

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER
PRICES

PASSAGE THROUGH THE
PHILIPPINES

AN EXPEDITION FROM PALAU TO TAIWAN
ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ZEGRAHM EXPEDITIONS

28TH FEBRUARY TO 17TH MARCH 2020



Islands Palau

For the well-travelled, our voyage from Palau through the Philippines to Taiwan offers a unique opportunity to visit little known and remote regions that are well away from the usual cruise routes. The privilege of exploring these remarkable lands from a small ship and in the company of knowledgeable speakers, expedition team members and local guides is an opportunity not to be missed. We are delighted that our US associates at Zegrahm Expedition, who have chartered the MS Caledonian Sky for this voyage have made some suites available for our passengers.

Marvellous experiences are to be had as you snorkel among multi-coloured corals, land on pristine beaches, witness traditional ways of life in remote communities and explore mangrove forest looking out for endemic flora and fauna, each evening returning to the considerable comforts of the MS Caledonian Sky as we then sail on to our next adventure. In addition to the snorkelling opportunities which will reveal the amazing biodiversity of these isolated islands, there will be optional diving excursions.

Birders will delight in the opportunity to see the red bird of paradise, red footed boobies, brown noddies, hornbills and kingfishers to name but a few whilst there will also be ample opportunity to snorkel in what are some of the most bio-diverse waters in the world. Perhaps most of all though, our voyage will provide the opportunity to interact with local villagers who always offer such a warm welcome and experience their local culture and traditions such as communal net fishing.

The only comfortable way to explore this vast and intriguing land is by sea and we are fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. We hope you will join us for this unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.



Expedition Highlights

- Visit Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its high density of marine life with 600 fish species and over 300 varieties of coral.
- Trek through diverse landscapes at Taroko National Park, home to the world's largest marble gorge, rugged coastal cliffs, narrow canyons and lush, subtropical forest.
- Snorkel amid thousands of stingless jellyfish in Palau's Jellyfish Lake.
- Experience warm welcomes and legendary Filipino hospitality with visits to traditional villages and remote island communities.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Seoul, South Korea. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Seoul. Arrive today and transfer to the Plaza Marriott Hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure.

Day 3 Seoul to Palau. Spend the morning at leisure. This afternoon there will be a city tour before

we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Palau. Arrive in the late night into Koror and transfer to the Palau Royal Resort for our stay.

Day 4 Palau. Today explore Palau's geologically fascinating Rock Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Board a local boat for a cruise among the limestone islands and islets and enjoy



snorkelling among vibrant coral reefs. Later we will take a leisurely hike to world-famous Jellyfish Lake for an extraordinary snorkelling experience. After centuries of biological isolation and subsequent evolution, the melon-sized jellyfish that live here have lost their ability to sting. Return to our hotel for dinner.

Day 5 Palau. Palau's surrounding reefs are home to more than 1500 species of fish and 700 species of coral, while in the sandy shallows, thousands of giant clams can be found. Spend the morning exploring this incredibly rich marine environment at one of Palau's many world-class snorkel sites. After lunch at a local restaurant we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky this afternoon and set sail.

Days 6 & 7 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing two days at sea, scan the skies and waters on deck with naturalists and attend lectures by the expert expedition team.

Day 8 Pamilacan Island, Philippines. We arrive in the Philippines this morning and spend the rest of the day snorkelling or diving off tiny Pamilacan Island, with the possibility of going ashore to visit with locals.

Day 9 Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park. Today we visit Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, a marine and

bird sanctuary that covers over 370 square miles. Part of the Coral Triangle, this area was recognised as a World Heritage Site due to the high density of marine species and important breeding grounds for seabirds and marine turtles. Spend the day snorkelling or diving over pristine reefs.

Day 10 Coron Island. Explore the natural and cultural wonders of Coron, including an active hike up Coron's vertical cliffs, which is rewarded with breathtaking views of Kayangan Lake. Afterwards there will be an opportunity to swim in the crystal-clear waters. This afternoon we will visit the Banuang Daan where the locals will showcase their rich traditions with a performance and display of handicrafts.

Day 11 Apo Reef. The second-largest contiguous coral reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef, Apo offers a kaleidoscope of hard and soft corals. Discover luminescent anemones and nudibranchs, pygmy seahorses, pipefish, and other wondrous small creatures, as well as large pelagics such as sharks, tuna, and barracudas.

Day 12 Hundred Islands National Park. Comprised of 124 lushly vegetated islands, Hundred Islands National Park offers lovely beaches, gorgeous vistas and crystal-clear waters. Spend the day on one

of these private islands birding, snorkelling, diving and exploring by Zodiac.

Day 13 Vigan. Established in the 16th century, Vigan stands as Asia's finest example of a planned Spanish colonial city. Exceptionally intact, its grid street pattern and architectural influences earned the city UNESCO status in 1999. Wander the cobbled streets and pay a visit to the Pagburnayan pottery makers to learn about the production of Vigan's famous burnay jars.

Day 14 Babuyan Islands. The Babuyan Islands are home to steep foothills, volcanic cones, mangroves, and a marine sanctuary. Take a stroll along Calayan's gorgeous white-sand beaches and snorkel or dive in the warm waters, while birders search the forest for the Calayan rail, a flightless bird endemic to the island.

Day 15 Batan Island. Batan was the first domino to fall during Japan's invasion of the Philippines during World War II, and you will hear harrowing tales while visiting a tunnel used as a hideout by Japanese soldiers. Climb to the top of Radar Tukon, a former lighthouse and US weather station, which offers 360-degree views across the island. Savour the fresh air and bucolic setting of the Vayang Rolling Hills, then take a

leisurely stroll around the town plaza, dominated by Santo Domingo de Basco Church, built in 1812.

Day 16 Hualien, Taiwan. Arrive in Taiwan's second-largest city, located on the mountainous east coast. Hualien serves as our gateway to Taroko National Park, centred upon its namesake marble gorge. The park comprises some 227,000 acres and varying altitudes, from sea level at the mouth of the Liwu River to towering Mount Nanhu at more than 12,000 feet. Such dramatic climate changes create a diverse array of vegetation and habitats, hosting a third of Taiwan's vascular plants, half of its mammal species, and over 140 recorded bird species.

Day 17 Keelung & Taipei. Disembark this morning and transfer to Taipei. Dominated by Taipei 101 - a 1600-foot-high tower that resembles a stalk of bamboo, Taiwan's capital offers a captivating mix of Asian and Western influences. The city is famous for its street food, so we will stop to sample a variety of xiaochi (little snacks) while visiting top attractions such as the Chinese-influenced Martyrs' Shrine; Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall, commemorating Taiwan's former president; and the National Palace Museum,



which houses the world's largest collection of Chinese art. Alternatively leave the city bustle behind to visit Yehliu Geopark with its surreal rock formations, as well as Gold Ecological Park, built to offer insights into the region's gold-mining culture. Transfer to the Shangri La Far Eastern Hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 18 Taipei to London. Transfer to the airport this morning for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 19 London. Arrive this morning.

SCUBA DIVING: Scuba Diving is available on this expedition for an additional cost of £400 per person. This must be booked in advance as spaces are limited to 16 Advanced Open Water (AOW) certified scuba divers. You must complete two open water dives within the 12 months prior to the trip's departure.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

LIMITED AVAILABILITY - SPECIAL OFFER PRICES		
Deck	Suite Category	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	SOLD OUT
Caledonian	Superior	£6995
Promenade	Premium	£7195
Promenade	Premium with deck access	£7495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with deck access	£7695
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8995
Castle	Standard for sole use	SOLD OUT
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Seoul with breakfast • Two nights hotel accommodation in Palau with breakfast • 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • House wine and beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Overnight hotel accommodation in Taipei with breakfast • Expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.
Please note: Zegrahm Expeditions do not offer private balcony suites on the Promenade Deck and instead these suites feature a sliding mirrored glass door leading directly onto the Promenade Deck.

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 area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, heated towel rail, vanity unit 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. Refillable water bottles, 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 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



Caledonian Lounge



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where briefings are given by the onboard team and talks from Guest Speakers take place. Also in the Lounge is a 24-hour tea and coffee station along with an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. In addition there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The Travel Library is the perfect place to relax with a good book and is well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting. A selection of games and 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). 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.

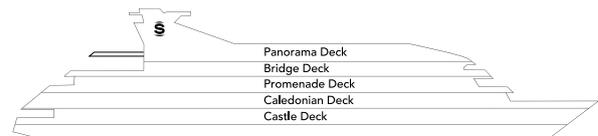
Your Comfort

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 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.

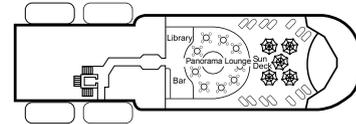
Your Life On Board

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 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 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.

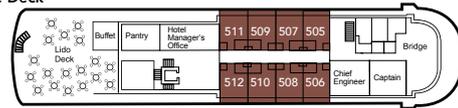
MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



Panorama Deck



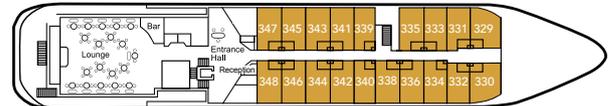
Bridge Deck



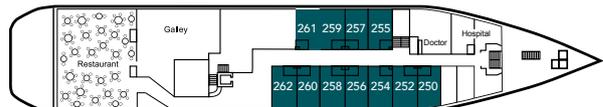
Promenade Deck



Caledonian Deck



Castle Deck



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

Please note that 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.



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