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A ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

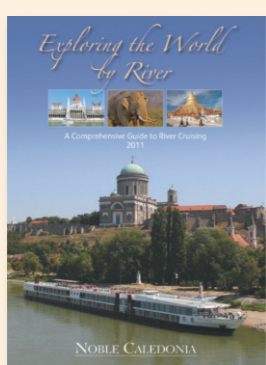
Nick Redmayne finds spectacular landscapes and a warm welcome as he tackles a remote former stock route in outback Western Australia

So you're giving us two spares?" I inquired at the car rental desk. "Nope, just the one mate." "And a tyre compressor?" "Nope, we just pump 'em up high, it's better that way." "What about tools?" "If something goes wrong just turn it off, leave it, and turn it on again. If that doesn't fix it then there's nothing you can do anyway." The Gibb River Road's 373 miles bisect the remote heart of Western Australia's Kimberley Plateau. Primarily a stock route, connecting cattle stations the size of Belgium with the port of Wyndham, the Gibb also allows 4WD access to the striking landscape of water-filled gorges that characterises the wild and beautiful outback of the Kimberley. Little of the road is paved,

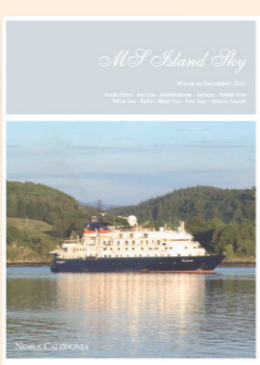
and the surface varies from impassable from November to March (in what's known as "the Wet") to gravel or filling-loosening ridges and tyre-shredding rocks during "the Dry". It was not all driving, of course. Beyond Derby, at Bell Gorge, tiered pools of dark water, shadowed by ochre cliffs and connected by a tumbling cascade, lay at the end of an increasingly verdant bush walk. Through boabs, kapoks and pandanus palms, a final scramble descended steeply to the water. After a dip, we pressed on, the serene calm of the gorge replaced by 18 miles of bone-jarringly bumpy road. Ahead, as light faded, the occupants of a stationary camper van flagged us down. "We have a flat tyre but do not know where is the spare," said

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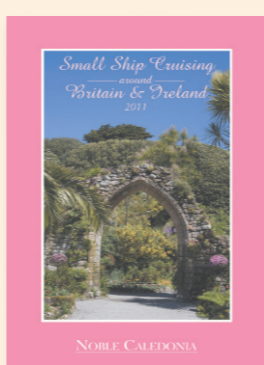
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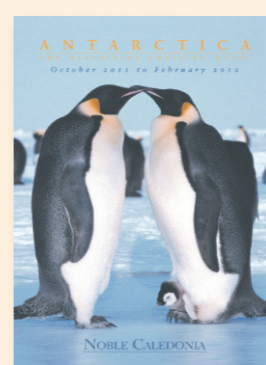
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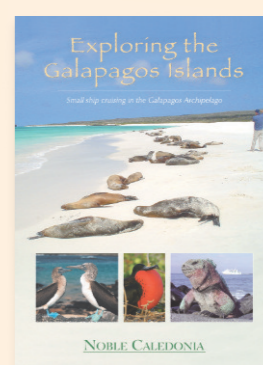
Our new brochure for the deluxe 116-passenger *MS Island Sky* for 2011 is now available featuring cruises in the Mediterranean, Adriatic, Baltic, Black Sea and Azores including a new fascinating itinerary from Morocco to the Cape Verde Islands.



Our Britain and Ireland brochure features coastal cruises aboard vessels ranging in size from as few as 50 to just 120 passengers. Whether you are an avid gardener, birdwatcher, amateur historian or simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting places in the world then one of these voyages could be for you.



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Our voyages around the Galapagos archipelago offer the chance to explore one of the most wondrous and unspoiled locations in the world full of fascinating and diverse wildlife which is both abundant and fearless of man. Our voyages are aboard superior yacht like vessels and offer true voyages of discovery to these magnificent islands.



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2 CHESTER CLOSE, BELGRAVIA, LONDON SW1X 7BE



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