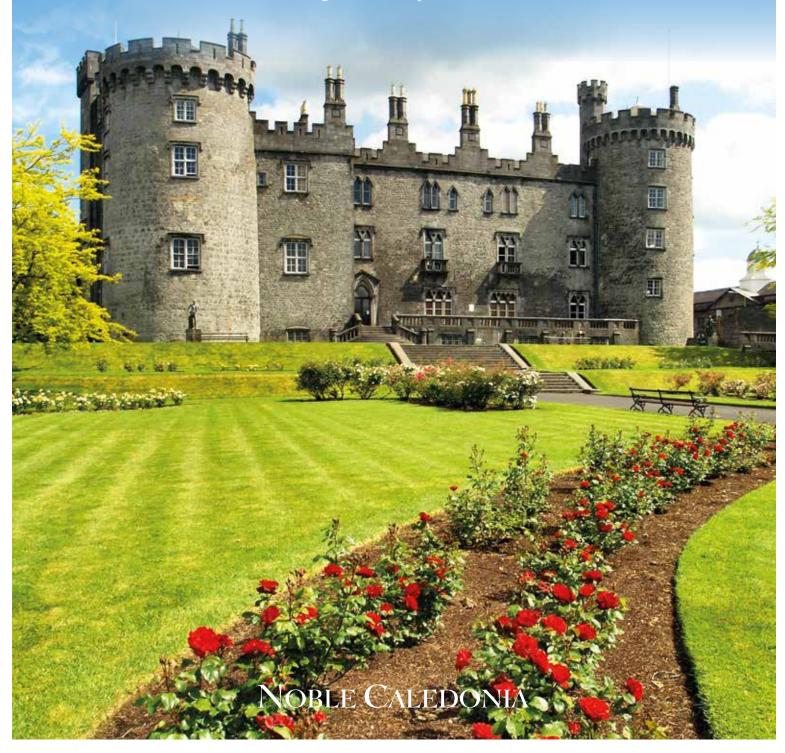


VOYAGE TO THE EMERALD ISLE

An in-depth exploration of Ireland's wonders aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Gary Sheffield

27th August to 5th September 2026



If you have been to Ireland before and have been meaning to return to explore in greater depth, or are yet to discover the appeal of what is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful countries in the world, then our voyage offers the perfect opportunity. Renowned for its warm welcome, culture, literary genius and fascinating history stretching back some 10,000 years, Ireland is a small isle with enormous character. Join the MS Hebridean Sky in late summer as she undertakes a unique and comprehensive voyage to discover why this beautiful island is so beloved worldwide.

Setting sail from Oban to Northern Ireland, during our voyage around the west coast of Ireland we will aim not only to show its beauty but to delve into its past to gain a better understanding of modern day Ireland. Highlights will include unearthing the myths and legends of the Giant's Causeway, cruising around the mystical Skellig Islands and visiting quaint villages, harbour towns and modern cities. We will also explore the Wild Atlantic Way stopping at the little-visited Bere



Island, witness the rugged beauty of the Aran Islands at Inishmore and our final morning will be spent in the remote Isles of Scilly where nature abounds. During our summer voyage, many of the islands, gardens and estates will be at their most appealing and the countryside will be beautiful and inviting. However, perhaps most of all it will be the charm and warmth of the people that make any trip to Ireland most memorable.

A cruise around the Emerald Isle makes for a most appealing sea journey whether you be an avid gardener, birdwatcher or simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting scenery in the world. Travelling by small ship in the company of just over 100 fellow guests we have the advantage of being able to reach remote islands and, with the use of Zodiacs we will be able to explore its pure unspoiled landscapes and spot rare seabirds and marine mammals along the rugged coastline.



Guest Speaker - Gary Sheffield



Professor Gary Sheffield is one of the UK's leading historians. He is Professor of War Studies at the University of Wolverhampton, and is renowned for successfully bridging the gap between academic and popular history. Gary has written many acclaimed books, including Forgotten Victory – the First World War: Myths and Realities. Gary frequently appears on radio and television,

and he writes for the national press, the BBC History Magazine, and History Today. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Society of Arts, a Freeman of the City of London, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Curriers. Educated at the University of Leeds (BA and MA) and King's College London (PhD), Gary began his academic career at the Department of War Studies, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst before moving to King's College London where he was awarded a Professorial Chair. In 2006 Gary was appointed to a Chair at Birmingham University, moving to a newly-created Chair at the University of Wolverhampton in 2013.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Oban, Scotland. Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow International Airport and Central Railway Station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner this evening as we sail to Ireland.

Day 2 Giant's Causeway & Derry, Northern Ireland. From our berth in Lisahally we will visit the Giant's Causeway which became widely known from the 1700s as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and large numbers of visitors came to view this amazing array of basalt columns of which there are estimated to be around 40,000 in total. After a stop at Dunluce Castle, we return to the ship for lunch followed by an afternoon to explore Derry, a vibrant city steeped in history. Walking the walls, built over 400 years ago, you can see the city's history all around you. During the tour we will visit St Columb Cathedral which has stood on its prominent site inside the city walls since 1633, as well as the Tower Museum which charts the city's history.









Day 3 Killybegs, Ireland. Spend the day in County Donegal where from our base in the village of Killybegs we have a choice of excursions. Choose to drive west to the Glencolmcille area, a Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) area steeped in culture and rich in folklore and music. One of the most scenic areas in Ireland, the drive through the countryside is outstanding. The Folk Museum, which opened in 1967, is a monument to Father James McDyer who came to the village in 1952 and set about infusing the local people with a spirit of self-reliance and pride in their heritage. Here we will learn about the history of the area and enjoy some traditional Irish music. We will also offer a walk through the Bluestack Mountains. This circular 3.5 kilometre walk offers the striking beauty and peacefulness of the mountains and spectacular views. In the afternoon there will be the option to take a stroll through Donegal town, which was invaded by Vikings in the 8th century and used as their port, giving its Gaelic name Dun na nGall, 'Fort of the Foreigners'. The walking tour will take in the town's history including the castle, the ruined Franciscan friary as well as the 'The Diamond' or centre of town where markets were held until 1967. This evening we will enjoy some Irish dancing after dinner.

Day 4 Aran Islands & Galway. After a morning at sea we arrive off the Galway Coast at the Aran Islands. We will call into the largest, Inishmore, and explore some of the early Christian sites. This island was a place of monastic study from the earliest Christian times. Also, see the dramatic stone fort of Dun Aonghusa, parts of which date back some 3,000 years. We sail in the late afternoon towards Galway. Arrive in the early evening and maybe enjoy an after-dinner stroll or find some local music as we moor overnight.

Day 5 Galway. From Galway we explore the beautiful region of Connemara. Here the National Park covers nearly 3,000 hectares of scenic mountains, heaths and woodland and is home to herds of ponies. During our drive along the 'Wild Atlantic Way' we will see beautiful coves, bays and traditional fishing villages where we will experience local culture in this Irish speaking part of the country. Visit Kylemore Abbey which is set on a lake against a backdrop of the Connemara Mountains and home to Ireland's only Benedictine order of nuns who have restored and cared for the Kylemore estate since 1920. Uniquely, only Victorian varieties of flowers and vegetables are grown in the walled garden which contains two distinct areas: the kitchen garden and the flower garden.

Day 6 Valentia Island & Skellig Islands. Today we arrive at the famous Kerry (Iveragh) Peninsula and anchor at the port of Knightstown on Valentia Island.

Spend the morning learning about the history of the island, with visits to the Cromwell Point Lighthouse and Transatlantic Cable Museum or alternatively visit the Portmagee distillery for a tasting of the local whiskey. Later, we will arrive off The Skelligs, tiny islands just off the magnificent coast of the Dingle Peninsula. Weather permitting, we will sail around these mystical islands with their early Christian history. Skellig Michael is a World Heritage Site and atop this rugged pyramid, that rises from the sea, are the ruins of a monastery. Meanwhile at Little Skellig the sky can on occasion turn white as some of the 20,000 pairs of breeding gannets leave their roosts.

Day 7 Bere Island. Awake at anchor off Bere Island which lies at the entrance to the deep, sheltered waters of Bantry Bay. The small island, roughly 10 kilometres by three kilometres, has a population of about 200 people but its place in history is assured. After the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, the island became one of three Irish ports retained by the British because of its strategic value. Evidence remains of earlier visitors too with megalithic standing stones, wedge tombs and ring forts. We have the whole day to explore on a choice of island walks, spend time at the Heritage Centre which showcases island life and take the chance to meet the islanders.

Day 8 Waterford & Kilkenny. From our berth in Belview, Waterford, we will drive inland to the Medieval city of Kilkenny. The great building prowess of the Normans is very evident in the 11th and 12th century buildings bestowed on the city. Characterised by many beautifully restored buildings, the most splendid is Kilkenny Castle which was until recently a stronghold of the Butler family. The castle began life as a Norman fortress and gradually became more domesticated through the centuries. After exploring the interior, including the gallery with portraits by Van Dyck and Lely we will wander in the surrounding 21 hectares of gardens. On the famous Medieval mile which leads from the castle to the city, we can see the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{St}}$ Canices Round Tower, the 13th century St Mary's Church and the enchanting Rothe Gardens. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and in the afternoon there will be a visit to Waterford, Ireland's oldest city. Join a tour to the House of Waterford Crystal to learn about the world-renowned crystalware and see how it is made or, alternatively, enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore at your own pace and perhaps visit the excellent Medieval Museum and the Viking built Reginald's Tower.

Day 9 Isles of Scilly, England. Spend the morning in the Isles of Scilly, an archipelago of five inhabited islands and up to one hundred and forty





uninhabited islets, located 30 miles off the coast of Cornwall. Our time will depend on weather and sea conditions but we hope to visit St Mary's, the largest island in the archipelago (yet still only six square miles), where you can enjoy some time in the shops in Hugh Town or walk the historic Garrison Walls. Return to the ship for a final afternoon at sea.

Day 10 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time.

SHIP TO SHORE

Whilst we will be alongside in some ports, we will be at anchor for the calls to the Aran Islands, Galway, Valentia Island and Bere Island. The vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore in the locations. We will also be at anchor in the Isles of Scilly where we will use local boats to transfer ashore.

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
Amundsen	Standard	£6195	£5895
Byrd	Superior	£6395	£6095
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6295
Mawson	Corner	£6895	£6595
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7795	£7495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8495	£8195
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7095	£6795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7295	£6995

PRICE INCLUDES: Nine 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 • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes. Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-cruise Argyll Extension 25th to 27th August 2026

If you would like to spend some time in the Scottish Highlands before your cruise, we are offering a two night extension based at Loch Melfort Hotel, a unique retreat set in 17 acres of gardens and beach on the romantic coast of Argyll.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Loch Melfort, Scotland. Check into our hotel this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Railway Station at a fixed time. After time to settle in we will meet for dinner tonight. **(D)**

Day 2 Arduaine Gardens & Loch Melfort. After breakfast we make our way to nearby Arduaine Garden, a delightful woodland garden which enjoys the benefits from the warming effect of the North Atlantic Drift and a paradise for plant lovers. Take a walk through the woodland to the coastal viewpoint and enjoy superb views of the Sound of Jura. The afternoon is free to relax before dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 3 Oban. After a free morning we will check out of the hotel and drive to Oban via the hilltop McCaig's Tower which overlooks the harbour. We will have lunch and some time to explore the town before we embark the MS Hebridean Sky in the late afternoon. (B, L)

LOCH MELFORT HOTEL



The Loch Melfort Hotel has a truly stunning location with idyllic surrounds. As you step into the warmth, comfort and tranquillity of this comfortable country family home, you cannot fail to notice the uniquely informal and relaxed atmosphere. The family-owned hotel which is surrounded by the enchanting Arduaine Gardens has beautiful views to the Sound of Jura and the Inner Hebrides and beyond. Dinners will be taken at the hotel's acclaimed restaurant, where the greatest care is taken when choosing the produce, ensuring it is as local and fresh as possible.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Garden View Room:

Double Occupancy
£645
£795

Sea View Room:
£695
£845

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at The Loch Melfort Hotel, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), drinks with included meals, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, excursions, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY









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







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.

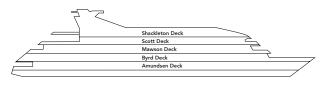
Your Comfort

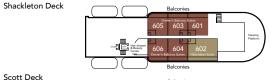
The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts 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.

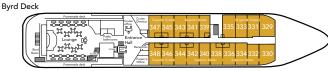
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN

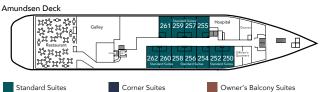














Please note that beds in each suite can be configured as double or twin with the exception of suites 601 and 602 which feature a fixed double bed.





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