



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

# SECRETS OF SUMATRA

AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF SUMATRA  
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

16<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2027

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Lake Toba



Join us aboard the MS Island Sky and discover the many wonders of Sumatra, the world's sixth-largest island. Separated from mainland Asia by the Strait of Malacca and from Java by the Strait of Sunda, Sumatra lies at the heart of geological and cultural crossroads. Spectacular volcanoes and mysterious calderas are many along the Barisan Mountains, the long spinal range of the island following Sumatra's west coast. Perpetual warmth and the presence of high peaks have made the natural environment of this large landmass one of the most diverse in the world: the many national parks of the island are an attempt to protect this increasingly endangered treasure.

With the Indian Ocean to the west and the southeast Asian archipelagos to the east, Sumatra's cultural history is rich and the island is home to many fascinating peoples. Our voyage will explore their cities, towns and villages, from the Aceh at the northwestern tip of the island, to the Bataks and Minangkabau of the central highlands, and the Nias community on Nias Island, off the west coast of northern Sumatra.

Sumatra was revealed to the Western world by Marco Polo and is often referred to as the Isle of Gold: sailing around its diverse shores, exploring its coastal communities and occasionally venturing inland, we will be able to understand why. The privilege of exploring this remarkable land from a small ship and in the company of knowledgeable expedition team members and local guides is an opportunity not to be missed.



## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- An in-depth exploration of the sixth largest island on Earth.
- Great natural world experiences including opportunities to see orangutans in Bukit Lawang and snorkelling amongst fish and corals in Pulau Weh, the Mentawai and Belitung Islands.
- Cruise by and hopefully land on the slopes of Krakatoa volcano.
- Visit remote tribal cultures in Siberut and Nias.
- Spend an afternoon in the historically significant port of Bengkulu where Raffles once governed.
- Explore remote islands including Simeulue which is well off the traditional tourist route.

## EXPLORING ASHORE

During our expedition, many days will feature Zodiac landings and several of the excursions will involve hikes or walks in forests or small remote village communities. We will be exploring some remote regions and will utilise a range of modes of transport ashore including minibuses, rickshaws and local boats. There will be opportunities to swim and snorkel and throughout our journey our expedition team will endeavour to arrange a selection of walks to include longer and shorter options to cater for different abilities and interests. However, many days will involve walking for extended periods in hot and humid conditions. To best enjoy this itinerary, we do recommend a good level of mobility and if you would like to discuss the level of fitness required, please contact us.



Mount Krakatoa



Baiturrahman Mosque, Banda Aceh



Thomas's Leaf Monkey



St. George's Church, George Town, Penang



Belitung Islands

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Penang, Malaysia.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Penang.** Arrive and transfer to the MS Island Sky. The remainder of the day is at leisure to acclimatise and relax after your flight. You may wish to enjoy a stroll ashore as we will be moored overnight.

**Day 3 Penang.** Today there will be a choice of excursions. You may choose to join a walking tour of historical Georgetown, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where we can see the well-preserved cultural and historical heritage of Penang's capital city. Founded in 1786 by the British East India Company, Penang grew as an important trading port and became a melting pot of Malaysian, Chinese, Indian and European influences which we can see as we pass by the town hall, St George's Church, Sri Mahamariamman Temple and the Kapitan Keling Mosque. Alternatively, discover the island's natural beauty as we join the Penang Hill Railway which was constructed in 1923 and takes us to the top of Flagstaff Hill, 830 metres above sea level. Here we will take a one-mile nature trail through 'The Habitat', walking across a dipterocarp forest amidst oak laurels and tree ferns. The area's rich biodiversity encompasses more than 100 species of birds, endangered endemic plants including the Penang slipper orchid, and a multitude of fauna such as flying lemurs, dusky leaf monkeys and the giant black squirrel. As we make our way along the Treetop Walk, we can take in panoramic views of the city and the Andaman Sea below. After lunch on board the remainder of the day is free to explore further at your own pace before we sail this evening.

**Day 4 Lake Toba, Indonesia.** We arrive on Sumatra at Kuala Tanjung, our base to visit the iconic Lake Toba. At over 1145 square kilometres it is the largest lake in southeast Asia found in the volcanic peaks of the island. After an early breakfast we will start our journey inland passing through the palm oil, rubber and cocoa plantations enroute to Parapat, the gateway town located in the beautiful and fertile volcanic basin at the northern end of the Bukit Barisan mountain range. The scenery is stunning and after lunch in a local restaurant we will board our boat to cruise across the lake to the central island of Samosir, passing lovely coves with white sandy beaches to where colourful Toba Batak villages cling to the shore. We will visit the beautiful traditional houses and ancient tombs of Laga Siallagan, the first king of Ambarita. In front of the traditional houses we find the Banyan tree with the stone chair of King Siallagan, the location where all important judicial and village matters were traditionally administered.

**Day 5 Belawan.** There will be a choice of excursions today, choose a long but rewarding day as we leave the vessel at sunrise and drive inland to the eastern side of the Gunung Leuser National Park and visit the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre at Bukit Lawang. This is now one of the world's most important conservation projects as orphaned orangutans are brought here to learn how to live in the wild again. We can watch them at play and feeding and learn how the six month rehabilitation programme works. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to the ship in the late afternoon. Alternatively explore the highlights of Medan, the nearby capital of North Sumatra. Here we

visit the 19th century Maimoon Palace, a 30 room palace featuring Malay, Mogul and Italian influences before continuing to the Mesjid Raya (Grand Mosque). We will explore the collections at the Museum of Northern Sumatra including stone carvings from Nias Island and items from the Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic periods as well as colonial and military history. Our guided tour will end at the Chinese pagoda before returning to the MS Island Sky.

**Day 6 At Sea.** We have a day to relax as we cruise the coast to the northern tip of Sumatra. Maybe take in a lecture by the onboard experts or find a spot on deck.

**Day 7 Pulau Weh & Banda Aceh.** This morning we anchor off Pulau Weh where our Zodiacs will take us to Gapang Beach. Here we have a chance to swim in the clear waters considered some of the best in Indonesia. Alternatively relax on the beach or take a walk through the small town. We will sail over lunch to Banda Aceh. Many will recall the destruction caused to this port on the northern tip of Sumatra by the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. Enormous effort has been made to rebuild since the fateful day and we will visit the Tsunami Museum, memorial and educational centre that document the impact. We will also visit the Aceh Cultural Museum and the Baiturrahman Mosque, one of the dominant landmarks in downtown Banda Aceh with seven domes and four towers with one main tower. It has a 4760 square metre Italian marble floor and can accommodate up to 9000 people.

**Day 8 Simeulue Islands.** After a morning at sea we arrive in the archipelago of the Simeulue Islands at lunchtime. Located 100 miles from the Sumatran coast and with white sand beaches, vast coral reefs and a pristine blue sea dotted with a multitude of seamounts, atolls and small islets, Simeulue Island is well off the traditional tourist route. We will use our Zodiacs to land on one of the local beaches for swimming, snorkelling and nature walks.

**Day 9 Pulau Nias.** We continue south and land on the island of Nias some 70 miles from the west coast of Sumatra. Its isolation has protected its cultural heritage and we will see some wonderful examples of tribal art and unique architecture. After an island drive we will witness a stone jumping demonstration in a traditional village. Here, talented local villagers leap over six foot tall stone megaliths in a rite of passage; the higher they jump, the better chance they have of acquiring a wife. However, the tradition originated to train them for warfare and defence. This colourful culture developed separately from Sumatra and the island has a history of headhunting, warfare, slaves and gold. After lunch on board there will be the opportunity for a quick swim or snorkel before continuing our journey south in the late afternoon, crossing the equator this evening.

**Day 10 Siberut & Pulau Karangmajat.** This morning we will anchor off the Mentawai archipelago. Like Nias, these islands have a unique culture, flora and fauna due to their isolation from the rest of the country. On arrival we will travel through the tropical forest to a small village where we will be invited to the meeting house to enjoy a cultural performance. The island is rich in wildlife and we will keep an eye out for some of the 140 bird species and monkeys which



Ngari Sianok Canyon, Bukittinggi

## Post-cruise Singapore Extension

31<sup>st</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2027



If you would like to spend some time in Singapore after the cruise, we are offering a two night hotel extension which includes a city tour and visit to the Gardens by the Bay.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Singapore.** Disembark after breakfast and enjoy a morning city tour which will take us to Little India including the magnificent Sultan Mosque. We will continue to the bright colours and vibrant hues in Singapore's exciting Chinatown. Here narrow streets centered on the pagoda lead you to a treasure trove of apothecary shops, quaint teahouses and a cornucopia of stalls selling trinkets as well as the oldest Hindu temple in Singapore, Sri Mariamman. Here we join a bumboat for a cruise along the Singapore River sailing past a mix of colonial buildings and modern skyscrapers ending at Merlion Park. After lunch we will check into our hotel and the remainder of the day will be at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 2 Singapore.** This morning we visit the Gardens By the Bay. Covering 100 hectares we can visit the Flower Dome and the Cloud Forest, two climate controlled glasshouses. Within the gardens, there are also 18 impressive-looking Supertrees (tree-like structures), which are vertical gardens that perform a multitude of functions. Along with providing a bird's eye view of the entire gardens, they also collect rainwater, generate solar power and act as vending ducts for the park's conservatory. Return to the hotel and the remainder of the day will be at leisure to explore further independently. (B)

**Day 3 Singapore to London.** Check out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1095** Single: **£1695**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Singapore, meals as stated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), excursions as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB:** Minimum numbers apply.

### 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	<b>£11495</b>	<b>£10995</b>
Columbus	Superior	<b>£11995</b>	<b>£11495</b>
Marco Polo	Premium	<b>£12495</b>	<b>£11995</b>
Marco Polo	Corner	<b>£12995</b>	<b>£12495</b>
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£14395</b>	<b>£13895</b>
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	<b>£14995</b>	<b>£14495</b>
Explorer	Island Suite	<b>£15995</b>	<b>£15495</b>
Magellan	Standard for sole use	<b>£13795</b>	<b>£13295</b>
Columbus	Superior for sole use	<b>£14395</b>	<b>£13895</b>

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Shore excursions • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Indonesian visa.

frequent the forest. Over lunch we sail to the islands off the coast and will find a suitable landing site to enjoy a beach walk or snorkel over the island's fringing coral reefs.

**Day 11 Padang for Bukittinggi.** We return to the Sumatran mainland today at the port of Padang, our base for a choice of excursions. This part of Western Sumatra is home to the Minangkabau people who despite their Islamic faith have the largest matrilineal society where the woman is the head of the house and controls family affairs. We will head inland passing the magnificent Anai valley and visit the breathtaking Ngari Sianok Canyon where we will see the tunnels built by the Japanese during the second world war before ending in Bukittinggi. Here we will witness the cultural performances by the Minangkabau people and try some local delicacies. The region is also home to the world's largest flower, the Rafflesia Arnoldii which can grow to nearly one metre across and weigh up to 11 kilogrammes. These typically bloom between August and November and, if we are lucky and the season starts early, we will arrange an alternative full day excursion visiting the Batang Paluph Nature Reserve where we will enjoy a series of walks in search of the flower.

**Day 12 Bengkulu.** After a morning at sea we reach the southern half of the island and the city of Bengkulu. The British East India Company established a garrison here in 1685 but with little success until Sir Stamford Raffles arrived in 1818 and established a market in pepper, coffee and nutmeg. The British remained until 1824 when the city was traded with the Dutch for Melacca. On a city drive we will view Fort Marlborough, the British cemetery and explore the bustling local market.

**Day 13 Pulau Krakatoa.** This afternoon we sail into the Sunda Strait and towards the island of Krakatoa. The volcano here famously exploded in 1883, killing 36,417 people. The explosion is considered to be the loudest sound ever heard in modern history, with reports of it being heard nearly 3,000 miles from its point of origin. If conditions permit, we will use our Zodiacs to land on the island where you can choose to join a nature walk at the base, climb up the lower slopes of the volcano or swim in the surrounding waters.

**Day 14 Belitung Islands.** Arrive at lunchtime in the idyllic Belitung Islands, a group of islands off the coast of Sumatra famed for their long clean beaches and crystal clear seawater. We have the afternoon to enjoy the fine white sandy beaches and the wonderful coral reefs. Snorkelling platforms will allow us to swim with a multitude of colourful fish, molluscs, jellyfish and sea urchins. Meanwhile on nature walks we will explore the forest for birdlife, or you may prefer to simply relax on the beach.

**Day 15 At Sea.** Enjoy a relaxing final day on board as we cruise towards Singapore. Maybe join a lecture, relax with a book or find a spot on deck.

**Day 16 Singapore to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight. Arrive this evening.

# MS ISLAND SKY



The Library



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships 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, television 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 Noble Isle 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 the Club. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.





Superior Suite



The Lounge



The Club

## 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.

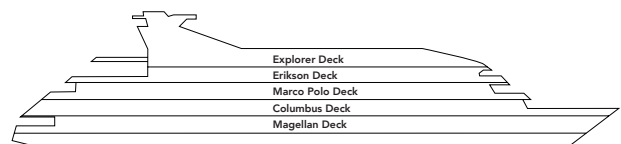
## Your Comfort

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.

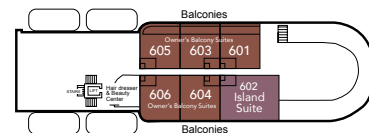
## Your Life On Board

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.

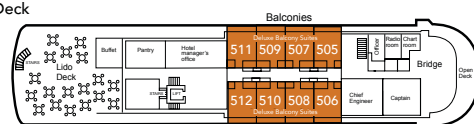
## MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



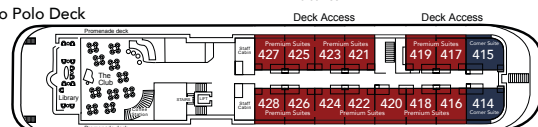
### Explorer Deck



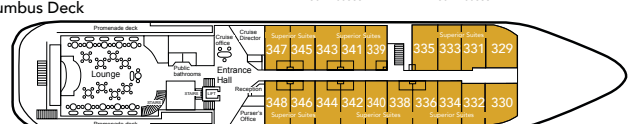
### Erikson Deck



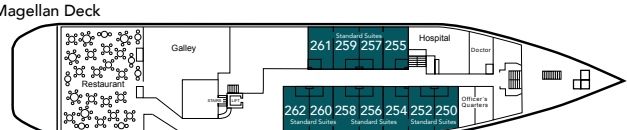
### Marco Polo Deck



### Columbus Deck



### Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Superior Suites
- Premium Suites with Deck Access
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Island Suite



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: Orangutan, Gunung Leuser National Park.