

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

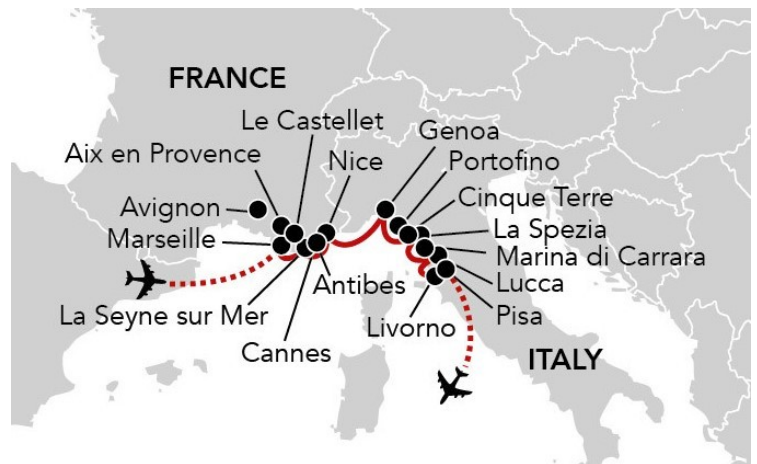
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LATE SUMMER IN THE FRENCH & ITALIAN RIVIERAS

The British love affair with the French and Italian Rivas dates back to the 18th century and the days of the Grand Tour. It is not surprising when you consider the charms on offer ranging from stunning coastal scenery, artistic gems, charming villages and atmospheric harbour towns coupled with the wonderful late summer climate. Join us aboard the MS Hebridean Sky in the cosmopolitan port city of Marseille, our gateway to discover the artistic riches of Aix en Provence or to explore Avignon, the great City of the Popes with its Palais des Papes, one of the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. We will then call into the pretty Provencal maritime town of La Seyne sur Mer for a stroll around the picturesque harbour and a boat trip around the hidden bays of Les Calanques. Continuing along the Cote d'Azur, we call into Cannes for our visit to the beautiful resort town of Antibes before sailing the short distance to Nice with its old-world opulence and stunning seaside location. Upon reaching the Italian Riviera we call into the Ligurian capital of Genoa, rich in maritime history and an archaeological heritage that speaks of its former glory and where we have arranged an exclusive evening visit to a private palazzo for a classical concert. From Genoa we will also visit Portofino with its colourful harbour. In addition, we have included the picturesque region of Cinque Terre and the lovely Tuscan town of Lucca. This itinerary is very much a classic that has been enjoyed over the decades but with some interesting variations. It combines some 'must see' sites together with some smaller places and, with so many experiences on offer, we have planned our time carefully to ensure there is adequate opportunity to relax onboard, join the guided excursions and explore under your



own steam.

ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Marseille, France.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Marseille and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board and moor overnight.

Day 2 Marseille for Aix en Provence or Avignon.

From our berth in Marseille, we will offer a choice of excursions today. You can choose to head inland to Aix en Provence which was founded by the Romans in the 1st century and is now more renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will visit his

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studio which still houses his equipment and the objects he used for models and the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' located on the heights of Aix en Provence, a few hundred metres from the Atelier Cezanne, and famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant, we spend some time in Aix with its leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Alternatively spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches, and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe, built in the 14th century as a fortified palace for the pontifical court. We also visit the cathedral and famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon and the Pont du Gard, one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19 BC. This imposing aqueduct bridge was built by the Romans in order to provide the city of Nimes with fresh water from the Uzes area. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for dinner and set sail late this evening.

Day 3 La Seyne sur Mer.

Today we will berth in the maritime town of La Seyne sur Mer, fantastically located at the foot of Cap Sicie. Spend the morning at leisure relaxing on board or exploring the town independently. This afternoon there will be the choice of a boat trip to Les Calanques, stunning fjord like inlets carved into the limestone

that stretch along the coast from Marseille to Cassis or alternatively join an excursion inland to the hilltop Medieval village of Le Castellet. This remarkable stronghold, formerly owned by the Lords of Les Baux, has well preserved ramparts, a carefully restored 12th century church and a castle dating back to the 11th century. We will have time to explore the village and its winding streets before enjoying a wine tasting at one of Le Castellet's centuries-old vineyards.

Day 4 Cannes & Nice.

Our base for today will be Cannes and on our morning excursion we will drive along the beautiful coastline to Antibes. Founded by the Greek merchants in the 5th century it is one of the oldest cities in France. On a walking tour we will explore the historic part of the city which is a maze of small, flower-bedecked streets with Roman and Medieval sections. Its 16th century ramparts overlook the Mediterranean Sea and still protect the heart of the Old Town. Our visit will also include the famous Picasso Museum, located inside the Medieval castle of Grimaldi. Just after the second world war Picasso was invited to Antibes by his friend Dor de la Souchiere where he spent a few months, and it was during his stay he painted one of his masterpieces 'Happiness'. There will be some free time in Antibes before we return to MS Hebridean Sky for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure to relax on board or explore Cannes independently. Just before dinner we sail the short distance to Nice where we will moor overnight. Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs or local tender to transfer ashore.

Day 5 Nice.

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This morning enjoy a choice of tours. There will be the opportunity to explore two of the area's finest museums in the exclusive Cimiez Hill District. We will begin with a visit to the Musée National Marc Chagall. Established by the artist himself, the collection features the most important permanent exhibition of his work. The main focus is a series of 17 canvases comprising his colourful 'Biblical Message'. We will continue to the Musée Matisse which is housed in the 17th century Arena Villa. The exquisite collection details the great master's development from the late 19th century through to 1954 when he died. Alternatively visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Built in 1900 in Italian palazzo style and surrounded by magnificent gardens, it houses an unbelievable collection of works including tapestries, furniture, candelabras, terracottas, porcelains and Chinese vases. We will return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Nice independently. Perhaps walk amongst the charming architecture of the old city, explore Place Massena, or enjoy a stroll along the palm tree lined Promenade des Anglais.

Day 6 Genoa, Italy.

Many regard Genoa as having the largest historic city centre in Europe as a result of having been, for centuries, a powerful commercial seaport and city-state. It was the birthplace of Christopher Columbus and its maritime roots have fostered a dialect that has absorbed elements of Neapolitan, Calabrese and Portuguese over the centuries. Our morning walking tour through the historic town centre will include the Piazza de Ferrari

and the Palazzo Ducale. We will visit the Cisterne del Ducale, the ancient cellars of the palace, where we will enjoy a tasting of typical Genoese fare such as bruschetta and focaccia accompanied by some local wine. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently or relax on board. After an early dinner we will make the short walk to a local palazzo for a private visit which will include a classical music concert and cocktail before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 7 Genoa for Portofino.

This morning drive along the gentle winding coastal road to the delightful village of Santa Margherite Ligure with its cobbled streets flanked by Medieval churches and intricately adorned Liberty (Art Nouveau) buildings. Here we will board a local boat and cruise the short distance to Portofino. Located in a beautiful cove surrounded by lush hills, olive groves and with a stunning colourful harbour we will enjoy a walking tour followed by free time before we continue our journey to San Fruttuoso. Not much more than an indentation along a mountainous coastline, surrounded by the hills and forests of the Portofino Regional Park, and only accessible by boat or foot, it is a stunning location. From our boat we will have the opportunity to admire the enchanting Benedictine Abbey positioned directly on the beach and learn about its history. Cruise back to Santa Margherite Ligure and choose to return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch or enjoy lunch in a local restaurant in the town of Recco, the gastronomic capital of Liguria.

Day 8 La Spezia for the Cinque Terre.

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Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

From the port of La Spezia today we will explore the Cinque Terre, a series of five villages along the coast which until recently were accessible only from the sea or via an ancient network of footpaths. We will board local boats and sail past the villages of Riomaggiore, Corniglia and Manarola before we step ashore and explore the picturesque villages of Vernazza and Monterosso. Lunch today will be served in a local restaurant before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky.

Day 9 Marina di Carrara for Lucca.

Today we will have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will make our way inland to the lovely town of Lucca. Hidden behind imposing Renaissance walls it boasts delightful, cobbled streets, handsome piazzas and shady promenades. Our tour will include the San Martino Cathedral and the Puccini Museum. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will be treated to a private concert in the Santa Caterina Church before we return to the MS Hebridean Sky. Alternatively on a morning tour we will make our way to the delightful town of Torre del Lago, overlooking the Lake of Massaciuccoli. After a boat trip on the lake visit Puccini's villa which is now a museum and has been preserved almost exactly as it was during his residence. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 10 Pisa to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to Pisa 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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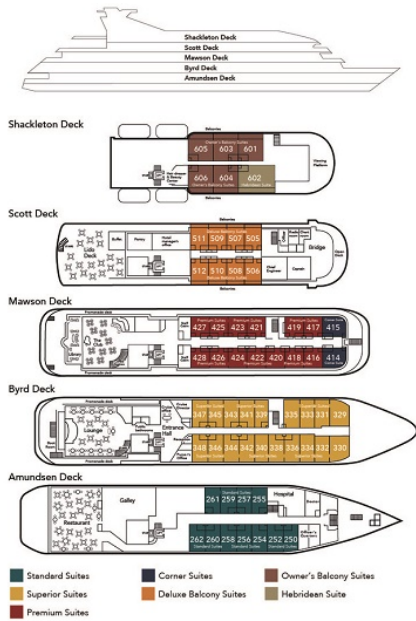
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PRICING

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