

## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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### ISLANDS & CITIES OF THE BALTIC - 9 DAYS FROM HELSINKI TO STOCKHOLM

Whilst there is no shortage of cruise vessels plying the waters of the Baltic during the summer months, this new voyage aboard the all-suite, 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky will appeal to those who are looking for a less traditional Baltic cruise. We have developed the itinerary to be well balanced between spending time in some of our favourite cities in the Baltic such as the historic maritime city of Tallinn and Latvia's capital Riga, and visiting some of the islands in the region where you can experience the enchantment of island life. To further enhance our itinerary we have included some additional events in order for you to experience the local flavour of the region including a private concert at a palace in Tallinn, an evening of live music with drinks in a local venue in Klaipeda and a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic orchestra whilst in Gdansk. This is certainly not an itinerary that one of the large cruise vessels could undertake but is perfect for one the size of the MS Hebridean Sky. Our voyage will be a leisurely one with the benefit of some daytime sailing allowing you to relax on board and experience the serenity of sailing through the region in summer. Our Guest Speaker will provide informative talks and our excellent local guides will bring the history and unique character of the cities and islands vividly to life as we explore in small groups during our guided walks. We have also ensured there is ample time for you to discover the timeless atmosphere of the islands at leisure.



#### ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Helsinki, Finland.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board as we sail tonight.

Day 2 Tallinn, Estonia.

Over breakfast we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with her awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from

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Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. There will be some time at leisure this afternoon to explore further at your own pace before we meet this evening for a private concert at a local palace.

### Day 3 Saaremaa.

After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry, Saaremaa is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During an afternoon drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills.

### Day 4 Riga, Latvia.

This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including Medieval St Peter's Church, the tallest church in Riga. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon exploring independently, maybe see the Art Nouveau district, visit one of the many local museums or the impressive central market housed in an old zeppelin hangar.

### Day 5 Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. Arriving at lunchtime we will explore the old town of Klaipeda including a stop in Theatre Square before strolling along the atmospheric narrow streets where in the past craftsmen including shoemakers, blacksmiths and bakers used to live and work. Continue towards the resort town Palanga where, after a walk through the botanical garden, we arrive at a 19th century Neo-Renaissance style mansion which houses the largest Amber Museum in the Baltics. Here we will learn all about 'Baltic gold' before returning to Klaipeda where we will enjoy a drink and live music in a nearby restaurant before setting sail this evening.

### Day 6 Gdansk, Poland.

Gdansk's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning city tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture, including the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Alternatively choose a tour to the 13th century Malbork Castle which belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. In 1997 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNSECO and now serves as a museum with grand exhibition halls displaying collections of armory, ceramics, sculptures and spectacular Baltic amber. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore further at your own

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pace before we meet this evening to enjoy a recital by members of the Polish Baltic Philharmonic at a local venue.

### Day 7 Kalmar, Sweden.

We arrive in the early afternoon in Sweden at one of the country's oldest cities and ports, Kalmar, where we will berth close to the well preserved historical centre. An afternoon tour will include Kalmar Castle, one of the best-preserved Renaissance castles in Scandinavia and a stronghold of royal power. Originating from the 12th century, the current building represents the rule of the Vasa Kings who rebuilt it in the style of a Renaissance palace. Alternatively, join a visit to the UNESCO island of Oland. Here we will visit Stora Alvaret, a giant limestone plateau containing ancient remains, unique flora and fauna as well as the royal palace of Solliden. Built by Queen Victoria of Sweden in 1903, it is still used as a summer retreat by the Swedish Royal Family and we will have time to explore the extensive gardens and pavilion.

### Day 8 Visby.

Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port on the island of Gotland. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town of Visby snuggles inside 13th century walls, housing 44 watchtowers. In Viking times and several centuries after, the Swedish island of Gotland and especially the city of Visby, became a centre of trade in the Baltic Sea and is a World Heritage Site. Walk its streets from the Middle Ages and see its gardens ablaze with flowers, earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the impressive St Maria Cathedral and wander the paths of the botanical gardens. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further and maybe view the Viking exhibits at the Gotland Museum.

### Day 9 Stockholm to London.

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

### Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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### YOUR SHIP: HEBRIDEAN SKY

**YOUR SHIP:**

**Hebridean Sky**

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**

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

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



plan may vary.



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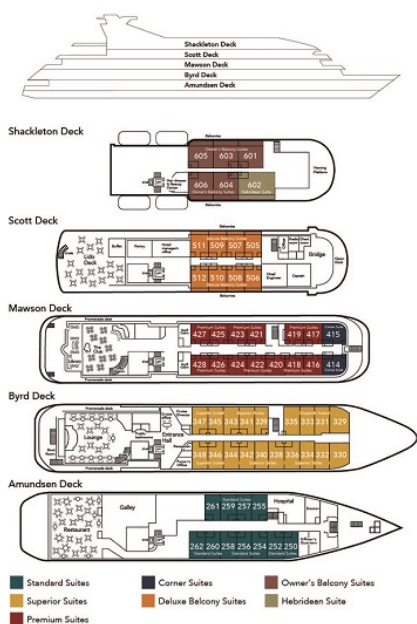
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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## PRICING

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