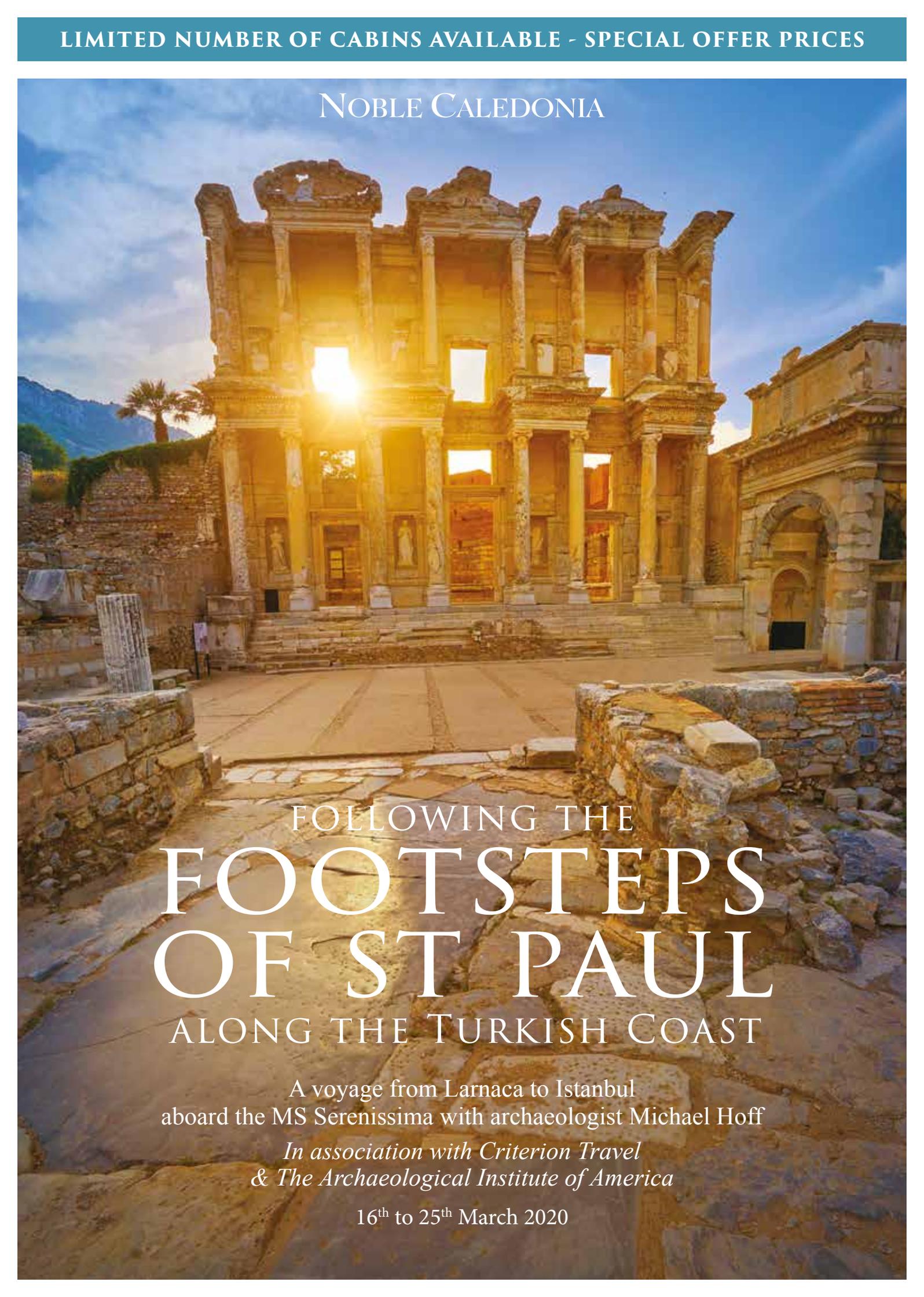


LIMITED NUMBER OF CABINS AVAILABLE - SPECIAL OFFER PRICES

NOBLE CALEDONIA



FOLLOWING THE  
**FOOTSTEPS  
OF ST PAUL**  
ALONG THE TURKISH COAST

A voyage from Larnaca to Istanbul  
aboard the MS Serenissima with archaeologist Michael Hoff

*In association with Criterion Travel  
& The Archaeological Institute of America*

16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Temple of Trajan on the Acropolis at Pergamum



Here is an opportunity to join the Archaeological Institute of America lecturer Michael Hoff, a classical archaeologist who specialises in the Roman period in Greece and Asia Minor for this cruise following St Paul's route from Cyprus along the coast of Turkey to Istanbul. See and learn about fascinating Greek, Roman, and Byzantine sites and civilisations. We are delighted that our US associates at Criterion Travel who have chartered the MS Serenissima for this voyage have made some cabins available for our passengers.



The walls of ancient Troy

This voyage takes us through an area steeped in history; a history of great empires, of conquest and of conflict and a history rich in cultural and religious diversity. It is an area that can lay claim to the foundation of the early Christian Church; a place where not only churches were built but where Christian doctrine was first formulated at the great Ecumenical Councils of Nicaea, Constantinople and Ephesus. While many of these early churches no longer exist, the sense of place remains and the legacy of St Paul lives on.

Highlights are many and include the Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia on Cyprus, inhabited from at least the 9th millennium BC; the 2nd century Roman theatre at Aspendos, considered perhaps the best-preserved theatre in the Mediterranean; the Greek island of Patmos, where St John wrote the Book of Revelation; a full day exploring the evocative Lycian Peninsula sites of Xanthos, Letoon, and Patara; the ruins of Ephesus, where St Paul spent three years; the ancient Greek site of Pergamon, one of Turkey's finest archaeological destinations and finally Troy, of Iliad fame, with at least nine ancient cities built one on top of another.

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the UNESCO Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia
- Walk through the narrow streets of Tarsus, birthplace of St Paul
- Marvel at the beauty of the rich Lycian town of Xanthos
- Spend the day on the Greek island of Patmos, the site where St John received his revelation
- Travel by cable car to the Pergamon Acropolis, one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites
- Wander the ancient streets of Ephesus where Paul preached on his second missionary journey
- Walk among the incredible ruins of Troy



Mosaic from the Monastery of St John, Patmos



Inside the Roman amphitheatre at Xanthos

## Dr Michael Hoff

Professor of Art History at the University of Nebraska and former member of the Archaeological Institute of America's (AIA) Board of Trustees, Dr Michael Hoff is a classical archaeologist who specialises in the Roman period in Greece and Asia Minor. He has wide excavation experience in Greece and Turkey, including Athens, Corinth, Nemea, Crete, and for nearly 25 years in the region of Rough Cilicia in southern Turkey, where he has been Project Director for the Antiochia and Cragum excavations since 2005. In addition to many publications, Professor Hoff has participated for over 20 years in the AIA's national lecture programme, and has led many AIA and university-sponsored study tours to Greece and Turkey.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Larnaca, Cyprus.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Sun Hall Hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day and evening are free for independent exploration.

**Day 2 Larnaca.** After breakfast enjoy an orientation tour and lecture before we drive to the nearby UNESCO listed Neolithic settlement of Choirokoiitia, inhabited from at least the 9th millennium BC, and considered one of the earliest examples of organised society. Ruins of circular mudbrick and stone dwellings remain, along with collectively constructed fortifications and planned open spaces. This afternoon, choose to join either a food tour through downtown Larnaca or an excursion to the Troodos Mountains for wine tasting. Board the MS Serenissima this evening and enjoy the welcome reception and dinner as we sail.

**Day 3 Mersin, Turkey.** Today we call at Mersin, Turkey, a short drive from Tarsus, birthplace of St Paul. Walk the narrow 16th century streets and Roman roads, see the artefact-rich Tarsus Museum, and visit the decorative Grand Mosque. We continue to Silifke, stopping along the way at the resort town of Kizkalesi (Maiden's Castle). Visit the ruins of the 5th century church of St Thecla, built at a venerable place of pilgrimage for admirers of this disciple of St Paul. We re-join the vessel at Tasucu and enjoy dinner aboard as we sail towards the Turquoise Coast.

**Day 4 Antalya.** Arrive in bustling Antalya and join one of two excursions. Maybe take a full day tour to the ruins of ancient Perge, a settlement dating back to at least the Bronze Age (visited at least twice by St Paul and his companion St Barnabas), and Aspendos, whose 2nd century theatre is one of the best-preserved in the Mediterranean. Alternatively take a

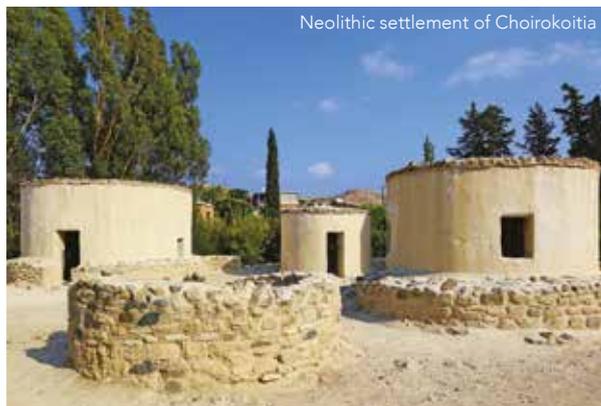
moderate morning hike through the pines to the ancient mountaintop city of Termessos, mentioned in the Iliad, and legendarily difficult to defeat, followed by a free afternoon in Antalya.

**Day 5 Fethiye.** From our berth at Fethiye we travel southeast to discover the rich Lycian towns of Xanthos (built on a great cliff overlooking the river), Letoon (sanctuary of Leto, and one of the most important religious centres of its time), Patara (set amidst sand dunes by the beach and where Paul stopped in AD 60), and the ghost village of Kayakoy, a city with ancient roots but abandoned after World War I, among hundreds of still-standing 18th century stone dwellings and churches.

**Day 6 Patmos, Greece.** Spend the morning at sea before arriving at Patmos over lunch. Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western; it was here that St John is said to have received the vision that led to the Book of Revelation. Visit the Cave of the Apocalypse, where John lived in exile, had his revelation, and wrote the last book of the Christian Bible. Continue to the village of Chora, known for its charming white houses and narrow stone streets, and climb to the Monastery of St John, looming fortress-like over the village. Enjoy an



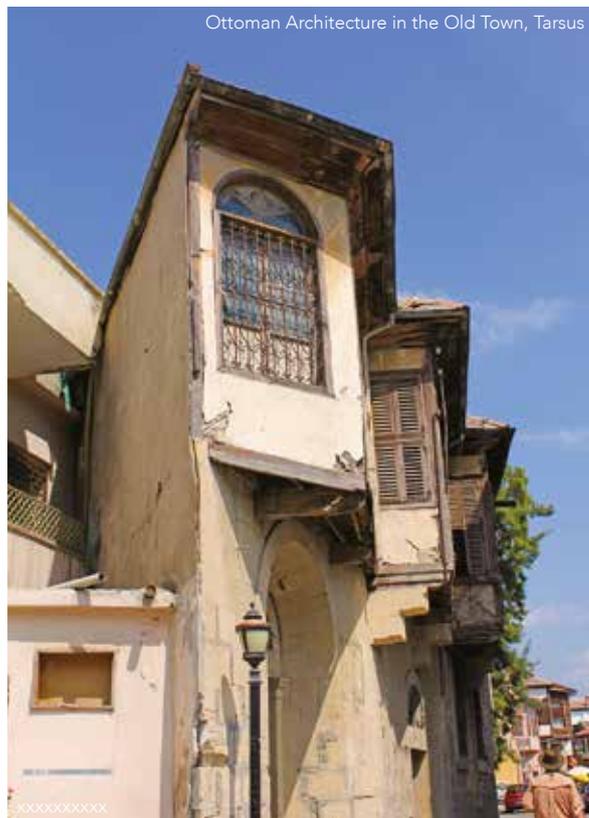
The amphitheatre at Aspendos



Neolithic settlement of Choroikoitia



Picturesque Skala harbour



Ottoman Architecture in the Old Town, Tarsus

evening at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

**Day 7 Kusadasi, Turkey.** This morning we call at the bustling port city of Kusadasi for the short drive to Ephesus. An important port city and trading and intellectual centre from archaic to Roman times, Ephesus is one of the more complete ancient sites in the region, where more than 150 years of excavating have revealed broad streets, impressive buildings, intricate mosaics, towering temples, and possibly the largest theatre in the ancient world. Today you can spend the day exploring Ephesus, including a local lunch and a folkloric demonstration of dance and weaving or alternatively tour Ephesus in the morning and return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 8 Dikili.** Drive from Dikili to the ancient Greek site of Pergamon, once a powerful and thriving cultural centre of the region, now one of Turkey's finest archaeological destinations. Ascend by cable car to the acropolis to see the Asclepion, an ancient healing centre dating to the 4th century BC, the 10,000-seat theatre, Temples of Dionysus, Athena, and Trajan and the foundations of the meticulously planned

city. Continue to the modern town of Bergama to visit its archaeological museum before returning to the MS Serenissima.

**Day 9 Canakkale.** Excavations at Troy have revealed at least nine cities built one on top of another, reviving debate on the historicity of the Trojan War as described in Homer's epic poem, the Iliad. In the morning, visit nearby Alexandria Troas, a major port city in Hellenistic and Roman times, where St Paul first set sail for Europe — and later brought young Eutychus back to life after he fell asleep during a late-night sermon and fell out of a 3rd-storey window. Choices of afternoon excursions are to see the site of Troy and its layered ruins that are still being actively excavated, including the nearby museum; alternatively cross the Dardanelles by ferry to the site of the Battle of Gallipoli, an infamous defeat of the Allies by Ottoman forces during World War I. Return to the MS Serenissima for our farewell dinner.

**Day 10 Istanbul to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Kizkalesi (Maiden's Castle), near Silifke

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER PRICES

Cat	Cabin Description	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£3495
3	Classic Stateroom	£3795
4	Superior Stateroom	£3995
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£4295
6	Junior Suite	£4595
7	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT
8	Serenissima Suite	£5095
10	Standard Single	£3495

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Larnaca with breakfast • Eight nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Turkish visa.

# 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

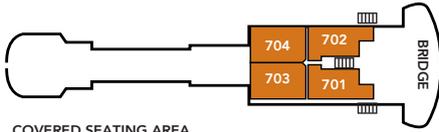
available. Dinner is served a la carte and is four courses, except at the Captain's Dinner, which is a six course affair. Where possible, local produce is sourced for an authentic dining experience. A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water is included at lunch and dinner. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee are available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.

## Your Space

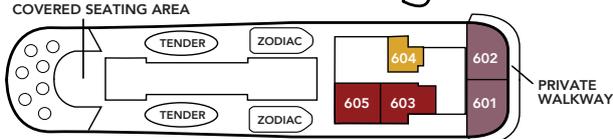
The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Jarl Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library and Wi-Fi is available at an extra cost throughout the vessel. The outside areas really are something special. A spacious 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

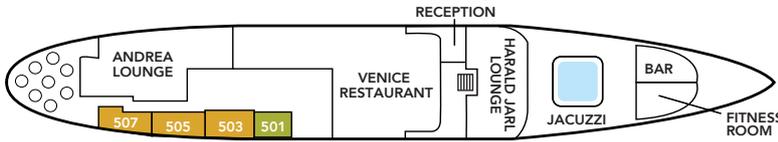
DECK 7



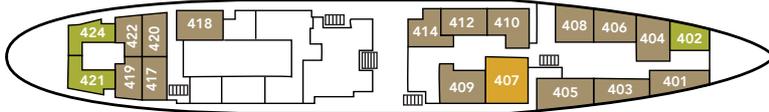
DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span> STANDARD STATEROOM  | <span style="color: gold;">■</span> DELUXE STATEROOM | <span style="color: orange;">■</span> SERENISSIMA SUITE   |
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> CLASSIC STATEROOM  | <span style="color: red;">■</span> JUNIOR SUITE      | <span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> STANDARD SINGLE |
| <span style="color: brown;">■</span> SUPERIOR STATEROOM | <span style="color: purple;">■</span> OWNER'S SUITE  |   |

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)



**JUNIOR SUITE**  
(21 square metres)



**STANDARD STATEROOM**  
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



**STANDARD SINGLE**  
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



**CLASSIC STATEROOM**  
(14 to 19 square metres)



Lido Deck



**SERENISSIMA SUITE**  
(25 square metres)



**OWNER'S SUITE**  
(22 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. Ports and itinerary subject to change.  
Cover image: The Library of Celsus in the ancient city of Ephesus