

SPRING IN THE SECRET MEDITERRANEAN

A voyage exploring Italy, Montenegro,
Albania and Greece aboard the MS Island Sky
with Dr Alan Borg

25th May to 6th June 2017

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Kotor



Delphi

Late spring is the perfect time for cruising in the Mediterranean. Just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites. Join us aboard the MS Island Sky for what promises to be an informative and relaxing journey and immerse yourselves in the historical and cultural gems of the hidden Mediterranean. As we sail from Malta to Istanbul we will visit ancient sites, excellent museums, charming villages and see some of the loveliest scenery imaginable whilst enjoying all the comforts of our vessel. We will have the added benefit of excellent local guides and our knowledgeable onboard guest speaker who will bring to life all we see.

GUEST SPEAKER



DR ALAN BORG

Alan began his career teaching the history of art at Indiana and Princeton Universities. Returning to Britain in 1970, he became Assistant Keeper in the Royal Armouries in the Tower of London. In 1982 he became Director General of the Imperial War Museum, where he was responsible for the

complete refurbishment and reinterpretation of the Museum, the opening of the Cabinet War Rooms, the preservation of HMS Belfast and the development of Duxford Airfield as a major aviation museum. In 1996 he became Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, where he undertook the redisplay of the entire sequence of British Galleries. He retired from the Museum in 2001 and is currently Vice President of the Foundling Museum, and Librarian of the Priory of England and the Islands, the Venerable Order of St John. His talks for this cruise will include The Story of Albania, Delphi and its Oracle, Mycenae.



The Itinerary

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

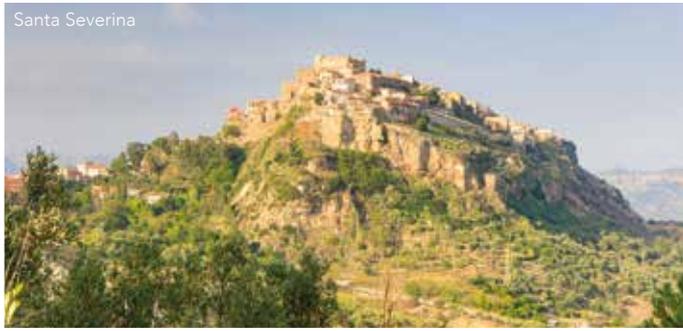
Day 2 Crotone, Italy. Relax on board this morning as we cruise to Italy, maybe join one of the lectures or find a spot on deck. Over lunch we arrive in the Calabrian port of Crotone which was once one of the most important settlements on Magna Graecia. This afternoon we drive inland to Santa Severina, a pretty town overlooking the Neto River valley. After our tour of the town there will be the opportunity to taste the

famous local Ciro wines and sample the local cuisine: olive oil, local cold cuts and a selection of cheese before returning to the ship.

Day 3 Otranto for Lecce. From the port of Otranto we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture. A guided walk will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. After the tour, there will be an

Itinerary Highlights

- Private visit to Palazzo Tamborino-Cezzi in Lecce
- Cruise along the magnificent Kotor Fjord
- Maiden visit to Sazan Island, Albania, formerly a closed military site
- Transit the Corinth Canal
- Explore Delphi and Mycenae – iconic hilltop ancient Greek sites



exclusive, private visit to the 15th century Palazzo Tamborino-Cezzi. The owner of the palazzo will personally take us on a tour, sharing interesting stories and anecdotes regarding his family and the palazzo itself. Enjoy a light lunch of local specialities before a concert of traditional music of the Salento region called La Pizzica.

Day 4 Kotor, Montenegro. This morning we enter the Gulf of Kotor and sail up the fjord-like entrance to the Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor. This really is an extraordinary place full of marvellous architecture and pretty town squares. Our morning guided walk will include the 12th century cathedral of St Trython, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. After lunch onboard enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 5 Shkoder, Albania. There will be a choice of activities today and on the full day tour we will drive from Kotor through the Montenegro countryside. We will cross the border into Albania to reach Shkoder which was founded in the 4th century BC and has been occupied by the Romans, Serbians and Venetians. Here we will visit the Rozafa Castle which rises majestically on a rocky hill just outside the city, and explore the museum within the walls. We will continue into the countryside for lunch where we will enjoy a slow food experience of Albanian specialities before returning to the MS Island Sky which will have relocated to Shengjin port. Alternatively you may prefer to stay onboard and enjoy a day cruising through the Kotor fjord and along the coast.

Day 6 Sazan Island, Albania. Located around ten miles from the port of Vlore, Sazan is Albania's largest island albeit at only 2.2 square miles. Having been under Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman control due to its strategic location it was occupied by the Italians in 1914 and only returned to Albania in 1947. During the Cold War the Russians built a submarine base and the Albanian Communist regime built a military base complete with bunkers and tunnels which could withstand a nuclear attack or western invasion. Since 1992, following the end of communism, the island has fallen into disrepair but we are able to explore this derelict base and ruined buildings which still contain original furniture and the tunnels. We return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon explore the rest of the island which is situated in the Karaburan – Sazan National Marine Park.

Day 7 Sarande for Butrint, Albania. Our last call in Albania sees us discover the archaeological and ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO



World Heritage Site. Explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre. From the Roman era are the public baths, gymnasium and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon cruising.

Day 8 Delphi & Corinth Canal, Greece. From our berth in Itea, we will drive through lush olive groves up to Delphi, stunningly situated upon a mountain terrace and one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. Our visit begins at the Castalian Spring, erupting from the spot where Pegasus is said to have struck his hoof. We will continue up the Sacred Way, passing the treasury of the Athenians and the bases of many monuments, the temple of

Apollo, the 5000 seat theatre dating from the fourth century BC and the ancient stadium. Return to the vessel for lunch and in the late afternoon we will transit the Corinth Canal.

Day 9 Nafplion. Nafplion's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivalled in Greece. From here we will enjoy a scenic drive through the Argos Plain, once ruled by Agamemnon, conqueror of Troy, to the famous citadel of Mycenae. High above the confluence of two boulder-strewn ravines, Mycenae is entered by way of the Lion Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. Return to the MS Island Sky and enjoy a free afternoon in Nafplion.

Day 10 Sifnos & Folegandros. This corner of the Cyclades is far from the well-trodden tracks of the big ships. After breakfast go ashore to the little known island of Sifnos where you will be greeted by traditional white houses, picturesque churches and narrow lanes and alleys. Our morning will include Apollonia, the island's tiny capital, the Virysianni Monastery and the villages of Kastro and Artemos both delightful places to wander and admire the traditional architecture. Over lunch we sail to the little known island of Folegandros. Explore at leisure the clifftop capital of Chora, a wonderfully picturesque village.

Day 11 Chios. The birthplace of Homer, Chios remained a significant Aegean island into the Byzantine period, when the monastery of Nea



Corinth Canal

Moni, with its 11th century mosaics was built. The island is rich in ancient ruins and this morning we will visit the 11th century Monastery of Nea Moni, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most important ecclesiastical monuments in Greece. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and this afternoon you have the choice to relax and explore Chios town independently or join a tour to the south of the island where we visit the beautifully preserved 14th century fortress village of Mesta and the elaborately decorated houses of Pirgi.

Day 12 Limnos. Arrive over breakfast in Myrina, the small capital of Limnos. We have a choice

of activities this morning, maybe enjoy a gentle walk along an idyllic rural pathway to the pretty village of Kondias. Alternatively enjoy a morning in Myrina which is known for its romantic castle built over the rocky promontory. The castle foundations date back to Classical times, when it was the site of a temple of Artemis. We will continue to the archaeological museum before returning to the vessel for lunch and a final relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 13 Istanbul, Turkey to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard Forward	£5495	£5195
Magellan	Standard	£5695	£5395
Columbus	Superior	£6095	£5795
Marco Polo	Premium	£6495	£6195
Marco Polo	Corner	£6695	£6395
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£7095	£6795
Explorer	Owner's Balcony	£7495	£7195
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6895	£6595
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£7295	£6995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis including wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia onboard team including guest speaker, transfers, port taxes, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: Please note that whilst we plan to be alongside for most ports of call, depending on local harbour conditions the vessel's Zodiacs may be used to transfer ashore at Otranto, Sifnos and Folegandros.

Istanbul Post-Cruise Extension – 6th to 8th June 2017



Blue Mosque

Extend your stay in Istanbul with our two night package offering the chance to explore some of the highlights of the city.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Istanbul. Disembark this morning and we will enjoy the sights of old Constantinople with visits to the Hippodrome and the great Byzantine church of Santa Sophia. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before checking into our hotel for a two night stay. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. Maybe look for a bargain in the Grand Bazaar, visit the fascinating Basilica Cistern. This evening is free to enjoy dinner independently in one of the local restaurants.

Day 2 Istanbul. Our morning tour will include a visit to Chora church; for the best Byzantine art, mosaics and frescoes in the city and a visit to the great Theodosian walls which protected the city for 1,000 years. Return to the hotel for a chance to relax and explore independently. Meet this evening for a farewell dinner.

Day 3 Istanbul to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Price per person based on double occupancy

Twin: **£545** Single: **£695**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, excursions as per the itinerary, transfer from ship to hotel and hotel to airport, meals as described.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, visa.



MS Island Sky

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, 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.



Standard Forward Suite



The Club



Dinner on the Lido deck

On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. Our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day.

There will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The

atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, informative port briefings and presentations from our expedition team and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room, all contribute to making any voyage aboard the MS Island Sky a memorable experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly comfortable ship.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The onboard library is the perfect



Owner's Balcony Suite



Restaurant



Library

place to relax with a book. Daily newspapers and magazines are placed in the library depending on local availability. Outside there is a rear sun deck, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a further observation and sun deck.

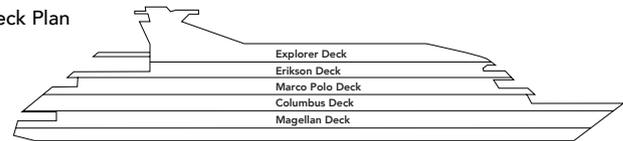
Your Dining

Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order and lunch and dinner is à la carte. When weather permits, breakfast and a buffet-style lunch are also served on deck. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea is served in the lounge and tea and coffee are available 24 hours.

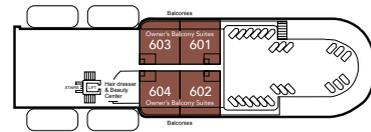
Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room 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. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped 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 with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, Molton Brown toiletries, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries and air-conditioning and heating.

Deck Plan



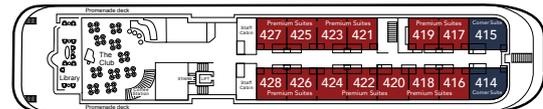
Explorer Deck



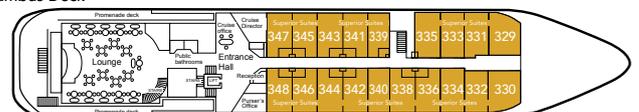
Erikson Deck



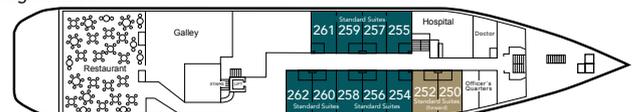
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites (Forward)
- Premium Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites

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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: Sifnos Island.