

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

# WEST AFRICAN ODYSSEY

AN EPIC VOYAGE ALONG AFRICA'S ATLANTIC  
COAST FROM MOROCCO TO GHANA  
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY

1<sup>ST</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2027



NOBLE CALEDONIA

In spite of all its regional difficulties, Africa still captures the imagination like no other continent. Its varied cultures and peoples, its extraordinary wildlife and the majesty of its landscapes cast a lifelong spell on all who visit and exploring the region from the comfort of a small ship is by far the best way to experience its many wonders. Join us for this remarkable voyage as we sail along the coast of West Africa from Morocco to Ghana visiting countries that may well sound like an itinerary from the pages of an intrepid 18th century explorer's diary but are some of the most fascinating and captivating places on earth.

Much has changed since the Portuguese sailed along the West African coast in the 15th century. These regions of Africa, rarely visited for more than a half-century, have opened up in recent years and offer the intrepid traveller a range of cultural and natural world experiences. During this unique voyage spanning over 3,000 nautical miles, we will visit nine countries and enjoy an intimate exploration of the extraordinary diversity of animals, plant life, and human cultures spanning the coast of Western Africa as we travel between Casablanca and Accra.

Sailing south from Morocco, the contrast of scenery and landscapes will be mesmerising from bustling cities including Casablanca, Dakar and Freetown to the volcanic landscape of Lanzarote, the sand dunes of the Western Sahara and the extensive waterways of The Gambia. We will visit the remarkable Bandia Reserve in Senegal which is home to a diverse range of African mammals and, a highlight for many will be our two days in the Bijagos Archipelago, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve off the coast of Guinea-Bissau with a unique and rich cultural life. Whilst in Sierra Leone there will also be the opportunity to visit the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, a conservation programme established to protect wild chimpanzees and their habitat.

Aside from the marvellous natural world wonders we will encounter, there is of course a fascinating cultural heritage and human history to be discovered as we delve into the history and legacy of West Africa's transatlantic slave trade with visits to forts, castles, monuments and museums commemorating that period in history which we will learn about from local guides.

The roads may be poor and the tourist infrastructure very much in its infancy in some of the countries we will be visiting, but that is precisely why we believe West Africa presents such an array of exciting experiences for the adventurous traveller who wishes to witness this extraordinary area, its diverse cultures and marvellous wildlife but who are weary of the more well-trodden paths around the world. After a day's exploration, we will be returning each evening to the comfort of the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky with the added benefit of some days at sea interspersed throughout the itinerary when you can relax on board and attend the informative lectures by our Guest Speaker and members of our onboard team.



Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca



Souk, Agadir

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Casablanca.** During our guided morning tour we will visit the city's most important sights including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the market. The highlight of our tour is a visit to the Hassan II Mosque, the largest religious monument in the world after Mecca. It took 3,300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and splendid wood ceilings. The mosque also features the world's tallest minaret, soaring 200 metres above the city. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail to Agadir.

**Day 3 Agadir.** Spend the morning at sea before arriving this afternoon in the vast Bay of Agadir for our exploration of the city. Almost completely destroyed in the 1960 earthquake, some of the city's heritage did survive including the hilltop Kasbah. We will take a scenic cable car ride to the Kasbah Oufella, offering panoramic views of the bay. After viewing this historic fortress continue to Souk El Had, the city's vibrant central market and the Talborjt Mosque, before we end at the charming artisan village of the Coco Polizzi Medina with its unique architecture and local art.

**Day 4 Arrecife, Lanzarote, Canary Islands.** The easternmost corner of the Canary Islands, the island of Lanzarote features a bizarre landscape, born of volcanic activity over many millennia, having a rare beauty that is not unlike the surface of the moon. Few places on earth can offer such diverse natural phenomena in such a small area, from eerie formations of petrified lava to beaches of black volcanic sand and fertile fields to vineyards growing in the depths of volcanic craters. It was this landscape that inspired artist Cesar Manrique, a multifaceted artist who knew how to combine art and nature like nobody else. He left part of his artistic legacy in Lanzarote and perhaps the greatest exponent is Los Jameos del Agua. This volcanic tunnel, with its famous, spectacular natural auditorium,



Ile de Goree



Zebras, Bandia Reserve, Senegal



Chimpanzee, Tacugama Sanctuary



Freetown



Sand dunes and river, Laayoune, Western Sahara

is home to a highly singular geological formation. The Mirador del Rio is another creation of his, a natural vantage point offering spectacular views of the Chinijo Archipelago.

**Day 5 El Marsa for Laayoune, Western Sahara.** From the port of El Marsa drive across the sand dunes to the city of Laayoune. There are not many travellers who can boast of a visit to the territory of Western Sahara. Mostly consisting of flat desert, it is one of the least populated regions in the world. Surprisingly, it makes for a really interesting visit as we take in the unique Spanish-Saharan architecture in the old town including the Catholic cathedral, the camel market and the craft workshops. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon at sea.

**Day 6 Dakhla.** After a relaxing morning at sea, we will arrive into Dakhla. The town occupies a long peninsula which juts out into the Atlantic. During our afternoon ashore we drive past stunning sand dunes before arriving at this friendly town with its white-washed houses and learn about some of the traditions of this remote region.

**Days 7 & 8 At Sea.** We will spend the next two days at sea as we sail along the coast of Africa. Enjoy lectures in the lounge and find a spot on deck to relax.

**Days 9 & 10 Dakar & Ile de Goree, Senegal.** This morning, we arrive into the capital of Senegal, Dakar. Our city tour includes Independence Square, the Presidential Palace and a local market before we take a ferry across to the Ile de Goree. With its colonial style houses and wonderfully tranquil atmosphere, it is difficult to believe that this island was one of the busiest slave centres in West Africa during the 18th and 19th centuries. We will see the Slave House, now a museum and the Historical Museum in the Fort d'Estrees. From the fort there are marvellous views of the island and over Dakar. We will also visit Bandia Reserve, a 3,500-hectare nature reserve which is home to a wide range of African mammals including white rhino, zebra, giraffes, green vervet monkeys, and jackals, along with over 120 bird species. Boarding safari jeeps, we will spend time in the nature reserve before driving to Lake Retba, or 'Pink Lake' as it is known for its vivid pink colour. The lake is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a narrow strip of sand dunes. Being this close to the ocean, the lake has a high salt content which the locals collect for preserving fish.

**Day 11 Banjul, The Gambia.** Spend the day in The Gambia, the 31 mile wide country that is surrounded on three sides by Senegal. It makes up for its size with its personality, being known as the Smiling Coast of Africa. The

country has a long history, with stone circles having been excavated and dating back over 1,200 years, to Arab traders setting up trade routes in the region for slaves, gold and ivory. The Portuguese took over the routes in the 15th century, and the area now known as The Gambia was colonised and reconquered by the British from the 16th century onwards, in various forms, until its independence in 1965. A half day city tour will include the city mosque, market and museum with exhibits showcasing the culture and history. Alternatively, visit the south of The Gambia which is rich in natural beauty with extensive waterways and tributaries home to a range of bird and wildlife living in the lush green wilderness. Here villages and life continue to embrace traditions and offer insights into the culture of different tribes, through their art and food. Maybe join a small boat for a leisurely cruise amongst the mangroves or alternatively board 4x4 vehicles to visit some of the villages, the local school and markets before enjoying lunch at a beach restaurant.

**Days 12 & 13 Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea Bissau.** We have two days in the Bijagos Archipelago which comprises a group of 88 small islands, spread over 5,000 square miles, many of which are uninhabited and rarely visited by foreigners. These islands offer a unique blend of culture, history, wildlife and natural beauty and were declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1996. Our programme will be determined by tidal and weather conditions but we hope to use our Zodiacs to land on Carache Island, which boasts tropical rainforests and a stunning coastline. Visiting the local village we will learn about their rituals and subsistence farming projects and will have the opportunity to buy some handicrafts or relax on the golden beaches. Meanwhile on Caravela Island we will join the local women as they harvest oysters and shellfish before a performance of traditional Bijagos dancing. We may also visit Bolama Island which was the capital during Portuguese rule and retains colonial era architecture.

**Day 14 At Sea.** Spend a day at sea as we continue our journey around the West African coast.

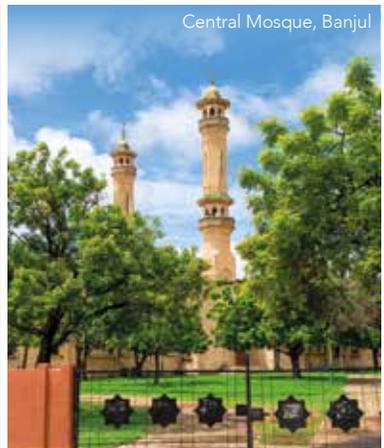
**Days 15 & 16 Freetown, Sierra Leone.** We will arrive in Freetown this morning and will spend a day and a half exploring the city, the history of Sierra Leone and the natural beauty of the area. The colourful city was founded in 1792 by British abolitionists as a settlement for freed slaves. Its history before that was as a slaving port, as seen by the remains on Bunce Island, the largest British slave fort on the West African coast, where tens of thousands of slaves were shipped to the Americas until its closure in 1808. In more recent years, Freetown has grown into a lively and diverse city with a vibrant food scene, bustling markets and soft sand beaches. The



Bijagos Archipelago



Dakhla lighthouse



Central Mosque, Banjul



Laayoune



Presidential Palace, Dakar

city's historic centre is a mix of colonial and more modern architecture, lush green trees, as well as its historical landmarks including the National Museum of Sierra Leone and the National Railway Museum which charts the history of Sierra Leone's railway from 1898 to 1975. Not far outside the city, we hope to visit the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary which was established in 1995 when a husband and wife team set up the conservation programme to protect wild chimpanzees and their habitat. The project aims to build a relationship between apes and humans by collaborating with the local communities to protect the forests.

**Days 17 & 18 At Sea.** Relax on board as we sail towards the Ivory Coast.

**Day 19 Abidjan, Ivory Coast.** Arriving in Abidjan today, we will travel along the coast to the old colonial capital Grand Bassam, which was the capital of the Ivory Coast from 1893 to 1896. The town became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012 thanks to the splendid colonial style residences that overlook the Gulf of Guinea and shape the urban fabric of the city. The town today is a vibrant and popular destination on the Ivory Coast and has experienced a period of great splendour and was in fact the first French settlement in West Africa and the capital of its colony. Some of the colonial buildings have been restored while others were abandoned offering a unique charm to the city.

**Day 20 Takoradi & Elmina Castle, Ghana.** The coastal city of Takoradi is known for its bustling fishing harbour, pristine white sand beaches and lively atmosphere. The area is also rich in history and the arrival of the Portuguese in the 15th century led to the introduction of the slave trade. After clearing immigration formalities we will drive to one of the biggest and earliest slaving forts, Elmina Castle, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built by the Portuguese in 1482 and captured by the Dutch in 1637, it was expanded when slaves replaced gold as the major export, with storerooms converted into cells. A tour of the castle will take you through its history, from a Portuguese fort and slave trading post to, in more recent years, a Police Training Centre, secondary school, and now a historical museum. After our tour we return by Zodiac to the MS Hebridean Sky which will have sailed and anchored near the castle.

**Day 21 Tema for Accra to London.** This morning, we will arrive into Tema and disembark the MS Hebridean Sky. We will spend the day exploring the sights of Accra including lunch before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 22 London.** Arrive this morning.

### EXPLORING ASHORE

This voyage will appeal to those who enjoy exploring off the beaten track. The route we are taking will take us to destinations that are not possible to visit on larger cruise ships and our journey promises to be a true adventure. Tourist infrastructure throughout many of the African countries visited during this cruise is very much in its infancy and flexibility will be key. Our onboard team will endeavour to arrange a selection of walks to include longer and shorter options to cater for different abilities but it is recommended that you have a good level of fitness and mobility to partake in this voyage. The excursions will be a mix of half and full day tours which will include periods of walking over uneven ground and steps combined with periods of standing. It will be warm during the days with high humidity levels. The road conditions will be mixed meaning the roads can be bumpy which will elongate some journey times. We will source the best transport options available but these will not always be up to European standards. We plan to be alongside every day except for our calls at the Bijagos Archipelago and Elmina Castle where we will be at anchor and will use the ship's Zodiacs to go 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
Amundsen	Standard	£13995	£13495
Byrd	Superior	£14795	£14295
Mawson	Premium	£15495	£14995
Mawson	Corner	£15995	£15495
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£17595	£17095
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£17995	£17495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£18495	£17995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£16995	£16495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£17495	£16995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 20 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas for Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, the Ivory Coast and Ghana (Noble Caledonia will endeavour to arrange for passengers to obtain visas on arrival for these countries. Further and full details will be provided three months before departure).

# MS HEBRIDEAN SKY



Alfresco Dining



Owner's Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Hebridean Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Hebridean Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

## Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views with those on the Scott and Shackleton Decks featuring private balconies. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, television and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

## Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Hebridean Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or, outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or the Club. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

### Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Mawson Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (*signal strength varies depending on location and demand*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Amundsen Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Scott Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Shackleton Deck there is an observation area, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship providing outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

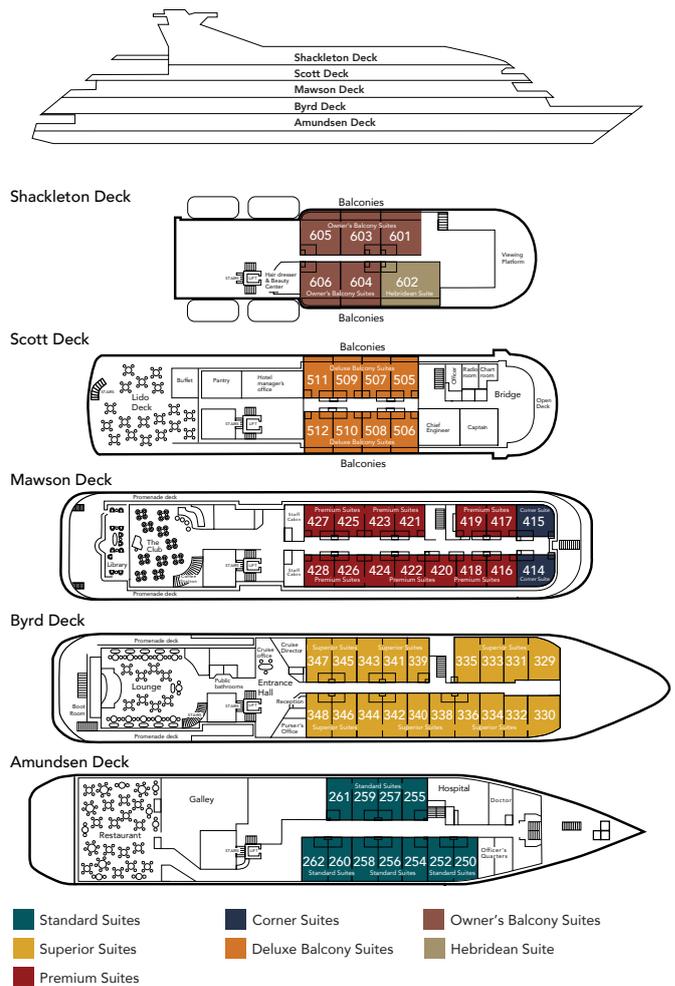
### Your Comfort

The MS Hebridean Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

### Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

### MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



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



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
 Cover image: Elmina Castle, Ghana.