

BOOK EARLY
AND SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

Cuban Odyssey

Discover the hidden Cuba aboard the MS Serenissima
17th to 29th February 2016



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Cuba pulsates to a rhythm of a bygone age. A kaleidoscope of colour in the Caribbean Sea, the island is a visual feast for the traveller with glorious landscapes, powder white beaches set against a turquoise sea, verdant mountains, rolling tobacco fields, crumbling forts, delightful people and a lifestyle that is more 1930s than that of today. Despite a famously controversial political system and a humbled economy, the culture, architecture and landscape of the country remain as rich as ever.

Very few cars travel the roads through the soft and gentle countryside, horse drawn carriages or pedal power are the order of the day. This is your chance to step back in time and enjoy the beauty of the landscape, the historic cities and take a rest from 21st century capitalism. With the MS Serenissima as our base, we can enjoy great comfort and excellent food as we navigate our way around Cuba and then across to the banana capital of the world, Port Antonio in Jamaica, and the isolated Little Cayman, where there are more iguanas than humans living.

A flexible itinerary and knowledgeable onboard team enables us to make the most of each day, whether we are landing on remote beaches by Zodiac, watching out for wildlife or learning more of the history and culture of the places we are visiting. With just over 100 passengers, we can explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere onboard.



Our View

“As large as all the other Caribbean islands put together, Cuba stands out in many ways from the remaining Caribbean Islands. The revolution of 1959 was a great political success for the poor and brought an end to the corruption and inequality during the time of the Batista regime. From the early 1960s until the late 70s Cuba played a major role in world politics, culminating in the 1962 missile crisis. Nowadays it is difficult to remain untouched by this diverse, fascinating and exciting island. Cuba has a very varied nature ranging from the mountain peaks of the legendary Sierra Maestra to unspoilt beaches, a moving history, fantastic buildings and dramatic monuments. But perhaps most of all it is the friendliness of the Cuban people which will leave a lasting impression on you. Cuba is the island of contrasts: an isolated island where soap is scarce but medical care is the best in all of Latin America. During our voyage we will have the opportunity to explore the city of Santiago de Cuba, which due to its French influence, reminds us a little of the laid back atmosphere of New Orleans. We will have the chance to discover two historical, but very different cities both on the UNESCO list for world cultural heritage sites. Cienfuegos also known as “the pearl of the south” has one of the largest concentrations of neo classical buildings in the Caribbean and just 80 kilometres away we will discover Trinidad with its cobblestone streets and pastel coloured houses where music sounds around every corner. Having the chance to explore Cuba aboard the MS Serenissima will also give us the opportunity to discover the third largest coral reef on our planet and the pristine reefs of Punta Frances on Isla de la Juventud.”



Trinidad



French Angelfish



Port Antonio



Cienfuegos



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Havana, Cuba.

Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive in Havana in the early afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Moor overnight.



Iguana, Little Cayman

Day 2 Havana. This morning we will discover Habana Vieja (Old Havana) which was once enclosed within fortified walls. We will explore its twisting, cobbled streets that lead to beautifully restored Baroque churches, castles and palaces and visit the 16th century Plaza de Armas, the oldest plaza in the city and its original administrative centre. Nowhere in the whole of the West Indies does the centuries of New World history come to life in such a dramatic way as in Old Havana. After lunch

we will drive along the Malecon, Havana's seafront to Vedado. See the Plaza de la Revolucion and the headquarters of President Fidel Castro and his Council of Ministers. This evening we hope to be entertained after dinner by local musicians onboard.

Day 3 Havana. After breakfast explore 'Hemingway's Cuba'. We will visit Ernest Hemingway's finca in San Francisco de Paula and the Ernest Hemingway Museum and later, call into Cojimar Village, the inspiration for 'The Old Man and the Sea'. We will return to the MS Serenissima via the fortress which offers great views over Havana Bay. This afternoon is free for independent exploration of Havana before we sail in the early evening.

Day 4 Maria La Gorda. Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea as we cruise around the west coast of Cuba and the resort of Maria La Gorda. Renowned as one of the top diving sites in Cuba we will use our Zodiacs to land and then offer the chance to snorkel amongst the fish, sponges and molluscs. Alternatively walk amongst the coconut trees as we search for West Indian woodpecker, cormorants and royal terns or

simply relax on the white sand beaches.

Day 5 Isla de Juventud. Located some 50 miles from Cuba's south coast, this attractive island is famous for its beaches, coral reefs and densely forested hills. We have the morning to enjoy its natural beauty as we moor off Punta Frances. Choose swim in the clear waters or alternatively join a nature walk through the fan palm trees where if we are lucky we will see the endemic Cuban Trogon and Cuban Emerald hummingbird. Enjoy an afternoon at sea as we sail north to mainland Cuba.

Day 6 Cienfuegos. Cienfuegos is a laid back maritime city with a lazy, tropical atmosphere. In colonial times it was known as the 'Pearl of the South', a name earned from its lovely location on a picturesque Caribbean bay. Explore the town including a visit to the botanical gardens. We will also see the Parque Marti with her 19th century architecture including the Therry theatre.

Day 7 Casilda for Trinidad. The compact colonial centre of Trinidad is one of the most sublime in Latin America. The cobbled streets,

terracotta rooftops and pastel coloured houses are a delight. We will spend the morning here exploring the town and visit either the Romantic Museum or the City Museum and also hope to visit a bar for local rum speciality. After a local lunch we will head to the Valley of the Sugar Mills.

Day 8 At sea. Relax onboard today as we continue cruising along the south coast of Cuba and will pass by the Jardins de la Reina archipelago. The area was named by Christopher Columbus to honour the Queen of Spain and at 75 miles long contains the third longest barrier reef in the world.



Little Cayman

Day 9 Santiago de Cuba. After a morning at sea we arrive at our final Cuban port. After lunch



Havana

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Cuba is an extraordinary place; glorious landscapes, delightful people and lifestyle that is more 1930's than that of today.

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onboard our excursion will begin with a panoramic drive through the city including stops at the Moncada Garrison, which still bears bullet holes from Fidel Castro's attempted coup in 1953 and also take in the imposing Plaza de la Revolution. We will drive out of the city through lush tropical scenery to the Castillo del Morro which guards the entrance to the harbour, affording magnificent views.

Day 10 Port Antonio, Jamaica. Arrive this morning on the north coast of Jamaica and the small bustling port of Port Antonio renowned as the world's banana capital. We will enjoy a panoramic drive to Reich Falls passing through the Titchfield peninsula. Later today there will also be the chance to raft on the Rio Grande on an optional tour.

Day 11 Cayman Brac, Little Cayman. After a morning at sea we arrive in one of the most unspoilt and least developed parts of the Caribbean. First discovered in 1503 by Christopher Columbus the island has more iguanas than human residents and is a great place to head for solitude and tranquillity. There will be the choice to join an island drive.

Day 12 Georgetown, Grand Cayman to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

Day 13 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4695	£4395
2	Standard Stateroom	£4995	£4695
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£5195	£4895
4	Superior Stateroom	£5395	£5095
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5695	£5395
6	Junior Suite	£6495	£6195
7	Executive Suite	£6995	£6695
8	Owner's Suite	£6995	£6695
9	Inside Single	£4695	£4395
10	Standard Single	£4995	£4695
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£6995	£6695
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£7195	£6895

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 11 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, Noble Caledonia expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, optional excursion on Day 10, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: Please note that although this cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, the vessel will regularly be at anchor and Zodiacs used to transport passengers ashore.

NB. Ports and itinerary subject to change and the release of flight schedules. All special offers are subject to availability.





MS Serenissima

After a thorough renovation and upgrading, the charming, 100-passenger MS Serenissima commenced cruise operations in April 2013 and we have chartered her for the majority of each year since knowing her to be perfect for small ship cruising. 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 Space

The facilities onboard 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. The outside areas are something special with a spacious observation deck allowing for 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with fitness room, Jacuzzi and outside bar. The covered seating area at the back of deck 6 is ideal for relaxing with a drink in hand.

Cabins & Suites

Accommodating no more than 100 passengers, the cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully

air conditioned with an ensuite bathroom with shower, sink, toilet, a selection of toiletries including shower gel, soaps, shampoo and conditioner, 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. There are ten different grades of cabin arranged over five decks, and with the exception of the three inside cabins, all staterooms 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. Choose from the cosy inside cabins of approx 10 square metres, to the sumptuous newly built executive suites of 25 square metres boasting private balconies and minibar.

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. In addition, there are al fresco dining facilities available in good weather.

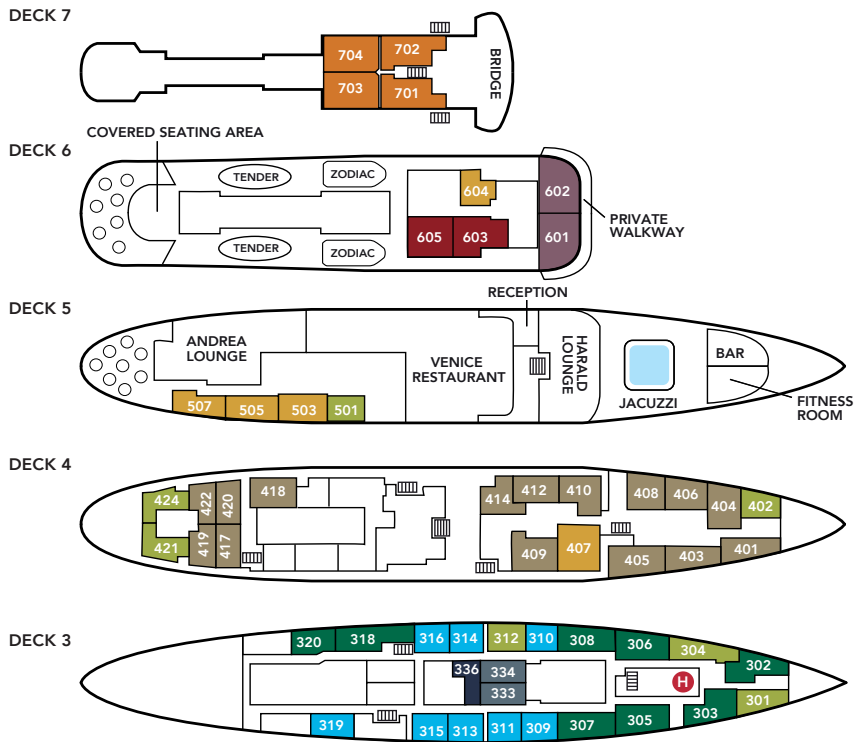
A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are included at lunch and dinner. Tea and coffee are served around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.



Restaurant



Harald Lounge



- INSIDE TWIN/DOUBLE
- STANDARD STATEROOM
- STANDARD STATEROOM PLUS
- SUPERIOR STATEROOM
- DELUXE STATEROOM
- JUNIOR SUITE
- EXECUTIVE SUITE
- OWNER'S SUITE
- INSIDE SINGLE
- STANDARD SINGLE



OWNER'S SUITE
(approx. 22 square metres)



EXECUTIVE SUITE
(approx. 25 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(approx. 21 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(approx. 15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(approx. 11.5 to 18 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM PLUS
(approx. 14 to 19 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(approx. 10 to 11.5 square metres)



INSIDE TWIN/DOUBLE
(approx. 10 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(approx. 7 to 12.5 square metres)

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