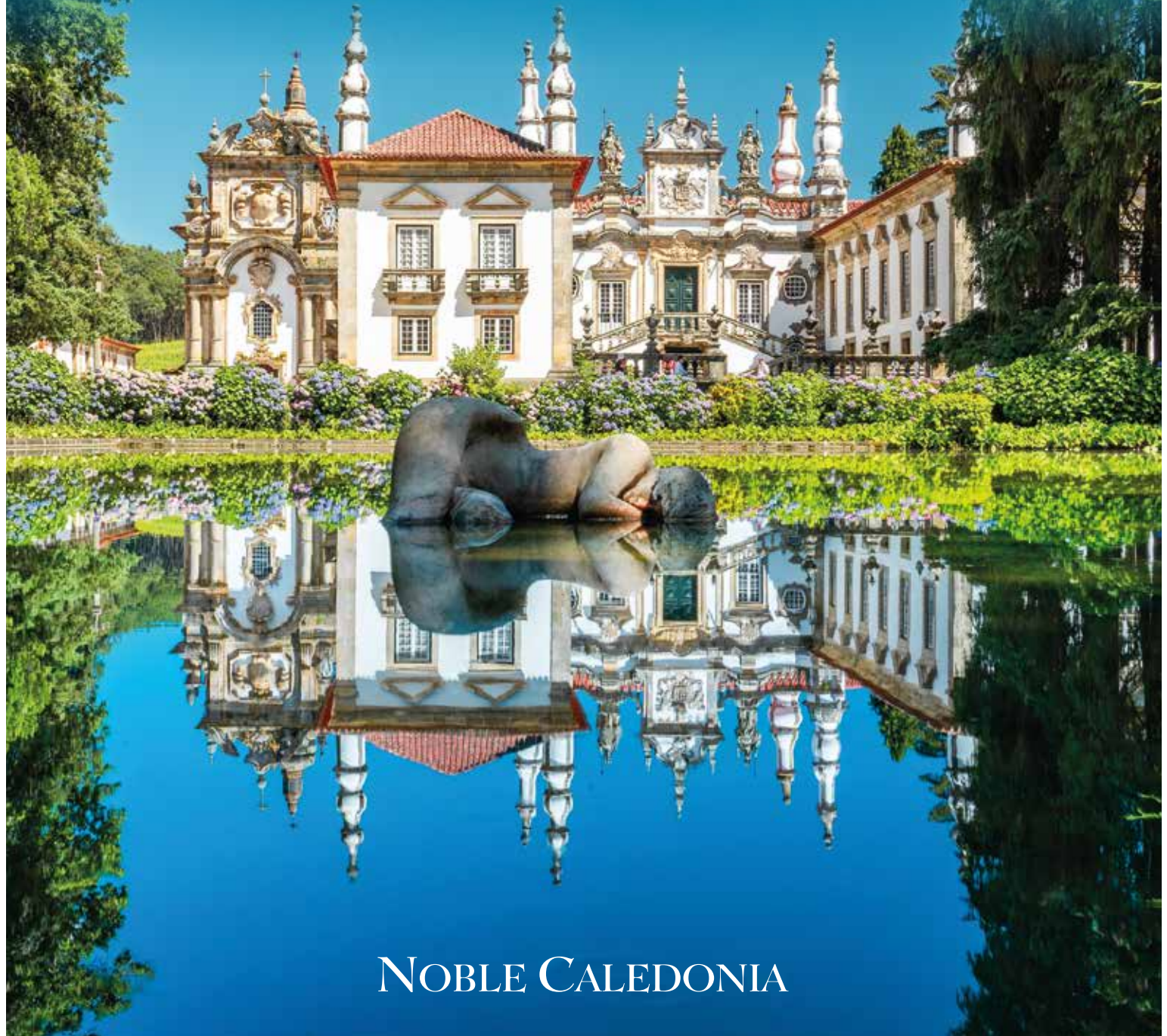


SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

PASSION FOR PORTUGAL

AN ESCORTED TOUR OF PORTUGAL COMBINED WITH A VOYAGE
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY FROM VIGO TO MALAGA
WITH GUEST SPEAKER MALYN NEWITT

2ND TO 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Portugal offers an abundance of attractions from Medieval castles, charming cities, atmospheric towns, idyllic scenery and traditional wine growing regions. The country has one of the oldest borders in Europe and a unique, rich cultural heritage with an extraordinary diversity relative to its size with the legacy of the Celts, Romans, Moors and Christians having each left their mark over the centuries. During this nine night exploration, for which we have combined a four night cruise aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky with hotel stays in Oporto and Malaga, we will discover the cultural diversity of the country from Oporto, the birthplace of port with its Baroque churches and merchant houses, the beautiful Douro Valley, Braga with its elegant old town, Coimbra the Medieval capital and university city, the sophistication of Lisbon with its wide boulevards and vintage trams to the Algarve's dramatic coastline. Our final day is spent in Spain's historic city of Malaga where we will stay overnight in a centrally located hotel allowing for time to explore the many wonders of this coastal city.



Our days will be varied as we explore UNESCO World Heritage Sites, walk through historic villages and towns and discover the uniqueness of the region as well as enjoying opportunities to sample the local food and wine. In addition to the included, daily guided tours, there will also be time at leisure for individual exploration enabling you to soak up the atmosphere at your own pace.

Guest Speaker – Malyn Newitt



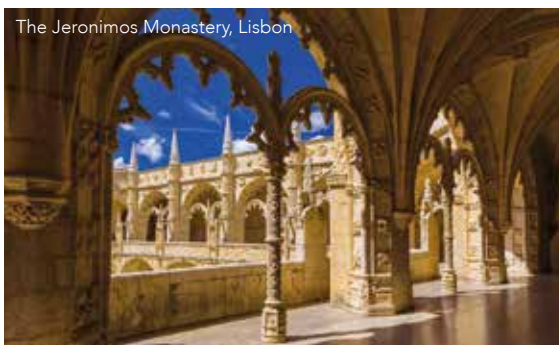
Malyn Newitt obtained a BA in Modern History at Oxford in 1961 and a PhD London 1967. He taught at the University of Rhodesia (1962-1965) and at the University of Exeter (1966-1998). At Exeter he served as Dean of Arts and Deputy Vice Chancellor (1995-98). In 1998 he was appointed the first Charles Boxer Professor of History at King's College London. He retired in 2005. He has specialised in Portuguese colonial history and, in particular, the history of Mozambique. He is the author of many books including *A History of Portuguese Overseas Expansion*. He has also published three books on the history of Portugal, including *Portugal in European and World History* and *Emigration and the Sea. An Alternative History of Portugal and the Portuguese* was published in 2015.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London or Manchester to Oporto, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for a four night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Oporto. After breakfast in the hotel we explore Oporto, Portugal's second largest city and a World Heritage Site. This attractive city was originally a Celtic-Iberian settlement and became a prosperous Roman village thanks to its natural harbour. During our tour we will drive through its narrow streets to find 16th century arcaded buildings, Baroque churches and chapels, as well as the city's iconic 19th century iron bridge, built by the school of Gustav Eiffel. Our final visit will be to the city's cathedral, located on the top of the Penaventosa Hill. Inside are beautiful examples of golden carved altarpieces and paintings from the Nasoni period, whilst outside we will enjoy the amazing view over the river. The tour will conclude with a visit to a port wine lodge where we will see the old casks full of port and enjoy a sample of this delicious world famous wine. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore at your own pace. (B)

Day 3 Douro Valley. Today a full day tour takes us into the Douro Valley. This morning we visit the unique 18th century Mateus Manor House and its gardens. This fine looking palace and gardens is still owned by the Count of Vila Real and is one of the best examples of Baroque architecture in Portugal. On our guided tour of the Palace we will see the rare books library, as well as vestments and religious icons, view the remarkable chestnut wood crafting on the ceilings as well as some beautiful paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries. Stroll around the romantic gardens which feature a unique 100 foot long cedar tunnel and formal garden and visit the villa's pretty chapel. Continue to the heart of the Douro Valley. The region is one of the oldest demarcated wine regions in the world with a microclimate perfect for grape cultivation. Here we find steep terraced vineyards that stretch up the riverbanks and which boast breathtaking views. Visiting one of the local Quinta we will learn about the production methods and sample some of the local wines over a traditional lunch. Return to our hotel in Oporto this afternoon and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. (B, L)



Day 4 Guimaraes. After breakfast we drive to Guimaraes, the birthplace of Afonso Henriques, the first independent King of Portugal. Guimaraes has beautifully preserved its illustrious past; its Medieval centre is a warren of lanes and picturesque plazas framed by 14th century edifices and on an adjacent hill stands the 1,000 year old castle and the palace built by the first duke of Braganca in the 15th century. Also see the charming Museum Alberto Sampaio in the historical centre. After lunch in the town we return to Oporto where the remainder of the day is free to explore at your own pace. (B, L)

Day 5 Braga, Tui & Vigo, Spain. We drive this morning to Braga, an elegant town laced with ancient narrow lanes, plazas and Baroque churches. Later cross to Spain and visit the beautiful walled Medieval city of Tui, located on a hill next to the Portuguese border on the River Mino. Visit Tui's imposing cathedral, built in the 12th century and later converted into a battlement-studded fortress whose tower forms a magnificent balcony over the river. We also take the chance of tasting some of the local Albarino wine. Our day ends in Vigo where we embark the MS Island Sky and sail this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra, Portugal. Located at the mouth of the Mondego River, Figueira da Foz is one of central Portugal's prime beach resorts. However, the reason for our call is to visit the nearby city of Coimbra, the Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years. On a walking tour we will view the stunning buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries before we head to the university which was recently granted UNESCO status. Founded in the 13th century we will see the Chapel of Sao Miguel and the Joanne Library which houses over 300,000 works dating back to the 16th century. After a local lunch, choose to return to Figueira da Foz or stay in Coimbra for some free time.

Day 7 Lisbon or Alentejo. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. It is a city famous for its majestic architecture, old wooden trams, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries of history. Following disastrous earthquakes in the 18th century, Lisbon was rebuilt by the Marquis de Pombal who created an elegant city with wide boulevards and a great riverfront and square. During our morning panoramic tour we will see the Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower, and visit the famous Jeronimos Monastery. Alternatively, a full day tour will visit the Alentejo region. Drive to Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where a walking tour will explore the sights and Medieval history of this enchanting city. Evora is one of the oldest towns in the Alentejo region and we can see the well preserved Roman Temple, St Francisco Church and the Chapel of Bones before some time to explore the pretty squares. Alentejo is a highly respected wine region traditionally growing red wines from the Tempranillo and Trincadeira grapes. We will have lunch in a vineyard and enjoy a tasting before returning to the ship via the picturesque port of Setubal.

Day 8 Portimao. This morning the MS Island Sky arrives on the Algarve Coast at the fishing port of Portimao on the banks of the Arade River. During a morning call we head west to explore the more rugged Algarve and

discover its place in history. We will visit the historic town of Lagos, its sturdy Medieval walls testifying to its importance as a 15th century ship building and trading post. We then head to wild headland of Cabo Sao Vicente, its 200-foot cliffs face the Atlantic waves and it lies at the extreme south western corner of Europe. At nearby Sagres, Henry the Navigator built his school of Navigation and it was from here that many sailors set out to discover the New World. Spend a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail to the coast of Andalusia.

Day 9 Malaga, Spain. Disembark in the historic city of Malaga where a morning tour will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to La Merced Square where we see the birthplace of Pablo Picasso before we visit the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. With its mix of Renaissance and Gothic styles it has been declared a national landmark. After lunch we will check into our hotel for an overnight stay and the rest of the day and evening is free to explore at your own pace. You may wish to head to the market, visit the botanical gardens or, for the art lovers, visit the Picasso Museum. We will meet this evening for dinner in the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 10 Malaga to London or Manchester. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London or Manchester. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£4295	£3895
Columbus	Superior	£4495	£4095
Marco Polo	Premium	£4695	£4295
Marco Polo	Corner	£4895	£4495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£5395	£4995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£5395	£4995
Explorer	Island Suite	£5995	£5595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£5195	£4795
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£5395	£4995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Four nights hotel accommodation in Oporto • Four nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • Overnight hotel accommodation in Malaga • Meals as indicated for hotel stays (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • House wine, beer and soft drinks with included lunches & dinners • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS ISLAND SKY

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky. 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. 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, television and 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.

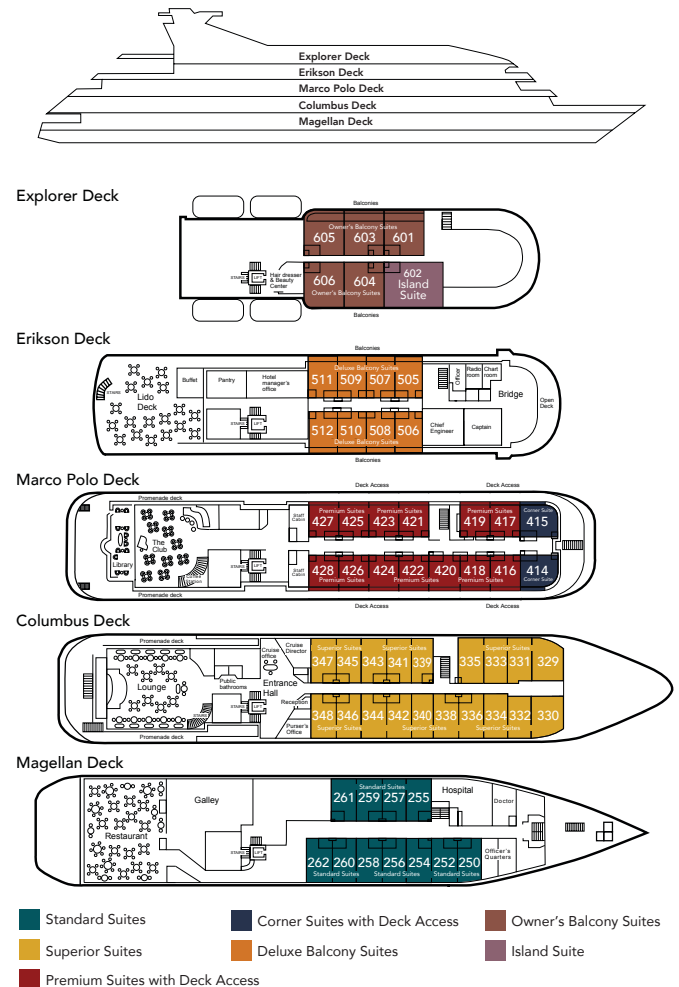
Your Dining

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.

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. Towards the aft of the ship on the Columbus Deck is the Library. A collection of games as well as devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can 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).

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: Mateus Manor House and gardens.