

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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CAPE VERDE, THE CANARY ISLANDS & MOROCCO EXPEDITION CRUISE

Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Hebridean Sky for a journey that will take us from the Cape Verde archipelago to Gibraltar with explorations in the Canary Islands, where we will visit some of the lesser-known islands, and some enchanting places in Morocco along the way. Our itinerary has been carefully designed so that we can take the opportunity to escape to warmer climes and fully appreciate the fascinating history, dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy of the region. We will begin our exploration in the remote and intriguing Cape Verde archipelago and there is no better way to explore the dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy of the islands than by small ship. Each island is a little world of its own; some are arid and flat with extraordinary beaches and sand dunes whilst others by contrast are more mountainous and lush. After a relaxing two days at sea we arrive in our next island group, the Canary Islands. We have three days here during which time we will visit the islands of La Palma, El Hierro and Tenerife where we can enjoy nature at its very best. These volcanic islands impress with their unique flora and fauna and boast rugged, rocky landscapes, evergreen cloud forests, metre-high ferns and bizarre-looking dragon trees. We then set sail for the coast of North Africa where we will call into two charming places along the coast of Morocco. From the port of Safi we will explore charming Essaouira and in Casablanca we will enjoy a morning discovering the city's wonders before setting sail for our final call, Gibraltar. In the company of just 100 or so like-minded travel companions, we will be able to make the most of the region and in our small groups we can explore places that are otherwise inaccessible to vessels larger than the MS Hebridean

Sky. Whether your interests lie in botany, geology, history or walking, this region offers something



for everyone.

ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Praia, Cape Verde.

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

[Day 2 Praia, Sao Tiago.](#)

Today we explore the historic capital of Praia on the island of Sao Tiago. Praia has a wonderful African feel and we will visit Cidade Velha, the old Portuguese capital with a rich history which 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.

[Day 3 Porto Novo, Sao Antao.](#)

We have a full day on the most beautiful of the islands, Sao Antao. Driving up the old trading route, we pass the volcanic crater 'Cova' with its agricultural plantations and enjoy panoramic views of the island before arriving in the tiny, picturesque mountain village of Fontainhas, on the northern side 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 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 enjoy 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 our waiting ship. This evening we sail the short distance to Mindelo and will be entertained by local music and capoeira on board.

[Day 4 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. 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. There will be some free time to further explore the vibrant town independently before we sail in the late afternoon.

[Days 5 & 6 At Sea.](#)

Enjoy a relaxing two days at sea as we cruise to the Canary Islands. Choose to join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

[Day 7 La Palma, Canary Islands.](#)

La Palma is known by locals as the 'Beautiful Island', and it is easy to see why. It is a simply stunning, peaceful and most importantly an un-spoilt destination that has deservedly been declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve. This afternoon there will be a choice of excursions. You may wish to join the tour to Caldera de Taburiente, a massive eight kilometre wide

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depression which scientists agree was a majestically tall volcanic mountain that collapsed in on itself. We will explore on foot and whilst all may seem stoic and still, the forces of erosion are hard at work and some geologists estimate that it will finally disappear in just 5,000 years. Alternatively, take a drive to visit Los Tilos Forest, nestled between colossal mountains it is one of the few surviving Laurisilva forests on the planet. Continue to the charming town of San Andres where we will visit the El Tental Museum and learn more about the island and its history. Before returning to the ship we will enjoy a tasting at the Rum Factory. Finally, for those who would prefer a more energetic excursion there will be a guided trek on offer through the El Pilar area; see remains of volcanic eruptions, the magnificent views of the Valley of Aridane and the crater wall that surrounds the Taburiente National Park.

Day 8 El Hierro.

Probably the least known of the Canary Islands and once considered to be the end of the world, El Hierro is unique and utterly captivating. This morning is free to explore the town or relax on board before our exploration of the island. It will be impossible not to be entranced by the island's slow pace and simple style; by its craggy coast, where waves hurl themselves against lava sculpted rock faces; by the pretty farmland and flower meadows of the interior; by the eerily beautiful juniper groves; and by the desolate volcanic badlands that stretch out like moonscapes in the south. We will also sample some of El Hierro's local wine and visit the lizard house where the island's unique giant lizards are bred; near extinction, they are protected by international law. Alternatively, opt for the La Llania hiking

excursion which will take us through primeval forests, along ancient cisterns and mythical witches dance floors to El Hierro's top viewing point affording spectacular views of the western parts of the island.

Day 9 Tenerife.

This morning we arrive in Tenerife and have a choice of tours. Join us as we drive inland, along the base of the mountain range through beautiful pine forests to the Parque Nacional del Teide. The area was declared a National Park in 1954 and includes 14 species of plant found nowhere else in the world. Geologically the park is fascinating; of the many different types of volcanic formations examples of more than 80% can be found here. Alternatively, visit the island's gardens including the Jardín Botánico which was founded in 1788 by Charles III of Spain. The purpose of the gardens was to create an area where the plants, shrubs and flowers brought back from the New World could acclimatise to Spanish soil. In contrast to the Botanical Gardens, we will then explore the Sitio Litre Garden which boasts a luscious orchid collection. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Santa Cruz at your own pace.

Day 10 At Sea.

Relax on board as we sail to the North African coast.

Day 11 Safi for Essaouira, Morocco.

Arriving into Morocco we will depart the port of Safi and head

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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. On our full day tour 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 a seafood lunch near the beach before returning to the MS Hebridean Sky and sailing tonight.

Itineraries are subject to change.

Day 12 Casablanca.

This morning we will visit the city's most important sights including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Olive Market. The highlight of our tour will be our visit to the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest religious monuments in the world after Mecca. It took 3,300 traditional Moroccan artisans to create the beautiful mosaics, marble floors and splendid wood ceilings. Returning to the ship for lunch we can enjoy a final, relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 13 Gibraltar to London.

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

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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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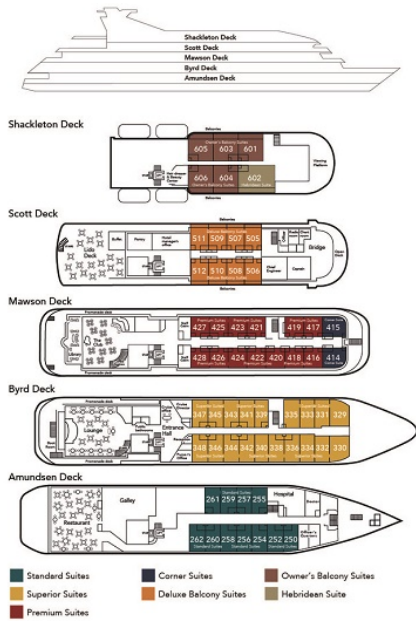
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