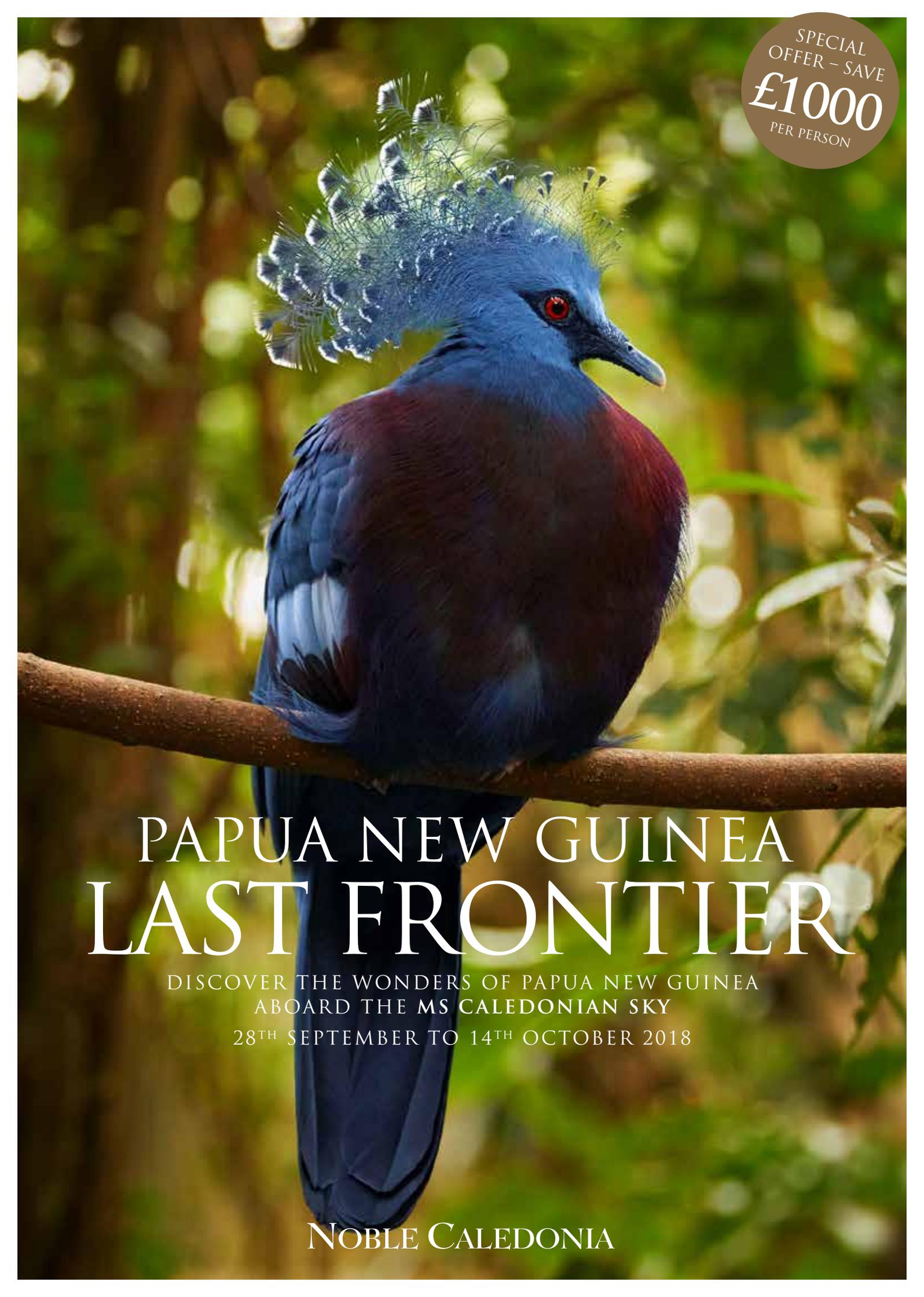


SPECIAL  
OFFER – SAVE  
**£1000**  
PER PERSON

A vibrant Blue-crowned Motmot is perched on a thick, brown tree branch. The bird has a striking blue crown with a fan-like arrangement of feathers, a bright red eye, and a dark blue body with a reddish-brown breast. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA LAST FRONTIER

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY

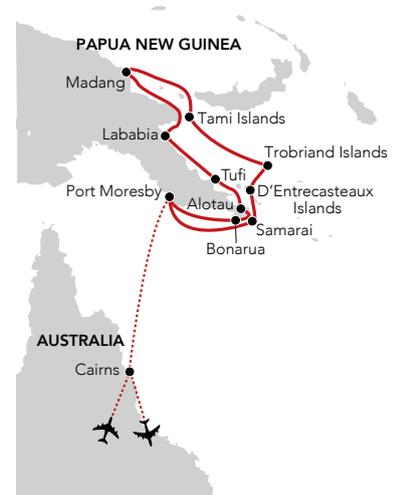
28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Few lands have such an exotic and mysterious allure as Papua New Guinea. The world's second-largest island sits off the north coast of Australia and is home to more than 1,000 indigenous tribes — each with their own traditions — as well as flamboyant birdlife, tropical forests rich with orchids, steep-sided volcanoes, pristine coral wonderlands and golden beaches. Our past travellers and field staff who have visited this mysterious land, where nothing is contrived and every experience is truly authentic, have enthused about the spectacular scenery and truly astounding array of native cultures which are known to only a few privileged travellers.

Travelling independently in Papua New Guinea can be difficult, with little infrastructure in place to accommodate for tourists and information about getting around often scarce. This is of course what makes the region alluring to the genuine traveller, but also why travelling with just 100 passengers and our expert onboard team aboard the all-suite MS Caledonian Sky, is an ideal way to explore this fascinating part of the world in comfort. Afloat and ashore, our exploration will be filled with unforgettable images and we hope you will join us for this unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.



## 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 below are some extracts from the ship's log from a previous voyage in the region which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

*Lababia:* This morning we took to dugout canoes paddled by villagers, and set off up a wild river in convoy. The west side of this river has been designated the Kamiali Wildlife Management Reserve, 27,000ha where no crops are grown, nor trees felled. It remains pristine rainforest and because the only sound we were making was the plashing of canoe paddles, we could hear the cicadas, falling leaves and the liquid calls of many forest birds from the surrounding trees. On our way back there were lorikeets screeching overhead, swiftlets above the treetops, a sulphur-crested cockatoo creaking to one side of the river, the huge dusky crested Palm Cockatoo in a tree on the other. At one point a Grey Goshawk swept across the river carrying a small bird in its talons, and a kingfisher raced past us upstream. Once back at the river mouth, we walked past thatched wooden houses on stilts, to reach the central square just back of the beach. Here the local primary school children gathered to sing us the moving National Anthem, and then a fearsome group of warriors with headdresses adorned with hornbill, cockatoo and goshawk feathers leapt and stamped to the insistent beat of kundu



drums. What a spectacle, a performance enjoyed as much by the villagers themselves as by our appreciative audience. By now the day was heating up so many returned to the cool haven of the ship while the more active made for the snorkel Zodiac and enjoyed the soothing balm of clear coral reefs and their myriad fish shoals. After such an action-packed morning, the afternoon was a welcome respite, as the Captain hauled anchor and we headed south to a new destination. The afternoon was a quiet time to recuperate and attend two lectures on offer: Tony on the Birds of New Guinea and Micronesia, and Ian on Coral Reefs and their fishes.



Fergusson Island, hot springs



Traditional Dance Mask

## The Itinerary

**Days 1 & 2 London to Cairns, Australia.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 3 Cairns.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

**Day 4 Cairns.** After breakfast at the hotel enjoy a full day in Cairns. Choose to spend the day exploring the underwater world on the Great Barrier Reef or discover the wildlife at the Daintree Rainforest. We meet this evening for dinner at the hotel.

**Day 5 Cairns to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.** After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Port Moresby. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board as we sail this evening.

**Day 6 Bonarua.** Enjoy a morning at sea. As we follow the coast of Papua New Guinea, the peaks of the dramatic Stanley Owens Range come into view and we arrive at the island of Bonarua in Milne Bay at lunchtime. We will go ashore to view fishing and weaving demonstrations, and wander through the enchanting village, sampling local delicacies. Birders have the chance to trek into the thicket whilst the warm inviting waters of the Coral Sea offer a first opportunity to explore the underwater world.

**Day 7 Alotau.** Today we arrive in Alotau, the provincial capital. As the centre for Milne Bay many of

the islanders come here to sell their wares and the vibrant local market is a trove of local artefacts including Trobriand carvings. We will have time to explore the town whilst our naturalists will take walks to explore the surrounding rainforest looking for birds. The more adventurous may wish to investigate the local caves which are home to thousands of bats.

**Day 8 Tufi.** Arrive at first light in the fjordland of Papua New Guinea. These fjords are over 90 metres deep and rise vertically to 150 metres from the water. The faces of the fjord are covered with moss and orchids and waterfalls fall into the sea. We will use our Zodiacs or local boats to explore the fjords and also visit the local villages. In the markets we will see the local pottery, jewellery and tapa cloth typical of this region. Due to the protection of the fjords the coral reefs are rich in colour and variety and have good visibility. We will find a suitable spot with our Zodiacs to snorkel amongst the gobie, mandarin fish, pigmy seahorses, sponge and shelf corals.

**Day 9 Lababia.** Arrive at breakfast time in Lababia, our entry to the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. It is accessible only by boat and the area has been formally protected but is under the control of local landowners. It includes a wide range of lowland and mid-montane rainforest, together with inshore marine areas including lush coral reefs, and has a rich array of plants, animals and ecosystems. We can take a rainforest walk on the David Suzuki Trail, seeking hornbills, parrots and palm cockatoos or enjoy time in the local village.

Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at one of the nearby reefs swimming or snorkelling.

**Day 10 Madang.** After a morning at sea we arrive at Madang, which is sometimes dubbed the 'prettiest town in the Pacific' perched on a peninsula surrounded by picturesque islands and sprinkled with parks, ponds and water-lily filled waterways. Madang's warm, wet climate and fertile soil produce luxuriant growth and any of the huge casuarina trees that tower over the Madang streets support huge colonies of flying foxes. The trees may have escaped World War II relatively unscathed but Madang itself wasn't so lucky. The town was rebuilt after it was virtually destroyed during the Japanese occupation and subsequent fighting. A morning tour will include the Catholic Mission and Coastwatcher's Memorial Lighthouse and vibrant market.

**Day 11 Tami Islands.** Arrive this morning on the Tami Islands, four tiny atolls situated seven miles off the Huon Peninsula with around 400 inhabitants. We will

be welcomed by the islanders and have a chance to see the distinctive wooden bowls, figure carvings and masks of the region. Alternatively we will use our Zodiacs taking the opportunity to snorkel in the crystal clear waters. Enjoy lunch on board as we sail this afternoon.

**Day 12 Kuiawa & Nakwaba, Trobriand Islands.** Over breakfast we arrive in Kuiawa in the Trobriand Islands. First discovered by the French vessel, Esperance in 1793 and named after the first lieutenant, they are also known as the "Islands of Love" after the study by anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski who wrote about them in his study "The Argonauts of the Western Pacific". We will be welcomed to the island by the local villagers before having time to explore and learn about their culture. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Nakwaba, a sand cay emerging from the blue waters of the lagoon. Spend the afternoon lounging on the beach, snorkelling along the surrounding reef or the birders may take a walk and hope to see a variety of terns and Pacific golden plovers.



Sea Turtle



Wild Coastlines

**Day 13 Fergusson & Dobu Islands, D'Entrecasteaux Islands.** Our Papua New Guinea adventure continues in the D'Entrecasteaux islands. We will use our Zodiacs to land on Fergusson Island, the largest of the chain, in a small fishing village. From here we will walk to the local hot springs and bubbling mud pools surrounded by lush vegetation, birders can keep a lookout for parrots and cockatoos. A welcome dance will be accompanied by local foods cooked in the hot pools. This afternoon we will cruise through the spectacular Dobu passage and use our Zodiacs to explore and snorkel or alternatively land to meet the villagers and visit the local church.

**Day 14 Samarai.** This morning we will explore Samarai which was once known as the "Pearl of the Pacific" and was the Provincial

capital until 1968. Samarai was the country's first provincial headquarters and the faded colonial charm of the buildings is indicative of its former importance. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea as we return to Port Moresby.

**Day 15 Port Moresby to Cairns, Australia.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Cairns. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration.

**Day 16 Cairns to London.** After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

**SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

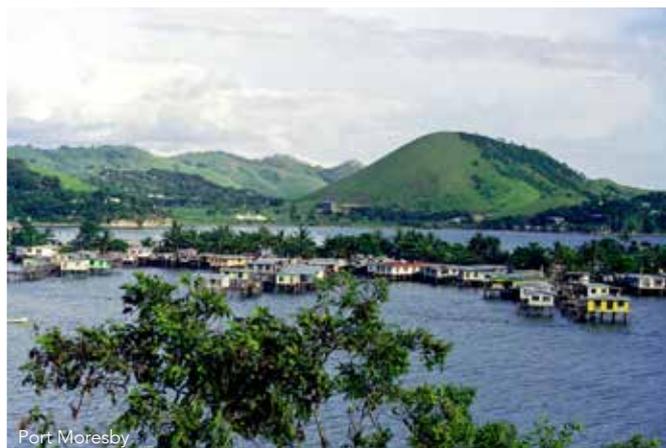
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£8795	£7795
Caledonian	Superior	£8995	£7995
Promenade	Premium	£9295	£8295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10395	£9395
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10595	£9595
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£11595	£10595
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9795	£8795
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995	£8995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Cairns • Specially chartered flights between Cairns and Port Moresby • Three nights hotel accommodation in Cairns on bed and breakfast basis • 10 nights aboard the MS Caledonian 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.



Trobriand Islands



Port Moresby



Exploring by Zodiac

# MS CALEDONIAN SKY



Deluxe Balcony Suite



On Deck



The Restaurant

The MS Caledonian Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean 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 114, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.



## Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. The passenger accommodation is arranged over four decks and all suites have outside views. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, hot towel rack and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or bath tub. Facilities in the suites also include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table

with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, flat screen television, telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Bottled water, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

## Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Caledonian 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 a 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 and 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 are 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



Panorama Lounge



The Lounge

### Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. In addition there is the Lounge on Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and complimentary internet access with further seating ideal for watching the world go by. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top deck there is a further observation and Sun Deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. There is also a small beauty salon with appointments made on request. Throughout the vessel carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

### Your Comfort

The MS Caledonian Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage you will have 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.

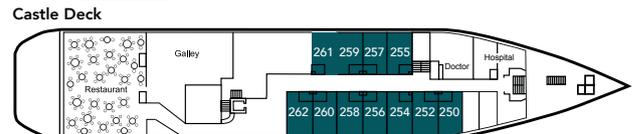
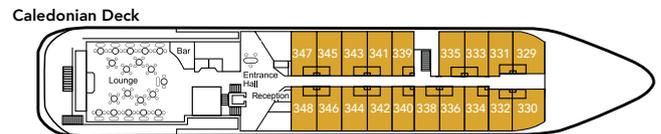
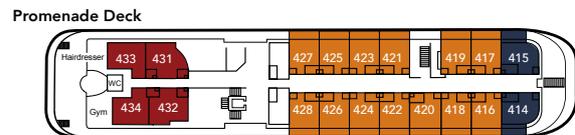
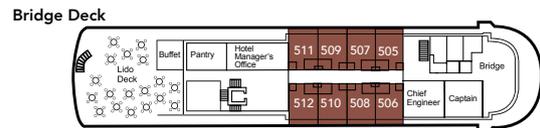
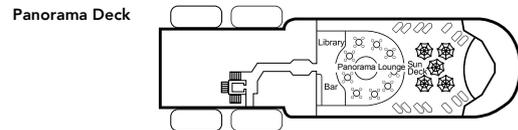
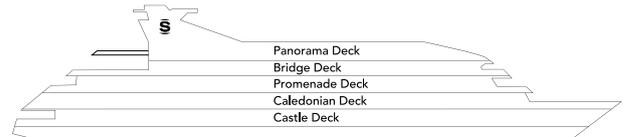
### Your Life On Board

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. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no "black tie" evenings. On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. 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 or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

### MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



- Standard Suites
- Premium Suites
- Premium Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Corner Suites with Balcony

NB. All Suites on Castle Deck feature a minimum of two portholes.



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.



# 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: Victoria Crowned Pigeon.