

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

ISLAND HOPPING IN THE
AZORES

A 12 NIGHT VOYAGE AROUND THE AZORES
ARCHIPELAGO ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

11TH TO 23RD APRIL 2019



Far out in the Atlantic, some 800 miles from the Portuguese coast, the nine islands of the Azores are known for their spectacular volcanic scenery, abundant flora and peaceful lifestyle. But, the appeal of this remote and unsophisticated archipelago is difficult to define in words. If you appreciate dramatic scenery, exploring islands where time appears to be standing still, watching for passing whales and learning about the local people and their customs, then this could be the voyage for you. The islands are also perfect for walking enthusiasts with paths through verdant mountain landscapes and we have included some hiking opportunities which, weather permitting, will be a joy for the keen walkers in our group.

What to Expect

Below are some extracts from a previous voyage in this region which will provide you with an idea of what to expect should you choose to join our Azorean adventure;



16th April - Graciosa Island

A new day, a new island to explore! This morning we docked at the harbour of Praia at Graciosa Island, the second smallest island in the archipelago and the most northern of the central group. We spent the morning on a tour taking in the highlights of the island. One of our stops was the largest town on the island, Santa Cruz, where we walked around the beautifully paved town square. This town hosts the only airport on the island and it is located very centrally in town, leading to plane-spotting becoming a popular pastime for the residents! We also visited the 1930s lighthouse known for great views over the Ponta da Barca, a rock that looks somewhat like a giant whale rising above the surface of the sea; the waves crashing around

the whale's belly actually making it look rather realistic. The highlight of our tour however was a visit to the Forna do Enxofre – the sulphur caves. Located on the southern part of the island and officially open to the public since 1939, these caves are now a popular tourist attraction. Those who descended the 184 steps leading from the visitors centre into the caves were rewarded with a stunning view of the volcanic cavern with its domed ceiling covered in lava stalactites. After lunch on board we set out to explore the harbour and coastline by sea. Despite the wind and the squalls we had a good turnout of well-dressed Zodiac riders proving true the saying that there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing! In fact the sun broke through the clouds with perfect timing, and under the protection of the tall cliffs we had lovely conditions to cruise, the layers of volcanic ash and lava making interesting viewing. As we were returning to the ship the Zodiacs were surrounded by hundreds of Cory's shearwaters effortlessly and beautifully gliding on the waves.

21st April - Terceira Island

Terceira Island where we docked this morning is known as a dynamic island and is the second most inhabited in the archipelago. The sun was out and we enjoyed nice views of the pretty town of Angra do Heroísmo from the open decks. Today we were not going to use buses to get around, but instead take off on a walking tour since we were docked conveniently right in town. Angra do Heroísmo is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and it is easy to understand why. Walking around the colonial style town centre

is a bit like being transported back in time. The beautiful cobbled streets, the large colourful houses and palaces, the forts – all this speaks of a time when Angra was a force to be reckoned with as the central hub for trade ships heading to and from Americas as well as along the coast of Africa. It also played a large part in the Liberal Wars and was, until Ponta Delgada took over the capital of the Azores, and even at one point in the 1830s, the capital of the whole of Portugal! Today the city has lost its economic and political prowess, but the feeling is still very much there and the town was a delight to walk around, our guides as always giving us wonderful interpretation of what we were seeing. Our groups went different ways but regrouped briefly for a coffee and cake stop at one of the oldest bakeries in town before setting off again in different directions. After lunch on board the afternoon was spent at leisure, strolling around town or having a coffee at the many cafes or relaxing on the ship.





The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS *Serenissima* for embarkation. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Santa Maria. Today's planned itinerary includes visits to the remote settlements of Sao Laurencio and Maia, known for vineyards which rise steeply up high sea cliffs in terraces. This coastline is accentuated by a dramatic waterfall, lava tube caves, seabirds and marine life. Time and conditions permitting, the MS *Serenissima* will continue its circumnavigation of Santa Maria and cruise around the Formigas (or Ant Islands).

Day 3 Terceira. This morning explore Angra do Heroismo, a charming UNESCO heritage town with a distinct Mediterranean flavour of cobblestone streets with a certain quiet charm. Enjoy a walking tour that takes in the Misericordia church, Convent do Sao Francisco, public gardens and museum. In the afternoon there will be free time to hike to Monte Brasil, offering wonderful views over the island, or alternatively relax and wander the historic town at your own pace.

Day 4 Graciosa. Known as the 'White Island', Graciosa has a gentle rolling landscape, dotted with windmills and traditional whitewashed houses. Visit Furna do Enxofre ('Cave of Sulphur'), a geologically unique phenomenon and one of the original examples of the volcanic Azores, and take the winding stairway down to the magnificent volcanic cavern and lake. Also see the village of Santa Cruz and the charming Matrix church. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the small town of Vila da Praia.

Day 5 Flores & Corvo. Named after its abundant flora, Flores is often regarded as the prettiest of the Azores. A rugged terrain island with flowers growing in the deep canyons and waterfalls casting hues of blues and green as they splash down to the sea. Visit the vertical basalt cliffs of Rocha do Bordo, formed by the cooling of lava. See a stunning array of natural features including calderas, fajãs, rivers, waterfalls and valleys. This afternoon we will use our small ship to circumnavigate the tiny island of Corvo, the smallest island in the archipelago. If weather and sea conditions permit, we will try and make a landing by Zodiac and

enjoy the peace of the island with walks in the small community or to the caldera.

Day 6 Sao Jorge. This largely rural island is of geographical interest with its cliff shoreline marked with flat fajãs sweeping to the sea. We start our full day tour on the western part of the Island, Ponta dos Rosais, visiting a Forest Park and cheese factory. As we move to the north we enjoy the view over the Fajãs, an area of flat land at sea level resulting from the erosion of cliffs. As we make our way to the south side towards Calheta we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant before continuing on to Urzelina to visit the remaining tower of a church buried under lava from the eruption of 1808. Now it is surrounded by fruit trees and vegetation. Upon our return to Velas we will take a walking tour of this charming old-world harbour town.

Day 7 Pico. Explore distinctive Pico, home to Portugal's highest peak and numerous black lava flows. The UNESCO-designated Lajido Acros tells the story of early winemakers who used the volcanic soil for the grapes and, on a visit to a vineyard, we will enjoy a tasting of the local product. After a typical Azorean lunch we will learn about whaling life in the Azores at the Museum of Lajes returning to the ship via the Lagoa do Capitao offering views over the north of the island.

Day 8 Faial. Our day begins with an island drive where we explore the fairly recent volcanic activity at Ponta dos Capelinhos. See how a 1957-1958 volcanic eruption

transformed the area and created a new land mass. Continue to the impressive Caldera, now a nature reserve, which is 400 metres deep and nearly 1500 metres in diameter. As we return to the ship we will see the botanical gardens which are devoted to the endemic plants of the Azores. Alternatively, if weather permits, we will arrange to hike the Caldera. This afternoon we enjoy a walking tour of Horta.

Day 9 Sao Miguel. Enjoy a full day exploring the island of Sao Miguel, known as Ilha Verde, the green island and home to some of the most stunning viewpoints in the Azores. This morning we head west towards the Sete Cidades volcano from where we can enjoy excellent views over the Lagos de Canarios. We will continue our drive along the attractive northern coast before arriving in the Furnas Valley, an enormous valley and luxuriant garden in the east of the island where we enjoy lunch. We will also visit the village of Furnas and the botanical gardens before returning to the ship and sailing this evening. For the keen hikers, if weather permits, we will arrange to walk the 13 kilometre trail in Sete Cidades.

Days 10 & 11 At sea. Join the lecture programme, find a spot on deck to watch for wildlife or enjoy a book in the library.

Day 12 Lisbon. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century. It is a city famous for its majestic architecture, old wooden trams, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries



Tower of Belem, Lisbon



Terceira



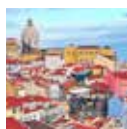
Sao Miguel

of history. Following disastrous earthquakes in the 18th century, Lisbon was rebuilt by the Marques de Pombal who created an elegant city with wide boulevards and a great riverfront and square, Praca do Comercio. Today there are distinct modern and ancient sections, combining great shopping areas with culture and sightseeing in the Old Town, built on the city's terraced hillsides. During your tour enjoy an informative commentary on a relaxing drive through the town seeing the Monument to the Discoveries and Belem Tower as well as the famous Jeronimos Monastery. Enjoy dinner on board as we moor overnight

Day 13 Lisbon to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Lisbon Post-Cruise Extension 23rd to 25th April 2019



If you would like to spend some time to explore Lisbon after disembarking the MS Serenissima, we are offering a two night independent stay at a centrally located hotel. Our extension includes breakfast daily and a transfer from the ship to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£375**; Single: **£495**

NB: Minimum numbers apply.

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	£4995	£4695
3	Classic Stateroom	£5295	£4995
4	Superior Stateroom	£5495	£5195
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5895	£5595
6	Junior Suite	£6295	£5995
7	Owner's Suite	£6995	£6695
8	Serenissima Suite	£7495	£7195
10	Standard Single	£4995	£4695

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 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.

NB: The ship will be at anchor in Corvo on day 5 and, weather and conditions permitting, the ship's Zodiacs will be used to land there.

Windmill, Pico



Morro Grande stone tower Sao Jorge



MS SERENISSIMA

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 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.



Restaurant



Harald 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 with a computer for internet access 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

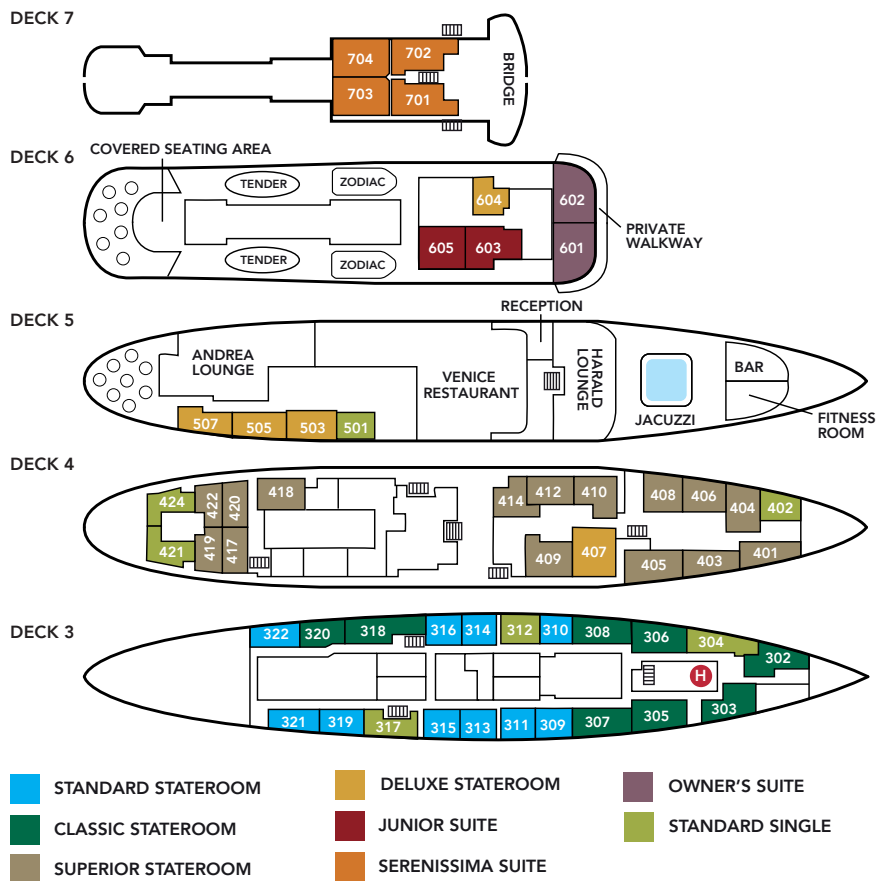
vintage, providing intimacy and classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

Your Dining

The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting. Being on deck 5, it has great views from all tables. The picture windows mean the restaurant is light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order by the ship's accomplished chef. Lunch is also served buffet-style with hot and cold dishes available. Dinner is served a la carte and is four courses, except for at the Captain's Dinner, which is a six course affair. Where possible, local produce is sourced for an authentic dining experience. A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are included at lunch and dinner. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee is available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.



Deck Plan & Cabins



OWNER'S SUITE
(approx. 22 square metres)



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(approx. 25 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(approx. 15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(approx. 11.5 to 18 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(approx. 21 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(approx. 10 to 11.5 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(approx. 7 to 12.5 square metres)



CLASSIC STATEROOM
(approx. 14 to 19 square metres)



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