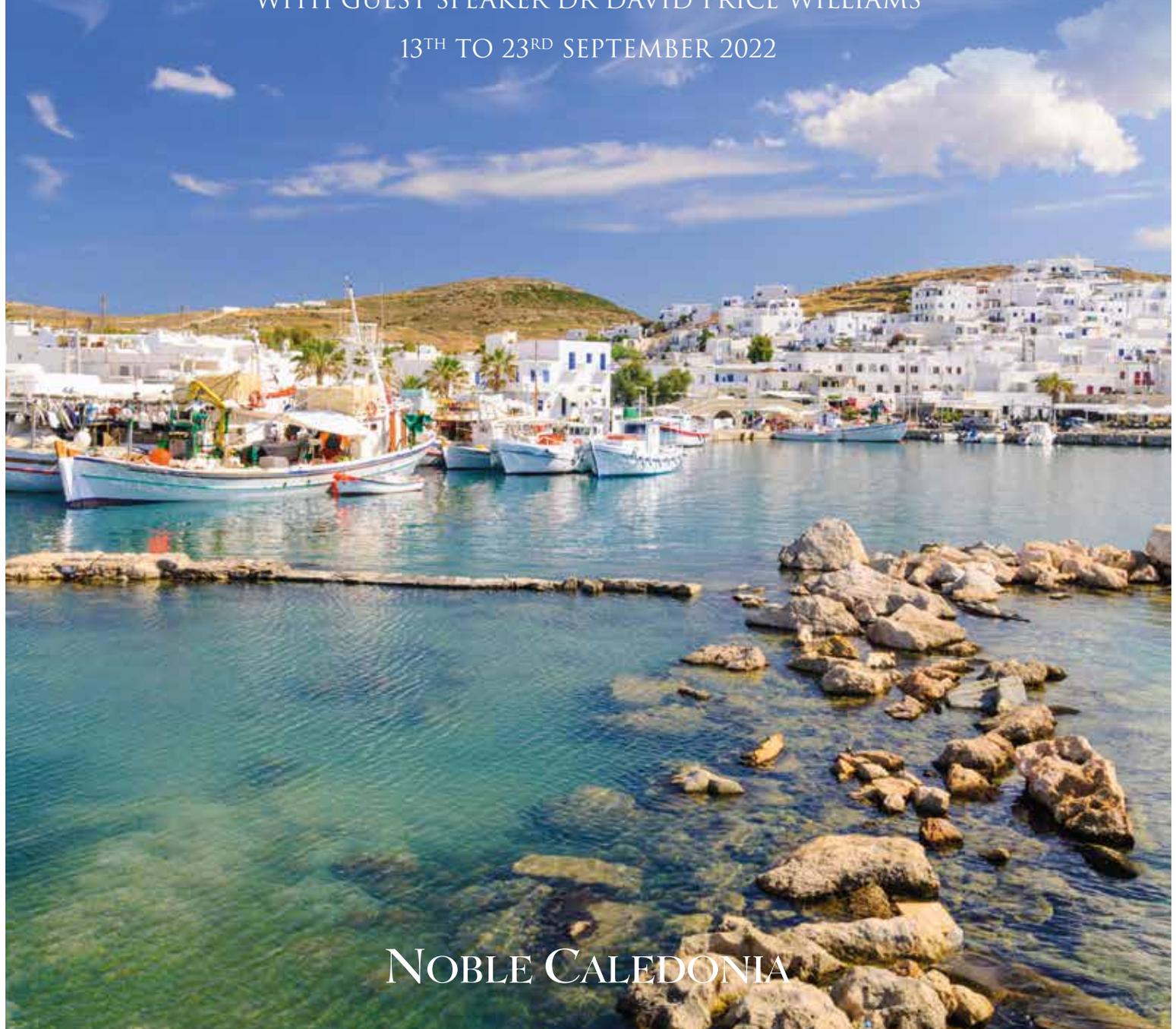


SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON

# SICILY & THE GREEK ISLANDS

AN ISLAND HOPPING VOYAGE FROM SICILY TO ISTANBUL  
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER DR DAVID PRICE-WILLIAMS  
13<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Our voyage from Sicily to the magnificent city of Istanbul aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky is a wonderful way to discover the treasures of Sicily and explore some of the lesser known Greek islands. Our custom made itinerary is not one which a large cruise ship could operate but one which is ideal for our small ship as we sail to some of the region's most idyllic spots, unspoiled islands and timeless villages. Some of the islands we have included are very difficult to access without relying on the local ferry network and it is during our time on such islands that you will truly be able to appreciate the unique atmosphere and island life.

When devising the itinerary we have ensured that in addition to our included, guided excursions, there will be ample time at leisure for some independent exploration or to swim from the local beaches. We have scheduled some daytime sailing which allows us to enjoy some magnificent views as well as meaning we can enjoy our time ashore in the cooler hours of the day. We have also planned in some late departures from port and overnight moorings, affording the opportunity to enjoy the evening atmosphere of some delightful harbour towns.

Sailing from Palermo, we will visit some Italian treasures including the beautiful Aeolian Islands and timeless Syracuse. Leaving the charms of Sicily behind we head for the Greek Isles to enjoy time wandering through some whitewashed villages and picturesque harbours, exploring Medieval towns and visiting Byzantine castles and churches. Many of the islands we visit are away from the well-trodden tourist trail such as Fourni, one of the best kept secrets in the Aegean, Sifnos in the Cyclades and Skyros, the most remote and least developed of the Sporades Islands.

With a maximum of just 118 guests our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides and our Guest Speaker adding immeasurably to our knowledge of the region. Whether you are interested in ancient history, Greek myths or simply the joy of cruising aboard a small ship and experiencing new places and islands in this beautiful region, our voyage from Sicily through the Greek Isles to Istanbul will surely appeal.



## Guest Speaker – Dr David Price-Williams



David Price-Williams has a first degree from the University of Wales in Ancient Near Eastern languages with a subsidiary in Attic and Koine Greek. His postgraduate work and his doctorate, from the University of London, is in Near Eastern archaeology. His first overseas archaeological field work in the eastern Mediterranean was in 1969 as a field surveyor at the classical site of Knidos in Turkey. He then worked for the Smithsonian Institution as an archaeological field surveyor on excavations in the Near East before directing his own field research in the same area. David has just retired after almost forty years lecturing on the Archaeology of Western Asia (Eastern Mediterranean) at the Institute of Archaeology for the University of London Extra Mural Department. He is the author and co-author of numerous academic papers on the area and several books. David has designed and lectured on many tours to Greece, Turkey and the Near East and is very familiar with the archaeological sites of Turkey. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, an elected life member of the Society for Old Testament Studies as well as the Southern African Quaternary Research Association.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Palermo, Sicily, Italy.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

**Day 2 Lipari & Stromboli, Aeolian Islands.** This morning we anchor off the picturesque island of Lipari situated in the Aeolian Islands off the north coast of Sicily. Here we will find an amazing collection of ruins from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. Lipari town is a thriving little place prettily located between two harbours. After landing by Zodiac, our morning tour includes a visit to the upper town set within fortress walls and a drive around the volcano followed by a visit to the Archaeological Museum with its impressive relics from nearby excavations. Maybe stay in town for lunch before we set sail in the late afternoon. This evening enjoy dinner anchored off the volcanic island of Stromboli. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.*

**Day 3 Syracuse, Sicily.** Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean and rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. We visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we find a well-preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive

garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius' - a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon and evening are free to explore at your own pace from our central berth.

**Day 4 At Sea.** Spend a relaxing day at sea as we sail to the Greek islands. Maybe join a talk in the lounge or find a spot on deck to relax.

**Day 5 Kythira & Monemvasia, Greece.** Situated between the Peloponnese and Crete, the island of Kythira was, according to mythology, the birthplace of the goddess Aphrodite. After arriving in the picturesque port of Kapsali we drive to Chora where we will explore the 16th century Venetian castle before walking the maze of narrow streets to view the old mansions and see the traditional architecture. During lunch we will sail to Monemvasia arriving in the early evening. This is a magical place. A massive rock rises dramatically out of the sea and on top there is a fortress. However, the real attraction is the Medieval town with its narrow cobbled streets and winding stairways which lead to a warren of stone houses with walled gardens and courtyards, and the main square dominated by an old cannon and the cathedral.

**Day 6 Sifnos & Paros.** This corner of the Cyclades is far from the well-trodden tracks of the big ships and you will be greeted by traditional white houses, picturesque churches and narrow lanes and alleys. A morning tour of Sifnos will include Apollonia, the island's tiny capital, the Virysianni Monastery and the villages of Kastro and Artemos, both delightful places to wander and admire the traditional architecture. Spend the afternoon cruising and this evening arrive into Paros at the pretty village of Parikia with its whitewashed houses and labyrinthine streets. Moor overnight.

**Day 7 Paros & Syros.** Paros is famed for the marble that is drawn from the island's interior and used in the Venus de Milo statue. Explore the 4th century Panagia Ekatondayliani, one of the finest churches in the Cyclades and the Byzantine Museum, which houses icons from the churches and monasteries of the island. Sail during lunch to Syros which was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century and the capital Ermoupolis was Greece's principal port. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon with a stroll in the town of Ermoupoli, the capital of the Cyclades. The prosperity of the island in the 19th and early 20th century created through commerce and shipping is reflected in the architecture with a beautiful square, town hall and theatre. We sail late tonight for those who wish to take an after-dinner stroll.

**Day 8 Fourni & Icaria.** Fourni is one of the best kept secret islands

in the Aegean. Once a haven for pirates who enjoyed the island's remote setting and little changed for centuries, it has a wonderfully peaceful atmosphere. Enjoy a leisurely morning to walk up from the harbour to the charming main square and maybe enjoy a drink whilst watching island life. According to Greek myth, Icaria was created when Icarus crashed into the sea after flying too close to the sun. Today it is one of the least developed but most visually dramatic of Greek islands with beautiful coves, deep valleys and hidden beaches. On a scenic afternoon drive we will explore the villages and discover why the islanders here have a longer life expectancy than anywhere else in Europe. The island is also revered as the birthplace of Dionysus, the God of wine and we plan to visit one of the local vineyards. We sail late this evening for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

**Day 9 Skyros.** Spend the morning at sea as we cruise to Skyros, the most remote and least developed of the Sporades Islands. Our afternoon guided tour will visit Chora, the island's capital and one of the most beautiful villages in Skyros. On a hill above Chora sits an imposing Byzantine castle and the monastery of Saint George, one of the most important landmarks on the island offering views over the Aegean. We will also visit the statue dedicated to the British poet Rupert Brooke who died on the island during the First World War.

**Day 10 Lemnos.** Continuing to the Northern Aegean we arrive in Myrina,



the small capital of Lemnos known for its romantic castle built over the rocky promontory. The castle foundations date back to Classical times when it was the site of a temple of Artemis. Maybe join a guided walk which will include the picturesque quay, Romeikos Gialos, lined with charming Neoclassical houses, one of which houses the Archaeological Museum. Alternatively seek out one of the island's secluded beaches or, if you are feeling energetic, join a longer walk along a rural pathway to Kondias village. Spend the afternoon at sea as we sail through the Dardanelles on our way to Istanbul.

**Day 11 Istanbul, Turkey to London.** Be on deck this morning as we sail into Istanbul. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Sifnos

## 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
Magellan	Standard	£5495	£5295
Columbus	Superior	£5695	£5495
Marco Polo	Premium	£5895	£5695
Marco Polo	Corner	£6095	£5895
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£7095	£6895
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£7495	£7295
Explorer	Island Suite	£8495	£8295
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6995	£6795
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7395	£7195

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Post-cruise Istanbul Extension 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Blue Mosque

After your cruise, we are offering the opportunity to extend your time in the magnificent city of Istanbul with our two night extension which will include guided tours of this fascinating city.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Istanbul, Turkey.** Disembark the MS Island Sky after breakfast and spend the morning at the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Since 1924 it has been preserved as a museum and it is noted for its beautiful, shaded courtyards and elegant architecture. After lunch we will check in to our hotel and have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 2 Istanbul.** After breakfast at the hotel we start our exploration of Istanbul at the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire and the site of speeches, chariot races, and riots. Next, visit the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica and now an imperial mosque. Known for its massive domed roof and colourful mosaics, this structure is widely regarded as the world's finest example of Byzantine architecture. A short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent, covered cisterns in Istanbul. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, D)

**Day 3 Istanbul to London.** After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£745** Single: **£945**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flag ships 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

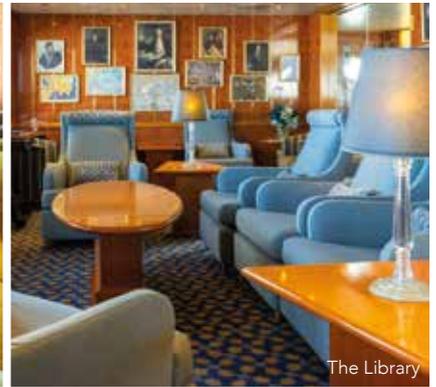
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants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

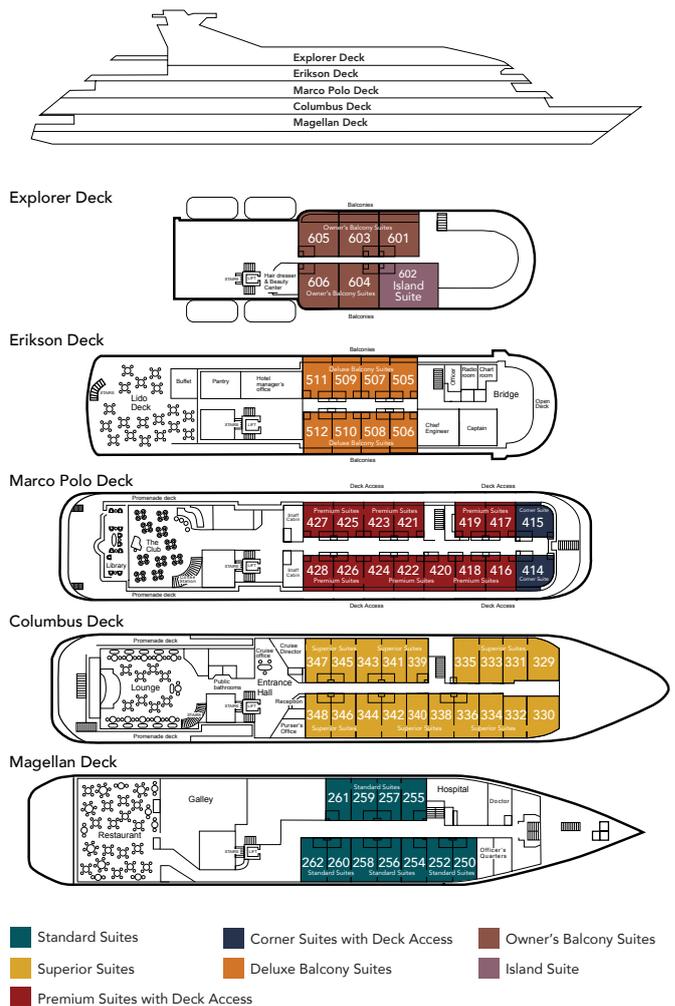
## Your Comfort

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.

## 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



# 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: Paros.