

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

# NOMADS OF THE WIND

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ISLANDS AND ATOLLS  
FROM FIJI TO TAHITI ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY  
26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019



By wind, wave and star the ancient people of Polynesia ventured to the farthest reaches of the South Pacific. Isolated by miles of ocean over thousands of years, these, the world's first island cultures, developed a pantheon of gods, myths and legends. This voyage tells the story of Polynesia and uncovers its history and legends as we sail through the South Seas and visit the captivating islands.

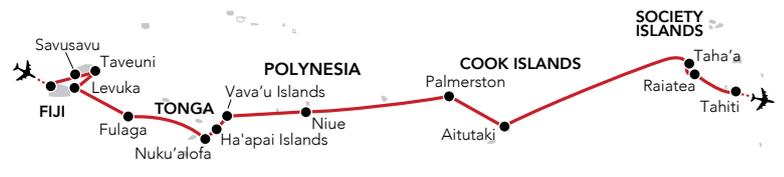
Join us aboard the MS Island Sky to explore the Pacific in all its vastness, diversity and warmth and experience the description defying beauty of its islands, its culture and its ambience which have attracted generations of adventurers, explorers and travellers to its magical shores. The natural beauty of these islands is mesmerising. The real age of European exploration did not take place until the 18th century and many of the islands we will visit have changed little since that time. Their sheer isolation has been their saving grace and apart from an influx of missionaries in the late 19th century, western culture has made few inroads.

With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we can explore inlets, bird sanctuaries and land in otherwise inaccessible places and although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is often the unscheduled events that become the highlight. We will be joined by a hand-picked expedition team, consisting of naturalists, marine biologists and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board.

## What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and to provide you with an idea of what to expect, below is an extract from the ship's log from when the MS Island Sky's sister ship, the MS Caledonian Sky last visited the Cook Islands.

**Palmerston, Cook Islands:** *What a wonderful surprise Palmerston proved to be. The island is delightful, as close to a paradise coral atoll as it is possible to get. The 60 residents have no form of transport other than small motorcycles so there is no need for roads, only sandy tracks. A welcoming group gave us coconuts to drink from. A minister conducted a service of welcome and the mayor gave a short speech before accepting materials for the school we had brought with us. Islanders staged a dance programme, largely performed by schoolchildren who took us off in small groups to see the village afterwards. We visited Lucky School, the solar farm which supplies the majority of the island's electricity, and chatted to islanders in their homes. Our time was our own and we gained a great impression of life which is devoid of most modern facilities such as television. Lunch was on board, although a few people chose to stay ashore. The Duke's Pool is a popular swimming spot which we descended upon in the afternoon. People enjoyed snorkelling, sunbathing, further exploration of the island or watching the red-tailed tropicbirds and great frigatebirds which drifted low over our heads. We left Palmerston with regret: it had been a taste of the simplest life imaginable, with sweet children who displayed a non-worldliness and innocence long lost in western society.*



## The Itinerary

**Days 1 & 2 London to Fiji.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 3 Fiji.** Arrive today and transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in Lautoka. Enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks as we sail this evening.

**Day 4 Savusavu.** Often referred to as Fiji's hidden paradise, Savusavu is much the same as it was 30 years ago. It was originally established as a centre for sailing ships trading in sandalwood and copra. It is a small bustling town with an interesting heritage and the surrounding landscape is stunning. This morning

choose to either join a nature walk in the Waisali Rainforest, home to Fijian Kauri trees and 30 species of orchid and birdlife including the collared lory and the red shining parrot. Alternatively, a village visit will take us to the chief of Savu Savu where we partake in a kava ceremony before learning more about village life, local crafts and culture. This afternoon will be free to explore the town independently before we sail in the evening

**Day 5 Tavenui Island.** We have a choice of excursions this morning. The nature lovers can take a four



Bouma Waterfall, Tavenui, Fiji

wheel drive to Dos Voeux Peak. At the summit we will be treated to fantastic views of Tavenui and across to Lake Tagimoucia. Here we will see the tropical plants, palms and rainforest and hope to spot spectacular birdlife such as orange-breasted doves, fern-tails and the elusive silktail or local parakeet. Alternatively, join a walking trip to the Bouma Heritage Park to see some of the waterfalls and enjoy a swim. The view from the highest waterfall is spectacular. Our cultural tour will give the opportunity to witness lifestyles in a traditional Fijian village and see cooking demonstrations. In the afternoon we will head to one of the neighbouring islands for some swimming and snorkelling opportunities.

**Day 6 Levuka Island.** The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau was a special place in Fijian history as it was here in 1874 that the Fiji islands were ceded to the British and also where in 1970 Fiji was declared independent again. The town is unlike any other Fijian town having retained the colonial buildings which made it the first Fijian site to be granted UNESCO status. Join a walking tour around Nasova village on the shores of the bay and visit the museum and Cession Monument, the site where Chief Cakobau signed the deed ceding Fiji to Great Britain. This afternoon we will relocate to one of the nearby islands where we can relax on the beach, snorkel or swim.

**Day 7 Fulaga.** After a morning at sea we make our final call in Fiji at Fulaga, famous for its woodcarving

and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone. On arrival we hope to meet with the village elder to welcome us to the island before spending the afternoon using our Zodiacs to explore the rocks or find a suitable beach to land for swimming, snorkelling or beachcombing.

**Day 8 Nuku'alofa, Tonga.** After a morning at sea we arrive into Nuku'alofa, the capital of Tonga, during lunch. After clearing immigration formalities we will have a chance to explore this laidback town and the island of Tongatapu. Having never been colonised by Europeans we will experience traditional Polynesian culture alongside beautiful beaches and spectacular natural wonders. We will see the historical Captain Cook landing site from his 1777 voyage, explore the Royal Palace (Tonga retains the last monarchy in the Polynesia), and the famous Tongan blowholes, considered the most spectacular in the South Pacific.

**Day 9 Ha'apai Islands.** Today we arrive at the Ha'apai group which consists of 62 islands comprising of lagoons, barrier reefs and active volcanoes. The islands have a rich maritime history with Abel Tasman being the first European to visit the islands in 1643 whilst Captain James Cook visited twice in the 1770s. However, the most famous event was Mutiny of the HMS Bounty which occurred between

the islands of Lifuka and Tofua. It was on the island of Tofua that Captain William Bligh landed after being cast off from the Bounty with limited provisions and nautical equipment. A hostile reception from the islanders meant they quickly fled to sea again. Tropical forests grow along gentle slopes here and at the centre of the island is the volcanic crater, with a clear blue lake at its base. We will explore the rugged coastline and cliff faces on a Zodiac cruise before finding another nearby island and locating a good spot to swim and snorkel.

**Day 10 Neiafu, Vava'u.** We arrive this morning in the Vava'u islands part of the kingdom of Tonga and the pretty port of Neiafu. Spend the morning independently exploring the town, maybe visit the local market or enjoy a drink in a harbourside café. Over lunch we will reposition to one of the nearby islands and use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and set up snorkelling activities. There are many different species of colourful tropical fish here and we hope to see the graceful black-and-yellow angelfish and curious clown fish on the surrounding reefs.

**Day 11 Niue.** After crossing the International Date Line we arrive this afternoon in Niue, one of the smallest independent nations on earth at just 260 square kilometres with a population of just 1200 people. Populated since the 10th century, the first European to sight Niue was Captain Cook in 1774 but his attempts to land were refused by the inhabitants. Today we will visit the capital, Alofi Village, and

stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some of the world's most sought after stamps may be purchased. We will continue to Matapa Chasm, a secluded cleft in the sea cliffs, where we discover the perfect swimming hole.

**Day 12 At Sea.** Find a spot on deck, relax with a book in the library or join our lecture programme in the lounge as we spend a day at sea.

**Day 13 Palmerston, Cook Islands.** The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walk through the village. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers might catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. This afternoon we will have a chance to swim or snorkel from the beach to explore the underwater world.

**Day 14 Aitutaki.** This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. After a lively welcome, choose to join a morning island drive which will explore the sleepy village of Arutanga seeing the oldest church in the Cook Islands. We will see the lush forest of Nikaupara and from the top of Mount Piraki will see the bunkers built during World War II. From the top of Maunga Pu we are treated to breathtaking views of the island and lagoon. Alternatively, you may wish to join our naturalists for a cruise and snorkel in the lagoon.



We have a few hours to explore independently this afternoon or take the chance for a swim before sailing in the late afternoon.

**Day 15 At Sea.** Relax on board as we spend the day at sea cruising to French Polynesia.

**Day 16 Raiatea & Taha'a, French Polynesia.** Raiatea is recognised throughout Tahiti as its "Sacred Island", the cultural heart of all Tahiti Polynesia. Local Polynesian legends say Raiatea, formerly known as "Havai" was the island of origin of great voyaging canoes that took the people as far as Hawaii. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the centre of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this

day. This morning's island tour will include a visit to the Taputapuatea marae which dates back over 1000 years. This afternoon we sail over to the neighbouring island of Taha'a where we plan to visit a vanilla plantation. With the rich aroma of vanilla lingering heavily in the air, Taha'a offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians.

**Day 17 Papeete to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 18 En-route.**

**Day 19 London.** Arrive this afternoon.

## 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	£9995	£9495
Columbus	Superior	£10295	£9795
Marco Polo	Premium	£10595	£10095
Marco Polo	Corner	£10895	£10395
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£11695	£11195
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£11895	£11395
Explorer	Island Suite	£13495	£12995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£13495	£12995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£13795	£13295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Group transfers • Port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

## Pre-Cruise Fiji Extension



**23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Before embarking the MS Island Sky you may wish to spend some time in Fiji where we are offering a relaxing three night stay at the Lomani Island Resort (or similar). Lomani is located in the Mamanuca group of islands which are offshore west of Fiji's main island, Vitu Levi. The Mamanuca islands are famous for their white sand beaches and this boutique hotel features just 24 suites.

### CATEGORY

Beachfront Bure for double occupancy	<b>£1195</b>
Beachfront Bure for sole occupancy	<b>£1895</b>
Beachfront Pool Bure for double occupancy	<b>£1295</b>
Beachfront Pool Bure for sole occupancy	<b>£1945</b>

**Price Includes:** Three nights accommodation on half board basis (breakfast and dinner), orientation tour, group transfers to and from the resort using local boats.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, gratuities.

## Post-Cruise Moorea Extension



**11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Extend your time in Tahiti with our two night stay on the island of Moorea, the heart shaped island situated close to the main island of Tahiti and renowned as one of the most beautiful in the world. From our hotel base there will be the opportunity to enjoy water sports or alternatively you may wish to explore the island seeing the plantations of cotton, coffee, sugarcane and pineapples and the majestic mountains with views over the island and wonderful waterfalls.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£595** Single: **£795**

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, group transfers to and from the resort using local boats.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, gratuities.

# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky and MS Caledonian 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 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 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. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped 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, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Egyptian cotton sheets, 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

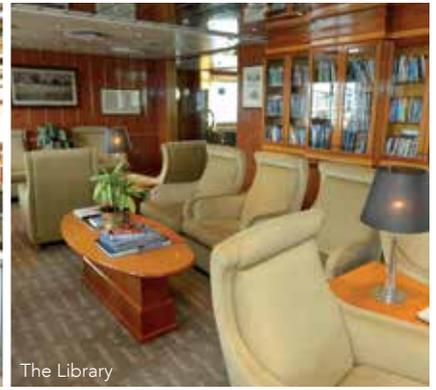
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants 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 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.



Standard Suite



The Club



The Library

## 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 where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. 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 selection of games and two computers offering complimentary internet access can also be found in the Library. The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests 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. Throughout the vessel carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

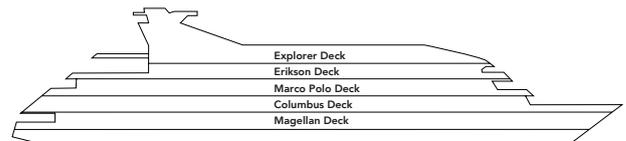
## Your Comfort

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.

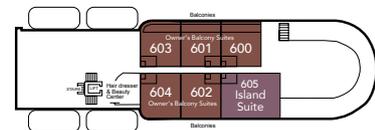
## Your Life On Board

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 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 and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

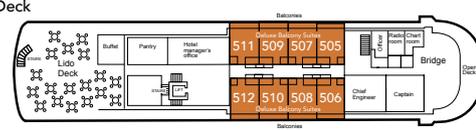
## MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



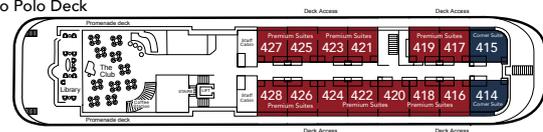
### Explorer Deck



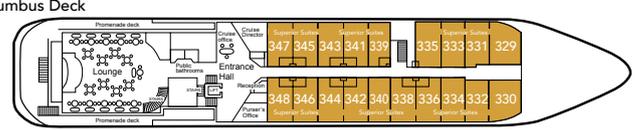
### Erikson Deck



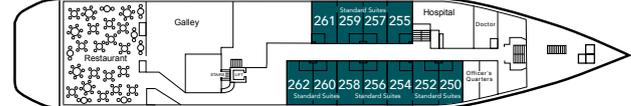
### Marco Polo Deck



### Columbus Deck



### Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Island Suite
- Premium Suites with Deck Access



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.



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