

BOOK
EARLY & SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

SCANDINAVIAN & BALTIC ODYSSEY

A VOYAGE FROM ABERDEEN TO
STOCKHOLM ABOARD THE
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
7TH TO 19TH JULY 2019

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Tallinn



The long sunny days of a Baltic summer are legendary and the perfect time to witness the spectacle of colour and joy that the sun brings to this northern world which, bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, is ideally suited to exploration by ship. Whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the fascinating Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters or the sheer delight of small Scandinavian ports with their unique architecture, the Baltic offers a real cornucopia of delights which are all accessible from the comfort of the MS Hebridean Sky.

With over twenty years of experience operating cruises in this region, we believe we have the most perfectly balanced cruise. Whilst not forsaking our old time favourites such as Tallinn and St Petersburg we also visit some smaller ports which the big cruise vessels are unable to access. These well-hidden treasures include the islands of Christianso and Bornholm in Denmark, Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland, a UNESCO World Heritage Site fortified by well-preserved 13th century walls and Kotka in Finland, a delightful town with a rich maritime heritage. Added to this, joining you on board will be an expert team who, together with the informative local guides, will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region.

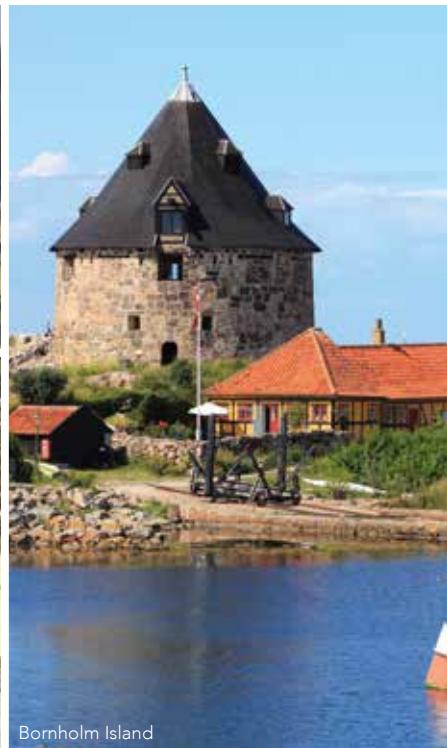




Copenhagen



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Tallinn



Bornholm Island

The Itinerary

Day 1 Aberdeen. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Railway Station and Aberdeen Airport at a fixed time. Sail this evening.

Day 2 At Sea. Relax on board as we sail across the North Sea to Norway. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge, read a book in the library or find a spot on deck.

Day 3 Kragero, Norway. Surrounded by nearly 500 islands and skerries, Kragero is a charming town in the region of Telemark and a popular summer retreat. This morning we will head inland to the Telemark Canal. When completed in 1892, after five years of construction, it was described as the 'eighth wonder of the world'. We will join one of the local boats as they transit the 18 locks, lifting the ship 72 metres above sea level and enjoy the changing scenery as we travel from the sea to the mountains. Returning to Kragero for lunch we have the afternoon free to explore the downtown area, walking through the narrow streets and alleyways amongst the old wooden houses.

Day 4 Aalborg, Denmark. Aalborg was founded by the Vikings in the late 10th century across the Limfjord and prospered from the fishing and sea trade on the fjord. On a morning excursion we will explore the ancient Viking site of Lindholm Hoje, one of the most important ancient monuments in Scandinavia which was dug out from a thick layer of sand. We will visit the burial site of 700

graves, scattered on a hilltop with a beautiful view of the fjord. Continue to the onsite museum that contains a fascinating exhibition on the Viking settlements found close to the burial ground. We will end with the chance to enjoy authentic Viking cuisine with some small dishes prepared using traditional recipes. After lunch on board we will have an afternoon to explore the old town of Aalborg. A guided tour will include the Renaissance styled Merchant houses, the Baroque town hall, the 16th century Budolfi Cathedral and Aalborghus Castle. Alternatively, for anyone interested in sampling the local beers there will be the chance to join a guided walk of the old town including a tasting of the local specialities.

Day 5 Elsinore & Copenhagen, Denmark. The Danish King, Eric of Pomerania built a fortress in the early 15th century to enforce the collection of dues for all ships wishing to enter the Baltic. In the following century Frederick II rebuilt the castle into a magnificent Renaissance castle, Kronborg was considered at the time to be the strongest fortress in Europe. The castle is known to many as 'Elsinore' the setting for Shakespeare's tragedy, Hamlet, Prince of Denmark.

The play has been performed in the castle many times and included such prominent actors as Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud. We will enjoy a morning exploring the castle and the old town before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon you can choose to explore further or join a tour to Copenhagen where we will see the Palace of Amalienborg with its four

identical Rococo buildings which have been the Royal Residence since 1784. Also see the Little Mermaid Fountain, Christianborg Castle, the Royal Theatre and the Nyhavn district.

Day 6 Bornholm & Christianso, Denmark. Over breakfast we arrive on Bornholm. Peaceful and scenic, Bornholm Island is a mixture of wheat fields, forest and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On an island drive we will see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudjem where we can sample the smoked herring. Also see Hammerhus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline. Over lunch we sail to the tiny island of Christianso. Here, we see the old fortress of King Christian V and learn about the island's past including its history as an island prison. Today, it is a very special and peaceful place where the eider ducks appear everywhere and on the bird sanctuary of Grasholmen thousands of herring gulls, razorbill and guillemot breed. Please note that we will be at anchor at Christianso and will use Zodiacs to go ashore should weather conditions permit.

Day 7 Visby, Sweden. Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town snuggles inside 13th century walls, housing 44 watchtowers. In Viking times and several centuries after, the Swedish island of Gotland and especially the city of Visby, became a centre of trade in the Baltic Sea and is a World Heritage Site. Walk

its streets from the Middle Ages and see its gardens ablaze with flowers, earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the Viking exhibits at the Gotland Museum and wander the paths of the botanical gardens. Return to the ship for lunch and maybe join a lecture this afternoon as we cruise the Baltic Sea.

Day 8 Tallinn, Estonia. This morning we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. Either return to the ship for lunch or remain in the city and enjoy some free time before we sail in the late afternoon.

Days 9 & 10 St Petersburg, Russia. We have two days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian city's. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be offering a number of tours during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, a canal cruise through the city, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, the Catherine Palace and a tour of the cities cathedrals of Kazan, St Isaacs and the Church of the Spilled Blood. On our first evening we will enjoy a private tour and concert at the Hermitage Museum.



Day 11 Kotka, Finland. Built on the site where the River Kymijoki meets the Baltic Sea, picturesque Kotka has a long seafaring tradition. This morning we will explore the history of the region and visit the Langinkoski Imperial Fishing Lodge which was built in 1889 for Alexander III, the future Emperor of Russia who used it as a summer home. It is now a living museum situated in a stunning nature reserve on the river. Continue to the Maritime Centre Vellamo where local guides will enlighten us about the maritime and cultural heritage of the region. Return to the ship for lunch and relax on board as we spend the afternoon at sea.

Day 12 Mariehamn, Aland Islands. This morning we cruise through some of the 6700 islands of the

Aland archipelago arriving over lunch into the attractive town of Mariehamn. Choose to join an afternoon drive where we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads, stopping at Badhausberget with panoramic views over the archipelago. Alternatively explore the town at leisure, maybe visit the sea quarter where boats are built and repaired using traditional techniques, walk along the esplanade an avenue of lime trees that link the harbours or enjoy time in the handicraft shops.

Day 13 Stockholm to London. Be on deck early this morning as we sail through the Swedish Archipelago into Stockholm. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5795	£5595
Byrd	Superior	£6195	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6695	£6495
Mawson	Corner	£7095	£6895
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7595	£7395
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8995	£8795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9495	£9295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9695	£9495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from Stockholm to London • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Group visa for Russia.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-Cruise Stockholm Extension

19th to 21st July 2019



If you wish to explore Stockholm in more depth after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night extension which includes an orientation tour as well as time at leisure to explore this fascinating city.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Stockholm. After disembarking we will enjoy a morning guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum. The museum was built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the city we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner Harbour. The remainder of the day and lunch are at leisure to explore independently.

Day 2 Stockholm. A full day at leisure to explore Stockholm at your own pace.

Day 3 Stockholm to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £595; Single: £895

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, half day tour, gratuities, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Catherine Palace



MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



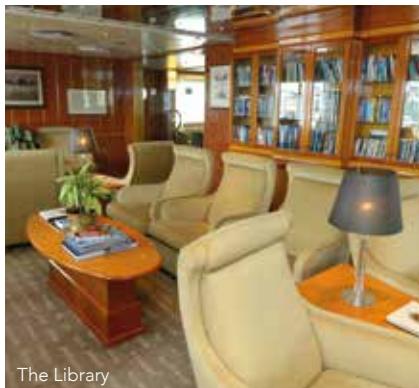
The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Caledonian 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 with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring 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 Hebridean 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.



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd 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 Mawson 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 Mawson 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 Amundsen Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Scott Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing 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.

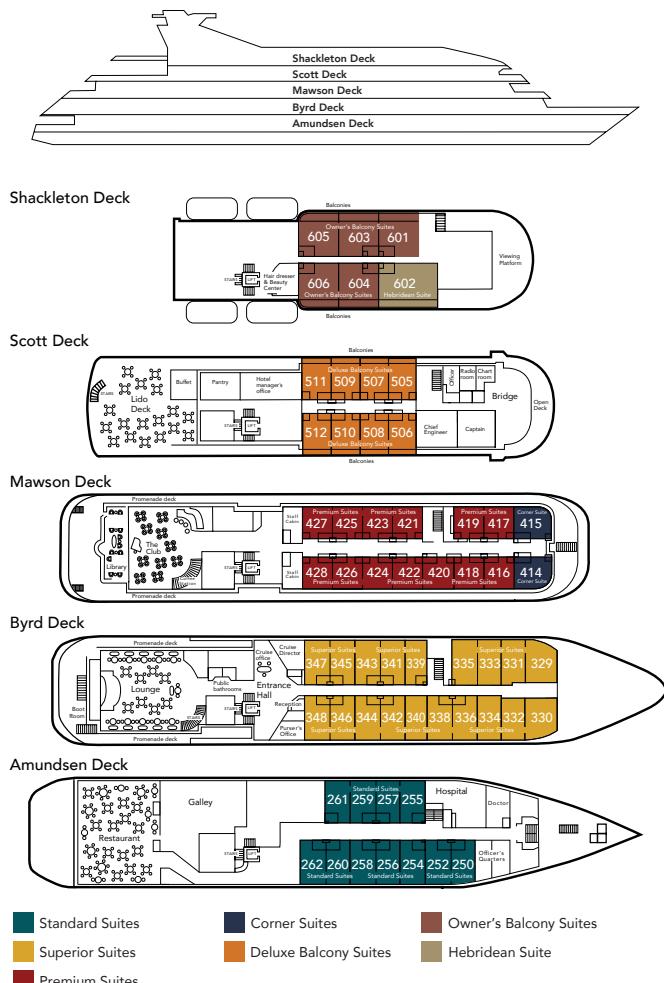
Your Comfort

The MS Hebridean 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. 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 or bar 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 HEBRIDEAN 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: Church of the Spilled Blood, St Petersburg.