

LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING - SAVE £300 PER PERSON

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON SURROUNDED
BY THE WARMTH & BEAUTY OF THE INDIAN
OCEAN ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA
21ST DECEMBER 2019 TO 5TH JANUARY 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Aldabra



Masoala National Park

Celebrate Christmas and start the New Year with a voyage aboard the MS Serenissima in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, discovering some of the most beautiful tropical islands on earth. Our two week journey combines some fascinating and exotic calls in Tanzania with stunning islands in the Seychelles along with the natural wonders of Madagascar. We know the region well having operated vessels there for the past twenty five years and if ever there was a region perfect for expedition cruising it is here, a timeless world of wonders both below and above the water. Our itinerary is perfectly suited to the MS Serenissima, her small size allowing us access to isolated ports and islands that are off limits to large cruise ships, and with our fleet of Zodiac landing craft we can reach the unreachable, landing on remote beaches, walking through verdant rainforest and national parks and getting close to some unique flora and fauna. Your experience will be made all the more memorable by our expert crew and officers who, along with our expedition team of marine biologists, ornithologists and botanists have many years of experience in the Indian Ocean.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Dar es Salaam. Arrive today and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 3 Zanzibar. Here the colourful harbour will be crowded with dhows, very much setting the scene for our visit to the Arab style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. Out of town there are magnificent brilliant white sandy beaches and lush vegetation with plantations of cloves, cinnamon, vanilla and nutmeg which fill the air with heady aromas. On a morning tour, soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultan's Palace, the slave market

and the old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax and explore independently or join a tour to a spice farm to experience the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island. Alternatively, you may choose to join a tour to the Jozani Forest which sustains a variety of wildlife and birds, including the rare Red Colobus Monkey, indigenous to the island.

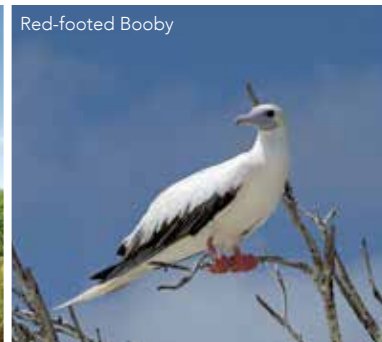
Day 4 Kilwa Kisiwani. Our last call in Tanzania will be at Kilwa Kisiwani, a site of exceptional historical interest, whose atmospheric ruins represent a wide sweep of East African coastal history, from the heights of the Swahili and Shirazi trading civilisation, to the darker days of slavery and the uprisings against German rule. Once one of Africa's wealthiest towns, Kilwa Kisiwani is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and contains the world's most extensive and

best-preserved Swahili ruins. After a morning at sea we have an afternoon walking tour during which we will see the prominent fort and the Great Mosque which stood at the heart of the ancient city and was once the largest in East Africa. Return to the ship for dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 5 At Sea. Enjoy Christmas Day sailing across to the Seychelles. Our lecture programme will continue in the lounge or you may prefer to spend some time on deck. Tonight we enjoy Christmas dinner on board.

Days 6 to 8 Aldabra Islands, Seychelles. We have three days to enjoy the Aldabra group of islands and our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximise our time here. Whilst our itinerary

is flexible we will hope to call at the island of Assumption which was ruthlessly plundered for its vast deposits of guano in the early 20th century. Happily, peace has returned and the wildlife of rare birds and green turtles are once again in abundance. Our time here will be spent beachcombing, on a nature walk or snorkelling. We also hope to reach Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an important bird area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. Also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds. We may also spot the green turtles, skins and the Madagascar banded lizard. We will also spend time on Aldabra, the island referred to by Sir Julian Huxley as "One of nature's treasures



and should belong to the whole world". Aldabra is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We hope to explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs or swim in the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters.

Day 9 Farquhar Islands. After a morning at sea we will anchor off Farquhar over lunch where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the sparkling lagoon of this remote atoll ringed island of coconut and casuarina trees. The island is a haven for many species of migratory birds providing us with a delightful afternoon of bird watching or snorkelling. Here we will also find the single administrator of the island who is kept busy by also being the boat master, storekeeper, accountant, postmaster, doctor, policeman and sometimes priest. Return to the ship as we clear customs formalities and make our way to Madagascar.

Day 10 Diego Suarez, Madagascar. This morning we will enter dramatic Diego Suarez, a stunning natural

harbour with a cosmopolitan mix of inhabitants including Creoles, Indians, Chinese, Comorans and Arabs. Choose from a city tour visiting the Commonwealth Cemetery and Place Joffre, or the Malagasy Rain Forest at the Mount Amber National Park. Dividing into short and long walk parties we will go in search of lemurs and chameleons as we explore the rain forest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot several species of lemurs and chameleons as well as endemic birds, including parrots.

Days 11 & 12 Masoala National Park & Nosy Mangabe. We see in the New Year with a day and a half in Antongil Bay. Here we find Madagascar's largest protected area, the Masoala National Park which comprises coastal rainforest, flooded forests and marsh and mangroves. Mammal species encountered include the red-ruffed lemur, the red-fronted brown lemur, the aye-aye, the greater hedgehog tenrec and the ring tailed mongoose. The park is also home to various species of brightly coloured Mantella frogs and all manner of extraordinary chameleons. Masoala is also a refuge of the endangered Madagascar red-owl and Madagascar serpent eagle and many endemic bird species. We will run a series of walks for all levels during the day whilst you also have the option to swim off the beach or perhaps visit the local village. Also visit Nosy Mangabe, a 520 hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rain forest in Madagascar which has also been an important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs

to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks looking at the varied trees, plants and ferns and also hope to spot chameleon, lizards and black and white ruffed lemur. For the birders we will keep an eye out for Madagascar buzzard, kingfisher and paradise flycatchers.

Day 13 At Sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea.

Day 14 Reunion. We arrive at breakfast in Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will visit the central highlands where spectacularly rugged peaks of dormant or extinct volcanoes cradle huge amphitheatres known as cirques, where mountains tower to over 10,000 feet and beautiful waterfalls plummet hundreds of feet. The rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns

with a uniquely French atmosphere. Fields of sugar cane and plantations of tropical fruits, vanilla and all manner of spices perfume the air. We will enjoy views from the Nez des Boueufs and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the "Cite du Volcan" museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in St Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. We will also enjoy some free time in St Denis before returning to the MS Serenissima for lunch. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before we set sail this evening.

Day 15 Mauritius to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 16 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£7295	£6995
3	Classic Stateroom	£7495	£7195
4	Superior Stateroom	£7695	£7395
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7995	£7695
6	Junior Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
7	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8	Serenissima Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

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 • Expedition Team • Shore Excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

Pre & Post-Cruise Extensions



Pre-Cruise Selous Safari Extension 17th to 22nd December 2019

The Selous Game Reserve is home to over 1,000,000 large animals and over half of Tanzania's elephant population and one of the major attractions is the mighty Rufiji river, with one of the largest crocodile and hippo populations in Africa. The river has also formed several large lakes on its northern bank, navigable by boat and Siwandu Camp is situated on one of these lakes, sheltered in a grove of one of Selous' many beautiful palm forests. Our stay coincides with the perfect season for bird and plant lovers, flowers will be in abundance and the deciduous trees are starting new growth. It is also the main reproductive time of year so a good time for seeing young animals.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Dar es Salaam. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.
Day 2 Dar es Salaam. Arrive today and transfer to the Hyatt Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.
Day 3 Dar es Salaam to Selous. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our 45 minute scheduled flight to Mtemere Airstrip in the Selous Game Reserve. On arrival transfer to the Siwandu Camp and this afternoon enjoy your first game experience with a boat safari on the Rufiji

River or on a nearby lake looking for hippos, crocodiles and birdlife. This evening enjoy dinner at the camp.

Days 4 & 5 Siwandu Camp, Selous Game Reserve. Enjoy two full days in the reserve with included game drives each day. Maybe enjoy a full day game viewing with a picnic lunch or a half day walking safari through the bush with a ranger. Alternatively join another boat safari or simply relax in your tent. In the evening enjoy a delicious dinner at the camp.

Day 6 Selous Game Reserve to Dar es Salaam. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and a final safari option before transferring to the airstrip for your flight to Dar es Salaam where we transfer to MS Serenissima.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£3295** Single: **£4195**

PRICE INCLUDES: Overnight accommodation in Dar es Salaam on a bed and breakfast basis • Three nights at Siwandu Camp on a full board basis • Internal flights between Dar es Salaam and Selous Game Reserve • All soft drinks, tea & coffee and non-premium alcoholic drinks • Selous National Park entry and permit fees • Excursions at the camp • Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers • Taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, Tanzania visa.



Post-Cruise Mauritius Extension 4th to 7th January 2020

Extend your stay in Mauritius after your cruise with our three night extension at the Tamassa Resort (or similar).

The Itinerary

Day 1 Mauritius. Disembark the MS Serenissima and join an island tour including the Trou-aux-Cerfs volcano, the Grand Bassin Lake and Black River Gorges. After lunch we will make a visit to one of the island's rum distilleries to learn about production techniques and to have a taste. Check in to our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Dinner is in the hotel this evening.
Days 2 & 3 Mauritius. Enjoy time at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities or

make independent arrangements to explore the island. Dinner will be provided at the hotel each evening.

Day 4 Mauritius to London. Check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1295** Single: **£2195**

PRICE INCLUDES: Three night hotel accommodation at the Tamassa Resort (or similar) with breakfast • Half day island tour • Lunch on day 1 • All dinners • Gratuities • Transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

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

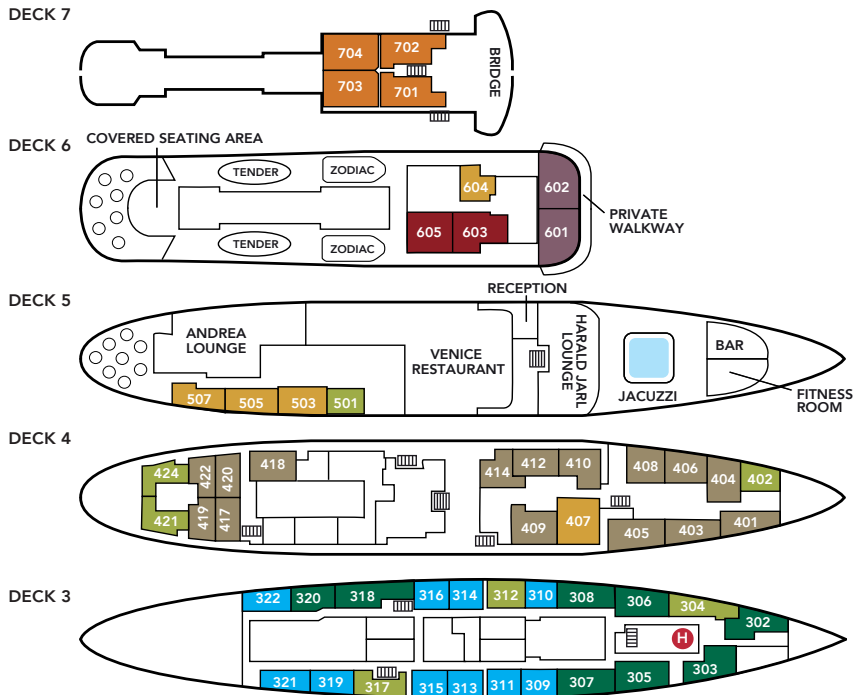
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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