

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

WONDERS OF ANTIQUITY

A journey from Cyprus to Saudi Arabia aboard the MS Hebridean Sky
21st October to 1st November 2024



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Pyramids of Giza



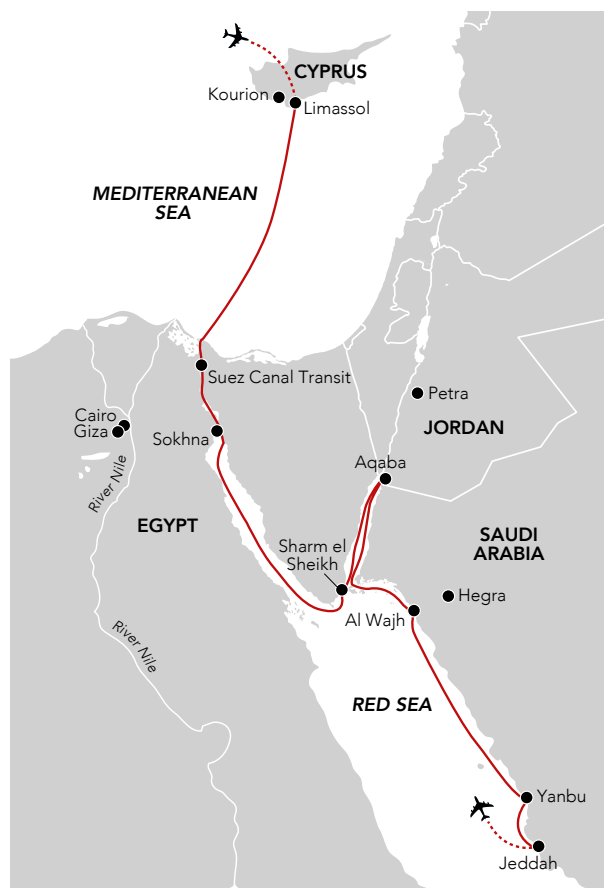
Sculpture of Pharaoh Ramses II, Memphis, Cairo



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.



Suez Canal Transit





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.





Jeddah

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.



Kourion



Yanbu

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: Visas 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.

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.

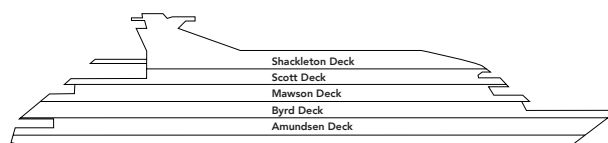
Your Comfort

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.

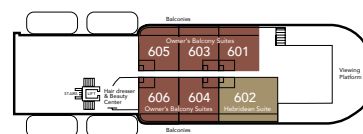
Your Life On Board

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.

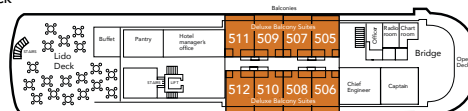
MS HEBRIDEAN SKY DECK PLAN



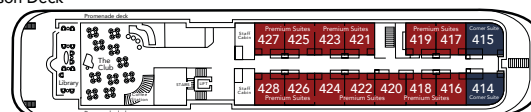
Shackleton Deck



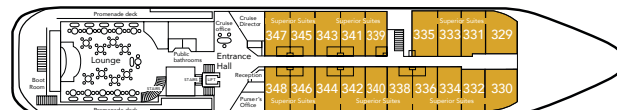
Scott Deck



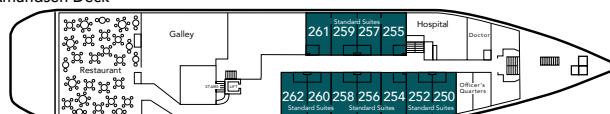
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



- Standard Suites
- Corner Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Hebridean Suite
- Premium Suites

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.



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: Tomb of Lihyan, son of Kuza, Hegra.