

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

VOYAGE TO BYZANTIUM

SAIL FROM VALLETTA TO ISTANBUL
ABOARD THE MS HEBRIDEAN SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER NIGEL MCGILCHRIST

12TH TO 24TH APRIL 2028

NOBLE CALEDONIA

From Valletta's Grand Harbour to the Golden Horn on the shores of the Bosphorus, this unique voyage aboard the 100-passenger MS Hebridean Sky traces the ancient highways of the Mediterranean and Aegean, linking together the great civilisations of antiquity. We will explore some of the ancient world's most fascinating sites, spend time on some charming Aegean islands and witness some beautiful landscapes. Our journey is perfectly timed to take advantage of the gentle temperatures and for us to witness the coast and islands at their springtime best before the crowds of summer arrive.

Embarking the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky in Malta, the crossroads of the Mediterranean, we sail to Sicily for our visit to Piazza Armerina and the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale with its stunning floor mosaics.

Continuing around the Sicilian coast we call into Syracuse for our exploration of the Neapolis Archaeological Park or the Baroque town of Noto which reveals the island's rich cultural heritage. After a leisurely day at sea crossing the Ionian Sea to Greece, we will discover Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games followed by a visit to the remarkable site of Delphi and a transit of the Corinth Canal. As we continue through the Aegean, we will visit islands and ports imbued with mythology and maritime tradition. From the elegant Neoclassical architecture of Syros and the extraordinary monasteries of Meteora to the Byzantine splendours of Thessaloniki and Lemnos, an island steeped in mythology. Our voyage concludes amid the legendary landscapes of the Dardanelles and the fabled city of Troy before we arrive in the captivating city of Istanbul where there is the option to extend your time with our two night hotel extension.

Our itinerary has been carefully designed to combine some 'must see' sites together with some smaller places that are totally unsuitable for vessels larger than ours and in addition to our guided excursions, we have also included time at leisure for individual exploration enabling you to soak up the atmosphere at your own pace. 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.



Guest Speaker – Nigel McGilchrist



Nigel McGilchrist is an author and lecturer who has lived and worked in the Mediterranean – Italy, Turkey, Egypt, and Greece – for over forty years. He was a scholar at Winchester College and at Oxford; after graduating he began teaching at the University of Rome and subsequently worked for the Italian Superintendence of Fine Arts. His spare time was devoted to exploring the lands, coasts

and the cultures of the Mediterranean world, both of North Africa and of Southern Europe. He has lectured for many years on the art and history of the Mediterranean for museums and institutions in Europe and America – among them, the Getty Museum and the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. He was formerly Dean of European Studies for a consortium of American universities.

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 moor overnight.

Day 2 Valletta. There will be a choice of tours this morning. You may wish to visit Mdina which was originally 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. During our walking tour we will discover various architectural styles, including Sicilian-Norman palaces and impressive Baroque buildings of great historical significance. Alternatively, visit the Ghar Dalam Cave and Museum, one of Malta's most important prehistoric sites. The cave is renowned for its rich fossil deposits, including remains of animals that lived on the island over 500,000 years ago, and provides valuable insight into the earliest human presence in Malta. Afterwards, drive to the 18th century Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar which is celebrated for its lavish interiors, intricate stucco work, gilded ceilings and elegant ballrooms. Our visit will also include a tour of the palace's ornate gardens, beautifully landscaped with fountains, statues and fragrant orange trees. After lunch on board, the afternoon is free to explore the city of Valletta independently.

Day 3 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. Arriving at the Sicilian 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 we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

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. This morning 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. Alternatively, visit 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

Mdina



Temple of Apollo, Delphi



The 'Ear of Dionysius', Syracuse



White Tower, Thessaloniki



Syros

along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some Baroque churches. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore Syracuse 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 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day on board as we sail across the Ionian Sea to Greece.

Day 6 Katakolon for Olympia, Greece. Arrive in Greece at the port of Katakolon, our base for our excursion to Olympia where the 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 which houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. Afterwards, we will enjoy Easter lunch in a local restaurant before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

Day 7 Itea & Corinth Canal. The port of Itea is our gateway to 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. Alternatively, visit the 12th century Monastery of Ossiou Loukas, where more of the original decoration survives than in any other church in Greece. The mosaics and frescoes in the Great Church are among the finest in Greece. On the return journey to the MS Hebridean Sky we can enjoy the diverse landscape with wooded green slopes, hills with pines and the sacred valley with olive trees. Enjoy lunch on board and a leisurely afternoon at sea ensuring you are on deck in the early evening 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.

Day 8 Syros. Syros was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century and the capital Ermoupolis was Greece's principal port. Enjoy a leisurely morning with a stroll in the town of Ermoupoli, the capital of the Cyclades. The prosperity of the island in the 19th and early 20th centuries created through commerce and shipping is reflected in the architecture with a beautiful square, town hall and theatre. We will sail over lunch and have an afternoon at sea.

Day 9 Volos for Meteora. Arrive today in Volos, the starting point of the expedition of Jason and the Argonauts from Greek Mythology, located in

the Pagasetic Gulf at the foot of Mount Pelion. Leaving the port we will head through the fertile plains of Thessaly towards Meteora ("monasteries in midair"), one of the most extraordinary sights in Greece and in all of Europe. Rising from Thessaly's valley are gigantic rocks on top of which are monasteries built by hermits some 600 years ago and which are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over time, 24 monasteries were built on the hilltops, producing a surreal sight that combines a spectacular natural landscape with human ingenuity. Inside the monasteries we will see the beautiful icons and frescoes on the walls and appreciate the intricate mosaics and Medieval manuscripts. After lunch in a local restaurant we will return to Volos. Alternatively join the Pelion Train which was constructed between 1894 and 1903 and which ascends the beautiful slopes of the mountain to the historic village of Milea. Commencing in Ano Lechonia we will view verdant slopes, dense vegetation of plane trees and oaks, arched bridges and tunnels as we climb. On arrival in Milea we will walk along the cobbled paths to the centre of the village where we find the 18th century church, the folklore museum and one of the oldest libraries in Greece. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Volos, perhaps taking a walk along the pedestrianised seaside promenade, the Argonauts Way.

Day 10 Thessaloniki. Since its foundation by King Cassander of Macedonia in 315 BC and named after his wife, stepsister of Alexander the Great, Thessaloniki has always been a metropolis. The long history of the city is evident in the varied architectural forms from the Hellenistic era up to the end of the 20th century as well as an astonishing Byzantine artistic heritage. This morning we explore the city seeing the White Tower, the symbol of the city, the Galerius Arch, the Rotunda, St Dimitrios Church, the Citadel and the City Walls, from where you will have a marvellous view of the city and the Thermaic Gulf with Mount Olympus in the background. Alternatively drive to the Vergina Royal Tombs Museum which displays the superb, decorated facades of the temple-like tombs of King Philip II and a young prince (thought to be Alexander IV), the treasures found within them and a reconstruction of the Great Mound that originally marked the site of the Royal Tombs. The tombs were discovered in 1977-78 by the archaeologist Manolis Andronikos and until that time they were covered by a protective tumulus 13 metres high and 110 metres across. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

Day 11 Lemnos. Awake in Myrina, the small capital of Lemnos, an island steeped in mythology being the domain of the Greek god Hephaestus, the god of fire and metalworking, who fell on Lemnos when his father, Zeus, threw him from Mount Olympus. A morning tour will cross the island to the archaeological site of Hephaestia, one of the island's principal cities in Antiquity and an important religious centre. We can see the ruins of the ancient baths, theatre and palace as well as the sanctuary devoted to the Great Goddess of Lemnos. Spend the afternoon at leisure in pretty Myrina, known for its romantic castle built over the rocky promontory. Maybe explore



the castle or the picturesque Romeikos Gialos, which is lined with charming Neoclassical houses one of which contains the Archaeological Museum.

Day 12 Canakkale, Turkey. Arrive in Turkey at the port of Canakkale, our base for a choice of excursions today. Maybe visit the ancient city of Troy, where 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. 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 onsite Troy Museum. Alternatively, there will be an excursion to the Gallipoli Peninsula to see the World War I memorials which commemorate the Gallipoli campaign. It was here in 1915 that allied troops, mainly from Australia and New Zealand, landed intending to quickly defeat the Ottomans and facilitate ships to pass through the Dardanelles to capture Istanbul. However, the landings were contained by the Ottoman troops and trench warfare soon took hold leading to thousands of deaths. We will visit the memorials at Anzac Cove and Chunuk Bair. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky and spend a final relaxing afternoon at sea as we cruise through the Dardanelles Strait.

Day 13 Istanbul 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	£8495	£7995
Byrd	Superior	£8795	£8295
Mawson	Premium	£8995	£8495
Mawson	Corner	£9495	£8995
Scott	Deluxe Balcony	£10495	£9995
Shackleton	Owner's Balcony	£10995	£10495
Shackleton	Hebridean	£11495	£10995
Amundsen	Standard for sole use	£10495	£9995
Byrd	Superior for sole use	£10995	£10495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Hebridean Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer & 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.

Istanbul Post-cruise Extension

24th to 26th April 2028

If you would like to spend some time in Istanbul after your cruise we are offering a two night hotel stay based at the Bank Hotel. Our extension will include a guided tour of Topkapi Palace and a full day exploring the other sites of this magnificent city.

The Bank Hotel, Istanbul

Nestled in the historic neighbourhood of Karakoy, The Bank Hotel is ideally situated for discovering the treasures of Sultanahmet and beyond. Originally built in 1876 in the grand Neo-Renaissance style, this former bank has been exquisitely restored, blending its rich heritage with timeless elegance. A Member of Design Hotels, The Bank Hotel offers 62 rooms, a rooftop restaurant with magnificent views of Old Istanbul, a gym and spa, and provides guests with a truly unforgettable stay.



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 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: **£795** Single: **£1095**

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

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 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.

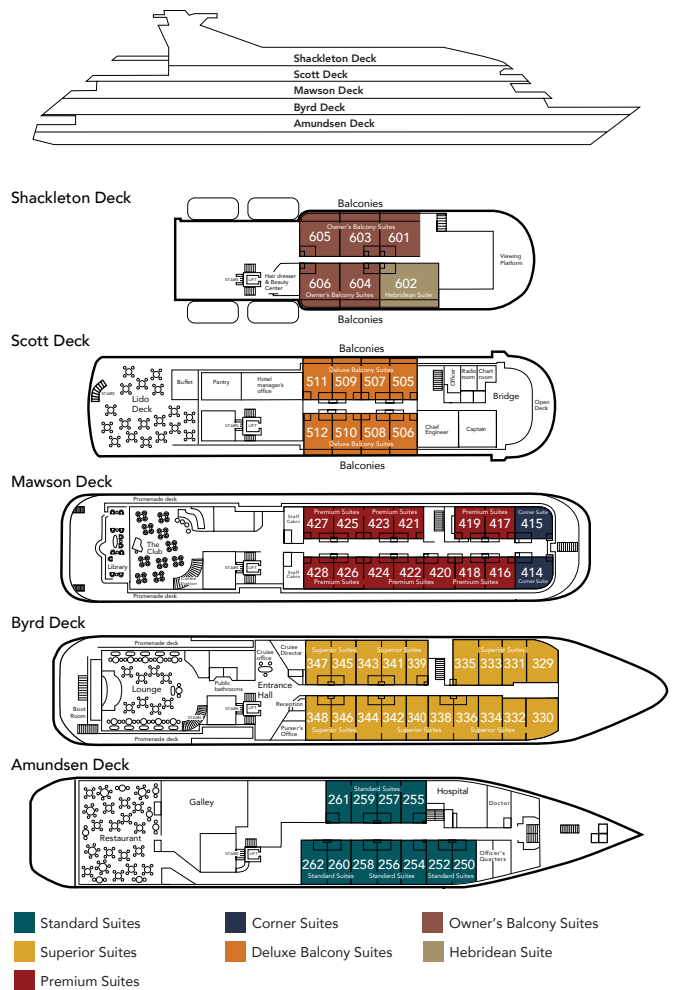
Your Comfort

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.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk
 www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



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