

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

PASSAGE THROUGH ANTIQUITY

A voyage of discovery visiting Jordan, Egypt, Israel & Cyprus
aboard the MS Serenissima
with Guest Speaker Ernie Rea

1st to 17th March 2020

Join us in spring 2020 on a passage through antiquity, an incomparable journey which includes a wealth of sites including biblical landmarks, Crusader castles, Egyptian temples and tombs as well as the magnificent Nabatean city of Petra. We have planned the journey for March when temperatures will be pleasant for exploring and with the aid of our knowledgeable local guides and excellent Guest Speaker, we will learn of some fascinating civilisations.

Our itinerary begins with a six day land tour of Jordan during which time we will stay in five star hotels. From the mystical Dead Sea to the grandeur of Petra and the desert sands of Wadi Rum, Jordan is steeped in history and awe inspiring beauty. Petra, a city set deep in the Edom mountains and lost to Western 'civilisation' for hundreds of years was hewn directly from the rock by the Nabateans and is an amazing feat of engineering and construction. As you explore this vast and complex city, whose wealth came from its proximity to the ancient Middle East trade routes, you cannot help but be impressed by the industry and sophistication of this ancient civilisation. Whilst in Jordan, we also visit Bethany, the site where John the Baptist met and baptised Jesus Christ, and spend some time in Aqaba before embarking the MS Serenissima.

Our journey continues as we sail through the Gulf of Aqaba to Egypt where we explore some of the great monuments of the Pharaohs, the divine kings of thirty dynasties who ruled Egypt for some thirty-five centuries. See the great temples of Karnak, the Valley of the Kings, the Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx and spend some time in Cairo's magnificent Egyptian Museum. Following a transit of the Suez Canal, one of the world's greatest feats of civil engineering, we then have four days in Israel to explore an extraordinary collection of both classical and Biblical sites before our voyage ends in the Cypriot port of Limassol.



Guest Speaker – Ernie Rea



Ernie Rea is a celebrated British broadcaster who specialises in the history of religions and the way that they impact on the ancient and modern worlds. His regular national radio programme, Beyond Belief, was awarded the prestigious Sony Gold Award for the Best Speech Programme on British Radio. He worked for the BBC for 22 years in a variety of production and editorial roles. From 1989-2001 he was Head of Religious Broadcasting

for the BBC, responsible for all their religious radio and television output, nationally and locally. In 1997 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the International Council for Christians and Jews for his outstanding contribution to Inter Faith Understanding.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Amman, Jordan. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Amman this evening and transfer to the Movenpick Resort (or similar) in the Dead Sea area, our base for the next two nights.

Day 2 Dead Sea & Bethany. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel and a leisurely morning. You may wish to swim or float in the Dead Sea which, at 423 metres below sea level is the lowest spot on earth. The high salt content prevents the existence of any life forms but is also believed to provide healing properties with the mud on the seabed being rich in minerals. After lunch in the hotel restaurant we will drive to Bethany, the site where John the Baptist met and baptised Jesus Christ. The excavations conducted at Bethany in Jordan have uncovered a 1st century AD settlement with plastered pools and water systems that were used almost certainly for mass baptisms, and a 6th century Byzantine settlement with churches, a monastery and other structures most probably catering to religious pilgrims. This evening we will meet for dinner at the hotel.

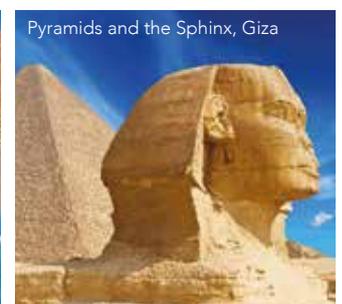
Day 3 Kerak & Little Petra. This morning we drive southward along the Dead Sea shore before heading to the imposing Crusader stronghold of Kerak where we visit the fortified castle which was built in AD 1142 and had witnessed many battles between the Crusaders and Saladin's Muslim armies. See the network of the dimly lit vaulted rooms and long winding corridors, which lead into each other through heavy arches and

doorways. After our visit we continue our journey south to the rose-red city of Petra. On the way we will stop at the spectacular site of Little Petra, where a modest gorge (Siq el-Barid) leads into the area of carved tombs and monuments. See the Painted Cave which is believed to have been a shelter for a sect focused on Dionysus, the ancient Greek god of wine, as it contains remains of Greek-style plaster artwork, quite unique for Petra, displaying tangled vines and flowers with brightly coloured birds and cupid-like figures. A kilometre further to the southwest of Siq el-Barid is one of the region's most important archaeological sites, the 6800 BC Neolithic village of Beidha which was inhabited, long before the Nabateans, by the New Stone Age people where over 60 stone-built structures have been discovered among the ruins of this early farming community. After our visit we continue to our hotel where we enjoy dinner this evening.

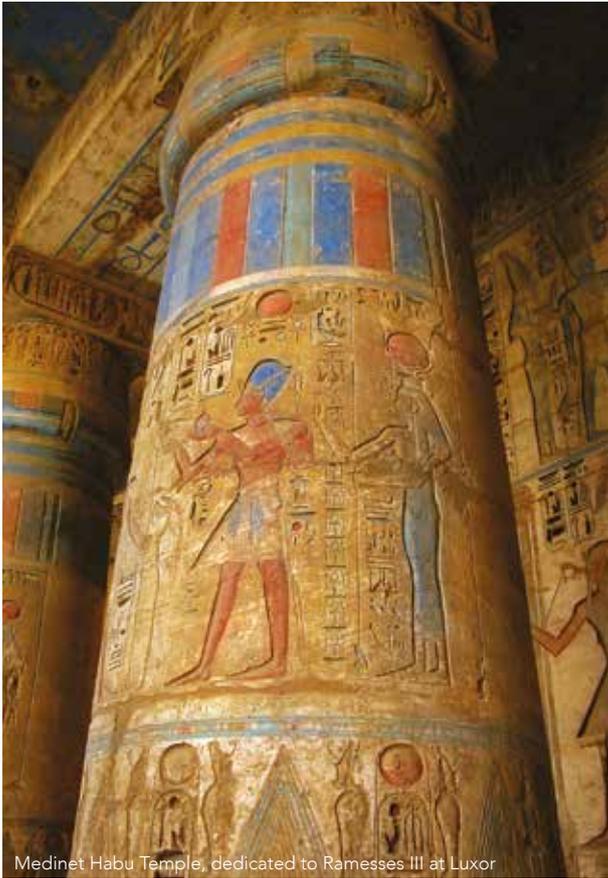
Day 4 Petra. After breakfast in the hotel we will explore the breathtaking Nabatean city of Petra which was carved out of the rose-red sandstone about 2000 years ago and has been voted as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Walk past the Obelisk Tomb and then through the Siq, the narrow 1.2 kilometre gorge that leads to Petra's most impressive monument, the Treasury which was carved out of the pale reddish sandstone in the 1st century BC. Pass by the dozens of classical Nabatean ruins and tombs known as the Street of Facades, the remarkable 3000 seat Theatre, the Royal Tombs, the Colonnaded Street, the Byzantine Church, the Temple, the Monumental Arch and the mighty Qasr el-Bint Faroun. After lunch amidst the ruins of Petra you will have the option to return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure or stay and explore the



The Dead Sea



Pyramids and the Sphinx, Giza



Medinet Habu Temple, dedicated to Ramesses III at Luxor



Dome of the Rock and Temple Mount, Jerusalem



Wadi Rum



Ancient Kourion

site further independently. The active may choose to climb about 900 steps up to the large, 1st century AD monument known as the Monastery with its remarkable views over Wadi Araba. Meet tonight for dinner.

Day 5 Wadi Rum & Aqaba. This morning you can choose to relax in the hotel or return to Petra for a second half day visit and climb up to the High Place of Sacrifice, known as El-Madbah in Arabic, one of Petra's most important sacred sites, chosen as places of devotion and sacrifice. Animal offerings were made at the sacrificial altar, which has been carved flat, and drainage channels have been cut into the rock to allow the blood of sacrificial animals to drain away. Taking lunchboxes from the hotel we will drive to Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon where the desert landscape is mixed with awe-inspiring shapes to create an almost supernatural atmosphere. We will embark on an adventurous excursion by a Bedouin open top four-wheel drive vehicle. We begin at the visitor centre from where there is a view in the distance of the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, the famous landmark named after the book by T.E. Lawrence 'Lawrence of Arabia'. During our excursion we will also see the Alameleh inscriptions which are a good example of ancient rock drawings, Siq Um Al Tawaqi, a short canyon containing a carving of the head of T.E. Lawrence and ruins of Allat (Goddess) Temple of the AAD tribe. We will finish the excursion at the sunset site where there are dramatic views of Wadi Rum as the sun sinks below the horizon. At the camp we will enjoy dinner before driving to Aqaba and embarking the MS Serenissima.

Day 6 Aqaba. After a busy few days we will have a relaxing morning in Aqaba. For those keen to spend time in the Aqaba Marine Park containing fringing reefs, over 100 species of hard coral and many species of fish, we will base ourselves at one of the beaches from where you can enjoy swimming or snorkelling in the clear waters. Alternatively explore the town of Aqaba seeing the 16th century fort, originally built as part of the pilgrimage route to Mecca but later a vital location in the overthrow of the Ottomans and take time to walk through the bustling souk. Return to the ship for lunch and relax on board as we spend the afternoon sailing through the Gulf of Aqaba.

Day 7 Safaga for Luxor, Egypt. Arrive this morning in the Egyptian port of Safaga, our base for our overnight trip to Luxor. After clearing immigration formalities we will embark our coaches for the drive through the desert. Our first call will be on the West Bank, one of the most famous and important archaeological sites in the world. See the Valley of the Kings, burial ground of

the pharaohs for a period of 500 years. The tombs vividly depict the journey of the sun god and pharaoh through the dangers of the underworld. In the temple of Queen Hatshepsut you will discover scenes commemorating the reign of this exceptional monarch such as the ambitious voyage where she sent her ships on the Red Sea to the mysterious land of Punt. After our visit we transfer to our hotel in Luxor for some time to relax before meeting for dinner this evening.

Day 8 Luxor. After breakfast in the hotel we visit the temples of Karnak, one of the most memorable and popular historical areas to visit in the world. Here you will witness the unbelievably vast array of monuments dedicated to Amun-Ra, king of the gods, his wife Mut and their son Khonsu. Just two of the highlights you will see are the great hypostyle hall with over 130 columns some 22 metres high and the obelisk of the powerful queen pharaoh Hatshepsut. We will have some time to explore the souk. This afternoon we will board our coaches and return to the MS Serenissima in Safaga.

Day 9 At Sea. Spend the day on board as we sail through the Red Sea and Gulf of Suez. Join one of the lectures or find a spot on deck as we sail to Sokhna where we arrive this evening and moor overnight.

Day 10 Sokhna for Cairo. Today is a full day tour dedicated to the capital city of Cairo. We visit the impressive Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, the only survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the tombs of the great Pharaohs and their queens. After lunch we visit the Egyptian Museum with 107 halls that are separated into seven sections. The museum houses statues, jewels and treasures of Tutankhamun. We will visit the Amarna Room and see the Fayoum portraits and monuments from the later periods from the Greeks and the Romans. Return to the MS Serenissima for dinner this evening.

Day 11 Suez Canal Transit. Departing Suez at dawn we begin the day-long transit of the Suez Canal and the Great Bitter Lake arriving in Port Said this evening.

Days 12 & 13 Ashdod, Israel. Our first call in Israel will be the southern port of Ashdod where we will spend two fascinating days. During our time here we will organise visits to Jaffa, the ancient port city from which Tel Aviv developed. Famous for its association with the biblical stories of Jonah, Solomon and St Peter, it has a fascinating history stretching back over four thousand years. We will explore the highlights including the Clock Tower,

Flea Market and the renovated alleys and buildings of the fascinating city. Visit Tel Aviv and drive through Rothschild boulevards of the White City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that holds the world's largest concentration of Bauhaus architecture. We will also drive inland to Jerusalem including a visit to the Mount of Olives from where we can enjoy spectacular views over the 'Golden City' of Jerusalem. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus as you walk through the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus spent the last moments before his arrest. Wander the streets of the Old City from Jaffa Gate to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and continue through the Christian Quarter to the bazaar, passing the Roman Cardo in the Jewish Quarter and the Western (or Wailing) Wall.

Days 14 & 15 Haifa. We sail to the northern port of Haifa for two more days of exploration including options to visit Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus. Called the City of Annunciation, Nazareth is revered as the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared before Mary to tell her she was to bear the Son of God. Enjoy panoramic views of the city and visit the Church of the Annunciation, which is built where Mary is said to have lived. Maybe visit the shores of the Sea of Galilee where we find Capernaum's ancient synagogue and Peter's House before stopping in Tabgha, home to the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Leaves, with its 5th century mosaic floor. We will drive up Mount Carmel for a breathtaking view over the bay from the top of the city's famous Bahai Gardens. We also plan to visit Acre, one of the oldest continuously inhabited sites of the region and once the chief port of the Crusaders. Visit the underground city seeing the Crusader halls, crypt and the tunnels used as a secret route to the port. Also visit the bazaar and the UNESCO site of Kahn El Umdan (Inn of the Columns) one of the best-preserved caravanserais in Israel. The last option is to drive to Caesarea – the impressive ruins rest on the coast halfway between Haifa and Tel Aviv. This grand ancient city and harbour were built by Herod the Great between 22 and 10 BC and reigned capitol over its region for almost 600 years. Named after the Roman Caesar Augustus, it had all the amenities of a splendid Roman city: baths, a hippodrome, a theatre and an aqueduct and we can explore the remains in the archaeological park.

Day 16 Limassol, Cyprus. Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea as we cruise to Cyprus arriving in Limassol at lunchtime. An afternoon tour will include the Temple of Apollo, one of the main religious centres of ancient Cyprus, where Apollo was worshipped as God of the Woodlands. It seems that the worship of Apollo on this site began as early as the 8th century BC and continued until the 4th century AD. 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.

Day 17 Larnaca 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 £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£7295	£6995
3	Classic Stateroom	£7495	£7195
4	Superior Stateroom	£7895	£7595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£8395	£8095
6	Junior Suite	£8895	£8595
7	Owner's Suite	£9595	£9295
8	Serenissima Suite	£9995	£9695
10	Standard Single	£8295	£7995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Four nights hotel accommodation in Jordan and overnight in Luxor on a bed and breakfast basis • Lunch and dinner daily whilst in Jordan & Luxor • 11 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer & 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, visas.

AMMAN PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

28th February to 1st March 2020



The North Theatre at Jerash

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Amman, Jordan. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to the Kempinski Hotel Amman for our two night stay.

Day 2 Jerash. After breakfast in the hotel we have free time before we meet in the early afternoon for our excursion to Jerash, one of the most splendid provincial cities anywhere in the Roman Empire. From the southern end walking past Hadrian's Arch and alongside the impressive 244 metre-long Hippodrome, where chariot races took place in antiquity, we enter the ancient city of Jerash. Continue on to the lovely colonnaded Oval Plaza, connecting the Temple of Zeus which overlooks it, with the main street, the Cardo, which is beautifully lined by Corinthian columns. Overlooking the Plaza is the extraordinarily well preserved and the most magnificent of all the city's monuments, the South Theatre, which seats more than 3000 spectators. Walking through the magnificent Colonnaded Street, one can see the Market Place and the Omayyad residential quarter. Further up is a 4th century AD cathedral, St. Theodore's Church, the impressively carved Nymphaeum (public fountain), an Omayyad mosque, the arches of the West Baths and the North Theatre. We also see the Temple of Artemis and the western churches. Return to Amman where we will meet for dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 3 Madaba, Mount Nebo & Dead Sea. Check out of the hotel after breakfast as we drive to Madaba, home of the most famous Byzantine mosaics. Visit the greatest and most significant of all the city's treasures, the wonderful mosaic map of ancient Palestine which is located on the floor of the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George. The 6th century AD map, hailed as the oldest in existence, was depicted for the benefit of the pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land as it represented the surrounding regions as well. We will also see the Church of the Apostles, the ruins of which date back to AD 578. Its floors are beautifully adorned with mosaics, the most significant being the large central medallion, known generally as the Personification of the Sea. After a local lunch we continue to Mount Nebo, which dates back to the time of the Prophet Moses, around the 12th century BC. It is believed to be the site of the Prophet's burial place and the point from where he viewed the Holy Land. We see the remains of the mosaic floors with stunning designs that feature hunting and pastoral scenes, found in the small church built by the early Christians in the 4th century AD. We end the day at the Dead Sea where we will check in to our hotel and have dinner before our fellow guests arrive later tonight.

Prices per person

Twin: £775; Single: £1045

Price Includes: Two nights in Amman at the Kempinski Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, lunch on Day 3, dinner on Day 2, shore excursions, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.

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

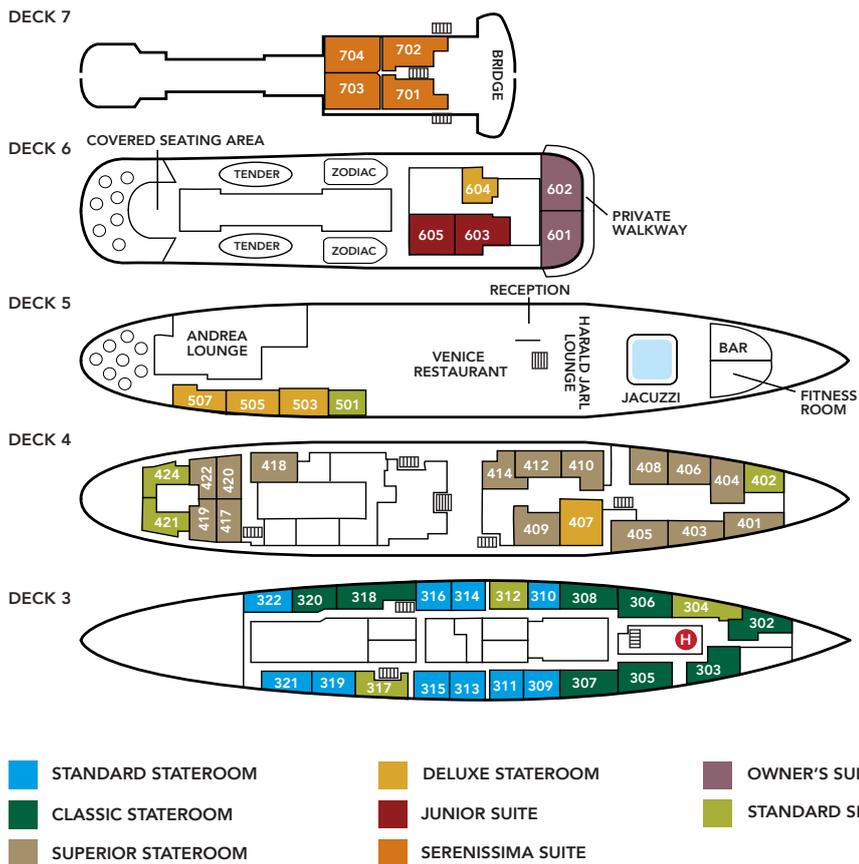
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)

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



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)



Lido Deck

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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: View through the Siq (the entrance to Petra) leading to the Treasury (Al Khazneh)