

CAPE VERDE TO CASABLANCA - DISCOVER CAPE VERDE, THE WESTERN SAHARA & MOROCCO

Like the Azores but even more remote, the Cape Verde Islands are an intriguing archipelago located off the coast of Senegal. They are an amazingly varied group of islands that have been used as a staging post by mariners through the ages. From these volcanic landscapes to the historic ports of Morocco, this fascinating voyage follows a little-travelled route along the Atlantic coast of Africa, linking vibrant island cultures with ancient trading cities and dramatic desert shores. Travelling aboard the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky, we have the privilege of exploring regions that remain refreshingly uncrowded, where centuries of maritime history, African, Portuguese and Berber influences, and striking natural beauty combine to create an endlessly rewarding journey. During our time in Cape Verde, we will discover Sal's salt pans, the lush mountain scenery and agricultural valleys of Sao Nicolau and Santo Antao, and the colourful colonial streets and rich musical traditions of Sao Vicente. On Santiago we can learn of the archipelago's complex past in Cidade Velha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which was founded by the Portuguese in 1462 and is the oldest settlement in Cape Verde. Leaving the islands behind, we then cross the Atlantic waters to the seldom-visited shores of Western Sahara, where vast dune landscapes, remote settlements and a unique cultural heritage provide an intriguing contrast. Continuing north, the volcanic wonders of Lanzarote offer an extraordinary natural landscape shaped by fire and celebrated through the visionary work of Cesar Manrique. Our journey concludes along Morocco's Atlantic coast, where bustling souks and magnificent monuments reveal the country's rich history and enduring traditions. From Agadir's historic fortress to the artisan workshops of Safi or the atmospheric streets of Essaouira to the grand Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca, our final few days are a fitting conclusion to our voyage that combines some spectacular scenery, fascinating history and authentic cultural encounters. With the MS Hebridean Sky as our base and accompanied by just 100 fellow travellers, our cruise promises to be a most memorable experience and unique opportunity for those who enjoy visiting out of the way islands and ports where tourists



are a rarity.

ITINERARY



Day 1 London to Sal, Cape Verde.

Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky in Palmeira and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Palmeira, Sal.

The island of Sal was relatively undeveloped until the mid-nineteenth century when salt export business was developed and this morning we will visit one of the original sites at Pedra de Lume. We will see the salt pans, learn of the salt extraction process and even have the opportunity to float in the waters. After lunch on board there will be time to relax or join a transfer to the town of Santa Maria where you can visit the beach or explore the local shops for Cape Verdean crafts.

Day 3 Praia, Santiago.

Today we explore the historic capital of Praia on the island of Santiago. Praia has a wonderful African feel and we will visit Cidade Velha, the old Portuguese capital which has a rich history and was once the centre of the slave trade. See the fort and cathedral which dominate the narrow, cobbled lanes and stone houses. Enjoy a traditional performance of Batuco dance before we continue into the green interior, climbing the steep mountains and enjoying the colours as we make our way to Rui Vaz where we enjoy a lunch of local produce in the shadow of Pico da Antonia. We will see local farms and drive past the only water dam in Cape Verde before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky and sailing this evening.

Day 4 Tarrafal, Sao Nicolau.

Sao Nicolau is a charming, peaceful and attractive island of plantations, small holdings and busy farming villages. It also has impressive, almost untouched mountain scenery, friendly residents and lively traditions. During our tour we will drive through a spectacular landscape towards the historical capital of Ribeira Brava. Here we will discover the lively centre of the island which reflects the character of the people and learn why Ribeira Brava was the bedrock of Cape Verdean intellect in the 19th century. After lunch enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 5 Porto Novo, Santo Antao.

We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Santo Antao. Driving up the old trading route, we pass the volcanic crater 'Cova' with its agricultural plantations and enjoy panoramic views of the island. After lunch in the seaside village of Ponta do Sol, we will take the coastal road towards the greenest valley in the archipelago, The Itinerary the valley of Paul. Here we will enjoy a coffee break whilst learning about the production of sugarcane on the island. Also discover 'Grogue', the national drink of the islands and have a taste of it at the oldest traditional Grogue distillery on the island. Drive back along the coast to the southern side of the island and the MS Hebridean Sky. This evening we sail the short distance to Mindelo where we moor overnight.

Day 6 Mindelo, Sao Vicente.

Enjoy a full day in Mindelo, one of the most attractive of all the Cape Verde towns with its colonial buildings, cobbled streets, cafes and lively restaurants. This morning we will depart on a morning discovery tour of the lively markets and the secret corners of the harbour town followed by a coffee break in a typical Cape Verdean bar. The afternoon is free to further explore the vibrant town independently. Before we sail this evening, we will be entertained by local music and capoeira on board.

Days 7 & 8 At Sea.



Spend two relaxing days at sea as we continue our journey north. Take the opportunity to find a spot on deck, join a lecture in the lounge or relax with a book in the library.

Day 9 Dakhla, Western Sahara.

Over breakfast we arrive on the African mainland at the port of Dakhla. The town occupies a long peninsula which juts out into the Atlantic. During our morning ashore we will drive past stunning sand dunes before arriving at this friendly town with its white-washed houses and learn about some of the traditions of this remote region. Return to the ship as we continue our journey north with an afternoon at sea.

Day 10 El Marsa.

From the port of El Marsa we will drive across the sand dunes to the city of Laayoune. There are not many travellers who can boast of a visit to the territory of Western Sahara. Mostly consisting of flat desert, it is one of the least populated regions in the world. Surprisingly, it makes for a really interesting visit as we spend an afternoon taking in the unique Spanish- Saharan architecture in the old town including the Catholic cathedral, the camel market and the craft workshops.

Day 11 Arrecife, Lanzarote, Canary Islands.

The easternmost corner of the Canary Islands, the island of Lanzarote features a bizarre landscape, born of volcanic activity over many millennia, having a rare beauty that is not unlike the surface of the moon. Few places on earth can offer such diverse natural phenomena in such a small area, from eerie formations of petrified lava to beaches of black volcanic sand and fertile fields to vineyards growing in the depths of volcanic craters. It was this landscape that inspired artist Cesar Manrique, a multifaceted artist who knew how to combine art and nature like nobody else. He left part of his artistic legacy in Lanzarote and perhaps the greatest exponent is Los Jameos del Agua. This volcanic tunnel, with its famous, spectacular natural auditorium, is home to a highly singular geological formation. The Mirador del Rio is another creation of his, a natural vantage point offering spectacular views of the Chinijo Archipelago.

Day 12 Agadir, Morocco.

We make our first call in Morocco in the vast Bay of Agadir for our exploration of the city. Almost completely destroyed in the 1960 earthquake, some of the city's heritage did survive including the hilltop Kasbah. We will take a scenic cable car ride to the Kasbah Oufella, offering panoramic views of the bay. After viewing this historic fortress we continue to Souk El Had, the city's vibrant central market and the Talborjt Mosque, before we end at the charming artisan village of the Coco Polizzi Medina with its unique architecture and local art. Return to the ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail to Safi.

Day 13 Safi for Essaouira.

Arrive this morning in Safi, one of the ancient cities in Morocco. Founded by the Almohades, the city became an important religious and cultural centre and is still the largest of five historic Atlantic ports. You may choose to explore the city on a morning tour, taking in the views from the Sidi Bouzid promenade before visiting the Ceramic Museum and the heart of the medina. Visit the stalls in the 'Rue du Souq' before continuing to the pottery quarter to see the local craftsmen creating brightly coloured ceramics by traditional methods. Alternatively a full day tour will head along the coast to Essaouira. Founded in the 18th century, Essaouira was built to be a rival city to Agadir. Formerly known as Mogador, meaning small fortress, it was designed as a fortified town surrounded by Vauban-style ramparts and played



a major role as an international trading seaport, linking Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa with Europe and the rest of the world. We will see the amazing mixture of Portuguese and Berber architecture, the 16th century sea bastions built to protect the city, the 18th century Medina, and in the Mellah we will find the souks dedicated to gold, spices and fish. Enjoy lunch near the beach before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky. Sail this evening.

Day 14 Casablanca.

Over lunch we arrive in Casablanca and on a guided afternoon tour we will visit the city's most important sights including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the market. The highlight of our tour 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 splendid wood ceilings. The mosque also features the world's tallest minaret, soaring 200 metres above the city. Dinner is served on board as we moor overnight.

Day 15 Casablanca to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: HEBRIDEAN SKY

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

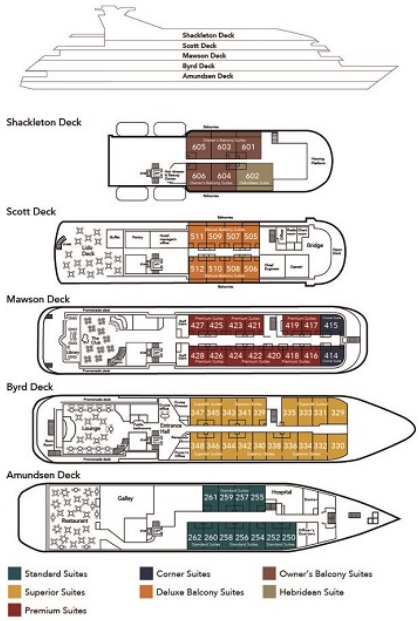
Hebridean Sky has always been known for its effortless elegance, impeccable service and atmosphere of charm and camaraderie. Now we add increased adventure options and an on-site Passenger Service Representative. Hebridean Sky is the perfect blend of luxury and adventurous exploration. Is it a luxury ship? An adventure ship? It's both! The vessel underwent a multi-million pound refurbishment in Sweden in Spring 2016. ONBOARD DINING Great expeditions require great food! We are pleased to offer daily changing breakfast, lunch and dinner menus with an emphasis on providing well balanced and nutritional cuisine. Our team of international chefs has boat loads of creativity and you are sure to experience a variety of interesting dishes throughout your voyage. The restaurant is located on Deck 2 and our service team looks forward to providing a memorable dining experience. IMPECCABLE SMALL-SHIP AMENITIES Returning from excursions, passengers enjoy complimentary refreshments, afternoon tea and all-day coffee in The Club, a gracious space for relaxation, surrounded by panoramic windows. Other Sea Explorer features include: Library with Internet access Lounge with audiovisual facilities Dining room Wraparound sun deck with Jacuzzi Exercise room Medical facilities with available doctor Elevator serving all passenger decks Swimming/zodiac platform All Voyages Include: Up to Two Pre-Voyage Hotel Nights Complimentary Wine or Beer with Dinner Certified Emergency MD and Clinic World Class Cuisine Live Entertainment Complimentary Coffee/Tea station Voyage Photographer Dedicated Passenger Service Manager Complimentary Expedition Jacket Please note deck



plan may vary.



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PRICING

21-Feb-2028 to 06-Mar-2028

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