

CENTRAL AMERICAN ODYSSEY

A VOYAGE FROM COSTA RICA TO GUATEMALA
ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA
29TH JANUARY TO 12TH FEBRUARY 2021

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Capuchin monkeys, Manuel Antonio National Park

Join us aboard the MS Serenissima as we explore Central America's Pacific Coastline visiting Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. Such a varied and comprehensive itinerary would be difficult to comprehend or undertake by any other means than a cruise aboard a vessel like the MS Serenissima with her expert expedition team, fleet of Zodiacs and less than 100 passengers. We will be able to visit some small islands and ports which the larger cruise vessels simply cannot access and skip the arduous, lengthy land travel which such a trip would usually entail and instead relax on board as we deliver you to a new and exciting destination each day.



If you have been contemplating a visit to Central America, then this fascinating voyage could offer you the perfect opportunity with its mix of cultural and natural wonders. 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 visits to Costa Rica's Curu National Wildlife Refuge, the spectacular Manuel Antonio National Park and the Palo Verde National Park and El Salvador's most important marine ecosystem, the Jiquilisco Bay Biosphere Reserve. The birdlife of the region is magnificent and its home to countless species of endangered birds from tiny hummingbirds to flashy macaws and parrots, toucans and woodpeckers. Add an amazingly rich biodiversity of flora and fauna seen against some of the lushest of landscapes to be found anywhere in the world and you have the recipe for a perfect escape.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to San Jose, Costa Rica. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel 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 welcome drinks and dinner as we sail tonight to our overnight anchorage at Puerto Quepos.

Day 3 Manuel Antonio National Park. Early this morning we will travel to the 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 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 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.

Day 5 Playas del Coco. Our last stop in Costa Rica is the beach town of Playas 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 will 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. There will be some 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 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 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.

Days 10 & 11 Acajutla.

We have a day and a half in the northern port of Acajutla. From here 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. 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. Alternatively our full day excursion will discover 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.

Day 12 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 our two night stay and the remainder of the day and evening is free for independent exploration.

Day 13 Antigua. Guatemala is recognised for producing some of the world's finest coffees and a morning excursion takes us to a nearby plantation. Walk through coffee fields and processing plants and learn the secrets of how high quality Guatemalan coffee is cultivated, harvested and processed and understand how the region's ideal climate, high altitude, fertile volcanic soils and traditional farming practices all contribute to create the finest coffee beans - which are harvested by hand. After lunch at the Finca we return to the hotel this afternoon. Meet later this evening for dinner.

Day 14 Guatemala City to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to Guatemala City for 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	£6395	£6095
3	Classic Stateroom	£6595	£6295
4	Superior Stateroom	£7095	£6795
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7595	£7295
6	Junior Suite	£8395	£8095
7	Owner's Suite	£8995	£8695
8	Serenissima Suite	£8995	£8695
10	Standard Single	£6295	£5995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose with breakfast • 10 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Two nights hotel accommodation in Antigua with breakfast • Lunch on Days 12 & 13 and dinner on Day 13 • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on Days 1 & 12, visas.

Pre-cruise Costa Rica Extension 25th to 30th January 2021



Before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering the opportunity to discover more of Costa Rica with our extension which will include the Monteverde Cloud Forest and Arenal.

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. 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. 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. Following lunch in a local restaurant, we will transfer to the Tabacon Hot Springs which are heated by the nearby volcano and set in a tropical paradise. We will have some time here to relax before transferring to Arenal and checking in 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.

Day 4 Arenal to Monteverde. After breakfast we will start our stunning journey to Monteverde including a stop for lunch after which we will enjoy some time at leisure absorbing the region's lush and verdant flora and fauna whilst taking in its rare and diverse biosphere. 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 the hanging bridges of Monteverde Cloud Forest Sky Walk 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. We will also have the opportunity to make our way up to one of the highest mountains in the area by Sky Tram, a tranquil way to take in the natural beauty of the forest. After lunch we will enjoy further exploration of the forest with a walk in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve. Dinner tonight will be 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 enroute 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, excursions, English speaking guide, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Tikal Extension 11th to 14th February 2021



After your voyage aboard the MS Serenissima we are offering the opportunity to discover Tikal, an ancient Mayan citadel in the rainforest of northern Guatemala as well as beautiful Lake Atitlan.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Tikal. 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. 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 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 visit the main town of Panajachel where there will be some time at leisure to take some photographs and explore the local shops. After lunch in a local restaurant we will head back to 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 with breakfast, lunch on Days 1 & 2, Tikal excursion by air, Lake Atitlan excursion, English speaking guide, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinners.

MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



Andrea Lounge



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.

Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 95 passengers, there are eight different grades of cabin arranged over five decks, and all feature either windows or portholes. 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 replenished daily. Due to the very nature of the ship, the cabins vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.



Your Dining

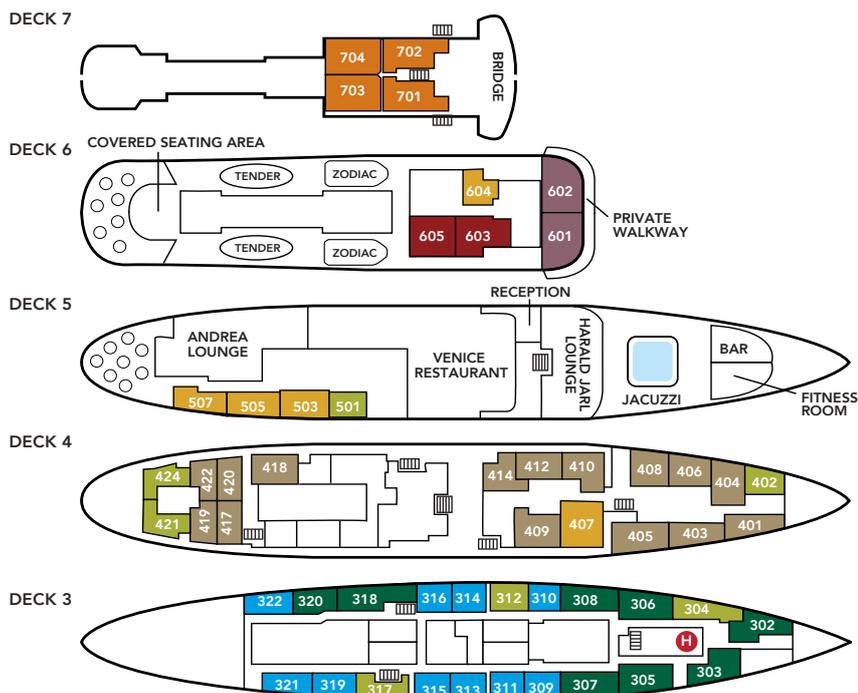
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)

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.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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