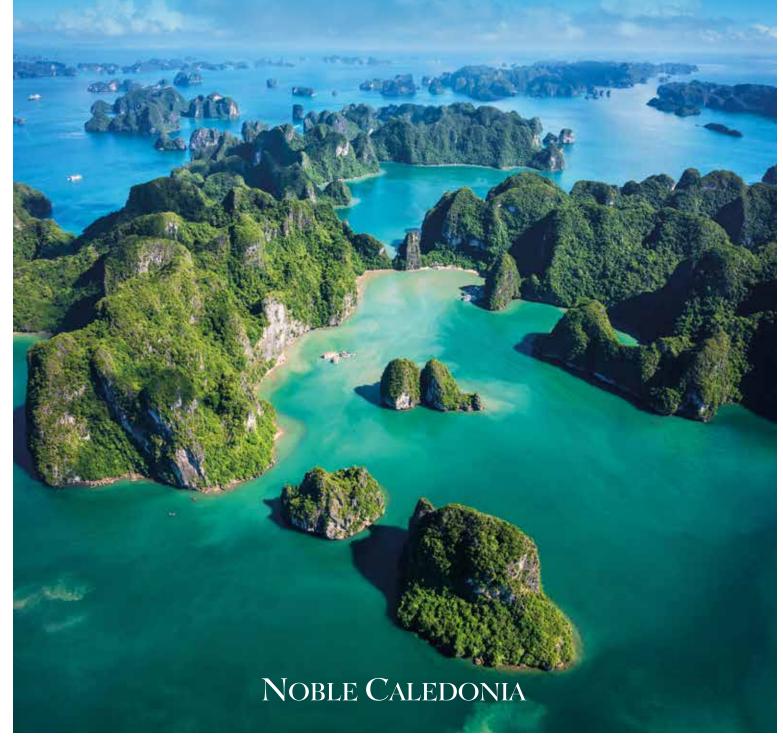


# TREASURES OF VIETNAM

AN EXPLORATION OF VIETNAM SAILING FROM HO CHI MINH CITY TO HONG KONG ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY WITH GUEST SPEAKER MICHAEL BUERK

22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH TO 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026



With more than 2,000 miles of coastline, white-sand beaches, rainforest-covered mountains and fertile deltas crisscrossed by a patchwork of rice paddies and canals, Vietnam is a country of stunning beauty and is ideally explored by sea. Join the MS Island Sky for a journey that may very well change your perception of this long, narrow country hugging the edge of the South China Sea. Rather than merely passing through in the way of idle spectators, you will learn about Vietnam's timeless traditions and meet its resourceful people. In villages and across the countryside, travel back in time while visiting with local residents and observing their daily activities.

Each day of our voyage offers incredible experiences as we take in Vietnam's enchanting beauty and fascinating history journeying north from Ho Chi Minh City to Ha Long Bay before sailing on to Hong Kong. Remnants of Vietnam's poignant history are evident throughout and we will witness how ancient and modern collide during our visits to the bustling cities of Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. Vietnam is also a land of rare natural beauty and our itinerary has been designed to visit some of the more tranquil spots away



from the hubbub of everyday life. One of the many highlights will be our time spent in beautiful Ha Long Bay, a World Heritage Site known for its emerald green waters and thousands of towering limestone islands. During our journey along the picturesque Cai River to Vinh Thai Island, we will have the opportunity to experience the more traditional side of Vietnam. Additionally, in Quy Nohn we will learn about the ancient Cham culture and enjoy a private martial art performance.

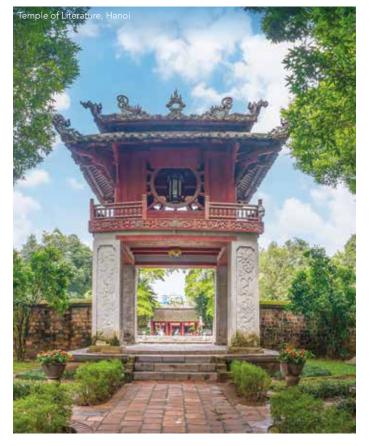
After much adventure, our voyage will end with a leisurely day at sea as we sail across to Hong Kong allowing for time to catch up with fellow travellers and the onboard team regarding all you have seen and experienced on our Vietnamese odyssey. With the MS Island Sky as our base and travelling with just over 100 fellow passengers, we can enjoy great food, good company, a convivial atmosphere and an expert team which entices travellers to cruise on her time and time again.

## Guest Speaker – Michael Buerk



Michael Buerk is one of Britain's leading broadcast journalists and has won many – if not most - of the industry's major awards. He has worked as a BBC foreign correspondent and presenter for more than thirty years. He anchored the BBC's main evening television news programme from 1989 to 2004. He continues to present documentaries and programmes for both BBC Television and Radio as well as ITV and other networks. He currently chairs the BBC's leading ethical debate programme,

"The Moral Maze". He lectures regularly on current affairs issues and chairs conferences on political, economic and ethical questions.



## The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Ho Chi Minh City.** Arrive today and transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation. Enjoy the welcome drinks and dinner this evening as we moor overnight.

Day 3 Ho Chi Minh City. After breakfast we will set out to explore Ho Chi Minh City. Once a city devastated by war, it has become a buzzing metropolis but still retains its character through its French colonial architecture, flourishing markets and peaceful temples. We will start the day with a visit to the Reunification Palace, a wonderful example of 1960s architecture and 1970s interior design. The palace has stood still in time since the Communist tanks  $\,$ rolled into Saigon in 1975. From here we continue to the Central Post Office, designed by renowned architect Gustave Eiffel and reminiscent of an early European railway station, and the Notre Dame Cathedral with its neo-Romanesque façade, two bell towers and iron spires. Our final stop of the morning will be the War Remnant Museum. Outside we will see the giant vehicles of war, whilst inside is a more sombre experience with exhibitions about the war and its lasting effects. Lunch today will be a chance to try a selection of Vietnamese dishes at a local restaurant after which we will visit the sacred Jade Emperor Temple, built in the 20th century in honour of the supreme Taoist God. Return to the ship and moor overnight allowing for the opportunity to go ashore and explore this vibrant city in the evening.

Day 4 Ho Chi Minh City. This morning we will delve further into the history of Vietnam. We will begin our tour with a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts, one of the biggest museums in Ho Chi Minh City. Built in 1929 it combines Asian and European architecture and was designed by French architect Mr Rivera. The museum houses an impressive collection of Vietnamese art, dating from the 4th century to the more contemporary. From here we will continue to the History Museum which, built in 1929, is another impressive architectural building and traces the history of Vietnam. While at the museum we will enjoy a private water puppet show. Return to the ship for lunch and set sail for our journey along the Vietnamese coast.

Day 5 Nha Trang. This morning we will head into the countryside to explore life along the river. Leaving Nha Trang behind we will drive along the coconut tree lined coast before boarding a local boat which takes us along the picturesque Cai River to Vinh Thai Island. Here we will see traditional farming and catch a glimpse of agricultural practices that have been passed down through the generations. We will disembark our local boat and visit one of the farms where we will meet the farmer and see his home. Later we continue to a village where we will visit a family that has been making rush mats, a traditional craft for many years. Next we will visit a local market taking in the colourful stalls filled with fresh produce and handmade goods before



returning to the ship in the afternoon. Alternatively, spend the morning exploring Nha Trang by pedicab. We will pass by a multitude of sights including the French Gothic style stone church, colonial style houses showing off the city's historic charms, as well as witnessing the daily life of the locals. We will stop at the Dam Market, where there will be time to explore and see the wonderful produce. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Please note that we will be at anchor in Nha Trang and we will use the ship's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.

Day 6 Quy Nohn. This morning we will arrive into the pretty coastal city of Quy Nohn, surrounded by 42 kilometres of coastline and beautiful beaches. Nestled between mountains and rice fields, the city has a rich history and we will discover the heritage of the Champa Kingdom. Our morning tour will start with a visit to the Ong Nui Pagoda, a sacred sanctuary that dates back to 1702 and has the largest sitting Buddha in Southeast Asia. Enjoy the peacefulness of this beautiful setting or those feeling active may wish to climb the 600 steps up to the seated Buddha. From here we will continue to the Thap Doi, or Twin Towers, an architectural marvel built by the Cham people between the 11th and 13th centuries. The red brick towers are intricately carved depicting deities and animals. While here we will have the chance to enjoy a private Binh Dinh martial art performance, renowned for its rich history and diverse techniques. Afterwards, we will continue to the Binh Dinh Museum where, accompanied by an archaeologist and art historian who specialises in the Champa Kingdom, we will learn about the ancient Cham culture and gain a deeper understanding of the region's history. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to relax or explore the city of Quy Nohn.

**Day 7 At Sea.** Spend a relaxing day on board. Enjoy some time on deck and the onboard activities including a lecture by our Guest Speaker.

Day 8 Ha Long Bay or Hanoi. This morning we will arrive into beautiful Ha Long Bay where we will base ourselves for the next three days. Upon arrival there will be the option to join an overnight visit to the small and elegant capital city of Hanoi. It is a city with a wealth of history and culture and is often called the 'Paris of the Orient'. The city's broad tree lined boulevards, lakes and parks, beautiful villas and temples all reflect a blend of Indo-Chinese and French colonial influences. During our guided tour, we will immerse ourselves in this vibrant city starting with a visit to the Mausoleum of former President Ho Chi Minh, a pivotal figure in Vietnam's path to independence. From here we will view his humble home, designed in the style of an ethnic village house and visit the 11th century One Pillar Pagoda. Next, we will visit the Temple of Literature, a beautiful 11th century Confucian temple renowned as Hanoi's first university, which educated the royal family and Vietnam's elite society. You will regularly see graduating students visiting the temple for photos as part of their graduation celebrations. After lunch at a local restaurant we will visit the Hoa Lo Prison, historically used to detain political prisoners by the French and later dubbed the 'Hanoi Hilton' by US prisoners of war during the Vietnam War. Most of the

buildings were demolished in the 1990's but the gate house remains and its exhibitions offer an insight into the life of the prisoners. We will stay overnight at the Movenpick Hotel in Hanoi and for those who wish to continue to explore after dinner, the hotel is located a short walk from Hoan Kiem Lake, a popular spot in the evenings with locals and tourists. For those choosing to remain in Ha Long Bay today aboard the MS Island Sky, there will be a tour to explore the charming historic old quarter of Hai Phong. We will start with a panoramic drive along the Delta before visiting the local market which is over 100 years old, and the neo-classical Opera House which dates from 1904 and wonderfully reflects the city's French colonial heritage. We will then visit the Du Hang Pagoda, a 300 year old Buddhist temple that has maintained its traditional Vietnamese architecture. Before returning to the ship we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Day 9 Ha Long Bay or Hanoi. Those who spent the night in Hanoi will continue their exploration of Hanoi this morning. We will take a walking tour through the old quarter of Hanoi, a maze of narrow 15th century streets, each named after the trade that was practiced there, such as Silk Street or Rice Street. As we walk through the streets hearing stories from our guide, we can take in the bustling atmosphere of small boutiques, coffee shops and street vendors. Our walking tour will finish with a delicious Vietnamese coffee. There will be some free time to continue exploring independently before we meet for lunch. After lunch we will drive back to Ha Long Bay to rejoin the MS Island Sky. For those who remained on board, there will be a morning tour to Hon Gai where we will visit the Quang Ninh Museum which houses a large collection dedicated to the people and culture of the Quang Ninh province. We continue to the Long Tien Pagoda before we visit the Hon Gai Market.

Day 10 Ha Long Bay. Today, our last day in Vietnam, we will explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ha Long Bay. This beautiful bay filled with its towering limestone pillars and tiny islets topped by forests rising out of the emerald waters is a sight to behold. There will be a choice of tours today, the first being a cruise around Ha Long Bay aboard a junk boat, a traditional Vietnamese wooden boat. We will cruise around the bay aboard our junk, taking in the beautiful views, watch local fishermen at work and hear about the history of the area from our guide. Along the way we will stop at the Thien Cung Caves, a place full of myth and geological beauty. We will walk through the caves along a pathway, taking in its vastness, stalactites hanging like chandeliers as well as the various rock formations. Back on board our junk we will enjoy lunch as we continue to sail passing islets and limestone karsts before returning to the MS Island Sky in the afternoon. Alternatively, there will be a tour to Cat Ba Island. The largest island in Ha Long Bay, this rugged jungle clad island is relatively untouched and a beautiful place to explore. Boarding a local boat, we will sail the short distance to Cat Ba National Park and enjoy a walk through the jungle where we may see some of the 1500 species of plants or 282 species of animals. At the peak we will have wonderful views of the island and the bay. After the hike we will travel by coach to the Trung Trang Caves, which were discovered in 1938. They were used as a radio base for naval command during the Vietnam





War but are more famous for their geological formations. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the MS Island Sky. We will sail this evening.

Day 11 At Sea. Enjoy a final full day at sea as we sail to Hong Kong. Relax onboard, enjoy the on board activities and attend a lecture or two.

Day 12 Hong Kong. We arrive in Hong Kong this afternoon and will set out to explore the island of Kowloon starting at the Kowloon Walled City Park, once a Qing Dynasty fort. This serene garden with its classical Chinese design offers a sharp contrast with the skyscrapers surrounding it. We will then see the Wong Tai Sin, one of Hong Kong's most popular temples for fortune telling. We continue to the Chi Lin Nunneray, a stunning monastery complex. Return to the MS Island Sky for dinner. We will be moored overnight in Hong Kong for those who wish to go ashore for drinks or to perhaps experience the short cruise aboard the famous Star Ferry.

**Day 13 Hong Kong to London.** Disembark this morning and enjoy a guided tour of Hong Kong which will include the Peak Tram and a sampan ride along the waterfront. After lunch we will check into a hotel for use of day rooms before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to London this evening.

Day 14 London. Arrive this morning.

## 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	£8395	£8095
Columbus	Superior	£8795	£8495
Marco Polo	Premium	£8995	£8695
Marco Polo	Corner	£9495	£9195
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£10595	£10295
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£10895	£10595
Explorer	Island Suite	£11495	£11195
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£9395	£9095
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£9795	£9495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis (inclusive of overnight stay for Hanoi visit) • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

# Pre-cruise Cambodia Extension 18th to 23rd March 2026



If you would like to spend some time in Cambodia before embarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering the opportunity to join a four night extension.

## The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Fly by scheduled flight.

**Day 2 Phnom Penh.** Arrive in Phnom Penh this afternoon and transfer to the hotel for our two night stay. Meet your fellow travellers for dinner this evening. **(D)** 

Day 3 Phnom Penh. Today we will explore the long and turbulent history of Cambodia with a city tour of Phnom Penh. We will start at the Royal Palace, a striking structure along the riverfront with classic Khmer roofs and ornate gilding, and we then visit the National Museum. After lunch at a local restaurant, we will learn about Cambodia's more recent history with a visit to Tuol Sleng, the Genocide Museum, housed in a high school that was taken over by Pol Pot's security forces and turned into a prison. This sobering museum tells the story of the crimes of the Khmer Rouge. After our visit we will drive out of the city to the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek. We return to the hotel in the late afternoon for an evening at leisure. Perhaps walk down to the waterfront for a drink at the Foreign Correspondents Club or to enjoy some delicious Khmer cuisine. (B, L)

Day 4 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. This morning we transfer to the airport for our short flight to Siem Reap, the gateway to the temples of Angkor. On arrival we will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before we enter the Angkor Wat complex to visit the iconic and majestic temple of Angkor Wat. This Khmer architectural gem is the largest religious building in the world and the perfect blend of symbolism and symmetry. Exploring with our guide we will learn about the history of the Khmer Kingdom and Angkor Wat. After our visit we will transfer to the hotel for our two night stay. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Siem Reap.** Today we will visit the Angkor Thom complex. Angkor Thom was the last capital of the Khmer Kingdom and, although its many wooden structures have long perished, the remaining stone monuments testify to the size and wealth of the city. At the heart of the city is the 12th century Bayon, a mesmerising temple to Jayavarman VII. It has 54 towers decorated with 216 giant smiling faces. We will also visit Ta Prohm, its crumbling towers and walls are locked in place by a vast root system. After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the Satcha Project centre which aims to preserve traditional craft skills. There will also be a chance to explore the Old Market before returning to the hotel. This evening we will have dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.** Fly this morning to Ho Chi Minh City. Enjoy lunch on arrival before transferring to the MS Island Sky. (B, L)

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2195** Single: **£2595** 

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Phnom Penh, two nights hotel accommodation in Siem Reap, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), drinks with meals, tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. Not Included: Travel insurance, Cambodian visa.

# MS ISLAND SKY









The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 Island 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 seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. 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 each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

### Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island 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.







#### Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus 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 Marco Polo 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 Columbus 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 as well as 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 Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

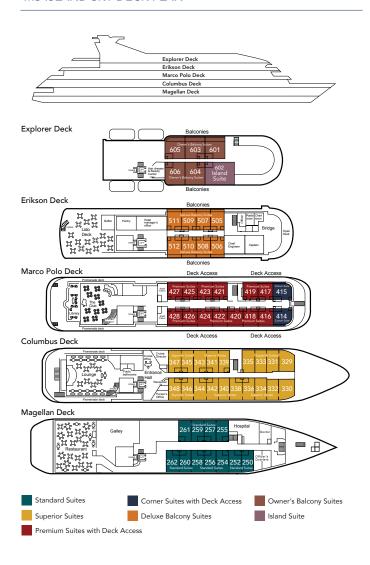
## Your Comfort

The MS Island 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 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 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 ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN





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