

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

SPRING IN THE TOWNS & GARDENS OF THE ATLANTIC EDGE

A VOYAGE FROM OPORTO TO PORTSMOUTH
ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER ALAN MASON

20TH TO 28TH APRIL 2021



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Douro Valley



Santiago de Compostela

Join the MS Caledonian Sky in Oporto for this springtime voyage of some 1000 miles to Portsmouth visiting some marvellously historic and scenic places along the way. Giving the large ports a wide berth, we will instead call into some places away from the well traversed routes of the larger cruise lines and have allowed time to explore the horticultural splendours and delightful towns of the region in depth.

Our exploration begins with a day discovering the beauty of the Douro Valley with an exclusive cruise along the Douro River to Regua where we will visit a wine estate and enjoy a tasting of some fabulous Douro wines. Setting sail from Portugal, we will witness some splendid gardens in all their springtime glory, step into the pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, spend a day exploring Brittany and the charming village of Locronan and taste some local ports and wines along the way. A highlight for many will be our call in the Isles of Scilly where we visit the stunning sub-tropical Abbey Gardens on Tresco. All of this combined with the rich maritime history of the region and the sheer beauty of the coastal landscapes makes for an endlessly fascinating cultural experience.



Guest Speaker - Alan Mason

Alan is one of the most experienced and best qualified garden designers and consultants in Europe. He is a founder member of The Professional Gardener's Guild and the founder of Senior Garden Advisors consultancy group. Alan started his garden design consultancy business in 1987 following a period where he was the youngest Head Gardener in the country, at Bramham Park and Garden Manager to the Queen's cousin Lord Harewood at Harewood House in Yorkshire. Here, he and his team elevated the gardens into the top ten most visited gardens in the country. During the 80's and 90's he presented television programmes from around Europe, including "Le Manoir" the making of his own garden in Brittany and the long running "Gardens without Borders" from around France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Holland. Alan is also a judge of the show gardens at the prestigious Sandringham Flower Show and a garden design lecturer for The Royal Horticultural Society.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Oporto, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in Leixoes.

Day 2 Oporto. Transfer this morning to the waterfront in Oporto and embark our awaiting vessel for an exclusive cruise up the breathtaking Douro Valley, passing through two of the river system's huge locks and enjoying views of peaceful villages and terraced hillsides as we make our way upstream. Lunch will be served on board prior to our arrival in the town of Regua in the early

afternoon. Disembark here and enjoy a tasting session at the Quinta da Pacheca, a wine estate offering fabulous views of the surrounding countryside that was established in the town in 1738. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky by coach in time for an early evening sail.

Day 3 Villagarcia De Arousa, Spain. Arriving in Galicia we spend a relaxing morning in the port of Villagarcia De Arousa where we can explore ashore at leisure. After lunch on board, visit the nearby Pazo de Rubianes, originally founded in 1411 and one of the

three official lordships in Spain. Enjoy a guided walk through the stunning gardens, famous for their thousands of camellias but also home to eucalyptus trees, sequoias and camphors. Also visit the Pazo's extensive vineyards and learn about the local Albarino wine production, before exploring the historical palace itself. Enjoy a wine tasting before returning to the ship.

Day 4 Santiago de Compostela. From our berth in La Coruna we will make our way to Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the chance to hike a short, steepish section towards Santiago. Otherwise transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias; the Quintana Plaza; House of Parra; facade of Azabacheria; and the facade of San Martin Pinaro. Enjoy lunch at a

Parador and some free time before returning to the ship this afternoon and sailing.

Day 5 At Sea. After a busy few days take the chance to relax as we spend the day at sea. Our lecture programme continues in the lounge or find a spot on deck to relax.

Day 6 Douarnenez, France. This morning we anchor off the Finistere region of France and the port of Douarnenez which prospered as a major centre for the sardine industry in the 19th century. Traces of these days still show in the architecture and the old fisherman's houses that line the harbour, whilst at the Port Musee you may find a number of traditional boats at anchor. Using the ship's Zodiacs to get ashore, we have planned a morning visit to Locronan, one of the most picturesque and preserved Medieval Breton villages which grew from the manufacture of sailcloth. Visit the 15th century church, remarkable for its stone vaulting and stained-glass windows, before walking through the craft workshops. You might also be tempted to taste the famous "kouignemann", a traditional Breton butter cake. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch and this afternoon will be at leisure



to relax on board or to explore this lovely town at your own pace. *Please note that the ship's Zodiacs may be used to transfer guests ashore today.*

Day 7 Isles of Scilly, UK. Using local boats, we alight on to the traffic-free island of Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous sub-tropical 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 café. After lunch on board we use the local boats to sail over to St Agnes, the most south westerly community in the United Kingdom. Surrounded by rocks and reefs, this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks with over one third designated as "sites of special scientific interest". 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.

Day 8 Fowey. Today the MS Caledonian Sky will anchor in the River Fowey from where we visit the Lost Gardens of Heligan. The seat of the Tremayne family for 400 years, the garden fell into disrepair after World War I and was lovingly restored between 1990 and 2000. Its pre 1920 camellias and rhododendrons, which we hope will be in bloom for our call, are now part of the National Collection and provide a living link to the past. The extensive grounds include a Victorian Kitchen Garden and atmospheric paths lead through the Pleasure Grounds. Medieval and Georgian buildings characterise the picturesque port of Fowey and Polruan opposite and the afternoon will be at leisure to wander its historic alleys and lanes.

Day 9 Portsmouth. Be on deck early this morning as we sail into the historic naval port of Portsmouth where we disembark. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time.

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
Castle	Standard	£4195	£3895
Caledonian	Superior	£4395	£4095
Promenade	Premium	£4595	£4295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£5595	£5295
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£5895	£5595
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£7095	£6795
Castle	Standard for sole use	£4195	£3895
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£4395	£4095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Oporto • Eight nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-cruise Oporto Extension

17th to 20th April 2021

Coimbra



If you would like to explore the charming city of Oporto and discover the historic inland towns of Coimbra and Guimaraes before embarking the MS Caledonian Sky, we are offering a three night stay at the Intercontinental Oporto with included tours.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Oporto, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. Upon arrival transfer to our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 2 Oporto. Spend a day at leisure exploring independently.

Day 3 Coimbra. Today we will spend the day in Coimbra, the Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years, and the site of the country's greatest university for the past five centuries. Visit the stunning 16th to 18th century buildings, including the Paco das Escolas (Royal Palace). After lunch the afternoon is free for individual exploration before returning to the hotel in Oporto.

Day 4 Guimaraes. Check out of the hotel this morning and drive to Guimaraes, the birthplace of Afonso Henriques, the first independent King of Portugal. Guimaraes has beautifully preserved its illustrious past, its Medieval centre is a warren of lanes and picturesque plazas framed by 14th century edifices, while on an adjacent hill stands the 1000 year old castle and the palace built by the first duke of Braganca in the 15th century. After a local lunch, transfer to the port of Leixoes to embark the MS Caledonian Sky.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£745** Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Three nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, tours as described, Tour Manager, lunch on days 3 & 4, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Restaurant



Deluxe Balcony Suite

MS CALEDONIAN SKY

The MS Caledonian Sky is one of the finest small ships in the world and sister vessel to our MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. The passenger accommodation is arranged over four decks and all suites have outside views. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, heated towel rail, vanity unit and walk-in shower and/or bath tub. Facilities in the suites also include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, flat screen television, telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

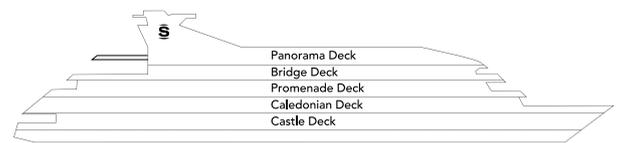
Your Dining

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

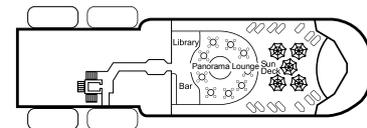
offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where briefings are given by the onboard team and talks from Guest Speakers take place. Also in the Lounge is a 24-hour tea and coffee station along with an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. In addition there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has further seating arrangements, a bar and a library which is well stocked with reference books, a selection of games, and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (signal strength varies depending on location and demand). Outside there is a rear Lido Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top deck there is a further observation and Sun Deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture.



Panorama Deck



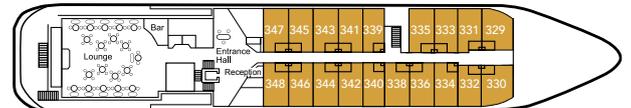
Bridge Deck



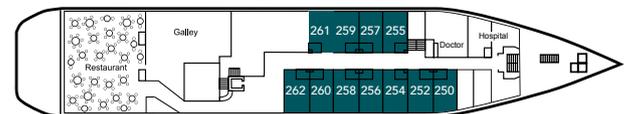
Promenade Deck



Caledonian Deck



Castle Deck



- Standard Suites
- Premium Suites
- Premium Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Corner Suites with Balcony

Please note that all suites on Castle Deck feature a minimum of two portholes.



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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: Fowey