

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £500 PER PERSON PLUS NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SOUTH AFRICA & NAMIBIA BY SEA

A VOYAGE AROUND SOUTHERN AFRICA FROM RICHARDS BAY
TO WALVIS BAY ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

23RD MARCH TO 7TH APRIL 2025

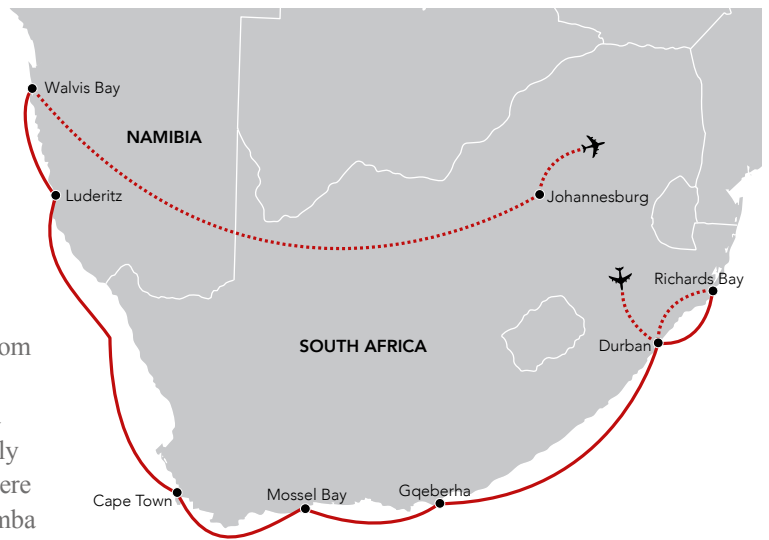


NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join us aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky for this new coastal exploration of South Africa and Namibia as we sail in comfort between Richards Bay and Walvis Bay.

South Africa is one of the most beautiful and diverse countries on earth. A land of contrasts with extraordinary wildlife, fascinating cultures and vast open spaces, this magnificent country casts a lifelong spell on all who visit. Accompanied by our knowledgeable onboard team and excellent local guides, our first calls in South Africa are in the province of Kwazulu-Natal where we learn of the Zulu Kingdom and visit the St Lucia Wetlands with its prolific birdlife or Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, Africa's oldest game reserve. Following a relaxing day at sea we sail to the Eastern Cape and the "friendly city" of Gqeberha, formerly known as Port Elizabeth from where there is the opportunity to spend the day at the marvellous Pumba Private Game Reserve. Continuing along the picturesque Garden Route where few fail to be seduced by the glorious natural beauty and incredible coastal vistas, we call into historic Mossel Bay and visit sleepy coastal towns, the bustling town of Knysna and a cruise in the Knysna Lagoon. Those wishing to head inland and explore the mountain scenery can visit the Klein Karoo with its dramatic, arid scenery and ostrich farms. Our final call in South Africa will be Cape Town where we have the two days to explore, allowing for ample time to join some of the included escorted excursions and to enjoy some time at leisure to explore independently.

Sailing on to Namibia we will discover the colourful and unique coastal town of Luderitz before we continue to our final port of the voyage, Walvis Bay from where you can choose to spend time in Namibia's charming seaside resort of Swakopmund or drive past the imposing sand dunes to the Welwitschia Plains in the Namib-Naukluft Park.



What to Expect

Below are some extracts from a similar cruise we operated in 2023 which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Gqeberha – April 2023: We were welcomed into Port Elizabeth by bow-riding dolphins and warm, beautiful weather- a good start to a day with two outdoor activities on offer. The first tour began with a visit to the expansive Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium, followed by visits to iconic landmarks and areas of the city, including Northend Lake, Donkin Reserve, Fort Frederick and the Athenaeum. Our local guide provided us with a fantastic and informative briefing on the city's history, giving us a deeper understanding of the region. After that, some of us did a light bit of shopping whilst the rest returned to the ship for a well deserved lunch. The second tour group enjoyed a scenic drive through the Eastern Cape, before climbing into open game vehicles for a safari adventure. It was an exhilarating experience, with impalas, zebras and warthogs greeting us right from the start. Within 40 minutes, we were fortunate to spot two of the Big Five - elephants and rhinos! But the sightings didn't stop there, as we also spotted cheetahs, mongooses, kudus, nyala, blesbok, hippos, and even a white lion. Additionally, bird enthusiasts among us were treated to sightings of the beautiful blue Cape glossy starling, a highlight of the day. We then enjoyed a delicious bush lunch in a tented camp, where we savoured traditional food in a unique setting. Afterward, we took a slow drive through the park, soaking in the breathtaking scenery, before heading back to the ship. In the evening, we gathered for a recap and briefing on the day's events, sharing our excitement about the amazing sightings and experiences we had during our safari adventure. It was a day filled with wildlife encounters, stunning landscapes, and learning about the history and culture of Port Elizabeth.

Richards Bay – April 2023: Today, we woke up in Richards Bay, a coastal town in KwaZulu-Natal, that despite being known for its coal and industry, welcomed us with hornbills and green beaches. Today's tour was a game drive in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Park (the oldest proclaimed reserve in Africa) and a boat ride through the Isimangaliso wetland. As we entered the park, we noticed that the vegetation was different from what we had seen previously. The dense green bush provided a unique landscape, and we were eager to explore the wilderness in search of wildlife. We were fortunate to spot elephants, rhinos, buffalos, and, as always, a variety of impressive bird species. Our local game rangers were on hand to provide us with interesting insights and facts about the avian species we encountered. The morning quickly flew by, and before we knew it, it was time for a quick lunch of a traditional South African "braai" (barbecue). After lunch, we bid farewell to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi and made our way to our next destination - Isimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including hippos, crocs and numerous bird species. We boarded two river boats and embarked on a sunset cruise, where we were treated to breathtaking views of the African sunset, while observing hippos and birds darting through the reeds. The warm hues of the setting sun added to the magical experience.



Boulders Beach penguin colony



Knysna Heads



KwaNogqaza



Constantia Wine Estate

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Richards Bay, South Africa. Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Durban.

Day 2 Richards Bay, South Africa. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in Richards Bay. Moor overnight.

Days 3 Richards Bay. Set up as a makeshift harbour, during the Anglo Zulu War in 1879, Richards Bay has flourished into one of the main ports of South Africa. After a free morning to relax after our long journey there will be a choice of excursions this afternoon. Maybe drive to the Narrows of the St Lucia Estuary which forms part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site. Upon arrival in St Lucia Town we join a boat ride on the lake which is dotted with marshy, sandbank-islands that are home to thousands of birds. Over 526 different bird species can be found in the St Lucia Wetlands Reserve. The echo of the fish eagle's haunting cry can be heard while you view the basking and nesting sites of the Nile crocodile and the hundreds of hippos that make their homes in the estuary; the greatest occurrence of both crocodile and hippo in Southern Africa. Alternatively, visit Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, the oldest game reserve in all of Africa. Set in the heart of KwaZulu-Natal, the park extends itself over 96,000 hectares, has an immense variety of flora and fauna and is hugely popular not only for its "Big Five" but for the vast birdlife with more than 300 species existing within the reserve. As the home of Operation Rhino in the 1950s and 1960s, the Park became world renowned for its white rhino conservation. In addition to rhino, the reserve has a spectacular variety of bird and animal life, including elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, blue wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, cheetah, mountain reedbuck, kudu and warthog.

Day 4 Durban. Durban is the capital of Kwazulu-Natal and a blend of diverse cultures from Asia, Africa and Europe making it one of the most cosmopolitan towns in South Africa. Choose to head inland to the Midlands and the area famed as the capture site of Nelson Mandela on the 5th August 1962. Our guide will provide us with the history of his arrest before we have time to explore the museum and monument erected to commemorate this event. Afterwards we will continue to the Howick Falls, a picturesque 100 metre waterfall known to the Zulu people as KwaNogqaza, Place of the Tall One. Alternatively, drive through the city to the coastal town of Umhlanga where there will be the opportunity to explore the town or maybe take a walk along the promenade to the iconic lighthouse.

Day 5 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea.

Day 6 Gqeberha. Spend the day in the "friendly city" of Gqeberha, formerly known as Port Elizabeth. On a city tour you will see the 52 metre high Campanile, built in 1923 in memory of the first British settlers who arrived in 1820, St Mary's Cathedral, the Library, the Post Office, City Hall and the Donkin Memorial, a stone pyramid erected in memory of Sir Rufane Donkin's wife Elizabeth after whom Port Elizabeth was named. Alternatively enjoy a full day at the Pumba Private Game Reserve which covers 6,000 hectares and is the first of the Eastern Cape game reserves to introduce a white lion breeding programme. We also find over 300 different species of birds, giraffe, zebra, hippo, cheetah, warthog, hyena and wild dogs.

Day 7 Mossel Bay. Arrive this morning in Mossel Bay, situated on the Garden Route and an excellent base to explore the region. Enjoy a day driving along the coast road and the Wilderness Lakes to Knysna, a hub of craft shops, boutiques, flea markets and cafes. After some time to explore and take lunch, we board a local boat for a cruise on the Knysna Lagoon. Keeping an eye out for marine and bird life, we sail to the Knysna Heads, the great sandstone cliffs which tower over the entrance to the lagoon where the Indian Ocean meets the rivers that flow from the Outeniqua Mountains. Alternatively, for those who prefer to see some of the interior there will be an option to head inland via the Outeniqua Mountains to the beautiful, desert like Karoo before continuing to Oudtshoorn in the Klein Karoo. The Klein Karoo is an oasis-like setting in a fertile valley cupped by the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountain ranges, and originated as a settlement along the Grobbelaars River which meanders southwards from the Swartberg, providing fertile soil and water for irrigation. Enjoy a visit to an ostrich farm where we learn about this important industry before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 8 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we continue our journey around the southern coast of South Africa.

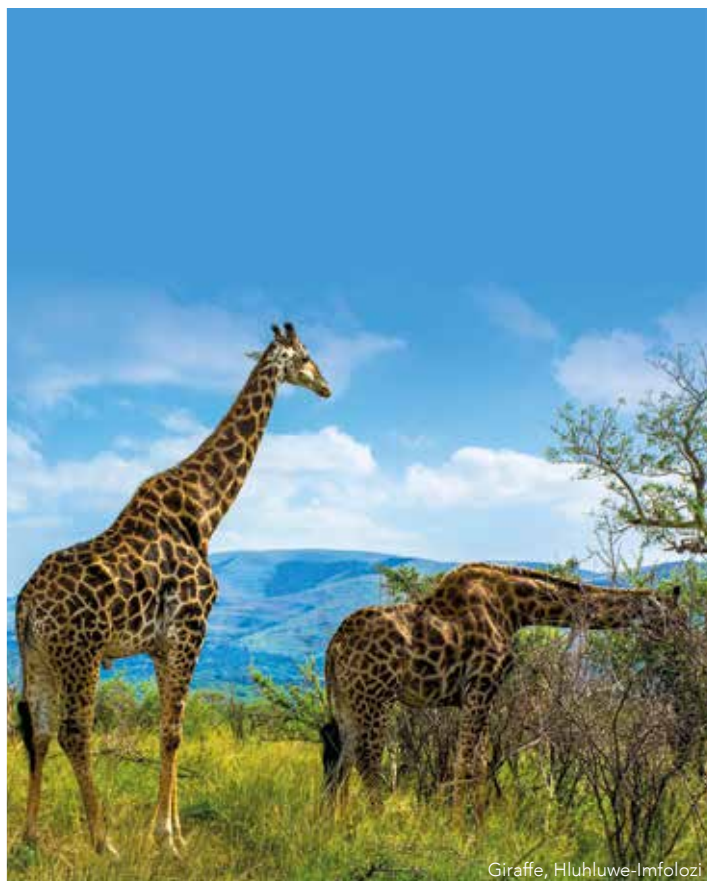
Days 9 & 10 Cape Town. Our last two days in South Africa will be spent in and around Cape Town. During our time here you will be able to choose from a range of excursions including a full day tour exploring Cape Town's stunning Cape Peninsula. We will travel through the vibrant coastal suburbs before continuing along Chapman's Peak to the famous Cape Point Nature Reserve at the very tip of the peninsula. The road then twists its way to Simon's Town, home to the Boulders Beach penguin colony as we return to the ship. We also visit Robben Island which has been used for centuries as a military base and leper colony but is most famous as a prison for political prisoners during the apartheid regime. Our



Swakopmund



Cape Town



Giraffe, Hluhluwe-Imfolozi

guided tour includes the island's quarry, the army and navy bunkers as well as the prison cells, including Nelson Mandela's. There will also be the opportunity to spend time at the winelands of Constantia, the oldest wine making region in the southern hemisphere, and the beautiful Botanical Gardens at Kirstenbosch. Spread over 528 hectares against the eastern slopes of Table Mountain the gardens support both natural forest and cultivated gardens.

Day 11 At Sea. Leaving South Africa we have a day at sea cruising along the western coast of Africa towards Namibia. Our lecture programme will continue in the lounge or maybe spend time on deck.

Day 12 Luderitz, Namibia. Sandwiched between the Namib desert and the South Atlantic, Luderitz is an isolated settlement and one of the few towns and sheltered harbours on the Namibian coast. First landed by Portuguese mariners in the 15th century, it was not until 1883 when the land was bought by a wealthy merchant, Adolf Luderitz, that the town developed as part of German colonization of the region. Arriving over lunch, we will take an afternoon walking tour to include the Luderitz Museum and the colonial buildings including the Goerke Haus and Felsenkirche. Nearby, visit the ghost town of Kolmanskop where the first diamonds were found in Namibia in 1908. Sparking a "diamond rush" the town grew in the ensuing years, peaking in the 1920s, until the discovery of richer deposits further south. By the 1960s the population had left and the town is now at the mercy of the weather and encroaching sand dunes.

Day 13 Walvis Bay. Continuing north we spend the morning at sea before arriving at the main coastal town of Walvis Bay. During our afternoon you may choose to visit Swakopmund, Namibia's seaside resort on the west coast, and a place of singular charm. It resembles a small Bavarian village nestling between the desert and the sea and enjoys a restful and relaxing atmosphere. The source of Swakopmund's continental vibe is the graceful Art Nouveau buildings many of which, including the Lutheran Church and old railway station, are national monuments. Alternatively, drive past the imposing sand dunes to the Welwitschia Plains in the Namib-Naukluft Park and we hope to see the prehistoric Welwitschia Mirabilis plants. Unique to this region these plants live for 500 years yet only produce two leaves in their lifetime. We continue into the lunar landscape of eroded valleys before returning to the ship. Moor overnight.

Day 14 Walvis Bay to Johannesburg, South Africa. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Johannesburg. On arrival we transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay and meet for dinner this evening.

Day 15 Johannesburg to London. Check out this morning and after a city tour and lunch we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 16 London. Arrive this morning.

EXPLORING ASHORE

Please note that to best enjoy this itinerary, you should be in good physical condition due to the nature of the excursions and the transportation which will be used. During some of the excursions, the walks will be up to two hours in duration on undulating terrain which can be rough underfoot. Transportation will be in small coaches, jeeps and/or 4x4 vehicles.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£9495	£8995
Byrd	Superior	£9795	£9295
Mawson	Premium	£10295	£9795
Mawson	Corner	£10495	£9995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£11695	£11195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£11995	£11495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£12495	£11995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9495	£8995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9795	£9295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Overnight accommodation in Johannesburg with breakfast • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

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

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

Your Dining

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



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

Your Space

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

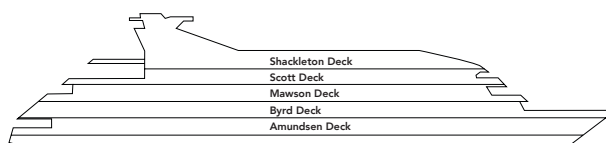
Your Comfort

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

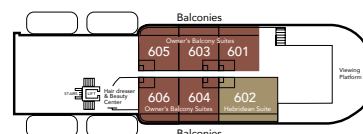
Your Life On Board

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

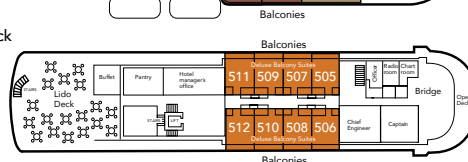
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



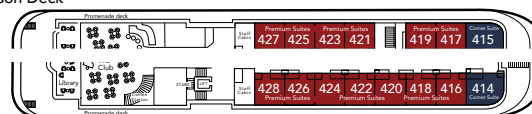
Shackleton Deck



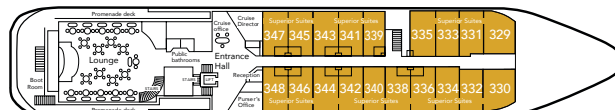
Scott Deck



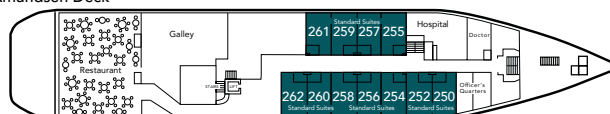
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



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

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



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Elephant, Hluhluwe-Imfolozi.