

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

SOUTH SEAS ISLAND ODYSSEY

AN EXPEDITION FROM VANUATU
TO FRENCH POLYNESIA ABOARD
THE MS ISLAND SKY

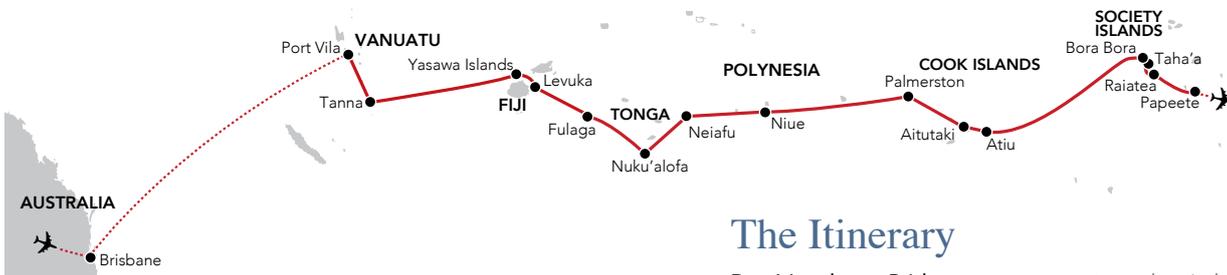
23RD SEPTEMBER TO 13TH OCTOBER 2020



The islands of the South Pacific are an extraordinary world that exceed everyone's expectations. They are as sensuous as the paintings of Gaugin, more adventurous than the tales of Robert Louis Stevenson and more romantic than James Michener's fabled Bali Hai. Ancient volcanoes, lush rainforest, diverse marine life, encounters with fascinating cultures and some of the world's most exotic birds all await your discovery during this island hopping expedition.

Join us aboard the MS Island Sky as we sail through the South Seas and visit some extraordinarily beautiful islands with exotic cultures and exceptionally unique and beautiful landscapes. Being welcomed by friendly locals into a remote village untouched by the modern world is truly a memorable experience. Setting off from Vanuatu we will be sailing through an area long associated with Captain Cook, Captain Bligh and the Bounty and can promise you an unforgettable voyage to a corner of the world which has lured adventurers and romantics alike ever since Magellan first sailed to these waters in 1521. Of course the real age of European exploration did not take place until the 18th century, and many of the islands we will visit have changed little since that time. Their sheer isolation has been their saving grace and apart from an influx of missionaries in the late 19th century, western culture has made few inroads into most of the islands.

An expedition such as this requires a vessel akin to the MS Island Sky with the ability to adapt to her surroundings, land on remote atolls using the fleet of Zodiac landing craft and follow in the wake of whales and dolphins all while providing a comfortable base. In addition and adding further to your enjoyment will be our experienced expedition team who will be able to inform you on the marine life, birdlife and culture of the islands we will be discovering.



What to Expect...

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

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

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Brisbane. Arrive this evening and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Day 3 Brisbane. After breakfast in the hotel enjoy a leisurely morning

to explore independently and perhaps visit the botanical gardens, the central mall or the riverfront. This afternoon we will enjoy a city drive on our way to the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary which is home to 130 koalas as well as kangaroos. Continue to Mount Coot-tha for a fantastic lookout over Brisbane before returning to the hotel for dinner this evening.





Bora Bora



Tiki statue



Red-tailed Tropicbird

Day 4 Brisbane to Port Vila, Vanuatu. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Port Vila. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 5 Tanna. Over breakfast we arrive at the island of Tanna, meaning earth in the local Kwamera language. Captain Cook was the first European to visit the island in 1774, landing at Port Resolution and having been attracted by the glowing light of Mount Yasur. This 361 metre active volcano is situated in the south east of the island and dominates the landscape. The adventurous may wish to join a journey to the crater. We will use local trucks to drive through the rainforest that covers the mountain before walking to the rim. Alternatively, we may have the chance to visit a local village where traditional lifestyles are maintained and the local culture has been largely unaffected by western influences. Here we will learn of customs and also of traditional medicines, crafts and cooking styles. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we make our way to Fiji.

Day 6 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we continue our journey across the South Pacific. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax or read a book.

Day 7 Yasawa Islands, Fiji. This morning we will drop anchor amongst the twenty islands of the Yasawa group. In 1789 when Captain Bligh was set adrift from the HMS Bounty he passed by the Yasawa Islands from where two war canoes were sent to pursue them. They escaped, and the waters are still known as Bligh Water. Today we can expect a friendlier welcome as we find a spot on a secluded beach to relax or enjoy a first opportunity to snorkel and swim.

Day 8 Levuka Island. The island of Levuka and the town of Ovalau has a special place in Fijian history as it

was here in 1874 that the Fiji islands were ceded to the British and also where in 1970 Fiji was declared independent again. The town is unlike any other Fijian town having retained the colonial buildings which made it the first Fijian site to be granted UNESCO status.

Join a walking tour around Nasova village on the shores of the bay and visit the museum and Cession Monument, the site where Chief Cakobau signed the deed ceding Fiji to Great Britain. This afternoon we will relocate to one of the nearby islands where we can relax on the beach, snorkel or swim.



Dancer, Palmerston

Day 9 Fulaga. Our final call in Fiji will be at Fulaga, famous for its woodcarving and the making of large outrigger canoes. Over 100 tiny islands in the Fulaga Lagoon have been undercut into extraordinary mushroom shapes and the surrounding waters are tinged with striking colours by the dissolved limestone. On arrival we hope to meet with the village elder to welcome us to the island before spending the afternoon using our Zodiacs to explore the rocks or find a suitable beach to land for swimming, snorkelling or beachcombing.

Day 10 Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Following a morning at sea we arrive into Nuku'alofa, the capital of Tonga, during lunch. After clearing immigration formalities we will have a chance to explore this laidback town and the island of Tongatapu. Having never been colonised by Europeans we will experience traditional Polynesian culture alongside beautiful beaches and spectacular natural wonders. See

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

Day 11 Neiafu, Vava'u. We arrive during breakfast in the Vava'u islands, part of the kingdom of Tonga, and the pretty port of Neiafu. Spend the morning exploring the town independently, maybe visit the local market or enjoy a drink in a harbourside café. Alternatively join a tour to the Ene'io Botanical Gardens, founded in 1972 they are the only botanical gardens in Tonga. Here the local guides will identify some of the 550 different plant varieties found in the gardens. Over lunch we hope to reposition to one of the nearby islands and use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and set up snorkelling activities. There are many different species of colourful tropical fish here and we hope to see the graceful black-and-yellow angelfish and curious clown fish on the surrounding reefs.

Day 12 International Date Line & Alofi, Niue. After crossing the International Date Line (so it is now 3rd October) we arrive this afternoon in Niue, one of the smallest independent nations on earth at just 260 square kilometres with a population of just 1200 people. Populated since the 10th century, the first European to sight Niue was Captain Cook in 1774 but his attempts to land were refused by the inhabitants. Today we will visit the capital, Alofi Village, and stop at the Philatelic Bureau, where some of the world's most sought after stamps may be purchased. Alternatively take the short drive to Matapa Chasm, a secluded cleft in the sea cliffs, where we discover the perfect swimming hole.

Day 13 At Sea. Find a spot on deck, relax with a book in the library or join our lecture programme in the lounge as we spend a relaxing day at sea.

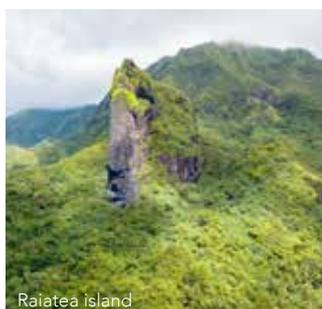
Day 14 Palmerston, Cook Islands. The engaging history of the William Masters family comes alive as we meet the descendants of this eccentric 19th century Englishman who took three native brides. We will be welcomed by the local officials before enjoying a walk through the village. Extremely fine handicrafts are made on this island and here the birdwatchers might catch sight of the red-tailed tropic birds. This afternoon we will have a chance to swim or snorkel from the beach to explore the underwater world.

Day 15 Aitutaki. This lovely lagoon is famous for its fascinating coral formations and bountiful brightly hued tropical fish. After a lively welcome, choose to join a morning island drive which will explore the sleepy village of Arutanga, seeing the oldest church in the Cook Islands, the lush forest of Nikaupara and from the top of Mount Piraki we will see the bunkers built during World War II. At the summit of Maunga Pu we are treated to breathtaking views of the island and lagoon. Alternatively, you may wish to join our naturalists for a cruise and snorkel in the lagoon. There will be time to explore independently this afternoon or take the chance for a swim before we set sail.

Day 16 Atiu. Our final stop in the Cook Islands is the small island of Atiu. With only 560 residents we will be guaranteed a special welcome. Enjoy the chance to join the local expert "Birdman George" on a walking tour to search for the Rarotonga monarch, chattering kingfisher, Cook Islands fruit dove and Atiu swiftlets. Alternatively, discover the island on a tour which will include James Cook's landing site from 1777, the coffee plantations and a visit to some of the local houses. After lunch on board there will be the opportunity to return to Atiu for a relaxing afternoon exploring from the beach or maybe enjoy a taste of the local Tumunu, a traditional drink brewed from fermented oranges.



Day 17 At Sea. Relax on board as we spend the day at sea cruising to French Polynesia.



Day 18 Bora Bora, French Polynesia. One of the most stunning islands on the planet, Bora Bora's interior is crowned by majestic eroded volcanic formations and a distinctive black basaltic peak. A tour of the island will take you past colourful villages, archaeological sites and World War II relics. This afternoon explore independently or alternatively take the chance to swim from the beach or enjoy snorkelling in the clear waters.

Day 19 Raiatea & Taha'a. Raiatea is recognised throughout Tahiti

as its "Sacred Island", the cultural heart of all Tahiti Polynesia. Local Polynesian legends say Raiatea, formerly known as "Havai" was the island of origin of great voyaging canoes that took the people as far as Hawaii. This, the second largest Tahitian isle, was the centre of religion and culture over 1000 years ago and still lends enchantment to ancient legends told to this day. This morning's island tour will include a visit to the Taputapuatea marae which dates back over 1000 years. This afternoon we sail over to the neighbouring island of Taha'a where we plan to visit a vanilla plantation. With the rich aroma of vanilla lingering heavily in the air, Taha'a offers a glimpse of the traditional, tranquil life of the Tahitians.

Day 20 Papeete to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 21 En-route to London

Day 22 London. Arrive this afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£11495	£10995
Columbus	Superior	£11895	£11395
Marco Polo	Premium	£12295	£11795
Marco Polo	Corner	£12795	£12295
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£13795	£13295
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£13995	£13495
Explorer	Island Suite	£14995	£14495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£15795	£15295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£16795	£16295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Brisbane with breakfast • Dinner on day 3 • 16 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, visa, dinner on day 2.

Pre-Cruise Singapore Extension 21st to 24th September 2020



For those who would like to have a break in their journey to Australia, we are offering a two night stay in Singapore. Our time here will include a tour to see the sights of the city as well as ample free time to explore independently.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Singapore. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Singapore. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration or to relax at the hotel.

Day 3 Singapore. After breakfast in the hotel we will take a city tour including the 53 hectare Botanical Garden and National Orchid Garden which displays over 1000 species of orchids. Continue to the exotic streets and stalls of "Little India" before visiting Kampong Glam, Thian Hock Keng Temple and the Sri Mariamman Hindu Temple in Chinatown. Return to the hotel and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. You may wish to make your way to the Gardens by the Bay, Sentosa Island or take some time to shop in one of the centres.

Day 4 Singapore to Brisbane. This morning we return to the airport for our scheduled flight to Brisbane and join the main itinerary from day 2.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£475** Single: **£745**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Singapore with breakfast, half day tour, gratuities, airport transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, meals other than breakfast.

Post-Cruise Moorea Extension 11th to 15th October 2020



Extend your time in Tahiti with our two night stay on the island of Moorea, this heart shaped island is situated close to the main island of Tahiti and is renowned as one of the most beautiful in the world. From our hotel base there will be the opportunity to enjoy water sports or alternatively you may wish to explore the island seeing

the plantations of cotton, coffee, sugarcane and pineapples and the majestic mountains with views over the island and wonderful waterfalls.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£725** Single: **£975**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Moorea with breakfast, transfers from ship to hotel and from hotel to airport using local boats and vehicles, half day island tour, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, meals other than breakfast.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Club

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

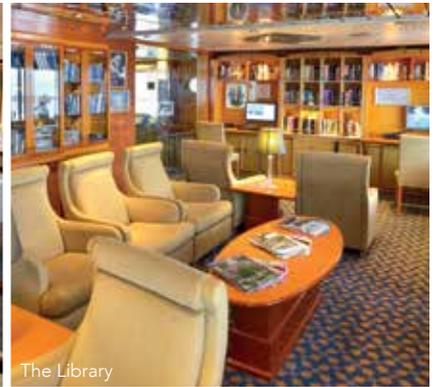
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



Standard Suite



The Restaurant



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo Deck which features the main bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Columbus Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games as well as devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the Library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

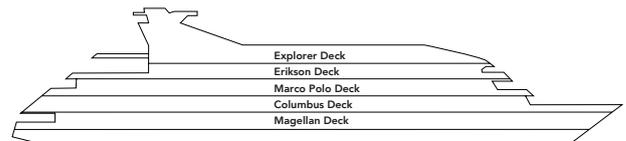
Your Comfort

The MS Island Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

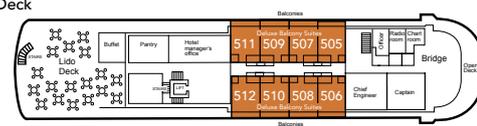
MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



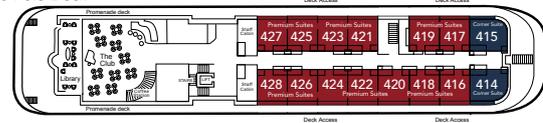
Explorer Deck



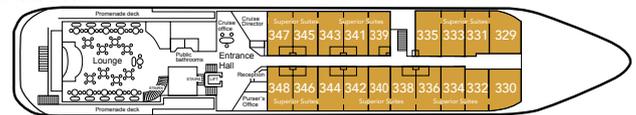
Erikson Deck



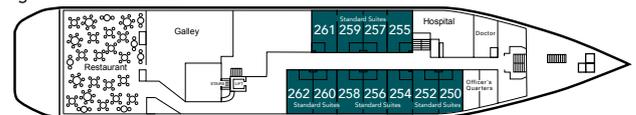
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



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



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



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