

SPECIAL
OFFER -SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

PASSAGE TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

AN EXPEDITION FROM FIJI TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA
EXPLORING VANUATU, THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
& PAPUA NEW GUINEA
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY
28TH APRIL TO 17TH MAY 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Victoria Crowned Pigeon



Yasawa Islands



Traditional land diving, Pentecost Island

Join us aboard the MS Island Sky in the South Pacific for exactly the type of itinerary which suits her many talents best as we sail from Fiji and discover Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands on the way to Papua New Guinea. The islands we call at along the way are certainly not on the mass tourism circuit and their beauty and customs are relatively unscathed by the modern world. As we explore, our fleet of purpose built Zodiacs will provide us with the freedom of spontaneity to land on otherwise inaccessible beaches and encounter some truly remote and fascinating communities. Obviously, such beauty and serenity is best enjoyed with a small number of travelling companions and the MS Island Sky with a maximum of only 118 passengers is the ideal vessel, offering all the comforts of a larger vessel, but with the added luxury of a small number of passengers.

Our expedition begins in Fiji from where we head to the Vanuatu archipelago, home to volcanos, rainforests bursting with a magnificent array of flora and fauna, beautiful beaches and a mesmerising underwater world of tropical fish and coral. From here our island hopping adventure continues to the Solomon Islands which were thrust on to the centre stage of world history when the Allied forces took the offensive in the South Pacific and air, land and sea battles ensued for their control. We will visit the outer islands of Vanikoro and Santa Ana before arriving in Honiara where we explore the war sites and head west to Marovo Lagoon. From these remote island paradises we will have the opportunity to visit tribal villages little changed for centuries, see astonishing ceremonial dances, enjoy nature walks inland or swim in the warm waters from isolated palm-fringed beaches.

The final two days of our voyage will be spent exploring the islands of Papua New Guinea, a land of striking natural beauty and a hybrid of diverse and unique cultures, with more than 1000 tribal groups, each with different traditions. The region possesses exotic wildlife, turquoise seas, tropical rainforest and steep sided volcanoes. In this land of contrasts we will witness cultural ceremonies, enjoy fascinating underwater experiences and we hope to explore the beautiful D'Entrecasteaux Islands.



The Itinerary

Days 1 & 2 London to Fiji. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 3 Fiji. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 4 Fiji. Enjoy a relaxing morning at the hotel. After lunch we will transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in Lautoka and sail this evening.

Day 5 Yasawa Islands. This morning we will drop anchor amongst the twenty islands of the Yasawa group. In 1789 when Captain Bligh was set adrift from the HMS Bounty he passed by the Yasawa Islands from where two war canoes were sent to pursue them. They escaped, and the waters are still known as Bligh Water. Today we can expect a friendlier welcome as we find a spot on a secluded beach to relax or enjoy a first opportunity to snorkel and swim. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 6 At Sea. Join a lecture or find a spot on deck as we cruise towards Vanuatu.

Day 7 Tanna, Vanuatu. Our first call in Vanuatu is the island of Tanna, meaning earth in the local Kwamera language. Captain Cook was the first European to visit the island in 1774, landing at Port Resolution, having been attracted by the glowing light of Mount Yasur. This 361-metre active volcano is situated in the south east of the island and dominates the landscape. We will use our Zodiacs to land ashore and the more adventurous amongst us may wish to join a journey to the crater taking local trucks through the rainforest that covers the mountain before walking to the rim. Alternatively, we hope to have the chance to visit local villages

where traditional lifestyles are maintained, and the local culture has been largely unaffected by western influences. We will learn of the customs, traditional medicines, crafts and cooking styles.

Day 8 Port Havannah. Awake this morning as we anchor off Port Havannah, situated on the north coast of Efate Island and our base for today's activities. There are a number of outer islands that we may be able to explore depending on weather and sea conditions. Lelepa Island is 160 acres of unspoilt tropical rainforest and palm fringed beaches. On a nature walk we will see the herbs used in local medicines before exploring Feles cave, thought to be the resting place of the legendary Polynesian Chief, Roi Mata. Meanwhile on Moso Island we meet the volunteers at the Tasiriki Turtle Sanctuary who will teach us about the rehabilitation of the Hawksbill turtles and the attempts to increase their numbers. If time and weather permit, we will also set up a snorkelling platform or offer a chance to swim from the beach.

Day 9 Pentecost Island. Named after the day on which it was first sighted by Europeans, Pentecost is a mountainous, tropical island. There are no towns on Pentecost and many areas remain relatively untouched by western influences with strong local traditions. The island is also the home of nanggol (land diving) – the original bungee jump – which is known throughout the world. The nanggol ceremony takes place between April and June to celebrate the first yam crop emerging and we hope to coincide our call with one of these events. From tall towers constructed of saplings and branches held together with forest vines, the men leap forward and down to touch the earth below. A good



Traditional dance, Solomon Islands



Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands



Tanna Island



Exploring by Zodiac



Nanda Blue Hole, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu

jump helps ensure a bountiful yam harvest.

Day 10 Espiritu Santo Island.

Espiritu Santo is the largest of Vanuatu's islands with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches, amazing blue holes, caves and renowned snorkelling. It was also a huge military base during World War II. We plan to berth in Luganville and join an island tour including the Nekar Custom Village where we will learn about local traditions and customs, including their unique water music and cava making, before enjoying time to swim in the nearby Riri Blue Hole. Return to the ship for lunch and in the afternoon snorkel amongst the corals and fish of the region at Million Dollar Point, named after the value of the military equipment dumped into the sea.

Day 11 Mota Lava & Rah Island.

Our final call in Vanuatu will be the island of Mota Lava and Rah Island in the Banks Island group. These tiny island communities are still off the main tourist routes but the locals are happy to share their culture, stories and ways of life with the visitors that make the journey to their islands. From our anchorage point we will Zodiac ashore and see a traditional snake dance where the men paint themselves black and white as sea snakes before being welcomed into the village. We also hope to have the chance to snorkel on the reef and enjoy nature walks on the island.

Day 12 Vanikoro, Solomon Islands.

This morning we arrive in the Solomon Islands and the island of Vanikoro. Situated in the Temotu Province, Vanikoro was where French explorer Jean-Francois de la Perouse became stranded after both his vessels, La Boussole and the Astrolabe, hit the then unknown reefs of the island in 1788. Learn more about the island's history and the mystery of the lost La

Perouse expedition that captured the imagination of the European public. As we land with our Zodiacs, we will be welcomed ashore by the local villagers before choosing to explore the village further, join a nature walk where we can look out for the endemic birds, the Vanikoro monarch and Vanikoro white-eye, or enjoy a swim or snorkel from the beach. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 13 Santa Ana.

After a morning cruising, over lunch we anchor off Port Mary on Santa Ana Island. We will be welcomed with a stunning dance by the villagers with spears and mud face masks. After the performance we have the opportunity to explore the town further with its plethora of local handicrafts, join a nature walk through the forests, meet the students at the village school or swim from the local beach.

Day 14 Honiara.

Prior to World War Two Honiara did not exist; it developed around the site of the US military headquarters. The town and Mataniko River, which runs through it, were the front for many months during the battle of Guadalcanal. Today, this is a bustling town with lovely hibiscus and palm tree lined avenues. After breakfast we will join a city tour of Honiara including the central market, parliament building and National Museum where we get an insight into the history of the Solomon Islands. Enjoy lunch before continuing to the World War II sites including Henderson Field, the Japanese Peace Park and the US Memorial at Skyline Ridge. This evening we will cruise through Iron Bottom Sound, the site of intense naval battles during World War II and so named for the large numbers of Japanese and American ships and aircraft that sank beneath the sea.

Day 15 Marovo Lagoon. Marovo Lagoon is the largest double barrier

lagoon in the world. Thousands of islands scatter the lagoon, from tiny coral islets on the fringing reef to massive 1600 metre volcanic islands. Inside the lagoon, the islands are surrounded by spectacular coral formations and white sand beach, the lagoon waters shimmering in every shade of blue, turquoise and jade green. We have a full day here to explore and will visit one of the outlying villages which produce some of the finest wood carvings in the region. We will also find a suitable spot to snorkel and swim as well as Zodiac cruises to look for local wildlife.

Day 16 At Sea

Enjoy a day at sea as we cruise towards Papua New Guinea.

Days 17 & 18 Papua New Guinea.

We have a day and a half exploring the islands of this fascinating country. Our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain and the local weather conditions but during our time here we hope to visit 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. We may cruise through the spectacular Dobu passage and use our Zodiacs to explore and snorkel or alternatively we will land to meet the villagers and visit the local church. On the island of Bonarua, in Milne Bay, we may go ashore to view fishing and weaving demonstrations and to wander through the enchanting village, sampling local delicacies. Birders will have the chance to trek into the thicket. We enjoy a final afternoon at sea.

Day 19 Port Moresby.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 20 London.

Arrive this morning.

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 | £10895 | £10395 |
| Columbus | Superior | £11195 | £10695 |
| Marco Polo | Premium | £11495 | £10995 |
| Marco Polo | Corner | £11795 | £11295 |
| Erikson | Deluxe Balcony | £12795 | £12295 |
| Explorer | Owner's Balcony Suites | £12995 | £12495 |
| Explorer | Island Suite | £14995 | £14495 |
| Magellan | Standard for sole use | £12595 | £12095 |
| Columbus | Superior for sole use | £13195 | £12695 |

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis in Fiji • 15 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 & Post-Cruise Extensions



Fiji



Frangipani Flowers



Coral Reef

Pre-Cruise Fiji Extension – 26th April to 1st May 2020

If you would like to extend your time in Fiji, we are offering a relaxing three night stay at a resort on one of the islands located in the Mamanuca group which are offshore west of Fiji's main island, Vitu Levi. The Mamanuca islands are famous for their white sand beaches and your time will be at leisure to relax.

The Itinerary

Days 1 & 2 London to Fiji. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 3 Fiji. Arrive this morning and transfer to the resort by local boat and check-in for your three night stay. The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities before dinner in the hotel this evening.

Days 4 & 5 Island Resort. Enjoy a relaxing two days. You may wish to use one of the bicycles to explore the island, make use of the complimentary snorkelling equipment, relax on the beach, take a fishing trip or even

enjoy a game of golf. Enjoy dinner each evening at the hotel.

Day 6 Lomani Island Resort to Lautoka. Check out this morning and transfer by local boat to Lautoka to embark the MS Island Sky and join the main cruise itinerary on Day 4 in the afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

| | Double Occupancy | Sole Occupancy |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Beachfront Bure: | £1295 | £1945 |
| Beachfront Pool Bure: | £1395 | £2145 |

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation at an Island Resort on a half board basis (breakfast & dinner), orientation tour, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, gratuities.



Rondon Ridge



Bird of Paradise



Rondon Ridge

Post-Cruise Papua New Guinea Highlands Extension – 16th to 21st May 2020

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 Port Moresby to Rondon Ridge, Papua New Guinea. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Mount Hagen. We will be met and transferred to Rondon Ridge for a three night stay. Spend the rest of the day at leisure or join a nature walk before dinner at the lodge this evening.

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 this morning to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 6 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £2295 Single: £2695

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, transfers, excursions.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

N.B. 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

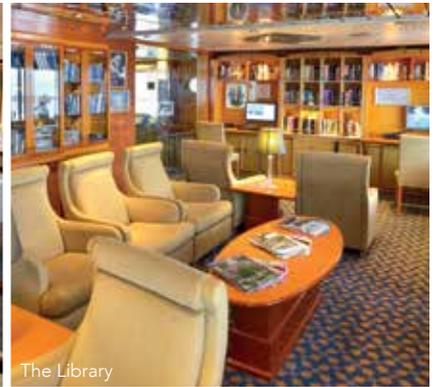
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants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

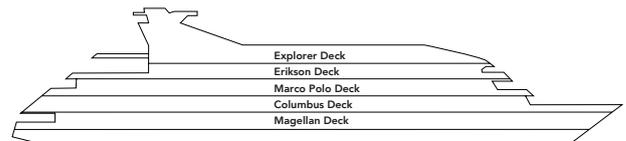
Your Comfort

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.

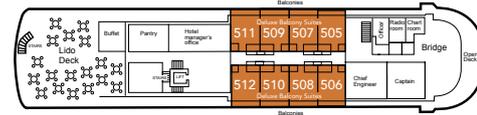
MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



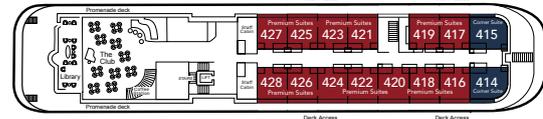
Explorer Deck



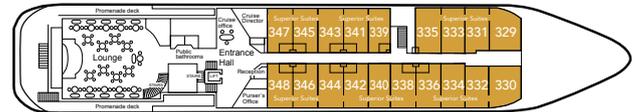
Erikson Deck



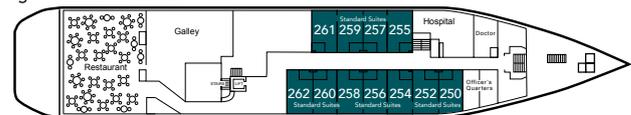
Marco Polo Deck



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.



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