

An aerial photograph of a tropical bay. The water is a vibrant turquoise, revealing a complex coral reef system with various shades of green and brown. The bay is surrounded by lush green hills and mountains. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. In the foreground, a small beach with several white boats is visible on the right side. The overall scene is a beautiful representation of a tropical paradise.

VOYAGES ABOARD MS ISLAND SKY & MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

2024 - 2025

NOBLE CALEDONIA

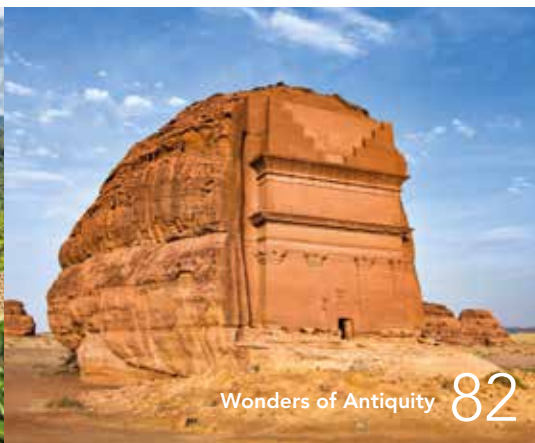
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DEAR TRAVELLER

It is our great pleasure to present our new brochure featuring voyages aboard our two much loved small ships, the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky from January 2024 to spring 2025. Our sister ships are intertwined with the history of Noble Caledonia; since my father founded the company in 1991, our owners have enabled us to be a truly independent family business allowing us to stay faithful to the founder's ethos and vision, that of educational and enjoyable small group touring for the likeminded.

Our much-valued independence was cemented by the purchase of the MS Island Sky in 2010 followed by her sister vessel, the MS Hebridean Sky in 2014. Owning these two all-suite vessels enabled us to implement our vision for small ship cruising, a concept that we had employed on a multitude of charters over the years, but having our own ships allowed us to plan far into the future and bring a level of consistency to our product.

Our owners have continually invested in the ships at a level that few in the industry would and we are all incredibly proud of our Sky ships. There are very few, true small ships operating in the cruise industry, some claim 1000 passengers to be small others 500, but we believe that the optimal number is 100 guests. The small ship experience is of course far removed from the mega-cruise ship experience, and it is also very different from the 200 to 1000 passenger experience; with just 100 passengers we can offer a truly individual service and can tailor our tours to the interests of the group. Our sailing schedules demonstrate that we prefer to focus on specific geographical areas rather than racing from one port or country to the next, instead we search for places of interest that the larger ships cannot reach ensuring that we can experience the local culture and allow for the time to do so.

By staying true to our founding principles, we have grown a large and loyal following of guests who return in the knowledge that they will be travelling with likeminded fellow passengers in an English-speaking environment, surrounded by those who are interested in exploration and new experiences. In order to provide the required stimulus, our voyages are accompanied by a team of specialists, be they our expedition teams who are leaders in their respective fields or our Guest Speakers who bring an area and its history to life.

Since our establishment, we have focused on ensuring we have a range of interesting and unique itineraries to offer and the following pages demonstrate our belief that the itinerary is paramount, however I do believe the overall experience is greatly enhanced by sailing aboard our two wonderful small ships with their spacious suites, convivial atmosphere and friendly crew of 75 who are all dedicated to offering the best possible experience.

Whether you join one of the voyages close to home in the Hebrides or circumnavigating Ireland, an exploration of the Baltic, Aegean or the islands of Italy, an expedition to Antarctica or an island hopping adventure in the Indian Ocean or Caribbean, we are committed to providing travellers with opportunities to participate in voyages and expeditions which explore the world with a sense of discovery and we hope to welcome you aboard soon.

Yours sincerely

Tim Cochrane
Managing Director





Small Ships – Big Experiences

There was a time, not so long ago when all cruises were much the same. However, the last twenty years or so have witnessed an immense and quick evolution and today we are all spoilt for choice. Ships of all different sizes and styles make the selection of a cruise a somewhat hit and miss affair, and whilst some companies attempt to please everybody, we prefer to place our future in the realm of small ships.

For those contemplating a cruise, there is the choice of travelling on one of the vast new 4000 plus passenger vessels which offer every conceivable facility and diversion or you can opt for a journey aboard one of our small ships which offer good food and knowledgeable staff who make your cruise not only a holiday, but an educational voyage of discovery. Unlike most passenger cruise ships, the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky are constantly on the move from region to region and continent to continent, small ships with big hearts which travel to every corner of the world, no matter how remote or seemingly inaccessible. In many ways the virtues of small ship cruising are best expressed by detailing what you will not find on board. For instance, there will be no organised entertainment and no black tie events. What there will be is a warm and peaceful atmosphere in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people in comfortable surroundings and with a high level of service.

In all the development in the cruising industry over the past few decades the priority that has changed most is the itinerary. This used to be the most significant element and deciding factor for many. However, the advent of the big ship has led to the downgrading of this important part of the cruise, mainly because large ships can only dock in large ports with all the supporting infrastructure necessary to service the vessel, and the onshore requirements of the passengers. For us, the itinerary is still paramount and our experienced team of planners continue to seek out new ports and arrange interesting and varied excursions with our local agents. With our two small ships we can still discover remote ports which are not easily accessible by any other means.

"Our Sky ships are big enough to sail the seven seas, but small enough to make port, or drop anchor, in hideaway places, off the beaten track, avoiding the regular, crowded tourist stops whenever possible."



Antarctica – Land of Heroes 96

We have over thirty years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of the remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new and although we set sail with a set itinerary it is sometimes the unscheduled events that become the highlight of the journey. Our Sky vessels have the freedom of the seas and can come alongside in small docks or drop anchor in any suitable spot. After all, you do not go on holiday to be part of the all engulfing masses which descend on a town when a number of large ships dock at the same time. Arriving at a port for the first time should be an invigorating experience and can certainly be so when the right place is chosen and your arrival is on a small ship.

With a maximum of only 118 passengers on board our Sky vessels, there is no queuing to disembark for an excursion and when required there will only be three coaches waiting on the quayside to transport you to the day's attraction as opposed to a whole fleet waiting for the passengers travelling on the big ships. Our destination style cruises are carefully researched and organised to enable you to explore fascinating sights in the company of local guides. On board you will be in the company of a knowledgeable Guest Speaker who will enhance your experience by delving further into the history and cultures of the destinations visited.



NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST

During our worldwide explorations over the years, we have come across many situations where help is desperately needed, be it following a natural disaster, civil unrest, abject poverty or to save an endangered species. To this end we established the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust in 2013 (NCCT). It is our vision to use the Noble Caledonia framework to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the areas we work and visit. Our onboard teams are uniquely positioned to identify projects and lead fundraising initiatives, whilst many of our guests genuinely care about the people and places we visit and want to make a difference. 100% of all donations go directly to the beneficiaries as Noble Caledonia Ltd covers all the administration costs and donates a percentage of profits annually. Details of our projects can be found on our website www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

Expedition Cruising & Zodiacs



Since time began man has felt compelled to step beyond the familiar realm and seek a new destiny. Out of this desire to explore and seek understanding, which still remains an integral part of our spirit today, came the advent of expedition cruising. Extraordinary travel requires vessels like our Sky ships which have the ability to adapt to their surroundings, land on remote atolls, follow in the wake of whales and dolphins and provide a comfortable base.

A large number of the voyages undertaken by the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky are expeditionary in nature and therefore in place of the customary Cruise Director and accompanying staff, you will be joined by an expedition team. These hand-picked experts are naturalists, historians and ecologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board. They will supervise the daily programme and hold talks and briefings throughout the cruise. The expedition teams have one aim, to make your trip as enjoyable, relaxing and informative as possible.

Expedition cruising is about getting off the beaten track, out of the way of other ships, of other visitors; it is about leaving the infrastructures of civilisation behind. We may not be far from civilisation, but we will often be out of sight of it. Our two ships carry a fleet of onboard Zodiacs which are invaluable for our expeditions. These inflatable craft offer marvellous manoeuvrability allowing us access to otherwise impossible landing places. With these we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries, land in otherwise inaccessible places and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers. Zodiacs are safe, reliable and convenient boats that allow us to go from ship to shore, whether we land on a beach, on rocks, or on a concrete jetty. Zodiacs can negotiate shallows, river estuaries, coral reefs and ice floes and in many places which we visit during expedition cruises, they are the only way to go ashore. They also enable the expedition team to offer Zodiac cruises during the voyage: near a seabird colony, next to a cliff or along a glacier front. On occasion, Zodiacs will also be used as platforms from where swimming and snorkelling can be conducted.

Throughout this brochure, you will find some cruises feature an expedition cruising logo indicating that Zodiacs will be integral to the operation of the itinerary. If you have any concerns or queries pertaining to expedition cruising and what it entails, please do not hesitate to contact one of our experienced travel consultants.



104 Passage through the Seychelles



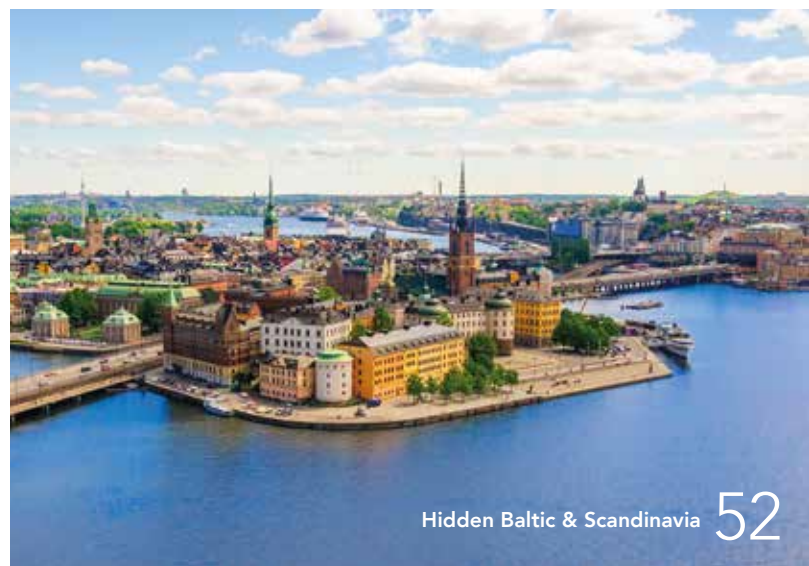
50 Atlantic Island Stepping Stones



Photo by Sue Forbes©



Madagascar – The Eighth Continent 92



Hidden Baltic & Scandinavia 52



Our Fleet & Your Life On Board

Noble Caledonia is very fortunate to have two of the finest small ships in the world, the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. These ex-Renaissance Cruises sister vessels accommodate a maximum of just 118 guests and are not only two of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships, but also two of the friendliest and most efficiently run. Our crews of 75, many of whom have been with us for many years, are dedicated to offering the best possible experience. It is this gentle, kind and efficient atmosphere on board that makes our vessels so popular.

If large resort-style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers are your ideal, then our ships are not for you as you will not find endless entertainment, round the clock buffets and the people management which is so much a part of today's big ship on board style. However, if like us you prefer a more peaceful life at sea you will find our flagships the perfect vessels.

When choosing your next voyage the choice of vessels is astounding. You can select a ship carrying in excess of 4000 passengers with impersonal service or join us aboard the MS Island Sky or MS Hebridean Sky where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. We promise there will be no fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. Instead, the atmosphere is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food with wine included at lunch and dinner, all contribute to make any voyage aboard these wonderful vessels a memorable and joyful experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of an exceedingly comfortable ship.



The daily programme on board is in the capable hands of our Cruise Director or Expedition Leader and staff who coordinate with the Captain and Officers to make the most of each day. Briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage together with a 'Daily Programme' that is distributed every evening to your suite outlining the next day's activities.

Our All Inclusive Policy

On board the MS Island Sky and the MS Hebridean Sky, you do not need to worry about tipping staff as we have included this in your holiday price. In addition we tip all our guides and drivers along the way, thereby taking away the hassle of always having to remember to have some small change with you. Shore excursions, drinks with meals and Wi-Fi are also included in the price.

For your Comfort, Security & Safety

Our vessels are equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer 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. There is also a dedicated channel on your television in your suite showing the routing of the vessel along with technical information and estimated times of arrival and departure from port. On board you will find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. Smoking on board is restricted to a specific area on deck.



Your Dining On Board

It is quite a task to create a dining experience as that found on board our Sky vessels when you are cruising in far-flung corners of the globe, indeed it takes a team of highly talented chefs to deliver fresh, varied dishes no matter where you are at sea. Fortunately, our catering teams are well adapted to the world of small ship cruising where no two days are the same and the menus are often scheduled and tailored around the days' excursions. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board is of a consistent superior quality that befits such vessels. Where possible and when it meets their high standards, our accomplished chefs will obtain local produce in markets. Such purchases enhance the well-stocked larders and enable the chefs on board to exhibit their culinary skills and bring a local touch to the varied menus, emphasising the international expertise of the chefs on board. 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.

In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our onboard friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like-minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are à la carte with an excellent choice of dishes, with the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals and there is also a comprehensive wine list with a wide selection of new and old world wines from which to choose.

The onboard catering and restaurant staff are experienced at sea and enthuse a passion for superb service. Whether it be ensuring you have an outdoor blanket as you enjoy the crisp sea breeze on the Lido Deck or sharing their knowledge of the characteristics of the days' wine selections, you will experience a service on board like no other. You may also enjoy sumptuous barbeques on deck whilst at times, the chef will make your dish to order at special pasta or stir fry stations.



The Restaurant, MS Island Sky



Captain's Welcome Dinner

Amuse-Bouche

Pesto Arancini, Sundried Tomato, Black Olive Crumb

Appetisers & Salads

Smoked Salmon

White Radish & Horseradish Remoulade, Lemon Olive Oil, Keta Dressing

Fried Panko & Sesame Seed Coated Brie

Cucumber Ribbons, Pear Chutney

Cobb Salad

Mixed Lettuce, Avocado, Chicken Breast, Crispy Bacon, Tomato,

Red Onion, Boiled Egg

Danna Blue, Cheddar Cheese with a Choice of Dressings

Soup

Creamed Broccoli Soup with Toasted Almonds

Consommé Chicken Royale with Julienne of Vegetables

Sorbet

Citrus Sorbet & Champagne

Main Dishes

Steamed Fillet of Halibut with a Scallop & Shrimp Mousse

Herb Crushed Potato, Vegetable Ribbons, Cucumber Beurre Blanc

Tournedos Rossini

Fondant Potato, Carrot Puree, Bacon & Savoy Cabbage, Red Wine Jus

Barbeque Smoked Tofu, Spiced Banana, Glass Noodles, Sticky Korean Sauce

Dessert

Dark Chocolate & White Chocolate Truffle Tart

Blackberry Compote, Chocolate Mud, Praline Ice Cream

Pistachio Ice Cream, Chocolate Sauce, Waffles & Toasted Hazelnuts

Selection of British & International Cheeses, Condiments, Crackers
and Chefs Fruit Chutney

Petit Fours



MS ISLAND SKY



■ Magellan Deck – Standard Suites

The Standard Suites located on the Magellan Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature large portholes.



■ Columbus Deck – Superior Suites

The Superior Suites located on the Columbus Deck measure an average of 22 square metres with a large window.



■ Marco Polo Deck – Premium Suites with Deck Access

The Premium Suites featured on the Marco Polo Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature tinted, sliding glass doors with direct deck access.



■ Marco Polo Deck – Corner Suites with Deck Access

The two magnificent Corner Suites located on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors with direct deck access and measure 22 square metres.



■ Erikson Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Erikson Deck measure 20.9 square metres and boast a 4 square metre private balcony with table and chairs.



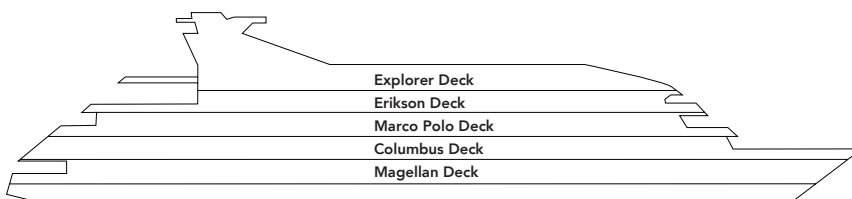
■ Explorer Deck – Owner's Balcony Suites

The Owner's Balcony Suites located on the Explorer Deck measure 22 square metres and feature a large private balcony measuring 8 square metres with table, chairs and sun loungers. Please note that the configuration of suite 600 varies slightly. Please refer to website for details.



Deck and Cabin Plans

MS Island Sky



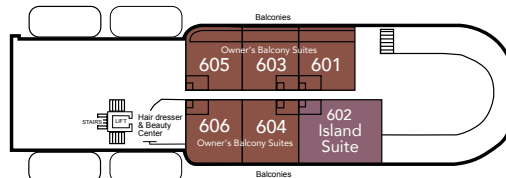
Technical Information

Cruising speed: 11.5 knots
Length overall: 90.6 metres
Width overall: 15.3 metres

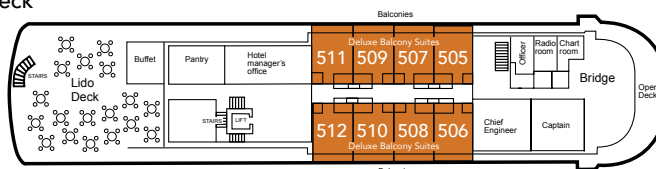
Draught maximum: 4.2 metres
Flag/Registry: Bahamas
Built: 1992

Tonnage: 4200
Guest capacity: 118

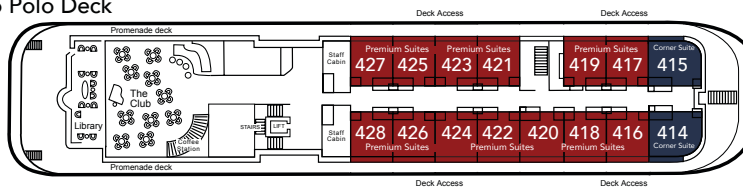
Explorer Deck



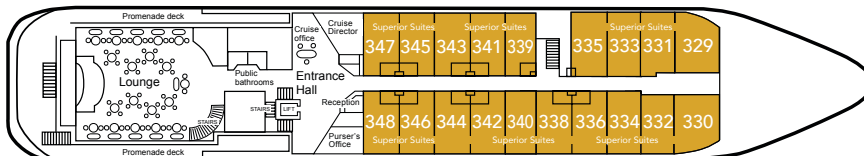
Erikson Deck



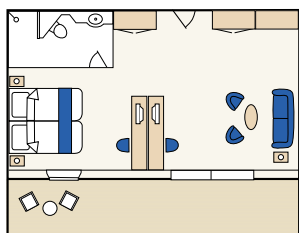
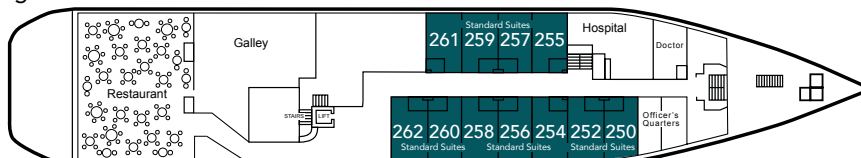
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



Explorer Deck – Island Suite

The spacious Island Suite located on the Explorer Deck measures approximately 32 square metres and boasts an extra large balcony with table, chairs and sun lounger.



The Lounge

Your Space On Board MS Island Sky

"A voyage aboard the MS Island Sky is as far removed from the traditional concept of big ship cruising as it's possible to get. Imagine a sleek little ship, more akin to a yacht, with a cosy bar where the bartender knows how many slices of lime you prefer in your G&T."

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms on board the MS Island Sky 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 and talks given by the Noble Caledonia onboard team take place in the lounge which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. For your convenience, it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your suite.

In addition to the Main Lounge on the Columbus Deck, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo 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



Alfresco dining on the Lido Deck



The Club



The Library

ship on the Marco Polo 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 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). Newspapers are also placed in the library depending on local availability.

The Dining Room 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, complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Whilst heaters and blankets make

dining al fresco comfortable in cooler climates. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck the observation area complete with sun loungers is ideal for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or spotting wildlife. The walk around promenade on the Marco Polo Deck provides a unique circular view of the passing seascapes. There is also a small hairdressers on board offering a selection of beauty treatments.

For your comfort, there is a clinic with Doctor on board and a lift which serves all decks. As is the joy of small ship cruising, we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the progress of the vessel (subject to weather or security conditions).



Owner's Balcony Suite



Island Suite



Premium Suite



Your Suite On Board MS Island Sky



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 from your suite and quick access to the deck when a pod of whales or dolphins is spotted. The impressive Island Suite located on the Explorer Deck features an extra large balcony stretching the length of the suite. 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. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge stocked with complimentary soft drinks and beer, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The suites on each deck have their own colour theme. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.



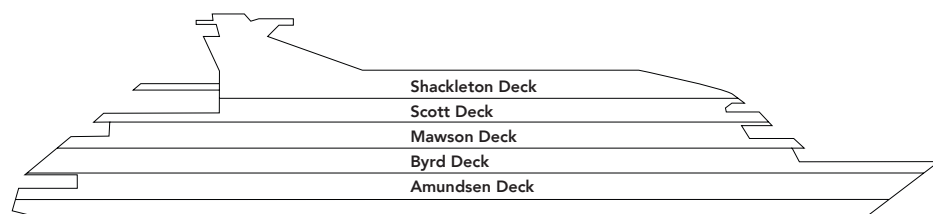
Superior Suite



Standard Suite

Deck and Cabin Plans

MS Hebridean Sky



Technical Information

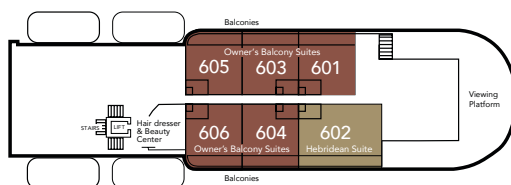
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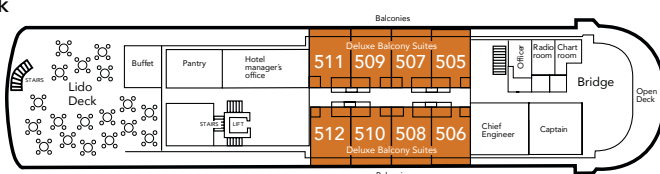
Tonnage: 4200
Guest capacity: 118



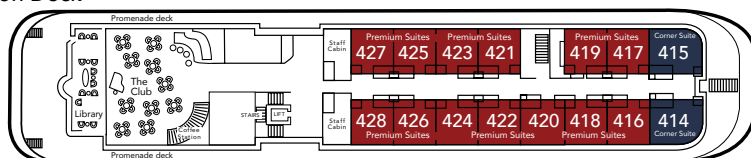
Shackleton Deck



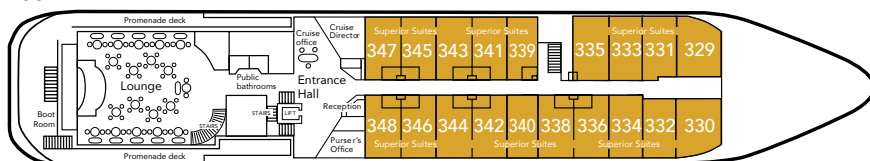
Scott Deck



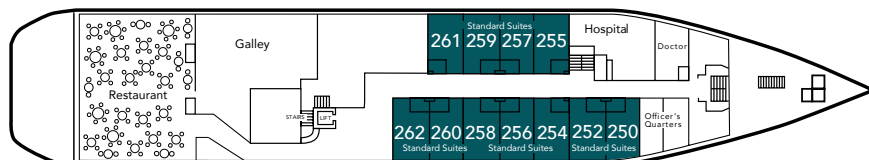
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



Amundsen Deck – Standard Suites

Standard Suites located on the Amundsen Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature large portholes.



Mawson Deck – Corner Suites

The two magnificent Corner Suites located on the Mawson Deck feature dual aspect windows and measure approximately 22 square metres.

MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



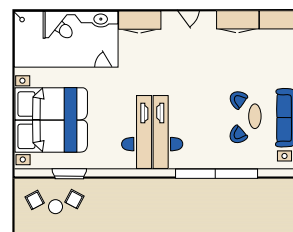
Byrd Deck – Superior Suites

Superior Suites located on the Byrd Deck measure an average of 22 square metres with a large window.



Mawson Deck – Premium Suites

The Premium Suites located on the Mawson Deck measure approximately 21 square metres and feature a large window.



Shackleton Deck – Hebridean Suite

The spacious Hebridean Suite located on the Shackleton Deck measures approximately 24.5 square metres and boasts an extra large balcony with table, chairs and sun lounger. This suite features a fixed double bed.



Scott Deck – Deluxe Balcony Suites

The Deluxe Balcony Suites located on the Scott Deck measure 20.9 square metres and boast a 4 square metre private balcony with table and chairs.



Shackleton Deck – Owner's Balcony Suites

The Owner's Balcony Suites located on the Shackleton Deck measure an average of 22 square metres and feature a large private balcony measuring 8 square metres with table and chairs. Please note the configuration of suite 601 varies slightly, please see website for details.

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



The Restaurant

Your Space On Board MS Hebridean Sky

"Not only is the MS Hebridean Sky one of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships in the world, she is also one of the friendliest and most efficiently run. Our crew of 75, many of whom have been with us for many years are dedicated to offering the best possible experience."

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms on board the MS Hebridean Sky 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 which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. For your convenience, it is also possible to follow the onboard lectures from the comfort of your suite.

In addition to the 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 offers a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck



is The Library which is well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads. 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 Dining Room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Amundsen Deck and is a bright and charming setting to enjoy the delicious meals on board. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Scott Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Whilst heaters and blankets make dining al fresco comfortable in cooler climates.



The Club



Observation Deck



The Lounge

Further to this, on the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area which offers a fantastic platform for spotting wildlife complete with deck furniture, ideal for relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. You will also find a clinic and Doctor on board and a lift that serves all decks. Additionally there is a small hairdressers with appointments made on request.



Owner's Balcony Suite



Hebridean Suite



Corner Suite



Your Suite On Board MS Hebridean Sky



On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and 14 suites 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 suites 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 rainfall shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a minifridge stocked with complimentary soft drinks and beer, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Additional 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.

The beds in each suite can be configured as twins or double with the exception of suite 601 and 602 which feature fixed double beds. The impressive Hebridean Suite, located on the Shackleton Deck consists of a separate bathroom and sitting room with extra large balcony stretching the length of the suite.



Deluxe Balcony Suite



Superior Suite



MS Island Sky, St Andrews Bay

Your Onboard Team

On all our voyages you will find informative staff on board and whilst exploring ashore you will be accompanied by excellent English-speaking local guides. Working with the Captain and crew, our cruise staff are responsible for the day to day organisation of the itinerary and briefings and they are in regular contact with the Noble Caledonia office. We have the very best in their field and they are often also joined by Guest Speakers who are chosen for their in-depth knowledge of a specific subject or geographical area. Briefings by the cruise staff and informal talks by our Guest Speakers add an extra dimension to all we see and do. Below are just some of the excellent Guest Speakers we have lined up to join our future voyages.



Rear Admiral John Lippiett

John Lippiett had a 36 year career in the Royal Navy, serving in a large number of ships from aircraft carriers to minesweepers and deployed to all of the world's operational theatres.

He was second-in-command of the frigate HMS Ambuscade throughout the Falklands War. John commanded three ships, a Frigate

Squadron, and then the School of Maritime Warfare. On promotion to Rear Admiral, he flew his Flag at sea as Flag Officer Sea Training before serving in Naples as Chief of Staff of the NATO maritime forces in the Mediterranean. His final posting was as the Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College. John retired and for nearly 13 years was the Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust, during which time he led the project to build the award-winning new museum and ensure Henry VIII's flagship is conserved and displayed for future generations. John now spends much time back at sea as a speaker on maritime history. He much enjoys telling the stories both of exploration, often using old maps, and of naval ventures that have taken place on the world's oceans over the last two thousand years.



Dr John Stevens

Dr John Stevens gained his PhD in History from UCL, before going on to teach British Imperial History, Indian History and Bengali Language at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London). His biography of the Indian guru Keshab Chandra Sen – *Keshab: Bengal's Forgotten Prophet* – was published by

Hurst and Oxford University Press in 2018. He is a regular visitor to India and Bangladesh and has lectured at numerous Indian universities. He also works as a consultant on Indian affairs and teaches the Bengali language to private students. He has appeared many times in the Indian media and was a guest on BBC Radio Four's *In Our Time*, discussing the poet and artist Rabindranath Tagore. John is also an accredited lecturer for the Arts Society and will be able to offer lectures such as the Architecture of Mughal India; Portraits of the Maharinis; and Imperial Calcutta: the Paris of Asia, amongst his many Indian related talks.



Hilary Bradt

We are delighted that Hilary Bradt will be joining us on board the MS Hebridean Sky for our November 2024 departure. Hilary Bradt co-founded Bradt Travel Guides in 1974, with a slim volume on backpacking in Peru & Bolivia. Two years later she travelled the length of Africa, from Cape Town to Cairo, and made her first visit to Madagascar. She

returned to East Africa and Madagascar as a tour leader in the 1980s and continued to visit Madagascar regularly both as a tour leader and lecturer for Noble Caledonia for many years. She wrote the first English-language to Madagascar guide in 1986; now in its 13th edition, updated by Daniel Austin. Through the decades she has written countless articles on Madagascar, its people and wildlife. In 2008 she was awarded an MBE for services to the travel industry and to charity and has received four Lifetime Achievement awards from travel organisations. Her proudest moment was in 2018 when she was invited to the Presidential Palace in Antananarivo to be made an Officer of the Order of Madagascar -- the Madagascan equivalent to an OBE -- for services to tourism in Madagascar.



Daniel Austin

Daniel is a travel writer, naturalist, photographer and tour lecturer who specialises in the exotic Indian Ocean island of Madagascar. He visits Madagascar every year to explore and photograph its diverse wonders. His fascination with this enigmatic country extends not only to its unique flora and fauna, but also to its people, culture,

history, geology and beyond. Daniel has written three books about Madagascar and contributed words and images to countless others. He also presents occasional lectures on the country, including at the prestigious Royal Geographical Society, as well as on specialist tours of the island. His expertise is frequently consulted by filmmakers making documentaries about Madagascar. In addition, Daniel is Secretary of the Anglo-Malagasy Society, a UK-based organisation founded in 1961 to promote knowledge of Madagascar amongst British people and to foster relations between the two countries. Daniel is the founder of the Madagascar Library, a private collection of some 3,000 books, maps and other documents about the country, available for use by academics, journalists, historians and other researchers.



Dr Steve Kershaw

Dr Steve Kershaw is a tutor in Classics for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society (ex-NADFAS), and lectures for the Victoria and Albert Museum's Early Medieval: 300 - 1250 and The Classical World and Classical Revivals courses.

His publications include *The Penguin Dictionary*

of *Classical Mythology*, *A Brief Guide to the Greek Myths*, *A Brief Guide to Classical Civilization*, *A Brief History of the Roman Empire*, *A Brief History of Atlantis: Plato's Ideal State*, *Barbarians: Rebellion and Resistance to Rome*, and *Mythologica* (a children's book on the Greek myths). Steve is the author and tutor for Oxford University's online courses in Greek Mythology, The Fall of Rome, and Minoans and Mycenaeans.



Stuart Laing

Stuart Laing was Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge from 2008 to 2018, responsible for the College's leadership and its strategic direction, after a first career in the British Foreign Service. As well as service in Brussels and Prague, he specialised in Arab and Middle Eastern affairs, serving in Saudi Arabia and in Cairo, and then as

High Commissioner in Brunei, Ambassador in Muscat, and then in Kuwait. He is co-author of a book on Omani-British history, *Unshook Till the End of Time*, took an MPhil at Cambridge in 2012 on the abolition of slave trading in the Indian Ocean, and has published a biography of Tippu Tip, the Arab ivory trader of the late 19th century. He now researches, writes and lectures on Arab, Mediterranean, Iberian and African history.



Nigel McGilchrist

Nigel McGilchrist has lived and worked in the Mediterranean – Italy, Turkey and Greece – for nearly forty years. After graduating from Oxford with a starred First in English, he began teaching at the University of Rome and subsequently worked for the Italian Superintendence of Fine Arts. All his spare time was spent in exploring

the lands, coasts and the cultures of the Mediterranean world. He has lectured for many years on the art and history of the area for museums and institutions in Europe and America – among them, the Getty Museum and the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. He has taken many specialist tours to Italy, Greece, Sicily and Malta; and has been a Guest Speaker for several Noble Caledonia cruises. He was formerly Dean of European Studies for a consortium of American universities. He is the author of a twenty-volume series of survey/guides of the archaeology, history and art of the Aegean Islands.



Chris Bradley

Chris Bradley is a graduate of the University of Liverpool specialising in the Middle East and North Africa having lived and worked in the region for over 40 years. As a professional tour guide and lecturer he has led many tours throughout Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan

and Jordan. His books include the *Berlitz Guide to Nile Cruising*; *Cairo*; *Egypt's Red Sea & Sinai*; *Oman*; *Abu Dhabi*; plus the *Insight Guides to Egypt and Jordan*. In 2010 he was an invited consultant for the United Nations World Tourism Organisation analysis on tourism development of the Giza and Saqqara area helping to open up the rural area and attract tourists out of Cairo. He still leads several tours each year to a variety of destinations, designing many specialist itineraries. He is a lecturer to noted societies, such as the Royal Geographical Society and the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies. He has been a cameraman and producer on many television documentaries and films for the BBC, Channel 4 and National Geographic TV.



Martin Sixsmith

Martin Sixsmith is a writer, presenter and former television correspondent. He was the BBC's Western Europe Correspondent for four years in the 1980s, reporting on the development and enlargement of the European Union. In the 1990s, Martin was the BBC's correspondent in Warsaw, 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 adapted into the film *Philomena*, starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. It was nominated for four Oscars. His book *Ayesha's Gift*, the story of a young woman's search to discover the truth after her father is murdered in Pakistan, is in development as a film. His non-fiction books include *Moscow Coup*; *The Litvinenko File*; *Putin's Oil*; *Russia, A Thousand Year Chronicle of the Wild East* and *The War of Nerves – Inside the Cold War Mind*. In 2011, he presented the BBC's 50-episode history of Russia on Radio Four. In 2014 he presented Radio Four's 25-part history of psychology and psychiatry.



Diarmuid Gavin

Diarmuid Gavin is an award-winning garden designer and broadcaster known for his distinctive and contemporary designs. After studying amenity horticulture at the Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin in Dublin, he established his own garden design business. After twice winning the Royal Dublin Society Gold medal

for garden design during the nineties, he displayed at the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 1995 and 1996. His modern vibrant city garden in 1996 caused quite a stir, and led to a career in television where he developed an individual style in contemporary garden design. Diarmuid has worked for all the main broadcasters on both radio and television in the UK and Ireland. He has danced on *Strictly*, cooked on *Masterchef*, ventured to the Arctic Circle in *71 Degrees North*, answered questions on *Mastermind*, *Pointless* and *House of Games* and even presented an edition of *Top of the Pops!* He is the author of 13 books on gardening and garden design including two with Sir Terence Conran. Diarmuid lectures on garden design around the world and has served as an ambassador for the Prince of Wales Foundation for the Built Environment. In 2022 the United Nations appointed Diarmuid as an ambassador for their Food and Agriculture Organisation.



Atolls of the Maldives

THE VOYAGES

"It is good to have an end to journey toward;
but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

Ernest Hemingway





PASSAGE FROM EASTER ISLAND TO THE CHILEAN FJORDS

An epic expedition aboard the MS Island Sky

25th January to 19th February 2024



The term unique can be overused in the world of travel, however it is a totally fitting description of this epic exploration of Chile which will take you from the mysteries of Easter Island across to the uninhabited Islas Salas y Gomez, the Juan Fernandez Islands with their rare and endemic flora and fauna, to picturesque Puerto Montt in Chile's Lake District, the magnificent Chilean Fjords, the stunning Torres del Paine National Park and around Cape Horn to Ushuaia, the 'End of the World'. With our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we will explore inlets, nature reserves and land in otherwise inaccessible places accompanied by an expert expedition team including naturalists, marine biologists and ornithologists who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm during forays ashore and whilst on board.

Our voyage exploring the many facets of Chile promises to be a marvellous adventure and an enjoyable undertaking for those who love the sea and long voyages, relish travelling off the beaten track to remote and extraordinary islands and escaping from the world for a few weeks. Sail aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky with just 100 fellow, like-minded travellers and our expert expedition team and experience some of the most magnificent scenery in the world. Our days at sea will be punctuated by calls to little visited islands and we will travel with whales, set foot in places where few have trodden before and enjoy good company, some fascinating onboard lectures, marvellous food and one of the most comfortable expedition vessels in the world. Some of the many species of birds we hope to encounter along the way are Christmas shearwater, masked booby, brown noddy, hummingbirds, Juan Fernandez petrel, Stejneger's petrel and albatross.

This in-depth look at Chile's wonders showcases the diverse geography, culture and coastal landscapes of the country. Beginning in Easter Island we will discover the island's extraordinary collection of astonishing archaeological sites and the mystical moai carved from volcanic stone of which there are nearly 900 with an average height of four metres. The history of the island is a remarkable one which will be brought to life by our local guides. Whilst visiting the Juan Fernandez Islands which are a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, we will spend time on Robinson Crusoe Island where Alexander Selkirk was marooned alone from September 1704 to February 1709 becoming the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's famous novel.

Sailing to the Chilean mainland, we discover Valdivia, one of the oldest European settlements in Chile before spending time in Puerto Montt and the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park with its three volcanoes, emerald lakes and mighty rivers. After a call in Chile's second largest island, Chiloe, we have the luxury of seven days exploring and cruising amongst some of the most stunning scenery imaginable in the Chilean Fjords, a vast wilderness of lakes, forests, rivers, glaciers, fjords and offshore islands, the like of which you will not see anywhere else. We will enjoy a visit to the Torres del Paine National Park before sailing around Cape Horn, a final highlight and fitting end to our expedition where, weather permitting we will hope to land with our Zodiacs.



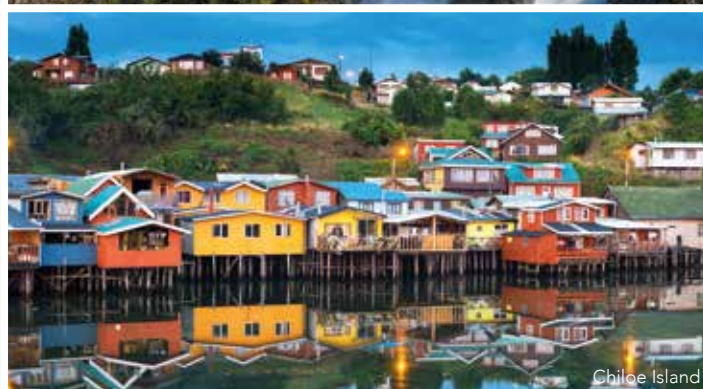
THE ITINERARY

Flexibility is key to a successful expedition. This voyage will include several days at sea on ocean passages. Although we have outlined an itinerary below, this is only a preliminary plan, our exact route and landings will depend on weather, tides and wildlife we may encounter along the way.

Day 1 London to Santiago, Chile. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Santiago. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the city independently.

Day 3 Santiago. After breakfast in the hotel a morning city tour will include the Presidential Palace, Plaza de Armas and the cathedral. Later we drive out to the Casablanca Valley which is now one of the country's premier wine areas. We will learn about the cultivation of grapes and visit one of the vineyards for a tasting and lunch. Return to the hotel this afternoon and spend the remainder of the day at leisure or exploring the city further independently.



Day 4 Santiago to Easter Island. After breakfast at the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Easter Island. This afternoon we will begin our exploration of the island with our visit to Rano Kau, the second oldest volcano on the island. Its huge caldera (1.5 kilometres at its base) contains one of the island's three freshwater lakes. From the look-out at the rim of Rano Kau we continue on to the ceremonial village of Orongo, best known for the birdman cult ceremonies. The site was restored in 1974 and within the village you will see 47 restored houses. Continue to Ahu Tahai, another restored ceremonial site and one of the oldest, dating back to the 6th century. This afternoon we will transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board this evening as we moor overnight.

Day 5 Easter Island. Today we enjoy a full day tour, visiting many of the different areas where moais (statues) can be found. We will see the volcano of Rano Raraku, the site where 95% of all moais were carved and today you will find nearly 400 statues here in various stages of completion. A hike to the top of the volcano's crater will not only reveal many statues but also a beautiful freshwater lake. We continue our exploration of the island at Ahu Tongariki, the largest ceremonial site in Polynesia which was restored in 1996 and Ahu Akivi where we find seven moais built around 1460 BC and which face out to sea. Lunch will be a specially arranged barbecue on Anakena beach, home of Easter Island's ancient paramount chiefs and one of the prettiest coves in the South Pacific. We sail during dinner to start our epic journey towards South America.

Day 6 Islas Salas y Gomez. After a leisurely morning at sea we arrive at the uninhabited island of Islas Salas y Gomez located in the Motu Motiro Hiva Marine Park and named after the Spaniards Jose Salas and Jose Gomez who provided the first detailed descriptions of the islands after their visit in 1805. Part of a volcanic range that rises up to 3500 metres from the seabed, the rocky coastline can make landing difficult but if conditions permit we will use our Zodiacs to view the coastline which is home to many bird species including Christmas shearwater, masked booby and brown noddy.

Days 7 to 10 At Sea. We have four days at sea to spend relaxing on deck, watching for wildlife and listening to the lectures from our onboard experts.

Days 11 & 12 Juan Fernandez Islands. We will spend a day and a half at the Juan Fernandez Islands, an archipelago of islands which were named

a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1977. The volcanic islands are recognised as a distinct ecoregion and are home to a high percentage of rare and endemic plants and animals. Located 400 miles off the Chilean coast, the islands were discovered by Spanish explorer Juan Fernandez in 1563 and were often used by passing sailors as a source of freshwater. In the 19th and early 20th century the islands were used as a penal colony for political prisoners and today the small population are mainly lobster fishermen and their families. We spend a day on Robinson Crusoe Island. Also known as Isla Mas a Tierra, it was here that the Scotsman, Alexander Selkirk, was marooned alone from September 1704 to February 1709 living off the land, and alongside the few goats that had been left by previous visitors including Juan Fernandez, becoming the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's famous novel. Using the main village of San Juan Bautista as our base, our expedition team will lead nature walks looking for endemic flora and fauna including hummingbirds, Juan Fernandez petrel and Stejneger's petrel. Also visit the caves used as prisons in the 19th century whilst those feeling active may wish to take a hike to the viewpoints in the hills around the town. Meanwhile on nearby Alexander Selkirk Island a Zodiac cruise will survey the prodigious birdlife and dramatic cliffs.

Day 13 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we make our way to the Chilean mainland.

Day 14 Valdivia. From the port of Niebla, this morning's tour takes us to the colonial city of Valdivia, one of the oldest European settlements in Chile. Our guided excursion will include time at the Canelos Tower, built in 1774 and which at the time of its construction was one of only two land entrances to the city, equipped with a wide portcullis and drawbridge. We will see the San Francisco Church before spending some time exploring the historical and anthropological museum and the bustling Mercado Fluvial. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 15 Puerto Montt. Over breakfast we land at picturesque Puerto Montt, a resort town in the Lake District. Settled by German colonists in the mid-19th century, much of its early Middle-European styled architecture remains, rendering a slightly bizarre feel in such an obviously un-European setting. Leaving the ship we will head to the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park which is the oldest in Chile and contains three commanding volcanoes in Osorno, Calbuco and Puntiagudo. We will see the emerald Todos los Santos Lake at the foot of Mount Osorno as well as the mighty Petrohue River and the rapids that crash through lava channels creating a series of magnificent



waterfalls. We return to the ship via Puerto Varas, situated in a stunning location on Lago Llanquihue with a backdrop of the iconic Osorno Volcano.

Day 16 Chiloe Island. Chile's second largest island, Chiloe Island was one of the first Spanish strongholds in the Pacific Southern South America. Once the island had been conquered, it was hard for indigenous uprisings to reconquer and as a result it became a major link in the Spanish trade route around Cape Horn. The island was also visited by Darwin aboard the HMS Beagle in 1831. Our visit ashore on this mainly forested island will include Castro, one of the oldest towns in the Americas, known for its unique wooden architecture, churches and stilted houses. Join an island drive which will include the wooden cathedral of St Francis and the historic old quarter.

Days 17 to 23 Chilean Fjords, Torres del Paine National Park & Cape Horn. During the next seven days we will enjoy some of the most stunning scenery imaginable and the MS Island Sky is the perfect vessel for the exploratory and scenic cruising that we will be undertaking. This vast area of mountains, glaciers, islands, lakes and waterfalls is untouched by man except for a few fishing villages which perch at 'the end of the world'. We will make good use of our time exploring the beautiful, protected waters, enjoying the renowned fjords of southern Chile which rival those of southeast Alaska in their raw beauty and prolific wildlife. We hope for calm weather when crystal clear reflections of vertical walls and hanging glaciers are broken only by the ripples of seabirds or maybe a passing dolphin. See how quickly you run out of suitable adjectives to describe all you are witnessing. Our route will be managed by our experienced Captain and Expedition Leader alongside the local pilots. As well as stunning scenic cruising, the area is ideal for Zodiac forays. As we continue our journey we hope to navigate the Kirke Narrows, a remarkable channel leading between lush, forested shores, so narrow it can only be sailed at low tide. Dropping anchor at Puerto Natales, we enjoy a full day in South America's largest national park, the Torres del Paine. This is one of the most spectacular places on earth, a vast uninhabited wilderness of glacier-draped mountains, windswept pampas, turquoise glacial lakes and verdant valleys. Look out for herds of guanacos (a smaller version of the llama), rheas, Patagonian hares, foxes and rich birdlife and see the stunning rock formations of the Horns of Paine. We also hope to operate Zodiacs as we cruise through the fjords and past the glaciers of the Alberto de Agostini National Park before we sail to Cape Horn, one of the best known maritime landmarks in the world. Magellan was the first European visitor here in 1530 and prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, it was an important staging

post. Weather permitting we hope to use our Zodiacs to land and enjoy a walk to the monument. On our final evening we sail into the Beagle Channel. Here the mountains, still partly unmapped, drop as sheer, densely wooded cliffs into the channel and penguins, dolphins and South American sea lions abound in the channel.

Day 24 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, transfer to a centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening are free for independent exploration.

Day 25 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 26 London. Arrive this morning.

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
Magellan	Standard	£13495	£12995
Columbus	Superior	£13995	£13495
Marco Polo	Premium	£14495	£13995
Marco Polo	Corner	£14995	£14495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£15995	£15495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£16495	£15995
Explorer	Island Suite	£17495	£16995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£16495	£15995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£17495	£16995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Santiago with breakfast • 20 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • Overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

IN THE WAKE OF SHACKLETON

Discover the wonders of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia
& the Antarctic Peninsula aboard the MS Island Sky

15th February to 8th March 2024 & 8th to 30th January 2025



In today's highly accessible world there are few places that still hold the power to enthrall and enchant. Antarctica is certainly one of these. Mere words cannot do justice to the awe-inspiring spectacle of this most southern of continents, this desert of ice which is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of the landscape.

For centuries myths abounded of a southern land but early exploration was hindered by the ice. Maps dating back to the late Medieval period show a continent named Terra Australis Incognita, 'the unknown southern land'. Captain Cook became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773 but never sighted land. The first person to set foot on Antarctica is thought to be an American sealer, Captain John Davis in 1821. Since then it is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character to deeds requiring extreme courage. The expeditions of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, Ross, Byrd and many others are a shining example of honour, strength and perseverance which today still inspire us.

Our voyage begins in Ushuaia from where we will be followed by albatrosses as we sail to the Falkland Islands for our exploration of these isolated islands thriving with wildlife and a fascinating history. We continue to South Georgia where we have ample quality time ashore to explore what is one of the world's natural wonders with a remarkable concentration of wildlife. We will land on remote beaches, alive with great numbers of fur seals, elephant seals, wandering and sooty albatrosses, Macaroni and king penguins. These beach paradises are backed by some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery in the world. Finally we sail for the peninsula where enormous tabular icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs. On our way to the Peninsula we hope to sail past Elephant Island, the island on which Shackleton's men endured 128 days before finally being rescued.

We have timed our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky for what is regarded as summer when whale and dolphin sightings are at their peak, penguin chicks begin to fledge and the snow algae is in bloom.



Steeple Jason, Falkland Islands

EXPERIENCING ANTARCTICA ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

Antarctica is to be experienced, not just to be seen, and we believe the only way to do this is on board a small ship in order to maximise the time spent ashore. To enjoy the wonders of this icy paradise in the company of a small and enthusiastic party is the perfect way to achieve the most from a visit to this extraordinary place and travelling with you on board will be polar expedition experts and naturalists with many years of experience in Antarctica who will add immeasurably to your experience. In between our landings and while at sea, you can pass the time on deck looking for wildlife, attend the series of lectures by members of the expedition team and simply relax on board. There are ships in Antarctica carrying higher numbers of passengers than the 100 guests on board the MS Island Sky, however due to the restrictions placed on vessels as to how many passengers may land at any one time, the larger vessels can only offer very restricted landings, whereas with the MS Island Sky, we are able to follow the strict Antarctic rules and yet have all guests ashore at the same time. For most travellers the Antarctic experience is a once in a lifetime visit, it is therefore important that the trip should be as rewarding as possible and our expedition aboard the MS Island Sky will certainly be so both in terms of the educational experience on board and the number of opportunities to go ashore.



MS Island Sky, South Georgia



Whale surfacing



Albatross



Macaroni penguin



Exploring by Zodiac

THE ITINERARY

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition in Antarctica. Although we have outlined an itinerary below, this is only a preliminary plan, our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to either relax in the hotel or join an orientation tour of the city which will include the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo (Old City Hall) before we continue towards the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobblestoned streets. The tour will end in La Boca to look around the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists. The evening is free for independent exploration.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and start our adventure this evening as we cruise down the Beagle Channel.

Day 4 At sea. Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south are albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our expedition team will be out on deck looking for whales and dolphins that may also be seen in the area. During our day at sea our onboard experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history and geology of the Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean.

Days 5 & 6 Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands are isolated and windswept, a haven for wildlife. Our two days should coincide with the end of the breeding season for the many seabirds that make these islands their summer home. We hope to include stops at Grave Cove, home to the largest colony of gentoo penguins in the Falkland Islands and see the rockhopper penguin colony and black-browed albatross on West Point Island. We will use our Zodiacs to find a suitable location to land and take walks ashore for a closer look with our expedition team. We also plan to call at Stanley, the charming capital of the Falkland Islands, and discover some of the many historic sites on the island.

Days 7 & 8 The Southern Ocean. As we cruise the Scotia Sea towards South Georgia, the richness of these waters will be evident in the marine mammal life, especially the fur seals on fishing forays. We have a good chance of spotting whales such as fins and humpbacks whilst the birds circling our stern will be outstanding, especially the large albatrosses and numerous breeds of petrels. During our cruise we cross the Polar Front, also called the Antarctic Convergence, and officially enter Antarctic waters.

Days 9 to 11 South Georgia. We have three days of expedition cruising in and around South Georgia, a paradise island with snow-clad mountain peaks rising 9000 feet and with 165 glaciers tumbling down towards the sea. For anyone interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches alongside 60,000 breeding pairs of king penguins. The colony has had an extraordinary population increase over the last century as only 350 breeding pairs were counted at this site in 1912. In Gold Harbour as well as gentoo and king penguin colonies, the adolescent fur seals of the season dominate the beaches while southern giant petrels constantly patrol the site for feeding opportunities. Whilst at St Andrew's

bay we encounter the island's largest king penguin colony as well as being home to over 6,000 southern elephant seal cows during the pupping season. Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respect at the grave of 'the boss' – Ernest Shackleton.

Days 12 & 13 At Sea. The waters between South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula are rich with fin whales, where in good conditions we have seen as many as a hundred in a day. If not whale-watching, look out for Antarctic petrel, wandering albatross and one of the most beautiful birds of the Southern Ocean, the snow petrel. The icebergs will also become more plentiful as we sail south. If conditions permit we may land at the South Orkney Islands. Meanwhile during our lecture programme we will learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

Days 14 to 18 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands. We have five days of exploration around the Peninsula which will include many of the best places for wildlife and magnificent scenery. Whilst we arrive with a planned itinerary the final schedule will be determined by our Captain and the Expedition Leader based on sea, weather and ice conditions. Using our Zodiacs we hope to make daily landings for unique close encounters with animals such as chinstrap and gentoo penguins, Weddell seals and petrels. We hope to visit the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, see the glaciers of Cierva Cove, the leopard seals at Pleneau Island, the stunning mountain lined Neumayer Channel and Half Moon Island with its rookery of chinstrap penguins. We also hope to sail through the Gerlache Strait, amidst a backdrop of jagged peaks, icebergs accumulate and whales can be spotted feeding on swarms of krill.

Days 19 & 20 The Drake Passage. Enjoy a final two leisurely days on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Attend some lectures, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. Named after the 16th century English seaman, Sir Francis Drake, the Drake Passage separates the southernmost tip of South America from Antarctica. This is a particularly good area to spot royal albatross, cape petrel, Antarctic prion and we will also be on the lookout for whales. We will arrive on the final evening in Ushuaia and berth overnight.

Day 21 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. This evening we will take in a tango show with dinner.

Day 22 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 23 London. Arrive this morning.

Pre-cruise Iguazu Falls Extension 12th to 16th February 2024 & 5th to 9th January 2025



Before joining our group in Buenos Aires, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, often considered the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Iguazu Falls. On arrival check in to the hotel and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the falls. Today we will explore the Brazilian side of the falls walking through the tropical rainforest. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Iguazu Falls. Enjoy a full day at the Iguazu Falls on a series of guided walks seeing the upper and lower circuits and the triple frontier, the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. A highlight of today will be the 80 metre fall "Garganta del Diablo" (Devil's Throat). (B, L, D)

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning and join our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the hotel and follow the main itinerary from day 2. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £2595; Single: £2995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights hotel accommodation in Iguazu Falls, meals as shown (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	2024		2025	
		Brochure Price	Special Offer Price	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£13995	£12995	£14495	£13495
Columbus	Superior	£14995	£13995	£15495	£14495
Marco Polo	Premium	£15995	£14995	£16495	£15495
Marco Polo	Corner	£16595	£15595	£17095	£16095
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£18395	£17395	£18895	£17895
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£19595	£18595	£20095	£19095
Explorer	Island Suite	£21095	£20095	£21595	£20595
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£18095	£17095	£18595	£17595
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£20095	£19095	£20595	£19595

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast • 18 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Tango show in Buenos Aires • Gratuities • Transfers • Use of parka jacket and waterproof boots on board • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Shackleton's Grave, Grytviken



SPRING IN THE MIDDLE SEA

A voyage from Athens to Malta aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with
Guest Speaker Dr Steve Kershaw

4th to 14th April 2024

This relaxing and informative voyage offers the opportunity to explore the Mediterranean and all its wonders as we cruise to some of the most fascinating sites of the ancient world and spend time in some scenic towns and coastal ports. Sailing from Athens, our itinerary has been devised to include a rich collection of archaeological, historical and beautiful sites in Greece and Italy before arriving at the Grand Harbour of Valletta. We will transit the Corinth Canal and explore a magnificent array of ancient sites including Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity and Olympia. We will also visit the marvellous site of Butrint in Albania where settlement can be traced back to the 8th century BC. Leaving Albania, we spend two days in the delightful Italian region of Puglia followed by a further two days of discovery of some of Sicily's many wonders.



This heady mix of ports represents a fascinating itinerary combining as it does some 'must see' sites together with some smaller ports that are perfectly suited for the 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky. We have also included ample time at leisure for independent exploration in some charming ports of call such as Itea, Preveza and Syracuse, places where owing to our ability to moor centrally, you can easily access the delightful towns from our moorings.

By the end of the voyage you will have seen and learnt so much and exploring in small groups with excellent guides, our trips ashore will be a pleasure. We have the added advantage of travelling in April when the summer crowds have yet to arrive but the weather is ideal for touring and sightseeing.





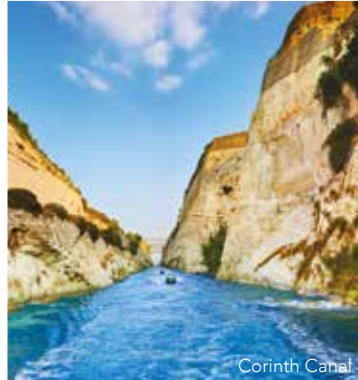
Taormina, Sicily



Gallipoli



Delphi



Corinth Canal



Roman theatre, Preveza

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in Piraeus. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Corinth Canal, Corinth & Epidaurus. Sail early and be on deck later this morning as we navigate the narrow Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like the MS Hebridean Sky which can now make this journey. Over lunch we dock in the port of Corinth which flourished under both Greek and Roman rule due to its significant location on the Isthmus of Corinth which controlled trade routes as well as being home to the naval power which took colonies in Syracuse and Corfu. It has also been closely linked to St Paul who lived here for a number of years and is known through his letters to the Christian community. This afternoon you may choose to explore the site of Ancient Corinth seeing the Temple of Aphrodite, the 6th century BC Temple of Apollo, built on a hill overlooking the marketplace, and the Roman Forum. Alternatively, drive to one of the most renowned of Greece's ancient sites. Situated on the slopes of a beautiful wooded valley, Epidaurus was known throughout the Hellenic world for its unique medical facilities and healing treatments. Dedicated to Aesclepius, the god of healing, the city was filled with curative spas and baths and only priests had access to certain secret rites. Most of the ruins of Epidaurus have been reduced to their foundations, with the exception of the astonishing theatre. Still used for special performances, the theatre is in an admirable state of preservation. Built into the ground, rather than above it, it is known for its fantastic acoustics, which we will observe during our visit.

Day 3 Itea & Delphi. Spend the morning at the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The hillside ruins here are exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, the site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon along the charming waterfront in Itea before we sail in the early evening.

Day 4 Katakolon for Olympia. Pastoral and lush, Olympia's plentiful ruins are shaded by Aleppo pines and olive trees. The fame of Olympia rests upon

the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland and the Archaeological Museum with some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. After our visit we drive to a nearby agriturismo where we will partake in a tasting of their olive oils and wines accompanied with local delicacies. After a chance to stroll amongst the olive trees and vineyards we return to the ship.

Day 5 Preveza for Nikopolis. Our last call in Greece will be at Preveza from where we head for the little known ancient city of Nikopolis, one of the largest and most important sites in the whole of Greece. Built by the Roman Emperor Octavianus Augustus following his victory at Aktium in 31 BC over Antony and Cleopatra, inside its extensive walls are the Odeum, the Theatre, the Nymphaeum and the monument to Augustus. Later, the city flourished in the early Christian period as the seat of the archbishop of old Epiros, but earthquakes and invading Goths and Vandals led to its demise. After lunch on board there will be time to explore the pretty yacht-lined harbour town of Preveza and we sail late for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 6 Sarande for Butrint, Albania. The port of Sarande is our base to discover the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A morning guided tour will explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre. From the Roman era are the public baths, gymnasium and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu. This afternoon there will be some free time to explore Sarande at your own pace before we sail in the early evening.

Day 7 Brindisi & Ostuni, Italy. From our berth in Brindisi we head to the "White City" of Ostuni, so called due to the almost blinding sunlight reflecting on the walls of its whitewashed dwellings. Ostuni has a privileged position as it was built on three hills and from the top of the town you can enjoy a stunning view of the

Adriatic coast from which Ostuni is separated by an ocean of centuries-old olive trees. The town has maintained its Medieval atmosphere which we will see as we walk through the meandering, narrow and picturesque streets of the old town which lead to the impressive 15th century cathedral, a beautiful example of Apulian Romanesque style. Spend the afternoon at leisure in Brindisi, maybe take a stroll along the waterfront promenade and see the Roman Arch which marks the end of the Roman Road "Via Appia" used by pilgrims, soldiers and traders as they travelled to Greece and the Holy Land. Alternatively visit the 12th century Tempio di San Giovanni al Sepolcro or wander the palm-tree lined Corso Garibaldi.

Day 8 Gallipoli & Lecce. Continuing our exploration of Puglia we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture. A guided walk will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore historic Gallipoli, with its whitewashed houses and attractive old quarter that still has a Greek air about it. There is much of interest here with a history influenced by the Byzantines, Normans, Crusaders and Turkish. Maybe visit the Aragonese Castle or walk the city walls.

Day 9 Catania & Taormina, Sicily. After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive in Sicily over lunch. From our berth in Catania we will have a choice of excursions this afternoon. Maybe visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Alternatively explore Catania. The architecture here is particularly impressive but a little forbidding being mainly constructed from black lava stone from Mount Etna. On an afternoon walking tour we will see the magnificent Piazza del Duomo, a World Heritage Site, St Agatha's Cathedral and the imposing 13th century Castello Ursino.

Day 10 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace.

Day 11 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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	£5995	£5695
Byrd	Superior	£6295	£5995
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6295
Mawson	Corner	£6995	£6695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7995	£7695
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£8495	£8195
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8995	£8695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£7295	£6995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7595	£7295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 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 Athens Extension

2nd to 4th April 2024



If you would like to spend some time in Athens prior to embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to join our two night extension.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to your centrally located hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Athens. Spend the day at leisure to relax or make independent touring arrangements. Perhaps climb up to visit the Acropolis, stroll amidst the lanes and classical ruins of the Plaka or visit one of the many excellent museums. (B)

Day 3 Cape Sounion. After breakfast enjoy a trip along the coast to Cape Sounion to see the majestic Temple of Poseidon sitting atop a craggy rock overlooking the sea. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the port of Piraeus to embark the MS Hebridean Sky. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £795; Single: £995

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

Post-cruise Malta Extension

14th to 16th April 2024



If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night stay hotel stay providing the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Valletta, Malta. After breakfast we will disembark and begin a walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barrakka Gardens. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and check in. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free for independent exploration. (B, L)

Day 2 Mdina. A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Citta Nobile" and it is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Spend the afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Valletta to London. Check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £795; Single: £995

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



CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF SICILY

An in-depth exploration of the wonders of Sicily aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

14th to 22nd April 2024

Join us aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky for this circumnavigation of Sicily and all its wonders in the company of just 118 fellow guests. This unique island has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, Sicily has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark. With our circumnavigation of the island we have the luxury of time allowing us to explore Sicily's rich heritage at a relaxing pace.

From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, there is so much to discover during our exploration of the island which we have timed for April, when the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours and the sites will be free of the summer crowds. We will visit the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale, the Valle dei Templi, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral and the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina. We have planned some late departures from port which afford the opportunity to enjoy dining ashore or an after dinner stroll in some towns which are particularly atmospheric in the evening. In addition, local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of Sicily.



THE ITINERARY

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

Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 4th century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch before returning to the ship.

Day 3 Agrigento for Valley of the Temples. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum which you can explore at leisure.

Day 4 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This morning there is the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively visit Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Both tours will then enjoy a Sicilian lunch at a nearby olive oil farm. We return to the ship later in the afternoon and there will be the opportunity to wander around Trapani at leisure as we plan to sail later in the evening.

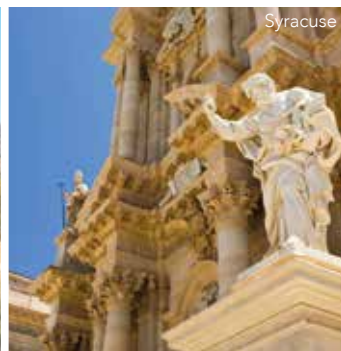


Day 5 Palermo. Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henry VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

Day 6 Messina for Taormina. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Those who wish to spend longer here will be able to take lunch



Valle de Templi, Agrigento



Syracuse



Palermo Cathedral

independently in one of the local restaurants and enjoy an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 7 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century BC was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius' a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 8 Noto & Ragusa. From our berth in Pozzallo we will explore the Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei among olive groves and almond trees. A guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, the cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon continue to charming Ragusa which has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list for its artistic architectural heritage with its Baroque palaces, churches, squares and winding narrow streets, all of which create an evocative and ancient atmosphere. We will discover the wonderful Ragusa Ibla: the "Pearl of the Baroque", the gardens, the magnificent palaces, the splendid church of San Giuseppe and the Dome of San Giorgio, built in the 18th century on the site where an older church stood before the earthquake of 1693.

Day 9 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-cruise Malta Extension 22nd to 24th April 2024



Mdina

If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night extension providing the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Valletta, Malta. After breakfast we will disembark and begin a walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and check in. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are free for independent exploration. (B, L)

Day 2 Mdina. A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Originally this city was given the name of "Citta Nobile" and it is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Spend the afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Valletta to London. Check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795**; Single: **£995**

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

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	£5295	£4995
Byrd	Superior	£5495	£5195
Mawson	Premium	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Corner	£5995	£5695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6495	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795	£7495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight 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 • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

REACH OF ROME

A journey across the Mediterranean from Malta to Malaga
aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Chris Bradley

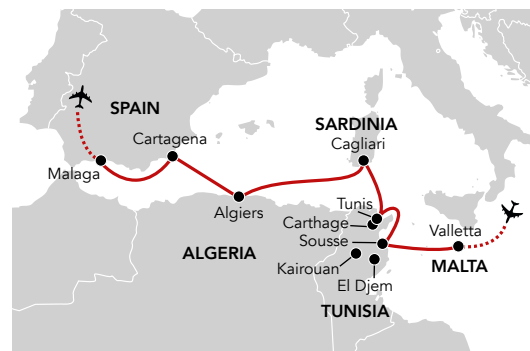
22nd April to 1st May 2024



Join us for this nine night voyage as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean exploring some of the most splendid and varied remains of the Roman World. These magnificent sites provide an unparalleled experience of life in classical times which, with the help of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and local guides, will be brought vividly back to life. Our itinerary has been timed for April when the temperatures will be pleasant and agreeable for exploration.

This is a region that is best discovered by sea and from the historic port of Valletta we sail south to Tunisia where we will visit the Roman amphitheatre of El Djem, the ancient city of Kairouan and Carthage with its Phoenician ruins. It is easy to imagine how daily life played out in Roman times in this great city which will transport you to another world and time. Following a day in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari we sail to Algeria for a full day exploration of the ancient city of Tipaza before heading to mainland Spain. Our penultimate call will be to Cartagena, which was used by Hannibal as a strategic base and later became a Roman administrative centre, before our voyage concludes in the delightful city of Malaga.

All this will be achieved with great ease aboard the MS Hebridean Sky and with just over 100 like-minded souls, we are able to explore in a way that is impossible from aboard a large cruise vessel. For those who enjoy exploring the ancient world, this itinerary has it all and the bonus of having a ship for our base, rather than a sequence of hotels, leaves us free to relax and enjoy all the marvellous sights that surround us.



Tipaza Roman ruins, Algeria



THE ITINERARY

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

Days 2 & 3 Sousse, El Djem & Kairouan, Tunisia. After a morning at sea we arrive into Tunisia at the port of Sousse which will be our base for the next day and a half of discovery. During our time here we will drive out of the city to the small village of El Djem, see the great Roman amphitheatre, built to accommodate 35,000 spectators, and visit the excellent museum with its collection of mosaics. A tour of Sousse will include the museum, located in the ramparts of the Kasbah and housing a fine collection of mosaics and the imposing Ribat, one of the finest and best conserved buildings of the series of "fortress-monasteries" that dotted the North African coastline. We will also drive to the ancient city of Kairouan where we see the Great Mosque which

is a universal architectural masterpiece and one of the most impressive and largest Islamic monuments in North Africa. Also see the Aghlabid Basins, the majestic cisterns built by the Aghlabids in the 9th century which represent a highly sophisticated work of engineering from the Middle Ages.

Day 4 Tunis & Carthage. From the nearby port of Tunis we drive to the site of Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BC it became one of the most influential cities in the Mediterranean. This prosperity led to a rivalry with Rome and it was during the third Punic War, in 146 BC, that the Roman forces destroyed the city. Due to the strategic location, the Romans rebuilt Carthage in the 1st century AD to become one of the most important cities in their Empire. See the Phoenician remains of Tophet, the sanctuary of the gods Tanit and Baal as well as some interesting monuments from the Roman era including the baths and the amphitheatre. Later, explore the Bardo Museum which houses some renowned Roman mosaics from the archaeological sites of El Djem, Sousse and Dougga as well as artefacts and sculptures from Carthage.

Day 5 Cagliari, Italy. Arrive over breakfast in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. From the port we drive along the south-western coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of Carthaginian warehouses and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. After lunch on board, during an afternoon walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Mary.

Day 6 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we cross the Mediterranean Sea. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 7 Algiers, Algeria. Depart this morning for the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans. The city was extended by Emperor Claudius and grew wealthy on Mediterranean trade. It was built on three small hills which



Cagliari



Tunis



Great Mosque, Kairouan

overlooked the sea. There are ruins of three Basilicas, two cemeteries, the baths, the theatre, the nymphaeum and the unusual oval shaped amphitheatre. After visiting the city, we will enjoy a typical Algerian lunch before continuing to the mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania which lies in the hills above the sea about 18 kilometres away from Tipaza. It is one of the most breathtaking sights in Algeria. The vast pyramid-like structure is named the Tomb of the Christian on account of the large crosses that decorate the tomb which predates Jesus Christ. We return to the ship via the Martyrs' Monument which offers spectacular views over the city.

Day 8 Cartagena, Spain. In the early afternoon we arrive in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. Enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for an afternoon of exploration in this historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it after Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative centre. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century creating a dense historic centre. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcio Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour, view the Roman amphitheatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 9 Malaga. Having spent the morning cruising we will have the afternoon to explore the historic city of Malaga. See the Roman theatre, built in the 1st century BC under Emperor Augustus and used until the 3rd century BC. After being left to ruin for centuries the Moors used the amphitheatre as a quarry as they built the nearby Alcazaba Fortress between 1057 and 1063. The site was rediscovered in 1951 and has three parts, the stands, orchestra pit and stage. Alternatively head to La Merced Square where we see the birthplace of Pablo Picasso before we visit the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. With its mix of Renaissance and Gothic styles it has been declared a national landmark. We remain moored overnight in Malaga for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 10 Malaga to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Pre-cruise Malta Extension 20th to 22nd April 2024



Valletta

If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night hotel extension including guided tours of Valletta and Mdina.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the hotel and check in for our two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Valletta. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barrakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street, containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. (B)

Day 3 Mdina. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island, Mdina was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Valletta. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£845**; Single: **£1045**

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

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	£5795	£5495
Byrd	Superior	£5995	£5695
Mawson	Premium	£6195	£5895
Mawson	Corner	£6495	£6195
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6695
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7295	£6995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7995	£7695
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6795	£6495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 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 including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, Algerian visa.

Palace of Pena, Sintra



IBERIAN STEPPING STONES

Discover the history, gardens & wines of Iberia on a springtime voyage from Malaga to Portsmouth aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker David Hunter

1st to 11th May 2024

Join the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky for this coastal journey along the Atlantic shores of Spain and Portugal as we sail from Malaga to the UK visiting some marvellously historic and special places along the way. These are perfect sailing waters and ashore we will be able to appreciate the contrasting cultures of the Iberian Peninsula enjoying the art, architecture and of course the wines. Early May is an ideal time for our voyage as we can expect moderate temperatures with the absence of the high season crowds and our itinerary has been planned to ensure that the balance is just right between exploring ashore, relaxing on board and time at leisure in picturesque ports for individual exploration.

Setting sail from Malaga, we sail south to Morocco for our visit to the port city of Tangier, Europe's gateway to Africa where our exploration will include a visit to the newly created Donabo Gardens, a botanical oasis by the sea with ten distinct sections within the main garden. Added to this we spend time discovering Portugal's Algarve coast including a visit to the charming town of Lagos, and enchanting Oporto with its splendid port wines. Continuing to Northern Spain we will meander through the Galician countryside visiting the most beautiful Pazos and their gardens, sample the local wines and step into the pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Our final days are spent sailing to Portsmouth with calls in the idyllic Isles of Scilly and Cornwall including visits to Tresco Abbey Gardens and the magnificent Caerhays Castle and Garden along the way.

Sailing in the company of just over 100 fellow travellers, we have the added benefit of excellent local guides and our knowledgeable Guest Speaker who will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region. Few itineraries in Europe can offer such a wide ranging and endlessly fascinating cultural experience and all of this combined with the rich maritime history of the region and the sheer beauty of the coastal landscapes makes for an endlessly fascinating cultural experience.



THE ITINERARY

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

Day 2 Tangier, Morocco. Having passed the Strait of Gibraltar we arrive in North Africa and the port of Tangier. A short drive will bring us to the Donabo Gardens located on the coast with wonderful sea views. Divided into ten sections we can explore the Moroccan garden that celebrates the tradition of tea, the maze of mints where multiple varieties blend their fragrances along the alleys, a rose garden thriving in the cool shade and a pollinator's garden purposely designed to attract bees. Later we can explore the city where on a walking tour we will visit the Medina, enjoy the views from the Kasbah situated at the highest point of Tangier, and wander through the Grand Souk.

Day 3 Portimao, Portugal. Arrive this morning on the Algarve Coast at the fishing port of Portimao on the banks of the Arade River. From here we head west to explore the more rugged Algarve and discover its place in history. Visit the historic town of Lagos, its sturdy Medieval walls testifying to its importance as a 15th century ship building and trading post whilst at nearby Sagres, Henry the Navigator built his school of navigation and it was from here that many sailors set out and ushered in the Age of Discovery. We visit the fort which, largely destroyed in the 1755 earthquake, has commanding views over the ocean and served to protect the coast from Barbary pirates. For those interested in the wines of the region we will visit the Morgado do Quintao. Founded in 1810, the vineyard has been in the same family ever since and specialises in indigenous Algarve grapes such as Negramole and Crato Branco. We will learn about the growing processes before enjoying a tasting amongst the vines.



Day 4 Lisbon & Sintra. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. It is a city famous for its majestic architecture, old wooden trams, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries of history. Following disastrous earthquakes in the 18th century, Lisbon was rebuilt by the Marquis de Pombal who created an elegant city with wide boulevards and a great riverfront and square. Today there are distinct modern and ancient sections, combining great shopping areas with culture and sightseeing in the Old Town, built on the city's terraced hillsides. During our panoramic tour we will see the Monument to the Discoveries, Belem Tower and visit the famous Jeronimos Monastery. Alternatively spend the day in the hill town of Sintra where we will visit the 15th century Royal Palace before heading to the Regaleira Gardens, an exotic and theatrical early 19th century creation and by complete contrast visit the Quinta Torre de Ribafria, with its Medieval origins. After lunch we will visit the Monserrate Gardens, a wonderfully romantic place designed by Sir Francis Cook in the mid-19th century.

Day 5 Oporto. After a morning at sea we arrive into Leixoes, our base for an afternoon around Oporto. A choice of excursions includes a visit to the Quinta de Aveleda, located in the heart of the Vinho Verde Demarcated Region which creates a young fresh wine with low alcoholic content and a lightly fruity flavour. After exploring the beautiful park and gardens with rare specimens of trees, shrubs and flowers which surround the Manor House, we will learn about the wine which has been produced here since 1947. Alternatively, explore Oporto including the impressive St Francis Church and the Ribeira, a riverside quarter made up of narrow, twisting streets and shadowy arcades. We will end at one of the many port wine cellars where we hear all about the wines and how they are produced.

Day 6 Vilagarcia de Arousa, Spain. From our berth in Vilagarcia de Arousa we spend the day at some of the wonderful houses and gardens of the Galicia region. Visit the Pazo de Oca, a Baroque stately home known as the 'Galician Versailles' and 'El Generalife of the north' due to the beauty of its gardens. See Pazo de Ribadulla which dates from the 16th century and is set in a beautiful location on the shores of the Ulla Valley. The garden was developed by the Armada family in the 1870s and is today renowned for its outstanding collection of camellia trees, giant magnolias, olive trees and lirioidendrons. Also see the 15th century Pazo de Rubianes where we find one

of the three official lordships in Spain. Visit the 11 hectare garden before we learn about local wine production and techniques and enjoy a tasting.

Day 7 La Coruna for Santiago de Compostela. Today we visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the chance to hike a short section towards Santiago. Otherwise transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias, the Quintana Plaza, House of Parra, the facade of Azabacheria, and the facade of San Martin Pinaro. Enjoy lunch at a parador and some free time before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

Day 8 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we make our way to the Isles of Scilly. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck.

Day 9 Tresco & St Martin's, Isles of Scilly, England. This morning we arrive at the traffic-free island of Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous sub-tropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. Later, we will see the northernmost island of the group, St Martin's, a small island community of just 120 residents. Enjoy time to explore independently, climb one of the viewpoints for vistas over the islands and the offshore seal colonies, join one of our birders on a guided walk or make your way for a tasting at the local vineyard and winery. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and the ship's Zodiacs or local tenders will be used to transfer from ship to shore.*

Day 10 Fowey. Anchor this morning in the River Fowey, our base for a day exploring this picturesque part of Cornwall. We will make our way to Caerhays Castle and Garden. Situated between St Mawes and Mevagissey in a secluded valley above Porthluney Cove, this is one of the great



gardens of Cornwall. The estate is one of the oldest in the country and home to a National Magnolia Collection. The origins of the historically important collection of magnolias can be traced back to the work of the great plant hunters, Ernest Wilson and George Forrest and the 120 acre woodland gardens are a springtime wonderland. This afternoon you may wish to explore the town at your own pace or join one of our expedition team on the Fowey Hall Walk, a circular four mile hike through woodland and across the tranquil Pont Creek which offers wonderful views over Fowey Harbour. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and the ship's Zodiacs will be used to transfer from ship to shore.*

Day 11 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station and our London departure airport at a fixed time.

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	£5995	£5495
Byrd	Superior	£6395	£5895
Mawson	Premium	£6595	£6095
Mawson	Corner	£6995	£6495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£7495	£6995
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7995	£7495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£8495	£7995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6995	£6495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£7395	£6895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Malaga
 • 10 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 Seville Extension 29th April to 1st May 2024



If you would like to spend some time in Seville before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night hotel extension.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Seville, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel where we have free time before we meet for dinner tonight. (D)

Day 2 Seville. On a morning walking tour we will explore the city's greatest monuments. Visit the Alcazar Palace with its ornate Moorish interiors and exotic terraced garden and the imposing La Giralda, Seville's cathedral which is reputed to be the largest Gothic style church in the world with its distinctive Moorish tower. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. Meet this evening as we take in a flamenco show with dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Seville to Malaga. Check out after breakfast as we drive to Malaga where our first call will be at the Botanical Gardens which features more than 25,000 species of plants. After lunch we have some time in the town, maybe see La Merced Square, the birthplace of Pablo Picasso, or the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. In the late afternoon we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1095**; Single: **£1295**

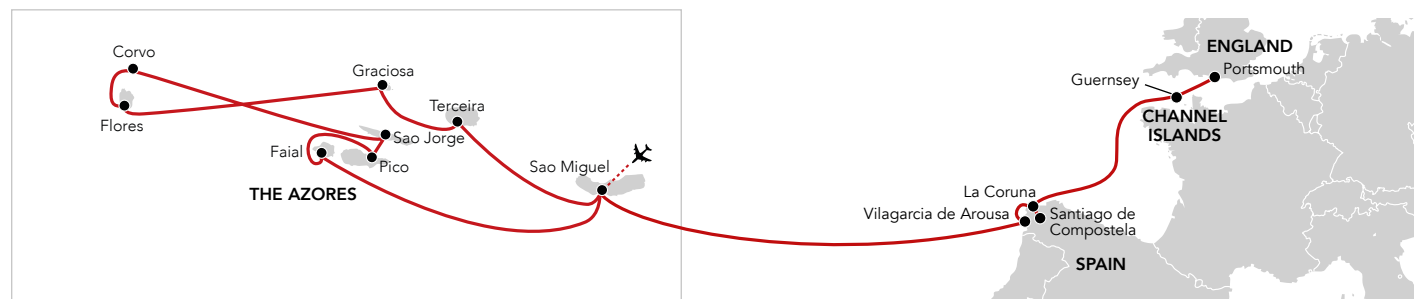
Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.



AZORES TO BRITAIN

A voyage from Sao Miguel to Portsmouth aboard the MS Island Sky

9th to 23rd May 2024 & 2nd to 16th May 2025



This wonderful island hopping itinerary aboard the MS Island Sky explores the islands of the Azores, the Iberian Peninsula and the Channel Islands visiting some marvellously scenic and historic places along the way. We have chosen the perfect time of year for our voyage and can expect verdant gardens and landscapes awash with blossoms and moderate temperatures with the absence of high season crowds.

Our journey begins far out in the Atlantic in the islands of the Azores, some 800 miles from the Portuguese coast, which are known for their spectacular volcanic scenery, abundant flora and peaceful lifestyle. Every new day brings a different vista and we will spend seven days exploring the raw beauty and cultural vibrancy of this remote and unsophisticated archipelago. Their appeal is difficult to define in words, but if you appreciate dramatic scenery, exploring islands where time appears to be standing still, watching for passing whales and learning about the local people and their customs, this could be the voyage for you.

Following our in-depth exploration of the Azores, we spend a relaxing two days at sea before we arrive in the Iberian Peninsula where we will witness some splendid Spanish 'pazos' in their springtime glory and step into the pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Our penultimate call will be to the 'island of flowers', Guernsey, where we have a full day to explore before sailing to our destination, Portsmouth. Our two-week voyage will be full of natural world and cultural highlights as we discover timeless islands, fabulous coastal scenery and the rich maritime history of the region in the company of just 100 or so like-minded travel companions.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Sao Miguel, Azores. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Terceira. This morning explore Angra do Heroismo, a charming UNESCO heritage town with a distinct Mediterranean flavour of cobblestone streets and a certain quiet charm. Enjoy a walking tour that takes in the Misericordia Church, Convent do Sao Francisco, the public gardens and museum. In the afternoon there will be free time to hike to Monte Brasil, offering wonderful views over the island, or alternatively relax and wander the historic town at your own pace.

Day 3 Graciosa. Known as the 'White Island', Graciosa has a gentle rolling landscape, dotted with windmills and traditional whitewashed houses. Visit Furna do Enxofre ('Cave of Sulphur'), a geologically unique phenomenon and one of the original examples of the volcanic Azores, and take the winding stairway down to the magnificent volcanic cavern and lake. Also see the village of Santa Cruz and the charming Matrix Church. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the small town of Vila da Praia.

Day 4 Flores & Corvo. Named after its abundant flora, Flores is often regarded as the prettiest of the Azores. A rugged terrain island with flowers growing in the deep canyons and waterfalls casting hues of blues and green as they splash down to the sea. Visit the vertical basalt cliffs of Rocha do Bordoies, formed by the cooling of lava. See a stunning array of natural features including calderas, fajas, rivers, waterfalls and valleys. This afternoon we will use our small ship to circumnavigate the tiny island of Corvo, the smallest island in the archipelago.

Day 5 Sao Jorge. This largely rural island is of geographical interest with its cliff shoreline marked with flat fajas sweeping to the sea. We start our full day tour on the western part of the island, Ponta dos Rosais, visiting a Forest Park and cheese factory. As we move to the north we enjoy the view over the Fajas, an area of flat land at sea level resulting from the erosion of cliffs. As we make our way to the south side towards Calheta we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant before continuing on to Urzelina to visit the remaining tower of a church buried under lava from the eruption of 1808. Now it is surrounded by fruit trees and vegetation. Upon our return to Velas we will take a walking tour of this charming old-world harbour town. We remain moored overnight for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 6 Pico. Explore distinctive Pico, home to Portugal's highest peak and numerous black lava flows. The UNESCO-designated Lajido Acros tells the story of early winemakers who used the volcanic soil for the grapes and, on a visit to a vineyard, we will enjoy a tasting of the local product. After a typical Azorean lunch we will learn about whaling life in the Azores at the Museum of Lajes returning to the ship via the Lagoa do Capitao offering views over the north of the island.

Day 7 Faial. Our day begins with an island drive where we explore the fairly recent volcanic activity at Ponta dos Capelinhos. See how a 1957-1958 volcanic eruption transformed the area and created a new land mass. Visit the Volcano Interpretation Centre before continuing to the impressive Caldera, now a nature reserve, which is 400 metres deep and nearly 1500 metres in diameter. This afternoon a walking tour of Horta will include the Scrimshaw Museum and Cafe Peter, a famous stopping point for sailors crossing the Atlantic.



Common dolphins, Azores



Santiago de Compostela



Sao Miguel, Azores

Day 8 Sao Miguel. Enjoy a full day exploring the island of Sao Miguel, known as Ilha Verde, the green island and home to some of the most stunning viewpoints in the Azores. This morning we head west towards the Sete Cidades volcano from where we can enjoy excellent views over the Lagos de Canarios. We will continue our drive along the attractive northern coast before arriving in the Furnas Valley, an enormous valley and luxuriant garden in the east of the island where we enjoy lunch. We will also visit the village of Furnas and the botanical gardens before returning to the ship and sailing this evening. For the keen hikers, if weather permits, we will arrange to walk the trail in Sete Cidades.

Days 9 & 10 At Sea. Relax on board as we sail to the Iberian Peninsula. Take in a lecture in the lounge or maybe find a spot on deck to watch for wildlife.

Day 11 Vilagarcia de Arousa, Spain. Arriving in Galicia over lunch we will discover the 'Rias Baixas' which translates as low estuaries. This afternoon we drive the short distance to the Pazo de Rubianes which was originally founded in 1411 and was one of the three official lordships in Spain. Enjoy a guided walk through the stunning gardens, famous for their thousands of camellias but also home to eucalyptus trees, sequoias and camphors. Also visit the Pazo's extensive vineyards to learn about the local Albarino wine production and enjoy a tasting before exploring the historical palace itself.

Day 12 La Coruna for Santiago de Compostela. Today we visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the opportunity to hike a short section towards Santiago. Otherwise transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias; the Quintana Plaza; House of Parra; facade of Azabacheria; and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Enjoy lunch at a Parador and some free time before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

Day 13 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we continue our journey north.

Day 14 Guernsey, Channel Islands. Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers', and take a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore the pretty town of St Peter Port or maybe join a walk along one of the cliff paths where, if the weather is fine, we should be able to see the nearby Channel Islands and possibly the French coast. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.*

Day 15 Portsmouth, England. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station and our London departure airport at a fixed time.

Pre-cruise Estoril Extension 6th to 9th May 2024 & 29th April to 2nd May 2025



For those who would like to spend some time in Portugal prior to embarking the MS Island Sky, we have arranged a three-night extension at the beautiful Palacio Estoril Hotel, located a short distance from Lisbon.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Estoril, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight to Lisbon. On arrival this afternoon transfer to the Palacio Estoril Hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. We will meet tonight for dinner. (D)

Day 2 Lisbon. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. It is a city famous for its majestic architecture, old wooden trams, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries of history. During our panoramic tour we will see the Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower and visit the famous Jeronimos Monastery. Return to the hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 Sintra. This morning we will drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sintra where we will visit Sintra National Palace, famous for its magnificent painted ceilings. The palace is the only survivor of the country's Royal Halls, dating from the Middle Ages. Later enjoy some free time to explore the town which still retains much of its Medieval layout before driving back to the hotel. The remainder of the day and evening are under your own arrangements. (B)

Day 4 Estoril to Sao Miguel, Azores. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to the Azores. On arrival we transfer to the MS Island Sky and embark.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

2024	2025
Twin: £795 ; Single: £1095	Twin: £895 ; Single: £1195

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation in a classic room at the Palacio Estoril Hotel, half day tours of Lisbon & Sintra, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

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
Magellan	Standard	£8395	£7895
Columbus	Superior	£8595	£8095
Marco Polo	Premium	£8895	£8395
Marco Polo	Corner	£9295	£8795
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£9595	£9095
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£9995	£9495
Explorer	Island Suite	£10395	£9895
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£8395	£7895
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£8595	£8095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel to Sao Miguel • 14 nights aboard the MS Island 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 • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

ATLANTIC ISLAND STEPPING STONES

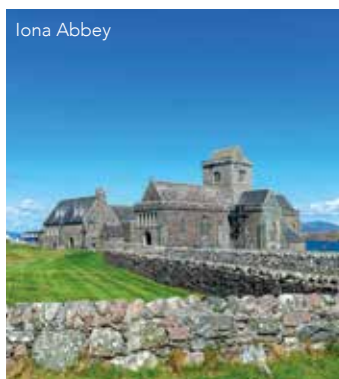
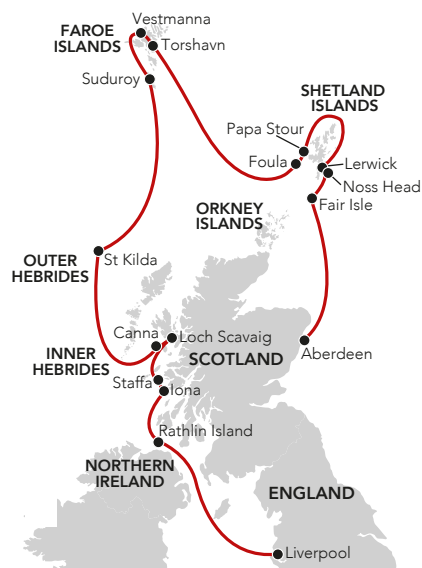
An expedition exploring the Atlantic islands including the Shetlands, Faroes, Hebrides & Rathlin Island aboard the MS Island Sky

17th to 28th July 2024



We have been operating cruises around the tip of Scotland for over 30 years and this really is an itinerary that conveys the multiple benefits of small ship cruising. One of our most popular expeditions, it will appeal to those who prefer their islands deserted but with abundant bird and wildlife and who enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting places in the world. Whilst you can visit all manner of exotic and wonderful places some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people are found close to home and nowhere is this truer than the islands off Scotland's indented coastline. Sailing from Aberdeen we will journey along rugged coastlines and visit once inhabited islands venturing far north to the Shetland and Faroe Islands combined with our time in the Hebrides. In addition, just off the tip of Northern Ireland, we will call in to Rathlin Island which is steeped in history and has an abundance of seabirds.

With our fleet of Zodiacs we are able to make calls into some of the remote and uninhabited islands that surround the Scottish coast and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs crowded with birdlife. Few ships make the journey to these outer islands and we are grateful to therefore be able to explore these wonderful places aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky with just 100 or so fellow passengers. Although we will set sail with a schedule, this will not be set in stone as these are perfect waters for expedition cruising and our Captain and expedition team will keep a flexible approach allowing for the opportunity to fully experience the unexpected whether it be a sighting of dolphins, a whale or any unusual event.



Iona Abbey



Puffins, Fair Isle

Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead and the 16th century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore this historic port. Tonight we will be entertained by local musicians.

Day 4 Foula & Papa Stour. This morning we visit Foula, one of Britain's most remote inhabited islands. Apart from a narrow coastal strip of more fertile croftland, Foula is an expanse of peat and moorland rising steeply to five dramatic peaks. In the early summer Foula's wildflowers provide a glorious burst of colour. Translated as "Bird Island" from Old Norse, the island is designated as a Special Protection Area for Birds and is home to the world's largest colony of Great skuas, known locally as bonxies, which compete fiercely with Arctic skuas for breeding territories. Kittiwakes and Arctic terns return annually to nest whilst the cliffs team with puffins, shags and fulmars. Over lunch we will sail the short distance to Papa Stour where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the stunning cliff scenery, sea stacks, arches, blowholes and coastal caves.

Day 5 Torshavn, Faroe Islands. After a morning at sea we arrive in the Faroe Islands. This afternoon join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900-year old "Roykstovan", the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. For those feeling active, we will arrange a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna. Over dinner we sail the short distance to Vestmanna where we moor overnight.

Day 6 Vestmanna. Vestmanna is our base as we explore the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. Here we will board local boats to explore these vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the thousands of seabirds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. After lunch on board, we will drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We visit Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse which is now a museum, and a traditional Faeroese wooden church in Kollafjord.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland. Embark this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Railway Station and Aberdeen International Airport at a fixed time. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Fair Isle & Noss Head, Shetland Islands. This morning we anchor off the remote island of Fair Isle. Located midway between the Shetland and Orkney Islands, the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend us a warm welcome. Enjoy a walk across the island searching out the puffin slopes, visit the community hall for a cup of tea or maybe purchase some of the famous knitwear. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we hope to sail around Noss Head. Here the cliffs will be full of nesting gannets, guillemots and fulmars whilst we may also see skuas in the skies above. This evening we moor overnight in Lerwick.

Day 3 Lerwick. From the Shetland capital we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. The site was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5,000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-



Day 7 Tvoroyri, Suduroy. Our last call in the Faroes will be at Suduroy, the southernmost island of the group. From the port of Tvoroyri we have a choice of activities. Choose to join an island tour passing the beautiful scenery as we drive between the villages seeing the stunning geology, fjords, tunnels and architecture of the island and end at the southernmost point and the Akraberg lighthouse. In Porkeri we will take the ridge-top road which winds up the mountainside for wonderful views towards the steep cliffs on the west coast, the Beinivoro promontory to the north and the luscious grass slopes to the east. To locals, this delivers the essence of the Faroe Islands with mountains and fjords, villages and valleys, birds, sheep and nature. Alternatively, those feeling active may wish to join a hike to Hvaanhagi, a beautiful, uninhabited place north of Tvoroyri on the east coast of Suduroy. The view is fantastic towards the three islands Litla Dimun, Stora Dimun and Skuvoy. There are sheep and birds, a valley with a lake and beautiful high mountains. Spend the afternoon at sea as we return to Scotland.

Day 8 St Kilda, Scotland. Returning to the Scottish Islands we will sail past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Berneray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannets. In the early afternoon we arrive at St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only a few UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island.

Day 9 Canna & Loch Scavaig, Inner Hebrides. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by the National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a hornshaped haven. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Arrive in the early afternoon at the lovely Loch Scavaig. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

Day 10 Staffa & Iona. At first light we arrive at Staffa where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt

columns, known as the Colonnade, which has been cut by the sea into cathedralesque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. Sail over lunch to Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises.

Day 11 Rathlin Island, Northern Ireland. Located just a few miles from the North Antrim coast, Rathlin has been settled for more than 6000 years. Today, there are only 80 or so souls, whereas before the famine there were 1200 inhabitants. History is everywhere with historic buildings and ruins which we will explore on foot with our local guides. We may also see some of the prolific seabird life with astonishing numbers of auks, kittiwakes as well as grey seals. Spend our final afternoon at sea.

Day 12 Liverpool, England. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Liverpool Lime Street Railway Station and Manchester Airport at a fixed time.

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
Magellan	Standard	£6495	£5995
Columbus	Superior	£6695	£6195
Marco Polo	Premium	£6995	£6495
Marco Polo	Corner	£7495	£6995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£7795	£7295
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£7995	£7495
Explorer	Island Suite	£8995	£8495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£8495	£7995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£8695	£8195

PRICE INCLUDES: 11 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis

• House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



HIDDEN BALTIC & SCANDINAVIA

A voyage from Aberdeen to Helsinki aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
with Guest Speaker Nicholas Merchant

28th July to 11th August 2024

If ever there was a sea perfect for exploring by ship, it is the Baltic. Join us on this summer voyage of discovery as we explore the many delights of this fascinating region. One of the many extraordinary experiences of the Baltic is the summer light that 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 which makes exploration so enjoyable, especially when travelling aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with just 118 like-minded, fellow guests.

With over thirty years of experience operating cruises in this region, 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 Turku which are well off the path of the big cruise vessels that ply the region. Other well-hidden treasures include Denmark's Bornholm Island, Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland and the Estonian island of Saaremaa, a gem with its Medieval Episcopal castle and timeless countryside. A highlight for many will be our call to Denmark's northernmost town of Skagen whose amazing seascapes and incredible light casts a lifelong spell on all who visit.

Each day will see us in a new port of call with a range of included, guided excursions and the complex past of the region will be brought to life by our excellent local guides and onboard Guest Speaker, helping us to gain a greater understanding of both old and new Baltic nations.



Skagen, Denmark

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. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board as we sail this evening.

Day 2 At Sea. Relax on board as we sail across the North Sea to Denmark. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck.

Day 3 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 that is constantly moving. 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 discover the winding alleys in the atmospheric old quarters or the vibrant atmosphere at the marina. Alternatively, take the chance to visit the

local museum to see the artwork of Ancher and Kroyer who were inspired by the region.

Day 4 Helsingor. The Danish King, Eric of Pomerania built a fortress in the early 15th century to enforce the collection of dues for all ships wishing to enter the Baltic. In the following century Frederick II rebuilt the castle into a magnificent Renaissance castle, Kronborg was considered at the time to be the strongest fortress in Europe. The castle is known to many as 'Elsinore' the setting for Shakespeare's tragedy, Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. We will enjoy a morning exploring the castle and the old town before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon you can choose to explore further at your own pace or relax on board.

Day 5 Ronne, Bornholm Island. Arrive this morning into Ronne and on our excursion we explore the highlights of northern Bornholm. Bornholm Island is a mixture of wheat fields, forests and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On an island drive we will see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudjem where we can sample the smoked herring. Also see Hammerhus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline. The afternoon is free to explore Ronne at your own pace before we sail this evening.

Day 6 Kalmar, Sweden. We arrive in Sweden at one of the country's oldest cities and ports, Kalmar, where we will berth close to the historical centre. A morning tour will include 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 represents the rule of the Vasa Kings who rebuilt it in the style of a Renaissance palace. Alternatively, join a visit to the UNESCO island of Oland. Visit Stora Alvaret, a giant limestone plateau containing ancient remains, unique flora and fauna as well as the royal palace of Solliden. Built by Queen Victoria of Sweden in 1903, it is still used as a summer retreat by the Swedish Royal Family and we will have time to explore the extensive gardens and pavilion. The afternoon is free to wander the cobbled streets of the old town.

Day 7 Visby, Gotland Island. 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



Tallinn



Saaremaa Island



Kronborg Castle



Visby

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. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further and maybe see the Viking exhibits at the Gotland Museum.

Day 8 Stockholm. This morning 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 to the MS Hebridean Sky we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour. After some free time we sail in the late afternoon through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes.

Day 9 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. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon to explore at leisure before cruising this evening through some of the 6700 islands of the Åland archipelago.

Day 10 Turku. After sailing through the 20,000 islands of the Åland archipelago we arrive at the oldest city in Finland. Originally part of Sweden, Turku became Finland's first capital in 1229 and remained so until 1812. On a morning tour we will discover Turku Castle, the largest in Finland and a national treasure. The castle has stood guard over the River Aura since the 13th century and serves as a fascinating museum containing hundreds

of artefacts. We will also see the 14th century cathedral and have time to explore the town. Alternatively, join an excursion to Kulturan, the official summer residence of the President of Finland. Here we explore the 16 hectare landscaped park adorned with several flower gardens, pergolas, gazebos and fountains. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky via the historic holiday resort and spa town of Naantali where there will be some free time to explore the winding streets of old wooden houses. The afternoon is free to explore the city further from our central berth.

Day 11 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. Enjoy some free time in the town before returning to the ship this afternoon.

Day 12 Tallinn. Over breakfast we 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 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. There will be free time to explore further at your own pace this afternoon before we sail tonight.

Day 13 Kotka, Finland. Built on the site where the River Kymijoki meets the Baltic Sea, picturesque Kotka has a long seafaring tradition. This morning 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. The afternoon is free to explore the old city from our central berth.



Stockholm



Helsinki

Day 14 Helsinki. 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 Temppeliaukio, 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 will enjoy a private concert of his music.

Day 15 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 £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£7495	£7295
Byrd	Superior	£7695	£7495
Mawson	Premium	£7995	£7795
Mawson	Corner	£8295	£8095
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£8695	£8495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£8895	£8695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£10095	£9895
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9695	£9495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9895	£9695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from Helsinki to London
 • 14 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.

Post-cruise Finnish Lakes Extension 11th to 14th August 2024



Aulanko

For those who would like to extend their time in Finland after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a three night tour exploring the beauty of the Finnish Lakes.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Helsinki & Hameenlinna, 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, following the crusade by Swedish Earl Birger to Hame region. 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. (B, 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. Wikstrom's home is typical of Nordic artists' homes of the time and in the studio almost 100 of his works are displayed. Re-boarding our ship we will continue through the lake country to Tampere where we stay overnight by Lake Pyynikki. (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 and the view beyond. 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)



Hame Castle

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1995; Single: £2245

Price Includes: Overnight four-star 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.

ISLANDS & CITIES OF THE BALTIC

A voyage from Helsinki to Stockholm aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
with Guest Speaker Martin Sixsmith

11th to 19th August 2024

Whilst there is no shortage of cruise vessels plying the waters of the Baltic during the summer months, this new voyage aboard the all-suite, 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky will appeal to those who are looking for a less traditional Baltic cruise. We have developed the itinerary to be well balanced between spending time in some of our favourite cities in the Baltic such as the historic maritime city of Tallinn and Latvia's capital Riga, and visiting some of the islands in the region where you can experience the enchantment of island life. To further enhance our itinerary we have included some additional events in order for you to experience the local flavour of the region including a private concert at a palace in Tallinn, an evening of live music with drinks in a local venue in Klaipeda and a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic orchestra whilst in Gdansk.

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 voyage will be a leisurely one with the benefit of some daytime sailing allowing you to relax on board and experience the serenity of sailing through the region in summer. Our Guest Speaker 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 walks. We have also ensured there is ample time for you to discover the timeless atmosphere of the islands at leisure.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Helsinki, Finland. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board as we sail tonight.

Day 2 Tallinn, Estonia. Over breakfast we arrive in 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, and 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. There will be some time at leisure this afternoon to explore further at your own pace before we meet this evening for a private concert at a local palace.

Day 3 Saaremaa. After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry, Saaremaa is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During an afternoon drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills.

Day 4 Riga, Latvia. This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including Medieval St Peter's Church, the tallest church in Riga. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon exploring independently, maybe see the Art Nouveau district, visit one of the many local museums or the impressive central market housed in an old zeppelin hangar.

Day 5 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. Arriving at lunchtime we will explore the old town of Klaipeda including a stop in Theatre Square before strolling

along the atmospheric narrow streets where in the past craftsmen including shoemakers, blacksmiths and bakers used to live and work. Continue towards the resort town Palanga where, after a walk through the botanical garden, we arrive at a 19th century Neo-Renaissance style mansion which houses the largest Amber Museum in the Baltics. Here we will learn all about 'Baltic gold' before returning to Klaipeda where we will enjoy a drink and live music in a nearby restaurant before setting sail this evening.

Day 6 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. 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 armory, ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore further at your own pace before we meet this evening to enjoy a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic at a local venue.

Day 7 Kalmar, Sweden. We arrive in the early afternoon in Sweden at one of the country's oldest cities and ports, Kalmar, where we will berth close to the well preserved historical centre. An afternoon tour will include 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 represents the rule of the Vasa Kings who rebuilt it in the style of a Renaissance palace. Alternatively, join a visit to the UNESCO island of Oland. Here we will visit Stora Alvaret, a giant limestone plateau containing ancient remains, unique flora and fauna as well as the royal palace of Solliden. Built by Queen Victoria of Sweden in 1903, it is still used as a summer retreat by the Swedish Royal Family and we will have time to explore the extensive gardens and pavilion.



Day 8 Visby. Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port on the island of Gotland. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town of Visby 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. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further and maybe view the Viking exhibits at the Gotland Museum.

Day 9 Stockholm to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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	£5295	£4995
Byrd	Superior	£5495	£5195
Mawson	Premium	£5695	£5395
Mawson	Corner	£5995	£5695
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6495	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6795	£6495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7795	£7495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-cruise Finnish Lakes Extension 8th to 11th August 2024

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



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Helsinki, Finland. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. (D)

Day 2 Helsinki & Hameenlinna. After breakfast we will 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. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Aulanko & Tampere. Today enjoy a full day cruise through the beautiful landscape of the lake district. In the early afternoon we will make a stop at Visavuori, the house and studio of sculptor Emil Wikstrom. We then continue through the lake country to Tampere where we stay overnight by Lake Pynnikki. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Tampere & Helsinki. This morning enjoy a scenic drive around Tampere finishing at the Nasineula Restaurant, renowned for its wonderful panoramic views. After lunch continue on to the Iittala Glass Centre, where the Aalto Vase is produced along with other signature glass pieces. Later, drive to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Helsinki and embark. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1995; Single: £2245

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.

Post-cruise Stockholm Extension 19th to 21st August 2024

If you would like to spend some time in Stockholm after your cruise, we are offering a two night post-cruise extension.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Stockholm, Sweden. Disembark and drive to Drottningholm Palace, Sweden's best preserved royal palace constructed in the 17th century and the permanent residence of the royal family. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Stockholm. Today is free to explore the many sights of Stockholm independently. (B)

Day 3 Stockholm to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £795; Single: £995

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

AROUND THE EMERALD ISLE

An in-depth discovery of Ireland's wonders aboard the MS Island Sky

21st August to 2nd September 2024

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 circumnavigation offers the perfect opportunity. Culturally rich with amazingly gifted writers, poets, musicians and actors, and historically fascinating with a history stretching back some 10,000 years, Ireland has so much to discover. Join us aboard the 118-passenger MS Island Sky for this unique and comprehensive itinerary that promises to be a most enjoyable and informative experience.

During this circumnavigation of Ireland, we will learn much of Ireland's forgotten past from the arrival of Christianity in the 5th century, followed by the Vikings and the Anglo Normans to the more recent and often troubled history. A republic and independent nation for barely 100 years it has witnessed enormous changes particularly in the last couple of decades. With a population of less than Yorkshire, it has achieved so much to be proud of and during our in-depth exploration we will aim not only to show its beauty but delve into its past to gain a better understanding of modern day Ireland.

For many the highlight will be our visits to some of Ireland's grandest houses and gardens set amidst stunning and uniquely Irish landscapes. However, perhaps most of all it will be the charm and warmth of the people that make any trip to Ireland most memorable. As we set sail from Liverpool, a city steeped in Irish history, we can offer an enlightening and entertaining journey and given the joy de vivre of the Irish we can promise, it will not be boring.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Liverpool, England. Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Liverpool Lime Street Station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Dun Laoghaire & Dublin, Ireland. We start our exploration of Ireland in Dublin. From our berth in Dun Laoghaire a city tour will include Merrion and Fitzwilliam Squares and the famous 'Doorways of Dublin'. We will also see the National Gallery, Dublin Castle and St Patrick's Cathedral. See the famous Guinness Brewery and Trinity College, Ireland's oldest college, founded in 1592. This afternoon choose to spend longer in the city or travel south to discover the magnificent gardens at Powerscourt. The gardens span 20 hectares and are a blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statuary and ornamental lakes together with secret hollows, rambling walks, walled gardens and over 200 variations of trees and shrubs. The gardens were begun in the 18th century although most of what we see today dates from the 19th century.

Day 3 Belfast, Northern Ireland. Arrive in the Northern Irish capital of Belfast where a city drive will include the Grand Opera House and the Albert Memorial before passing Queen's University and the Botanic Gardens. Our final stop is the Titanic Experience, located right beside the historic site of this world-famous ship's construction. Housed in an iconic, six-floor building, this state-of-the-art visitor experience tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and tragic end. Alternatively choose to visit the famous gardens at Mount Stewart which were planted in the 1920s by Edith, Lady Londonderry and are of international importance. The magnificent series of outdoor 'rooms' and vibrant parterres contain many rare plants that thrive in the mild climate of the Ards Peninsula. There will be time to explore the opulent house which reveals a fascinating heritage and historic world-famous artefacts and artwork. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 4 Rathlin Island & Giant's Causeway. Located just a few miles from the North Antrim coast, Rathlin has been settled for more than 6000 years. Today,

there are only 80 or so souls, whereas before the famine there were 1200 inhabitants. History is everywhere with historic buildings and ruins which we will explore on foot with our local guides. Also see the unique “upside down” Rathlin West Light, a great feat of engineering and one of the Great Lighthouses of Ireland. From our anchorage in Portrush 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.

Days 5 & 6 County Donegal, Ireland. We spend the next day and a half in County Donegal. From our berth in Killybegs we will offer a range of excursions including Glenveagh National Park where we find the wonderful 19th century castle built on the shores of Lough Veagh. Surrounded by magnificent mountains, pristine lakes and native oak woods this is a magical place. After a tour of the castle we will explore the woodland gardens set in the starkly dramatic shadows of the Kinnaveagh, Dooish and Staghall Mountains. The original Victorian garden was first laid out in 1885 and then extensively developed in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The walled garden is a stunning affair as is the Tuscan garden, Italian terrace and the famous 67 steps. Drive west to the Glencolmille 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. We also visit the charming Salthill Gardens. Located some 200 yards from the sea, this old walled garden has been gradually transformed by Elizabeth Temple into something very special. Independent of trends, this delightful half hectare enclosure offers a feeling of privacy and mystery that is particular to old walled gardens. Whilst we are moored overnight we will be entertained by Irish dancers and local music on board. We will spend the afternoon of day 6 at sea.

Day 7 Galway. From our berth in Galway we explore the beautiful region of Connemara. Here the National Park covers nearly 3000 hectares of scenic mountains, heaths and woodland and is home to herds of ponies. By driving along the ‘Wild Atlantic Way’ we will see beautiful coves, bays and traditional fishing villages where we can experience local culture in this Irish speaking part of the country. Also 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 8 Skellig Islands & Bere Island. Over breakfast we will pass 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. Spend the afternoon on Bere Island which lies at the entrance to the deep, sheltered waters of Bantry Bay. The small island, roughly 10 kilometres by 3 kilometres, has a population of about 200 people but its place in history is assured. Martello towers date from the Napoleonic Wars whilst, 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 will 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. We will remain at anchor overnight.

Day 9 Garnish Island & Bantry. Sail the short distance to the sheltered harbour of Bantry as we drive to nearby Glengarriff. Here local boats will take us to Garnish Island where we visit the beautiful Ilacullin Gardens where the sheltered position and Gulf Stream is favourable to the growth of ornamental plants, many normally only found in sub-tropical or Mediterranean climates. We return by local boats sailing past ‘Seal Island’, home to 250 common seals. After lunch on board we will walk to Bantry House, overlooking Bantry Bay. We will explore the house, one of the finest historic houses in Ireland along with the gardens.

Day 10 Kinsale & Cork. Arrive in County Cork at the picturesque harbour town of Kinsale. As we sail into the town we pass the impressive fortifications of Charles Fort and James Fort which were built in the 17th century to protect against invading Spanish forces. However today Kinsale is renowned for its brightly coloured buildings and glorious harbour setting which you can explore at your own pace. Renowned as the gourmet capital of Ireland you may wish to take a break in one of the cafés, pubs or restaurants. From Kinsale we will also drive the short distance to Ireland's second city of Cork for a leisurely walk around the compact 800 year old city. Experience the smells and sounds of the English Market which dates back to 1610, stroll the busy lanes of the 18th century Huguenot Quarter and wonder at the magnificent Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral.

Day 11 Waterford & Kilkenny. From our berth in 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 we can wander in the surrounding 21 hectares of gardens before spending time in the city and perhaps visiting the Design Centre. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, at your own pace. Maybe visit the Medieval Museum, the Viking-built Reginald's Tower or the House of Waterford Crystal.

Day 12 At Sea. Spend the day cruising as we cross the Irish Sea and into the English Channel.

Day 13 Portsmouth, England. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time.

SHIP TO SHORE

This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside in some ports, we will be at anchor at Rathlin, Portrush, Bere Island, Bantry and Kinsale and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore. The use of Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the itinerary shown.



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	£6995	£6695
Columbus	Superior	£7295	£6995
Marco Polo	Premium	£7595	£7295
Marco Polo	Corner	£7995	£7695
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£8495	£8195
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£8995	£8695
Explorer	Island Suite	£9295	£8995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£8995	£8695
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£9295	£8995

PRICE INCLUDES: 12 nights aboard the MS Island 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 • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Lake Ercina, Covadonga, Picos de Europa Mountains



IBERIAN COASTAL ODYSSEY

A voyage exploring the wonders of Spain and Portugal aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

11th to 20th September 2024

Our late summer voyage from Bilbao around the Iberian Peninsula to Gibraltar offers the opportunity to experience the wonderful wine and food of the area as well as to gain an insight into the region's splendid architecture, natural wonders and fascinating history. It is difficult to imagine a better time than the month of September for our journey, just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites.

Beginning in the Basque Country, we enjoy an overnight stay in the charming city of Bilbao with its impressive Guggenheim Museum and wonderful old town. Setting sail aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, we continue to Spain's Asturias region where on a full day tour we can discover the stunning Lakes of Covadonga or opt to explore Oviedo with its Medieval old town. Galicia is next, a unique region with its own distinctive culture where we will explore Santiago de Compostela, one of Spain's most beautiful cities and some of the region's beautiful pazos and gardens. Continuing to Portugal we have three days to discover Oporto's vibrant Ribeira district, the beautifully preserved Medieval city of Guimaraes, the wonderfully atmospheric university city of Coimbra and finally the captivating capital of Lisbon.

Our fascinating itinerary incorporates visits to vineyards, Medieval towns and natural wonders as well as allowing time for individual exploration. In addition we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the MS Hebridean Sky. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at moments like this we can be thankful that with just over 100 passengers, we are able to visit atmospheric ports and villages which the big ships cannot access.



Church of San Anton, Bilbao



Oviedo

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Bilbao, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our central hotel for an overnight stay. After some time at leisure we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 2 Bilbao. Our morning tour will explore Bilbao, the centre of the Basque Country, lying along the banks of the Nervion River. The Romans discovered iron ore here which paved the way for the region's industrial heritage. We will drive to the Artxanda viewpoint looking down across the river to Bilbao followed by a visit to the impressive Guggenheim Museum which includes an unparalleled collection of twentieth century art including Picasso, Cezanne, Kandinsky and Warhol. We will also enjoy a walk in the old quarter, a labyrinth of stone lanes filled with bars and restaurants. After lunch we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in the city and sail this evening.

Day 3 Gijón. Gijón is the largest city in Asturias and our base for a day of discovery in the region. Choose from a full day at the lakes of Covadonga nestled in the Picos de Europa Mountains. Drive into the mountains where we will see the two glacial lakes of Covadonga: Lagos Enol and Lagos Ercina - the original centre of the Picos de Europa National Park. Marvel at the serene, mirrorlike waters before we continue to the beautiful pink-hued, twin-spired Basilica of Santa Maria la Real. Lunch will be served at the Parador of Cangas, before we return to Gijón. Alternatively, enjoy a morning in Oviedo, the modern capital of the Asturias region. Oviedo is recognised as the most culturally significant and historically interesting city of the province with many buildings dating back to the 8th and 9th century when Asturias first developed as a kingdom. After a panoramic drive inland, we begin a walking tour where we will see the Gothic San Salvador Cathedral before exploring the restored old town decorated with beautiful sculptures. Return to Gijón for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

Day 4 La Coruña for Santiago de Compostela. Today we visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the opportunity to hike a short section towards Santiago. Otherwise transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerías, the Quintana



Plaza, House of Parra, the facade of Azabacheria and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Enjoy lunch at a parador and some free time before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

Day 5 Vilagarcia de Arousa. From our berth in Vilagarcia de Arousa we spend the morning at some of the wonderful houses and gardens of the Galicia region. Visit the Pazo de Oca, a Baroque stately home known as the 'Galician Versailles' and 'El Generalife of the north' due to the beauty of its gardens. See Pazo de Ribadulla which dates from the 16th century and is set in a beautiful location on the shores of the Ulla Valley. The garden was developed by the Armada family in the 1870s and is today renowned for its outstanding collection of camellia trees, giant magnolias, olive trees and liriiodendrons. Also see the 15th century Pazo de Rubianes where we find one of the three official lordships in Spain. Visit the 11 hectare garden before we visit the Pazo's vineyards to learn about the local Albarino wine production and enjoy a tasting.

Day 6 Oporto & Guimaraes, Portugal. Arriving in Portugal we dock at Leixoes, the base for our day of activities around Oporto. You can choose to join the guided tour to Oporto including the impressive St Francis Church and the Ribeira before continuing to a local port wine cellar. Here we will be able to learn all about these wines and how they are produced before enjoying a tasting. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore independently. Alternatively, drive to Guimaraes, the birthplace of Afonso Henriques, the first independent King of Portugal. Guimaraes has beautifully preserved its illustrious past; its Medieval centre is a warren of lanes and picturesque plazas framed by 14th century edifices and on an adjacent hill stands the 1,000 year old castle and the palace built by the first duke of Braganca in the 15th century.

Day 7 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra. Located at the mouth of the Mondego River, Figueira da Foz is one of central Portugal's prime beach resorts. However, the reason for our call is to visit the nearby city of Coimbra, the

Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years. On a walking tour we will view the stunning buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries before we head to the university which was recently appointed UNESCO status. Founded in the 13th century we will see the Chapel of Sao Miguel and the Joane Library which houses over 300,000 works dating back to the 16th century. After a local lunch, choose to return to Figueira da Foz or stay in Coimbra for some free time.

Day 8 Lisbon or Obidos, Nazare & Alcobaca. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. It is a city famous for its majestic architecture, old wooden trams, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries of history. Following disastrous earthquakes in the 18th century, Lisbon was rebuilt by the Marquis de Pombal who created an elegant city with wide boulevards and a great riverfront and square. During our morning panoramic tour we will see the Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower, and visit the famous Jeronimos Monastery. Alternatively, leave Lisbon for a full day tour visiting a trio of traditional Portuguese towns including the walled town of Obidos where the cobbled streets and whitewashed houses are adorned with colourful blooms. The old fortress has been converted into a pousada, which affords wonderful views of the town and its surroundings. Continue to Nazare, the most colourful of Portuguese fishing villages. According to legend, the fishermen here are descendants of the Phoenicians, and old prints show that they once had to pull boats onto the beach with oxen. After lunch travel to Alcobaca, which was Portugal's spiritual centre until the 18th century, and visit the 12th century monastery where the Baroque facade conceals an early Gothic interior.

Day 9 At Sea. Join our lecturer in the lounge or find a spot on deck as we spend a relaxing day at sea.

Day 10 Gibraltar to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London

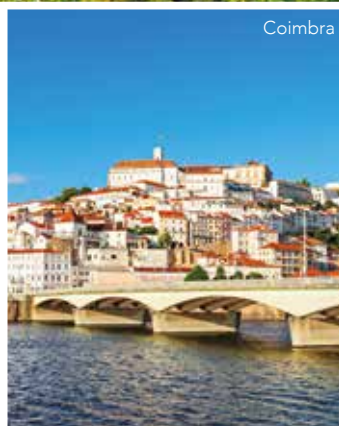
Obidos



Belem Tower, Lisbon



Coimbra



Alcobaca Monastery

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	£4995	£4795
Byrd	Superior	£5195	£4995
Mawson	Premium	£5295	£5095
Mawson	Corner	£5495	£5295
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6995	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7495	£7295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6195	£5995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Bilbao with breakfast • Dinner on Day 1 • Eight 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 Bilbao Extension 8th to 11th September 2024



Bilbao

Before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to join a three night extension in Bilbao including a full day excursion to San Sebastian, an afternoon visit to a vineyard as well as time to explore at leisure.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Bilbao, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner tonight. (D)

Day 2 San Sebastian. Today we drive along the coast to San Sebastian in the oyster-shaped bay of La Concha. We will see the modern part of the city including the Cathedral of the Buen Pastor and the Town Hall before we continue to the Old Quarter. We will take lunch in one of the local restaurants before returning to Bilbao this afternoon. (B, L)

Day 3 Biscay Vineyards. Enjoy a leisurely morning before we meet for lunch and spend the afternoon at one of the vineyards located on the Bay of Biscay. Here the native grapes of the Basque region, Hondarrabi Zuri, are used to make the local Txakoli wines. We will have time to learn about the growing techniques and enjoy a tasting. (B, L)

Day 4 Bilbao. Today is at leisure before meeting your fellow travellers arriving today for dinner (as per day 1 of main itinerary). (B, D)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1695**; Single: **£1995**

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

Post-cruise Gibraltar Extension 20th to 22nd September 2024



Gibraltar

If you would like to spend some time in Gibraltar after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay including a half day tour.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Gibraltar. Disembark this morning and discover this strategic British outpost in the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783. Also see the Gibraltar Museum. After lunch we transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. (B, L)

Day 2 Gibraltar. Enjoy a day at leisure for independent exploration. (B)

Day 3 Gibraltar to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£595**; Single: **£795**

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

ISLANDS OF ITALY

An exploration of Italy's islands combined with a call into Corsica aboard the MS Island Sky
17th to 26th September 2024

Here is a wonderful opportunity to discover the Italian islands of Elba, Sardinia and Sicily combined with a day on the beautiful French island of Corsica. All of the islands we will call into are easy enough to visit individually but difficult to combine independently in a nine night trip. The islands feature an array of ancient ruins, attractive towns and villages and we will have time on each to visit the main sites but to also explore some of the smaller ports and less visited regions. We have ensured that each day has an enjoyable mix of culture with guided excursions as well as ample time at leisure. Our voyage is planned for late summer, the perfect time of year for exploration, when the crowds of August have dispersed but the weather is ideal for touring and sightseeing. In addition we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky which with just over 100 passengers is able to visit atmospheric ports and villages which the big ships cannot access.

Sailing from the French Riviera, we will cruise to the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile. From there we continue to Corsica which, despite officially being a part of France, has its own identity in everything from customs to language and benefits from magnificent geographical diversity ranging from stunning natural harbours to picture perfect hilltop villages and a majestic countryside. Leaving the charms of Corsica behind we spend two days in Sardinia where we discover the Medieval city of Alghero and Nuraghe Palmavera and from Cagliari, will have the opportunity to visit the wonderful ruins of Nora. Our last days are spent on Sicily which, with a history of 3000 years has a wealth of sites to discover from magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas.

This is a voyage that will appeal to those who love Italy, and who enjoy hopping between islands. Local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of these Italian gems and you will find yourself wanting to return time and time again.



Porto Ferraio



Temple of Concordia, Valle dei Templi



Nuraghe Palmavera



Taormina



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Nice, France. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Portoferraio, Elba. Today we call into the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing from the island's busy capital Portoferraio, we set out for a delightful drive exploring the southern region of this charming island with superb views over the coastline. The first stop will be Villa San Martino which was the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte and has been transformed into a museum. Later enjoy some time at leisure in Porto Azzurro with its picturesque harbour. Our drive continues along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa which is beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. As any self-respecting mansion on Elba, La Chiusa claims to have once housed Napoleon during his exile here. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced and in the estate's garden facing the sea we will enjoy a delicious sampling of the local wine. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.

Day 3 Bonifacio, Corsica. Be on deck this morning as we arrive in Corsica at Bonifacio's stunning natural harbour. Well known by Odysseus as the home of the savage and giant laestrygonians, today Bonifacio's breathtaking cliff-top setting and relaxed pace make it one of the most welcoming ports in the Mediterranean. On our morning tour we will explore the narrow streets and the historical heart of the town. We will discover the Bosco quarter with the St Francis Convent, the 14th century church of St Marie Majeure and take in the views from the clifftop on which the city is built. Afterwards maybe take a walk in the nearby Marine Park which offers some stunning views back to the town. We will sail late this evening allowing time for an after-dinner stroll.

Day 4 Porto Torres & Alghero, Sardinia. Arrive in Sardinia and the port of Porto Torres over breakfast. A panoramic drive takes us to Nuraghe Palmavera with its main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling that dates back to 1100 BC. The complex, which was abandoned in the 5th century BC due to fire, shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. Continue to the Medieval city of Alghero, which was colonised by the Catalans in the 14th century and today there is still a strong Catalan identity throughout the town, and it is often even referred to as "Barceloneta". There will be some free time to walk through the Medieval streets and along the city walls or maybe visit the archaeological museum. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 5 Cagliari. This morning we berth in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari from where we drive along the southwestern coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. After lunch on board we explore the ancient city of Cagliari. On a guided walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia.

Day 6 Palermo, Sicily. Spend a leisurely morning at sea before we arrive in the Sicilian capital of Palermo at lunchtime. This afternoon you can choose to explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Alternatively, join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful



towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

Day 7 Messina for Taormina. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Those who wish to spend longer here will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and enjoy an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 8 Syracuse & Noto. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. There will be a choice of excursions this morning. Maybe choose to visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. Alternatively explore the Baroque village of Noto. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Ibalei among olive groves and almond trees. A guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, the cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 9 Agrigento for Valle dei Templi. Spend a morning at sea as we cruise along the south coast of Sicily docking at lunchtime. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules.

Day 10 Valletta, Malta to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-cruise Malta Extension 26th to 28th September 2024



If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering the opportunity to join a two night hotel stay in Valletta.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Valletta, Malta. After breakfast we will disembark and begin a walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City". We will explore Merchants Street, containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and check in. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free for independent exploration. (B, L)

Day 2 Mdina. A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Originally this city was given the name "Citta Nobile", and it is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Spend the afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Valletta to London. Check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795**; Single: **£1095**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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	£5795	£5495
Columbus	Superior	£5995	£5695
Marco Polo	Premium	£6195	£5895
Marco Polo	Corner	£6495	£6195
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6695
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£7295	£6995
Explorer	Island Suite	£7995	£7695
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6795	£6495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights aboard the MS Island 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.



ISLANDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A voyage from Gibraltar to Athens aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

20th September to 4th October 2024

The seas between Gibraltar and Greece offer access to a wealth of ancient sites, unspoiled islands and traditional towns and during this delightful itinerary we will, in the main, focus on the islands spending time on Mallorca, Menorca, Sardinia, Sicily and Ithaca. These island calls will be combined with time exploring Gibraltar and Malaga along with discovering the magnificent sites of Olympia and Delphi on mainland Greece. A fitting end to our remarkable voyage, before we reach Athens, is our transit of the Corinth Canal, a feat only possible aboard a small ship.



We have ensured that each day has an enjoyable mix of culture with some time at leisure to explore under your own steam or time relaxing at sea. Added to our fascinating itinerary we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the MS Hebridean Sky. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at times like this we can be thankful that with just over 100 fellow, like minded travellers, we are able to visit atmospheric ports and towns which the big ships cannot access. We will discover timeless islands with their aura of history, unique island lifestyles and spectacular beauty which will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean.

Late September is the perfect time for our voyage when the crowds of August have dispersed and the weather is ideal for touring and whether you are interested in ancient history, Greek myths or simply the joy of cruising aboard a small ship and experiencing new places and islands in this beautiful region, our voyage has something for everyone.

Cathedral, Palma de Mallorca



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Gibraltar. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Gibraltar. Today we discover this strategic British outpost in the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783 and revered as one of the finest defensive systems. Also see the Gibraltar Museum where we can learn more about the Great Siege, the geological origins of the rock and also the area's natural history. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace and maybe take the cable car up the famous rock, see the Botanic Gardens or visit the Garrison Library.

Day 3 Malaga, Spain. Spend the day in the historic city of Malaga. A morning tour will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to La Merced Square where we see the birthplace of Pablo Picasso before we visit the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. With its mix of Renaissance and Gothic styles it

has been declared a national landmark. This afternoon is free to explore at your own pace from our central berth, you may wish to head to the market, visit the botanical gardens or, for the art lovers, visit the Picasso Museum.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we head to the Balearic Islands.

Day 5 Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca. Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under the control of Carthage, the principal North African city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. From our berth in Palma we will take the beautifully maintained vintage train that connects Palma with the pretty town of Soller on the island's west coast and enjoy splendid mountain views of the Serra de Tramuntana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of just seven kilometres the railway rises 199 metres, runs through 13 tunnels and crosses several bridges. There will be some time to explore Soller before taking a scenic drive to the village of Valldemossa, a quiet and traditional town with narrow streets and lanes. We will take a walk around the town followed by lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Palma where we will have time to explore at our own pace and perhaps take the opportunity to visit the impressive Gothic style cathedral.

Day 6 Mahon, Menorca. Over breakfast we arrive in Menorca, the most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism. The island offers pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. This morning choose to join an island drive including the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago before making our way to aristocratic Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca. Situated at the head of a long channel from the sea, the city has had its share of disputes over sovereignty, and its character reflects the influence of Moorish, Turkish and Spanish rule. Alternatively, enjoy a few hours exploring the pretty harbour town of Mahon at your own pace before we sail in the early afternoon.

Day 7 Cagliari, Sardinia. In the late morning we berth in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari where we have a choice of activities this afternoon. Maybe drive along the southwestern coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city

was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. Alternatively, explore the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. On a walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia.

Day 8 Palermo, Sicily. Spend the morning at sea before we arrive in the Sicilian capital of Palermo at lunchtime. This afternoon you can choose to explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Alternatively, join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

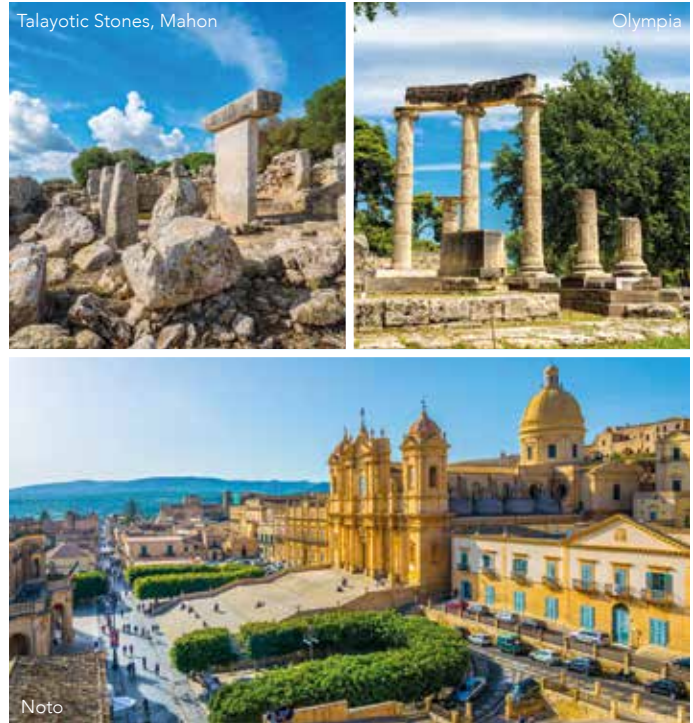
Day 9 Messina for Taormina. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Those who wish to spend longer here will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and enjoy an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 10 Syracuse & Noto. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. There will be a choice of excursions this morning. You may choose to visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius' a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. Alternatively, explore the Baroque village of Noto. Built in 1703, Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei among olive groves and almond trees. A guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, the cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 11 At Sea. After a busy few days take the chance to relax on board as we spend the day cruising.

Day 12 Katakolon for Olympia, Greece. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland and the Archaeological Museum which houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. After our visit we drive the short distance to a nearby farm where we will taste some of the local wine and olive oils accompanied with local snacks. Return to the ship for some free time in Katakolon before we sail this evening.

Day 13 Ithaca. Ithaca, one of the most legendary of all Greek islands is unspoiled by tourism yet has a fascinating history. Relics date back to 4000 BC and by Mycenaean times it was the capital of a kingdom that included



surrounding islands and part of the Peloponnese coast. It was under Odysseus that this kingdom reached its zenith, sending 12 ships to the Trojan War. During a scenic drive of the island we will visit the village of Stavros and the Monastery of Panagia Katharon which is located on Mount Neritos and offers wonderful views of the island below. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to enjoy the delightful town of Vathy at leisure.

Day 14 Itea for Delphi & Corinth Canal. Spend the morning at the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The hillside ruins here are exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, the site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5,000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. In the late afternoon we will transit the narrow Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like ours which can now make this journey. Arrive into Piraeus this evening and moor overnight.

Day 15 Athens to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight from Athens 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	£7495	£6995
Byrd	Superior	£7895	£7395
Mawson	Premium	£8095	£7595
Mawson	Corner	£8495	£7995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10495	£9995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8895	£8395
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9295	£8795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 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.

TREASURES OF SICILY & PUGLIA

A voyage between Valletta and Bari aboard the MS Island Sky with Guest Speaker Dr Steve Kershaw
26th September to 5th October & 5th to 14th October* 2024

Here is the perfect voyage for those who love Italy, travelling in the company of just 100 or so like-minded travellers and sailing aboard a delightful small ship with a varied programme of interesting visits ashore. Setting sail from Valletta's Grand Harbour, we will spend time in Sicily to appreciate the island's rich legacy of so many invading civilisations followed by time in Puglia, our itinerary taking us off the beaten track to many places that are beyond the reach of the mega-cruise ships.

Sicily is an endlessly fascinating island that lends itself beautifully to discovery by small ship and our visits ashore here will include the Roman mosaics of the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, the magnificently sited Doric temples of Agrigento, timelessly beautiful Syracuse, and the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina. Crossing to the heel of Italy, our final days will be spent discovering Puglia's many gems including visits with local guides to prehistoric dwellings and traditional trulli abodes as well as splendid Baroque architecture and 15th century palazzos.

Our days will be varied as we explore UNESCO World Heritage Sites, walk through historic villages and towns and discover the uniqueness of each region as well as enjoying opportunities to sample the local food and wine. Owing to the fact that our small ship can moor centrally, we have the added advantage of being able to access the towns by foot in many ports of call and we have also included time at leisure for individual exploration enabling you to soak up the atmosphere at your own pace.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in the Grand Harbour of Valletta. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch before returning to the ship.

Day 3 Agrigento for Valle dei Templi. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in the greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. Return to the ship for lunch and maybe join a lecture this afternoon as we sail.

Day 4 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of

Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 5 Catania & Taormina. From the port of Catania we have a choice of tours this morning. Maybe drive up the coast to Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Alternatively join a walking tour of Catania. The architecture here is particularly impressive but a little forbidding being mainly constructed from black lava stone from Mount Etna. We will see the magnificent Piazza del Duomo, a World Heritage Site, St Agatha's Cathedral and the imposing 13th century Castello Ursino. Return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 6 Taranto & Matera, Italy. Our first call in Puglia will be Taranto from where we cross into neighbouring Basilicata as we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sassi di Matera (stones of Matera). Situated in the old town of Matera, the Sassi are prehistoric dwellings dug into the rock itself and are suspected to be some of the first human settlements in Italy. The site covers over 1000 hectares and comprises over 1000 buildings including houses, churches, shops, workshops and monasteries and we will learn more about the history of the town on a walking tour of the labyrinthine streets. The afternoon is free to explore Taranto at your own pace and you may want to see the 15th century Aragonese Castle or the 11th century cathedral.

Day 7 Otranto & Lecce. After breakfast we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque



Taormina



Trulli Houses, Alberobello



Ostuni

architecture. A guided walk will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. We return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore Otranto independently, maybe walk the winding streets or along the seaside promenade. The highlight is the wonderful cathedral with its Medieval mosaic floor created by the monk, Pantaleone, between 1163 and 1165. You can also see the Chapel of the Dead which shows the bones and skulls of 813 martyrs killed by the invading Turks in 1480.

Day 8 Brindisi & Ostuni. From our berth in Brindisi we head to the "White City" of Ostuni, so called due to the almost blinding sunlight reflecting on the walls of its whitewashed dwellings. Ostuni has a privileged position as it was built on three hills and from the top of the town you can enjoy a stunning view of the Adriatic coast from which Ostuni is separated by an ocean of centuries-old olive trees. The town has maintained its Medieval atmosphere which we will experience as we walk through the meandering, narrow and picturesque streets of the old town which lead to the impressive 15th century cathedral, a beautiful example of Apulian Romanesque style. Spend the afternoon at leisure in Brindisi, maybe take a stroll along the waterfront promenade and see the Roman Arch which marks the end of the Roman Road "Via Appia" used by pilgrims, soldiers and traders as they travelled to Greece and the Holy Land. Alternatively visit the 12th century Tempio di San Giovanni al Sepolcro or wander the palm-tree lined Corso Garibaldi.

Day 9 Monopoli & Alberobello. Today we drive into the Puglian countryside which is scattered with 'trulli', limestone dwellings built with dome or conical roofs. We will enjoy a pleasant walk in Alberobello, a fairy-tale trulli village and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and see St Anthony Church also built in trullo style. Afterwards we visit 'Cantina Albea' and its wine museum, home to pictures and old instruments used in the past for the production of wine and where we will enjoy a tasting along with a talk on the wine production. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon in Monopoli where you can wander through the historic centre, visit the cathedral or see the Castello di Carlo V.

Day 10 Bari to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

*Please note that the 5th October departure operates in the reverse direction from Bari to Valletta. Full details can be viewed online.

Malta Extension 24th to 26th September & 14th to 16th October* 2024



Valletta

If you would like to spend some time in Malta, we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay in Valletta.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Phoenicia Hotel and check in for our two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Valletta. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street, containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. (B)

Day 3 Mdina. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island, Mdina was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Island Sky moored in Valletta. (B, L)

*Please note that the 14th October departure operates as a post-cruise extension. Full details can be viewed online.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795**; Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Phoenicia Hotel, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Magellan	Standard	£5795	£5295
Columbus	Superior	£5995	£5495
Marco Polo	Premium	£6195	£5695
Marco Polo	Corner	£6495	£5995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£7295	£6795
Explorer	Island Suite	£7995	£7495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6795	£6295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights aboard the MS Island 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.

The Temple of Trajan, Pergamon



AEGEAN ANTIQUITIES

A voyage from Athens to Istanbul aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
4th to 13th October 2024



The awe-inspiring sites of the Aegean have attracted, inspired, and fascinated travellers throughout the centuries and during this voyage we will explore some of the most historic and scenically beautiful places in Greece and Turkey. Our itinerary represents small ship cruising at its best and is timed for October when the absence of high summer crowds will contribute towards making this a very memorable journey during which 3,000 years of history can be viewed in relative peace and quiet. By the end of the cruise you will have seen and learnt so much, all from the comfort of the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky which allows us access to ports which the big ships simply can't reach.

Our time in Greece will focus on unspoiled islands, timeless villages and splendid archaeological sites and we will learn about the great cities that flourished and fell, and the intriguing civilisations that so coveted these ancient lands. When not sailing through some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in the Mediterranean, we will explore some truly wonderful sites such as Epidaurus, famed as a place of miraculous healing and Patmos where we will visit the grotto of St John. Continuing to the Turkish Coast we will visit truly magnificent ancient sites including Ephesus, one of the most famous Graeco-Roman sites in the Mediterranean and Pergamon, one of the cultural capitals of antiquity and a city of endless fascination. Our final day will be spent at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bursa visiting the Great Mosque, mausoleum, and other sites from its incarnation as the first Ottoman capital.

After many years of experience of operating cruises in the Aegean, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with a mix of guided excursions and time at leisure to explore the charming villages independently. With just over 100 fellow passengers, our trips ashore with local guides will be a pleasure and whether your interest lies in ancient history, culture and the myths of ancient Greece and Turkey or simply the joy of experiencing new places, this journey has something for everyone.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Piraeus and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Nafplio & Nemea. Spend a relaxing morning at sea before arriving into Nafplio at lunchtime. From the port we take a scenic drive through the Argos Plain to Nemea, the site of a religious sanctuary which hosted the pan-Hellenic athletic games every two years from 573 BC until 271 BC. The mythical origin of the Games is sometimes ascribed to Hercules who, after his first labour in which he had to kill the Nemean lion living in the caves of Mount Tritos above the site, established the athletic games in honour of his father, Zeus. Nemea was not a town or settlement but a venue where festivities were held during the games and our tour will include the Temple of Zeus, the bathhouse and the stadium before spending time in the small but excellent on-site museum. Nemea is also famous for its red wines and we will enjoy a wine tasting at a local vineyard before returning to the ship. This evening you may wish to take time to wander the twisting labyrinthine streets of Nafplio and view the Venetian and Turkish architecture as we moor overnight.

Day 3 Mycenae & Epidaurus. This morning we drive to the famous citadel of Mycenae which is located high above the confluence of two boulder-strewn ravines and accessed by way of the Lion Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. An archaeological briefing within the Treasury of Atreus (also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon) will add to our understanding and appreciation of the sights. After lunch ashore we visit one of the most renowned of Greece's ancient sites. Situated on the slopes of a beautiful, wooded valley, Epidaurus was known throughout the Hellenic world for its unique medical facilities and healing treatments. Dedicated to Asclepius, the god of healing, the city was filled with curative spas and baths and only priests had access to certain secret sites. Most of the ruins of Epidaurus have been reduced to their foundations, except for the astonishing theatre which is in an admirable state of preservation. Built into the ground, rather

Celsus Library, Ephesus



than above it, it is known for its fantastic acoustics, which we will observe during our visit.

Day 4 Delos & Syros. Sail overnight to Delos, which though the smallest of the Cyclades was once the political and religious centre for the whole of the Aegean. Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, it boasted an oracle second only to that of Delphi. Explore the magnificent archaeological site including the marble sanctuary of Apollo. Over lunch we sail to Syros which was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century, and the capital Ermoupolis was Greece's principal port. Arriving in the late afternoon, we take a walk in the town of Ermoupolis, the capital of the Cyclades. The prosperity of the island in the 19th and early 20th century created through commerce and shipping is reflected in the architecture with a beautiful square, town hall and theatre. *Please note that we will be at anchor in Delos and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.*

Day 5 Patmos. Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western and it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into a beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. From here we continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Upon entering into the courtyard, admire the intricate pebbled laid floor, decorated arches and frescoes adorning the entrance to the chapel of Christodoulos. This afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or maybe enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

Day 6 Kusadasi & Ephesus, Turkey. Our first call in Turkey will be at Kusadasi, our base to explore the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings including the Library of Celsus and the temples of Serapis and Hadrian. Once the capital of Ionia, St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey and we will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus. Also see the spectacular Grand Theatre, originally built in the 3rd century BC by the Greeks, and later expanded by the Romans to its present capacity of 24,000. We will enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Kusadasi.

Day 7 Pergamon. From our berth in Dikili we will drive inland, past fertile fields and olive trees, to the present day modern town of Bergama, once

known as Pergamon, a great centre of culture. Today Pergamon is one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. We will visit the Asclepion, a healing centre from the 4th century BC and one of the most important sites of Pergamon. Discover the Temple of Asclepius, the amphitheatre, and walk through the sacred corridor and down the ancient, arcaded, marble-paved boulevard. Continue into the town of Bergama and visit the Archaeological Museum which houses relics discovered during the excavations of Pergamon. En-route we will see the Basilica which was one of the earliest of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. Take a cable car up to the Acropolis to explore the remains of the citadel and the city walls, the foundations of the Zeus Altar, and the Royal Palace. Lunch today will be served ashore.

Day 8 Canakkale & Troy. Spend the morning cruising before we arrive over lunch into the port of Canakkale, our gateway for Troy. Ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was at one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. Our tour follows the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann, the archaeologist who discovered Troy and 'Priam's Treasure', the jewels that, Schliemann claimed, were worn by Helen of Troy. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. We can also visit the on-site Troy Museum.

Day 9 Mudanya for Bursa. We cruise overnight through the Dardanelles and into the Sea of Marmara towards our berth at Mudanya, our gateway to Bursa. Bursa was the first capital of the Ottoman Empire and is one of the greatest treasure houses of Islamic architecture dating back to the 2nd century. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, we visit the city's main sites including the prominent Great Mosque with its two towering minarets and 20 domes; it is considered one of the most important mosques in Islam after those in Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, and Damascus. Walk to Koza Han which for centuries was the centre of Bursa's flourishing silk trade and home of the skilled artisans who produced kaftans, pillows, embroidery, and other silk products for the Ottomans. Our tour will conclude at the Green Mosque and the neighbouring Green Mausoleum, both world-renowned for their superb tile decorations.

Day 10 Istanbul to London. Be on deck as we sail into Istanbul this morning and disembark after breakfast. Transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Patmos



Bursa



Zeus temple, Nemea

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	£5395	£5195
Byrd	Superior	£5595	£5395
Mawson	Premium	£5795	£5595
Mawson	Corner	£6195	£5995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6995	£6795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£7495	£7295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7995	£7795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£6395	£6195
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6595	£6395

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 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 including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Shore excursions • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-cruise Athens Extension 2nd to 4th October 2024

If you would like to spend some time in Athens before embarking MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to join our two night extension.



Acropolis

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to your centrally located hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Athens. Spend the day at leisure to relax or make independent touring arrangements. (B)

Day 3 Cape Sounion. After breakfast we drive along the coast to Cape Sounion to see the majestic Temple of Poseidon sitting atop a craggy rock overlooking the sea. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the port of Piraeus for embarkation. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£995**

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

Post-cruise Istanbul Extension 13th to 15th October 2024

For those who wish to spend some time discovering Istanbul after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night hotel extension with included sightseeing.



Blue Mosque

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Istanbul, Turkey. Disembark after breakfast and spend the morning at the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. After lunch we will check in to our hotel and have the remainder of the day at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Istanbul. After breakfast at the hotel, we start our exploration of Istanbul at the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Next, see the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica and now an imperial mosque. After lunch in a local restaurant a short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is one of the most magnificent, covered cisterns in Istanbul. Return to the hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 Istanbul to London. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£995**

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

CLASSICAL TREASURES OF THE AEGEAN

A voyage from Istanbul to Cyprus aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
13th to 21st October 2024



Come with us on a relaxing and informative voyage through some of the most historic and scenically beautiful places in Turkey and Greece. After many years of experience of operating cruises in the region, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with a mix of guided excursions and time at leisure to discover the charming towns independently. Sailing in October means we have the added benefit of pleasant temperatures and crowd free sites making it a lovely time to explore this corner of antiquity.

We begin our voyage in Istanbul from where we explore some of Turkey's most fascinating places such as Troy, Pergamon and the ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Sailing on to Greece, we will spend time on the island of Patmos where we visit the grotto of St John and we also call in to the island of Rhodes from where we will explore the ancient Acropolis of Lindos. Returning to Turkey, we visit the Turquoise Coast, an astoundingly beautiful stretch of azure coastline backed by the lush, forested hills where we will discover several ancient sites including Perge, the Amphitheatre of Aspendos and Side before our arrival in the Cypriot port of Limassol.

In the company of just 100 or so fellow travellers, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides, adding immeasurably to our knowledge of the region. Whether you are interested in ancient historical sites, discovering new places and islands, or simply enjoy cruising through beautiful regions aboard a small ship, our exploration of the Turquoise Coast and the islands of the Aegean has something for everyone.



THE ITINERARY

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

Day 2 Canakkale & Troy. Spend the morning cruising through the Dardanelles before we arrive over lunch into the port of Canakkale, our gateway for Troy. Ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was at one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. Our tour follows the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann, the archaeologist who discovered Troy and 'Priam's Treasure', the jewels that, Schliemann claimed, were worn by Helen of Troy. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. We can also visit the on-site Troy Museum.

Day 3 Pergamon. From our berth in Dikili we will drive inland, past fertile fields and olive trees, to the present day modern town of Bergama, once known as Pergamon, a great centre of culture. Today Pergamon is one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. We will visit the Asclepion, a healing centre from the 4th century BC and one of the most important sites of Pergamon. Discover the Temple of Asclepius, the amphitheatre, and walk through the sacred corridor and down the ancient, arcaded, marble-paved boulevard. Continue into the town of Bergama and visit the Archaeological Museum which houses relics discovered during the excavations of Pergamon. En-route we will see the Basilica which was one of the earliest of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. Take a cable car up to the Acropolis to explore the remains of the citadel and the city walls, the foundations of the Zeus Altar, and the Royal Palace. Lunch will be served ashore.

Day 4 Kusadasi & Ephesus. Moor this morning at Kusadasi, our base to explore the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings including the Library of Celsus and the temples



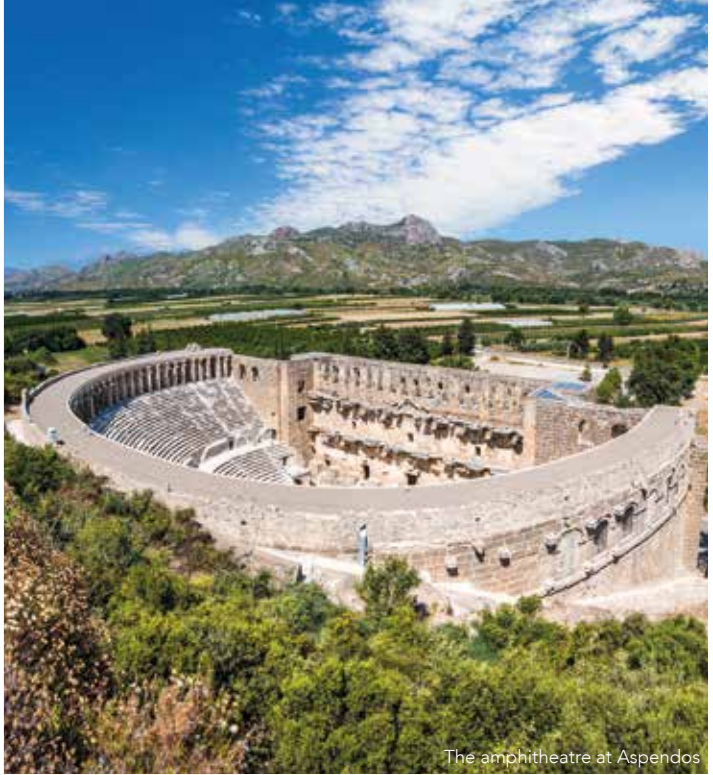
Perge



Monastery of Saint John, Patmos



Asclepion



The amphitheatre at Aspendos

of Serapis and Hadrian. Once the capital of Ionia, St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey and we will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus. Also see the spectacular Grand Theatre, originally built in the 3rd century BC by the Greeks, and later expanded by the Romans to its present capacity of 24,000. We will enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Kusadasi.

Day 5 Patmos, Greece. Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western and it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into the beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. From here continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Upon entering into the courtyard, admire the intricate pebbled laid floor, decorated arches and frescoes adorning the entrance to the chapel of Christodoulos. This afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or maybe enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

Day 6 Rhodes. Our final call in Greece is the island of Rhodes from where we visit the ancient Acropolis of Lindos. From here the views of the Pelagus and St Paul's Bay, where the apostle anchored during his voyage to Ephesus, are stunning. The Medieval walls which guard Lindos were constructed by the Knights of St John. Alternatively take a walk through the old town visiting the Grand Masters Palace, built to reflect the Papal Palace of Avignon and planned to serve as a fortress in times of war, a peacetime residence for the Grand Master of the Hospitallers, the Knights of St John, and a meeting place for senior knights. Later we walk past the impressive houses on the "Avenue of the Knights". Maybe join our speaker for a lecture in the lounge as we spend the afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Antalya, Turkey. Over breakfast we will arrive in Antalya from where we explore the principal Roman ruins along Turkey's southern coast. We pass the modern city of Antalya en-route to the ancient city of Perge which dates back to 1000 BC and was founded by Mopsus and Calchas after their retreat from Troy. See the Basilica of Perge, which played an important role in the spread of Christianity, the 2nd century AD stadium, the baths complex and two magnificent round towers of the Greek Gate. We drive further east for a visit to Aspendos, whose amphitheatre built in the 2nd century AD is considered the best preserved in the Mediterranean. After lunch in a local restaurant continue

to Antalya to visit the excellent Archaeological Museum or return to the ship for some free time.

Day 8 Alanya. From our berth in Alanya we have the option to drive along the beautiful Turkish Riviera towards the ancient city of Side which was one of the leading Pamphylian cities on the south coast of Anatolia. Visit the Grand Theatre, a perfect example of a Roman theatre built on vaults on flat land. Walk through the town, view the old harbour and see the remains of the Apollo Temple. Alternatively spend time to explore the town of Alanya with its Medieval fort at your own pace. We will sail over lunch and have an afternoon at sea as we sail towards Cyprus.

Day 9 Limassol, Cyprus to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Details of cruise extensions in Istanbul and Cyprus are shown overleaf.

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	£4995	£4795
Byrd	Superior	£5195	£4995
Mawson	Premium	£5295	£5095
Mawson	Corner	£5495	£5295
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£6395	£6195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£6995	£6795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£7495	£7295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£5995	£5795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£6195	£5995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight 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 Istanbul Extension 11th to 13th October 2024

If you would like to spend some time exploring Istanbul before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering a two night extension.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for our two night stay. After free time to explore we meet tonight for dinner. (D)

Day 2 Istanbul. After breakfast at the hotel we start our exploration of Istanbul at the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire and the site of speeches, chariot races, and riots. Next, see the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica and now an imperial mosque. Known for its massive domed roof and colourful mosaics, this structure is widely regarded as the world's finest example of Byzantine architecture. After lunch in a local restaurant a short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent covered cisterns in Istanbul. Return to the hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 3 Istanbul. Today we visit the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Since 1924 it has been preserved as a museum, and it is noted for its beautiful shaded courtyards and elegant architecture. After lunch we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in the city. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Istanbul, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Cyprus Extension 21st to 23rd October 2024

If you would like to spend some time exploring Cyprus after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay in Limassol.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Limassol & Paphos, Cyprus. Disembark this morning for our tour to Paphos. After a brief stop at the most famous landmark in Cyprus - Aphrodite's Rock, we continue to Saint Neophytos Monastery, founded by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neophytos. Continue to Paphos where we will visit the 13th century Chrysopolitissa Church which is shared by the Anglican and Catholic congregation and the Pillar of Saint Paul. St Paul visited Paphos in 45 AD in an attempt to convert the ruler of the time to Christianity. After lunch and some free time in the picturesque fishing harbour of Paphos, we continue to the archaeological park, known as the House of Dionysos, with the fabulously preserved mosaics and the Tombs of the Kings. Return to Limassol to check into the hotel before meeting for dinner tonight. (B, L, D)

Day 2 Limassol. This morning we drive to the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus. We will continue to the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre which has been completely restored and is used today for open-air musical and theatrical performances. We will also visit Kolossi Castle. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 3 Limassol to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895**; Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Limassol, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



SICILY BY SEA

A circumnavigation of Sicily aboard the MS Island Sky with Guest Speaker Olga Stone

14th to 22nd October 2024

Join us aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky for this circumnavigation of Sicily and all its wonders in the company of just 118 fellow guests. This unique island has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, Sicily has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark. With our circumnavigation of the island we have the luxury of time allowing us to explore Sicily's rich heritage at a relaxing pace.

From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, there is so much to explore during our exploration of the island which we have timed for October when the crowds of summer will have departed and the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours. We will visit the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale, the Valle dei Templi, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral and the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina.

We have planned some late departures from port which afford the opportunity to enjoy dining ashore or an after dinner stroll in some towns which are particularly atmospheric in the evening. In addition, local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of Sicily.



THE ITINERARY

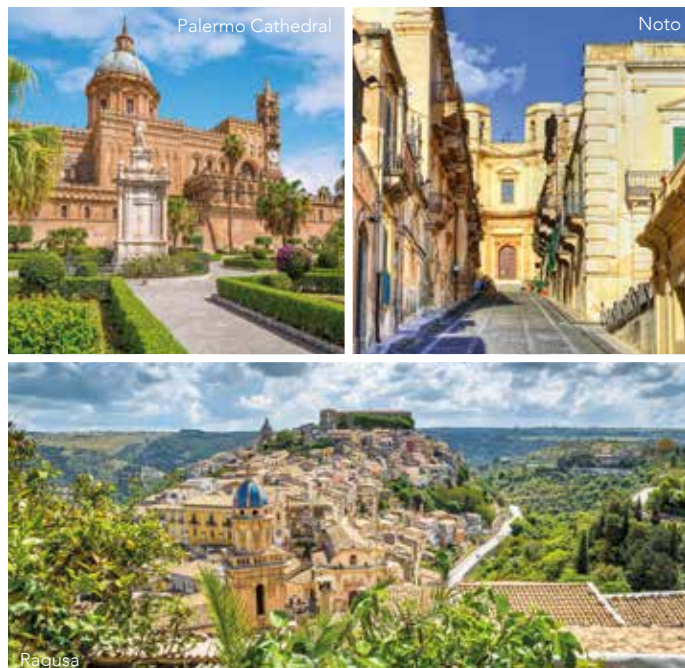
Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in the Grand Harbour of Valletta. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best winemaking regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch before returning to the ship.

Day 3 Agrigento for Valle dei Templi. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in the greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum which you can explore at leisure.

Day 4 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This morning there is the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively visit Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Both tours will then enjoy a Sicilian lunch at a nearby olive oil farm. We return to the ship later in the afternoon and there will be the opportunity to wander around Trapani at leisure as we plan to sail later in the evening.

Day 5 Palermo. Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.



Day 6 Messina for Taormina. From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe's highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. Those who wish to spend longer here will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and enjoy an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the ship for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

Day 7 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we meet this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

Day 8 Noto & Ragusa. From our berth in Pozzallo we will explore the Baroque villages of Noto and Ragusa. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei among olive groves and almond trees. A guided walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, the cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon continue to charming Ragusa which has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list for its artistic architectural heritage with its Baroque palaces, churches, squares and winding narrow streets, all of which create an evocative and ancient atmosphere. We will discover the wonderful Ragusa Ibla: the "Pearl of the Baroque", the gardens, the magnificent palaces, the splendid church of San Giuseppe and the Dome of San Giorgio, built in the 18th century on the site where an older church stood before the earthquake of 1693.

Day 9 Valletta to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Pre-cruise Malta Extension 12th to 14th October 2024



If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Island Sky we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay in Valletta.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Phoenicia Hotel and check in for our two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Valletta. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street, containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. (B)

Day 3 Mdina. This morning we will tour the city of Mdina. Known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island, Mdina was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Enjoy a local lunch before transferring to the MS Island Sky moored in Valletta. (B, L)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795**; Single: **£995**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Phoenicia Hotel, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Magellan	Standard	£5295	£4795
Columbus	Superior	£5495	£4995
Marco Polo	Premium	£5695	£5195
Marco Polo	Corner	£5995	£5495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£6495	£5995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£6795	£6295
Explorer	Island Suite	£7795	£7295
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£6595	£6095
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£6995	£6495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight nights aboard the MS Island 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.

WONDERS OF ANTIQUITY

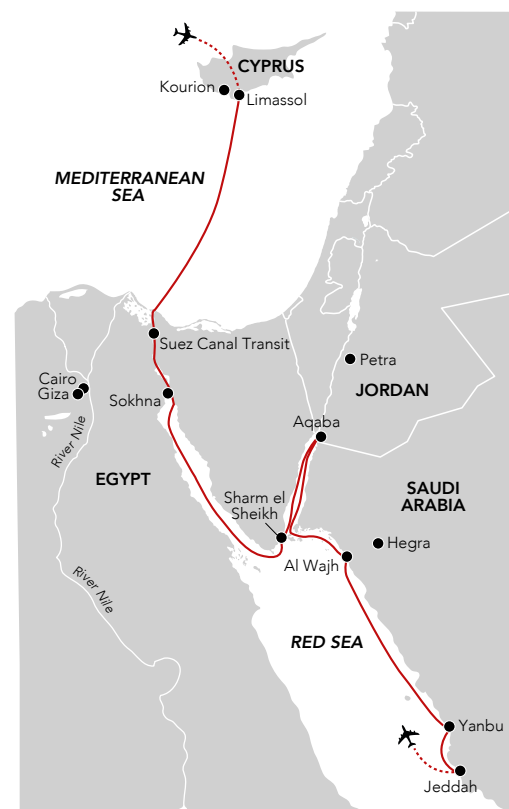
A journey from Cyprus to Saudi Arabia aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

21st October to 1st November 2024

Join the MS Hebridean Sky for this passage through antiquity as we sail from Cyprus to Saudi Arabia discovering a wealth of sites along the way. Exploring by sea allows us to incorporate a heady mix of fascinating places with great ease and we will visit the magnificent 'Rose Red City' of Petra and the ancient city of Hegra in Saudi Arabia which has only recently opened to tourists. These sites are irresistible attractions for the genuine traveller and as you explore these vast and complex Nabataean cities, whose wealth came from their proximity to the ancient Middle East trade routes, you cannot help but be impressed by the industry and sophistication of this ancient civilisation.

Our voyage begins in the Cypriot port of Limassol from where we will visit the Temple of Apollo and the ruins of Kourion with its Greco-Roman Theatre and lovely coastal views. Following a transit of the Suez Canal we spend time in Egypt exploring some of the great monuments of the pharaohs. Visit Cairo's magnificent Egyptian Museum, see the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx and spend a day exploring the mesmerising underwater world of the Red Sea. We continue to Jordan where there is the option to spend time in Petra, a city set deep in the Edom mountains that was hewn directly from the rock by the Nabataeans and an amazing feat of engineering. After a relaxing day at sea we arrive in Saudi Arabia where we spend our final days discovering the captivating site of Hegra, the country's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the fascinating historic cities of Yanbu and Jeddah.

Our itinerary represents small ship cruising at its best and is timed for October when temperatures will be pleasant for exploring and, with the aid of our knowledgeable local guides and excellent Guest Speaker, we will learn of some fascinating civilisations. In addition to visiting some of the world's most impressive and historic sites, there will be time to relax on board the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky. With just over 100 passengers, our trips ashore will be a pleasure and whether your interest lies in ancient history, modern politics or simply the joy of experiencing new places, this journey has much to offer.



Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx



THE ITINERARY

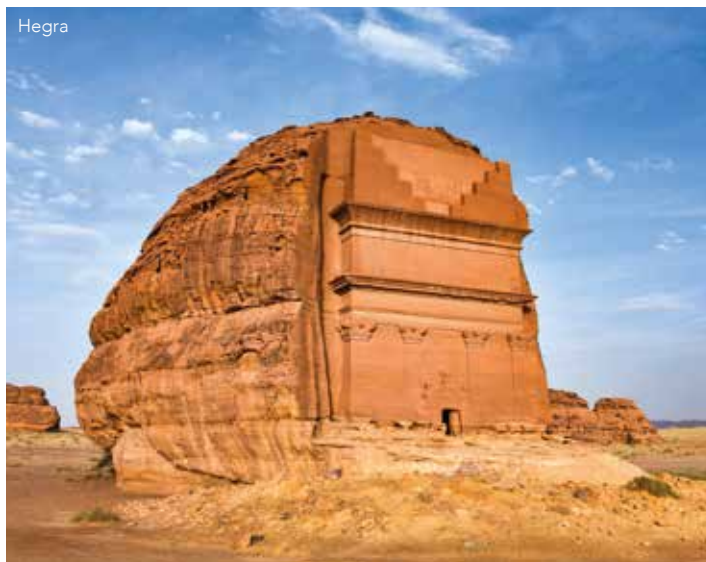
Day 1 London to Limassol, Cyprus. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Limassol. This morning we drive to the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus. We will continue to the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre which has been completely restored and is used today for open-air musical and theatrical performances. We will also visit the Medieval Kolossi Castle before returning to the ship for lunch. The remainder of the day is free to explore at your own pace.

Day 3 At Sea. A relaxing day at sea, maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck as we sail towards the North African coast.

Day 4 Suez Canal Transit, Egypt. Spend the day in transit of the Suez Canal and the Great Bitter Lake.

Day 5 Sokhna for Cairo & Giza. A full day tour is dedicated to the capital city of Cairo. From our berth in Sokhna we drive to the impressive Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, the only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the tombs of the great pharaohs and their queens. After lunch we visit the Egyptian Museum with 107 halls that are separated into seven sections. The museum houses statues, jewels and treasures of Tutankhamun. We will visit the Amarna Room and see the Fayoum portraits, and monuments from the later periods from the Greeks and the Romans. For those returning to Cairo an alternative tour will visit Memphis, the first capital of Egypt, founded by King Narmer in 3200 BC in a strategic position on the west bank of the Nile. In the



open-air museum we can see the enormous Colossus of Ramses II. Nearby is the necropolis at Saqqara which includes the Mastaba of Ti and the tomb for King Djoser which was Egypt's first pyramid, a landmark achievement of this ancient civilisation's development of architectural wonders.

Day 6 Sharm el Sheikh. After a morning at sea we arrive at the resort town of Sharm el Sheikh. It is, however, offshore that our interest lies with the clear waters of the Red Sea. Maybe join a snorkelling tour to the Ras Mohamed National Park. Designated a National Park in 1983 the reef ecosystems here protect a diversity of fish species and coral. Alternatively take a glass bottomed boat tour as we view some of the many species of colourful fish, coral and sponges that live in these waters.

Day 7 Aqaba for Petra, Jordan. From our berth in Aqaba we drive to the breathtaking Nabatean city of Petra which was carved out of rose-red sandstone about 2,000 years ago and has been voted as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Walk past the Obelisk Tomb and then through the Siq, the narrow 1.2 kilometre gorge that leads to Petra's most impressive monument, the Treasury, which was carved out of the pale reddish sandstone in the 1st century BC. Pass by the dozens of classical Nabatean ruins and tombs known as the Street of Facades, the remarkable 3,000 seat Theatre, the Royal Tombs, the Colonnaded Street, the Byzantine Church, the Temple, the Monumental Arch and the mighty Qasr el-Bint Faroun. After lunch amidst the ruins of Petra we have a little free time to explore further independently before returning to our ship. Alternatively, for those interested in staying by the Red Sea we will arrange a transfer to one of the city's beach clubs where you can spend the day relaxing.

Day 8 At Sea. Spend the day cruising as we continue our journey south.

Day 9 Al Wajh for Hegra, Saudi Arabia. Arriving into Saudi Arabia at Al Wajh there will be a choice of activities today. A full day tour will drive inland to the Alulah region and ancient Hegra, the largest conserved site of Nabataean civilisation south of Petra. Hegra was both a trading centre and military stronghold enabling the Nabataeans to control the Arabian caravan trade and the site has been left practically undisturbed for 2,000 years. Here, surrounded by desert, we can find over 100 well-preserved tombs hewn from the rocks of the Hijaz mountains, featuring beautifully carved facades dating back to the first century BC. The largest of the tombs is that of Lihyan, son of Kuza at 72 feet tall. Alternatively explore the city of Al Wajh, once a key port for silk road merchant ships. Visit the atmospheric old town and market, the 200-year-old Al-Ashraf Mosque, which overlooks the bay, and Al Wajh Castle which was built in 1875 toward the end of the Ottoman period.

Day 10 Yanbu. Over lunch we sail into Yanbu. With a history dating back at least 2,500 years Yanbu is one of the oldest ports on the Red Sea. The city was built around the port which was a staging post on the spice and incense route from Yemen to Egypt and the Mediterranean as well as being the



natural port for the ancient oasis of Madinah. Spend the afternoon exploring the historic city including the recently restored Souq Al Lail (night market) which was opened at night to serve the resident fisherman and viewing the city's unique Hejazi architecture found along the Red Sea coast. Also visit the restored former home of T.E Lawrence who lived in the city from 1915-1916.

Day 11 Jeddah. The historic crossroads of pilgrims and traders, and the traditional gateway to Mecca, Jeddah is a wonderful place to spend an afternoon as we discover the traditional architecture and oriental scents of the city. Arriving over lunch we will explore the atmospheric streets of Al Balad, Jeddah's UNESCO listed historical centre, feel the buzz in the local souqs and spend time at Beit Nassif, one of the city's best preserved historical coral houses and now a museum and cultural centre. Built in the 1880s it is also known as the "house with the tree" as this was the only tree in Jeddah until the 1920s.

Day 12 Jeddah to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect 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	£7495	£6995
Byrd	Superior	£7995	£7495
Mawson	Premium	£8495	£7995
Mawson	Corner	£8995	£8495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10495	£9995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£8495	£7995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£8995	£8495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 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, visas.

Important Visa Information: A visa will be required for Egypt, Jordan & Saudi Arabia. We will provide any supporting documentation required and further information will be sent to booked passengers. This information is correct at the time of printing and should the information change, we will be in touch with booked passengers with updated guidance 12 weeks prior to departure.

NB: Please note that our full day tours in Cairo, Petra and Hegra will be 9 to 10 hours in duration including lunch ashore.

MEDITERRANEAN ODYSSEY

A voyage from Malta to the Canary Islands including the Lost Cities of North Africa aboard the MS Island Sky

22nd October to 5th November 2024

Join us aboard the 118-passenger MS Island Sky in Malta and set sail on a 14 night voyage across the Mediterranean spending time in Tunisia, Sardinia, Algeria, mainland Spain, Gibraltar and Morocco before we reach the Canary Islands. We will travel a less well-trodden path from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic and have timed our journey for late October when the temperature will be pleasant for exploring and we will be able to discover some fascinating sites in relative peace.



We begin in Malta's magnificent fortress city of Valletta from where after exploring the city's highlights we set sail for Tunisia where we will visit the imposing Ribat of Sousse and spend time in the small village of El Djem to see the great Roman amphitheatre and visit the excellent museum with its collection of mosaics. Sailing along the Tunisian coast, we will call into Tunis for our exploration of the great city of Carthage with its Phoenician ruins. A highlight for many, Carthage will transport you to another world and time, and here it is easy to imagine how daily life played out in Roman times. Leaving Tunisia we call into the Sardinian capital of Cagliari from where we will drive to the Phoenician city of Nora before heading back to the North African Coast and the charming Algerian city of Tipaza with its fine Roman ruins. Continuing to Spain we visit the great naval port of Cartagena and Malaga before arriving into Gibraltar, 'The Rock', with its rich history and mix of Spanish, North African and English cultures. Sailing south we have two ports of call in Morocco, the city of Casablanca where we will visit the opulent Hassan II Mosque with its beautifully decorated interior and Essaouira with its amazing mixture of Portuguese and Berber architecture. After a relaxing day at sea, we arrive in Tenerife and spend our final day exploring this beautiful and diverse island.

We have devised the schedule for our voyage to include daily guided excursions and time at leisure for individual exploration enabling you to soak up the atmosphere at your own pace. There is also ample time to relax on board as we sail between our ports of call during which time you will be able to attend the informative talks by our onboard Guest Speaker.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta. Fly by scheduled flight to Malta. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Valletta. After breakfast on board you can choose to see the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street, containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. Alternatively drive to Mdina which was originally given the name of "Citta Nobile", and is now known as the "Silent City". Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Both tours return to the ship for lunch when we set sail and enjoy an afternoon at sea.

Day 3 Sousse, Tunisia. Arrive into Tunisia at the port of Sousse from where we will drive out of the city to the small village of El Djem and see the great Roman amphitheatre, built to accommodate 35,000 spectators, before visiting the excellent museum with its collection of mosaics. After lunch on board maybe relax and enjoy the ship's public areas or join a tour of Sousse which will include the museum, located in the ramparts of the Kasbah and housing a fine collection of mosaics, and the imposing Ribat, one of the finest and best conserved buildings of the series of "fortress-monasteries" that dotted the North African coastline.

Day 4 Tunis & Carthage. From the nearby port of Tunis we drive to the site of Carthage; founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BC it became one of the most influential cities in the Mediterranean. This prosperity led to

a rivalry with Rome and it was during the third Punic War, in 146 BC, that the Roman forces destroyed the city. Due to the strategic location, the Romans rebuilt Carthage in the 1st century AD to become one of the most important cities in their Empire. See the Phoenician remains of Tophet, the sanctuary of the gods Tanit and Baal, as well as some interesting monuments from the Roman era including the baths and the amphitheatre. After our visit there is the option to return to the ship for a leisurely afternoon on board or to continue to Sidi Bou Said, a picturesque village overlooking the Bay of Tunis. Its gleaming whitewashed walls are dotted with ornate, curved, blue-coloured window grills, and colourful arched doorways that open onto small courtyards filled with geraniums and bougainvillea.

Day 5 Cagliari, Sardinia. Arriving in Sardinia we drive along the southwestern coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings including the theatre and the baths with splendid mosaics. After lunch on board we will explore the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. On a walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia.

Day 6 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we cross the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 7 Algiers, Algeria. Depart this morning for the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being



Hassan II Mosque



Carthage



Mount Teide

under the Romans. The city was extended by Emperor Claudius and grew wealthy on the Mediterranean trade; it was built on three small hills which overlooked the sea. There are ruins of three Basilicas, two cemeteries, baths, the theatre, the nymphaeum and the unusual oval-shaped amphitheatre. After visiting the city, we will enjoy a typical Algerian lunch before continuing to the mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania which lies in the hills above the sea about 18 kilometres away from Tipaza. It is one of the most breathtaking sights in Algeria. The vast pyramid-like structure is named the Tomb of the Christian on account of the large crosses that decorate the tomb which predates Jesus Christ. We return to the ship via the Martyrs' Memorial which offers spectacular views over the city.

Day 8 Cartagena, Spain. After a morning at sea we arrive in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. Enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for an afternoon of exploration in this historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative centre. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcio Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour and view the Roman amphitheatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Island Sky.

Day 9 Malaga. After a leisurely breakfast on board we arrive into Malaga in the mid-morning where you may take the opportunity to spend a few hours exploring at your own pace from our central berth. Maybe head to the market or, for art lovers, visit the Picasso Museum. After lunch choose to join a tour which will take us to the 14th century Castillo de Gibralfaro, built on a hill overlooking the city and once considered the most impregnable fortress in Iberia. Continue to La Merced Square where we see the birthplace of Pablo Picasso before we visit the impressive 16th century cathedral which was built on the remains of a mosque. With its mix of Renaissance and Gothic styles it has been declared a national landmark. Alternatively, take a guided walk around the historic Botanical Gardens which were opened in 1857 and feature more than 25,000 species of plants.

Day 10 Gibraltar. Spend the day in Gibraltar exploring this strategic British outpost of the Mediterranean. After taking in the views from Europa Point, where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean, we continue to the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783 and revered as one of the finest defensive systems. Also see the Gibraltar Museum where we can learn more about the Great Siege, the geological origins of the rock and the area's natural history. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace, perhaps take the cable car up the famous rock, see the Botanical gardens or visit the Garrison Library.

Day 11 Casablanca, Morocco. Arriving in Casablanca at lunchtime we will visit the city's most important sights including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Olive Market. The highlight of our tour will be our visit to the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest religious monuments in the world after Mecca. It took 3,300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and splendid wood ceilings.

Day 12 Safi for Essaouira. This morning 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 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 will find the souks dedicated to gold, spices and fish. Enjoy a seafood lunch near the beach before returning to the MS Island Sky.

Day 13 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we sail to the Canary Islands. Our lecture programme continues in the lounge or maybe find a spot on deck to relax.

Day 14 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands. This morning we arrive in Tenerife and have a choice of tours. Join us as we drive inland, along the base of the mountain range through beautiful pine forests to the Parque Nacional del Teide. The area was declared a National Park in 1954 and includes 14 species of plant found nowhere else in the world. Geologically the park is fascinating; of the many different types of volcanic formations examples of more than 80% can be found here. Alternatively, visit the island's gardens including the Jardin Botanico which was founded in 1788 by Charles III of Spain. The purpose of the gardens was to create an area where the plants, shrubs and flowers brought back from the New World could acclimatise to Spanish soil. In contrast to the Botanical Gardens, we will then explore the Sitio Litre Garden which boasts a luscious orchid collection. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Santa Cruz at your own pace.

Day 15 Las Palmas, Canary Islands 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 £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£8995	£7995
Columbus	Superior	£9295	£8295
Marco Polo	Premium	£9495	£8495
Marco Polo	Corner	£9895	£8895
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£10595	£9595
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£11095	£10095
Explorer	Island Suite	£11995	£10995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£8995	£7995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£9295	£8295

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Not Included: Travel insurance, Algerian visa.

Ring-tailed lemur



INDIAN OCEAN STEPPING STONES

An island hopping expedition from Mahe to Madagascar aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speakers Daniel Austin & Hilary Bradt

8th to 24th November 2024

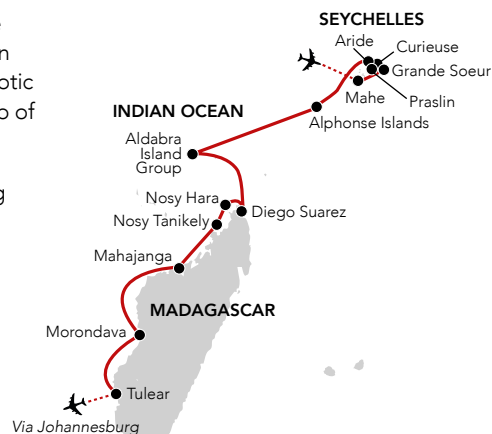


Escape to warmer climes over the winter with a voyage aboard the MS Hebridean Sky in the wonderful Indian Ocean, discovering some of the most beautiful tropical islands on earth in the company of just over 100 fellow guests. Our journey incorporates some fascinating and exotic calls combining the stunning islands of the Seychelles including the magnificent Aldabra group of islands with the natural wonders of Madagascar.

The first part of our adventure is dedicated to the Seychelles and some of the most captivating islands in the world. Amongst the highlights of our time in the Seychelles will be the Aldabra Islands, the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures we should also encounter dolphins, turtles and whales as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean. To explore the abundant crystal-clear waters of the vast lagoon and to set foot on atolls which have never been exploited by the hand of man is a rare experience.

Our voyage continues to Madagascar, the world's 'eighth continent', where we have a week to explore this extraordinary country that is still relatively unknown amongst even the most serious of travellers. The term 'unique' is often an overused description in the travel world but certainly applies to the island of Madagascar where the animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand-mile-long island are unlike anywhere else in the world. There is minimal infrastructure in many parts of the island and for those wishing to explore in some depth, doing so by small ship is far more preferable than by any other means.

This itinerary is a veritable feast of beauty and the natural world and with the vessel's fleet of Zodiac landing craft we can reach the unreachable, landing on remote beaches, walking through verdant rainforest and national parks and getting close to some unique flora and fauna. Your experience will be made all the more memorable by our expert crew and officers who, along with our expedition team of marine biologists, ornithologists and botanists have many years of experience in the Indian Ocean.



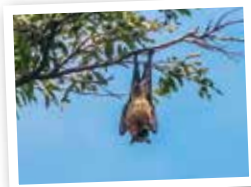
WHAT TO EXPECT...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from the ship's log from previous expeditions which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Mahajanga & Ankarafantsika National Park, Madagascar: This morning we were up bright eyed and bushy tailed in readiness for an exciting day. Women in traditional dress greeted us on the slipway and our transport waited at the end of a strip of market stalls selling local crafts. The convoy of minibuses departed Mahajanga driving through the busy streets before heading out in the countryside. Savannah like landscape could be seen for miles on either side of the tarmac road. The savannah gave way to large swathes of rice paddies. Local rice farmers were seen harvesting the rice, children waved from the roadside, as we passed through beautiful villages. We arrived at the Ankarafantsika National Park, a mere two hours after leaving the dock. Immediately after arriving, we saw a troop of brown lemur and the gorgeous Coquerel's sifaka expertly negotiating their way through the canopy. Our guides took us on prepared trails through the dry forest, spotting a variety of bird species, reptiles, and of course, lemur. Highlights included an eye-height view of a paradise fly-catcher incubating on a nest; a female Milne-Edwards sportive lemur with her juvenile resting on a tree trunk, iguanas basking in a variety of different body positions in spots of sunlight and, the fantastic spot of the Madagascan fish eagle. Combined we saw 51 different species of bird and reptile, and five species of lemur. What an incredible day!



Nosy Tanikely: Instead of using the Zodiacs this morning, local boats ferried us to the shore of Nosy Tanikely, a small island rising steeply from the beautiful palm fringed beach on which we arrived. One highlight was being able to snorkel among the coral reef that was close to shore. The fish diversity of the relatively small reef was impressive and a friendly Hawksbill turtle swam by. The island was equally impressive. Walking up the concrete summit path was well worth it, and we were treated to an acrobatic display by a group of brown lemurs. The panoramic view from the lighthouse was stunning and only bettered by the white-tailed tropic birds flying close by. Those that walked around the island were treated to seeing rufous and Madagascar flying fox flying but also sleeping in the shade.



Hawksbill sea turtle



Ankarafantsika National Park



Giant tortoise, Aldabra



Nosy Hara



Panther chameleon



Fairy tern

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in Port Victoria. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail tonight.

Days 3 & 4 Inner Seychelles. We have two days to explore the islands of the Inner Seychelles and hope to include a call at Praslin to explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. See Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited island. Spend time walking the island trails which link the island's white sand beaches and maybe catch sight of some of the giant Aldabra tortoises or enjoy a snorkelling opportunity in the turquoise waters. We hope to anchor off Aride, one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater, lesser noddy, frigatebirds and roseate tern and five of the species are unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. The island is largely covered in native woodland including the endemic wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. Sail to Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitor centre. The island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk.

Day 5 Alphonse Islands. There are three islands in the Alphonse group which is located directly south of the Amirantes. As we approach the islands over lunch, you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers good snorkelling and there are several tracks across the island for us to enjoy an afternoon of island walks.

Day 6 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we head to the Outer Seychelles islands. Our lecture programme will continue or maybe find a spot on deck to watch for wildlife.

Days 7 & 8 Aldabra Islands. We have two days at the Aldabra group of islands and our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible we will plan to call at the island of Assumption. The island was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of

guano in the early 20th century but peace has returned and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here will be spent beachcombing, on a nature walk or snorkelling. We also plan time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white-throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with colourful life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We will explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs. We will include as much as possible during our time on Aldabra making landings on South Island and trips into the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the everchanging undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters teeming with marine life.

Day 9 Diego Suarez, Madagascar. After a morning at sea we arrive in Madagascar and enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. This afternoon choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre, or the Malagasy rainforest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs, chameleons and endemic birds as we explore the rainforest.

Day 10 Nosy Hara. As we cruise around the northern coast of Madagascar we will find a number of strangely shaped limestone islets that dot the aquamarine-coloured sea. The expedition team will decide on the most suitable island for landing, such as Nosy Hara with its abundant birdlife and great places to swim off the beach. We will spend the day exploring the island on foot, walking through dense woodland and observing the unusual vegetation. Alternatively, join a Zodiac cruise around the islands and a chance to snorkel over the coral.

Day 11 Nosy Tanikely. Spend the morning at the Nosy Tanikely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island which offers snorkelling opportunities and wonderful beaches. We will take the chance to either swim in the clear waters



or snorkel over the corals keeping an eye out for reef fish, turtles and morays. Alternatively, our naturalists will lead guided walks on the island where we may see the resident lemurs, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the lighthouse on the island's highest point. We will sail in the early afternoon.

Day 12 Mahajanga. Mahajanga is a major port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River and is our base for a full day excursion to the Ankarafantsika National Park. This deciduous forest is a haven for birds, lemurs and reptiles and on a choice of walks, we will explore with our guides. Eight species of lemur have been observed here including the famous Microcebus, the smallest primate in the world. Meanwhile over 120 species of birds nest here and we will keep an eye out for the Madagascan fish eagle and banded kestrel whilst the 44 species of reptile include chameleon, turtles and crocodiles that live in Lake Ravelobe. We will enjoy lunch in the park and in the afternoon there will be options to join further walks or watch for birdlife at the nearby lake before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 13 At Sea. Our lecture programme resumes as we continue our journey around the Madagascan coast.

Day 14 Morondava. From our anchorage off the town of Morondava, we will use the Zodiacs to land on the local beach and from here there will be a choice of excursions to explore the local region. On a half day morning tour we will visit the Avenue des Baobabs. Of the eight baobab species in the world, six are endemic to Madagascar and here we will see the *Adansonia grandidieri* species with a row of 20 to 25 trees which border the gravel road. We will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance before returning to Morondava and exploring the local market. Alternatively, join a full day excursion to Kirindy Forest. Situated approximately a two hour drive from Morondava, we will pass the Avenue des Baobabs as we travel north. Kirindy is a 10,000 hectare, dry deciduous forest, one of the most endangered in the world where the flora and fauna includes many endemic species. Here we find three species of baobab, many birds and reptiles including snakes, tortoises and lizards. Eight species of lemur reside here including the pale form marked lemur.

Day 15 Tulear. We arrive in Tulear at lunchtime. This afternoon choose to visit the Antsokay Arboretum which is entirely devoted to the conservation of the plants from the south west of Madagascar and, after more than 30 years

of hard work, offers a densely kept selection of flora presenting a typical sub-arid thicket with baobab trees towering over the smaller plants. We will see the four hectare botanical garden which comprises over 900 species of plants of which 90% are endemic to the region. Alternatively, visit the Reniala Private Reserve, a small area of just 60 hectares but containing a spiny forest which is unique to south eastern Madagascar. The park is home to 200 plant species including baobabs as well as being a haven for birders with sightings of paradise flycatchers, Madagascar hoopoe and Madagascar crested drongo.

Day 16 Tulear to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Johannesburg. Connect here with our onward scheduled flight to London.

Day 17 London. Arrive this morning.

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	£10795	£10295
Byrd	Superior	£11095	£10595
Mawson	Premium	£11395	£10895
Mawson	Corner	£11695	£11195
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£12695	£12195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£13195	£12695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£14295	£13795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£13795	£13295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£14495	£13995

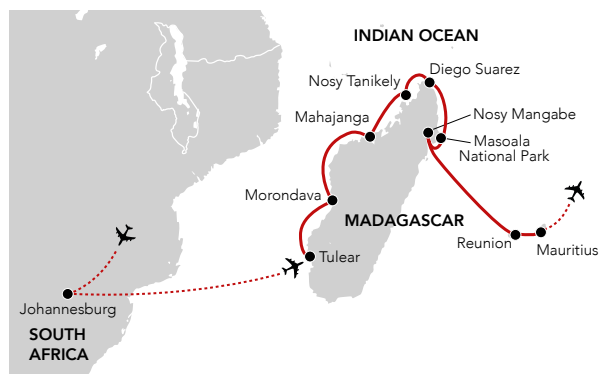
PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Mahe and from Johannesburg to London • Specially chartered flight from Tulear to Johannesburg • 14 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

MARVELS OF MADAGASCAR



Discover the wildlife & wonders of Madagascar aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

21st November to 4th December 2024



The term 'unique' is an often overused description in the travel world but certainly applies to the island of Madagascar. The animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand mile long island are unlike anywhere else in the world. This extraordinary country long remained obscure as a destination and is still relatively unknown amongst even the most serious of travellers. There is minimal infrastructure in many parts of the island and for those wishing to explore in some depth, doing so by small ship, especially one as well-suited as the MS Hebridean Sky is far preferable to exploring by any other means.

Our unique ten night voyage focuses on the wonders of the island of Madagascar with opportunities to explore rainforests full of wildlife including lemurs, chameleons and indigenous birdlife as well as witnessing the underwater world and village life. Our days will be spent exploring ashore, often traversing

over rugged terrain and walking through spectacular rainforests and each evening we will have the benefit of returning to our comfortable ship to relax and look forward to the next adventure. With the vessel's fleet of Zodiacs for forays ashore, allowing access to some wonderful places denied to larger ships, you can enjoy encounters with fabulous endemic wildlife in this immensely rich and timeless corner of the Indian Ocean. Our onboard experts will greatly enrich your experience and ensure that we make the most of our time on the world's "eighth continent".



Black lemur

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Johannesburg, South Africa. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Johannesburg. Arrive today and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for drinks and dinner.

Day 3 Johannesburg to Tulear, Madagascar. Return to the airport this morning to join our specially chartered flight to Tulear. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 4 Morondava. After a morning cruising we arrive during lunch at our anchorage off the town of Morondava. We will use the Zodiacs to land on the local beach from where we will visit the Avenue des Baobabs. Of the eight baobab species in the world, six are endemic to Madagascar and here we will see the *Adansonia grandidieri* species with a row of 20 to 25 trees which border the gravel road. We will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance before returning to Morondava and exploring the local market.

Day 5 At Sea. Spend a leisurely day on board as we continue our journey around the Madagascan Coast.

Day 6 Mahajanga. Mahajanga is a major port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River and is our base for a full day excursion to the Ankarafantsika National Park. This deciduous forest is a haven for birds, lemurs and reptiles and on a choice of walks, we will explore with our guides. Eight species of lemur have been observed here including the famous microcebus, the smallest primate in the world. Meanwhile over 120 species of birds nest here and we will keep an eye out for the Madagascan fish eagle and banded kestrel whilst the 44 species of reptile include chameleon, turtles and crocodiles that live in Lake Ravelobe. We will enjoy lunch in the park and in the afternoon there will be options to join further walks or watch for birdlife at the nearby lake before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 7 Nosy Tanikely. We arrive mid-morning at the Nosy Tanikely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island which offers snorkelling opportunities and wonderful beaches. We will take the opportunity to either swim in the clear waters or snorkel over the corals keeping an eye out for reef fish, turtles



and morays. Alternatively our naturalists will lead guided walks on the island where we may see the resident lemurs, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the lighthouse on the island's highest point.

Day 8 Diego Suarez. This morning we will enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. This morning choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre or a visit to the Malagasy rainforest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore the rainforest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot several species of lemurs and chameleons as well as endemic birds, including parrots. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Days 9 & 10 Masoala National Park & Nosy Mangabe. We will spend a day and a half exploring from our anchorage in Antongil Bay. We discover Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees, plants and ferns and we hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders, we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers. We will also explore Madagascar's largest protected area, the Masoala National Park, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded forests, marsh and mangroves. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur and the ring-tailed mongoose. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured Mantella frogs, all manner of extraordinary chameleons and is a refuge of the endangered Madagascar red-owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. A series of walks for all levels will operate whilst there will also be the option to swim off the beach or perhaps visit the local village.

Day 11 At Sea. Enjoy the day at sea to relax and reflect on our Madagascan adventure as we sail to Reunion.

Day 12 Reunion. We arrive at breakfast in Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages

and towns with a uniquely French atmosphere. Fields of sugar cane and plantations of tropical fruits, vanilla and all manner of spices perfume the air. We will enjoy views from the Nez de Boeuf and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the 'Cite du Volcan' museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in St Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. Continue to Salazie, a verdant landscape and home to many waterfalls including the 'Voile de la Mariee' before spending some free time in St Denis on the way back to the ship. This afternoon is at leisure before we set sail this evening.

Day 13 Mauritius to London. Disembark this morning and enjoy a morning tour of Mauritius including the Trou-aux-Cerfs volcano, the Grand Bassin Lake and Black River Gorges. After lunch we transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 14 London. Arrive this morning.

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	£9095	£8595
Byrd	Superior	£9295	£8795
Mawson	Premium	£9495	£8995
Mawson	Corner	£9895	£9395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£10495	£9995
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10795	£10295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9095	£8595
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9295	£8795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Johannesburg & from Mauritius to London • Specially chartered flight from Johannesburg to Tulear • Overnight accommodation in Johannesburg with breakfast and dinner • 10 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MADAGASCAR – THE EIGHTH CONTINENT

A circumnavigation of Madagascar aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Daniel Austin

2nd to 21st December 2024 & 19th December 2024 to 7th January 2025



Join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky for a full circumnavigation of the fascinating island of Madagascar. The animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand mile long island are unlike anywhere else in the world and we have the luxury of two weeks of exploration to experience the many wonders of the island. During our comprehensive itinerary there will be ample opportunity to discover the rainforests which are full of wildlife including the iconic lemur, chameleons and indigenous birdlife as well as seeing the underwater world and village life.

Madagascar has long remained obscure as a destination and is still relatively undiscovered, there is minimal infrastructure in many parts of the island and for those wishing to explore in some depth, doing so by small ship, especially one as well-suited as the MS Hebridean Sky is far preferable to visiting by any other means. In the company of just 100 fellow guests our days will be spent exploring ashore, often traversing over rugged terrain and walking through spectacular rainforests, and each evening we will have the benefit of returning to our comfortable ship to relax and look forward to the next adventure.

With the vessel's fleet of Zodiacs for forays ashore, allowing access to the wonderful places denied to larger ships, we will explore and enjoy encounters with fabulous endemic wildlife in this immensely rich and timeless corner of the Indian Ocean. Your experience will be made all the more memorable by our expert crew and officers who, along with our expedition team including marine biologists, ornithologists and botanists have many years of experience in the region.

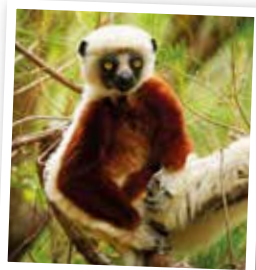


WHAT TO EXPECT...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from the ship's log from previous expeditions which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.



Mahajanga & Ankarafantsika National Park: No such thing as a Sunday lie-in this morning as we were up bright eyed and bushy tailed in readiness for an exciting day. The sea was a millpond. Women in traditional dress greeted us on the slipway and our transport waited at the end of a strip of market stalls selling local crafts. The convoy of minibuses departed Mahajanga driving through the busy streets before heading out in the countryside. Savannah like landscape could be seen for miles on either side of the tarmac road. The savannah gave way to large swathes of rice paddies. Local rice farmers were seen harvesting the rice, children waved from the roadside, as we passed through beautiful villages. We arrived at the Ankarafantsika National Park, a mere two hours after leaving the dock. Immediately after arriving, we saw a troop of brown lemur and the gorgeous Coquerel's sifaka expertly negotiating their way through the canopy. Already we could see this was a special place and we had not even left the car park! We were on the lookout for creatures great and small, and we found them. Our guides took us on prepared trails through the dry forest, spotting a variety of bird species, reptiles,



and of course, lemur. Highlights included an eye-height view of a paradise fly-catcher incubating on a nest; a female Milne-Edwards sportive lemur with her juvenile resting on a tree trunk, iguanas basking in a variety of different body positions in spots of sunlight and, the fantastic spot of the Madagascan fish eagle. Combined we saw 51 different species of bird and reptile, and five species of lemur. What an incredible day!

Nosy Mangabe: This morning we were anchored off the Masoala Peninsula which is covered in primary rainforest. Our destination Nosy Mangabe is a small island in the national park. We disembarked the long and 'Birdier' walks first followed by the medium and short walks on a beautiful golden beach backed by primary rainforest. Once ashore we split into our various groups and headed off into the forest in search of wildlife. The lemurs appeared, racing through the treetops and there were frogs everywhere. There were the green-backed mantellas, quite brash in their black and green colours, tiny nondescript frogs laying their single egg in the stumps of bamboo. There were a number of leaf-tailed geckos which were so well camouflaged that they were almost impossible to see even at close range. Near the landing site, the lemurs came down to check us out and allowed for some great close up photographs. On walks inland we saw some huge boulders of 3.2 billion year old granodiorite that formed akin to how tors formed in the UK. This afternoon we had the opportunity to land at the camp for a second time and embark on an afternoon exploratory walk or enjoy a long Zodiac cruise along the peninsula. Both options were rewarded with excellent wildlife sightings. We were all back on board for a quick recap followed by dinner. Those who chose to dine outside were rewarded with a lovely sunset and the noises of the rainforest.





THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Mauritius. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mauritius. Arrive today and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Port Louis. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 3 Reunion Island. We arrive at breakfast in Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns with a uniquely French atmosphere. Fields of sugar cane and plantations of tropical fruits, vanilla and all manner of spices perfume the air. We will enjoy views from the Nez de Boeuf and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the 'Cite du Volcan' museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in St Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. Continue to Salazie, a verdant landscape and home to many waterfalls including the 'Voile de la Mariee' before spending some free time in St Denis on the way back to the ship. This afternoon is at leisure before we set sail this evening.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we sail towards Madagascar. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax.

Days 5 & 6 Taolagnaro, Madagascar. Our first call in Madagascar is the southeastern port of Taolagnaro, also known as Fort Dauphin. This was the first French settlement in Madagascar, situated on a peninsula overlooked by the Anosy mountains. We will moor overnight and our time here will include an excursion to Nahampoana Private Park. The reserve is only 67 hectares but home to four species of lemur including ring-tailed and sifakas whilst the gardens showcase Madagascan plants with three-cornered palms and spiny

Desiderata trees. A tour of Taolagnaro will include the market and historical buildings where we will learn about the arrival of the Magalasy people to Madagascar and the links with Reunion. Also enjoy walks in the Domaine de la Cascade, a 136 hectare park consisting of a nursery set in a paradisiacal valley with several walking trails and a beautiful waterfall.

Day 7 Tulear. Having sailed around the southern tip of Madagascar we arrive in Tulear at lunchtime. This afternoon you may like to join the tour to the Antsokay Arboretum which is entirely devoted to the conservation of the plants from the south west of Madagascar and, after more than 30 years of hard work, offers a densely kept selection of flora presenting a typical sub-arid thicket with baobab trees towering over the smaller plants. We will see the four hectare botanical garden which comprises over 900 species of plants of which 90% are endemic to the region. Alternatively visit the Reniala Private Reserve, a small area of just 60 hectares but containing a spiny forest which is unique to southern Madagascar. The park is home to 200 plant species including baobabs as well as being a haven for birders with sightings of paradise flycatchers, Madagascar hoopoe and Madagascar crested drongo.

Day 8 Andavadoaka & Nosy Hao. The vessel will anchor this morning off the small fishing community of Andavadoaka, home to the Vezo fishing people. The area offers the most diverse marine ecosystem on the southwest coast. It is also the base for Blue Ventures, a marine conservation society that has helped the local villagers invest in their community by way of training local guides and showing ways to preserve their resources. We hope to learn more about the local projects before sailing over lunch to Nosy Hao to discover the sandy white beaches where we can enjoy a swim in the warm waters.

Day 9 Morondava. From our anchorage off the town of Morondava, we will use the Zodiacs to land on the local beach. From here there will be a choice of excursions to explore the local region. A half day morning tour will visit the Avenue des Baobabs. Of the eight baobab species in the world, six are



endemic to Madagascar and here we will see the *Adansonia grandidieri* species with a row of 20 to 25 trees which border the gravel road. We will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance before returning to Morondava and exploring the local market. Alternatively, join a full day excursion to Kirindy Forest. Situated approximately a two hour drive from Morondava, we will pass the Avenue des Baobabs as we travel north. Kirindy is a 10,000 hectare, dry deciduous forest, one of the most endangered in the world where the flora and fauna includes many endemic species. Here we find three species of baobab, many birds and reptiles including snakes, tortoises and lizards. Eight species of lemur reside here including the pale form marked lemur.

Day 10 At Sea. Spend a leisurely day on board as we continue our journey around the Madagascan Coast.

Day 11 Mahajanga. Mahajanga is a major port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River and is our base for a full day excursion to Ankarafantsika National Park. This deciduous forest is a haven for birds, lemurs and reptiles and on a choice of walks, we will explore with our guides. Eight species of lemur have been observed here including the famous *Microcebus*, the smallest primate in the world. Meanwhile over 120 species of birds nest here and we will keep an eye out for the Madagascan fish eagle and banded kestrel whilst the 44 species of reptile include chameleon, turtles and crocodiles that live in Lake Ravelobe. We will enjoy lunch in the park and in the afternoon there will be options to join further walks or watch for birdlife at the nearby lake before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 12 Nosy Tanikely. We arrive mid-morning at the Nosy Tanikely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island which offers snorkelling opportunities and wonderful beaches. We will take the chance to either swim in the clear waters or snorkel over the corals keeping an eye out for reef fish, turtles and morays. Alternatively our naturalists will lead guided walks on the island where we may see the resident lemurs, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the lighthouse on the island's highest point.

Day 13 Nosy Hara. As we continue our journey along the western coast of Madagascar we will find a number of strangely shaped limestone islets that dot the aquamarine-coloured sea. The expedition team will decide on the most suitable island for landing, such as Nosy Hara with its abundant birdlife and great places to swim off the beach. We will spend the day exploring the island on foot, walking through dense woodland and observing the unusual vegetation. Alternatively join a Zodiac cruise around the islands and a chance to snorkel over the coral.

Day 14 Diego Suarez. This morning we will enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. This morning choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre, or a visit to the Malagasy rainforest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into

short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore the rainforest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot several species of lemurs and chameleons as well as endemic birds, including parrots. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Days 15 & 16 Nosy Mangabe & Masoala National Park. We will spend a day and a half exploring from our anchorage in Antongil Bay. We discover Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees, plants and ferns and we hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders, we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers. We will also explore Madagascar's largest protected area, the Masoala National Park, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded forests, marsh and mangroves. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur and the ring-tailed mongoose. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured mantella frogs, all manner of extraordinary chameleons and is a refuge of the endangered Madagascar red-owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. A series of walks for all levels will operate whilst there will also be the option to swim off the beach or perhaps visit the local village.

Day 17 Taomasina. Our final call in Madagascar is Taomasina, the country's main port and second largest city as well as the gateway to the Pangalanés Canals, a series of rivers, waterways and lakes that extend for over 400 miles down the island's east coast. Used mainly for transportation and fishing, the canals are also home to unspoiled beaches, lagoons and lakes whilst providing access to national parks and private reserves. This morning we will take a local boat cruise through the canal to enjoy the scenery followed by a nature walk in one of the private reserves. Enjoy lunch in the reserve before returning to Taomasina this afternoon. Alternatively visit the Ivoloïna Zoological Parc, a 282 hectare property combining a small zoo where we will see up to 12 species of lemur as well as indigenous tortoises and chameleons. Meanwhile in the surrounding forests we can see wild lemurs or malachite kingfishers on one of the many walking trails.

Day 18 At Sea. Enjoy the day at sea to relax and reflect on our Madagascan adventure as we sail back to Mauritius.

Day 19 Mauritius to London. Disembark this morning and enjoy a morning tour of Mauritius including the Trou-aux-Cerfs Volcano, the Grand Bassin Lake and Black River Gorges. After lunch we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 20 London. Arrive this morning.

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	£11895	£11395
Byrd	Superior	£12095	£11595
Mawson	Premium	£12395	£11895
Mawson	Corner	£12895	£12395
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£13895	£13395
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£14295	£13795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£15295	£14795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£14895	£14395
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£15595	£15095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 17 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.





ANTARCTICA – LAND OF HEROES

An expedition to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia & the Antarctic Peninsula aboard the MS Island Sky

20th December 2024 to 12th January 2025



Antarctica has produced more than its fair share of heroes. It is a land that has consistently challenged and inspired men of extraordinary character to deeds requiring extreme courage. The expeditions of Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton, Ross, Byrd and many others are a shining example of honour, strength and perseverance which today still inspire us and it will be a privilege to explore these same waters aboard the 118-passenger MS Island Sky. Our expedition combines the wonders of the Antarctic Peninsula with the Falkland Islands and magnificent South Georgia.

Even today after many decades of exploration, Antarctica still remains a world apart, a majestic last frontier surpassing even the most jaded of travellers' expectations. It is hard to put into words the sheer grandeur of an Antarctic landscape. This most southern of continents, this desert of ice, is so unique and uncommon to man's experience, that even the most dramatic of photographs pale into insignificance when one is confronted by the sheer magnitude, beauty and wonder of an Antarctic landscape. Enormous icebergs rise from the sea, hillsides are covered with thousands of penguins and seals bask on icebergs dotted in the ocean; the sights, sounds and emotions will stay with you forever.

Our expedition begins with two days in the Falkland Islands, a truly enchanting place with a unique character and staggering wildlife. This is the last sanctuary of the elegant albatross which soars gracefully against the blue sky, with colonies of elephant seals basking at the foot of vertiginous cliffs. We continue to South Georgia where you will experience one of the world's natural wonders, the 'Alps in mid-ocean', offering remarkable concentrations of wildlife against a backdrop of glaciers and snow-covered mountains. Hugging the coast to the wildest reaches of the island we will land on beaches alive with rampaging fur seals, somnolent elephant seals and truly astonishing numbers of King penguins. We have three days of exploration in this unique animal paradise and using the Zodiacs there will be landings each day allowing you the optimum time ashore to experience this rich animal kingdom. The final landings of our expedition will be on the Antarctic Peninsula where we have ample time to discover the icy wonders and wonderful array of wildlife before we sail to Ushuaia.



WHAT TO EXPECT...

In Antarctica there is no such thing as a "typical" day. Flexibility is the key and sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from a previous log from the MS Island Sky which will provide you with an idea of what to expect if you choose to join this Antarctic adventure.



Antarctic Sound & Brown Bluff: Ahead of us to starboard was the northern end of the Antarctic Peninsula and on the other side were some large, ice-covered islands. There was lots of ice in the water too – brash ice, ice floes and icebergs of many shapes and sizes. Continuing southwards, it wasn't long before an interesting spot was noticed so the ship stopped and the Zodiacs were lowered. We were off on a Zodiac cruise amongst the pack ice and huge icebergs. The ship then headed further south still and eventually went in the direction of Brown Bluff, a favourite landing place. The scenery was stunning – geology on the one hand and sea and ice on the other. By now the sun had been out for some time, which added to both the 'warmth' and the colours all around us. Another very significant thing about Brown Bluff is that it is part of the continent itself so we could truly say that we had 'arrived'. For some it was their seventh continent too. The Adelie penguins were a big attraction, being the first ones that many of us had seen.

Salisbury Plain, South Georgia: From the ship we could see the huge extent of the king penguin colony, as well as a myriad of cigar-shaped rocks. The rocks were, of course, hundreds of seals of the elephant and fur kind. By the landing spot there was a group of elephants, including a pup that was still suckling. In addition, there were tiny fur seal pups around as well, which looked adorable. The male fur seals often huge and intimidating were not a problem today. A route parallel to the beach had been flagged for us by the expedition team so it was a simple matter to get to and from the king colony in small groups. The birds were so curious that if we stopped they would often come sidling up towards us, to get a better look. In their black, white, grey and orange plumage the kings looked both regal and resplendent.

Elephant Island: Elephant Island came into sight at midday but at first it was indistinct, as it blended in with the murk so well. More and more of it became apparent as we got closer but it looked pretty daunting – largely snow-covered cliffs that disappeared up into the clouds. Every now and then along the inhospitable coast there was a grounded iceberg. The captain did an excellent job of getting us into the relatively sheltered bay opposite the bust of Captain Pardo who was in command of the rescue vessel that eventually, with Worsley's knowledge, managed to get all of Shackleton's men off.





Antarctic landscape



Macaroni penguin



Antarctic dolphin



Albatross



Black-browed albatross

THE ITINERARY

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition in Antarctica. Although we have outlined an itinerary below, this is only a preliminary plan, our exact route will depend on ice, weather conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is free to relax or join an orientation tour of the city including the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo before we continue towards the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobblestoned streets. Our guided tour will end in La Boca where we will see the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Puerto Madryn. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Trelew and transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in Puerto Madryn. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Days 4 & 5 En-Route to the Falkland Islands. Among the wildlife spotting opportunities as we sail south are albatrosses, prions and petrels that frequently follow the ship. Our expedition team will be out on deck looking for whales and dolphins that may also be seen in the area. During our two days of sailing, our onboard experts will begin their presentations with informative and entertaining talks on the wildlife, history and geology of the Falkland Islands and the Southern Ocean. We hope to arrive in the Falkland Islands in the evening of Day 5 and if time permits make our first landing ashore.

Days 6 & 7 Falkland Islands. The Falkland Islands are isolated and windswept, a haven for wildlife. Weather and wind conditions allowing, we may land on Steeple Jason, the north western outpost with the world's largest

colony of black-browed albatross. See the rockhopper penguin colony and black-browed albatross on West Point Island whilst Grave Cove is home to the largest colony of gentoo penguins in the Falkland Islands. We also plan to call at Stanley, the charming capital of the Falkland Islands, and discover some of the historic sites there from the museums to the battlefields.

Days 8 & 9 The Southern Ocean. As we cruise towards South Georgia the richness of these waters will be evident in the marine mammal life, especially the Weddell seals on fishing forays. We have a good chance of spotting whales such as fins and humpback whilst the birds circling our stern will be outstanding, especially the large albatrosses and numerous breeds of petrels.

Days 10 to 12 South Georgia. We have three days of expedition cruising in and around South Georgia, a paradise island with snow-clad mountain peaks rising 9000 feet and with 165 glaciers tumbling down towards the sea. We arrive early in the season when parts of the island will still be covered by a thin layer of snow. For anyone interested in wildlife, South Georgia is a true oasis. The beaches will be covered by elephant seal bulls and females with feeding pups. They share the beach with a myriad of nesting king penguins. Most of the other sea birds will have arrived and begun nesting whilst millions of Weddell seals return to the beaches to breed. During our time here we hope to visit Salisbury Plain where we will find enormous elephant seals which crowd the beaches alongside thousands of pairs of king penguins. Meanwhile in Grytviken we will visit the old whaling station and of course pay our respect at the grave of 'the boss' – Ernest Shackleton.

Days 13 & 14 At sea. The waters between South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula are rich with fin whales, where in good conditions we have seen as many as a hundred in a day. If not whale watching, lookout for Antarctic petrel and one of the most beautiful birds of the Southern Ocean, the snow petrel. The icebergs will also become more plentiful as we sail south. During our time at sea you can also join the lecture programme to learn more about the wildlife and history of the region.

King penguin colony, South Georgia



Humpback whale

Days 15 to 19 Antarctic Peninsula & South Shetland Islands. We have five days of exploration around the Peninsula which will include many of the best places for wildlife and magnificent scenery. Whilst we arrive with a planned itinerary the final schedule will be determined by our Captain and the Expedition Leader based on sea, weather and ice conditions. Using our Zodiacs we hope to make daily landings for unique close encounters with animals such as chinstrap and gentoo penguins, fur seals and petrels. We hope to visit the collapsed volcanic cone of Deception Island for a chance to visit Whalers Bay, Petermann Island, picturesque Neko Harbour, the Lemaire Channel where towering icebergs rise from the sea and Half Moon Island with its rookery of chinstrap penguins. We also hope to sail through the breathtaking Antarctic Sound, also known as 'iceberg alley', where massive icebergs drift north from the continent.

Days 20 & 21 The Drake Passage. Two days to relax on board and reminisce with your fellow travellers about all you have seen and experienced during our expedition. Enjoy a lecture, look for wildlife or simply relax as we make our way across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. Named after the 16th century English seaman, Sir Francis Drake, the Drake Passage separates the southernmost tip of South America from Antarctica. This is a particularly good area to spot royal albatross and blue petrel and we will also be on the lookout for many species of seabirds. We will arrive on the final evening in Ushuaia and berth overnight.

Day 22 Ushuaia to Buenos Aires. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. This evening we will attend a tango show with dinner.

Day 23 Buenos Aires to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 24 London. Arrive this morning.

Pre-cruise Iguazu Falls Extension 17th to 21st December 2024



Before joining our group in Buenos Aires, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, often considered the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of day is at leisure.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Iguazu Falls. On arrival check in to the hotel and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the falls. Today we will explore the Brazilian side of the falls walking through the tropical rainforest. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Iguazu Falls. Enjoy a full day at the Iguazu Falls on a series of guided walks seeing the upper and lower circuits and also the triple frontier the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Highlights today include the 80 metre fall 'Garganta del Diablo' (Devil's Throat). (B, L, D)

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning for our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the hotel and join your fellow travellers and follow the main itinerary from Day 2. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2595**; Single: **£2995**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights in Iguazu Falls, meals as per itinerary (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Magellan	Standard	£14495	£13995
Columbus	Superior	£15495	£14995
Marco Polo	Premium	£16495	£15995
Marco Polo	Corner	£16995	£16495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£18895	£18395
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£19995	£19495
Explorer	Island Suite	£21495	£20995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£18795	£18295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£20795	£20295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires with breakfast • 19 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Buenos Aires city tour • Dinner & tango show in Buenos Aires • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes • Use of parka jacket & rubber boots on board the MS Island Sky.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

A voyage from Mauritius exploring Madagascar, the Seychelles & Tanzania aboard the MS Hebridean Sky

5th to 21st January 2025



Here is an extraordinary cruise for those who enjoy the natural world and all its wonders and are looking for the opportunity to escape the British winter. Join us aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Indian Ocean as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary that suits her many talents best. With the vessel's purpose built Zodiacs we will land on otherwise inaccessible beaches, explore vast lagoons and coral reefs and encounter some of the most extraordinarily beautiful tropical scenery to be found anywhere in the world.

Sailing from Mauritius we will land on its nearest neighbour, Reunion, a little bit of France in the Indian Ocean and a stunning place to spend a day. We will discover the island's truly awesome and dramatic scenery before we continue to Madagascar for four days of exploration of this incredibly verdant and beautiful island with its unique flora and fauna. Continuing to the Seychelles we have three days scheduled in the Aldabra Island group. Being one of the most difficult places in the world to access and having a lack of freshwater has saved Aldabra from any tourism development and there is no landing strip so the only viable means of reaching this untouched region is by ship. Aldabra is the last breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures you should also encounter dolphins, turtles and whales as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean. Our expedition concludes in Tanzania where

we visit Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest, followed by a full day in atmospheric Zanzibar.

This expedition really is a veritable feast of beauty, the natural world and island culture. You will witness the bounty of the islands, the wildlife from the giant tortoises of Aldabra to the lemurs of Madagascar and an amazingly prolific birdlife.

Boobie, Aldabra



WHAT TO EXPECT...

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below is an extract from the ship's log from previous expeditions which will provide you with an idea of what to expect.

Masoala National Park & Nosy Mangabe:

This morning we were anchored off the Masoala Peninsula and our destination, Nosy Mangabe, is a small island in the national park. We disembarked on a beautiful golden beach backed by primary rainforest and once ashore we split into our various groups and headed off into the forest in search of wildlife. The lemurs appeared, racing through the treetops and there were frogs everywhere. There were the green-backed mantellas, quite brash in their black and green colours, tiny nondescript frogs laying their single egg in the stumps of bamboo. There were a number of leaf-tailed geckos which were so well camouflaged that they were almost impossible to see even at close range. Near the landing site, the lemurs came down to check us out and allowed for some great close up photographs. On walks inland we saw some huge boulders of 3.2 billion year old granodiorite that formed akin to how tors formed in the UK. This afternoon we had the opportunity to land here again for an afternoon exploratory walk or to enjoy a long Zodiac cruise along the peninsula.



Giant tortoise, Aldabra



Waterfalls, Reunion



Panther chameleon



Nosy Mangabe

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Mauritius. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mauritius. Arrive today and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky moored in Port Louis. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 3 Reunion Island. We arrive at breakfast in Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns with a uniquely French atmosphere. Fields of sugar cane and plantations of tropical fruits, vanilla and all manner of spices perfume the air. We will enjoy views from the Nez de Boeuf and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the 'Cite du Volcan' museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in St Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. Continue to Salazie, a verdant landscape and home to many waterfalls including the 'Voile de la Mariee' before spending some free time in St Denis on the way back to the ship. This afternoon is at leisure before we set sail this evening.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we sail towards Madagascar. Maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck to relax.

Day 5 Toamasina, Madagascar. Our first call in Madagascar is Toamasina, the country's main port and second largest city as well as the gateway to the Pangalanes Canals, a series of rivers, waterways and lakes that extend for over 400 miles down the island's east coast. Used mainly for transportation and fishing, the canals are also home to unspoiled beaches, lagoons and lakes whilst providing access to national parks and private reserves. This morning we will take a local boat cruise through the canal to enjoy the scenery followed by a nature walk in one of the private reserves. Enjoy lunch

in the reserve before returning to Toamasina this afternoon. Alternatively visit the Ivoloia Zoological Parc, a 282 hectare property combining a small zoo where we will see up to 12 species of lemur as well as indigenous tortoises and chameleons. Meanwhile in the surrounding forests we can see wild lemurs or malachite kingfishers on one of the many walking trails.

Days 6 & 7 Masoala National Park & Nosy Mangabe. We will spend a day and a half exploring from our anchorage in Antongil Bay. We discover Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees, plants and ferns and we hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders, we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers. We will also explore Madagascar's largest protected area, the Masoala National Park, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded forests, marsh and mangroves. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur and the ring-tailed mongoose. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured mantella frogs, all manner of extraordinary chameleons and is a refuge of the endangered Madagascar red-owl, Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. A series of walks for all levels will operate whilst there will also be the option to swim off the beach or perhaps visit the local village.

Day 8 Diego Suarez. This afternoon we will enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. Choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre, or a visit to the Malagasy rainforest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walking parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore the rainforest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot several



Stone Town, Zanzibar



Ring-tailed lemur



Turtle



Kilwa Kisiwani



Exploring by Zodiac

species of lemurs and chameleons as well as endemic birds, including parrots.

Day 9 Farquhar Group, Seychelles. Arriving in the Seychelles this morning, we will anchor off Farquhar where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of this remote atoll ringed island of coconut and casuarina trees. Hawksbill and green sea turtles come to the atoll to nest and several of the Farquhar Group's islands are Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. The island is a haven providing us with a delightful morning of bird watching or snorkelling. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising.

Days 10 to 12 Aldabra Islands. We have three days to enjoy the Aldabra group of islands and our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible, we hope to call at the island of Assumption which was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano in the early 20th century. Happily, peace has returned, and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here will be spent beachcombing, on nature walks or snorkelling. We also hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. We will also spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the numerous tortoises and robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.

Day 13 At Sea. Enjoy the day at sea as we continue our journey north.

Day 14 Kilwa Kisiwani, Tanzania. This morning we anchor off Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest, where the atmospheric ruins represent a wide sweep of East African coastal history, from the heights of the Swahili and Shirazi trading civilisation to the darker days of slavery and the uprisings against German rule. Once one of Africa's wealthiest towns, Kilwa Kisiwani

is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and contains the world's most extensive and best-preserved Swahili ruins. We will spend the morning on a walking tour and see the prominent fort and the Great Mosque which stood at the heart of this ancient city which was once the largest in East Africa. This afternoon we set sail for Zanzibar.

Day 15 Zanzibar. Zanzibar's harbour, crowded with dhows, very much sets the scene for our visit to this Arab-style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. On a morning walking tour, soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultan's Palace, the slave market and the Old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax and explore independently or join a tour to a spice farm to experience the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island. Alternatively, travel to Jozani Forest which sustains a variety of wildlife and birds, including the rare red colobus monkey, indigenous to the island.

Day 16 Dar es Salaam to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 17 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

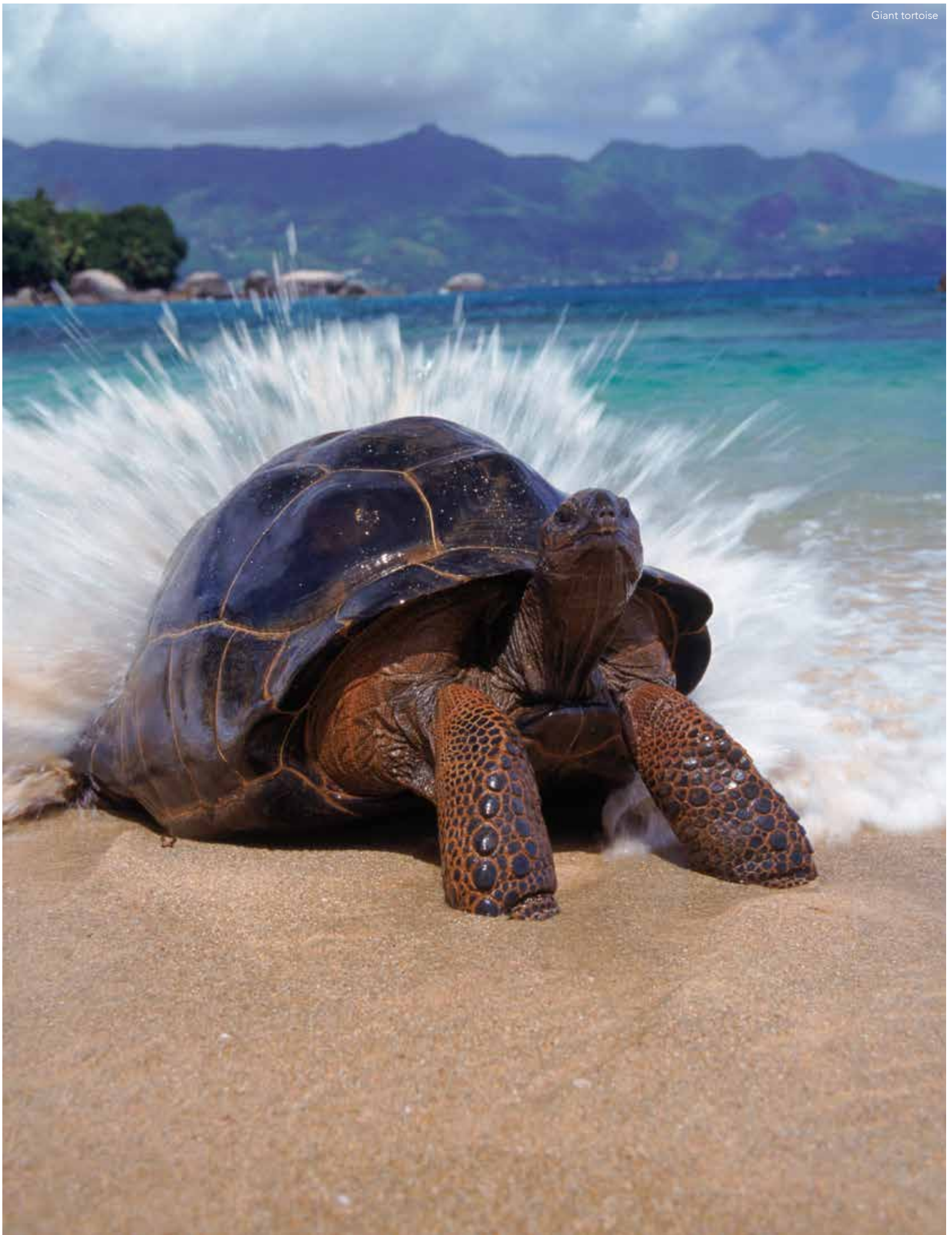
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Amundsen	Standard	£10795	£10295
Byrd	Superior	£11095	£10595
Mawson	Premium	£11395	£10895
Mawson	Corner	£11695	£11195
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£12695	£12195
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£13195	£12695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£14295	£13795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£13795	£13295
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£14495	£13995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

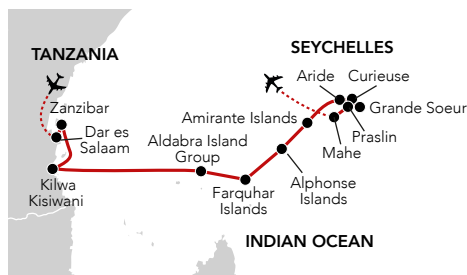
Not Included: Travel insurance, Tanzania visa.



PASSAGE THROUGH THE SEYCHELLES



Island hopping through the beautiful Seychelles aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
19th January to 2nd February 2025



The Seychelles offers the visitor a tropical beauty that is difficult, if not impossible to match anywhere else in the world. Spread out over a vast area of the Indian Ocean, they offer everything from quiet sophistication and enchanting scenery to wild and uninhabited nature reserves, where the very remoteness of the islands has protected them from the worst excesses of mankind. We know the region well having operated vessels there for almost thirty years and if ever there was an area perfect for expedition cruising it is here, a timeless world of wonders both below and above the water. With our fleet of Zodiacs we can reach the unreachable, landing on remote beaches, walking through verdant rainforest and national parks and getting close to some unique flora and fauna. Obviously, such beauty and serenity is best enjoyed with a small number of travelling companions and the MS Hebridean Sky is

an ideal vessel, with a maximum of just over 100 passengers she offers all the comforts of a larger vessel, but with the added luxury of a small number of passengers and an expert expedition team who will add much to your enjoyment.

Setting sail from Tanzania, we have a full day to explore atmospheric Zanzibar before we spend time discovering Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest. Continuing to the Seychelles, our journey will include all aspects of this extraordinary island nation from the lesser known and rarely visited Outer Seychelles where we visit the Aldabra Islands, the world's largest coral atoll and a World Heritage Site to the developed Inner Seychelles with staggeringly beautiful islands such as Aride and Praslin. For many the highlight of the voyage will be our time spent exploring the Aldabra Island Group, the breeding ground of the giant tortoise and in addition to seeing some of these endearing creatures we should also encounter dolphins and turtles as well as countless birds including the flightless rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean. To explore the abundant crystal clear waters of the vast lagoon and to set foot on atolls which have never been exploited by the hand of man is a rare experience.



Alternatively, travel to Jozani Forest which sustains a variety of wildlife and birds, including the rare red colobus monkey, indigenous to the island.

Day 4 Kilwa Kisiwani. Over lunch we anchor off Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest where the atmospheric ruins represent a wide sweep of East African coastal history, from the heights of the Swahili and Shirazi trading civilisation to the darker days of slavery and the uprisings against German rule. Once one of Africa's wealthiest towns, Kilwa Kisiwani is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and contains the world's most extensive and best-preserved Swahili ruins. We will spend the afternoon on a walking tour and see the prominent fort and the Great Mosque which stood at the heart of this ancient city which was once the largest in East Africa.

Day 5 At Sea. Our lecture programme continues as we spend a relaxing day at sea sailing to the Seychelles.

Days 6 to 8 Aldabra Islands, Seychelles. We have three days to enjoy the Aldabra group of islands and our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary is flexible, we hope to call at the island of Assumption which was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano in the early 20th century. Happily, peace has returned, and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here will be spent beachcombing, on nature walks or snorkelling. We also hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circles a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. We will also spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second

THE ITINERARY

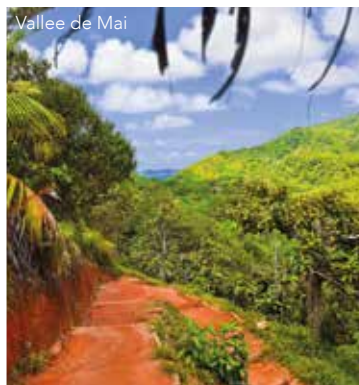
Day 1 London to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Dar es Salaam. Arrive today and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 3 Zanzibar. Our arrival into Zanzibar's colourful harbour which will be crowded with dhows, very much sets the scene for our visit to this Arab-style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. On a morning walking tour, soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultan's Palace, the slave market and the Old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax and explore independently or join a tour to a spice farm to experience the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island.



Seychelles



Vallee de Mai



Snorkelling, Assumption Island



Giant tortoise, Aldabra



Desroches



Fairy tern and chick

largest colony of frigate birds and the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the numerous tortoises and robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.

Day 9 Farquhar Group. Spend the morning at sea before we anchor off Farquhar where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of this remote, atoll ringed island of coconut and casuarina trees. Hawksbill and green sea turtles come to the atoll to nest and several of the Farquhar Group's islands are Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. The island is a haven providing us with a delightful afternoon of bird watching or snorkelling.

Day 10 Alphonse Islands. There are three islands in the Alphonse group and as we approach the islands over lunch you will understand why they are regarded by many to be the most beautiful of the 115 islands in the Seychelles archipelago. On the main island the circular lagoon offers good snorkelling and there are a number of tracks across the island to enjoy island walks.

Day 11 Amirante Islands. This morning we arrive at the 28 islands in the Amirante Group of islands which were discovered by Vasco de Gama in 1501 and are considered to be some of the most pristine and untouched islands in the world. If conditions permit we will spend the day on Desroches, the largest of the islands, although still only measuring six kilometres by 1.5 kilometres. Enjoy nature walks with our naturalists and members of the island's conservation team observing the flora and fauna and in particular the giant tortoises and nesting turtles. Meanwhile keen snorkellers will have the opportunity to swim over the outlying coral.

Day 12 Aride & Curieuse. Early this morning we will anchor off Aride, one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater, lesser noddy, frigatebirds and roseate tern and also five species unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. The island is largely covered in native woodland including the endemic wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. Sail over lunch to Curieuse, a rugged island which was

once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitor centre. The island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk.

Day 13 Praslin & Grande Soeur. From our overnight anchorage we will land on Praslin to explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail the short distance to Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited island. Spend the afternoon walking the island trails which link the island's white sand beaches and maybe catch sight of some of the giant Aldabra tortoises or enjoy a final snorkelling opportunity in the turquoise waters.

Day 14 Mahe to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 15 London. Arrive this morning.

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	£10295	£9795
Byrd	Superior	£10595	£10095
Mawson	Premium	£10995	£10495
Mawson	Corner	£11495	£10995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£11995	£11495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£12395	£11895
Shackleton	Hebridean	£13795	£13295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£12295	£11795
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£12595	£12095

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 & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, Tanzania visa.



PASSAGE TO INDIA

A voyage from the Seychelles to Chennai including the Maldives & Sri Lanka aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Rear Admiral John Lippiett

31st January to 18th February 2025

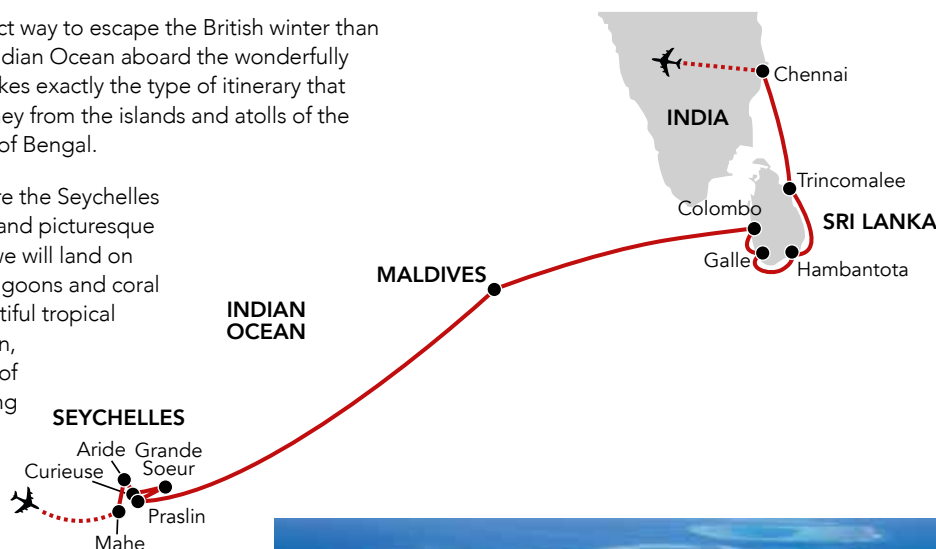


We find it difficult to imagine a more perfect way to escape the British winter than to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Indian Ocean aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Hebridean Sky as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary that suits her best. Join us in the tropics as we journey from the islands and atolls of the Indian Ocean and around Sri Lanka to the Bay of Bengal.

Our journey to Chennai first allows us to explore the Seychelles and Maldives, two of the world's most pristine and picturesque archipelagos. With our purpose built Zodiacs we will land on otherwise inaccessible beaches, explore vast lagoons and coral reefs and encounter some extraordinarily beautiful tropical scenery. Our small ship is ideal for such a region, allowing us to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this paradise. After all, it would be disappointing to find yourself in the company of hundreds on what was a deserted beach.

Contrasting well with this natural world exploration, our itinerary then takes a more cultural focus as we reach Sri Lanka. Here we spend time in Colombo with its Buddhist and Hindu temples and old colonial buildings before exploring Galle Fort, the fortified old city founded by the Portuguese colonists in the 16th century and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is also the option to visit Polonnaruwa, the 5th century ancient city considered to be one of the best planned archaeological sites in the country. Whilst in Sri Lanka we also discover some natural world wonders with visits to Yala National Park, renowned for its rich wildlife, most notably its many elephants, and Bundala National Park, a haven for birdwatchers and Sri Lanka's first designated wetland site of international importance.

After much adventure, our voyage will end with a leisurely day at sea as we sail across to Chennai allowing for time to catch up with fellow travellers and the onboard team regarding all you have seen and experienced on our passage to India. This unusual itinerary will appeal to those looking for something different, incorporating explorations of the natural world with a more expedition focus, followed by a fascinating look at Sri Lanka. With the MS Hebridean 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.



Maldives



Curieuse

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail the short distance to our overnight anchorage at Aride.

Day 3 Aride & Curieuse. Aride is one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater, lesser noddy, frigate birds and roseate tern in addition to five species unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. The island is largely covered in native woodland, including the endemic Wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. We will sail over lunch to Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitor centre. The island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we will explore on an island walk.

Day 4 Grande Soeur & Praslin. Spend the morning on Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited island. Walk the island trails which link the white sand beaches and maybe catch sight of some of the island's giant Aldabra tortoises, enjoy a swim or join a snorkelling opportunity in the turquoise



Frigate bird



Hawksbill Turtle



Exploring by Zodiac



Seema Malaka Temple, Colombo



The Lighthouse, Galle Fort

waters. Our last call in the Seychelles will be at Praslin where we explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. This evening we will clear custom formalities as we start our journey to the Maldives.

Days 5 to 7 At Sea. Relax and enjoy our days at sea. Watch out for the bird and marine life and listen to the interesting talks by our onboard team. We are assured of warm weather so make the most of the fresh air, get lost in a novel from your deck chair and enjoy all the comforts of the MS Hebridean Sky.

Days 8 to 11 Maldives. We spend four days exploring the whole archipelago. This vast area of ocean is scattered with staggeringly beautiful dots of land surrounded by a cerulean sea. It offers some of the finest lagoons, beaches and coral reefs in the world. Our day to day schedule will be left in the capable hands of the Captain and Expedition Leader and we hope to include visits to a number of atolls as we sail from the southern islands to the north. Our expedition team will be on hand to take guided walking tours to explore the birds and wildlife on land whilst our Snorkel Master will take us to some stunning reefs to view the wonderful coral and marine life.

Day 12 At Sea. Our lecture programme continues as we make our way across the Laccadive Sea to Sri Lanka.

Day 13 Colombo, Sri Lanka. Arrive today in Colombo, Sri Lanka's commercial capital and largest city which dates back over 600 years having been a trading hub for sea merchants and colonial rulers. Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, mosques and churches reflect the various beliefs practiced all over the island and the beautiful facades of the old, colonial buildings contrast with the modern but elegant shopping arcades that have been developed inside. There will be a choice of activities today including a cultural tour visiting the Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple, the National Museum and Independence Square. Alternatively visit the Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, located on the outskirts of the city, it is believed that Buddha visited and preached his doctrine here to a gathering of serpent-kings. Today worshippers come to lay sprigs of lotus flowers around the great white

dagoba, light oil lamps, and sprinkle the base of the Tree of Enlightenment with purifying water. We can see the fine carvings and lovely frescoes, fascinating geometrically patterned ceiling paintings, and three important images of Buddha.

Day 14 Galle. Awake this morning in Galle where we take a walking tour of the impressive Galle Fortress. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is where the Portuguese first landed in Sri Lanka in the 16th century and it was then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Also see the maritime museum, which is housed in an old Dutch house, the lighthouse, mosque and church before taking a stroll through the narrow streets with their shuttered mansions and cloistered courtyards. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore Galle further at your own pace. Alternatively join a tour to a nearby tea plantation where we will learn about the growing processes and enjoy a tasting.

Days 15 & 16 Bundala National Park, Yala National Park & Kataragama. We have one and a half days in Hambantota from where we will visit a couple of the region's highlights. We will visit Yala National Park, known as Ruhunu it was designated as a wildlife sanctuary in 1900 and is now home to 44 varieties of mammal and 215 bird species. This vast region of arid scrub interspersed with pockets of dense forest and open patches of grassland hosts one of the highest densities of leopard in the world. On a Jeep safari we also hope to see sloth bears, jackals, wild boar and elephants. From Hambantota there will also be the opportunity to explore Bundala National Park, a haven for birdwatchers and Sri Lanka's first designated wetland site of international importance. Located in the deep south of the island, the diversity of the park lies in its landscape, from dry thorny scrubland to sand dunes and salt marshes, to mangroves and lagoons. Take a jeep through the park and discover close to 200 species of bird as well as many species of butterfly, crocodiles, elephants and deer. Alternatively you may wish to visit Kataragama, one of the three most important religious sites in Sri Lanka and a popular place of pilgrimage for the Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and the indigenous Vedda communities of Sri Lanka and South India. According to the Buddhists this was one of the 16 places visited by Buddha during his stays in Sri Lanka. We will explore the religious complex built across the Menik Ganga which contains buildings from all three religions including the mosque, the temple, the small archaeological museum and the principal



shrine of the god Kataragama. After our explorations we will spend a relaxing afternoon at sea as we sail to Trincomalee.

Day 17 Trincomalee, Pigeon Island National Park & Polonnaruwa. Today we are in Trincomalee on the north east coast of Sri Lanka, one of the finest deep water harbours of the world. Choose to join a morning excursion of Trincomalee which includes Fort Frederick, built by the Portuguese in 1623, and walk to Swami Rock to see the Koneswaram Temple, one of the five most holy Shaivite temples in the country. Alternatively join a local boat to Pigeon Island National Park, an island off the Sri Lankan coast and one of two national marine parks in the country. Here it will be possible to snorkel over the coral reefs and maybe see some of the turtle species that reside here. A third option today will be a full day tour to Polonnaruwa. This 5th century ancient city was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982 and is considered to be one of the best planned archaeological sites in the country. The entire landscape of the region is punctuated by high man-made reservoirs, the most famous of which is Parakrama Samudra or the Sea of Parakrama, built during King Parakramabahu's reign in 1164-1196 AD. The monuments in the ancient city are relatively well preserved and highlights are the Royal Palace complex, including the King's Palace and Audience Hall and the spectacular Gal Vihare complex of four massive images of the Buddha cut from a single slab of granite.

Day 18 Sailing to Chennai, India. After a day at sea we arrive this evening in Chennai where we clear immigration formalities and moor overnight.

Day 19 Chennai to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that this voyage is a combination of both expedition and destination style cruising. The first half of the itinerary will be expeditionary in nature with Zodiac landing craft used for every landing whilst in the Seychelles and Maldives and excursions focused around nature walks, swimming and snorkelling. For the second part of the itinerary, we will be alongside whilst in India and Sri Lanka with guided tours and safaris making use of local transport including jeeps and coaches.



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	£11495	£10995
Byrd	Superior	£11895	£11395
Mawson	Premium	£12295	£11795
Mawson	Corner	£12695	£12195
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£14395	£13895
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£15295	£14795
Shackleton	Hebridean	£16295	£15795
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£11495	£10995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£11895	£11395

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 17 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 • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas for India & Sri Lanka.

SOUTHERN INDIA & SRI LANKA BY SEA

A voyage from Chennai to Mumbai aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Dr John Stevens

16th February to 3rd March 2025



For those seeking an informative and relaxing experience of India and Sri Lanka, what better way than a journey aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky in the company of just over 100 fellow travellers. From this fine vessel, you can explore some of India's and Sri Lanka's most interesting coastal regions with the added knowledge that you will be returning each evening to all the comforts of a small and luxuriously appointed vessel. Exploring by small ship, we are able to see so much in just over two weeks, allowing for some leisurely interludes. Accompanied by an excellent onboard team, we can learn of the history and natural world as we journey between our fascinating ports of call.

There is nowhere like India for observing the colourful day to day life, its markets, traders and general hubbub of the towns and cities, and contrastingly few places offer the peace and tranquillity which can be found around its temples, holy places and countryside. The intricate nature of its religions and cultures, together with its rich and absorbing history will be brought to life by our Guest Speaker, with informal onboard talks and the knowledgeable local guides who will accompany us ashore.

Amongst the many highlights of our time in India will be our couple of days in the Malabar port of Cochin from where we will explore the 'backwaters', a network of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals, observing the day to day life. Boats carrying the local produce of copra, coir and cashews travel slowly through peaceful, palm-shaded waterways and keen birdwatchers can have a field day looking out for fish eagles, kingfishers, egrets, herons and many more.

Whilst in Sri Lanka, cultural highlights include the superb ancient remains of the royal ancient city of the Kingdom of Polonnaruwa, along with the remnants of the Portuguese and Dutch colonial eras in Trincomalee and Galle and the fascinating and diverse city of Colombo. Not forgetting the country's magnificent natural world wonders, there will be the opportunity to visit the Bundala and Yala National Parks with their vast array of wildlife.

All this and more will be achieved with ease with the benefit of returning to the vessel each evening to recharge the batteries with good food, caring service and a restful night's sleep ready to witness another day in these great lands of ancient faiths, customs and traditions along with some spectacular natural world wonders.



Kapaleshwarar Temple, Chennai

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Chennai, India. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Chennai. Arrive today and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore at your own pace.

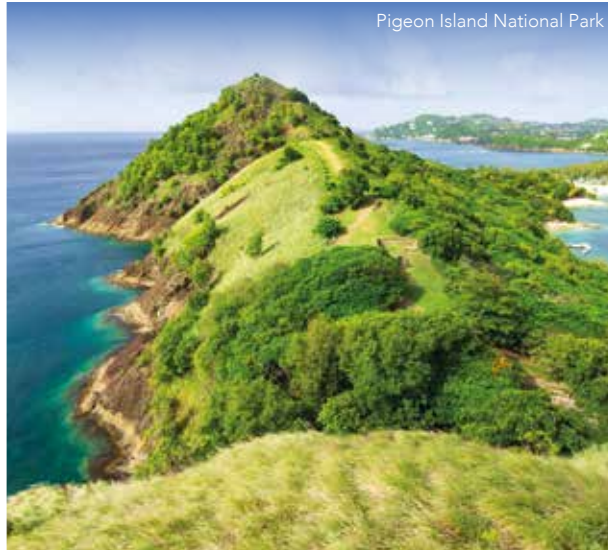
Day 3 Chennai. After breakfast we will explore the flourishing city of Chennai. See the 14th century St Thome Cathedral, the Kapaleeshwara Temple dedicated to Shiva and the impressive Government Museum, which includes a superb collection of South Indian bronzes from the 7th century Pallava era. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant before we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend the day cruising towards Sri Lanka. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck to relax.

Day 5 Trincomalee, Pigeon Island National Park & Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka. Arrive on the north east coast of Sri Lanka in Trincomalee, one of the finest deep water harbours of the world. Choose to join a morning excursion which includes Fort Frederick, built by the Portuguese in 1623, and walk to Swami Rock to see the Koneswaram Temple, one of the five most holy Shaivite temples in the country. Alternatively join a local boat to Pigeon Island National



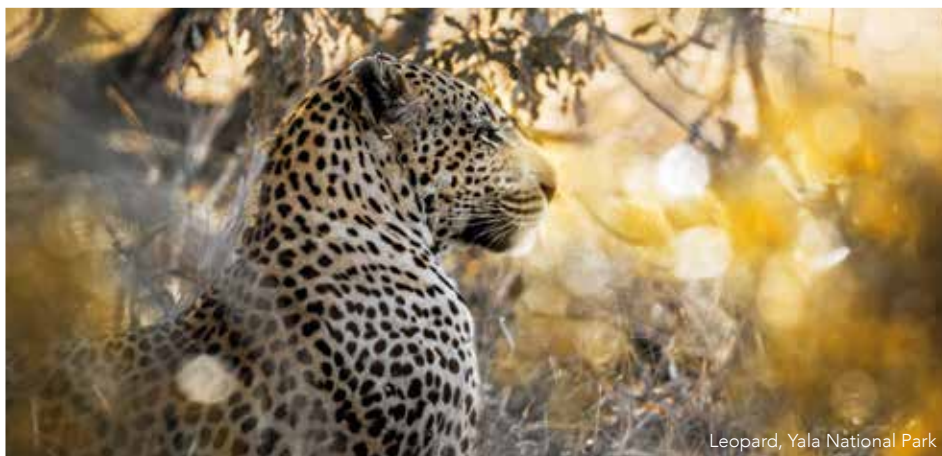
Buddha statue at Polonnaruwa



Pigeon Island National Park



Rose-ringed parakeet, Bundala National Park



Leopard, Yala National Park

Park, an island off the Sri Lankan coast and one of two national marine parks in the country. Here it will be possible to snorkel over the coral reefs and maybe see some of the turtle species that reside here. A third option today will be a full day tour to Polonnaruwa. This 5th century ancient city was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982 and is considered to be one of the best planned archaeological sites in the country. The entire landscape of the region is punctuated by high man-made reservoirs, the most famous of which is Parakrama Samudra or the Sea of Parakrama, built during King Parakramabahu's reign in 1164-1196 AD. The monuments in the ancient city are relatively well preserved and highlights are the Royal Palace complex, including the King's Palace and Audience Hall and the spectacular Gal Vihare complex of four massive images of the Buddha cut from a single slab of granite.

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indigenous Vedda communities of Sri Lanka and South India. According to the Buddhists this was one of the 16 places visited by Buddha during his stays in Sri Lanka. We will explore the religious complex built across the Menik Ganga which contains buildings from all three religions including the mosque, the temple, the small archaeological museum and the principal shrine of the god Kataragama.

Day 8 Galle. Awake this morning in Galle where we take a walking tour of the impressive Galle Fortress. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the port where the Portuguese first landed in Sri Lanka in the 16th century and was then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the 17th century. Also see the maritime museum, which is housed in an old Dutch house, the lighthouse, mosque and church before taking a stroll through the narrow streets with their shuttered mansions and cloistered courtyards. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore Galle further at your own pace or alternatively join a tour to a nearby tea plantation where we will learn about the growing processes and enjoy a tasting.

Day 9 Colombo. Arrive today in Colombo, Sri Lanka's commercial capital and largest city which dates back over 600 years having been a trading hub for sea merchants and colonial rulers. Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, mosques and churches reflect the various beliefs practiced all over the island and the beautiful facades of the old, colonial buildings contrast with the modern but elegant shopping arcades that have been developed inside. There will be a choice of activities today including a cultural tour visiting the Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple, the National Museum and Independence Square. Alternatively visit the Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, located on the outskirts of the city it is believed that Buddha visited and preached his doctrine here to a gathering of serpent-kings. Today worshippers come to lay sprigs of lotus flowers around the great white dagoba, light oil lamps, and sprinkle the base of the Tree of Enlightenment with purifying water. We can

Se Cathedral, Old Goa



Kerala backwaters



see the fine carvings and lovely frescoes, fascinating geometrically patterned ceiling paintings, and three important images of Buddha.

Day 10 Trivandrum, India. After a morning at sea we return to India at the Keralan port of Trivandrum. Built over seven hills, the 'city of the sacred serpents' retains some of old Kerala's ambience, with its pagoda shaped buildings, red-tiled roofs and narrow winding lanes. There is much to see here and on our afternoon excursion we will include the old fort area around the 260 year old Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple.

Days 11 & 12 Cochin. Cochin is an extraordinary city with strong influences of Portuguese, Chinese, Arab, Dutch and British cultures still much in evidence today and we have two days to enjoy this intriguing Malabar port. Visits will include the serene Kerala backwaters at Alleppey where we will board a local boat for a cruise past colonial warehouses and coconut thatched houses. For centuries, these canals provided a safe and efficient means of transportation for goods and people moving between the heartland of Kerala and the port towns along the coast. Even today, traditional barges, or kettuvallams, haul coconut, pepper, rice and other goods along the waterways. We will also have time in Cochin to explore the diverse mix of cultures and religions that together, with its strong trading past in spices and silks, make for a fascinating city. Discover Mattancherry Palace with its ornately decorated rooms including some marvellous ancient murals. We see the oldest European church in India, St Francis and the ruins of the fort. On our first evening as we moor overnight, we will enjoy a Kathakali performance on board after dinner. Based on the subject from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and stories from Saiva literature, Kathakali is one of the main forms of classical dance drama of India and indigenous to Kerala.

Day 13 Mangalore. In the 14th and 15th centuries Mangalore traded with Persian and Arab merchants and was fought over by the Nayaka princes and the Portuguese. In the 18th century its control was contested by Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan on the one hand, and the British on the other. The influences of its turbulent history are still apparent in the cosmopolitan attitude and diverse religions that exist here. Today it is a business and commercial centre and is India's ninth largest cargo handling port exporting 75% of the country's coffee and the bulk of its cashew nuts and spices. Arriving at lunchtime we spend the afternoon learning about the cashew processing industry, before we visit Gokarnatha Temple and the remarkable St. Aloysius Chapel, with a fascinating series of intricate paintings that cover virtually every square inch of the interior ceiling and walls. Created over a period of two years by Brother Antonio Moscheni, an Italian artist, the chapel with its magnificent art work is one of the city's hidden gems.

Day 14 Goa. In the 15th century Goa was the largest trading centre on India's west coast and when the Portuguese arrived in the early 16th century it was their plan to set up a colony to seize the control of the spice trade. Goa remained a Portuguese colony until 1961 when it became the 25th state of the Indian Republic. Whilst famous for her beautiful beaches Goa offers wonderful architecture with a mixture of Hindu and Catholic styles, unique

history, rich culture and pretty natural scenery. Today we will explore Old Goa with its fine Basilica of Bom Jesus and the Neo Classical Church of St Cajetan. Afterwards choose to return to the ship or continue to a spice plantation where the cultivation of cardamom, chilli, cloves and coriander can be seen. We will enjoy the smells and tastes whilst we learn about their uses in Indian life.

Day 15 Mumbai. After a morning at sea we sail into Mumbai, a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fisherman, who still occupy parts of the city shoreline today. Mumbai was derived from 'Mumba' the name of the Hindu goddess 'Mumbadevi' and 'Aai' – mother in the local Marathi language. First ceded to the Portuguese, the British Government took possession of the islands in 1665 before leasing them to the East India Company who founded the port and saw the city grow in size and importance. This afternoon we explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi when he stayed in Mumbai from 1917 to 1934 and Dhobi Ghat where we can observe the vast open air Indian laundry. Alternatively, travel to Gharapuri Island, better known as Elephanta Island and view the remarkable caves designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This labyrinth of cave temples feature courtyards, shrines, remarkable statues and vibrant sculptures that date from the 5th to 7th century AD.

Day 16 Mumbai to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

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	£9995	£9495
Byrd	Superior	£10395	£9895
Mawson	Premium	£10595	£10095
Mawson	Corner	£10995	£10495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£12295	£11795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£12795	£12295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£13795	£13295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9995	£9495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10395	£9895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Chennai • 13 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 • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on day 2, visas for India & Sri Lanka.

POST-CRUISE EXTENSION TO JAIPUR, AGRA & DELHI 3rd to 8th March 2025

If you would like to spend some additional time exploring India after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering the opportunity to join a five night extension which will include Jaipur, Agra for the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort and Delhi.

Taj Mahal



Birla Temple, Jaipur



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Mumbai to Jaipur, India. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Jaipur. Arrive in the early afternoon and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Originally the city's walls were the colour of red sandstone, Jaipur's universal coat of pink only came in 1876 to coincide with the visit of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII). Almost the entire city was given a coat of pink paint, thus giving it the name 'The Pink City'. This afternoon we will visit the Birla Temple and Albert Hall before we return to the hotel for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 2 Jaipur. Located near the deserts of Rajasthan, the movement and collection of water plays an important role for the city. This morning our guide will show us the ancient channels, Roman aqueducts and reservoirs and explain about their history and creation. Also see the Hawa Mahal, the ornamental facade of this 'Palace of Winds' is a prominent landmark in Jaipur, plastered pink and encrusted with fine trellis work and elaborate balconies. After lunch we will visit the Observatory and the City Palace which maintains the Maharaja's private collection of textiles and arms. Return to the hotel for some time at leisure before dinner is served in the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Jaipur to Agra. This morning we drive to Agra (approximately 4.5 hours). Agra's history dates back to the Mughals who proclaimed it their capital in 1565. Located on the Yamuna River the city grew as a centre of architectural, political and trading activity. Today the city is a kaleidoscope of India with various communities living in harmony. After lunch we visit Agra Fort, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565, before continuing to the city including the bazaars which are rich with spices, foods fabrics, jewellery and textiles. We stay overnight in Agra and have dinner in the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Agra. After breakfast we see the legendary beauty and the white marble domes of the elegant Taj Mahal. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an exquisite mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, Rudyard Kipling described the building as "the embodiment of all things pure". After our visit we will have lunch and an afternoon at leisure to relax in the hotel or partake in some independent sightseeing. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Agra to Delhi. Drive this morning to Delhi (approximately 4 hours). Capital to seven different cultures over the course of its history, New Delhi is a fascinating fusion of them all. The art and architecture of the city reflects its ancient and multifaceted heritage. A Hindu fortress, a Mughal tomb, an Islamic minaret and mosque and a Bahai temple give an idea of the cultural richness found here. After lunch, visit Gurudwara Bangla Sahabib (Sikh temple), a quiet and serene spot amid the bustling marketplace. After paying homage at the sanctum, where the holy book is kept, we can stroll along the tranquil pond in the Gurudwara. Return to the hotel for our final dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Delhi to London. Check out and transfer to the airport this morning for our scheduled flight to London. (D)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2895** Single: **£3495**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from Mumbai to Jaipur, two nights hotel accommodation in Jaipur and Agra, overnight hotel accommodation in Delhi, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, guided tours as described, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PATAGONIAN ODYSSEY

An exploration of Patagonia & the Chilean Fjords aboard the MS Island Sky

25th February to 14th March 2025



Those who have a passion for the wilder places on our planet usually have Patagonia on their must do list. Shaped by fire and ice, this rugged, yet hauntingly beautiful land of windswept pampas, hanging glaciers and cloud piercing peaks, remains today as enticing and fascinating as it did to Magellan, Drake and more latterly Darwin.

Chile is made for cruising. Its shape and geographic location is just perfect; thousands of miles of coastline that you can of course explore aboard one of the many huge cruise vessels calling at the major cities of South America, or alternatively join us aboard the 118-passenger MS Island Sky and enjoy the wonders of this magical country, some of which only small ships have access to.

Wildlife abounds here and the skies are filled with the cries of seabirds. Albatross' and petrels' wheel overhead and sea lions bark from their rocky outcrops. Helping us understand all the wonders we will encounter will be our experts and expedition staff who will accompany us ashore and our small ship will allow us to enter small inlets and explore fjords and stretches of magnificent coastline.



Torres del Paine National Park

THE ITINERARY

Please note that flexibility is key to a successful expedition. Although we have outlined an itinerary below, this is only a preliminary plan, our exact route will depend on weather conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. This afternoon is free to relax in the hotel or maybe join an orientation tour of the city including the Plaza de Mayo, the Cathedral and the Cabildo (Old City Hall) before we continue towards the most traditional neighbourhood of Buenos Aires, San Telmo which is characterised by its old colonial houses and the cobblestoned streets. End the tour in La Boca to look around the colourful zinc houses which used to be the refuge and home for the first immigrants and popular artists. The evening is free for independent exploration.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Ushuaia. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Ushuaia. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky and start our adventure this evening as we cruise down the Beagle Channel. Here the mountains, still partly unmapped, drop as sheer, densely wooded cliffs into the channel and penguins, dolphins and South American sea lions abound in the channel.

Day 4 Cape Horn. At dawn we arrive at Cape Horn, one of the best known maritime landmarks in the world. Magellan was the first European visitor here in 1530 and prior to the opening of the Panama Canal it was an important staging post. Weather permitting we hope to use our Zodiacs to land and enjoy a walk to the monument. After lunch we continue our journey along the Chilean coast and into the fjords.

Days 5 to 11 Chilean Fjords, Punta Arenas & Torres del Paine National Park. During the next seven days we will enjoy some of the most stunning scenery imaginable and the MS Island Sky is the perfect vessel for the exploratory and scenic cruising that we will be undertaking. This vast area of mountains, glaciers, islands, lakes and waterfalls is untouched by man except for a few fishing villages which perch at 'the end of the world'. We will make good use of our time exploring the beautiful, protected waters, enjoying the renowned fjords of southern Chile which rival those of southeast Alaska in their raw beauty and prolific wildlife. We hope for calm weather when crystal clear reflections of vertical walls and hanging glaciers are broken only by the ripples of seabirds or maybe a passing dolphin. See how quickly you run out of suitable adjectives to describe all you are witnessing. Our route will be managed by our experienced Captain and Expedition Leader alongside the local pilots. As well as stunning scenic cruising, the area is ideal for Zodiac forays. As we continue our journey we hope to navigate the Kirke Narrows, a remarkable channel leading between lush, forested shores, so narrow it can only be sailed at low tide. Dropping anchor at Puerto Natales, we enjoy a full day in South America's largest national park, the Torres del Paine. This is one of the most spectacular places on earth, a vast uninhabited wilderness of glacier-draped mountains, windswept pampas, turquoise glacial lakes and verdant valleys. Look out for herds of guanacos (a smaller version of the llama), rheas, Patagonian hares, foxes and rich birdlife and see the stunning rock formations of the Horns of Paine. We also hope to operate Zodiac excursions ashore in some of the remote fjords we pass on our journey. At the southern town of Punta Arenas visit one of the penguin colonies to see the large groups of Magellan penguins that return each year to mate on this coast.

Day 12 Chiloe Island. Chile's second largest island, Chiloe Island was one of the first Spanish strongholds in the Pacific Southern South America. Once the island had been conquered, it was hard for indigenous uprisings



to reconquer and as a result it became a major link in the Spanish trade route around Cape Horn. The island was also visited by Darwin aboard the HMS Beagle in 1831. Our visit ashore on this mainly forested island will include Castro, one of the oldest towns in the Americas, known for its unique wooden architecture, churches and stilted houses. Join an island drive which will include the wooden cathedral of St Francis and the historic old quarter.

Day 13 Puerto Montt. Over breakfast we land at picturesque Puerto Montt, a resort town in the Lake District. Settled by German colonists in the mid-19th century, much of its early Middle-European styled architecture remains, rendering a slightly bizarre feel in such an obviously un-European setting. Leaving the ship we will head to the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park which is the oldest in Chile and contains three commanding volcanoes in Osorno, Calbuco and Puntagudo. We will see the emerald Todos los Santos Lake at the foot of Mount Osorno as well as the mighty Petrohue River and the rapids that crash through lava channels creating a series of magnificent waterfalls. We return to the ship via Puerto Varas, situated in a stunning location on Lago Llanquihue with a backdrop of the iconic Osorno volcano.

Day 14 Valdivia. From the port of Niebla, this morning's tour takes us to the colonial city of Valdivia, one of the oldest European settlements in Chile. An excursion will include time at the Canelos Tower, built in 1774 and which at the time of its construction was one of only two land entrances to the city, equipped with a wide portcullis and drawbridge. We will see the San Francisco Church before spending some time exploring the historical and anthropological museum and the bustling Mercado Fluvial. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 15 At Sea. Enjoy a day at sea as we continue our journey north.

Day 16 Valparaiso to Santiago. Disembark after breakfast and take an orientation tour of Valparaiso including Fisherman's Wharf, the Plaza Soto Mayor and the Naval Academy. Afterwards we drive out to the Casablanca Valley which is now one of the country's premier wine areas and learn about the cultivation of grapes and visit one of the vineyards for a tasting and lunch. In the late afternoon we arrive at our hotel in Santiago for an overnight stay where the rest of the day and evening are at leisure for independent exploration.

Day 17 Santiago to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 18 London. Arrive this morning.

Pre-cruise Iguazu Falls Extension 22nd to 26th February 2025

Before joining our group in Buenos Aires, we are offering the opportunity to visit the Iguazu Falls, often considered the most dramatic waterfalls in the world.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Buenos Aires. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of day and evening at leisure.

Day 3 Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Iguazu Falls. On arrival check in to the hotel and this afternoon enjoy a guided tour of the falls. Today we will explore the Brazilian side of the falls walking through the tropical rainforest. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Iguazu Falls. Enjoy a full day at the Iguazu Falls on a series of guided walks seeing the upper and lower circuits and also the triple frontier the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Highlights today include the 80 metre fall "Garganta del Diablo" (Devil's Throat). (B, L, D)

Day 5 Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires. Return to the airport this morning and join our scheduled flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival transfer to the hotel and join our fellow travellers (follow main itinerary from day 2). (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2595**; Single: **£2995**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Buenos Aires and two nights hotel accommodation in Iguazu Falls, meals as per itinerary (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), guided tours at the Iguazu Falls, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

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
Magellan	Standard	£10495	£9995
Columbus	Superior	£10695	£10195
Marco Polo	Premium	£10995	£10495
Marco Polo	Corner	£11495	£10995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£12995	£12495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£13495	£12995
Explorer	Island Suite	£13495	£12995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£13495	£12995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£13695	£13195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 13 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Overnight hotel accommodation in Santiago and Buenos Aires with breakfast • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

IN THE WAKE OF THE DHOWS

A passage from Mumbai to Doha aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Stuart Laing
1st to 16th March 2025

For those looking for something a little different, our voyage from Mumbai to Doha offers a wonderful opportunity to escape to warmer climes and explore in some depth a region which has fascinated travellers for centuries and some places that have thankfully been mostly neglected by the tourism world.

Our journey begins with an overnight stay in the vibrant city of Mumbai followed by time exploring some fascinating places in the state of Gujarat, places which are off the well-trodden tourist path and difficult to explore independently including Porbandar from where you can choose to visit the Gir National Park with its diverse wildlife and the former Portuguese island of Diu. Leaving India, we spend two relaxing days at sea as we head for the Arabian Gulf, our journey mirroring countless past voyages of Arab dhows that have sailed between all points of India and Arabia, trading spices, materials and all manner of luxurious and exotic goods.

Experiences during our voyage are many and varied and we will explore impressive forts, grand palaces, bustling bazaars, remote villages and desert landscapes combined with the modern metropolises of Dubai and Doha. All this will be achieved with great ease aboard the MS Hebridean Sky, an ideal vessel for serious exploration. With just over 100 or so like-minded travellers we are able to explore in a way that is impossible from aboard a large cruise vessel.



Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Abu Dhabi



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Mumbai, India. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Mumbai. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax before we meet for dinner.

Day 3 Mumbai. Mumbai is a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fisherman who still occupy parts of the city shoreline today. First ceded to Portuguese, the British Government took possession of the islands in 1665 before leasing them to the English East India Company who founded the port and saw the city grow in size and importance. This morning we explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi and Dhobi Ghat where we can observe the vast open air Indian laundry. After lunch we transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and sail this evening.

Day 4 Diu. Arrive this morning in Gujarat and the former Portuguese island colony of Diu which was the first landing point of the Parsis who fled from Persia. The island was an important trading post from the 14th to 16th centuries when the Ottoman Turks controlled the shipping routes in the Arabian Sea and before being ceded to the Portuguese. Diu was a Portuguese colony from 1531 to 1961 and is now part of the Union Territories. The relaxed atmosphere and tranquil streets reflect its colonial history and contrasts with other Indian towns. Enjoy a morning exploring the impressive coastal Portuguese fort, the Baroque church of St Paul and the colourful morning market. After lunch on board maybe return out to one of the local beaches or wander the quiet streets of Diu old town. Alternatively, for those wishing to visit Gir National Park, an optional overnight excursion will depart from the vessel today.

Day 5 Porbandar. Continuing our exploration of Gujarat we arrive in Porbandar which was a thriving port during the Mughal period before being taken by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Today it is better known as the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi in 1869. On a morning tour we will discover Kirti Mandir, the family house where Gandhi was born and enjoy a tuk-tuk ride to visit the Hindu temple dedicated to Sudama, a friend of Lord Krishna. Alternatively, the keen birders can enjoy time at the Gosabara Wetlands Bird Sanctuary on the city's outskirts which offers a breathtaking view of large flocks of flamingos, Dalmatian and demoiselle pelicans, cranes, pintails and various other duck varieties. Gosabara has recorded 225 different varieties of birds, a large number of them migrating during the winter months and attracted to the flooded marshlands in the region.

Days 6 & 7 At Sea. Spend a leisurely two days at sea.

Day 8 Sur & Wahiba Sands, Oman. The port of Sur has been on seafarers' maps for centuries, as both an important port and historic shipbuilding centre. Dhows built here traded and plundered the East African coastline and islands of the Indian Ocean. Today, it is a quiet and picturesque town with a peaceful air. Our tour will take us to a dhow yard where vessels are still made without a plan or blueprint as well as the fish market and the impressive restored Sineslah Fort where you can enjoy views over the town and coastline. The afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace or join a 4x4 jeep tour to the Wahiba Sands desert where we can view the impressive sand dunes.



Spices



Flamingos, Gosabara Wetlands Bird Sanctuary



Musandam Peninsula



Nizwa Fort



Grand Mosque, Muscat

Day 9 Muscat. Muscat became the capital of Oman in 1793 and the focus of Oman's great seafaring empire of the 18th and 19th centuries. The sea has always been at the centre of Muscat's identity and the historic ports of Old Muscat and Mutrah constitute a major part of the city. A morning city tour of Muscat will include the imposing Grand Mosque and the fascinating Bait al Zubair Museum situated in a converted townhouse which exhibits Omani Heritage with photos and traditional handicrafts and furniture. We also pass the Sultan's Palace 'Al Alam'. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure, perhaps stroll along the corniche or visit the Mutrah Souk.

Day 10 Nizwa. Today on a full day excursion we will drive inland through fascinating scenery to see one of the most impressive forts in Oman starting at the sultanate of Nizwa, Oman's ancient capital where we find the 17th century fort which has a unique 40 metre tall round tower. We will continue to Jabrin Castle built in 1675 as a centre of learning for astrology, medicine and Islamic Law. After exploring one of the oldest souqs in the country we will take lunch in a nearby restaurant before we return to Muscat and sail this evening.

Days 11 Kumzar. Spend the morning cruising to the isolated village of Kumzar located in the far north of Oman and only accessible by boat. This region of Oman is so isolated that the inhabitants speak their own language, 'Kumzari' which has influences of Arabic, Farsi, English, Hindi and Portuguese. Take the chance to swim from the beach or take a walk in the village and meet the locals. Sail over dinner to Khasab where we moor overnight.

Day 12 Musandam Peninsula. From our berth in Khasab, we discover the beautiful Musandam Peninsula, often referred to as the 'Norway of Arabia'. This is without doubt the most dramatic of all mountainous locations in the Gulf and a difficult region to visit other than by sea. Here, Bedouin boatmen will take us upon their dhow to explore the spectacular arid, fjord-like landscapes. We hope to see cormorants and terns whilst if we are lucky dolphins may accompany us on the journey. We will visit Telegraph Island, where the British laid the first cable in the region in 1864 before anchoring off Seebi Island.

Day 13 Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Arriving into the ultramodern city of Dubai we will visit the historical districts spending time in the Al Fahidi

Historical neighbourhood where we walk the labyrinthine lanes lined with century old buildings built by textile and pearl merchants. Today the area is a haven for artists with small galleries and shops. We will then take a local abra water taxi across the creek to Beira where we will explore the lanes of the spice and gold souqs. The afternoon is free to explore further.

Day 14 Abu Dhabi & Al Ain. Arriving into Abu Dhabi we have a choice of excursions today. A morning city tour will drive along the waterfront promenade before we arrive at the magnificent Sheikh Zayed Mosque, one the largest in the world, with capacity to accommodate an astonishing 30,000 worshippers. Afterwards continue to the Louvre Abu Dhabi and walk through twelve galleries curated masterfully in partnership with the Louvre in Paris. Returning to the ship for lunch, the afternoon will be at leisure to explore further independently. Alternatively take a full day excursion to the oasis city of Al Ain, the birthplace of Sheikh Zayed with its markets, forts, museums and a famous date palm oasis. We will see the Al Ain Palace Museum which was Sheikh Zayed's residence from 1937 to 1966, explore the courtyards and see the rooms where he received guests. Also discover the archaeological park, the ancient irrigation systems and walk in the water green oasis. We end at the chaotic camel market, an immersion into traditional Arabic culture.

Day 15 Doha, Qatar. Arriving over breakfast we discover Doha, the capital of Qatar. After driving along the corniche, we visit the National Museum of Qatar, designed in the shape of a desert rose and dedicated to bringing alive the story of Qatar and its people. At the heart of the museum lies the Sheikh Abdulla Bin Jassem Palace. We will continue to the charming fishing village of Al Wakrah and the atmospheric Souq Wakrah where the traditional architecture, old clay structures, stables and mosque all tell a unique story about Qatar's history and here we will enjoy some traditional Arabic sweets and freshly brewed tea at a seafront café. The afternoon and evening is at leisure.

Day 16 Doha to London. Disembark and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that we will be at anchor for three days of this itinerary (Diu, Sur and Kumzar) when we will utilise the vessel's Zodiacs to tender ashore.

Optional Overnight stay at Gir National Park, Gujarat



Asiatic lions

During our time in Gujarat there will be an option for an overnight visit to Gir National Park. Created as a wildlife sanctuary in 1965 to conserve the Asiatic lions, this is the only place in the world outside Africa to see lions in their natural habitat. The park is also home to sambar deer, jackal, hyenas and crocodile as well as 425 species of bird. We will drive from Diu (on Day 4 of the itinerary) to the park (two hour drive) for an afternoon safari before overnighting at a lodge. On Day 5, a morning safari will be followed by a transfer (3.5 hour drive) to re-embark the MS Hebridean Sky in Porbandar.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795**; Single: **£995**

NB: Spaces for the excursion to the Gir National Park are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If you would like to join the excursion please advise at the time of booking.

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	£9995	£9495
Byrd	Superior	£10395	£9895
Mawson	Premium	£10595	£10095
Mawson	Corner	£10995	£10495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£12295	£11795
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£12795	£12295
Shackleton	Hebridean	£13795	£13295
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9995	£9495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10395	£9895

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mumbai • Dinner in Mumbai • 13 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, Indian visa, optional excursion to Gir National Park.

Pre-cruise Agra & Jaipur Extension 24th February to 2nd March 2025



Taj Mahal

If you would like to spend some time in India before embarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a five night escorted extension which will include the Taj Mahal and the 'pink city' of Jaipur.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Delhi, India. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Delhi. Arrive today and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax before we meet for dinner in the hotel. (D)

Day 3 Delhi to Agra. Spend the morning driving to Agra (approximately 4 hours). Agra's history dates back to the Mughals who proclaimed it their capital in 1565. Today the city is a kaleidoscope of India with various communities living in harmony. After lunch we visit Agra Fort, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565 before continuing to the city including the bazaars. We stay overnight in Agra and will have dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Agra. After breakfast we see the legendary beauty and the white marble domes of the elegant Taj Mahal which was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an exquisite mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. After our visit we will have lunch and a free afternoon to relax in the hotel or partake in some independent sightseeing. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Agra to Jaipur. This morning we drive to Jaipur (4.5 hours) our base for the next two nights. Almost the entire city was given a coat of pink paint in 1876 to coincide with the visit of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII) thus giving it the name 'The Pink City'. This afternoon we will visit the Birla Temple and Albert Hall before we return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Jaipur. Located near the deserts of Rajasthan, the movement and collection of water plays an important role for the city. This morning our guide will show us the ancient channels, Roman aqueducts and reservoirs and explain about their history and creation. After lunch we will visit the Observatory and the City Palace which maintains the Maharaja's private collection of textiles and arms. Return to the hotel for free time before dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Jaipur to Mumbai. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to airport for our flight to Mumbai and follow the main itinerary from day 2. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2895**; Single: **£3495**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from Jaipur to Mumbai, two nights hotel accommodation in Jaipur and Agra, overnight hotel accommodation in Delhi, meals as described (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, tours as described, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.





PACIFIC COASTAL ODYSSEY

An expedition along the coasts of Chile, Peru, Ecuador & Colombia to Panama including a transit of the Panama Canal aboard the MS Island Sky

10th March to 4th April 2025



Our coastal cruise along the Pacific shores of South America will be dominated by the ever present Andes as we make our way from central Chile to Panama City. This is one of the world's great expedition cruises and few regions in the world offer the diversity and ecosystems of those found in this intriguing part of South America. From the towering snow-capped Andes to the barren coastal desert and tropical forests with an amazingly rich biodiversity of flora and fauna, the landscapes are unparalleled.

Our voyage takes us along the nutrient-rich Humboldt Current which is a haven for an amazing concentration of seabirds, marine mammals and wildlife. We will visit the Islas Ballestas National Reserve, the Humboldt Penguin Nature Reserve, Ecuador's Machalilla National Park, a protected coastal haven for over 200 species of birds and wildlife, and Colombia's Utria National Park with its dense rainforest and mangroves, home to many bird species, reptiles and monkeys. This expedition is as equally rich in geological, archaeological and cultural interest with visits included to the Pintados Geoglyphs, the Peruvian capital of Lima, the Inca archaeological site at Tambo Colorado and the Huaca del Sol pyramids from the Moche culture. A highlight for many will be the transit of the Panama Canal crossing from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea.

Much of the itinerary is far from the 'big ship' routes and includes little known but fascinating destinations with magnificently diverse wildlife, beautiful beaches and fascinating indigenous cultures. A voyage such as this would be difficult to undertake by any other means than a cruise and the 118-passenger MS Island Sky is the perfect vessel for such a journey. Our Zodiacs will be put to good use in the more remote places allowing us to land and explore otherwise unreachable places and our knowledgeable onboard team will enable us to make the most of each day.



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Santiago, Chile. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Santiago. Arrive today and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day and evening is free to relax in the hotel or explore independently.

Day 3 Santiago to Valparaíso. A morning city tour will include the Presidential Palace, Plaza de Armas and the cathedral. Later we drive out to the Casablanca Valley which is now one of the country's premier wine areas. We will learn about the cultivation of grapes and visit one of the vineyards for a tasting and lunch. Continue to Chile's main port of Valparaíso this afternoon to embark the MS Island Sky. Moor overnight.

Day 4 Valparaíso. Spend the morning in this historic and marvellously sited city which is built on 42 hills. Take a scenic drive to the Alegre Hill to see the colourful houses before enjoying the views from the Yugoslavian Terrace over the bay. Also see the Fisherman's Wharf, the Plaza Soto Mayor and the Naval Academy. Return to the ship via the seaside resort of Vina del Mar where we see the famous "floral clock" and the Fonck Museum with a collection of artefacts from Easter Island. Enjoy lunch on board and a leisurely afternoon at sea as we start our journey north.

Day 5 Coquimbo. This morning we arrive in the important port city of Coquimbo, with its strong British influence, and the regional capital of La Serena. One of Coquimbo's highlights is the picturesque Barrio Ingles. This historical quarter opposite the port stands as a testament to the strong British influence in this port city. British settlers arrived in the area in the mid-1800s and the legacy remains in the architecture of this barrio. Rising impressively above the city is the 91 metre Cross of the Third Millennium. Alternatively, on a full day tour, we head inland where the landscape transforms itself into a lush array of plantations and vineyards set amongst rolling hills. We will stop at the Gabriela Mistral Museum in the village of Montegrando to enjoy a pisco tasting in the Elqui Valley and take a stroll through the Main Square.



Humboldt penguins



Arequipa



Exploring by Zodiac



Frigate bird



Utria National Park

Day 6 Expedition Cruising. Today we enjoy the benefits of small ship cruising as we plan to use our Zodiacs and local boats to view some of the islands off the Chilean coast. We may visit Isla Pajaros to view the colonies of cormorants, boobies and Humboldt penguins that reside here. Also, Isla Chanaral, the largest in a series of islands once known as an important site for guano, a valuable agricultural fertilizer. The islands are protected today as a nature reserve that is home to sea lion colonies, nesting boobies, pelicans, cormorants as well as marine otters.

Days 7 & 8 At Sea. We spend the next two days at sea as we continue our journey up the Chilean coast. Our expedition team will continue their lecture programme on board and if conditions permit we may use our Zodiacs to explore some of the islands we pass on the way.

Day 9 Iquique. Arrive this morning in Iquique which grew in the 19th century due to the large deposits of sodium nitrate found in the area. On a full day excursion we will discover the desert and pampa region inland from Iquique and see the remains of a once flourishing nitrate town in Humberstone. Founded in 1872 at the junction of the Pan-American Highway and the road to Iquique, it is today a ghost town after it stopped operations in 1960. After lunch we continue to the Pintados Geoglyphs where over 60,000 square yards of hill slopes are decorated by more than 400 figures depicting humans, animals, birds or abstract shapes, isolated or arranged into thematic groups. The geoglyphs are estimated to date from 1,000 to 1,400 AD and are thought to be part of a votive centre.

Day 10 Arica. Enjoy a choice of excursions today from the port of Arica. A morning tour will provide an introduction to Arica's monuments and historic buildings including the Customs House and Church of San Marcos, constructed by Gustave Eiffel in 1876. Afterwards continue outside of the city to see the geoglyph art on the nearby hillsides. A visit to the San Miguel Archaeological Museum reveals its fascinating display of Chinchorro Mummies, the oldest known mummies in the world dating back 7,000 years. We return to Arica via the Morro where the history and arms museum offers an insight into the battles of the War of the Pacific and also wonderful views over the city. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon. Alternatively a full day tour will travel south to the oasis village of Codpa, which during the pre-Hispanic period, was the residence of the chief of Altos de Arica who governed the tribes of Socoroma, Putre, Livilcar and Tignamar, among other communities. We will travel through the Atacama Desert, the driest desert in the world, and see the Presencias Tutelares Sculptures. On arrival in Codpa we will taste the traditional Pintatani wine, discover the local architecture, visit the church and enjoy a traditional lunch before returning to the ship this afternoon.

Day 11 Matarani, Peru. Here in the far south of Peru we call into the port of Matarani. Drive to the 'White City', as Arequipa is known. Our tour includes the bustling Plaza de Armas dominated by the stunning neo-Renaissance Cathedral, set amidst colonial buildings. Later, visit Santa Catalina Convent, a beautiful walled citadel, which for four centuries housed a closed order of nuns. We will also take in the colonial district of Yanahuara, a short distance from the heart of the city. It is a charming area of narrow cobblestone streets and old, white, volcanic stone houses. From here, there are magnificent views of the three volcanoes which overlook the city: Misti, Chachani and Pichu Pichu.

Day 12 At Sea. Our lecture programme continues as we journey north.

Day 13 Pisco for Isla Ballestas, Tambo Colorado & Nazca Lines. Influenced by the cold Humboldt Current, the Isla Ballestas marine preserve area serves as a breeding refuge for birds, resting areas for mammals and spawning grounds for many marine organisms. We take local boats from the port of Pisco to explore these unparalleled, fascinating islands where we should see a variety of seabirds, such as the very localised Peruvian booby, and mammals such as the southern sea lion. On our way back to the mainland we will pass the "candelabro", a giant figure etched into the coastal cliffs. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we travel to the Tambo Colorado, one of the best preserved Inca archaeological sites in Peru. Named after the abundant use of colour on the walls it was one of the administrative and military centres controlling the Pisco valley from its base on the main road between the coast and mountains. We will explore the site and see the structures built around the central plaza. Alternatively, there will be an opportunity to join an optional tour aboard a small aircraft for a bird's eye view of the famed Nazca Lines. These enormous geoglyphs etched in the desert floor date back to 2000 BC and can only be truly appreciated from the air.

Days 14 & 15 Lima. From our berth in Callao we spend a day and a half in Lima which was founded by the conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535, and then named the 'City of Kings' by the Spaniards who took the city in name of the Spanish Crown. During the vice royalty the city became the most important capital in the region, and as testament to this, today you can still see the imposing buildings that were constructed principally in the city centre. During our time in the city we will see the most important buildings in the Plaza Mayor, such as the Government Palace, the beautiful cathedral, Santo Domingo Monastery and the various small palaces and colonial balconies that adorn the capital of the Peruvian Republic, all of which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO thanks to its well preserved architecture. We will spend time at the excellent Larco Herrera Museum which contains the world's largest collection of pre-Colombian art and culture and showcases artefacts from 5,000 years of Peruvian history. Also discover the city's more modern districts of San



Isidro, Miraflores as well as Barranco, known as the Bohemian district due to its bright buildings, street art and charming streets. Sail in the early afternoon on our second day and spend time at sea.

Day 16 Salaverry. After a morning cruising we arrive in Salaverry. From the port we will drive to Huaca de la Luna to see the Huaca del Sol pyramids from the Moche culture, a remarkable pre-Inca civilisation. We also visit the intriguing desert city of Trujillo. This oasis city was founded by Pizarro in 1536 and still exudes much Spanish colonial charm. Visit the Casa Urquiga, a mansion containing pre-Columbian ceramics and the Plaza de Armas with its imposing 17th century cathedral.

Day 17 Isla Lobos de Tierra. Weather permitting we will use our Zodiacs as we visit the offshore island of Lobos de Tierra. In the 19th century this was the site of a large guano mining centre however today it is an important seabird sanctuary and home to Peruvian pelicans, blue footed boobies and cormorants. We will explore the coastline in the Zodiacs and take walks ashore watching for the birdlife and South American sea lions in the waters. Spend the afternoon at sea as we cross into Ecuador.

Day 18 Puerto Bolivar, Ecuador. On our first call in Ecuador there will be a choice of experiences offered. A full day tour will take us to the Buenaventura Cloud Forest Reserve which is home to a remarkable array of flora and fauna. Divided into highlands and lowlands it combines elements of the deciduous Tumbesian Forest of Southern Ecuador with the wet Choco forests of Northwestern Ecuador. We will take a series of trails in the forest and with up to 300 bird species we hope to see hummingbirds, El Oro parakeet, Royal Pacific flycatcher and Ecuadorian tapaculo. After lunch at a local organic farm we return to the ship. Alternatively head to a plantation to learn about one of Ecuador's biggest industries, banana production. Learn about the growing practices as well as developments in cultivation which have helped the industry thrive and Ecuador become the world's largest exporter.

Day 19 Isla de la Plata. Around forty kilometres off the Ecuadorian coast is the small island of Isla de la Plata (Silver Island) where it is claimed Sir Francis Drake buried some of his treasure. The island is part of the Machalilla National Park and a sanctuary for seabirds such as the red footed, blue footed and Nazca boobies who share the steep cliffs with frigate birds, albatrosses and the red-billed tropicbirds. Spend the day with our naturalists and local guides who will lead nature walks searching for wildlife. Sail in the late afternoon to the port of Manta where we moor overnight.

Day 20 Manta. Our final call in Ecuador will be at the port of Manta which is the largest tuna fishing harbour on the continent. Leaving the city we drive

along the scenic seaside promenade and through the suburbs to charming Montecristi which still retains the atmosphere and faded elegance of its Spanish heritage. We will stop by Montecristi's central square which holds a cornucopia of artisan stalls selling straw baskets, jewellery and colourful handicrafts before we learn about the town's biggest export, the iconic Panama hat. Later we will visit the Pacoche Reserve, located on the Manabi coast and habitat for multiple species. Our expedition team will lead walks through the park's trails to see the resident howler monkeys, over 50 species of endemic birds and rich flora.

Day 21 At Sea. Relax on deck or maybe join a lecture as we spend a day at sea sailing to Colombia.

Day 22 Utria National Park, Colombia. This morning we land on the Pacific coast of Colombia and have a day to explore this beautiful area which is well off the traditional cruise routes. Here we find the Utria National Park, a tropical forest which reaches down to the sandy beaches. Using our Zodiacs to get ashore we will enjoy hikes and nature trails as our local guides point out the indigenous plants and birdlife and highlight the ongoing reforestation programmes. Alternatively enjoy the chance to swim from one of the beaches.

Day 23 Panama City, Panama. Panama City is a combination of the historic old town, declared a UNESCO Historical Site, and the ultra-modern new town. Arriving at lunchtime we head out to stroll along the cobblestone streets of the Casco Antiguo visiting the colonial mansions and 17th century churches and convents before continuing to Panama Viejo and the original ruins of the city founded in 1517 which was burnt to the ground by British pirate Henry Morgan. The many changes in the city can be identified by its unique architecture, influenced by a wonderful blend of French, Spanish and Italian styles.

Day 24 Panama Canal Transit. An undisputed destination on the travel bucket list must be the Panama Canal. The first attempt to build the canal was made by a French company but ended in failure in 1889. The American government eventually bought out the French for 40 million dollars, and their attempt to build the Canal started in 1904. Through the efforts of over 80,000 workers and the loss of more than 30,000 lives, the greatest single construction project ever undertaken was completed. The project ended in triumph, with the Canal opening in 1914, and it is now a vital artery of international trade, with nearly 14,000 ships travelling through it every year. The canal is around 50 miles long and takes between eight to ten hours to cross.

Day 25 Colon to London. Disembark in Colon and transfer to Panama City airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London

Day 26 London. Arrive this morning.

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
Magellan	Standard	£15995	£15495
Columbus	Superior	£16495	£15995
Marco Polo	Premium	£16995	£16495
Marco Polo	Corner	£17495	£16995
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£18995	£18495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£19495	£18995
Explorer	Island Suite	£19995	£19495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£15995	£15495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£16495	£15995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 22 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Overnight hotel accommodation in Santiago with breakfast • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, optional Nazca Lines excursion.



SPRING IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

A voyage of discovery visiting Egypt, Jordan, Israel & Cyprus aboard the MS Hebridean Sky with Guest Speaker Guy de la Bédoyère

31st March to 11th April 2025

Here is a passage through antiquity, an incomparable journey with a wealth of sites on offer including biblical landmarks, Crusader castles, Egyptian temples and tombs, the superb Nabatean city of Petra as well as the magnificent St Catherine's Monastery. We have planned the voyage for spring when temperatures will be pleasant for exploring and with the aid of our knowledgeable local guides and excellent Guest Speaker, we will learn and reflect on the successive civilisations and a period of history spanning well over 2000 years.

Our journey begins with a two night hotel stay in Luxor enabling us to maximise our time here visiting the fascinating sites such as the great temples of Karnak and the Valley of the Kings. Continuing to the port of Safaga we embark the MS Hebridean Sky and sail to Jordan for our visit to the desert sands of Wadi Rum and the fascinating city of Petra which was hewn directly from the rock by the Nabateans. Returning to Egypt and the port of Sharm el Sheikh we journey to the interior of the Sinai Peninsula and the lonely desert monastery of St Catherine's, the world's oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery. Before leaving Egypt we also explore some of the great monuments of the pharaohs, the divine kings of thirty dynasties who ruled Egypt for some thirty-five centuries. See the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx and spend some time in Cairo's magnificent Egyptian Museum. Following a transit of the Suez Canal, our final two days are spent exploring Israel and Cyprus.

This unusual itinerary offers a fascinating mix of some of the world's most impressive and historic sites combined with time to relax on board the MS Hebridean Sky, enjoying good food and informative lectures in the company of just 100 or so fellow travellers.



Pyramids, Giza

THE ITINERARY

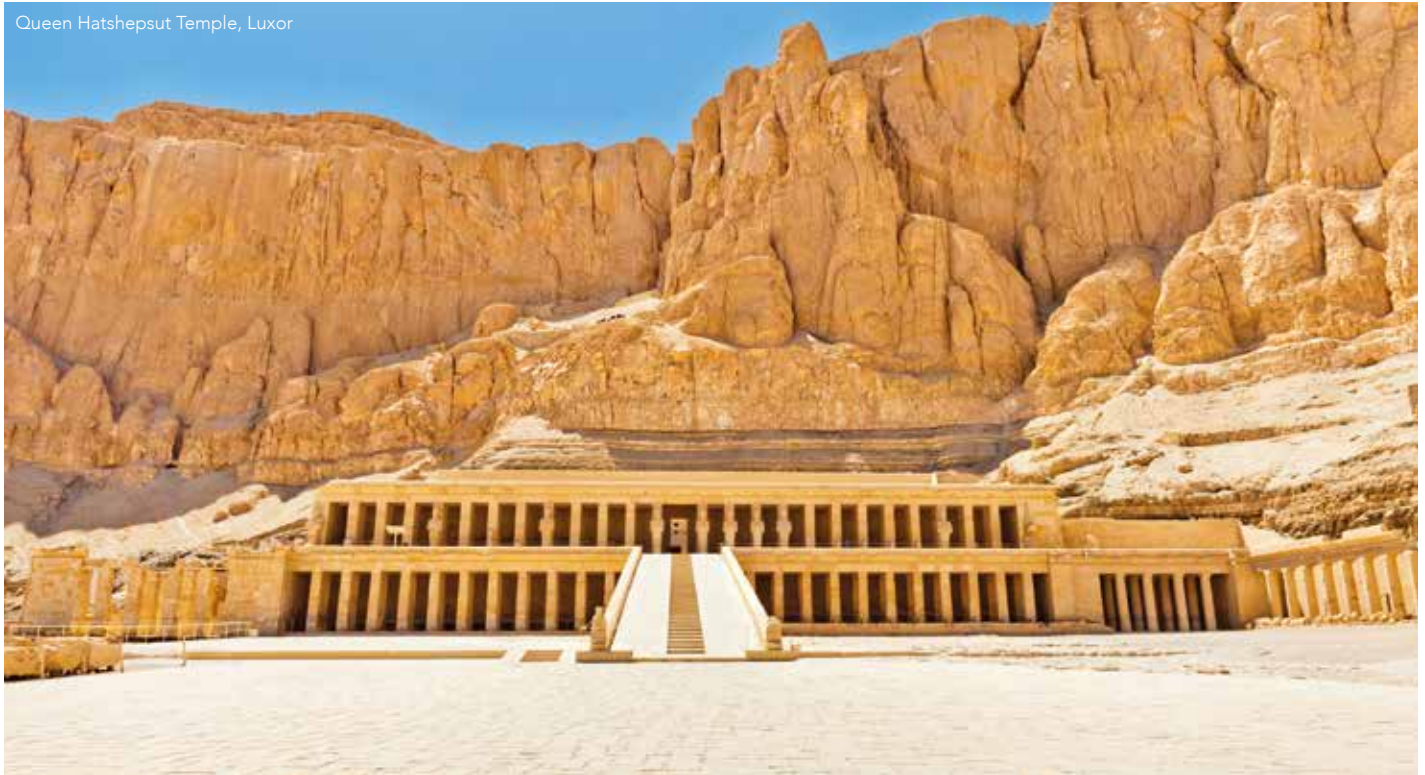
Day 1 London to Luxor, Egypt. Fly by scheduled flight via Cairo. Arrive late this evening and transfer to our hotel for our two night stay.

Day 2 Luxor. Enjoy a leisurely morning to relax in the hotel or explore independently before we meet for lunch. This afternoon we will visit the temples of Karnak, one of the most memorable and popular historical areas to visit in the world. Here you will witness the unbelievably vast array of monuments dedicated to Amun-Ra, king of the gods, his wife Mut and their son Khonsu. Just two of the highlights you will see are the great hypostyle hall with over 130 columns, some 22 metres high and the obelisk of the powerful queen pharaoh Hatshepsut. Continue to the Temple of Luxor before we walk back to the hotel via the souk. After some free time we meet for dinner in the hotel.

Day 3 Luxor & Safaga. After breakfast we head to the West Bank, one of the most famous and important archaeological sites in the world. See the Valley of the Kings, burial ground of the pharaohs for a period of 500 years. The tombs vividly depict the journey of the sun god and pharaoh through the dangers of the underworld. In the temple of Queen Hatshepsut you will discover scenes commemorating the reign of this exceptional monarch such as the ambitious voyage where she sent her ships on the Red Sea to the mysterious land of Punt. Also see the Colossi of Memnon and witness the two imposing 18 metre high quartzite seated statues which marked the entrance to the now vanished memorial temple of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III whose reign in the 14th century BC was one of the most opulent in Egyptian history. Later we will board a sailing boat on the Nile for a short cruise including lunch. This afternoon we will drive through the desert to the port of Safaga where we will embark the MS Hebridean Sky and sail this evening.

Day 4 Aqaba & Wadi Rum, Jordan. Spend a relaxing morning at sea as we cruise towards Aqaba. This afternoon, from our berth in the city we will drive to Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon where the desert landscape is mixed with awe-inspiring shapes to create an almost supernatural atmosphere. We will embark on an adventurous excursion by an

Queen Hatshepsut Temple, Luxor



Wadi Rum



open top four-wheel drive vehicle. We begin at the visitor centre from where there is a view in the distance of the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, the famous landmark named after the book by T.E. Lawrence 'Lawrence of Arabia'. During our excursion we will also see the Alameleh inscriptions which are a good example of ancient rock drawings, Siq Um Al Tawaqi, a short canyon containing a carving of the head of T.E. Lawrence and ruins of Allat (Goddess) Temple of the AAD tribe. Alternatively, spend the afternoon at one of the nearby beach clubs enjoying time to relax and swim in the Red Sea.

Day 5 Aqaba for Petra. A full day tour takes us to the breathtaking Nabatean city of Petra which was carved out of the rose-red sandstone about 2000 years ago and has been voted as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Walk past the Obelisk Tomb and then through the Siq, the narrow 1.2 kilometre gorge that leads to Petra's most impressive monument, the Treasury, which was carved out of the pale reddish sandstone in the 1st century BC. Pass by the dozens of classical Nabatean ruins and tombs known as the Street of Facades, the remarkable 3000 seat Theatre, the Royal Tombs, the Colonnaded Street, the Byzantine Church, the Temple, the Monumental Arch and the mighty Qasr el-Bint Faroun. After lunch amidst the ruins of Petra there will be some free time to explore further at your own pace. Those feeling active may choose to climb about 900 steps up to the large, 1st century AD monument known as the Monastery with its remarkable views over Wadi Araba.

Day 6 Sharm el Sheikh & St Catherine's Monastery, Egypt. This morning we arrive at the resort town of Sharm el Sheikh where we have a choice of excursions. A full day excursion will bring us into the interior of the Sinai Peninsula and the lonely desert monastery of St Catherine's. This ancient monastery which is the world's oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery, traces its founding to about 330 AD, when Byzantine empress Helena had a small chapel built beside what was believed to be the burning bush from which God spoke to Moses. In the 6th century, Emperor Justinian ordered a fortress to be constructed around the original chapel and the complex includes nine chapels, a bell tower, gardens and wells to create a spiritual oasis. Alternatively, take a glass bottomed boat tour as we view some of the many species of colourful fish, coral and sponges that live in the waters of the Ras Mohamed National Park. Designated a National Park in 1983 the reef ecosystems here protect a diversity of fish species and coral.

Day 7 At Sea. Spend the day cruising through the Gulf of Suez.

Day 8 Cairo & Giza. A full day tour is dedicated to the capital city of Cairo. From our berth in Sokhna we drive to the impressive Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, the only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the tombs of the great pharaohs and their queens. After lunch we visit the Egyptian Museum with 107 halls that are separated into seven sections. The museum houses statues, jewels and treasures of Tutankhamun. We will visit the Amarna Room and see the Fayoum portraits and monuments from the later periods from the Greeks and the Romans.

Day 9 Suez Canal Transit. Spend the day in transit of the Suez Canal and the Great Bitter Lake as we sail from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

Day 10 Ashdod, Israel. Arriving in Israel we have a choice of excursions. Maybe take a full day tour to Jerusalem including a visit to the Mount of Olives from where we can enjoy spectacular views over the 'Golden City' of Jerusalem. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus as you walk through the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus spent the last moments before his arrest. Wander the streets of the Old City from Jaffa Gate to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and continue through the Christian Quarter to the bazaar, passing the Roman Cardo in the Jewish Quarter and the Western (or Wailing) Wall. Alternatively take a half day tour to Jaffa, the ancient port city from which Tel Aviv developed. Famous for its association with the biblical stories of Jonah, Solomon and St Peter, it has a fascinating history stretching back over four



thousand years. We will explore the highlights including the Clock Tower, Flea Market and the renovated alleys of the city.

Day 11 Limassol, Cyprus. After a morning at sea we arrive into Cyprus over lunch. This afternoon we drive to the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus and the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre that has been completely restored. We will also visit Kolossi Castle, which was built in the 15th century on the ruins of a former fortress dated to the beginning of the 13th century. Return to the ship as we moor overnight.

Day 12 Limassol 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	£7495	£6995
Byrd	Superior	£7795	£7295
Mawson	Premium	£7995	£7495
Mawson	Corner	£8395	£7895
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£8995	£8495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£9495	£8995
Shackleton	Hebridean	£9995	£9495
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£9495	£8995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£9995	£9495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Luxor with breakfast • Lunch on Days 2 & 3 and dinner on Day 2 • 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 including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas for Jordan and Egypt (please note it is currently possible to apply for visas online and/or obtain on arrival. Full details pertaining to the procurement of visas will be sent to passengers 12 weeks before departure).

Post-cruise Cyprus Extension 11th to 13th April 2025

If you would like to spend some time in Cyprus after your cruise, we are offering a two night stay in Limassol.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Limassol for Paphos, Cyprus.

Disembark this morning and make a brief stop at the most famous landmark in Cyprus - Aphrodite's Rock. See Saint Neophytos Monastery and continue to Paphos where we will visit the 13th century Chrysopolitissa Church. Saint Paul visited Paphos in 45 AD in an attempt to convert the ruler of the time to Christianity. He was successful in his efforts, but not before being tied and whipped to an otherwise unremarkable lump of stone, the Pillar of Saint Paul which we will see during our visit. After lunch and some free time in Paphos, we continue to the archaeological park, known as the House of Dionysus to see the fabulously preserved mosaics which date back to the 2nd century AD and the Tombs of the Kings. Return to Limassol this afternoon and check into our hotel. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)



Aphrodite's Rock

Day 2 Limassol. Spend the day at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel or take the local bus into Limassol town centre. Alternatively, you may wish to visit the impressive remains of the archaeological site of Amathus. (B, D)

Day 3 Limassol 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: **£795**; Single: **£895**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Limassol, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, tours as described, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olives



CARIBBEAN ISLAND ODYSSEY

An island hopping voyage from Panama to the West Indies including Colombia aboard the MS Island Sky

2nd to 16th April 2025

If you have been contemplating a visit to Central America and the Caribbean, then this fascinating voyage through sub-tropical waters could offer the perfect opportunity with its mix of cultural and natural wonders. Every island has its own culture and this colourful mix of island personalities, varied terrain and lifestyles makes for a marvellous spring break. By and large we will head for the smaller, less visited islands and having our small ship, the MS Island Sky, as the base for our cruise makes all the difference.

Much of the itinerary is far from the 'big ship' routes and we will discover some of the most beautiful tropical isles. Many are still untouched by the hands of mass tourism and in the San Blas Islands and the Colombian region of La Guajira we will have the opportunity to visit remote communities where locals live following ancient ways of life. We will also spend time in the captivating city of Cartagena and explore historical sites and forts of the Spanish, Dutch and British colonial periods combined with the pretty ports, pastel painted towns, wonderful beaches and the flora and fauna of the region.

Such a varied and comprehensive itinerary would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise and, in the company of just 100 or so passengers, we will be able to explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere on board. As we sail relatively short distances, we have the benefit of full days on many of the glorious islands allowing for time to join the included, guided excursions combined with the opportunity to explore further independently or perhaps relax on one of the beautiful beaches.





St George's, Grenada



Panama Cathedral



Pilon de Azucar, La Guajira

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Panama City, Panama. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel in the city for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure.

Day 2 Panama City to Colon. After breakfast in the hotel we take a scenic tour of the historic old town, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, visiting the colonial mansions and 17th century churches and convents. Continue to the Panama Canal Observation Centre to learn about the expansion of the canal before visiting the Miraflores Locks Visitor Centre where you can see the history of the canal and watch the ships as they pass through. Continue to Colon where we will embark the MS Island Sky and sail this evening.

Day 3 San Blas Islands. We awake in the stunning San Blas archipelago. The archipelago is made up of over 400 islands that line the north coast of Panama with white sandy beaches set in a turquoise sea. The islands are home to the indigenous Kuna Indians who gained self-rule from the government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molas'. We will have time to take a nature walk or perhaps enjoy a swim from the beach. Spend the afternoon at sea as we cross to Colombia.

Day 4 Cartagena, Colombia. Cartagena is one of the most fascinating cities in South America and this morning we will enjoy a walking tour of the colonial walled city which is virtually surrounded by water and steeped in history, with a wealth of 16th and 17th century buildings and churches. Our guides will bring the history of the city to life as we walk its streets and ramparts. We will visit the 16th century Fort of San Felipe, Monastery of San Pedro Claver, the Plaza de la Aduana and Iglesia de Santo Domingo. The afternoon is free to explore further at your own pace.

Day 5 Santa Marta. We continue our exploration of Colombia in the Santa Marta area which is renowned for the eco-diversity and dramatic beauty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the highest coastal mountain range in the world, that sweep down to the sea. From our berth we will travel slightly inland to the Tayrona National Park this morning. Covered in large part by virgin tropical forest, the park is home to many varied species of mammals, birds and reptiles. On a walk through this semi-tropical jungle we will be joined by a local guide who will offer insights into the park's vegetation, animals and eco-system. Alternatively, explore the town of Santa Marta,

see Bolivar Plaza and the bustling streets with their eclectic mix of Spanish Colonial, Republican and contemporary architecture to the 17th century Cathedral, Colombia's oldest church. Also visit the small Gold Museum which houses some interesting gold and pottery objects from the indigenous cultures that inhabit the Sierra Nevada Mountains which rise up behind the city.

Day 6 Cabo de la Vela. Our final call in Colombia will be in the far northwestern region of La Guajira an area of wild desert, beautiful landscapes and stunning beaches that border the Caribbean Sea. The early risers will enjoy a desert walk to the Pilon de Azucar hill that offers fantastic 360 degree views of the area. This is an area sacred to the indigenous Wayuu people who have lived in the region for over 2,000 years since relocating from the Amazon rainforest and have battled Spanish invaders as well as more recently the Colombian Government to keep their traditions alive. Visiting a community, our local guides will teach us about their culture and we will see some of the crafts, including the famous Mochila bags. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Curacao, Netherlands. Moor this morning at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Willemstad. The city has a rich history dating back to the 16th century and the island's colonial Dutch heritage sets a genteel tone amid markets, museums and cafes. Enjoy an excursion to explore the historic downtown district including Fort Amsterdam. The afternoon is free to either explore at your own pace or join an island drive which will include The Old Labour House where we learn about the history of slavery on the island, the dramatic Boca Table National Park and the Salt Pans plantation where, if lucky we may see some flamingos.

Day 8 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea.

Day 9 Port of Spain, Trinidad. Due to its location close to the South American mainland, Trinidad has a unique diversity of plant and animal species which we will discover today. From our berth at Port of Spain we will drive inland to the Asa Wright Nature Centre. Founded on a former cocoa and coffee plantation in 1967 it comprises 1500 acres of forest providing habitat for a range of wildlife. On a series of guided walks we will explore the area searching for the 166 species of birds. Return to the MS Island Sky for lunch and later this afternoon we head to the Caroni Nature Sanctuary, a mangrove swamp covering an area of 40 square miles. On arrival at the



sanctuary we will board a flat-bottomed boat and slowly travel along the peaceful waterways and lagoons admiring the beauty of the landscape and a variety of birds including the scarlet ibis, a large bright red bird which feeds and nests here and we hope to catch sight of them as they return to their nests at sunset.

Day 10 Grenada. Explore this wonderful Windward Island which many regard as the most beautiful in the Caribbean. It is a lush and verdant island with spice plantations, rum distilleries, tropical forests, secluded coves, nature trails and select hotels which cling to the hillsides overlooking the ocean. We will moor in the picturesque capital of St George's before heading to Fort George. Built in 1706 with wonderful views over the harbour, it was here in 1983 that the Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, was assassinated which prompted the invasion by US troops. We will continue to a spice garden where we learn about the herbs that grow here before we end at one of the island's rum distilleries.

Day 11 St Lucia. St Lucia is a splendidly rugged island of towering mountains, lush green valleys and acres of banana plantations. Due to its strategic position, the island was fought over repeatedly by the French and British and changed hands fourteen times. We will anchor in sight of St Lucia's best-known feature, the twin peaks of the Pitons, which rise dramatically from the sea to more than 2400 feet. In the nearby town of Soufriere we can visit the bubbling sulphur springs, part of a low lying volcano which erupted thousands of years ago. Our tour will also include the splendid botanical gardens.

Day 12 Dominica. Stepping back in time, the island of Dominica is still the primitive garden that Columbus first sighted in 1493. An area of tropical rainforests, there are flowers of incredible beauty and animals that exist nowhere else in the world. We arrive this morning in the small port of Cabrits, just below the national park and the former British garrison of Fort Shirley, which successfully repelled a French attack during the Trafalgar campaign in 1805. Here you can climb to the fort to explore the ruins, visit the small museum or perhaps simply wander the surrounding trails on the lookout for birds, hermit crabs and lizards. For the keen birders we will offer a tour to the Morne Diablotin National Park where from the viewpoint we hope to see the two endemic parrots of Dominica.

Day 13 Montserrat. Ask any Caribbean connoisseur about their favourite places and Montserrat will always be high on the list. We will discover some of the indigenous flora and fauna at the botanical gardens before we continue to the volcano observatory where we will learn how the islanders

coped with the devastation which the volcanic eruptions of 1995 and 2010 caused. From Richmond Hill we can see the impact of the eruptions before walking through the buried city of Plymouth itself. We will also see some of the untouched areas which are as beautiful as ever.

Day 14 Antigua to London. Disembark this morning and on an island tour we will enjoy the views from Shirley Heights before heading to Nelson's Dockyard, beautifully located in English Harbour. See the impressive collection of restored historic buildings which were occupied by the British Navy from 1707 till 1899. After lunch we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 15 London. Arrive this morning.

SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that this voyage is not classified as an expedition cruise although we will be at anchor in San Blas, Cabo de La Vela, St Lucia and Montserrat where Zodiacs will be used to shuttle guests ashore.

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
Magellan	Standard	£9495	£8995
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Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£12995	£12495
Explorer	Island Suite	£13995	£13495
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£10495	£9995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£10795	£10295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Overnight hotel accommodation in Panama City with breakfast • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.





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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.