

SMALL SHIP CRUISING AROUND THE
BRITISH ISLES
2019



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF THE BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND

Make 2019 the year you become better acquainted with the treasures of your homeland. We have many years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of our remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new. Although we set sail with a set itinerary it is the unscheduled events that often become the highlight of the journey and our ideally suited vessels will allow access to places larger vessels are unable to venture.



Most of us promise ourselves that one day we will see more of our lovely islands and highlands but the thought of tedious journeys along busy roads often leads us instead, to jump on an aircraft to some distant spot when some of the most picturesque and beautiful places in the world are on our

doorstep. That does not mean that access is always easy. In fact much of which we explore can only be approached from the sea. The sheer diversity of the landscape and lifestyles will amaze you, as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter. In an age of rapid centralisation and common identity, it is fortifying to know that life with its unique traditions and values still can be found on the edges of our islands. Whether you be 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 the expedition cruises featured on the following pages could be for you.

Joining you on board

Our cruises are led by a highly experienced expedition team, including guest speakers. For each voyage, we carefully select the best experts in their field, who will lead you every step of the way with their knowledge and enthusiasm. These may include ornithologists, naturalists, marine biologists as well as Zodiac drivers and expedition leaders. Through onboard briefings, informal presentations, whilst accompanying you ashore and on Zodiac excursions, they will share their in depth knowledge of the wildlife, landscape and natural and cultural history of the region.



Explorations Ashore & Expedition Cruising

Both the Ocean Nova and the MS Serenissima are equipped with a fleet of Zodiac landing craft which will be used for landings and excursions during the expedition cruises featured in this brochure. These ideal inflatable vessels allow us to explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries and land in otherwise inaccessible places, such as Lunga or St Kilda. These expeditions will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world. With a flexible itinerary, the Captain and Expedition Leader will take the best advantage of the weather conditions allowing us to make the most of each day.

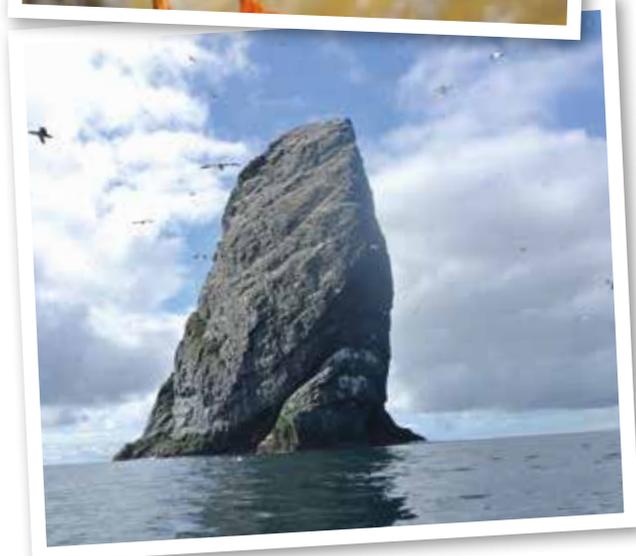
WHAT TO EXPECT

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule may be changed to maximise your experience based on weather or wildlife sightings, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from our vessel's logs from our last Hebridean voyages which will provide you with an idea of what to expect should you choose to join one of our adventures in the British Isles.

Shiant Islands – 21st June: By breakfast the ship had anchored amongst the Shiant Islands in the Minch – Eilean Mhuire (Mary's Isle) to the north, Eilean Tighe (House Island) and the spectacular Garbh Eilean (Rough Island) to the south, the two joined by a boulder beach. Once more we were viewing tertiary basalt columns just like Staffa and Canna but this time several hundred feet tall and thronging with seabirds, many of whom sat on the calm sea as our Zodiacs cruised close off shore. The islands are owned by Adam Nicholson who wrote about them so eloquently in his book 'Sea Room' and are uninhabited. We made first for the tall basalt cliffs where we enjoyed a fly-past of a white-tailed sea eagle which then landed near its mate on a grassy ledge. They sat side by side for the rest of our visit. This very cliff housed one of the very last breeding pairs early in the 20th century but a highly successful reintroduction programme (begun on the Isle of Rum in 1975) has resulted in some 60 pairs now nesting in Britain (mainly the Hebrides) once again. We saw some grey and common seals hauled out ashore, and investigated some interesting sea caves before turning along the huge boulder scree along the east side of Garbh Eilean with its huge numbers of razorbills, puffins and shags. There were also some great skuas flying around, looking for an opportunity to rob the auks of the food they carried to feed chicks.

St Kilda – 22nd June: The early risers were rewarded with fine views of our approach to the archipelago of St Kilda, its tops draped mysteriously in mist. It had been a calm crossing and some dolphins and minke whales had been spotted on route. We breakfasted quickly so as to hear an introduction to the islands by the ranger. Soon after the Zodiacs began shuttling people ashore to the pier, although several options had been offered, many people opted first to join John on a guided historical walk along the village street from the Manse (now the staff quarters which also housed the shop). Many then progressed up The Gap to find Jamie and his party of longer walkers, while Karin had led an energetic walk up the road to the summit ridge and the radar installation. John's group then dispersed to explore on their own and most of us, of course, found time to visit the shop for postcards and souvenirs. On return to the ship, lunch consisted of a barbecue prepared by the galley staff and many opted to eat outside on the afterdeck with the impressive backdrop of St Kilda's Village Bay. But we were not finished yet, for the Expedition Team then filled their Zodiacs with enthusiastic and intrepid passengers, keen to explore the rocky shores and dramatic caves of Dun, seeing seals and seabirds notably, of course, puffins. This highlight was quickly overshadowed by the final offering – the Captain taking his ship for a circumnavigation of St Kilda, around Dun, under the Lover's Stone and the Carn Mor boulder field on Hirta to Soay, and then past Glen Bay to view, Conachair, at 1400 feet the highest sheer cliff in Britain. As if on cue, the cloud lifted briefly to reveal its summit before we struck east, across the four mile volcanic caldera 60 metres under us, towards Boreray and the stacs.

Approaching Stac Lee (564 ft) the Captain opted to take a wide sweep and circumnavigate this hugely impressive tooth of rock, smothered in 9000 pairs of nesting gannets. The noise – and the smell! – were palpable as we stared up at the sheer face in its cloud of gannets, constantly changing shape and almost close enough to touch. We next moved on to the pyramid shape of Stac an Armin – at 644 ft the highest sea stack in Britain, home again to 9000 pairs of gannets, the remaining 40,000 pairs of St Kilda's largest colony dispersed around the soaring 1260 ft cliffs of Boreray. Dozens of great skuas were patrolling the skies seeking out gannets returning to feed their chick with a crop full of fish.



OCEAN NOVA



Lounge



Category 3 Cabin



Bridge



Dining Room



Exploring by Zodiac

We have chartered the expedition ship, the Ocean Nova for our unique island hopping expeditions. The vessel was built in Denmark in 1992 with high ice class to serve Greenland's west coast. In 2006 she was completely refurbished and now has a career as a small and comfortable expedition ship.

Your Cabin

The Ocean Nova accommodates just 84 passengers. Cabins are spread over two decks and include cabins for the single traveller, double and triple cabins, all with sea-view and private facilities. The double cabins have either two lower beds or upper and lower beds. The triple cabins have upper and lower beds. In your cabin you will also find a desk with chair and ample storage space for clothes and equipment. They are well designed with typical Scandinavian light woods.

Your Space

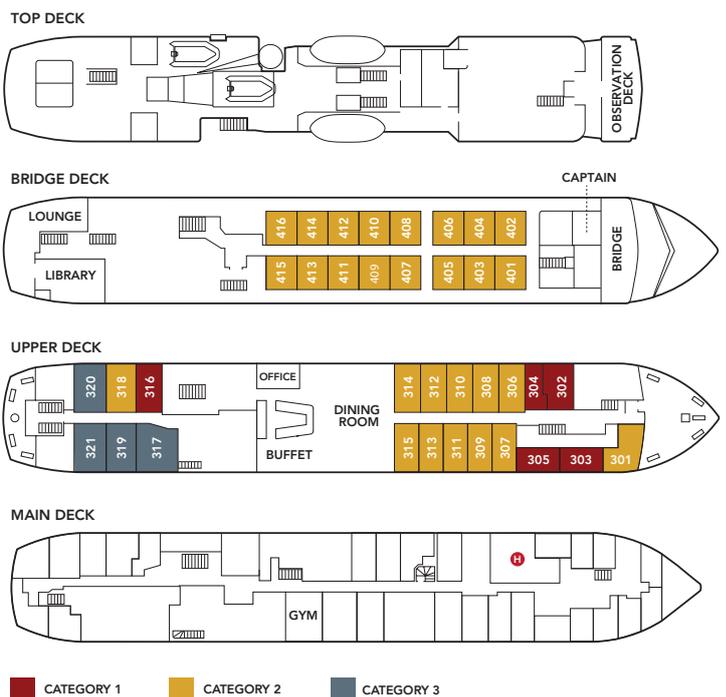
The Panorama lounge located on the Top deck affords excellent views and is the main meeting place where you can enjoy a drink with a breathtaking view of the surrounding landscape. It is here that our expedition team will entertain and educate you with lectures on biology, history, geology or ornithology with daily briefings. There is also a library with panoramic views and a good selection of books on the area you are visiting. On board there is a satellite phone, small gym and medical doctor. Passengers are welcome on the Bridge and there is always something to see or search for from the spacious observation decks.

Your Dining

The comfortable dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting and offers delicious hearty meals with a mixture of table service and buffet. It is comfortable and spacious enough to accommodate all passengers and expedition staff in one seating, and the portholes allow you to take in your surroundings as you dine. The informal dining arrangement adds to the friendly atmosphere on board and meals are a great chance to discuss all you have seen with your fellow travellers, and for the expedition team to share their knowledge.

Life On Board & Exploring Ashore

The atmosphere on board is informal and time on board is often spent out on deck keeping watch for wildlife or admiring the spectacular view. The schedule can change due to weather conditions or unexpected wildlife sightings which adds to the adventure. Daily briefings from our expedition team will prepare you for each day's activities and experts in subjects such as ornithology or marine biology will give talks and accompany us ashore.



Bird Islands

An exploration of the seabird islands of Britain and Ireland aboard the Ocean Nova
1st to 11th May 2019

The seabird islands of the western British Isles are the envy of the birding world, yet it is not easy to sample the wonderful diversity of their character and come face-to-face with seagoing inhabitants. This unusual expedition cruise will appeal to those who wish to explore our coastal waters, observe the marvellous seabird and marine life and walk across untouched coastal wilderness areas. The focus of our expedition is the prolific birdlife but the region is also rich in cultural heritage and we will visit the spiritual island of Iona, the historic island of Rathlin and the city of Derry, regarded by many as one of the finest examples of a walled city in all of Europe.

Cruising aboard the 84-passenger Ocean Nova, we will be able to enjoy expedition cruising at its best. Although we will set sail with a schedule, it will not be set in stone. The Captain and expedition team keep a flexible approach allowing you the opportunity to fully experience the unexpected, whether it be a sighting of dolphins, a whale or any unusual event. Our exploration of inlets, estuaries and protected coastal waters will be made all the more enjoyable by the use of our Zodiac landing craft which enable us to land in remote places such as St Kilda and Lunga, providing for an unusual perspective and making the otherwise inaccessible readily available. This is a wonderful opportunity to see some of our most beautiful places and view some of the extensive birdlife. No matter your level of expertise you will find a warm welcome and a cornucopia of stunning sights and sounds.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Plymouth. Embark the Ocean Nova this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Plymouth railway station at a fixed time. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Isles of Scilly. Spend the morning on traffic-free Treco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than

20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. We spend the afternoon on St Agnes, the most south-westerly community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks. The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single

stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age. Alternatively join a boat trip to the nearby island of Annet the second largest of the uninhabited Islands and a bird sanctuary. We are not allowed to land but will cruise the coastline alive with puffins, European storm petrels and shag.

Day 3 Lundy, Skomer and Grassholm Islands. We have scheduled a morning on Lundy, a remote island in the Bristol Channel. Walk along its traffic-free lanes and paths, explore the wide bays and coves by way of hanging valleys, observe the puffins nesting in abandoned rabbit warrens, have a drink at the inn and buy the islands 'puffin stamps' at the island's shop. In the afternoon sail on to Skomer Island, one of the most important wildlife sites in Northern Europe. It is a marvellously peaceful and scenic island with fantastic birdlife including 6000 pairs of puffins, countless numbers of guillemots, fulmar, kittiwakes and the elusive Manx shearwater and storm petrel. Enjoy a Zodiac excursion and return to the vessel for dinner as we sail around Grassholm to view one of the world's largest gannetries with over 34,000 breeding pairs.

Day 4 Holy Island, Wales. This morning we arrive at Holyhead, adjacent to Anglesey with its spectacular sea-cliffs. Here we will visit the RSPB's reserve at South Stack, a beautiful but fragile maritime sward and heathland which is home to a large population of guillemots and razorbills, if we are lucky we might also see some choughs. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon on board as we cruise through the Irish Sea. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck to watch for wildlife.

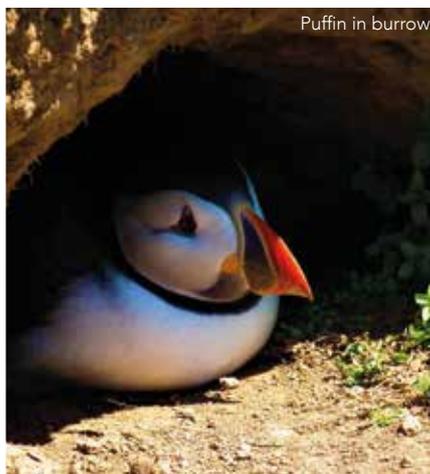
Day 5 Ailsa Craig, Scotland & Rathlin Island, Northern Ireland. At dawn we will anchor off the granite island of Ailsa Craig. The tiny island, just 2.5 miles circumference was once a refuge for sailors and base to a 19th century lighthouse. Today it is an RSPB reserve and home to the third largest gannet colony in Britain. We will use the Zodiacs for a closer look and also search for puffins, guillemots and gulls. Sail in the late morning towards Rathlin Island. Located just a few miles from the North Antrim coast, Rathlin has been settled for more than 6000 years. Today, there are only 80 or so souls, whereas before the famine there were 1200 inhabitants. History is everywhere with historic buildings



Kittiwake



Lona Abbey



Puffin in burrow



South Stack Lighthouse, Holyhead



St Kilda

and ruins. Enjoy a guided walk which will also take in the prolific sea bird life with astonishing numbers of auks, kittiwakes and grey seals. In the evening sail past the magnificent cliffs to the north of the island which is home to the largest sea bird colony in Ireland.

Day 6 Derry. Berth this morning at the historic city of Derry, renowned as one of the finest examples of a walled city in all of Europe. Derry is our base for a morning at the Inch Wild Fowl Reserve, Ireland's premier wetland site, a Special Protected Area and an important staging ground for migrating birds. On a guided walk we will spot for grebes, herons and tern whilst we may see otters in the water. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon choose to either independently explore the city of Derry or join an afternoon tour to the Giant's Causeway which became widely known from the 1700s as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and large numbers of visitors came to view this amazing array of basalt columns - it is estimated that there are around 40,000 in total.

Day 7 Iona & Lunga. This morning we land on Iona. For more than 1000 years the island of Iona has

been a place of deep spiritual significance and no less than 62 Kings of Scotland are buried here. St Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD and early Christianity spread through northern Britain from this remote island community. After exploring the Abbey, time permitting you may care to take a short walk on the wild side to the 'Bay at the Back of the Ocean'. Over lunch we sail to Lunga, the largest of the Treshnish Isles. Of volcanic origin, Lunga has been described as a 'green jewel in a peacock sea'. Populated until the 19th century, the island still bears the remains of black houses. There is prolific birdlife on the island including storm-petrels, puffins, kittiwakes and Manx Shearwaters.

Day 8 St Kilda. Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including

puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 9 Handa & Shiant Islands. Spend the morning at Handa where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the magnificent sea cliffs of Torridonian sandstone which rise from the Atlantic. The island comes alive each summer when nearly 100,000 seabirds gather to breed, including internationally important numbers of guillemot, razorbill, puffins and great skua. We will spend the afternoon exploring the Shiant Isles. Anyone who has read Adam Nicholson's captivating book 'Sea Room' will want to visit these lonely little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the coastline and see the abundant birdlife and seals.

“

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Old church, Canna

Day 10 Canna & Loch Scavaig.

Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna, and its adjoining neighbour Sanday, are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by the National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn-shaped haven. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will

see Canna House and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Enjoy lunch as we sail to lovely Loch Scavaig on the island of Skye. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country and our expedition team will run a series of hikes for all interests. For those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

Day 11 Oban. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow International Airport to arrive in the late morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
1	Bunk bedded cabin for twin use	£3795
2	Standard Twin	£4195
3	Superior twin	£4495
1	Bunk bedded cabin for sole use	£4595
2	Standard twin sole use	£4995

PRICE INCLUDES: Ten nights aboard the Ocean Nova on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia Expedition Team • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-Cruise Dartmouth Extension

29th April to 1st May 2019



Dartmouth harbour

For those who would like to spend some time in Dartmouth before embarking the Ocean Nova, we are offering the opportunity to join our two night extension staying at the Dart Marina Hotel & Spa. Situated a short walk from the town centre you can enjoy time to explore the historic centre or visit some of the nearby attractions including Agatha Christie's former residence at Greenways, a boat trip on the River Dart, join the steam railway along the south Devon coast or visit the nearby naval college. The hotel is in a wonderful setting by the river and offers exceptionally comfortable rooms.

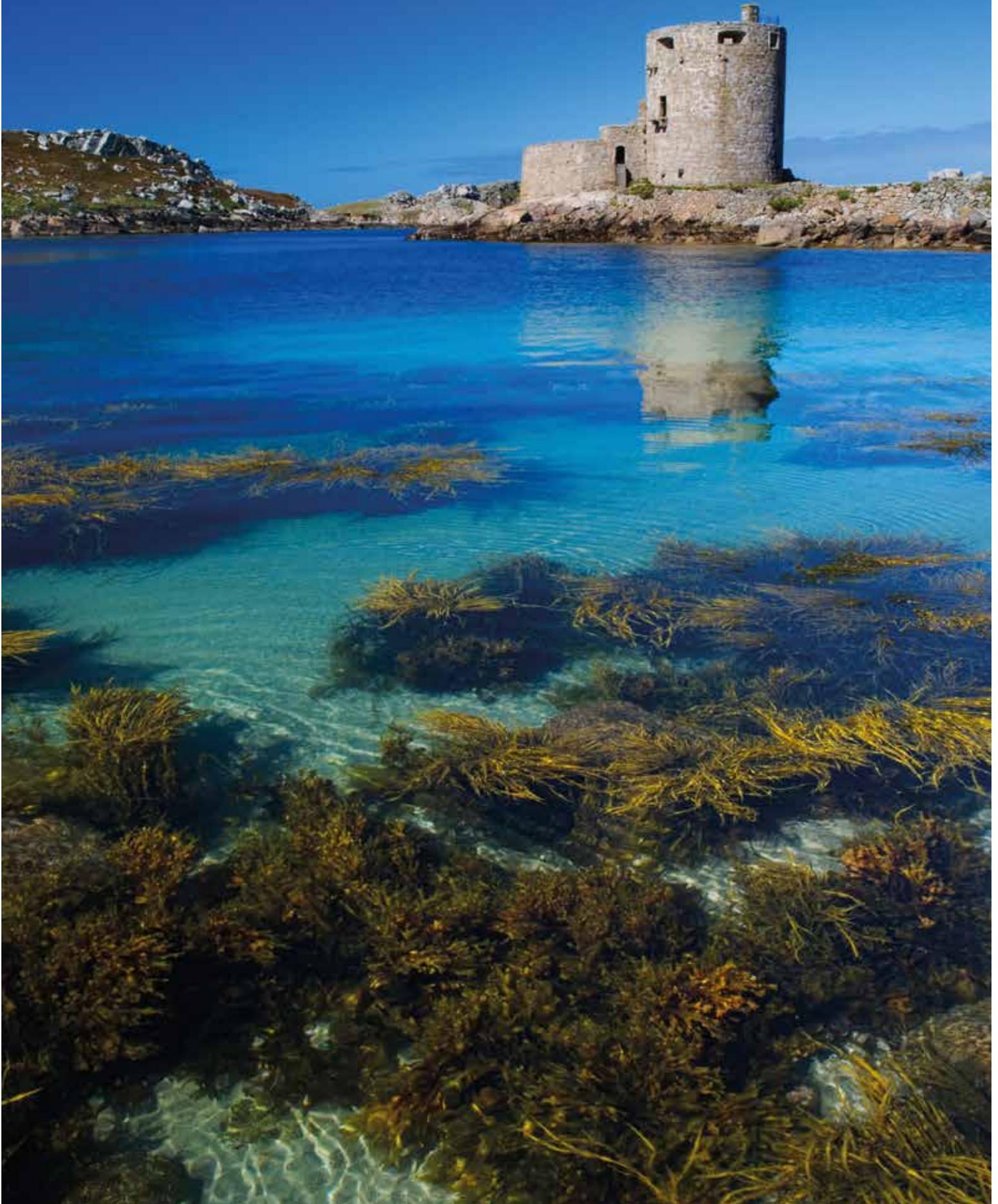
PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Standard room with balcony & partial sea view	£325
King room with French doors & sea view	£355
King room with balcony & partial sea view	£365
Standard room for sole use	£525

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Dart Marina Hotel & Spa on a bed and breakfast basis • Transfers from Totnes railway station to the hotel and from the hotel to the Ocean Nova.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Island Hopping in the Hebrides

Explore the majestic beauty of the Hebrides aboard the Ocean Nova
11th to 18th May 2019



Words do not do justice to the spectacular beauty, rich wildlife and fascinating history of the Inner and Outer Hebrides which we will explore during this expedition aboard the Ocean Nova. One of Europe's last true remaining wilderness areas affords the traveller a marvellous island hopping journey through stunning scenery accompanied by spectacular sunsets and prolific birdlife. With our naturalists and local guides and our fleet of nimble Zodiacs we are able to visit some of the most remote and uninhabited islands that surround the Scottish coast including St Kilda and Mingulay as well as the small island communities of Canna and Iona.

Having arranged hundreds of small ship cruises around Scotland, we have realised that everyone takes something different from the experience. Learn something of the island's history, see their abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world. We are indeed fortunate in having such marvellous places so close to home. Now, more than ever there is a great appreciation for the peace, beauty and culture of this special corner of the UK. Whether your interest lies in horticulture or the natural world, history or bird watching or simply being there to witness the beauty of the islands, this trip will lift the spirits and gladden the heart.



St Kilda



Dolphins

The Itinerary

Day 1 Oban, Scotland. Embark the Ocean Nova this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow Central Railway Station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Barra & Mingulay. This morning we will land on Barra which is near the southern tip of the Outer Hebrides and visit Castlebay which curves around the barren rocky hills of a beautiful wide bay. Here we find the 15th century Kisimul Castle, seat of the Clan Macneil and a key defensive stronghold situated on a rock in the bay. During lunch, we will sail the short distance to Mingulay, which is nearly 1600 acres and the largest of the group of islands south of Barra. Its towering cliffs and stacks face the Atlantic while the east side slopes gradually down to the sandy beach of Mingulay Bay. Despite there being a continuous population on the island for at least two thousand years, evacuation began in 1907 and the island was completely abandoned in 1912. Ruins of the village remain close to the shore which we will explore on a guided walk. The islands are also a nature reserve with important breeding populations of razorbills, guillemots, puffins, fulmars and shags.

Day 3 St Kilda. Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the

last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 4 Stornoway & Shiant Isles. Arrive today on the Isle of Lewis. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC, there are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design which stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. We also visit the Dun Carloway Pictish Broch, probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. Our final stop is the Gèarrannan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional blackhouses which were made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display

of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. Spend the afternoon exploring the Shiant Isles. Anyone who has read Adam Nicholson's captivating book 'Sea Room' will want to visit these lonely little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. We will use our Zodiacs to explore the coastline and see the abundant birdlife and seals.

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Day 7 Colonsay & Jura. Lying between Mull and Islay, we will spend the morning exploring the island of Colonsay, with her craggy, heather-backed hills, sparse woodland yet impressive array of plant and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated wooded gardens which protect the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross. Return to the vessel for lunch as we sail through the Sound of Islay to Jura, arriving in the late afternoon. Dominating the views of Jura are the three hills called 'The Paps of Jura', the highest being Beinn an Oir at 785 metres. We will go ashore at Craighouse and will be welcomed in the cooperage where we will be given an introduction to the Jura Distillery and an opportunity to taste the local product. Alternatively, join one of our naturalists on a walk along the shore or join the local bus for a short drive around the island.

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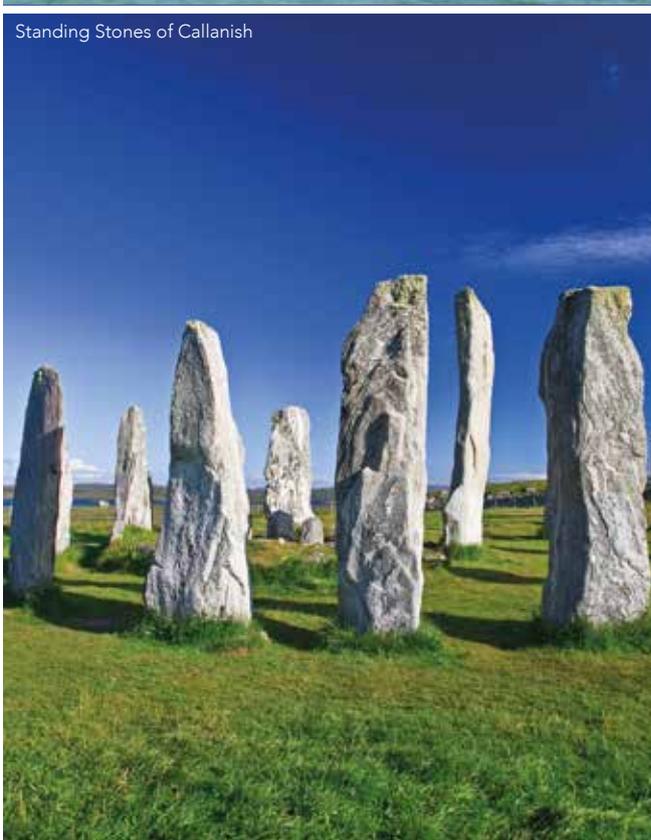
PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
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2	Standard twin	£2995
3	Superior twin	£3495
1	Bunk bedded cabin for sole use	£3795
2	Standard twin sole use	£3995

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Not Included: Travel insurance.



Wild Scottish Islands



An in-depth exploration of the remote islands of Scotland aboard the Ocean Nova
18th to 27th May 2019

You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places without realising that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be close to home. Nowhere is this truer than around Scotland's magnificent coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic.

This unique voyage will appeal to those who prefer their islands deserted, but with abundant bird and wildlife. If you have always had a hankering to visit some of the remotest and most inaccessible islands in Scotland, this is the ideal opportunity. Join us aboard the Ocean Nova as we sail from the port of Oban to the islands on the edge, visiting both inhabited and uninhabited islands and places of great natural beauty, rich in wildlife and mystical history, many with a long history dating back to the Iron Age.



Few cruise ships offer the chance to explore in-depth the islands off the northern coast of Scotland. This unique expedition includes the remote, uninhabited outposts of St Kilda and North Rona with the inhabited island of Foulca and the northernmost point of the United Kingdom at Unst. Such a trip would be almost impossible to arrange independently and requires a small ship with the expeditionary qualities of the Ocean Nova. With just over eighty travelling companions, the atmosphere is more akin to a private yacht trip and ashore with our local experts and expedition members we will divide into small groups thereby enjoying a more comprehensive and peaceful experience.

The Itinerary

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Day 2 Barra & Mingulay. This morning we will land on Barra which is near the southern tip of the Outer Hebrides and visit Castlebay which curves around the barren rocky hills of a beautiful wide bay. Here we find the 15th century Kisimul Castle, seat of the Clan Macneil and a key defensive stronghold situated on a rock in the bay. During lunch, we will sail the short distance to Mingulay, which is nearly 1600 acres and the largest of the group of islands south of Barra. Its towering cliffs and stacks face the Atlantic while the east side slopes gradually down to the sandy beach of Mingulay Bay. Despite there being a continuous population on the island for at least two thousand years, evacuation began in 1907 and the island was completely abandoned in 1912. Ruins of the village remain close to the shore which we will explore on a guided walk. The islands are also a nature reserve with important

breeding populations of razorbills, guillemots, puffins, fulmars and shags.

Day 3 St Kilda. Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet. Tonight we will sail past the



St Kilda

Flannan Isles where we hope to see the famous lighthouse.

Day 4 North Rona & Sula Sgeir. Spend the day around North Rona, an isolated island some fifty miles north of Cape Wrath. The last islanders left North Rona in 1844 and today it is home to thirteen species of breeding seabirds including large colonies of great black-backed gulls, great skuas and puffins. There is also a large population of grey seals which we hope to observe on a Zodiac cruise. If weather permits we will also visit the gannet colony on Sula Sgeir home to over 5000 breeding pairs and renowned as the least visited national nature reserve in Britain.

Day 5 Foulca & Papa Stour, Shetland Islands. This morning we visit Foulca, one of Britain's most remote inhabited islands. Apart from a narrow coastal strip of more fertile croftland, Foulca is an expanse of peat and moorland rising steeply to five dramatic peaks. In the long midsummer days, Foulca's wildflowers provide a glorious burst of colour. The world's largest colony of Great Skuas compete fiercely with many Parasitic Jaegers for breeding territories. Over lunch we will sail the short distance to Papa Stour where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the stunning cliff scenery, sea stacks, arches, blowholes and coastal caves.

Day 6 Unst & Fetlar, Shetland Islands. We continue our exploration of Shetland in the northern islands of Unst and Fetlar. Unst is Britain's most northerly inhabited island and at the Heritage Centre we will learn about the islanders struggles over the centuries and the industries that have prospered whilst the Unst Boat Haven is dedicated to the history of the islands distinctive wooden boats which descend from Viking craft. We also visit Saxa Vord with views over Hermaness National Nature Reserve and Muckle Flugga stacks and home to thousands of gannets and puffins as well as rare arctic-alpine plants. Over lunch we sail to Fetlar, inhabited for over 5,000 years the island lays claim to being the first Norse landing site in the Shetlands. Known as the most fertile of the Shetland Islands the wildflowers bring colour to the landscape whilst the birdlife on the island is prolific. Our expedition team will lead walks ashore including the Fetlar Interpretative Centre and Museum we will learn about the wildlife and archaeological history of the island.

Day 7 Lerwick. Spend the day in the Shetland capital of Lerwick. This morning enjoy a visit to the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof which was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5,000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures, late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouses, a Medieval farmstead, and the 16th-century laird's house. After lunch on board enjoy a free afternoon in the historic port of Lerwick. Wander through its narrow stone lanes and maybe visit the excellent Shetland Museum, containing historical artefacts from the Neolithic period

and memorabilia from the Viking through to the whaling era. This evening we will be entertained by local musicians on board the ship as we moor overnight.

Day 8 Mousa & Fair Isle. At dawn we sail the short distance to the island of Mousa where we will see the forty-foot defensive tower built by the Picts more than 2000 years ago, and the tallest, best preserved example of an Iron Age broch (tower) in Britain. Spend the morning walking around this fascinating site before we return to the ship and sail to Fair Isle arriving in the early afternoon. Here the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend us a warm welcome. Enjoy an afternoon to explore maybe walk across the island, visit the Bird Observatory or meet the local community and maybe purchase some of the famous knitwear. Return to the ship for dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 9 Papa Westray, Orkney Islands. Spend the morning on the Orkney Island of Papa Westray. Here you have time to stretch your legs on a number of island walks or maybe meet up with the local residents at the nearby community centre. You can choose to visit the 3500 year old Knap of Howar a Neolithic farm building that claims to be the oldest standing house in Europe and the 12th century St Boniface Kirk. In the north of the island is the North Hill reserve, an area of maritime heath and home to Arctic terns and skuas and also the extremely rare Scottish primrose. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea as we sail back to mainland Scotland.

Day 10 Aberdeen. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Aberdeen airport and train station at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
1	Bunk bedded cabin for twin use	£3595
2	Standard twin	£3995
3	Superior twin	£4295
1	Bunk bedded cabin for sole use	£4595
2	Standard twin sole use	£4995

PRICE INCLUDES: Nine nights aboard Ocean Nova on a full board basis
 • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board
 • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia Expedition Team • Gratuities • Transfers
 • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Great skua



Grey seal



Iron Age Broch of Mousa, Shetland Islands



Jarlshof, Shetland Islands



Stac Lee, St Kilda

MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



On Deck



The Restaurant

The charming MS Serenissima began her career as the Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. Since 2003, when she was extensively renovated, she has been operating as a classic cruise ship. Previously known as the MS Andrea, she was upgraded again in 2013 and started her new life as the MS Serenissima. With her small size she can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to the big cruise ships and appears an impressive sight when moored. With her fleet of Zodiacs, she is capable of both destination and expedition cruising. In December 2018, the vessel will once again undergo a significant refurbishment and, after a re-configuration of the deck plan will accommodate a maximum of just 95 guests.

Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 95 passengers, the cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully air conditioned with an en-suite bathroom with shower and a selection of toiletries in addition to a hairdryer, robes and slippers. All cabins come equipped with telephone, flat screen television, safety deposit box and other thoughtful appointments. Bottles of still and sparkling water are provided and replenished daily. From January 2019, there will be eight different grades of cabin arranged over five decks, and all feature either windows or portholes. Because of the very nature of the ship, the cabins do vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.



Your Dining

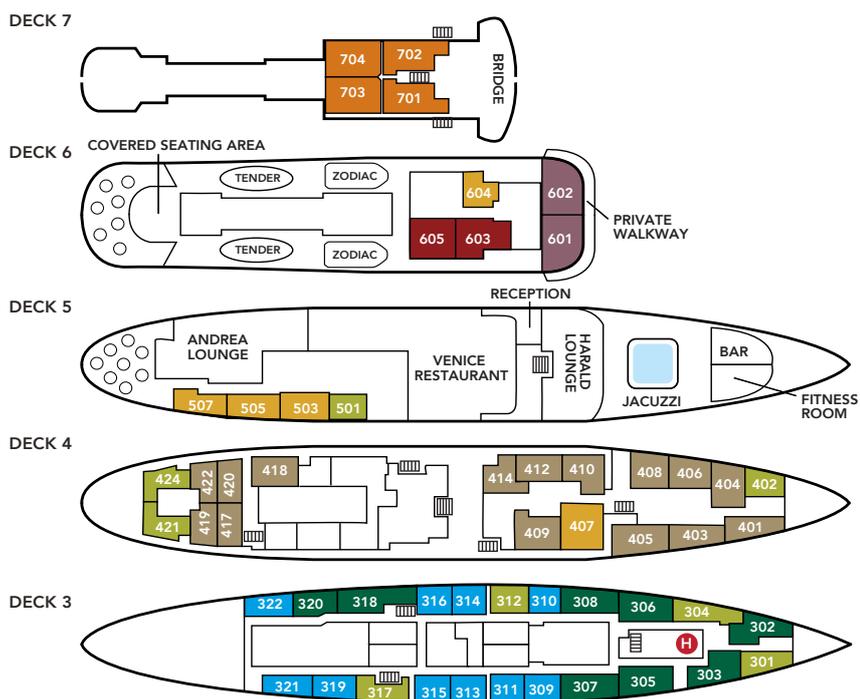
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order by the ship's accomplished chef. Lunch is also served buffet-style with hot and cold dishes available. Dinner is

served a la carte and is four courses, except at the Captain's Dinner, which is a six course affair. Where possible, local produce is sourced for an authentic dining experience. A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water is included at lunch and dinner. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee are available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.

Your Space

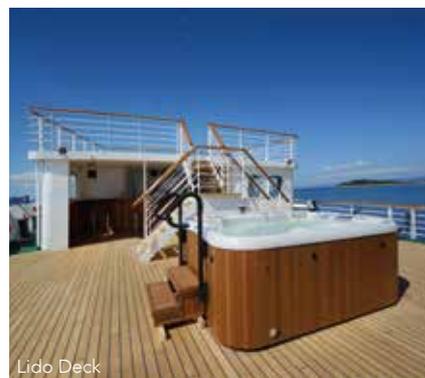
The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library and Wi-Fi is available at an extra cost throughout the vessel. The outside areas really are something special. A spacious observation deck allows 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with Jacuzzi and outside bar. The covered seating area at the back of Deck 6 is ideal for relaxing with a drink in hand. Perhaps, one of the best known and loved features of this vessel is its unique style. During the major refit in Sweden the then owners commissioned Swedish interior designers to create a Gustavian style interior. This bright Swedish 18th century influenced, country house style works particularly well on a vessel of this vintage, providing intimacy and a classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

MS SERENISSIMA DECK PLAN & CABINS



- STANDARD STATEROOM
- CLASSIC STATEROOM
- SUPERIOR STATEROOM
- DELUXE STATEROOM
- JUNIOR SUITE
- OWNER'S SUITE
- SERENISSIMA SUITE
- STANDARD SINGLE

NB. Please note cabin sizes vary in each category and measurements shown are approximate.



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



CLASSIC STATEROOM
(14 to 19 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(7 to 12.5 square metres)

Islands on the Edge



An exploration of the islands of England, Ireland & Scotland aboard the MS Serenissima
3rd to 14th May 2019

This expedition voyage will appeal to those who wish to visit some of the most remote and inaccessible islands in England, Ireland and Scotland. This is a truly unique voyage visiting as it does the remarkable islands on the edge of the British Isles with only one non-island call during our voyage; such is the advantage of having a self-sufficient vessel with the qualities of the MS Serenissima. We will sail from Portsmouth and during our cruise visit both inhabited and uninhabited islands and places of great natural beauty, rich in wildlife and mystical history. We have also included a number of gardens which, given the timing of our cruise will be coming into bloom from the Isles of Scilly to the Hebrides. For keen birders, there are numerous highlights including sailing past the Cliffs of Moher which are home to an estimated 30,000 birds and cruising past two of the largest gannetries in the world at St Kilda.



The sheer diversity of the landscapes and lifestyles will amaze you as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter. In an age of rapid centralisation and common identity it is fortifying to know that life with its unique traditions and values can still be found on the edges of our islands. This is not a cruise in the traditional sense, more an exploration with 95 or so fellow travellers who wish to enjoy the peace, beauty and tranquility of the islands. Learn something of their history, see the abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Portsmouth, England.

Embark the MS Serenissima in the afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time. Sail this evening for the Channel Islands.

Day 2 Guernsey & Herm, Channel Islands.

Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers'. There will be the option of a

walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china. Over lunch we

sail the short distance to Herm, the smallest inhabited Channel Island and, at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, perfect for exploring on foot. You will have free time to explore, perhaps take a stroll over to Shell or Belvoir Beach. Alternatively, join our naturalists on the lookout for wildflowers and birds.

Day 3 Tresco, Isles of Scilly. Spend the morning on Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous sub-tropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch on board and an afternoon sailing.

Day 4 Garnish Island & Bantry Bay, Ireland. Sail this morning into the sheltered harbour of Bantry. From here we will take the short drive to Glengarriff to board local

boats to to Garnish Island and the beautiful Innacullin Gardens where the sheltered position and Gulf Stream is favourable to the growth of ornamental plants, many normally only found in sub-tropical or Mediterranean climates. We return by local boats sailing past "Seal Island", home to 250 common seals before enjoying lunch on board. This afternoon you may wish to stay on board, enjoy some free time in the small town or join the excursion to Bantry House, overlooking Bantry Bay. We will explore the house, one of the finest historic houses in Ireland along with the gardens.

Day 5 Skellig Islands & Valentia Island. Over breakfast we will arrive at The Skelligs, tiny islands just off the magnificent coast of the Dingle Peninsula. Weather permitting, we will sail around these mystical islands with their early Christian history. Skellig Michael is a World Heritage Site and atop this rugged pyramid that rises from the sea are the ruins of a monastery. Meanwhile at Little Skellig the sky can on occasion turn white as some of the 20,000 pairs of breeding gannets leave their roosts. Over lunch we sail around the famous Ring of Kerry and will anchor at the port of Knightstown on Valentia Island. Spend the afternoon exploring the island, perhaps take a coastal walk, visit the tropical gardens at Glanleam or join an island drive including the Cromwell Point Lighthouse.

Day 6 Aran Islands. Today we call



Cliffs of Moher



into Inishmore and explore some of the early Christian sites. This island was a place of monastic study from the earliest Christian times. Also, see the dramatic stone fort of Dun Aengus, parts of which date back some 3,000 years. Later this afternoon we will cruise by the magnificent Cliffs of Moher. Rising to 213 metres and over five miles long they are home to an estimated 30,000 birds including Atlantic puffin, razorbills, guillemots and coughts.

Day 7 Tory Island. After a morning at sea we arrive at Tory Island, located off the northwest coast of Ireland and home to 150 or so Gaelic speakers. Although only 14 miles offshore, it feels like many more and island life here is full of traditions. Meet some of the local community in the village hall and enjoy some of their legendary storytelling, music and dance. Tory Island is also famous for its migratory birds; seabirds nest here in large numbers and a puffin colony nests on the northern cliffs. Look out for guillemots, kittiwakes, fulmars, storm petrels and Manx shearwaters whilst the corncrake has become a main attraction on the island.

Day 8 St Kilda, Scotland. This morning we arrive in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National

Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 9 Stornoway & Shiant Islands. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design which stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. We also visit the Dun Carloway Pictish Broch, probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. Our final stop is the Gearranan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. Sail this afternoon past the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. If weather permits we will use the Zodiacs to explore the island closer as this is an excellent place to spot seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles.

Day 10 Loch Scavaig & Canna.

Enjoy breakfast in lovely Loch Scavaig on the island of Skye. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country and our expedition team will run a series of hikes for all interests. For those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals. Enjoy lunch as we sail to Canna. Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna, and its adjoining neighbour Sanday, are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland.

Day 11 Iona, Staffa & Lunga. Arrive this morning at Iona which for more than 1000 years has been a place of deep spiritual significance and no less than 62 Kings of Scotland are buried here. St Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD and early Christianity spread through

northern Britain from this remote island community. After exploring the Abbey, time permitting you may take a short walk on the wild side to the 'Bay at the Back of the Ocean'. Later today we hope to drop anchor off Staffa, the south side where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which have been cut by the sea into cathedralesque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer before we sail to the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of uninhabited volcanic islets northwest of Staffa. We will visit Lunga, the largest of the islands and of volcanic origin it has been described as a 'green jewel in a peacock sea'. Populated until the 19th century, the island still bears the remains of black houses and has prolific birdlife including storm-petrels, puffins, kittiwakes and Manx shearwaters.

Day 12 Oban. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£4895
3	Classic Stateroom	£5095
4	Superior Stateroom	£5595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5795
6	Junior Suite	£6195
7	Owner's Suite	£6595
8	Serenissima Suite	£6595
10	Standard Single	£5195

PRICE INCLUDES: 11 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia Expedition Team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Atlantic Island Odyssey



Explore the Hebrides, Faroe Islands, Shetlands & the Orkney Islands aboard the MS Serenissima

23rd May to 3rd June 2019

This unique expedition cruise is one of our most popular and will appeal to those who prefer their islands deserted, but with abundant bird and wildlife. True, Noble Caledonia can bring you all over the world, visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places yet it is also true that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people are found close to home and nowhere is this more apparent than the islands off Scotland's indented coastline which form stepping stones into the Atlantic. During this unique voyage, we will journey along rugged coastlines and visit once inhabited islands aboard the 95 passenger MS Serenissima, venturing far north to the Hebrides, Faroes, Shetlands and Orkney Islands. We will witness vibrant colours and amazingly prolific birdlife, explore deserted villages and learn of the history and ancient culture of unique island life.

Such a journey can of course only be undertaken by a special vessel with the self-sufficient qualities of the MS Serenissima and with our Zodiacs we will be able to land on remote beaches and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs crowded with birdlife. Enabling us to land in remote places, the Zodiacs make the otherwise inaccessible readily available. Although we will set sail with a schedule, this will not be set in stone as these are perfect waters for expedition cruising and our Captain and expedition team will keep a flexible approach allowing for the opportunity to fully experience the unexpected whether it be a sighting of dolphins, a whale or any unusual event.



Loch Scavaig

The Itinerary

Day 1 Oban, Scotland. Embark the MS Serenissima this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow Airport and Glasgow Central Station at a fixed time. Sail this evening to the Hebrides.

Day 2 Canna & Loch Scavaig. Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday

are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by the National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn-shaped haven. The fertile soil

and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House, and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Over lunch we will sail to lovely Loch Scavaig on the island of Skye. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over

the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

Day 3 Stornoway & Shiant Islands. Arrive today on the Isle of Lewis. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. Described



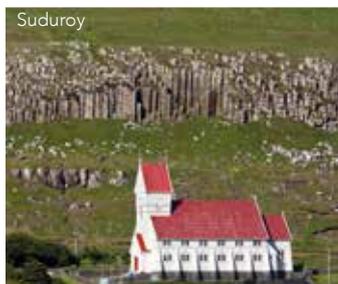
Grey seal



St Kilda



Torshavn



Suduroy



Guillemot

as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. We also visit the Dun Carloway Pictish Broch, probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. Our final stop is the Gærrannan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. This afternoon we will board the Zodiacs for a cruise around the spectacular basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. This is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles.

Day 4 St Kilda. Awake this morning in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island

was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of the only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Berneray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 5 Suduroy, Faroe Islands.

After a morning at sea we make our first call in the Faroes on Suduroy, the southernmost island of the group. From the port of Tvoroyri we have a choice of activities. Choose to join an island drive passing the beautiful scenery as we drive between the villages seeing the stunning geology, fjords, tunnels and architecture of the island and end at the southernmost point and the Akraberg lighthouse. In Porkeri we will take the ridge-top road which winds up the mountain side for wonderful views towards the steep cliffs on the west coast, the Beinisvoro promontory to the north and the luscious grass slopes to the east. To locals this delivers the essence of the Faroe Islands with mountains and fjords, villages and valleys, birds, sheep and nature. Alternatively the active may wish to join a hike to Hvaanagi, a beautiful, uninhabited place north of Tvoroyri on the east coast of Suuroy. The view is fantastic towards the three

islands Litla Dímun, Stora Dímun and Skuvoy. There are sheep and birds, a valley with a lake and beautiful high mountains.

Day 6 Vestmanna. Overnight we will sail the short distance to Vestmanna, our base as we explore the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. Here we will board local boats to explore these vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the thousands of sea birds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. After lunch on board we will drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We visit Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse, which is now a museum and visit a traditional Faeroese wooden church in Kollafjord. This evening we sail the short distance to Torshavn where we moor overnight.

Day 7 Torshavn. From our berth in Torshavn we will join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St. Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900-year old "Røykstovan", the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. For the more active we will arrange a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna. Return to the ship for lunch and sail this afternoon as we return to the Scottish isles.

Day 8 Unst & Fetlar, Shetland Islands. We begin our exploration

“ During this expedition we will witness prolific birdlife, explore deserted villages and learn of the history and ancient culture of unique island life. ”



Callanish Stones, Isle of Lewis



of Shetland in the northern islands of Unst and Fetlar. Unst is Britain's most northerly inhabited island and at the Heritage Centre we will learn about the islanders struggles over the centuries and the industries that have prospered whilst the Unst Boat Haven is dedicated to the history of the islands distinctive wooden boats which descend from Viking craft. We also visit Saxa Vord with views over Hermaness National Nature Reserve and Muckle Flugga stacks and home to thousands of gannets and puffins as well as rare arctic-alpine plants. Over lunch we sail to Fetlar, inhabited for over 5000 years the island lays claim to being the first Norse landing site in the Shetlands. Known as the most fertile of the Shetland Islands the wildflowers bring colour to the landscape whilst the birdlife on the island is prolific. Our expedition team will lead walks ashore including the Fetlar Interpretative Centre and Museum where we will learn about the wildlife and archaeological history of the island.

Day 9 Lerwick. From the Shetland capital we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. The site was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead, and the 16th century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore this historic port. Perhaps wander through its narrow stone lanes or maybe visit the excellent Shetland

Museum, containing artefacts from shipwrecks and the whaling era. Tonight we will be entertained by local musicians as we overnight in port.

Day 10 Mousa & Fair Isle. This morning we sail the short distance to Mousa to see the 40 foot defensive tower built by the Picts more than 2000 years ago, and the tallest, best preserved example of an Iron Age broch (tower) in Britain. Return to the ship for lunch before we anchor off the remote island of Fair Isle in the early afternoon. Located midway between the Shetland and Orkney islands, the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend us a warm welcome. Enjoy a walk across the island, perhaps visiting the Bird Observatory, searching out the puffin slopes, visit the community hall for a cup of tea or maybe purchase some of the famous knitwear.

Day 11 Westray, Orkney Islands. Spend the morning in the Orkney Islands as we explore the islands to the north of the mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, an RSPB reserve on the sea cliffs and home to up to 100,000 nesting seabirds. We also see Notland Castle, an incomplete fortress built in the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour, Mary Queen of Scots Sheriff of Orkney whilst in the main village of Pierowall we find the Westray Heritage Centre housing Neolithic carvings. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at sea as we return to the Scottish mainland.

Day 12 Aberdeen. Disembark after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to the train station and Aberdeen Airport at a fixed time.

Razorbills



PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£4595
3	Classic Stateroom	£4795
4	Superior Stateroom	£5295
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5495
6	Junior Suite	£5895
7	Owner's Suite	£6295
8	Serenissima Suite	£6295
10	Standard Single	£5995

PRICE INCLUDES: 11 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia Expedition Team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Britain's Islands & Highlands



A voyage from Oban to Portsmouth aboard the MS Serenissima
9th to 17th September 2019

This expedition has been devised to celebrate the stunning scenery of the British Isles from the highlands of Scotland to the outlying islands off the English coast. Sailing from Oban, we have a day to explore the Nevis Range or alternatively to join the Jacobite Steam Train from Fort William, regarded as one of the great railway journeys of the world. We continue to Canna and then to lovely Loch Scavaig on the Isle of Skye before our last call in Scotland, Colonsay where we will spend a morning exploring on foot. Travelling south, we next call into the Isle of Man for a day of exploration including the opportunity to visit Castle Rushen, one of the best examples of a Medieval castle in Europe. In Wales we spend a day on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast followed by remote Lundy Island and finally the charming Isles of Scilly before we sail into Plymouth. Each day there will be the opportunity to explore coastal paths, see the resident wildlife, enjoy the wonderful views on offer and appreciate the ancient and Medieval history of the region. Such a voyage is only possible aboard a small ship with the ability to reach these remote ports and, with the use of our Zodiacs, we will be able to explore in small groups, ensuring the solitude we find on these isles is not disturbed.



The Itinerary

Day 1 Oban, Scotland. Embark the MS Serenissima this afternoon. A transfer will be available from Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow International Airport at a fixed time. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board as we sail along Loch Linnhe and anchor overnight at Fort William.

Day 2 Fort William. Awake this morning in Fort William, the biggest town in the Scottish highlands and a great base to explore the surrounding beautiful scenery of the Nevis Range. Maybe join the late morning departure of the Jacobite Steam Train for a spectacular journey to Mallaig. It is regarded as one of the great railway journeys of the world. A stop will be made at Glenfinnan, famous for Bonnie Prince Charlie and the ill-fated Jacobite Rebellion and also location of the famous viaduct immortalised in the Harry Potter films. Arrive in Mallaig at

lunchtime where the train will stay for an hour and half, allowing us to stretch our legs and take lunch before re-embarking and returning to Fort William enjoying the spectacular views. The more active may prefer to join a guided hike through scenic Glen Nevis and the Nevis Gorge to Steall Falls, which at 120 metres is the second highest waterfall in Scotland.

Day 3 Canna & Loch Scavaig. Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna, and its adjoining neighbour Sanday, are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native

flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House, once the home of the previous owners, John and Margaret Fay Campbell, and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Over lunch we sail to lovely Loch Scavaig on the island of Skye. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country and our expedition team will run a series of hikes for all interests. For those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

Day 4 Colonsay. Awake this morning off Colonsay. Lying between Mull and Islay, we will spend the morning on a choice of walks exploring this lovely island, with her craggy, heather-backed hills, picturesque beaches and sparse woodland yet with an impressive array of plant and birdlife. Near Colonsay House, built in 1722 by Malcolm MacNeil and bought by Lord Strathcona in 1904, we will visit the attractively dilapidated wooded gardens, which protect the tiny, enigmatic 8th century St Oran's Cross. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and relax on board this afternoon as we sail. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge or find a spot on deck.

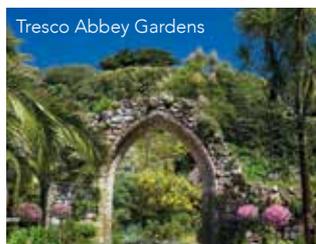
Day 5 Douglas, Isle of Man. Arrive this morning on the Isle of Man. Settlements have been here since the Mesolithic Age and the island

also claims to have the longest continuous parliament which was founded in 979 AD. This morning we will travel to Tynwald Hill, located in the little village of St John's. This grass topped, tiered hill is made from the soil and stones from each of the island's 17 parishes. We continue to the west coast town of Peel, a traditional Manx fishing port where we will see the ruins of the castle as well as having some time to explore independently. Returning to the ship for lunch there will be a choice of options in the afternoon. Maybe enjoy some time at leisure to explore Douglas, the walkers can join us on the coastal trail around Scarlett Head on the south of the island where alongside the beautiful views we can see limestone outcrops, volcanic rocks, Iron Age forts and even a World War II radar station. We will return to the ship via Castletown and the magnificent Castle Rushen, one of the best examples of a Medieval castle in Europe which was the former seat of the Kings and Lords of Mann. Alternatively take the electric mountain railway to the peak of Snaefell, the highest point on the island and where on a clear day we may be able to see the coastlines of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Day 6 Pembrokeshire, Wales. We spend the day on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast. From our nearby berth we will visit the 12th century Pembrokeshire Castle, the second largest castle in Wales



Gannet in flight



Tresco Abbey Gardens



Loch Seavaig



Pembroke Castle

and birthplace of Henry VII. Its vast walls, towers and keep were impregnable to cannon fire during the Civil War and so much of this impressive fortress remains intact today that it will be the focus of our tour. We will then enjoy a short drive to the ancient town of Tenby, a picturesque walled, Medieval town that has remained largely unchanged from when it was built 500 years ago. We will take time to stroll through this town's delightful centre before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon the active may wish to stretch their legs on a scenic walk along a section of the Pembrokeshire coastal path past lighthouses, cottages and Mill Bay where Henry Tudor landed in 1485. Alternatively take the scenic drive to St Davids, Britain's smallest city, and explore the magnificent 12th century cathedral and Bishop's Palace.

Day 7 Lundy Island, England. We have scheduled a whole day on Lundy, a remote island in the Bristol Channel. Although

small, just 3 miles long by half a mile wide, its isolation has made it a home for a range of wildlife whilst it is home to a clutch of listed buildings and monuments. The towering cliffs and rocky shoreline are a haven for migrating seabirds, whilst Sika deer, Red deer and Soay sheep can also be seen as we walk along its traffic-free lanes and paths. Spend the day being as active as you wish, maybe explore the wide bays and coves by way of hanging valleys, see ancient burial chambers, climb the lighthouse, have a drink or lunch at the tavern or buy the islands 'puffin stamps' at the shop.

Day 8 Isles of Scilly. Spend the morning on traffic free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy

time to wander at your own pace along the paths. Sail over lunch to St Agnes, the most south westerly community in the United Kingdom. Surrounded by rocks and reefs, this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks with over one third designated as "sites of special scientific interest". The small island of

Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age.

Day 9 Plymouth. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Plymouth Station at a fixed time.

Post-Cruise Dartmouth Extension

17th to 19th September 2019



Dartmouth

For those who would like to spend some time in Dartmouth after disembarking the MS Serenissima, we are offering the opportunity to join our two night extension staying at the Dart Marina Hotel & Spa. Situated a short walk from the town centre you can enjoy time to explore the historic centre or visit some of the nearby attractions including Agatha Christie's former residence at Greenways, a boat trip on the River Dart, join the steam railway along the south Devon coast or visit the nearby naval college. The hotel is in a wonderful setting by the river and offers exceptionally comfortable rooms.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£3195
3	Classic Stateroom	£3395
4	Superior Stateroom	£3795
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£3995
6	Junior Suite	£4395
7	Owner's Suite	£4895
8	Serenissima Suite	£4895
10	Standard Single	£4295

PRICE INCLUDES: Eight nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Noble Caledonia Expedition Team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Standard room with balcony & partial sea view	£325
King room with French doors & sea view	£355
King room with balcony & partial sea view	£365
Standard room for sole use	£525

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Dart Marina Hotel & Spa on a bed and breakfast basis • Transfers from the MS Serenissima to hotel and from hotel to Totnes railway station.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change.
Cover image: Puffin

