

SPECIAL  
OFFER – SAVE  
**£400**  
PER PERSON

# SEPTEMBER

## ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

SPAIN, THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, PORTUGAL  
& THE FRENCH RIVIERA

2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA

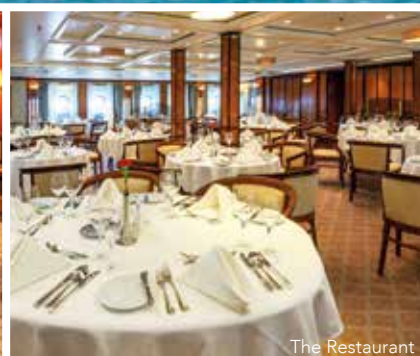
# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



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 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.

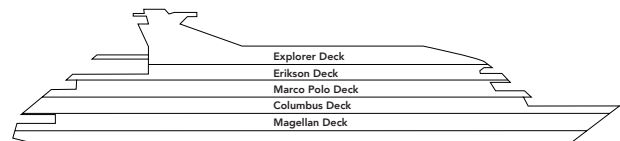


Alfresco Dining on the Lido Deck

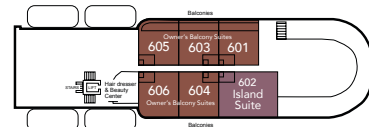
## Your Life On Board

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.

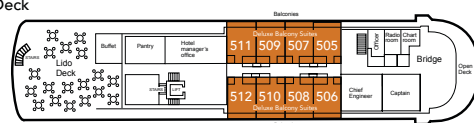
## MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



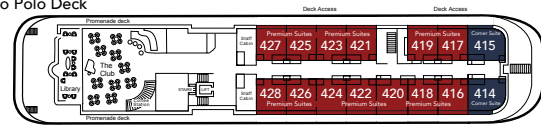
### Explorer Deck



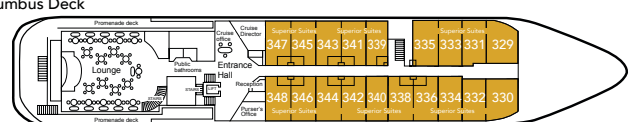
### Erikson Deck



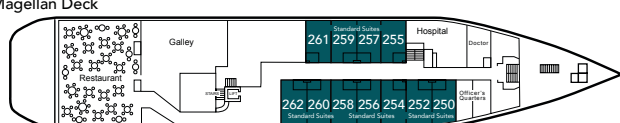
### Marco Polo Deck



### Columbus Deck



### Magellan Deck



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

# ALONG THE CAMINO

A voyage from Portsmouth to Vigo aboard the MS Island Sky combined with a three night stay in Santiago de Compostela with Guest Speaker the Right Reverend Tim Stevens

2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Here is a unique opportunity to combine a leisurely passage from the UK to Spain aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky with time spent walking along various sections of the Camino de Santiago, the renowned pilgrimage route and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Follow in the footsteps of seafaring pilgrims from centuries past who would sail from the UK to Galicia to begin their pilgrimage to the tomb of St James. Our journey promises to be an enriching experience accompanied by fellow like-minded travellers and our Guest Speaker, the Right Reverend Tim Stevens who will provide a series of fascinating talks. After four nights on board the MS Island Sky sailing from Portsmouth to Vigo by way of La Coruna, we will disembark for a three night stay in the beautiful Galician city of Santiago de Compostela.

Established after the discovery of the relics of St James, the Camino de Santiago or the 'Way of James' is an extensive network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and culminating at the magnificent cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. We have designed our itinerary to allow for the opportunity to walk along three sections of the Way of St James; the English Way, the French Way and the Portuguese Way and the walks will be planned so that participants can walk as much or little as they choose of the three sections each of the days and, for those electing not to partake in the walks, there will be the option to instead join a guided excursion to the region's picturesque towns.



Walking the Camino de Santiago

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Portsmouth, England.** Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

**Days 2 & 3 At Sea.** Spend the next two days at sea sailing to the northern coast of Spain following in the footsteps of centuries of seafaring pilgrims from Britain and Northern Europe. During your time on board relax and perhaps take in a lecture or two by our speaker the Right Reverend Tim Stevens.

**Day 4 La Coruna & the English Way, Spain.** This morning we arrive into La Coruna. From here we will walk part of the English Way which has two starting points, La Coruna and Ferrol, La Coruna being the preferred route for British Pilgrims. Pilgrims started walking the English Way or the 'Seafaring Way' in the 12th century and it was popular with Medieval pilgrims from Scandinavia, Flanders, England, Scotland and Wales. It played host to Crusaders on their way to the Holy Land, Icelandic monks, and during the Hundred Years War pilgrims from Britain sailed as we did to the coast rather than passing through France. Vessels chartered for the purpose of pilgrimage had to receive permission from the Crown before they could set sail. The pilgrimages are well documented by ceramic pieces and coins found during excavations of the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral. The walking today will be split into sections so that you can choose to walk as much or as little as you wish. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. For those who prefer a more leisurely day there will be a morning tour of La Coruna followed by an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 5 Vigo, the French Way & Santiago de Compostela.** We will disembark this morning after breakfast and head to Melide to walk a section of the French Way, perhaps the most famous of the nine major Camino routes. Its 800 kilometres of trails have inspired many artists, writers and filmmakers. Melide is the only town where two Camino routes meet, the French Way and the Camino Primitivo (Original Way). From the 10th century, Melide grew in popularity and as the number of pilgrims passing through increased so did the traders and innkeepers allowing the town to grow in prosperity. The town has a number of impressive chapels and beautiful Medieval architecture. The route today will take us through forests and over streams passing quaint villages and farms. At the end of the walk we transfer to our hotel in Santiago de Compostela for a three night stay. For those not wishing to walk

## Guest Speaker – the Right Reverend Tim Stevens



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 where, from 1999 to 2015, he was heavily engaged in interfaith relations and a visiting professor in Church and Society at De Montfort University. Tim 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, where he spoke regularly on public policy issues especially on Welfare Reform and inter-faith relations. In 2015 he was responsible for planning and leading the events surrounding the re-interment of Richard III in Leicester Cathedral. Tim is now on the global governance board of St John International and a trustee of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge which researches and supports understanding between Jews, Christians and Muslims.





Santiago de Compostela, Galicia

Peregrina Chapel

Melide

today, there will be the option of a tour to the elegant and historic town of Pontevedre where we will see the Peregrina Chapel, the city's most emblematic building. This Baroque church has an unusual, rounded facade and was built in the late 18th century in honour of the Virgin guiding pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. There will also be a visit to Pazo de Rubianes, an elegant country estate dating back to the late 17th century and surrounded by extensive vineyards en route to Santiago de Compostela. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 6 The Portuguese Way & Santiago de Compostela.** This morning set out to walk some of the Portuguese Way. The Camino Portuguese which starts in Lisbon has been in use since the 10th century, but it was in the 12th century after the independence of Portugal that it became more prominent. The pilgrimage of Queen Isabel of Portugal in the 14th century solidified the routes for pilgrims. Our walk today will be part of the last section of the Portuguese Way passing through charming villages and farms. We will stop for lunch at Pazo de Faramello and meet up with fellow passengers who may have chosen to not walk this morning. The Pazo de Faramello is an early 18th century building with strong Italian influences that convey the Genoese origin of its founder, the Marquis of Piombino. This pazo was the location of the first paper factory in Galicia and the old mills and corresponding tools can still be seen. Admire the perfectly kept French 19th century gardens spread across more than two hectares leaning out in terraces over a tiny canyon whilst we enjoy lunch. Afterwards there will be the opportunity to walk into Santiago de Compostela on the Finisterre Way. This is a unique route as it takes pilgrims from Santiago de Compostela to Cape Fisterra, once believed to be the 'Edge of the World'. The Camino Finisterre predates Christianity, as pagans would head to the mythical Cape as they believed this was where the sun died. Walk the last section of the Way into the city of Santiago de Compostela finishing at the beautiful cathedral. For those not walking you will return to Santiago de Compostela after lunch with the afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 7 Santiago de Compostela.** After breakfast today enjoy a guided tour of the city of Santiago de Compostela including a visit inside its rather impressive cathedral. Visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias, the Quintana Plaza, House of Parra, the facade of Azabacheria and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore further before our farewell dinner this evening. (B, D)

**Day 8 Santiago de Compostela to London.** This morning we will visit the Pazo de Oca, usually referred to as 'Galician Versailles', it is the final milestone of St James Way. Originally a fortress dating from the 12th century, it was during the 18th century when Fernando Gayoso,

Marquis of Camarasa, transformed it into its current appearance of golden granite stone wall that evokes a forgotten paradise full of romanticism. Above all, the gardens at Oca are what astonish the most. Recently restored to its 18th century glory, the beauty here is the fusion of a formal garden with a working farm. After lunch we will transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight back to London. (B, L)

## WALKING & EXPLORING

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking along sections of the Camino de Santiago. We will endeavour to accommodate varying levels of fitness by separating the group into different abilities and excursions will include walking for between two to six hours a day at a steady pace. Walking will be over a mix of terrain and gradients so walking boots or shoes will be required. The walking routes and order are subject to weather and conditions. For those not wishing to walk, or those simply wishing to opt for a more leisurely day, alternative excursions are included exploring the culture and history of the area.

## 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	£3995	£3595
Columbus	Superior	£4195	£3795
Marco Polo	Premium	£4395	£3995
Marco Polo	Corner	£4595	£4195
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£4795	£4395
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£4795	£4395
Explorer	Island Suite	£4995	£4595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£4295	£3895
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£4395	£3995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel from Santiago de Compostela to London • Four nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • Three nights hotel accommodation in Santiago de Compostela • 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.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# 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

2<sup>nd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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)





Mateus Manor House and gardens



The Jeronimos Monastery, Lisbon



Oporto



Braga

**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 Andalucia.

**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

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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.

# ART & HISTORY FROM ANDALUCIA TO THE FRENCH RIVIERA

A voyage from Malaga to Nice aboard the MS Island Sky with Guest Speakers

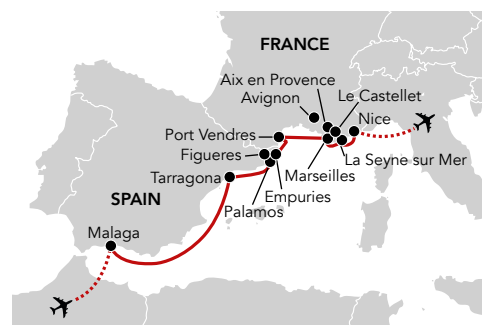
Brian Healy & Olga Stone

9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Join us aboard the MS Island Sky for a seven-night cruise from Malaga to Nice which we have timed for September when just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites. Our voyage promises to be an informative and relaxing journey allowing you to immerse yourself in the artistic, historical and cultural gems of the region.

Following an overnight stay in Malaga with time to discover the history and art of the city, we will embark the MS Island Sky and sail to the historic city of Tarragona in Catalonia, a veritable museum-town with remains of all the civilisations that have crossed the Iberian Peninsula and where we will discover the remnants of the Roman period. We continue to the Medieval town of Figueres, the birthplace of Salvador Dali and in the Dali Theatre Museum can view many of his surrealist works; to balance the day the afternoon will be spent in the Graeco-Roman site of Empuries.

The second half of our journey focuses on the south of France starting with the 'Cote Vermeille' or rocky coast, one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean which has inspired some of the world's most famous artists and from where there will be the opportunity to visit the wonderful Musee d'Art Moderne. Sailing along the coast to Marseille we begin our exploration of the Cote d'Azur, a region which in the late 19th century witnessed an extraordinary flowering of art that transformed the area into the greatest concentration of modern art in Europe. You can choose to discover Aix en Provence, renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne, to view many of the painter's most celebrated works or spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes. Our voyage ends in Nice from where a feast for the eyes will be had at the Villa Rothschild with its stunning location and beautiful gardens, a fitting conclusion to our journey.



## Guest Speaker – Brian Healy



Brian has enjoyed a lifetime of artistic exploration and learning, pursuing parallel careers as a modern linguist, professional artist and director of his own design company. After a highly successful career teaching at prestigious public schools in both the UK and Austria, for the last fifteen years he has become widely known for his inspirational lectures and art workshops to which he brings a unique practical insight. A fully accredited Arts Society lecturer, he has undertaken an extensive programme of speaking engagements. Examples of his atmospheric watercolours can be seen in private collections all over the world.

## Guest Speaker – Olga Stone



Olga combines her skills as a concert pianist, historian, art historian and classicist to make her talks entertaining, lively, informative, and unusual. Olga is an accredited lecturer for the Arts Society and has a PhD in Classics and a BA in Arts History. She was Head of Classics at King William's College on the Isle of Man and teaches various history classes, Latin and Russian at the University College Isle of Man. Olga also worked as a sessional Arts History lecturer for the University of Liverpool for 12 years, and for eight years was a history tutor for the University of Chester, lecturing on various art styles from Renaissance to 20th century, Medieval History and the Crusades. Olga was born in the Crimea and attended Conservatoire in Odessa, graduating with top marks in piano performance. She also has FTCL in Piano Performance, ATCL in Organ Performance and AMusTCL in music theory.







Castillo de Gibralfaro



Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild



Ceret



Port Vendres

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London or Manchester to Malaga, Spain.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (D)

**Day 2 Malaga.** After breakfast in the hotel 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 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. Alternatively, our Picasso tour will start in La Merced Plaza to view the house where he was born before we continue to the Museo Picasso which contains over 200 pieces of his works. After lunch we transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in the city and sail this evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 At Sea.** Spend a relaxing day at sea, maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck.

**Day 4 Tarragona.** During the second Punic War in 218 AD the city of Tarraco was established as a garrison which developed into the main military base for the Roman army in Spain. Today we can still see remnants of the Roman period as we explore the city by foot. See the impressive walls that once surrounded the city, the 2nd century amphitheatre and the Roman Circus where chariot races were held. After lunch on board there will be time to explore more of Tarragona at your leisure. Maybe see the 12th century cathedral, visit one of the food stalls in the market or take in the street art whilst strolling in the old town.

**Day 5 Palamos, Figueres & Empuries.** Arriving on the Costa Brava at the port of Palamos we travel inland to Medieval Figueres, an

impressive town of Modernist and Neoclassical architecture that is most renowned as the birthplace of Salvador Dali. Our tour includes the impressive 18th century castle of St Ferran and the old city walls before continuing to the Dali Theatre Museum. Designed by Dali himself, the museum takes us through the life of the artist. After lunch in the city you can choose to return to the ship and spend the afternoon at leisure or drive along the coast to the archaeological site of Empuries. Founded by Greek merchants in the 6th century BC as Emporion, it was a commercial hub and became a major port. In 218 BC the town was taken by the Romans who built an even greater city above the Greek town.

**Day 6 Port Vendres, France.** The 'Cote Vermeille', or rocky coast, is one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean and has inspired some of the world's most famous artists. We will drive the short distance to Collioure which has always been a source of inspiration for artists. Here we will have time to explore the colourful streets and visit the local artist studios and the 12th century Royal Castle. This afternoon choose to explore the historic town of Port Vendres independently or join a tour to the charming town of Ceret located in the foothills of the Vallespir Mountains. After a walking tour of the town we visit the wonderful Musée d'Art Moderne containing works from Picasso, Chagall and Dali as well as pieces drawn in Collioure by Matisse.

**Day 7 Aix en Provence & Avignon.** From our berth in Marseilles, we will offer a choice of excursions today. You can choose to head inland to Aix en Provence which was founded by the Romans in the 1st century and is renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will visit the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' which is located on the heights of Aix en Provence, a few



Saint Benezet bridge, Avignon



hundred metres from the Atelier Cezanne. It is famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant we will spend some time in Aix with its leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Alternatively spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe, built in the 14th century as a fortified palace for the pontifical court. We also visit the cathedral and the famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon, and the Pont du Gard, one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19 BC in order to provide the city of Nimes with fresh water from the Uzes area.

**Day 8 La Seyne sur Mer & Le Castellet.** Arrive this morning in the port of La Seyne sur Mer and enjoy a leisurely morning to explore the town. This afternoon we drive inland to the hilltop Medieval village of Le Castellet. This remarkable stronghold, formerly owned by the Lords of Les Baux, has well preserved ramparts, a carefully restored 12th century church and a castle dating back to the 11th century. We will have time to explore the village and its winding streets before enjoying a wine tasting at one of Le Castellet's centuries-old vineyards.

**Day 9 Nice.** Disembark this morning and join your choice of excursion. You may wish to enjoy a drive along the coast to the charming village of Eze perched on a rocky peak overlooking the Mediterranean. Fortified in the 14th century we will have some time to wander the cobblestone streets, admire the beautiful stone buildings and enjoy the magnificent views. Alternatively visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Built in 1900 in Italian palazzo style and surrounded by magnificent gardens, it houses an unbelievable collection of works including tapestries, furniture, candelabras, terracottas, porcelains and Chinese vases. Both tours will include lunch before we check into our hotel this afternoon and spend the remainder of the day and evening at leisure. Maybe choose to visit one of the city's museums dedicated to artists such as Henri Matisse or Marc Chagall, walk amongst the charming architecture of the old city or enjoy a stroll along the palm tree-lined Promenade des Anglais. (B, L)

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



Montagne Sainte Victoire from the 'Terrain des Peintres', Aix en Provence

## 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	£5595	£5195
Columbus	Superior	£5795	£5395
Marco Polo	Premium	£5995	£5595
Marco Polo	Corner	£6195	£5795
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£5995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£6395	£5995
Explorer	Island Suite	£6995	£6595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5595
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6195	£5795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Malaga & Nice • Meals as indicated for hotel stays (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Seven 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 • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.









**NOBLE CALEDONIA**  
 2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE  
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | [info@noble-caledonia.co.uk](mailto:info@noble-caledonia.co.uk)  
[www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
 Cover image: Collioure, France.