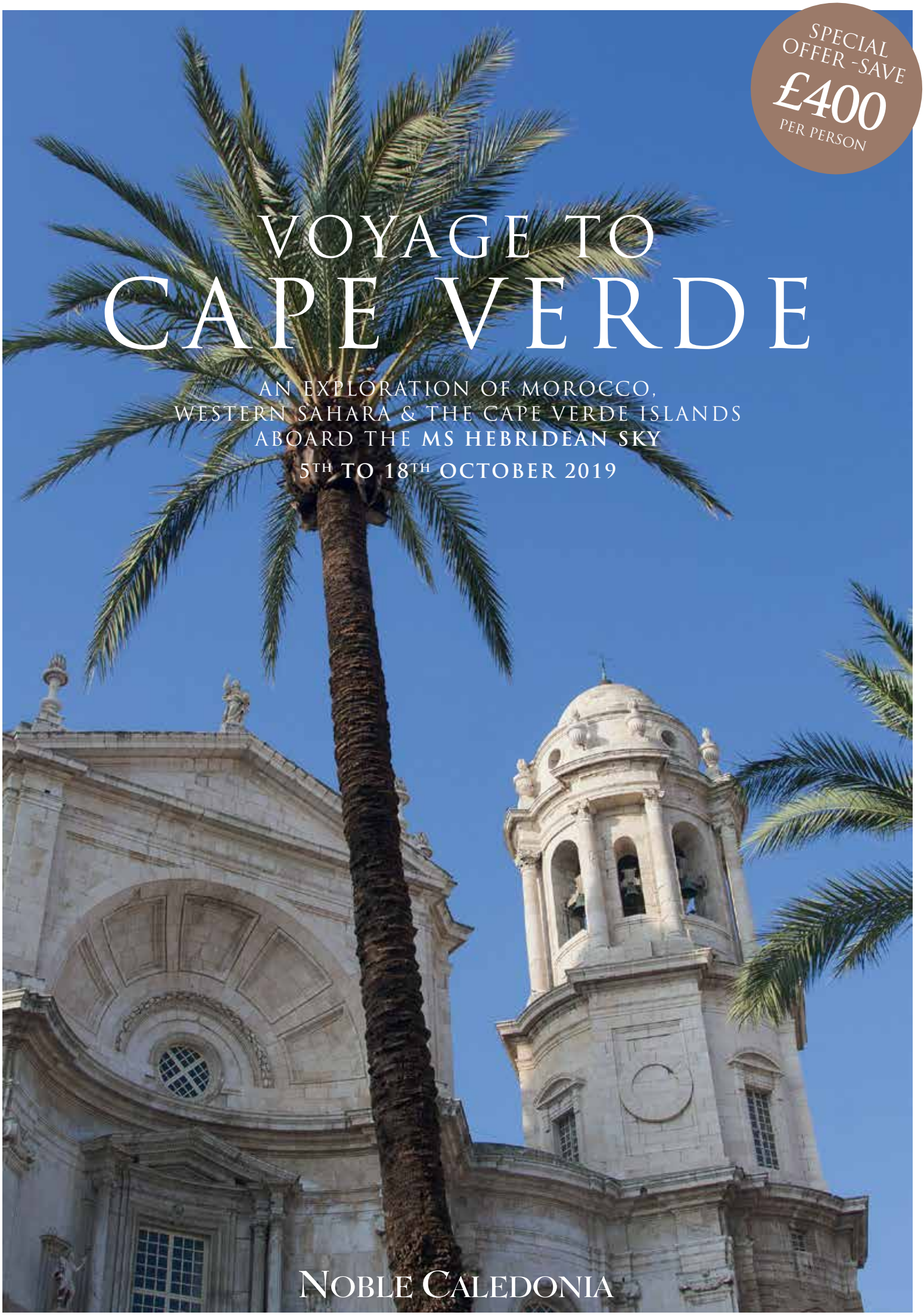


SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £400 PER PERSON

VOYAGE TO CAPE VERDE

AN EXPLORATION OF MOROCCO, WESTERN SAHARA & THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS ABOARD THE **MS HEBRIDEAN SKY**

5TH TO 18TH OCTOBER 2019

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Old City Wall, Taroudant

Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Hebridean Sky for a journey that will take us from Portugal and then south to Cadiz before we cruise along the Moroccan coast visiting Casablanca, Essaouira and Agadir as well as the opportunity to take the road to Marrakech for an overnight stay in this most enchanting ancient oasis city. We continue our voyage to two little visited places along the coast of Western Sahara, Laayoune and Dakhla. This region promises to be a most memorable experience and, for those who enjoy visiting out of the way places where tourists are a rarity, it is a unique opportunity.

Reaching the Cape Verde archipelago, we will island hop between these remote islands and discover volcanic landscapes, colonial towns and villages and beautiful beaches. It is a little world of its own, each island having a distinct culture and atmosphere and an ideal region for exploring by small ship.

Our voyage will be particularly enjoyable as it includes some daytime sailing, allowing for time to relax on deck and attend the informative lectures by our knowledgeable Guest Speaker who, along with the excellent local guides will bring to life all we see.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Lisbon, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner. This evening we set sail for Portimao.

Day 2 Portimao. This morning the MS Hebridean Sky arrives on the Algarve Coast at the fishing port of Portimao on the banks of the Arade River. During a morning call we head west to explore the more rugged Algarve and discover its place in history. We visit the historic town of Lagos, its sturdy Medieval walls testifying to its importance as a 15th century ship building and trading post. We then head to wild headland of Cabo Sao Vicente, its 200-foot cliffs face the Atlantic waves and it lies at the extreme south western corner of Europe. At nearby Sagres, Henry the Navigator built his school of Navigation and it was from here that many sailors set out to discover the New World. Spend the afternoon on board as we approach the coast of Andalucia.

Day 3 Cadiz, Spain. Spend the morning in Cadiz, a city located on a peninsula jutting out into a bay and almost entirely surrounded by water. It is the oldest surviving city in Spain and was founded by the Phoenicians in 1100 BC and later occupied by the Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths and Moors. During our guided tour we will discover the most beautiful monuments and landmarks of the city including the Mudejar-style tobacco factory, Santo Domingo Church, the Santa Catalina Fortress and finally the Cathedral of Cadiz and Diocesan Museum in the old city. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon of cruising.

Day 4 Casablanca for Marrakech, Morocco. There will be a choice of activities today. For those wishing to see Casablanca, join a morning drive during which we will visit the city's most important sights, including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Olive Market. The highlight of our tour, however, is a visit to the Hassan II Mosque, the largest religious monument in the world after Mecca. It took 3300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and the splendid wood ceilings. The mosque also has the world's tallest minaret, soaring 200 metres above the city. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon in the city.

Alternatively, you may wish to join an overnight trip to Marrakech. Leaving the ship after breakfast we will drive inland to the "red city". During our time in Marrakech we will see the rich monuments of this second imperial city including the Koutoubia Minaret, a symbol of the city for 800 years, the Bahia Palace with its lovely courtyards, late Moorish architecture and the Saadian tombs including the royal pavilion. We will have time to wander in the souks, visit the Jemaa El Fna square, the Marjorelle Gardens and enjoy some wonderful meals in local restaurants. Guests on this tour will re-join the ship in Safi on day 5.

Day 5 Safi. For those who have remained on board we will depart the port of Safi and head along the coast to Essaouira. Founded in the 18th century, Essaouira was built to be a rival city to Agadir. Formerly known as Mogador, meaning small fortress, it was designed as a fortified town surrounded by Vauban-style ramparts and played a major role as an international trading seaport, linking Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa with Europe and the rest

Laayoune Desert, Western Sahara

Koutoubia Mosque, Marrakech

of the world. On our full day tour, we will see the amazing mixture of Portuguese and Berber architecture, the 16th century sea bastions built to protect the city, the 18th century Medina and in the Mellah we find the souks dedicated to gold, spices and fish. We enjoy a seafood lunch near the beach before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky in Safi. Those who have travelled to Marrakech return to the ship this evening and once we are all back on board we will set sail.

Day 6 Agadir. This morning we arrive in southern Morocco in the vast bay of Agadir. A morning tour will include time at the Kasbah, built to defend the Atlantic shoreline and offering wonderful views over the coast, and the Talborjit Mosque. After some time in the souk we will drive through the fertile Souss valley to the gold, pink and orange tinted imperial city of Taroudant, a past capital of the Saadian dynasty. Explore the medina with its souks and climb the red ramparts and end with a visit to the Assarag and Tamaklotte Squares. After a local lunch we return to the ship and sail this evening.

Day 7 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea, maybe join the lecture programme or find a spot on deck.

Day 8 El Marsa for Laayoune, Western Sahara. From the port of El Marsa drive across the sand dunes to the city of Laayoune. There are not many travellers who can boast of a visit to the territory of Western Sahara. Mostly consisting of flat desert, it is one of the least populated regions in the world. It makes for a really interesting morning as we take in the unique Spanish-Saharan architecture in the old town, visit the Roman Catholic church, the Moulay Abdelaziz Mosque and see the food and artisan markets. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 9 Dakhla. After a morning at sea we arrive after lunch at Dakhla in the far south of Western Sahara. The town occupies a long peninsula which juts out into the Atlantic and is well off the traditional tourist routes. We will drive along the lagoon, a paradise for migratory birds, before visiting a Sahraoui camp in the sand dunes. We will learn about the nomadic Sahraoui culture, partake in a tea ceremony and use the 4x4 vehicles to see the stunning views from the top of the dunes. Return to the ship and sail this evening for the Cape Verde Islands.

Day 10 At Sea. A day of relaxation. Maybe join one of the on board lectures or enjoy a book on deck.

Day 11 Palmeira, Sal, Cape Verde. The island of Sal was relatively undeveloped until the mid-nineteenth century when salt export business was developed and this afternoon we will visit one of the original sites at Pedra de Lume. We will see the saltpans, learn of the salt extraction process and even have the chance to float in the waters. Alternatively transfer to the town of Santa Maria for a relaxing afternoon swimming from the beaches or exploring the local shops for Cape Verdean crafts.

Day 12 Porto Novo, Sao Antao. We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Sao Antao. Driving up the old trading route, we pass the volcanic crater 'Cova' with its agricultural plantations and enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in the tiny picturesque mountain village of Fontainhas, on the northern side of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, the valley of Paul. Here we will enjoy a coffee break whilst learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. Also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the islands and have a taste of it at the oldest traditional Grogue distillery of the island. Drive back along the coast to the southern side of the island and our waiting ship.

Day 13 Tarrafal, Sao Nicolau. Sao Nicolau is a charming, peaceful and attractive island of plantations, small holdings and busy farming villages. It also has impressive, almost untouched mountain scenery, friendly residents and lively traditions. On our tour we will drive through a spectacular landscape towards the historical capital Ribeira Brava. Here we will discover the lively centre of the island which reflects the character of the people and learn why Ribeira Brava was the bedrock of Cape Verdean intellect in the 19th century. After lunch enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 14 Praia, Sao Tiago to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return flight to London via Lisbon.

PRICES PER PERSON

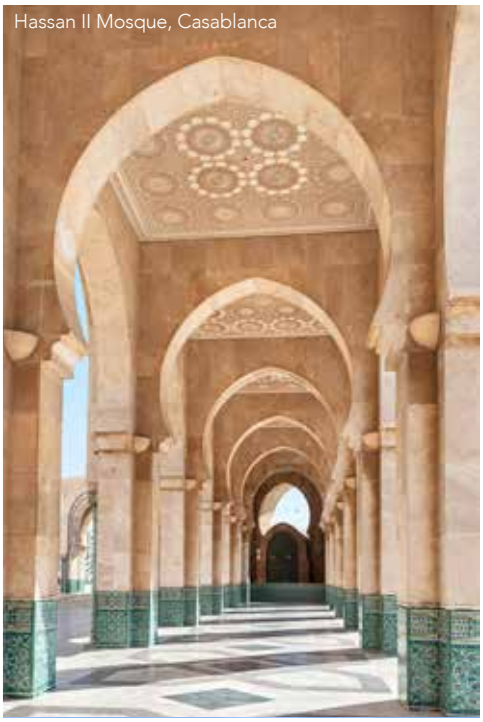
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON PLUS LIMITED NUMBER OF SUITES AVAILABLE WITHOUT SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£6795	£6395
Byrd	Superior	£6995	£6595
Mawson	Premium	£7395	£6995
Mawson	Corner	£7695	£7295
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7995	£7595
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£8495	£8095
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8995	£8595
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6795	£6395
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6595

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 13 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, visa

Santa Maria, Sal Island


Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca

Marjorelle Garden, Marrakech

The Fortress and Medina, Essaouira

Pre-Cruise Estoril Extension

2nd to 5th October 2019

For those who would like to spend some time in Portugal prior to embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we have arranged a three-night extension at the beautiful Palacio Estoril Hotel, located a short distance from Lisbon. Our stay will include a half day tour of Lisbon and the remainder of the time will be yours to explore at leisure.

Palacio Estoril Hotel

Located in the heart of Estoril, just 20 minutes from the centre of Lisbon, the Palacio is set in beautiful gardens with outstanding views over Estoril and the Bay of Cascais. The Palacio has been updated and has benefited from several refurbishments and renovations. Today, it offers all the comfort and convenience of a modern luxury five-star hotel while retaining all its charm of the past. During the Second World War, due to Portugal's neutrality several royal families went into exile in Estoril, which became known as the 'Coast of Kings'. The Palacio Estoril Hotel was the chosen home of numerous members of European royalty and was also the haunt of British and German spies, who could often be found in its bar. Later, these stories of intrigue and espionage inspired famous novelists and filmmakers and the hotel served as the set for the James Bond movie 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service'. In February 2011, the Royal Gallery was created where you can view photographs of the important members of European royalty who stayed at the hotel and the gallery is now one of Estoril's tourist attractions.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£545**; Single: **£745**

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation in a classic room at the Palacio Estoril Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis, half day tour of Lisbon, transfers from airport to hotel and hotel to ship, all taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

The Old Cathedral, Cadiz

Salt fields, Sal Island

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

Alfresco Dining

Owner's Balcony Suite

The Restaurant

The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three 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 Caledonian 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. Bottled water, Egyptian cotton sheets, 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 where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. 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 selection of games and two computers offering complimentary internet access can also be found in the Library. 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. Throughout the vessel, carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

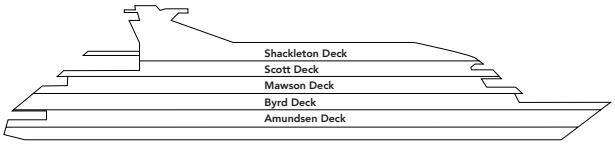
Your Comfort

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

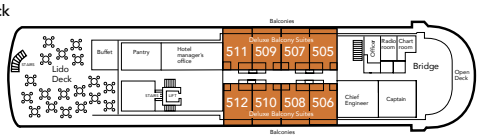
The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian 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

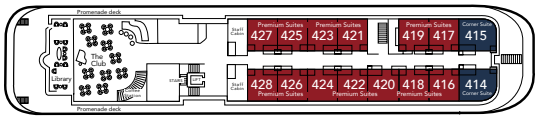


Shackleton Deck

Scott Deck

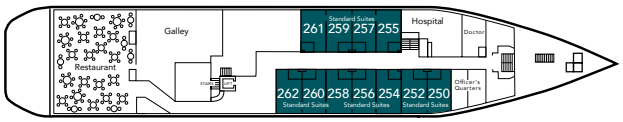


Mawson Deck



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: Cadiz Cathedral

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