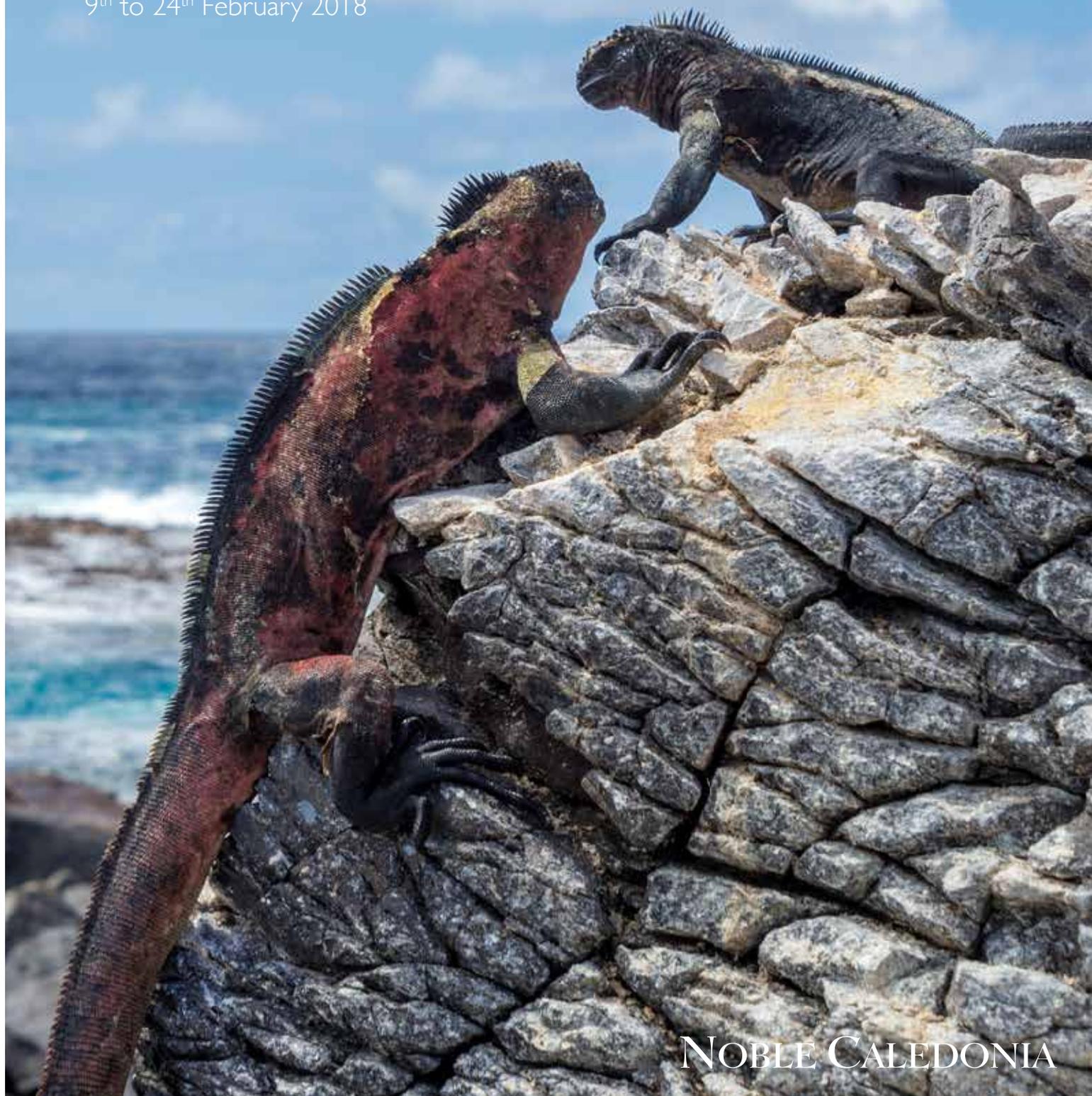


NATURAL WONDERS OF THE
AMAZON
& **GALAPAGOS**

An extraordinary river cruise through Ecuadorian Amazonia
aboard the **MV Anakonda** combined with an island hopping
cruise through the Galapagos aboard the **Isabela II**

9th to 24th February 2018



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Pinnacle Rock, Bartolome



Blue-footed Boobies

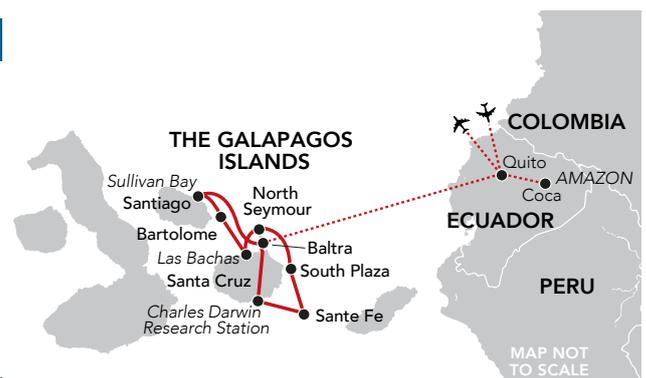
Join us for this unparalleled journey and discover the wonders of the natural world as we explore the Amazon River and Galapagos Islands aboard two very special vessels, the MV Anakonda and the Isabela II, which we have chartered for this unique combination.

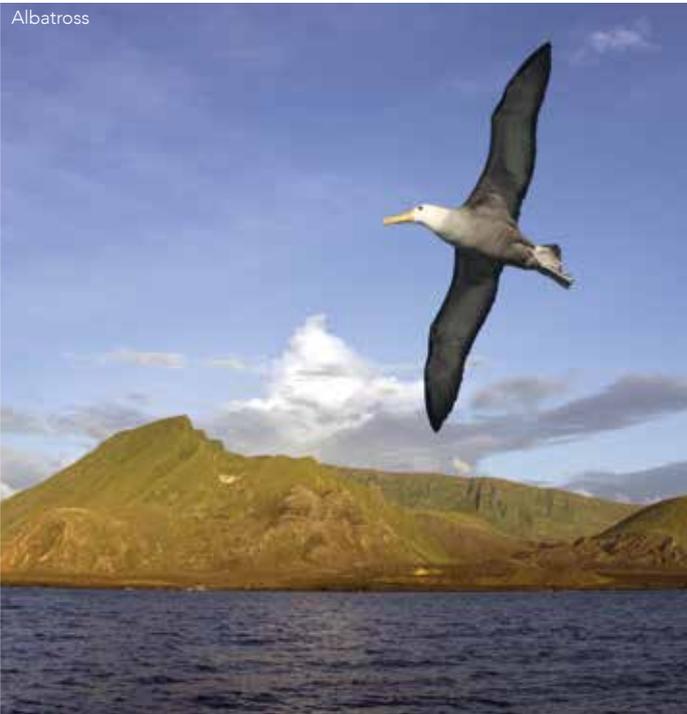
We will begin in Ecuador's capital, Quito, a city stretched narrowly between volcanic peaks, and a fittingly dramatic introduction to this compact, but diverse country with its beautifully restored colonial architecture and busy plazas. We then fly to Coca and begin our discovery of the Yasuní, the largest of Ecuador's continental National Parks; a wild and untamed realm in the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon. The Amazonian rainforest is one of the most bio-diverse regions on our planet and is home to thousands of indigenous peoples, who have lived there for millennia. We will venture into remote and pristine areas of the rainforest where we can observe the wilderness, diverse wildlife and interact with the region's indigenous communities. Excursions with our naturalist guides will provide an opportunity to view jungle wildlife including playful monkeys, colourful tropical birds and river turtles, anacondas, caimans and other amphibians and reptiles of this unique eco-system.

Following on from our time exploring the Amazon we return to Quito for an overnight stay before continuing with the second half of our expedition, our island hopping adventure through the pristine Galapagos Archipelago aboard the Isabela II. The archipelago's 13 major islands, six smaller ones, and scores of islets are all part of Ecuador's National Park system. In 1835 Charles Darwin visited the islands and discovered this "living laboratory" which inspired his writings on the Theory of Evolution. Many of the animals on the Galapagos Islands have developed into different species from their continental relatives, and because they have never experienced man as a predator, they show no fear of humans. The moment you set foot on your first island you will see that curiosity and fearlessness are a way of life. Whether strolling along the islands' pristine beaches, searching for the spectacular waved albatross, having a "chat" with a particularly friendly sea lion, or snorkelling with Galapagos penguins, a feeling of freedom surrounds you.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Admire Quito's beautifully restored colonial architecture
- Explore Yasuní National Park in the heart of the Ecuadorian Rainforest
- Visit a school in the remote jungle community on the banks of the Napo River
- Witness the diverse and fascinating wildlife of Ecuador's pristine Amazonia
- Cruise the Galapagos Islands, each with its own unique flora & fauna
- Spend time at the famous Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island
- Observe wildlife by snorkelling or by glass-bottomed boat in the Galapagos
- Interact with expert Naturalist Guides whilst discovering both the Amazon & Galapagos





Albatross



Red Ginger



Galapagos Penguin



The Amazon

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London Heathrow to Quito, Ecuador. Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Quito early this morning. On arrival transfer to the Hilton Colon Hotel for a two night stay.

Day 2 Quito. After breakfast at your hotel we depart for a tour of Quito's colonial quarter, the largest and best preserved in South America and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will visit the Monastery of San Francisco, one of the great religious buildings of the New World with its impressive façade and atrium, and its Baroque interior influenced by Moorish style. Afterwards, we will continue to the Equatorial Monument, 16 miles north of Quito, which marks the exact Middle of the World, latitude 0°, where we can stand with a foot on each hemisphere. We will have lunch at El Crater, a local restaurant offering great views and excellent Ecuadorian cuisine. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening meet up with your fellow travellers for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 Quito to Coca. After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your flight to Coca. On arrival we will transfer to the dock where we will embark on a motorised canoe and navigate down river to board the MV Anakonda. Throughout the journey we have a chance to admire the rainforest landscape and banks of the great Napo River. Immediately after boarding the MV Anakonda, we will cast off and continue navigating downstream.

For the remainder of the day, relax on board and this evening join a guided walk after sunset allowing for the opportunity to discover the forest's nocturnal activity and listen to the incessant sounds of nature.

Day 4 Pañacocha Biological Corridor. We will continue our navigation downstream this morning to the Pañayacu River delta and take a canoe trip up the river to experience the sights of this fascinating reserve. We will seek out Pink River Dolphins, Common Squirrel Monkeys and much more. Pañacocha (Piranha Lake, in Quechua) is an ecosystem flooded by white waters. The rivers and lakes here are the perfect habitat for the infamous Piranha, as well as the Water Monkey Fish (Arawana) and White Caiman. After a refreshing swim we will enjoy a delicious Amazon-style BBQ meal at a nearby camping site. This afternoon, we will head out on exploration trails returning to the vessel for dinner.

Day 5 Sani Warmi & Yasuni National Park & Yakukawsay Museum. We set out to visit one of the most amazing spectacles this side of western Amazonia known as parrot licks, these unique pools of mud become rich in minerals and attract hundreds of parrots and parakeets every day. If weather permits, we will have a chance to marvel at this astonishing natural phenomenon. Later we will visit the Sani Warmi Kichwa Interpretation Centre, where a group of Kichwa women will speak of their customs,

cuisine and everyday life. They have created the centre in order to showcase their culture, and it is a unique opportunity to learn about Amazonian lifestyles along the Napo River. You will also have the opportunity to buy crafts, local products and souvenirs. After lunch, we will make a stop at the Yakukawsay Kichwa Interpretation Centre, and end with an interesting evening walk through the forest (depending on accessibility, river water levels and weather conditions).

Day 6 Indillama & Napo River. Today you have the option to kayak through one of the Napo River's tributaries that goes into the Yasuni National Park, the Indillama River. This is a great excursion for wildlife observation, as we use kayaks which are great silent vehicles to travel and flow down river on.

Day 7 Border with Peru (The Heart of Yasuni). Today we enjoy our first daylight close-and-personal tropical rainforest experience, where we will learn about the relationship between plants and animals while closely watching out for examples of Amazonia's fascinating biodiversity. After lunch, the MV Anakonda navigates to one of the most pristine and little explored sections of Ecuadorian Amazonia, home to the legendary black caiman and anaconda. We may also find river turtles and various species of monkeys, as well as the primitive Hoatzin, a one-of-a-kind bird locally known as "the Stinky Turkey".

The only way to actually visit this flooded ecosystem is by canoe, a ride that will reveal the beauty of a lush jungle world.

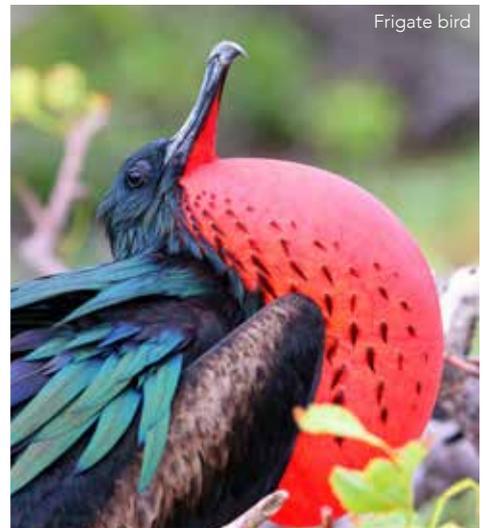
Day 8 Meeting the Community – Island Exploration. This morning we visit a school located on the banks of the Napo River where we will have the opportunity to interact with children of the area and learn about the educational system of a remote jungle community. We return to the MV Anakonda for lunch and some time to relax while we navigate upstream. We will offer a lecture and documentary screening, and if time permits, learn about (and make) typical handicrafts of the area. In the afternoon, we explore one of the largest river islands of the Napo River.

Day 9 Observation Tower - Limoncocha Biological Reserve. This morning we will visit an observation tower 100-feet high, built against a giant kapok tree. From the top of the tower, we will be blessed with this unique perspective of the forest, the treetops and the greatness of the Amazon Basin. In the afternoon, we visit Limoncocha Biological Reserve, a fascinating protected area where more than 478 bird species and several monkey species have been recorded. We will stay into the evening, when we will have a chance to spot black caiman with the help of our flashlights.

Day 10 Coca to Quito. Disembark the MV Anakonda this morning



Galapagos Tortoise crossing a mud road



Frigate bird



Exploring the Amazon by canoe

and transfer by motorised canoe to Coca. On arrival transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito and enjoy dinner and an overnight stay at the Hilton Colon Hotel.

Day 11 Quito to Galapagos. After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for the flight to Baltra in the Galapagos. On arrival, we will transfer by ferry to Santa Cruz Island. A 30-minute bus ride takes us to a restaurant in the Highlands of Santa Cruz Island to enjoy lunch before we continue to Puerto Ayora and the Charles Darwin Research Station. After driving down from the highlands, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the giant tortoise pens within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest, home to many land birds. These are the headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration. Late this afternoon we stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora before embarking Isabela II. Tonight enjoy the Captain's Welcome Cocktail and Dinner.

Day 12 Sante Fe Island & South Plaza Island. A stunning anchorage provides our jumping-off point for our visit to this sandy white beach with many sea lion harems. Galapagos hawks are often easily observed, perched atop salt bushes. The endemic land

iguana, unique to this island, may be spotted during the walk. Snorkelling and swimming from the beach, kayaking or a ride in our glass-bottom boat rounds off the rewarding experience. The turquoise waters of the channel here contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline, while a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus, populated by yellow-gray land iguanas. Along the coastline one finds sea lion colonies, while sea birds play with the thermals that form along the cliffs of this small but amazing island.

Day 13 North Seymour Island & Las Bachas (Santa Cruz Island). The morning starts with an enjoyable walk along the coast and the interior of this island, a favourite of many visitors, observing numerous bird colonies as well as sea lions and marine iguanas. There are opportunities for snorkelling or coastal exploration. We can also ride in the glass-bottom boat for great views of the underwater world. After World War Two, US military barges were beached and abandoned here. Locals referred to the beach as the barges beach, a name that morphed to "bachas". Today it is an important nesting area for the east Pacific green sea turtle. Located on the north shore of Santa

Cruz Island, it is a glorious white beach, with several brackish lagoons only a few steps away from the sea. These lagoons are the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos and we can swim or snorkel from the beach.

Day 14 Bartolome Island & Sullivan Bay (Santiago Island).

This morning, a Galapagos icon awaits for us: Bartolome Island. A great way to start the day, with a steep climb up a wooden staircase the view from the top is worth the effort. Following the walk, we take the dinghies for a ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock, followed by time to enjoy the beach and some snorkelling. We can also ride in the glass-bottom boat for great views

of the underwater world. After lunch, we board the pangas to land at Sullivan Bay on the east coast of Santiago, a white coral sand beach great for swimming, and with a trail over a lava field that flowed here less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galapagos while observing its wildlife. This evening enjoy your farewell dinner on board as we sail back towards Baltra.

Day 15 Baltra to London.

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled, indirect flight to London.

Day 16 London Heathrow. Arrive into London today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cabin Category	Price
Standard cabin aboard the MV Anakonda & Classic cabin aboard Isabela II	£7995
Deluxe cabin aboard the MV Anakonda & Classic cabin aboard Isabela II	£8795
Deluxe cabin aboard the MV Anakonda & Master cabin aboard Isabela II	£9495
Standard cabin aboard the MV Anakonda & Standard cabin aboard Isabela II for sole use	FULLY BOOKED

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, three nights hotel accommodation in Quito with breakfast, lunch on day 2, dinner on days 2 & 10, seven nights aboard the MV Anakonda on a full board basis, four nights aboard the Isabela II on full board basis, all shore excursions, naturalist guides, National Park and Community fees, all gratuities, Tour Manager, all transfers, port taxes, UK airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on day 1, lunch on days 3 & 10.



Standard Suite



Restaurant



Sun deck

MV ANAKONDA

Built in 2013, the luxurious MV Anakonda is a 148 foot-long floating boutique hotel. The vessel's wall-to-wall panoramic windows will allow you to observe the wilderness from almost every point in the vessel. The friendly on board crew of 25 will provide you with excellent service and do much to contribute to your enjoyment throughout your journey. The crew includes a purser, paramedic, four expert English speaking naturalist guides, four local guides and a concierge. In addition you will be accompanied by a Noble Caledonia Tour Manager. There will be a range of on board activities including briefings and talks from the on board naturalists and cooking demonstrations and the atmosphere on board is relaxed and informal and the dress code is casual.

Your Cabin

The MV Anakonda offers 18 air-conditioned suites, which all have outside facing views. The four Deluxe Suites feature a fully accessible balcony and en-suite bathroom with Jacuzzi bath and measure 24sq metres. The fourteen Standard Suites have a French style balcony and en-suite bathroom (none have baths) and measure 20sq metres. All beds are twins but can be converted into queen-size beds. All cabins have hairdryers and toiletries.

Your Space

The observation deck with its alfresco lounge and two outdoor Jacuzzis is an ideal place for enjoying a cocktail, relaxing with a good book or simply taking in the spectacular views. Other facilities on board include, an indoor bar, lounge, dining room and boutique.

Your Dining

On board you will enjoy a wide variety of national and international fusion cuisine. The chefs utilise traditional and well-known cuisine from all over the world and adapt it using fresh, local products. Individual tastes can be catered for and guests can enjoy unique fare such as fish prepared in fresh coconut sauce.



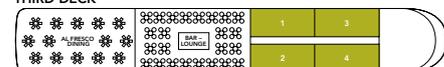
Lounge

DECK PLAN

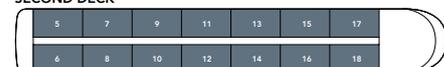
SUN DECK



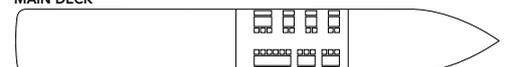
THIRD DECK



SECOND DECK



MAIN DECK



■ DELUXE ■ STANDARD



Classic Cabin



Sun deck



Restaurant

ISABELA II

Refurbished in 2012, the Isabela II is a stylish yacht ideal for exploring the Galapagos Islands. She accommodates just 40 guests in comfort, and is equipped with Zodiacs for landing on these remote islands. The ship is also equipped with sea kayaks, a glass bottom boat and snorkelling equipment for making the most of your journey around this breath taking archipelago. On board you will be accompanied by a team of passionate and dedicated naturalist guides who will add greatly to your overall experience.

Your Cabin

All cabins are en-suite and have outside views with ample storage space, a safety box and a hairdryer. Divided between two decks, there are 20 cabins on the Cabin Deck whilst the master suite is located on the Main Deck next to the dining room. Classic cabins measure 12.8m² and the standard cabins measure 12m². The Master suite on the Main deck is larger and measures 18.9m² with an additional sitting area.

Your Space

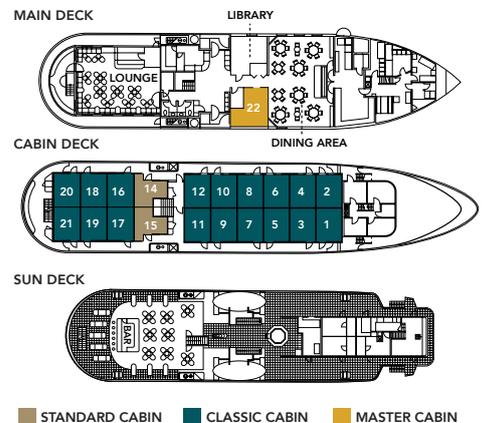
The Lounge is where daily briefings and films on the natural world will be shown throughout your voyage. Here you will find a well-stocked bar where you can enjoy a drink in the evenings, or perhaps relax with a good book and a cup of tea from the coffee and tea station which is available 24 hours a day. In the reception area

you will find the small gift shop and internet point although quality of reception will depend on location. The Sun Deck with comfortable furniture offers breathtaking views of your surroundings and opportunities to look out for nature. There is also a hot tub and gym available on this deck, and here you will pick up your wetsuits and snorkelling equipment.

Your Dining

The spacious single seating dining room is tastefully decorated and affords outside views and on occasion meals can be enjoyed on the Sun deck. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style, with a wonderful selection of local fresh produce and both hot and cold dishes. For lunch there is a selection of soup and salad, main courses and dessert. Dinner is a set menu served at your table.

DECK PLAN



This cruise visits out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and many landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Cruises such as these will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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