

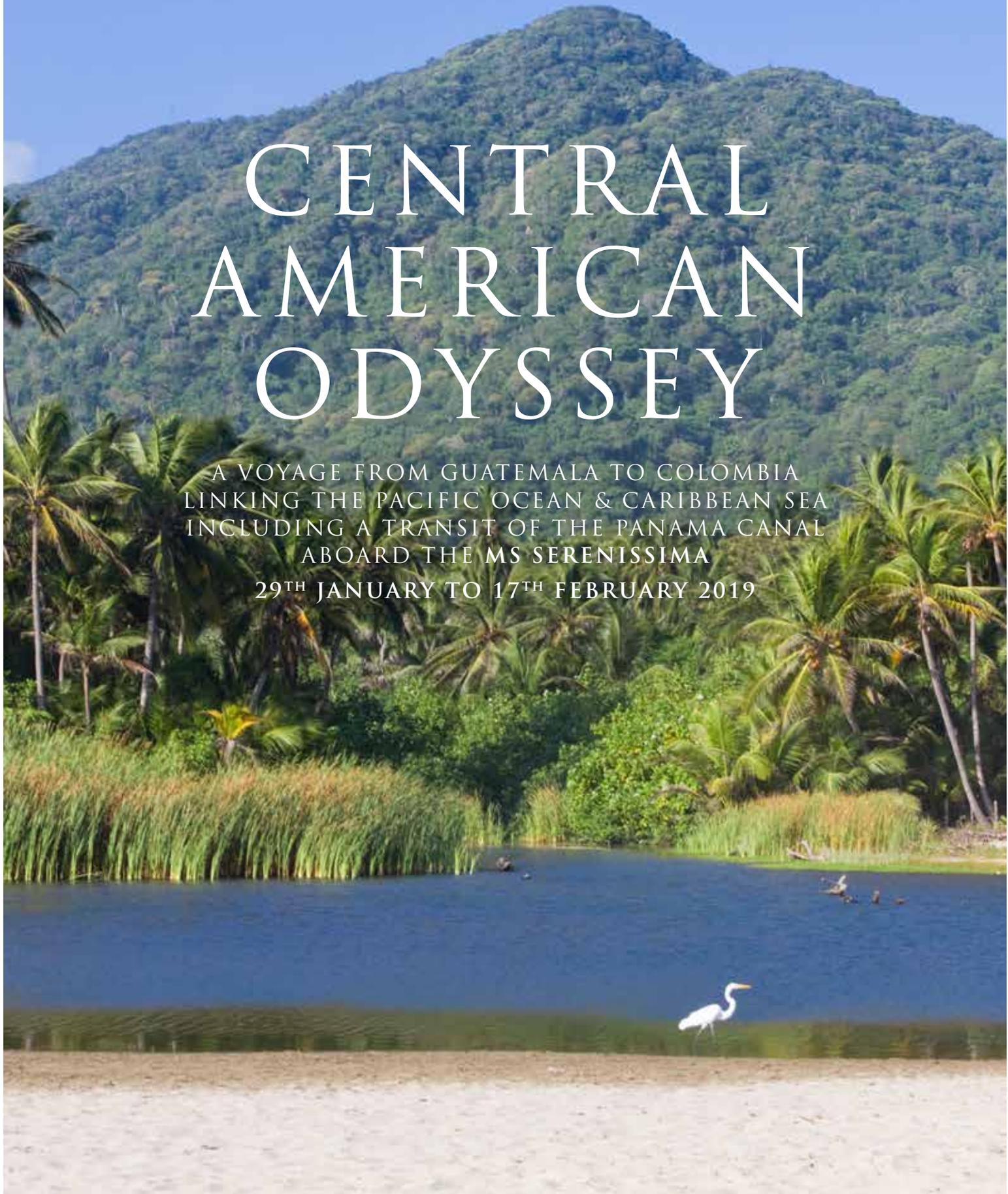
NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

CENTRAL AMERICAN ODYSSEY

A VOYAGE FROM GUATEMALA TO COLOMBIA
LINKING THE PACIFIC OCEAN & CARIBBEAN SEA
INCLUDING A TRANSIT OF THE PANAMA CANAL
ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

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, 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



Lake Nicaragua

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-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 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 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 Golfoito 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



San Blas Islands



Panama canal



Granada Cathedral



Sloth



Ruins of Tazumal

government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molás'. 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.

**Pre-Cruise Tikal & Lake Atitlan Extension
27th to 29th January 2019**



Lake Atitlan



Tikal Ruins

Before embarking the MS Serenissima, discover Guatemala's best kept secrets with a two night pre-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 London to Guatemala City, Guatemala. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 2 Tikal. This morning we will depart Guatemala City early for our short flight (approximately 1 hour) to Flores in the Peten Department. We will visit the Tikal National Park to see the beautiful Maya ruins in the dense sub-tropical humid jungle. Tikal offer temples reaching 70 feet tall and several thousand other monuments, stela and altars. After lunch in a local restaurant we will make our way to the airport for our return flight to Guatemala City. Return to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure.

Day 3 Lake Atitlan. After breakfast we embark on our full day tour to Lake Atitlan, described by Aldous Huxley as the most beautiful lake in the world. Surrounded by 12 post-Maya villages, all bearing the names of Catholic saints and surrounded by three majestic volcanoes, the experience is unique. We will visit the main town of Panajachel where the quaint streets are home to many bohemian artists selling their crafts and there will be some time to explore at leisure and browse the local shops. After lunch at a local restaurant we will head back to the comforts of our hotel in Guatemala City. The remainder of the evening will be at leisure.

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.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1095** Single: **£1295**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Guatemala City on a bed and breakfast basis, lunch on days 2 & 3, Tikal excursion by air, Lake Atitlan excursion, Tour Manager, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, dinners.

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, (please note cabins 601-605 and 507 have a bath with shower attachment) 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

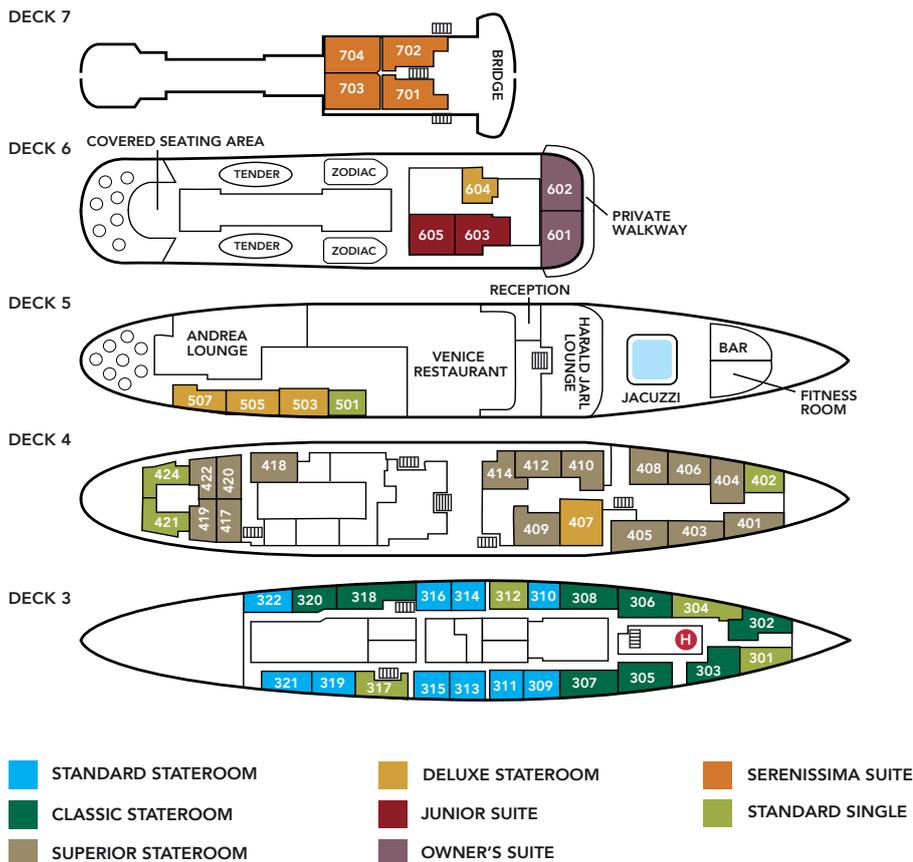
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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



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



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)



During this voyage 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. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Tayrona National Park, Colombia