

# GALICIA TO CASABLANCA

A VOYAGE AROUND THE IBERIAN PENINSULA TO MOROCCO Aboard the MS Island Sky with guest speaker Major general patrick cordingly

19<sup>th</sup> TO 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

**NOBLE CALEDONI** 

Our late summer voyage aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky from Vigo to Casablanca offers the opportunity to gain an insight into the region's splendid architecture, captivating culture and fascinating history. It is difficult to imagine a better time than late September for our journey, just about everything is as perfect as it can be, from the comfortable temperatures to the relatively crowd free sites and our itinerary has been planned to ensure that the balance is just right between exploring ashore, relaxing on board and time at leisure for individual exploration.

During our guided tours, we will witness the legacy of many civilisations and kingdoms as we visit the coastal regions and towns steeped in history combined with the city of Oporto with its vibrant Ribeira district, Coimbra the Medieval capital of Portugal contrasting with the magnificent architecture of Lisbon, the modern capital, the splendid Moorish and Christian treasures of Seville and the wonderfully atmospheric port of Tangier, Europe's gateway to



Africa. Exploring in the company of just 100 or so like-minded travel companions, and with the aid of our knowledgeable local guides and excellent Guest Speaker, makes for an endlessly fascinating cultural experience. For those wishing to spend more time in Morocco, we have arranged for a three night post-cruise extension to the enchanting city of Marrakech.

### Guest Speaker - Major General Patrick Cordingley



Patrick commanded the Desert Rats during the 1991 Gulf War. His huge tank formation led the British and American attack, which breached the Iraqi defences. In 1992 he took command of the 2nd UK Division before being appointed as the military adviser to Sultan Qaboos of Oman. Patrick retired from the Army in 2000 and then completed eight years as chairman of a technology company. During this time he also worked for the BBC as a military commentator. He is now chairman of the Defence and Security Forum, past chairman of the trustees of the Gilbert White's House with the Oates Collection, the National Memorial Arboretum Appeal, past Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers and past chairman and vice-chairman of the governors of two schools. He was a visiting scholar at Hull University, where he is a Doctor of Science. He is the author of two best selling books.



### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Vigo, Spain.** Fly by scheduled flight to Oporto. On arrival transfer to the MS Island Sky moored in Vigo. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Leixoes for Oporto or Guimaraes, Portugal. This morning we will have a choice of tours. You can choose to explore Oporto seeing the impressive St Francis Church and the Ribeira before continuing to a local port wine cellar. Here we will be able to learn all about these wines and how they are produced before we enjoy a tasting. Alternatively you can join the tour to Guimaraes, often referred to as the birthplace of Portugal, it is one of the country's most historic cities being where the first king of Portugal was born and where the reconquest of the country from the Moors began. During the tour we will view the 10th century castle and visit the Palace of the Dukes. After a walking tour along the charming cobblestone streets and past the wonderful Medieval buildings we will return to the ship for lunch. This afternoon relax on board or explore Oporto independently.

Day 3 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra. Located at the mouth of the Modego River, Figueira da Foz is one of central Portugal's prime beach resorts. However, the reason for our call is to visit the nearby city of Coimbra, the Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years. During our walking tour we will view the stunning buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries before we head to the University which was recently appointed UNESCO status. Founded in the 13th century we will see the Chapel of Sao Miguel and the Joanine Library which houses over 300,000 works dating back to the 16th century. After a local lunch, you can choose to return to Figueira da Foz or stay in Coimbra and explore further independently. Day 4 Lisbon. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. It is a city famous for its majestic architecture, old wooden trams, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries of history. Following disastrous earthquakes in the 18th century, the city was rebuilt by the Marquis de Pombal who created an elegant city with wide boulevards and a great riverfront and square. During our morning panoramic tour we will see the Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower and visit the famous Jeronimos Monastery, Alternatively, a full day tour will visit the Alentejo region. We will drive to Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where a walking tour will explore the sights and Medieval history of this enchanting city. Evora is one of the oldest cities in the Alentejo region and we will see the well preserved Roman Temple, St Francisco Church and the Chapel of Bones before exploring the charming squares. Alentejo is a highly respected wine region traditionally growing red wines from the Tempranillo and Trincadeira grapes. We will enjoy lunch in a vineyard including a tasting before we return to the MS Island Sky.

**Day 5 At Sea.** Join our Guest Speaker in the lounge or find a spot on deck as we spend a relaxing day at sea sailing to Seville.

**Day 6 Seville, Spain.** Having sailed up the lower reaches of the Guadalquivir River in the early morning, we will dock this morning in the centre of vibrant Seville and enjoy a morning walking tour to explore the city's greatest monuments. Enter the Alcazar Palace with its ornate Moorish interiors and exotic terraced garden. Built by Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century with the help of Moorish craftsmen, it is still used as a residence by the King of Spain. We also visit the imposing La Giralda, Seville's cathedral, reputed to



be the largest Gothic style church in the world with its distinctive Moorish tower. We return to the MS Island Sky for lunch followed by an afternoon at leisure to continue exploring Seville independently. Alternatively there will be the opportunity to visit the city of Cordoba on a full day tour. This beautiful city demonstrates a past where Jews, Christians and Muslims peacefully coexisted and left a beautiful legacy of architecture to be appreciated for centuries to come. Visit the Mosque and the Synagogue, and enjoy a typical lunch and some free time for further exploration before returning to the ship. We will sail down the Guadalquivir River this evening.

**Day 7 Tangier, Morocco.** Having passed the Strait of Gibraltar we arrive in North Africa and the port of Tangier. A short drive will bring us to the Donabo Gardens located on the coast with wonderful sea views. Divided into ten sections we can explore the Moroccan garden that celebrates the tradition of tea, the mint maze where multiple varieties blend their fragrances along the alleys, a rose garden thriving in the cool shade and a pollinators garden purposely designed to attract bees. Later we can explore the city where on a walking tour we will visit the Medina, enjoy the views from the Kasbah situated at the highest point of Tangier, and wander through the Grand Souk.

**Day 8 Casablanca to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

#### PRICES PER PERSON Based on double occupancy

| SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON<br>FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY |                        |                |                     |
|---|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Deck  | Suite Category         | Brochure Price | Special Offer Price |
| Magellan  | Standard               | £4995          | £4695               |
| Columbus  | Superior               | £5295          | £4995               |
| Marco Polo  | Premium                | £5795          | £5495               |
| Marco Polo  | Corner                 | £5995          | £5695               |
| Erikson   | Deluxe Balcony         | £6595          | £6295               |
| Explorer  | Owner's Balcony Suites | £6795          | £6495               |
| Explorer  | Island Suite           | £6995          | £6695               |
| Magellan  | Standard for sole use  | £5795          | £5495               |
| Columbus  | Superior for sole use  | £5995          | £5695               |

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven nights aboard the MS Island 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 • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

### Post-cruise Marrakech Extension 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

If you would like to spend some time in Marrakech after your cruise we are offering a three night extension which will include a tour to the iconic Majorelle Gardens and out into the Atlas Mountains.



### The Itinerary

Day 1 Casablanca to Marrakech, Morocco. Disembark after breakfast and enjoy a guided tour of Casablanca during which we will visit the city's most important sights, including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Olive Market. The highlight of our tour, however, is a visit to the Hassan II Mosque, the largest religious monument in the world after Mecca. It took 3300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and the splendid wood ceilings. After lunch we will drive to Marrakech. Arriving late afternoon we will check into our hotel for our three night stay and meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 2 Marrakech. This morning we will set out to explore the vibrant city of Marrakech. We will start with the iconic Majorelle Gardens, an enchanting garden created by French painter Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s and 30s and then purchased by Pierre Berge and Yves Saint Laurent in the 1980s to save it from developers. The garden spans over two and a half acres and is divided into different sections, each offering a different experience. Then with our local guide we will explore the maze-like souks taking in the sounds and smells and see the array of local goods on sale from carpets to leather, still made in the traditional ways, pottery and piled high spices. We will also visit Le Jardin Secret, a private garden located in the heart of the Medina. The original garden dates back over four hundred years and was rebuilt in the mid-19th century. After lunch your afternoon is free to continue exploring independently or return to the hotel. (**B**, **L**)

Day 3 Atlas Mountains. Today we will venture out of the city to the stunning Atlas Mountains and discover traditional Moroccan life. Driving an hour or so out of the city, as the buildings disappear and the landscape opens we will be in the Ourika Valley. This beautiful valley is known for its pine and cedar forests and is home to Berber villages and even some Barbary apes. Take in the towering snow caped peaks and this amazing landscape. Along the way we will meet the local Berber people, enjoy some mint tea and hear about their life and how they hold onto traditional life. We will return to Marrakech in the afternoon. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Marrakech to London. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

#### PRICES PER PERSON Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1295** Single: **£1695** 

Price Includes: Three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. Not Included: Travel insurance.



# MS ISLAND SKY

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky. 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. 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, television and telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries, air-conditioning and heating.

#### Your Dining

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 predinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable.

### 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. Towards the aft of the ship on the Columbus Deck is the Library. A collection of games as well as devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can 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).

### MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



## NOBLE CALEDONIA

Which? Recommended Provider

EBRUARY 2024



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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: Alcazar Palace, Seville.