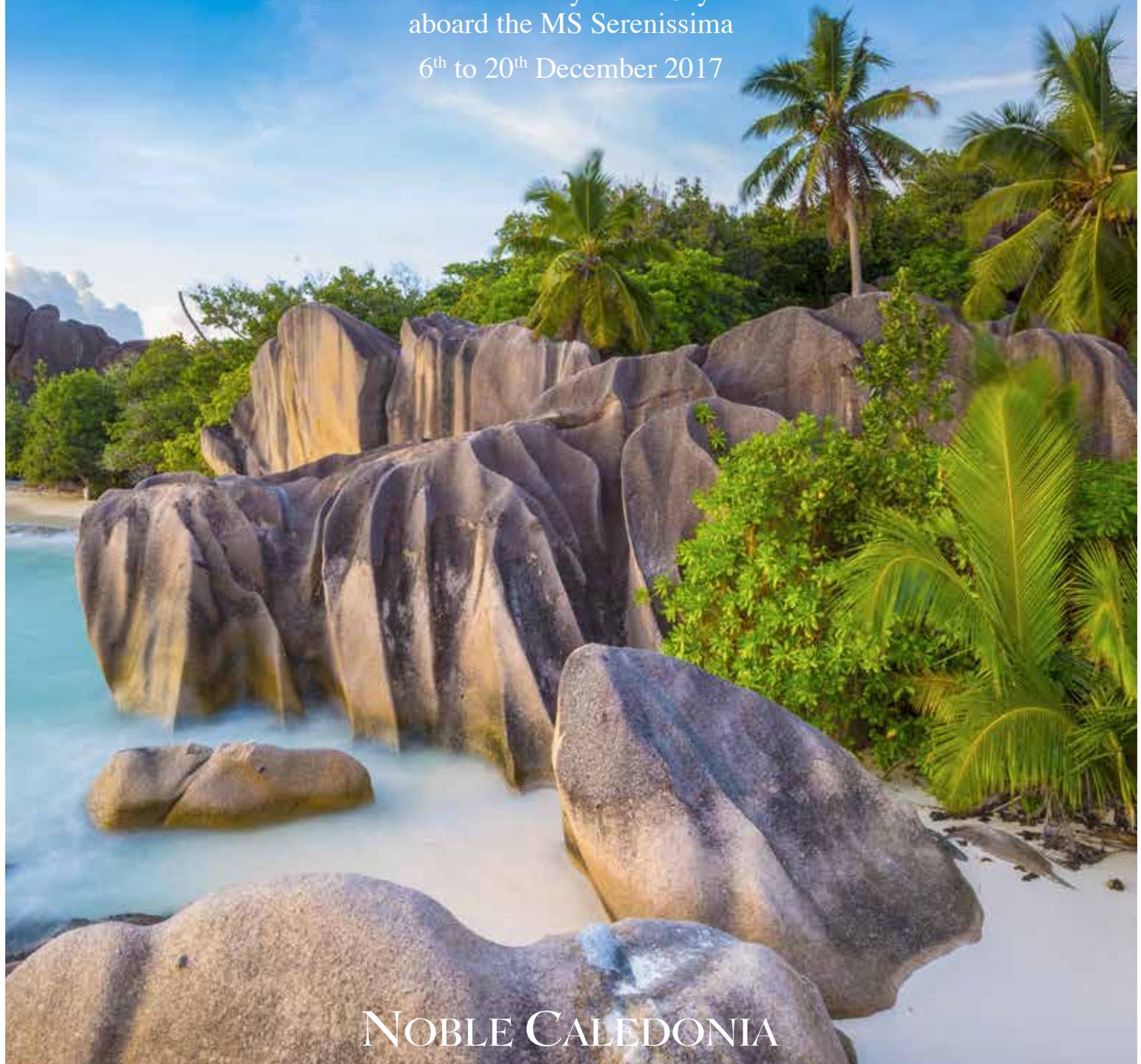


LAUNCH
OFFER - SAVE
UP TO
£500
PER PERSON

Island Hopping through the Seychelles

Discover the beauty of the Seychelles
aboard the MS Serenissima
6th to 20th December 2017



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Aldabra Atoll

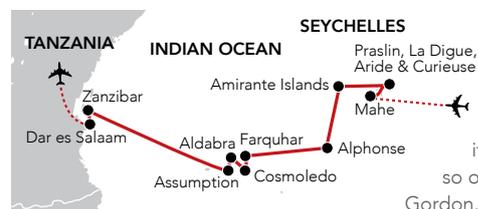


Vallee de Mai, Praslin

The islands of the Seychelles are some of the most captivating tropical islands in the world. Spread out over a vast chunk of the Indian Ocean they offer everything from quiet sophistication and enchanting scenery to wild, remote and uninhabited nature reserves. It is an area quite unlike anywhere else, where the very remoteness of the islands, has protected them from the worst excesses of mankind.

Our journey will include all aspects of this extraordinary island nation from the developed Inner Seychelles with such staggeringly beautiful islands as Praslin, La Digue and Aride to the less known and rarely visited Outer Seychelles. Here we will sail all the way to Aldabra, the world's largest coral atoll and a World Heritage site. Being one of the most difficult places in the world to access and having a lack of freshwater has saved Aldabra from any tourism development and only small vessels like the MS Serenissima are allowed to visit. It is therefore a great privilege to be able to land on the untouched beaches of Aldabra, the breeding ground for thousands of giant tortoise and home to some of the rarest birds in the Indian Ocean. To explore the abundant crystal clear waters of the vast lagoon and to set foot on atolls which have never been exploited by the hand of man is a rare experience.

The difficulty in describing a voyage through the islands of the Seychelles is the real danger of using language which may be taken for typically over-embroidered brochure writer's waffle. However, the fact remains that from the little-visited Aldabra and Amirantes group to the relative sophistication of Praslin and Mahe, these islands offer the visitor a tropical beauty that is difficult, if not impossible to match anywhere else in the world. Those who have sailed with us over the last 25 years through these extraordinary waters have experienced the magic of dropping anchor off a remote atoll at first light and watched the dawn illuminate the watery horizon. Then, as the sun rises, have ventured ashore by Zodiac, landing on a deserted beach to discover the rich bird and marine life, the exotic flora and nature reserves.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Mahe, Seychelles. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mahe. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima in Victoria. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 3 La Digue & Praslin. At first light we sail the short distance to La Digue where huge granite boulders lie like giant sculptures on the brilliant white beaches of the island. We will tour the forested nature reserve and the L'Union Estate, a superbly restored 19th century colonial house. Rent a bicycle, relax or swim and snorkel from one of the beaches. Over lunch we sail to Praslin to explore the 'Vallee de Mai', the last remnant of the original high canopied Seychelles palm forest and home to the coco de mer. We will walk its paths looking out for the rare black parrot and enjoying

its natural beauty which so overpowered General Gordon. Return to the ship for dinner as we remain at anchor overnight.

Day 4 Aride & Curieuse. Sail in the early morning to Aride, one of the finest and most important seabird islands in the Indian Ocean. Over one million seabirds breed on the island including tropical shearwater and roseate tern and also five species unique to the Seychelles such as the Seychelles warbler and Seychelles magpie robin. We will enjoy a walk on the island amongst the native woodland. During lunch on board we will sail over to Curieuse, a rugged island which was once home to a leper colony and now houses an eco-museum and visitors centre. The island is an important nesting site for Hawksbill turtles and boasts endemic vine and mangroves which we explore on an island walk.

Day 5 Amirante Islands. Leaving the Inner Seychelles we arrive at the Amirante Group of Islands which were discovered by Vasco de Gama in 1501 and known



Aldabra - Zodiac cruise



Wild Flower, Seychelles



Green day gecko



Giant tortoise



Stone Town, Zanzibar



Seychelles Bulbul

to the early Indian and Arabian traders. The group consists of eleven islands and atolls and numerous cays. The islands are noted for white sandy beaches fringed by coconut trees inviting us to beachcomb, join a nature walk to spot the many waders and magnificent frigate birds or snorkel amongst the reefs. We have a full day to explore and our final itinerary will be decided by the Captain and Expedition Leader.

Day 6 Alphonse Islands. Directly south of the Amirantes, the Alphonse group consists of two neighbouring atolls. As we approach the islands in the early morning you will understand why they are regarded as some of the most beautiful in the Seychelles Archipelago. Step ashore onto a pristine coral sand beach and explore with our expedition team who will offer a choice of walks to suit all tastes or snorkel and swim in the inner reef. After lunch we continue our journey south – relax on deck or listen to some of the enlightening talks by our expedition team.

Day 7 Farquhar Islands. This morning we will anchor off the Farquhar group and take our Zodiacs through the reef to the sparkling inner lagoon which is fringed by atolls and coconut and casuarina trees. Maybe spot the red-footed boobies and look out for the many species of migratory birds that rest on the island. We hope to offer the chance to snorkel or just paddle in the shallow, warm water. There may be also the option to explore the island's past and wander around the settlement which once housed a thriving copra industry. Return to MS Serenissima and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea as we

continue our journey amongst the outer Seychelles islands.

Days 8 to 11 Aldabra Islands. We have three and a half days to enjoy the Aldabra group of islands and our itinerary will be in the hands of our Expedition Leader and Captain who will monitor the local conditions to ensure we maximize our time here. Whilst our itinerary will be kept flexible we hope to make a call at Cosmoledo where a huge ring of twelve islands circle a lagoon. Many of the atolls are still to be surveyed and we will explore some of them by Zodiac. This is an important bird area with all three species of booby found in the Seychelles including the last breeding site for the brown booby. We may also spot sooty terns and great frigate birds, green turtles, skinks and the Madagascar banded lizard. We will then spend time on Aldabra which is unique and every time we call at what is believed to be the world's largest atoll we find something new of interest. Sightings have been made of the extremely rare white throated rail and the atoll is also home to the world's second largest colony of frigate birds and to the largest crab, the coconut crab. Whilst exploring by Zodiac it is difficult to know in which direction to look. The clear blue seas abound with colourful life, the skies are alive with varied birdlife and ashore giant land tortoises forage as they have done for millions of years. We will explore Picard Island with a short walk to see some of the thousands of tortoises and numerous robber crabs. We will include as much as possible with our time on Aldabra and hope to make landings on South Island and enjoy trips into the lagoon, a vast 17 mile stretch of shallow clear water. From our Zodiacs we can

watch the ever-changing undersea world and snorkel in colourful coral waters teeming with marine life. Our last call will be the island of Assumption where we will spend time beachcombing, on a nature walk or snorkelling before we clear Seychelles customs and immigration and start our journey to Zanzibar.

Day 12 At sea. Enjoy a relaxing day at sea. Maybe join one of the lectures or spend time on deck looking for wildlife.

Day 13 Zanzibar, Tanzania. Here the colourful harbour will be crowded with dhows, very much setting the scene for our visit to the Arab style city with its long narrow streets, bazaars, houses with overhanging balconies and intricately carved doorways. Out of town there are magnificent brilliant white sandy beaches and lush vegetation with plantations of cloves, cinnamon, vanilla and

nutmeg which fill the air with heady aromas. On a morning tour, soak up the timeless atmosphere of Stone Town including Livingstone House, Sultan's Palace, the slave market and the old Fort. The afternoon is free to relax and explore independently or join a tour to a spice farm to experience the various fruits and spices cultivated on the island where you will find everything from jackfruit to coconuts, turmeric and vanilla to lipstick trees.

Day 14 Dar es Salaam to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 15 London. Arrive this morning.

Please note: The final itinerary for several island groups will be decided by the Captain and Expedition leader depending on local conditions and permissions that are subject to change.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

LAUNCH OFFER - SAVE UP TO £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Launch Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£6595	£6295
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£6795	£6495
4	Superior Stateroom	£6995	£6695
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7495	£7195
6	Junior Suite	£7595	£7495
7	Executive Suite	£8295	£8195
8	Owner's Suite	£8295	£8195
9	Inside Single	£5995	£5895
10	Standard Single	£6795	£6495
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£8795	£8495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£8995	£8695

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 expedition team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

Post-Cruise Selous Safari Extension - 19th to 23rd December 2017



After disembarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a three-night extension to the Selous Game Reserve which lies 200 kilometres west of Dar es Salaam. At 55,000 square kilometres, Selous is four times larger than the famous Serengeti in the north and the reserve is home to over 1,000,000 large animals and over half of Tanzania's elephant population. However, one of the major attractions has to be the mighty Rufiji river, home to one of the largest crocodile and hippo populations in Africa, swarming with fish which in turn bring about some of the world's best water birding. The river has also formed several large lakes on its northern bank, navigable by boat and Siwandu Camp is situated on one of these lakes, sheltered in a grove of one of Selous' many beautiful palm forests. Our stay coincides with the perfect season for bird and plant lovers, flowers will be in abundance and the deciduous trees are starting new growth. It is also the main reproductive time of year so a good time for seeing young animals.

Siwandu Camp

For our exploration of the Selous Game Reserve, we will be staying at Siwandu Camp which is situated on the banks of Lake Nzerakera and designed to blend in with the spectacular natural scenery in what is one of the most photogenic areas of the Selous Game Reserve. All safari tents are widely spaced along the lake shore ensuring maximum privacy and wonderful views. Each tent sits atop its own raised timber platform with two large verandas on either side where one can sit with a cup of tea in the morning watching the bush come to life at sunrise, or nursing a gin and tonic as the bush gets ready for the night at sunset. There are no fences and no artificial modifications to the natural fauna and so animals wander freely through the camp. The spacious tents are luxuriously appointed, with en-suite bathrooms and open air hot-water showers. Ceiling fans are present in all the rooms situated above the king sizes beds. The camp has its own swimming pool, enabling guests to cool off in the heat of the day. There is a wellstocked bar and dining area, and chefs produce the finest cuisine. Table d'hote dining makes the most of African influences and local fresh fruit, vegetables and spices. All meals are complimented by a good wine selection. The dining area and bar areas are raised on viewing platforms, with large comfortable sofas and a wildlife reference library.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Dar es Salaam to Selous.

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our 45 minute scheduled flight to Mtemere Airstrip in the Selous Game Reserve. On arrival transfer to the Siwandu Camp and this afternoon enjoy your first game experience with a boat safari on the Rufiji River or on a nearby lake. This evening enjoy dinner at the camp.

Days 2 & 3 Siwandu Camp, Selous Game Reserve. Enjoy two full days in the Reserve with included game drives each day. Maybe enjoy a full day game viewing in Selous Game Reserve with a picnic lunch or a half day walking safari through the bush

with a ranger. Alternatively join another boat safari or simply relax in your tent. In the evening enjoy a delicious dinner at the camp.

Day 4 Selous to London. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and a final

safari option before transferring to the airstrip for your flight to Dar es Salaam where we connect with our onward scheduled flight to London.

Day 5 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2325** Single: **£2995**

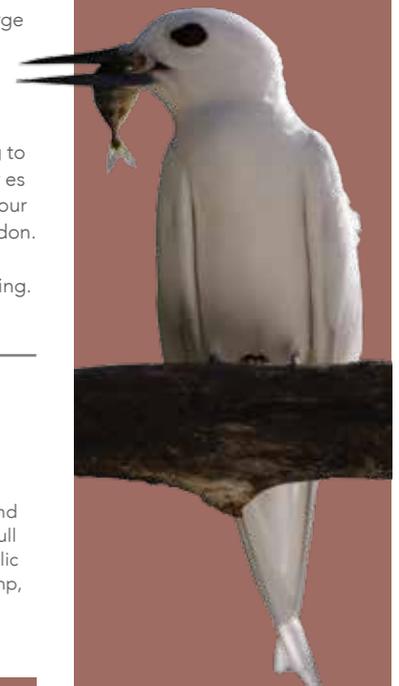
Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel between Dar es Salaam and Selous Game Reserve, three nights accommodation at Siwandu Camp on a full board basis including all soft drinks, tea and coffee and non-premium alcoholic drinks, Selous National Park entry fees and permit fees, excursions at the camp, taxes, transfers.

Not included: Travel insurance, visas, gratuities.

“

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MS Serenissima

After a thorough renovation and upgrading, the charming, 100-passenger MS Serenissima commenced cruise operations in April 2013 and we have chartered her for the majority of each year since knowing her to be perfect for small ship cruising. 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 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. The outside areas are something special with a spacious observation deck allowing for 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with fitness room, Jacuzzi and outside bar. The covered seating area at the back of deck 6 is ideal for relaxing with a drink in hand.



Harald Lounge

Cabins & Suites

Accommodating no more than 100 passengers, the cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully

air conditioned with an ensuite bathroom with shower, sink, toilet, a selection of toiletries including shower gel, soaps, shampoo and conditioner, 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. There are ten different grades of cabin arranged over five decks, and with the exception of the three inside cabins, all staterooms 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. Choose from the cosy inside cabins of approx 10 square metres, to the sumptuous newly built executive suites of 25 square metres boasting private balconies and minibar.

Your Dining

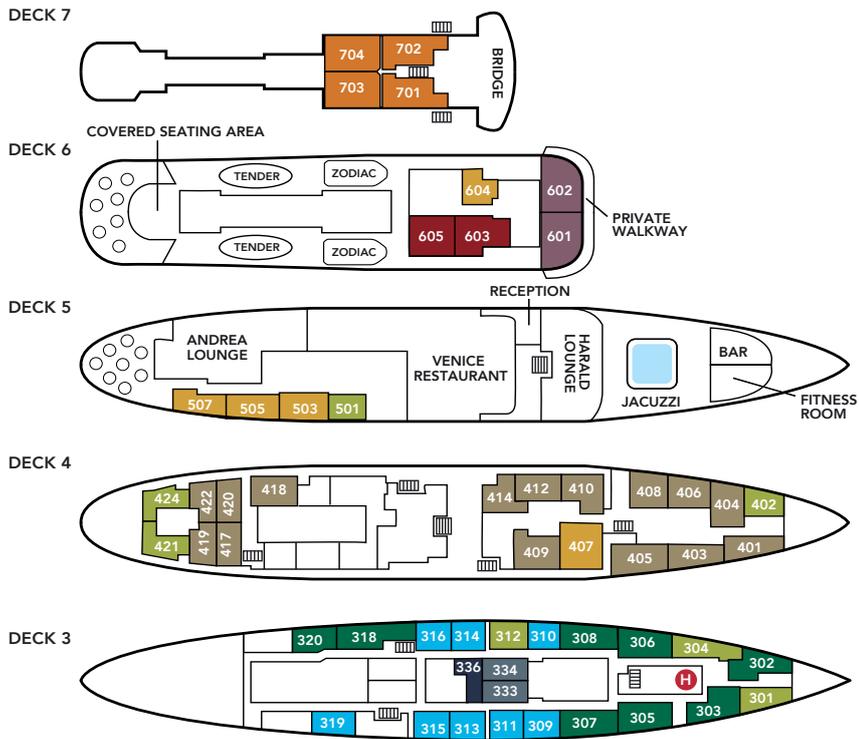
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting. Being on deck 5, it has great views from all tables. The picture windows mean the restaurant is light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order by the ship's accomplished chef. Lunch 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. In addition, there are al fresco dining facilities available in good weather.



A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are included at lunch and dinner. Tea and coffee are served around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.



This cruise visits out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and some landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Cruises such as this will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



- INSIDE TWIN/DOUBLE
- STANDARD STATEROOM
- STANDARD STATEROOM PLUS
- SUPERIOR STATEROOM
- DELUXE STATEROOM
- JUNIOR SUITE
- EXECUTIVE SUITE
- OWNER'S SUITE
- INSIDE SINGLE
- STANDARD SINGLE



OWNER'S SUITE
(approx. 22 square metres)



EXECUTIVE SUITE
(approx. 25 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(approx. 21 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(approx. 15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(approx. 11.5 to 18 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM PLUS
(approx. 14 to 19 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(approx. 10 to 11.5 square metres)



INSIDE TWIN/DOUBLE
(approx. 10 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(approx. 7 to 12.5 square metres)

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