

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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ISLAND HOPPING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - A VOYAGE FROM GIBRALTAR TO NAPLES

The seas between Gibraltar and Italy offer access to a wealth of ancient sites, unspoiled islands and traditional towns and during this delightful voyage we will focus on the islands spending time on Mallorca, Menorca, Sardinia, Corsica and Sicily. This itinerary with its eclectic mix of picturesque places is exactly the type of journey normally undertaken by private yachts and the 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky is ideal for the purpose, taking us to some of the loveliest places in the Mediterranean. We have ensured that each day has an enjoyable mix of culture with some time at leisure to explore under your own steam or time relaxing at sea. Added to our fascinating itinerary we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the MS Hebridean Sky. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at moments like this we can be thankful that with just over 100 fellow, like minded travellers, we are able to visit atmospheric ports and towns which the big ships cannot access. We will discover timeless islands with their aura of history, unique island lifestyles and spectacular beauty which will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean. Spring is the perfect time for our voyage as we are able to take advantage of comfortable temperatures and the absence of high season crowds. Whether you are interested in ancient history, unspoiled islands or simply the joy of cruising aboard a small ship and experiencing new places and islands in this beautiful region, our voyage has something for everyone.



ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Gibraltar.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation as we sail tonight.

Day 2 At Sea.

Spend a leisurely day at sea as we start our journey across the Mediterranean.

Day 3 Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca.

Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has a rich history

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dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under the control of Carthage, the principal North African city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. From our berth in Palma, we offer a choice of morning tours. Maybe drive to the north of the island and the Medieval town of Alcudia which was built near the site of the Roman city of Pollentia, former capital of the Balearic Islands. We can see the remains of the houses, forum and theatre which once held 2,000 spectators before visiting the monographic museum containing many artefacts from the site. After some free time to wander the walled city of Alcudia we return to the MS Hebridean Sky. Alternatively, a city tour of Palma will include Bellver Castle, a magnificent Medieval fortress built in the 14th century which also offers fantastic views of the city and port below. Continue to Palma's most impressive landmark and Spain's second largest Gothic style cathedral. After lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further at your own pace.

Day 4 Mahon, Menorca.

Over breakfast we arrive in Menorca, the most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism. The island offers pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. An island drive includes the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago before making our way to aristocratic Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca. Situated at the head of a long channel from the sea, the city has had its share of disputes over sovereignty, and its character reflects the influence of Moorish, Turkish and Spanish rule. We have the afternoon at leisure in the pretty harbour town of Mahon before we sail this evening.

Day 5 Porto Torres for Alghero, Sardinia.

After a morning at sea we arrive in Sardinia at Porto Torres. A panoramic drive takes us to Nuraghe Palmavera with its main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling that dates back to 1100 BC. The complex, which was abandoned in the 5th century BC due to fire, shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. Continue to the Medieval city of Alghero which was colonised by the Catalans in the 14th century. Today there is still a strong Catalan identity throughout the town and it is often even referred to as "Barceloneta". There will be some free time to walk through the Medieval streets and along the city walls or maybe visit the archaeological museum.

Day 6 Bonifacio, Corsica.

Be on deck this morning as we arrive in Corsica at Bonifacio's stunning natural harbour. Well known by Odysseus as the home of the savage and giant laestrygonians, today Bonifacio's breathtaking cliff-top setting and relaxed pace make it one of the most welcoming ports in the Mediterranean. On our morning tour we will explore the narrow streets and the historical heart of the town. We will discover the Bosco quarter with the St Francis Convent, the 14th century church of St Marie Majeure and take in the views from the cliff-top on which the city is built. Afterwards maybe take a walk in the nearby Marine Park which offers some stunning views back to the town.

Day 7 Cagliari, Sardinia.



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Day 9 Naples, Italy to London.

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

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

This morning we berth in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari from where we drive along the southwestern coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. After lunch on board we explore the ancient city of Cagliari. On a guided walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia.

Day 8 Trapani, Sicily.

Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily. This morning there is the option to travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from where you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Alternatively, visit the fascinating salt pans that are between Trapani and Marsala. This area, used by the Phoenicians who first understood how favourable the natural conditions were for salt extraction, has been declared a Natural Reserve and is full of colours thanks to the unique flora and fauna. Visit the museum of salt before we continue to a nearby farmhouse which is dedicated to promoting Sicilian produce including olive oils and wines which we can try before returning to the ship. Spend the afternoon at sea.

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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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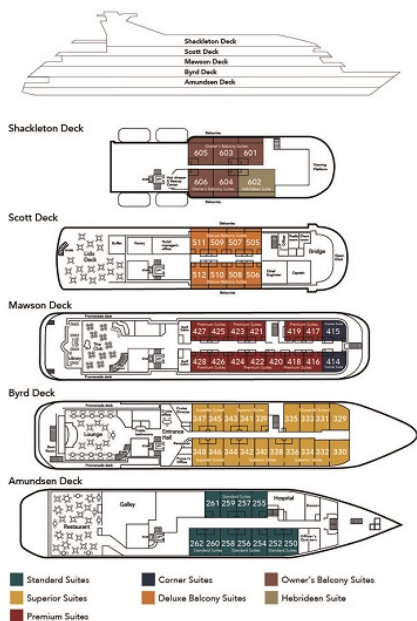
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PRICING



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