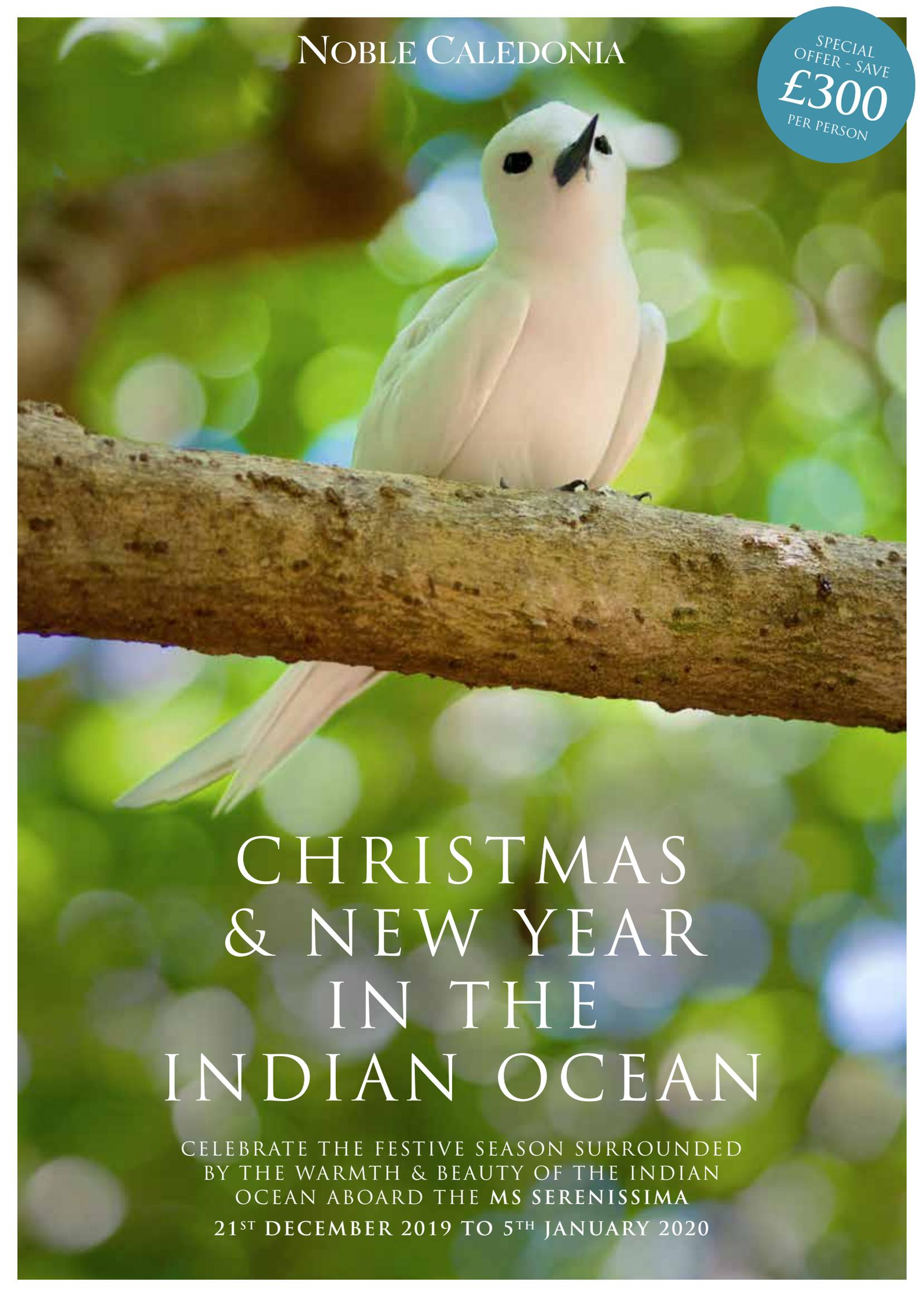


NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

A white bird, possibly a frigatebird, is perched on a thick, brown tree branch. The bird has a dark beak and dark eyes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue bokeh, suggesting a tropical forest setting.

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

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.

What to Expect

Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; sometimes the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship. Each day holds something new and below are some extracts from recent ship logs to provide you with an understanding of what you can expect from such an expedition:



Kilwa Kisiwani - Dhows sailed past us as we waited for clearance and for the scouting party to check everything out. There on the shore was the old fort, still guarding the beach as it had done for half a millennium, with down landing at its foot, as they had done for equally as long. After an early lunch we headed ashore. It seemed that half the children from the village were there to greet us. We were certainly the best entertainment they had had for a while. At the head of the pier were the drummers and singers and dancers. Although the welcome had been arranged for us, the party started several hours before we arrived and looked like continuing for many hours after we left! Our guides led us on our exploration of this ancient trading post. The paths wandered through the village, past houses and goats, dhows unloading cargo among the mangroves, and the ever-present children. We were greeted by dignified men in skullcaps and kanzus returning from Friday prayers and by shy women dressed in bright robes. It was clear we were welcome here. The old fort, first built by the Portuguese, then modified by the Omanis, was impressive. We entered through the iron studded gate, a new one, installed when the gateway was restored. Standing on the broken walls, it was easy to appreciate how this fort could dominate the channel, forcing all passing vessels to come in and pay their taxes.

The Great Mosque, dating from the 11th century, was elegant in its simplicity. The rows of columns, arches and domes invited photographs and admiration. Part of the outside wall was covered in the roots of a huge ficus tree, blending wood and stone in a natural sculpture. Further on we came to the small mosque, the palace and after a walk across a salt pan we came to the tombs of the sultans and the great baobab tree that has stood guard over them for centuries. All in all, Kilwa offered something for everyone. For the historians there was plenty of material in this ancient town. For the birders... well there was plenty there! There were sunbirds and cuckoos, kingfishers and coucals. Unseen, but not unheard, the fish eagle cried, the true sound of Africa. Butterflies were equally abundant, ranging from tiny blues to giant mocker swallowtails. Hot, sweaty, thirsty and tired we made our way back to the boats. The drums were still drumming, the dancers gyrating. We had the feeling that that party would continue well into the night.



Cosmoledo - At first light the scout boat set out to the west to search for potential snorkel sites. Within minutes we had spinner dolphins bowriding, but no time to indulge in any cetacean elation as we had a mission, and to return in time for breakfast. The Special Booby Squad set off first with Guy to the far western end of Ile du Sud. Here, in a sheltered bay they could step ashore at the best masked booby colony in the Seychelles: birds everywhere, and these immaculate black and white birds swooping low overhead or sitting tight on the ground on two pure white eggs. Brown boobies were also present, which means we have seen all three species of the Indian



Ocean boobies, and, even more remarkably, at their breeding colonies: these seabirds are among the most threatened, slaughtered in huge numbers by passing ships in previous centuries. And to add the mundane to the miracle, there were rabbit tracks along the beach, a species introduced years ago as a future food source for passing mariners. The rest of us set off into the main passage, landing on a mile-long coral sand beach on the inner shore of Wizard Island. Perfect turquoise waters in which to swim, the sun rising in a perfectly clear sky, and to add that little touch of genius, a Zodiac came ashore with kitchen crew, their striped parasol and a cold box containing three different flavours of ice cream! Would Darwin have ever gone home if the Beagle had been as perfectly equipped as our maritime palace? Some walked the length of the beach for exercise, others fell asleep in the shade of beach crest bushes, the energetic castaways explored inland and found two new birds: the Madagascar cisticola and Abbott's sunbird, the latter gorging on nectar in the high heads of flowering sisal bushes. A view from the high dunes showed turtles mating at sea and numerous turtle nest mounds on the outer shore. Just yards from where we had landed, a hawksbill turtle must have come up early this morning, leaving its tracks up the beach, a hummocky area where it laid eggs above the high tide mark, and fresh tracks back down to the sea. The colours of the lagoon, as seen from the beach were an unforgettable series of intense pastel hues: bright chalky blue high with swirls of cirrus, a milky blue below that, coming down through vivid pale indigo at the horizon. Then a clean horizontal band of the creamy coral strand, and below this, pure turquoise water over the sand bar before us.





Aldabra giant tortoise



Red-footed Booby



Woolly lemur, Malagasy Rainforest



Exploring by Zodiac



Zanzibar old town

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 where you will find everything from jackfruit to coconuts, turmeric and vanilla to lipstick trees.

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 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, skinks 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. After a brief tour of the town we will use 4x4 vehicles to make our way to 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. If this is not possible based on weather conditions, we will instead visit the Domaine de Fonteny where we will explore the reserve rich with flora, fauna and several waterfalls. Enjoy lunch on board whilst our lecture programme continues during a relaxing afternoon at sea.



Masoala National Park



Waterfalls, Reunion



Paradise-flycatcher



Reunion



Aldabra

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 Bouefs

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

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

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	£8095	£7795
7	Owner's Suite	£8795	£8495
8	Serenissima Suite	£9295	£8995
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 • Expedition Team • Shore Excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

Pre & Post-Cruise Extensions



Giraffes



Rufiji River



Hippo

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.



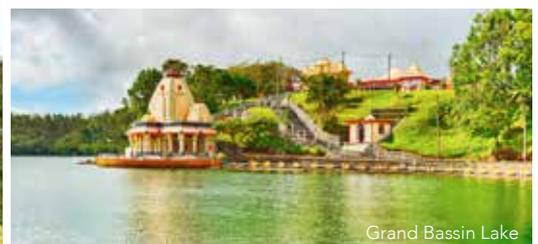
Ile aux Cerfs



Giant water lilies



Chamarel falls



Grand Bassin Lake

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

Extend your stay in Mauritius after your cruise with our three night extension at the Westin Turtle Beach Resort and Spa (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 Westin Turtle Beach Resort or Spa (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



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

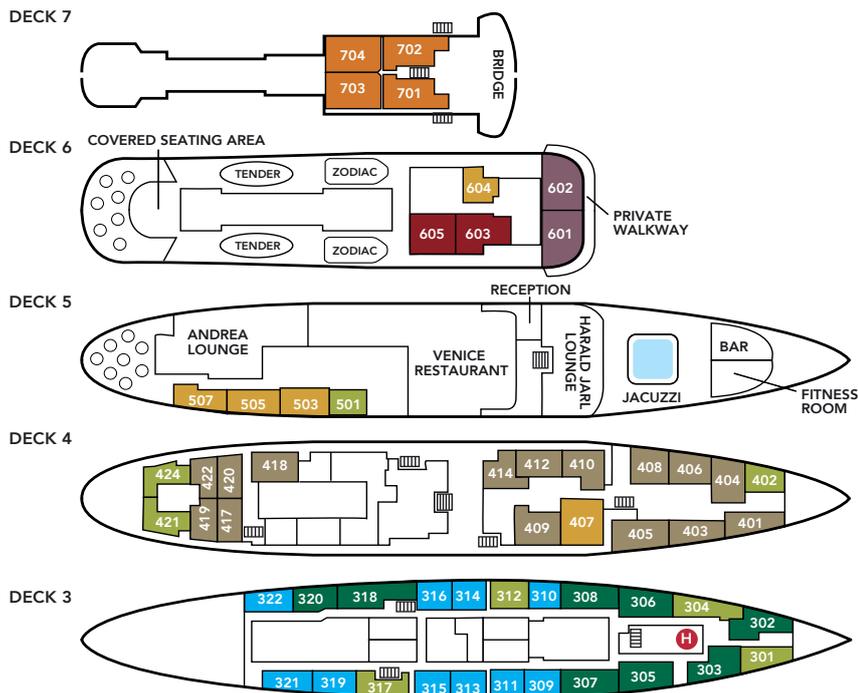
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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



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

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



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



CLASSIC STATEROOM
(14 to 19 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



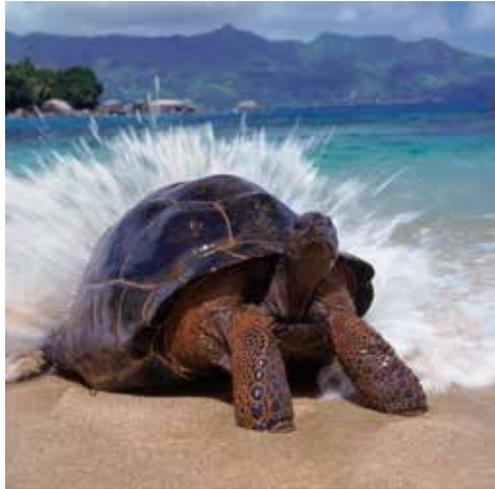
During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE

+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

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: Fairy Tern

