

# The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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## VOYAGE TO VALLETTA - A JOURNEY ALONG THE BALKAN COAST FROM VENICE TO VALLETTA

During this unique voyage aboard the 118-passenger MS Hebridean Sky we will sail from Venice to Valletta visiting Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Italy, cruising through turquoise waters, admiring the spectacular landscapes and visiting some of the region's greatest sites along the way. Regular travellers to this part of the world will know that autumn is one of the loveliest times of year in the region with crowd-free sites and ideal weather for touring. After an overnight stay and full day to explore the delights of Venice, we will sail south along the stunningly beautiful Adriatic Coast where even the most jaded of travellers cannot fail to be won over by the intense blue sea and timeless quality of the towns. Our visits ashore include a day in Slovenia where we visit the pretty town of Piran, Croatia's beautiful Istrian coast, including quiet and unspoilt spots such as Rovinj and Mali Losinj island, and the enchanting city of Dubrovnik. A highlight for many will be our arrival in the 14th century walled fortress town of Kotor in Montenegro which is fronted by a sublime bay and surrounded by limestone cliffs. We also spend time in Albania which, often overlooked, is full of treasures and our visits will include the vibrant city of Tirana and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint. Crossing to the heel of Italy, we will discover Puglia's beautiful city of Lecce with its splendid Baroque architecture and, after a relaxing day at sea we reach the fascinating island of Sicily where our last day will be spent exploring beautiful Syracuse and the ancient Doric Temple of Apollo. This is a journey very much for the connoisseur of romantic landscapes and ancient history and will be particularly enjoyable as our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore in small groups with our Guest Speaker and local

guides who will add immeasurably to our knowledge of the region. All will be achieved with great ease from the comfort of the all-suite MS Hebridean Sky which has the advantage of being able to access many of the region's ports which the big ships



simply cannot.

### ITINERARY

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### Day 1 London to Venice, Italy.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky for embarkation. Moor overnight.

### Day 2 Venice.

From our central berth enjoy a free morning to explore at your own pace. In the early afternoon we will take a walking tour to discover the hidden corners of Venice. An off the beaten track itinerary takes us to the Church of San Giovanni in Bragora, where Antonio Vivaldi was baptised, the San Giorgio dei Greci Church and its secret courtyard, and Campo Santa Maria Formosa, one of the city's largest squares and Marco Polo's House. After a walk to the Rialto area, we will make our way back to St Mark's waterfront via Campo San Zaccaria and its beautiful church, before ending our tour at the Chiesa della Pietà, a former convent and orphanage and an authentic masterpiece of the 18th century by Giorgio Massari. The young orphans that stayed here were encouraged to study music and their most famous teacher was Antonio Vivaldi. It was here that he composed the Four Seasons and we have arranged for an exclusive private concert of Vivaldi themed music performed by a Venetian orchestra. It will be a thrilling experience to hear the music performed where it was created.

### Day 3 Koper, Piran & Lipica, Slovenia.

Overnight we sail the short distance to Koper for a day in Slovenia. This morning we drive to Piran, one of the most photogenic cities in the Mediterranean. Influenced by the Venetian Republic, which left its mark on most Istrian towns, Piran has maintained the clustered Medieval structure of narrow winding streets, houses huddled close together and numerous squares and churches. Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of the city and named after the violinist and

composer Giuseppe Tartini. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Koper at your own pace or alternatively drive to Lipica, the village giving its name to the Lipizzan horse breed. We will visit the Lipica Stud Farm, one of the very first farms to develop the Lipizzan breed in the 16th century, for a guided tour and a show to learn more about their majestic horses.

### Day 4 Pula & Rovinj, Croatia.

Arrive in Croatia at the tip of the Istrian Peninsula at the former Roman settlement of Polensium, now known as Pula. On a walking tour we will discover one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres left in the world. The Arena, built in the 1st century AD was designed to host gladiatorial contests with seating for up to 20,000 spectators. This afternoon is free to explore at your own pace or alternatively join a tour to the atmospheric town of Rovinj where the houses inside the old town are small and lean into each other creating a unique atmosphere. Our guided walking tour will include the Franciscan Monastery, City Palace and the 17th century clock tower before we visit the town's main landmark, St Euphemia Church, which is built on the top of a small hill. This Baroque building built in Venetian style was dedicated to the saint and martyr whose sarcophagus, according to a legend, was miraculously washed ashore somewhere around 800 AD.

### Day 5 Mali Losinj.

Today we appreciate the benefits of our small ship as we cruise into Mali Losinj which sits at the foot of a protected harbour on the southeast coast of Losinj Island. It is the island's mild climate and rich flora that give Mali Losinj its reputation as one of the most fragrant islands in Croatia. The morning is free to wander along the seafront of the old town which is lined with a string of imposing 19th century houses and villas or maybe visit

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the fascinating Museum of Apoxyomenos. Spend the afternoon at sea as we continue our journey south along the Croatian coastline.

### Day 6 Dubrovnik.

Dubrovnik is a breathtaking sight and its many historic and cultural treasures have earned it the designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Founded by the Romans in the 7th century, it eventually came under the influence of the Byzantine Empire, then Venice, Hungary and finally Turkey. This morning our local guides will lead us through the bustling old town taking in the beautiful civic buildings, the Rector's Palace, the Romanesque-Gothic Dominican and Franciscan Monasteries and the Sponza Palace. This afternoon is free to relax on board or explore independently. Maybe take a walk on the city walls or ride the cable car up Mount Srd for the wonderful views over the city.

### Day 7 Kotor, Montenegro.

Be on deck this morning as we sail through the stunning fjord-like scenery into Kotor. On arrival we will take a morning walking tour to explore this Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. This really is an extraordinary place full of marvellous architecture and pretty town squares. Our tour will include the 12th century Cathedral of St Tryphon, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore at your own pace. Those feeling active may wish to take the strenuous climb to the Castle of San Giovanni which offers wonderful views over the bay and town below. Please note that we may be at anchor today and if so will use local tenders to go ashore.

### Day 8 Durres & Tirana, Albania.

Arrive in Albania at the coastal city of Durres which was colonised by the Greeks in 627 BC and still has the remains of a 15,000 seat amphitheatre, the second largest in the Balkans. This morning we will head inland to Tirana where we will see the fascinating nuclear bunker built by the dictator Enver Hoxha in the 1970s and only recently opened to the public. This underground building is packed with original artefacts from the communist period. Afterwards, continue walking through the city centre to see the mosque, Clock Tower and the "Bloku" area of the city. After lunch at a local farm, we return to Durres to visit the Medieval city and the Archaeological Museum before sailing late this evening.

### Day 9 Sarande.

We continue our exploration of Albania in the southern port of Sarande from where we have a choice of excursions. Maybe visit the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a guided tour explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre. From the Roman era are the public baths, gymnasium, and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu. Alternatively, drive inland to Gjirokastra, a charming hillside town which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its cobbled streets and fortified Ottoman houses have changed little over time. We will visit the interesting museum before time to explore the 17th century Ottoman Bazaar.

### Day 10 Otranto & Lecce, Italy.

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From our berth in Otranto we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture. A guided walk will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. We return to the ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon to explore Otranto independently, maybe walk the winding streets or along the seaside promenade. The highlight is the wonderful cathedral with its Medieval mosaic floor created by the monk, Pantaleone, between 1163 and 1165. You can also see the Chapel of the Dead which shows the bones and skulls of 813 martyrs killed by the invading Turks in 1480.

### Day 11 At Sea.

Enjoy a day at sea with time to relax on deck or perhaps join a lecture in the lounge.

### Day 12 Syracuse, Sicily.

Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we will find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Ear of Dionysius', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we will find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon is free to explore independently before we sail tonight.

### Day 13 Malta to London.

Disembark this morning 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:**

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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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Amundsen Deck Standard Sole



Amundsen Deck Standard Suite



Byrd Deck Superior Sole



Byrd Deck Superior Suite



Mawson Deck Corner Suite

Mawson Deck Premium Suite

Scott Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite

Shackleton Deck Hebridean Suite

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## PRICING

09-Oct-2026 to 21-Oct-2026

Mawson Deck Corner Suite	£9495 GBP pp
Shackleton Deck Owner's Balcony Suite	£10495 GBP pp
Mawson Deck Premium Suite	£8995 GBP pp
Byrd Deck Superior Suite	£8795 GBP pp
Amundsen Deck Standard Sole	£10195 GBP pp
Shackleton Deck Hebridean Suite	£11495 GBP pp
Amundsen Deck Standard Suite	£8495 GBP pp
Scott Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite	£9995 GBP pp
Byrd Deck Superior Sole	£10495 GBP pp