

SMALL SHIP CRUISING IN
**CENTRAL
AMERICA**

ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2019



NOBLE CALEDONIA



MS SERENISSIMA

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 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.



Restaurant



Harald 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 with a computer for internet access 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 classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

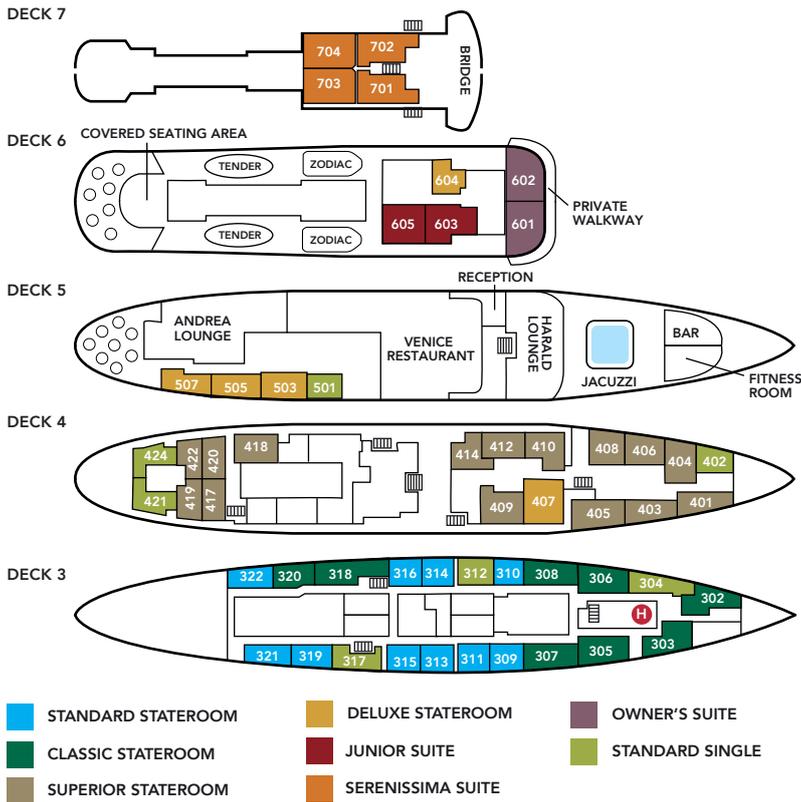
Your Dining

The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting. Being on deck 5, it has great views from all tables. The picture windows mean the restaurant is 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 for 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 are included at lunch and dinner. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee is available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.



Cruising

Deck Plan & Cabins



OWNER'S SUITE
(approx. 22 square metres)



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(approx. 25 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(approx. 15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(approx. 11.5 to 18 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(approx. 21 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(approx. 10 to 11.5 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(approx. 7 to 12.5 square metres)



CLASSIC STATEROOM
(approx. 14 to 19 square metres)



Throughout this brochure, you will see an expedition logo next to the cruise names which indicates the cruise is classified as an expedition cruise. During expedition cruises, you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Expedition cruises will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

Secret World of Two Oceans



A voyage of natural world discovery between Colombia & Costa Rica including a transit of the Panama Canal
5th to 20th January 2019

If you have been contemplating a visit to Central America, then this fascinating voyage could offer the perfect opportunity with its mix of cultural and natural wonders. During our voyage you will enjoy swimming, snorkelling and nature walks all overseen by our expert onboard team. Some days you will be venturing into national parks and conservation areas teeming with wildlife or visiting remote communities where locals live following ancient ways of life. We have the added benefit of spending time in the captivating cities of Cartagena and Panama.

Our voyage offers an easy and comfortable way to explore the region rather than arduous, lengthy land travel. You can relax on board as we sail between beautiful islands and interesting ports of call, and as much of the itinerary is far from the 'big ship' routes it includes little known but fascinating ports of call. One of the highlights for many will be the transit of the Panama Canal which makes an itinerary such as this possible as we cross from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific, and as we do so will we toast the engineering marvel during our daylight transit.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Cartagena, Colombia. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Cartagena. Arrive into Cartagena today and transfer to the MS Serenissima. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax before we meet this evening for the Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board.

Day 3 Cartagena. Cartagena is one of the most fascinating cities in South America and this morning we enjoy a walking tour of the colonial walled-city which is virtually surrounded by water and steeped in history, with a wealth of 16th and 17th century buildings and churches. Our guides will bring the history of the city to life as we walk its streets and ramparts. We will visit the 16th century Fort of San Felipe, Monastery of San Pedro Claver,

the Plaza de la Aduana and Iglesia de Santo Domingo. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore further independently before we set sail this evening.

Day 4 San Blas Islands, Panama. Spend a relaxing morning at sea before we arrive at the stunning San Blas Archipelago during lunch. The archipelago is made up of over 400 islands which line the north coast of Panama with white sandy beaches set in a turquoise sea. The islands are home to the indigenous Kuna Indians who gained self-rule from the government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molas'. This afternoon choose to explore the market, local museum or maybe enjoy a swim from the beach.

Day 5 Panama Canal Transit. An undisputed destination on the travel bucket list has to be the Panama Canal. The first attempt to build the canal was made by a French company, but ended in failure in 1889. The American government eventually bought out the French for 40 million dollars, and their attempt to build the Canal started in 1904. Through the efforts of over 80,000 workers and the loss of more than 30,000 lives, the greatest single construction project ever undertaken was completed. The project ended in triumph, with the Canal opening in 1914, and it is now a vital artery of international trade, with nearly 14,000 ships travelling through it every year. The canal is around 50 miles long and takes between eight to ten hours to cross.

Day 6 Panama City. Panama City is a combination of the historic old town, declared a UNESCO Historical Monument, and the ultra-modern new town. We will offer a choice of activities today. Join an excursion to the Panama Canal Observation Centre and learn about the expansion of the canal before visiting the Miraflores Locks Visitor Centre where we see the history of the canal and watch the ships as they pass through. Alternatively for those interested in meeting the Embera Indians, a tour to the Chagres National Park has been arranged where we can take a dug out canoe to the village in

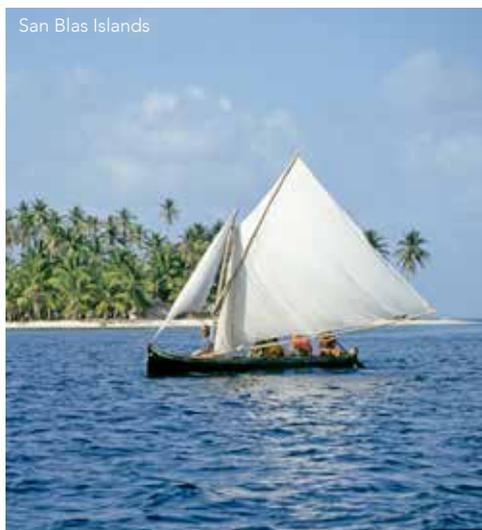


the jungle, meet the local tribe and learn about their history. We return to the ship this afternoon and sail this evening.

Days 7 & 8 Bahia Solano & Utria National Park, Colombia. This morning we return to Colombia on the Pacific coast and have a day and a half to explore this beautiful area which is well off the traditional cruise routes. Here we find the Utria National Park, a tropical forest which reaches down to the sandy beaches. Using our Zodiacs to get ashore we will enjoy walks along the nature trails and observe the flora and fauna with our local guides. In Bahia Solano we will visit the small town whilst the more active may wish to join a walk to a private rainforest reserve which runs alongside the Rio Mecana and is part of a 170 hectare nature reserve. Made up of mangroves, tropical forest, native plants and trees of the Choco region, our local guides will point out the indigenous plants and birdlife and highlight the ongoing reforestation programmes. We also hope to offer an opportunity to swim from the beaches.



Isla Coiba



San Blas Islands



Montezuma Oropendola, Manuel Antonio National Park



Isla Tortuga



Utria National Park



Panama City old town

Day 9 At Sea. After a busy few days of exploration we have a day at sea to relax, take in a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 10 Isla Coiba, Panama. This once infamous prison island, now a National Park, has reverted to an island paradise. We will anchor off the ranger station and use our Zodiacs to land on the island. Here our onboard naturalists will lead some guided walks as we explore the main island, which boasts some 147 species of birds, and walk up to the observation tower. This afternoon we will use our Zodiacs to find a suitable spot to land on one of the beautiful beaches.

Day 11 Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica. After clearing immigration formalities into Costa Rica we make our way to Casa Orquideas (Orchid House), a five hectare private botanical garden cut out of the rainforest by Ron and Trudy MacAllister who now cultivate over 100 species of orchids which attracts many different bird species. Plants of the tropics burst with colour and the air here is heady with the fragrance of flowers and humid soil. Due to the open space, it is often easy to spot a number of tropical birds here including toucans.

Day 12 Corcovado National Park. Resting on the northern side of the Osa Peninsula, Drake Bay (Bahía Drake) is our gateway to the Corcovado National Park. We will use the Zodiacs to land on one of the beaches before enjoying a walk through the primary and secondary forest with our naturalist guides. The rich biological diversity of the biological corridor of Corcovado National Park is astounding and bird lovers will be enchanted by a wide variety of birds, including tanagers, flycatchers, kingfishers, manakins, trogons, crested guans, and spectacular scarlet macaws and toucans. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon hope to find a local beach.

Day 13 Manuel Antonio National Park. From our anchorage at Quepos we travel to Manuel Antonio National Park which is one of the most stunning and bio-diverse areas of the world. Spread out over 683 hectares it is filled with diverse wildlife, has both primary and secondary forests, boasts a stunning shoreline ideal for bird watching or swimming and is home to a number of endemic species of plants and animals. We will make an early start this morning allowing for the best viewing of monkeys, vividly

coloured birds and the lethargic three-toed sloth. This afternoon we will have time at leisure in Quepos as we sail later tonight.

Day 14 Curu National Park & Isla Tortuga. We spend our last morning exploring the Curu National Wildlife refuge which boasts a rich and diverse wildlife in five different habitats ranging from marine zones, including a wide beach area, mangrove swamps and tropical forests. Here on a range of walks we hope to see some of the 200 species of birds, howler and capuchin monkeys,

mammals such as otters, ocelots, pumas and turtles. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Tortuga Island where we have the chance to snorkel over the volcanic reef which is home to angelfish, morays and needlefish. Alternatively spend the afternoon relaxing on the white sand beaches.

Day 15 Puerto Caldera to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to San Jose for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 16 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£6995	£6695
3	Classic Stateroom	£7295	£6995
4	Superior Stateroom	£7595	£7295
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7795	£7495
6	Junior Suite	£8295	£7995
7	Owner's Suite	£8995	£8695
8	Serenissima Suite	£9395	£9095
10	Standard Single	£7295	£6995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 13 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.



Arenal Volcano



Three-toed sloth



Monteverde National Park

Post-Cruise Costa Rica Extension

19th to 25th January 2019

If you would like to spend some additional time exploring Costa Rica before returning to London we are offering a five night extension which includes the Monteverde Cloud Forest and Arenal Park.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Puerto Caldera to Monteverde. Disembark this morning and transfer to Monteverde enjoying lunch en-route. On arrival we transfer to the El Establo Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay and will have dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 2 Monteverde. Today we will experience one of the five hanging bridges of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve which cross the canyons below and bring us face to face with the upper level of the forest canopy. The trails extend for slightly over a mile and a half and we will be accompanied by local guides. Biologists now know that about 90 percent of all organisms in a rainforest are found in the canopy. Among the 400 species of birds, some of the best known species are the quetzal, the bellbird, the black turkey bird, the motmot, the orange-bellied trogon and the bare-necked umbrella bird. After lunch we will enjoy a further exploration of the forest and make our way up to one of the highest mountains in the area by sky tram, whilst also having the opportunity to participate in a sky walk, a more sedate and tranquil way to take in the natural beauty of the forest. Dinner tonight will be served at a local restaurant.

Day 3 Monteverde to Arenal. This morning we will start our stunning journey to Arenal including a stop for lunch. Check in to the Kioro Hotel (or similar) for our two night stay. Tonight we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 Arenal. After breakfast we depart for a guided visit to Arenal Park. Here, we will take a walk through the area where the Arenal volcanic eruption took place in 1968, learning about the destruction this caused and the subsequent rebirth of life via the rich mineral deposits the eruption provided to the region. There will also be the opportunity

to enjoy a treetop cable car ride, and for the more adventurous, to participate in a zip-line adventure, providing an exhilarating bird's eye view of the park. Following lunch, there will be time to relax and explore Arenal at leisure.

Day 5 Arenal to San Jose. Today we will make our way to San Jose, visiting the Poas Volcano National Park this morning. After a short walk, we will be treated to spectacular 180 degree views of the volcano's crater and the picturesque surrounding areas. We will also visit the Doka Estate for an insight into one of Costa Rica's prime exports, coffee. Here we will learn about the processes involved in the harvesting and manufacturing of this ubiquitous beverage. Upon arrival into San Jose check in to the Real Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 6 San Jose to London. Check out from the hotel after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 7 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2295** Single: **£2795**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Arenal and Monteverde, overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose, all meals as mentioned in itinerary, transfers and excursions as described, gratuities, English speaking guides, Tour Manager.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Rainforests, Reefs & Lost Worlds

An exploration of the natural & cultural wonders of Central America
18th January to 1st February 2019

Join us aboard the MS Serenissima as we explore Central America's Pacific coastline visiting Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Mexico and Guatemala. Such a comprehensive and in-depth itinerary would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise. Daily, guided excursions will introduce you to the natural and cultural wonders of the region and with the MS Serenissima as our base, we are able to visit some small islands and ports which the larger cruise vessels simply cannot access.

The history of the ancient Mayan civilisation, the colonial years and the more recent events of the region will be brought to life by our onboard team and local guides. There is also much of the natural world to occupy us on our journey including our visit to El Salvador's most important marine ecosystem, the Jiquilisco Bay Biosphere Reserve and Costa Rica's Curu National Wildlife Refuge and Manuel Antonio National Park.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to San Jose, Costa Rica. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to the Intercontinental Real Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 2 San Jose to Puerto Caldera. After breakfast in the hotel we will have some free time in San Jose before transferring to the MS Serenissima in Puerto Caldera. Enjoy a welcome briefing, drinks and dinner as we sail tonight to our anchorage at Puerto Quepos.

Day 3 Manuel Antonio National Park. From our anchorage at Quepos we travel to Manuel Antonio National Park which is one of the most stunning and bio-diverse areas of the world. Spread out over 683 hectares it is filled with diverse wildlife, has both primary and secondary forests, boasts a stunning shoreline ideal for bird watching or swimming and is home to a number of endemic species of plants and animals. We will make an early start this morning allowing for the best viewing of monkeys, vividly coloured birds and the lethargic three-toed sloth. This afternoon we will have time at leisure in Quepos before setting sail this evening.

Day 4 Curu National Park & Isla Tortuga. We spend the morning exploring the Curu National Wildlife refuge which boasts a rich and diverse wildlife in five different habitats ranging from marine zones, including a wide

beach area, mangrove swamps and tropical forests. Here on a range of walks hope to see some of the 200 species of birds, howler and capuchin monkeys, mammals such as otters, ocelots and pumas and turtles. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Tortuga Island where we have the chance to snorkel over the volcanic reef home to angelfish, morays and needlefish. Alternatively spend the afternoon relaxing on the white sand beaches.



Day 5 Playa del Cocos. Our final stop in Costa Rica is the beach town of Playa del Cocos in the Papagayo Gulf, once a small fishing village it has grown into a popular destination for local Costa Rican tourism. We will use our Zodiacs to land before heading inland to the Palo Verde National Park where we will board local boats to travel along the Tempisque River seeing the mangroves and dry forest vegetation which is home to countless birds and multiple mammals. As we visit in the dry season we hope to see peccaries, armadillos, jaguarondis, coatis, agoutis, deer and monkeys which

are attracted to the river. We enjoy lunch at the 19th century Hacienda House with views of the savannahs and sugar cane fields.

Day 6 San Juan Del Sur for Granada, Nicaragua. After an early breakfast we will leave from the friendly fishing village of San Juan del Sur for a full day tour to Granada and Lake Nicaragua. Founded in 1523, Granada is Nicaragua's oldest Spanish city and has retained much of its Spanish character with colonial churches, narrow streets and colourful Spanish style homes. We will enjoy a walking tour including the cathedral and convent of San Francisco where we find around 30 pre-Colombian stone statues dating back to 800 AD sculpted by the inhabitants of Zapatera Island on Lake Nicaragua. After a local lunch we continue to Lake Nicaragua and enjoy a relaxing boat ride amongst the 365 small islands created by the volcanic activity of the Mombacho volcano around 20,000 years ago. Whilst some islands are inhabited most remain unspoiled and are home to exotic plants, howler monkeys and orchids.

Day 7 Corinto for Leon. The port of Corinto is our base for our visit to Leon, the former capital of Nicaragua. Here we will explore the colonial architecture and the 18th century cathedral which is one of the most prominent buildings in the city with fantastic



views from the rooftop. Inside we will see the fresco paintings, statues and the lion that guards the tomb of Ruben Dario, the famous Nicaraguan poet. We will enjoy a little free time for those who wish to visit the bustling market.

Days 8 & 9 La Union, El Salvador. We have two days to explore the southern region of El Salvador and will offer a number of excursion options. You may wish to follow the 'peace route' set up to remember the events of the 1980s when El Salvador experienced a bitter civil war. It is estimated that over 100,000 were killed in the fighting whilst half a million fled into exile. We will visit Perquin, once a stronghold of the guerrillas and home to the Museum of the Revolution where former members of the rebel army are willing to share their experiences. We continue to the village of El Mozote where in December 1981 one of the worst atrocities occurred and more than 1000 people were killed in a single day. Our local guides will explain about living in the country during this time



Capuchin monkey, Manuel Antonio National Park



Hawksbill Turtle, La Union



Antigua Guatemala



Tecapa volcano



Toucan

and we will see the monument erected for the victims and the memorial garden decorated with brightly coloured murals. There will also be a tour to Alegria, the birthplace of the writer Alberto Masferrer where we visit the museum before continuing to the lagoon known as the 'Emerald of America' located in the Tecapa Volcano. A full day tour will also visit the Jiquilisco Bay Biosphere Reserve which is El Salvador's most important marine ecosystem with the coastal area being made up of remote islands, mangrove canals and desolate beaches whilst inland we find beautiful forests and cacao plantations. It is an important base for migratory birds as well as a nesting site for four sea turtle species including one of only two sites in the Pacific for the endangered Hawksbill Turtle. We explore the different areas of the reserve spending time with the environmentalists and scientists who will teach us about the conservation of the turtles, walking through the forest on the lookout for spider monkeys before learning about the cultivation of cacao, which creates some of the finest chocolate, on one of the local plantations.

Day 10 Acajutla. Today's full day excursion discovers the Mayan route starting at the archaeological site of Joya de Ceren, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the Pompeii of America. The site was covered by the Loma Caldera volcano explosion which kept the remains of pre-Hispanic civilisation for

hundreds of years and provides a unique insight into everyday life in a Mesoamerican farming community of the 6th century AD. We continue to the ruins of San Andres, once an important political and religious centre and testimony of the Indigo industry during the colonial period, better known as the 'Blue Gold'. After lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Santa Ana and see the beautiful Gothic cathedral and National Palace before our tour ends at the ruins of Tazumal, the largest pyramid in El Salvador dating from 1500 BC and an important Mayan settlement. Return to the ship for dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 11 Acajutla. This morning we will explore some of the colonial towns and communities on the 'Flower Route' named after the abundance of flowers found along the roadsides and in the villages. Leaving the port we will drive through the beautiful mountains to the town of Nahuizalco, home to one of the most longstanding native communities and arts and crafts production sites in the country. We continue to Ataco, the final stop on the Ruta de las Flores. Ataco is a quaint, colonial village that is known for its natural beauty, as well as its brightly painted homes, cobblestone streets, colourful murals and unique arts and crafts. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 12 Puerto Chiapas, Mexico. Awake this morning in Mexico

and the port of Chiapas. This morning we will take an historical tour exploring the ancient Mayan site of Izapa which grew from a small village to be one of the region's most influential cities and a cultural and commercial centre. We also visit the planetarium at Chiapas where we learn about the Mayans relationship with the stars and how it influenced their lives. After lunch on board, nature lovers can enjoy a boat trip amongst the nearby mangrove streams and lagoons, learning about the area's eco-system whilst our guide points out the various species of flora and fauna. Alternatively spend the afternoon at leisure.

Day 13 Antigua, Guatemala. Disembark after breakfast and from our berth at Puerto Quetzal drive to Antigua, a

UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built between three magnificent volcanoes in 1542 it is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the Americas. Antigua remained an economic and political heart of Central America until a devastating earthquake in 1773 destroyed much of the city. We will explore the city which is a wonder of colonial buildings, beautiful squares, cobblestone streets and Baroque churches. This afternoon we transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 14 Guatemala City to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to Guatemala City to join our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 15 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

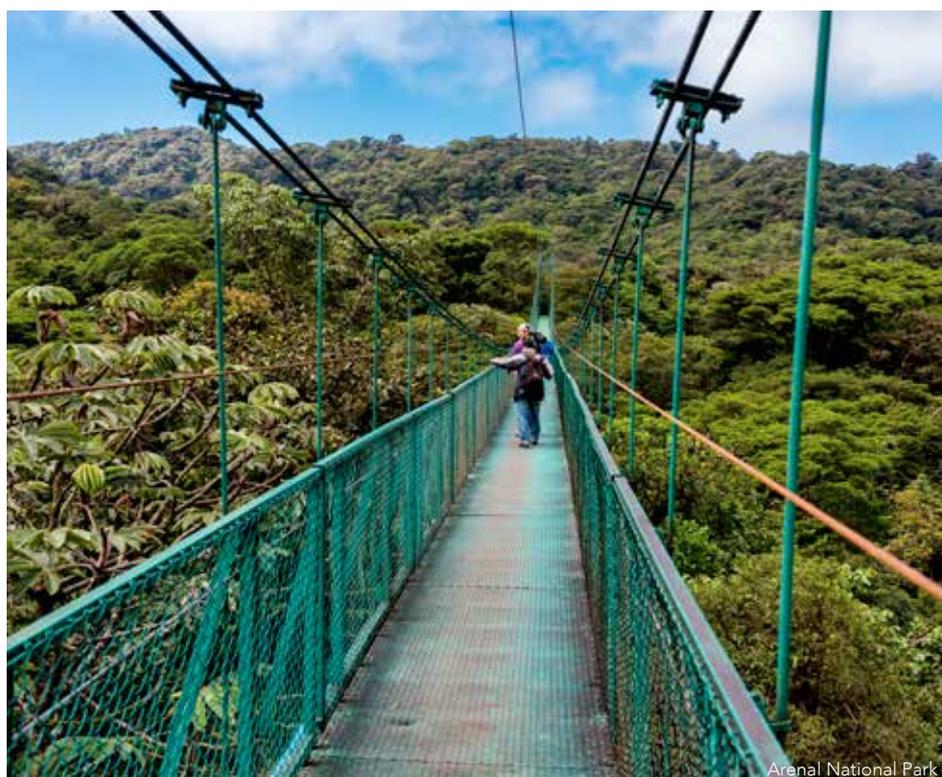
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£6495	£6195
3	Classic Stateroom	£6795	£6495
4	Superior Stateroom	£7195	£6895
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7395	£7095
6	Junior Suite	£7895	£7595
7	Owner's Suite	£8695	£8395
8	Serenissima Suite	£9095	£8795
10	Standard Single	£6795	£6495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 11 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose and Antigua on a bed and breakfast basis, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Pre-Cruise Extension



Pre-Cruise Costa Rica Extension

14th to 19th January 2019

If you would like to spend some additional time exploring Costa Rica before your cruise we are offering a five night extension which includes Arenal Park and the Monteverde Cloud Forest.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to San Jose, Costa Rica. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival, transfer to the Real Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 2 San Jose to Arenal. Following breakfast at our hotel we will first head to the Doka Estate for an insight into one of Costa Rica's prime exports, coffee. Here we will learn about processes involved in the harvesting and manufacturing of this ubiquitous beverage. We will continue to Poas Volcano National Park, where after a short walk, we will be treated to spectacular 180 degree views of the volcano's crater and the picturesque surrounding areas. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will transfer to the Kioro Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

Day 3 Arenal. After breakfast, we depart for a guided visit to Arenal Park. Here, we will take a walk through the area where the Arenal volcanic eruption took place in 1968, learning about the destruction this caused and the subsequent rebirth of life via the rich mineral deposits the eruption provided to the region. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a treetop cable car ride and for the more adventurous, to participate in a zip-line adventure, providing an exhilarating bird's eye view of the park. Following lunch, there will be time to relax and explore Arenal at leisure. This evening we will enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Day 4 Arenal to Monteverde. After breakfast we will start our stunning journey to Monteverde including a stop for lunch. Continue on to Monteverde and check in to the El Establo Hotel or similar for our two night stay. Tonight we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5 Monteverde. Today we will experience one of the five hanging bridges of Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve which cross the canyons below, and bring us face to face with the upper level of the forest canopy. The trails extend for slightly over a mile and a half and we will be accompanied by local guides. Biologists now know that about 90 percent of all organisms in a rainforest are found in the canopy. Among the 400 species of birds, some of the best known species are: the quetzal, the bellbird, the black turkey bird, the motmot, the orange-bellied trogon, and the bare-necked umbrellabird. After lunch we will enjoy a further exploration of the Forest and make our way up to one of the highest mountains in the area by sky tram, whilst also having the opportunity to participate in a sky walk, a more sedate and tranquil way to take in the natural beauty of the forest. Dinner tonight will be served at a local restaurant.

Day 6 Monteverde to Puerto Caldera. After breakfast and a morning at leisure in the hotel we transfer to the MS Serenissima in Puerto Caldera with lunch en-route and continue with the main itinerary from day 2.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2295** Single: **£2795**

Price Includes: Overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose, two nights hotel accommodation in Arenal and Monteverde, all meals as mentioned in itinerary, transfers and excursions as described, gratuities, English speaking guides, Tour Manager.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Post-Cruise Tikal & Lake Atitlan Extension

31st January to 3rd February 2019

After disembarking the MS Serenissima, discover Guatemala's best kept secrets with a two night post-cruise extension which includes full day tours to the Mayan ruins at Tikal (by flight) which are located in the Guatemalan jungle and beautiful Lake Atitlan.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Antigua & Tikal, Guatemala. Today we leave Antigua early in the morning for a short flight to Flores (approximately 1 hour) in the Peten Department. We visit the Tikal National Park, touring the beautiful Maya ruins in the dense sub-tropical humid jungle. Tikal offers temples reaching 70 feet tall and several thousand other monuments, stela, altars and plenty more to explore. This afternoon lunch will be served in a local restaurant and we will then make our way to the airport for our return flight to Antigua and transfer back to the hotel. The rest of the evening will be at leisure.

Day 2 Lake Atitlan. After breakfast, we embark on a full day tour to Lake Atitlan, described by Aldous Huxley as the most beautiful lake in the world. Surrounded by twelve post-Maya villages, all bearing the names of Catholic saints, and surrounded by three majestic volcanoes, the experience is unique. We visit the main town of Panajachel where the quaint streets are home to many bohemian artists selling their crafts. There will be some time at leisure to take some photographs and explore the local shops. Lunch will be served

at a local restaurant and later this afternoon we will head back to the comforts of our hotel in Antigua. The remainder of the evening will be at leisure.

Day 3 Guatemala City to London. After breakfast in the hotel transfer to the airport in Guatemala City for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 4 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1095** Single: **£1295**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Antigua, Guatemala on a bed and breakfast basis, lunch on day 1 and 2, Tikal excursion by air, Lake Atitlan excursion, gratuities, Tour Manager.

Not Included: Travel insurance, dinners.

Central American Odyssey



A voyage from Guatemala to Colombia linking the Pacific Ocean & Caribbean Sea including a transit of the Panama Canal

29th January to 17th February 2019

Our voyage from Guatemala's charming, UNESCO World Heritage City of Antigua to the captivating city of Cartagena in Colombia by way of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama is certainly an odyssey to some of Central America's most picturesque and fascinating destinations. Our unique voyage is the perfect opportunity to escape the British winter to destinations with teeming rainforests, cool cloud forests, beautiful beaches, remarkably varied landscapes, magnificently diverse wildlife and intriguing ancient ruins and cultures. Such an itinerary and diversity would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise aboard a perfectly suited small ship such as the MS Serenissima. Skip the arduous, lengthy land travel which such a trip would usually entail and relax on board as we deliver you to a new and exciting destination each day.

A flexible itinerary and knowledgeable onboard team will enable us to make the most of each day, whether we are landing on remote beaches by Zodiac, searching for endemic flowers, mammals and birds with our onboard naturalists, meeting with members of indigenous tribes, learning about the colonial and often turbulent history of the region and of course not forgetting what will be one of the highlights for many, our transit through the Panama Canal. With under 100 fellow passengers on board, we can explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere on board.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Guatemala City, Guatemala. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 2 Antigua & Puerto Quetzal. After breakfast in the hotel we drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Antigua. Built between three magnificent volcanoes in 1542 it is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the Americas. Antigua remained an economic and political heart of Central America until a devastating earthquake in 1773 destroyed much of the city. We will explore the city which is a wonder of colonial buildings, beautiful squares, cobblestone streets and Baroque churches. This afternoon we transfer to Puerto Quetzal and embark the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail this evening.



Day 3 Acajutla, El Salvador. This morning we arrive in El Salvador and will explore some of the colonial towns and communities on the 'Flower Route' named after the abundance of flowers found along the roadsides and in the villages. Leaving the port we will drive through the beautiful mountains to the town of Nahuizalco, home to one of the most longstanding native communities and arts and crafts production sites in the country. We continue to Ataco, the final stop on the Ruta de las Flores. Ataco is a quaint, colonial village that is known for its natural beauty, as well as its brightly painted homes, cobblestone streets, colourful murals and unique arts and crafts. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

Day 4 Acajutla. Today's full day excursion discovers the



Mayan route starting at the archaeological site of Joya de Ceren, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the Pompeii of America. The site was covered by the Loma Caldera volcano explosion which kept the remains of pre-Hispanic civilisation for hundreds of years and provides a unique insight into everyday life in a Mesoamerican farming community of the 6th century AD. We continue to the ruins of San Andres, once an important political and religious centre and testimony of the Indigo industry during the colonial period, better known as the 'Blue Gold'. After lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Santa Ana and see the beautiful Gothic cathedral and National Palace before our tour ends at the ruins of Tazumal, the largest pyramid in El Salvador dating from 1500 BC and an important Mayan settlement. Return to the ship for dinner and sail this evening.

Day 5 La Union. For our last day in El Salvador we will offer a choice of excursion options. You may

wish to follow the 'peace route' set up to remember the events of the 1980s when El Salvador experienced a bitter civil war. It is estimated that over 100,000 were killed in the fighting whilst half a million fled into exile. We will visit Perquin, once a stronghold of the guerrillas and home to the Museum of the Revolution where former members of the rebel army are willing to share their experiences. We continue to the village of El Mozote where in December 1981 one of the worst atrocities occurred and more than 1000 people were killed in a single day. Our local guides will explain about living in the country during this time and we will see the monument erected for the victims and the memorial garden decorated with brightly coloured murals. Alternatively there will also be a tour to Alegria, the birthplace of the writer Alberto Masferrer where we visit the museum before continuing to the lagoon known as the 'Emerald of America' located in the Tecapa Volcano.

Day 6 Corinto for Leon, Nicaragua. The port of Corinto is our base for our visit to Leon, the former capital of Nicaragua. Here we will explore the colonial architecture and the 18th century cathedral which is one of the most prominent buildings in the city with fantastic views from the rooftop. Inside we will see the fresco paintings, statues and the lion that guards the tomb of Ruben Dario, the famous Nicaraguan poet. We will enjoy a little free time for those who wish to visit the bustling market.

Day 7 San Juan Del Sur for Granada. After an early breakfast we will leave from the friendly fishing village of San Juan del Sur for a full day tour to Granada and Lake Nicaragua. Founded in 1523, Granada is Nicaragua's oldest Spanish city and has retained much of its Spanish character with colonial churches, narrow streets and colourful Spanish style homes. We will enjoy a walking tour including the cathedral and convent of San Francisco where we find around 30 pre-Columbian stone statues dating back to 800 AD sculpted by the inhabitants of Zapatera Island on Lake Nicaragua. After a local lunch we continue to Lake Nicaragua and enjoy a relaxing boat ride amongst the 365 small islands created by the volcanic activity of the Mombacho volcano around 20,000 years ago. Whilst some islands are inhabited most remain unspoiled and are home to exotic plants, howler monkeys and orchids.

Day 8 Playa del Cocos, Costa Rica. Our first stop in Costa Rica is the beach town of Playa del Coco in the Papagayo Gulf, once a small fishing village it has grown into a popular destination for local Costa Rican tourism. We will use our Zodiacs to land before heading inland to the Palo Verde National Park where we will board local boats to travel along the Tempisque River seeing the mangroves and dry forest vegetation which is home to countless birds and multiple mammals. As we visit in the dry season we hope to see peccaries, armadillos, jaguarondis, coatis, agoutis, deer and monkeys which are attracted to the river. We enjoy lunch at the 19th century Hacienda House with views of the savannahs and sugar cane fields.

Day 9 Curu National Park & Isla Tortuga. We spend the morning exploring the Curu National

Wildlife refuge which boasts a rich and diverse wildlife in five different habitats ranging from marine zones, including a wide beach area, mangrove swamps and tropical forests. Here on a range of walks we will find a number of species of birds, howler and capuchin monkeys and turtles. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Tortuga Island where we have the chance to snorkel over the volcanic reef which is home to angelfish, morays and needlefish. Alternatively spend the afternoon relaxing on the white sand beaches. Over dinner we will reposition to our overnight anchorage at Quepos.

Day 10 Manuel Antonio National Park. Early this morning we will travel to Manuel Antonio National Park which is one of the most stunning and bio-diverse areas of the world. Spread out over 683 hectares it is filled with diverse wildlife, has both primary and secondary forests, boasts a stunning shoreline ideal for bird watching or swimming and is home to a number of endemic species of plants and animals. We will make an early start this morning allowing for the best viewing of monkeys, vividly coloured birds and the lethargic three-toed sloth. This afternoon we will have time at leisure in Quepos before we sail later tonight.

Day 11 Corcovado National Park. Resting on the northern side of the Osa Peninsula, Drake Bay (Bahía Drake) is our gateway to the Corcovado National Park. We will use the Zodiacs to land on one of the beaches before enjoying a walk through the primary and secondary forest with our naturalist guides. The rich biological diversity of the biological corridor of the Corcovado National Park is astounding and bird lovers will be enchanted by a wide variety of birds, including tanagers, flycatchers, kingfishers, manakins, trogons, crested guans, and spectacular scarlet macaws and toucans. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon hope to find a local beach.

Day 12 Golfo Dulce. Our last day in Costa Rica will be at Casa Orquideas (Orchid House), a five hectare private botanical garden cut out of the rainforest by Ron and Trudy MacAllister who now cultivate over 100 species of orchids which attract many different bird species. Plants of the tropics burst with colour and the air here is heady

Scarlet macaw, Corcovado National Park



Granada Cathedral



Ruins of Tazumal



Squirrel monkey



Leon



Manuel Antonio National Park





Tayrona National Park



Panama canal



Sloth

with the fragrance of flowers and humid soil. Due to the open space, it is often easy to spot a number of tropical birds including toucans. This afternoon we clear immigration formalities at Golfito as we sail to Panama.

Day 13 Isla Coiba, Panama. This once infamous prison island, now a National Park, has reverted to an island paradise. We will anchor off the ranger station and use our Zodiacs to land on the island. Here our onboard naturalists will lead some guided walks as we explore the main island, which boasts some 147 species of birds, and walk up to the observation tower. Over lunch we will sail and have an afternoon at sea to either join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 14 Panama City. Panama City is a combination of the historic old town, declared a UNESCO Historical Monument, and the ultra-modern new town. We will offer a choice of activities today. Join an excursion to the Panama Canal Observation Centre where you can learn about the expansion of the canal before visiting the Miraflores Locks Visitor Centre where you can see the history of the canal and watch the ships as they pass through. For those interested in meeting the Embera Indians, a tour to the Chagres National Park has been arranged where we can take a dug out canoe to the village in the jungle, meet the local tribe and learn about their history. We return to the ship in the mid afternoon and sail.

Day 15 Panama Canal Transit. An undisputed destination on the travel bucket list has to be the Panama Canal. The first attempt to build the canal was made by a French company, but ended in failure in 1889. The American government eventually bought out the French for 40 million dollars, and their attempt to build the Canal started in 1904. Through the efforts of over 80,000 workers and the loss of more than 30,000 lives, the greatest single construction project ever undertaken was completed. The project ended in triumph, with the Canal opening in 1914, and it is now a vital artery of international trade, with nearly 14,000 ships travelling through it every year. The canal is around 50 miles long and takes between eight to ten hours to cross.

Day 16 San Blas Islands. Spend the morning at the stunning San Blas Archipelago. The archipelago is made up of over 400 islands which line the north coast of Panama with white sandy beaches set in a turquoise sea. The islands are home to the indigenous Kuna Indians who gained self-rule from the government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molas'. Choose to explore the market, local museum or maybe enjoy a swim from the beach. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 17 Santa Marta, Colombia. After a morning at sea we arrive in

Colombia this afternoon at the port of Santa Marta. The Santa Marta area is renowned for the eco-diversity and dramatic beauty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the highest coastal mountain range in the world, that sweep down to the sea. This afternoon, from our berth we hope to travel slightly inland to the Tayrona National Park where, on a walk through this semi-tropical jungle, we will be joined by a local guide who will offer insights into the park's vegetation, animals and eco-system. Covered in large part by virgin tropical forest, the park is home to over 100 species of mammals, 200 species of birds and 50 species of reptiles.

Day 18 Cartagena. Cartagena is one of the most fascinating cities in South America and this

morning we enjoy a walking tour of the colonial walled-city which is virtually surrounded by water and steeped in history, with a wealth of 16th and 17th century buildings and churches. Our guides will bring the history of the city to life as we walk its streets and ramparts. Our time includes the 16th century Fort of San Felipe, Monastery of San Pedro Claver, the Plaza de la Aduana and Iglesia de Santo Domingo. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore further independently.

Day 19 Cartagena to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 20 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£8395	£8095
3	Classic Stateroom	£8695	£8395
4	Superior Stateroom	£8895	£8595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£9295	£8995
6	Junior Suite	£9795	£9495
7	Owner's Suite	£10495	£10195
8	Serenissima Suite	£10895	£10595
10	Standard Single	£8695	£8395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 17 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, overnight accommodation in Guatemala City on a bed and breakfast basis, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.





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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: Black-bellied Hummingbird, Costa Rica

