PASSAGE FROM Mahe to Mumbai

A VOYAGE FROM THE SEYCHELLES TO India's Malabar Coast including the Maldives & Lakshadweep Islands Aboard the MS Island Sky

29th January to 16th February 2026

NOBLE CALEDONIA

We find it difficult to imagine a more perfect way to escape the British winter than to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the Indian Ocean aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Island Sky as she undertakes exactly the type of itinerary that suits her best. Join us in the tropics as we journey from the islands and atolls of the Indian Ocean to India's Malabar Coast.

Our journey to Mumbai first allows us to explore the idyllic islands of the Seychelles and Maldives, two of the world's most pristine and picturesque archipelagos. Using our purpose built Zodiac landing craft, we will land on otherwise inaccessible beaches, witness the magnificent bird and marine life, explore vast lagoons and coral reefs and encounter some extraordinarily beautiful tropical scenery. Our small ship, the MS Island Sky is the perfect means of discovering the region, allowing us to enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquillity of the islands, after all, it would be disappointing to find yourself in the company of hundreds on what was a deserted beach or whilst exploring remote atolls.

Contrasting well with this natural world exploration, our itinerary then takes a more cultural focus as we reach the Indian state of Kerala. Our first port of call is Cochin, an ancient city of islands which has for centuries attracted traders and adventurers from Europe and the far Orient and from here we can explore the serene 'backwaters', a network of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals. Continuing west, we spend two days in the beautiful and serene Lakshadweep Islands with opportunities to swim and snorkel in the atoll's shallow waters



Humbai

abundant with marine life and corals. Finally, we will spend time in Goa with its interesting blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures and Mumbai, the perfect city in which to observe the colourful day to day life and the general hubbub of India.

This unusual itinerary will appeal to those looking for something different, incorporating explorations of the natural world with a more expedition focus, followed by a fascinating look at southern India. With the MS Island Sky as our base and travelling with just over 100 fellow passengers and our expert onboard team, we can enjoy great food, good company and a convivial atmosphere.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive and transfer to the MS Island Sky for embarkation. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail the short distance to our overnight anchorage.

Days 3 & 4 Inner Seychelles. Spend two days exploring the islands of the Inner Seychelles group. We hope to include time on Aride which is one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater, lesser noddy, frigate birds and roseate tern in addition to five species unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. The island is largely covered in native woodland, including the endemic Wright's gardenia, a shrub with beautifully scented flowers found nowhere else in the world. See Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitor centre. The island is an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk. Maybe relax on Grande Soeur, an idyllic uninhabited island. Walk the island trails which link the white sand beaches and perhaps catch sight of some of the island's giant Aldabra tortoises or take a swim in the turquoise waters. Our last call in the Seychelles will be at Praslin where we explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying its natural beauty. This evening we will clear custom formalities as we start our journey to the Maldives.

Days 5 to 7 At Sea. Relax on board, enjoying our time at sea sailing between the islands of the Seychelles and the Maldives. Watch out for the bird and marine life and listen to the intriguing talks by our expedition team. We are assured of warm weather so make the most of the fresh air and enjoy all the comforts of the MS Island Sky.

Days 8 to 11 Maldives. We spend four days exploring the whole archipelago. This vast area of ocean is scattered with staggeringly beautiful dots of land surrounded by a cerulean sea. It offers some of the finest lagoons, beaches and coral reefs in the world. Our day to day schedule will be left in the capable hands of the Captain and Expedition Leader and we hope to include visits to a number of atolls as we sail from the southern islands to the north. Our expedition team will be on hand to lead guided



walking tours to explore the birds and wildlife on land whilst our Snorkel Master will take us to some stunning reefs to view the wonderful coral and marine life.

Day 12 At Sea. Our lecture programme continues as we make our way across the Laccadive Sea to India.

Day 13 Cochin, India. Our first call in India is Cochin, an extraordinary city with strong influences of Portuguese, Chinese, Arab, Dutch and British cultures still much in evidence today. From our berth you can choose to visit the serene Kerala backwaters at Alleppey where we will board a local boat for a cruise past colonial warehouses and coconut thatched houses. For centuries, these canals provided a safe and efficient means of transportation for goods and people moving between the heartland of Kerala and the port towns along the coast. Even today, traditional barges, or kettuvallams, haul coconut, pepper, rice and other goods along the waterways. Alternatively stay in Cochin to explore the diverse mix of cultures and religions that together, with its strong trading past in spices and silks, make for a fascinating city. Discover Mattancherry Palace with its ornately decorated rooms including some marvellous ancient murals and also see the oldest European church in India, St Francis, and the ruins of the fort.

Days 14 & 15 Lakshadweep Islands. Situated about 200 miles east of Cochin, the idyllic Lakshadweep archipelago comprise the smallest Union Territory of India, totalling just 11 square miles of land. Stunning lagoons, colourful birds, profuse marine flora and fauna, swaying palms and pristine beaches make these an island paradise. During our day and a half here we will stroll along lovely, unspoiled beaches and explore the underwater realm. Weather and tide conditions will determine our course but we hope to land for walks as well as explore the clear waters that surround these pristine islands which are perfect for swimming and witnessing the colourful hard and soft corals which teem with many marine species.

Day 16 Goa. In the 15th century Goa was the largest trading centre on India's west coast and when the Portuguese arrived in the early 16th century they planned to set up a colony to seize control of the spice trade. Goa remained a Portuguese colony until 1961 when it became the 25th state of the Indian Republic. Whilst famous for her beautiful beaches Goa also offers wonderful architecture with a mixture of Hindu and Catholic styles, unique history, rich culture and pretty natural scenery. Arriving over lunch we spend the afternoon exploring Old Goa with its fine Basilica of Bom Jesus and the Neo-Classical Church of St Cajetan. Afterwards choose to return to the ship or continue to a spice plantation where the cultivation of cardamom, chilli, cloves and coriander can be seen. We will enjoy the smells and tastes whilst we learn about their uses in Indian life. Day 17 At Sea. Relax on board as we make our way to our final destination of Mumbai.

Day 18 Mumbai. This morning we sail into Mumbai, a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fisherman, who still occupy parts of the city shoreline today. Mumbai was derived from 'Mumba' the name of the Hindu goddess 'Mumbadevi' and 'Aai' – mother in the local Marathi language. First ceded to the Portuguese, the British Government took possession of the islands in 1665 before leasing them to the East India Company who founded the port and saw the city grow in size and importance. Choose to explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi when he stayed in Mumbai from 1917 to 1934 and Dhobi Ghat where we can observe the vast open air Indian laundry. Alternatively, travel to Gharapuri Island, better known as Elephanta Island and view the remarkable caves designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This labyrinth of cave temples features courtyards, shrines, remarkable statues and vibrant sculptures that date from the 5th to 7th century AD. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace.

Day 19 Mumbai to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon.

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
Magellan	Standard	£11795	£11295
Columbus	Superior	£11995	£11495
Marco Polo	Premium	£12495	£11995
Marco Polo	Corner	£12895	£12395
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£14495	£13995
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£14495	£13995
Explorer	Island Suite	£16495	£15995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£12795	£12295
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£12995	£12495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 17 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes Not Included: Travel insurance, Indian visa. If you would like to spend some additional time exploring India after disembarking the MS Island Sky, we are offering the opportunity to join a five night extension which will include Jaipur, Agra for the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, and Delhi.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Mumbai to Jaipur, India. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Jaipur. Arrive in the early afternoon and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Originally the city's walls were the colour of red sandstone, Jaipur's universal coat of pink only came in 1876 to coincide with the visit of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII). Almost the entire city was given a coat of pink paint, thus giving it the name 'The Pink City'. This afternoon we will visit the Birla Temple and Albert Hall before we return to the hotel for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 2 Jaipur. Located near the deserts of Rajasthan, the movement and collection of water play an important role for the city. This morning our guide will show us the ancient channels, aqueducts and reservoirs and explain about their history and creation. Also see the Hawa Mahal, the ornamental facade of this 'Palace of Winds' is a prominent landmark in Jaipur, plastered pink and encrusted with fine trellis work and elaborate balconies. After lunch we will visit the Observatory and the City Palace which maintains the Maharaja's private collection of textiles and arms. Return to the hotel for some time at leisure before dinner is served in the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Jaipur to Agra. This morning we drive to Agra (approximately 4.5 hours). Agra's history dates back to the Mughals who proclaimed it their capital in 1565. Located on the Yamuna River, the city grew as a centre of architectural, political and trading activity. Today it is a kaleidoscope of India with various communities living in harmony. After lunch we visit Agra Fort, built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565, before continuing to the city including the bazaars which are rich with spices, foods, fabrics, jewellery and textiles. Check in to our hotel for our two night stay and enjoy dinner in the hotel this evening. (**B**, **L**, **D**)

Day 4 Agra. After breakfast we see the legendary beauty and the white marble domes of the elegant Taj Mahal. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an exquisite mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, Rudyard Kipling described the building as "the embodiment of all things pure". After our visit we will have lunch and an afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Agra to Delhi. Drive this morning to Delhi (approximately 4 hours). Capital to seven different cultures over the course of its history, New Delhi is a fascinating fusion of them all. The art and architecture of the city reflect its ancient and multifaceted heritage. A Hindu fortress, a Mughal tomb, an Islamic minaret and mosque and a Bahai temple give an idea of the cultural richness found here. After lunch, visit Gurudwara Bangla Sahabib (Sikh temple), a quiet and serene spot amid the bustling marketplace. After paying homage at the sanctum, where the holy book is kept, we can stroll along the tranquil pond in the Gurudwara. Return to the hotel for our final dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Delhi to London. Check out and transfer to the airport this morning for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2895** Single: **£3495**

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from Mumbai to Jaipur, two nights hotel accommodation in Jaipur, two nights hotel accommodation in Agra, overnight hotel accommodation in Delhi, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, guided tours as described, gratuities, transfers, airport taxes. Not Included: Travel insurance, Indian visa.



MS ISLAND SKY



The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean 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 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 Noble Isle 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



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 quests 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

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ecommended Provider

OCEAN CRUISES

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





During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

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: Paradise Flycatcher.