

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON

# LOST EMPIRES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A springtime voyage from Malta to Lisbon  
aboard the MS Serenissima  
with Guest Speaker George Hart

26<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join us for this relaxing and informative voyage to some of the greatest historic cities, ancient sites and charming islands as we explore the Mediterranean and all its wonders from aboard the MS Serenissima. Our journey is perfectly timed to take advantage of the gentle temperatures and for us to witness the coast and islands at their springtime best before the crowds of summer arrive. Sailing from Malta we make our way to Sicily with its incredible wealth of treasures and, over the course of three days we will visit timelessly beautiful Syracuse, the spectacular Greek theatre in Taormina and the Norman Royal Palace in Palermo. Following a day at sea to relax we have included some interesting calls on the North African coast including the ancient city of Tipaza in Algeria and Melilla, the fascinating Spanish city on the northern coast of Morocco. Continuing on to mainland Spain, we will visit the naval port of Cartagena with its fine Roman remains and the great maritime city of Cadiz from where we will explore the beautiful city of Seville.



The itinerary has been carefully designed to combine some ‘must see’ sites together with some smaller places that are totally unsuitable for vessels larger than ours. Owing to the fact that our small ship can moor centrally, we have the added advantage of being able to access the towns by foot in many ports of call and we have also included time at leisure for individual exploration enabling you to soak up the atmosphere at your own pace. We have the added benefit of excellent local guides and our knowledgeable Guest Speaker who will add much to your experience and knowledge of this fascinating region. Enjoy discovering ancient cities and sites, timeless islands with their aura of history and spectacular beauty which will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean.

## Guest Speaker – George Hart



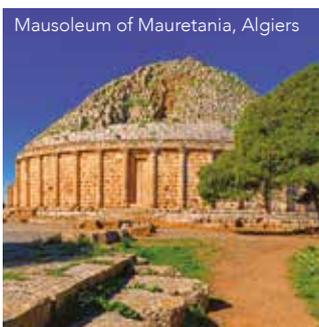
After graduating with degrees in Classics and in Egyptian Art and Archaeology from University College London, George Hart joined the staff of the British Museum. His career involved lecturing on Ancient Egypt, the Levant and the Bronze-age and Classical civilisations of the Mediterranean world. His interests include the spread of Phoenician and Greek colonies, especially in Sicily and the Western Mediterranean. He has accompanied tours to many

archaeological sites around the Mediterranean and North Africa. He is also an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society. He took early retirement from the British Museum to devote more time to writing and travelling.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight and on arrival we will transfer to the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks as we sail this evening.

**Day 2 Syracuse, Sicily.** Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean rivalling Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the



Mausoleum of Mauretania, Algiers



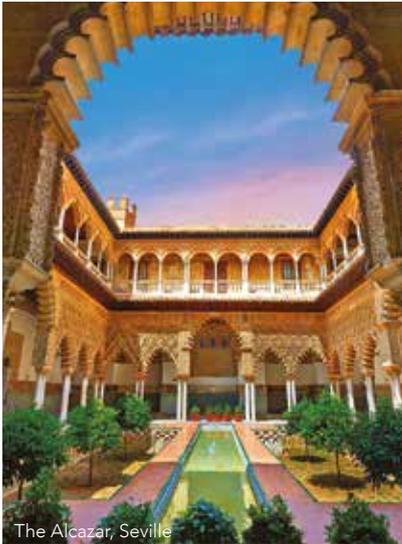
Cartagena city hall

site of the curious ‘Dionysius’ Ear’, a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily’s most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. The afternoon and evening are free to explore independently before we sail tonight.

**Day 3 Taormina.** From the nearby port of Messina we will visit Taormina, a walled town lying in the shadow of Mount Etna, Europe’s highest volcano. The town has been a popular tourist destination since the 19th century and our guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before viewing the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast. For those who wish to enjoy longer here, you will be able to take lunch independently in one of the local restaurants and spend an afternoon exploring at leisure before our coach returns to Messina. Alternatively, return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

**Day 4 Palermo.** Arrive this morning in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. After breakfast we will explore the city, famous for its jumbled and picturesque streets punctuated with ornate Baroque churches, domed Arab mosques and the glittering Byzantine mosaics that reveal a unique and diverse heritage. We visit the impressive 12th century cathedral which houses the royal tombs of Henri VI and King Ruggiero. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns sets off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

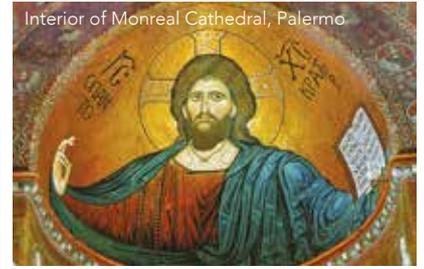
**Day 5 Cagliari, Sardinia.** Spend the morning at sea as we sail to Sardinia arriving over lunch. This afternoon we will explore the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. On a walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside. See the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Mary. Alternatively,



The Alcazar, Seville



Roman mosaics of Nora



Interior of Monreal Cathedral, Palermo

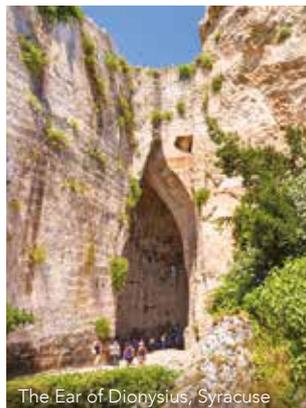


Fishing boat, Portimao

drive along the south-western coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of Carthaginian warehouses and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre.

**Day 6 At Sea.** Enjoy a lecture or spend some time on deck as we have a day of cruising.

**Day 7 Algiers, Algeria.** Depart this morning for the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans. The city was extended by Emperor Claudius and grew wealthy on Mediterranean trade. It was built on three small hills, which overlooked the sea. There are ruins of three Basilicas, two Cemeteries, the Baths, the Theatre, the Nymphaeum and the unusual oval shaped Amphitheatre. We will enjoy a typical Algerian lunch before continuing to the mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania, which lies in the hills above the sea about 18 kilometres away from Tipaza. It is one of the most breathtaking sights in Algeria. The vast pyramid-like structure is named the Tomb of the Christian on account of the large crosses that decorate the tomb which predates Jesus Christ. We return to the ship via the Martyrs' Monument which offers spectacular views over the city.



The Ear of Dionysius, Syracuse

**Day 8 Cartagena, Spain.** After a morning at sea we arrive at the Murcian port of Cartagena. We will enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for an afternoon of exploration in this historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it after Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative centre. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre which we will explore before taking the lift or walking up to Concepcion Castle where we will learn of the city's past and enjoy amazing views of the city and harbour below. We will also see the Roman theatre which was able to hold up to 7000 people. For those wishing to explore further, perhaps visit the archaeological site of Molinete, where work continues to uncover the Roman city, the naval museum or simply enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade before we sail this evening.

**Day 9 Melilla.** This morning we visit a little bit of Spain in North Africa. Situated on the northern coast of Morocco, the Spanish city occupies a rocky peninsula which juts out into the Mediterranean. It has been in Spanish hands since 1497 and previous colonisers included the Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans. It is a fascinating place to spend a few hours observing the co-existence of Catholic and Muslim faiths, the influences of Spanish and Moorish architecture and the old walled city, fortress and busy market place. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

**Day 10 Cadiz for Seville.** Arrive this morning in Cadiz. Situated on a peninsula jutting out into a bay and almost entirely surrounded by water,

it is amongst the oldest surviving cities in Spain having been founded by the Phoenicians in 1100 BC and later occupied by the Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths and Moors. Choose to join a half-day guided panoramic and walking tour which will pass by the most beautiful monuments and landmarks of the city including Santo Domingo Church and the Santa Catalina Fortress and also visit the interior of the Cathedral of Cadiz and Diocesan Museum in the old city. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore independently. Alternatively, take a full day tour to Seville which will include time at the Alcazar with its exotic terraced garden. Built by Pedro the Cruel in the 14th century with the help of Moorish craftsmen, it is still used as a residence by the King of Spain. Also see the Christian cathedral, reputed to be the largest Gothic style church in the world.

**Day 11 Portimao, Portugal.** Over breakfast the MS Serenissima arrives on the Algarve Coast at the fishing port of Portimao on the banks of the Arade River. During a morning call we head west to explore the more rugged Algarve and discover its place in history. We visit the historic town of Lagos, its sturdy Medieval walls testifying to its importance as a 15th century shipbuilding and trading post. We then head to the wild headland of Cabo Sao Vicente, its 200-foot cliffs face the Atlantic waves and it lies at the extreme southwestern corner of Europe. At nearby Sagres, Henry the Navigator built his school of navigation and it was from here that many sailors set out to discover the New World.

**Day 12 Lisbon to London.** Disembark after breakfast 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	£6995	£6795
8	Serenissima Suite	£6995	£6795
10	Standard Single	£5995	£5795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class 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 • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visa.

## PRE-CRUISE MALTA EXTENSION

24th to 26th April 2020



Valletta

If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night stay providing the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel (or similar) for a two night stay. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure before meeting tonight for a welcome dinner in the hotel.

**Day 2 Valletta.** After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a city tour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. Our morning tour will include the highlights of Valletta with its stunning views across the harbour from the Barakka Gardens. We will explore Merchants Street containing the surviving auberges built by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, together with the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at St John's Cathedral. The afternoon and evening are free for independent exploration.

**Day 3 Mdina.** Enjoy time at leisure before we check out of the hotel in the late morning and transfer to Mdina. Originally given the name of "Citta Nobile", the city is now known as the "Silent City". Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. We will have lunch in one of the restaurants before transferring to the MS Serenissima moored in Valletta.

**Prices per person** based on double occupancy

Twin	£595
Single	£995

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, tours as described, lunch on day 3, dinner on day 1, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



Mdina

## POST-CRUISE ESTORIL EXTENSION

7th to 9th May 2020



Hotel Palacio and Pool

For those who would like to spend some time in Portugal after disembarking the MS Serenissima, we have arranged a two night extension at the beautiful Palacio Estoril Hotel, located a short distance from Lisbon. Our stay will include a half day tour of Lisbon and the remainder of the time will be yours to explore at leisure.

### Palacio Estoril Hotel

Located in the heart of Estoril, just 20 minutes from the centre of Lisbon, the Palacio is set in beautiful gardens with outstanding views over Estoril and the Bay of Cascais. The Palacio has been updated and has benefited from several refurbishments and renovations. Today, it offers all the comfort and convenience of a modern luxury five-star hotel while retaining all its charm of the past. During World War Two, due to Portugal's neutrality, several royal families went into exile in Estoril, which became known as the 'Coast of Kings'. The Palacio Estoril Hotel was the chosen home of numerous members of European royalty and was also the haunt of British and German spies, who could often be found in its bar. Later, these stories of intrigue and espionage inspired famous novelists and filmmakers and the hotel served as the set for the James Bond movie 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service'. In February 2011, the Royal Gallery was created where you can view photographs of the important members of European royalty who stayed at the hotel and the gallery is now one of Estoril's tourist attractions.

**Prices per person** based on double occupancy

Twin	£395
Single	£595

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation in a classic room at the Palacio Estoril Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis, half day tour of Lisbon, gratuities, transfers from airport to hotel and hotel to ship, taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



Classic Room



The Imperial Room

# 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

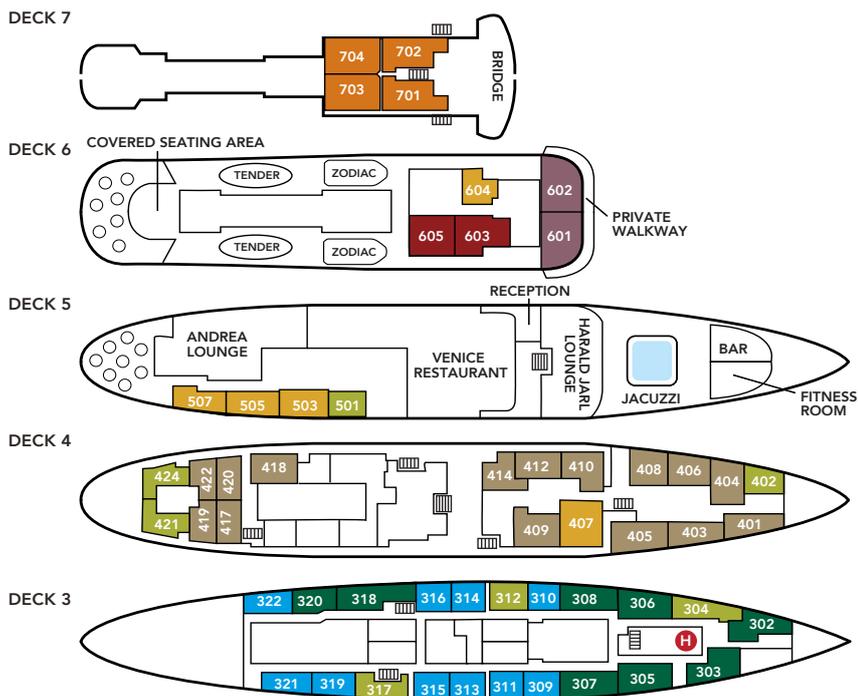
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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

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)



Lido Deck

# NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE  
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



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: The ancient Greek theatre at Taormina overlooking Mount Etna