in-depth look at the Tongass National Rainforest.

Day 7 Wrangell Narrows, Petersburg & Sail Island. Running for 22 miles between the islands of Mitkof, Kupreanov and Woewodski, the Silver Explorer will be using the very narrow and scenic Wrangell Narrows as we

head north for Petersburg early this morning. At Petersburg we pay a visit to one of Alaska's major fishing communities. Although the Tlingit and other indigenous groups had been in this area for centuries, it was only after Norwegian Peter Buschmann (after whom the town is named) settled here, starting the first cannery and attracting more immigrants from Scandinavia — hence the nickname "Little Norway" — that a permanent town evolved. The fisheries are keen on a sustainable catch and the Petersburg Marine Mammal Centre supports research and education. During the afternoon there will be a chance to attend lectures about Alaska's wildlife and history, a photography workshop or the opportunity to spend time on deck, looking for wildlife. In the late afternoon there will be a Zodiac cruise around Sail Island where we hope to encounter Steller sea lions and go in search of humpback whales.

Day 8 Endicott Arm & Frederick Sound. Another morning Zodiac cruise awaits us during which there are several glaciers to be seen, the North Dawes Glacier is a hanging glacier, while the Dawes Glacier is a tidewater glacier. At Dawes Glacier



Zodiac Drinks, Kukak Bay



Otters, Kukak Bay



Local, Alaska



Bear Watching, Alaska

we hope for calving ice, will be able to see many waterfalls and, as always, might see bald eagles that have made the coastal area their home or harbour seals. During the afternoon we will cruise the scenic Frederick Sound which promises another good opportunity for whale watching. This evening we will go ashore for an 'Alaskan Night' with entertainment by a local bluegrass group.

Day 9 Point Adolphus, Inian Islands, Elfin Cove & George Island. During the early morning the Silver Explorer will be near Point Adolphus, a well-known area for whale watching. Enjoy a morning coffee while you are on the outer decks, looking for humpback and minke whales, as well as orcas or simply enjoying the landscape. Later this morning we will take a spectacular Zodiac cruise at Inian Island, searching for some of the emblematic animals of Alaska including bald eagles, tufted puffins, Steller sea lion, sea otters and humpback whales. This afternoon we will visit the small community of Elfin Cove and hike on nearby George Island, which was used during World War II to protect Alaska against a potential Japanese invasion.

Day 10 Hubbard Glacier. During the morning we will approach the Hubbard Glacier. This glacier commences in Canada and after some 80 miles terminates in Disenchantment Bay making it the longest glacier in North America. Silver Explorer will be taken along the front of the Hubbard Glacier by our Captain and while cruising we hope to see some glacier calving. We will then start heading northeast and while we cruise the Gulf of Alaska you will witness spectacular

scenic views of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Attend one of the lectures by the experts on board to find out what birds and mammals call this part of the world their home.

Day 11 Cruising the Gulf of Alaska. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and relaxing morning as we continue cruising the Gulf of Alaska. During the day you might want to be out on deck, scanning the water's surface for signs of whales. When you are not looking for wildlife from the outer decks, join the lecturers while they talk about the wildlife and history of Alaska in the Lounge.

Day 12 Kukak Bay & Geographic Harbour. Kukak Bay and Geographic Harbour are well-known areas for bear spotting. The brown bears feed on sedges and razor clams on the beaches, and will look for salmon in the rivers. To be able to observe the males, females with cubs, and juveniles we will make use of our Zodiacs and cruise the shorelines in search of good photographic opportunities.

Day 13 Chiswell Islands & Holgate Glacier. The Chiswell Islands, part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge provide us with our last chance to board the Zodiacs to get a close-up look at Steller sea lions. Millions of birds call these rugged islands their home and we can expect to see horned puffins, tufted puffins, black-legged kittiwakes, and of the auklet family the Cassin's auklet and the whiskered auklet among others. We end today at Kenai Fjords National Park where the famous Holgate Glacier will be our last chance to see a calving glacier. Enjoy an aperitif on the outer decks as we leave the area shortly before sunset.

Day 14 Seward to Anchorage. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Anchorage. On the way we will visit the Alaskan Wildlife Conservation Centre and enjoy lunch before arriving at the Captain Cook Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The rest of the day and evening will be at leisure to explore Anchorage independently.

Day 15 Anchorage to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 16 London. Arrive today.

Pre-cruise Rocky Mountaineer Extension



For those who would like to experience the Canadian Rockies before joining

the cruise, we will be offering the opportunity to join the Rocky Mountaineer on an itinerary which includes Kamloops and Banff. The schedules for the train are not yet available but if you would like to receive details of the extension please register your interest at the time of booking.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Suite Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Adventurer Suite	3	£8995	£8495
Explorer Suite	4	£9495	£8995
View Suite	3	£9795	£9295
Vista Suite	4	£9995	£9495
Veranda Suite	5	£10595	£9595
Expedition Suite	3/4	£10995	£9995
Medallion Suite	7	£11595	£10595
Silver Suite	5	£11995	£10995
Grand Suite	7	£12495	£11495
Owner Suite	7	£13995	£12995
Adventurer Suite for sole use	3	£10495	£9995
Explorer Suite for sole use	4	£10995	£10495
View Suite for sole use	3	£11495	£10995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Vancouver and Anchorage on a bed and breakfast basis, 12 nights aboard the Silver Explorer on a full board basis, all drinks whilst on board, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, butler service in all suites, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

Combination Cruise: It is possible to combine our Alaskan expedition with our voyage from San Francisco to Vancouver, 20th May to 16th June 2018. Full details and pricing can be viewed online at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



SILVER EXPLORER

For our Alaskan expedition, we are delighted to have chartered the luxurious, 132 guest Silver Explorer, a purpose built luxury expedition vessel. The atmosphere on board is relaxed and informal with the focus on the wonders of the destination you are visiting, which combined with the luxury surroundings, five star service, superb cuisine, a thoroughly all-inclusive offering and expert onboard team of lecturers makes for voyage of a lifetime.

Your Suite

Accommodation on board is arranged over four decks. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom and outside views. The 66 ocean view suites range in size from 157 to 728 square feet. Select suites feature private French balconies or large private verandas and all suites feature butler service and a refrigerator and bar stocked with your preferred beverages including wines and spirits which your butler will replenish upon request. Amenities in the suites include luxury Pratesi bed linen, choice of pillow and bath amenities, iPod docking station, flat screen television with DVD and on-demand movies, music and satellite news programming, direct-dial telephone, sitting area with writing desk and personalised stationery, personal safe, plush robe and slippers, hairdryer and Wi-Fi internet access (charges apply) and expedition binoculars. The beds in each suite can be configured as double or twin.



Explorer Suite

Suite Categories

- **Adventurer Suites** measure 157-167 square feet and feature two portholes.
- **Explorer Suites** measure 175-190 square feet and feature a view window.
- **View Suites** measure 192 square feet with a view window.
- **Vista Suites** measure 192 square feet with a large picture window.
- **Veranda Suites** measure 206-216 square feet and feature a French balcony.
- **Expedition Suites** measure 388-397 square feet and feature a living room with two view windows or two large picture windows, two televisions and laundry service.
- **Medallion Suites** measure 400 square feet including a private balcony. Guests occupying these suites also benefit from afternoon canapes on request and laundry service.
- **Silver Suites** measure 422 square feet including a sitting area and two French balconies. Guests occupying these suites also benefit from afternoon canapes on request and laundry service.
- **Grand Suites** measure 618 square feet including a private balcony. Guests occupying these suites also benefit from afternoon canapes on request and laundry service.
- **Owners Suite** features a living room with sitting area and measures 728 square feet including the private veranda. Guests occupying this suite also benefit from afternoon canapes on request, laundry service, four hours of complimentary internet service and a walk in wardrobe.



Veranda Suite

Your Space

The spacious and luxuriously appointed public areas on board include the Panorama Lounge which is specially designed to provide an uninterrupted view of the day's destination from the comfort of the ship's interior. This is an ideal place to unwind, listen to the pianist and enjoy a nightcap with new friends. Located on Deck 6 high atop the ship, the Observation Lounge also offers panoramic views and here you will find comfortable seats to enjoy a beverage and watch the ever-changing view throughout your cruise. The daily briefings, the recaps and lectures take place in the Theatre by the knowledgeable onboard team. Other facilities include the Library with an extensive collection of hardcover books, magazines, reference materials and newspapers, the internet café where you can access the web for a nominal fee with complimentary printing and the Connoisseur's Corner which offers exceptional cognacs along with a premium selection of cigars for purchase. The onboard boutique offers a selection of gift items as well as toiletries and



The Restaurant



Theatre



Observation Lounge

convenience items and there is also complimentary self-service laundry facilities on board. When not enjoying one of the onboard lectures or exploring ashore there is a fitness centre which includes a treadmill, elliptical trainer, bike and weight machine, two outdoor whirlpools and the Spa features a sauna and steam room as well as a wide range of treatments which can be booked on board.

Your Dining

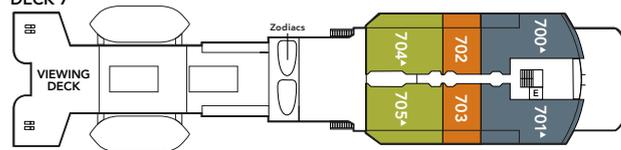
The Restaurant serves contemporary, international cuisine with sophisticated elegance and impeccable service. During days at sea, choose something from La Collection du Monde, a series of signature dishes created exclusively by the Grands Chefs of Relais & Châteaux. The Restaurant offers open-seating dining, which means there are no assigned tables. You are free to dine when, where and with whom you please. Select wines, premium spirits and speciality coffees, as well as juices and soft drinks are complimentary in all bars and lounges. In addition there is the convenience of the outdoor Grill for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Alternatively you can enjoy breakfast delivered to your suite or a formal dinner ordered from The Restaurant menu. Lighter fare is always available from the room service menu from 6am to 11pm.



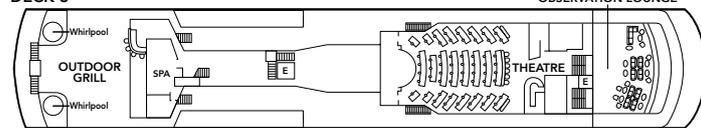
During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

DECK PLAN

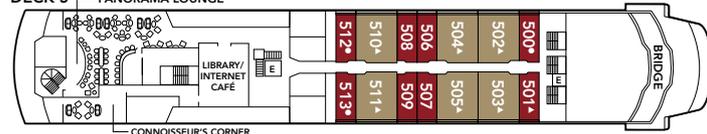
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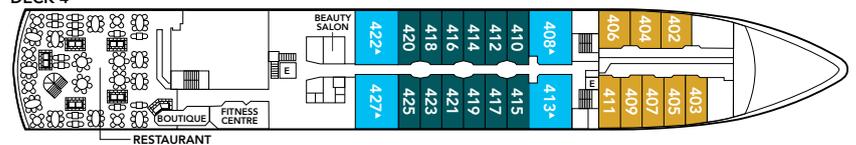
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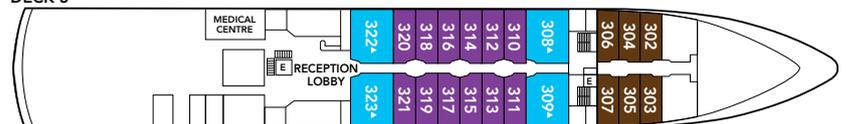
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



▲3RD GUEST CAPACITY ●FIXED QUEEN BEDS

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| ■ OWNER'S SUITE | ■ MEDALLION SUITE | ■ GRAND SUITE | ■ VERANDA SUITE | ■ SILVER SUITE |
| ■ EXPEDITION SUITE | ■ VISTA SUITE | ■ EXPLORER SUITE | ■ VIEW SUITE | ■ ADVENTURER SUITE |

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