

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON

# SUMMER IN THE BALTIC

A VOYAGE FROM ABERDEEN TO STOCKHOLM  
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY  
4<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA



The long sunny days of a Baltic summer are legendary and the perfect time to witness the spectacle of colour and joy that the sun brings to this northern world which, bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, is ideally suited to exploration by ship. Whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the fascinating Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters or the sheer delight of small Scandinavian ports with their unique architecture, the Baltic offers a real cornucopia of delights which are all accessible from the comfort of the 118 passenger MS Hebridean Sky.



With over thirty years of experience operating cruises in the region, we believe we have the most perfectly balanced cruise. Whilst not forsaking our old time favourites such as Tallinn and St Petersburg we also visit some charming smaller ports such as the Norwegian towns of Kragero and Skagen and the historic city of Helsingborg in Sweden from where we visit the wonderful gardens at Sofiero. Other hidden treasures we will discover along the way include the scenic island of Bornholm in Denmark, Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland with its beautifully preserved Medieval town, and the picturesque city of Kotka in Finland with its rich maritime heritage. Added to this, joining you on board will be a knowledgeable Guest Speaker who, together with the informative local guides, will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region.

### Guest Speaker



#### Air Commodore Phil Wilkinson

Phil Wilkinson's 40 years in the Royal Air Force involved thousands of hours in the air. His time on the ground was equally challenging, including exchange appointments at both the French and United States Air Forces War Colleges, and assignment as commander of the RAF station in Berlin at the time of the Fall of the Wall. His final period of duty was based in Moscow, as Defence and Air Attaché, during the turbulence of Russia's emergence from the Soviet era. During those three and a half years, he travelled widely across the former Soviet Union, including journeys to Murmansk and Archangel, accompanying RAF and other British veterans as they re-visited the scenes of their operations in World War Two. In retirement, he has lectured widely on these and other themes. His lectures, and his published articles, cover a range of British – Russian relations and interactions, cultural as well as military, and reflect on his own transition from Cold War warrior to military diplomat at a time of great change.

### The Itinerary

- Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland.**  
Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Airport and Aberdeen Railway Station at a fixed time. Sail this evening.
- Day 2 At Sea.** Relax on board as we sail across the North Sea to Norway. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck.
- Day 3 Kragero, Norway.**  
Surrounded by nearly 500 islands and skerries, Kragero is a charming town in the region of Telemark and

a popular summer retreat. This morning we will head inland to the Telemark Canal. When completed in 1892, after five years of construction, it was described as the 'eighth wonder of the world'. We will join one of the local boats as they transit the 18 locks, lifting the ship 72 metres above sea level and enjoy the changing scenery as we travel from the sea to the mountains. Returning to Kragero for lunch we have the afternoon at leisure to take a walk through the narrow streets and alleyways amongst the old wooden houses.



**Day 4 Skagen, Denmark.**

Skagen is a 600 year old market town situated in the far north of Denmark where the breathtaking scenery and light have inspired poets, artists and musicians over the years whilst the area around Skagen has been designated as a rare, authentic natural beauty spot by the World Wide Fund for Nature. We will visit Grenen, the northernmost part of Denmark where the North Sea meets the Baltic and where the daily movement of sand has created a spit which is constantly moving. Also see the 14th century Sanded Church named after Saint Laurence, the seafarer's and Skagen's patron saint, which sunk beneath the sand in the 18th century and where today only the tower of the ancient church is visible. This afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. Discover the winding alleys in the atmospheric old quarters or the vibrant atmosphere at the marina. Alternatively, take the chance to see the artwork of Ancher and Kroyer, who were inspired by the region, in the local museum.

**Day 5 Helsingborg, Sweden.**

Arrive in Sweden at Helsingborg, located on the Oresund Strait and only four kilometres from the Danish port of Helsingor. Due to its strategic position it was the site of many battles and it was only in 1657 and the Treaty of Roskilde that it became a part of Sweden. The city retains a number of historical buildings including the 14th century Karnan Tower, St Mary's Church and the Gothic town hall which we can explore during our free time. We also travel to the outskirts of the city to visit Sofiero, a former royal summer residence built in 1864 with views over the Oresund Strait. However, the main reason for our visit is the wonderful gardens which evolved following the arrival of the English Princess Margareta in 1905. We will take our time to walk the paths including the Rose Garden, the Flower Walk and Jubilee Garden which was created to celebrate Sofiero's 150th anniversary.

**Day 6 Bornholm Island, Denmark.**

Spend the morning on the peaceful and scenic island of Bornholm with

its mixture of wheat fields, forests and attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On an afternoon excursion we will drive to the north of the island to see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and the imposing ruins of Hammershus Castle before we visit the town of Gudhjem where we can sample the local speciality of smoked herring. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure, perhaps spend some time exploring the town of Ronne at your own pace.

**Day 7 Gdansk, Poland.**

Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning city tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore further at your own pace. Alternatively choose a tour to the 13th century Malbork Castle which belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNSECO and now serves as a museum with grand exhibition halls displaying collections of armoury,

ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber.

**Day 8 Visby, Sweden.**

After a morning cruising we visit this once important Hanseatic port. 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 is 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.

**Day 9 Saaremaa, Estonia.**

This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry, it is a green and very pleasant island dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. An island drive will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills before we end at the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle. We will stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town before taking a local lunch. This afternoon you can choose to have free time in Kuressaare before returning to the ship or alternatively, join a visit to the Vidumae Nature Reserve which is home to many rare plants. Join a hike along the trails, climb the observation tower to enjoy the views from the





Tallinn



Catherine Palace, St Petersburg

island's highest point or visit the exhibition in the Nature Centre.

**Day 10 Kotka, Finland.** Built on the site where the River Kymijoki meets the Baltic Sea, picturesque Kotka has a long seafaring tradition. Arriving over lunch, this afternoon we will explore the history of the region and visit the Langinkoski Imperial Fishing Lodge which was built in 1889 for Alexander III, the future Emperor of Russia who used it as a summer home. It is now a living museum situated in a stunning nature reserve on the river. Continue to the Maritime Centre Vellamo where local guides will enlighten us about the maritime and cultural heritage of the region.

**Days 11 & 12 St Petersburg, Russia.** We have two days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be offering a number of tours during our time here including visits to the wonderful Peterhof Palace, Catherine Palace, the Peter and Paul Fortress and a canal cruise. One of the many highlights will be an exclusive evening tour and concert at the Hermitage Museum.

**Day 13 Tallinn, Estonia.** After a busy couple of days we have a morning at sea as we sail to the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her awe-inspiring city walls

and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the 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, now the 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.

**Day 14 Stockholm, Sweden.** Be on deck this morning as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago on our way to Stockholm. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes. This afternoon we will enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery 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 we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour.

**Day 15 Stockholm to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Stockholm

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£7095	£6895
Byrd	Superior	£7295	£7095
Mawson	Premium	£7595	£7395
Mawson	Corner	£7895	£7695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£8295	£8095
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£9495	£9295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£9695	£9495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9295	£9095
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9495	£9295

**Please note:** If you would like to book a flight from London Heathrow to Aberdeen for embarkation on the 4th July, this can be arranged for a supplement of £150 per person.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel from Stockholm to London • 14 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Group visa for Russia.  
**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, 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. 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.

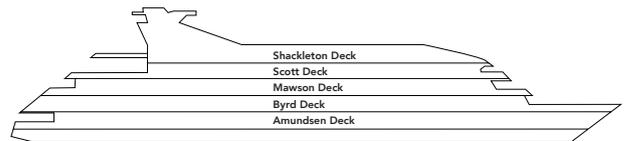
### Your Comfort

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.

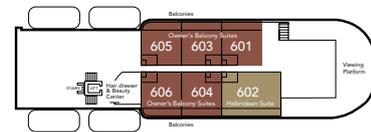
### Your Life On Board

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



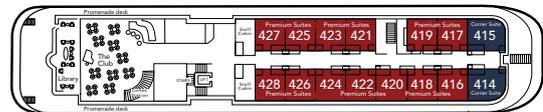
Shackleton Deck



Scott Deck



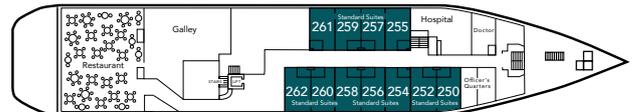
Mawson Deck



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.



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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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: Grand Cascade, Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg.