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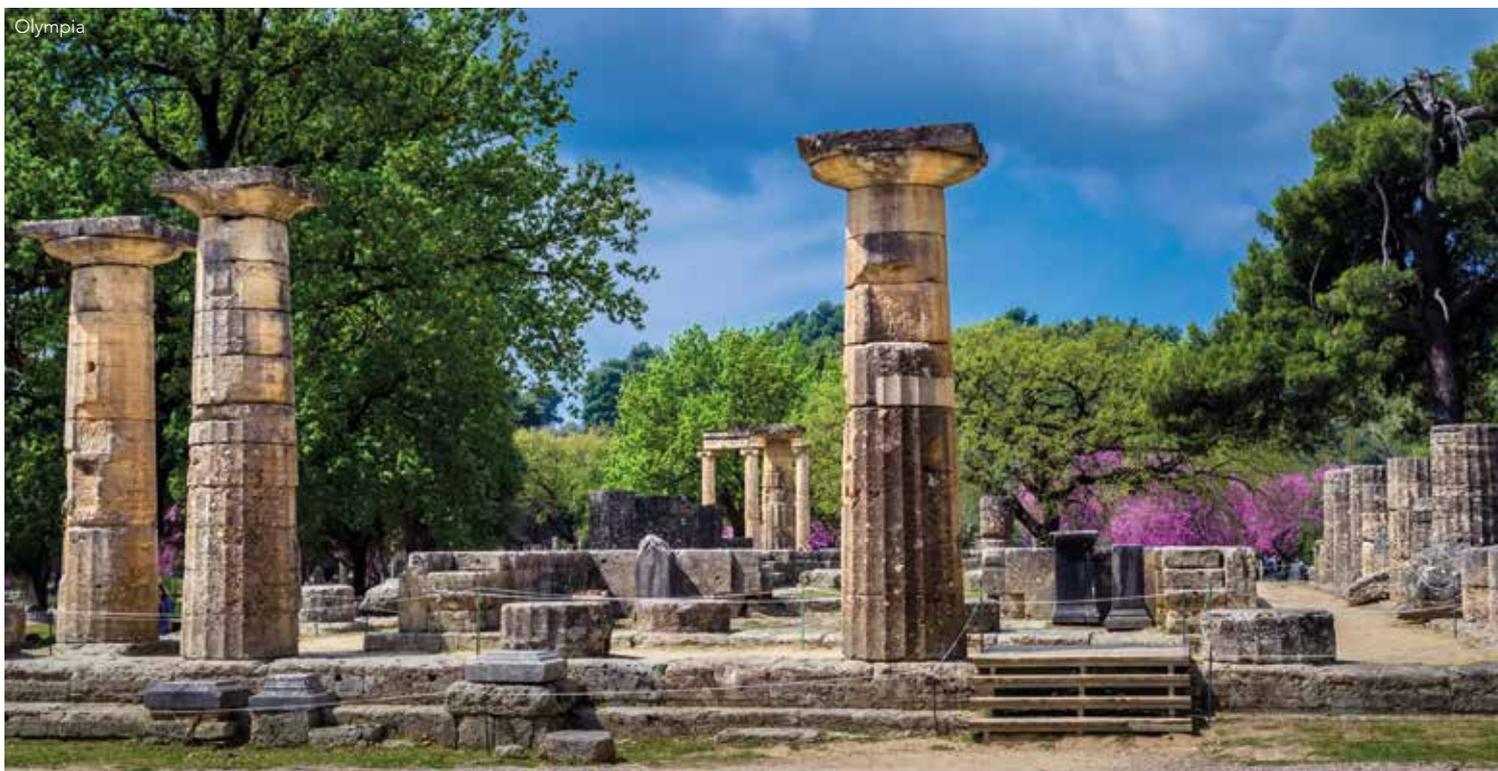
PASSAGE THROUGH THE ANCIENT WORLD

A VOYAGE FROM CYPRUS TO MALTA INCLUDING
ISRAEL, EGYPT, GREECE & SICILY ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER RIGHT REVEREND TIM STEVENS

1ST TO 13TH OCTOBER 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join the 118-passenger MS *Island Sky* for this passage through antiquity as we journey a path less well trodden combining time spent in the great cities and towns of the Eastern Mediterranean with the picturesque ports and islands of the Western Mediterranean. Exploring by sea allows us to incorporate a heady mix of fantastic places with great ease from the biblical landmarks of Israel and the wonders of Egypt to the Aegean with its Greek and Roman architectural treasures. Our itinerary represents small ship cruising at its best and is timed for October when temperatures will be pleasant for exploring and, with the aid of our knowledgeable local guides and excellent Guest Speaker, we will learn of some fascinating civilisations.



From the Cypriot port of Limassol we set sail for Israel where we have two days of exploration visiting the ancient biblical cities of Acre, Nazareth and Jerusalem and discovering Capernaum's ancient synagogue on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and the ancient port of Jaffa from which the city of Tel Aviv emerged. Then follows time in the great Egyptian city of Alexandria, once one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic World and our time here will include a tour into the Western Desert to visit the museum and graveyards of El Alamein. After a relaxing day at sea, our journey through the ancient world continues with visits to some of the Aegean's most fascinating places including the Palace of Knossos on Crete, the Byzantine hillside town of Mystras near ancient Sparta, and Olympia, the principal shrine of Zeus and Hera and the site of the original Olympic Games. Our final days will be spent in Sicily to appreciate the island's rich legacy of so many invading civilisations and we will visit the impressive Greek theatre at Taormina which offers stunning views of Mount Etna and the beautiful city of Syracuse.

When devising the itinerary we have ensured that in addition to our included, guided excursions, there will be ample time at leisure for some independent exploration and whether you are interested in ancient history, Greek myths or simply the joy of cruising aboard a small ship and experiencing beautiful scenery, our voyage has something for everyone.

Guest Speaker – Right Reverend Tim Stevens



Tim Stevens was Bishop of Leicester from 1999 to 2015 where he was heavily engaged in inter-faith relations and a visiting professor in Church and Society at De Montfort University. He was responsible for planning and leading the events surrounding the re-interment of Richard III in Leicester Cathedral in 2015. He was chair of the Children's Society between 2004 and 2010 and Convener of the bishops in the House of Lords between 2009 and 2015. He spoke regularly on public policy issues especially on Welfare Reform and inter-faith relations. Tim Stevens read Classics and English at Cambridge. In 1968 he joined BOAC as a graduate trainee and entered the Foreign

Office in 1972 working in the South Asian Dept until starting training for ordination in Oxford. He was a parish priest in East London and Essex before being appointed Archdeacon of West Ham, Bishop of Dunwich and eventually Bishop of Leicester. He is now on the global governance board of St John International and a non-executive director of the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust. He is a trustee of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge which researches and supports understanding between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Limassol, Cyprus. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS *Island Sky* and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Haifa, Israel. We arrive in Israel and the northern port of Haifa where we have a choice of excursions today. A full day tour will visit Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus. Called the City of



Annunciation, Nazareth is revered as the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared before Mary to tell her she was to bear the Son of God. Enjoy panoramic views of the city and visit the Church of the Annunciation, which is built where Mary is said to have lived. Continue to the shores of the Sea of Galilee where we find Capernaum's ancient synagogue and Peter's House before stopping in Tabgha, home to the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Leaves, with its 5th century mosaic floor. Alternatively take a morning tour to Acre, one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites of the region and once the chief port of the Crusaders. Visit the underground city seeing the Crusader halls, crypt and tunnels used as a secret route to the port. Also visit the bazaar and the UNESCO site of Kahn El Umdan (Inn of the Columns), one of the best-preserved caravanserai in Israel. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to explore Haifa at your own pace.

Day 3 Ashdod. Sail overnight to Ashdod where we have a day to explore the south of Israel. We will drive inland to Jerusalem including a visit to the Mount of Olives from where we can enjoy spectacular views over the 'Golden City' of Jerusalem. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus as you walk through the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus spent the last moments before his arrest. Wander the streets of the Old City from Jaffa Gate to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and continue through the Christian Quarter to the bazaar, passing the Roman Cardo in the Jewish Quarter and the Western

(or Wailing) Wall. Alternatively visit Jaffa, the ancient port city from which Tel Aviv developed. Famous for its association with the biblical stories of Jonah, Solomon and St Peter, it has a fascinating history stretching back over four thousand years. We will explore the highlights including the Clock Tower, Flea Market and the renovated alleys and buildings of the city.

Day 4 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we sail to Egypt.

Days 5 & 6 Alexandria, Egypt.

Arrive in Egypt in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria where we spend the next two days. During our time in the city we will visit the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Archaeological Museum which contains recent finds of Cleopatra's palace. Also see Pompey's Pillar, the Montazah Palace and gardens, the Catacombs, the Roman Amphitheatre and take in the views from the Citadel of Qaitbay, which stands where the famous Pharos Lighthouse of Alexandria stood in antiquity. We will also take a full day tour into the Western Desert to visit the Museum and graveyards of El Alamein. It was here in October 1942 that thousands of British and Commonwealth soldiers lost their lives in battle. We will visit the Commonwealth War Cemetery as well as the local museum with its collection of memorabilia including tanks, artillery and uniforms from the nations that fought in the North Africa campaigns.

Day 7 At Sea. Spend a leisurely day at sea as we sail across to Crete.

Day 8 Heraklion, Crete. From our berth in Heraklion it is a short distance to the Palace of Knossos, legendary home of the Minotaur. Wander around the site impressively excavated by Sir Arthur Evans, seeing some of the 1300 rooms adorned with lively frescoes where King Minos held court. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in the town, maybe visit the archaeological museum which holds the world's largest collection of Minoan artefacts.

Day 9 Kalamata & Mystras, Greece. From our berth in Kalamata we head inland to Mystras, a remarkably intact Byzantine hillside town that once housed a population of 20,000 people. Here we visit the Cathedral of Agios Dimitrios, where the two-headed eagle which is the symbol of the Palaeologos Dynasty is carved into a plaque on the floor. According to tradition, this is where Constantine XII stepped when he was crowned king. Strolling through the narrow lanes of the dead city, we will also visit the Church of Agia Sophia, the Palace of the Despots and the Monastery of Pantanassa with its brilliant frescoes. Before returning to the vessel for lunch, refreshments will be served at the picturesque taverna located just beneath the site offering sweeping views over the local terrain. The afternoon is free to explore Kalamata old town at your own pace.

Day 10 Katakolon for Olympia. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the

celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. Pastoral and lush, Olympia's plentiful ruins are shaded by Aleppo pines and olive trees and we will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland and the Archaeological Museum which houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. Spend the afternoon at sea as we sail over to Sicily.

Day 11 Catania & Taormina, Sicily. After a morning at sea we arrive in Sicily and the port of Catania. The architecture here is particularly impressive but a little forbidding being mainly constructed from black lava stone from Mount Etna. On an afternoon walking tour we will see the magnificent Piazza del Duomo, a World Heritage Site, St Agatha's Cathedral and the imposing 13th century Castello Ursino. Alternatively drive up the coast to Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive



'Ear of Dionysius', Syracuse

Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast.

Day 12 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of

the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently from our central berth.

Day 13 Valletta, Malta to London. This morning we sail into the grand harbour of Valletta. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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	£5995	£5495
Columbus	Superior	£6195	£5695
Marco Polo	Premium	£6495	£5995
Marco Polo	Corner	£6995	£6495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£8495	£7995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£8795	£8295
Explorer	Island Suite	£9795	£9295
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£7495	£6995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7795	£7295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Egyptian visa.

Pre-cruise Cyprus Extension 28th September to 1st October 2022

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Limassol, Cyprus. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the hotel and enjoy free time before we meet for dinner tonight. (D)

Day 2 Paphos. We will depart for our guided excursion after breakfast and make a brief stop at the most famous landmark in Cyprus - Aphrodite's Rock. See Saint Neophytos Monastery and continue to Paphos where we will visit the 13th century Chrysopolitissa Church. Saint Paul visited Paphos in 45 AD in an attempt to convert the ruler of the time to Christianity. He was successful in his efforts, but not before being tied and whipped to an otherwise unremarkable lump of stone, the Pillar of Saint Paul which we will see during our visit. After lunch and some free time in Paphos, we continue to the archaeological park, known as the House of Dionysus to see the fabulously preserved mosaics which date back to the 2nd century AD and the Tombs of the Kings. Return to the hotel to relax before meeting for dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Limassol. Spend the day at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel or take the local bus into Limassol town centre. Alternatively, a short walk from the hotel will take you to the impressive remains of the archaeological site of Amathus. (B, D)

Day 4 Limassol. Check out this morning and drive to the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus and the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre that has been completely restored. We will also visit Kolossi Castle, which was built in the 15th century on the ruins of a former fortress dated to the beginning of the 13th century. After lunch we will transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895** Single: **£1195**

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation at the Mediterranean Beach Hotel in Limassol, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, tours as described, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Malta Extension 13th to 15th October 2022

The Itinerary

Day 1 Valletta, Malta. After breakfast we will disembark and begin a walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street, containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and check in. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free for independent exploration. (B, L)

Day 2 Mdina. A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Citta Nobile", and it is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Spend the afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Valletta to London. Check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£1095**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two 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.



Superior 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. 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.

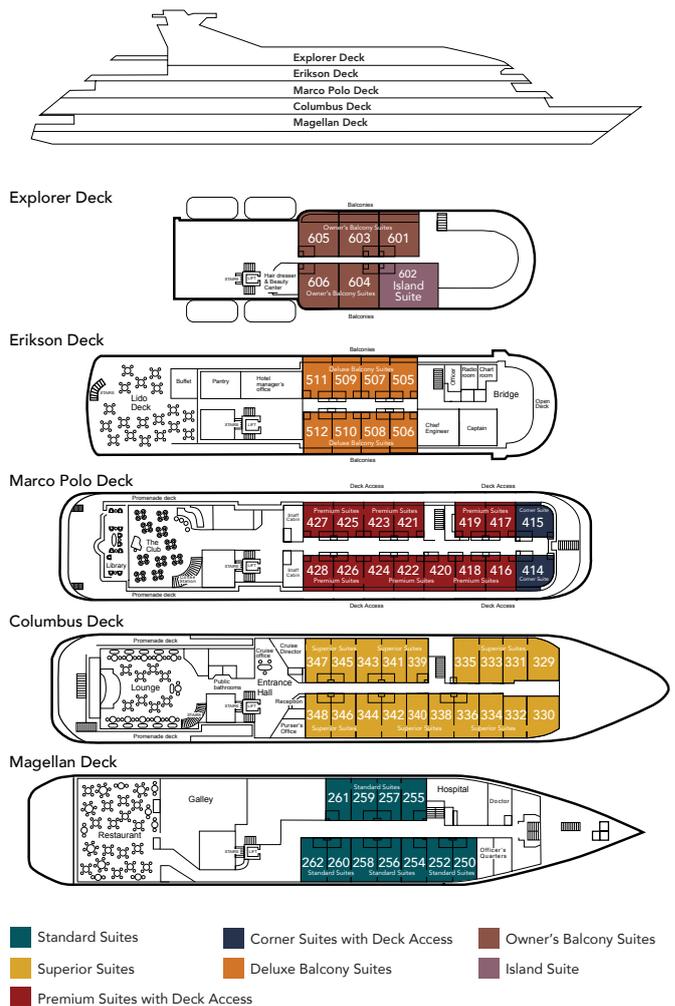
Your Comfort

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 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



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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: Knossos Palace, Crete.