

ICELAND TO THE HEBRIDES

AN EXPLORATION OF ICELAND, THE FAROE ISLANDS
& ST KILDA ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

28TH JUNE TO 11TH JULY 2021

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us aboard the MS Serenissima for this unique itinerary combining the ‘Land of Ice and Fire’ with a three day visit to the Faroe Islands. Setting sail from Reykjavik, our voyage takes us to some of Iceland’s stunning landscapes from huge ice-caps and glaciers to active volcanoes, gurgling mud pools, steaming hot springs and lava fields. Witness the immense scale of the landscape dominated by towering snow-capped mountains and thundering waterfalls and spontaneous erupting geysers as we learn of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage. We will visit some of its most dramatic areas and, whilst we sail its waters, will look out for humpback whales, orcas, white-beaked dolphins and observe the colonies of seabirds.

Our voyage continues to the wild and ruggedly beautiful landscapes of the Faroe Islands which are a paradise for walkers and bird watchers. The history of the islands can be traced back to the Irish monks who settled here in the 6th century, and the 9th century seafaring explorers who traversed the North Sea and claimed Orkney, the Shetland Islands, Iceland and Greenland. Our final call will be to the remote and breathtaking archipelago of St Kilda. Home to the biggest seabird nesting site in the North Atlantic, St Kilda it is a paradise for bird lovers but the dramatic landscapes, combined with the cultural heritage of the islands that have preserved such a unique and distinctive way of life, also cannot fail to impress.

The MS Serenissima is the perfect small ship for such a venture as, with a maximum of just 95 passengers and a fleet of nimble Zodiac craft, we can get up close to nature and explore areas otherwise inaccessible to the larger ships. We will look out for wildlife, taking advantage of weather conditions and possible sightings to achieve the maximum with our time.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London/Manchester to Reykjavik, Iceland. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in the city. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner and sail this evening.

Day 2 Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Sail this morning into Stykkisholmur, located in Breidafjörður Bay and surrounded by an archipelago of islands. The town is famed for its beautiful and well preserved old houses and is also the gateway to the Snæfellsnes Peninsula which is dominated by the Snæfellsjokull volcano, regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland and known as the setting for Jules Verne’s “Journey to the Centre of the Earth”. Our tour will include a drive through the lava landscape to the glacier visiting pretty fishing ports and beaches along the way. Afterwards, there will be the opportunity to spend some time at leisure in the town.

Day 3 West Fjords. Awake this morning in the West Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We will cruise into Isafjörður and, depending on local weather conditions, we hope to use our fleet of Zodiacs to explore further. We also plan to visit the village of Thingeyri, one of the oldest settlements in the West Fjords and the location of the area’s first trading post. Return to the ship via the thunderous Dynjandi, the highest waterfall in the West Fjords falling 100 metres and 30 metres wide.

Day 4 Grimsey Island & Siglufjörður. Spend the morning on Grimsey Island and join the expedition team for a nature walk. The Arctic Circle bisects this island which is known for its tiny community, basalt cliffs and large variety of birdlife. Over lunch we sail to Siglufjörður, a picturesque



Torshavn



Humpback Whale



Myvatn-Krafla area

town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the early 1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture. Stroll through the town and visit the Herring Era Museum. We will remain moored overnight for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 5 Hrisey Island & Akureyri. Sail over breakfast to Hrisey Island where you can join nature walks. The island is known for its rich and diverse bird life and approximately 40 species of bird's nest on the island. Return to the ship for lunch and sail down Eyafjordur to Akureyri. This is a delightful town on the north coast of Iceland and not what you would expect to find in such a remote location; in summer months the gardens and window boxes are ablaze with colour. From our berth we visit the spectacular Godafoss Waterfall where water from the Skjalfandaflljot River falls from a height of 12 metres over a width of 30 metres. Our visit to Akureyri will include the botanical garden which was founded in 1912 and grows examples of every species indigenous to Iceland as well as an extensive collection of high-latitude and high-altitude plants from around the world. Our tour ends at the Art Alley, where artisans keep their workshops and galleries.

Day 6 Husavik. Be on deck this morning as we sail into Husavik, known as the whale capital of Iceland. From our berth we will head inland to visit the Lake Myvatn-Krafla area, a fine example of the volcanic world with lava fields, boiling and steaming mud pools and steam vents of sulphur and craters. The area illustrates the sheer magnitude of Iceland's forces at work. The lake itself, with beautiful natural rock formations and hot springs, is also a unique ecosystem and the largest migratory bird sanctuary in Europe. We will offer time in the natural baths before returning to the ship. There will be some free time in Husavik this afternoon to explore the town and maybe visit the excellent whale museum.

Day 7 Seydisfjordur. Today we arrive at the natural harbour at Seydisfjordur which has preserved its fishing heritage from the early 19th century and its architectural style. On a walking tour we will pass brightly painted and well preserved wooden buildings and visit the shops famous for their Icelandic patterned woollens. The keen walkers may prefer to join an energetic hike up the river trail through a verdant landscape of wildflowers.

Day 8 Hofn. Our last call in Iceland will be at Hofn where we will see the shimmering white Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest glacier, sometimes called an icecap. The 600 metre thick ice surmounts active volcanoes, one of which erupted in 1996, creating a crater on the surface of the glacier, a most unusual phenomenon. From our berth in Hofn we will drive to the otherworldly glacial lagoon of Jokulsarlon, a dramatic drive through some of the finest

scenery that Iceland offers. Once we reach Jokulsarlon, the 100 metre deep glacial river lagoon which is full of large icebergs, carved from the glacier Breioamerkurjokull, we will embark on a cruise on the pristine water, sailing in between the blue, white and black ice.

Day 9 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we sail to the Faroe Islands. Our lecture programme continues throughout the day and we arrive in Torshavn this evening where we overnight in port.

Day 10 Torshavn, Faroe Islands. From our berth this morning we will join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre where we see the ruins of the 13th century St Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900 year old 'Roystovan', the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. This afternoon is free to explore Torshavn at your own pace and for those feeling active we will arrange a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna.

Day 11 Vestmanna. Vestmanna is our base this morning as we explore the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. We will board local boats to explore the vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the thousands of seabirds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. After lunch on board, we will drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We visit Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse which is now a museum, and a traditional Faeroese wooden church in Kollafjord.

Day 12 Suduroy. Over breakfast we will arrive at Suduroy, the southernmost island of the Faroe Islands. From the port of Tvoroyri we will have a choice of activities. Choose to join a scenic island drive travelling between the villages seeing the stunning geology, fjords, tunnels and architecture of the island, ending at the southernmost point and the Akraberg lighthouse. In Porkeri we will take the ridge-top road which winds up the mountainside for wonderful views towards the steep cliffs on the west coast, the Beinivoro promontory to the north and the luscious grass slopes to the east. To locals, this delivers the essence of the Faroe Islands with mountains and fjords, villages and valleys, birds, sheep and nature. Alternatively, those feeling active may wish to join a hike to Hvaanhagi, a beautiful, uninhabited place north of Tvoroyri on the east coast of Suduroy. The view is fantastic towards the three islands Litla Dimun, Stora Dimun and Skuvoy. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we sail to the Outer Hebrides.



Day 13 St Kilda, Scotland. Awake this morning in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of the few UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Berneray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

Day 14 Oban. Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Station at a fixed time.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£5895	£5695
3	Classic Stateroom	£6195	£5995
4	Superior Stateroom	£6795	£6595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7295	£7095
6	Junior Suite	£7795	£7595
7	Owner's Suite	£8995	£8795
8	Serenissima Suite	£8995	£8795
10	Standard Single	£7295	£7095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel from Manchester or London to Reykjavik • 13 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-Cruise Reykjavik Extension 26th to 28th June 2021

Reykjavik



If you would like to spend some time in Reykjavik prior to embarking, we are offering a two night optional extension staying at a centrally located hotel on a bed and breakfast basis. During your stay there will be a half day Reykjavik city orientation tour and a full day tour to the Golden Circle including the Geysir geothermal area, Gullfoss Waterfall and Thingvellir National Park.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£825** Single: **£1195**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Reykjavik with breakfast, full day Golden Circle tour, half day city tour, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



Venice Restaurant



Andrea Lounge

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 cabins 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. Refillable water bottles are available in all cabins for use on board. Due to the very nature of the ship, the cabins vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.



Your Dining

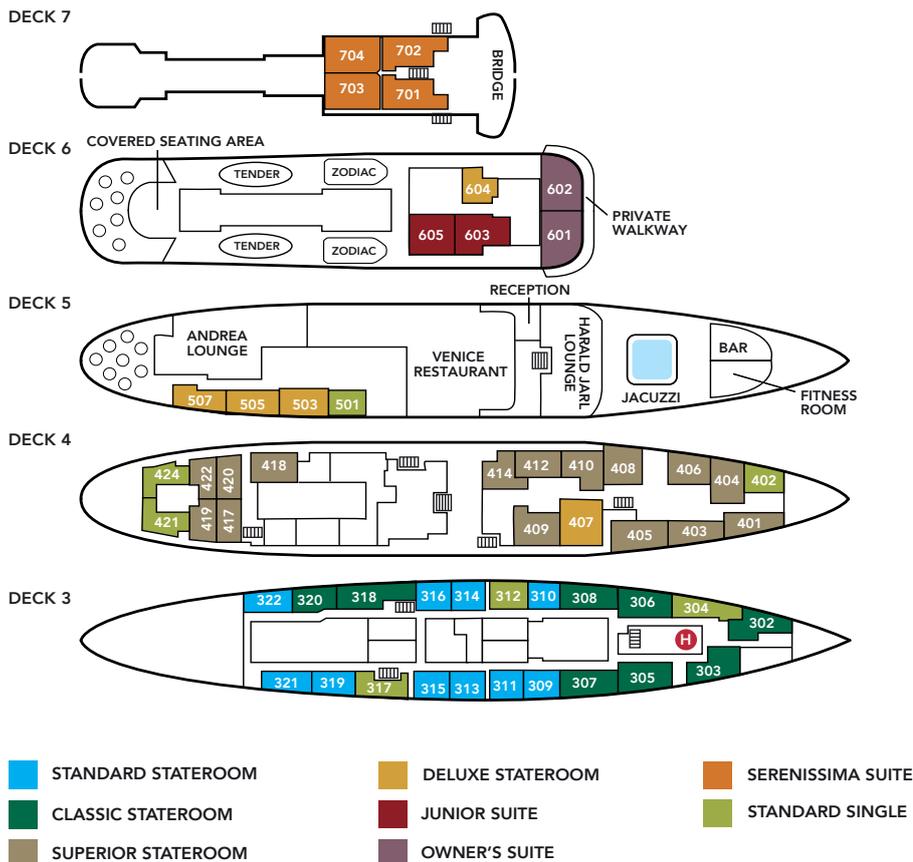
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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

with hot and cold dishes available. Dinner is served à 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 and soft drinks 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 country house style which has recently been updated with some Art Deco styling which 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.



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



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.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Godafoss Waterfall