

SUMMER IN THE BALTIC

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

DISCOVER THE HISTORY & GARDENS OF THE BALTIC
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY WITH GUEST SPEAKERS
MARTIN SIXSMITH & TOBY MUSGRAVE - IN ASSOCIATION
WITH BOTANICA WORLD DISCOVERIES

11TH TO 23RD JULY 2027

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join us for a summer exploration of the history and botany of the Baltic aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky. For this unique journey we are delighted to be working in association with our Australian associates at Botanica World Discoveries.

The Baltic is to Northern Europe what the Mediterranean is to Southern Europe. So, at the height of summer where better to explore, taking in some of the most interesting and scenic ports and cities of the region. Bordered by many countries vying for commercial and political influence, the Baltic's long history makes for a fascinating study as we visit the major cities of this almost enclosed inland sea. One of the many extraordinary experiences of the Baltic is the summer light which gives the sea and landscape a very special quality. After a long winter, the region responds to the sun unlike anywhere else and there is a calm and order that makes exploration so enjoyable, especially when travelling aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with just over 100 fellow, like-minded, travellers.

With over thirty years of experience operating cruises in this region, and working closely with our friends at Botanica World Discoveries, we believe we have the most perfectly balanced cruise. Whilst not forsaking our old-time favourites such as Stockholm and Tallinn we also visit some smaller ports such as Kalmar and Mariehamn which are well off the path of the large cruise vessels that ply the region. Other well-hidden treasures include Denmark's Bornholm Island, Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland, and whilst in Gdansk we will enjoy a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra. A highlight for many will be our call to Denmark's northernmost town of Skagen whose amazing seascapes and incredible light cast a lifelong spell on all who visit. To further enhance our itinerary we have included some wonderful garden visits for you to experience the local botany of the region including the beautiful private garden of Exillion in Copenhagen, the charming cottage-style Enghøj Perennial Garden on Bornholm Island and Linnaeus Garden in Stockholm, Sweden's oldest botanic garden.

This is certainly not an itinerary that one of the large cruise vessels could undertake but is perfect for one the size of the MS Hebridean Sky. Our Guest Speakers will provide informative talks and our excellent local guides will bring the history and unique character of the cities and islands vividly to life as we explore in small groups during our guided excursions. We have also ensured there is ample time for you to discover the timeless atmosphere of the islands and cities at leisure.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Oslo, Norway. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we set sail this evening.

Day 2 Skagen, Denmark. Skagen is a 600 year old market town in the far north of Denmark where the breathtaking scenery and light have inspired poets, artists and musicians for centuries. The surrounding area has been designated as a rare, authentic natural beauty spot by the Worldwide Fund for Nature. We will visit Grenen, the northernmost point of Denmark where the North Sea meets the Baltic and where the daily movement of sand has created a spit that is constantly moving. See the 14th century Sanded Church named after Saint Laurence, the seafarers' and Skagen's patron saint, which sunk beneath the sand in the 18th century leaving only the tower visible today. This afternoon is free to explore the winding alleys of the atmospheric old quarter or enjoy the vibrant marina. Alternatively, visit the local museum to view the artwork of Ancher and Kroyer, both of whom were inspired by the region.

Day 3 Helsingor or Copenhagen. Arrive this morning in the historic port of Helsingor where we have a choice of excursions. In the early 15th century, King Eric of Pomerania built a fortress here to enforce the collection of dues from all ships wishing to enter the Baltic. In the following century Frederick II transformed it into a magnificent Renaissance castle and at the time Kronborg was considered the strongest fortress in Europe. The castle is known to many as 'Elsinore' the setting for Shakespeare's tragedy, Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. During our tour we will explore both the castle and the old town. Alternatively, drive to Copenhagen to visit the Palace of Amalienborg with its four identical Rococo buildings which have been the Royal Residence since 1784. Visit the Amalienborg Museum, located in Christian VIII's Palace and walk through the royal family's historic offices, marvel at the elegant Gala Hall, still used on special occasions, and discover spectacular artefacts, including the lavish wine coolers in the Fabergé Chamber. After lunch we return to the ship via the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art located in a coastal park on the outskirts of Helsingor. See one of Scandinavia's largest collections of modern art or discover the sixty sculptures located in the landscaped parkland. Meanwhile, keen gardeners may wish to visit Exillion, a private garden created by Peter Wibroe who set out to create the most beautiful acre of land north of the Alps. The garden draws inspiration from French Baroque, Italian Renaissance and Oriental design, and also includes an English topiary section, an area planted with rhododendron species and a small herb garden.

Day 4 Rønne, Bornholm Island. Spend the morning on Bornholm Island which features a landscape of wheat fields, forests and an attractive coastline

Guest Speakers



Toby Musgrave

Toby has a passion for horticulture and garden history. Based in Denmark, Toby is an international authority on garden history and design, and shares his enthusiasm and knowledge as an author of many garden history books and as a presenter on Monty Don's Lost Gardens television series. As a garden designer Toby has created gardens in the UK, the USA, India and in Denmark.



Martin Sixsmith

Martin Sixsmith is a writer, presenter and former television correspondent. He was the BBC's Central and Eastern Europe Correspondent in the 1980s, reporting on the political upheavals that changed the shape of the continent and the world. In the 1990s, Martin was the BBC's correspondent in Moscow and Washington. Between 1997 and 2002 he worked for the British Government as Director of Communications and Press Secretary to several cabinet ministers. He worked as a consultant on the BBC2 political sitcom *The Thick of It* and the 2010 movie *In the Loop*. In 2013, his book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee* was made into the film *Philomena*, starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. It was nominated for four Oscars. His non-fiction books include *Putin's Oil*; *Moscow Coup*; *The Litvinenko File*; *Russia, A Thousand Year Chronicle of the Wild East*; and *The War of Nerves – Inside the Cold War Mind*. His latest book *My Sins Go With Me* is a story of bravery and treachery in the Resistance to Nazi occupation in World War Two.

Sanded Church, Skagen



Kalmar, Sweden



Copenhagen



Stockholm



Gdansk

dotted with fishing villages. During our island drive we will see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudhjem where we can sample smoked herring. We will also see Hammerhus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline. Alternatively, visit the charming Enghøj Perennial Garden which has been inspired by the English cottage style with lots of clematises, roses, perennials, boxwood, yew, grasses and summer flowers. The garden features different sections divided by shrubs, fences for climbing plants, a pergola and stone pathways between the beds. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a leisurely afternoon cruising to Poland.

Day 5 Gdansk, Poland. Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a rich collection of buildings and monuments in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Our morning city tour will include a walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and the opportunity to admire the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. We will also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St Mary's which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Alternatively, visit the 13th century Malbork Castle, once the seat of the Teutonic Order and, at that time, the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has served as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was restored after damaged sustained during the Second World War. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and now serves as a museum. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon exploring at your own pace before we meet this evening for a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic at a local venue.

Day 6 Kalmar, Sweden. After a morning at sea we arrive at Kalmar, one of Sweden's oldest cities and ports where we berth close to the historical centre. A choice of afternoon tours includes Kalmar Castle, one of the best-preserved Renaissance castles in Scandinavia and a stronghold of royal power. Originating from the 12th century, the current building reflects the rule of the Vasa Kings who rebuilt it in the style of a Renaissance palace. Alternatively, join an excursion to the UNESCO island of Öland. Visit Stora Alvaret, a vast limestone plateau containing ancient remains, unique flora and fauna as well as Solliden Palace. Built by Queen Victoria of Sweden in 1903, it remains a summer retreat for the Swedish Royal Family and we will have time to explore the extensive gardens and pavilion.

Day 7 Visby. Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port on the island of Gotland. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town snuggles inside 13th century walls, housing 44 watchtowers. In Viking times and several centuries after, the Swedish island of Gotland and especially the city of Visby became a centre of trade in the Baltic Sea and was later designated a World Heritage Site. Walk its streets from the Middle Ages and see its gardens ablaze with flowers, earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the impressive St Maria Cathedral and wander the paths of the botanical gardens. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further and maybe see the Viking exhibits at the Gotland Museum. Alternatively, join us for a ride on the Gotland Railway, a historic train travelling along the

only remnant of Gotland's once extensive railway network. Pass peaceful landscapes as we travel through Tule and ending at Roma – a perfect way to admire rural Gotland. Later we drive to the west coast of Gotland, arriving at the fishing village of Gnisvard. We venture into the nearby forest to view a stone ship formation. These boulders, dating back to the Bronze Age, have assumed the form of a ship over 150 feet in length and are presumed to mark a grave or cremation site.

Days 8 & 9 Stockholm. Be on deck this morning as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes. We arrive at our central berth this afternoon, our base for the next day and a half where we have a choice of excursions. You might join a city tour including the Vasa Museum, built around the 17th century warship that sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628. The discovery of the Vasa in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the MS Hebridean Sky we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour. Alternatively, visit Skogskyrkogården, the 'Woodland Cemetery', created between 1917 and 1940 by the architects Gunnar Asplund and Sigurd Lewerentz. On a pine-covered ridge, they created a sacred outdoor space with several small chapels that blend in with nature and it was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994. We will also drive to historic Uppsala, one of the oldest cities in Sweden that has played a dominant role in the political, intellectual and historical development of the country. We start with its Medieval cathedral including the Renaissance tomb of Gustav Vasa and continue to the Linnaeus Garden, Sweden's oldest botanic garden originally laid out in 1655. Spend some time in this beautiful, serene garden designed by Carl von Linné.

Day 10 Mariehamn, Finland. Sail this morning into the attractive town of Mariehamn. On an island tour, we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads towards the Jan Karlsgården Museum where we learn about the island's farming traditions. We continue to Badhusberget, which provides panoramic views over the town and islands before visiting the fascinating Åland Maritime Museum with its exhibits of model ships as well as highlighting the region's shipbuilding history. After lunch on board there will be some free time to explore further at leisure before we depart in the early evening and cruise through some of the 6700 islands of the Åland archipelago.

Day 11 Tallinn, Estonia. Arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the



Åland archipelago



Sibelius Monument, Helsinki



Osterlars Church, Bornholm

seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. This afternoon we drive to the outskirts of Tallinn to Kadriorg Palace and Park, which were commissioned in 1718 by Russian Tsar Peter I, soon after his conquest of Estonia, in honour of his wife Catherine I. The palace was designed by Italian architect Nicola Michetti. Its magnificent main hall is considered one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture, not only in Estonia but also in Northern Europe. We will visit the art collection housed within the palace and spend time exploring the magnificent park with its fountains, hedges, and flowerbeds, modelled on Versailles. Before leaving we will enjoy a private classical concert.

Day 12 Helsinki, Finland. Arriving in Helsinki over breakfast, our morning city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square, including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Tempelpiaukio, the church in the rock before returning to the ship. This afternoon we journey to Ainola, the home of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius situated on the edge of the city on the shores of Lake Tuusula where, after exploring the museum, we enjoy a private concert of his music.

Day 13 Helsinki to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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	£8995	£8495
Byrd	Superior	£9395	£8895
Mawson	Premium	£9695	£9195
Mawson	Corner	£9995	£9495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£10795	£10295
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10995	£10495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£11495	£10995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£11995	£11495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Pre-cruise Oslo Extension

9th to 11th July 2027

Before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night stay in Oslo including a morning city tour.



Vigeland Sculpture Park

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Oslo, Norway. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel. Meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Oslo. Today is free to explore Oslo at your own pace. (B)

Day 3 Oslo. A morning tour will include the Vigeland Sculpture Park. There are more than 150 sculptures in the park, made of stone and bronze, all symbolizing the different stages in the life of mankind. Continue to the Fram Museum dedicated to the history of polar expeditions in Norway. The centrepiece is the wooden polar ship, Fram, which we can go on board and explore as we learn about the ship's various expeditions. After lunch we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

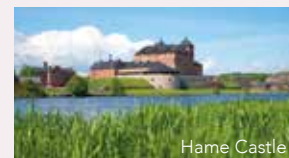
Twin: **£995** Single: **£1245**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Oslo, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Finnish Lakes Extension

23rd to 26th July 2027

After our voyage aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a three night stay in Finland to explore the beautiful lakes and scenery.



Hame Castle

The Itinerary

Day 1 Aulanko, Finland. After breakfast we will disembark and drive out of the city to Hameenlinna and Hame Castle where we enjoy lunch. Hame Castle is one of Finland's Medieval royal castles and is believed to have been built at the end of the 13th century. After our tour we will transfer to the hotel situated on a lake in the Aulanko Nature Park. Relax and enjoy the views before meeting for dinner this evening. (L, D)

Day 2 Aulanko & Tampere. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before our full day cruise through the beautiful forest-covered landscape of the lake district. Take in the scenery of Lake Pyhajarvi and Lake Vanajavesi before lunch on board. In the early afternoon we will make a stop at Visavuori, the house and studio of sculptor Emil Wikstrom. Re-boarding our ship, we will continue through the lake country to Tampere where we stay overnight by Lake Pynikki. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Tampere & Helsinki. After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a scenic drive around Tampere finishing at the Nasineula restaurant, renowned for its wonderful panoramic views over Tampere. After lunch continue on to the Iittala Glass Centre, where the Aalto Vase is produced along with other signature glass pieces. Later, drive to our hotel in Helsinki for an overnight stay. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Helsinki to London. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1995** Single: **£2295**

Price Includes: Overnight hotel accommodation in Helsinki, Hameenlinna and Tampere, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

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.

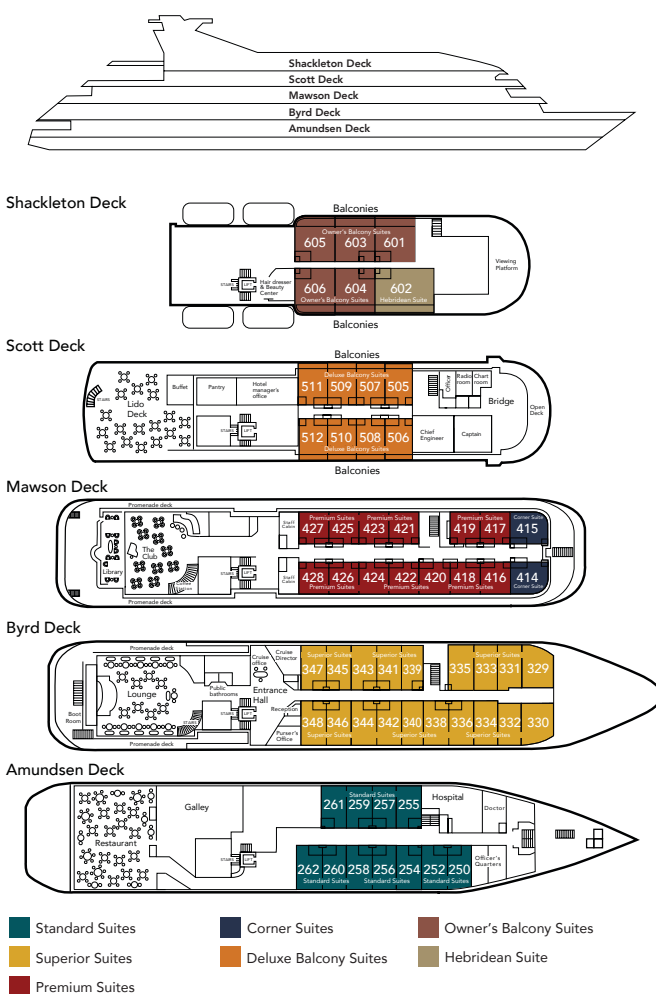
Your Comfort

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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