

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£300**  
PER PERSON

# WHALES, DOLPHINS & SEABIRDS OF THE ATLANTIC EDGE

A VOYAGE FROM PORTSMOUTH TO OPORTO ABOARD THE  
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY IN ASSOCIATION WITH ORCA

5<sup>TH</sup> TO 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025



**ORCA** *Looking out for  
Whales and Dolphins*

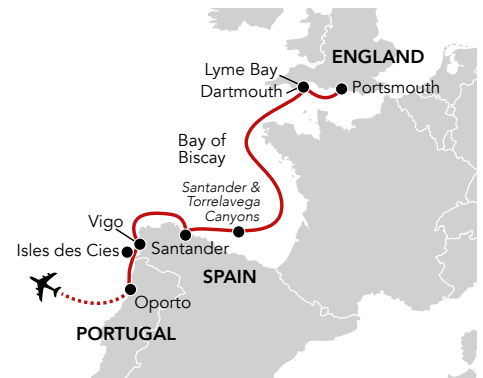
NOBLE CALEDONIA

Common dolphins



We are delighted to have joined forces once again with ORCA, a UK based whale and dolphin conservation charity dedicated to the long-term protection of whales, dolphins and porpoises and their habitats worldwide. ORCA's vision is to have oceans alive with whales and dolphins, and their mission is to give everyone who cares about whales and dolphins an active role in safeguarding their future.

This new, six night voyage has been designed to appeal to those who enjoy being at sea and have a passion for the natural world. As part of ORCA's ongoing education work, Ocean Conservationists will be joining us on board, delivering exciting wildlife experiences and innovative education programmes, teaching guests about the marine environment whilst at the same time collecting critical scientific data about some of the richest habitats in the ocean. Monitoring in the Bay of Biscay is particularly important due to the risk of ship strike for large whales - so while on deck you will find Ocean Conservationists collecting data with the 'OceanWatchers' app which passengers can also assist with by downloading the app too.



We will be sailing through one of the world's top five best whale and dolphin locations as we pass through the English Channel and down into the Bay of Biscay, a rich feeding ground and an important migration route for many species, such as fin whales - the second largest animal on the planet. Following the continental shelf edge (a dramatic change in water depth from 150 to 4000 metres) means that we will be in the perfect mixing bowl of nutrients that promote large algal blooms that act as the basis of all life in the Bay of Biscay. Large schools of fish are found here feeding on these microscopic plants, which not only provides the perfect pit-stop for migrating fin whales, but also the perfect habitat for a variety of other whale and dolphin species, such as the common dolphin, striped dolphin, Risso's dolphin, sei whales and many more.

Journeying towards Spain, we will be met by two deep-sea canyons in which you can find the wonderful world of beaked whales. These elusive mammals are deep diving specialists and we will keep our eyes peeled for the deepest diving mammal on the planet - the Cuvier's beaked whale.

We have timed the voyage for early September when whale migrations from north to south are taking place increasing further the possibility to spot whales whilst a diverse range of bird species should also be seen during our journey. We hope you can join us and the ORCA Ocean Conservationists on what promises to be an unforgettable trip in some of the most beautiful and productive waters and discover the wonderful world of whales and dolphins for yourself.

## Donation to ORCA

Noble Caledonia will be contributing £10,000 of the voyage revenue to ORCA. The donation will help ORCA to continue to monitor critical whale and dolphin habitats around the world and help drive new protections for some of the most vulnerable marine spaces on the planet.





Great Skua



Minke whale



Northern Iberian Coastline, Bay of Biscay

## Joining us on board

In addition to the Noble Caledonia onboard team, conservationists from ORCA will also be joining us on board including Kate Weston.



**Kate Weston:** Kate is the Ocean Conservationist Manager at ORCA. Kate's fascination with dolphins began on holidays to West Wales, where she would sit on seawalls waiting for dolphins to appear. She has a BSc (Hons) Marine Biology and a MSc Environmental Biology and has worked in conservation worldwide, studying turtles in Mexico and Cape Verde and bottlenose dolphins in Wales,

Florida and Australia. In 2018 Kate began working for ORCA as a Wildlife Officer in the Bay of Biscay and later became an Ocean Conservationist travelling to places like Spain, Iceland, Portugal, the Canary Islands, Norway and even Antarctica. Kate is passionate about chatting to people about the issues faced by whales and dolphins, and ways in which we can help them. Come and find her out on deck, join her at a lecture or enjoy a coffee together in the lounge to swap whale tales! In her spare time, Kate enjoys photography, scuba diving, and musicals. But her favourite way to spend time is out at sea looking for whales and dolphins and she looks forward to seeing you out on deck.



Fin whale

## The Itinerary

*The planned itinerary for our cruise is outlined below although we will keep a flexible schedule to maximise our whale sighting potential.*

**Day 1 Portsmouth, England.** Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time.

**Day 2 Lyme Bay & Dartmouth.** At dawn we will be sailing through Lyme Bay and staff will be on deck as we look for common dolphins that can be found in these waters. Later this morning we will sail along the River Dart to our anchorage off the town of Dartmouth. Here you can choose to spend a couple of hours exploring the town or maybe join a Zodiac ride along the river and see the castles and river fortifications whilst keeping an eye out for wildlife. Over lunch we sail out to the English Channel where the shallow waters are home to several species of whale, dolphin and porpoise. Regular sightings in these waters include minke whales, common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and harbour porpoises. A few lucky spotters could even see some rarer visitors, including the second largest animal on the planet - the fin whale, long-finned pilot whales, Risso's dolphin and even the iconic humpback whale. Keep an eye out for playful bow-riding dolphins who leap in the waves made by the ship as we sail through these waters.

**Day 3 Shelf Edge, Bay of Biscay.** Overnight we have sailed into the Bay of Biscay which is one of the most exciting areas in the world for whale and dolphin watching. A dramatic change in water depth from 150 to 4000 metres creates the perfect mixing bowl of nutrients that promote large algal blooms. These microscopic plants are the catalyst for drawing in ocean giants, who feed on the large schools of fish sustained by this explosion of life. We spend the day cruising in these rich feeding grounds, keeping a lookout for fin whales, sei whales, minke whales, long-finned pilot whales, Risso's dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, striped dolphins and common dolphins. Around one-third of the world's whale and dolphin species can be sighted in Biscay - with orca and blue whales being among the occasional visitors, meaning it is always an exciting area to watch for wildlife.

**Day 4 Canyons & Santander, Spain.** Arrive this morning in the southern Bay of Biscay. Around 2-30 kilometres off the coast of Spain, lies the Santander and Torrelavega Canyons which are both more than twice the depth of the Grand canyon. These colossal trenches are the perfect habitat for some of the most elusive and interesting whale and dolphin species,



such as the Cuvier's beaked whale. This mind-boggling species is the deepest diving mammal on the planet, they can hold their breath for an astonishing 3 hours and 42 minutes, and dive to an incredible 2,992 metres. Other beaked whales sighted here include the Sowerby's beaked whale, northern bottlenose whale and True's beaked whale, as well as other marine mammal species like the pilot whale and sperm whale. So keep your eyes peeled for some of the most exciting and unusual species you might spot. In the early evening we will berth in Santander where we have a few hours to stretch our legs before we sail tonight.



**Day 5 Whale Watching.** Spend the day cruising along and around the northern Iberian Coast which is home to around 22 whale and dolphin species including the harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, and Risso's dolphin. Several members of the iconic "blackfish" have also been sighted in these waters, including regular sightings of the long-finned pilot whale and occasional sightings of orca and false killer whale. Further offshore species such as the striped dolphin, Cuvier's beaked whale, Sowerby's beaked whale, sperm whale, minke and fin whale can be spotted.

**Day 6 Vigo & Iles des Cies.** Sail this morning into the Galician port of Vigo from where local boats will take us offshore to the beautiful Iles des Cies. Part of the Atlantic Islands National Park, the Romans named them the 'islands of the gods' and we will spend time enjoying the natural beauty of the landscapes; see the stunning beaches, walk the paths to search for animal and plant life or maybe swim in the clear waters. Alternatively spend some time in Vigo itself and explore the narrow streets of the old town or visit the Castro Fortess which was built in 1665 to defend the city from the English Navy and offers views over the city. Later, we sail the waters off the coast of Portugal which are home to playful dolphin species, such as the bottlenose dolphin and common dolphin, as well as the shy harbour porpoise.

**Day 7 Oporto, Portugal to London or Manchester.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to the UK.

## Post-cruise Oporto Extension 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025

If you would like to spend some time in Oporto after disembarking the MS Hebridean Sky, we are offering a two night extension.



### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oporto, Portugal.** Disembark this morning and join a tour of Oporto, Portugal's second largest city and a World Heritage Site. This attractive city was originally a Celtic-Iberian settlement and became a prosperous Roman village thanks to its natural harbour. During our tour we will drive through its narrow streets to find 16th century arcaded buildings, Baroque churches and chapels, as well as the city's iconic 19th century iron bridge, built by the school of Gustav Eiffel. Our final visit will be to the city's cathedral, located on the top of the Penaventosa Hill providing an amazing view over the river. After lunch we will transfer to our hotel and the rest of the afternoon and evening are free for independent exploration. (B, L)

**Day 2 Oporto.** Today is free to explore the city at your own pace. (B)

**Day 3 Oporto to London or Manchester.** Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight back to the UK. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£645** Single: **£845**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Oporto, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch), guided tour of Oporto, 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	£3595	£3295
Byrd	Superior	£3795	£3495
Mawson	Premium	£3995	£3695
Mawson	Corner	£4295	£3995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£4795	£4495
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£4995	£4695
Shackleton	Hebridean	£5295	£4995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£3795	£3495
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£3995	£3695

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel from Oporto to London or Manchester • Six 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 • Lecturers from ORCA • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# 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 Molton Brown toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be.

## Your Dining

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



The Library



Superior Suite



The Club

### Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Byrd Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Mawson Deck which features the main bar. 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.

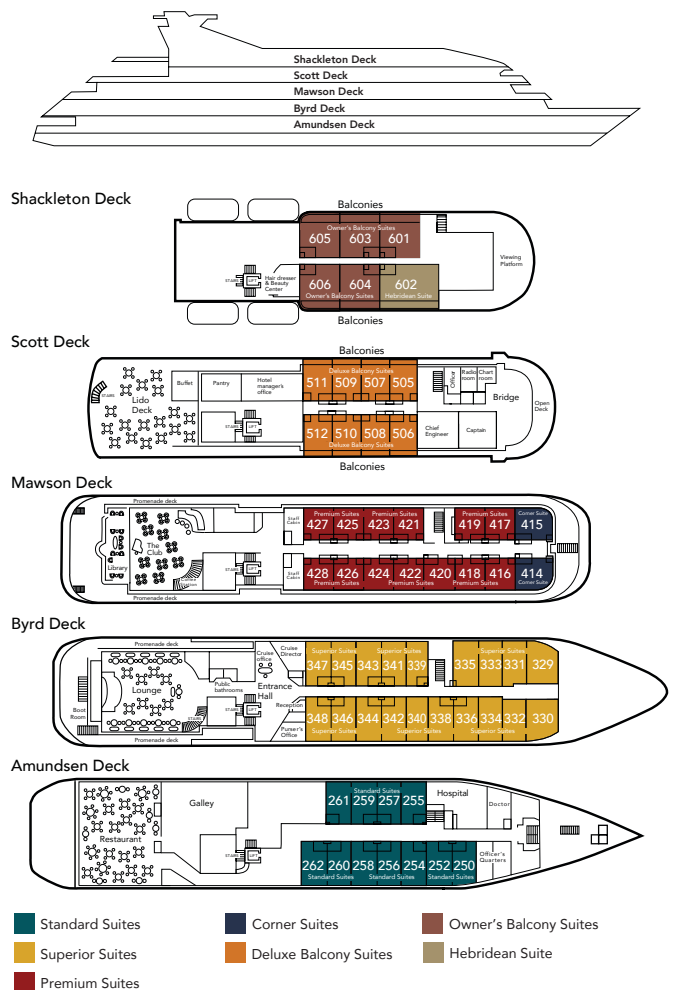
### Your Comfort

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: Dolphins.