

SMALL SHIP CRUISING IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN

ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY & MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

MAY, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2025



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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DEAR TRAVELLER

Small Ship Cruising in the Mediterranean with Noble Caledonia

We are delighted to present this new collection of small ship cruises in the Mediterranean aboard our Sky vessels for 2025. For those contemplating a cruise in the Mediterranean, there is the choice of travelling on board one of the vast new 5000 plus passenger vessels which offer every conceivable facility or you can opt for a journey aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky or MS Hebridean Sky which accommodate just over 100 passengers, and offer good food and knowledgeable staff who make your cruise not only a holiday, but an educational voyage of discovery.

We have carefully designed our itineraries to combine some 'must-see' sites together with some smaller places that are totally unsuitable for vessels larger than ours. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at moments like this we can be thankful that owing to our size we are able to visit atmospheric ports and towns which the big ships cannot access. We will discover some charming ports and timeless islands with their aura of history, unique island lifestyles and spectacular beauty which will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean. In many locations we are able to moor centrally and therefore in addition to our included, guided shore excursions, we have ensured that whenever possible, you have some time to discover the destination independently if you wish. After a day of discovery, you can then join different people each evening and discuss the day's adventures over dinner.

With a maximum of just over 100 fellow, like-minded travellers on board, there is no queuing to disembark 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. Our cruises are researched and planned to enable you to explore fascinating sights in the company of local guides and whilst on board you will be 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. In addition, the friendly, attentive crew together with our Captain and Officers, do their utmost to make each day a rewarding experience.

Our ultimate aim when planning our schedules for the Skys is to create travel experiences that are enriching, memorable and highly enjoyable and believe we have achieved this with the journeys detailed in this brochure.

We look forward to welcoming you on board.

Yours sincerely

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 onboard 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



Cathedral, Palma de Mallorca



Dining on the Lido Deck



MS ISLAND SKY & MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

Noble Caledonia is very fortunate to have two of the finest small ships in the world, the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. These ex-Renaissance Cruises sister vessels are not only two of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships, but also two of the friendliest and most efficiently run. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, vessels of their size are capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky benefit from unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks. Our crews of just over 75, 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.



The Restaurant (MS Hebridean Sky)



Observation Deck (MS Hebridean Sky)



The Lounge (MS Hebridean Sky)



Corner Suite with Deck Access (MS Island Sky)

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies (suites on the Marco Polo Deck aboard the MS Island Sky feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities from your suite and quick access to the deck). The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessels conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring 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, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin (with the exception of suites 601 and 602 on board the MS Hebridean Sky which feature a fixed double bed).

The impressive Island Suite aboard the MS Island Sky and the Hebridean Suite aboard the MS Hebridean Sky feature an extra large balcony stretching the length of the suite. Additional features of these marvellous suites include complimentary minibar stocked with your preference of beverages and complimentary laundry.



Deluxe Balcony Suite (MS Island Sky)



Premium Suite with deck access (MS Island Sky)



The Library (MS Island Sky)

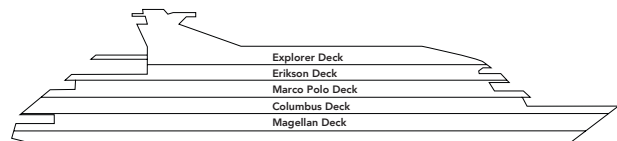
Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board is of a consistent superior quality that befits such vessels. 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. 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, and the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. You may also enjoy sumptuous barbeques on deck whilst at times, the chef will make your dish to order at special pasta or stir fry stations. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place every day in the comfort of the Lounge. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner and there is also a comprehensive wine list with a wide selection of new and old world wines from which to choose.

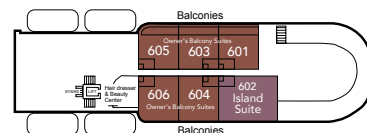
Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge 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 and for your convenience, it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your suite.

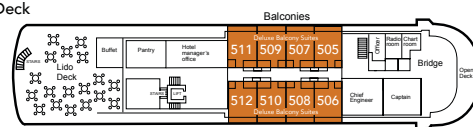
MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



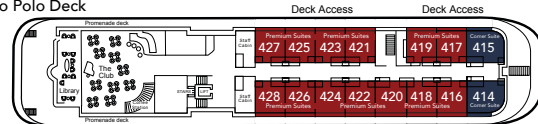
Explorer Deck



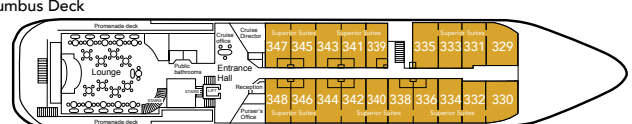
Erikson Deck



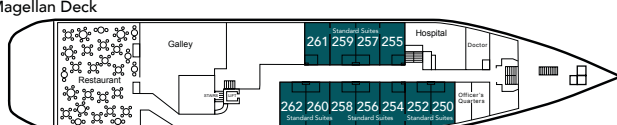
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



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

In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, which features the main bar and a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship 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 something to read on board. A collection of games as well as devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the Library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (signal strength varies depending on location and demand). Further to this on the top deck there is an observation area, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing outstanding views.

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 where high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day.

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the 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.

There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. 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.

For your Comfort, Security & Safety

Our vessels are equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimise 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 find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks.

Our All Inclusive Policy

On board the MS Island 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. We also include shore excursions, drinks with meals on board and complimentary Wi-Fi.



Deluxe Balcony Suite (MS Hebridean Sky)

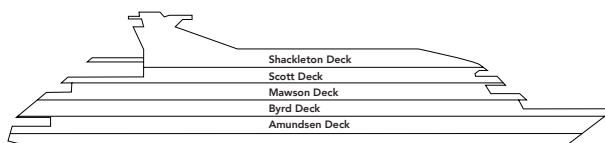


Superior Suite (MS Hebridean Sky)

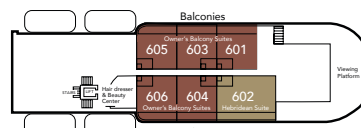


The Club (MS Hebridean Sky)

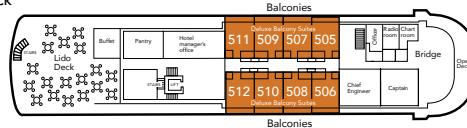
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



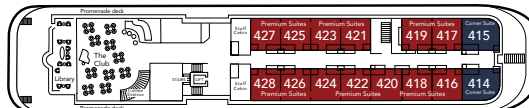
Shackleton Deck



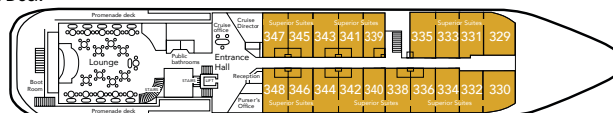
Scott Deck



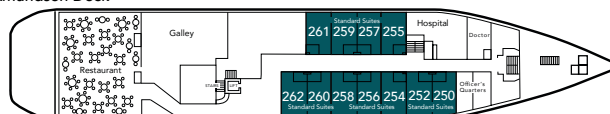
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



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

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

HISTORIC TOWNS & GARDENS OF ITALY

A voyage from Naples to Malta aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Caroline Holmes

7th to 15th May 2025

Join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky for this new springtime voyage around Southern Italy and Sicily as we immerse ourselves in the many horticultural and cultural splendours of the region. The combined effect of the natural beauty of the coast and gardens along with the intriguing history and stunning architecture of the towns and cities makes for a most appealing springtime journey and offers a very different experience to that which can be undertaken aboard the larger cruise liners in the region. May is a wonderful month for our voyage and we can expect verdant gardens, landscapes awash with blossoms, moderate temperatures and all with the absence of high season crowds.

On most days during our voyage there will be a choice of included tours which you can choose from depending on your interest or perhaps based upon where you have visited before. From Naples you can explore the magnificent site of Herculaneum or the wonderful La Mortella garden on Ischia, whilst in Catania you may wish to visit the slopes of Mount Etna or explore the gardens of the villa of Princess Borghese, and in Syracuse you can visit the Archaeological Park or enjoy a private visit to the gardens of the Marquis of San Giuliano. Other highlights of our itinerary include the impressive Greek theatre at Taormina, the fascinating site at Paestum founded by the Greeks in 600 BC and the beautiful gardens located on the ruins of the old city of Ninfa.

With just over 100 or so fellow, like-minded travellers and an expert team on board, together with informative local guides, you will have seen and learnt so much upon arrival in Malta at the end of our voyage. All will be achieved with great ease from the comfort of the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky which has the advantage of being able to access many of the region's ports which the big ships simply cannot.



GUEST SPEAKER – CAROLINE HOLMES



Caroline Holmes is a garden historian of places, people and plants, a speaker, author of 12 books, TV and radio broadcaster and consultant designer who specialises in evoking historic, artistic and symbolic references. She has travelled extensively across, researched in and written on France and Italy, both rich sources of the harmony we find in architecture, gardens and music. Caroline has been a speaker on every continent except Antarctica, she is a lecturer for The Arts Society and is a Course Director for the University of Cambridge's ICE International Summer Programme exploring English Houses and Gardens. She has lectured on many specialist tours around Florence, Siena and Rome. Garden design consultancies include: Humanist Renaissance inspired gardens for Notre Dame de Calais; Knots, Orchards and Operatic Borders for the Royal Opera House at High House, Essex; and devising the plantings and lore for the Poison Garden in The Alnwick Garden, Northumberland. She has devised two theatrical productions celebrating gardens *Impressionists in their Gardens – living light and colour* and *How does your garden grow Mr. Shakespeare?*



Paestum



Angevin Aragonese Castle, Gaeta



Stromboli



Ninfa Gardens

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London or Manchester to Naples, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation.

Day 2 Naples, Herculaneum & Ischia. From our berth in Naples we see the Norman castle that protects the port and the backdrop of Mount Vesuvius in the distance. There will be a choice of tours today including a visit to Herculaneum, a wealthy Roman town which was completely submerged by volcanic mud following the 79 AD eruption of Vesuvius. Since its rediscovery in 1709, excavations have revealed beautiful public baths, villas and gardens of noble families, decorated with murals and floor mosaics, and the remains of a theatre. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon to explore the vibrant city of Naples at your own pace. Alternatively, on a full day tour, we will use the local ferry to visit the island of Ischia. Here our focus will be on "La Mortella", a wonderful garden designed by architect Russell Page for Lord and Lady William Walton. Divided into two parts called the Valley and Upper Garden, the areas are linked by a network of paths and inviting walks from where you can enjoy the breathtaking views of the Bay of Forio. Spread over two hectares there are fountains, ponds, streams and scattered everywhere are water-loving plants. Lunch will be served on the island before we return by ferry to Naples.

Day 3 Gaeta & Ninfa Gardens. Sail this morning into Gaeta, a pretty town built on the slopes of Monte Orlando. Populated since the 9th century BC the town grew during the Roman Empire as a seaside retreat for the elite. Surrounded by the mighty walls of the Angevin Aragonese Castle, Gaeta's historic centre is a collection of narrow streets and small porticoes dominated by the 12th century Duomo. Choose to stay and explore the town or join a full day tour which visits the beautiful gardens located on the ruins of the old city of Ninfa. Founded by the Romans, the city grew as part of the pope's estates in the middle ages. Taken over by the Caetani family in the 16th century, the town was gradually abandoned due to the expansion of the surrounding marshes and the arrival of malaria. Left neglected for centuries it was in 1921 that Gelasio Caetani began to transform the gardens around the ruins of the old city. He planted species gathered from his travels abroad that survived in the microclimate benefiting from the location between the coast and mountains. Today

jasmine and wisteria wind over ruined towers and walls, rejoicing in the lush damp conditions. The setting is indescribably atmospheric, with roses scrambling for footholds in ruined archways, and the frescoed church wall still standing open to the weather.

Day 4 Salerno, Paestum & Cilento. Overnight we will have sailed around the Amalfi coast to the ancient city of Salerno, our gateway to the Cilento region, a mix of small villages, coastal paths, archaeological sites, national parks and renowned as the home of the Mediterranean diet. Maybe choose to visit the site of Paestum, which was founded by Greeks in 600 BC. This well preserved and fascinating site was rediscovered in 1752 and during our time we will see the impressive Temple of Poseidon, the Basilica, Amphitheatre and Aethenian before spending some time in the museum, adjacent to the site. Alternatively, learn about one of the region's main exports as we visit a farm to hear about the production of the local Mozzarella di Bufala or enjoy a tasting at one of the Cilento vineyards.

Day 5 Vibo Valentia, Tropea & Stromboli. Arrive this morning into the Calabrian town of Vibo Valentia. Founded as a Greek colony, known as Hipponion and part of Magna Graecia, the town has since been under the rule of the Brutti, Romans, Normans, Arabs and Byzantines. This morning we can explore the Medieval historical centre which is dominated by the ancient Norman Castle, which now houses the state archaeological museum and the bell tower of San Michele. Later, we drive to nearby Tropea, a cliff-top village voted one of the most beautiful in Italy. As we explore the historical centre we see the Norman Cathedral before continuing to the Sanctuary of Santa Maria dell'Isola, an 11th century chapel originally built on an island but now connected to the town by a causeway. We will also try the town's famous delicacy of sweet red onions. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we sail to Stromboli, the 'Lighthouse of the Mediterranean'. Enjoy dinner on board and, if weather permits, we hope to view the eruptions from the island's active volcano. *Please note that we may be at anchor this morning and if so will use the onboard Zodiacs or local tenders to go ashore.*

Day 6 Messina for Taormina, Sicily. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination



Mosaics at Herculaneum



Saint Agata Cathedral, Catania



Taormina

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. For those who wish to enjoy longer here you will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and spend an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 7 Catania & Mount Etna. This morning we arrive in Catania. The architecture here is particularly impressive but a little forbidding, being mainly constructed from black lava stone from Mount Etna. On a morning walking tour during which we will see the magnificent Piazza del Duomo which is a World Heritage Site, St Agatha's Cathedral and the imposing 13th century Castello Ursino. Alternatively, leave the city as we drive to the slopes of Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Our drive will take us past scenic countryside, small towns and vineyards before arriving at the Silvestri Craters that were created by the eruption of 1892. Located approximately 2,000 metres above sea level, we will walk along a comfortable path from which there is a wonderful view of the coast and then take a stroll on the lava stream with our guide. A final option will drive south to Lentini, which was founded in 729 BC by the Greeks, as we make our way to the Contrada Biviere and the villa of Princess Borghese. During a tour of the gardens we can see palms, cheerful blue jacaranda, Parkinsonia, old roses and an unusual sprawling Xanthorrea arborea which faces the Sant'Andrea chapel.

Day 8 Syracuse. Our last day is spent in Syracuse which was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean, rivalling Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. This morning you may choose to visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park to discover the well-preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius' – a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. Alternatively, enjoy a private visit to the gardens of the Marquis of San Giuliano. Set in 60 hectares and divided into 'rooms' we can see the Mediterranean, Arabian and Tropical gardens, the lawned park and enclosed courtyards. We can walk under vine covered pergolas and along mosaic paths all whilst enjoying the views towards Mount Etna in the distance. The afternoon is free to explore Syracuse at our own pace before we sail this evening.

Day 9 Valletta, Malta to London or Manchester. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight.

Post-cruise Malta Extension 15th to 17th May 2025



Valletta

If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay in Valletta.

THE ITINERARY

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

Day 2 Mdina. A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Citta Nobile", and it is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Spend the afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Valletta to London or Manchester. Check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£1145**

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Amundsen	Standard	£5595	£5295
Byrd	Superior	£5795	£5495
Mawson	Premium	£5995	£5695
Mawson	Corner	£6295	£5995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6995	£6695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7395	£7095
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6795	£6495

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.



ART & HISTORY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

A voyage from Malaga to Marseille aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Dr Steve Kershaw

16th to 26th September 2025

Join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky and set sail across the Mediterranean spending time in Spain, Mallorca, Menorca and France for what promises to be an informative and relaxing journey discovering the artistic, historical and cultural gems of the region. We have timed our nine night voyage for September when just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites.

Following an overnight stay in Malaga with time to discover the history and art of the city, we will embark the MS Hebridean Sky and set sail. Our explorations in Spain will include the naval port of Cartagena with its fine Roman remains and the historic city of Tarragona in Catalonia, a veritable museum-town with remains of all the civilisations that have crossed the Iberian Peninsula. We will also discover the Medieval town of Figueres, the birthplace of Salvador Dali and in the Dali Theatre Museum we can view many of his surrealistic works; to balance the day the afternoon will be spent in the Graeco-Roman site of Empuries. Other highlights will include time spent on the islands of Menorca and Mallorca and upon arriving in the South of France we will explore the 'Cote Vermeille' or rocky coast, one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean which has inspired some of the world's most famous artists. Finally, from Marseille you can choose to discover Aix en Provence, renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne, to view many of the painter's most celebrated works, or to spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes.

We have devised the schedule for our voyage to include daily guided excursions with excellent local guides along with a choice of tours in many ports of call, as well as time at leisure in some of the charming towns. This itinerary with its eclectic mix of picturesque places is exactly the type of journey normally undertaken by private yachts and the 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky is ideal for the purpose, taking us to some of the loveliest places in the Mediterranean.



GUEST SPEAKER – DR STEVE KERSHAW



Dr Steve Kershaw is a tutor in Classics for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society and lectures for the Victoria and Albert Museum's Early Medieval: 300 - 1250 and The Classical World and Classical Revivals courses. His publications include *The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology*, *A Brief History of the Roman Empire and Barbarians: Rebellion and Resistance to Rome*. Steve is the author and tutor

for Oxford University's online courses in Greek Mythology, The Fall of Rome, and Minoans and Mycenaeans. In 2016 he appeared as an Expert Contributor to The History Channel's *Barbarians Rising* series, and he has travelled widely in the world of the Greeks and Romans, both physically and intellectually.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Malaga, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 2 Malaga. After breakfast in the hotel a morning tour will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. With its mix of Renaissance and Gothic styles it has been declared a national landmark. Alternatively, our Picasso tour will start in La Merced Plaza to view the house where he was born before we continue to the Museo Picasso which contains over 200 pieces of his works. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in the city. Sail this evening.

Day 3 Cartagena. In the early afternoon we arrive in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. 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 Theatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 4 Valencia. A morning walking tour will explore this vibrant city and visit some of the fine Baroque buildings including the 15th century Gothic Silk Exchange and the old 'El Carmen' quarter where we see the Cathedral. Construction of the cathedral began in the 13th century but took nearly 300 years to complete and is a fascinating mix of Gothic, Baroque and

Renaissance styles. Alternately, visit the Fine Arts Museum, one of the best in Spain with works by Valencian, Flemish and Spanish masters including Van Dyck, Goya and Velazquez as well as interesting archaeological pieces. Later we visit the Colegio del Patriarca with its wonderful Renaissance courtyard, church and museum with works including The Last Supper by Ribalta. The afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace.

Day 5 Palma de Mallorca & Valldemossa, Mallorca. Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under the control of Carthage, the principal North African city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. This morning there is a choice of tours. Join us as we drive to Valldemossa, a quiet and traditional town with narrow streets and lanes constructed with blonde stone. Each doorway and street is lined with beautiful green plants and flowers making the town one of the most beautiful in Mallorca. Popular with artists, we can see some of the studios during a walking tour which will include the 13th century monastery linked with the composer Frederic Chopin, who lived here during the winter of 1838-39. Alternatively, explore Palma including the cathedral, Spain's second largest Gothic church, before we continue to the lovely Plaza Mayor. Later take in the impressive views from Bellver Castle, a unique structure in Spain due to the fact that the building is entirely round. For many centuries the castle was used as a prison but today it houses Palma's History Museum containing artefacts and pottery from the Talaiotic, Roman, Arab and Spanish periods. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace.

Day 6 Mahon, Menorca. Over breakfast we arrive in Menorca, the most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism. This morning choose to join an island drive including the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago before making our way to aristocratic Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca. Situated at the head of a long channel from the sea, the city has had its share of disputes over sovereignty, and its character reflects the influence of Moorish, Turkish and Spanish rule. Alternatively, enjoy a few hours exploring the pretty harbour town of Mahon at your own pace before we sail in the early afternoon.

Day 7 Tarragona. During the second Punic War in 218 AD the city of Tarraco was established as a garrison which developed into the main military base for the Roman army in Spain. Today we can still see remnants of the Roman period as we explore the city by foot. See the impressive walls that once surrounded the city, the 2nd century amphitheatre and the Roman Circus where chariot races were held. After lunch on board there will be time to explore more of Tarragona at your leisure.

Day 8 Palamos, Figueres & Empuries. Arriving on the Costa Brava and the port of Palamos, we travel inland to Medieval Figueres, an impressive town of Modernist and Neoclassical architecture that is most renowned as the birthplace of Salvador Dali. Our tour includes the impressive 18th century castle of St Ferran and the old city walls before continuing to the Dali Theatre Museum. Designed by Dali himself, the museum takes us through the life of the artist. After lunch in the city you can choose to return to the ship and spend the afternoon at leisure or drive along the coast to the archaeological site of Empuries. Founded by Greek merchants in the 6th century BC as Emporion, it became a major port. In 218 BC the town was taken by the Romans who built an even greater city above the Greek town.

Day 9 Port Vendres, France. The 'Cote Vermeille', or rocky coast, is one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean and has inspired some of the world's most famous artists. We will drive the short distance to Collioure which has always been a source of inspiration for artists. Here we will have time to explore the colourful streets and visit the local artist studios and the 12th century Royal Castle. This afternoon choose to explore the historic town of Port Vendres independently or join a tour to the charming town of Ceret located in the foothills of the Vallespir Mountains. After a walking tour of the town we visit the wonderful Musee d'art Moderne containing works from Picasso, Chagall and Dali as well as pieces drawn in Collioure by Matisse.

Day 10 Marseille for Aix en Provence & Avignon. From our berth in Marseille, we will offer a choice of excursions today. You can choose to head inland to Aix en Provence which was founded by the Romans in the 1st century and is renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will



Port Vendres



Valldemossa

visit his studio which still houses his equipment and the objects he used for models and the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' which is located on the heights of Aix en Provence, a few hundred metres from the Atelier Cezanne. It is famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant we will spend some time in Aix with its leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Alternatively spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe, built in the 14th century as a fortified palace for the pontifical court. We also visit the cathedral and the famous Pont Saint-Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon, and the Pont du Gard, one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19 BC in order to provide the city of Nimes with fresh water from the Uzès area.

Day 11 Marseille to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our 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
Amundsen	Standard	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior	£6195	£5895
Mawson	Premium	£6395	£6095
Mawson	Corner	£6595	£6295
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6695
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7295	£6995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795	£7495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6995	£6695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7195	£6895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Malaga with breakfast • Dinner on day 1 • Lunch on day 2 • Nine nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

SEPTEMBER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Island Hopping from Gibraltar to Rome aboard the MS Island Sky with Guest Speaker Major General Patrick Cordingley

23rd September to 1st October 2025

The seas between Gibraltar and Italy offer access to a wealth of ancient sites, unspoiled islands and traditional towns and during this delightful voyage we will focus on the islands spending time on Mallorca, Menorca, Sardinia, Corsica and Elba. This itinerary with its eclectic mix of picturesque places is exactly the type of journey normally undertaken by private yachts and the 118-passenger MS Island Sky is ideal for the purpose, taking us to some of the loveliest places in the Mediterranean.

We have ensured that each day has an enjoyable mix of culture with some time at leisure to explore under your own steam or time relaxing at sea.

Added to our fascinating itinerary we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at moments like this we can be thankful that with just over 100 fellow, like minded travellers, we are able to visit atmospheric ports and towns which the big ships cannot access. We will discover timeless islands with their aura of history, unique island lifestyles and spectacular beauty which will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean.

Late September is the perfect time for our voyage when the crowds of August have dispersed and the weather is ideal for touring. There will be ample time to relax on board as we sail between our ports of call during which time you will be able to attend the informative talks by our onboard Guest Speaker.



GUEST SPEAKER – MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK CORDINGLEY



Patrick commanded the Desert Rats during the 1991 Gulf War. His huge tank formation led the British and American attack, which breached the Iraqi defences. In 1992 he took command of the 2nd UK Division before being appointed as the military adviser to Sultan Qaboos of Oman. Patrick retired from the Army in 2000 and then completed eight years as chairman of a technology company. During this time he also worked for the BBC as a military commentator. He is now chairman of the Defence and Security Forum, past chairman of the trustees of the Gilbert White's House with the Oates Collection, the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal, past Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers and past chairman and vice-chairman of the governors of two schools. He was a visiting scholar at Hull University, where he is a Doctor of Science. He is the author of two best selling books.

THE ITINERARY

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

Day 2 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we start our journey across the Mediterranean.

Day 3 Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca. Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under the control of Carthage, the principal North African 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 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, runs through 13 tunnels and crosses several bridges. There will be some time to explore Soller before taking a scenic drive to the village of Valldemossa, a quiet and traditional town with narrow streets and lanes. We will take a walk around the town followed by lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Palma where we will have time to explore at our own pace and perhaps take the opportunity to visit the impressive Gothic style cathedral.

Day 4 Mahon, Menorca. Over breakfast we arrive in Menorca, the most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism. The

island offers pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. This morning choose to join an island drive including the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago before making our way to aristocratic Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca. Situated at the head of a long channel from the sea, the city has had its share of disputes over sovereignty, and its character reflects the influence of Moorish, Turkish and Spanish rule. We have the afternoon at leisure in the pretty harbour town of Mahon before we sail this evening.

Day 5 Porto Torres for Alghero, Sardinia. After a morning at sea we arrive in Sardinia at Porto Torres. A panoramic drive takes us to Nuraghe Palmavera with its main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling that dates back to 1100 BC. The complex, which was abandoned in the 5th century BC due to fire, shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. Continue to the Medieval city of Alghero which was colonised by the Catalans in the 14th century. Today there is still a strong Catalan identity throughout the town and it is often even referred to as "Barceloneta". There will be some free time to walk through the Medieval streets and along the city walls or maybe visit the archaeological museum.

Day 6 Bonifacio, Corsica. Be on deck this morning as we arrive in Corsica at Bonifacio's stunning natural harbour. Well known by Odysseus



as the home of the savage and giant laestrygonians, today Bonifacio's breathtaking clifftop setting and relaxed pace make it one of the most welcoming ports in the Mediterranean. On our morning tour we will explore the narrow streets and the historical heart of the town. We will discover the Bosco quarter with the St Francis Convent, the 14th century church of St Marie Majeure and take in the views from the clifftop on which the city is built. Afterwards maybe take a walk in the nearby Marine Park which offers some stunning views back to the town.

Day 7 Bastia & St Florent. Situated on the north of the island of Corsica, Bastia was the old Genoese capital and is now a busy port. Its setting is handsome, the classic Mediterranean allure of pale, sunlit streets flanked with tall colourful buildings. Our walking tour of the historic quarter will include the 15th century cathedral, chapels and Baroque buildings such as the Oratoire St Roch, Oratoire de l'Immaculee Conception and the Roccoco church, St Jean Baptiste, famous for its twin campaniles. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon or maybe join an excursion to the small fishing port of St Florent. Our drive will take us through the Nebbio which takes its name from the thick mist that sweeps over the region and is now reputed for its fine wines from Patrimonio. On arrival in St Florent we will have time to wander the maze of narrow streets and take a coffee in one of the waterfront cafes whilst watching the yachts in the marina.

Day 8 Portoferraio, Elba, Italy. Today we call into the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing from 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 which was the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte and has been transformed into a museum. Later enjoy some time at leisure in Porto Azzurro with its picturesque harbour. Our drive continues along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa, which is beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. As any self-respecting mansion on Elba, La Chiusa claims to have once housed Napoleon during his exile here. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced and in the estate's garden facing the sea we will enjoy a delicious sampling of the local wine. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.

Day 9 Civitavecchia to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Rome airport for the return scheduled flight.

Pre-cruise Gibraltar Extension 21st to 23rd September 2025



If you would like to spend some time in Gibraltar before embarking the MS Island Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay including a half day tour.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Gibraltar. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to The Rock Hotel for a two night stay. Meet this evening for dinner. (D)

Day 2 Gibraltar. Enjoy a day at leisure for independent exploration. Maybe take the cable car up the famous rock, see the Botanical Gardens or visit the Garrison Library. (B)

Day 3 Gibraltar. This morning during our guided tour we will discover this strategic British outpost in the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783. Also see the Gibraltar Museum. After lunch transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795**; Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Rock Hotel in Gibraltar, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch), half day tour, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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	£5595	£5295
Columbus	Superior	£5795	£5495
Marco Polo	Premium	£5995	£5695
Marco Polo	Corner	£6295	£5995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6795	£6495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£6995	£6695
Explorer	Island Suite	£7395	£7095
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6795	£6495

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

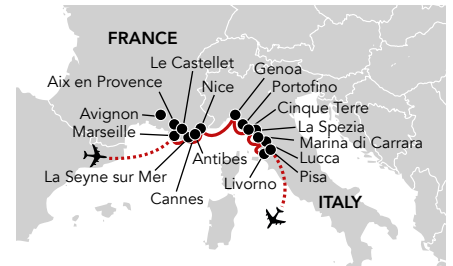
LATE SUMMER IN THE FRENCH & ITALIAN RIVIERAS

A voyage between Marseille & Livorno aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Rear Admiral Roy Clare

26th September to 5th October 2025

The British love affair with the French and Italian Rivieras dates back to the 18th century and the days of the Grand Tour. It is not surprising when you consider the charms on offer ranging from stunning coastal scenery, artistic gems, charming villages and atmospheric harbour towns coupled with the wonderful late summer climate.

Join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky in the cosmopolitan port city of Marseille, our gateway to discover the artistic riches of Aix en Provence or to explore Avignon, the great City of the Popes with its Palais des Papes, one of the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. We will then call into the pretty Provençal maritime town of La Seyne sur Mer for a stroll around the picturesque harbour and a boat trip around the hidden bays of Les Calanques. Continuing along the Côte d'Azur, we call into Cannes for our visit to the beautiful resort town of Antibes before sailing the short distance to Nice with its old-world opulence and stunning seaside location.



Upon reaching the Italian Riviera we call into the Ligurian capital of Genoa, rich in maritime history and an archaeological heritage that speaks of its former glory and where we have arranged an exclusive evening visit to a private palazzo for a classical concert. From Genoa we will also visit Portofino with its colourful harbour. In addition, we have included the picturesque region of Cinque Terre 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. 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.

GUEST SPEAKER – REAR ADMIRAL ROY CLARE



Drawing on a lifetime at sea and twenty years' experience heading world-class collections in two leading institutions - north and south of the equator - Roy brings a unique combination of deep professional insight and a passion for history. He served worldwide in the Royal Navy, from Junior Seaman to Rear Admiral. He was second in command to His Majesty King Charles III in HMS Bronington in 1976. His own commands included destroyers, the aircraft carrier Invincible and Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He took early retirement from the navy in 2000 to become the Director (CEO) of the National Maritime Museum, Queen's House and Royal Observatory, Greenwich. Later, he became the Director (CEO) of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, New Zealand. Currently, he is a non-executive director and trustee of several charities. An active yachtsman, Roy has participated in many ocean races. In 2007 Roy was made CBE 'for services to museums' and awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Greenwich. In 2022 he was appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Essex.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Marseille, France. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Marseille and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board and moor overnight.

Day 2 Marseille for Aix en Provence or Avignon. From our berth in Marseille, we will offer a choice of excursions today. You can choose to head inland to Aix en Provence which was founded by the Romans in the 1st century and is now more renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will visit his studio which still houses his equipment and the objects he used for models and the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' located on the heights of Aix en Provence, a few hundred metres from the Atelier Cezanne, and famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant, we spend some time in Aix with its leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Alternatively spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches, and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval

Gothic buildings in Europe, built in the 14th century as a fortified palace for the pontifical court. We also visit the cathedral and famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon and the Pont du Gard, one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19 BC. This imposing aqueduct bridge was built by the Romans in order to provide the city of Nimes with fresh water from the Uzès area. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for dinner and set sail late this evening.

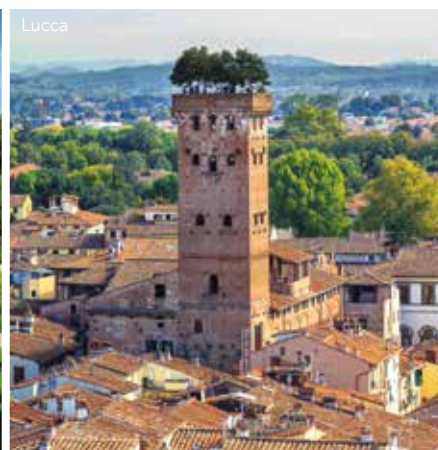
Day 3 La Seyne sur Mer. Today we will berth in the maritime town of La Seyne sur Mer, fantastically located at the foot of Cap Sicie. Spend the morning at leisure relaxing on board or exploring the town independently. This afternoon there will be the choice of a boat trip to Les Calanques, stunning fjord like inlets carved into the limestone that stretch along the coast from Marseille to Cassis or alternatively join 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.



Vernazza



Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild



Lucca

Day 4 Cannes & Nice. Our base for today will be Cannes and on our morning excursion we will drive along the beautiful coastline to Antibes. Founded by the Greek merchants in the 5th century it is one of the oldest cities in France. On a walking tour we will explore the historic part of the city which is a maze of small, flower-bedecked streets with Roman and Medieval sections. Its 16th century ramparts overlook the Mediterranean Sea and still protect the heart of the Old Town. Our visit will also include the famous Picasso Museum, located inside the Medieval castle of Grimaldi. Just after the second world war Picasso was invited to Antibes by his friend Dor de la Souchière where he spent a few months, and it was during his stay he painted one of his masterpieces 'Happiness'. There will be some free time in Antibes before we return to MS Hebridean Sky for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure to relax on board or explore Cannes independently. Just before dinner we sail the short distance to Nice where we will moor overnight. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs or local tender to transfer ashore.*

Day 5 Nice. This morning enjoy a choice of tours. There will be the opportunity to 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. 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. Alternatively visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Built in 1900 in Italian palazzo style and surrounded by magnificent gardens, it houses an unbelievable collection of works including tapestries, furniture, candelabras, terracottas, porcelains and Chinese vases. We will return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Nice independently. Perhaps walk amongst the charming architecture of the old city, explore Place Massena, or enjoy a stroll along the palm tree lined Promenade des Anglais.

Day 6 Genoa, Italy. 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 tasting 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 on board. After an early dinner we will make the short walk to a local palazzo for a private visit which will include a classical music concert and cocktail before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 7 Genoa for Portofino. This morning drive along the gentle winding coastal road to the delightful village of Santa Margherite Ligure with its cobbled streets flanked by Medieval churches and intricately adorned Liberty (Art Nouveau) buildings. Here we will board a local boat and cruise the short distance to Portofino. Located in a beautiful cove surrounded by lush hills, olive groves and with a stunning colourful harbour we will enjoy a walking tour followed by free time before we continue our journey to

San Fruttuoso. Not much more than an indentation along a mountainous coastline, surrounded by the hills and forests of the Portofino Regional Park, and only accessible by boat or foot, it is a stunning location. From our boat we will have the opportunity to admire the enchanting Benedictine Abbey positioned directly on the beach and learn about its history. Cruise back to Santa Margherite Ligure and choose to return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch or enjoy lunch in a local restaurant in the town of Recco, the gastronomic capital of Liguria.

Day 8 La Spezia for the Cinque Terre. From the port of La Spezia today we will explore the Cinque Terre, a series of five villages along the coast which until recently were accessible only from the sea or via an ancient network of footpaths. We will board local boats and sail past the villages of Riomaggiore, Corniglia and Manarola before we step ashore and explore the picturesque villages of Vernazza and Monterosso. Lunch today will be served in a local restaurant before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 9 Marina di Carrara for Lucca. Today we will have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour 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. Alternatively on a morning tour we will make our way to the delightful town of Torre del Lago, overlooking the Lake of Massaciuccoli. After a boat trip on the lake visit Puccini's villa which is now a museum and has been preserved almost exactly as it was during his residence. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 10 Livorno to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Pisa airport for our 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
Amundsen	Standard	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior	£6295	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6295
Mawson	Corner	£6895	£6595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7595	£7295
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8495	£8195
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6295	£5995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

ITALY & HER ISLANDS

An exploration of Italy's islands & Corsica aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Rear Admiral Roy Clare

5th to 15th October 2025

Here is a wonderful opportunity to discover the Italian islands of Elba, Sardinia and Sicily combined with two days on the beautiful French island of Corsica. All of the islands we will call into are easy enough to visit individually but difficult to combine independently in a 10-night trip. The islands feature an array of ancient ruins, attractive towns and villages and we will have time on each to visit the main sites but to also explore some of the smaller ports and less visited regions. We have ensured that each day has an enjoyable mix of culture with guided excursions as well as ample time at leisure.

October is the perfect time of year for our exploration, the crowds of summer will have dispersed with ideal weather for touring and sightseeing. Sailing from the Tuscan port of Livorno, we will cruise to the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile. From there we continue to Corsica which, despite officially being a part of France, has its own identity in everything from customs to language and benefits from magnificent geographical diversity ranging from stunning natural harbours to picture perfect hilltop villages and a majestic countryside. Leaving the charms of Corsica behind we spend two days in Sardinia where we explore the Medieval city of Alghero and discover Nuraghe Palmavera, whilst from Cagliari, we will have the opportunity to visit the wonderful ruins of Nora. Our last days are spent on Sicily which, with a history of 3000 years has a wealth of sites to discover from magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas.

In addition to our fascinating itinerary we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky which with just 118 passengers is able to visit atmospheric ports and villages which the big ships cannot access. This is a voyage that will appeal to those who love Italy, and who enjoy hopping between islands. Local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of these island gems and you will find yourself wanting to return time and time again.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London or Manchester to Pisa, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in Livorno for embarkation. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Portoferraio, Elba. Today we call into the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing from 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 which was the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte and has been transformed into a museum. Later enjoy some time at leisure in Porto Azzurro with its picturesque harbour. Our drive continues along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa, which is beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. As any self-respecting mansion on Elba, La Chiusa claims to have once housed Napoleon during his exile here. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced and in the estate's garden facing the sea we will enjoy a delicious sampling of the local wine. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.

Day 3 Bastia, Corsica. Situated on the north of the island of Corsica, Bastia was the old Genoese capital and is now a busy port. Its setting is handsome, the classic Mediterranean allure of pale, sunlit streets flanked by tall colourful buildings. Our walking tour of the historic quarter will include the 15th century cathedral, chapels and Baroque buildings. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon choose to relax on board, enjoy some free time in Bastia or join an excursion to the small fishing port of St Florent. Our drive will take us through the Nebbio which takes its name from the thick mist that sweeps over the region and is now reputed for its fine wines from Patrimonio. On arrival in St Florent we will have time to wander the maze of narrow streets and take a coffee in one of the waterfront cafes whilst watching the yachts in the marina.

Day 4 Bonifacio. Be on deck this morning as we arrive at Bonifacio's stunning natural harbour. Well known by Odysseus as the home of the savage and giant laestrygonians, today Bonifacio's breathtaking cliff-top setting and relaxed pace make it one of the most welcoming ports in the Mediterranean. On our morning tour we will explore the narrow streets and the historical heart of the town. We will discover the Bosco quarter with the St Francis Convent, the 14th century church of St Marie Majeure and take in the views from the clifftop on which the city is built. Afterwards maybe take a walk in the nearby Marine Park which offers some stunning views back to the town.

Day 5 Porto Torres & Alghero, Sardinia. Arrive in Sardinia and the port of Porto Torres over breakfast. A panoramic drive takes us to Nuraghe Palmavera with its main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling that dates back to 1100 BC. The complex, which was abandoned in the 5th century BC due to fire, shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. Continue to the Medieval city of Alghero, which was colonised by the Catalans in the 14th century and today there is still a strong Catalan identity throughout the town, and it is often even referred to as "Barceloneta". There will be some free time to walk through the Medieval streets and along the city walls or maybe visit the archaeological museum. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.



Day 6 Cagliari. Berth this morning in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari from where we drive along the southwestern coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. This afternoon we explore the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. On a walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia.

Day 7 Palermo & Monreale, Sicily. After a morning cruising we arrive in the early afternoon in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. You can choose to explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and 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. Alternatively, join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174.

Day 8 Messina for Taormina or Tindari. From the nearby port of Messina you can choose to 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. Alternatively, join an excursion to Tindari, a town which was founded by Syracusan merchants during the war against Carthage in 396 BC. The ruins of the ancient city are relatively well preserved and the structure that astounds above all others is the 4th century Greek Theatre which is a marvel of acoustic engineering. However, the foremost attraction is the Sanctuary of the Madonna Nera containing the sculpture of the Virgin and Child, in citron wood, and which is said to have reached Tindari in an attempt by the faithful to keep it safe from the 8th century Byzantine Iconoclast movement.

Day 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, rivalling Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. This morning we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park to discover the well-preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius' – a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. Returning to the ship for lunch we have a free afternoon to explore Ortigia, the historical centre of Syracuse. We meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine. We remain moored in Syracuse overnight.

Day 10 Noto. Drive this morning to the Baroque village of Noto. Built in 1703, Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei among olive groves and almond trees. A guided 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. After lunch on board we have a free afternoon in Syracuse.

Day 11 Valletta, Malta to London or Manchester. Be on deck this morning as we cruise into the Grand Harbour of Valletta. Disembark and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight.

Post-cruise Malta Extension 15th to 17th October 2025



If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay in Valletta.

THE ITINERARY

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

Day 2 Mdina. A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Citta Nobile", it is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Spend the afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Valletta to London or Manchester. Check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£1145**

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Amundsen	Standard	£6595	£6295
Byrd	Superior	£6795	£6495
Mawson	Premium	£6995	£6695
Mawson	Corner	£7295	£6995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7795	£7495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8395	£8095
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7595	£7295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7795	£7495

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

LOST EMPIRES

A voyage from Venice to Athens aboard the MS Island Sky

12th to 21st October 2025

For thousands of years southeastern Europe has been a crossroads of empires. Greeks, Persians, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans all left their mark on the culture, philosophy, art and architecture of this region. In more recent times, some of the countries that occupy this strategic part of Europe have been at the centre of conflict as world powers continue to contend for influence and control. During our journey from Venice to Athens, we will sail along the stunning Adriatic Coast to the Ionian Sea and cruise through turquoise waters, admire rugged landscapes and visit some of the region's greatest sites. We have designed the voyage for October when the crowds of summer have departed and the temperatures are perfect for exploration.

This is not an itinerary that a large cruise ship could operate but one that is ideal for the 118-passenger MS Island Sky. During our exploration of the area we will experience the beauty and charm of Venice, Croatia's delightful Istrian coast, Montenegro's Kotor, a 14th century walled fortress town fronted by a sublime bay and surrounded by limestone cliffs, and the tranquil Ionian island of Kefalonia. We also discover some of the fascinating ancient sites in the region including Diocletian's Palace in Split, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint, Albania, whose ruins span some 2,500 years, and the ancient Sanctuary of Apollo in Delphi, Greece. Finally, before arriving in Athens, ensure you are on deck as we transit the Corinth Canal, a wonderful end to our cruise and only possible on a small ship.

The rich legacy of multiple civilisations, each building atop another, is evident everywhere during our itinerary and our guided tours ashore will be a pleasure as we explore in small groups with our excellent local guides and knowledgeable Guest Speaker. Whether your interest lies in ancient history, modern politics or simply the joy of experiencing new places, this journey has much to offer.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London or Manchester to Venice, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Venice. This morning is free to explore Venice at your own pace from our central berth. Lunch will be served on board and in the early afternoon a guided walking tour will discover the hidden corners of Venice. An off the beaten track itinerary takes us to the San Giorgio dei Greci Church and its secret courtyard; Campo Santa Maria Formosa, one of the city's largest squares, and Marco Polo's House. We end at the Chiesa della Pietà, a former convent and orphanage and an authentic masterpiece of the 18th century by Giorgio Massari. The young orphans that stayed here were encouraged to study music and their most famous teacher was Antonio Vivaldi. It was here that he composed the Four Seasons and we have arranged for an exclusive private concert of Vivaldi themed music performed by a Venetian orchestra. It will be a thrilling experience to hear the music performed where it was created. Return to the ship as we sail tonight.

Day 3 Pula & Rovinj, Croatia. Arrive this morning at the tip of the Istrian Peninsula and the former Roman settlement of Polensium, now

known as Pula. Here we will discover one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres left in the world. The Arena, built in the 1st century AD was designed to host gladiatorial contests with seating for up to 20,000 spectators. This afternoon you can remain in Pula to explore independently or join a drive to Rovinj where our guided walking tour will include the Franciscan Monastery, City Palace and the 17th century clock tower before we visit the town's main landmark, St Euphemia Church, which is built on the top of a small hill. This Baroque building built in Venetian style was dedicated to the saint and martyr whose sarcophagus, according to a legend, was miraculously washed ashore somewhere around 800 AD.

Day 4 Split. After a morning at sea we arrive into Split. Our guided walk includes the Diocletian's Palace, built by the emperor in 295-305 AD as his retirement villa. Much of this large building is well preserved and the palace contains Split's old town within its walls, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. It is a wonderful spot to wander the maze of streets. Alternatively, join us as we drive the short distance to the ancient site of Salona, the Roman capital of Dalmatia and a city that was once home to over 40,000 people. Archaeologists have excavated remains of temples, amphitheatres, early Christian churches, burial grounds, and baths which we can explore with our local guides.

Day 5 Kotor, Montenegro. Over breakfast 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 walk will include the 12th century Cathedral of St Tryphon, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon exploring at your own pace.

Day 6 Sarande, Albania. Spend the morning at sea as we cruise to Albania and the port of Sarande, our base to discover the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a guided tour 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.

Day 7 Preveza, Greece. Today we arrive into Greece at the port of Preveza from where we head for the little known ancient city of Nikopolis, one of the largest and most important sites in the whole of Greece. Built by the Roman Emperor Octavianus Augustus following his victory at Aktium in 31 BC over Antony and Cleopatra, inside its extensive walls are the Odeum, the Theatre, the Nymphaeum and the monument to Augustus. Later, the city flourished in the early Christian period as the seat of the archbishop of old Epiros, but earthquakes and invading Goths and Vandals led to its demise. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon to explore this pretty, yacht lined harbour town.

Day 8 Argostoli, Kefalonia. The largest of the Ionian Islands, Kefalonia is immortalised in the novel Captain Corelli's Mandolin and has great charm. From our berth in Argostoli we have a choice of excursions today. A half day tour will drive to the famous lighthouse of Agioi Theodori, the remarkable Venetian castle of Saint George and the 16th century Monastery of Agios Gerasimos. St Gerasimos is the patron saint of Kefalonia, and his relic is kept in the monastery, in a silver urn. Near to the monastery we find the Robala vineyards. Wines have been grown here since the 12th century and we will learn about the processes and enjoy a tasting before we return to the ship. The afternoon is free to explore the town of Argostoli. Alternatively, a full day tour will drive to the north of the island passing the famous Myrtos beach as we drive to the village of Assos. With just 100 residents it is one of the most charming spots on the island. After time to wander the streets viewing the traditional architecture, pretty harbour and pebbled beaches we continue to the small port of Fiskardo which curves serenely beside coral-blue waters, gazing out towards Ithaki. After lunch in the port and some free time to explore we return to the MS Island Sky.

Day 9 Delphi & Corinth Canal. The port of Itea is our gateway to the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The hillside ruins here are exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, the site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5,000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. Alternatively, visit the picturesque harbour town of Galaxidi which is built on the site of the ancient town of Oianthi. Only accessible by boat until 1963 and once a major boatbuilding centre the town played a major role in Greece's maritime history. Walking the cobblestoned streets we will see the Neoclassical Captains mansions, Agios Nikolaos Church, with its splendid and unique wooden temple, and the Nautical Museum. Sail over lunch and in the late afternoon we transit the Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like ours which can now make this journey. We will arrive into Piraeus late this evening and berth overnight.

Day 10 Athens to London or Manchester. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight.



If you would like to spend some time in Athens after disembarking the MS Island Sky we are offering the opportunity to join our two night extension.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Athens, Greece. Disembark after breakfast and drive to the Acropolis, a symbol of the glory of ancient Greece. Following our exploration of the fascinating site, a brief walk will bring us to the new Acropolis Museum. After our visit we will make our way to Plaka for a traditional Greek lunch. This afternoon we will check into our hotel and the remainder of the day will be at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Cape Sounion. Leaving the city we drive south to Cape Sounion and visit the majestic Temple of Poseidon which sits atop a craggy rock overlooking the sea. Nearby, see the Temple of Athena and a fortress built in 413 BC during the Peloponnesian War against the Spartans. After lunch we return to our hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 Athens to London or Manchester. After breakfast we check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy
 Twin: **£895**; Single: **£1045**
Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Athens, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, tours as described, gratuities, transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

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	£5995	£5695
Columbus	Superior	£6195	£5895
Marco Polo	Premium	£6395	£6095
Marco Polo	Corner	£6595	£6295
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6695
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£7295	£6995
Explorer	Island Suite	£7795	£7495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6995	£6695
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7195	£6895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF SICILY

An in-depth exploration of the wonders of Sicily aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker David Stuttard

15th to 23rd October 2025

Join us aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky for this circumnavigation of Sicily and all its wonders in the company of just 118 fellow guests. This unique island has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, Sicily has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark. With our circumnavigation of the island aboard the MS Hebridean Sky we have the luxury of time allowing us to explore Sicily's rich heritage at a relaxing pace.

From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, there is so much to explore during our circumnavigation of the island which we have timed for October, when the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours and the sites will be free of the summer crowds. We will visit the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale, the Valle dei Templi, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral from Palermo and the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina. We have planned some late departures from port which afford the opportunity to enjoy dining ashore or an after dinner stroll in some towns which are particularly atmospheric in the evening. In addition, local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of Sicily.



GUEST SPEAKER – DAVID STUTTARD



David took an MA in Classics from St Andrews University. He subsequently taught Classics in Edinburgh, St Andrews and York. David is a prolific author of books on classical history and literature including *A History of Ancient Greece in 50 Lives*, *A Traveller's Guide to Greek Mythology* and *A Traveller's Guide to Roman Mythology*. In 1993, David founded the theatre company, Actors of Dionysus, to perform productions of Greek drama, directing

his own translations and adaptations of Greek tragedies as Joint Artistic Director until 2004. He has subsequently directed events with actors such as Simon Russell Beale, Tom Conti, Jane Asher and Fenella Fielding. David has curated events at The British Museum (including in association with its exhibitions, *Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum* and *Defining Beauty*) and at The Ashmolean Museum (in association with the *Last Supper in Pompeii* exhibition). David is an energetic champion of Classics and writes for publications such as *Minerva*, *The British Museum Magazine*, *All About History* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has served on the Council of the Roman Society and speaks at a wide range of venues including academic institutions and literary festivals such as Oxford and Cheltenham. In October 2018, David was elected a Fellow of Goodenough College, London.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight to Malta. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch.

Day 3 Agrigento for Valley of the Temples. 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, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum.

Day 4 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This morning there is the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively visit Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. Our tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Both tours will then enjoy a Sicilian lunch at a nearby olive oil farm. We return to the ship later



Temple of Venus, Segesta

in the afternoon where you can wander around Trapani at leisure as we plan to sail later in the evening.

Day 5 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 ship for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174.

Day 6 Messina for 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. Those who wish to spend longer here will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and spend an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina.

Day 7 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which 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 will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius' a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 8 Pozzallo for 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. A quiet walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches. We return to the ship 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 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Pre-cruise Malta Extension 13th to 15th October 2025



Valletta

If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night hotel stay inclusive of a guided tours of Valletta and Mdina.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel and check in for a two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Valletta. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the 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. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 3 Valletta. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island, Mdina was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Valletta. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£1095**

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Amundsen	Standard	£5495	£5195
Byrd	Superior	£5795	£5495
Mawson	Premium	£5995	£5695
Mawson	Corner	£6295	£5995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7095	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7995	£7695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6795	£6495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

ALONG THE BARBARY COAST

A voyage between Malta and Gibraltar including Tunisia & Algeria aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Chris Bradley

23rd October to 2nd November 2025

Located on the North African coast, betwixt the desert and the sea are some of Ancient Rome's most magnificent sites which we will discover during this fascinating voyage from Malta to Gibraltar. This is a region that is best discovered by sea and from the historic port of Valletta we sail south to Tunisia where we will visit the Roman amphitheatre of El Djem, the ancient city of Kairouan and Carthage with its Phoenician ruins. It is easy to imagine how daily life played out in Roman times in this great city which will transport you to another world and time. We also spend two days in Algeria where we can explore the ancient city of Tipaza, the mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania and the city of Tlemcen in the north of the country known for its Moorish buildings including the 11th century Grand Mosque.



Interspersed between our calls along the North African coast will be a day in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari allowing for the opportunity to visit the ruins at Nora, one of the best preserved Roman cities in Sardinia which rises above the remains of an ancient Phoenician-Punic settlement. We will also visit Cartagena on mainland Spain, which was used by Hannibal as a strategic base and later became a Roman administrative centre, and the little known Spanish enclave of Melilla on the Moroccan coast, a fascinating place to spend a few hours before our voyage concludes in Gibraltar.

All this will be achieved with great ease aboard the MS Hebridean Sky and with just over 100 like-minded travellers, we are able to explore in a way that is impossible from aboard a large cruise vessel and being timed for October, we can expect pleasant temperatures, agreeable for exploration. The magnificent sites provide an unparalleled experience of life in classical times which with the help of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and local guides, will be brought vividly back to life.

GUEST SPEAKER – CHRIS BRADLEY



Chris Bradley is a graduate of the University of Liverpool specialising in the Middle East and North Africa having lived and worked in the region for over 40 years. As a professional tour guide and lecturer he has led many tours throughout North Africa. He is a lecturer to noted societies, such as the Royal Geographical Society and the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. Chris has been a cameraman

and producer on many television documentaries and films for the BBC, Channel 4 and National Geographic TV.



Carthage





Cagliari



Tipaza



El Mansourah, Tlemcen



Sailor memorial, Cartagena

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and sail this evening.

Days 2 & 3 Sousse, El Djem & Kairouan, Tunisia. After a morning at sea we arrive in Tunisia at the port of Sousse which will be our base for the next day and a half of discovery. During our time we drive out of the city to the small village of El Djem where we will see the great Roman amphitheatre, built to accommodate 35,000 spectators and visit the excellent museum with its collection of mosaics. A tour of Sousse will include the museum, located in the ramparts of the Kasbah and housing a fine collection of mosaics; as well as the imposing Ribat, one of the finest and best conserved buildings of the series of 'fortress-monasteries' that dotted the North African coastline. We will also drive to the ancient city of Kairouan where we see the Great Mosque which is a universal architectural masterpiece and one of the most impressive and largest Islamic monuments in North Africa. Finally we will see the Aghlabid Basins, the majestic cisterns built by the Aghlabids in the 9th century which represent a highly sophisticated work of engineering from the Middle Ages.

Day 4 Tunis & Carthage. From the nearby port of Tunis we drive to the site of Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BC it became one of the most influential cities in the Mediterranean. This prosperity led to rivalry with Rome and it was during the third Punic War, in 146 BC, that the Roman forces destroyed the city. Due to the strategic location the Romans rebuilt Carthage in the 1st century AD to become one of the most important cities in their Empire. See the Phoenician remains of Tophet, the sanctuary of the gods Tanit and Baal as well as some interesting monuments from the Roman era including the baths and the amphitheatre. Later, we hope to explore the Bardo Museum which houses some renowned Roman mosaics from the archaeological sites of El Djem, Sousse and Dougga as well as artefacts and sculptures from Carthage.

Day 5 Cagliari, Italy. Arrive over breakfast in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. From the port we drive along the south-western coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the

remains of Carthaginian warehouses and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. After lunch on board, there will be a guided walking tour during which we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Mary.

Day 6 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we cross the Mediterranean Sea. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 7 Algiers, Algeria. Depart this morning for the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans. The city was extended by Emperor Claudius and grew wealthy on Mediterranean trade. It was built on three small hills which overlooked the sea. There are ruins of three Basilicas, two cemeteries, the baths, the theatre, the nymphaeum and the unusual oval shaped amphitheatre. After visiting the city, we will enjoy a typical Algerian lunch before continuing to the mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania which lies in the hills above the sea about 18 kilometres away from Tipaza. It is one of the most breathtaking sights in Algeria. The vast pyramid-like structure is named the Tomb of the Christian on account of the large crosses that decorate the tomb which predates Jesus Christ. We return to the ship via the Martyrs' Monument which offers spectacular views over the city.

Day 8 Cartagena, Spain. In the early afternoon we arrive in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. 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. 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. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcio Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour, view the Roman theatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 9 Ghazaouet, Algeria. This morning we reach the western side of Algeria and the port of Ghazaouet located close to the border with Morocco. From here we drive approximately 50 miles inland to Tlemcen,

El Mansourah, Tlemcen



an interesting and cultured city. Our visit will include the 11th century Great Mosque and the deconsecrated Sidi Bel Hassan Mosque which was transformed into a museum in 1901 and houses a selection of mosaics, carvings and pottery. After a local lunch we will continue to El Mansourah to see the remains of an old minaret and El Mechouar, which was built as a citadel in 1145 before it became the royal residence of the Zianide dynasty in the 13th century.

Day 10 Melilla, Spain. Today we visit a little bit of Spain in North Africa. Situated on the northern coast of Morocco the Spanish city occupies a rocky peninsula which juts out into the Mediterranean. It has been in Spanish hands since 1497 and previous colonisers included the Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans. It is a fascinating place to spend a morning observing the co-existence of Catholic and Muslim faiths, the influences of Spanish and Moorish architecture and the old walled city, fortress and busy market place. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 11 Gibraltar to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our 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
Amundsen	Standard	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior	£6295	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6295
Mawson	Corner	£6895	£6595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6695
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7295	£6995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7995	£7695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6995	£6695
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7295	£6995

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

Not Included: Travel insurance, Algeria visa.

Pre-cruise Malta Extension 21st to 23rd October 2025

If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night hotel extension inclusive of a guided tour of Valletta and Mdina.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel and check in for a two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Valletta. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John 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. (B)

Day 3 Mdina. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island, Mdina was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Valletta. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£1095**

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Gibraltar Extension 2nd to 4th November 2025

If you would like to spend some time in Gibraltar after your cruise, we are offering a two night hotel extension inclusive of a guided tour.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Gibraltar. Disembark this morning and discover this strategic British outpost in the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels

built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783. Also see the Gibraltar Museum. After lunch we transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. (B, L)

Day 2 Gibraltar. Enjoy a day at leisure for independent exploration. Maybe take the cable car up the famous rock, see the Botanical gardens or visit the Garrison Library. (B)

Day 3 Gibraltar to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**; Single: **£895**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Gibraltar, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), half day tour, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.





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