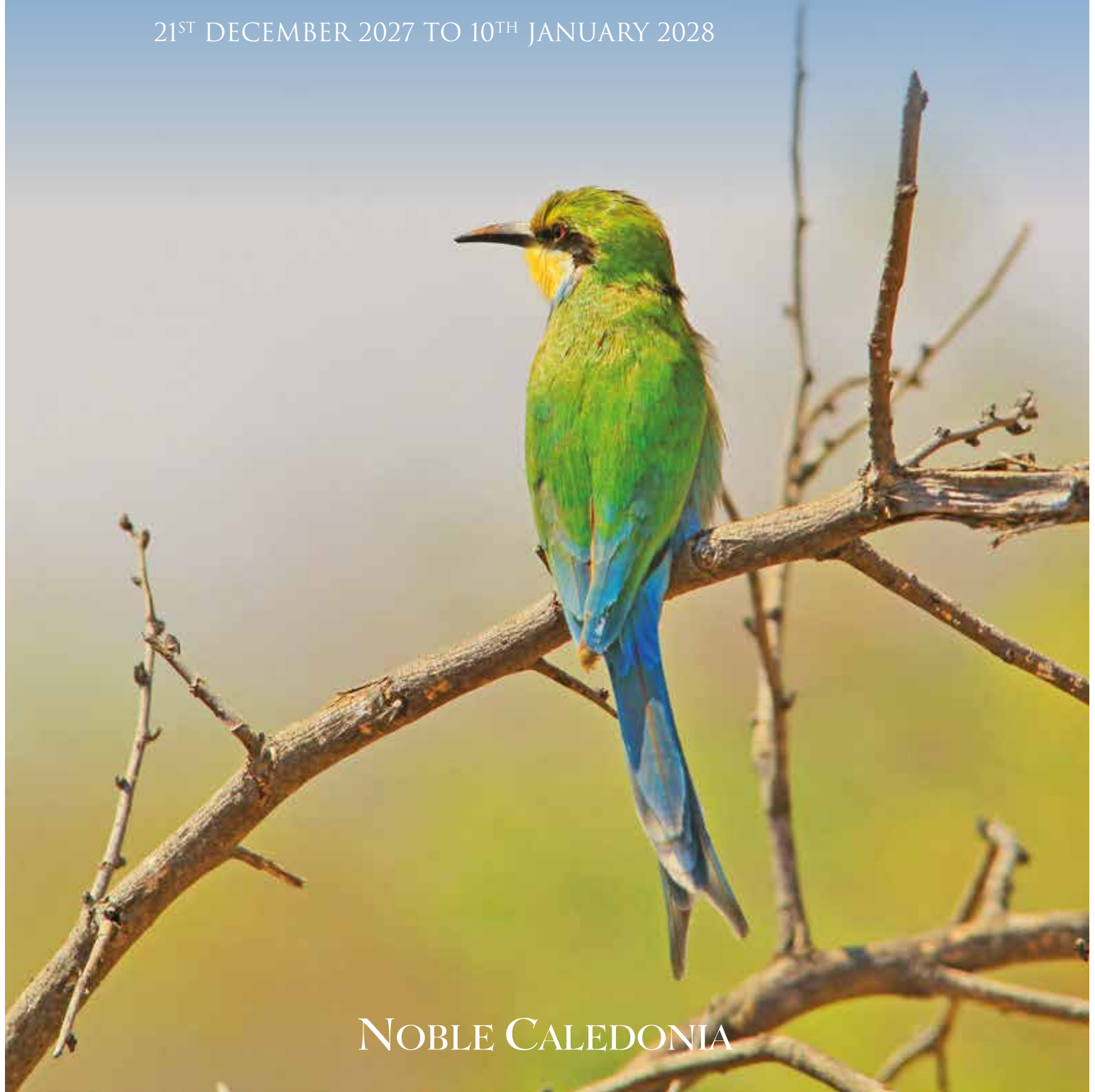


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

ST HELENA & BEYOND

A VOYAGE FROM ACCRA TO CAPE TOWN
OVER CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
21ST DECEMBER 2027 TO 10TH JANUARY 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Here is an epic voyage and marvellous adventure for those who love the sea and long voyages, enjoy travelling off the beaten track and the opportunity to be away from home for the festive period. Sailing aboard the 100-passenger MS Hebridean Sky we will journey from the shores of West Africa, crossing the equator and tracing historic maritime routes to the remote outpost of St Helena before continuing to Namibia and onwards to Cape Town where our journey will conclude.

Far beyond the familiar sea lanes of the South Atlantic lies St Helena, one of the world's most remote and compelling islands which has long captured the imagination of travellers, historians and naturalists alike. Colonised in the 17th century by the East India Company as an important staging post for their vessels, it is perhaps best known as Napoleon's final home. Our voyage offers the rare opportunity to experience the island in some depth, combining its remarkable history, dramatic landscape, unique culture and wildlife with a wider exploration of West and Southern Africa.

Our journey begins in Accra, where the vibrancy of modern Ghana blends with reminders of its complex past. From here, you can choose to explore the cultural highlights of the capital or the natural beauty of the Shai Hills Game Reserve, before visiting the poignant Elmina Castle, one of the most significant and moving historical sites along the West African coast. Leaving Ghana we begin our journey south and cross the equator as we sail towards St Helena. During our time at sea you can relax on board, attend lectures, watch for wildlife on deck with our onboard naturalists and of course enjoy some Christmas festivities.

Arriving at St Helena, we will spend three days in and around Jamestown, the charming capital. Steeped in history, its narrow streets and Georgian buildings tell the story of centuries of maritime endeavour. The island's isolation has fostered a rich natural environment, home to endemic species found nowhere else on Earth, including the delicate St Helena wirebird. During our guided walks, you will discover a diversity of landscapes, from lush highlands to rugged coastal cliffs and there will also be encounters with local traditions, from tasting the island's distinctive coffee to sampling its artisanal spirits. We will of course also visit Longwood House which offers a poignant glimpse into Napoleon's life on the island.

Leaving St Helena, we continue southeast across the Atlantic towards the starkly beautiful coastline of Namibia. In Walvis Bay, we experience the meeting of desert and ocean, with opportunities to explore the atmospheric seaside town of Swakopmund, where German colonial architecture lends a distinctly European charm. We will also explore the Namib-Naukluft National Park with its vast sand dunes and ancient desert flora. Further along the coast, Luderitz offers a glimpse into Namibia's colonial past, as well as access to the ghost town of Kolmanskop, slowly being reclaimed by the encroaching sands. Our voyage concludes in one of the world's most spectacular settings, Cape Town, where the iconic Table Mountain rises dramatically above the city. Here, we will explore both the natural beauty and cultural richness of the region, from the renowned Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden to the celebrated vineyards of the surrounding Cape Winelands.

Travelling with just 100 or so fellow travellers aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky, you can enjoy the small ship experience and the festive celebrations. Also joining you on board will be our expert onboard team who also relish the opportunity to undertake such a unique journey and share their knowledge and enthusiasm through some fascinating talks.





Elmina Castle, Ghana



Longwood House, St Helena



Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, Ghana



Parrot, Shai Hills Game Reserve



Luderitz

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Accra, Ghana. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival in Accra we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in Tema and moor overnight.

Day 2 Accra & Shai Hills Game Reserve. Today there will be a choice of excursions. You may wish to visit the capital city of Accra including the National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography with artefacts showcasing the heritage of Ghana throughout history. We will continue to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and Memorial Park before enjoying lunch with a view of the ocean at a beachside resort. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky via the Artists Alliance Gallery which has a wide range of artworks including woodcarvings, paintings and sculptures by renowned Ghanaian artists. Alternatively, drive to the Shai Hills Game Reserve and embark on a trek through the reserve's savannah plains to view antelopes, bushbucks, kobs, baboons, monkeys and many bird species including the Senegal parrot, swallow-tailed bee-eater, Vieillot's barbet, piapiac and red-shouldered cuckooshrike. After lunch with views over the evergreen valley and plains of the surrounding Akwapim mountain range, we will continue to the Aburi Botanical Gardens. Established in 1890 as a convalescent for the British Colonial officers governing the then Gold Coast (now Ghana), the garden has over the years cultured a variety of tropical plants which attract many birds and butterflies. After a walk through the gardens we will return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 3 Elmina. From our anchorage off the historic town of Elmina, we will use our Zodiacs today to visit one of the largest and earliest slaving forts, Elmina Castle, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built by the Portuguese in 1482 and captured by the Dutch in 1637 it was expanded when slaves replaced gold as the major export with storerooms converted into cells. A guided tour of the castle will take us through its history, from a Portuguese fort and slave trading post, to in more recent years, a Police Training Centre, secondary school and now a historical museum. We will sail this evening and start our journey towards St Helena.

Days 4 to 7 At Sea. Leaving Ghana we begin our journey south and cross the equator as we sail towards St Helena. During our time at sea you can attend some of the lectures in the lounge and join our onboard naturalists on deck

as they search for wildlife. We also hope for clear skies to enjoy stargazing in the evenings. During our passage to St Helena we will celebrate Christmas on board.

Days 8 to 10 Jamestown, St Helena. Discovered by the Portuguese in 1502, the island of St Helena has been both a Dutch and British possession. In the late 17th century the island became a strategically important port of call in the British Empire and was controlled by the East India Company for over 200 years. However, the island is perhaps best known as Napoleon's last place of exile. He died here in 1821 after a six year exile and we will visit Longwood House, Napoleon's residence. In addition there will be much to occupy us during our time on the island. We will explore the tiny capital of Jamestown and see the courthouse, government buildings and library. Those feeling active may want to climb the 699 steps of Jacob's Ladder with views over Jamestown. During a range of walks for all levels, there will be time to explore the surrounding countryside, experience some amazing views and witness the prolific birdlife, including the endemic St Helena wirebird. Keen coffee lovers may want to try the rare 'Green Tipped Bourbon Arabica' grown on the island since 1732, whilst a visit to the most remote distillery in the world will provide the opportunity to taste the local gin, rum and 'Tungi' made from local prickly pears.

Days 11 to 14 At Sea. We have four relaxing days at sea as we sail back to the African mainland. We will welcome in the New Year along the way and our team will arrange an array of activities as we head for Namibia.

Days 15 & 16 Walvis Bay, Namibia. Arrive today in Namibia at the main coastal town of Walvis Bay which will be our base for a day and a half. During our time here we will have the option 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. We will also have the opportunity to 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, as we drive through the lunar landscape. Those feeling active may wish to take 4x4 vehicles to Sandwich Harbour, a tidal lagoon located in the Namib-Naukluft Park surrounded by huge sand dunes which run into the ocean. Here we can experience the isolation and scenery which the Skeleton Coast is famous for.

Day 17 Luderitz. 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 colonisation of the region. An afternoon walking tour includes the Luderitz Museum and the colonial buildings such as 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 18 At Sea. We continue our journey along the Atlantic coast today with a day at sea as we sail towards Cape Town.

Day 19 Cape Town, South Africa. In the late morning we sail into the beautiful city of Cape Town where we have a choice of excursions this afternoon. If weather permits, we will take the cableway to the top of the iconic Table Mountain, one of the city’s most celebrated landmarks. From the summit we can enjoy the views down to the city below or take a walk along one of the trails amongst the endemic flora and fauna. Alternatively you may prefer to take the opportunity to visit one of the region’s excellent vineyards where, after learning about the production techniques, we can enjoy a tasting.

Day 20 Cape Town to London. After breakfast we visit Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens which are spread over 560 hectares on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain and contains over 8500 species of indigenous plants. Take a leisurely stroll through these beautiful surroundings

before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 21 London. Arrive today.

SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that we expect to be alongside in Tema, Walvis Bay, Luderitz and Cape Town. We will be at anchor for our visit to Elmina Castle and during our time in St Helena where we will use the vessel’s Zodiacs to transfer ashore. Please note that our shore visits on St Helena will be weather dependent and subject to sea conditions.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£13995	£13495
Byrd	Superior	£14495	£13995
Mawson	Premium	£14795	£14295
Mawson	Corner	£14995	£14495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£16495	£15995
Shackleton	Owner’s Balcony	£16995	£16495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£17495	£16995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£14995	£14495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£15995	£15495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 19 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore Excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, visas for Ghana & Namibia, entry permit for St Helena.

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 Noble Isle 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 the Club. 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.

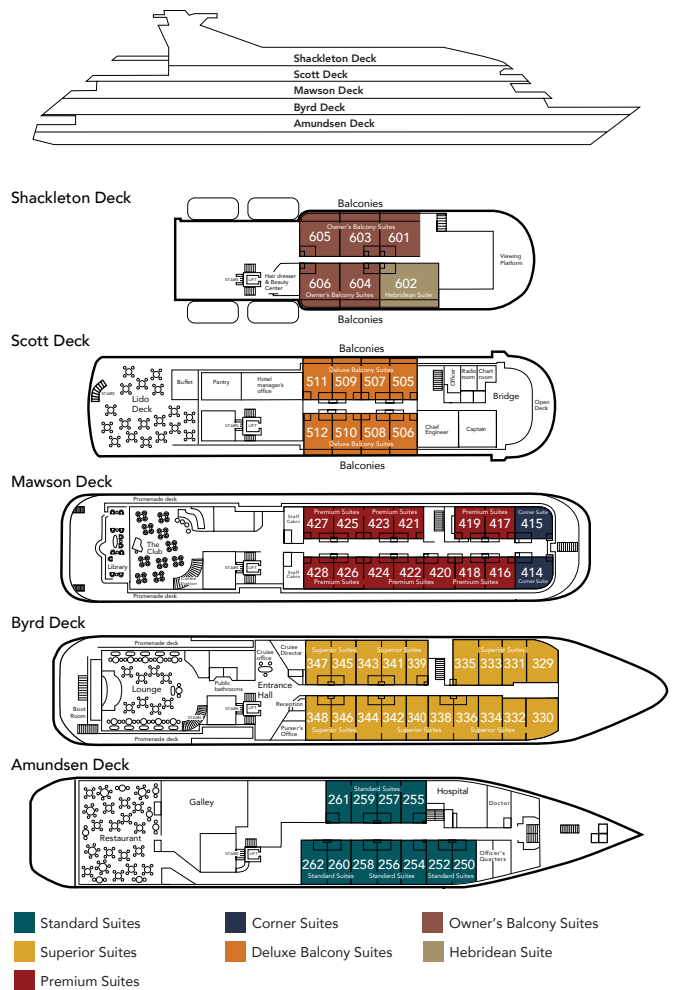
Your Comfort

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



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.



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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: Swallow-tailed bee-eater.