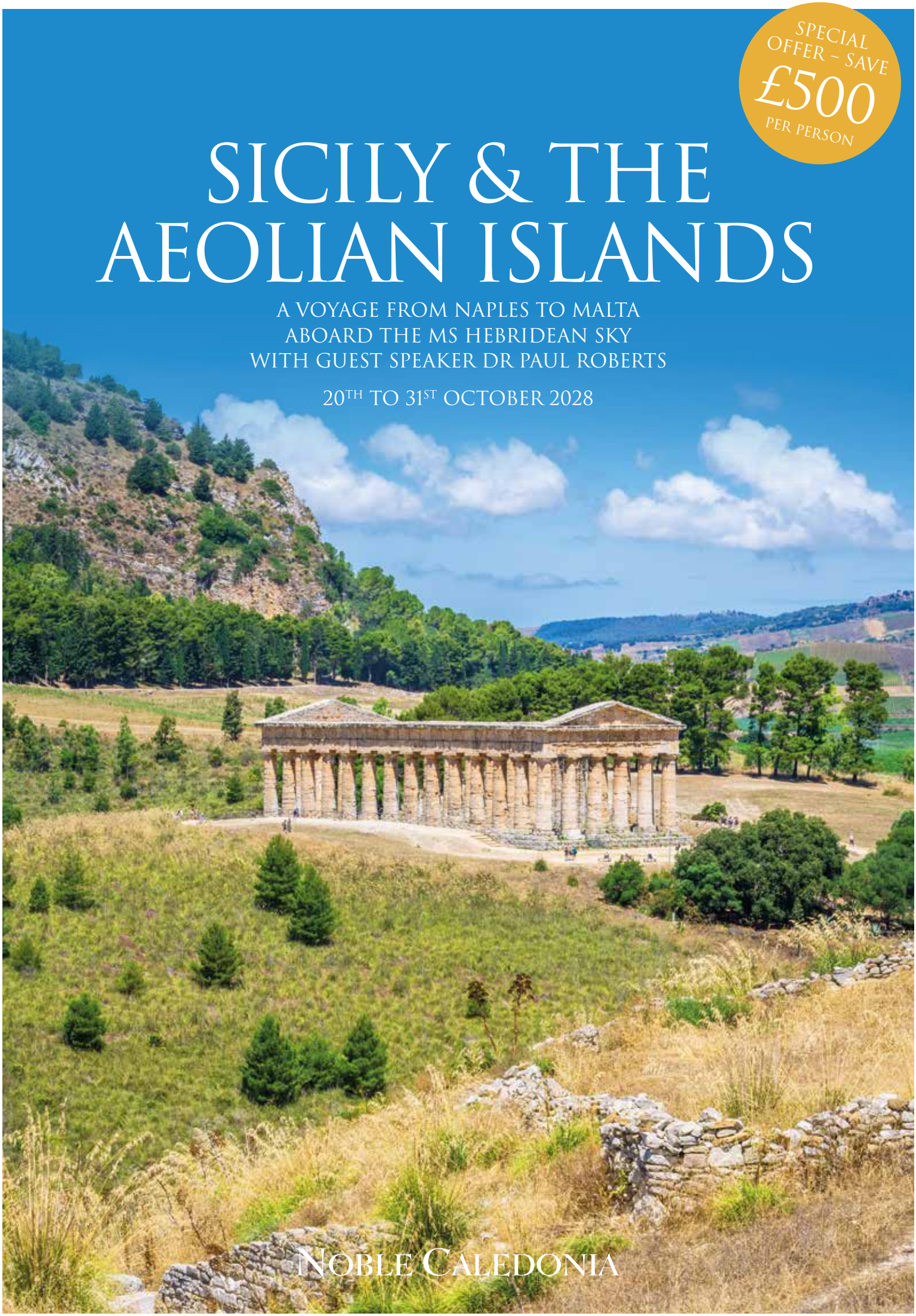
SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON

SICILY & THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

A VOYAGE FROM NAPLES TO MALTA
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER DR PAUL ROBERTS

20TH TO 31ST OCTOBER 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA


Cefalu

Join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky for this unique cruise which combines calls in Southern Italy with the stunning islands of the Aeolian archipelago and Sicily. Our journey begins in Naples, where we have the opportunity to discover the atmospheric streets of this fascinating city, or explore the remarkably preserved Roman town of Herculaneum before we spend a day in Salerno from where you can venture into the ancient world of Paestum and the landscapes of the Cilento. We then sail south towards the Aeolian Islands, a series of volcanic islands located in the Tyrrhenian Sea which are known for their natural beauty, rich history, and unique geological features and we will spend two days exploring the islands before continuing to the fascinating island of Sicily.



We will have six days to explore Sicily's incredible wealth of treasures made all the easier owing to the geography of the island which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, there is so much to explore during our exploration of the island and with our voyage timed for October, the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours and the sites will be free of the summer crowds. We will visit the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina, the picturesque fishing town of Cefalu, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral from Palermo, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta, the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale and will also spend time in beautiful Syracuse.

During our voyage, our excellent local guides and onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of the rich cultural legacy and fascinating history of southern Italy and the islands and there will also be opportunities to taste some local produce and traditional cuisine including Mozzarella di Bufala, olive oil and wines.

Guest Speaker – Dr Paul Roberts OBE



Archaeologist and Research Keeper of the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University, Paul Roberts has been a lecturer with the Arts Society/NADFAS for over twenty years. He studied Classics at the University of Cambridge, and Classical Archaeology at the Universities of Sheffield and Oxford. He then lived in Italy for several years, teaching and researching. He has travelled throughout the former lands of the Roman Empire, from Britain to Syria, and has excavated in Britain, Greece, Libya, Turkey and in particular Italy, where he is currently working on a Roman Villa in the Molise region of the Central Apennines. His research focuses on the daily life of ordinary people in the Greek and Roman worlds, and he has written books and articles on Greek and Roman daily life, Pompeii and Herculaneum, Sicily, Roman Emperors and Greek and Roman ceramics and glass. Arriving in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford in 2015, he co-curated Storms, War and Shipwrecks: Sicily and the Sea (2016) telling the history of Sicily through shipwreck finds. Most recently (2019/20) at the Ashmolean he curated Last Supper in Pompeii, a tribute to the Roman love affair with food and wine.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Naples, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and embark.

Day 2 Naples & Herculaneum. For our day in Naples, there will be a choice of excursions this morning. A city tour will include the Piazza del Plebiscito with its range of buildings including the Galleria Umberto I, the Maschio Angioino and the Palazzo Reale. Inside the palace you will visit the Historical Apartment, which is accessed through the majestic Staircase of Honour, which Montesquieu described as the most beautiful in Europe. Also see the Teatro San Carlo which was built in 1737 and is the oldest opera house in Europe. Alternatively, visit Herculaneum, a wealthy Roman town which was completely submerged by volcanic mud following the 79 AD eruption of Vesuvius. Since its rediscovery in 1709, excavations have revealed beautiful public baths, villas and gardens of noble families, decorated with murals and floor mosaics, and the remains of a theatre. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace and you may wish to walk the bustling Via dei Tribunali in the historic centre or make your way to one of the city's pizzerias to enjoy one of Naples's most famous exports, before we sail tonight.

Day 3 Salerno. Overnight we will have sailed around the Amalfi coast to the ancient city of Salerno, our gateway to the Cilento region, a mix of small villages, coastal paths, archaeological sites, national parks and renowned as the


Naples


Noto


Taormina


Temple of Hera, Paestum

home of the Mediterranean diet. There will be a choice of excursions and you may choose to visit the site of Paestum which was founded by the Greeks in 600 BC. This well preserved and fascinating site was rediscovered in 1752 and during our time here we will see the impressive Temple Poseidon, the Basilica, Amphitheatre and Aethenian before spending some time in the museum adjacent to the site. Alternatively learn about one of the main exports of the region during a visit to a farm where we will hear about the production of the local Mozzarella di Bufala. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore Salerno independently before we sail this evening.

Days 4 & 5 Aeolian Islands. The Aeolian archipelago is a UNESCO World Heritage Site made up of seven islands located in the Tyrrhenian Sea off the north coast of Sicily and is our base for the next two days. During our time here we will be at anchor and will use local tenders to land ashore. We hope to land on Lipari where 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 and our tour will include 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. We also plan to land at Salina, the greenest island in the group with a nature reserve which covers the slopes of the now dormant volcanoes. The island is famed for its capers harvest and its Malvasia wines and after a tour through the picturesque island villages we will have the opportunity to sample a traditional dish of 'pani cunzatu' with some locally sourced wines. For our final evening, we will anchor off the island of Stromboli, the 'Lighthouse of the Mediterranean' where, if weather permits, we hope to view the eruptions from the island's active volcano.

Day 6 Messina for Taormina or Tindari, Sicily. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Alternatively, join an excursion to the town of Tindari, founded by Syracusan merchants during the war against Carthage in 396 BC. The ruins of the ancient city are relatively well preserved including the 4th century Greek Theatre which is a marvel of acoustic engineering. However, the foremost attraction is the Sanctuary of the Madonna Nera containing the sculpture of the Virgin and Child, in citron wood, which is said to have reached Tindari in an attempt by the faithful to keep it safe from the 8th century Byzantine Iconoclast movement.

Day 7 Cefalu. Enjoy a leisurely morning on board as we cruise to Termini Imerese from where we will drive along the coast to visit the picturesque fishing town of Cefalu. The town exudes typical Sicilian charm and during our guided walk we will see the Gothic-Norman style cathedral and Medieval Wash House before enjoying some free time to stroll among the narrow streets, perhaps tasting the famous Sicilian ice creams and cakes. Return to ship in the early evening as we sail the short distance to Palermo where we will moor overnight.

Day 8 Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the Sicilian capital, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We will visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore Palermo independently or join the excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

Day 9 Trapani. This morning there will be the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively, visit the fascinating salt pans that are located between Trapani and Marsala. This area, used by the Phoenicians who first understood how favourable the natural conditions were for salt extraction, has been declared a Natural Reserve and


Piazza Armerina


Lipari, Aeolian Islands

is full of colours thanks to the unique flora and fauna. Visit the museum of salt before we continue to a nearby farmhouse which is dedicated to promoting Sicilian produce including olive oils and wines which we will try before returning to the ship. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Trapani at your own pace before we sail this evening.

Day 10 Licata for Piazza Armerina. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey back to the ship at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch.

Day 11 Syracuse & Noto. Arrive this morning in Syracuse which was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean, rivalling Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. This morning choose to visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park to discover the 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. Alternatively, drive to Noto, a picturesque city built in 1703 located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei. A guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some of the Baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, the cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. After lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Ortigia, the historical centre of Syracuse 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.

Day 12 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Malta Post-cruise Extension
31st October to 2nd November 2028


Mdina

If you would like to spend some time in Malta after your cruise we are offering a two night hotel stay which includes a tour of Valletta and Mdina.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Valletta, Malta. After breakfast we will disembark the MS Hebridean Sky and begin a walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century 'Fortress City' built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barrakka Gardens. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and check in. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. **(B, L)**

Day 2 Mdina. A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of 'Citta Nobile', and it is now known as the 'Silent City' at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. The remainder of the day is at leisure. **(B)**

Day 3 Valletta to London. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. **(B)**

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895** Single: **£1295**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Amundsen	Standard	£8295	£7795
Byrd	Superior	£8495	£7995
Mawson	Premium	£8795	£8295
Mawson	Corner	£9295	£8795
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10495	£9995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£10295	£9795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10495	£9995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.
NB. Whilst visiting the Aeolian Islands, we will be at anchor and use local tenders to land ashore.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY




The Restaurant


Deluxe Balcony Suite


Alfresco Dining

The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Island 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 Hebridean Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

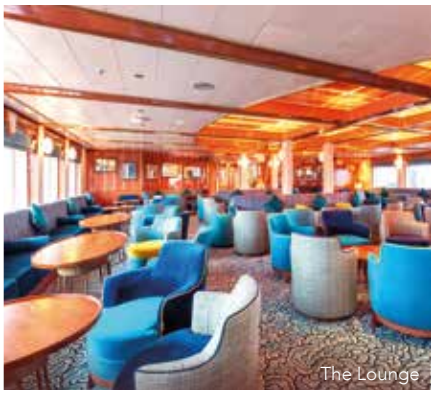
On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation 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, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle 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


Standard Suite


The Lounge

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. 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 collection of games and 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 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.

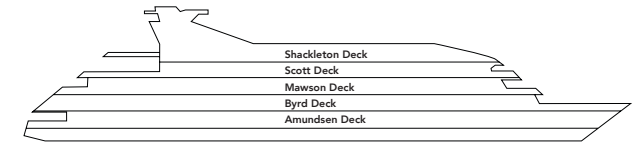
Your Comfort

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 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



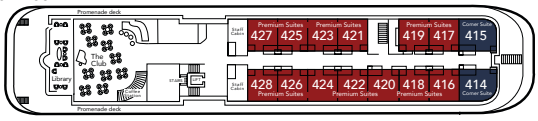
Shackleton Deck



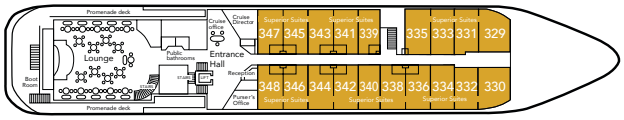
Scott Deck



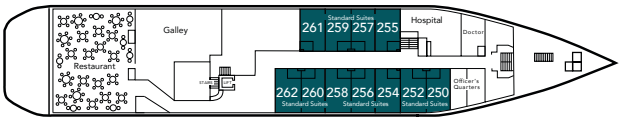
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



Standard Suites | Corner Suites | Owner's Balcony Suites
Superior Suites | Deluxe Balcony Suites | Hebridean Suite
Premium Suites

Please note that beds in each suite can be configured as double or twin with the exception of suites 601 and 602 which feature a fixed double bed.

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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: Temple of Venus, Segesta.