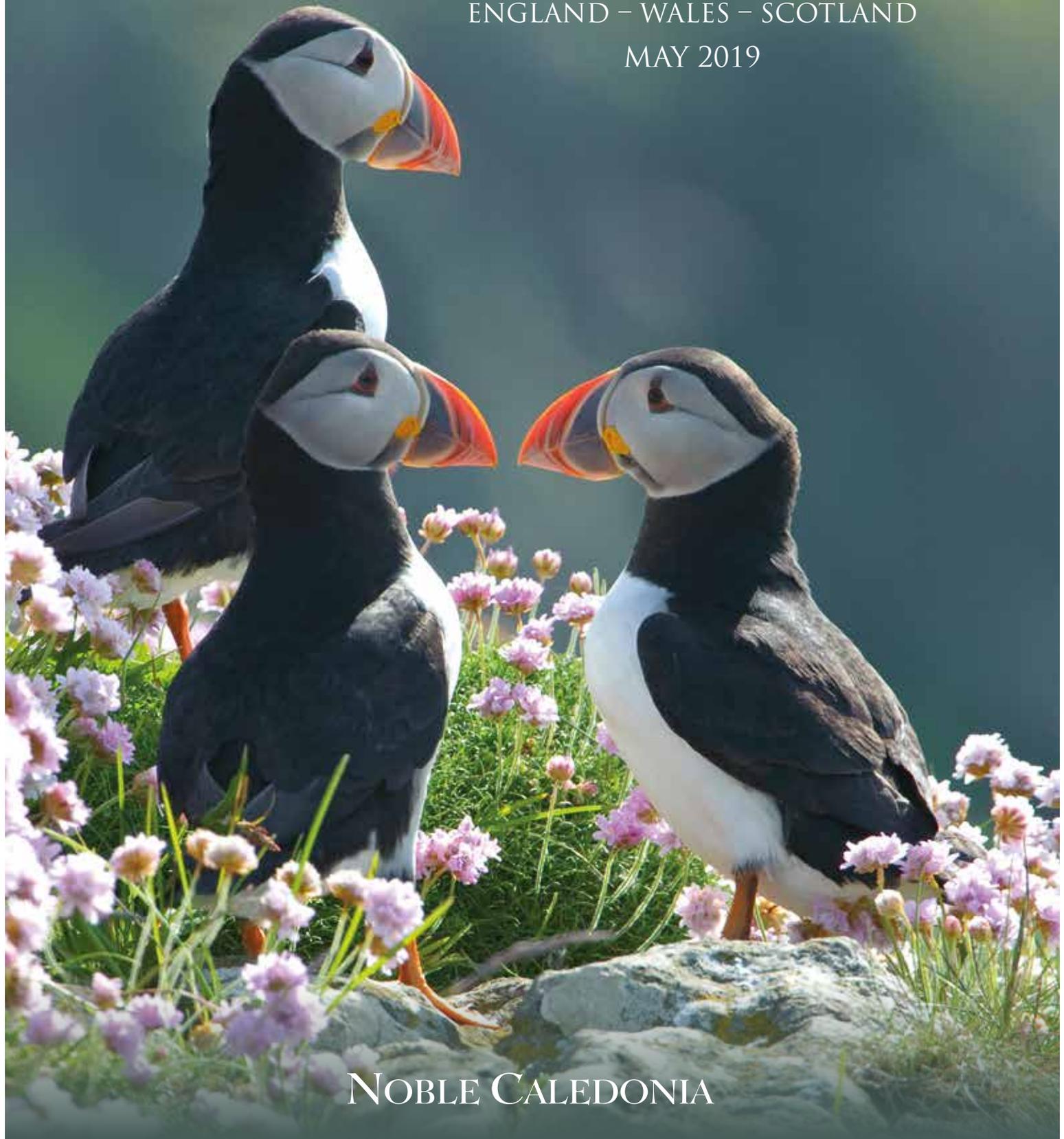


SAVE
£500
PER PERSON PLUS
COMPLIMENTARY
UPGRADE
OFFER

SPRING VOYAGES

ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
ENGLAND – WALES – SCOTLAND

MAY 2019



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Birds & Blooms of Britain



A springtime voyage from Plymouth to Fairlie
9th to 16th May 2019

During the month of May our western shores become alive with colour. This is a spectacularly beautiful time when many of the gardens are at their most appealing and the countryside will be lush and inviting. This, combined with the sheer diversity of the coastline, makes for a most appealing sea journey, whether you be an avid gardener, birdwatcher or simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting places in the world.

This journey provides a unique opportunity to explore the splendours of England, Wales and Scotland and amongst the many splendid gardens we will visit are the subtropical Abbey Gardens on the charming island of Treasco, beautiful Bodnant Garden and the magnificent Benmore Botanical Garden on the Cowal Peninsula. With regards to birds, we have included visits to Lundy, where we hope to see puffins, and peaceful Skomer Island which, carpeted with beautiful bluebells, is home to many birds including puffins, guillemots and razorbills.

Each day there will be the opportunity to explore coastal paths, see the resident wildlife and enjoy the wonderful views on offer. Whilst you could always drive, travel by train and coach and reach most of our itinerary with the help of a ferry, it is much more enjoyable to join the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky and travel in comfort accompanied by our expert onboard team without any of the hassle that independent exploration of these fascinating places would entail.



Subtropical Abbey Gardens

The Itinerary

Day 1 Plymouth, England. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon in Plymouth. Transfers will be provided from Plymouth Railway Station at a fixed time. Enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks and sail this evening.

Day 2 Isles of Scilly. Spend the morning on traffic-free Treasco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the

Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the cafe. We spend the afternoon on St Agnes, the most southwesterly community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks. The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow

sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age. Alternatively, join a boat trip to the nearby island of Annet, the second largest of the uninhabited islands and a bird sanctuary. We are not allowed to land but will cruise the coastline alive with puffins, European storm petrels and shag.

Day 3 Lundy. We have scheduled a full day on Lundy, a remote and absolutely delightful island in the Bristol Channel. Walk along its traffic-free lanes and paths, explore the wide bays and coves by way of hanging valleys, observe the puffins nesting in abandoned rabbit warrens, have a drink at the inn and buy the islands 'puffin stamps' at the island's shop.

Day 4 Skomer & Fishguard, Wales. This morning we will arrive at Skomer Island, one of the most important wildlife sites in Northern Europe. It is a marvellously peaceful and scenic island with fantastic birdlife including 6000 pairs of puffins, countless numbers of guillemots, fulmar, kittiwakes and the elusive Manx shearwater and storm petrel. Enjoy a Zodiac excursion and return to the vessel for lunch as we sail to Fishguard. From here we will take the scenic drive to St Davids, Britain's smallest

city, and explore the magnificent 12th century cathedral (the only one in the United Kingdom where the reigning monarch has a permanently reserved pew) and see the Bishop's Palace.

Day 5 Llandudno. This morning will be spent at Bodnant Garden. Situated above the River Conwy the gardens have stunning views across Snowdonia. Begun in 1875, Bodnant Garden is the creation of four generations of Aberconways and features huge Italianate terraces and formal lawns on its upper level, with a wooded valley, stream and wild garden below. There are dramatic colours throughout the season, with herbaceous borders, roses, hydrangeas, water lilies and clematis that delight throughout the summer. This afternoon will be free to explore Llandudno at leisure. Developed as an upmarket holiday town for Victorian visitors, this seaside town still retains much of its 19th century grandeur, with graceful wedding-cake architecture lining its sweeping waterfront promenade.

Day 6 Peel, Isle of Man. Arrive this morning on the Isle of Man and the main fishing port of Peel. Settlements have been here since the Mesolithic Age and the island also claims to have the longest



Lundy



Razorbill



Bodnant Garden

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

Day 7 Holy Loch, Rothesay & Fairlie, Scotland. This morning arrive in the Cowal Peninsula where we find the magnificent Benmore Botanic Garden situated in a mountainside setting. During springtime there

is a blaze of colour as the 300 species of rhododendrons put on a spectacular display. Take time to walk the paths, see the Victorian Fernery and walk along Redwood Avenue, a line of 50 Sierra redwoods planted in 1862. During lunch we sail the short distance to the Isle of Bute where we will visit one of Britain's most astounding Victorian Gothic mansions, Mount Stuart House. After the original building was destroyed by fire the mansion was rebuilt between 1880 and 1912 using the finest craftsmen of the time. After viewing the house we will visit the wonderful grounds made up of over 300 acres of pasture, woodland and gardens combining exotic and native plants. Maybe enjoy one of the trails that pass through the woodland down to the shoreline or visit the Rock Garden and Kitchen Garden situated closer to the house. Alternatively, you may prefer to stay in Rothesay and explore the small town and its impressive 13th century castle. During dinner we will sail the short distance to Fairlie where we will moor overnight.

Day 8 Fairlie. Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Station at a fixed time.

Dartmouth Pre-Cruise Extension

7th to 9th May 2019



Dartmouth Harbour

If you would like to spend some time in Dartmouth we are offering a two night hotel extension at the Dart Marina Hotel. This will be an independent stay allowing the opportunity to explore at leisure before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky. The hotel is in a wonderful setting by the river and offers exceptionally comfortable rooms. Situated a short walk from the town centre, you can take time to explore the historic centre or visit some of the nearby attractions including Agatha Christie's former residence at Greenways, a boat trip on the River Dart, join the steam railway along the south Devon coast or visit the nearby naval college.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Standard room with balcony & partial sea view **£345**

King room with French doors & sea view **£375**

King room with balcony & partial sea view **£385**

Standard room for sole use **£545**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Dart Marina Hotel & Spa on a bed and breakfast basis, transfers from Totnes railway station to the hotel and from the hotel to the MS Hebridean Sky in Plymouth.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SAVE £500 PER PERSON & RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY UPGRADE TO THE NEXT CATEGORY. PLUS LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES AVAILABLE WITH NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

| Deck | Suite Category | Brochure Price | Special Offer Price |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Amundsen | Standard | £3950 | £3450 |
| Byrd | Superior | £4150 | £3650 |
| Mawson | Premium | £4450 | £3950 |
| Mawson | Corner | £4750 | £4250 |
| Scott | Deluxe Balcony | £5250 | £4750 |
| Shackleton | Owner's Balcony | £5550 | £5050 |
| Shackleton | Hebridean | £6450 | £5950 |
| Amundsen | Standard for sole use | £3950 | £3450 |
| Byrd | Superior for sole use | £4150 | £3650 |

PRICE INCLUDES: Seven nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Spring in the Scottish Isles



An island hopping expedition in the Hebrides
16th to 24th May 2019

If ever an archipelago was made for expedition cruising it is the islands off Scotland's west coast. You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places, but remember that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be close to home. Nowhere is that truer than around Scotland's magnificent coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic. The sheer diversity of landscapes and lifestyles will amaze you, as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter.

There is no better way to explore this endlessly fascinating and beautiful region than by small ship and with our naturalists and local guides we will explore the isles, and with our nimble Zodiac craft be able to reach some of the most remote and untouched places. With just over 100 travelling companions, the atmosphere is more akin to a private yacht trip journey through stunning scenery accompanied by spectacular sunsets and prolific wildlife. Learn something of the island's history, see their abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world.



Loch Scaivaig and the Cullin Mountains



Lunga

The Itinerary

Day 1 Fairlie, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon in Fairlie. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow Central Railway station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time. Enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks and sail this evening.

Day 2 Holy Loch & Rothesay. This morning arrive in the Cowal Peninsula where we find the magnificent Benmore Botanic Garden situated in a mountainside setting. During springtime there is a blaze of colour as the 300 species of rhododendrons put on a spectacular display. Take time to walk the paths, see the Victorian Fernery and walk along Redwood

Avenue, a line of 50 Sierra redwoods planted in 1862. During lunch we sail the short distance to the Isle of Bute where we will visit one of Britain's most astounding Victorian Gothic mansions, Mount Stuart House. After the original building was destroyed by fire the mansion was rebuilt between 1880 and 1912 using the finest craftsmen of the time. After viewing the house we will visit the wonderful grounds made up of over 300 acres of pasture, woodland and gardens combining exotic and native plants. Maybe enjoy one of the trails that pass through the woodland down to the shoreline or visit the Rock Garden and Kitchen Garden situated closer to the house. Alternatively, you may prefer to stay in Rothesay and explore the

small town and its impressive 13th century castle.

Day 3 Iona & Lunga. Awake this morning at Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises. During lunch sail for the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago

of uninhabited volcanic islets. The island of Lunga is the largest of the Treshnish Isles in Argyll and Bute. Of volcanic origin, Lunga has been described as 'a green jewel in a peacock sea' and is a summer nesting-place for hundreds of seabirds.

Day 4 Loch Scaivaig & Canna. This morning we will visit lovely Loch Scaivaig on the island of Skye. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country and our expedition team will run a series of hikes for all interests. For those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we will visit the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday which are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by the National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn-shaped haven. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600-foot cliffs on the north shore.



Day 5 Inverewe & Isle Martin.

This morning we will visit one of Scotland's premier gardens, Inverewe. This botanical garden in the north-west Highlands, presents an amazing collection of exotic trees and shrubs that are sheltered by well positioned windbreaks of native pine. After a guided tour of the gardens, we will return to the MS Hebridean Sky and set sail for Isle Martin. Eilean Mhartainn in Scots Gaelic, Isle Martin is an uninhabited island in Loch Broom, on the west coast of Scotland. During the 1980's and 1990's, it became the site of a reforestation experiment by ecologists with native woodlands planted throughout and these are now flourishing and improving soil fertility and biodiversity. Then in 1999 the island became one of the first handovers of land to community ownership. We will be offered a very warm welcome by volunteers from the community trust and learn about the work they do on the island; promoting the landscape, community and traditions.

Day 6 Shiant Islands & Stornoway.

This morning we will board the Zodiacs for a cruise around the spectacular basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. This is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles. This afternoon we will call into Stornoway, the capital of Lewis, and our tour will take us across the island to the beautiful west coast and to Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and

avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. Visit the excellent visitor centre to learn more about the site and venture out amongst the stones themselves to experience their mysterious atmosphere. Continue around the west coast to the site of Dun Carloway Pictish Broch. Probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. We then head north to Gearranan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses where people and animals lived in close proximity. The houses are made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast.

Day 7 St Kilda & Stac Lee.

This morning arrive at St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars and in 1957 it was

bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead guided walks on the island. Later, we will cruise past one of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee. The impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 8 Mingulay & Barra. Today we explore the remote islands at the tip of South Uist including Mingulay and Barra. Mingulay, which is nearly 1600 acres is the largest of the group of islands south of Barra. Its towering cliffs and stacks face the Atlantic while the east side slopes gradually down to the sandy beach of Mingulay Bay. Despite there

being a continuous population on the island for at least two thousand years, evacuation began in 1907 and the island was completely abandoned in 1912. Ruins of the village remain close to the shore which we will explore on walks with the expedition team. The islands are also a nature reserve with important breeding populations of razorbills, guillemots, puffins, fulmars and shags. This afternoon we will land on Barra and visit Castlebay which curves around the barren rocky hills of a beautiful wide bay. Here we find the 15th century Kisimul Castle, seat of the Clan Macneil and a key defensive stronghold situated on a rock in the bay.

Day 9 Oban. Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Station at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SAVE £500 PER PERSON PLUS RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY UPGRADE TO THE NEXT CATEGORY. PLUS LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES AVAILABLE WITH NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

| Deck | Suite Category | Brochure Price | Special Offer Price |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Amundsen | Standard | £4250 | £3750 |
| Byrd | Superior | £4450 | £3950 |
| Mawson | Premium | £4650 | £4150 |
| Mawson | Corner | £4950 | £4450 |
| Scott | Deluxe Balcony | £5450 | £4950 |
| Shackleton | Owner's Balcony | £5750 | £5250 |
| Shackleton | Hebridean | £6650 | £6150 |
| Amundsen | Standard for sole use | £4250 | £3750 |
| Byrd | Superior for sole use | £4450 | £3950 |

PRICE INCLUDES: Eight nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Friendly Service



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

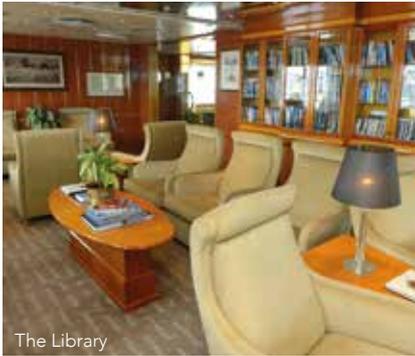
The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS 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, flat screen television and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Egyptian cotton sheets, 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 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 Mawson Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A selection of games and two computers offering complimentary internet access can also be found in the Library. 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. Throughout the vessel, carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

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 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 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.

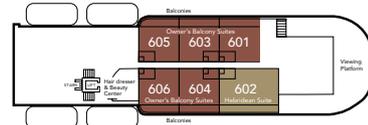


Alfresco Dining

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



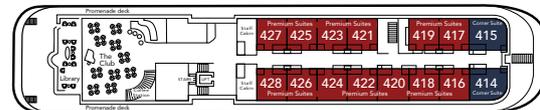
Shackleton Deck



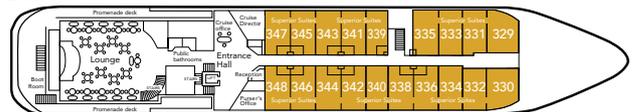
Scott Deck



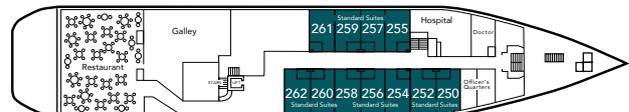
Mawson Deck



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.



During these voyages 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. These cruises will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



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: Puffins.