

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

A voyage through the Aegean & Mediterranean
aboard the MS Serenissima
with Guest Speaker, the Rt Revd Graham James

25th March to 5th April 2020

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA

It is sometimes said that if it was not for St Paul there would have been no Christianity. It was through his missionary journeys, from about 44 AD to 60 AD that the Christian message was spread to the Gentile world. St Paul made three journeys from Antioch across the Eastern Mediterranean and Anatolia, now modern day Turkey, to Thrace and finally onto Rome. In the process he founded some of the earliest Christian churches.

St Paul was born in Tarsus, around 5 AD, a time when the Eastern Mediterranean was under Roman Rule. In 33 AD, on his way to Damascus in Syria he had a religious experience, or revelation, which he believed to be of the resurrected Christ. From this moment on he became a Christian and was later known as Paul rather than Saul, his Hebrew name. The life of St Paul and the early Church was set within the context of the Roman Empire, which in turn succeeded the ancient Greek Empire. During our visits to the ancient sites we will see evidence of Greek, Roman and also Byzantine history and culture. The Ottomans followed the Byzantines and ever since the region has been predominantly Muslim.

During this cruise and from the comfort of the MS Serenissima we will have an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of St Paul, visiting Patmos, Perge and his birthplace, Tarsus. We will also visit Ephesus, which at the time of St Paul was second only to Rome in size and importance. During St Paul's three-year stay in Ephesus he frequently preached on the steps of the Library, and whilst in Ephesus he wrote four letters, or Epistles; to the Galatians, Corinthians, Philemon and Philippians. We also visit the island of Patmos where St John the Divine wrote the Book of Revelation to the Seven Churches of Asia, some of which we will be visiting.

Our journey 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.



Guest Speaker – The Rt Revd Graham James



The Rt Revd Graham James became Bishop of Norwich in 1999. He entered the House of Lords in 2004. Among his national responsibilities in the Church of England he was lead bishop on media issues for a long period, and has served on the Lords Select Committee on Communications. He has been a frequent presenter of Radio 4's "Thought for the Day". Earlier in his career he travelled widely when serving at Lambeth Palace,

and has lectured on cruises for the past 20 years. His recent books "The Lent Factor" and "A Place for God" reflect the range of his interests and travels. One of his earliest publications was about Paul's understanding of Christ and the character of his human nature. He looks forward to reflecting on the life, times and travels of Paul in the first century on this cruise, and placing Paul within the setting of his own age.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima for embarkation. Enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Cannakale. After breakfast we will drive to Troy which is associated with the sagas of the Trojan War and its description by Homer (750 BC) in his two epic poems "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey." Archaeological digs have revealed nine cities and various ruins of the city walls, typical house foundations, a temple and a theatre. En-route we will visit the Archaeological Museum. This afternoon you can relax on board or take a drive to Ezine town, through pine forests towards Alexandria Troas which



has a large unexcavated ancient site. It was founded by Antigonos, one of the commanders of Alexander the Great, in 310 BC. During the time of St Paul, it was known as Alexandaia-Troas and Paul stayed and sailed from here with Barnabas to Neapolis.

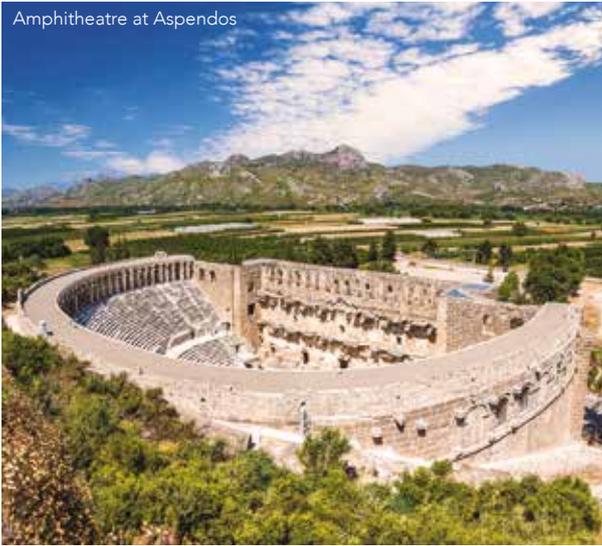
Day 3 Pergamon. On today's full day tour we will drive inland, past fertile fields and olive trees, to the present day modern town of Bergama, once known as Pergamon, a great centre of culture. Today Pergamon is one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. We will visit the Asclepion, a healing centre from the 4th century BC and one of the most important sites of Pergamon. Discover the Temple of Asclepius, the amphitheatre, and walk through the sacred corridor and down the ancient, arcaded, marble-paved boulevard. Continue into the town of Bergama and visit the Archaeological Museum which houses relics discovered during the excavations of Pergamon. En-route we will see the Basilica which was one of the earliest of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. Take a cable car up to the Acropolis to explore the remains of the citadel and the city walls, the foundations of the Zeus Altar, and the Royal Palace. Lunch will be served ashore.

Day 4 Kusadasi & Ephesus. Arriving at Kusadasi at breakfast time we will drive to the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings including the Library of Celsus and the temples of Serapis and Hadrian. Once the capital of Ionia, St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey and we will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus. We will see the spectacular Grand Theatre, originally built in the 3rd century BC by the Greeks, and later expanded by the Romans to its present capacity of 24,000. From this theatre, which has a row of seats 30 metres above the orchestra, St Paul used to give his sermons. Enjoy a free afternoon strolling in Kusadasi or join an excursion to the site of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and see the ruined Basilica of St John.

Day 5 Patmos, Greece. Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western; it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into the beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of



Mosaic, Monastery of St. John, Patmos



Amphitheatre at Aspendos



Temple of Trajan, Pergamon



Picturesque Skala harbour

the Apocalypse'. From here continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or maybe enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

Day 6 Didim, Miletus & Priene, Turkey. From the port of Didim we will drive to Priene, an ancient Greek holy city and the home of an important temple of Athena. Priene's picturesque ruins include several columns of the Temple of Athena, much of the city wall, a well-preserved theatre and a council chamber. We will continue to Miletus, one of the most important cities in ancient Greek world and visited by St Paul on his third missionary journey. Here were Minoans, Mycenaean and one-time allies of the Trojans. The city foolishly led a revolt of the Ionian Greek cities against the powerful Persian Empire who ruled until the arrival of Alexander in the 4th century BC. Here is a fine theatre, well laid out chessboard street plans, two agoras (marketplaces), baths, a council chamber, fortifications, a stadium and harbour workings. After lunch on board we will have time to explore the colossal temple and oracle to Apollo in Didim. *Please note that we may be at anchor today in which instance the vessel's Zodiacs will be used.*

Day 7 Xanthos & Patara. From the harbour at Fethiye, we travel to the south east to discover the rich Lycian towns of the past. Drive along the Esme River to the ancient city of Xanthos, Lycia's prominent capital city built on a great cliff overlooking the river. Xanthos boasts several significant ruins, including the Nereid Monument, an exquisite ionic building whose figured friezes are in the British Museum. Continue to Letoon, a city named after Leto, mother Goddess of Lycians. We will see the ruins of the temples dedicated to Leto, Artemis and Apollo and the amphitheatre. Enjoy a local lunch before visiting Patara, located amidst sand dunes and by a long sandy beach. The city was conquered by Alexander the Great and St Paul stopped here on his way to Rome in AD 60. It was also the birthplace of St Nicholas. See the Grand Theatre and the ruins of the temples. *Please note that we may be at anchor today in which instance the vessel's Zodiacs will be used.*

Day 8 Aspendos & Perge. Over breakfast we will arrive in Antalya from where we explore the principal Roman ruins along Turkey's southern coast. We pass the modern city of Antalya en-route to the ancient city of Perge which dates back to 1000 BC and was founded by Mopsus and Calchas after their retreat from Troy. St Paul visited here on at least two occasions mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. See the Basilica of Perge, which played an important role in the spread of Christianity, the 2nd century AD stadium, the baths complex and two magnificent round towers of the Greek Gate. We drive further east for our visit of Aspendos, whose amphitheatre, built in the 2nd century AD is considered the best preserved in the Mediterranean. After a local lunch continue to Antalya to visit the excellent Archaeological Museum.

Day 9 Alanya & Side. On a morning excursion drive through the town, with views of the Taurus Mountains in the east, then towards Incekum along the Turkish Riviera to the west, where we pass citrus and banana plantations and visit Damlatas Cave which is a masterpiece of nature, known for its curative effect on asthma. Drive along the beautiful Turkish Riviera towards the ancient city of Side which was one of the leading Pamphylian cities on the south coast

of Anatolia. Visit the Grand Theatre, a perfect example of a Roman theatre built on vaults on flat land. Walk through the town, view the old harbour and see the remains of the Apollo Temple. From the MS Serenissima's central berth, you can enjoy a free afternoon and evening to explore the town of Alanya with its Medieval fort perched on a rocky peninsula.

Day 10 Tasucu. After a morning at sea we will arrive in Tasucu over lunch. We will drive to Silifke which was once ancient Seleucia founded between 296 and 280 BC by one of Alexander the Great's generals. After a short drive, we arrive at the underground church of Aya Tekla, founded by Thecla, a disciple of St Paul's teaching. We will drive back to the centre of Silifke for our visit of the Silifke Archaeological Museum which also has an ethnographic section. Continue along the shore to Corycos where, in 191 BC, the fleet of Antiochus the Great was defeated by the Romans. See the ancient tombs and view the castle of Kiz Kalesi from the shore.

Day 11 Mersin. Spend the morning in Mersin, the capital of Icel province which borrows its name from Myrtle, the evergreen vegetation which grows in the area. From here it is a short drive to Tarsus, the birthplace of St Paul which was an important part of the trade route to the interiors of Asia Minor. We will see the well dedicated to St Paul and the church built in 1862 to his name. Walk through the narrow streets of old Tarsus with typical stone and wooden built houses, see the Roman road in the north of the city and visit the Tarsus Museum where we see the relics from Gozlukule excavations. We end at the Ulu Mosque and Makami-Sherif Mosque, both converted from ancient churches. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 12 Larnaca, Cyprus to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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	£5195	£4995
3	Classic Stateroom	£5495	£5295
4	Superior Stateroom	£5795	£5595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5995	£5795
6	Junior Suite	£6395	£6195
7	Owner's Suite	£6695	£6495
8	Serenissima Suite	£6995	£6795
10	Standard Single	£5395	£5195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 11 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 including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

PRE-CRUISE ISTANBUL EXTENSION

22nd to 25th March 2020



Blue Mosque

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to the Marmara Pera Hotel for our three night stay. Meet tonight for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 2 Sultanahmet. After breakfast at the hotel we start our exploration of Istanbul at the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire and the site of speeches, chariot races, and riots. Next, visit the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica, later an imperial mosque and today a museum. Known for its massive domed roof and colourful mosaics, this structure is widely regarded as the world's finest example of Byzantine architecture. A short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent covered cisterns in Istanbul. Lunch is taken at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel where the remainder of the afternoon and evening is at leisure.

Day 3 Istanbul. This morning venture into Istanbul's famous Spice Market to enjoy the sounds and smells before making our way to the Rustem Pasha Mosque. After our visit we will take a cruise on the Bosphorous. Heading north and following the European shore we will pass Dolmabahce and Yildiz Palaces and sail as far as the Rumeli Fortress before crossing to the Asian side and returning past Beylerbeyi Palace. Return to the hotel for a free afternoon before we meet for dinner tonight.



Istanbul Spice Market

Day 4 Istanbul. Take some time to explore independently or relax in the hotel before we check out in the late morning. We will visit a restaurant for lunch before continuing to the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Since 1924 it has been preserved as a museum, and it is noted for its beautiful shaded courtyards and elegant architecture. In the late afternoon we will transfer to the MS Serenissima for embarkation.

Prices per person based on double occupancy

Superior Sea View Room	£695
Superior Sea View Room for sole use	£895

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation in a sea view room at the Marmara Pera Hotel in Istanbul on a bed and breakfast basis, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, excursions, gratuities, lunch on days 2 & 4, dinner on days 1 & 3.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Turkish visa.

POST-CRUISE CYPRUS EXTENSION

5th to 8th April 2020



Ancient Kourion

The Itinerary

Day 1 Larnaca to Limassol. Disembark this morning and drive to Limassol. Here we will see the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus, where Apollo was worshipped as God of the Woodlands. We will continue to the ruins of Kourion, a city built in 1200 BC. Of particular interest are the public baths, the necropolis, the Fountain House, House of Gladiators and House of Achilles. The most spectacular site at Kourion is the Greco-Roman Theatre that has been completely restored and is used today for open-air musical and theatrical performances. We will also visit Kolossi Castle, which was built in the 15th century on the ruins of a former fortress dated to the beginning of the 13th century. After lunch we will transfer to the Mediterranean Hotel for check in. The remainder of the day is free to relax or explore independently before dinner is served in the hotel this evening.

Day 2 Limassol. Spend the day at leisure to enjoy the facilities of the hotel or take the local bus into Limassol town centre. Alternately, a short walk from the hotel will take you to the impressive remains of the archaeological site of Amathus, one of the ancient royal cities of Cyprus until about 300 BC. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Paphos. We will depart for our guided excursion after breakfast and make a brief stop at the most famous landmark in Cyprus - Aphrodite's Rock, the birthplace of the Goddess of Love and Beauty. We continue to Saint Neophytos Monastery, founded by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neophytos, which is built in what used to be a secluded location at the head of a picturesque valley. Continue to Paphos where we will visit the 13th century Chrysopolitissa Church which is shared by the Anglican and Catholic congregation, who hold regular services at the invitation of the local Orthodox priest. Saint Paul visited Paphos in 45 AD in an attempt to convert the ruler of the time to Christianity. He was successful in his efforts, but not before being tied and whipped to an otherwise unremarkable lump of stone, the Pillar of Saint Paul which we will see during our visit. After lunch and some free time in the picturesque fishing harbour of Paphos, we continue to the archaeological park, known as the House of Dionysos with the fabulously preserved mosaics which date back to the 2nd century AD and the Tombs of the Kings. Return to the hotel to relax before meeting for dinner tonight.

Day 4 Larnaca to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Prices per person based on double occupancy

Deluxe Sea View Room	£525
Deluxe Sea View Room for sole use	£975

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation in a sea view room at the Mediterranean Hotel in Limassol on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner daily), Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, excursions, gratuities, lunch on days 1 & 3.

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

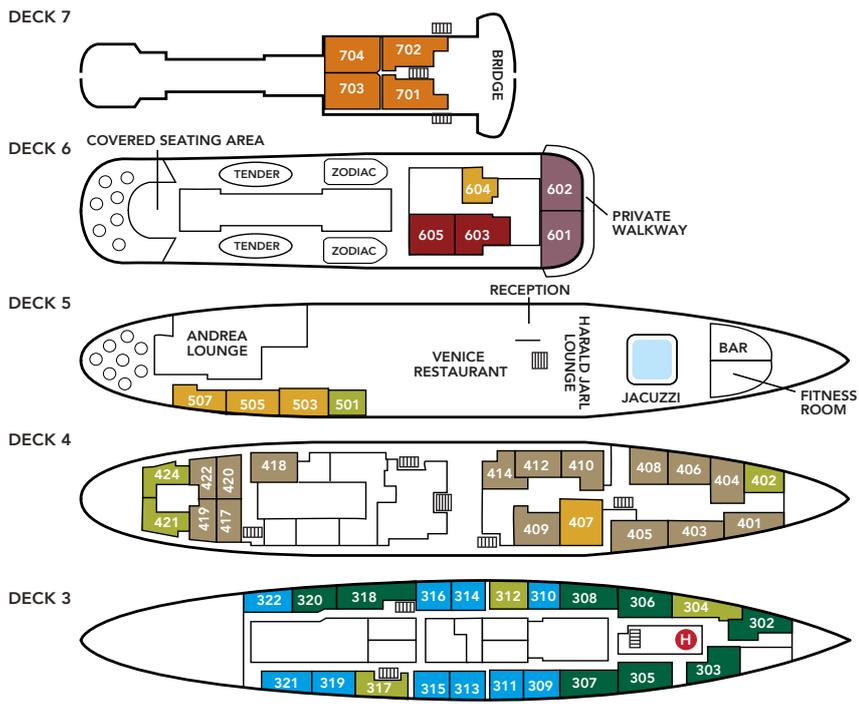
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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

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)



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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: Library of Celsus in Ephesus