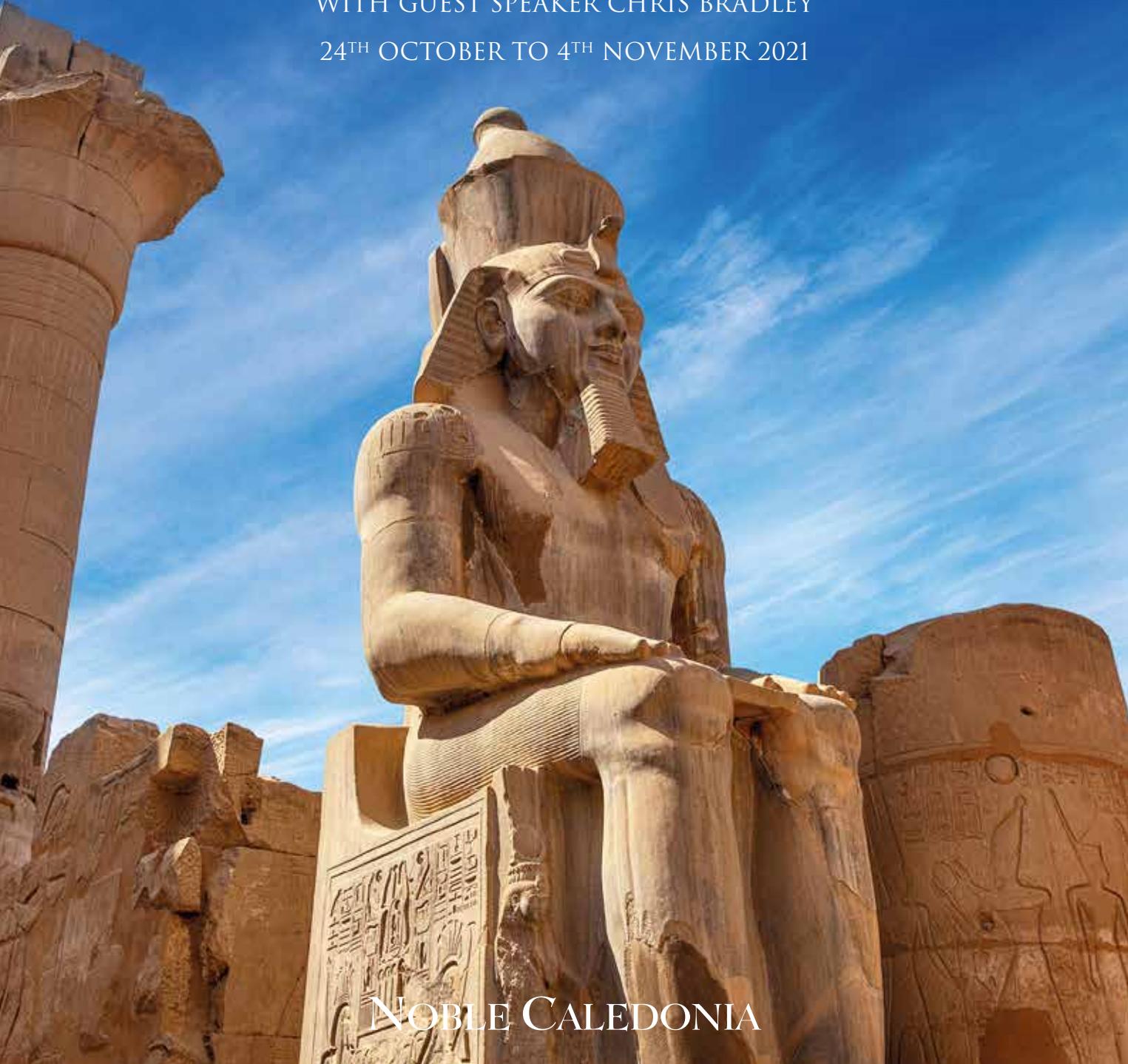


SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£300**  
PER PERSON

# WONDERS OF ANTIQUITY

A JOURNEY FROM LIMASSOL TO LUXOR  
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER CHRIS BRADLEY

24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Ruins of ancient Kourion



Join the MS Island Sky for this passage through antiquity in the wonderful region of the Eastern Mediterranean. Exploring by sea allows us to incorporate a heady mix of fantastic places with great ease from the ancient sites of Cyprus to the biblical landmarks of Israel and the wonders of Cairo and Luxor on the Nile. 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.

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. We continue to Israel for three and a half days of exploration visiting the ancient biblical cities of Acre, Nazareth and Jerusalem and discovering the ancient ruins in coastal Caesarea and Capernaum's ancient synagogue on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Following a transit of the Suez Canal, one of the world's greatest feats of civil engineering, we spend time in Egypt exploring some of the great monuments of the Pharaohs, the divine kings of thirty dynasties who ruled Egypt for some thirty-five centuries. 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.

Upon arriving in Safaga, we have arranged a fitting end to our voyage and will disembark for a two night stay in Luxor in order to maximise our time spent visiting the fascinating sites such as the Valley of the Kings and the great temples of Karnak. 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.

## Guest Speaker – Chris Bradley



Chris Bradley is an Arts Society lecturer 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; Libya; Oman; Abu Dhabi; plus the Insight Guides to Egypt; Jordan; The Silk Road; Travel Photography, and the Discovery Guide to Yemen. 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 also worked to develop tourism into Libya for more than a decade. 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. He developed and filmed 'Atlas Biker' Nicholas Crane's first television adventure documentary.



Great Sphinx, Giza



Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth



Mount Carmel and Bahai Gardens, Haifa



Acre



Sea of Galilee



Tutankhamun artefacts, Grand Egyptian Museum

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Limassol, Cyprus.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky in Limassol where we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Limassol.** From our berth we take a morning tour which will include the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus where Apollo was worshipped as God of the Woodlands. It seems that the worship of Apollo on this site began as early as the 8th century BC and continued until the 4th century AD. We will continue to the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. Of particular interest are the public baths, the necropolis, the Fountain House, House of Gladiators and House of Achilles. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre that has been completely restored and is used today for open-air musical and theatrical performances. The afternoon is free for independent exploration before we sail this evening.

**Days 3 & 4 Haifa, Israel.** We arrive in Israel at the northern port of Haifa for two days of exploration including options to visit Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus. Called the City of Annunciation, Nazareth is revered as the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared before Mary to tell her she was to bear the Son of God. Enjoy panoramic views of the city and visit the Church of the Annunciation which is built where Mary is said to

have lived. Maybe visit the shores of the Sea of Galilee where we find Capernaum's ancient synagogue and Peter's House before stopping in Tabgha, home to the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Leaves, with its 5th century mosaic floor. We will drive up Mount Carmel for a breathtaking view over the bay from the top of the city's famous Bahai Gardens. We also plan to visit Acre, one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites of the region and once the chief port of the Crusaders. Visit the underground city seeing the Crusader halls, crypt and the tunnels used as a secret route to the port. Also visit the bazaar and the UNESCO site of Kahn El Umdan (Inn of the Columns) one of the best-preserved caravanserais in Israel. The last option is to drive to Caesarea – the impressive ruins rest on the coast halfway between Haifa and Tel Aviv. This grand ancient city and harbour were built by Herod the Great between 22 and 10 BC and reigned capital over its region for almost 600 years. Named after the Roman Caesar Augustus, it had all the amenities of a splendid Roman city: baths, a hippodrome, a theatre and an aqueduct and we can explore the remains in the archaeological park.

**Days 5 & 6 Ashdod.** We continue our exploration of Israel from the southern port of Ashdod where we will spend a day and a half. During our time here we will organise visits 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 and buildings of the city. We will also drive inland 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. Our last afternoon is at sea and we arrive in Port Said in the evening to prepare for our transit of the Suez Canal.

**Day 7 Suez Canal.** Spend the day in the transit of the Suez Canal and the Great Bitter Lake.

**Day 8 Sokhna for Cairo, Egypt.** Today is a full day tour dedicated to the capital city of Cairo. We visit 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 Grand Egyptian Museum. This complex is a cultural hub and includes one of the largest museums in the world displaying the heritage of a single civilisation.

The museum contains over 50,000 artefacts, reflecting Egypt's past from prehistory until the Greek and Roman Periods. As you enter the museum, you cannot miss the colossal statue of King Ramses II, nor the 87 huge royal artefacts exhibited at the grand stairs. These lead up to an impressive 28 metre high glass facade overlooking the pyramids of Giza. The museum also hosts over 5000 artefacts from the tomb of the golden Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

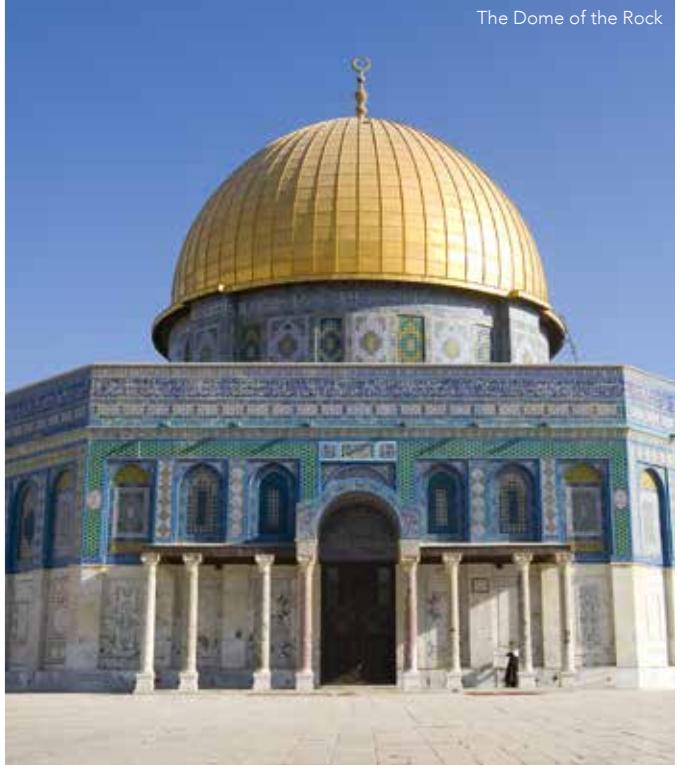
**Day 9 Sharm el Sheikh.** After a morning at sea we arrive at the resort town of Sharm el Sheikh. It is, however, offshore that our interest lies with the clear waters of the Red Sea. Maybe join a snorkelling tour to the Ras Mohamed National Park. Designated a National Park in 1983 the reef ecosystems 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.

**Days 10 & 11 Safaga for Luxor.** Disembark this morning in the Red Sea port of Safaga as we make our way inland to Luxor for a two night hotel stay. During our time here we will visit 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

Queen Hatshepsut Temple



The Dome of the Rock



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 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. Also visit the Colossi of Memnon to witness the two imposing 18 metre high quartzite seated statues that marked the entrance to the now vanished memorial temple of the pharaoh Amenhotep III. His reign in the 14th century BC was one of the most opulent in Egyptian history. We will also take a sailing boat on the Nile for a short cruise including lunch and have some time to explore the souk.

**Day 12 Luxor to London.** After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.



Karnak Temple



#### 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	£6295	£5995
Columbus	Superior	£6495	£6195
Marco Polo	Premium	£6995	£6695
Marco Polo	Corner	£7295	£6995
Eriksen	Deluxe Balcony	£7795	£7495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£7995	£7695
Explorer	Island Suite	£8995	£8695
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£8195	£7895
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£8495	£8195

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • Two nights hotel accommodation in Luxor with all meals • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Egyptian visa.

# MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky and MS Caledonian Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island 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 seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. 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 each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

## Your Dining

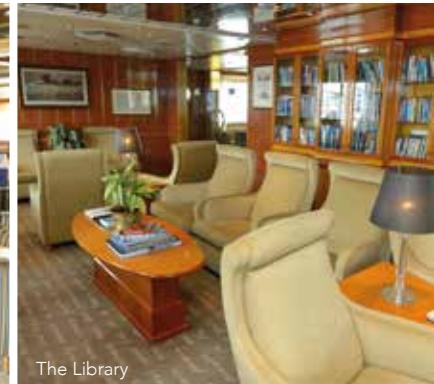
With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants 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.



Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms 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 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 Marco Polo 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 Columbus 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 as well as 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 Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

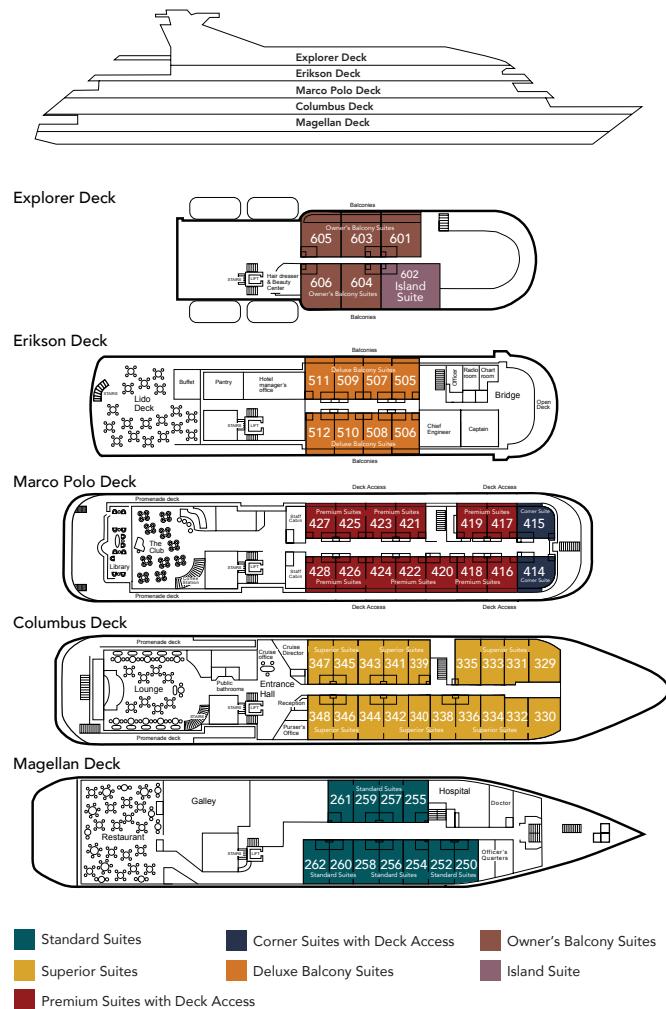
Your Comfort

The MS Island 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 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 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 ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Karnak Temple.