

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£300**  
PER PERSON

# GLORIES OF THE WEST INDIES

SMALL SHIP CRUISING ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2019

# MS SERENISSIMA



Harald 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 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

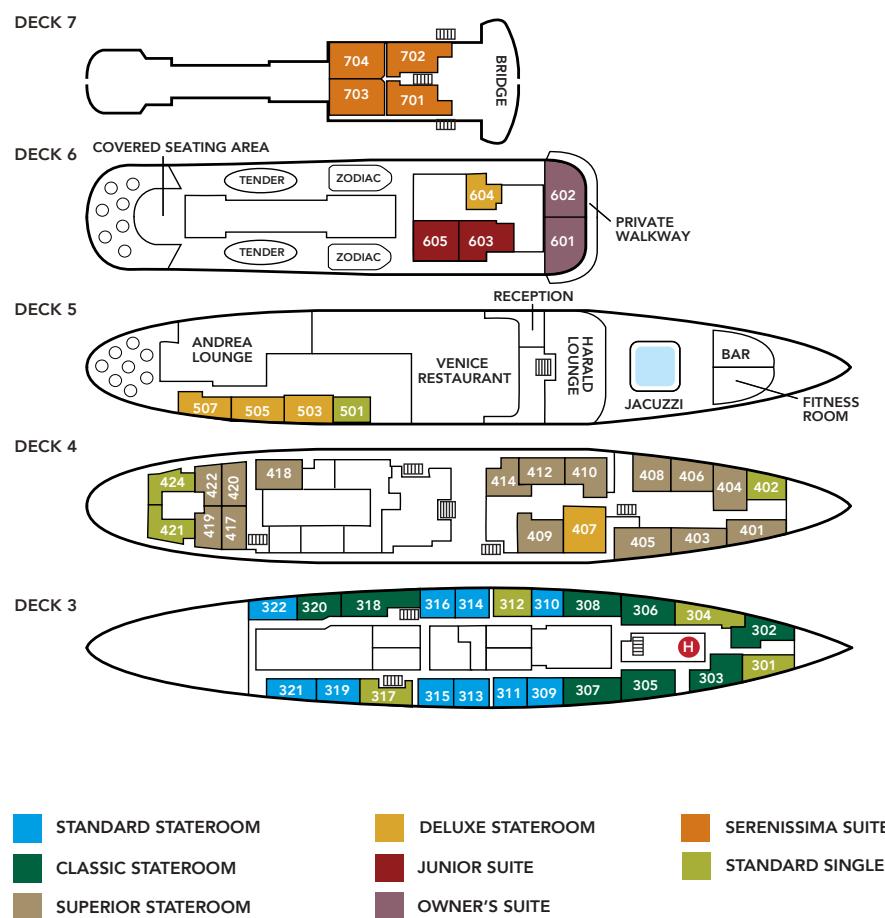
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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



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



# Hidden Treasures of the West Indies

A voyage from Antigua to Barbados aboard the MS Serenissima  
19<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Just when winter seems to be endless, it is the perfect time to escape to the warmth and beauty of the West Indies. Every island is different, each with its unique character, and by and large we will head for the smaller less visited places during our voyage. Join the MS Serenissima in Antigua and set sail on a journey through sub-tropical waters of beautiful scenery and island diversity. Every island has its own culture and this colourful mix of island personalities, varied terrain and lifestyles makes for a marvellous winter break. With relatively short sailing distances along the way, we are able to maximise our time on each island, exploring historical sites of the Spanish, Dutch and British colonial periods combined with pretty ports, wonderful beaches and the rich natural world of flora and fauna of the region. In addition to our included excursions, we have allowed time for individual exploration of the islands and ample opportunity to swim in the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea. Occasionally our paths will cross with the mega-factory like cruise ships and it is at such times we will appreciate even more how fortunate we are to be enjoying our small and comfortable ship in the company of only 95 like-minded travellers.

## Our View

*“Having operated cruises successfully in this region for many years, we return to the glorious West Indies with a 15 night island hopping itinerary that includes some of the better-known islands as well as some which are off the beaten track. With our small, self-contained ship we are able to land on islands such as St Eustatius or Les Saintes or use the anchorages in St Lucia and Tobago and, of the many highlights, carnival in Trinidad is a stand out. Here we can enjoy the parades and calypso music with the locals at one of the largest and most colourful carnivals in the world.”*



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Antigua.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in St John's. We will have Welcome Dinner and Drinks aboard as we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Antigua.** A onetime British colony, Antigua is justly famous for its beaches, said to total more than 300. We have a day here and on a morning tour will enjoy the views from Shirley Heights before heading to Nelson's Dockyard, beautifully located in English Harbour. See the impressive collection of restored historic buildings which were occupied by the British Navy from 1707 till 1899. In the afternoon either spend time in St Johns, on one of the local beaches or join a cricketing tour of the island including the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Stanford Cricket Ground and the Antigua Cricket Ground (ARG). Keith Fredericks (Freddo), a cricketer who represented Antigua at regional level and Head Groundsman at the ARG will delight in giving a talk and guided tour of the club house and the ground. Finally, before returning to the vessel there will be a private appearance by one of Antigua's cricket West Indian Legends.

**Day 3 St Eustatius.** In the 18th century the port of Oranjestad was a major player in the trade between Europe and the new world. Today the island maintains a low key existence and has avoided the modernisation and development of her neighbours. We will explore the small town including the 17th century fort and the museum with information on slavery, colonial relics and historical artefacts. Meanwhile, the more active may wish to take the strenuous hike to "The Quill", the 600 metre hill that dominates the landscape. This afternoon is free to explore at leisure and shuttle buses will be available to take you to the town or to one of the local beaches.



**Day 4 St Kitts & Nevis.** We will make a landing this morning on the delightful island of St Kitts. This lovely island has it all, restful green fields of sugar cane plantations, rainforests and long stretches of uncrowded beaches. The atmosphere here is wonderfully relaxed and full of old-world charm. Either wander the streets of Basseterre including the colonial buildings or see the impressive UNESCO fortress at Brimstone Hill. This 18th century British garrison played a key role in the battles with the French and is situated on a hill offering fine views over to Nevis to where we will sail over lunch. On an island drive we will stop at the Museum of Nevis History which includes a large collection of Nelson memorabilia and also the Botanical Gardens.

**Day 5 Montserrat.** Ask any Caribbean connoisseur about their favourite places and Montserrat will always be high on the list. Following the damaging volcanic eruptions of 1995 and 2010, much of the island is now returning to normal. We will visit the volcano observatory and learn how the islanders coped with the devastation it caused. Even now we will drive through areas where volcanic material lies in the roads. We also see some of the untouched areas which are as beautiful as ever.

**Day 6 Guadeloupe.** Known as the "papillon" due to the butterfly shape of the two main islands,

Guadeloupe offers a taste of France within the Caribbean. From our berth in Pointe a Pitre we will head to mountainous Basse Terre which is home to the Guadeloupe National Park covering 17,000 hectares of tropical forests and topped by the Soufriere volcano. A walk through the rainforest will bring us to the impressive 245 metre Carbet Falls, the highest in the Lesser Antilles whilst we keep an eye out for the resident wildlife. Return to the ship via one of the island's rum distilleries. The afternoon is free to explore Pointe a Pitre and its colonial architecture including the Place de La Victoire as well as the vibrant market.

**Day 7 Les Saintes, Guadeloupe.** At first light we sail to this eight island archipelago which dots the waters of the southwest coast of Guadeloupe. Still untouched by the hand of tourism these attractive islands offer lovely coves and beaches and colourful fishing villages. On an island drive this morning in Terre de Haut we will visit Fort Napoleon with its museum and gardens, the Catholic Church and Town Hall.

**Day 8 Dominica.** Stepping back in time, the island of Dominica is still the primitive garden that Columbus first sighted in 1493. An area of tropical rainforests, flowers of incredible beauty and animals that exist nowhere else in the world. We arrive this morning in the small port of Cabrits, just below the National Park and the former British garrison of Fort Shirley. There will be a choice of activities today and the active can climb to the fort to explore the ruins, visit the small museum and maybe wander the surrounding trails on the lookout for birds, hermit crabs and lizards. For the keen birders we will offer a tour driving through the plantations to the Morne Diablotin National Park where, from the viewpoint we hope to see the two endemic parrots of Dominica. Alternatively, join a local boat for a journey along the Indian River, a mangrove lined creek with interesting bankside vegetation including gnarled tree roots and which is home to herons, egrets, hummingbirds and iguanas.

**Day 9 Martinique.** Martinique is a truly cosmopolitan island and a Department of France. The strong French influence is seen everywhere and, without doubt, Martinique is one of the most

sophisticated islands in the West Indies enjoying a remarkably high standard of living. We will base ourselves at the small port of Anse D'Arlets and enjoy a morning scenic drive including the Musee de la Pagerie, the birthplace and childhood home of Empress Josephine, see the impressive plantations and have a chance to sample some of the local rum. This afternoon there will be time to relax in the small town or on a local beach.

**Days 10 & 11 St Lucia.** We have the pleasure of spending two days in St Lucia, a splendidly rugged island of towering mountains, lush green valleys and acres of banana plantations. We will spend our first day moored in Castries, the island's capital, from where we will explore the north of the island including the 44 acre Pigeon Island. The island changed hands 14 times between the British and French and at Fort Rodney we will learn more about the history as we walk through the ruins. In the afternoon we hope to visit the Governor's House including a tour of the grounds and spend time at Le Pavillion Royal Museum. We will also visit the colonial house of St Marks offering panoramic views to Castries below. In the evening we sail the short distances along the west coast where we anchor in sight of the island's best known feature, the twin peaks of the Pitons, which rise dramatically from the sea to more than 2400 feet. In the nearby town of Soufriere we can visit the bubbling sulphur springs, part of a low lying volcano which erupted thousands of years ago. Our island tour will also include the splendid botanical gardens, and one of the local plantations where we learn about cacao and sugar cane production.

**Day 12 St Vincent & The Grenadines.** Arrive this morning in bustling Kingstown, capital of St Vincent and gateway to the Grenadines. This morning we drive to the outskirts of the city to the 19th century Fort Charlotte and the oldest botanical gardens in the western hemisphere. Dating from 1765, this 20 acre site was developed to provide medicinal plants. Over lunch we sail to Bequia. This delightful Grenadine island is totally unspoilt, a place of pure escapism with a charming old world atmosphere. Only seven miles by two it is a long way from the well beaten tourist track, a serene and peaceful island with some of the best beaches in the

St Vincent



French anglefish



Colourful house, Nevis

Martinique island



Montserrat

17th century fort, St Eustatius



Hummingbird, Tobago



Botanical gardens, St. Lucia



Barbados

Caribbean. Choose to spend time in the main town of Port Elizabeth, find a spot on a local beach and relax or join a drive to Spring Bay where we can visit the Hawksbill Turtle sanctuary.

**Day 13 Tobago.** Today is dedicated to exploring the natural wonders of Tobago. We will anchor in the small fishing village of Charlotteville which is situated in Man of War Bay and enjoy a choice of activities. There will be an island drive which will include the Argyle Waterfall for a refreshing swim and a chance to explore the lush surrounding forest. The keen birders will enjoy a visit to Little Tobago, a hilly arid island situated 1.5 miles offshore and an important seabird sanctuary for frigate birds, brown boobies and red billed tropic birds. Meanwhile the waters around Goat Island offer some of the region's best coral reefs and abundant marine life - perfect for snorkelling or taking a glass bottomed boat trip.

**Day 14 Trinidad.** Over breakfast we arrive into Port of Spain where the island will be celebrating its annual carnival which is the biggest of its kind in the

Caribbean. The morning is free to relax on board and after an early lunch we will make our way to our seats to watch the parades of colourful costumes dancing to steelpan and calypso music. Later in the afternoon we continue to the Caroni Nature Sanctuary, a mangrove swamp covering an area of 40 square miles. On arrival at the sanctuary we board a flat-bottomed boat and slowly travel along the beautiful peaceful waterways and lagoons admiring the beauty of the landscape and a variety of birds including egrets and herons and other wildlife. The most astounding bird is the Scarlet Ibis, a large bright red bird feeding and nesting here and we hope to catch them as they return to their nests at sunset.

**Day 15 Barbados.** Spend the morning at sea, enjoy a lecture or find a spot on deck as we cruise to Barbados arriving in the early afternoon in Bridgetown. Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean Islands, with Atlantic surf on the east coast and sparkling Caribbean waters on the west coast. Captain Powell landed here in 1625 and claimed the island for England. Now independent, it

continues to embrace its British Empire roots; afternoon tea remains a tradition and cricket is the national sport. This afternoon an island drive will include visits to the historic 17th century Sunbury Plantation House and the impressive St John's Church.

**Day 16 Barbados to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

## SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that although this cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, the vessel will be at anchor in several ports where Zodiacs will be used to transport passengers ashore.

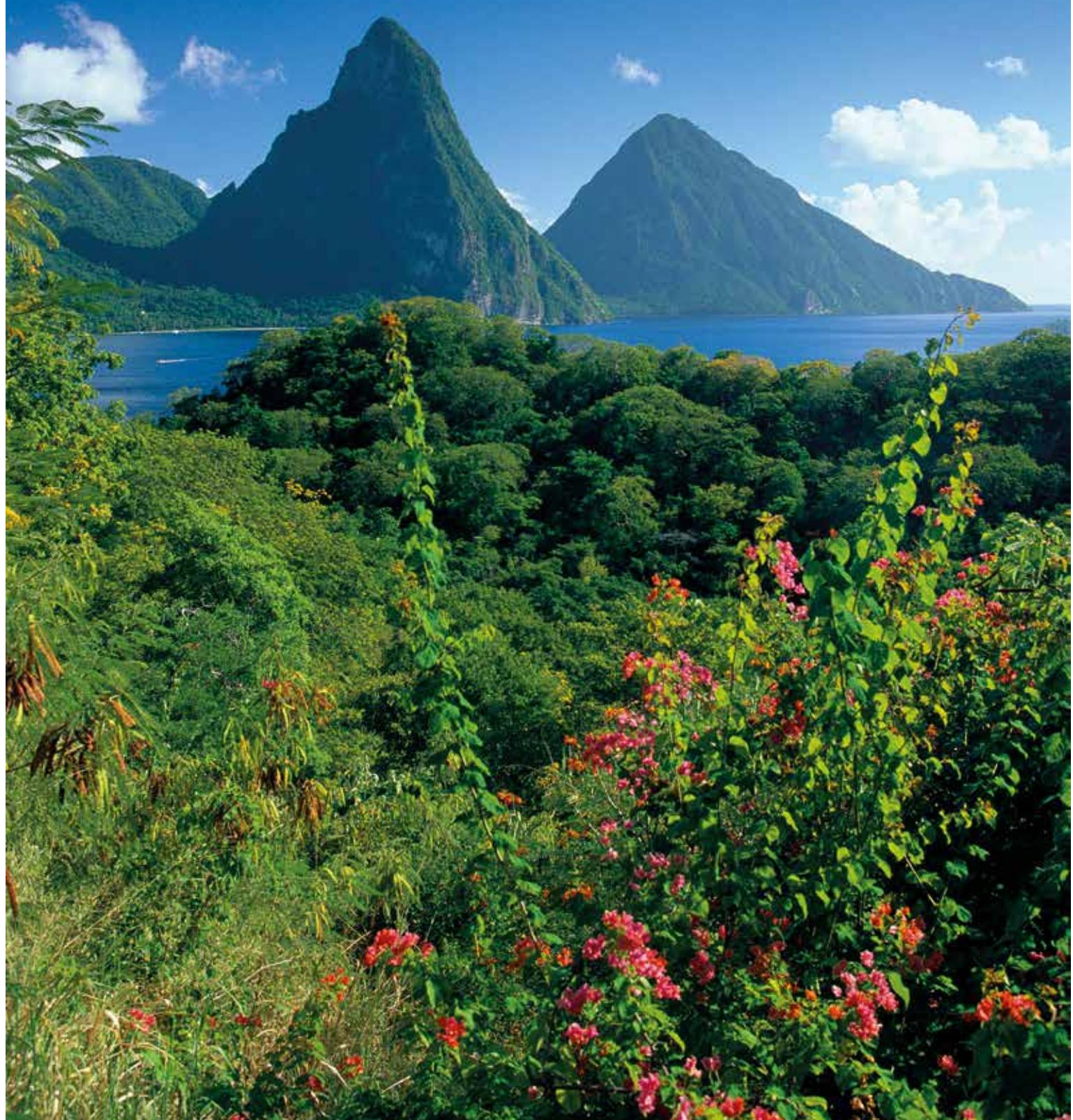
## PRICES PER PERSON

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	£7595	£7295
4	Superior Stateroom	£7895	£7595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£8095	£7795
6	Junior Suite	£8595	£8295
7	Owner's Suite	£9695	£9395
8	Serenissima Suite	£9695	£9395
10	Standard Single	£7595	£7295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 15 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# Caribbean Island Odyssey

A voyage from Barbados to Antigua aboard the MS Serenissima  
6<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

If you have been contemplating a cruise in the Caribbean but the thought of crossing paths with one of the megafactory like cruise ships with their thousands of passengers who operate in the area has deterred you from doing so, this could be the perfect voyage. With so many ships sailing in the Caribbean Sea you might well ask what is so different about our journey. The answer is the itinerary. By and large we will head for the smaller, less visited islands and with the MS Serenissima as our base and only 95 fellow passengers, we have the advantage of berthing or anchoring at some of the smaller islands. As we will be sailing short distances, we have full days on many of the islands allowing time to wander and explore at our own pace in addition to joining the included guided excursions. If you have a desire to see the forts and learn of the history of the region, visit national parks and botanical gardens with their endemic plants and wildlife or simply relax on pristine beaches all in the company of a small number of like-minded travellers then this is the itinerary for you.

## Our View

*"There are many ships sailing in the Caribbean ranging in size from small yachts to huge superliners. Our itinerary aims to take us to the smaller islands and away from the hordes of people disembarking the large ships. When we land ashore we are absorbed by our destination rather than taking it over and it is only on such a small self-contained ship as the MS Serenissima that we are able land on islands such as St Eustatius or Les Saintes or use the anchorages in St Lucia and Tobago."*

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 London to Barbados.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Bridgetown. Enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks aboard as we moor overnight

**Day 2 Barbados.** Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean Islands, with Atlantic surf on the east coast and sparkling Caribbean waters on the west coast. Captain Powell landed here in 1625 and claimed the island for England. Now independent, it continues to embrace its British Empire roots; afternoon tea remains a tradition and cricket is the national sport. This morning an island drive will include visits to the historic 17th century Sunbury Plantation House and the impressive St John's Church. The afternoon will be free to relax or explore independently before we sail this evening.

**Day 3 Tobago.** Today is dedicated to exploring the natural wonders of Tobago. We will anchor in the small fishing village of Charlotteville which is situated



in Man of War Bay and enjoy a choice of activities. There will be an island drive which will include the Argyle Waterfall for a refreshing swim and a chance to explore the lush surrounding forest. The keen birders will enjoy a visit to Little Tobago, a hilly, arid island situated 1.5 miles offshore and an important seabird sanctuary for frigate birds, brown boobies and red billed tropic birds. Meanwhile the waters around Goat Island offer some of the region's best coral reefs and abundant marine life - perfect for snorkelling or taking a glass bottomed boat trip.





**Day 4 Trinidad.** Due to its location close to the South American mainland, Trinidad has a unique diversity of plant and animal species which we will discover today. From our berth at Port of Spain we will drive inland to the Asa Wright Nature Centre. Founded on a former cocoa and coffee plantation in 1967 it comprises 1500 acres of forest providing habitat for a range of wildlife. We will explore on a series of guided walks, searching for the 166 species of birds. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and this afternoon either take time to explore Port of Spain and maybe visit the botanical gardens or National Museum. Alternatively, in the late afternoon join a tour to the Caroni Nature Sanctuary, a mangrove swamp covering an area of 40 square miles. On arrival at the sanctuary we board a flat-bottomed boat and slowly travel along the beautiful peaceful waterways and lagoons admiring the beauty of the landscape and a variety of birds including egrets and herons and other wildlife. The most astounding bird is the Scarlet Ibis, a large bright red bird feeding and nesting here and we hope to catch them as they return to their nests at sunset

**Day 5 St Vincent & The Grenadines.** Arrive this morning in Bequia, a delightful Grenadine island which is totally unspoilt and a place of pure escapism

with its charming old-world atmosphere. Only seven miles by sea it is a long way from the well beaten tourist track, a serene and peaceful island with some of the best beaches in the Caribbean. Choose to spend time in the main town of Port Elizabeth, find a spot on a local beach and relax or join a drive to Spring Bay where we can visit the Hawksbill Turtle sanctuary. Arrive after lunch in bustling Kingstown, capital of St Vincent. On an afternoon excursion we will drive to the outskirts of the city to the 19th century Fort Charlotte and the oldest botanical gardens in the western hemisphere. Dating from 1765, this 20 acre site was developed to provide medicinal plants.

**Days 6 & 7 St Lucia.** We have the pleasure of spending two days in St Lucia, a splendidly rugged island of towering mountains, lush green valleys and acres of banana plantations. This morning we anchor in sight of the island's best known feature, the twin peaks of the Pitons, which rise dramatically from the sea to more than 2400 feet. In the nearby town of Soufriere we can visit the bubbling sulphur springs, part of a low lying volcano which erupted thousands of years ago. Our island tour will also include the splendid botanical gardens, and one of the local plantations where we learn about cacao and sugar cane production. At dawn we will sail

along the west coast to our berth in Castries, the island's capital, from where we will explore the north of the island including the 44 acre Pigeon Island. The island changed hands 14 times between the British and French and at Fort Rodney we will learn more about the history as we walk through the ruins. In the afternoon we hope to visit the Governor's House including a tour of the grounds and spend time at Le Pavillion Royal Museum. We will also visit the colonial house of St Marks offering panoramic views to Castries below.

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**Day 9 Dominica.** Stepping back in time, the island of Dominica is still the primitive garden that

Columbus first sighted in 1493. An area of tropical rainforests, flowers of incredible beauty and animals that exist nowhere else in the world. We arrive this morning in the small port of Cabrits, just below the National Park and the former British garrison of Fort Shirley. There will be a choice of activities today and the active can climb to the fort to explore the ruins, visit the small museum and maybe wander the surrounding trails on the lookout for birds, hermit crabs and lizards. For the keen birders we will offer a tour driving through the plantations to the Morne Diablotin National Park where, from the viewpoint we hope to see the two endemic parrots of Dominica. Alternatively, join a local boat for a journey along the Indian River, a mangrove lined creek with interesting bankside vegetation including gnarled tree roots and which is home to herons, egrets, hummingbirds and iguanas.

**Day 10 Guadeloupe.** Known as the "papillon" due to the butterfly shape of the two main islands, Guadeloupe offers a taste of France within the Caribbean. From our berth in Pointe a Pitre we will head to mountainous Basse Terre which is home to the Guadeloupe National Park covering 17,000 hectares of tropical forests and topped by the Soufriere volcano. A walk through the rainforest will

Sugar Mill, Nevis



Waterfall, Dominica



Green Iguana, Montserrat



bring us to the impressive 245 metre Carbet Falls, the highest in the Lesser Antilles whilst we keep an eye out for the resident wildlife. Return to the ship via one of the island's rum distilleries. The afternoon is free to explore Pointe à Pitre and its colonial architecture including the Place de La Victoire as well as the vibrant market.

**Day 11 Les Saintes, Guadeloupe.** At first light we sail to this eight island archipelago which dots the waters of the southwest coast of Guadeloupe. Still untouched by the hand of tourism these attractive islands offer lovely coves and beaches and colourful fishing villages. On an island drive this morning in Terre de Haut we will visit Fort Napoleon with its museum and gardens, the Catholic Church and Town Hall.

**Day 12 Montserrat.** Ask any Caribbean connoisseur about their favourite places and Montserrat will always be high on the list. Following the damaging volcanic eruptions of 1995 and 2010, much of the island is now returning to normal. We will visit the volcano observatory and learn how the islanders coped with the devastation it caused. Even now we will drive through areas

where volcanic material lies in the roads. We also see some of the untouched areas which are as beautiful as ever.

**Day 13 Nevis & St Kitts.** We will make a landing this morning on the delightful island of Nevis. On an island drive we will stop at the Museum of Nevis History which includes a large collection of Nelson memorabilia and also the Botanical Gardens. Over lunch we sail the short distance to St Kitts. This lovely island has it all, restful green fields of sugar cane plantations, rainforests and long stretches of uncrowded beaches. The atmosphere here is wonderfully relaxed and full of old-world charm. Either wander the streets of Basseterre including the colonial buildings or see the impressive UNESCO fortress at Brimstone Hill. This 18th century British garrison played a key role in the battles with the French and is situated on a hill offering fine views over to Nevis.

**Day 14 St Eustatius.** In the 18th century the port of Oranjestad was a major player in the trade between Europe and the new world. Today the island maintains a low key existence and has avoided the modernisation and development of her neighbours. We will explore the small town including the 17th

century fort and the museum with information on slavery, colonial relics and historical artefacts. Meanwhile, the more active may wish to take the strenuous hike to "The Quill", the 600 metre hill that dominates the landscape. This afternoon is free to explore at leisure and shuttle buses will be available to take you to the town or to one of the local beaches.

#### Day 15 Antigua to London.

Disembark this morning and on a morning tour we will enjoy the views from Shirley Heights before heading to Nelson's Dockyard, beautifully located in English Harbour. See the impressive

collection of restored historic buildings which were occupied by the British Navy from 1707 till 1899. After lunch we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 16 London.** Arrive this morning.

#### SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that although this cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, the vessel will be at anchor in several ports where Zodiacs will be used to transport passengers ashore.

#### PRICES PER PERSON

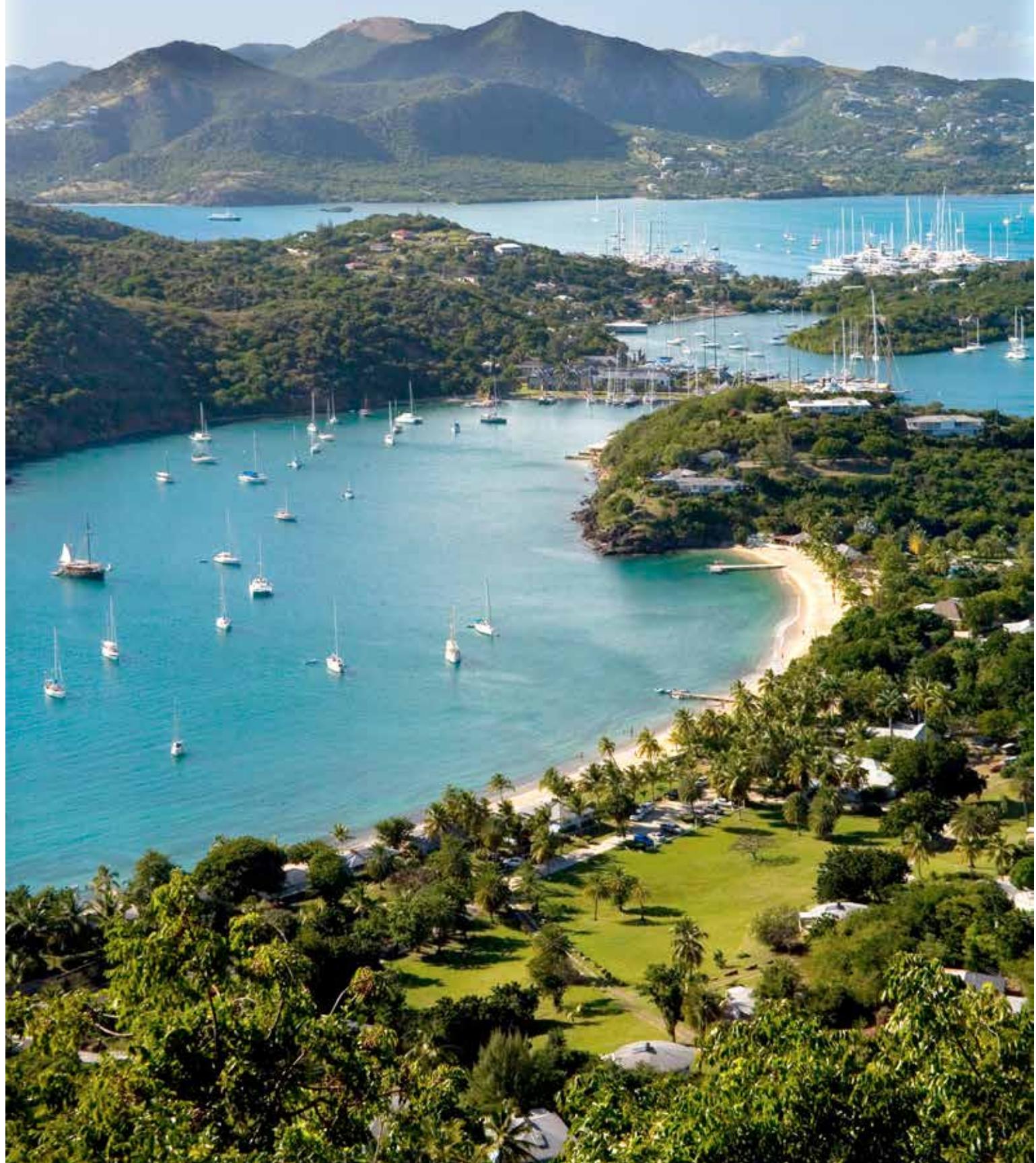
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3	Classic Stateroom	<b>£7295</b>	<b>£6995</b>
4	Superior Stateroom	<b>£7595</b>	<b>£7295</b>
5	Deluxe Stateroom	<b>£7795</b>	<b>£7495</b>
6	Junior Suite	<b>£8295</b>	<b>£7995</b>
7	Owner's Suite	<b>£9395</b>	<b>£9095</b>
8	Serenissima Suite	<b>£9395</b>	<b>£9095</b>
10	Standard Single	<b>£7295</b>	<b>£6995</b>

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

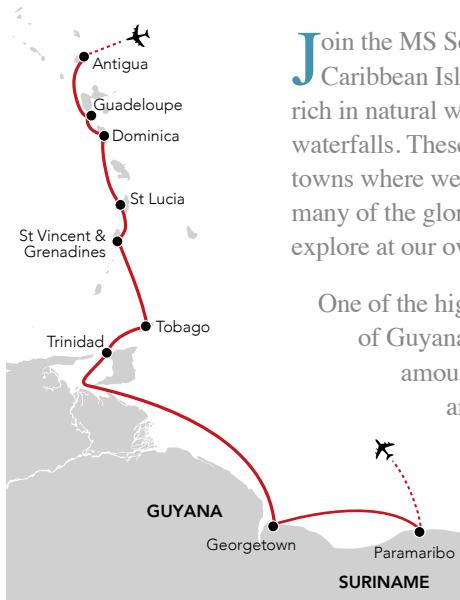
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# Sailing through the Lesser Antilles & Beyond

A unique exploration from Antigua to Suriname

20<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019



Join the MS Serenissima for this unique voyage of over 1000 nautical miles from the Caribbean Island of Antigua to Paramaribo in Suriname. Between we visit islands and cities rich in natural wonders from tropical flowers, indigenous birds and coral reefs to impressive waterfalls. These natural world highlights will be combined with time spent in small, welcoming towns where we will meet friendly islanders. As we sail short distances we have full days in many of the glorious islands in the Lesser Antilles and have the luxury of time to wander and explore at our own pace whilst seeing some of the more remote and harder to reach areas.

One of the highlights of our voyage will be our extended time in the former British colony of Guyana, one of the least visited countries in South America but home to a diverse amount of wildlife and natural wonders. Meanwhile in Paramaribo, Suriname's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we will hear about the history of this former British settlement which was swapped with the Dutch for New York in 1667. There are many ships cruising the Caribbean waters but if you prefer a chance to explore in small groups and to visit the smaller islands and off the beaten track destinations then this is the trip for you.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Antigua.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in St Johns. Tonight enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Antigua.** A onetime British colony, Antigua is justly famous for its beaches, said to total more than 300. We have a day here and on a morning tour will enjoy the views from Shirley Heights before heading to Nelson's Dockyard, beautifully located in English

Harbour. See the impressive collection of restored historic buildings which were occupied by the British Navy from 1707 till 1899. In the afternoon either spend time in St Johns, on one of the local beaches or join a cricketing tour of the island including the Sir Vivian

Richards Stadium, Stanford Cricket Ground and the Antigua Cricket Ground (ARG). Keith Fredericks (Freddo), a cricketer who represented Antigua at regional level and Head Groundsman at the ARG will delight in giving a talk and guided tour of the club house



Squirrel Monkey



and the ground. Finally, before returning to the vessel there will be a private appearance by one of Antigua's cricket West Indian Legends.

**Day 3 Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe.**  
Known as the "papillon" due to the butterfly shape of the two main islands, Guadeloupe offers a taste of France within the Caribbean. From our berth in Pointe a Pitre we will head to mountainous Basse Terre which is home to the Guadeloupe National Park covering 17,000 hectares of tropical forest and topped by the Soufriere volcano. A walk through the rainforest will bring us to the impressive 245 metre Carbet Falls, the highest in the Lesser Antilles whilst we keep an eye out for the resident wildlife. Return to the ship via one of the island's rum distilleries. The afternoon is free to explore Pointe a Pitre and its colonial architecture including the Place de La Victoire as well as the vibrant market.

**Day 4 Cabrits, Dominica.**  
Stepping back in time, the island of Dominica is still the primitive garden that Columbus first sighted in 1493. An area of tropical rainforests, flowers of incredible beauty and animals that exist nowhere else in the world. We arrive this morning in the small port of Cabrits, just below the National Park and the former British garrison of Fort Shirley. There will be a choice of activities

today and the active can climb to the fort to explore the ruins, visit the small museum and maybe wander the surrounding trails on the lookout for birds, hermit crabs and lizards. For the keen birders we will offer a tour driving through the plantations to the Morne Diablotin National Park where, from the viewpoint we hope to see the two endemic parrots of Dominica. Alternatively, join a local boat for a journey along the Indian River, a mangrove lined creek with interesting bankside vegetation including gnarled tree roots and which is home to herons, egrets, hummingbirds and iguanas.

**Day 5 St Lucia.** St Lucia is a splendidly rugged island of towering mountains, lush green valleys and acres of banana plantations. We will moor in sight of the island's best known feature, the twin peaks of the Pitons, which rise dramatically from the sea to more than 2400 feet. In the nearby town of Soufriere we can visit the bubbling sulphur springs, part of a low lying volcano which erupted thousands of years ago. Our island tour will also include the splendid botanical gardens, and one of the local plantations where we learn about cacao production.

**Day 6 St Vincent & The Grenadines.** Arrive this morning in bustling Kingstown, capital of St Vincent and gateway to the Grenadines. This morning we drive to the outskirts of the city

to the 19th century Fort Charlotte and the oldest botanical gardens in the western hemisphere. Dating from 1765, this 20 acre site was developed to provide medicinal plants. Over lunch we sail to Bequia. This delightful Grenadine island is totally unspoilt, a place of pure escapism with a charming old world atmosphere. Only seven miles by two it is a long way from the well beaten tourist track, a serene and peaceful island with some of the best beaches in the Caribbean. Choose to spend time in the main town of Port Elizabeth, find a spot on a local beach to relax or join a drive to Spring Bay where we can visit the Hawksbill Turtle sanctuary.

**Day 7 Tobago.** Today is dedicated to exploring the natural wonders of Tobago. We will anchor in the small fishing village of Charlotteville which is situated in Man of War Bay and enjoy a choice of activities. There will be an island drive which will include the Argyle Waterfall for a refreshing swim and a chance to explore the lush surrounding forest. The keen birders will enjoy a visit to Little Tobago, a hilly arid island situated 1.5 miles offshore and an important seabird sanctuary for frigate birds, brown boobies and red billed tropic birds. Meanwhile the waters around Goat Island offer some of the region's best coral reefs and abundant marine life - perfect for snorkelling or taking a glass bottomed boat trip.

**Day 8 Trinidad.** Due to its location close to the South American mainland, Trinidad has a unique diversity of plant and animal species which we will discover today. From our berth at Port of Spain we will drive inland to the Asa Wright Nature Centre. Founded on a former cocoa and coffee plantation in 1967 it comprises 1500 acres of forest providing habitat for a range of wildlife. We will explore on a series of guided walks, searching for the 166 species of birds. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and this afternoon either take time to explore Port of Spain and maybe visit the botanical gardens or National Museum. Alternatively, in the late afternoon join a tour to the Caroni Nature Sanctuary, a mangrove swamp covering an area of 40 square miles. On arrival at the sanctuary we board a flat-bottomed boat and slowly travel along the beautiful peaceful waterways and lagoons admiring the beauty of the landscape and a variety of birds including egrets and herons and other wildlife. The most astounding bird is the Scarlet Ibis, a large bright red bird feeding and nesting here and we hope to catch them as they return to their nests at sunset.

**Day 9 At Sea.** Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we sail towards the South American coast. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge, enjoy a book in the library or find a spot on deck.

St Georges Cathedral, Georgetown



**Days 10 to 12 Georgetown, Guyana.** Arrive today in Guyana, South America's only English speaking country and our base for three days of discovery. Georgetown was called Longchamps under the French and Stabroek under the Dutch, so it comes as no surprise that the tree lined streets are a wonderful mix of colonial styles. During our time here we will include a half day city tour to include St Georges Cathedral, St Andrew's Kirk and the Stabroek Market, once described as a "bizarre bazaar", which contains every conceivable item from household goods and gold jewellery to fresh meat and vegetables brought to town on the river daily. We will also join a local flight to the Kaieteur National Park. Here, the mighty Kaieteur Falls plunge 822 feet to the bottom of a rocky gorge. Five times the height of Niagara Falls and an amazing 30,000 gallons of water per second crashes to the depths below. Our third day will take us to the Essequibo River, Guyana's longest river and the third largest in South America. Using local boats we will explore the river, landing on one of the many islands to take nature walks to see the wildlife and plants or seeing the old Dutch forts that line the banks before wandering thorough the town of Bartica.

**Day 13 Paramaribo, Suriname.** This morning we continue our journey along the South American coastline and this afternoon arrive in the capital of Suriname,

Paramaribo, located on the banks of the Suriname River. The city has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and on our guided tour we will see the many historic colonial buildings and tree-lined avenues. This is a city of many colours and cultures and one of the few places in the world where Mosques, Hindu Temples, Synagogues and Christian churches coexist peacefully side by side. Visit the city's leafy park, Palm Garden which was created in 1682 and home to more than 1000 palms, the waterfront and Fort Zeelandia, originally named Fort Willoughby by the British in 1651.

**Day 14 Paramaribo to London.** After breakfast on board we will disembark and drive to the Commewijne District just outside of Paramaribo, a beautiful agricultural area of creeks, rivers and former plantations. Here we will take nature walks on the lookout for birds, monkeys and lizards before visiting the museum at New Amsterdam, an 18th century fort built to protect the city where we can also see the resident giant lilies. After lunch we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London.** Arrive today.

#### SHIP TO SHORE

Please note that although this cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, the vessel will be at anchor in several ports where Zodiacs will be used to transport passengers ashore.



#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

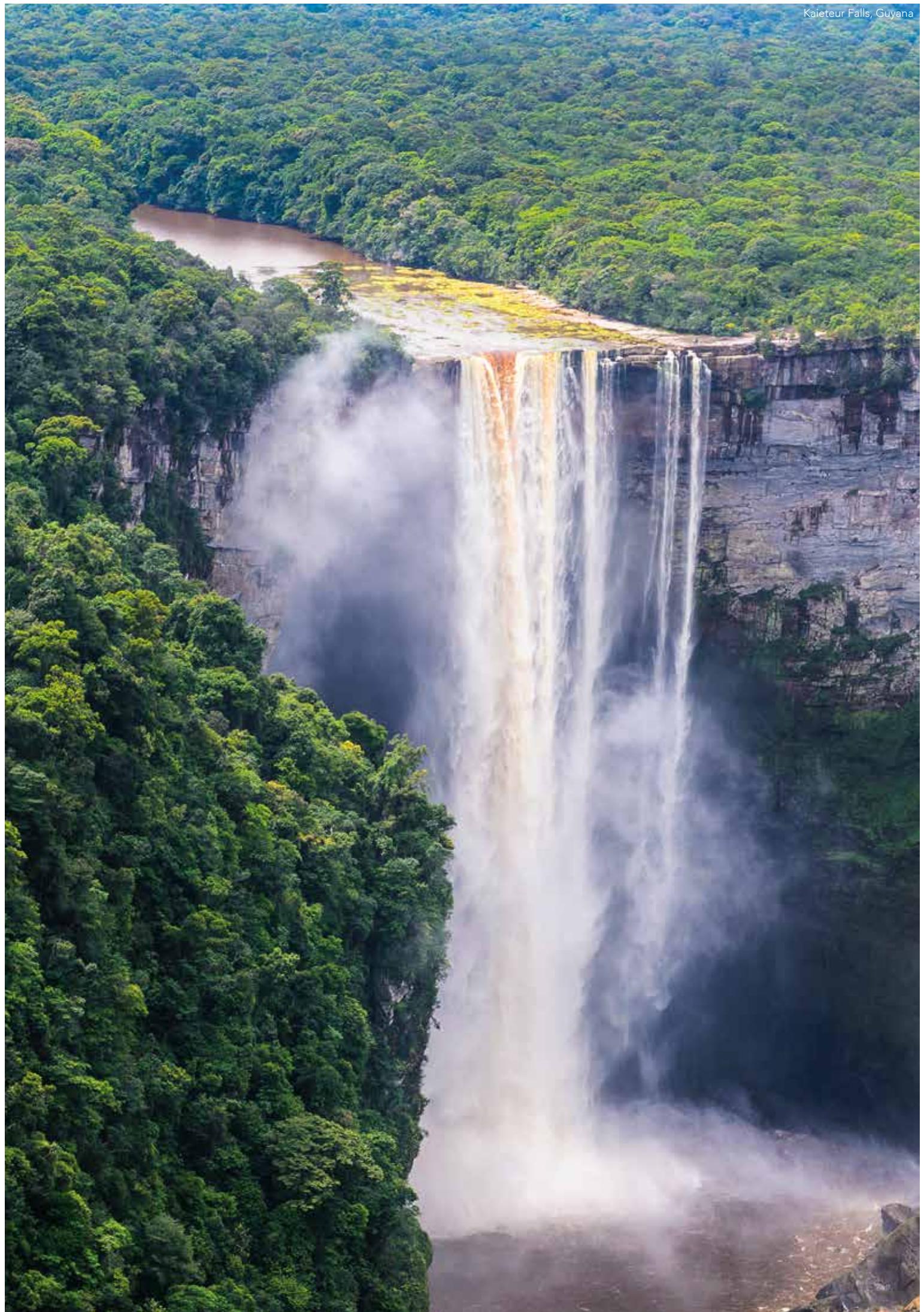
##### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

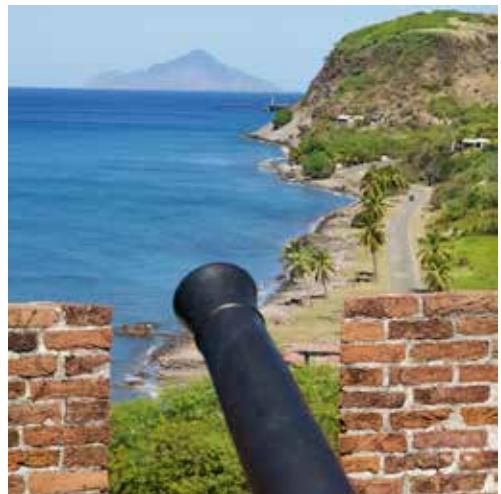
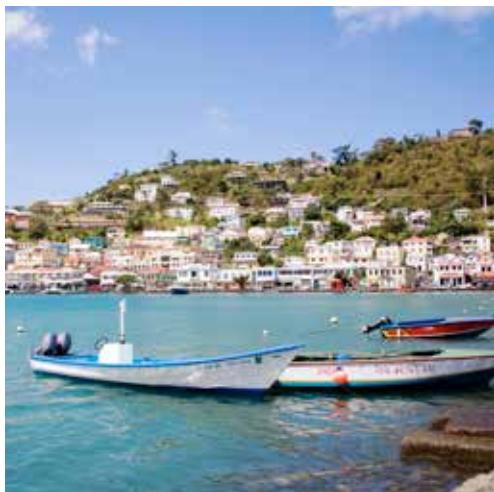
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	<b>£6995</b>	<b>£6695</b>
3	Classic Stateroom	<b>£7295</b>	<b>£6995</b>
4	Superior Stateroom	<b>£7595</b>	<b>£7295</b>
5	Deluxe Stateroom	<b>£7795</b>	<b>£7495</b>
6	Junior Suite	<b>£8295</b>	<b>£7995</b>
7	Owner's Suite	<b>£9295</b>	<b>£8995</b>
8	Serenissima Suite	<b>£9295</b>	<b>£8995</b>
10	Standard Single	<b>£7295</b>	<b>£6995</b>

**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 • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Kaieteur Falls, Guyana





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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 subject to change.

Cover image: St Lucia.

