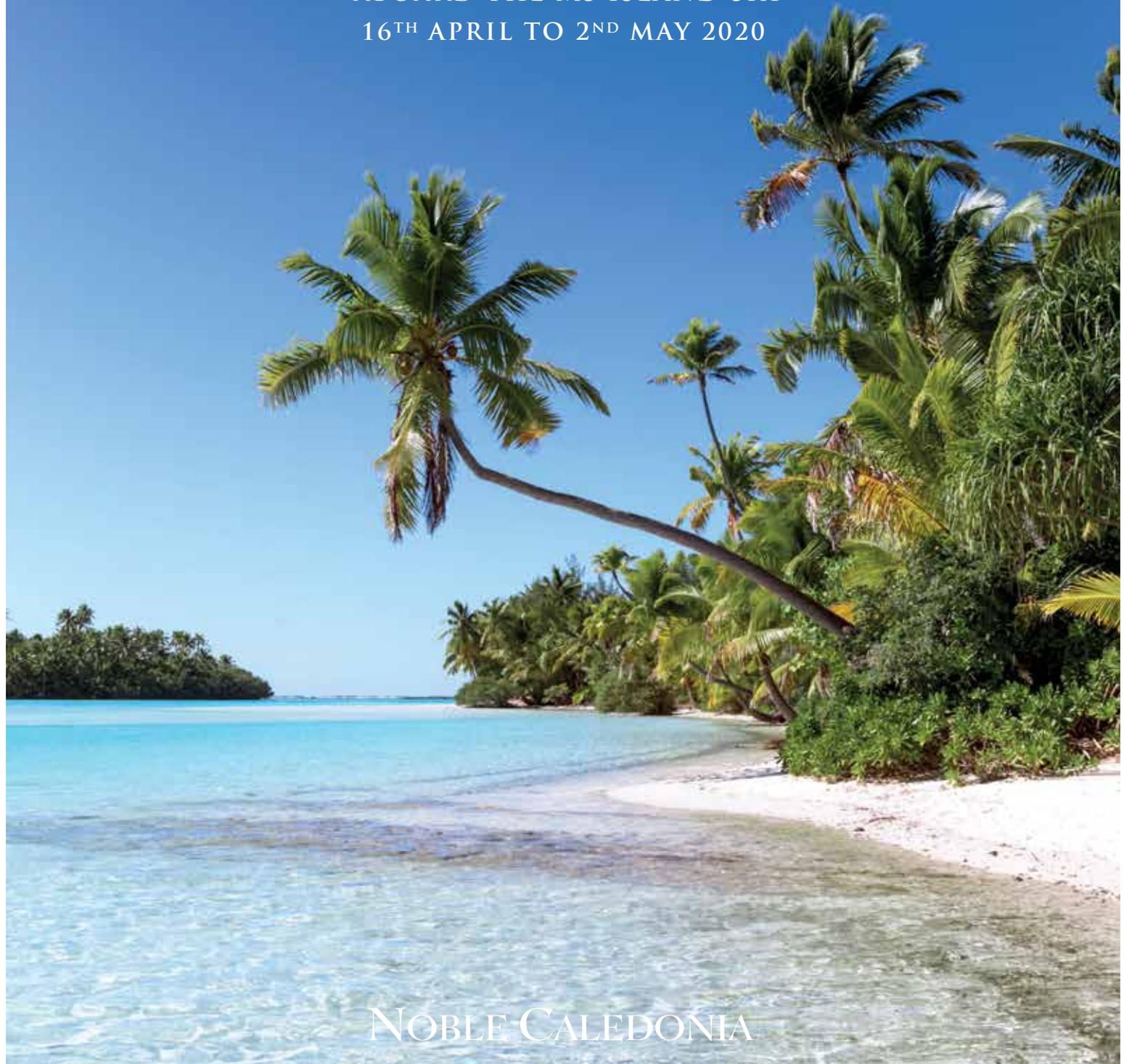


SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

# PASSAGE THROUGH POLYNESIA

AN EXPEDITION FROM TAHITI TO FIJI  
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY  
16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL TO 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Niue coastline



Palmerston, Cook Islands



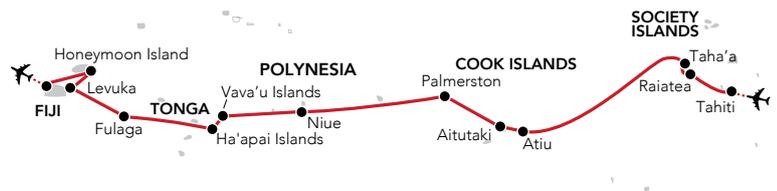
The name Polynesia means ‘many islands’ and no one could argue with the suitability of this title. There are islands of low lying coral with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world and contrasting volcanic mountainous structures of lush, incomparable beauty. On the more remote islands, villages are still composed of thatched houses, set amongst the shade of the breadfruit and coconut trees. Many islands are important nesting grounds for seabirds and sea turtles and the lagoons are breeding grounds for countless species of fish.

From the Polynesian paradise of Tahiti we travel to the Cook Islands and Tonga with visits to a number of the smaller islands such as Atiu, with only 560 residents, and uninhabited Tofua. Meet local villagers, learn about Polynesian culture and its many ancient rituals and experience a wide range of unique flora and fauna.

The only comfortable way to explore this intriguing region is by sea and we are fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. Helping us understand all the wonders we will encounter will be our expedition team who will accompany us ashore and enlighten us with their onboard talks. With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we will explore inlets, lagoons and land in otherwise inaccessible places.

## 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 are some extracts from ship's logs from previous expeditions:



Landing by Zodiac



Local, Atiu

**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 frigate birds 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.

**Atiu, Cook Islands:** We would spend three days in total exploring the Cook Islands and our first stop was Atiu where Captain Cook landed on the west side of the island in 1775. Today we were offered a choice of two local tours. The first was a wildlife tour led by local Birdman George (accompanied of course by our own Birdmen Tony and Brent) and the second a cultural tour with a variety of guides who would drive small groups of us around the island visiting some of the key points of interest. Over the course of the next couple of hours we visited the site where Captain James Cook is believed to have taken his first footsteps on the island as well as coffee plantations, taro patches, churches and many of us were invited to the local island homes and gardens of our guides providing even more personal insight to life on the island. Meanwhile on the eco tour, Birdman George led a convoy of three vans around the island to take a closer look at local birds and plants. Between the three ornithologists both the endemic Atiu swiftlet and the Rimatara lorikeet were spotted. In addition to these rare birds, the groups also enjoyed sightings of the chattering kingfisher resting on power lines and football posts, the lesser frigate bird and the beautiful white or fairy terns.



Swimming hole, Niue



Exploring by Zodiac



Wild flower



Coconut crab



Red-tailed tropic bird

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Tahiti, French Polynesia.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Tahiti.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The afternoon and evening will be at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or explore independently.

**Day 3 Tahiti.** After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a full day tour of Tahiti. We will start at the Arahoho Blow Hole. This lava tube, designed by liquid lava flowing under cold and hard lava, has created a channel. When waves crash against the rocks and enter the channel the result is a powerful sea water geyser. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Museum of Tahiti and her Islands. Later this afternoon we transfer to the MS Island Sky and sail tonight.

**Day 4 Raiatea & Taha'a.** Raiatea is recognised throughout Tahiti as its "Sacred Island", the cultural heart of all 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 Taputapuatae 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 5 At sea.** Relax on board as we sail to the Cook Islands.

**Day 6 Atiu, Cook Islands.** Our first stop in the Cook Islands is the small island of Atiu. With only 560 residents we will be guaranteed a special welcome. There will be the chance to join the local expert "Birdman George" on a walking tour to search for the Rarotonga monarch, chattering kingfisher, Cook Island fruit dove and Atiu swiftlets. Alternatively, discover the island on a tour which will include James Cook's landing site from 1777, the coffee plantations and a visit to some of the local houses. After lunch on board there will be the chance to return to Atiu for a relaxing afternoon exploring from the beach or maybe enjoy a taste of the local Tumunu, a traditional drink brewed from fermented oranges.

**Day 7 Aitutaki.** This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. After a lively welcome this morning, join an 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 view 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 sail after lunch and enjoy an afternoon on board as we cruise to our next island.

**Day 8 Palmerston.** 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 could catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. This afternoon we will have a chance to swim or snorkel from the beach where large coral blocks team with goatfish, boxfish, groupers, stingray and turtles.

**Day 9 Day at sea.** Relax on board, join a lecture in the lounge or simply find a spot on deck and watch the world go by.

**Day 10 Niue.** Niue is 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. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

**Day 11 Vava'u, Tonga.** After crossing the International Date Line (so it is now 27 April), 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 cafe.

**Day 12 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. During the morning we hope to offer a Zodiac cruise to explore the coastline of this historic island.

**Day 13 Fulaga, Fiji.** Our first call at a Fijian island will be on 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



Church, Levuka



Butterfly Fish

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 morning using our Zodiacs to explore the rocks or find a suitable beach to land for swimming, snorkelling or beachcombing.

**Day 14 Levuka & Honeymoon Island.** The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau has 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 Honeymoon Island where we can relax on the beach or join an organised snorkelling trip.

**Day 15 Fiji to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 16 London.** Arrive today.

## 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 • Overnight hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis in Tahiti • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia Expedition Team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Group transfers • Port taxes.

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

## Pre-Cruise Moorea Extension



14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Extend your time in Tahiti with our two night stay on the island of Moorea, this heart shaped island is situated close to the main island of Tahiti and is 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. Upon check-out on 17th April, transfer to the main island and continue with the main itinerary from day 2.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£725** Single: **£975**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Moorea on a bed and breakfast basis, group transfers from airport to hotel and from hotel to the main island using local boats and vehicles, half day island tour.

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

## Post-Cruise Fiji Extension



1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

If you would like to extend your time in Fiji after disembarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering a relaxing three night stay at the Lomani Island Resort. 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.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Beachfront Bure:

Twin: **£1295**; Single: **£1945**

Beachfront Pool Bure:

Twin: **£1395**; Single: **£2145**

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

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

# 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 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

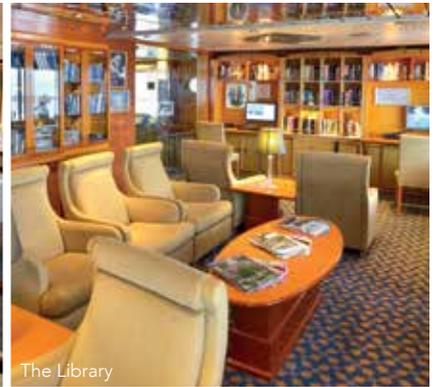
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants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

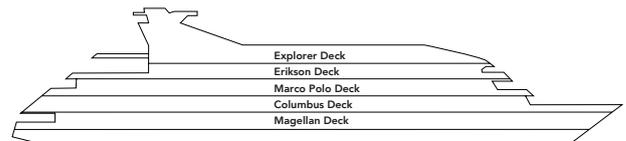
## Your Comfort

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



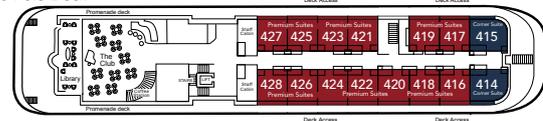
### Explorer Deck



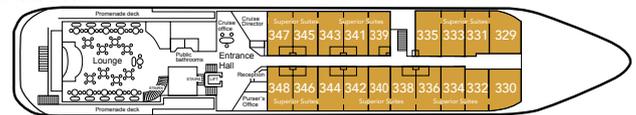
### Erikson Deck



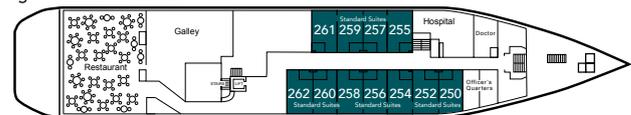
### Marco Polo Deck



### 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.



# 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: Aitutaki, Cook Islands