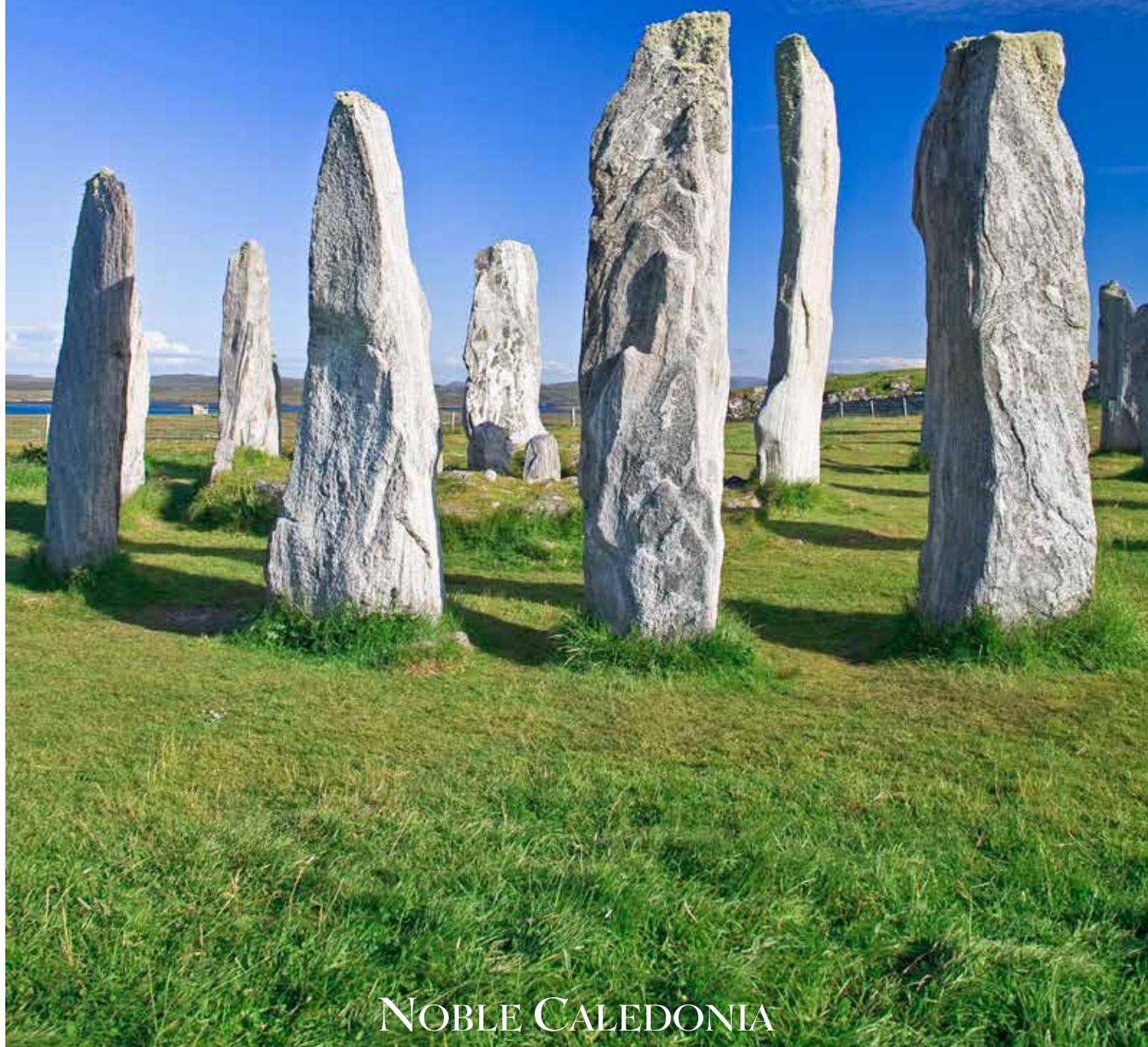


VERY
LIMITED
AVAILABILITY
REMAINING

SPRING IN THE HEBRIDES

AN EXPEDITION EXPLORING THE MAJESTIC
BEAUTY OF THE REMOTE HEBRIDES
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

13TH TO 20TH MAY & 20TH TO 27TH MAY 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA



You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places without realising that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be close to home. Nowhere is this 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 the landscapes and lifestyles will amaze you, as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter. With our fleet of Zodiacs we are able to visit some of the most remote and uninhabited islands that surround the Scottish Coast including Lunga, Mingulay and St Kilda as well as the small island community of Iona.

This is not a cruise in the conventional sense, more an exploration with like-minded companions to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the islands. Learn something of their history, see the abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world. There is no better way to explore this endlessly fascinating and beautiful region than by small ship and ashore, with our local experts we divide into small groups thereby enjoying a more comprehensive and peaceful experience. Having arranged hundreds of small ship cruises around Scotland, we have learned that everyone takes something different from the experience. We are indeed fortunate in having such marvellous places so close to home. Now more than ever there is a great appreciation for the peace, beauty and culture of this special corner of the UK.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Oban, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon in Oban. 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 Colonsay & Jura. Lying between Mull and Islay, we will spend the morning exploring the island of Colonsay, with her craggy, heather-backed hills and sparse woodland yet impressive array of plant and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated wooded gardens which protect

the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross. Return to the vessel for lunch as we sail to Jura, arriving in the late afternoon. We will go ashore at Craighouse and will be welcomed in the cooperage where we will be given an introduction to the Jura Distillery and an opportunity to taste the local product. Alternatively, join one of our naturalists on a walk along the shore or join the local bus for a short drive around the island.

Day 3 Iona, Staffa & 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. Later today we hope to drop anchor off Staffa, the south side where the perpendicular rock face feature an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which have been cut by the sea into cathedralesque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer and northwest of Staffa lie 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 sea birds.

Day 4 Mingulay & Vatersay. Today we explore the remote islands at the tip of South Uist including Mingulay and Vatersay. 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



Harbour seal



Canna House



Lona



Isle of Lewis



Puffin, Lunga Island



St Kilda

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 a guided walk. The islands are also a nature reserve with important breeding populations of razorbills, guillemots, puffins, fulmars and shags.

Day 5 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 6 Isle of Lewis & Shiant Islands.

On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, today's tour takes you 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 Garrannan 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. This afternoon 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.

Day 7 Canna & Loch Scavaig.

Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. 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. Enjoy lunch as we sail to lovely Loch Scavaig 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 afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

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

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Amundsen	Standard	£3950
Byrd	Superior	£4150
Mawson	Premium	£4450
Mawson	Corner	SOLD OUT
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	SOLD OUT
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£5550
Shackleton	Hebridean	SOLD OUT
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	SOLD OUT
Byrd	Superior for sole use	SOLD OUT

PRICE INCLUDES: Seven nights aboard the MS Hebridean 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.

Pre-Cruise Splendours of Scotland by Train Extension

Four nights aboard the Belmond Royal Scotsman - 9th to 13th May & 16th to 20th May 2020

Before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are delighted to be offering a four night extension aboard the delightful Belmond Royal Scotsman private train which accommodates just 40 guests. This fascinating four-night train journey takes you through classic scenery from the gentle eastern lowlands through the magnificent landscapes of the Highlands to reach the remote region of Wester Ross before continuing through Speyside and the grandeur of the Cairngorm National Park.

Belmond Royal Scotsman

The Royal Scotsman train was first launched in 1985. Following a whirlwind five-year operation of award-winning success, the original carriages were retired and replaced by a new set of Pullman cars. In 2007 the train was christened Belmond Royal Scotsman and has continued to raise the bar of style and innovation since.

Your Accommodation: The elegant, Edwardian inspired, twin cabin provides a welcome sanctuary after a day in the Highlands. Lined with rich marquetry with plush lower berth beds fitted with soft Scottish wools and tartans. A dressing table and en-suite shower add to the indulgence along with a generous picture window.

Your Dining: Snaking through sky-high peaks and dramatic valleys, dining aboard Belmond Royal Scotsman is one of the world's most unique dining experiences. Served in two mahogany-panelled dining cars, each meal celebrates Scottish produce with rich game, seasonal seafood and wild salmon regular highlights on the menu.

Your Space: The Observation Car with a viewing platform and bar brims with the warm atmosphere. It is the perfect place to mingle with fellow travellers, listen to live music and watch the awe-inspiring landscapes pass by. Alternatively indulge in a treatment from the deluxe Bamford Haybarn Spa - a haven of peace and tranquility.



Twin cabin



Belmond Royal Scotsman



Lounge

The Itinerary

Day 1 Edinburgh to Keith, Scotland. Embark Belmond Royal Scotsman in the early afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Edinburgh Airport at a fixed time. The train departs Edinburgh Waverley Station and travels north, crossing the Firth of Forth by means of the magnificent Forth Railway Bridge. Enjoy afternoon tea as you journey through the former Kingdom of Fife. The train follows the east coast, passing through Arbroath, Montrose and Aberdeen before arriving in the market town of Keith. An informal dinner is served on board, after which you are invited to the Observation Car to enjoy entertainment with a Scottish flavour.

Day 2 Keith to Kyle of Lochalsh. Departing Keith this morning, the train travels west along the Moray Firth towards Inverness, capital of the Highlands. Lunch is served on the way to Kyle of Lochalsh, on what is arguably the most scenic route in Britain. The line passes Loch Luichart and the Torridon Mountains. The train travels onwards through the small village of Achnasheen, before commencing the climb to the breathtaking Luib Summit and Achnashellach Forest. Descending to Strathcarron, it then follows the edge of beautiful Loch Carron through Attadale, Stromeferry and Dunraig. Arriving at the picturesque fishing village of Plockton, alight to take a boat trip to see the colony of wild seals and enjoy magnificent views across the bay to the Applecross Mountains. There is also a woodland walk to be discovered and time afterwards to enjoy a traditional Highland welcome and a dram or two in the seafront Plockton Hotel. Alternatively, you can opt to visit one of Scotland's most iconic sights: Eilean Donan Castle, which perches on an island at the meeting point of three great sea lochs. Return to the train in Kyle of Lochalsh, gateway to the mystical Isle of Skye, for overnight stabling. Dinner this evening is formal and is followed by coffee and liqueurs in the Observation Car.

Day 3 Kyle of Lochalsh to Boat of Garten. Breakfast is served as the train leaves Kyle and retraces part of yesterday's route as far as Dingwall. Have your cameras ready for the enchanting views of Plockton. Disembark in Garve to visit Glen Ord Distillery, which is one of the oldest distilleries in Scotland, founded in 1838. Enjoy a tour of the distillery and a private tasting and nosing session. Re-join the train in Inverness in time for lunch. Later disembark in Carrbridge for an afternoon visit to Ballindalloch Castle which enjoys a majestic setting. The romantic baronial castle, known as the 'Pearl of the North', is the much-loved family home of the Macpherson-Grants. Return to the train at Boat of Garten on the private Strathspey Railway.

After an informal dinner, make your way to the Observation Car, where our entertaining Highlander paints a colourful picture of Scottish heroes and gives a dramatic insight into Highland life through the centuries.

Day 4 Boat of Garten to Dundee. After breakfast, travel the short distance by coach to Rothiemurchus Estate in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Rothiemurchus Forest is one of the largest and most important remnants of the native Caledonian pine forest, which used to cover most of Scotland. Choose from a number of activities including fishing, clay pigeon shooting and an estate tour. Afterwards you are warmly welcomed by your hosts in the hunting lodge, where, over refreshments, you can learn about the fascinating history of the estate that has been in the same family for over 400 years. Return to the train in Kingussie and relax over a leisurely lunch on the journey south through Blair Atholl and Pitlochry to Dunkeld. Here you disembark for a private tour of Glamis Castle and its beautiful gardens. Seat of the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis was the childhood home of the late HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Re-join the train in Perth and, as it makes its way to Dundee, prepare for a final formal dinner to mark your last night on board. After your celebratory feast, you may feel inspired by the musicians to partake of some lively Scottish country dancing on the station platform, a fitting finale to your tour.

Day 5 Dundee to Edinburgh to Oban. Breakfast is served as the train leaves Dundee and crosses the Tay Bridge into the former Kingdom of Fife and on to Edinburgh. After disembarking, enjoy a tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia followed by lunch before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky in Oban. Please follow Day 1 of the main itinerary.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£5200** Single: **On Request**

Price Includes: Four nights accommodation in a Twin Cabin aboard the Belmond Royal Scotsman, all meals & beverages, excursions, transfers, musical entertainment, services of an onboard host, taxes, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, spa treatments.

NB. The Belmond Royal Scotsman operates within the constraints of the railway network and itineraries are subject to change.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

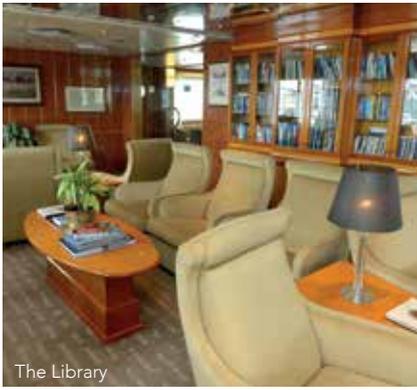
The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum 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. 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 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 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.

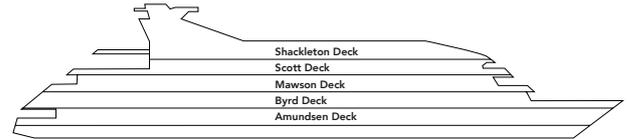
Your Comfort

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.

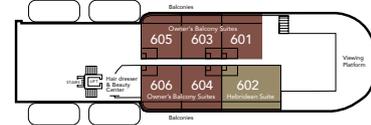
Your Life On Board

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 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.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



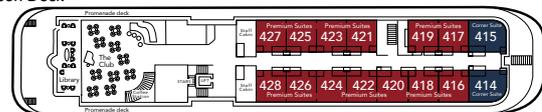
Shackleton Deck



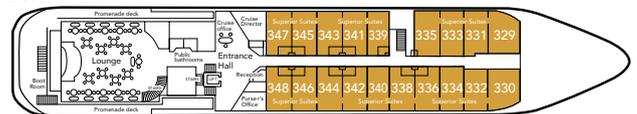
Scott Deck



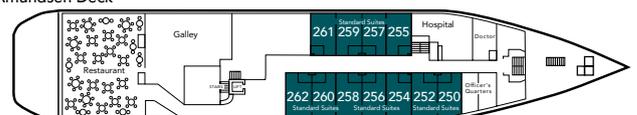
Mawson Deck



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 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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