

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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MOROCCO, MADEIRA & THE CANARY ISLANDS - A VOYAGE FROM GIBRALTAR TO TENERIFE

Whilst winter is approaching the UK, Morocco and the sub-tropical Atlantic islands still have many months of sunshine ahead and this delightful voyage aboard the MS Hebridean Sky offers the opportunity to escape to warmer climes, and fully appreciate the fascinating history, dramatic beauty and cultural vibrancy of the region. Embarking in Gibraltar, we head for Morocco and the port of Tangier which has been a strategic gateway between Africa and Europe since Phoenician times. We continue to Casablanca and discover the wonders of the city before we sail to Safi for our exploration of charming Essaouira. Leaving Morocco we head out into the Atlantic bound for the 'floating garden in the Atlantic' of Madeira before we make our way to the Canary Islands. Located some 700 miles off Saharan Africa, far from being a sun and fun package destination, there is much to see in this delightful Atlantic Archipelago. In fact, you do not have to stray far from the resorts to discover some marvellously varied landscapes and an absorbing, multifaceted culture. Exploring the hinterlands, back roads and villages brings you in touch with a unique side of Spanish culture, much removed from the mainland. The melting pot of Andalusian, Berber, Portuguese, Italian, French and British migration, together with the Guanches, the original inhabitants who were displaced by the Spanish conquest in the 15th century, have all left their mark, making this a unique destination. We will explore two of the lesser known islands, only accessible by a small ship such as the MS Hebridean Sky: La Palma and El Hierro 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. 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 the larger ships. Our itinerary has been designed to offer a choice of excursions on most days and we are confident that you will find this cruise the perfect antidote to the cold and grey



skies at home.

ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Gibraltar.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Tangier, Morocco.

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Having passed the Strait of Gibraltar we arrive in North Africa and the port of Tangier. A short drive will bring us to the Donabo Gardens located on the coast with wonderful sea views. Divided into ten sections we can explore the Moroccan garden that celebrates the tradition of tea, the mint maze where multiple varieties blend their fragrances along the alleys, a rose garden thriving in the cool shade and a pollinators garden purposely designed to attract bees. Later we can explore the city where on a walking tour we will visit the Medina, enjoy the views from the Kasbah situated at the highest point of Tangier, and wander through the Grand Souk. Alternatively drive across the beautiful Rif Mountains to Tetouan. Visit the unique School of Art Dar Sanaa which is located in a former palace and teaches the most traditional of Moroccan crafts to its students before we continue to the Medina which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient medina is full of narrow alleys and streets with vendors selling local handicrafts, foods and spices. Our tour will end at the old Royal Palace, a 17th century building which is itself a reflection of the Hispano-Moresque architecture, and the nearby Hassan II square. Stop to savour the Moroccan tea and fresh pastries at a local Riad in the heart of the Medina before returning to the ship.

[Day 3 Casablanca.](#)

Arriving in Casablanca at lunchtime 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.

[Day 4 Safi for Essaouira.](#)

This morning we will depart the port of Safi and head 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.

[Day 5 At Sea.](#)

Spend the day at sea as we sail towards Madeira. Our lecture programme will continue in the lounge or maybe find a spot on deck to relax.

[Days 6 & 7 Madeira.](#)

Spend the next day and a half on Madeira where there will be a choice of excursions, including a beautiful panoramic



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exploration of the western part of the island taking in Ribera Brava and Porto Moniz. There will also be the opportunity to visit the Botanical gardens which cover an area of over 35,000 square metres and has more than 2000 exotic plants from all continents, some of which are endangered species. This fantastic garden has several ornamental trees and shrubs, an orchid area, lawns, and lovely viewpoints. Those feeling more active may wish to join a Levada walk. Levada are irrigation channels that were created by the Portuguese settlers in the 19th century, who painstakingly carved them out of the rock by hand. Designed to carry freshwater from the north to the drier southern regions of the island, they helped to create many of the lush landscapes that can be seen today. The walk will follow the course of 'levadas' for over three miles, seeing the verdant plants, mountain views and green farmland that cover Madeira.

Day 8 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. Arriving at lunchtime we drive inland taking in the beautiful scenery to Santuario Virgen de Las Nieves, after visiting the small, whitewashed church we travel through mountain roads to La Caldera de Taburiente. Located within the National Park Caldera de Taburiente, a massive depression eight kilometres wide which scientists agree was a majestically tall volcanic mountain that collapsed 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 5000 years.

Day 9 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 will be free to explore the town at your own pace. Later, during our afternoon island tour 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 and by the desolate volcanic badlands that stretch out like moonscapes in the south. We will also have the opportunity to sample some of El Hierro's excellent 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 to El Hierro's top viewing point affording spectacular views of the western parts of the island.

Day 10 Tenerife to London.

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

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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YOUR SHIP: HEBRIDEAN SKY

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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

plan may vary.

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



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02-Nov-2025 to 11-Nov-2025

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