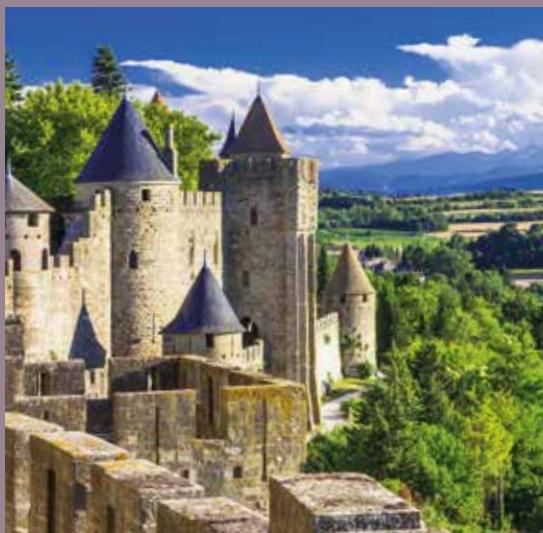
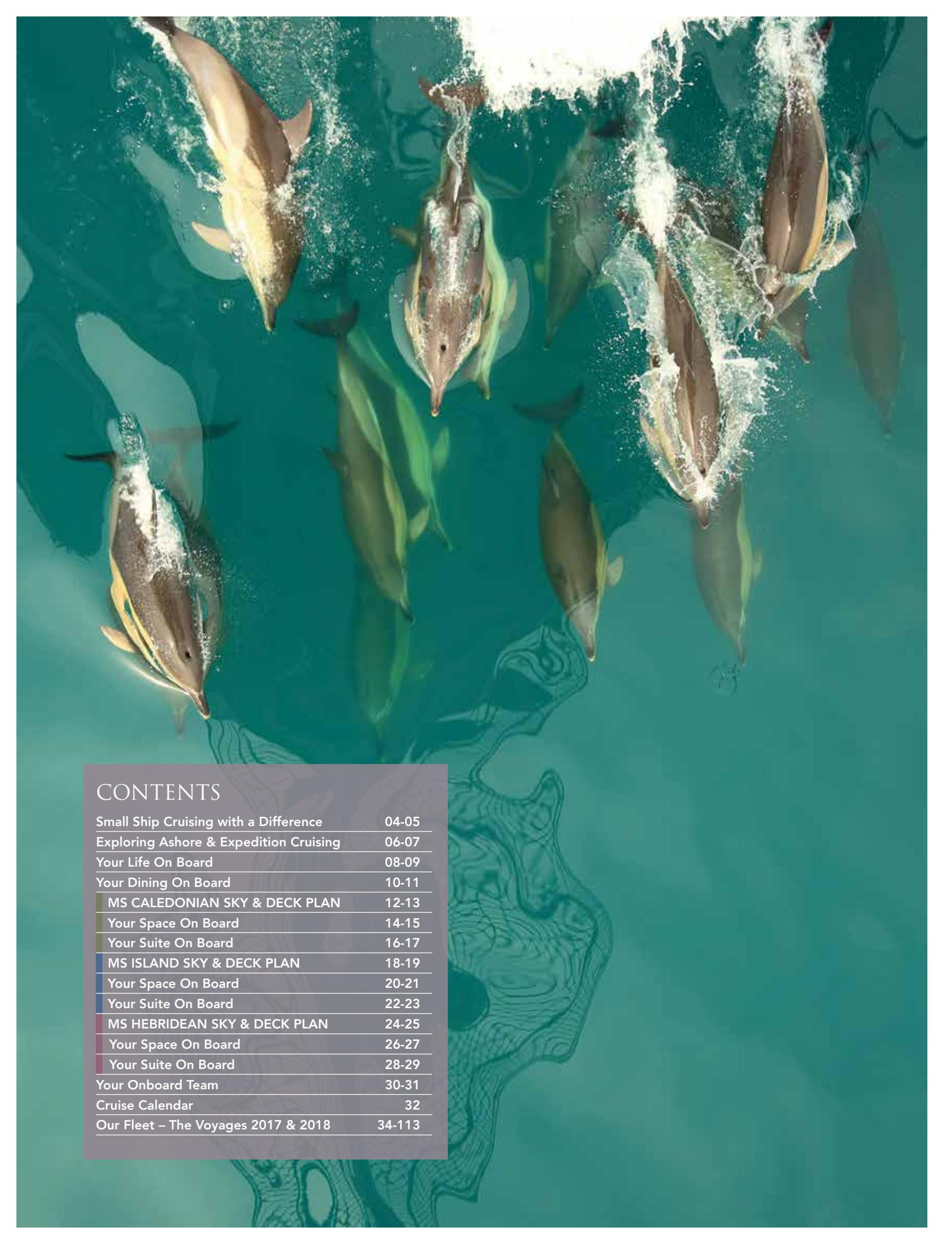


Voyages aboard
MS ISLAND SKY
MS CALEDONIAN SKY
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

2017 - 2018

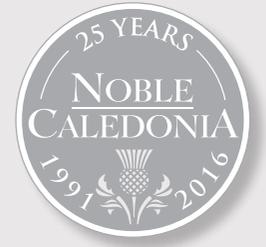


NOBLE CALEDONIA



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Dear Traveller

This year we are celebrating 25 years offering genuine travellers the opportunity to undertake voyages to every corner of the world. Each year our horizons widen and the following pages detail the voyages our three, all-suite ships, the MS Island Sky, MS Caledonian Sky and MS Hebridean Sky will undertake in 2017 and into 2018. The MS Hebridean Sky, the latest addition to our fleet was launched in May after a multi-million pound refurbishment and having the third sister at sea has enabled us to broaden our itineraries even further.

Our well informed and well travelled London based staff have created a captivating and diverse collection of journeys for 2017 and 2018. Amongst these pages you will not find a seemingly endless series of similar itineraries, but many one-off voyages that can transport you to the most interesting and often little known places where only small ships can venture including a fascinating and in-depth look at Taiwan, a new destination for us in 2018.

The 'Skys' have built up a remarkable following over the years and it is not uncommon to have cruises of which 80% are past travellers on board. None of us in the company take this strong following for granted and each year we strive to make the experience on board even better. All three of our ships were built in the same yard at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. However, equally as important as the facilities are the staff on board whether they are the vessel's crew or our own expedition staff. Noble Caledonia's reputation has been built on providing the very best in all areas. Our crew not only offer an excellent service, they are also noted for their kindness and attention to detail. A well run ship with a warm atmosphere is what we are known for. Another hugely important factor is our expedition team and guest speakers who are in control of the day to day programme and shore visits, doing their utmost to make every day special. Their knowledge, enthusiasm and warmth make every trip a unique event.

Each year we read of ever larger vessels being built that accommodate up to 6000 passengers or more. We are happy to be at the opposite end of the spectrum with just over 100 travellers which allows us to offer something very different and rewarding to all those interested in a real travel experience. Whether you join one of the trips close to home in the Hebrides or in far flung Melanesia, you will be assured of a warm welcome on board and a team of knowledgeable expedition staff and Guest Speakers that will make your journey an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

We are immensely proud of our three fine vessels and hope to see you aboard soon.

Tim Cochrane
Managing Director

NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST



NOBLE CALEDONIA
CHARITABLE TRUST

During our worldwide explorations over the years, we have come across many situations where help is desperately needed, be it following a natural disaster, civil unrest, abject poverty or to save an endangered species. To this end we established the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust in 2013 (NCCT). It is our vision to use the Noble Caledonia framework to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the areas we work and visit. Our on board teams are uniquely positioned to identify projects and lead fundraising initiatives, whilst many of our guests genuinely care about the people and places we visit and want to make a difference. 100% of all donations go directly to the beneficiaries as Noble Caledonia Ltd covers all the administration costs and donates a percentage of profits annually. Details of our projects can be found on our website www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Small Ships – Big Experiences



There was a time, not so long ago when all cruises were much the same. However, the last twenty years or so has witnessed an immense and quick evolution and today we are all spoilt for choice. Ships of all different sizes and styles make the selection of a cruise a somewhat hit and miss affair, and whilst some companies attempt to please everybody, we prefer to place our future in the realm of small ships.

Our Fleet – Three of the finest small ships in the world

Noble Caledonia is very fortunate to have the MS Island Sky, MS Caledonian Sky and MS Hebridean Sky which joined our fleet in May 2016. These ex-Renaissance Cruises sister vessels accommodate just 114 to 118 guests and are not only three of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships in the world, but also three of the friendliest and most efficiently run. Our crews of just over 70, many of whom have been with us for many years, are dedicated to offering the best possible experience. It is this gentle, kind and efficient atmosphere on board that makes our vessels so popular.

Elba Island, Italy



Exploring by Zodiac



Antarctica



Enjoying the view

Small Ship Cruising – What’s the Difference?

For those contemplating a cruise, there is the choice of travelling on one of the vast new 4000 plus passenger vessels which offer every conceivable facility and diversion or you can opt for a journey aboard one of our small ships which offer good food and knowledgeable staff who make your cruise not only a holiday, but an educational voyage of discovery. Unlike most passenger cruise ships, our vessels are constantly on the move from region to region and continent to continent, small ships with big hearts which travel to every corner of the world, no matter how remote or seemingly inaccessible.

In many ways the virtues of small ship cruising are best expressed by detailing what you will not find on board. For instance, there will be no organised entertainment and no black tie events. What there will be is a warm and peaceful atmosphere in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people in comfortable surroundings and with a high level of service.

How important is the itinerary to you?

In all the development over the past couple of decades the priority that has changed most is the itinerary. This used to be the most significant element and deciding factor for many. However, the advent of the big ship has led to the downgrading of this important part of the cruise, mainly because large ships can only dock in large ports with all the supporting infrastructure necessary to service the vessel, and the onshore requirements of the passengers. For us, the itinerary is still paramount.

Avoiding commercialism in today's modern world is becoming increasingly tricky, particularly when selecting a holiday with many so-called 'off the beaten track' destinations having been discovered as mainstream tourism becomes the norm for countries around the world. However, with small ships as our base we can still seek out and visit the remote ports which are not easily accessible by any other means. Small ships have the freedom of the seas and can come alongside in small docks or drop anchor in any suitable spot. After all, you do not go on holiday to be part of the all engulfing masses which descend on a town when a number of large ships dock at the same time. Arriving at a port for the first time should be an invigorating experience and can certainly be so when the right place is chosen and your arrival is on a small ship.

Our All Inclusive Policy

Unlike many other cruise vessels, on board the MS Island Sky, MS Caledonian Sky and the MS Hebridean Sky, you do not need to worry about tipping staff as we have included this in your holiday price. In addition we tip all our guides and drivers along the way, thereby taking away the hassle of always having to remember to have some small change with you. We also include shore excursions and drinks with meals on board.

Exploring Ashore and Expedition Cruising



Our inclusive pricing policy means that shore excursions are included in the price of your cruise. It is our belief that you do not go on holiday to be part of the all engulfing masses which descend on a town when a number of large ships dock at the same time. Arriving at a port for the first time should be an invigorating experience and can certainly be so when the right place is chosen and your arrival is on a small ship. With a maximum of only 118 passengers, there is no queuing to disembark or embark our ships for an excursion and when required there will only be three coaches waiting on the quayside to transport you to the day's attraction as opposed to a whole fleet waiting for the passengers travelling on the big ships. Due to their size, the vessels have the freedom of the seas and can come alongside in small docks or drop anchor in any suitable spot. Our destination style cruises are carefully researched and organised to enable you to explore fascinating sights in the company of local guides. On board you are in the company of a knowledgeable Guest Speaker who will enhance your experience by delving further into the history and cultures of the destinations visited.

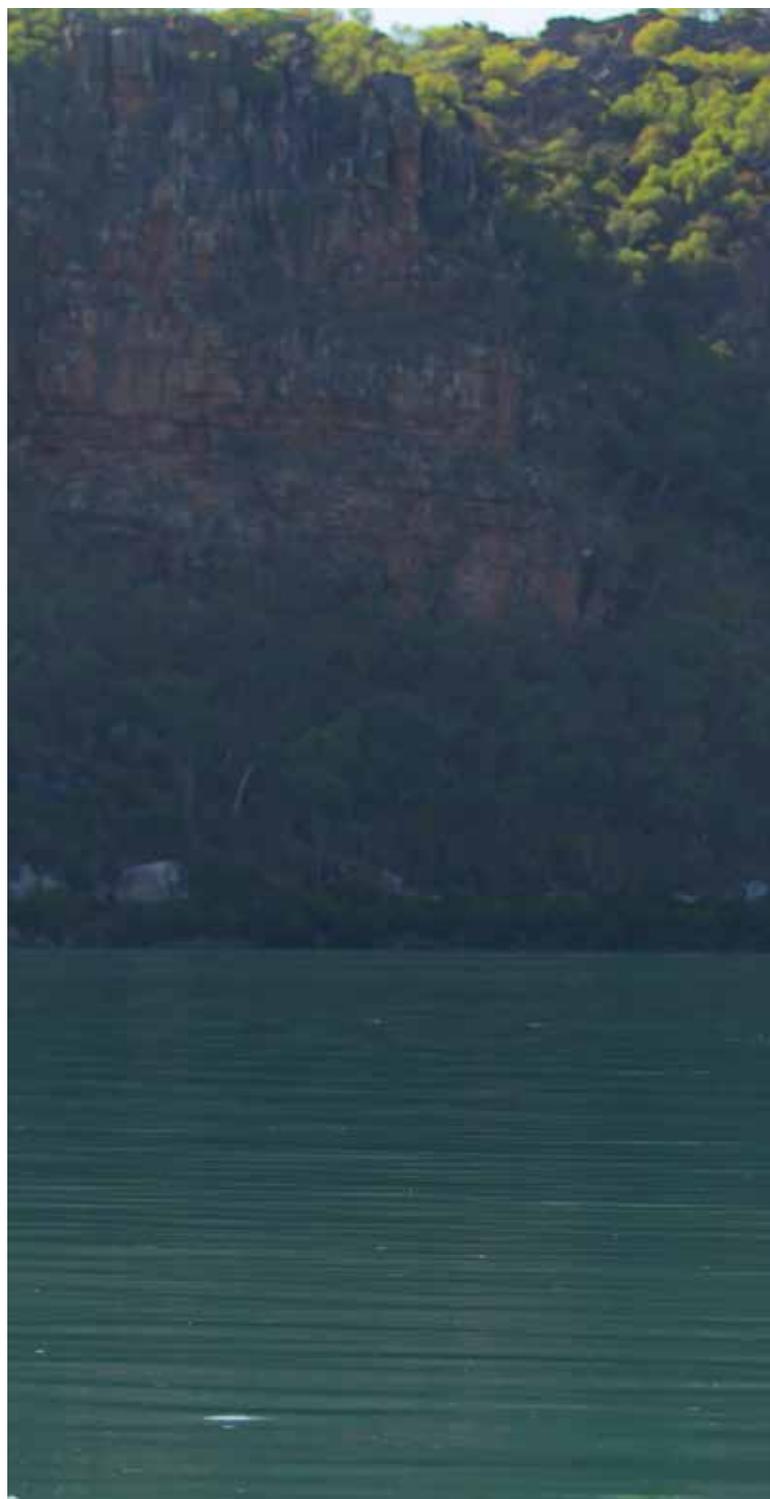
A large number of the voyages undertaken by MS Island Sky, MS Caledonian Sky and MS Hebridean Sky are expeditionary in nature and therefore in place of the customary Cruise Director and accompanying staff, you will be joined by an expedition team. These hand-picked experts are naturalists, historians and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board. They will supervise the daily programme and hold talks and briefings throughout the cruise. The expedition teams have one aim, to make your trip as enjoyable, relaxing and informative as possible. We have over twenty five years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of the remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new and although we set sail with a set itinerary it is sometimes the unscheduled events that become the highlight of the journey.

Zodiacs

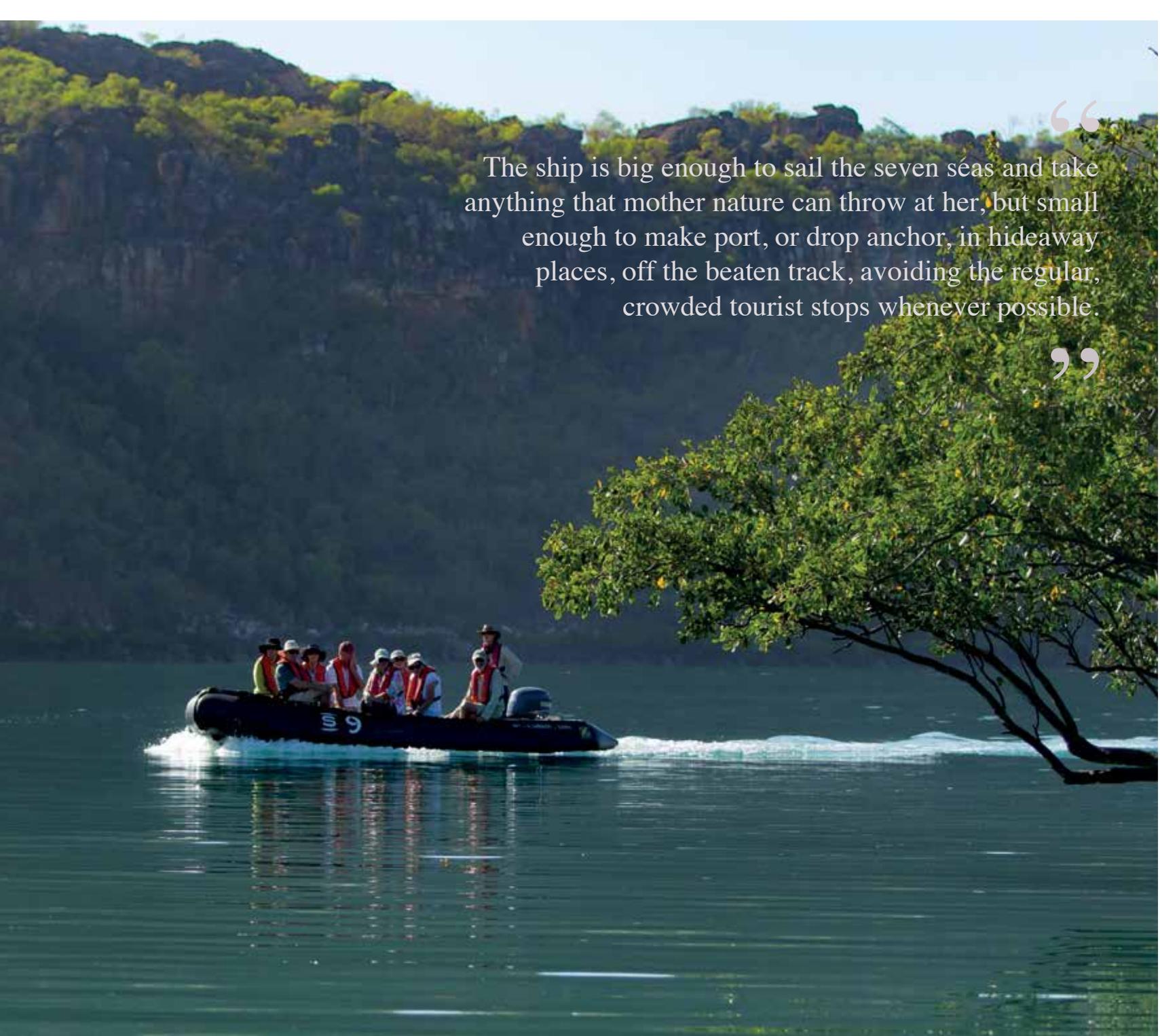
Expedition cruising is about getting off the beaten track, out of the way of other ships, of other visitors; it is about leaving the infrastructures of civilisation behind. We may not be far from civilisation, but we will often be out of sight of it. Our fleet of onboard Zodiacs are invaluable for our expeditions. These inflatable craft offer marvellous manoeuvrability allowing us access to otherwise impossible landing places. With these we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries, land in otherwise inaccessible places and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers. Zodiacs are safe, reliable and convenient boats that allow us to go from ship to shore, whether we land on a beach, on rocks, or on a concrete jetty. Zodiacs can negotiate shallows, river estuaries, coral reefs and ice floes. In many places which we visit during expedition cruises, they are the only way to go ashore. They also enable the expedition team to offer Zodiac cruises during the voyage: near a seabird colony, next to a cliff or along a glacier front. Zodiacs will also be used as platforms from where swimming and snorkelling can be conducted. Expeditioners are defined by the use of Zodiacs, our versatile, inflatable boats, which provide a unique platform for observing wildlife or enjoying majestic landscapes from sea level, or a fast and safe way of going ashore in remote places.

For when we are exploring warm waters there is snorkelling equipment on board and when weather and location permits, the expedition team will set up a snorkelling platform or base from a beach from which to explore the underwater world. In addition to our onboard team of experts, local guides will meet us along the way adding much to our knowledge.

If you have any concerns or queries pertaining to expedition cruising and what it entails, please do not hesitate to contact one of our experienced travel consultants.



“
The ship is big enough to sail the seven seas and take anything that mother nature can throw at her, but small enough to make port, or drop anchor, in hideaway places, off the beaten track, avoiding the regular, crowded tourist stops whenever possible.
”





Panorama Deck, Caledonian Sky

Your Life On Board



If large resort-style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers are your ideal, then our ships are not for you as you will not find endless entertainment, round the clock buffets and the people management which is so much a part of today's big ship on board style. However, if like us you prefer a more peaceful life at sea you will find our flagships the perfect vessels.

When choosing your next voyage the choice of vessels is astounding. You can select a ship carrying in excess of 4000 passengers with impersonal service or join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky, MS Island Sky or MS Hebridean Sky where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. We promise there will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big

ship experiences. Instead, the atmosphere is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food with wine included at lunch and dinner, all contribute to make any voyage aboard these wonderful vessels a memorable and joyful experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of an exceedingly comfortable ship.

The daily programme on board is in the capable hands of our Cruise Director or Expedition Leader and staff who coordinate with the Captain and Officers to make the most of each day. Briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage together with a 'Daily Programme' that is distributed every evening to your suite outlining the next day's activities. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no 'black tie' evenings.



For your Comfort, Security & Safety

Our vessels are equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimize the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessels progress by charts and learn more about your journey. There is also a dedicated channel on your television in your suite showing the routing of the vessel along with technical information and estimated times of arrival and departure from port. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. Smoking on board is restricted to a specific area on deck.

“
The team visits local markets to pick up fresh produce. This could be crab in Scotland, mezze dishes in Greece and Turkey and sushi in Japan.
”



Alfresco Dining, Lido Deck



Your Dining On Board



It is quite a task to create a dining experience as that found on board our vessels when you are cruising in far-flung corners of the globe, indeed it takes a team of highly talented chefs to deliver fresh, varied dishes no matter where you are at sea. Fortunately, our catering teams are well adapted to the world of small ship cruising where no two days are the same and the menus are often scheduled and tailored around the days' excursions.

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board all three vessels is of a consistent superior quality that befits such vessels. Where possible and when it meets their high standards, our accomplished chefs will obtain local produce in markets. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and enable the chefs on board to exhibit their culinary skills and bring a local touch to the varied menus, emphasising the international expertise of the chefs on board. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day 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.

In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our onboard friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are à la carte with an excellent choice of dishes, with the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals and there is also a comprehensive wine list with a wide selection of new and old world wines from which to choose.

The onboard catering and restaurant staff are experienced at sea and enthuse a passion for superb service. Whether it be ensuring you have an outdoor blanket as you enjoy the crisp sea breeze on the Lido Deck or sharing their knowledge of the characteristics of the days' wine selections, you will experience a service on board like no other. You may also enjoy sumptuous barbecues on deck whilst at times, the chef will make your dish to order at special pasta or stir fry stations.

Captain's Welcome Dinner

Appetizers & Salads (Locally Sourced)

Smoked Halibut Carpaccio with Tropical Fruit Salsa
& Lemon Olive Oil Dressing

Oven Baked Fresh Figs with Stilton Wrapped in Parma Ham
with Wild Rocket & Balsamic Reduction

"Caesar Salad"

Crisp Romaine Lettuce with Croutons, Anchovies,
Parmesan Cheese and Caesar Dressing

Soup

"Crème Ninon" (V)

Green Pea Soup topped with Champagne and Chantilly Cream

Tomato Consommé with Tomato Concasse

Sorbet

Citrus Sorbet on Pink Grapefruit Granite

Main Dishes

Poached Paupiette of Local Lemon Sole filled with Salmon Mousseline
served with White Wine Sauce, Fennel Puree Pommes Duchess
& Fresh Spinach

Slow Roasted Chateau Briand of Aberdeen Angus Tenderloin of Beef
with a Foie Gras & Truffle Sauce served with Grilled Fresh Asparagus Spears
wrapped in Bacon & Fondant Potato

Goat Cheese, Spinach & Wild Mushroom Open Lasagna (V)
with Gruyere Cheese Sauce & Parmesan Crisp

Desserts

Grand Marnier Souffle with Almond Custard

Fresh Strawberry Bavaoise with Blueberry Compote (G/F)

Selection of British & International Cheeses
with Condiments & Crackers



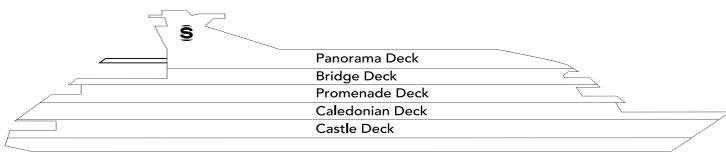


MS CALEDONIAN SKY



MS Caledonian Sky

Deck and Cabin Plans

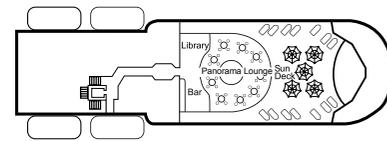


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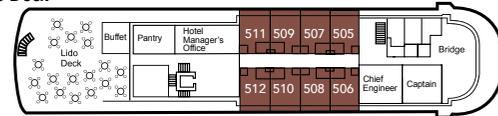
Cruising speed: 11 knots
 Length overall: 90.6 m
 Width overall: 15.3m
 Draught maximum: 4.2m
 Flag/Registry: Bahamas

Built: 1991
 Tonnage: 4200
 Guest capacity: 114
 Classed by: BV
 Upgraded: Due 2016

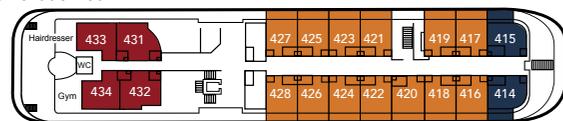
Panorama Deck



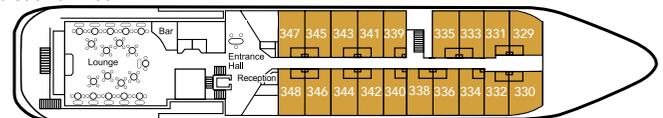
Bridge Deck



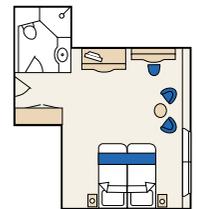
Promenade Deck



Caledonian Deck



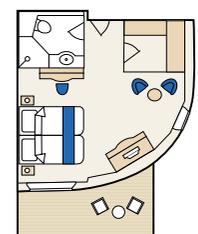
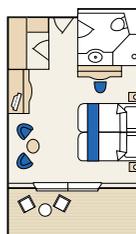
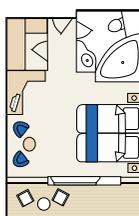
Castle Deck



Castle Deck – Standard/Forward Suites
 The Standard and Standard Forward Suites located on the Castle Deck measure 22.7 square metres and feature four port holes, an en-suite bathroom with shower and spacious wardrobes.

Caledonian Deck – Superior Suites
 The Superior Suites located on the Caledonian Deck measure 21.6 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with bathtub and shower (suites 329, 330 and 331 which feature only a shower), a spacious wardrobe and large window.

Promenade Deck – Premium Suites
 The Premium Suites located on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature an en-suite bathroom with shower (cabins 431 & 432 feature a bathtub), spacious wardrobes and a large window.



Bridge Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites
 The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Bridge Deck measure 20 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with bathtub and shower and a private balcony measuring 4.2 square metres.

Promenade Deck – Premium Balcony Suites
 The Premium Balcony Suites located on the Promenade Deck measure 20.2 square metres and feature a walk-in wardrobe, en-suite bathroom with shower and a private balcony measuring 5.6 square metres.

Promenade Deck – Owner's Corner Balcony Suites
 The two Corner Suites on the Promenade Deck measure 22.6 square metres and feature a 5.6 square metres balcony and two forward facing portholes, a walk-in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom with shower.



Panorama Lounge

Your Space – MS Caledonian Sky

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms on board the MS Caledonian Sky include a large lounge featuring comfortable seating and classic winged armchairs to enhance the modern country-style furnishings throughout. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the main lounge which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. For your convenience it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your cabin or in the Panorama Lounge where the presentations will be streamed daily. Also featured in the Lounge is an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also offers a 24-hour tea and coffee station.

In addition to the main Lounge on the Caledonian Deck, there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and internet area and further spacious

seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The travel library is the perfect place to relax with a good book. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A selection of games and two computers complete with complimentary internet access can also be found in the library along with newspapers and magazines which are placed there depending on local availability.

The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Castle Deck. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck which is complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade and often occasions such as sail away parties and barbeques are held here.



The Restaurant



Lido Deck



The Lounge

Further to this on the Panorama Deck towards the front of the vessel there is an additional Observation Deck, complete with bar and comfortable cushioned deck furniture for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. On the Promenade Deck there is also a small gymnasium featuring a treadmill, bicycle and cross trainer, and a hairdressers with appointments made on request. For your wellbeing, there is also a clinic with Doctor on board and a lift which serves all decks.

As is the joy of small ship cruising, we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the progress of the vessel (subject to weather or security conditions).

“ Nothing captures the adventurous but well-cushioned spirit of the cruises quite like sipping a hot chocolate, whiskey or cream liqueur while whale watching on a late summer night in the wilds. ”



Deluxe Balcony Suite



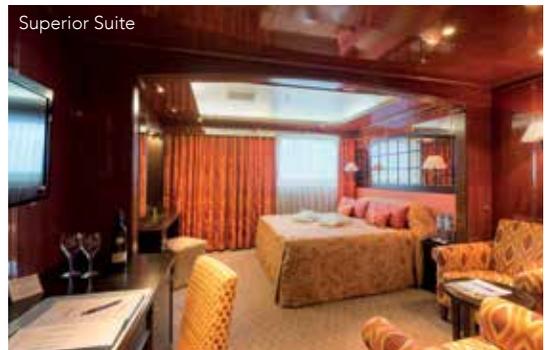
Your Suite MS Caledonian Sky



On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites, 23 of which have private balconies located on the Promenade or Bridge Decks. Each cabin exudes great character and grandeur with wood panelling and brass features found throughout.

The large suites are arranged over four decks and all have outside facing views. All suites feature a sitting room area complete with coffee table, armchairs and flat screen televisions (DVD players and DVDs can be borrowed from reception for use in your suite). The beds in each cabin offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and pillows and can be configured as large double beds or twins.

Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, a heated towel rail, shaver outlet and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or corner bath tub. Dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Further facilities in the suites include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, cabin to cabin telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, bottled water replenished daily, as well as extra blankets and pillows. Ship announcements made from the Bridge and Reception area are also broadcasted in your suite. A laundry service is also available on board.



Superior Suite



Standard Suite



MS ISLAND SKY

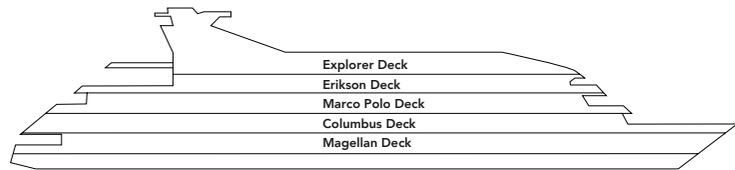


Reception



Bathroom

MS Island Sky Deck and Cabin Plans

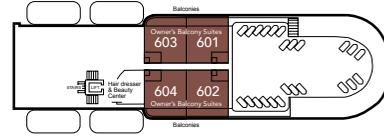


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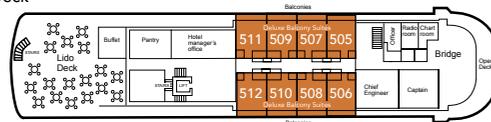
Cruising speed: 11.5 knots
 Length overall: 90.6 m
 Width overall: 15.3m
 Draught maximum: 4.2m
 Flag/Registry: Bahamas

Built: 1992
 Tonnage: 4200
 Guest capacity: 114
 Classed by: BV
 Upgraded: 2015

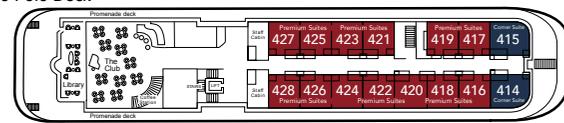
Explorer Deck



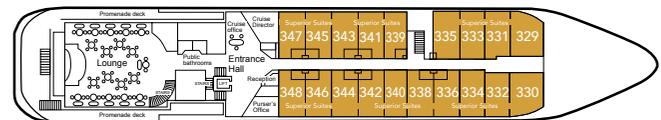
Erikson Deck



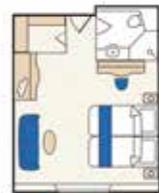
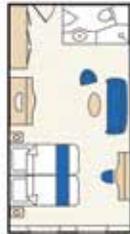
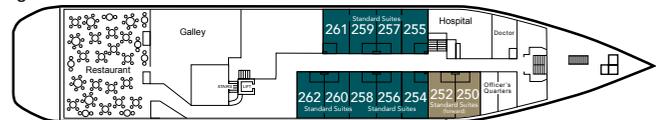
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



Magellan Deck – Standard/Forward Suites

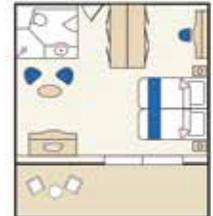
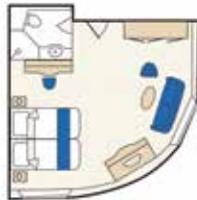
The Standard Forward and Standard Suites located on the Magellan Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature large portholes.

Columbus Deck – Superior Suites

The Superior Suites located on the Columbus Deck measure an average of 22 square metres with a large window.

Marco Polo Deck – Premium Suites

The Premium Suites featured on the Marco Polo Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature a large window.



Marco Polo Deck – Corner Suites

The two magnificent Corner Suites located on the Marco Polo Deck feature dual aspect windows and measure 22 square metres.

Erikson Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Erikson Deck measure 20.9 square metres and boast a 4 square metre private balcony with table and chairs.

Explorer Deck – Owner's Balcony Suites

The Owner's Balcony Suites located on the Explorer Deck measure 22 square metres and feature a large private balcony measuring 8 square metres with table and chairs.



Your Space – MS Island Sky

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 which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. For your convenience, it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your suite.

In addition to the main Lounge on the Columbus Deck, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo Deck which features the main bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Marco Polo Deck is The Library.

Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A selection of games and two computers complete with internet access can also be found in The Library. Daily newspapers and magazines are also placed in the library depending on local availability.

The main dining room 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, complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck the observation area complete with sun loungers is ideal for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. There is also a small hairdressers on board with appointments



Alfresco dining on the Lido Deck



The Library

made on request. For your comfort, there is also a clinic with Doctor and a lift which serves all decks.

As is the joy of small ship cruising, we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the progress of the vessel (subject to weather or security conditions).

“ A voyage aboard the MS Island Sky is as far removed from the traditional concept of big ship cruising as it's possible to get. Imagine a sleek little ship, more akin to a yacht, with a cosy bar where the bartender knows how many slices of lime you prefer in your G&T. ”



Owner's Balcony Suite



Your Suite MS Island Sky



On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room 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. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The suites on each deck have their own colour theme. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.



Standard Forward Cabin, Magellan Deck



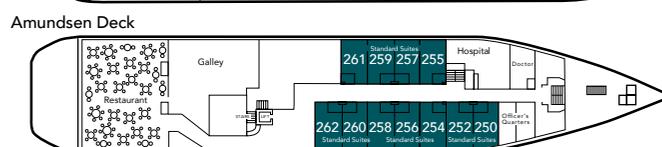
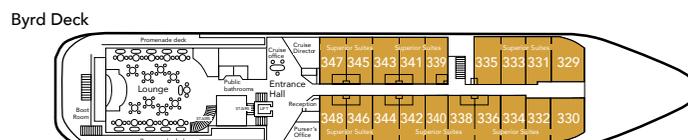
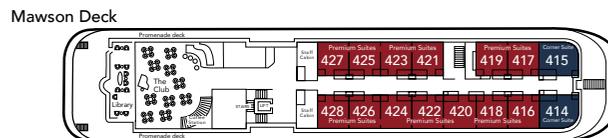
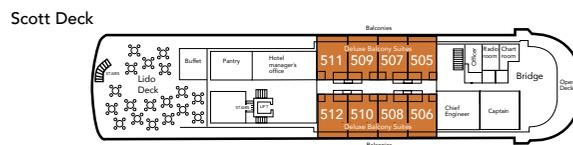
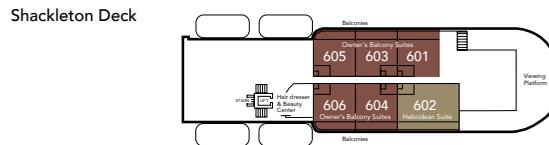
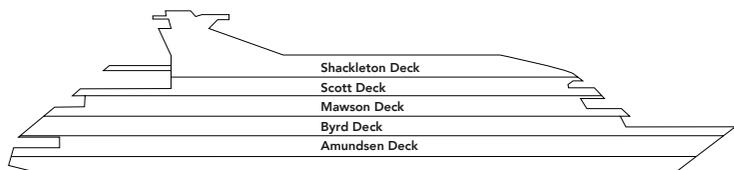
Corner Suite, Marco Polo Deck



MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

MS Hebridean Sky

Deck and Cabin Plans

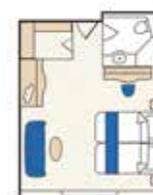


Technical Information

Cruising speed: 11.5 knots
 Length overall: 90.6 m
 Width overall: 15.3m
 Draught maximum: 4.2m
 Flag/Registry: Bahamas

Built: 1992
 Tonnage: 4200
 Guest capacity: 118
 Classed by: BV
 Upgraded: 2016

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



Amundsen Deck – Standard Suites

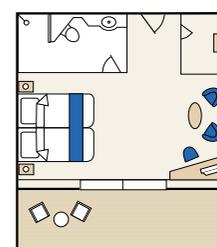
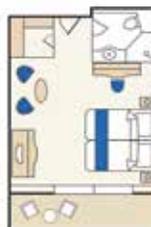
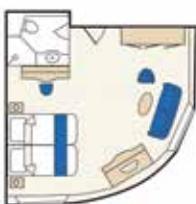
Standard Suites located on the Amundsen Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature large portholes.

Byrd Deck – Superior Suites

Superior Suites located on the Byrd Deck measure an average of 22 square metres with a large window.

Mawson Deck – Premium Suites

The Premium Suites located on the Mawson Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature a large window.



Mawson Deck – Corner Suites

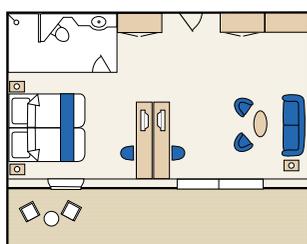
The two magnificent Corner Suites located on the Mawson Deck feature dual aspect windows and measure approximately 22 square metres.

Scott Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Scott Deck measure 20.9 square metres and boast a 4 square metre private balcony with table and chairs.

Shackleton Deck – Owner's Balcony Suites

The Owner's Balcony Suites located on the Shackleton Deck measure an average of 22 square metres and feature a large private balcony measuring 8 square metres with table and chairs. Please note the configuration of suite balconies varies slightly, please see website for details.



Shackleton Deck – Hebridean Suite

The spacious Hebridean Suite located on the Shackleton Deck measures approximately 24.5 square metres and boasts an extra large balcony with table, chairs and sun lounger. This suite features a fixed double bed.



Alfresco dining on the Lido Deck

Your Space – MS Hebridean Sky



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 which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens.

In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar where the on board pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The Club also offers a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck is The Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A selection of games and two computers complete with complimentary internet access can also be found in The Library.



The Restaurant



The Library



Observation Deck



The Club

The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Amundsen Deck and is a bright and charming setting to enjoy the delicious meals on board.

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 which offers a fantastic platform for spotting wildlife complete with deck furniture, ideal for relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. There is also a small hairdressers on board with appointments made on request.

Throughout the vessel you will notice a wide selection of artwork. With the assistance of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, we were able to secure some wonderful prints from the expeditions of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

“

Afternoon tea complete with scones, cupcakes and freshly baked fruit cakes always proves popular.

”



Superior Suite, Byrd Deck



Your Suite MS Hebridean Sky



On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and fourteen suites 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 suites 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 rainfall shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Additional facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones will enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. The beds in each suite can be configured as twins or double with the exception of suite 601 and 602 which feature fixed double beds.

The impressive Hebridean Suite, located on the Shackleton Deck consists of a separate bathroom and sitting room with extra large balcony stretching the length of the suite. Additional benefits of booking this marvellous suite include complimentary internet usage, complimentary mini-bar stocked with your preferences and complimentary laundry.



Hebridean Suite, Shackleton Deck



Deluxe Balcony Suite, Scott Deck

Your Onboard Team

On all our voyages you will find informative staff on board and whilst exploring ashore you will be accompanied by excellent English-speaking local guides. Working with the Captain and crew, our cruise staff are responsible for the day to day organisation of the itinerary and briefings and they are in regular contact with the Noble Caledonia office. We have the very best in their field and they are also joined by Guest Speakers who are chosen for their in-depth knowledge of a specific subject or geographical area. Briefings by the cruise staff and informal talks by our Guest Speakers add an extra dimension to all we see and do. Below are just some of the excellent team we have lined up to join our voyages over the coming two years.

There are many more and full details of who will be joining you on board can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Alan Hardwick – Guest Speaker

Initially trained as a biologist Alan spent several years after university working in fish farming and learnt to dive, naturally enough, in a fish tank on the West coast of Scotland. Fascinated by the underwater world he spent much of the next 25 years exploring the seas around the Scottish Islands, leading expeditions to places such as St Kilda and further afield in the Faroe Islands. He considers

himself lucky to have been able to travel to Africa and to have worked on a research project in Costa Rica studying the seasonal dynamics of a tropical dry forest. He does, however, share with many others the love of travel and exploration and has been fortunate in working as a Zodiac driver on cruises to Antarctica, Spitsbergen, Norway, Ireland and, especially, the Scottish Islands.



Kristine Hannon – Expedition Team

Kristine is a true example of how it is never too late to look for the job of your life. Only a few years ago she discovered the magical world of working on cruise and expedition ships. She was born and raised in Belgium and spend most of her professional life working in the food industry as a shop owner and manager. As her first love was travelling, she spent all her holidays roaming around

the globe. With the harvest of pictures, she prepared lectures on her travels to raise money for local projects in the countries she visited. In 2008-09 she spent her first season in the ice working as Zodiac driver, log writer, lecturer and assistant expedition leader. Now she is an accomplished photographer whose work has been published in magazines, newspapers & books.



Hannah Lawson – Expedition Leader

For the past twelve years Hannah has divided her time between working on expedition cruise ships as a wildlife guide, Zodiac driver and Expedition Leader and creating artwork from her studio in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. She has a bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of Liverpool and gained a Masters in Natural History Illustration at the Royal College of Art,

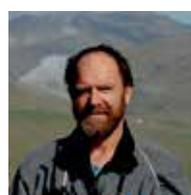
London. She worked as an artist and mural painter for several years at Chester Zoo and also in East Africa, before joining the Noble Caledonia team for the first time in 1999. Her love of wildlife and wild places has taken her annually from Antarctic and South Georgia in the Austral summer to the high Arctic, via South America, Macaronesia, the UK and Norway.



Pamela Le Noury – Expedition Leader

Coming from South Africa, Pam is a marine scientist, PADI dive instructor, Zodiac skipper and sailor, and has worked in and on the ocean just about every day for the past 16 years. After leaving school she worked in the diving industry whilst studying a BSc in zoology and physiology, and started up her own whale watching charter and boat business. She has participated in several marine research

cruises, has published 3 APPS for smartphones on sharks & rays and whales & dolphins and Antarctic Wildlife, and enjoys teaching people about the oceans and conservation through her travels. Pam started expedition cruising in 2008 and has been almost everywhere a small cruise ship can take you; 120 countries from the poles to the remote reaches of every ocean – loving life as a citizen of the sea.



Ian Bullock – Expedition Team

Ian Bullock is a British biologist who lives in St.Davids, Pembrokeshire, on the south-western seaboard of Wales. Since 1978 he has specialised in seabird surveys, habitat management for endangered species and the conservation of remote island nature reserves. For 25 years he worked for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds as both research biologist and warden, establishing new reserves

for conservation and managing offshore islands. In spare moments since 1990 he has worked as guide and lecturer on board expedition ships in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans, as well as Arctic and Antarctic environments. He loves the sea, wildlife and wilderness and relishes any opportunity to share this enthusiasm with fellow adventurers.



Emmarentia Hansen – Expedition Team

Emma (Emmarentia) Hansen was born and raised in the stunning Lowveld area of Mpumalanga, South Africa, very close to Kruger National Park. Growing up on a farm, wildlife, animals and nature have always taken a special place in her heart. After a cruise in 1998, the sea cast a spell on her. She decided to move to Durban to pursue a life at sea. She completed her commercial

skipper's ticket and joined the cruise ships out of Durban as a Zodiac driver. Emma made the transition to the cruise ships in the Mediterranean and North Europe as Tour Manager and Guest Relations Manager. She has worked within the industry for the past 12 years. Emma joined the MS Island Sky in 2007 and has since sailed around the world with Noble Caledonia.



Jannie Cloete – Cruise Director

Jannie, a native South African, grew up on a farm in the beautiful Mpumalanga Province. After obtaining a degree in Advertising and Public Relations, Jannie travelled extensively throughout Europe before returning home to pursue a career on land. During this time he met up with two cruise line entrepreneurs and joined their company as Public Relations Officer. It was

during his first cruise season sailing around South Africa and the remote islands of the Indian Ocean that he found his sea legs – and his calling. Twenty years later, Jannie’s career as Cruise Director has taken him to all seven continents, including participating in four expeditions on a Russian nuclear-powered ice breaker to the geographical North Pole. When not cruising, Jannie calls Johannesburg, South Africa, home.



Tony Crocker – Expedition Team

Tony has spent many years living and travelling through the length and breadth of Europe, in the course of an extensive career in travel and tourism, including over a year spent in the High Arctic. He has a lifelong interest in ornithology and, in his native New Zealand, is acknowledged as one of the best birders. He was editor of the

OSNZ magazine Southern Bird for nine years and council member for six. Tony is regularly active in various projects, especially involving research and monitoring of waders and seabirds, including a number of significant international expeditions. Tony has a MA in French and GradDipSc in History and Philosophy of Science. These days he spends most of his time at sea, as ornithologist/lecturer/Zodiac Driver on expedition ships.



Craig Ward – Expedition Team

Craig is a peripatetic marine professional. Dive instructor, marine biologist & ship’s captain, for over twelve years he has been involved in marine research and education throughout the Indo-pacific. Already having a background in Coral Reef Ecology, Craig studied Zoology at James Cook University, Cairns. Post studies saw him involved in coral, jellyfish and conservation research, before going on

to work for several years in the Northern Territory and the Kimberley with a number of endangered species. In 2003, he established a marine expedition services company, Severe, which was designed to bridge the gap between tourism and conservation. Craig is based in tropical northern Australia, where he is still actively involved in conservation research.



Jane Wilson – Expedition Leader

For the last 10 years Jane has worked on expedition cruise vessels (including some Russian polar ice strengthened and icebreaker vessels) as a zodiac driver, lecturer and expedition leader in many remote corners of the world including South America, the Arctic and Antarctica, Europe, South-east Asia and the South Pacific. She also keeps her hand in the science pie as Voyage

leader for the Australian Antarctic Division, being responsible for deploying support personnel, cargo and scientists to stations and field camps in Antarctica on the Australian research and re-supply icebreaker Aurora Australis. She is a keen skier and now calls the Rocky Mountains in Canada home.



Dr Chris Edwards – Expedition Team

A native of Scotland, after graduating from the University of Glasgow Chris was employed by the British Antarctic Survey and spent two and a half years in Antarctica as a field geologist. On return to the UK via a tour of South America he obtained a Ph.D. and published scientific papers based on his Antarctic work. Twelve years in the oil exploration industry

saw Chris initially based in Aberdeen working both offshore and onshore before postings to South America and the Far East. Since 1989 he has been the horologist in his own antique clock restoration business. This has allowed him the flexibility to leave the workshop for several months a year to work on expedition ships as lecturer in the Antarctic, the Arctic and North-West Europe.



Dr Susan Currie – Expedition Team

After obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Exeter and a Doctoral degree from the University of Cambridge Susan worked as a geologist in the UK offshore oil and gas industry. Over the past decade climate change has been a particular area of interest and study for her and in 2008 she took up an appointment as a senior geologist in

the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). While working there she continued to make frequent expedition cruises. Eventually she decided to make geology lecturing on expedition cruise ship her full-time profession and enjoys introducing her chosen subject to non-geologists.



Colin Baird – Expedition Team

Colin grew up on the west coast of Canada and developed a love for the sea at an early age, sailing and scuba diving the local waters off Vancouver Island. He spent 10 years as a marine mammal trainer working with seals, sea lions and orca (perhaps better known as Killer Whales). In 2002 he was hired by Jean Michel Cousteau as the director of field operations for the Free Willy/ Keiko Project in Iceland and

Norway. This was and remains today the only attempt to release a previously captive orca back into the wild. Since then, Colin has been expedition cruising to many out of the way places; including Iceland, Norway, Svalbard, the High Arctic and Antarctic. When at home in Canada he leads whale watching tours from Victoria, B.C. during the northern summer to see his favourite of all the cetaceans – the orca.



Dr Alan Borg – Guest Speaker

Alan began his career teaching the history of art at Indiana and Princeton Universities. Returning to Britain in 1970, he became Assistant Keeper in the Royal Armouries in the Tower of London. In 1982 he became Director General of the Imperial War Museum, where he was responsible for the complete refurbishment and reinterpretation of the Museum, the opening of the Cabinet War Rooms,

the preservation of HMS Belfast and the development of Duxford Airfield as a major aviation museum. In 1996 he became Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he undertook the redisplay of the entire sequence of British Galleries. Awarded the CBE in 1991, he is also a Knight of the Order of St John. His publications include books on Romanesque art & the history of Arms and Armour.



Rt Rev & Rt Hon Dr Richard Chartres – Guest Speaker

Richard Chartres is currently Bishop of London and Dean of HM Chapels Royal. Before ordination he taught Ancient History in the International School in Seville. More recently he has served as Gresham Professor of Divinity and published a history of the College. He is the Founder of the St Ethelburga Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and works extensively in the inter-faith

field. He was closely involved in the establishment of St Mellitus College which is now the largest Theological College in the country. He also represents the Church of England in its relations with the Eastern Orthodox Church. Most recently he has been appointed an Ambassador for the World Wild Life Fund and has published in the area of religion, science and the environment.



Rear Admiral John Lippiett – Guest Speaker

John Lippiett had a 36 year career in the Royal Navy serving in a large number of ships from aircraft carriers to minesweepers and deployed to all of the world’s operational theatres. He was second-in-command of the frigate HMS Ambuscade throughout the Falklands War. John commanded three ships, a Frigate Squadron, and then the School of Maritime Warfare. On promotion to

Rear Admiral, he flew his Flag at sea as Flag Officer Sea Training before serving in Naples as Chief of Staff of the NATO maritime forces in the Mediterranean. His final posting was as the Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College. John retired and for nearly 13 years was the Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust, during which time he led the project to build the award winning new museum.

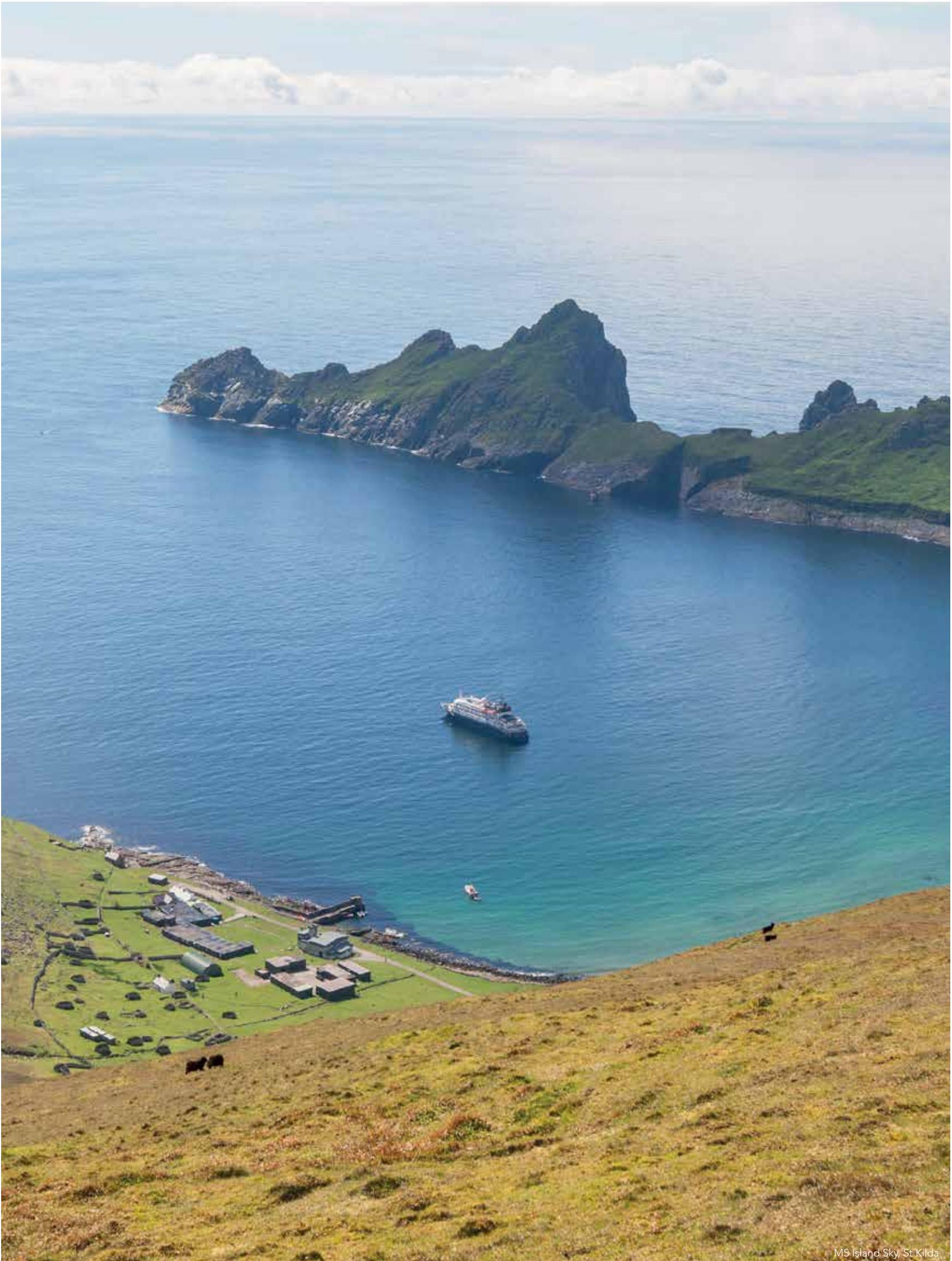
The Voyages 2017-2018



VOYAGE/ VESSEL	DEPARTURE DATE	TO/FROM	CATEGORY	PAGE
From Papua New Guinea to the Philippines – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	21st February 2017	Rabaul to Manila	Expedition Cruise	36-37
Passage to India – <i>Island Sky</i>	8th March 2017	Mahe to Chennai	Destination Cruise*	38-39
Passage of the Condor – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	25th March 2017 & 19th March 2018	Santiago to Guayaquil	Destination Cruise	40-41
East & West of Panama – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	8th April 2017	Guayaquil to Willemstad	Expedition Cruise	42-45
Temples & Gardens of Ancient Japan & South Korea – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	23rd April 2017	Tokyo to Osaka	Destination Cruise*	46-47
Sicilian Odyssey – <i>Island Sky</i>	3rd May 2017	Naples to Valletta	Destination Cruise*	48-49
Spring in the Isles – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	7th May 2017	Portsmouth to Oban	Expedition Cruise	50-51
Timeless Japan – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	7th May & 16th May 2017	Tokyo to Osaka	Destination Cruise*	52-53
Spring in the Secret Mediterranean – <i>Island Sky</i>	13th May 2017	Valletta to Istanbul	Destination Cruise*	54-55
Circumnavigation of the Black Sea – <i>Island Sky</i>	6th June 2017	Istanbul to Istanbul	Destination Cruise	56-57
Voyage to the Land of the Polar Bears – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	23rd July 2017	Longyearbyen to Tromso	Expedition Cruise	58-59
Summer in the Isles – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	17th August 2017	Leith to Portsmouth	Destination Cruise*	60-61
Across the Top of Australia – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	26th August 2017	Broome to Darwin	Expedition Cruise	62-65
Melanesian Odyssey – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	13th September 2017	Honiara to Fiji	Expedition Cruise	66-67
Late Summer in the French & Italian Rivas – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	14th September 2017	Barcelona to Livorno	Destination Cruise*	68-71
Nomads of the Wind – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	25th September 2017	Fiji to Tahiti	Expedition Cruise	72-75
The Making of Spain – <i>Island Sky</i>	27th September 2017	Barcelona to Madrid	Destination Cruise	76-77
Passage from Southern Italy to Seville – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	1st October 2017	Naples to Seville	Destination Cruise	78-79
Passage to Polynesia & Beyond – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	9th October 2017	Tahiti to Fiji	Expedition Cruise	80-83
In the Wake of Shackleton – <i>Island Sky</i>	9th November 2017 & 9th November 2018	Antarctica & South Georgia	Expedition Cruise	84-87
Circumnavigation of New Zealand – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	15th December 2017	Auckland to Auckland	Destination Cruise*	88-91
New Zealand Island Discovery – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	11th January 2018	Queenstown to Christchurch	Destination Cruise*	92-95
Across the Tropic of Capricorn – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	7th February 2018	Auckland to Rabaul	Expedition Cruise	96-99
Patagonia & the Chilean Fjords – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	5th March 2018	Ushuaia to Valpariso	Expedition Cruise	100-101
Island Life in the China Seas – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	14th March 2018	Taipei to Kobe	Destination Cruise*	102-103
Island Hopping in Cape Verde – <i>Island Sky</i>	29th March 2018	Sao Tiago to Sao Tiago	Destination Cruise*	104-105
Spring in the Gardens of the Mediterranean – <i>Island Sky</i>	1st May 2018	Naples to Barcelona	Destination Cruise*	106-107
From the Colonial South to New York – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	6th May 2018	Nassau to New York	Destination Cruise	108-109
Eternal Japan – <i>Caledonian Sky</i>	8th May 2018	Kobe to Nigata	Destination Cruise*	110-111
From New York to Nova Scotia – <i>Hebridean Sky</i>	19th May 2018	New York to Halifax	Destination Cruise*	112-113

*Please note that on these cruises, due to the remote areas visited or small ports with minimum infrastructure, the vessel's Zodiacs and/or local tender boats will be used on occasion to tender ashore or for coastal cruising. Further details are provided on the relevant itinerary pages and if you have any concerns regarding the use of Zodiacs please see page 6 or discuss with one of our travel consultants.

NB. Ports and itineraries are subject to change. Please note that flight schedules are not released until 11 months prior to departure and in some instances itineraries may change slightly upon their release.





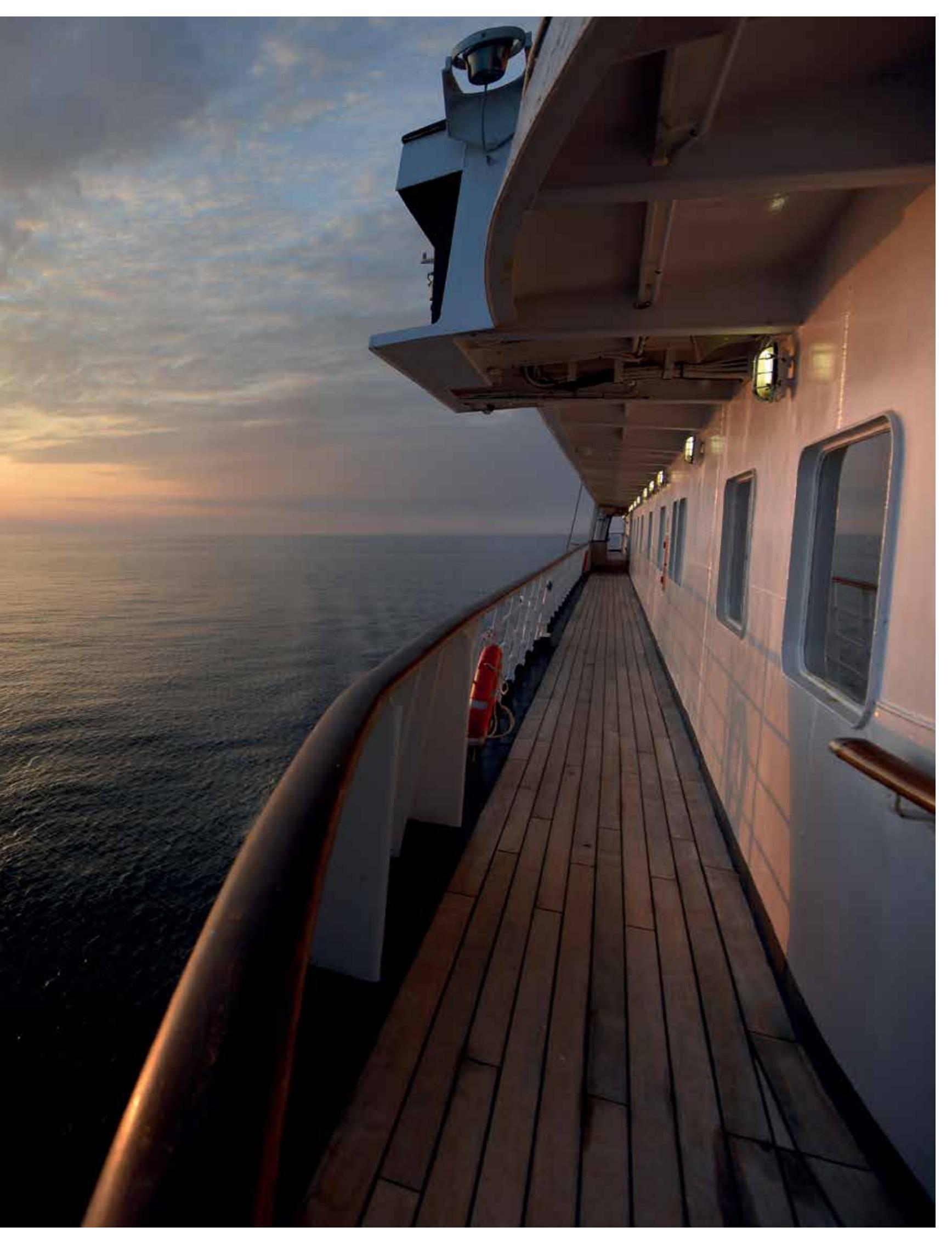
The Voyages

“

Ships, especially little ships, have auras like people and houses. The aura is built up of many things. Human encounter is the main brace; add to this the company and shared experience, bad days and good, achievement and disappointment, even moments of danger. All this rubs off on the ship, growing with the places that she visits like richly colored beads threaded with string.

Keith Shackleton "Ship in the Wilderness"

”



From Papua New Guinea to the Philippines



An expedition from Rabaul to Manila aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
21st February to 14th March 2017

For the well-travelled, our voyage from Papua New Guinea to the Philippines offers a unique opportunity to visit little known and remote regions that are well away from the usual cruise routes. The privilege of exploring these remarkable lands from a small ship and in the company of knowledgeable speakers, expedition team members and local guides is an opportunity not to be missed. Marvellous experiences are to be had as we snorkel among multi-coloured corals, land on pristine beaches, witness traditional ways of life in remote communities and explore jungle looking out for endemic flora and fauna and each evening returning to the considerable comforts of our vessel the MS Caledonian Sky as we then sail on to our next adventure.

Birders will delight in the opportunity to see the red bird of paradise, red footed boobies, brown noddies, hornbills and kingfishers to name but a few whilst there will also be ample opportunity to snorkel in what are some of the most bio-diverse waters in the world. Perhaps most of all though, our voyage will provide the opportunity to interact with local villagers who always offer such a warm welcome and experience their local culture and traditions such as communal net fishing.

The only comfortable way to explore this vast and intriguing land is by sea and we are fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. We hope you will join us for this unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Singapore. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Singapore. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Shangri La Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay.

Day 3 Singapore. Enjoy a morning at leisure before our city tour this afternoon.

Day 4 Singapore to Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. Enjoy a leisurely morning. This afternoon we will visit the 53 hectare botanical garden and National Orchid Garden before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to Rabaul via Port Moresby.

Day 5 Rabaul. Arrive and transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky.

Day 6 Garove Island. After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at the Witu Islands, a small group of volcanic reef-ringed islands situated within the archipelago of Bismarck. We spend the afternoon on the largest of these, Garove Island. The fringing reef surrounding the island offers fine swimming or enjoy the first snorkelling opportunity amongst the corals.

Day 7 Alim Island, Admiralty Islands. The Admiralty Islands are an archipelago of 18 islands in the Bismarck Sea. We plan to use our Zodiacs to land on one of the pristine beaches on Alim Island, an uninhabited island and paradise for birds. Here we can find up to 2000 pairs of breeding red footed boobies, kingfishers and brown noddies. There will be the option to swim or snorkel from the beach, join a Zodiac cruise to the mangroves or join our expedition staff as they lead nature walks.

Day 8 Sepik River & Wewak. At dawn we anchor at the mouth of the Sepik River. We will rise early and use our Zodiacs to explore the river system surrounded by lush forest and birdsong. Later we will visit a local village where we will receive a traditional welcome. This afternoon we sail to Wewak where we will clear immigration only before continuing our journey along the Papuan coast.

Day 9 Jayapura. Over breakfast we arrive in Jayapura, the capital and largest city in Papua. We will drive inland to Lake Sentani, one



of the largest lakes which is still virtually untouched by tourism. The people, who call the shores of this magnificent lake home, still live in a traditional manner and are renowned for their woodwork and pottery. We will drive up to Gunung Ifar to view the World War II monument of General McArthur with its spectacular view of Sentani Lake and Cyclope Mountain.

Day 10 Padaido Islands. Today we will cruise along the coastline and we will take advantage of our small ship and fleet of Zodiacs to explore the islands off the coast. Our itinerary will be flexible and be guided by our Captain, Expedition Leader and local weather conditions. In the late afternoon we hope to visit the Padaido Islands, a chain of 31 mainly uninhabited islands and the site of some of the world's most intact and biologically diverse coral reef systems. Padaido is a local word, meaning indescribable beauty and we will snorkel in the reefs which harbour 95 coral and 155 fish species.

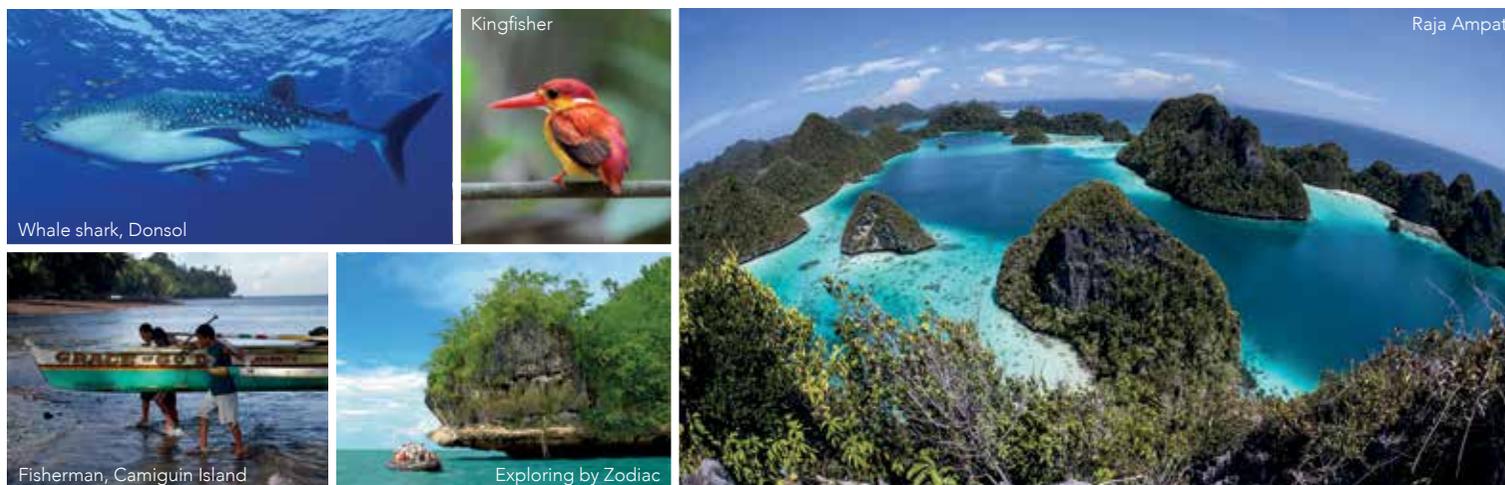
Days 11 & 12 Raja Ampat. We spend the next two days exploring the 1500 karst limestone islands which make up the archipelago of Raja Ampat, also known as "Four Kings," after its four main islands. Watch from on deck as our ship sails through the narrow channels between the islands off New Guinea's north-western tip known as Bird's Head. The waters off Bird's Head are heralded as the most bio-diverse on earth and include 600 species of hard coral and 1200 types of reef fish whilst ashore on the islands we can enjoy beachcombing and nature walks

looking for flora and fauna. On Gam Island a strenuous hike will search for the red bird of paradise whilst further walks may find kingfisher, lorikeets and parrots whilst on Kri Island we can swim amongst the colourful reef fish.

Day 13 At sea.

Day 14 Bitung. From our berth at Bitung we travel inland for a morning at the Tangkoko Nature Reserve. This 8800 hectare park ranges from beaches at sea level to the top of Tangkoko Mountain and is a haven for endemic flora and fauna. On a guided walk we will search for black macaque monkey and the tarsiers, the smallest primates in the world and for whom the Tangkoko Reserve is their last refuge, whilst for the birders we will hope to see hornbills. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we discover more about the Minahasa people of the region. On a village tour we will see the traditional fishing boats, visit the local markets and see the "waruga" traditional tombs unique to this part of Sulawesi.

Day 15 Bunaken Marine Park. Bunaken National Park is a treasure trove of biodiversity situated near the centre of the Coral Triangle. Here we will find nearly 400 species of coral and over 90 species of fish, whilst seven of the eight species of giant clams are also found here. Meanwhile on land we can find macaque and deer whilst mangrove forests are home to crabs. We will use our Zodiacs to land on a local beach and set up snorkelling platforms whilst our naturalists lead walks ashore.



Day 16 At sea.

Day 17 Surigao City, Philippines.

During lunch we will arrive at Surigao on the north of Mindanao Island. Here we will clear customs and immigration before using our Zodiacs to explore the Asan Village. We will explore the many channels, see the local fisherman and spend time ashore in the village.

Day 18 Camiguin Island.

Camiguin Island is a small island formed through a series of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. We will see an example of this when the eruption of Mount Vulcan in the late 19th century submerged the old town of Catarman leaving behind the ruins of a church and its bell tower whilst a white cross marks the sunken cemetery. We also visit the Philippine Volcanology Observation Station. For the keen birders we will leave early for Mount Timpoong looking for the endemic loricus camiguinis whilst we may also see kingfishers, egrets and whiskered owl. Enjoy an afternoon at sea.

Day 19 Donsol & Ticao Island.

Between November and June the waters in Donsol Bay are home to many whale sharks, the largest fish

in the ocean which are often found just below the surface. This morning we will use local boats to head into the bay in search of these beautiful creatures and the hardy have the opportunity to swim and snorkel. Over lunch we cross over to Ticao Island where the Zodiacs take us to the impressive Katadayagan Falls. Enjoy a swim at the base and visit the small Torogon village.

Day 20 Sibuyan Island.

Our last morning finds us at Sibuyan Island, known as the "Galapagos of Asia" due to the rich range of wildlife. We have a choice of options this morning, the keen birders will disembark early for a strenuous walk in the Cantigas Mountain offering fantastic views of Mount Guiting-Guiting National Park and over the Sibuyan Sea. Alternatively we immerse ourselves in the island culture, see communal net-fishing, visit the local market and the paddy fields to see the traditional methods of growing this staple crop.

Day 21 Manila to London.

Disembark and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 22 London.

Arrive this morning.

Pre-Cruise Extension



Rondon Ridge Lodge



Bird of paradise

Pre-Cruise Highlands Extension

20th to 25th February 2017

Before our expedition aboard the MS Caledonian Sky begins, you can join a three night stay in Papua New Guinea's Western Highlands where you will have the opportunity to discover local tribes and learn more of their traditions. We will stay at Rondon Ridge which is located 7100 feet above sea level, near the town of Mount Hagen, on the outer fringes of the Kubor Range. Over 180 species of birds have been recorded in the rainforests around Rondon Ridge including ten species of Birds of Paradise. The lodge has hours of walking trails providing ample opportunity to explore the unique ecology of this area and during your time at the lodge there will be nature and birding walks accompanied by experienced and knowledgeable nature guides. While staying at Rondon Ridge Lodge, there will be excursions which will take you on a journey through the traditions and customs of the local Melpa People.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Singapore. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Singapore. Arrive this morning and transfer to the Shangri-La Singapore (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 3 Singapore to Mount Hagen. Enjoy a leisurely morning to either explore independently or relax at the hotel. In the afternoon enjoy a city tour with a visit to the Botanical Garden before we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Mount Hagen via Port Moresby. On arrival in Mount Hagen you will be met and transferred to your lodge for a three -night stay. Spend the rest of the day at leisure or join a nature walk.

Days 4 & 5 Rondon Ridge, Western Highlands. We have two full days to explore the Highlands and learn of the unique culture and traditions of the tribes in the region. We will visit villages with our knowledgeable local guides and learn more about the fascinating birdlife of the Highlands.

Day 6 Mount Hagen to Rabaul. After breakfast, check out and transfer to Mount Hagen airport for your flight to Rabaul via Port Moresby. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy
Twin: £1895, Single: £2145

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Singapore with breakfast, three nights accommodation at Rondon Ridge on full board basis, transfers, excursions, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY – SAVE UP TO £700 PER PERSON			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£8295	£7945
Castle	Standard	£8595	£8245
Caledonian	Superior	£9095	£8745
Promenade	Premium	£9495	£9145
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10195	£9495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10695	£9995
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£11295	£10595
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11495	£11145
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11995	£11645

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled flights, two nights hotel accommodation in Singapore on a bed and breakfast basis, 16 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Passage to India

An epic voyage from the Seychelles to India & Sri Lanka aboard the MS Island Sky
8th to 27th March 2017

We find it difficult to imagine a more perfect way to escape the British winter than to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Indian Ocean aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary that suits her best. Join us in the tropics as we journey from the islands and atolls of the Indian Ocean to India's beautiful southern coast and a voyage around Sri Lanka.

Our journey to the Indian continent first allows us to explore the Seychelles and Maldives, two of the world's most pristine and picturesque archipelagos. With our purpose built Zodiacs we will land on otherwise inaccessible beaches, explore vast lagoons and coral reefs and encounter some extraordinarily beautiful tropical scenery. Our small ship is ideal for such a region, allowing us to enjoy the peace and tranquility of this paradise. After all, it would be disappointing to find yourself in the company of hundreds on what was a deserted beach.

Contrasting well with this natural world exploration, our itinerary then takes a more cultural focus as we reach the Indian state of Kerala. Our first port of call is Cochin, an ancient city of islands which has for centuries attracted traders and adventurers from Europe and the far Orient. Hugging the Kerala coast, we move on to Trivandrum, then across to Sri Lanka. Here we explore the interior and the old capital of Kandy, and we then move around the southern coast of the island to take in the Dutch colonial town of Galle and Bundala National Park. This unusual itinerary will appeal to those looking for something different, incorporating explorations of the natural world with a more expedition focus, followed by a fascinating look at southern India, visiting a number of ports which are off the usual cruise route.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles.
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation.

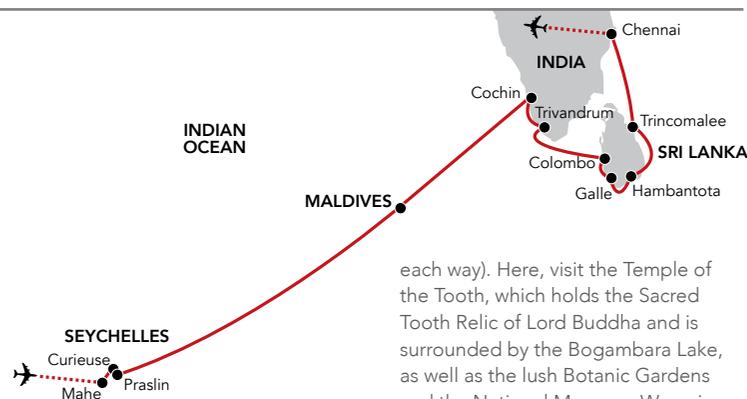
Day 3 Curieuse & Praslin. Sail to the islands to the north of Mahe and spend the morning on Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitors centre. The island is an important nesting site for Hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk. Over lunch we sail to Praslin where we explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high-canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty which so overpowered General Gordon.

Days 4 to 6 At sea. Relax and enjoy our days at sea. Watch the bird and marine life and listen to the intriguing talks by our expedition team. We are assured of warm weather so make the most of the fresh air, get lost in a novel

from your deck chair and enjoy all the comforts of the MS Island Sky.

Days 7 to 10 Maldives. We spend three days exploring the Maldives archipelago. This vast area of ocean is scattered with staggeringly beautiful dots of land surrounded by a cerulean sea. It offers some of the finest lagoons, beaches and coral reefs in the world. Our day to day schedule will be left in the capable hands of the Captain and Expedition Leader, but we hope to include visits to Hithadhoo, Meenu Atoll, Baa Atoll and Haaalifu Atoll. Our expedition staff will be on hand to take guided walking tours to explore the birds and wildlife on land whilst our snorkel master will take us to some exceptional reefs to find coral and marine life. On our last day we will clear customs at Uligamu Island and enjoy an afternoon at sea as we sail to India.

Days 11 & 12 Cochin, India. After a morning at sea we arrive in India at the port of Cochin. This is an extraordinary city with strong influences of Portuguese, Chinese, Arab, Dutch and of course British still much in evidence today. We have a day and a



half to enjoy this intriguing Malabar Port. Activities will include the Kerala backwaters at Allepy where we will board a local boat for a cruise sailing past colonial warehouses and coconut thatched houses on traditional rice barges. We will have time in Cochin to explore the curious mix of cultures and religions that together, with its strong trading past in spices and silks, make a fascinating city. We will visit Mattancherry Palace with its ornately decorated rooms including some marvellous ancient murals. We see the oldest European church in India, St Francis, the ruins of Fort Cochin and time permitting, the Pardesi Synagogue. On our first evening as we moor overnight we will enjoy a Kathakali performance onboard after dinner. Kathakali is one of the main forms of classical dance drama of India and indigenous to Kerala and based on the subject from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and stories from Saiva literature.

Day 13 Trivandrum. Be on deck as we sail into the Kerala fishing port of Trivandrum, a magical sight. Built over seven hills, the 'city of the sacred serpents' retains some of old Kerala's ambience, with its pagoda shaped buildings, red-tiled roofs and narrow winding lanes. There is much to see here and on our morning excursion we will include the old fort area around the 260 year old Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Day 14 Colombo. Over breakfast we arrive in Sri Lanka's capital city where there is a choice of activities today. You have the choice to join a full day tour to Kandy. We will drive through Sri Lanka's hill country, to arrive at the picturesque, naturally fortified hill town of Kandy (journey time 3-4 hours

each way). Here, visit the Temple of the Tooth, which holds the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha and is surrounded by the Bogambara Lake, as well as the lush Botanic Gardens and the National Museum. We enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to the ship this evening. Alternatively remain in Colombo and enjoy a morning tour including the Gangarama Buddhist Temple, Colombo National and Dutch period museums and the Pettah area where the local market is a great place to find a bargain. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore independently.



Atolls in the Maldives

Day 15 Galle. Awake this morning in Galle where on a morning tour we visit the old Dutch Fort, the museum which is housed in an old Dutch house depicting life in the Dutch colony, the lighthouse, mosque and church. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon. Shuttle buses will take you back to Galle where you may visit the Maritime Museum or browse for lace and local handicrafts.

Day 16 Hambantota. From our berth in Hambantota we drive inland to Kataragama, one of the three most important religious sites in Sri Lanka and a popular place of pilgrimage to Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and the indigenous Vedda communities of Sri Lanka and South India. According



Temple of the Tooth, Kandy, Sri Lanka



Clownfish



Elephants, Udawalawe National Park



Mahabalipuram

to the Buddhists this was one of the 16 places visited by Buddha during his visits to Sri Lanka. We will explore the religious complex built across the Menik Ganga which contains buildings from all three religions including the mosque, temple, the small archaeological museum and the principal shrine of the god Kataragama. Return to the ship for lunch and in the late afternoon we will drive the short distance to Bundala National Park designated as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 2005. Bundala National Park is an internationally important wintering ground in Sri Lanka for migratory water birds, the highlight being the Greater Flamingo, which migrate in large flocks. Elephants, deer, wild boar and crocodiles are also present. Alternatively you can choose a full day option and visit Udawalawe National Park, home to around 400 elephants as well as water buffalo, sambar deer and the occasional leopard.

Day 17 Trincomalee. Today, after a morning cruising we arrive on the north east coast on Sri Lanka in one

of the finest deep water harbours of the world. This afternoon you can choose to join a tour of Trincomalee where we visit Fort Frederick built in 1676 by the Dutch, walk to Swami Rock and see the Koneswarum Kovil, one of the five most holy Shaivite temples in the country. Alternatively join our shuttle service to one of the local beaches.

Day 18 At sea/Chennai. After a day at sea we return to India arriving at the city of Chennai late this evening when we will clear immigration formalities.

Day 19 Chennai. Disembark this morning and drive to Mahabalipuram, a remarkable temple complex on the shores of the Coromandel Coast. After a local lunch we will transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The rest of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Day 20 Chennai to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£8795	£8295
Magellan	Standard	£8995	£8495
Columbus	Superior	£9395	£8895
Marco Polo	Premium	£9695	£9195
Marco Polo	Corner	£9995	£9495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£10795	£9795
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£10995	£9995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£10995	£10495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£11795	£11295

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 17 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, expedition team, transfers, port taxes, overnight hotel accommodation in Chennai on a bed and breakfast basis, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: Please note that Zodiacs will be used regularly to transport passengers ashore during the first section of this voyage.

Post-Cruise Extension



Taj Mahal

Post-Cruise Golden Triangle Extension

26th March to 1st April 2017

The Itinerary

Day 1 (Day 19 of cruise itinerary) Chennai to Delhi. Disembark the MS Island Sky and transfer to the airport for your internal flight to Delhi arriving later in the afternoon. Settle into our hotel (Sheraton or similar) for a two night stay.

Day 2 Delhi. Enjoy a morning sightseeing tour to discover Old Delhi, the former Mughal capital, and New Delhi, a colonial city designed in the 1920s by Lutyens. See the magnificent Red Fort and visit Raj Ghat, the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi as well as the Qutub Minar a majestic, sandstone tower built in 1192. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 3 Delhi to Samode. Drive to Rajasthan province arriving at lunchtime for a two night stay at splendid Samode Palace set in the hills of Aravalli. Discover the local village in the afternoon and this evening enjoy a gala evening at the Palace.

Day 4 Jaipur. Explore the sights of Jaipur. Visit the imposing Amber Fort blending Hindu and Rajput influences. After lunch, a sightseeing tour of Jaipur, the pink city, reveals the Palace of the Winds with its delicate honeycomb screens from behind which the ladies once viewed the world outside.

Day 5 Samode to Agra. A full day to travel to Agra, visiting Fatehpur Sikri en-route. Built by Emperor Akbar in the 16th century, this former palace city on top of a ridge, was only destined to be the capital of the Mughal Empire for 10 years before the water supply dried up. Admire the architectural splendour of the Royal Hall, Mosque and palace buildings. Check into the ITC Mughal (or similar) for a one night stay.

Day 6 Taj Mahal, Delhi. The legendary beauty of the white marble domes of the elegant Taj Mahal awaits discovery this morning. Built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as an exquisite mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, Rudyard Kipling described the building as "the embodiment of all things pure". Return drive to Delhi in the afternoon.

Day 7 Delhi to London. Transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1545; Single: £2095

Price Includes: Six nights accommodation listed above, economy internal flight Chennai to Delhi, breakfast and dinner at hotels, five lunches, meals served with water, snack pack on internal flight, transfers, excursions, tour manager.

Not Included: Indian visa, soft and alcoholic drinks.

N.B. Please note that there are some long drives (3-5 hours) between cities on this tour.

Passage of the Condor

A Pacific coastal odyssey of Chile & Peru aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
25th March to 10th April 2017 & 19th March to 4th April 2018

Our coastal cruise along the Pacific shores of South America will be dominated by the ever present Andes as we make our way from central Chile to Peru. This is one of the world's great expedition cruises. Few regions in the world offer the diversity and ecosystems of those found in this intriguing part of South America. From the towering snow-capped Andes to barren coastal desert, the landscapes are unparalleled.

Our voyage takes us along the nutrient-rich Humboldt Current that is a haven for an amazing concentration of seabirds, marine mammals and wildlife. To highlight the wildlife, we will be visiting the Islas Ballestas National Reserve, the Humboldt Penguin Nature Reserve and many other remote coastal sites and islands. This trip is as equally rich in geological, archaeological and cultural interest as well with visits included to the Pintados Geoglyphs, the Peruvian capital of Lima and the ruins of Chan Chan. There will also be the opportunity to join optional excursions to both the Atacama Desert and the Nazca Lines.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Santiago, Chile. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Santiago. Arrive this morning and transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. This afternoon join a city tour with the remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 3 Valparaiso. After breakfast in the hotel we will make our way to the port of Valparaiso. Our route will take us through the Casablanca Valley, one of the country's premier wine areas and we will enjoy a tasting and lunch at one of the vineyards. We continue to Valparaiso, a city built on 42 hills, where we will enjoy a scenic drive to the Alegre Hill to see the colourful houses before enjoying the views from the Yugoslavian Terrace over the bay. We will then take the funicular to Plaza

Sotomayor to re-join our coach and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 4 Coquimbo. This morning we enjoy a glimpse of the important port city of Coquimbo, with its strong British influence, and the regional capital of La Serena. One of Coquimbo's highlights is the picturesque Barrio Ingles. This historical quarter opposite the port stands as a testament to the strong British influence in this port city. Rising impressively above the city is the 91 metre Cross of the Third Millennium. After lunch in a local restaurant continue inland where the landscape transforms itself into a lush array of plantations and vineyards set amongst rolling hills. We will stop at the Gabriela Mistral Museum in the village of Montegrande, enjoy a pisco tasting

in the Elqui Valley and have a stroll through the Main Square.

Day 5 Isla Pajaros & Isla Chanaral. Today we enjoy the benefits of small ship cruising as we use our Zodiacs to view the islands off the Chilean coast. Spend the morning at Isla Pajaros to view the colonies of cormorants, boobies and Humboldt penguins that reside here. Over lunch we continue our journey north to Isla Chanaral, the largest in a series of islands once known as an important site for guano, a valuable agricultural fertilizer. The islands are protected today as a nature reserve that is home to sea lion colonies, nesting boobies, pelicans, cormorants as well as marine otters.

Day 6 At sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we continue our journey north.

Day 7 Antofagasta. Originally part of Bolivia and captured by Chile in the war of the Pacific in the late 19th century, Antofagasta is today a hub for the Chilean mining industry and handles most of the minerals from the Atacama. There will be the opportunity to join an optional overnight tour to the Atacama Desert to enjoy the sites of pre-Colombian, colonial and contemporary culture, the unique geology, volcanoes and lagoons and stay overnight in one of the desert hotels. We return to the ship in the evening of day 8 in Iquique. For those remaining on board we will take a walking tour around Plaza Colon and continue to the Huanchaca Ruins where we see the striking remains of a Bolivian silver refinery built in 1868 and see La Portada, a natural erosion-carved arch-like rock formation.

Day 8 Iquique. Arrive this morning in Iquique which grew in the 19th century due to the large deposits of sodium nitrate found in the area. On a morning excursion we will discover the desert and pampa region inland from Iquique and see the remains of a once flourishing nitrate town in Humberstone. Founded in 1872 at the junction of the Pan-American Highway and the road to Iquique, it is today a ghost town after it stopped operations in 1960. We continue to the Pintados Geoglyphs where over 60,000 square yards of hill slopes are decorated by more than 400 figures depicting humans, animals, birds or abstract shapes, isolated or arranged



into thematic groups. The geoglyphs are estimated to date from 1,000 to 1,400 A.D.

Day 9 Arica. Enjoy a choice of excursions today from the port of Arica. A morning tour will provide an introduction to Arica's monuments and historic buildings including the Customs House and Church of San Marcos, constructed by Gustave Eiffel in 1876. Afterwards continue outside of the city to see the geoglyph art on the nearby hillsides. A visit to the San Miguel Archaeological Museum reveals its fascinating display of Chinchorro Mummies, the oldest known mummies in the world dating back 7,000 years. We return to Arica via the Morro where the history and arms museum offers an insight into the battles of the War of the Pacific and also wonderful views over the city. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon. Alternatively have an early start and choose a full day tour to the Lauca National Park which straddles the Chilean / Bolivian border and offers a wealth of flora and fauna, interesting culture and history, and outstanding natural beauty. This journey features the region's unique Altiplanic scenery, from green agricultural oasis to desert hills, pre-Inca archaeological sites to snow-capped peaks, magnificent volcanoes and one of the highest altitude lakes in the world at Lake Chungara home to pink flamingos. (Please note that this tour will reach altitudes around 4,500m).

Day 10 Matarani, Peru. Here in the far south of Peru we call into the port of



The Morro de Arica



Plaza de Armas, Lima



Santa Catalina Convent

Matarani. Drive to the 'White City', as Arequipa is known. Our tour includes bustling Plaza de Armas dominated by the stunning neo-Renaissance Cathedral, set amidst colonial buildings. Later, visit Santa Catalina Convent, a beautiful walled citadel, which for four centuries housed a closed order of nuns. We will also take in the colonial district of Yanahuara, a short distance from the heart of the city. It is a charming area of narrow cobblestone streets and old, white, volcanic stone houses. From here, there are magnificent views of the three volcanoes which overlook the city: Misti, Chachani and Pichu Pichu.

Day 11 At sea. Relax on board.

Day 12 Isla Ballestas & Tambo Colorado. Influenced by the cold Humboldt Current, Isla Ballestas marine preserve area serves as a breeding refuge for birds, resting areas for mammals and spawning grounds for many marine organisms. We take local boats from the port of Pisco to explore these unparalleled, fascinating islands where we should see a variety of seabirds, such as the very localised Peruvian booby, and mammals such as the southern sea lion. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we travel to the Tambo Colorado, one of the best preserved Inca archaeological sites in Peru. Named after the abundant use of colour on the walls it was one of the administrative and military centres controlling the Pisco valley from its base on the main road between the coast and mountains. Alternatively, there will be an opportunity to join an optional tour aboard a small aircraft for a bird's eye view of the famed Nazca Lines. These enormous geoglyphs etched in the desert floor date back to 2000 B.C. and can really only be truly appreciated from the air.

Day 13 Callao for Lima. This morning we arrive in Callao the port for Lima. After breakfast we enjoy a tour of Lima city, which was founded by the conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535, and then named the 'City of Kings' by the Spaniards who took the city in name of the Spanish Crown.

Day 14 Salaverry. After a morning at sea we arrive in Salaverry at lunchtime and enjoy a choice of activities this afternoon. Either visit Haca de la Luna to see the Huaca del Sol pyramids from the Moche culture, a remarkable pre-Inca civilisation. Continue on to the ruins of Chan Chan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the imperial capital of the Chimú, where we explore the ruins of the largest adobe city in the world, marvelling at their skillful irrigation and engineering projects. Alternatively choose to drive a few miles inland to the intriguing desert city of Trujillo. This oasis city was founded

by Pizarro in 1536 and still exudes much Spanish colonial charm.

Day 15 At sea.

Day 16 Guayaquil, Ecuador to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 17 London. Arrive this afternoon.

Pre & Post Cruise Extensions - 2018

For our 2018 departure we are offering the opportunity to visit Easter Island before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky. There is also a post-cruise extension available to the Amazon staying at La Selva Lodge. Full details can be viewed online at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON OFF THE BROCHURE PRICES SHOWN FOR 2017 DEPARTURE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY		
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	£6995
Byrd	Superior	£7345
Mawson	Premium	£7700
Mawson	Corner	£8145
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9045
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£9495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£10695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10285

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight accommodation in Santiago on a bed and breakfast basis, half day Santiago tour, 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, use of rubber boots and expedition parkas onboard.

Not Included: Travel insurance, excursions shown as optional.

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Few regions in the world offer the diversity and ecosystems of those found in this intriguing part of South America. From the towering snow-capped Andes to barren coastal desert, the landscapes are unparalleled.

”



East & West of Panama



A voyage from Ecuador to Curacao including a transit of the Panama Canal aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
8th to 24th April 2017

Let us take you to some of the loveliest and untouched places in Ecuador, Panama and Colombia as we sail from coastal Ecuador and transit through the Panama Canal, top of many a traveller's wish list, to the colonial architecture and crystal waters of the Southern Caribbean.

The region has abundant wildlife, highlights of which are Ecuador's Machalilla National Park, a protected coastal haven for over 200 species of birds and wildlife and Colombia's Utria National Park with its dense rainforest, mangroves and white sandy beaches, home to many bird species, reptiles and monkeys. Our voyage is also rich in historical and cultural interest with visits to Panama's remote Darien province, home to the Embera Indians and the San Blas Islands where the Kuna Indians proudly preserve their heritage. We continue through the Southern Caribbean to Cartagena, a marvellously colourful and historic port on the Colombian coast and Santa Marta, the oldest city in Colombia and from where we will visit Tayrona National Park, a beautiful coastal and mountain park. Bonaire in the Dutch Antilles with its very evident Dutch heritage and natural beauty will be our final stop before what promises to be an incredible voyage comes to an end in Curacao.

Much of the itinerary is far from the 'big ship' routes and includes little known but fascinating destinations with magnificently diverse wildlife, beautiful beaches and fascinating indigenous cultures. With amazingly rich biodiversity of flora and fauna seen against some of the lushest of landscapes to be found anywhere in the world, a voyage such as this would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise. The MS Hebridean Sky is the perfect vessel for such a journey and our Zodiacs will be put to good use in the more remote places allowing us to land and explore otherwise unreachable places.



San Blas Islands

The Itinerary

Day 1 London or Manchester to Guayaquil, Ecuador. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Oro Verde Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day and evening is at leisure.

Day 2 Guayaquil. Enjoy a leisurely morning before lunch at a local restaurant followed by a city drive which will include the Centennial Plaza which honours the heroes of Guayaquil's independence, the famous Moorish Clock Tower and Bolivar Park, with an equestrian statue of South America's liberator, Simon Bolivar. At the end of the tour we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and embark.

Day 3 Puerto Lopez & Machalilla National Park. As we start our exploration of coastal Ecuador we will anchor at Puerto Lopez for an excursion to the Machalilla National Park, an area of great diversity on the juncture of the cold Humboldt current flowing north and the warm El Nino current flowing south. It contains one of the world's largest tropical dry forests, at 55,000 hectares, and is an example of the vegetation that once covered 25% of Ecuador's land mass. We will split into groups for our walks to see the varied flora and fauna, including several types of cacti, Kapok and palo santo trees that have adapted to the arid conditions, and the many varieties of birds including coastal parrots. We will enjoy lunch in the park after which there is the option to return to the ship or visit nearby Los Frailes beach for a swim. Over dinner we sail the short distance to Isla de La Plata for our overnight anchorage.

Day 4 Isla de la Plata. Around forty kilometres off the Ecuadorian coast is the small island of Isla de la Plata (Silver Island) where it is claimed Sir Francis Drake buried some of his treasure. The island is part of the Machalilla National Park and a sanctuary for sea birds such as the red footed, blue footed and Nazca boobies who share the steep cliffs with frigate birds, albatrosses and the red-billed tropic birds. This morning either join our naturalists on a series of walks searching for wildlife or enjoy a swim from one of the nearby beaches. Return to the ship for lunch and keep an eye out for dolphins as we start our journey to Colombia.



Day 5 At sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we cross the equator. Maybe join a lecture or relax with a book on deck.

Days 6 & 7 Utria National Park & Bahia Solana, Colombia. After clearing immigration formalities in Nuqui we reposition to the Utria National Park, a tropical forest which reaches down to the sandy beaches. We have a day and a half to explore this beautiful area, using our Zodiacs to get ashore to enjoy hikes and nature trails and observe the flora and fauna with our local guides. In Bahia Solana the more active amongst us may wish to join a walk through the jungle to the impressive Cascada Chocotal waterfalls, with our naturalists helping to identify the local flora and fauna along the way. We also see the botanical gardens which run alongside the Rio Mecana and are part of a 170 hectare nature reserve, made up of mangroves, tropical forest and native plants and trees of the Choco region. Our local guides will lead walks through the gardens, pointing out the indigenous plants and birdlife and highlighting the ongoing reforestation programmes. On the afternoon of day 7 we sail towards Panama.

Day 8 Darien, Panama. This morning we arrive at the wild, rugged and remote Darien Province and timings today will be tidal dependent. We will explore this pristine, seldom visited area by local canoe, navigating up the tidal Mogue River to an Embera Indian settlement. These little known tribes offer a fascinating glimpse of an ancient world that has changed little since Sir Francis Drake was ransacking the shore of the Spanish Main.

Day 9 Panama City. Panama City is a combination of the historic old town, declared a UNESCO historical monument, and the ultra-modern



new town. We will stroll along the cobblestone streets of the Casco Viejo visiting the colonial mansions and 17th century churches and convents before continuing to Panama Viejo and the original ruins of the city founded in 1517 and burnt to the ground by British pirate Henry Morgan. This afternoon is free to explore further and maybe look for the famous Panama hats. Alternatively join an excursion to the Panama Canal Observation Centre. Here we will learn about the expansion of the canal before visiting the Miraflores Locks Visitor Centre where we see the history of the canal and watch the ships as they pass through.

Day 10 Panama Canal Transit. An undisputed destination on the travel bucket list has to be the Panama Canal. The first attempt to build the canal was made by a French company, but ended in failure in 1889. The American government eventually bought out the French for 40 million dollars, and their attempt to build the Canal started in 1904. Through the efforts of over 80,000 workers, and the loss of more than 30,000 lives, the greatest single construction project ever undertaken was completed. The

project ended in triumph, with the Canal opening in 1914, and it is now a vital artery of international trade, with nearly 14,000 ships travelling through it every year. The canal is around 50 miles long and takes between eight to ten hours to cross.

Day 11 San Blas Islands. After a morning at sea we arrive at the stunning San Blas Archipelago made up of over 400 islands which line the north coast of Panama with dazzling white sandy beaches, set in a turquoise sea. The islands are home to the indigenous Kuna Indians who gained self-rule from the government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molas'.

Day 12 Cartagena, Colombia. Today we arrive in the colonial walled-city of Cartagena, virtually surrounded by water and steeped in history, with a wealth of 16th and 17th century buildings and churches. There will be a choice of tours, you can either join a morning walking tour including the 16th century Fort of San Felipe and monastery of San Pedro Claver, or a full day boat trip to the nearby Rosario Islands at Isla Baru, encircled by coral reefs and declared a National Natural Park.

Day 13 Santa Marta. The Santa Marta area is renowned for the eco-diversity and dramatic beauty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the highest coastal mountain range in the world, that sweep down to the sea. From our berth we will travel slightly inland to the Tayrona National Park this morning. Covered in large part by virgin tropical forest, the park is home to over 100 species of mammals, 200 species of birds and 50 species of reptiles. On a walk through this



semi-tropical jungle we will be joined by a local guide who will offer insights into the park's vegetation, animals and eco-system.

Day 14 At sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we sail to the Dutch Antilles.

Day 15 Bonaire, Dutch Antilles. Over breakfast we arrive in Bonaire, world famous for the variety of its corals, fish and exceptionally clear waters. Our morning will be spent at the Washington Slagbaai National Park, which was created to protect some of the Caribbean's last remaining

desert habitat. The island's birdlife is remarkable including native parrots and, in one of the lagoons, a resident flock of flamingos. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon or join a scenic tour of Bonaire to see the salt water lagoon at Lake Goto followed by Mangazina di Rei cultural park which showcases indigenous culture.

Day 16 Willemstad, Curacao to London or Manchester. Arrive this morning into the lively port and UNESCO World Heritage site of Willemstad. This capital has a rich history dating back to the 16th century and the island's colonial Dutch heritage sets a genteel tone amid markets, museums and cafes. On a morning excursion we will explore the historic downtown district including Fort Amsterdam before transferring to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London or Manchester.

Day 17 London or Manchester. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£7295	£6545
Byrd	Superior	£7695	£6945
Mawson	Premium	£7995	£7245
Mawson	Corner	£8795	£8045
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9095	£8095
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£9495	£8495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£10545	£9545
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8970	£8220
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9460	£8710

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Guayaquil on bed and breakfast basis, tour and lunch in Guayaquil, 14 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, soft drinks and beer with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



Amazon Adventure

4th to 8th April 2017

Before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a true jungle adventure. Our stay is based at La Selva Lodge, an ecological reserve located in Ecuador's Amazon region, an accessible yet pristine area of the Amazon where you can discover the wonders of nature.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Quito. Fly by scheduled in-direct flight to Quito. On arrival transfer to the Marriott Hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 2 Quito to the Amazon. From Quito we will take a breathtaking 30 minute flight over the Andes to the Amazon basin and the small town of Coca. Upon arrival transfer to the Napo River where we embark covered motorised canoes for the two and a half hour journey to La Selva. Look out for herons, kingfishers and spoonbills and enjoy a box lunch onboard. Once at La Selva, after an introductory rainforest briefing and short activity, the remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure to relax and choose your activities for the following few days before dinner this evening in the Lodge restaurant.

Days 3 & 4 La Selva Lodge. For the rest of our time at La Selva, activities will be designed in accordance to the number of groups at the lodge and weather. The lodge offers a certain number of activities that will be provided in different schedules for each group including the following:

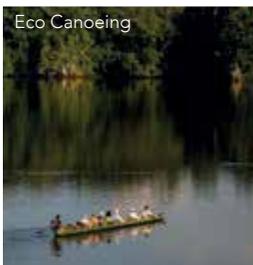
MATAPALO TRAIL: This trail was named after the Spanish name of the famous Strangler fig (*Ficus Aurea*) one of many remarkable trees found during this short introductory walk, where the native and naturalist guides will start to share part of their knowledge about flora and fauna of the tropical rain forest.

NIGHT WALK: A flashlight and a camera will be the only things needed to enjoy all of the insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals that one might see during an hour walk in the darkness of the forest.

NIGHT CANOE RIDE IN GARZACOCHA LAGOON: With the help of a spotlight, the guides will take us in a canoe around the lagoon looking for caimans, boas, bats, owls, night mammals and more nocturnal wildlife. If the sky is clear, we might have the chance to do some star gazing.



Local wildlife



Local wildlife

La Selva Lodge

CANOE RIDE IN GARZACOCHA LAGOON: A 1 1/2 to 2 hour canoe ride will let us observe the biodiversity around the Garzacocha lagoon, where the famous Hoatzin Stinkbird can be seen as well as some fish, wet and beautiful trees that grow inside the black waters system and good chances to see monkeys.

CHAGUAMANGO TRAIL: Trail begins at the lodge and finishes at the edge of the lake. At the end of the walk head back to the lodge by canoe. If lucky, we might see big troops of squirrel monkeys approaching the water, allowing us to take great photos of wildlife.

CHARAPA TRAIL: This trail lasts about one and a half hours, starts at the butterfly farm and ends on the edge of the lake. It's a wonderful loop that begins with a walk, returning to the lodge by canoe. Along the way we will try to sight different groups of mammals, monkeys and birds that in the afternoon hours get close to the lakeshore to look for food. We can also enjoy a beautiful sunset from the canoe.

OBSERVATION TOWER: A 20 minute walk will lead us to the tower. This construction will allow us to be 120 feet above the forest floor to enjoy the canopy of the tropical rain forest. Observing with a telescope will enable us to see birds from the canopy, and maybe even monkeys or sloths. On the way back we will hike for about 2 hours. Our native guide will show some of the medicinal plants that natives still use and the naturalist will provide information about the ecology and natural history.

PARROT CLAY LICK: Visit the most biologically diverse spot on earth, the Yasuni National Park. A 20 minute canoe ride plus a 15 minute walk will bring us back to the Napo River. A motorized canoe ride lasting 10 minutes will let us enjoy one of the most amazing displays of the wild world. Hundreds of parrots and parakeets will approach the treetops and

later come down to a clay bank to eat the soil rich in minerals. It is essential to have binoculars to enjoy the experience. Once we identify the different species of parrots and parakeets, our naturalist guide will provide a lot of interesting information about the behaviour of these spectacular birds. The motorized canoe ride will continue for approximately 30 more minutes of birdwatching along the river banks.

BUTTERFLY FARM: Here learn about the biology of these amazing butterflies. Our farm will show us each of the different stages of the butterfly complemented with interesting information provided by our naturalist guide. We will not want to leave the butterfly flying area without taking photos of the colourful butterflies. The adventure continues with fishing for Piranhas in the Garzacocha Lake. Fishing lines will be provided to let us catch our own piranha. Depending on the size of the fish usually they are released back into the water. If it is big enough, give it to the gourmet chef and enjoy a tasty fish dinner.

Day 5 La Selva to Quito to Guayaquil. Depart this morning and fly to Guayaquil via Quito. On arrival transfer to the Oro Verde Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay prior to embarking the MS Hebridean Sky.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy
Twin: **£1895**; Single: **£2095**

Price includes: Overnight accommodation in Quito on bed and breakfast basis, economy flight from Quito to Guayaquil, return flight between Quito and Coca, transfer by boat from Coca to La Selva Lodge, three nights accommodation at La Selva Lodge on full board, excursions and activities at La Selva with guides.

Not Included: Travel insurance, gratuities.



Temples & Gardens of Ancient Japan and South Korea

A voyage from Niigata to Osaka including South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
23rd April to 8th May 2017

Immerse yourself in the mythology of Japan and the serene beauty of South Korea on this incredible voyage. Embark the MS Caledonian Sky in Niigata and set sail to discover Japan's cultural legacy in its castles, gardens and shrines. Along the way we visit the historic and serene castle town of Matsue; the ancient feudal town of Hagi; Nagasaki, where we visit the famed Peace Memorial Park and Glover Gardens and experience the tranquility of sacred Miyajima.

Due to its wealth of ancient wonders, beguiling landscapes and 5000 years of culture and history, we will spend three days in South Korea. Discover Kyongju, the 'museum without walls', where history comes alive among tombs, temples, shrines and pleasure gardens. We also visit Haeinsa Temple, considered one of the three great temples in Korea and before returning to Japan's shores, make a call to the volcanic Jeju Island, Korea's largest island and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Our unique itinerary is a marvellous balance of ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens, opulent temples and shrines combined with lovely natural landscapes. Like all well-planned itineraries we will include some of the country's best known highlights, but equally we will also take you to some places that relatively few foreign tourists set foot in. The MS Caledonian Sky allows us to visit out of the way islands and remote stretches of coast which would not be practical on a regular land tour. It is in such places that we find timeless villages, rural landscapes and a rich cultural heritage. Such places invoke the strongest of memories and allow you to immerse yourself in the myth and mystique of these ancient lands whilst returning each evening to the peace and comfort of our vessel.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Tokyo, Japan. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive this morning and transfer to the New Otani Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

Day 3 Tokyo to Niigata. After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Tokyo including the Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and the Imperial Palace Plaza. We will then transfer to the train station to join our shinkansen service to Niigata enjoying lunch along the way. On arrival in Niigata we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky.

Day 4 Sado Island. Sado is Japan's sixth largest island, made up of two parallel mountain chains, between which lies an extensive plain with small rice farms. In its early history, the island was a place of exile for intellectuals and political dissidents whilst in the Edo Period a rich gold mine was found. Sado Island is now famous for its premium quality rice and sake (rice wine), and is also the home base for the taiko drumming group, Kodo

("heartbeat"). During our full day call we will visit the Taiko centre to learn more about the history of the drums and visit the picturesque fishing village of Shukunegi, where over one hundred traditional Edo-period houses line the narrow streets. You may wish to take a ride aboard one of the unique local boats called tarai-bune.

Day 5 Kanazawa. Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquer ware, outstanding collectible pottery of the Kutani style, gold-leaf workmanship, delicate hand-painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm with old-fashioned streetlamps and wooden-lattice windows hiding elegant restaurants and craft galleries. Around each bend is a traditional house, museum, art gallery, craft shop, historic samurai residence and even a geisha house to explore. The fascinating open-air market displays a vast variety of items from flowers to fish and local handicrafts. Next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins is one of



Japan's premier highlights, the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top three gardens. Enjoy a morning garden visit and an afternoon city walking tour.

Day 6 Matsue. Matsue, called the 'town of water,' nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including the 17th century Matsue Castle before enjoying a boat ride on the local canals. This afternoon is free to relax or explore the town at leisure. Alternatively join a full day excursion visiting both Matsue Castle and the Adachi Museum of Art which is set in a beautiful natural environment and well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.



Day 7 Hagi. Hagi was a minor fishing port until Mori Terumoto fortified it in 1604 and it was Mori Samurai that helped spark off the anti-Tokugawa revolt in the mid-19th century. Today it is better known for its traditional pottery making traditions. On our morning tour we will explore the Teramachi district with its temples and shrines, the Jokamachi District, where we find the old samurai houses and also take time to explore Hagi

Castle, Shizuki Park and Tokoji Temple. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax or travel to the outskirts of the city and the Yoshika Taibi Memorial Museum which is dedicated to a large collection of Hagi-yaki pottery.

Day 8 Ulsan for Kyongju, South Korea. Today we embark on a full-day excursion to magnificent Kyongju, a World Heritage Site, which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Kyongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunchtime, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

Day 9 Masan for Haeinsa. From our berth in Masan we head inland to the Haeinsa Temple. Regarded as one of the three great temples in Korea it was first settled in 802 A.D. and its name derives from a verse in a Buddhist Sutra as "reflections on a smooth sea". In the 13th century when Korea was at war with the Mongols, the government commissioned the Triptaka Koreana, a complete copy of Buddhist scriptures, in the hope of Buddha's intervention in the war. They were carved onto 81,258 double sided wooden blocks and stored on floor to ceiling shelves in the Janggyeong Panjeon building. We also visit the Daejokkwangjeon, the main worship hall of the temple. After lunch in a nearby restaurant we will return to Masan this afternoon, here you may want to visit the vibrant fish market selling the daily catch.

Day 10 Jeju Island. Korea's largest island is situated forty miles off the south coast and was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002. We have the day to explore this island of volcanoes, lush countryside



and ancient traditions. The active may choose to climb the 182 metre Seongsan Ilchulbong tuff volcano which rose out of the sea over 100,000 years ago. Alternatively walk one of the 'olle routes' referring to the lanes which run through villages and through forests and which provide an insight into daily life and natural beauty of the island. See the Haenyeo, woman divers who, since the 17th century, have collected shellfish and seaweed from the waters around Jeju without using any diving equipment and visit the museum dedicated to their methods. This evening over dinner we will begin our journey back to Japan.

Day 11 Nagasaki & Dejima, Japan.

Arrive this morning in Nagasaki, the second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War Two. We will tour the Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum and Dejima Island which was built during the Edo Period to accommodate Portuguese Christian missionaries and prevent the propagation of their religion. It was also the residential quarters of the Dutch, the only foreigners allowed to trade in Japan during the Sakoku (Isolation) Period. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19th century, Dejima was its only window to the world. With the reopening of the port to Westerners in the latter half of the 19th century, Nagasaki flowered as a prosperous and sophisticated international city. Suitable housing was required for the sudden influx of foreigners who made their homes here. Many of the comfortable stone and clapboard residences that were built during this period survive today and are preserved in Glover Garden which we will visit this afternoon. The best-known European-style residence here is Glover House. Built in 1863, it was the setting for Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly.

Day 12 Yakushima. After a morning at sea we arrive on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993 and has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend our time here on a choice of nature walks in Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees.

Day 13 Uwajima. This morning we land on Shikoku Island and the port of Uwajima situated deep inside the saw-toothed coast of Uwajima Bay. The city of Uwajima is emerging as the nation's largest pearl cultivation centre. Learn the process of implanting, harvesting, extracting and sorting pearls on a visit to a pearl farm. We will also see Uwajima Castle, which is built on top of the hill with panoramic views over the town and harbour, Tensha-en Garden, built in the Samurai era and the Date Museum which exhibits items dedicated to the Date family, who ruled Uwajima from the castle for 250 years during the Tokugawa period.

Day 14 Hiroshima & Miyajima. Arrive in Hiroshima for our visit to the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the cenotaph which contains the names of all the known victims of the A-bomb and the permanently lit "Flame of Peace". Just outside the park, the A-Bomb Dome is a haunting reminder of the destructive forces that were unleashed on the city being one of the few original buildings to survive. In the museum we will see photos, videos and victim's personal effects relating to the bomb. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch as we sail to Miyajima. Considered one of Japan's top scenic wonders, Miyajima provides a picture-postcard vista of the scarlet Torii gate, the giant camphor wood gates at the entrance to the Shinto Shrine. We will use the

vessel's Zodiacs to go ashore and explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses.

Day 15 Koraku-en & Kurashiki. From the port of Uno-Ko we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en, which translates as "Garden of pleasure after". This 17th century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a Japanese lunch in

a local restaurant we will continue to Kurashiki where we explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses, along a canal framed with weeping willows and filled with koi. There is also a chance to visit the Ohara Museum of Art which includes rare works by Matisse, Picasso and Renoir.

Day 16 Osaka to London. Disembark this morning in Osaka and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled, indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

Kyoto Post-Cruise Extension - 8th to 10th May 2017



For those wishing to spend some time in Kyoto, we are offering a two night post-cruise extension. Our stay includes visits to the Kasuga shrine and Todai-ji Temple in Nara as well as the Kinkakuji Temple, Golden Pavillion and Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto.

Price per person based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695** Single: **£945**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Hotel Granvia Kyoto (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, tours in Nara and Kyoto and ship to hotel and hotel to airport transfers. **Not Included:** Travel Insurance, visas.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY – SAVE £600 PER PERSON			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£8295	£7695
Castle	Standard	£8595	£7995
Caledonian	Superior	£9095	£8495
Promenade	Premium	£9495	£8895
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10295	£9695
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10795	£10195
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£11295	£10695
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11495	£10895
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11995	£11395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on a breakfast only basis, 13 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, onboard team including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

N.B. Please note that whilst we expect to be berthed alongside on most days, we will on occasion use the vessel's Zodiacs.

Sicilian Odyssey

From the Bay of Naples to Malta including a circumnavigation of Sicily aboard the MS Island Sky
3rd to 13th May 2017

We have the perfect vessel and time of year for our exploration of the wonderful island of Sicily and her archaeological treasures. Sicily is a land that has seen more than its fair share of invasions, resulting in some lofty and noble architecture from magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and Norman palaces. With its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, the island has been coveted, fought over and colonised. The Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons have all made their mark on this astonishing island.

Sicily is endlessly fascinating and if you have promised yourself that one day you will visit, this is the time to go and what better way to explore her treasures than from aboard a small ship. The geography of the island lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea, as most points of interest are close to the coast. Appreciate in comfort Sicily's rich artistic legacy of so many invading civilisations. The island is a celebration of the greatest achievements of Mediterranean cultures and with such a wealth of ancient sites, it is certainly not somewhere which should be visited in a hurry. With seven days spent circumnavigating the island, we have the luxury of time and are able to visit the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Valle dei Templi, the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral, the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale as well as the beautiful Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Local guides and our onboard guest speaker will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of Sicily and once visited it is a place you will never forget and will wish to return to time and time again.

Our View

"The ancient wonders of Sicily have appealed to travellers for hundreds of years and with many of them surrounding the coastline a cruise is the perfect way to see them. We can travel from Paestum to Taormina, Segesta and onto the Valley of the Temples without the need to change hotel rooms, join long coach journeys or the other hassles often associated with land travel. Our small ship can access the closest ports to the great sites and with short distances to cover we can spend longer in port each day allowing time for both an included guided tour and independent exploration. We will ensure we hear the music, taste the wines and enjoy the local foods during our time ashore whilst not missing any of the archaeological sites or charming towns. May is also a fine time to be in this part of the Mediterranean with pleasant temperatures and less crowded sites."



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Naples. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and sail tonight.

Day 2 Paestum. The small port of Agropoli is a convenient location for our morning excursion to Paestum. Founded by Greeks in 600 BC, this well preserved and fascinating site was rediscovered in 1752. On our half day tour we will see the impressive Temple Poseidon, the Basilica, Amphitheatre and Aethenian before spending some time in the museum, adjacent to the site. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea. *Please note we will use the vessel's Zodiacs to land ashore at Agropoli.*

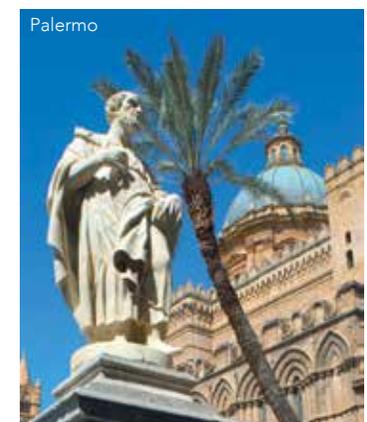
Day 3 Taormina. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre, from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy some free time in Messina.

Day 4 Palermo. Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, 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 visit the impressive 12th-century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to either explore Palermo independently or join an excursion to see the remarkable Medieval mosaics in the cathedral at Monreale.

Day 5 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for the day. From the port we travel to the nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the



sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterized by its winding cobbled stone streets and beautiful court-yards. After our visit we travel to an olive oil farm, which dates from 1700, and is built around a beautiful Sicilian family house. We will learn about the history and techniques of the farm's extra virgin oil production before enjoying a tasting. Also enjoy traditional Sicilian foods including cheeses, olives and breads whilst accompanied local musicians before returning to the ship this afternoon and sailing late this evening.



Day 6 Valley of Temples & Agrigento. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by, is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, and a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concord, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board enjoy an afternoon to explore Agrigento,



Malta



Erice



Taormina

shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum where you can explore at your leisure.

Day 7 Licata for Piazza Armerina.

Founded in 280 B.C by Phintias, Licata has grown into an important commercial centre on Sicily. However our main reason for this stop is to drive inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site on Sicily. The Imperial Roman Villa of Casale 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. Later, explore the medieval centre of Piazza Armerina, see the Aragonese Castle and the Romanesque Church of Sant’Andrea. After our tour we will enjoy a Sicilian lunch in a local farmhouse complemented by local wines. We sail in the late evening.

Day 8 Noto & Ragusa. From our berth in Pozzallo we will explore the Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei, among Olive groves and Almond trees. Here we find Sicilian Baroque style palaces and monuments. A quiet walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, The Cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. We return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon continue to charming Ragusa. It has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list, for its artistic-architectural heritage, with its Baroque palaces, churches, squares, stairways and winding narrow streets, all of which create an evocative and ancient atmosphere. We will discover the wonderful Ragusa Ibla: the “Pearl of the Baroque” the gardens, the magnificent palaces,

the splendid church of San Giuseppe and the Dome of San Giorgio built in the 18th century on the site where an older church stood before the earthquake of 1693.

Day 9 Syracuse.

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. On leaving the vessel 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 ‘Dionysus’ Ear’ - 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. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon and evening to explore independently.

Day 10 Valletta, Malta. Arrive this morning in the grand harbour of Valletta, the 16th century “Fortress City” built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour which will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John’s Cathedral. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon you can choose to either relax on board, return to Valletta or join a tour to Mdina. Originally, this city, was given the name of “Citta Nobile” and 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.

Day 11 Malta to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£4695	£4495
Magellan	Standard	£5195	£4995
Columbus	Superior	£5495	£5295
Marco Polo	Premium	£5695	£5495
Marco Polo	Corner	£5895	£5695
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6495	£6295
Explorer	Owner’s Balcony	£6995	£6795
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6695	£6495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7195	£6995

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 and dinner onboard, shore excursions, onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

“ Sicily is endlessly fascinating. If you have promised yourself that one day you will visit, this is the time to go and what better way to explore her treasures than from aboard a small ship. ”



Spring in the Isles



Explore the islands of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
7th to 17th May 2017

You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places, but we sometimes forget that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be found close to home. Nowhere is this more true than along our own magnificent Atlantic coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the horizon. This unusual journey will take us along the edges of the United Kingdom and offer a unique portrait of life in our islands. This is a wonderful opportunity to see some of our most beautiful places, meet some interesting inhabitants, witness some prolific birdlife and learn more about both the past and present of Britain. The sheer diversity of the landscape and lifestyles will amaze you, as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter.

Local experts will meet us along the way adding much to our knowledge and making for a more comprehensive and peaceful experience. Learn something of their history, see the abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world. Being spring, we have also included a number of gardens in the itinerary, from the Isles of Scilly to the Hebrides. The endlessly fascinating west coast gardens of Treviso are a marvellous sight at this time of year. This unique voyage will appeal to those who wish to visit some of the United Kingdom's most remote and least accessible islands and coastal regions. In an age of rapid centralisation and common identity, it is fortifying to know that life with its unique traditions and values can still be found on the edges of our islands. Whether you be an avid gardener, birdwatcher, amateur historian, or simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting places in the world, this trip has it all.

Our View

"Each spring we find our ships returning to the UK after spending the winters in far flung corners of the world and we still feel, after 25 years, that we find some of the best expedition cruising opportunities around the British Isles. This unique itinerary concentrates on the islands and communities that live off the shores of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Using our small ship and our fleet of Zodiacs we are able to make calls to some remote islands well off the usual cruise route. We have timed our cruise to visit islands when they will be rich in birdlife, flowers will be blooming and the seas will hopefully be home to whales and dolphins. We also see impressive castles and have a chance for a dram in a small distillery. From the Channel Islands to the Hebrides we will experience life in these island communities and understand what it is like to live on the islands on the edge."

The Itinerary

Day 1 Portsmouth. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon in Portsmouth. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour railway station at a fixed time.

Day 2 Guernsey & Herm, Channel Islands. Our first island call is in Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers'. There will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively enjoy a panoramic drive which will see

the beautiful coastline and beaches and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes. This afternoon we make the short crossing over to Herm which at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, is perfect for exploring on foot. There will be some free time to explore.

Day 3 St Agnes & Bryher, Isles of Scilly. This morning we arrive at St Agnes in the Isles of Scilly and the most south westerly community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and

reefs, this delightful tiny island is a birdwatcher's paradise and offers marvellous coastal walks. Meanwhile the small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age. Over lunch we reposition to Bryher the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Our naturalists will lead a number of guided walks along the tracks that cross the island amongst hedgerows and fields bursting with wildflowers. The active may wish to climb Watch Hill, where in the past islanders would keep watch for ships in distress or alternatively take a stroll to one of the beautiful beaches

Day 4 Treviso & St Martins, Isles of Scilly. Spend the morning on traffic free Treviso, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous sub-tropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the cafe. Our final afternoon in the islands will be on St Martins, a small island community of just 120 residents. Enjoy time to explore independently or maybe join one of our birders on a guided walk or the braver among us may wish to swim from one of the stunning beaches.

Day 5 Lundy Island. We have scheduled a morning on Lundy, a remote island in the Bristol Channel. Walk along its traffic-free lanes and paths, explore the wide bays and coves by way of hanging valleys, observe the puffins nesting in abandoned rabbit warrens, have a drink at the inn and buy the island's 'puffin stamps' at the island's shop. In the afternoon we will continue our journey around Wales and will pass Skomer Island, one of the most important wildlife sites in Northern Europe. It is a marvellously peaceful and scenic island with fantastic birdlife including 6000 pairs of puffins, countless numbers of guillemots, fulmar, kittiwakes and the elusive Manx shearwater and storm petrel. Later we pass Grassholm where we find one of the world's largest gannetries with over 34,000 breeding pairs.



Day 6 Beumaris, Isle of Anglesey.

Translated from "beau marais" meaning fair marsh, it was here that Edward I chose as a garrison town building one of his "iron ring" of castles aiming to stamp his authority on the Welsh. Today the impressive 13th century castle is a wonderful example of architectural and ingenious design of fortifications. We will anchor in the bay at Beumaris and use our Zodiacs to land for a range of excursions today. Keen birders will be able to visit South Stack RSPB site, an important nesting site for seabirds including guillemots, razorbills and puffins and if we are lucky coughts. For the gardeners we will visit Bodnant Gardens situated above the River Conwy, with stunning views across Snowdonia. We return to the MS Hebridean Sky via the magnificent landscape of the Snowdonia National Park. Alternatively you can enjoy time to explore the castle, the 19th century jail or the shops of the town of Beumaris at your own pace.

Day 7 Peel, Isle of Man. Arrive this morning on the Isle of Man and the main fishing port of Peel. Settlements have been here since the Mesolithic Age and the island also claims to have the longest continuous parliament which was founded in 979AD. This morning we will travel to Tynwald Hill, located in the little village of St John's. This grass topped, tiered hill is made from the soil and stones from each of the island's 17 parishes and is the point from which, each July 5th, all the laws enacted in the year preceding are promulgated to the gathered government officials and the public at large, both in Manx and

English languages. This process has been a continuous procedure for well over a thousand years. We continue to Castletown and the magnificent Castle Rushen, one of the best examples of a Medieval castle in Europe which was the former seat of the Kings and Lords of Mann, with the castle's oldest part dating back to the time of Magnus, the last Norse King of Mann, who died here in 1266. We end our tour at Castletown station and board the vintage steam train for a delightful and traditional journey to Douglas. Dating from 1874, the Isle of Man Steam Railway is the island's oldest Victorian rail system and this narrow gauge railway still runs with its original locomotives and carriages. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore Peel or join members of the expedition team on a guided cliff walk.

Day 8 Rathlin Island & Jura Island.

Located just a few miles from the North Antrim coast, Rathlin has been settled for more than 6000 years. Today, there are only 80 or so souls, whereas before the Famine there were 1200 inhabitants. This morning we will enjoy a guided walk which will take in the historic buildings and also the prolific sea bird life with astonishing numbers of auks, kittiwakes and grey seals. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail to the Hebrides and the small island of Jura. Dominating the views of Jura are the three hills called "The Paps of Jura", the highest being Beinn an Oir at 785 metres. We will go ashore at Craighouse and will be welcomed in the cooperage where we will be given an introduction to the Jura Distillery and an opportunity to taste the local product. Alternatively enjoy some free time to explore Craighouse or join an island drive.

Day 9 Colonsay & Iona, Hebrides. We will have anchored over night off the Island of Colonsay, which lies between Mull and Islay. After breakfast we will disembark on Zodiacs and spend the morning on the island amongst the

impressive array of plants and birdlife. We will visit Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904. We will have the opportunity to explore the attractive dilapidated wooded garden, which protects the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross. Sail over lunch to Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years, but has also been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. Visit the abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises.

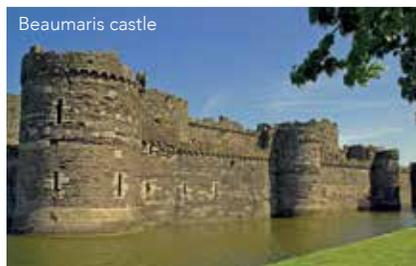
Day 10 Canna & Muck, Hebrides.

Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by The National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn-shaped haven. Canna and Sanday have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House, once the home of the previous owners, John and Margaret Fay Campbell and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. During lunch, it is but a short sail past the rugged cliffs of Rum to the smallest of the Small Isles, Muck. A peaceful low-lying island, we will land in the southeast corner at the small settlement of Port Mor. From here it is a gentle wander across the island before returning to the ship.

Day 11 Oban. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time.



Iona



Beaumaris castle



Puffins



Canna



Tresco, Isles of Scilly

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING		
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	£4450
Byrd	Superior	£4650
Mawson	Premium	£4975
Mawson	Corner	£5145
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£5540
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£5710
Shackleton	Hebridean	£6990
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6450
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6770

Price Includes: 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, use of rubber boots onboard.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Timeless Japan

A voyage of cultural discovery around Japan including South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
7th to 19th May* & 16th to 28th May 2017

Japan is a fascinating balance of unique heritage and culture contrasting with the sprawling metropolises of the world's most advanced technological civilisation. Made up of 6,852 islands, the perfect way to explore the Land of the Rising Sun is by sea. On our journey we will voyage around the stunning coastline and offshore islands of the archipelago, and discover ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens and opulent temples and shrines. Although we will visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo, what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where relatively few tourists set foot.

Our vessel, the 114 passenger MS Caledonian Sky, allows us to visit out of the way destinations and remote stretches of coast that would not be practical on a land tour. In addition to our partial circumnavigation of Japan, our course takes us past the south eastern tip of Korea, where we will spend a day in Kyongju, the 'Museum Without Walls'. Here, history comes vividly to life among the tombs, temples, shrines and pleasure gardens. Join us on this voyage of discovery and venture along the historic shores and off the well beaten tourist paths. May is the ideal time to see the countryside at its most verdant and whilst temperatures are still pleasant.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Tokyo, Japan. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive this morning and transfer to the New Otani Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure to explore the vibrant metropolis independently.

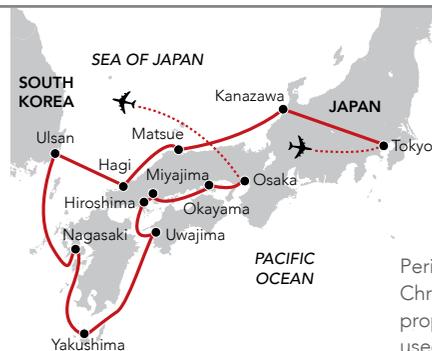
Day 3 Tokyo to Kanazawa. After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Tokyo including Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and the Imperial Palace Plaza. We will then transfer to the train station to join our shinkansen service to Kanazawa enjoying lunch along the way. On arrival in Kanazawa we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. Enjoy a welcome dinner and drinks on board as we moor overnight.

Day 4 Kanazawa. Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquer ware, outstanding collectible pottery of the Kutani style, gold-leaf workmanship, and delicate hand-painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm. Around each bend is a traditional house, museum, art gallery, crafts

shop, historic samurai residence and even a geisha house to explore. The fascinating open-air market displays a vast variety of items from flowers to fish to local handicrafts. Next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins is one of Japan's premier highlights – the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top gardens.

Day 5 Matsue. Matsue, called the 'town of water,' nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including Matsue Castle. This afternoon is free to relax or explore the town at leisure. Alternatively join the excursion to the Adachi Museum. Set in a beautiful natural environment, Adachi Museum of Art is well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1,500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.

Day 6 Hagi. Japan's revolution began here in Jokamachi's old samurai residential quarter, we will tour a samurai's home and visit Daisho Temple, the resting place of the two first Mori daimyo and all the even-numbered daimyo. We will also take



time to explore Hagi Castle, Shizuki Park and Tokoji Temple.

Day 7 Ulsan for Kyongju, South Korea. Today embark on a full-day excursion to magnificent Kyongju, a World Heritage Site which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Kyongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunch, sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

Day 8 Nagasaki & Dejima, Japan. Arrive this morning in Nagasaki the second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War II. We will tour the Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum and Glover Garden. We will continue to Dejima Island which was built during the Edo

Period to accommodate Portuguese Christian missionaries and prevent the propagation of their religion. It also used to be the residential quarters of the Dutch, the only foreigners allowed to trade in Japan during the Sakoku (Isolation) Period. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19th century, Dejima was its only window to the world.

Day 9 Yakushima. This morning we arrive on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993. Its natural wonders will astound you as Yakushima has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend our time here on nature walks including Yakusugi Land a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees, such as the Buddhasugi, Futagosugi and Sennensugi. This afternoon we relax at sea.

Day 10 Uwajima. Arrive this morning at Uwajima situated deep inside the saw-toothed coast of Uwajima Bay. The city of Uwajima is emerging as the nation's largest pearl cultivation centre. Learn the process of implanting, harvesting, extracting and sorting pearls on a visit to a pearl farm. We will continue to Sakiya Square and Dairakuji Temple.





Sensoji Temple, Tokyo



Koraku-en Gardens, Okayama



Peace Statue, Memorial Park, Nagasaki

Day 11 Hiroshima & Miyajima. Arrive in Hiroshima to visit the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the cenotaph that contains the names of all the known victims of the A bomb. Return to the ship for lunch and then continue to Miyajima. Considered one of Japan's top scenic wonders, Miyajima provides a picture-postcard vista of the scarlet Torii gate, the giant camphor wood gates at the entrance to the Shinto Shrine. We will go ashore by Zodiac to explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses. The shrine is a designated World Heritage Site.

Day 12 Okayama & Kurashiki. This morning we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en. This 17th-century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a local lunch we will continue to Kurashiki where we explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses painted white with traditional black tiles, along a canal framed with weeping willows and filled with koi.

Day 13 Osaka to London. Disembark this morning in Osaka and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

**Please note that the 7th May departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown. Full details can be viewed online at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk*

Pre & Post-Cruise Extensions

Tokyo Extension



For those that wish to enjoy more time in Tokyo our two night extension will include accommodation at the New Otani Hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, airport transfers and a full day tour. This is a post-cruise extension for the 7th May departure and a pre-cruise extension for the 16th May departure.

Price per person based on double occupancy
Twin: **£595** Single: **£845**

Kyoto Extension



Join our two night stay in Kyoto which includes two nights at the Hotel Granvia Kyoto (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, a full day tour of Kyoto & Nara and transfers. This is a post-cruise extension for the 16th May departure and a pre-cruise extension for the 7th May departure.

Price per person based on double occupancy
Twin: **£695** Single: **£945**

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

LIMITED AVAILABILITY – SAVE £400 PER PERSON			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£6695	£6295
Castle	Standard	£6995	£6595
Caledonian	Superior	£7495	£7095
Promenade	Premium	£7895	£7495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8695	£8295
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9195	£8795
Promenade	Owner's Corner Suite with balcony	£9695	£9295
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9495	£9095
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995	£9595

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis, 10 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, onboard team including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

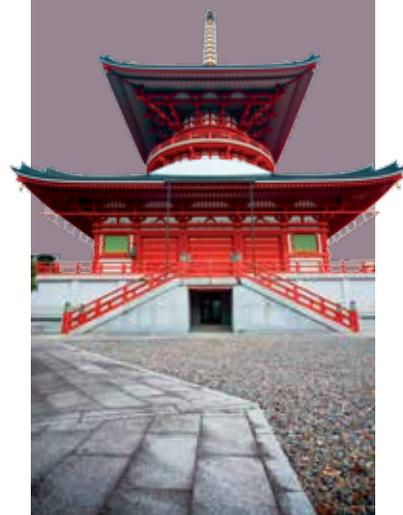
Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

NB. Please note that whilst we expect to be alongside on most days, we will on occasion use the vessel's Zodiacs.

“

Although we will visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo, what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where relatively few tourists set foot.

”



Spring in the Secret Mediterranean

A voyage from Malta to Istanbul aboard the MS Island Sky

13th to 25th May 2017

The month of May is the perfect time for cruising in the Mediterranean. Just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites. Join us aboard the MS Island Sky for what promises to be an informative and relaxing journey and immerse yourselves in the historical and cultural gems of the hidden Mediterranean. As we sail from Malta to Istanbul we will visit ancient sites, excellent museums, charming villages and see some of the loveliest scenery imaginable whilst enjoying all the comforts of our vessel. We will have the added benefit of excellent local guides and our knowledgeable onboard guest speaker who will bring to life all we see.

Our View

"The Mediterranean has for years been a focal point for cruising with the combination of grand sites and major cities a draw to ships. However there is an advantage on sailing on a ship with only 114 passengers in that we can access some of the smaller ports, visit some fascinating but less frequented sites and moor in picturesque harbours and islands. During our spring cruise we will sail from Malta and see the wonders of Calabria and Puglia in Southern Italy, spend three days in Albania visiting sights only opening up now 25 years after the fall of communism and Greek islands where we can enjoy guided tours as well as time to wander and explore independently. We also enjoy a transit of the Corinth Canal which is only possible for a ship such as ours."

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky.

Day 2 Crotona, Italy. Relax onboard this morning as we cruise to Italy, maybe join one of the lectures or find a spot on deck. Over lunch we arrive in the Calabrian port of Crotona which was once one of the most important settlements on Magna Graecia. This afternoon we drive inland to Santa Severina, a pretty town overlooking the Neto River valley. After our tour of the town there will be the opportunity to taste the famous local Ciro wines and sample the local cuisine: olive oil, local cold cuts and a selection of cheese before returning to the ship.

Day 3 Otranto for Lecce. From the port of Otranto we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture. A guided walk will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. After the tour, there will be an exclusive, private visit to the 15th century Palazzo Tamborino-Cezzi. The owner of the palazzo will personally

take us on a tour, sharing interesting stories and anecdotes regarding his family and the palazzo itself. Enjoy a light lunch of local specialities before a concert of traditional music of the Salento region called La Pizzica.

Day 4 Kotor, Montenegro. This morning we enter the Gulf of Kotor and sail up the fjord-like entrance to the Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor. This really is an extraordinary place full of marvellous architecture and pretty town squares. Our morning guided walk will include the 12th century cathedral of St Tryphon, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. After lunch onboard enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 5 Shkodra, Albania. There will be a choice of activities today and on the full day tour we will drive from Kotor through the Montenegro countryside. We will cross the border into Albania to reach Shkodra which was founded in the 4th century BC and has been occupied by the Romans, Serbians and Venetians. Here we will visit the Rozafa Castle which rises majestically on a rocky hill just outside the city, and explore the museum within the walls.



We will continue into the countryside for lunch where we will enjoy a slow food experience of Albanian specialities before returning to the MS Island Sky which will have relocated to Shengjin port. Alternatively you may prefer to stay onboard and enjoy a day cruising through the Kotor fjord and along the coast.

Day 6 Sazan Island, Albania. Located around ten miles from the port of Vlore, Sazan is Albania's largest island albeit at only 2.2 square miles. Having been under Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman control due to its strategic location it was occupied by the Italians in 1914 and only returned to Albania in 1947. During the Cold War the Russians built a submarine base and the Albanian Communist regime built a military base complete with bunkers and tunnels which could withstand a nuclear attack or western invasion. Since 1992, following the end of communism, the island has fallen into disrepair but we are able to explore this derelict base and ruined buildings which still contain original furniture and the tunnels. We return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon explore the rest of the island which is situated in the Karaburan – Sazan National Marine Park.

Day 7 Sarande for Butrint, Albania. Our last call in Albania sees us discover the archaeological and ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre. From the Roman era are the public baths, gymnasium and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views

over the Straits of Corfu. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon cruising.

Day 8 Delphi & Corinth Canal, Greece. From our berth in Itea, we will drive through lush olive groves up to Delphi, stunningly situated upon a mountain terrace and one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. Our visit begins at the Castalian Spring, erupting from the spot where Pegasus is said to have struck his hoof. We will continue up the Sacred Way, passing the treasury of the Athenians and the bases of many monuments, the temple of Apollo, the 5000 seat theatre dating from the fourth century BC and the ancient stadium. Return to the vessel for lunch and in the late afternoon we will transit the Corinth Canal.

Day 9 Nafplion. Nafplion's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivalled in Greece. From here we will enjoy a scenic drive through the Argos Plain, once ruled by Agamemnon, conqueror of Troy, to the famous citadel of Mycenae. High above the confluence of two boulder-strewn ravines, Mycenae is entered by way of the Lion Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. Return to the MS Island Sky and enjoy a free afternoon in Nafplion.

Day 10 Sifnos & Folegandros. This corner of the Cyclades is far from the well-trodden tracks of the big ships. After breakfast go ashore to the little known island of Sifnos where you will be greeted by traditional white houses, picturesque churches and narrow lanes and alleys. Our morning will include Apollonia, the islands tiny capital, the Virysianni Monastery and the villages of Kastro and Artemos both delightful places to wander and admire the traditional architecture.



Over lunch we sail to the little known island of Folegandros. Explore at leisure the clifftop capital of Chora, a wonderfully picturesque village.

Day 11 Chios. The birthplace of Homer, Chios remained a significant Aegean island into the Byzantine period, when the monastery of Nea Moni, with its 11th century mosaics was built. The island is rich in ancient ruins and this morning we will visit the 11th century Monastery of Nea Moni, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most important ecclesiastical monuments in Greece. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon you have the choice to relax and explore Chios town independently or join a tour to the south of the island where we visit the beautifully preserved 14th century

fortress village of Mesta and the elaborately decorated houses of Pigi.

Day 12 Limnos. Arrive over breakfast in Myrina, the small capital of Limnos. We have a choice of activities this morning, maybe enjoy a gentle walk along an idyllic rural pathway to the pretty village of Kondias. Alternatively enjoy a morning in Myrina which is 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. We will continue to the archaeological museum before returning to the vessel for lunch and a final relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 13 Istanbul, Turkey to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£5495	£5195
Magellan	Standard	£5695	£5395
Columbus	Superior	£6095	£5795
Marco Polo	Premium	£6495	£6195
Marco Polo	Corner	£6695	£6395
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£7095	£6795
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£7495	£7195
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6895	£6595
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7295	£6995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: Please note that whilst we plan to be alongside for most ports of call, depending on local harbour conditions the vessel's Zodiacs may be used to transfer ashore at Otranto, Sifnos and Folegandros.

Post-Cruise Extension



Post-Cruise Istanbul Extension

25th to 27th May 2017

Extend your stay in Istanbul with our two night package offering the chance to explore some of the highlights of the city.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Istanbul. Disembark this morning and we will enjoy the sights of old Constantinople with visits to the Hippodrome and the great Byzantine church of Santa Sophia. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before checking into our hotel for a two night stay. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. Maybe look for a bargain in the Grand Bazaar, visit the fascinating Basilica Cistern. This evening is free to enjoy dinner independently in one of the local restaurants.

Day 2 Istanbul. Our morning tour will include a visit to Chora church; for the best Byzantine art, mosaics and frescoes in the city and a visit to the great Theodosian walls which protected the city for 1,000 years. Return to the hotel for a chance to relax and explore independently. Meet this evening for a farewell dinner.

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

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£545**; Single: **£695**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, excursions as per the itinerary, transfer from ship to hotel and hotel to airport, meals as described.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

Circumnavigation of the Black Sea

Discover the wonders of the Black Sea aboard the MS Island Sky

6th to 18th June 2017

Join us aboard the MS Island Sky as we explore the shores of the Black Sea, one of the most fascinating and historically rich regions in the world. Our voyage begins in Istanbul and from the Golden Horn follows the Turkish coast to Trabzon (Trebizond) before crossing to Georgia where the richness of its culture reflects the influence of Greeks, Byzantines, Persians, Turks and Mongols. Georgia's 'Golden Age' reached its height between the reigns of David the Builder and his granddaughter Queen Tamara in the 11th and 12th centuries.

From Georgia we follow the coastline to Russia's premier resort and spa, Sochi. Here the microclimate produces wonderful year round weather and a lush countryside. After a day at sea which will be filled with fascinating lectures by our onboard guest speakers, we reach Odessa, the historic city founded by Catherine the Great at the mouth of the great River Dnieper, following which we arrive in Constanta, Romania, an ancient metropolis and Romania's largest sea port. Finally we reach Nessebur, a delightful Bulgarian town with a fascinating history before our cruise ends where it all began, in the captivating city of Istanbul.

Such a journey as this would be totally impractical by any means other than a cruise. Whether your interest lies in ancient or military history, architecture, literature, contemporary politics or just in visiting some of the most atmospheric and fascinating places on earth, the Black Sea has a lot to offer. Local guides and our onboard guest speakers will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of this intriguing corner of the world where East meets West.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London or Manchester to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark in the late afternoon. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Istanbul. Enjoy a day of exploration in the fascinating city of Istanbul. Choose to either join a full day excursion visiting the Blue Mosque, the Basilica Cistern built during the reign of the Emperor Justinian in the 6th century and the magnificent Byzantine church of Hagia Sophia. Enjoy lunch in a

local restaurant before spending the afternoon at Topkapi Palace with its recently restored pavilions, harems and treasury. Alternatively join a morning tour which will include a visit to Chora Church for the best Byzantine art, mosaics and frescoes in the city as well as Hagia Sophia before returning to the MS Island Sky for lunch and a free afternoon to explore independently. In your free time you may wish to spend some time at the Grand Bazaar or visit the spice market. Early this evening we will sail along the Bosphorus, heading for the Black Sea.

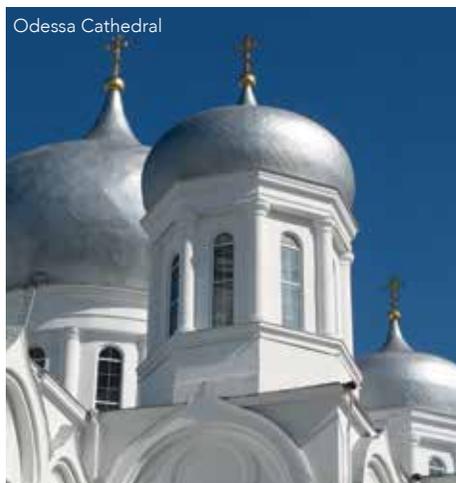


Day 3 Bartin. From the port of Bartin in ancient Paphlagonia, we have a choice of excursions today. The morning tour will include a drive along the coast to nearby Amasra (ancient Sesamus) which is located on a headland in between two bays. We will explore the attractive old town which was founded by the Milesians in the 6th century B.C. and later became an important possession of both Byzantium and Genoa. See the Genoese citadel and learn more about its Greek and Roman past. Alternatively join a full day tour to the UNESCO site of Safranbolu, a preserved Ottoman style town named for its prominence in saffron production. On a walking tour we will visit the market place, the streets where copper makers, iron makers and Turkish delight makers work, the Mosque and a Turkish Hammam all from the time of Suleiman the Magnificent. Our tour will end at a typical Safranbolu house which is now an ethnographical museum. Enjoy lunch in an Ottoman caravanserai before returning to the MS Island Sky and sailing this evening.

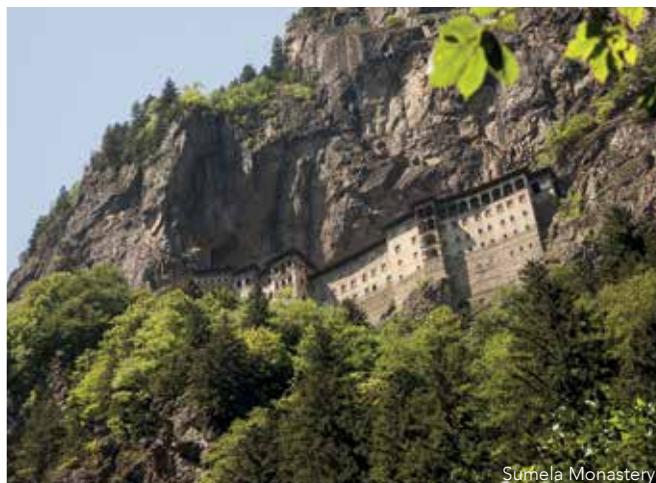
Day 4 Sinop. Founded by the Greeks in the 7th century B.C. Sinop flourished as a Black Sea port on the caravan route. On a walking tour we will discover this walled city including the 13th century Alaadin Mosque, constructed after the Seljuk conquest of the Sinop Province. The architecture is typical of the Seljuk period consisting of a rectangular plan featuring five domes. A fountain adorns the courtyard, which also contains ancient tombs. In the same period the town saw the construction of Sinop prison to honour the memory of Sultan Keykavus, who conquered Sinop in 1214. During our tour of the old jail which stands behind the ruins of the town's inner castle, we will learn about the types of crimes committed by the inmates and the conditions they endured here. We will then enjoy some free time to explore. You may wish to visit the Archaeological Museum of Sinop with a collection of objects dating from the Hittite, Hellenistic, Phrygian, Roman and Byzantine periods or the Ethnography Museum. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon cruising.

Day 5 Trabzon. Trabzon is a gateway to Eastern Turkey and Iran which was founded in the 7th century BC. On our morning excursion we drive through the picturesque mountain scenery to Sumela to see the dramatic Byzantine monastery carved out of a sheer rock face in the Pontic Alps. After lunch onboard we discover the church of Aya Sofia (1200) and the old town of Trabzon, then travel to the outskirts to visit Ataturk's lovely villa set high on a cliff above the city.

Day 6 Batumi, Georgia. Enjoy a day amongst the sights and sounds of charming Batumi. This morning enjoy a choice of excursions either to the ancient Gonio fortress dating back to the first century AD and the Ethnographic Museum that highlights



Odessa Cathedral



Sumela Monastery

the varied and fascinating history of the country. Alternatively spend time at the impressive botanical garden 'Dendrarium', see the golden statue of Medea before heading to the bustling farmers market. This afternoon enjoy a truly exhilarating private performance of Georgian song and dance by the Adjara State Assembly of Music and Dance.

Day 7 Sochi, Russia. We have a day to explore delightful Sochi, framed by the Caucasus Mountains and famous for its marvellous climate and health spas. On a morning tour we will visit Dagomy's tea plantation, the most northerly in the world where we learn about the cultivation processes and challenges before having the chance to enjoy a local brew. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we visit Stalin's Dacha, built in 1937 as his summer residence it remains intact as it was in Stalin's time.

Day 8 At sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we cruise to Odessa. Maybe join one of the onboard lectures or relax with a book in the library.

Day 9 Odessa, Ukraine. Founded by Catherine the Great in 1794 following the Russian victory over the Turks, Odessa today is a busy port and popular resort. On our tour we will see the famous Promenade Primorsky Boulevard and the Potemkin Steps. This afternoon is free to explore at leisure before we hope to enjoy a concert this evening at the acoustically perfect Opera House (schedules not confirmed until early 2017 when more details will be available). Return to the ship tonight and moor overnight.

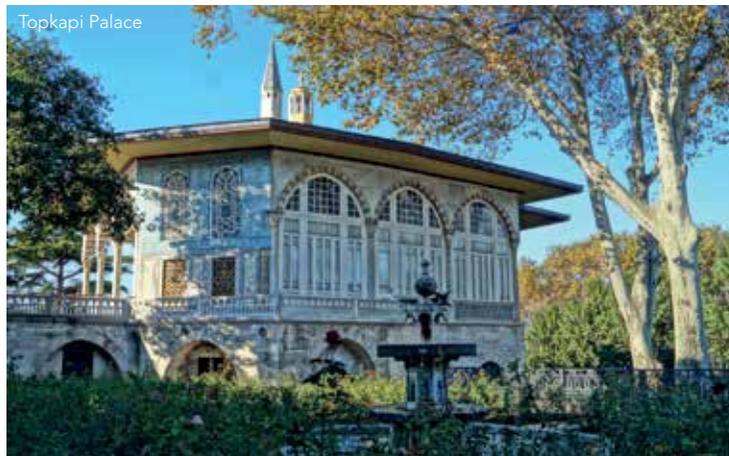
Day 10 Odessa. We recall Odessa's former splendour this morning by visiting two of the city's many mansions. We will begin with the mansion built for Count Pototsky between 1824 and 1828 which now houses the Odessa

Fine Arts Museum with a fine collection of Russian and Ukrainian Art. After a short drive you will reach the Gagarin Mansion, designed by Otton in the middle of the 19th century for the nobleman, Prince Gagarin. This now houses the Museum for Russian & Ukraine Literature. Tour the museum before enjoying a superb violin recital in the Golden Hall. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 11 Constanta, Romania. At breakfast we arrive in Constanta, known as Tomis to the Greeks but named Constanta by the Romans. Choose this morning to stay in Constanta and enjoy a tour to include the excellent Archaeological Museum including a visit to the Treasury to see the gigantic 3rd century Roman Mosaic. Later, stretch your legs with a walk along the Black Sea waterfront promenade. Alternatively join a full day tour to Bucharest. We will explore the main sights of the city and see the boulevards with their decidedly French style. After lunch in a local restaurant we visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world at 3.77 million square feet and renowned as former dictator Ceausescu's most infamous creation.

Day 12 Nessebur, Bulgaria. After a morning at sea we will arrive in the ancient town of Nessebur, a delightful place to spend an afternoon. A guided tour of the town will include the 5th century Bishopric, the 12th century St Stephen's church and some of the traditional-style houses with their overhanging first floors above winding cobbled lanes.

Day 13 Istanbul, Turkey to London or Manchester. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London or Manchester.



Topkapi Palace



The old casino in Constanta



Ember Turkish Coffee



Batumi Botanical Gardens, Georgia



Safranbolu



Opera House, Odessa



Blue Mosque

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £750 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£5895	£5145
Magellan	Standard	£6095	£5345
Columbus	Superior	£6395	£5645
Marco Polo	Premium	£6795	£6045
Marco Polo	Corner	£6995	£6245
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£7895	£7145
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£8095	£7345
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£9145	£8395
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£9595	£8845

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from London or Manchester, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks included with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, Russian Group visa, onboard team including Guest Speaker.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Turkish visa.

Voyage to the Land of the Polar Bears



An expedition exploring the Svalbard Archipelago aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
23rd July to 5th August 2017

Few places remain in the world where you can be assured that nature in its purest form will provide highlight after unexpected highlight. The region beyond Norway's North Cape is without doubt such a wilderness. The Svalbard Archipelago and the island of Spitsbergen especially, are astonishing places of glacial landscapes and endless horizons with lingering twilight located just 600 miles from the North Pole. Exotic and remote this archipelago lies almost as far north as there is land on our globe.

Escape with us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky to this land of glacier-coated fjords, beautiful bays, spectacular landscapes and abundant wildlife such as large colonies of walrus on beaches and passing ice floes, the amazing seabird cliffs of the offshore islands, Arctic foxes and of course the elusive polar bear of which there are somewhere between 3000 and 4000 in the region.

Using the fleet of onboard Zodiacs, we will go ashore on beaches, visit bird cliffs, hike across the tundra which is miraculously dotted with wild flowers and cruise along glacier fronts. Exploring Spitsbergen's nature, fauna and cultural heritage, we will visit sites where few people have set foot in one of the largest remaining wilderness areas in the Northern Hemisphere. Seabirds such as ivory gulls, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes will be our constant companions during our expedition and we will also look out for puffins and little auks which nest here in their millions. Taking full advantage of the long daylight hours we will embark on numerous Zodiac excursions to view the profuse wildlife up close accompanied by our expert expedition team who know the region well and whose knowledge will contribute much to our understanding with daily briefings and a series of lectures.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Oslo, Norway.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration before we meet tonight for a welcome drink in the hotel.

Day 2 Oslo to Longyearbyen. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Longyearbyen. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and sail this evening.

Days 3 to 11 Spitsbergen. A place of deep fjords, mountains and massive sheets of ice that cover much of the land, Spitsbergen is home to a wonderful assortment of wildlife; walrus, seal, reindeer, Arctic fox and Polar bear. Our itinerary for the next nine days will be kept flexible and in the hands of our experienced Expedition Leader and Captain allowing us to take advantage of the local ice conditions and maximise our chances to see the flora and fauna of



Svalbard



Walrus



Black Legged Kittiwake



Arctic tern



Bear Island



Polar Bear family

“

Taking full advantage of the long daylight hours we will embark on numerous Zodiac excursions to view the profuse wildlife up close accompanied by our expert expedition team.

”

the region as well as historical sites. Some of the places we hope to include will be Hornsund Fjord, where we can cruise along stunning glaciers which wind their way down to the sea. Send a post card from Ny Alesund the world's northernmost settlement where Svalbard reindeer roam through the town and Arctic terns nest along the roads. At Danskoya we will learn of two of the most courageous attempts to reach the North Pole started from this island and be guided around the site which is littered with remnants from the heroic era. Whilst at nearby Amsterdamoya we learn about the whaling activities founded here in 1617.

On Nordaustlandet we can cruise along a massive icecap stretching down to the sea where it forms a long glacier front intersected by hundreds of melt-waterfalls. This is a favourite area for seals, and where there are seals, we hope there are bears. Meanwhile in the nutritious waters of the Hinlopen Strait we will find a large concentration of sea birds including a colony of 300 000 pairs of guillemots at Alkefjellet. On Edgeoya, the third largest island in the archipelago, we can explore the tundra with good chances of seeing walrus, arctic fox and reindeer.

Day 12 Bear Island. Spend the morning cruising through the rich waters of the Barents Sea looking out for minke and humpback whales, dolphins and sea birds. At lunchtime we will approach Bear Island. For nearly three centuries, Bear Island, which sits halfway between North Cape and Svalbard was the home of a major Barents Sea whaling

station. Today, thousands of fulmars, kittiwakes, murre, dovekeys and multiple varieties of gulls make their home on the jagged cliffs and rocky pinnacles that rise vertically from the sea, often enshrouded in a mystical fog. Cruise by Zodiac along the eroded cliffs and make a landing for a tundra walk among seasonal Arctic wild flowers and to search for Arctic fox.

Day 13 North Cape. We will spend a day taking a close look at the magnificent landscape of the area known as Finnmark. This wilderness area is home to many thousands of Sami people and we will learn of their lives and culture. There will be the opportunity to explore the

wildlife and scenery on foot and by Zodiac. The fjords and unspoiled islands of this little-known area are just perfect for expedition cruising. We hope to use our Zodiacs to explore the magnificent bird cliffs at Gjesvaerstappen Island home to thousands of gannets, guillemots, puffins and razorbills. We will round the North Cape and see the monument erected on top of the 307 metre cliff of Mageroya Island and from the port of Skarsvag drive to the North Cape Plateau.

Day 14 Tromso to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London via Oslo.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING		
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5715
Byrd	Superior	£5915
Mawson	Premium	£6165
Mawson	Corner	£6420
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6920
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7220
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8220
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6920
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7115

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Oslo on a bed and breakfast basis 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, all shore excursions, expedition team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, use of rubber boots and parka jackets onboard.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Summer in the Isles

An in-depth voyage around the British Isles and Ireland aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
17th to 31st August 2017

During this unique voyage, we will journey from the most northerly part of the Scottish mainland to the Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands and Outer Hebrides. These island groups exude enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic. We also visit some of the most idyllic and rarely visited islands in the south including St Agnes and Herm. In the main, we will explore these little contained worlds by foot and for garden enthusiasts we have included the stunning subtropical Abbey Gardens on Treviso, Bodnant Garden in Snowdonia and Mount Congreve garden in Ireland. In addition, we visit the historic city of Derry in Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, not often included on cruise schedules.

Having arranged hundreds of small ship cruises around Britain and Ireland, we have realised that everyone takes something different from the experience. Whether your interest lies in wildlife, gardens, ancient history, photography or simply an appreciation of the incredible beauty of this unique kingdom, this voyage has something for everyone. With just over 100 travelling companions, the atmosphere is more akin to a private yacht trip and ashore with our local experts we will divide into small groups thereby enjoying a more comprehensive and peaceful experience. We are indeed fortunate in having such marvellous places so close to home and our ideally suited vessel allows for a comprehensive exploration of the Isles over the fifteen days.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Leith, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Edinburgh Airport and Waverley Station at a set time.

Day 2 Scrabster. After a morning at sea we arrive in Scrabster, the most northerly port on the Scottish mainland. On an afternoon tour we visit the Castle and Gardens of Mey which was built between 1566 and 1572 by George Sinclair, 4th Earl of Caithness. The castle was purchased by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 1952 who restored the castle for use as a holiday home and created the beautiful gardens.

Day 3 Kirkwall, Orkney Islands. From the Orkney capital of Kirkwall we will head into the west of Mainland, Orkney's largest island. We will pass through gentle rolling landscape and into the Neolithic Heartland of Orkney; an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of pre-historic archaeology. We will see the

Standing Stones of Stennes, the Ring of Brodgar; a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5000 years. We continue to the 5000-year-old village of Skara Brae and see the remarkable dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms only 150 years ago. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace. This evening we will be entertained by local musicians onboard as we moor overnight.

Day 4 Westray & Papa Westray. We sail in the early hours from Kirkwall for our exploration of the islands to the north of the Orkney mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, an RSPB reserve on the sea cliffs and Notland Castle, an incomplete fortress built in the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour, Master of the Royal Household to Mary Queen of Scots, Sheriff of Orkney. Meanwhile in the main village of Pierowall we find the Westray Heritage Centre housing Neolithic carvings. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Papa Westray, where you have time to stretch your legs



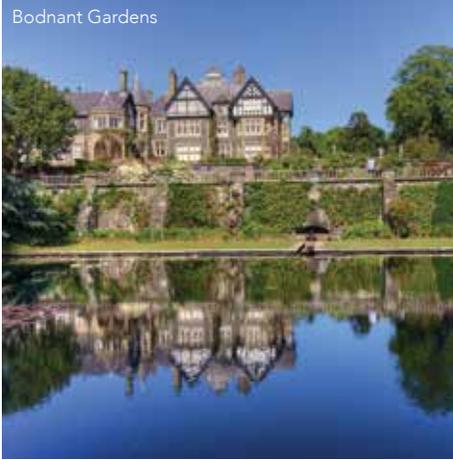
on a number of island walks. You can choose to visit the 3500-year-old Knap of Howar, a Neolithic farm building that claims to be the oldest standing house in Europe and the 12th century St Boniface Kirk. In the north of the island is the North Hill Reserve, home to Arctic terns and skuas and also the extremely rare Scottish primrose. In the early evening we will meet at the Papay pub for a well-deserved pre-dinner drink.

Day 5 Unst & Fetlar, Shetland Islands. We start our exploration of Shetland in the northern islands of Unst and Fetlar. Unst is Britain's most northerly inhabited island and at the Heritage Centre we will learn about how the islanders have lived over the centuries and the industries that have prospered. We will visit the Unst Boat Haven, dedicated to the history of the islands distinctive wooden boats which descend from Viking craft and Saxa Vord with views over Hermaness National Nature Reserve and Muckle Flugga stacks, home to thousands of birds as well as rare Arctic-alpine plants. Over lunch we sail to Fetlar, inhabited for over 5000 years the island lays claim to being the first Norse landing site in the Shetlands. Known as the most fertile of the Shetland Islands the wildflowers bring great colour to the landscape. Our expedition team will lead walks ashore including the Fetlar Interpretative Centre and Museum where we will learn about the wildlife and archaeological history of the island.



Day 6 Lerwick. From the Shetland capital we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead, and the 16th-century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore this historic port including the excellent Shetland museum.

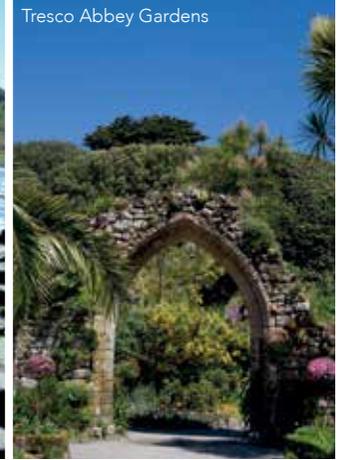
Day 7 Stornoway. Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea before arriving on the Isle of Lewis at lunchtime. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, this afternoon's tour takes you across the island to the beautiful west coast and Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. Visit the excellent visitor centre to learn more about the site and venture out amongst the stones themselves to experience their mysterious atmosphere. Continue around the west coast to the site of Dun Carloway Pictish Broch. Probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. We then head north to Gearranan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses where people and animals lived in



Bodnant Gardens



Giant's Causeway



Tresco Abbey Gardens

close proximity. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast.

Day 8 Canna & Muck. Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by the National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn shaped haven. Canna and Sanday have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. During lunch, it is but a short sail past the rugged cliffs of Rum to the smallest of the Small Isles, Muck. A peaceful low-lying island, we will land in the southeast corner at the small settlement of Port Mor and enjoy a gentle wander across the island.

Day 9 Derry, Northern Ireland. We will berth this morning at the historic city of Derry, renowned as one of the finest examples of a walled city in all of Europe. This morning we leave the city and drive to the Giant's Causeway which became widely known from the 1700s as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and large numbers of visitors came to view this amazing array of basalt columns - it is estimated that there are around 40,000 in total. Return to Derry for lunch and enjoy an afternoon to explore the city independently.

Day 10 Peel, Isle of Man. Arrive this morning on the Isle of Man and the main fishing port of Peel. Settlements have been here since the Mesolithic

Age and the island also claims to have the longest continuous parliament which was founded in 979AD. This morning we will travel to Tynwald Hill, located in the little village of St John's. This grass topped, tiered hill is made from the soil and stones from each of the island's 17 parishes and is the point from which, each July 5th all the laws enacted in the year preceding are promulgated to the gathered government officials and the public at large, both in Manx and English languages. This process has been a continuous procedure for well over a thousand years. We continue to Castletown and the magnificent Castle Rushen, one of the best examples of a Medieval castle in Europe which was the former seat of the Kings and Lords of Mann, with the castle's oldest part dating back to the time of Magnus, the last Norse King of Mann, who died here in 1266. We end our tour at Castletown station and board the vintage steam train for a delightful and traditional journey to Douglas. Dating from 1874, the Isle of Man Steam Railway is the island's oldest Victorian rail system and this narrow gauge railway still runs with its original locomotives and carriages. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 11 Holyhead, Wales. This morning we will arrive in Holyhead our base for a full day exploring this spectacular part of North Wales. We will visit Portmeirion, an extraordinary Mediterranean-style village designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975. Enjoy a tour of the village before a drive through Snowdonia where we will enjoy lunch in the National Park before continuing to Bodnant Garden, one of the most beautiful gardens in the United Kingdom. Spanning some 80 acres, the garden is set above the River Conwy and offers views to the Snowdonia range.

Day 12 Waterford, Ireland. From our berth in the town of Waterford

we will drive to Mount Congreve, a spectacular woodland garden on the banks of the River Suir. This privately owned seventy acre garden has a collection of over three thousand trees and shrubs. Enjoy time to walk the numerous paths bordered with wisterias or bluebells and visit the vantage points with views over the landscape and meadows beyond. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Waterford independently.

Day 13 Isles of Scilly, England. Spend the morning on traffic free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands, relax in the café or further explore this peaceful island. We sail over lunch to St Agnes, the most south westerly community in

the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs, this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks.

Day 14 Guernsey and Herm, Channel Islands. Our last island group is the Channel Islands. We awake in Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers' where there will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive to see the beautiful coastline and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes. This afternoon we make the short crossing over to Herm which at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, is perfect for exploring on foot. There will be some free time to explore or maybe join our naturalists on a walk.

Day 15 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway station at a set time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

LIMITED AVAILABILITY – SAVE UP TO £750 PER PERSON			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£5995	£5495
Byrd	Superior	£6295	£5795
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6095
Mawson	Corner	£6895	£6395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7495	£6745
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7895	£7145
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8995	£8245
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8695	£8195
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9445	£8945

Price Includes: 14 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, expedition team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts are integral to the operation of the voyage due to the small ports we will be visiting where we will be at anchor.

Across the Top of Australia

An expedition cruise to Australia's 'Top End' from Broome to Darwin aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
26th August to 12th September 2017

The Kimberley region of Western Australia was the last great empty section of Australia to be explored, with European settlers arriving only just over 100 years ago. Ignored by the early settlers, the Kimberley is today one of the richest areas of the continent with record gold and diamond rushes, great cattle drives and hauls of pearl shells having put the region well and truly on the economic map. However, for all its latterly discovered wealth, it still remains one of the most untouched areas in the world. Covering nearly 423 000 square kilometres, the region has fewer people per square kilometre than almost any other place on earth and is truly one of the world's last great wilderness areas with a complex landscape which encompasses spectacular gorges and waterfalls, fascinating cave systems and an incredibly diverse variety of wildlife.

Rarely visited in any comprehensive way due to its wild and undeveloped nature, the Kimberley is a wonderful place for the genuine traveller to explore and perfect for expedition style cruising. There are so many highlights, it is difficult to know where to begin when extolling its virtues. From the tidal phenomena at the Montgomery Bay Reef to the Horizontal Waterfalls near Talbot Bay, from the hundreds of islands in the Buccaneer Archipelago to the gorges of the Mitchell, King George and Prince Regent rivers and from the fertile Ord River Valley to Lake Argyle. The whole vast area offers a cornucopia of natural world delights on a scale seldom witnessed anywhere else in the world.



Red-collared lorikeet

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Perth, Australia.

Fly by scheduled indirect flight via Singapore.

Day 2 Perth. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Duxton Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay.

Day 3 Perth. After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a guided tour of Perth which will include a guided walk of Kings Park, perched on Mount Eliza. Absorb impressive views of the city and the Swan River and visit the Caversham

Wildlife Park. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore at your own pace before we meet tonight for a welcome dinner including a glass of the local wine.

Day 4 Perth to Broome. This morning enjoy a cruise along the famous Swan River to Fremantle which is famous for its wonderful beaches and well-preserved colonial architecture. We have time to explore before returning to Perth airport for our scheduled flight to Broome. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.

Day 5 Lacepede Islands. Arrive this morning at the Lacepede Islands, a series of low islands consisting of coarse sand and coral rubble lying atop a platform reef. This nature reserve has been identified by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area as it supports up to 18,000 breeding pairs of Brown Boobies and Roseate Terns, possibly the largest such population in the world. Board the Zodiacs and explore the island's lagoon, keeping an eye out for many species of marine birdlife including Australian Pelicans, frigate birds, egrets, gulls and terns. The islands are also renowned as Western Australia's most significant breeding grounds for the Green Turtle, often seen nesting on the islands.

Days 6 & 7 Buccaneer Archipelago, Talbot Bay and Horizontal Falls. We spend two days cruising the Buccaneer Archipelago, made up of over 800 islands and home to a wealth of wildlife and fascinating rock formations. We will use our Zodiacs in Yampi Sound to make beach landings and enjoy a swim in the natural pool at crocodile creek, an area that defies its name. We will also visit Talbot Bay, known for its massive 12 metre tides that create an amazing spectacle, the unique Horizontal Falls. David Attenborough described the phenomena as "one of the greatest natural wonders in the world". Subject to tidal conditions we board local boats for an exhilarating, ride through the falls. This afternoon we will use our Zodiacs to explore Cyclone Gorge. Here we hope to see crocodiles and fiddler crabs in the waters whilst observing the unique geology and amazing rock formations.

Day 8 Montgomery Reef & Raft Point.

An unforgettable adventure today as the magnificent Montgomery Reef 'rises' out of the ocean as the tidal waters cascade down in to the surrounding deep channels in an awesome display of the power of nature. Join our Expedition Team aboard your Zodiac to experience this natural phenomenon up close and discover the reef's diverse marine life including turtles, manta rays and reef sharks. Over lunch we position to Raft Point and use Zodiacs to land on the beach. Either enjoy time to relax whilst the energetic can climb to a secluded Aboriginal rock art gallery to view Wandjina art which is over 4000 years old. Enjoy the spectacular views from the top before returning to the ship.



Day 9 Hunter River & Naturalist Island.

The Prince Frederick Harbour is home to some of the most spectacular scenery we will see. Soaring red cliffs, green rainforest and mangroves paint a beautiful canvas for our arrival as we sail through Nine Pin Head, the sandstone bluff that marks the mouth of the river. We follow the Hunter River to reveal the spectacular backdrop of Mount Trafalgar while to the north Mount Anderson rises to an impressive 480 metres. We will drop anchor at Naturalist Island and have the choice to join a Zodiac excursion around the island and mangroves looking for wildlife, especially crocodile, or an optional helicopter excursion to Mitchell Falls. This amazing four tiered waterfall drops 80 metres and is surrounded by the red escarpment lands of the Mitchell Plateau making the view from the air quite stunning. We will land at the top for a short walk to the lookout points and may even have a chance to swim in the river at the top of the falls.



Perth

Day 10 Vansittart Bay & Jar Island.

We have the whole day to explore Vansittart Bay. First thing we will use the Zodiacs to land on Jar Island to see the Gwion Gwion Aboriginal art gallery. Discovered by Joseph Bradshaw in 1891 some of the art has been dated back over 17,000 years and is unique to this region. We will



walk to the two rock art galleries and see the rocky burial mound between the sites. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon land on the Anjo Peninsula. Our onboard naturalists will lead various walks over the mud flats, rock pools and sand dunes looking for wildlife, birds and plants.

Day 11 King George River. At dawn we will start our 12 kilometre journey through some of the world's most spectacular scenery along the mighty King George River. Millions of years of erosion have created vertical sheer walls that resemble stacks of sandstone. The highlight is sure to be King George Falls, the highest single drop falls in the whole of the Kimberley and your Expedition Team will get you to the cascading waters. The more active may like to accompany some of the Expedition Team on a trek to the top of the falls for breathtaking views. For those that remain at the foot of the falls we will run a series of Zodiac cruises through the gorge looking for wildlife such as flying foxes, dugong and crocodiles.

Day 12 Wyndham. We will arrive in Wyndham before breakfast and have a choice of optional excursions. Choose to discover the Bungle Bungles, a distinct mountain range within Purnululu National Park – many visitors describe them as the highlight of their visit to the Kimberley region. Enjoy a scenic flight over the Bungle Bungles rock formations and a hike into Cathedral Gorge and Piccaniny Creek. Alternatively join the Ord River Cruise which will involve travelling by bus to Kununurra where we board our scenic cruise boat for a 55 kilometre scenic cruise along the mighty Ord River to Lake Argyle keeping an eye out for freshwater crocodiles in the water. Enjoy a land tour of Lake Argyle and visit historic Durack Homestead and view the lake from the scenic lookout.

For those who wish to remain onboard, the town of Wyndham is close to the port to enjoy at your leisure.

Day 13 At sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea.

Day 14 Jaco Island, East Timor. After clearing custom formalities in Com we will travel to uninhabited Jaco Island, part of East Timor's, Nino Konis Santana National Park, for a day of beachcombing, swimming and snorkelling. The island has been identified as an important birding area due to its population of doves, honey-eaters and sunbirds and members of our expedition team will lead birding walks. Snorkelling platforms will be set up for those wanting to experience the underwater world whilst others may prefer to relax on the white sandy beaches.

Day 15 At sea. A final relaxing day at sea to enjoy a lecture and enjoy the slideshow presentation of our voyage.

Day 16 Darwin, Australia. Disembark after breakfast and enjoy a full day tour to Litchfield National Park, famous for its magnificent waterfalls and where bird and wildlife species abound. We will see Florence Falls and enjoy an interpretive bush and monsoon vine forest walk. Visit the Buley Rock Hole and then travel on to Tolmer Falls for a magnificent view of the water cascading down to the deep waterhole at the base of the falls. Return via Wangi Falls, with its large crystal clear pool; maybe take a dip in the cool waters and Litchfield's amazing stand of termite mounds. On arrival in Darwin we will transfer to the Hilton hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay and meet this evening for a farewell dinner at the hotel.

Day 17 Darwin to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 18 London. Arrive this morning.

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
Castle	Standard Forward	£8295	£7795
Castle	Standard	£8495	£7995
Caledonian	Superior	£8695	£8195
Promenade	Premium	£8895	£8395
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9195	£8695
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9495	£8995
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£9895	£9395
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11295	£10795
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11795	£11295

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, two nights hotel accommodation in Perth and overnight accommodation in Darwin on a bed and breakfast basis, Welcome dinner in Perth, Farewell dinner in Darwin, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas, optional excursions.

“

Covering nearly 423 000 square kilometres, the region has fewer people per square kilometre than almost any other place on earth and is truly one of the world's last great wilderness areas.

”



Monkey Mia Dolphins



Nambung National Park

Kalbarri National Park



Little Pink Fan Orchid

Wildlife & Wildflowers of Western Australia

21st to 29th August 2017

Before embarking the MS Caledonian Sky in Broome we are offering the opportunity to join an escorted extension discovering the wildlife and wildflowers of Western Australia at the perfect time of the year.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Perth. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Perth. On arrival at Perth airport, you will be met by your local tour guide and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 3 Perth to Caversham Wildlife Park. After breakfast we will enjoy a guided tour of Perth and take a guided walk of Kings Park, perched on Mount Eliza. Absorb impressive views of the city and the Swan River and visit the Caversham Wildlife Park. Tonight enjoy a Welcome to Western Australia Dinner and a glass of West Australian wine.

Day 4 Perth to New Norcia & Coomberdale Wildflower Farm to Kalbarri. Travel to the monastic town of New Norcia today and enjoy a visit to the town's museum and art gallery. We will savour the offerings of the Spanish Benedictine monks and later, tour the Coomberdale Wildflower Farm. This

afternoon, continue to the town of Kalbarri for an overnight stay.

Day 5 Kalbarri National Park, Shark Bay. Visit Kalbarri National Park this morning, where wildflowers burst into bloom between July and October in a riot of colour. Head to Eagle Bluff (subject to road conditions) for its stunning views, then continue to Denham and visit the Shark Bay Interpretive Centre. Later, head to Monkey Mia and feast on a delicious seafood meal during an exclusive dinner tonight.

Day 6 Monkey Mia Dolphins. Start today with a magical encounter with the wild Monkey Mia dolphins that come close to shore to be fed (subject to appearance). The day is yours to spend at leisure in this coastal paradise. Like a local - this afternoon, enjoy a special wildlife cruise on Shark Bay. Perhaps spot a dolphin, manta ray or dugong.

Day 7 Shell Beach, Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve, Geraldton. Travel to Shell Beach, a 60-kilometre beach covered by billions of tiny white sea shells. Then, head to Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve to view some of the world's oldest living organisms, the stromatolites. Afterwards, travel

to Geraldton and undertake a town tour.

Day 8 The Pinnacles & Perth. This morning, travel to Nambung National Park to see the unusual limestone pillars of the Pinnacles. Return to Perth and meet our remaining passengers for dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 9 Perth to Broome. This morning enjoy a cruise along the famous Swan River to Fremantle. Fremantle is famous for its wonderful beaches, as well as its well-preserved colonial architecture. We have time to explore before returning to Perth airport for our scheduled flight to Broome. On arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy
Twin: **£1545**; Single: **£2075**

Price includes: Seven nights hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, dinner on days 3, 5 and 8, shore excursions, gratuities to guides and drivers, Tour manager, transfers, taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, meals other than those specified, visa.



Melanesian Odyssey



An island hopping adventure from the Solomon Islands to Fiji including Vanuatu aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
13th to 29th September 2017

Join us for this fascinating island hopping exploration from the Solomon Islands through to Vanuatu and ending in Fiji. All the islands we will encounter are beautiful in their different ways and all have unique features and cultures. They are certainly not on the mass tourism circuit and their beauty and customs remain relatively unscathed by the modern world. The region is ideal for exploring by small ship and particularly one as suitable as the MS Caledonian Sky. Her fleet of Zodiac landing craft gives us access to islands and bays that the big ships simply cannot get close to and provides us the freedom of spontaneity to explore where relatively few travellers have been before us.

We begin our journey in the Solomon Islands, a constitutional monarchy which gained its independence from the UK in 1978 and a melting pot of Pacific cultures. The islands have been inhabited for some 60,000 years but it was World War II that thrust them on to the centre stage of world history when the Allied forces took the offensive in the South Pacific and air, land and sea battles ensued for control of the Solomons. We will explore the war sites in Honiara before heading east to the outer islands of Santa Ana, Vanikoro and Tikopia. From these remote island paradises we will have the opportunity to visit tribal villages little changed for centuries, see astonishing ceremonial dances, enjoy nature walks inland or swim in the warm waters from isolated palm-fringed beaches. The second half of our expedition takes us to the Vanuatu archipelago, home to some of the most beautiful islands in the South Pacific, with rainforests bursting with a magnificent array of flora and fauna and a mesmerising underwater world of tropical fish and vibrant coral. This is also one of the most culturally complex and fascinating regions in the world with hundreds of languages spoken across the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and a vast spectrum of spiritual beliefs, traditions and artistic craftsmanship.

This voyage has something for everyone, whether your interest lies in natural history, military history, bird watching, the undersea world or simply just being one of the privileged few who are able to set foot on islands of astonishing richness and beauty. Afloat and ashore, our adventure will be filled with unforgettable images, remote idyllic islets, kaleidoscopic reefs and soaring white-tailed tropic birds. We hope you can join us in this faraway haven, for an unparalleled opportunity to explore one of the most intriguing places on the map.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Brisbane, Australia.
Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

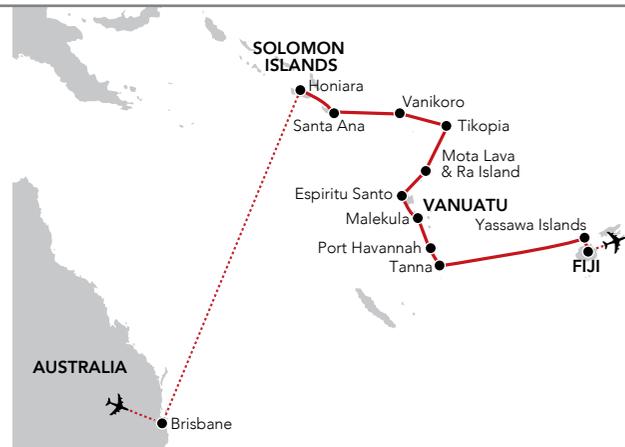
Day 2 Brisbane, Australia. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Royal on the Park Hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day and evening will be free to relax after our journey and acclimatise.

Day 3 Brisbane, Australia. After breakfast in the hotel enjoy a leisurely morning to explore independently and perhaps visit the botanical gardens, the central mall or the riverfront. This afternoon we will enjoy a city drive on our way to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary which

is home to 130 koalas as well as kangaroos. Continue to Mount Coot-tha for a fantastic lookout over Brisbane before returning to the hotel for dinner this evening.

Day 4 Brisbane to Honiara, Solomon Islands. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Honiara. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Enjoy some free time to relax before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 5 Honiara. During World War II the British founded Honiara as a military base. The town and Mataniko River, which runs through it, were the front for many months during the



battle of Guadalcanal. Today, this is a bustling town with lovely hibiscus and palm-tree-lined avenues. After breakfast in the hotel we will join a city tour of Honiara including the bustling central market, parliament building and National Museum where we get an insight into the history of the Solomon Islands. We will enjoy lunch before continuing to the World War II sites including Henderson Field, the Japanese Peace Park and the US Memorial at Skyline Ridge. In the late afternoon we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail this evening.

Day 6 Santa Ana, Solomon Islands. Over breakfast we anchor off Port Mary on Santa Ana Island. We are welcomed by a stunning dance by the villagers with spears and mud face masks. After the performance we have the opportunity to explore the town further with its plethora of local handicrafts, join a nature walk through the forests, meet the students at the village school or swim from the local beach. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Vanikoro, Solomon Islands
Enjoy a morning cruising before arriving at Vanikoro at lunchtime. Situated in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands, Vanikoro was where French explorer Jean-Francois de la Perouse became stranded after both his vessels, La Boussole and the Astrolabe, hit the then unknown reefs of the island in 1788. Learn more about the island's history and the mystery of the lost La Perouse expedition that captured the imagination of the European public. We will be welcomed ashore by the local villagers before

choosing to explore the village further, join a nature walk where we can look out for the endemic birds, the Vanikoro Monarch and Vanikoro White-eye, or enjoy a swim or snorkel from the beach.

Day 8 Tikopia, Solomon Islands.
This small remote island is a tropical paradise where traditional customs remain intact. This Polynesian-settled island lies in Melanesia, yet its people are descendants of Tongan and Wallis Island settlers. Settled for over 3000 years the local inhabitants have had to develop their way of life, cultivating sustainable crops and slaughtering all the pigs, that were staples of the Polynesian diet, to survive. We have a day on the island where you may wish to hike to the crater lake to search for local birdlife, swim or snorkel on the fringing reefs or meet the locals in the traditional village and learn about their lifestyles.

Day 9 Mota Lava & Ra Island, Vanuatu. Our first call in Vanuatu will be the island of Mota Lava and Ra Island in the Banks Island group. These tiny island communities are still off the main tourist routes but the locals are happy to share their culture, stories and ways of life with the visitors that make the journey to their islands. From our anchorage point we will Zodiac ashore, see a traditional snake dance where the men paint themselves black and white as sea snakes before being welcomed into the village. We also hope to have the chance to snorkel on the reef and enjoy nature walks on the island.

Day 10 Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu. Espiritu Santo is the largest of



Yasawa Islands, Fiji



Malekula Island



Market, Tanna Island



Solomon Islands



Traditional dance, Solomon Islands



Blue Hole, Espiritu Santo Island



Yasawa Islands, Fiji

Vanuatu's islands with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches, amazing blue holes, caves and renowned snorkelling. It was also a huge military base during World War II. This morning join an island tour including the Nekar Custom Village where we will learn about local traditions and customs, including their unique water music and cava making, before enjoying time to swim in the nearby Riri Blue Hole. Return to the ship for lunch and in the afternoon snorkel amongst the corals and fish of the region at Million Dollar Point, named after the value of the military equipment dumped into the sea.

Day 11 Malekula Island, Vanuatu.

The second largest of the island group Malekula is also the most culturally diverse with a small population which speaks over 30 distinct languages. Here we will learn about the ancient tribes the Big Nambas who lived in the north and Smol Nambas from the central and southern provinces. Tribal warfare was once very common but today the island is peaceful. We plan to visit one of the tribal groups to learn about their culture including a history of cannibalism, with many ancient sites hidden in the forests, and see some of their important traditions of dance and song. In the afternoon we will relocate and find a suitable spot to enjoy some of the excellent snorkelling found on the coral reefs off the island.

Day 12 Port Havannah, Vanuatu.

Awake this morning off Port Havannah, situated on the north coast of Efate Island and our base for today's activities. There are a number of outer islands that we may be able to explore depending on weather and sea conditions. Lelepa Island is a 160 acres of unspoilt tropical rainforest and palm fringed beaches. On a nature walk we will see the herbs used in local medicines before exploring Feles cave thought to be the resting place of the legendary Polynesian Chief, Roi Mata. Meanwhile on Moso Island we can meet the volunteers at the Tasiriki Turtle Sanctuary who will teach us about the rehabilitation of the Hawksbill turtles and the attempts to increase their numbers. If time and weather permit, we will also set up a snorkelling platform or offer a chance to swim from the beach.

Day 13 Tanna, Vanuatu. Our final call in Vanuatu is the island of Tanna, meaning earth in the local Kwamera language. Captain Cook was the first European to visit the island in 1774, landing at Port Resolution, having been attracted by the glowing light of Mount Yasur. This 361 metre active volcano is situated in the south east of the island and dominates the landscape. The more adventurous amongst us may wish to join a journey to the crater taking local trucks through the rainforest that covers the mountain before walking to the rim. Alternatively, we hope to have the chance to visit local

villages where traditional lifestyles are maintained and the local culture has been largely unaffected by western influences. We will learn of the customs, traditional medicines, crafts and cooking styles. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising as we start our journey to Fiji.

Day 14 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea. Our onboard lecture programme will continue during the day or, alternatively, find a spot on board to relax with a book.

Day 15 Yasawa Islands, Fiji. After a morning at sea we will drop anchor amongst the twenty islands of the

Yasawa group during lunch. In 1789 when Captain Bligh was set adrift from the HMS Bounty he passed by the Yasawa Islands from where two war canoes were sent to pursue them. They escaped and the waters are still known as Bligh Water. Today we can expect a friendlier welcome as we find a spot on a secluded beach to relax or enjoy a last opportunity to snorkel and swim.

Day 16 Fiji to London. Disembark this morning in Lautoka and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight.

Day 17 London. Arrive this morning.

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
Castle	Standard Forward	£8095	£7595
Castle	Standard	£8295	£7795
Caledonian	Superior	£8495	£7995
Promenade	Premium	£8695	£8195
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8995	£8495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9395	£8895
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£9595	£9095
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9695	£9195
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9895	£9395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Brisbane and overnight accommodation in Honiaria on a bed and breakfast basis, dinners on days 3 and 4, 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Late Summer in the French & Italian Rivièras

Discover the beauty of the Mediterranean Rivièras aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
14th to 24th September 2017

The British love affair with the French and Italian Rivièras dates back to the 18th century and the days of the Grand Tour. It is not surprising when you consider the charms on offer coupled with the wonderful climate. It is difficult to imagine a better time than the month of September for such a cruise and, with relatively crowd free sites and cooler temperatures, this promises to be a relaxing and informative journey. Immerse yourself in the artistic, historical and cultural gems and explore the stunning harbours and charming villages that we will pass along the way.

We begin our voyage with visits to Côte Vermeille, famous for its beautiful coastline and Sete, from where we explore the Medieval walled town of Carcassonne. We will then call into the pretty Provençal port of Sanary Sur Mer for a stroll around the picturesque harbour or to take a boat trip around the hidden bays of Les Calanques. Capture the essence of the Côte d'Azur in the beautiful city of Nice and glamorous Monte Carlo and, once in the Italian Riviera with its breathtaking coastal scenery, explore San Remo and the Ligurian capital of Genoa, rich in maritime history and an archaeological heritage that speaks of its former glory. We have also included the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Portovenere and the lovely Tuscan town of Lucca.

This itinerary is very much a classic that has been enjoyed over the decades but with some interesting variations such as our calls into Sete, Sanary Sur Mer and Viareggio. It combines some 'must see' sites together with some smaller places and, with so many experiences on offer, we have planned our time carefully to ensure there is adequate opportunity to relax onboard, join the guided excursions and explore under your own steam.



Collioure



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Barcelona, Spain.

Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation and set sail before dinner.

Day 2 Port Vendres, France.

The 'Côte Vermeille', or rocky coast, is one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean and inspired some of the world's most famous artists. This morning we will drive the short distance to Collioure which has always been a source of inspiration for artists. Picasso, Derain, Dufy, Chagall, Matisse and Marquet have all stopped in Collioure to capture its special light and to immortalise the small Catalan harbour in their works. We will have time to explore the colourful streets and visit the local artist studios before continuing to the Royal Castle, the summer residence of the Kings of Majorca from 1276-1344. Here we will see underground passages, the 16th century prison and the 13th century chapel before walking to the Church of Notre Dame des Anges. Return to the ship for lunch via Valmy Castle and a wine tasting. This afternoon choose to explore Port Vendres independently or join a tour to the charming town of Ceret located in the foothills of the Vallespir Mountains. Enjoy a walking tour of the town and visit the wonderful Musée d'art Moderne before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 3 Sete. Although interesting in its own right, Sete is not the main reason for calling into this southern coast port and there will be a choice of excursions today. Enjoy a full day tour to the fortified city of Carcassonne, perched on a rocky hilltop and bristling with zigzag battlements, stout walls and spiky turrets, it is for most the perfect

idea of a Medieval castle. There will be a guided walking tour and free time before returning to the ship with lunch en route. Alternatively, spend a relaxing morning cruising along the Canal du Midi from Fonserannes to Colombers before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently or relax onboard.

Day 4 Sanary Sur Mer. Today we will anchor off the picturesque and typically Provençal port of Sanary sur Mer. Colourful 'pointu' fishing boats bob in the harbour and pretty white and pink cottages line the shallow sandy beach. Spend the morning strolling around the town at leisure and perhaps enjoy a bouillabaisse in a local restaurant. This afternoon there will be the choice of a boat trip to Les Calanques, stunning fjord-like inlets carved into the limestone that stretch along the coast from Marseilles to Cassis or alternatively there will be an excursion 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 5 Nice. This morning choose between a walking tour of Old Nice or explore two of the area's finest museums in the exclusive Cimiez Hill District. We will begin with a visit to the Musée National Marc Chagall. Established by the artist himself, the collection features the most important

permanent exhibition of his work. The main focus is a series of 17 canvases comprising his colourful 'Biblical Message'. We will continue to the Musee Matisse which is housed in the 17th century Arena Villa. The exquisite collection details the great master's development from the late 19th century through to 1954 when he died. We will return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Nice independently or alternatively join the excursion to the Rothschild Foundation and Gardens via the charming village of Eze. This superb villa houses a priceless collection that the Baroness Beatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild assembled throughout her life.

Day 6 Monte Carlo, Monaco. The Principality of Monaco is the epitome of Riviera chic. This tiny enclave of 370 acres surrounds a sheltered harbour that draws yachts from around the world to enjoy the beautiful scenery, mild weather and elegant casino. Glamorous Monte Carlo is one of Monaco's four quarters, which also include La Condamine, the business district; Monaco-ville, the capital; and Fontvieille, an area built on reclaimed land. This morning our tour will include Monaco Old Town and Monte Carlo, the afternoon will be free for independent exploration.



Day 7 San Remo, Italy. In the late 19th century San Remo enjoyed a reputation as a premier resort for wealthy European and noble families including Empress Nicholas II of Russia and Tchaikovsky who completed Eugene Onegin here in 1878. The Russian influence can still be seen in the onion domed Russian Orthodox church on the seafront. This morning enjoy time at leisure exploring the twisting labyrinth of lanes in the old town that lead up from the waterfront or join a guided walking tour of the town. After lunch on board we will enjoy an excursion inland to the Medieval town of Dolceaqua which is made up of two villages connected by a Medieval

humpback bridge which inspired Monet who defined it as "a jewel of lightness". Our walking tour will take us through the picturesque alleys to the Doria Castle and we will also enjoy a tasting of the village's famous Rossese red wine and olive oil in a local taverna.

Day 8 Genoa. Many regard Genoa as having the largest historic city centre in Europe as a result of having been, for centuries, a powerful commercial seaport and city-state. It was the birthplace of Christopher Columbus and its maritime roots have fostered a dialect that has absorbed elements of Neapolitan, Calabrese and Portuguese over the centuries. Our morning walking tour through the historic town centre will include the Piazza de Ferrari and the Palazzo Ducale. We will visit the Cisterne del Ducale, the ancient cellars of the palace, where we will enjoy a light buffet of typical Genoese fare such as bruschetta and focaccia accompanied by some local wine. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently or relax onboard. After an early dinner we will make the short walk to the Palazzo Doria Pamphili where we will discover the magnificent hidden treasures of this jewel of Italian Renaissance. This private visit will also include a classical concert and cocktail before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 9 Portovenere. Portovenere is situated south east of the Cinque Terre, on a rocky peninsula on the Gulf of Poets, an area in the Gulf of La Spezia which was once popular with writers such as Byron, Shelley and DH Lawrence. Portovenere is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the harbour is a charming place, lined with brightly coloured houses and narrow Medieval streets that lead up the hill to a castle. For those who wish to explore the Cinque Terre, there will be a full day excursion including a cruise by local boat to see the villages of Riomaggiore, Corniglia and Manarola before visiting Vernazza and Monterosso. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant before we return to the ship.

Day 10 Viareggio. From the port of Viareggio we will make our way inland to the lovely town of Lucca. Hidden behind imposing Renaissance walls it boasts delightful cobbled streets, handsome piazzas and shady promenades. Our tour will include the San Martino Cathedral and the Puccini Museum. After lunch in a local restaurant we will be treated to a private concert in the Santa Caterina Church before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 11 Pisa to London. Disembark in Livorno this morning and transfer to Pisa airport for our scheduled flight to London.



PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£4895	£4595
Byrd	Superior	£5095	£4795
Mawson	Premium	£5395	£5095
Mawson	Corner	£5895	£5595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6295	£5795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6595	£6095
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7595	£7095
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6895	£6595
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7095	£6795

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, onboard team including Guest Speaker, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: Please note that we will be at anchor at the following ports and will use local boats/Zodiacs to tender ashore: Sanary sur Mer, San Remo, Portovenere and Viareggio.

Northern Spain Pre-Cruise Extension

8th to 14th September 2017

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Bilbao. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Palacio Urgoiti for an overnight stay. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure before we meet tonight for a pintxos tour and dinner.

Day 2 Bilbao to Rioja. After breakfast in the hotel we will drive towards the famous Rioja wine region where we stop at the beautiful village of Laguardia where we will visit one of the local vineyards and enjoy a tour of the cellars and a wine-tasting. We will overnight in Rioja at the Hotel Villa de Laguardia and enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Day 3 Olite & Pamplona. Our first call today will be the beautiful small town of Olite where we will see the magnificent Palacio Real del Olite. Continue to Pamplona where we enjoy lunch before checking into our hotel, La Perla Pampolona for our two night stay.

Day 4 Pamplona. This morning enjoy a tour of Pamplona including the Cathedral de Santa Maria, the city walls and learn about Hemingway's time in the city and the festivals including the famous "running of the bulls". The remainder of the day is free to explore. We will meet this evening for dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 5 Leyre & San Juan de La Pena. After breakfast we will drive to the Monastery of Leyre situated in the foothills of the mountains surrounded by beautiful scenery. We will explore the Gothic church vault and the Porta Speciosa, a beautiful Romanesque portico from the 12th century. This afternoon we head to the Aragon's Pyrenees region and the stunning Monastery of San Juan de la Pena which is built into the surrounding mountains surrounded by parkland and where we stay the night. We enjoy a guided tour of both the 10th century Royal Monastery including the Romanesque church and the Gothic San Victorian Chapel. Tonight we enjoy dinner in the monastery.

Day 6 Lleida & Cardona. This morning we drive the short distance to Jaca where we will see the magnificent cathedral and watchtower before having time to explore the atmospheric plazas and streets. Lleida, one of the oldest towns in Catalonia dating to the Bronze Age has a strategic location on the River Sicoris which meant it was targeted by the Roman Empire before being conquered by the Moors in the 8th century. Enjoy a city drive and lunch before heading to a nearby bodega for a tasting of the local cava. We end our day in Cardona with time to explore the historic centre



before our overnight stay at the Parador de Cardona situated in the 9th century castle.

Day 7 Cardona to Barcelona. Enjoy a free morning before an afternoon transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Barcelona.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy
Twin: **£1745**; Single: **£2295**

Price includes: Six nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis as outlined in the itinerary, all excursions, transfers, English speaking guides, dinners on days 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, lunch on days 3 and 6, Noble Caledonia Tour manager, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Tuscany Post-Cruise Extension

24th to 28th September 2017

Extend your trip with our four night stay in Tuscany at the wonderful Villa Il Poggiale and enjoy a number of tours to the highlights of the region as well as time to relax in the villa's beautiful grounds.

Villa Il Poggiale is a manor house located in the heart of Tuscany near San Casciano in Val di Pesa. The property is listed as a 'Historical Residence' of Italy and has been tastefully restored by the current owners. The villa is surrounded by an estate of tall cypress trees, standing guard over vineyards and olive groves, reminiscent of landscapes seen in Tuscan Renaissance paintings. After a day exploring the surrounding area or whilst relaxing at the villa you can take a dip in the pool or a drink in the rose garden. There is also a spa at the property offering massages and other treatments. Each bedroom at the Villa Il Poggiale is unique with walls painted in light colours typical of the region. The elegant rooms overlook the Chianti hills and feature antique furniture. Each room offers a private bathroom, air-conditioning, mini-bar, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities, satellite television, safe deposit box and Wi-Fi.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Livorno to Villa di Poggiale. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Florence for a walking tour through the historical city centre. Florence is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance and it is possibly one of the most beautifully preserved and



artistically rich cities in the world. Enjoy free time for lunch or continue to explore independently. In the afternoon we will transfer to the hotel via a local winery where we will visit to taste the local wine. Check-in to the Villa Il Poggiale and the remainder of the day is free before we meet for dinner in the hotel tonight.

Day 2 Vinci. Enjoy a relaxing morning to enjoy the hotel facilities. In the afternoon we travel the short distance to Vinci where Leonardo da Vinci was born the 15 April 1452 and where you can discover monuments and places celebrating his memory and his legacy. Visit the Museo Leonardiano, Palazzina Uzielli and the Conti Guidi Castle, which house one of the broadest and most original collections devoted to Leonardo the engineer, the architect and the scientist. Also visit the house where da Vinci was born. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Day 3 Siena & San Gimignano. This morning we will drive to Medieval and mystical Siena, located in the heart of the Chianti wine region. This remarkably well preserved walled city was built upon three hills. Our walking tour will include the exquisite marble Cathedral, the beautiful Mangia Tower, the Town Hall and the Fonte Gaia. After free time for lunch or further exploration we will meet and drive to San Gimignano, a well preserved Medieval Village. Explore the ancient squares, buildings, narrow and shady alleys and soaring slender towers of this stunning town. Return to the hotel this afternoon and enjoy dinner here this evening.

Day 4 Villa Il Poggiale. Day at leisure.

Day 5 Villa Il Poggiale to Pisa to London. Check-out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy
Twin: **£1495**; Single: **£2395**

Price includes: Four nights hotel accommodation at the Villa Il Poggiale on a bed and breakfast basis, all excursions, dinner each night, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Nomads of the Wind

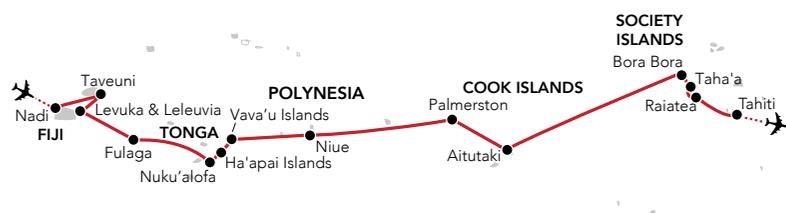


An island hopping expedition cruise from Fiji to Tahiti with Rear Admiral John Lippiett aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
25th September to 13th October 2017

By wind, wave and star the ancient people of Polynesia ventured to the farthest reaches of the South Pacific. Isolated by miles of ocean over thousands of years, these, the world's first island cultures, developed a pantheon of gods, myths and legends. This voyage tells the story of Polynesia and uncovers its history and legends as we sail through the South Seas and visit the captivating islands.

The real age of European exploration did not take place until the 18th century and many of the islands we will visit have changed little since that time. Their sheer isolation has been their saving grace and apart from an influx of missionaries in the late 19th century, western culture has made few inroads. The natural beauty of these islands is mesmerising. Join us aboard the MS Caledonian Sky to explore the Pacific in all its vastness, diversity and warmth and experience the description defying beauty of its islands, its culture and its ambience which have attracted generations of adventurers, explorers and travellers to its magical shores.

With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we can explore inlets, bird sanctuaries and land in otherwise inaccessible places and although we set sail with a set itinerary, it is often the unscheduled events that become the highlight. We will be joined by a hand-picked expedition team, consisting of naturalists, marine biologists and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board.



What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below is an extract from the MS Caledonian Sky's ship's log from when she last visited Bora Bora. If you are new to expedition cruising, this extract should provide you with an idea of what to expect.



Bourma Waterfall, Taveuni, Fiji

Bora Bora – 18th December 2015:

Bora Bora is one of the most beautiful islands on earth, home to film stars, captains of industry and oligarchs, hotels with rooms on stilts in the sea, coral reefs and sun-drenched sands. And when we woke, looked out of our cabin windows or portholes, there it was in all its splendour. Zodiacs took us ashore to the main town of Vaitupu where we boarded buses for a tour of the island. The buses had been built on lorry chassis (ie truck) with windows which remained open giving a cool breeze as we drove slowly around the coast road. Stops were made at various vantage points including Faanui Bay, the Faanui Marae, the island's biggest ancient temple where Polynesian gods and idols were worshipped long ago, and a wall of large sandstone and coral slabs could be seen. Bora Bora's involvement in World War II was marked by metal bunkers built by American forces who used the island as a military supply base. It had an oil depot, airstrip (the only international airport in French Polynesia until Faa'a in Tahiti was opened in 1960) seaplane base and defensive fortifications. It was officially closed on 2 June, 1946. Our tour passed some of the remnants of this occupation. On the landward side we had the twin peaks of Mt Pahia and Mt Otemanu (it marks the highest point of the island at 727m or 2,385ft) remnants of a long extinct volcano. Superb sea views over a huge lagoon were enjoyed from the Belvedere lookout while at Anau we had time to sample Matira Beach the most famous on Bora Bora. Our options after lunch included snorkelling from one of two Zodiac platforms close to the ship (a moray eel was seen by most who went), taking a trip back to Matira Beach for snorkelling lessons or swimming, or relaxing in Vaitapu town. Our departure from Bora Bora was equally exciting as the ship sailed into a beautiful sunset which illuminated the fast disappearing island.



Aitutaki, Cook Islands



Traditional sail boat



Royal Palace, Tongatapu Island

The Itinerary

Days 1 & 2 London to Fiji. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 3 Nadi, Fiji. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore independently or enjoy the hotel's facilities as we acclimatise after our journey.

Day 4 Nadi, Fiji. After breakfast in the hotel either join a morning island tour or remain at the hotel and relax on the beach. After lunch we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in Lautoka and sail this evening.

Day 5 Tavenui Island, Fiji. We have a choice of excursions this morning. The nature lovers can take a four-wheel drive to Dos Voeux Peak. At the summit we will be treated to fantastic views of Taveuni and across to Lake Tagimoucia. Here we will see the tropical plants, palms and rainforest and hope to spot spectacular birdlife such as orange-breasted doves, silktails, ferntails and parrots. Alternatively, join a walking trip to the Bouma Heritage Park to see some of the waterfalls and enjoy a swim. The view from the highest waterfall is spectacular. Our cultural tour will give the opportunity to witness lifestyles in a traditional Fijian village and see cooking demonstrations. In the afternoon we will head to one of the neighbouring islands for some snorkelling opportunities.

Day 6 Levuka & Leleuvia, Fiji. The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau has a special place in Fijian history as it was here in 1874 that

the Fiji islands were ceded to the British and also where in 1970 Fiji was declared independent again. The town unlike any other Fijian town having retained the colonial buildings which made it the first Fijian site to be granted UNESCO status. Join a walking tour around Nasova village on the shores of the bay and visit the museum and Cession Monument, the site where Chief Cakobau signed the deed ceding Fiji to Great Britain. This afternoon we will relocate to Leleuvia where we can relax on the beach or join an organised snorkelling trip.

Day 7 Fulaga, Fiji. After a morning at sea we land on Fulaga, our last Fijian island and famous for its woodcarving and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone. On arrival we hope to meet with the village elder to welcome us to the island. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the rocks or finding a suitable beach to land for swimming, snorkelling or beachcombing.

Day 8 Nuku'alofa, Tonga. After a morning at sea we arrive into Nuku'alofa the capital of Tonga during lunch. After clearing immigration formalities we will have a chance to explore this laidback town and the island of Tongatapu. Having never been colonised by Europeans we will experience traditional Polynesian culture alongside beautiful beaches and spectacular

natural wonders. We will see the historical Captain Cook landing site from his 1777 voyage, explore the Royal Palace (Tonga retains the last monarchy in the Polynesia), and the famous Tongan blowholes, considered the most spectacular in the South Pacific.

Day 9 Ha'apai Islands, Tonga. Today we arrive at the Ha'apai group which consists of 62 islands comprising of lagoons, barrier reefs and active volcanoes. The islands have a rich maritime history with Abel Tasman being the first European to visit in 1643 whilst Captain James Cook visited twice in the 1770s. However, the most famous event was Mutiny of the HMS Bounty which occurred between the islands of Lifuka and Tofua. It was on the island of Tofua that Captain William Bligh landed after being cast off from the Bounty with limited provisions and nautical equipment. A hostile reception from the islanders meant they quickly fled to sea again. Tropical forests grow along gentle slopes here and at the centre of the island is the volcanic crater, with a clear blue lake at its base. During the day, depending on conditions, we hope to offer a hike on the slopes of the volcano through a spectacular forest full of birds, unique tree ferns and ironwood and the opportunity for a Zodiac cruise and snorkel.

Day 10 Vava'u Islands, Tonga. Arrive over breakfast in the pretty port of Neiafu. Spend the morning independently exploring the town, maybe visit the local market or enjoy a drink in a harbour-side café.

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This expedition voyage tells the story of Polynesia and uncovers its history and legends as we sail through the South Seas and visit the captivating islands.

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Sacred Heart Church, Levuka, Fiji



Bora Bora



Over lunch we will reposition to one of the nearby islands and use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and set up snorkelling activities. There are many different species of colourful tropical fish here and we hope to see the graceful black-and-yellow angelfish and curious clown fish on the surrounding reefs.

Day 11 Niue. Having crossed the international date line we use our “gained” day to spend an afternoon in Niue. Niue is one of the smallest independent nations on earth at just 260 square kilometres with a population of just 1200 people. Populated since the 10th century the first European to sight Niue was Captain Cook in 1774 but his attempts to land were refused by the inhabitants. Today we will visit the capital, Alofi Village, and stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some

of the world’s most sought after stamps may be purchased. We will continue to Matapa Chasm, a secluded cleft in the sea cliffs, where we discover the perfect swimming hole.

Day 12 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea, maybe join a lecture in the lounge or simply find a spot on deck and watch the world go by.

Day 13 Palmerston, Cook Islands. The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walking tour with our local guides. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers should catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. There will also be a chance to snorkel from the beach where large coral blocks team with goatfish, boxfish, groupers, stingray and turtles.

Day 14 Aitutaki, Cook Islands. This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. Choose this morning from an island drive which will explore the sleepy village of Arutanga including a visit to the oldest church in the Cook Islands. We will see the lush forest of Nikaupara and from the top of Mount Piraki will see the bunkers built during World War II. From the top of Maunga Pu we are treated to breathtaking views of the island and lagoon. Alternatively, you may wish to join our naturalists for a cruise and snorkel in the lagoon.



Hawksbill turtle

Day 15 At Sea. A relaxing day at sea as we continue our journey to our next island group of French Polynesia.

Day 16 Bora Bora, French Polynesia. One of the most stunning islands on the planet, Bora Bora’s interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War II relics. This afternoon explore independently or take the opportunity to snorkel in the clear waters.

Day 17 Raiatea & Taha’a, French Polynesia. Raiatea is recognised throughout Tahiti as its “Sacred Island” the cultural heart of all Tahiti Polynesia. Local Polynesian legends say Raiatea, formerly known as “Havai” was the island of origin

of great voyaging canoes that took the people as far as Hawaii. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the centre of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this day. This morning’s island tour will include a visit to the Taputapuatea marae which dates back over 1000 years. This afternoon we sail over to the neighbouring island of Taha’a. With the rich aroma of vanilla lingering heavily in the air, Taha’a offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians.

Days 18 & 19, Papeete, Tahiti to London. Disembark this morning and enjoy an island tour and lunch before transferring to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 20 London Heathrow. Arrive this morning.

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
Castle	Standard Forward	£9095	£8595
Castle	Standard	£9295	£8795
Caledonian	Superior	£9495	£8995
Promenade	Premium	£9695	£9195
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10395	£9895
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10595	£10095
Castle	Standard for sole use	£10695	£10195
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10895	£10395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Fiji on bed and breakfast basis, 14 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

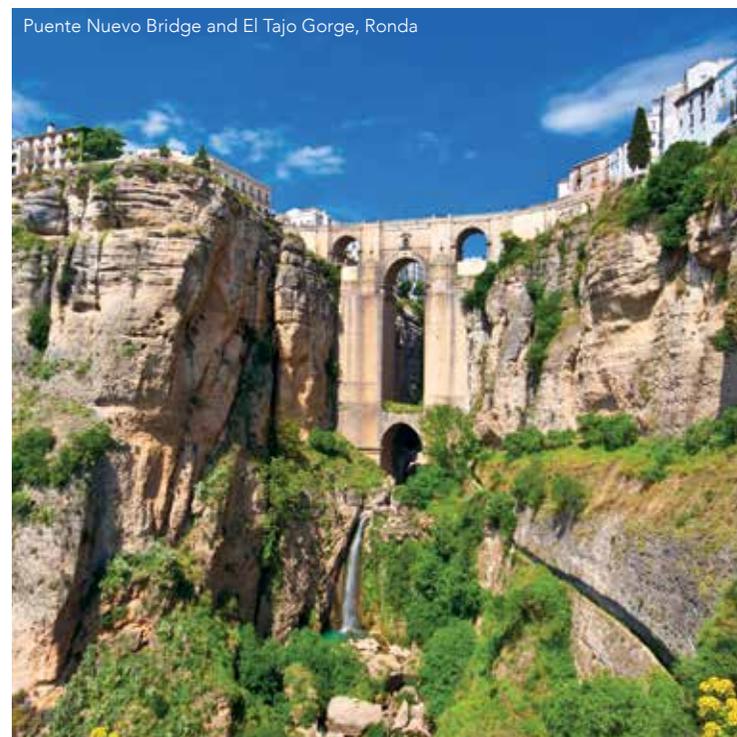
Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



The Making of Spain

A voyage from Barcelona to Madrid aboard the MS Island Sky
27th September to 9th October 2017

Spain, with its geographical location at the crossroads of the Atlantic and Mediterranean, Europe and Africa has a fascinating history with a culture made up of diverse influences. Once the centre of a global empire, this exploration will uncover the country's intriguing history visiting some of the numerous World Heritage Cities including Tarragona, Cordoba, Merida and Toledo where, accompanied by our excellent local guides and guest speakers you can experience the cultural wealth of this captivating nation. In addition to the included guided excursions, there will of course be ample time to experience the unique atmosphere of the towns and cities and explore at your own pace.



Puente Nuevo Bridge and El Tajo Gorge, Ronda



Plaza de Espana, Seville

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Barcelona, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and sail this evening.

Day 2 Empuries & Girona. From our berth in Palamos we will drive the short distance to the archaeological site of Empuries. Founded by Greek merchants in the 6th century B.C. as Emporion, meaning marketplace, it was a commercial hub and, being located on several trading routes across the Mediterranean, it became a major port. In 218 B.C. the town was taken by the Romans who built an even greater city above the Greek town. Today we can explore the network of columns, streets, villas with mosaic floors and the Roman amphitheatre. We return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore the pleasant old quarter of Palamos and the local beaches. Alternatively, join an excursion to Medieval Girona, known as the immortal city. The city was settled in turn by the Romans and the Moors and had a vibrant Jewish community located in the El Call district. We will see the elegant 11th century cathedral, which has the widest nave of any Medieval cathedral, the Romanesque Benedictine Monastery of St Pere de Galligants and the Arab Baths inspired by Roman public baths.

Day 3 Tarragona. During the second Punic War in 218 A.D. 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. Meanwhile on the outskirts of the city we will see the Pont de les Ferreres, a Roman bridge that formed part of the aqueduct that brought water to the city from the Francoli River. After lunch on board we have time to explore Tarragona at leisure or, alternatively, drive to the Moestir de Poblet, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the road to Lleida. We will enjoy a guided tour of this fortified Medieval monastery and also have time in the museum featuring artefacts from the region's past.



Day 4 Palma de Mallorca. Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under control of Carthage, the principal North African city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. From our berth in Palma we have a choice of excursions this morning. One option is to take the beautifully maintained vintage train that connects Palma with the pretty town of Soller on the island's west coast and enjoy splendid mountain views of the Serra de Tramuntana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of just seven kilometres the railway rises 199 metres and runs through thirteen tunnels and crosses several bridges. We will enjoy some time to explore Soller before returning to our ship in Palma. Alternatively, enjoy a scenic drive to the Roman city of Pollentia in



Old Cathedral, Cadiz

Alcudia. Located on Mallorca's north coast the city of Pollentia is a key site for understanding the Romanisation of the Balearics. The city was the former capital of the Balearic Islands in the days of the Roman Empire and excavations continue to this day. We will explore the streets, houses, forum and the theatre originally built with a capacity for 2000 people. We return to the ship via the estate of Son Real, one of the most important sites for archaeological heritage in the Balearic Islands, including the well-known prehistoric cemeteries or necropolis located at S'illot des Porros and the Punta des Fenicis. Son Real is also

San Martin's Bridge, Toledo



closely linked to rural Majorca and we find a "possecció" made up of different buildings from different eras. Enjoy lunch on board and spend the afternoon at sea.

Day 5 Cartagena. Return to mainland Spain this morning and the Murcian port of Cartagena. We will enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for a day of exploration in this historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it after Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative centre.

The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre which we will explore before taking the lift or walking up to Concepcion Castle where we will learn of the city's past and enjoy amazing views of the city and harbour below. We will also see the Roman amphitheatre which was able to hold up to 7000 people. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further. Perhaps visit the archaeological site of Molinete, where work continues to uncover the Roman city, or the naval museum or simply enjoy a stroll along the tree lined harbour promenade before we sail this evening.

Day 6 Motril for Alhambra. From Motril, we will drive inland to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Alhambra and Generalife gardens. The Alhambra's construction began in the 11th century on the red hill known as Alsabika which overlooks Granada. The palace fortress was mainly built by the Nasrid sultans, rulers of the last Spanish Moorish kingdom who made Granada their capital. We will visit the most important halls and courtyards of the Alhambra and the nearby

sumptuous Generalife Palace with beautiful gardens.

Day 7 Gibraltar for Ronda. Departing from Gibraltar, we will cross the border into Spain for the short transfer to the Estacion de San Roque, where we board the scenic railway to the spectacular city of Ronda. Perched on the top of a rocky outcrop and divided by El Tajo gorge, Ronda is home to the Puente Nuevo, an 18th century viaduct-like bridge which connects the old and new parts of the city. We will start our visit at the city museum located at the Palace of the Marquis of Villasierra where you can learn about the history of the city, the region's natural parks and the local industries of cork and cheese production and saddle-making. Next visit the church of Santa Maria la Mayor. Built on the foundations of an earlier mosque, this landmark church was started in 1485 and not finished until the end of the 17th century. Admire the Gothic and Baroque decoration and magnificent altar before visiting Ronda's bullring. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Gibraltar arriving in the late afternoon.

Day 8 Cadiz & Puerto de Santa Maria. Arrive this morning in Cadiz. Situated on a peninsula jutting out into a bay and almost entirely surrounded by water, it is amongst the oldest surviving cities in Spain which was founded by the Phoenicians in 1100 B.C. and was later occupied by the Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths and Moors. During our guided tour we will discover the most beautiful monuments and landmarks of the city including the Mudejar-style tobacco factory, Santo Domingo Church, the Santa Catalina Fortress and finally the cathedral of Cadiz and Diocesan Museum in the old city. After lunch on board we will visit the nearby seaside

town of Puerto de Santa Maria. Founded by the Phoenicians as the base for the salt industry, which is still active today, it was in the 19th century that the wine industry flourished here as the town became part of the sherry triangle with Jerez and Sanlucar de Barrameda. This afternoon we will learn about the history and production of the local wines at one of the town's bodegas before enjoying a tasting. We will end with a private flamenco show accompanied by some of the local food specialties.

Day 9 Seville. Overnight we will have sailed up the Guadalquivir River to Seville. We will leave the vessel this morning for our full day tour of Cordoba, a beautiful city that demonstrates a past in which Jews, Christians and Muslims peacefully coexisted and left a beautiful legacy of architecture to be appreciated for centuries to come. It was the Romans who founded Cordoba, thanks to its strategic importance as the highest navigable point on the river, but Cordoba's heyday was when it became the capital of the Moorish kingdom of Al Andalus. They began the construction of the Great Mosque, or Mezquita which is still one of the largest in the world. When the city was reconquered by the Christians they were so impressed by the beauty of the mosque that, rather than demolish it they simply built a cathedral inside it. We will also visit the Jewish Quarter and will spend time at the Mudejar Synagogue before having lunch at a local restaurant. Before returning to the MS Island Sky we will visit the Royal Stables, created in 1570 by King Philip II and where they breed Andalusian horses.

Day 10 Seville & Merida. Disembark this morning and enjoy a morning excursion to one of Seville's greatest monuments, the Alcazar with its exotic

terraced garden. Built by Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century with the help of Moorish craftsmen, it is still used as a residence by the King of Spain. Also see the Christian cathedral, reputed to be the largest Gothic style church in the world. We will visit a local restaurant for lunch before driving to Merida this afternoon. On arrival we will check into our hotel and have some free time to explore before meeting for dinner this evening.

Day 11 Merida & Toledo. Located at the end of the Via de la Plata, the Roman road that began in Astorga, Merida was the capital of the Roman province of Lusitania. Its theatre, amphitheatre and temple, dedicated to the goddess Diana, make this one of the best conserved archaeological sites in Spain, and has earned it the title of a World Heritage site. After our visit we will enjoy lunch before driving to Toledo, the former capital of Spain. Check into our central hotel this afternoon and relax before meeting for dinner tonight.

Day 12 Toledo. Toledo, declared National Monument by the Spanish State, seems to be one large museum and is one of the most important centres of European Medieval history. Hardly another town is so well conserved in its historical style. During a morning walking tour we will see the cathedral, with its exquisite choir stalls and museums with paintings by El Greco, Caravaggio and Bellini among others and the Church of Santo Tome, with El Greco's famous and beautiful "Burial of the Count of Orgaz" and the "Sinagoga de Santa Maria la Blanca". Return to the hotel this afternoon for some free time before we enjoy a farewell dinner.

Day 13 Madrid to London. After breakfast we will transfer to Madrid for our scheduled flight to London.

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 Forward	£5295	£4895
Magellan	Standard	£5395	£4995
Columbus	Superior	£5695	£5295
Marco Polo	Premium	£5795	£5395
Marco Polo	Corner	£5895	£5495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£5995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£6895	£6495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£7495	£7095
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7695	£7295

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, nine nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team including Guest Speakers, overnight hotel accommodation in Merida and two nights accommodation in Toledo on a bed and breakfast basis, lunch and dinner on days 10, 11 and 12, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Passage from Southern Italy to Seville

A voyage from Naples to Seville including Sardinia and the Balearic Islands aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
1st to 11th October 2017

Fly south to Naples for an overnight stay allowing us time to visit the remarkable site of Herculaneum before we embark the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky and sail west to Sardinia, an island of untouched beauty. We continue to the Balearic Islands of Menorca and Mallorca before reaching mainland Spain and the great naval port of Cartagena followed by a full day spent discovering the beautiful city of Cordoba from Malaga. Our exploration of Andalucia then continues with a three night stay in Seville, ample time for us to discover the city's many riches including the breathtaking Alcazar Palace. We will also experience the local cuisine and an exclusive Flamenco performance and spend time in the picturesque town of Carmona. Our voyage from Naples to Andalucia will be particularly enjoyable as it includes some day time sailing, allowing for time to relax on deck and attend the informative lectures by our knowledgeable guest speaker who, along with our excellent local guides will bring to life all we see.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Naples, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our central hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 2 Naples & Herculaneum. After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a leisurely morning to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or explore Naples independently. In the late morning we will check out and enjoy a Neapolitan lunch before continuing for a tour to nearby Herculaneum. This wealthy Roman town was completely submerged by volcanic mud following the AD79 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. Later this afternoon we return to Naples and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky where we will enjoy a welcome drink and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 3 Olbia, Sardinia. After a morning at sea we arrive in Sardinia. From our berth in Olbia there is the option to travel to La Maddalena by local boats from the port of Palau and spend the afternoon exploring this pretty island well off the beaten tourist track. In 1789 Napoleon, then a young artillery commander, was thwarted in his attempt to take the Maddalena archipelago by local Sardinian forces and in 1803 Lord Nelson arrived. The superb anchorage at La Maddalena was used by Nelson to shelter his fleet

during the long blockade of Toulon from 1803 to 1805. In recognition of the kindness shown by the islanders Nelson gave some silver candle holders and a crucifix which can still be seen today in the church. Alternatively, enjoy time at leisure to explore Olbia, a fetching city whose historic centre is full of boutiques, wine bars and café-rimmed piazzas.

Day 4 Alghero. The Medieval city of Alghero was colonised by the Catalans in the 14th century and even today there is a strong Catalan identity throughout the town which is often referred to as "Barceloneta". This attractive port will be our base for a day of exploration in the region. This morning we take a panoramic drive to Nuraghe Palmavera and the main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling and dates back to 1100 years B.C. The complex, which was abandoned in the 5th century B.C. due to fire, shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. We return to the ship for lunch on board, taking a panoramic drive past Capo Caccia en route. This afternoon is free to explore the town independently, enjoy walking through the Medieval streets along the cobblestoned alleyways or along the city walls, visit the archaeological museum or simply relax in a café.

Day 5 Mahon, Menorca. Most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism, the island of Menorca offers a pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. During our guided tour we will see the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4000 years ago. Stroll the streets of aristocratic Ciudadela, the architectural showpiece of Menorca, and see the 18th century

buildings in the island's capital of Mahon that were built during the British occupation. At the height of British Naval superiority in the Mediterranean, the island of Menorca featured strongly resulting in its capture on a number of occasions in the late 18th century. It is an excellent example of an English 18th century dockyard.

Day 6 Palma, Mallorca. The largest of the Balearic Islands, Mallorca has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under control of Carthage, the principal city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. From our berth in Palma we will take the beautifully maintained vintage train that connects Palma with the pretty town of Soller on the island's west coast. Whilst onboard we enjoy splendid mountain views of the Serra de Tramuntana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of just seven kilometres the railway rises 199 metres and runs through thirteen tunnels and crosses several bridges. We will enjoy some time to explore Soller and have lunch before returning to our ship in Palma this afternoon.

Day 7 Cartagena, Spain. After a morning at sea we arrive in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. We will enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for an afternoon of exploration in this historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcio Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour, view the Roman amphitheatre and the archaeological site of Molinete, where work continues to uncover the Roman city, and later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.



Plaza de Espana, Seville



Nuraghe Palmavera



Mao Port, Mahon

Day 8 Malaga, Cordoba and Seville. We disembark this morning in Malaga for a full day tour of Cordoba, a beautiful city that demonstrates a past where Jewish, Christian and Muslims peacefully coexisted and left a beautiful legacy of architecture to be appreciated for centuries to come. It was the Romans who founded Cordoba, due to its strategic importance as the highest navigable point on the river however Cordoba's heyday occurred when it became the capital of the Moorish kingdom of Al Andalus. They began the construction of the Grand Mosque, or Mezquita, which became one of the largest in the world. When the city was reconquered by the Christians they were so impressed by the beauty of the mosque that, rather than demolish it they simply built a cathedral inside it. We will also visit the Jewish Quarter including a visit to the Mudejar Synagogue before enjoying lunch in a local restaurant. In the early afternoon we will visit the Royal Stables, created in 1570 by King Philip II and where they bred the Andalusian horses, before ending the day in Seville where we check into our hotel for a three night stay.

Day 9 Seville. On our morning excursion we will see one of Seville's greatest monuments, the Alcazar with its exotic terraced garden. Built by the Moors in the 14th century, it is still used as a residence by the King of Spain. We will also see the Christian Cathedral, reputed to be the largest Gothic style church in the world. Here we will find the 138 foot high central nave and fine gothic carvings in the altar. This afternoon will be at leisure and you may wish to take in the atmosphere of this historic town and explore the maze of cobble

streets which was once the Jewish Quarter of the city. This evening we will enjoy an exclusive Flamenco performance at the Museo del Baile Flamenco and a visit of the museum before dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 10 Seville & Carmona. Located on a low hill overlooking a fertile plain only 30 kilometers from Seville, Carmona is a picturesque, small town with a magnificent 15th century tower built in imitation of Seville's Giralda. Not surprisingly given its proximity, Carmona, once an important Roman city, shares a similar history with Seville. The architectural and sculptural remains of this period are of great importance, especially the impressive Roman Necropolis of Carmona from where we will start today's excursion. It lies on a low hill amid cypress trees and contains more than nine hundred family tombs,

dating from the second century BC to the fourth century AD. Enclosed in subterranean chambers hewn from the rock, the tombs are often frescoed and contain a series of niches in which many of the funeral urns remain intact. Some of the larger tombs have vestibules with stone benches for funeral banquets and several retain carved family emblems. Opposite is a partly excavated amphitheatre. We then proceed to Carmona for a walk through this enchanting village and lunch at Parador de Carmona before returning to Seville for an afternoon at leisure. This evening is free to enjoy dinner independently at one of the many restaurants in Seville.

Day 11 Seville to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

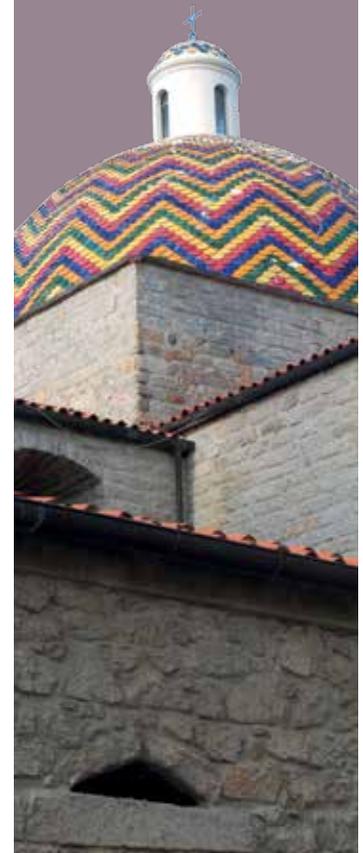
SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £600 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£3895	£3595
Byrd	Superior	£4095	£3795
Mawson	Premium	£4395	£4095
Mawson	Corner	£4895	£4595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£5395	£4795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£5695	£5095
Shackleton	Hebridean	£6695	£6095
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6495	£6195

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Naples on a bed and breakfast basis, six nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, onboard team including Guest Speaker, three nights in Seville on a bed and breakfast basis, dinner on day 9, lunch on days 2, 8 and 10.

Not Included: Travel insurance, meals other than those specified.

“ Our voyage from Naples to Andalusia will be particularly enjoyable as it includes some day time sailing, allowing for time to relax on deck and attend the informative lectures by our knowledgeable guest speaker.

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Passage to Polynesia & Beyond



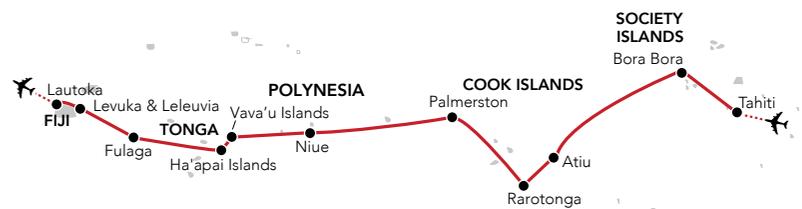
A journey through the islands and atolls from Tahiti to Fiji with Rear Admiral John Lippiett aboard the MS Caledonian Sky

9th to 25th October 2017

Join us on a leisurely passage through the South Seas to an area long associated with Captain Cook, Captain Bligh and the Bounty. We can promise you an unforgettable voyage to a corner of the world which has lured adventurers and romantics alike ever since Magellan first sailed to these waters in 1521. This comprehensive voyage explores the diverse cultures of the South Pacific, crossing the International Date Line and sailing between the mysterious islands of Polynesia and the Melanesian islands of Fiji.

The name Polynesia means 'many islands' and no one could argue with the suitability of this title. There are islands of low lying coral with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world and contrasting volcanic mountainous structures of lush, incomparable beauty. On the more remote islands, villages are still composed of thatched houses, set amongst the shade of the breadfruit and coconut trees. We begin our expedition in Papeete, Tahiti, the iconic island of the Pacific dream. Envision the evocative paintings of Paul Gauguin, whose images of exuberant outdoor settings with vivid lagoons and statuesque palms will become the backdrop for the voyage. From the Polynesian paradise of Tahiti and Bora Bora we travel to the Cook Islands and Tonga with visits to a number of the smaller islands such as Atiu, with only 560 residents, and uninhabited Tofua. Meet local villagers, learn about Polynesian culture and its many ancient rituals and experience a wide range of unique flora and fauna.

The only comfortable way to explore this intriguing region is by sea and we are fortunate in having one of the finest and best equipped expedition vessels in the world for our explorations. Helping us understand all the wonders we will encounter will be our expedition team who will accompany us ashore and enlighten us with their onboard talks.



What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below is an extract from the MS Caledonian Sky's ship's log from a previous visit to Palmerston. If you are new to expedition cruising, this extract should provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Palmerston, Cook Islands – 23rd December 2015:

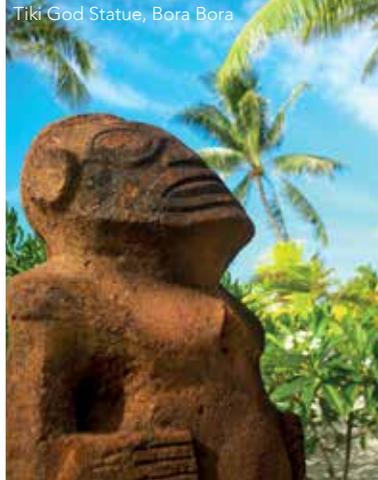
What a wonderful surprise Palmerston proved to be. The island is delightful, as close to a paradise coral atoll as it is possible to get. The 60 residents have no form of transport other than small motorcycles so there is no need for roads, only sandy tracks. A welcoming group gave us coconuts to drink from. A minister conducted a service of welcome and the mayor gave a short speech before accepting materials for the school we had brought with us. Islanders staged a dance programme, largely performed by schoolchildren who took us off in small groups to see the village afterwards. We visited Lucky School, the solar farm which supplies the majority of the island's electricity, and chatted to islanders in their homes. Our time was our own and we gained a great impression of life which is devoid of most modern facilities such as television. Lunch was on board, although a few people chose to stay ashore. The Duke's Pool is a popular swimming spot which we descended upon in the afternoon. People enjoyed snorkelling, sunbathing, further exploration of the island or watching the Red-tailed tropicbirds and Great frigatebirds which drifted low over our heads. We left Palmerston with regret: it had been a taste of the simplest life imaginable, with sweet children who displayed a non-worldliness and innocence long lost in western society.



Chattering Kingfisher, Atiu, Cook Islands



Palmerston Island, Cook Islands



Tiki God Statue, Bora Bora

“ This comprehensive voyage explores the diverse cultures and beautiful islands of the South Pacific between the mysterious islands of Polynesia and the Melanesian islands of Fiji. ”

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Tahiti. Fly by scheduled flight via Los Angeles.

Day 2 Tahiti. Arrive today and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax and acclimatise.

Day 3 Tahiti. After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a full day tour of Tahiti. We will start at “One Tree Hill”, located on the east coast of the island offering excellent views over to the neighbouring island of Moorea before continuing to the Arahoho Blow Hole. This lava tube, designed by liquid lava flowing under cold and hard lava, has created a channel. When waves crash against the rocks and enter the channel the result is a powerful sea water geyser. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Museum of Tahiti And Her Islands. Later this afternoon we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky and sail tonight.

Day 4 Bora Bora, French Polynesia. One of the most stunning islands on the planet, Bora Bora’s interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War II relics. This afternoon explore

independently or alternatively take the chance to swim from the beach or enjoy our first snorkelling opportunity in the clear waters.

Day 5 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we sail to the Cook Islands.

Day 6 Atiu, Cook Islands. Our first stop in the Cook Islands is the small island of Atiu. With only 560 residents we will be guaranteed a special welcome. There will be the chance to join the local expert “Birdman George” on a walking tour to search for the Rarotonga monarch, chattering kingfisher, Cook Islands fruit dove and Atiu swiftlets. Alternatively, discover the island on a tour which will include James Cook’s landing site from 1777, the coffee plantations and a visit to some of the local houses. After lunch on board there will be the chance to return to Atiu for a relaxing afternoon exploring from the beach or maybe enjoy a taste of the local Tumunu, a traditional drink brewed from fermented oranges.

Day 7 Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Arrive this morning in Rarotonga, the hub of the Cook Islands where we have a morning to explore. Join the nature walk in the Takitumu Conservation area, a 155 hectare forested area in

the interior of the island. Here we can look for some endemic birds such as the Rarotongan flycatcher, Pacific pigeon and fruit dove whilst walking in the beautiful scenery of the park. Alternatively, explore the history and culture of the island on a drive including the sacred marae, site of the seven canoes and local churches. We also see the inland plantations where locals use an agricultural system which dates back hundreds of years. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea.

Day 8 Palmerston, Cook Islands. The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walk through the village. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers could catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. This afternoon we will have a chance to swim or snorkel from the beach where large coral blocks team with goatfish, boxfish, groupers, stingray and turtles.

Day 9 At Sea. Relax on board during a day at sea as we cruise the Pacific Ocean.





French Polynesia

Day 10 Niue. Niue is one of the smallest independent nations on earth at just 260 square kilometres with a population of just 1200 people. Populated since the 10th century the first European to sight Niue was Captain Cook in 1774 but his attempts to land were refused by the inhabitants. Today we will visit the capital, Alofi Village, and stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some of the world's most sought after stamps may be purchased. We will continue to Matapa Chasm, a secluded cleft in the sea cliffs, where we discover the perfect swimming hole. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 11 Vava'u Islands, Tonga. After crossing the International Date Line (so it is now 20th October), we arrive this morning in the Vava'u islands part of the kingdom of Tonga and the pretty port of Neiafu. Spend the morning independently exploring the town, maybe visit the local market or enjoy a drink in a harbourside cafe. Over lunch we will reposition to one of the nearby islands and use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and set up snorkelling activities. There are many different species of colourful tropical fish here and we hope to see the graceful black-and-yellow angelfish and curious clown fish on the surrounding reefs.

Day 12 Ha'apai Islands, Tonga. Today we arrive at the Ha'apai group which

consists of 62 islands comprising of lagoons, barrier reefs and active volcanoes. The islands have a rich maritime history with Abel Tasman being the first European to visit the islands in 1643 whilst Captain James Cook visited twice in the 1770s. However, the most famous event was Mutiny of the HMS Bounty which occurred between the islands of Lifuka and Tofua. It was on the island of Tofua that Captain William Bligh landed after being cast off from the Bounty with limited provisions and nautical equipment. A hostile reception from the islanders meant they quickly fled to sea again. Tropical forests grow along gentle slopes here and at the centre of the island is the volcanic crater, with a clear blue lake at its base. During the morning we hope to offer a hike on the slopes of the volcano through a spectacular forest full of birds, unique tree ferns and ironwood or, depending on conditions, a Zodiac cruise and snorkel.

Day 13 Fulaga, Fiji. Our first call at a Fijian island will be on Fulaga, famous for its woodcarving and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone. On arrival we hope to meet with the village elder to welcome us to the island before spending the morning using our

Zodiacs to explore the rocks or find a suitable beach to land for swimming, snorkelling or beachcombing.

Day 14 Levuka & Leleuvia, Fiji. The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau has a special place in Fijian history as it was here in 1874 that the Fiji islands were ceded to the British and also where in 1970 Fiji was declared independent again. The town unlike any other Fijian town having retained the colonial buildings which made it the first Fijian site to be granted UNESCO status. Join a walking tour around Nasova village on the shores of

the bay and visit the museum and Cession Monument, the site where Chief Cakobau signed the deed ceding Fiji to Great Britain. This afternoon we will relocate to Leleuvia where we can relax on the beach or join an organised snorkelling trip.

Day 15 Lautoka, Fiji to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London via Los Angeles. We cross the International Date Line during the flight.

Day 16 London. Arrive today.

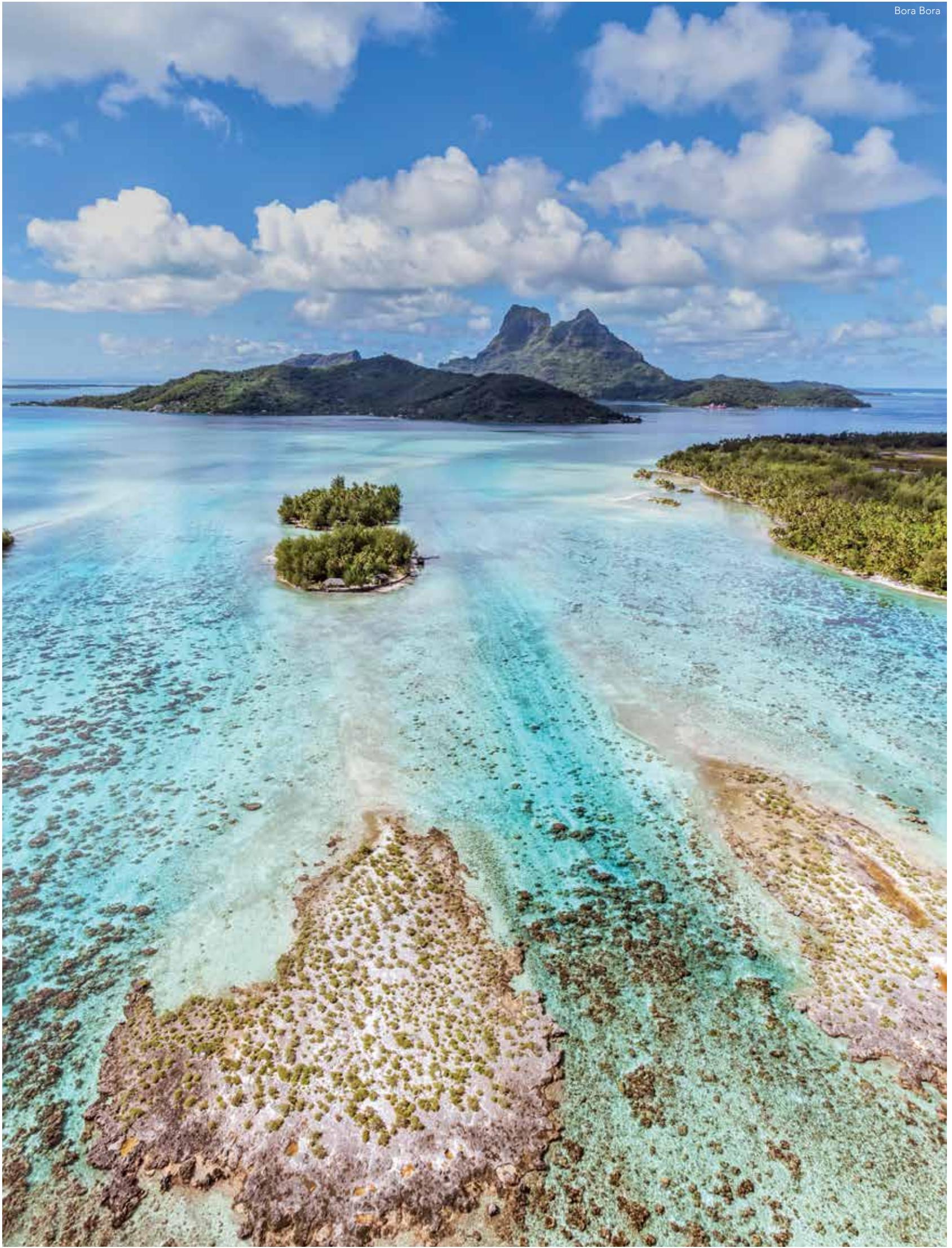
PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£8295	£7795
Castle	Standard	£8495	£7995
Caledonian	Superior	£8695	£8195
Promenade	Premium	£8895	£8395
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9195	£8695
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9595	£9095
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£9795	£9295
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9895	£9395
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10095	£9595

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tahiti on a bed and breakfast basis, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



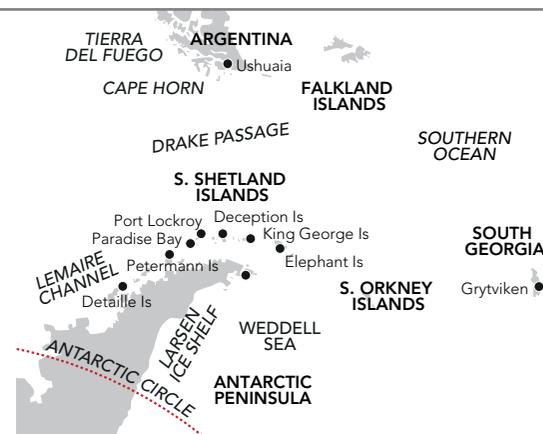
In the Wake of the Shackleton



An expedition discovering the wonders of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia & Antarctica aboard the MS Island Sky

9th November to 3rd December 2017 & 9th November to 3rd December 2018

In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthral and enchant. Antarctica is certainly one of these. Mere words cannot do justice to the awe-inspiring spectacle of this most southern of continents, this desert of ice which is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of the landscape. No amount of travel books, travelogues or travel films can prepare you for Antarctica. It is somewhere that has to be seen to be believed. Your first sighting of a great landscape of ice can leave you breathless as in a moment of wonder you forget to breathe, and so it progresses as each day you encounter more marvellous sights of ethereal icescapes and a surprisingly abundant wildlife.



For centuries myths abounded of a southern land but early exploration was hindered by the ice. Maps dating back to the late Medieval period show a continent named Terra Australis Ingognita, 'the unknown southern land'. Captain Cook became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773 but never sighted land. The first person to set foot on Antarctica is thought to be an American sealer, Captain John Davis in 1821. Since then it is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character to deeds requiring extreme courage. The expeditions of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, Ross, Byrd and many others are a shining example of honour, strength and perseverance which today still inspire us.

Our expedition starts in Puerto Madryn from where we will be followed by albatrosses as we sail to the Falkland Islands for our exploration of these isolated islands thriving with wildlife and a fascinating history. We continue to South Georgia where we have ample quality time ashore to explore what is one of the world's natural wonders with a remarkable concentration of wildlife. We will land on remote beaches, alive with great numbers of fur seals, elephant seals, wandering and sooty albatrosses, Macaroni and King penguins. The albatrosses will be enthusiastic in courtship and the penguins will come and visit you if you sit quietly on the beach. These beach paradises are backed by some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery in the world. Finally we sail for the peninsula where enormous tabular icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs. On our way to the Peninsula we hope to sail past Elephant Island, the island on which Shackleton's men endured 128 days before finally being rescued.



Shackleton's Grave, Grytviken



Gentoo penguins



Puerto Madryn

The MS Island Sky Difference

Whilst we have been sending our travellers to Antarctica for almost 25 years on various vessels, we are delighted to be visiting the peninsula with our very own MS Island Sky. There are ships in Antarctica carrying higher numbers of passengers than the 100 guests which will be on board the MS Island Sky and these are more suitable for those who wish to see rather than experience Antarctica. Due to the restrictions placed on vessels as to how many passengers may land at any one time, the larger vessels can only offer very restricted landings, whereas with our vessel we can provide a landing for all guests each day, weather permitting. For most travellers the Antarctic experience is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible and our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky will certainly be so both in terms of the educational experience onboard and the number of opportunities to go ashore.

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition in Antarctica. Although we have outlined an itinerary, this is only a preliminary plan, our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to the centrally located Melia Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Rooms will be available on arrival to rest. This afternoon



Albatross



Crab eater seals



Falkland Islands

choose to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore independently before meeting this evening for a tango show and dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Puerto Madryn.

After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Buenos Aires before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to Trelew and transfer to Puerto Madryn. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 4 Puerto Madryn. Located in the Patagonian province of Chubut, Puerto Madryn is a popular destination for wildlife excursions. Today you have the chance to explore the town or join an excursion to the Reserva Faunistica Punta Loma, home to a colony of around 600 South American sea lions, which reside on the beach on the outskirts of the city. Our guide will educate us about the local flora as we walk towards the beach. November is traditionally the time when the reproduction season begins and we may be lucky to see the males fight to form their harem. Return to Puerto Madryn this afternoon and embark the MS Island Sky. Sail this evening.

Days 5 & 6 At sea. Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south are albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our Expedition Team will be out on deck looking for whales and dolphins that may also be seen in the area. During our two days of sailing, our onboard experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history and geology of the Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean.

Days 7 & 8 Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands are isolated and

windswept, a haven for wildlife. We hope to land on New Island, the westernmost island with one inhabitant and 40 species of breeding sea birds including rock hopper penguins. Weather and wind conditions allowing, we may also land on Steeple Jason, the north western outpost with the world's largest colony of black-browed albatross. We will make sure to visit some of the many historic sites on the island and to call at Port Stanley, the charming capital of the Falklands.

Days 9 & 10 The Southern Ocean.

As we cruise towards South Georgia the richness of these waters will be evident in the marine mammal life, especially the fur seals on fishing forays. We have a good chance of spotting whales such as fins and minkies whilst the birds circling our stern will be outstanding, especially the large albatrosses and numerous breeds of petrels.

Days 11 to 13 South Georgia.

We have three days of expedition cruising in and around South Georgia, a paradise island with snow-clad mountain peaks rising 9000 feet and with 165 glaciers tumbling down towards the sea. We arrive early in the season when parts of the island are still covered by a thin layer of snow. For anyone interested in



Elephant seal

wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. In November the beaches will be covered by elephant seal bulls and females with feeding pups. They share the beach with a myriad of nesting King penguins. Most of the other sea birds have arrived and started nesting. November is also the time when the great arrival of the fur seals starts. Millions of fur seals will, over a few weeks, return to the beaches to breed. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches alongside thousands of pairs of King penguins. On Prion Island we visit the nesting place of the world's largest flying seabird, the wandering albatross and in Fortuna Bay we will see nesting light mantled sooty albatrosses and hope to witness their gracious courting flights. A few thousand King penguins nest here and it is not unusual to see a herd of South Georgia reindeer wandering through the penguin colony. Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respect at the grave of 'the boss' – Ernest Shackleton.

Days 14 & 15 At sea. The waters between South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula are rich with fin whales, where in good conditions we have seen as many as a hundred in a day. If not whale-watching, lookout for Antarctic Petrel, Kerguelen Petrel and one of the most beautiful birds of the Southern Ocean, the snow petrel. The icebergs will also become more plentiful as we sail south. Alternatively join the lecture programme as we learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

Days 16 to 20 Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. We have five days of exploration around

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We know that for most travellers the Antarctic experience is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible. Our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky will certainly be so both in terms of the educational experience onboard and the number of opportunities to go ashore.

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Icebergs



Humpback Whale

the Peninsula which will include many of the best places for wildlife and magnificent scenery. Whilst we arrive with a planned itinerary the final schedule will be determined by our Captain and the Expedition Leader based on sea, weather and ice conditions. Using our Zodiacs we will make daily landings for unique close encounters with animals such as adielie and gentoo penguins, fur seals and petrels. We hope to visit the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, Petermann Island, home to numbers of Adelie penguins, picturesque Neko Harbour, the Lemaire Channel where towering icebergs rise from the sea and Half Moon Island with its rookery of chinstrap penguins. We also hope to sail through the breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent.

Days 21 & 22 Drakes Passage. Two days to relax on board and reminisce

with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Enjoy a lecture, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drakes Passage toward Ushuaia. Named after the 16th century English seaman, Sir Francis Drake, the Drakes Passage separates the southernmost tip of South America from Antarctica. This is a particularly good area to spot royal albatross and blue petrel and we will also be on the lookout for pods of sperm whales.

Day 23 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires.

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the Melia Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The evening is free for independent arrangements.

Day 24 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 25 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£11495	£10495
Magellan	Standard	£11995	£10995
Columbus	Superior	£12995	£11995
Marco Polo	Premium	£13995	£12995
Marco Polo	Corner	£14595	£13595
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£16295	£15295
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£17495	£16495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£15995	£14995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£17995	£16995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and overnight accommodation in Puerto Madryn on a bed and breakfast basis, 19 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, shore excursions, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, expedition team, expedition log, use of a parka jacket and rubber boots onboard the MS Island Sky.
Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Pre-Cruise Extension



Pre-Cruise Iguazu Falls Extension

6th to 10th November 2017 & 6th to 10th November 2018

Before joining our group in Buenos Aires, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, often considered the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Iguazu Falls. On arrival transfer to the hotel and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the falls. Today we will explore the Brazilian side of the falls walking through the tropical rainforest.

Day 4 Iguazu Falls. Enjoy a full day at the Iguazu Falls on a series of guided walks seeing the upper and lower circuits and also the triple frontier the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Highlights today include the 80 metre fall 'Garganta del Diablo' (Devil's Throat).

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the Melia Hotel and join our fellow travellers continuing with the main itinerary shown from day 2.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

2017 - Twin: £1045; Single: £1445

2018 - Twin: £1245; Single: £1595

Price includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights hotel accommodation in Iguazu Falls on a bed and breakfast basis, guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, lunch and dinner on days 3 and 4, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

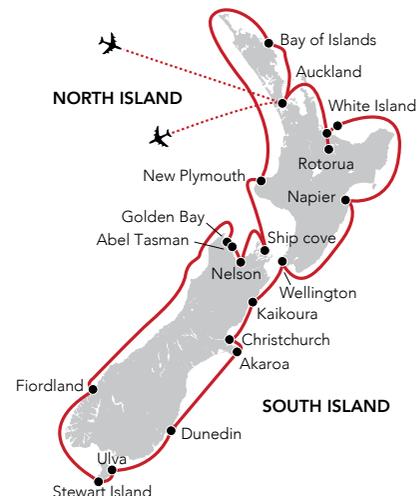


Circumnavigation of New Zealand

An in-depth exploration of New Zealand over Christmas and New Year aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
15th December 2017 to 8th January 2018

New Zealand is a land of contrasts and deserves more than a fleeting visit. We believe our circumnavigation of the country offers the best of all worlds and has been devised on the basis that most travellers from the UK will only tour New Zealand once. Therefore the trip should be as comprehensive and as full of contrasts as possible. Certainly, this itinerary qualifies on all these important demands. We will drop anchor in the remote bays, navigate channels, fjords and rivers and call into harbours both large and small. With the added advantage of our Zodiac landing craft we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of New Zealand's extraordinary natural attractions.

A journey by sea around New Zealand allows you to explore the dramatic southern fjords, visit White Island in the north, hop across to Stewart Island in the far south, enjoy whale watching off Kaikoura and cruise the picturesque waters of the Marlborough Sound. All of this is best achieved by travelling on a small ship such as the MS Caledonian Sky in preference to some of the larger resort style vessels which can only visit the larger places.



Otago Peninsula



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Hong Kong. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Hong Kong. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to a central hotel for an overnight night stay. Remainder of day and evening is at leisure to acclimatise and enjoy the hotel facilities.

Day 3 Hong Kong. Enjoy a relaxing morning before meeting in the early afternoon for a tour of Hong Kong including Victoria Peak and Stanley Market. After the tour we will continue to the airport for our scheduled overnight flight to Auckland.

Day 4 Auckland, New Zealand. Arrive and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel (or similar) for an overnight

stay. The remainder of the day is free for individual exploration. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight at the Hotel.

Day 5 Auckland. A morning tour will include the city's highlights including the Domain and the excellent Auckland Museum, overlooking Waitemata Harbour and housing the world's largest collection of Polynesian artefacts. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before being transferred to the MS Caledonian Sky.

Day 6 Bay of Islands. Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, this area is the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. On a morning tour we will visit the Waitangi Treaty house

where in 1840 the treaty was signed between the Maori and the British crown. We then continue to Kerikeri where the Maori first welcomed missionaries in 1819 and see the oldest buildings of New Zealand dating from the 1820s. During the afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the charming historic town of Russell.

Day 7 At sea. We spend the day cruising off this remote area of New Zealand.

Day 8 New Plymouth. Today we explore the western port of New Plymouth. We have the whole day in this pretty city sandwiched between the sea and Mount Taranaki. A tour will visit the highlights of the town including the spectacular Te Rewa Rewa Bridge and Pukekura Park, one of the premier botanical gardens in New Zealand. We will have a chance to explore the diverse landscape of formal gardens, bushwalks and lakes. Alternatively drive to Mount Egmont and join one of the walking trails ranging in difficulty for all levels of fitness. You will be joined by our naturalists who will keep you informed on the flora seen en-route. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further or enjoy a longer hike at Mount Egmont.

Day 9 Ship Cove. Sail through the Marlborough Sounds which divide the North and South Islands of New Zealand and arrive in the early morning at Resolution Bay on South Island where keen walkers can enjoy a longer hike over to Ship Cove along

the Queen Charlotte Track enjoying fantastic views over the archipelago of islands. Alternatively alight a little later at Ship Cove where Captain James Cook spent much of his time in New Zealand. During the afternoon we cruise around to Tasman Bay and will moor overnight in Nelson.

Day 10 Nelson. There will be a choice of excursions today. Either choose to disembark after breakfast to visit Abel Tasman, New Zealand's smallest national park, protecting over 23 000 hectares of the most easily accessible coastline in the country. This marine reserve offers some marvellously scenic coastal walks and cruises with excellent wildlife opportunities including seal colonies and numerous aquatic birds including penguins. The tour will end in Golden Bay where you will re-embark the ship which will have sailed during the day. Alternatively enjoy a morning exploring Nelson which has for many years attracted resident artists. There are more than 350 working artists and craftspeople living in Nelson and their work is often inspired by the region's exceptionally beautiful geography – coastal, forest and valley landscapes. Join an excursion of the area's highlights which includes the World of Wearable Art Museum with its acclaimed visual exhibits and also the Classic Car collection. We sail at lunch time and arrive later in the afternoon to a remote harbour in Golden Bay. Golden Bay is well off the usual cruise ship route nestled into the South Island's north-west corner with golden beaches, alpine valleys and tranquil fishing rivers.



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We will circumnavigate the islands of New Zealand, drop anchor in the remote bays, navigate channels, fjords and rivers and call into harbours both large and small. With the added advantage of our Zodiac landing craft we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of New Zealand's extraordinary natural attractions.

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Day 11 Christmas Day at sea. Spend a relaxing Christmas Day afloat. As we cruise along the west coast of the South Island we will hopefully be treated to views of Mount Cook on land whilst this region is also a popular spot for dolphin sightings. Meanwhile our Chef and Galley team will prepare a delicious Christmas meal.

Days 12 to 14 Fiordland. We have three days to explore the incredible wilderness of fjords in the South West corner of the South Island. This is an area rich in history, Captain Cook landed here on HMS Resolution in 1773, majestic scenery and abundant wildlife. It is only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may include Milford Sound, Astronomers Point, Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and Expedition Leader based on weather conditions. Zodiacs will be used daily either to shuttle from the ship to a landing site or as our transport to explore the fjords beyond the ship's anchorage position.

Day 15 Ulva and Stewart Islands. New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, the scenery

of untouched bushland is stunning. We will enjoy a morning on the small Ulva Island where we will use Zodiacs to go ashore for a choice of walks with our local guides. We will explore the dense vegetation and keep an eye out for the amazing birdlife. This afternoon we land at Oban on Stewart Island and have the chance to wander amongst the shops and see the museum or join a drive along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots including Observation Rock with views over Iona and Ulva Island and the beaches lining the East coast.



Day 16 Dunedin. Arrive this morning in Dunedin and enjoy a guided tour including the gracious 19th century buildings and the beautiful botanical gardens, the oldest in New Zealand containing over 6,800 plant species. Alternatively choose to drive to the Otago Peninsula to visit Penguin Place where we learn about the breeding and conservation programme of the rare yellow eyed penguins as well as the Royal Albatross Centre at Taiaroa Head. This afternoon is free for independent exploration or maybe choose to join the optional excursion on the Taieri Gorge Railway through the rugged and spectacular scenery of inland Otago.

Day 17 Akaroa. Akaroa meaning, 'Long Harbour', in Maori, was founded by French whaling Captain Jean Langlois on his ship Cachelot in 1838. He returned in 1840 with 60 settlers on the Comte de Paris to create a French colony. We spend a full day in Akaroa and there will be a choice of excursions including a dolphin watching trip using local boats to explore the scenic coastline and search for the rare Hector's dolphin or a guided historic walk in Akaroa and through the native bush of the Garden of Tane. We also hope to offer a chance to visit a working farm



Humpback Whale, Kaikoura



White Island Volcano

in the countryside outside the town. We will hear about the history of the farm, have demonstrations of sheep shearing and see the working dogs in action as well as enjoying tea in the farm grounds. Or if you prefer you can simply wander in the town and enjoy the local atmosphere. Ring in the New Year on board Caledonian Sky.

Day 18 Lyttelton for Christchurch.

At breakfast we arrive in the port city of Lyttelton our base for our day in Christchurch. Choose either to spend time in this most English of cities where we enjoy a morning overview of the city showing how it is recovering from the devastating earthquake of February 2011. We will view the Southern Alps from the Port Hills, ride a restored tram and tour the Canterbury Museum with its acclaimed Antarctic collection. Perhaps enjoy morning tea at a private home and garden. The afternoon is free for independent exploration. Alternatively, join an optional full day tour on the Tranz Alpine Express Train to Arthur's Pass in the heart of the Southern Alps, one of the world's most famous train journeys. Wonderful views are revealed from the train's huge windows as we pass snow-capped mountains and mountain beech forests. On the return journey by coach, we enjoy lunch at a farm before returning to the ship in the late afternoon.

Day 19 Kaikoura. Today we are in Kaikoura, a famous whale watching area due to its nutrient rich waters. The combination of very deep waters and the mixing of cold and warm waters brings the nutrients to the top. After breakfast, there will be opportunities to join a whale watching cruise looking out for sperm whales,

pods of dusky dolphins and common seals. Spend the afternoon exploring the town independently, join one of the nature walks or maybe take a trip on one of the bird watching cruises. There is an abundance of birdlife in the area including Great Albatross, Banded Albatross, Shearwater, Petrels, Prions and Shag.

Day 20 Wellington.

Enjoy a full day in the nation's capital. From our central berth we will explore Wellington on a morning guided walk seeing St Paul's Cathedral, the parliament buildings, stroll through the Botanical Gardens and spend time in the excellent Te Papa National Museum of New Zealand. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city at your own pace.

Day 21 Napier After a morning at sea, arrive in Napier and join a tour of this beautiful city including a short walking tour of its charming Art Deco buildings as well as a visit to a local vineyard to sample the local wines. Alternatively drive to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers where you can get amazingly close to the birds.

Day 22 White Island. Arrive later in the afternoon at White Island. Weather permitting there will be an excursion to explore the active volcano on White Island, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. The sights are surreal: the main crater with towering walls, steaming vents, and hissing fumaroles, glittering yellow sulphur crystals, bubbling mud pots and a spectacular steaming lake. This call is well off the usual cruise routes and we will use the Zodiacs to reach the island and then take a guided walk to the crater.

Day 23 Tauranga for Rotorua.

From here we visit a local Maori Marae where we will enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch before returning to the ship in the late afternoon.

Day 24 Auckland to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 25 London. Arrive this morning.

our berth in Tauranga we will drive to the famous thermal springs at Rotorua. We will visit Wai-O-Tapu, which means Sacred Waters in Maori, an active geothermal area with colourful hot springs, steaming ground and boiling mud pools. Marvel at the incredible palette of vibrant hues displayed in the pools, lakes and craters, and enjoy the melodic sounds of birds singing in the native forest. From here we visit a

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£12795	£11795
Castle	Standard	£13095	£12095
Caledonian	Superior	£13695	£12695
Promenade	Premium	£14295	£13295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£14695	£13695
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£15395	£14395
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£16495	£15495
Castle	Standard for sole use	£14995	£13995
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£15995	£14995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 19 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer, soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, expedition team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, overnight accommodation in Hong Kong and Auckland on bed and breakfast basis, welcome dinner in Auckland, city tours in both Hong Kong and Auckland.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional TranzAlpine Express and Taieri Gorge excursions, visas.

Cruise Only Option: For guests that wish to arrange their own flights, we are offering a discount of £1485 per person for the non-use of the round trip flights to Auckland and Hong Kong and Auckland hotel and excursion arrangements. Your holiday will therefore start on 19 December in Auckland when we embark the MS Caledonian Sky.

Ship to Shore: This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside in some ports, on many days we will be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the itinerary as shown. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.



New Zealand Island Discovery

An exploration of New Zealand's North & South Islands aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
11th January to 4th February 2018

New Zealand's 27 regions stretch more than 1600 kilometres across two main islands and offer the traveller a journey of breathtaking natural wonder. With vast open spaces filled with stunning rugged landscapes and a temperate climate, New Zealand is a land of rare natural beauty and contrasts. There are steep-sided fjords, geysers and boiling mud, coastal rainforests, snow-capped mountains, rolling green pasture lands, often spectacular geothermal and volcanic activity, enchanting sandy bays and coves, fast-flowing rivers and a variety of birdlife. By contrast, in the cities, towns and villages you can experience that unique combination of New World and British heritage, see some of the most splendid gardens in the Southern Hemisphere, visit world famous vineyards, encounter fascinating wildlife and meet the friendly people.

Due to this diversity New Zealand deserves more than a fleeting visit. We believe our itinerary offers the best of all worlds and has been devised on the basis that most travellers from the UK will only tour New Zealand once so a trip should be as comprehensive and as full of contrasts as possible. Certainly, this itinerary qualifies on all these important demands. With our perfectly suited small ship our coastal-hugging voyage around the North and South Island will allow us to drop anchor in the remote bays, navigate channels, fjords and rivers and call into harbours both large and small. With the added advantage of Zodiac landing craft and an expert expedition team we will be able to land in otherwise inaccessible places making the most of New Zealand's extraordinary natural attractions.



Our View

"New Zealand is a fantastic destination to visit but usually involves long road trips and changing hotel rooms. Our vision was to create a comprehensive tour, reducing the time spent packing and unpacking but still visiting the major sights of the country. Our itinerary will combine expedition stops visiting Stewart Island, Ulva Island, in-depth exploration of Fiordland, White Island and historic Ship Cove with more traditional visits to Wellington, Napier and Rotorua. We will see an abundance of wildlife as we cruise the shoreline, experience scenic train journeys through the mountains and countryside, see traditional Maori culture and visit the important historical buildings. The advantage of our small ship is that we can call to smaller destinations off the tourist trail that the larger ships have to bypass and we offer a chance to enjoy these places away from the crowds."



Abel Tasman National Park

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Singapore. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Singapore. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our central, luxury hotel for an overnight night stay. Remainder of day and evening is at leisure to acclimatise and enjoy the hotel facilities.

Day 3 Singapore. Enjoy a relaxing morning before meeting in the early afternoon to tour the highlights of Singapore including the National Orchid Garden. We will continue to the airport for our scheduled indirect overnight flight to New Zealand and onward to Queenstown.

Day 4 Queenstown, New Zealand. Arrive and transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight at the hotel.

Day 5 Queenstown. Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore Queenstown independently. For those seeking adventure you may wish to join an optional Dart River Wilderness Safari. Starting in Glenorchy, a short scenic drive from Queenstown, enjoy an exhilarating jet boat ride along the Dart River.

Day 6 Milford Sound. After breakfast we drive through the stunning scenery to reach the remote Milford Sound and



Bay of Islands

embark MS Caledonian Sky later in the afternoon.

Days 7 to 9 Fiordland. We have three days to explore the incredible wilderness of fjords in the South West corner of the South Island. This is an area rich in history, Captain Cook landed here on HMS Resolution in 1773, majestic scenery and abundant wildlife. It is only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand. Our schedule may include Milford Sound, Astronomer's Point, Doubtful Sound, Dusky Sound but final itinerary decisions will be made by the Captain and Expedition team based on weather conditions. Zodiacs will be used daily either to shuttle from the ship to a landing site

or as our transport to explore the fjords beyond the ships anchorage position.

Day 10 Ulva and Stewart Islands.

New Zealand's third island is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will enjoy a morning on the small Ulva Island where we will use Zodiacs to go ashore for a choice of walks with our local guides. We will explore the dense vegetation and keep an eye out for the amazing birdlife. This afternoon we land at Oban on Stewart Island and have the chance to wander amongst the shops and see the museum or join a drive along some of the 15 miles of sealed road to some of the beauty spots including Observation Rock with views over Iona and Ulva Island and the beaches lining the East coast.

Day 11 Dunedin. Arrive this morning in Dunedin and enjoy a guided tour including the gracious 19th century buildings and the beautiful botanical gardens, the oldest in New Zealand containing over 6800 plant species. Alternatively, choose to drive to the Otago Peninsula to visit Penguin Place where we learn about the breeding and conservation programme of the rare yellow eyed penguins as well as the Royal Albatross Centre at Taiaroa Head. This afternoon is free for independent exploration or maybe choose to join the optional excursion on the Taieri Gorge Railway through the rugged and spectacular scenery of inland Otago.

Day 12 Akaroa. Akaroa meaning, 'Long Harbour', in Maori, was founded by French whaling Captain Jean Langlois on his ship Cachelot in 1838. He returned in 1840 with 60 settlers on the Comte de Paris to create a French colony. We spend a full day in Akaroa and there will be a choice of excursions including a dolphin watching trip using local boats to explore the scenic coastline and search for the rare Hector's dolphin or a guided historic walk in Akaroa and through the native bush of the Garden of Tane. We also hope to offer a chance to visit a working farm in the countryside outside the town. We will hear about the history of the farm, have demonstrations of sheep shearing and see the working dogs in action as well as enjoying tea in the farm grounds. Or if you prefer you can simply wander in the town and enjoy the local atmosphere.

Day 13 Kaikoura. Today we are in Kaikoura, a famous whale watching area due to its nutrient rich waters. The combination of very deep waters and the mixing of cold and warm waters brings the nutrients to the top. After breakfast, there will be opportunities to join a whale watching

cruise looking out for sperm whales, pods of dusky dolphins and common seals. Spend the afternoon exploring the town independently, join a nature walk or maybe take a trip on one of the bird watching cruises. There is an abundance of birdlife in the area including Great albatross, Banded albatross, shearwater, petrels, prions and shag.

Day 14 Wellington. Step ashore on New Zealand's North Island and enjoy a full day in the nation's capital. From our central berth we will explore Wellington on a morning guided walk seeing St Paul's Cathedral, the parliament buildings, stroll through the Botanical Gardens and spend time in the excellent Te Papa National Museum of New Zealand. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city at your own pace.

Day 15 Napier. After a morning at sea, arrive in Napier and join a walking tour of the beautiful city which will include its charming Art Deco buildings, some decorated with unique Maori motifs. Alternatively, join an excursion to the gannetry at Cape Kidnappers, home to a reserve of Saddle and Black Reef gannet colonies, where you are able to get amazingly close to the birds.

Day 16 White Island. Arrive later in the afternoon at White Island. Weather permitting there will be a landing to explore the active volcano on White Island, identifiable by the plume of steam continually spouting from its crater. The sights are surreal: the main crater with towering walls, steaming vents, and hissing fumaroles, glittering yellow sulphur crystals, bubbling mud pots and a spectacular steaming lake. This call is well off the usual cruise routes and we will use the Zodiacs to reach the island and then take a guided walk to the crater.

Day 17 Tauranga for Rotorua. From our berth in Tauranga we drive inland to the famous thermal springs at Rotorua. Discover Wai-O-Tapu, meaning Sacred Waters, an active geothermal area with colourful hot springs, steaming ground and boiling mud pools. Marvel at the incredible palette of vibrant hues displayed in the pools, lakes and craters, and enjoy the melodic sounds of birds singing in the native forest. From here we visit a local Maori Marae where we will enjoy a traditional Maori welcome and lunch before returning to the ship in the late afternoon.

Day 18 Auckland. Discover the vibrant, cosmopolitan city of Auckland fringed by two sparkling harbours. Enjoy a morning city tour including a visit to the Auckland Museum overlooking Waitemata Harbour and housing an



White Island



Akaroa



Dusky Dolphin



Rotorua

Mount Taranaki (Mount Egmont)



excellent collection of Maori artefacts. Explore at leisure during the afternoon.

Day 19 Bay of Islands. Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, this area is the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. On a morning tour we will visit the Waitangi Treaty house where in 1840 the treaty was signed between the Maori and the British crown. We then continue to Kerikeri where the Maori first welcomed missionaries in 1819 and see the oldest buildings of New Zealand dating from the 1820s. During the afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the charming, historic town of Russell.

Day 20 At Sea. We spend the day cruising off this remote area of New Zealand. Watch out for marine and birdlife from the open deck and enjoy

enlightening talks by the expedition team.

Day 21 New Plymouth. Today we explore the western port of New Plymouth. We have the whole day in this pretty city sandwiched between the sea and Mount Taranaki. A tour will visit the highlights of the town including the spectacular Te Rewa Rewa Bridge and Pukekura Park, one of the premier botanical gardens in New Zealand. We will have a chance to explore the diverse landscape of formal gardens, bushwalks and lakes. Alternatively, drive to Mount Egmont and join one of the walking trails ranging in difficulty for all levels of fitness. You will be joined by our naturalists who will keep you informed on the flora seen en-route. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further or remain at Mount Egmont and enjoy a longer hike.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£12495	£11495
Castle	Standard	£12695	£11695
Caledonian	Superior	£12995	£11995
Promenade	Premium	£13395	£12395
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£13895	£12895
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£14595	£13595
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£15495	£14495
Castle	Standard for sole use	£14495	£13495
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£14995	£13995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight accommodation with breakfast in Singapore and a half day city tour, two nights hotel accommodation in Queenstown on a bed and breakfast basis and welcome dinner, 18 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, expedition team, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional Dart River Safari and Taieri Gorge excursions and visas.

Cruise Only Option: For guest that wish to arrange their own flights, we are offering a discount of £1500 per person for the non-use of the round trip flights London to Queenstown and Christchurch to London as well as Singapore and Queenstown hotel and inclusive excursion arrangements. Your holiday will therefore start on 16 January 2018 in Milford Sound..

Ship to Shore: This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside in some ports, some of the more remote destinations we have included are only accessible by Zodiac such as Stewart Island and White Island where sea conditions can be challenging. Zodiacs will also be used for our three days of exploration in Fiordland and the use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the itinerary as shown.

Day 22 Abel Tasman National Park and Nelson. Return to the South Island where there will be a choice of excursions today. Either choose to disembark after breakfast at the remote harbour at Golden Bay to visit Abel Tasman, New Zealand's smallest national park. This marine reserve offers some marvellously scenic coastal walks and cruises with excellent wildlife opportunities including seal colonies and numerous aquatic birds including penguins. The tour will end in Nelson where you will re-embark the ship which will have sailed during the day. Alternatively, enjoy a morning at sea and during the afternoon explore Nelson which has for many years attracted resident artists, inspired by the region's exceptionally beautiful geography with coastal, forest and valley landscapes. Join an excursion of the area's highlights which includes the World of Wearable Art Museum with

its acclaimed visual exhibits and also the Classic Car collection. During the evening enjoy an onboard wine tasting of some local wines.

Day 23 Ship Cove. Anchor off Resolution Bay in the morning where keen walkers can enjoy a longer hike over to Ship Cove along the Queen Charlotte Track enjoying fantastic views over the archipelago of islands. Or alight a little later at Ship Cove where Captain James Cook spent much of his time in New Zealand. During the afternoon sail out of the Marlborough Sound and south along the coast to Lyttelton.

Day 24 Lyttelton for Christchurch. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 25 London. Arrive this morning.

Post-Cruise Extension



Post-Cruise Christchurch Extension

3rd to 6th February 2018

If you would like to extend your stay in New Zealand we are offering a two night extension at the Rydges Latimer Hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis including a Christchurch half day tour and transfers.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Christchurch. Disembark and discover Christchurch on a morning excursion. We will view the Southern Alps from the Port Hills, ride a restored tram and tour the Canterbury Museum with its acclaimed Antarctic collection. Enjoy a local lunch before checking into our hotel. The rest of the day at leisure.

Day 2 Christchurch. Enjoy a day at leisure or choose an optional full day tour on the Tranz Alpine Express to Arthur's Pass in the heart of the Southern Alps. Wonderful views are revealed from the train's huge windows as we pass snowcapped mountains, boulder strewn rivers and beech forests. On the return journey by coach we enjoy lunch at a farmstead.

Day 3 Christchurch to London. Transfer to the airport for your indirect flight to London.

Day 4 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £315; Single: £440

Price includes: Two nights accommodation at Rydges Latimer hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, half day Christchurch excursion, return airport transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional Tranzalpine Express excursion, visas.



Across the Tropic of Capricorn



A voyage from New Zealand to Papua New Guinea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
7th February to 1st March 2018

If you were the owner of a large yacht based in the Pacific, this is exactly the type of itinerary you would plan. A fascinating mix of islands all the way from the northernmost reaches of New Zealand to Melanesia, taking in remote, but splendidly sophisticated Norfolk Island and Iles des Pins in the French Collectivity of New Caledonia. From here we follow the chain of Melanesian islands through Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and finally to the northern islands of Papua New Guinea.

All are beautiful in their different ways and all have unique features and cultures. This region is ideal for exploring by small ship and particularly one as suitable as our MS Caledonian Sky. Her fleet of Zodiac craft will allow us to explore some magnificent places, especially tiny coral islets and lagoons.

At New Georgia on the outer reaches of the Solomon's we will explore the majestic Marovo Lagoon, the world's largest double barrier lagoon, a truly awe-inspiring place. These islands form one of the most culturally complex regions of the entire world, with 1293 languages spoken across the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and the islands of New Guinea. It is also a region of great antiquity; New Guinea has been settled for around 45,000 years, the Solomon Islands for 35,000 years, and Vanuatu and New Caledonia for about 4,000.

There will be much of the natural world to occupy us as we sail in a northerly direction through the South Pacific along much of the same route as Captain James Cook. The maritime history of the region is a constant wonder from the early explorers and native migrations to the fierce battles of the Second World War. Join us in this faraway haven, where there still exists a savage beauty, which cannot fail to stir the most jaded of travellers. Many of the islands still possess a pristine beauty, much the same as they were when first discovered by the great explorers.



What To Expect...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from the ship's log from last season which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Vanikoro – January 2014

After another delightful breakfast in the warmth of the sun on the Lido deck it was back into the air-conditioning of the ship to hear the continuing instalments of our guest speaker, Peter Warwick's historical tour de force of exploration in the Pacific. This morning's offering concentrated more on Cook and his rise up through the naval ranks joining as a cadet in his twenties. Later in the morning we learned of the final sorry chapter in the French explorer La Perouse when his two ships La Boussole and La Recherche were wrecked on the coral reef just off our landing spot on the west-facing beach at Vanikoro. It was too deep to anchor and so the MS Caledonian Sky drifted during the afternoon just outside the reef. A slight swell allowed the breaking waves over the shallowest parts on each side of the channel to be marked and as each Zodiac in turn arrived in the very shallow water adjacent to the beach a horde of vegetation-clad warriors came bounding over the surf to greet us. Once ashore everyone was presented with a flower or vegetation lei by a pretty girl and then asked to assemble for a speech of welcome by the chief. A few locally-made artefacts, food preparation and house repair examples were on display. Further down the coast a simple monument to the great French explorer La Perouse was on display outside a simple museum and rare artefacts. There was also a guided birding walk into the jungle and a few people made it over the river in a dug-out canoe to view another group of settlements. The snorkelling in clear waters with visibility in excess of 30 metres and fantastic corals made a great end to the day but more was to come in the form of a sighting of dwarf sperm whales and followed shortly by a superb double rainbow over the island as the sun was setting. The Lido deck had been transformed into a tropical island with palm fronds which made an interesting dining experience.

Morovo Lagoon – January 2014

Disembarkation followed the usual scheme and all Zodiacs followed through the reef and towards the village. Landing at Telina Islet was on a small wooden jetty and virtually at its head was the welcoming area where seats and stall had been constructed. A greeting was extended by a member of the community, he introduced the band, the singers and the dancers who performed for us as a welcome display. All around behind our guests who were largely seated were the local population and some who had come from other surrounding villages to welcome us. After the official welcome we had time to walk round the village but most people concentrated on the dazzling display of mostly wooden craft items on display by various vendors. An early lunch was scheduled but no sooner was that finished than we were off again to either a sandy beach for a swim or to a snorkel site which had been established not far from the ship. Both locations proved popular in the sun. Everything was completed by 1500 with the Zodiacs being lifted and everything made ready for sea and the MS Caledonian Sky was under way towards Rabaul.





The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Hong Kong. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Hong Kong. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of day is at leisure.

Day 3 Hong Kong. Enjoy a relaxing morning before an afternoon city tour of Hong Kong including Victoria Peak and Stanley Market. After the tour we will continue to the airport for our scheduled flight to Auckland.

Day 4 Auckland New Zealand. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner tonight.

Day 5 Auckland. On a morning tour we explore the Auckland Domain and Auckland Museum which overlooks picturesque Waitemata Harbour and has an outstanding collection featuring exhibits on the New Zealand and the Pacific Island cultures showcasing an extensive collection of Polynesian artefacts. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky later in the afternoon.

Day 6 Paihia. Discovered by Captain Cook in 1769, this area is the cradle of European civilisation in New Zealand and has important historical significance for both Maori and Europeans. On a morning tour we will visit the Waitangi Treaty house where, in 1840, the treaty was signed between the Maori and the British crown. We then continue to Kerikeri where the Maori first welcomed missionaries in 1819 and see the oldest buildings of New Zealand dating from the 1820s.

During the afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the charming historic town of Russell.

Day 7 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we follow in the wake of past navigators sailing north. Maybe learn more at a lecture by the expedition team or find a spot on deck to relax.

Day 8 Norfolk Island, Australia. This morning we awake, for a full day call, at Norfolk Island which Captain Cook encountered in 1774 and named after the Duchess of Norfolk. We will have the opportunity to explore on a morning tour visiting the beautiful St Barnabas Chapel. In the afternoon a further choice of excursions will be available. Discover more of the historical Georgian settlement of Kingston with its convict settlements or visit the Botanical Gardens with its 40 endemic, or unique, species, including 15 plant species considered to be critically endangered. For the more active you may wish to walk in the National Park towards Mt Pitt. The tracks wind through lush palm

forests and stands of Norfolk Island pine leading to remarkable views of the island and the surrounding ocean. Keen birders may also spot noddies, tropic birds and parrots.

Day 9 At Sea. Cruise the South Pacific as we head toward New Caledonia.

Day 10 Iles des Pins, New Caledonia. Arrive at first light in New Caledonia, the islands named by Captain Cook in 1774 during his second voyage to New Zealand. These remote islands are close to paradise and we will use our Zodiacs to land at one of the remote beaches. From here we will have the option to join a nature walk climbing the 262 metres Nga peak from where you will be rewarded with fantastic views over the whole island. Alternatively join one of the snorkelling trips or simply find a spot on one of the beaches before we sail later in the afternoon.

Day 11 Tanna, Vanuatu. After a morning at sea we arrive in Vanuatu at the island of Tanna, meaning earth in the local Kwamera language. Captain Cook was the first European to visit the island in 1774, landing at Port Resolution, having been attracted by the glowing light of Mount Yasur. This 361 metre active volcano is situated in the South East of the Island and dominates the landscape. The adventurous may wish to join a journey to the crater. We will use local trucks to drive through the rainforest that covers the mountain before walking to the rim. Alternatively we may have the chance to visit a local village where traditional lifestyles are maintained and the local culture has been largely unaffected by western influences. Here we will learn of customs and also learn of traditional medicines, crafts and cooking styles.



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The maritime history of the region is a constant wonder from the early explorers and native migrations to the fierce battles of the Second World War.

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Day 12 Port Havannah. Awake this morning off Port Havannah, situated on the north coast of Efate Island and our base for today's activities. There are a number of outer islands that we may be able to explore depending on weather and sea conditions. Lelepa Island is a 160 acres of unspoilt tropical rainforest and palm fringed beaches. On a nature walk we will see the herbs used in local medicines before exploring Feles cave thought to be the resting place of the legendary Polynesian Chief, Roi Mata. Meanwhile on Moso Island we can meet the volunteers at the Tasiriki Turtle Sanctuary who will teach us about the rehabilitation of the Hawksbill Turtles and the attempts to increase their numbers. If time and weather permit we will also set up a snorkelling platform for or offer a chance to swim from the beach.

Day 13 Espiritu Santo Island. Espiritu Santo is the largest of Vanuatu's islands and with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches, amazing blue holes, caves and renowned snorkelling. It was also a huge military base during World War II. We will have a choice of activities this morning. Either choose to snorkel amongst the corals and fish of the region at Million Dollar Point, named after the value of the military equipment dumped into the sea. Alternatively join an island tour including the Nekar Custom Village where we will learn about local traditions and customs, including their unique water music, before enjoying time to swim in one of the nearby blue holes. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 14 Vanikoro, Solomon Islands. After breakfast we land on Vanikoro Island in the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands, where French Explorer Jean-Francois de la Perouse became stranded in 1788 after both his vessels, La Boussole and the Astrolabe, hit the then unknown reefs of the island. Learn more about

the island's history and the mystery of the lost La Perouse expedition that captured the imagination of the European public. We will be welcomed ashore by the local villagers before choosing to explore the village further, join a nature walks where we can look out for the endemic birds, the Vanikoro Monarch and Vanikoro White-eye, or alternatively enjoy a swim or snorkel from the beach. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Day 15 Santa Ana. After a morning at sea, arrive at Port Mary on Santa Ana Island. We are welcomed with a stunning dance by the villagers with spears and mud face masks. Soak in the culture as we set foot on the shores of this lovely island. After the performance we have the opportunity to explore the town further with its plethora of local handicrafts, join a nature walk through the forests, walk to meet the students at the village school or swim from the local beach.

Day 16 Honiara. This morning we cruise through Iron Bottom Sound, the site of intense WWII naval battles, and so named for the large numbers of Japanese and American ships and aircraft that sank beneath the sea, before arriving into Honiara. During WWII the British founded Honiara as a military base. The town and the Mataniko River, which runs through it, were the front for many months during the battle of Guadalcanal. Today, this is a bustling town with lovely hibiscus and palm-tree-lined avenues. We enjoy a morning tour of Honiara including the bustling central market, parliament building and National Museum where we get an insight into Solomon Islands history. Alternatively discover the World War II sites including Henderson Field, the Japanese Peace Park and the US Memorial at Skyline Ridge. After lunch on board return to the city for some free time or join a snorkel excursion to Bonegi Beach to swim amongst war wrecks now colonized by tropical fish.

Day 17 Tetepare. Tetepare is the largest uninhabited tropical island in the Southern Hemisphere and home to one of the Solomon Islands leading conservation projects. Managed by the Tetepare Descendants Association, they have ensured the island was saved from the threat of loggers and many areas remain untouched. A wide variety of plants and animals now live in the 120 square kilometres of lowland rainforest that blankets the island. A total of 76 bird species, 25 reptile and 13 mammal species have been recorded here including skinks, dugong and the endemic Tetepare White Eye whilst the beaches support three species of turtle including the endangered leatherback. Enjoy guided walk in the forest with the local conservationists who will explain the work they are doing on the island.

Day 18 Marovo Lagoon, New Georgia. Marovo Lagoon is the largest double barrier lagoon in the world. Thousands of islands scatter the lagoon, from tiny coral islets on the fringing reef to massive 1600m volcanic islands. Inside the lagoon, the islands are surrounded by spectacular coral formations and white sand beach, the lagoon waters shimmering in every shade of blue,

turquoise and jade green. We have a full day here to explore the villages which produce some of the finest wood carvings in the region. We will also find a suitable spot to snorkel and swim from the beaches as well as Zodiac cruises to look for local wildlife.

Day 19 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing sea day as we cruise the Solomon Sea to Papua New Guinea.

Day 20 Rabaul, Papua New Guinea to Cairns, Australia. Arrive this morning at Rabaul's dramatic harbour which is ringed by six cone-shaped volcanoes. After breakfast on board we transfer to the airport for our flight to Cairns. Arrive in Cairns this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 21 Cairns. After breakfast in the hotel enjoy a day at leisure or choose to take a full day excursion to enjoy the underwater world on the Great Barrier Reef or the wildlife at the Daintree Rainforest.

Day 22 Cairns to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 23 London. Arrive this morning.



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
Castle	Standard Forward	£8395	£7995
Castle	Standard	£8895	£8495
Caledonian	Superior	£9395	£8995
Promenade	Premium	£9595	£9195
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10295	£9895
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10395	£9995
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10995	£10595
Castle	Standard for sole use	£10295	£9895
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11395	£10995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Hong Kong and Auckland on breakfast only basis, dinner on day 4 and lunch on day and 5, 15 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, expedition team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, two nights hotel accommodation in Cairns on breakfast only basis.
Not Included: Travel insurance, Australian visa.



Patagonia & the Chilean Fjords



An exploration of the Land of Fire & Ice from Ushuaia to Valparaiso aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
5th to 23rd March 2018

Those who have a passion for the wilder places on our planet usually have Patagonia on their must do list. Shaped by fire and ice, this rugged, yet hauntingly beautiful land of windswept pampas, hanging glaciers and cloud piercing peaks, remains today as enticing and fascinating as it did to Magellan, Drake and more latterly Darwin.

Chile is made for cruising. Its shape and geographic location is just perfect; thousands of miles of coastline that you can of course explore aboard one of the many huge cruise vessels calling at the major cities of South America, or alternatively join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy the wonders of this magical country, some of which only small ships have access to. With our fleet of onboard Zodiacs we will be able to explore deep into the fjord system away from the larger cruise vessels which may be in the region.

Wildlife abounds here and the skies are filled with the cries of seabirds. Albatross' and petrels wheel overhead and sea lions bark from their rocky outcrops. Helping us understand all the wonders we shall encounter will be our experts and expedition staff who will accompany us ashore and our highly adaptable Zodiac craft will allow us to enter tiny inlets and explore fjords and stretches of magnificent coastline.



Bridge of ice, Patagonia

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay. Rooms will be available on arrival and the remainder of the day and evening are free to relax and explore independently.

Day 3 Buenos Aires. During our guided morning tour we will visit the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo (Old City Hall) before we continue towards the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobblestoned

streets. We will continue to the neighbourhood of La Boca to look around the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists. We will see the woods of Palermo with 741 acres of gardens and artificial ponds surrounded by elegant buildings. This afternoon is free to relax before we meet this evening for a tango show and dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel before we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. On arrival, transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and sail this evening. Enjoy the scenery as we enter the Beagle Channel, named after the HMS

Beagle which Robert Fitzroy piloted through this extraordinarily beautiful channel with naturalist Charles Darwin in the 1830s.

Day 5 Cape Horn. We will make our way around Cape Horn, one of the best known maritime landmarks in the world. Magellan was the first European visitor here in 1530 and prior to the opening of the Panama Canal it was an important staging post. Weather permitting we hope to use our Zodiacs to land and enjoy a walk to the monument. This afternoon we return to the Beagle Channel. Here the mountains, still partly unmapped, drop as sheer, densely wooded cliffs into the channel and six glaciers flow from the 8000 foot Mount Darwin into the sea. Penguins, dolphins and the South American sea lions abound here in the channel.

Days 6 to 12 Chilean Fjords, Punta Arenas & Torres del Paine National Park, Chile. During the next seven days we will enjoy some of the most stunning scenery imaginable. This vast area of mountains, glaciers, islands, lakes and waterfalls is untouched by man except for a few fishing villages which perch at 'the end of the world'. We will make good use of our time exploring the beautiful protected waters, enjoying the renowned fjords of southern Chile which rival those of southeast Alaska in their raw beauty and prolific wildlife. Crystal clear reflections of vertical walls and hanging glaciers are broken only by the ripples of dolphins and whales, whilst overhead, the sky is alive with seabirds. See how quickly you run out of suitable adjectives to describe all you are witnessing. Our route will be managed by our experienced Captain and Expedition Leader alongside the local pilots. As well as stunning scenic cruising, the area is ideal for Zodiac forays. From Punta Arenas we will travel to Otway Bay to see the Magellan penguins that return each year to mate and live in large groups on the beach. This is now a protected area and the colony numbers are up to 10,000. As we continue our journey we hope to navigate the Kirke Narrows, a remarkable channel leading between lush, forested shores, so narrow it can only be sailed at low tide. Dropping anchor at Puerto Natales, we enjoy a full day in South America's largest national park, the Torres del Paine. This is one of the most spectacular places on earth, a vast uninhabited wilderness of glacier-



draped mountains, windswept pampas, turquoise glacial lakes and verdant valleys. Look out for herds of guanacos (a smaller version of the llama), rheas, Patagonian hares, foxes and rich birdlife and see the stunning rock formations of the Horns of Paine. We also hope to operate Zodiac excursions ashore in some of the remote fjords we pass on our journey.

Day 13 Chiloe Island. Chile's second largest island, Chiloe Island was one of the first Spanish strongholds in the Pacific Southern South America. Once the island had been conquered, it was hard for indigenous uprisings to reconquer and as a result it became a major link in the Spanish trade route around Cape Horn. The island was also visited by Darwin aboard the HMS Beagle in 1831. Our visit ashore on this mainly forested island will include Castro, one of the oldest towns in the Americas, known for its unique wooden architecture and stilted houses. Either join a nature walk with our onboard naturalists to explore the flora and fauna of the island or join an island drive including the wooden cathedral of St Francis and the historic old quarter.

Day 14 Puerto Montt. Just when you thought you had seen the best Chile has to offer, we land at picturesque Puerto Montt, a resort town in the Lake District. Settled by German colonists in the mid-19th century, much of its early Middle-European styled architecture remains, rendering a slightly bizarre feel in such an obviously un-European



Magallanic Penguin



Andean Condor



Torres del Paine National Park



La Boca, Buenos Aires



Petrohue River

setting. Leaving the ship we will head to the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park which is the oldest in Chile and contains three commanding volcanoes in Osorno, Calbuco and Puntagudo. We will see the mighty Petrohue River and the rapids that crash through lava channels creating a series of magnificent waterfalls. We will return to the ship via Puerto Varas situated in a stunning location on Lago Llanquihue with a backdrop of the Osorno volcano.

Day 15 Valdivia. After a morning at sea we arrive in Corral the port that serves the nearby colonial city of Valdivia, one of the oldest European settlements in Chile. An afternoon excursion will include time at the Canelos Tower, built in 1774 and at the time of its construction it was one of only two land entrances to the city, equipped with a wide portcullis and drawbridge. We will see the San Francisco Church before spending some time exploring the historical and anthropological museum and the bustling Mercado Fluvial. Our

tour will finish with a short visit to one of the traditional breweries.

Day 16 At sea. Enjoy a relaxing day on board as we continue our journey north along the Chilean coast.

Day 17 Valparaiso to Santiago. Disembark this morning and enjoy a morning in Valparaiso. Visit Fisherman's Wharf, the Plaza Soto Mayor and the Naval Academy before heading to the Casablanca Valley which is now one of the country's premier wine areas and we will enjoy a tasting and lunch at one of the vineyards. This afternoon on arrival in Santiago we transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) and have the remainder of the day to explore independently.

Day 18 Santiago to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 19 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING		
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	£7795
Byrd	Superior	£8095
Mawson	Premium	£8495
Mawson	Corner	£8995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9995
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£10915
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£11335

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires on a bed and breakfast basis, half day Buenos Aires tour, tango show and dinner in Buenos Aires, 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, onboard team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities, use of rubber boots and expedition parka on board, overnight hotel accommodation in Santiago on a bed and breakfast basis.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-Cruise Extension



Pre-Cruise Iguazu Falls Extension

2nd to 6th March 2018

Before joining your fellow travellers in Buenos Aires prior to the cruise, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, considered by many to be the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Rooms will be available on arrival and the remainder of the day and evening are free to relax and explore independently.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Iguazu Falls. On arrival transfer to our hotel the Loi Suites for our two night stay and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the falls.

Day 4 Iguazu Falls. Enjoy a full day at the Iguazu Falls on a series of guided walks seeing the upper and lower circuits and also the Triple frontier the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning and join our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel (or similar) and join our fellow travellers (follow main itinerary from day 2).

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1095, Single: £1395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights hotel accommodation in Iguazu Falls at the Loi Suites with breakfast daily, lunch and dinner on days 3 & 4, guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, transfers, airport taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance.

Island Life in the China Seas

A journey around Taiwan and across the East China Sea to the little known Japanese Ryukyu Islands aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
14th to 29th March 2018

Often viewed as the last outpost of China, the island of Taiwan is perhaps a reflection of what the People's Republic of China may have become if it hadn't turned to Communism. Sitting between China and Japan it is a surprisingly beautiful island about half the size of Scotland. Chiang Kai-shek, the Chinese nationalist leader and Mao's great adversary crossed the sea from China with a million and more of his followers in 1949 together with many great treasures from the Forbidden City which are today housed in the magnificent National Palace Museum in the nation's capital of Taipei.

Taiwan is just our sort of place. Well off the usual tourist radar and offering a unique experience. Beijing still considers this island to be part of its territory, whereas Taiwan views itself as autonomous. Only a few nations officially recognise it as a country in its own right, but that has not held back this industrious and highly successful island. We have nine days to explore the Taiwan and its outlying islands. Stunning mountain, lake and coastal scenery vie with futuristic cityscapes, hot springs and remote islands. For ardent travellers of the Orient, Taiwan offers another intriguing chapter and something completely different. Leaving Taiwan we make our way to Japan via the Vaeyama, Ryuku and Amami Islands, a wonderful epilogue to a thought provoking trip.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Taipei, Taiwan. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Taipei. Arrive today and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 3 Taipei. After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a tour of Taiwan's lively and attractive capital city. We will visit the National Palace Museum which has a repository of over 600,000 priceless Chinese artefacts including pottery, porcelain and bronze with pieces dating back over 5,000 years. Also, on our must do list is the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, with its beautiful garden, and the Lungshan Temple, the city's most atmospheric Taoist temple. We will enjoy lunch and a visit to Taipei 101, the tallest building in Asia and the pride of Taipei's skyline before transferring to the MS Caledonian Sky, moored in Keelung in the late afternoon.

Day 4 Chiufen, Jinguashi & Pingxi. From our berth in Keelung we will drive the short distance to the towns Chiufen and Jinguashi located in a stunning hillside location with wonderful views and the former centre of the gold mining industry in Taiwan. In Jinguashi we will visit the Gold

Ecological Park, located in the old village which is a fascinating mix of museums and old mining buildings. Enjoy lunch before continuing our journey to Pingxi where it is claimed the "sky lantern" was invented in the Three Kingdoms period (A.D. 220-265). At first it was used to transmit military information but in the early 19th century the Lantern Festival was brought to Taiwan where every year, at the beginning of the spring planting season, people would release "sky lanterns" into the air as a prayer for the coming year. We will write our own hopes for the coming year and release a lantern before returning to the MS Caledonian Sky.

Day 5 Taichung. From our berth in Taichung we have a choice of tours. Choose from a full day tour inland to the Sun Moon Lake, the largest lake in Taiwan and so named as the eastern part of the lake is round like the sun and the western side is shaped like a crescent moon. Its crystalline, emerald green waters reflect the hills and mountains which rise on all sides and provide one of Taiwan's most mesmerising landscapes. We will spend time on the lake and also visit one of the temples on the banks before enjoying lunch. We return to the ship via the Chung Tai Chun Monastery, a lavish monument to



against the Chinese after a 56-hour battle. If time permits, we may also see the fauna and flora at the Shuangli Wetlands Nature Centre which is home to more than 250 species of migratory birds.

Day 7 Penghu Islands. Staying in the Taiwan Straits we visit the Penghu archipelago made up of 64 islands of which only 20 are inhabited. We will base ourselves in the historic capital of Magong where we find an array of historical buildings and temples. See the 16th century Queen of Heaven Temple (Mazu Temple) which is Taiwan's oldest and finest temple and is classified as the first grade relic. Whilst on Zhongyang Street, one of the oldest in the islands, we will hear about the "Four-eyed well". Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and this afternoon we hope to receive permission to explore one of the other islands in the chain.

Day 8 Anping & Tainan. Returning to the mainland we arrive at the southern city of Anping which is our base for a morning excursion to nearby Tainan, the former capital of Taiwan. The Dutch built the town of Fort Zeelandia here in 1624 before surrendering to the forces of General Ming Chenggong in 1662. Fort Zeelandia was renamed Anping and the nearby town of Tainan prospered and many of its finest temples were constructed. On a morning tour of Tainan we will see the Chikan Tower, built by the Dutch in 1653 as an administrative centre, and the Koxinga Shrine dedicated to General Chenggong. Our tour will end at the Confucius Temple, Taiwan's oldest and most revered Confucius shrine, established in 1665. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon to explore Anping independently. Alternatively, join us as we drive to the Foguangshan Monastery which is the centre of Buddhism in Southern Taiwan.

Chan Buddhism which has fused ancient traditions with modern architecture. Alternatively, join a half day tour to Lugang, one of Taiwan's oldest port towns which was used as a major harbour by Dutch traders in the 17th century. We will see the 17th century Lungshan Temple, one of the best preserved in Taiwan, whilst in Old Street we can see the historic buildings or purchase some of the rare handicrafts produced here. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon in Taichung.

Day 6 Kinmen Islands. Situated only two kilometres off the Chinese coast, the 15 islands of the Kinmen archipelago were once the frontline between Mao Zedong's Communists and Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists and were one of the most heavily fortified places on earth. In 1997 much of the island became a National Park dedicated to the preservation of historical sites and battlefield memorials. We have requested permission to land on the island where we plan to have the day to view these monuments including the Zhaishan Tunnels, completed in 1966 and used to conceal small naval vessels, and the Guningtou Battlefield History Museum, the scene of the most significant victory, in 1949, for the Nationalist forces in the civil war



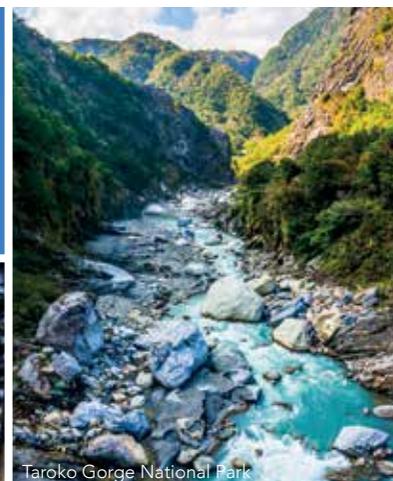
Amami Beach, Oshima



Temple Dragon, Mazu Temple, Penghu



Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall



Taroko Gorge National Park

Day 9 Taitung & Luda Island. Arrive this morning in Taitung in the South East of Taiwan, our base for a day on the mainland and also the surrounding islands. Spend the morning at the National Museum of Prehistory which charts Taiwan's geological birth, pans through prehistory with a fascinating display of exhibits including stone coffins and jade ornaments and ends with an exhibition charting the development of the aboriginal tribes. Over lunch we hope to sail the short distance to Luda (Green) Island. It is hard to believe that this beautiful island was once renowned as a prison island during the "white terror" period, from 1949 to 1987. Today the island is a popular holiday destination for Taiwanese looking for snorkelling or diving on the outer reef. On an island drive we will see the highlights including the prominent lighthouse, Niutou Hill and the three infamous prisons.

Day 10 Hualien. From our berth in Hualien we will enjoy a full day tour to the Taroko Gorge National Park. Taroko means "magnificent and beautiful" in the local Truku language and it is clear to see why the name was used. The gorge itself stretches for 20 kilometres with marble cliffs rising hundreds of metres above the Liwu River. We will see the Swallow Grotto and the Tunnel of Nine Turns, a 1.9 kilometre path cut into the cliffs following the route of the original tracks along the gorge and the Changuang Temple, a Buddhist monastery with commanding views of the river.

Day 11 Yaeyama Islands, Japan. Our first call in Japan will be at the Yaeyama Islands, a cluster of coral reefs and forested mountains. This morning, from our base in Ishigaki we take the short journey to neighbouring Taketomi. This tiny island, just 1500 metres at its widest point and home to 300 people still offers a traditional Ryuku way of life. We will be transported by buffalo drawn carts to view the traditional bungalow style houses with low slung

terracotta roofs and rocky walls covered in hibiscus and bougainvillea. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon relax on board or join a glass bottomed boat trip.

Day 12 Ryuku Islands. Arrive during lunch in the largest island of the Ryuku archipelago, Okinawa. It is probably best known for the long and bloody battle of World War II which lasted 82 days and saw losses of over 100,000 Japanese troops and many thousands of US troops. There will be a choice of excursion this afternoon, either choose to learn more about this significant encounter when we visit the former Japanese Navy Underground Head Quarters, the Peace Memorial Park and Himeyuri Tower, which commemorates the fate of female high school students who worked in army field hospitals in caves under horrendous conditions. Alternatively, stretch your legs as we walk through the Gangala Valley, a working excavation site with human pre-historic remains dating back some 18,000 years. We will walk past the "walking Banyan tree" and see the caves, the history of which our guides will explain. Before returning to the vessel we will see the Shuri Castle, perched on a hill overlooking Naha which used to be a centre of the Ryuku Kingdom.

Day 13 Amami Islands. We continue sailing north and arrive this afternoon in Amami Oshima, a natural paradise situated in the Amami Islands and surrounded by transparent waters, brightly coloured coral reefs and tropical fish. The island is almost entirely covered in forest and mangrove and offers fantastic bird watching and wildlife sightings. We have the afternoon to explore and will visit the Nature Observation Park where we can walk through the forest and hope to see the Amami Jay, Ruddy Kingfisher, Ryuku Akashobin, butterflies and possibly the rare black hare. We will also see local industry and watch the process of making

tsumugi and kasuri silk-cotton fabrics at the Oshima Tsumugi Village, a craft complex in a beautiful hillside setting.

Day 14 Yakushima. Spend the morning on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. Its natural wonders will astound you as Yakushima has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend our time here on nature walks including Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees.

Day 15 Matsuyama. After a morning at sea we arrive over lunch on the island of Shikoku and its main town of Matsuyama. The town is renowned as the centre of Haiku poetry in Japan, these traditional poems are three lines long containing, respectively, five, seven and nine syllables. Throughout the city we can find the wooden "Haiku postboxes" where anyone is able to drop off their efforts. We will visit Matsuyama Castle, a rare three-wing, three-storey castle, constructed by famous samurai Yoshiaki Kato in 1603 which

sits atop Mount Katsuyama in the centre of the city. We also visit the Dogo Hot Springs, the oldest hot springs in Japan, which are famous for its clear and odourless healing waters.

Day 16 Kobe to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Osaka airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Post-Cruise Cherry Blossom Extension



If you would like to spend some time in Japan after your cruise we will be offering a 5 or 6 night escorted

overland tour in and around Kyoto. Details are being finalised so please register your interest at the time of booking and further details will follow.

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
Castle	Standard Forward	£6995	£6595
Castle	Standard	£7195	£6795
Caledonian	Superior	£7495	£7095
Promenade	Premium	£7895	£7495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9195	£8795
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9395	£8995
Promenade	Owner's Corner Suite with balcony	£9595	£9195
Castle	Standard for sole use	£8995	£8595
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9495	£9095

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight accommodation in Taipei on a bed and breakfast basis, 13 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, gratuities, onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

NB. Please note that whilst we expect to be alongside on most days, we will on occasion use the vessel's Zodiacs.

Island Hopping in Cape Verde

Explore the natural beauty and culture of the Cape Verde Archipelago aboard the MS Island Sky
29th March to 8th April 2018

Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky as she undertakes an island hopping adventure; exactly the type of itinerary that suits her best. The Cape Verde Islands are an intriguing archipelago located off the coast of Senegal. They are an amazingly varied group of islands that have been used as a staging post by mariners through the ages and there is truly no better way to explore this region, with its dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy than by small ship, and with the MS Island Sky as our base we can island hop with great ease.

Our voyage provides an in-depth exploration of the culture, wildlife and lifestyle of the islands, some of which are arid and flat with extraordinary beaches and sand dunes contrasting with lush mountainous islands. It is a little world of its own, each island having a distinct culture and atmosphere and an ideal archipelago for small ship cruising. On some islands the infrastructure is minimal but with our nimble Zodiacs we are able to land on the remotest of islands and explore on foot.

Our in-depth discovery of the Cape Verde archipelago will begin and end on the island of Sao Tiago and from here we will island hop, exploring volcanic landscapes, colonial towns and villages and breathtaking beaches. For those who enjoy visiting out of the way islands where tourists are a rarity, this is a unique opportunity.



Mindelo Bay



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Praia, Sao Tiago, Cape Verde. Fly by scheduled flight via Lisbon. Arrive in the late evening and transfer to the MS Island Sky. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Maio. Depart Praia after breakfast and make the short hop over to tiny Maio, a peaceful island with vast deserted beaches. Due to winds and erosion this relatively flat island shows little evidence of its volcanic past. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon allowing for time at leisure to walk in the sand dunes and along the beach next to the capital of Vila do Maio with its huge white Baroque church and pretty pastel painted houses. Alternatively join an informal guided walking tour of the town or join the expedition team on a nature walk.

Day 3 Palmeira, Sal. The island of Sal was relatively undeveloped until the mid-nineteenth century when salt export business was developed and this morning we will visit one of the original sites at Pedra de Lume. We will see the salt pans, learn of the salt extraction process and even have the chance to float in the waters. After lunch we have the option to stay on board or transfer to the town of Santa Maria for a relaxing afternoon swimming from the beaches or exploring the local shops for Cape Verdean crafts.

Day 4 Tarrafal, Sao Nicolau. Sao Nicolau is a charming, peaceful and attractive island of plantations, small holdings and busy farming villages. It also has impressive, almost untouched mountain scenery, friendly residents and lively traditions. On our tour we will drive through a spectacular landscape towards the historical capital Ribeira Brava. Here we will discover the lively centre of the island which reflects the character of the



Local Life

people and learn why Ribeira Brava was the bedrock of Cape Verdean intellect in the 19th century. After lunch enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 5 Porto Novo, Sao Antao. We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Sao Antao. Driving up the old trading route, we pass the volcanic crater 'Cova' with its agricultural plantations and enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in the tiny picturesque mountain village of Fontainhas on the northern side of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, the valley of Paul. Here we will enjoy a coffee break whilst learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. Also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the islands and have a taste of it at the oldest traditional Grogue distillery of the island. Drive back along the coast to the southern side of the island and our waiting ship. Moor overnight.

Day 6 Porto Novo, Sao Antao & Mindelo, Sao Vicente. Leaving the port, the scenery becomes more and more volcanic. Before approaching the driest part of the island we will turn into the valley of Ribeira das Patas to see the bizarre rock formation volcanic eruptions have left behind. Enjoy the spectacular view over two valleys at Selada de Altomira. On our way back we will visit a socio cultural tourism and agriculture project and enjoy some snacks organised by the project itself with local specialties. This afternoon we sail the short distance to Mindelo, the cultural capital of the



Terraced Mountain Top of Santo Antao



Fogo



Santo Antao



Salt Fields, Sal Island

Cape Verde. Enjoy an island drive to Monte Verde with its plantations and spectacular views over the island. We will be entertained by local music and capoeira on board as we moor overnight.

Day 7 Mindelo, Sao Vicente. Enjoy a further full day in Mindelo, one of the most attractive of all Cape Verde towns with its colonial buildings, cobbled streets, cafes and lively restaurants. Depart on a morning discovery tour of the lively markets and the secret corners of the harbour town. After a coffee break in a typical Cape Verdean bar, learn about the life of the local artists and their works by visiting the national museum of handicraft. The afternoon is free to further explore the vibrant town independently.

Days 8 & 9 Sao Filipe, Fogo & Brava. Over the next couple of days we will visit both Fogo and Brava. Fogo is an extraordinary place. Known as the 'Mother Island' it has its own unique character and people. It is a volcano that rises steeply out of the Atlantic and has become an island, the summit reaching some 3000 metres. An island drive will take us through dramatically contrasting areas of fertile valleys that are dominated by the massive grey volcanic cone of Pico de Fogo. Later, call into the main town of Sao Filipe, a gracious town of faded grandeur with its pretty squares and wide boulevards of colonial houses. Here we enjoy lunch and listen to local guides talk of the eruption of 1995 over local wines. Brava is often referred to as the 'Secret Island'. It is sometimes mist shrouded and the

humid conditions produce wonderful conditions for the flora. It is also one of the most mountainous of the islands with soaring peaks and deep valleys. There will be opportunities here for walkers and a tour which will include arguably the most beautiful bay in the islands at Faja d'Agua with its pretty nearby village. The capital of Nova Sintra, named after its namesake in Portugal is a charming town full of colour from the blooming hibiscus, coconut trees and bougainvillea.

Day 10 Praia, Sao Tiago. The island of Sao Tiago and in particular the busy capital of Praia, has a wonderful African feel. On a full day excursion visit Cidade Velha the old Portuguese

capital with a rich history and once the centre of the slave trade. See the fort and cathedral which dominate the narrow cobbled lanes and stone houses. Enjoy a traditional performance of Batuco dance. Continue into the green interior, climbing the steep mountains and enjoying the colours as we climb to Rui Vaz where we enjoy lunch of local produce in the shadow of Pico da Antonia. We will see local farms and drive past the only water dam in Cape Verde on our way back to the ship.

Day 11 Praia, Sao Tiago to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return flight to London via Lisbon.



Colourful Fishing Boats, Sao Tiago.

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 Forward	£5295	£4895
Magellan	Standard	£5395	£4995
Columbus	Superior	£5595	£5195
Marco Polo	Premium	£5795	£5395
Marco Polo	Corner	£5995	£5595
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£5995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£6595	£6195
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6295	£5895
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6595	£6195

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled flights, 10 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, on board team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

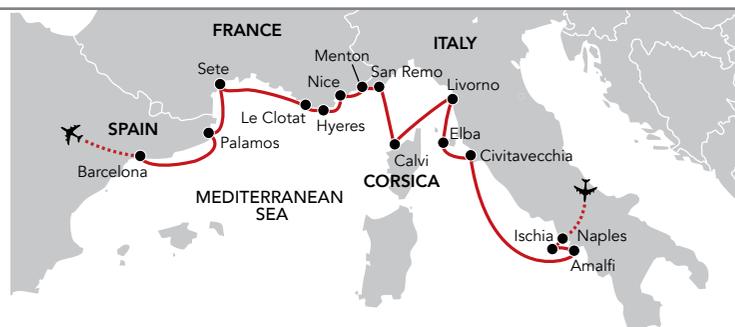
Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and on some days to land on some of the islands which have minimal infrastructure.

Spring in the Gardens of the Mediterranean

A spring time voyage from Naples to Barcelona aboard the MS Island Sky
1st to 15th May 2018

Our springtime journey through the Mediterranean has been planned for those who appreciate an interesting mix of history, gardens and landscapes. We will steer clear, whenever possible, of the over-crowded sites and mega resort ships, yet include some of the most interesting and beautiful places in the ancient world. It is the most perfect time of year: verdant gardens and landscapes awash with blossoms make for an idyllic journey aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Naples, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky.

Day 2 Naples & Ischia. Arrive this morning in Naples. There will be a choice of excursions today and you may choose to take the ferry and spend the day on the garden island of Ischia. A tour of the island will focus on La Mortella, a wonderful garden designed by architect Russell Page for Lord and Lady William Walton. We will have lunch at a local restaurant before enjoying free time to explore the main town. Alternatively enjoy a day in Naples where a morning tour will take us to Herculaneum. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Naples.

Day 3 Amalfi. From our anchorage off Amalfi we will go ashore this morning to visit the nearby beautiful gardens

of the Villa Cimbrone in Ravello. The villa was something of a Bohemian retreat in its early days and has had many illustrious former guests. Return to Amalfi and enjoy a free afternoon at leisure.

Day 4 Civitavecchia. Today we travel inland to visit two wonderful houses and gardens in Lazio. We will visit Castello Ruspoli which is owned by Princess Claudia Giada Ruspoli. Originally part of the papal estates, the castle was built in 847 AD by Benedictine monks. The garden, which still retains its original form, must be considered one of the most beautiful parterres in Italy. After lunch we continue to the beautiful gardens of Villa Lante Della Rovere. In the eyes of many, Villa Lante is the consummate example of the best period in the history of garden design: the Mannerist phase of the Italian Renaissance.

Day 5 Elba. Arrive this morning at the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing the island's busy capital Portoferraio we set out for a delightful drive exploring the southern region of this charming island with superb views over the coastline. The first stop will be Villa San Martino, the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte, which has since been transformed into a museum. Continue to Porto Azzurro, a delightful town which is dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress and a picturesque harbour, before carrying on along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa, beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced. A delicious sampling of the local wine will be served in the garden facing the sea. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.

Day 6 Livorno. We will spend the day in the Tuscan countryside and Chianti wine region. This morning we will visit the 15th century Villa Poggio Torselli built by the Machiavelli family and known as the "Queen of Chianti Villas". The gardens here are made up of parkland and a terraced Italian style garden with a verdant expanse of vineyards, olive trees, roses, cypress and lemon trees. After our visit we will enjoy a lunch of local specialities and wines at a nearby villa before returning to the MS Island Sky. Alternatively spend the morning in the lovely town of Lucca.

Day 7 Calvi. Calvi is the capital of the prosperous Balagne region of the island. Enjoy the vista of the

surrounding green hills which form a natural amphitheatre and is known as the 'Garden of Corsica'. A guided tour will lead us through the alleyways and cobbled streets before continuing to the imposing citadel. This afternoon there will be an opportunity to explore the flora of Corsica with a visit to the seven hectare Parc de Salecchia.

Day 8 San Remo. This morning enjoy time to explore the twisting labyrinth of lanes in the old town that lead up from the waterfront or maybe walk along the promenade to the gardens at Villa Ormond. This afternoon we will enjoy a choice of tours, maybe travel inland to the Medieval town of Dolceaqua which is made up of two villages connected by a Medieval humpback bridge which inspired Monet who defined it as "a jewel of lightness". Our walking tour will take us through the picturesque alleys to the Doria Castle and we will also enjoy a tasting of the village's famous Rossese red wine and olive oil in a local taverna. Alternatively take the journey to the French border and the Hanbury Gardens which were established in 1867 by Sir Thomas Hanbury as a coastal woodland garden at his property in Ventimiglia. After falling into disrepair they were restored by the University of Genoa in 1987 who maintain the 18 hectares of Mediterranean and exotic plants.

Day 9 Menton, France. Arrive this morning on the French Riviera in the small town of Menton. Spend the morning at the Val Rahmeh Botanical Gardens. Established in the late 19th century by Lord Radcliffe the garden contains subtropical and tropical plants including Sophora toromiro (a species of small trees since disappeared from Easter Island)



Musee National Marc Chagall

Elba



Pegasus Fountain, Villa Lante della Rovere, Bagnaia

exceptional olive trees (more than 400 years old) and collections of exotic plants. Returning to the ship for lunch you may wish to revisit the town for the afternoon or relax on board. Alternatively visit the Serre de La Madone, designed in the 1920s by Lawrence Johnston. Spread over nine hectares the garden is divided into compartments by hedges and walls and includes plants sourced from his travels around the world.

Day 10 Nice. Drive this morning along the dramatic road to St Jean Cap Ferrat which is home to some of the most sumptuous villas on the French Riviera and where we find the Rothschild Foundation and Gardens at Villa Ile de France. We will explore the villa which houses a priceless art collection. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either explore Nice independently or join us as we explore two of the area's finest museums in the exclusive Cimiez Hill District. We will begin with a visit to the Musee National Marc Chagall. Established by the artist himself, the collection features the most important permanent exhibition of his work. We will continue to the Musee Matisse which is housed in the 17th century Arena Villa. The exquisite collection details the great master's development from the late 19th century through to 1954.

Day 11 Hyeres. Our journey along the French Riviera continues in Hyeres, which developed as a winter destination and health resort for wealthy Britons in the 18th and 19th century with Queen Victoria giving the royal seal of approval in 1892. The pleasant climate makes it home to some wonderful gardens that we will explore or a morning tour including

Castel Sainte Claire which overlooks the old town and the terraced park at Saint Bernard with wonderful views along the coast.

Day 12 Le Ciotat. Today we will anchor off the picturesque Provençal port of Le Ciotat where we have a morning free to explore independently. After lunch on board we spend the afternoon at the hilltop Medieval village of Le Castellet exploring the winding streets and enjoying a wine tasting.

Day 13 Sete. Enjoy a full day tour to the fortified city of Carcassonne which is for most the perfect idea of a Medieval castle. There will be a guided walking tour and free time before returning to the ship with lunch en-route. Alternatively, spend the morning at La Bambouseraie, a private botanical garden founded in 1856 by keen botanist Eugene Mazel and featuring exotic and rare plants, huge oak and cypress trees, giant bamboos and magnolias and Victorian greenhouses. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Day 14 Palamos, Spain. Our first call in Spain will be on the Costa Brava and the old fishing port of Palamos. This morning we will head out to the 17 hectare Cap Rog Botanical Gardens situated on the cliffs with wonderful views of the coastline. The terraced gardens contain over 1000 botanical species and spread from the house on the cliffs down to the sea.

Day 15 Barcelona to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Pre-Cruise Extension

Grand Hotel Villa Tuscolana

27th April to 1st May 2018



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Frascati. Fly by scheduled flight to Rome. On arrival transfer to our hotel for a four night stay. Settle into your room before meeting for dinner tonight.

Day 2 Villa Landriana. After breakfast we head for the city of Ardea to visit the magnificent Gardens of Landriana which are considered one of the most impressive gardens in Italy. Created in 1956, the 10 hectares of garden space were created by an English landscape designer named Russell Page who divided the garden into 32 different "rooms" with specific characteristics, such as the valley of ancient roses, the orange garden and the blue lawn. Return to the hotel for a free afternoon before meeting tonight for dinner.

Day 3 Tivoli. Today we visit two magnificent villas in Tivoli. The Villa Adriana is an exceptional complex of classical buildings created in the 2nd century A.D. by the Roman Emperor Hadrian. We will have time to enjoy some lunch in the town of Tivoli before we continue to Villa d'Este, masterpiece of the Italian Garden and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to the hotel this afternoon and enjoy a free evening.

Day 4 Frascati. Enjoy a full day at leisure. We will meet tonight for dinner.

Day 5 Frascati to Naples. After a leisurely breakfast in the hotel we will check-out and drive to the MS Island Sky, stopping en-route for lunch.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy
Twin: **£765**; Single: **£995**

Price includes: Four nights accommodation at the Grand Hotel Villa Tuscolana on a bed and breakfast basis, dinner on days 1, 2 and 4, lunches on days 2, 3 and 5, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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 Forward	£6295	£5895
Magellan	Standard	£6495	£6095
Columbus	Superior	£6695	£6295
Marco Polo	Premium	£6995	£6595
Marco Polo	Corner	£7395	£6995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£8795	£8395
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£8995	£8595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6895	£6495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7295	£6895

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, gratuities, onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: Please note that we will be at anchor at the following ports and will use local boats/Zodiacs to tender ashore: Amalfi, San Remo, Menton, Hyeres and La Ciotat.

From the Colonial South to New York

A springtime voyage along the East Coast of America aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
6th to 20th May 2018

Here is a fascinating voyage along the United States eastern seaboard and the perfect springtime journey for those who enjoy stunning coastal scenery, alluring architecture and quaint colonial towns contrasting with large metropolises – a veritable mix of culture and history. During our two week journey, the MS Hebridean Sky will traverse a great swathe of North America whilst our Guest Speaker and enthusiastic local guides will bring the history of the region to life. From the arrival of the British to the American Revolution and beyond, we will learn of the history of the United States from early exploration through to modern times.

After embarking the MS Hebridean Sky in Nassau, there will be a relaxing day at sea before we arrive into Florida and commence our voyage along the coastline of the Southern States. We arrive into Savannah, an elegant city founded in 1733 and see some of its enchanting architecture before heading to beautifully preserved Charleston in South Carolina, the birthplace of the Civil War. Of course when planning a voyage along the eastern coast we couldn't omit the great cities of Washington, Philadelphia and New York however, for many, it will be the less well known ports of call we will visit which will be the most memorable. We will spend time exploring North Carolina's historic Wilmington and, further north, elegant Beaufort, an attractive fishing town with magnificent antebellum homes and gardens. Next we step back in time in colonial Williamsburg which is a living museum of the 18th century with its cobbled streets, reconstructed houses and authentically dressed guides.

Continuing our passage north, we explore Washington D.C. and Philadelphia before sailing along the Hudson River for Poughkeepsie where one of America's most famous sons, Franklin D Roosevelt, is immortalised in the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, and his wife Eleanor is honoured in her home Val-Kill. As our voyage approaches its end, we continue along the Hudson to the iconic city of New York, a fitting end for our voyage.



Day 1 London to Nassau, Bahamas.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Sail before dinner.

Day 2 At sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we make our way to the American coast.

Day 3 Port Canaveral, Florida.

Arrive this morning in Port Canaveral, our base for the day and from where there will be a choice of tours. You can choose to either tour the Kennedy Space Centre, offering a rare and behind the scenes look at one of mankind's most fascinating and remarkable achievements – the space programme. Alternatively, enjoy an airboat trip through the fresh water marshes and wetland hammocks of beautiful St Johns River and be on the lookout for alligators and bald eagles.

Day 4 Savannah, Georgia.

After a morning at sea we will arrive in Savannah and this afternoon discover Fort Jackson which was built in 1808 and is the oldest standing fort in Georgia. We continue to the Historic District of Savannah and explore its restored 18th and 19th century buildings and the waterfront where cotton warehouses are now restaurants, hotels, and shops. Here we find exquisite ironwork, ancient cobblestones, splendid mansions and picturesque cottages. We will visit one of the most elegant houses in Savannah and see the magnificent Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and the Massie Heritage Centre which interprets the history of Savannah.

Day 5 Charleston, South Carolina.

The city of Charleston is brimming with history and culture. It was the scene of the major Revolutionary War naval battles, tales of pirates and Civil War sieges. We will moor for the day in the heart of this living museum on the banks of the Ashley River, one of the best places to appreciate the southern antebellum culture. Our tour will include a boat ride to Fort Sumter and the historic district including St Michael's Church and the Confederate Museum. The afternoon will be at leisure to explore the city independently or relax on board.

Day 6 Wilmington, North Carolina.

Situated between the sea and Cape Fear River, historic Wilmington was founded in 1739. It was named in honour of Spencer Compton, Earl of Wilmington, who was a patron of North Carolina's Governor at the time. To this day, visitors are reminded of its rich history by the grand old homes and tree-lined boulevards making Wilmington one of the most beautiful small cities in the south. Our visit will include the beautiful antebellum Bellamy Mansion and Thalian Hall, a working historic 1858 theatre which is listed on the national register of historic places. After lunch on board shuttle buses will be available for those who wish to explore the city independently.

Day 7 Morehead City for Beaufort, North Carolina.

Arrive this morning in Morehead City from where we travel across to elegant Beaufort, a quaint fishing town with magnificent antebellum homes and gardens. There will be an opportunity to tour the North Carolina Maritime Museum and stroll around the old town or visit the wild horses of Shackleford Banks, a unique historic and cultural legacy, where their descendants reportedly swam ashore from a sinking Spanish ship in the 16th century. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea sailing south to Norfolk, Virginia.

Day 8 Norfolk, Virginia.

From the port of Norfolk, our excursion this morning leads to historic Colonial Williamsburg, the capital of the



Virginia colony from 1699 to 1780. Once the political and economic centre of the Virginia colony, Williamsburg is the nation's premier living museum, offering visitors a glimpse of life as it was in the 17th and 18th centuries. A guided tour leads us along the Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg's main thoroughfare, past the Capitol, the courthouse, the Governor's Palace and the historic Bruton Parish Church, where Episcopal services have been held since 1715.

Days 9 & 10 Baltimore, Maryland. Arrive this morning in Baltimore, a truly great American city full of colonial and maritime history and our base for the next two days. Join a full day tour to Washington D.C. and Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington. For more than forty years, George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the American forces in the Revolutionary War and the first President of the United States, called Mount Vernon home. We will visit the Mansion, more than a dozen original structures, Washington's Tomb, and nearly 50 acres of his extensive plantation. The estate also includes a working blacksmith shop and the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. After lunch we will set off for Washington, D.C., enjoying a drive around the US capital including the Capitol Building, Washington Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and the White House. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky in the late afternoon and remain moored overnight. The following day our morning tour will include Fort McHenry, best known for its role in the War of 1812 and now a National Monument and the vibrant

hub of Fells Point, steeped in maritime history. We will end at the inner harbour where we climb to the "Top of the World" observation deck with views over the harbour and beyond. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore Baltimore at leisure, relax on board or shuttle buses will be provided for those who wish to return to Washington.

Day 11 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia is where Americans defended their liberty, achieved technological success and forged the ideals of the American Dream. The city was once the second largest in the British Empire and the social centre of the original 13 American colonies. Furthermore, it was the home of many ideas and actions which gave birth to the American Revolution and American independence, and it is where the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776. Spend the morning exploring the city including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Centre before we set sail for Poughkeepsie during lunch.

Day 12 Poughkeepsie. Spend a relaxing morning on board as we sail along the Hudson River for Poughkeepsie where we arrive after lunch. Our afternoon tour will include a visit to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, conceived by Franklin D. Roosevelt to house the many historic papers, books and memorabilia he accumulated throughout his life. After privately raising funds to build the site, he donated it to the National Archives to ensure that the public would have access to such important documents.

We also visit Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill, a National Historic Site. Wander the bucolic grounds and visit the cottage where Eleanor lived until her death.

Day 13 New York. To stand on deck whilst we sail into New York City past the Statue of Liberty is a truly breathtaking experience. On arrival into New York, enjoy the city highlights of Manhattan as we pass the Empire State building, Central Park and Times Square. The afternoon is free to explore independently. Maybe visit the legendary artists and writers' quarter of Greenwich Village, enjoy shopping on Fifth Avenue, visit one of the world famous galleries such as the Guggenheim in the Upper East Side or the Museum of Natural History. If you prefer to escape from the hubbub, enjoy a stroll around

Central Park or along the Highline. We will remain moored overnight and so have the whole evening to enjoy this iconic city.

Day 14 New York to London. We will disembark after breakfast and will take one of the ferries at Battery Park to enjoy a morning at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Here we will see the location where around 12 million steerage and third class steamship passengers were processed for immigration into the USA between 1892 and 1954. Now a museum, we will get a fascinating insight into the immigrant's experience. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before we transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

Day 15 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
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Amundsen	Standard	£7795	£7395
Byrd	Superior	£7995	£7595
Mawson	Premium	£8295	£7895
Mawson	Corner	£8595	£8195
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9895	£9495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10295	£9895
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11295	£10895
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9795	£9395
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9995	£9595

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, gratuities, onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Eternal Japan

Discover the cultural treasures of Japan and the ancient wonders of South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
8th to 22nd May 2018

Our unique itinerary is a marvellous balance of ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens, opulent temples and shrines combined with lovely natural landscapes. Like all well-planned itineraries we have included some of the best known highlights, but equally we will also take you to some places where relatively few foreign tourists set foot in. The MS Caledonian Sky allows us to visit out of the way islands and remote stretches of coast which would not be practical on a regular land tour. It is in such places that we find timeless villages, rural landscapes and a rich cultural heritage. Such places invoke the strongest of memories and allow you to immerse yourself in the myth and mystique of these ancient lands whilst returning each evening to the peace and comfort of our vessel.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Osaka, Japan. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Kobe. Arrive today in Osaka and on arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in Kobe and sail this evening.

Day 3 Koraku-en & Kurashiki. From the port of Uno-Ko we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en, which translates as "Garden of pleasure after". This 17th century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a Japanese lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Kurashiki where we explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses painted white with traditional black tiles, along a canal framed with weeping willows

and filled with koi. There will also be the opportunity to visit the Ohara Museum of Art which includes rare works by Matisse, Picasso and Renoir as well as collections from Japan's mingei movement including ceramics by Hamada Shoji.

Day 4 Miyajima & Hiroshima.

Considered one of Japan's top scenic wonders, Miyajima provides a picture postcard vista of the scarlet Torii gate, the giant camphor wood gates at the entrance to the Shinto Shrine. We will use the vessel's Zodiacs to go ashore and explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses. The shrine is a designated World Heritage Site. Over lunch we sail to Hiroshima for our visit to the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the cenotaph which contains the names of all the known victims of the A-bomb and the permanently lit

"Flame of Peace". Just outside the park, the A-Bomb Dome is a haunting reminder of the destructive forces that were unleashed on the city being one of the few original buildings to survive. In the museum we will see photos, videos and victim's personal effects relating to the bomb.

Day 5 Uwajima. This morning we land on Shikoku Island and the port of Uwajima situated deep inside the saw-toothed coast of Uwajima Bay. The city of Uwajima is emerging as the nation's largest pearl cultivation centre. Learn the process of implanting, harvesting, extracting and sorting pearls on a visit to a pearl farm. We will also see Uwajima Castle, which is built on top of the hill with panoramic views over the town and harbour, Tensha-en Garden, built in the Samurai era and the Date Museum which exhibits items dedicated to the Date family, who ruled Uwajima from the castle for 250 years during the Tokugawa period.

Day 6 Yakushima. During our morning at sea we sail to the very south of Kyushu and the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993 and has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend the afternoon on a choice of nature walks in Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees, such as the Buddhasugi, Futagosugi and Sennensugi, which are over 3000 years old.

Day 7 Nagasaki & Dejima. Arrive this morning in Nagasaki, the second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War Two. We will tour the Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum and Dejima Island which was built during the Edo Period to accommodate

Portuguese Christian missionaries and prevent the propagation of their religion. It was also the residential quarters of the Dutch, the only foreigners allowed to trade in Japan during the Sakoku (Isolation) Period. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19th century, Dejima was its only window to the world. With the reopening of the port to Westerners in the latter half of the 19th century, Nagasaki flourished as a prosperous and sophisticated international city. Suitable housing was required for the sudden influx of foreigners who made their homes here. Many of the comfortable stone and clapboard residences that were built during this period survive today and are preserved in Glover Garden which we will visit this afternoon. The best known European-style residence here is Glover House. Built in 1863, it was the setting for Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly.

Day 8 Masan for Haeinsa, South Korea.

From our berth in Masan we head inland to the Haeinsa Temple. Regarded as one of the three great temples in Korea it was first settled in 802 A.D. and its name derives from a verse in a Buddhist Sutra as "reflections on a smooth sea". In the 13th century when Korea was at war with the Mongols, the government commissioned the Triptaka Koreana, a complete copy of Buddhist scriptures, in the hope of Buddha's intervention in the war. They were carved onto 81,258 double sided wooden blocks and stored on floor to ceiling shelves in the Janggyeong Panjeon building. We also visit the Daejokkwangjeon, the main worship hall of the temple. After lunch in a nearby restaurant we will return to Masan this afternoon, here you may want to visit the vibrant fish



Shukkeien Garden, Hiroshima



Sensoji Temple, Tokyo



Miyajima



Tombs, Kyongju

market selling the daily catch as well as dried and salted fish and seaweed and try a sample at one of the raw fish restaurants.

Day 9 Ulsan for Kyongju. Today we embark on a full-day excursion to magnificent Kyongju, a World Heritage Site, which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Kyongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunchtime, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

Day 10 Hagi, Japan. Hagi was a minor fishing port until Mori Terumoto fortified it in 1604 and it was Mori Samurai that helped spark off the anti-Tokugawa revolt in the mid-19th century. Today it is better known for its traditional pottery making traditions. On our morning tour we will explore the Teramachi district with its temples and shrines, the Jokamachi District,

where we find the old samurai houses and also take time to explore Hagi Castle, Shizuki Park and Tokoji Temple. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax or travel to the outskirts of the city and the Yoshika Taibi Memorial Museum which is dedicated to a large collection of Hagi-yaki pottery which was highly prized in the Edo Period as wares for tea ceremonies.

Day 11 Matsue. Called the 'town of water,' Matsue nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including the 17th century Matsue Castle before enjoying a boat ride on the local canals. This afternoon is free to relax or explore the town at leisure. Alternatively join a full day excursion visiting both Matsue Castle and the Adachi Museum of Art which is set in a beautiful natural environment and well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.

Day 12 Kanazawa. Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquer ware, outstanding collectable pottery of the Kutani

style, gold-leaf workmanship, delicate hand-painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm with old-fashioned street lamps and wooden-lattice windows hiding elegant restaurants and craft galleries. Around each bend is a traditional house, museum, art gallery, craft shop, historic samurai residence and even a geisha house to explore. The fascinating

open-air market displays a vast variety of items from flowers to fish and local handicrafts. Next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins is one of Japan's premier highlights, the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top three gardens. Enjoy a morning garden visit and an afternoon city walking tour.

Day 13 Sado Island. Sado is Japan's sixth largest island, made up of two parallel mountain chains, between which lies an extensive plain with small rice farms. In its early history, the island was a place of exile for intellectuals and political dissidents whilst in the Edo Period a rich gold mine was found. Sado Island is now famous for its premium quality rice and sake (rice wine), and is also the home base for the taiko drumming group, Kodo ("heartbeat"). During our full day call we will visit the Taiko centre to learn more about the history of the drums and visit the picturesque fishing village of Shukunegi, where over one hundred traditional Edo-period houses line the narrow streets. You may wish to take a ride aboard one of the unique local boats called tarai-bune. These circular wooden tub boats are rowed with a single oar and designed to be capable of tight turns in order to manoeuvre through the deeply indented shores of the island as locals head out to collect shellfish and seaweed.

Day 14 Niigata to Tokyo. Disembark this morning and take the bullet train to Tokyo. On arrival we enjoy an afternoon city tour including Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and the Imperial Palace Plaza. We then transfer to the New Otani hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 15 Tokyo to London. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London arriving this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£6995
Castle	Standard	£7295
Caledonian	Superior	£7795
Promenade	Premium	£8295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9495
Promenade	Owner's Corner Suite with balcony	£9995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9495
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, onboard team including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

NB. The ship will be at anchor at Miyajima and Zodiacs or tenders will be used to transport passengers ashore. In the event that we are unable to anchor off due to bad weather we will call into larger nearby ports where we are able to berth.

From New York to Nova Scotia

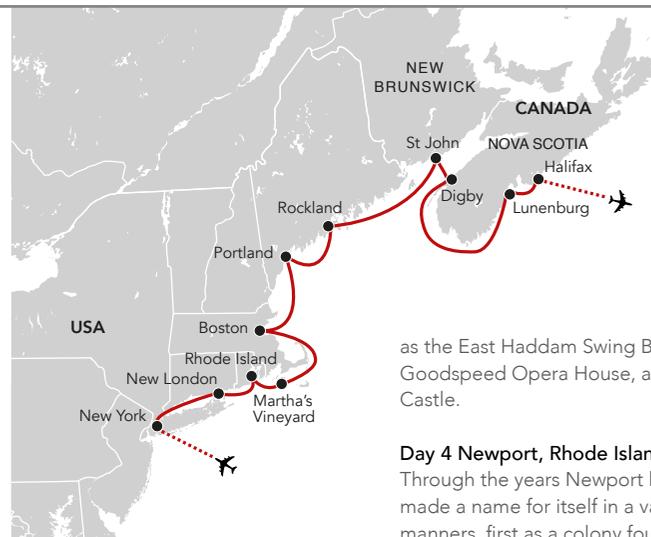
A voyage along America's East Coast to Canada aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
19th May to 1st June 2018

Join us for what promises to be a fascinating voyage from New York to Nova Scotia including the beautiful and dramatic coast of New England. We explore both charming coastal towns that boast the best preserved colonial architecture in North America and the sprawling metropolises of New York City and Boston, brimming with culture, history and entertainment. There is plenty for nature lovers too from the rich flora and fauna along the Connecticut River Valley to the great natural beauty of the Canadian Maritimes.

We begin our journey in the iconic city of New York from where we have the added advantage of an overnight mooring allowing you to perhaps take in a show on Broadway or dine ashore. Setting sail from New York, to name just a few highlights, we visit Martha's Vineyard, filled with charming shops, restaurants and glorious beaches upon which to take a gentle stroll and Boston, elegant and sophisticated, with cobbled streets and turn of the century homes. From here we discover Cambridge, with its plethora of arts and culture, a seat of learning like its English namesake before a relaxing journey north takes us to Portland where we explore the fascinating history of this region that played such an influential role in the settlement of the British and eventually their expulsion. We continue along the rugged and beautiful coastline of the sprawling state of Maine where we call into the charming ports of Portland and Rockland.

Upon reaching Maritime Canada we witness a slower pace of life and one that honours land and sea with a cultural mix of early French, Irish, Scottish and English influences. We will visit the expansive coastal wilderness and birdlife of the Fundy Trail, the charming countryside and vineyards of the Annapolis Valley and the picturesque village of Lunenburg, in Nova Scotia, the region's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. Nestled on a hilly peninsula, this 19th century village is known for its shipbuilding, seafaring expertise and its natural beauty. We end our cruise in the bustling city of Halifax with its pretty waterfront area and centuries-old maritime heritage.

Cliff Walk Mansion, Newport, Rhode Island



as the East Haddam Swing Bridge, Goodspeed Opera House, and Gillette Castle.

Day 4 Newport, Rhode Island.

Through the years Newport has made a name for itself in a variety of manners, first as a colony founded on religious freedom, later as the summer playground for the American socialite families including Kennedy and Eisenhower, also as a key location for the United States Navy, and then as the yachting centre it is today. A principal 18th century port city, Newport now boasts amongst the highest number of surviving colonial builds of any city in the United States. Our morning tour will explore the opulent Oceanside mansions including the Breakers and Marble house designed for the Vanderbilts in the late 19th century. We return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore independently.

Day 5 Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

Over a century ago, Martha's Vineyard was one of the world's most important whaling centres. Today, its picturesque landscape of fishing villages and beautiful beaches is home to local, summertime and celebrity residents. On a morning tour we will visit the village of West Tisbury, see the 'gingerbread cottages' of Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, an architectural gem of 18th and 19th century sea captains' houses and other historic buildings. Later, you will have the opportunity to stroll along the harbour or discover the town's fine boutiques and restaurants.

Day 6 Boston, Massachusetts.

This morning we explore Boston and Cambridge. Founded in 1630 as the first seat of government for the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Cambridge has developed into an international community, merging history, education, arts and culture. Stroll the historically elegant Brattle Street with its outstanding collection of

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to New York, America.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. We will remain moored overnight and so have the whole evening to enjoy this iconic city.

Day 2 New York.

This morning enjoy the city highlights of Manhattan as we pass the Empire State building, Central Park and Times Square. The afternoon is free to explore independently. Maybe visit the legendary artists and writers' quarter of Greenwich Village, enjoy shopping on Fifth Avenue, visit one of the world famous galleries such as the Guggenheim in the Upper East Side or the Museum of Natural History. If you prefer to escape from the hubbub, enjoy a stroll around Central Park or along the Highline. We will set sail this evening after dinner. To stand on deck whilst we sail out of New York City past the Statue of Liberty is a truly breathtaking experience.

Day 3 New London, Connecticut.

Arrive this morning into the lovely sea port city of New London. It was founded in 1646 by John Winthrop Jr, who led the first English to settle here and is named after our very own capital city of England. On our tour today we will join the Essex steam train followed by a cruise on a river boat and both rides will showcase the blooming flora and fauna along the Connecticut River Valley, enjoy close up views of wildlife in the tidal wetlands of Pratt Cove and Chester Creek and see historic sites such



Portland Head Lighthouse, Maine



Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Tory mansions including the Longfellow House National Historic Site, a treasure chest of historic artefacts. In Boston, visit the Old North Church, where Paul Revere began his famous ride, and discover the Beacon Hill neighbourhood, with lovely turn-of-the-century homes and cobblestone streets.

Day 7 Portland, Maine. Arrive this morning into Portland's historic Old Port district brimming with charming boutiques and quaint cafes. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow immortalized Portland when he wrote 'My Lost Youth.' We will enjoy a tour of the city highlights including a stop at the Portland Head Light, America's first lighthouse. It was commissioned by George Washington and built in 1787 to guard what was then the state's busiest harbour. The Old Port Exchange with its cobblestone streets is the core of the cultural revival that extends to the art district with its marvellous museum and art school. Alternatively, we hope to be able to offer a full day tour to the summit of Mount Washington, offering spectacular views, spanning the mountains and valleys of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont and north into Canada.

Day 8 Rockland, Maine. Called Catawanteak, meaning "great landing place" by the Abenaki Indians, Rockland harbour is one of the finest shipping and recreational boating harbours on the East Coast. Rockland combines historic preservation with chic stores and is a great place to spend a day. On a morning tour our local Rockland guide will inform us of the history of this harbour town as we visit the highlights including the famous Farnsworth Art Museum including the permanent collection called "Maine in America," which focuses on Maine artists and The Wyeth Centre. After the tour you may wish to return to the ship or alternatively continue to Sharp's Point South Marina, situated on the grounds of the historic Snow Shipyard, where before the turn of the

last century, more schooners were built than anywhere in New England. Upon arrival watch the unveiling of a traditional, old-fashioned lobster bake luncheon and enjoy music performed by a local band while you dine before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky and setting sail for Canada.

Day 9 St John, New Brunswick, Canada. Arrive this morning into St John, the only city on the shore of the Bay of Fundy and home to the world's highest tides. Saint John is Canada's first incorporated city, a celebrated wooden shipbuilding centre with a colourful history. Today, the quaint "Uptown" area is laden with Victorian-influenced architecture, brick walkways, historic churches, town squares and flowers blooming around old-fashioned lamp posts. On our morning tour we will have the opportunity to see the Reversing Rapids, a unique phenomenon created by the collision of the Bay of Fundy's monstrous tides and the mighty St John River. After lunch choose to discover St John at leisure or join a scenic drive to the picturesque hamlet of St Martins, an area of great natural beauty and the gateway to the Fundy Trail, the last undeveloped stretch of wilderness coast in North America. Famous for its red cliffs, echo caves and birdwatching there will be time to explore the area before we return to the ship.

Day 10 Digby, Nova Scotia. Arrive this morning into Digby, a small town nestled in a protected inlet off the Bay of Fundy. Digby will be our base for today and from where we will visit the Annapolis Valley, an area of great natural beauty and rich history, including the expulsion in 1755 of the Acadians, descendants of French colonists. The main breadbasket for colonial Canada, it still produces much of Nova Scotia's fresh produce and with a climate and soil that favours unique and distinctive grape varieties, Annapolis Valley is now producing several of Canada's award winning

wines. We will visit one of the wineries and enjoy a tasting before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 11 Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. After a relaxing morning at sea we will arrive into Lunenburg during lunch. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour through the UNESCO World Heritage awarded town of Lunenburg. Established in 1753, the Old Town is the best surviving example of a planned British colonial settlement in North America. Named in honour of King George II who was also the Duke of Braunschweig-Lunenburg, the architecture of this seaside town reflects a strong European influence due to the settlement of 'Foreign Protestants' from Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. We visit stunning historical buildings and stately heritage homes as we explore the Old Town and visit the aquarium at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.

Day 12 Halifax. The capital of Nova Scotia and the largest city in Canada's

Atlantic Provinces, Halifax was once Great Britain's major military bastion in North America. The beautifully restored waterfront buildings of Halifax's Historic Properties recall the city's centuries-old maritime heritage. Our morning tour will include the Halifax citadel which lies on a natural drumlin overlooking the entire city with superb views of the harbour. Explore the restored barrack, magazine and corridors before continuing to the Fairview Lawn Cemetery where 121 victims of the Titanic disaster are buried and finally see the Victorian Public Gardens, an oasis in the centre of the bustling city. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax on board or return to further explore Halifax.

Day 13 Halifax to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

Day 14 London. Arrive this morning.

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Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: Please note that we will be at anchor at the following ports and will use local boats to tender ashore: Newport, Martha's Vineyard, Rockland, Digby and Lunenburg.



“

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore. Dream. Discover.

Mark Twain

”





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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.