

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

PAPUA NEW GUINEA – THE LAST FRONTIER

DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER DR SHIRLEY CAMPBELL

2ND TO 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021



Fjords, Tufi

Few lands have such an exotic and mysterious allure as Papua New Guinea, it is in the truest sense the last frontier on earth. The world's second largest island sits off the north coast of Australia and is home to more than 1000 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. It is a land of the unexpected and a place of stark contrasts. 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 over 100 passengers and our expert onboard team aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky is an ideal way to explore this fascinating part of the world. 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 is an extract from the ship's log from a previous voyage in the region which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Fergusson & Dobu, D'Entrecasteaux Islands:
The D'Entrecasteaux group are volcanically active but mostly domes of metamorphic rock which have been baked at great depth and then thrust up above the earth. Our first destination after breakfast was to Fergusson to witness some of these volcanic features. Some of us saw a whale on our approach, probably a Bryde's whale, the most likely rorqual species here in the tropics. Our Zodiacs raced us across a flat calm bay to land at a tiny beach. Several guides were waiting to take us inland, and we were soon past the coastal gardens and onto a gravel road. We passed through a swamp forest, eclectus parrots and imperial pigeons flying

overhead, dragonflies round the ponds, and a number of pretty flowers on the roadside. There was a steaming fumarole with the characteristic smell of sulphur. Further up were hot pits where the locals cook: two boys passed us with plantains boiled in steam vents just minutes before. Finally we came to a strange salt pan looking over a steaming set of terraces, bright orange with crystallized salts. Up over a small rise there were boiling pools of water, spurting geysers and clouds of steam issuing from the ground: classic volcanic fumaroles. Up on the hill above, friar birds were calling to each other. After lunch we crossed to Dobu Island, a tiny neighbour with a big volcano in the middle, the flanks deeply grooved where rainwater has eroded the volcanic ash. It was raining as we came in to land but much was still going on at the school area, a volleyball game, a game of football and women demonstrating how they cooked their food in the old way. There was also time for the Zodiacs to ferry the keenest swimmers across to a beautiful clear water reef in the channel offshore for a snorkel.



Guest Speaker



Dr Shirley Campbell

Dr Shirley Campbell is an anthropologist with considerable understanding of Pacific and Indian Ocean cultures who, until her recent retirement, was a Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Australian National University. Her specialisation is the indigenous peoples of Papua New Guinea where she conducted doctoral field research in the Trobriand Islands for a period of eighteen months, learning the language and living in the village. She has described her research in several peer-reviewed papers and a book titled, 'The Art of Kula'. She received her PhD from the Australian National University in Canberra, where she has taught for many years, particularly about the people of Papua New Guinea, Australian Aboriginal people and human environmental and economic adaptations. Shirley has specialised in the anthropology of art, convinced that by understanding the way people represent their ideas through art, a valuable insight into how people live their cultures and how they perceive the world around them can be revealed.

Fergusson Island, hot springs



Exploring by Zodiac

Koala



Tami Island

Rabaul



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Brisbane, Australia. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Days 2 to 4 Brisbane. Arrive on Day 2 and transfer to our hotel for a three night stay. Spend the rest of the day at leisure. After a relaxing morning on the following day, enjoy a visit to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary before taking in the views over Brisbane from Mount Kootha Lookout. We will meet this evening for dinner at the hotel. On our final day enjoy a full day tour exploring the area around Brisbane.

Day 5 Brisbane to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. After breakfast in the hotel we will make our way to the airport for our scheduled flight to Port Moresby. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky where we will be welcomed aboard by the ship's crew. Sail this evening.

Day 6 Bonarua Island. After a morning at sea, the peaks of the dramatic Stanley Owens Range come into view as we reach the island of Bonarua in Milne Bay. We will go ashore to view fishing and weaving demonstrations, and wander through the enchanting village, sampling local delicacies. The warm inviting waters of the Coral Sea offer a first opportunity to explore the underwater world.

Day 7 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 and 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 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 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. In the afternoon we will find a suitable spot with our Zodiacs to snorkel amongst the gobie, mandarin fish, pigmy seahorses, sponge and shelf corals.

Day 9 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. Using our Zodiacs we will take the opportunity to snorkel in the crystal clear waters.

Day 10 Madang. Relax on board this morning and arrive over lunchtime at Madang, 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 was not so lucky. The town was rebuilt after it was virtually destroyed during the Japanese occupation and subsequent fighting. An afternoon tour will include the Coastwatcher's Memorial Lighthouse and vibrant market. Return to the MS Island Sky as we sail this evening.

Day 11 Sepik River. At dawn we anchor at the mouth of the Sepik River which at 1100 kilometres is the longest river in Papua New Guinea. The river is central to life for the communities that live here being used for trade in dugout canoes, fishing and cooking. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the river system surrounded by lush forest and birdsong. At a local village we will receive a traditional welcome of song and dance before exploring the village. See the men's house, the place where important decisions regarding the village are made and

initiation ceremonies take place, learn about the process of sago palms and see pieces of tribal art and crafts.

Day 12 Alim Island. The Admiralty Islands are an archipelago of 18 islands in the Bismarck Sea. We plan to use our Zodiacs to explore Alim Island, an uninhabited island and paradise for birds. Here we can find up to 2000 pairs of breeding red footed boobies, kingfishers and brown noddies. We hope to offer a Zodiac cruise and opportunity to snorkel or swim here.

Day 13 Tingwon Island. Completely encircled by an oblong reef, we land on a sandy beach this afternoon and meet the small community of charming Tingwon where we enjoy their hospitality and colourful dances. We will look for a suitable place to snorkel.

Day 14 Rabaul. Sail into the spectacular setting of Rabaul's Simpson Harbour. Six cone-shaped volcanoes ring Rabaul's dramatic flooded-caldera harbour. Here we enjoy a tour exploring the city's turbulent past shaped by World War II events and volcanic eruptions. Later we will enjoy a performance of the famous Baining Fire Dancers.

Day 15 Rabaul to Cairns, Australia. After breakfast we will transfer to Rabaul airport for our scheduled indirect flight to Cairns. Arrive later this evening and check into our hotel for two night stay. Alternatively, depart after breakfast



on a post cruise extension to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Day 16 Cairns. After breakfast at the hotel there will be a choice of full day excursions. Explore the underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef. Local boats will take us to the outer reef where we can enjoy snorkelling, swimming or use of the glass bottom boat in the clear waters. Alternatively discover the Daintree Forest and Mossman Gorge. The forest is known as the

oldest living rainforest and home to the Kuku Yalanji people. Take a coastal walk in the company of an aboriginal clan member before exploring Mossman Gorge where you can enjoy a rainforest walk and dip in the clear cool waters.

Day 17 Cairns to London. After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 18 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

| Deck | Suite Category | Brochure Price | Special Offer Price |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Magellan | Standard | £8995 | £8695 |
| Columbus | Superior | £9195 | £8895 |
| Marco Polo | Premium | £9595 | £9295 |
| Marco Polo | Corner | £9895 | £9595 |
| Erikson | Deluxe Balcony | £10495 | £10195 |
| Explorer | Owner's Balcony Suites | £10795 | £10495 |
| Explorer | Island Suite | £11995 | £11695 |
| Magellan | Standard for sole use | £10295 | £9995 |
| Columbus | Superior for sole use | £10595 | £10295 |

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Three nights hotel accommodation in Brisbane and two nights in Cairns with breakfast • Dinner on day 3 • Lunch on day 4 • 10 nights aboard the MS Island Sky • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore Excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Australian E-visa, Papua New Guinea visa (available on arrival).

NB. Please note that luggage allowance may be limited for the internal flights in Papua New Guinea.

Post-Cruise Papua New Guinea Western Highlands Extension 16th to 21st September 2021



After our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky, you can join a three night stay in the Western Highlands where you will have the opportunity to discover local tribes and learn more of their traditions. We will stay at Rondon Ridge which is located 7100 feet above sea level, near the town of Mount Hagen, on the outer fringes of the Kubor Range. Over 180 species of birds have been recorded in the rainforests around Rondon Ridge including ten species of Birds of Paradise. During your time at the lodge there will be nature and birding walks accompanied by experienced and knowledgeable nature guides. There will be excursions which will take you on a journey through the traditions and customs of the local Melpa People. First contact with the Melpa was made in the mid-1930s when the Leahy brothers were prospecting for gold. The Melpa are said by anthropologists, to be 'predisposed to capitalism' because of their complex traditional society in which 'big men' earn status by accruing wealth and then giving it all away in a ceremonial exchange called "Moka".

The Itinerary

Day 1 Rabaul to Rondon Ridge, Papua New Guinea. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to Mount Hagen. Upon arrival later in the afternoon we will be met and transferred to Rondon Ridge for a three night stay.

Days 2 & 3 Rondon Ridge. We have two full days to explore the Highlands and learn of the unique culture and traditions of the tribes in the region. We will visit villages with our knowledgeable local guides and learn more about the fascinating birdlife of the Highlands.

Day 4 Rondon Ridge to Port Moresby. After breakfast, check out of your lodge and transfer to the airport for your flight to Port Moresby. On arrival, transfer to the Airways Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Enjoy dinner tonight in the hotel.

Day 5 Port Moresby to London. Transfer to the airport this morning for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 6 London. Arrive this morning.

Please note that those joining the extension will not spend two nights in Cairns with the main group and this is reflected in the price of the extension.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2095** Single: **£2495**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel • Three nights accommodation at Rondon Ridge on full board basis • Overnight hotel accommodation in Port Moresby with breakfast • Dinner on day 4 • Excursions • Gratuities • Transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Papua New Guinea visa.

NB. Luggage allowance on internal flights is limited and arrangements will be made to store your main cruise luggage.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Club

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 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 with inbuilt DVD/CD player 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 Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

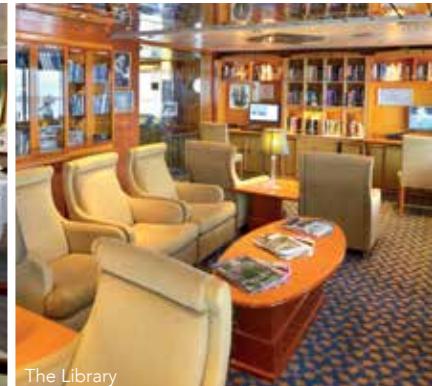
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants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



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 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 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.

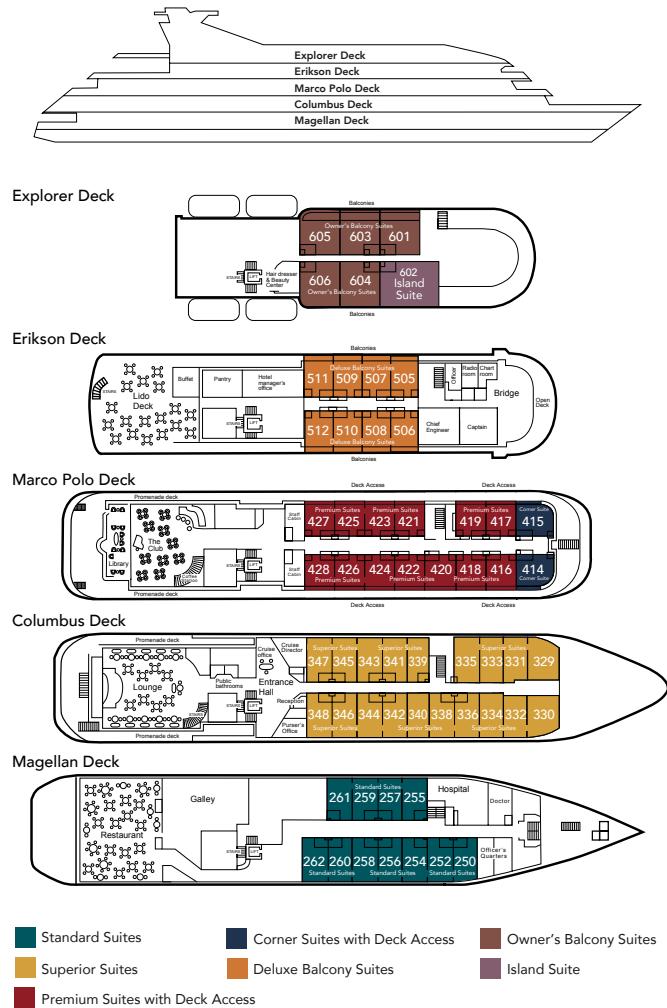
Your Comfort

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



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

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | noble-caledonia.co.uk

