

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

# MIDSUMMER IN ICELAND

A PASSAGE BETWEEN SCOTLAND & ICELAND  
INCLUDING THE SHETLAND & FAROE ISLANDS  
ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

12<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE & 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY\* 2023



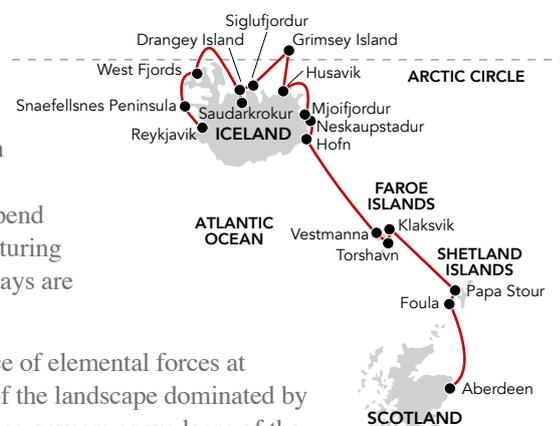
NOBLE CALEDONIA



Iceland is without doubt one of the most extraordinary and dramatic lands on the planet and we are offering the opportunity to join a unique expedition combining this wonderous country with time in the Shetland Islands and an in-depth exploration of the remote Faroe Islands. We will set sail from Aberdeen before sailing north to the Shetland Islands and the little-visited Faroe Islands where a highlight will be seeing the many puffins and other sea birds. We will spend four days exploring the villages and rolling hills of these distant isles before venturing further north to Iceland. We have timed our voyage for summer when the long days are ideal for exploring and to experience the spectacular midnight sun in Iceland.

Europe's least populated country offers the visitor a truly unparalleled experience of elemental forces at work and during our exploration of Iceland we will witness the immense scale of the landscape dominated by towering snow-capped mountains, thundering waterfalls and spontaneous erupting geysers as we learn of the centuries old legacies of a Viking and Norse heritage. We will visit some of its most dramatic areas and, whilst we sail its waters, will look out for humpback whales, orcas, white-beaked dolphins and observe the colonies of seabirds.

A journey by small ship is the ideal way to get up close to nature and explore areas inaccessible to larger vessels and a voyage such as this can only be undertaken by a special vessel with the self-sufficient qualities of the 95-passenger MS Serenissima. With her expert team and fleet of Zodiacs we will be able to land on remote beaches and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs crowded with birdlife.





## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland.** Embark the MS Serenissima this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Airport and Railway Station at a fixed time. Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Foula & Papa Stour, Shetland Islands.** This morning we visit Foula, one of Britain's most remote inhabited islands. Apart from a narrow coastal strip of more fertile croftland, Foula is an expanse of peat and moorland rising steeply to five dramatic peaks. In the early summer Foula's wildflowers provide a glorious burst of colour. Translated as "Bird Island" from Old Norse, the island is designated as a Special Protection Area for birds and is home to the world's largest colony of Great skuas, known locally as bonxies, which compete fiercely with Arctic skuas for breeding territories. Kittiwakes and Arctic terns return annually to nest whilst the cliffs team with puffins, shags and fulmars. Over lunch we will sail the short distance to Papa Stour where we will use our Zodiacs to explore the stunning cliff scenery, sea stacks, arches, blowholes and coastal caves which are home to Arctic skua and large numbers of Arctic terns.

**Day 3 Klaksvik, Faroe Islands.** After a morning at sea we arrive in the Faroe Islands and the island of Boroy in the north of the group. On our afternoon excursion we will learn more about the Faroese and Viking traditions as we make our way via a three mile long tunnel, 500 feet under the sea to Leirvik on the island of Eysturoy. Here we will see the archaeological excavations of a thousand year old Viking farm before continuing to Gota, located at the head of the broad Gotuvik fjord. This historic area was the home of the famous Viking chieftain, Trondur i Gotu, who defended the old Viking ways against the desire of the Norwegian king and the Faroese chieftain, Sigmundu Brestisson, to convert the Faroese to Christianity. Ruins of his farm are found in Gota, whilst the Blasastova Museum provides an insight into the culture and way of life in the Faroe Islands in past centuries.

**Day 4 Torshavn.** From our berth this morning we will join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900 year old 'Roykstovan', the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. For those feeling active we will arrange a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna. After lunch on board, we will drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We will visit Duvugarar, an old farmhouse that is now a museum, and a traditional Faroese wooden church in Kollafjord.

**Day 5 Vestmanna.** Vestmanna is our base this morning as we explore the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. We will board local boats to explore the vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the thousands of seabirds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon on board sailing towards Iceland.

**Day 6 Hofn, Iceland.** As we approach Iceland we will see the shimmering white Vatnajokull Glacier, Europe's largest glacier, sometimes called an icecap. The 600 metre thick ice surmounts active volcanoes, one of which erupted in 1996 creating a crater on the surface of the glacier, a most unusual phenomenon. From our berth in Hofn we will drive to the otherworldly glacial lagoon of Jokulsarlon, a dramatic drive through some of the finest scenery that Iceland offers. Once we reach Jokulsarlon, the 100 metre deep glacial river lagoon which is full of large icebergs, carved from the glacier Breioamerkurjokull, we will embark on a cruise on the pristine water, sailing in between the blue, white and black ice.

**Day 7 Neskaupstadur & Mjoifjordur.** Enjoy the benefits of our small ship as we spend the day exploring the lesser-known fjords in the east of Iceland. We hope to land at the small town at Neskaupstadur for a chance to visit the excellent museum which features the local art gallery, Museum of Natural History and Maritime Museum. Those feeling active can hike to the avalanche barriers behind the town, offering great views of the surrounding areas. Cruise through Mjoifjordur where we can enjoy the wilderness of this remote area.

**Day 8 Husavik.** Be on deck this morning as we sail into Husavik, known as the whale capital of Iceland. From our berth we will head inland to visit the Lake Myvatn-Krafla area, a fine example of the volcanic world with lava fields, boiling and steaming mud pools, steam vents of sulphur and craters. The area illustrates the sheer magnitude of Iceland's forces at work. The lake itself, with beautiful natural rock formations and hot springs, is also a unique ecosystem and the largest migratory bird sanctuary in Europe. We will offer time in the natural baths before returning to the ship via the spectacular Godafoss Waterfall where water from the Skjalfandafjot River falls from a height of 12 metres over a width of 30 metres. Enjoy some free time in Husavik this afternoon to explore the town and maybe visit the excellent whale museum.



Húsavík



Siglufjörður



Jokulsarlon Lagoon

**Day 9 Grimsey Island & Siglufjörður.** Spend the morning on Grimsey Island. The Arctic Circle bisects this island which is known for its tiny community, basalt cliffs and the large variety of birdlife. On arrival join our expedition team members for a nature walk on the island. Over lunch we sail to Siglufjörður, a picturesque town that enjoys an idyllic setting in a small fjord backed by mountains. Here in the early 1900s, a booming economy due to the herring industry resulted in a prosperous town with some marvellous Icelandic architecture. Stroll through the town and visit the Herring Era Museum.

**Day 10 Saudarkrokur & Drangey Island.** Cruise overnight into Skagafjörður where we berth in the small town of Saudarkrokur. Established as a market town in 1868 for the local farmers, the town grew in the early 20th century as an important fishing port and trading centre for the region. We will drive inland to Glaumbaer and visit the museum, built within turf-roofed farmhouses, which showcases the region's heritage and we will also see the tannery, the only one in Europe that makes fish leather. Over lunch we sail to Drangey Island, situated in the fjord it is a colony for thousands of seabirds including puffins, guillemots, gannets and fulmars who nest on the steep cliffs that rise 180 metres. Our guide will tell us the ancient stories of Grettir the Strong who lived on the island in exile over 1000 years ago.

**Day 11 West Fjords.** Awake this morning in the West Fjords, an isolated but spectacular area of Iceland. We will cruise into Isafjörður and, depending on local weather conditions, we hope to use our fleet of Zodiacs to explore further. We also plan to visit the village of Thingeyri, one of the oldest settlements in the West Fjords and the location of the area's first trading post. Return to the ship via the thunderous Dynjandi, the highest waterfall in the West Fjords falling 100 metres and 30 metres wide.

**Day 12 Snaefellsnes Peninsula.** Sail this morning into Stykkisholmur, located in Breidafjörður Bay and surrounded by an archipelago of islands. The town is famed for its beautiful and well-preserved old houses and is also the gateway to the Snaefellsnes Peninsula which is dominated by the Snaefellsjökull volcano, regarded as one of the symbols of Iceland and known as the setting for Jules Verne's "Journey to the Centre of the Earth". Our tour will include a drive through the lava landscape to the glacier visiting pretty fishing ports and beaches along the way. Afterwards, there will be the opportunity to spend some time at leisure in the town.

**Day 13 Reykjavik to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.

\* Please note that the 3 July itinerary operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Reykjavik to Aberdeen. Full itinerary can be viewed online.

## SHIP TO SHORE

This voyage is a combination of both expedition style cruising and small ship destination cruising. Whilst we will be alongside in most of the ports, on some days we will be at anchor and the vessel's Zodiacs will be utilised to transport passengers ashore and for Zodiac cruising to explore the more remote regions we will be visiting. The use of the Zodiacs will be key to the operation of the itinerary as shown. If you have any queries pertaining to the use of Zodiacs or the level of fitness required for this voyage please do not hesitate to ask one of our experienced travel consultants.

## 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	£5895	£5695
3	Classic Stateroom	£6195	£5995
4	Superior Stateroom	£6695	£6495
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7295	£7095
6	Junior Suite	£7795	£7595
7	Owner's Suite	£8995	£8795
8	Serenissima Suite	£9195	£8995
10	Standard Single	£7295	£7095

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel between London and Reykjavik • 12 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

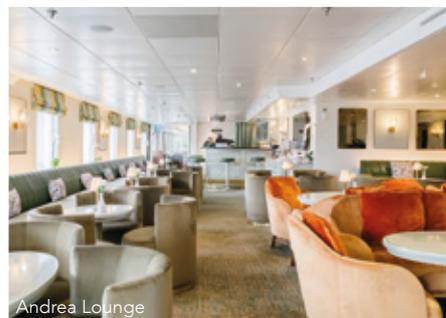
# MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



Venice Restaurant



Andrea Lounge

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.

## Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 95 passengers, there are eight different grades of cabins arranged over five decks, and all feature either windows or portholes. 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. Refillable water bottles are available in all cabins for use on board. Due to the very nature of the ship, the cabins vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.



## Your Dining

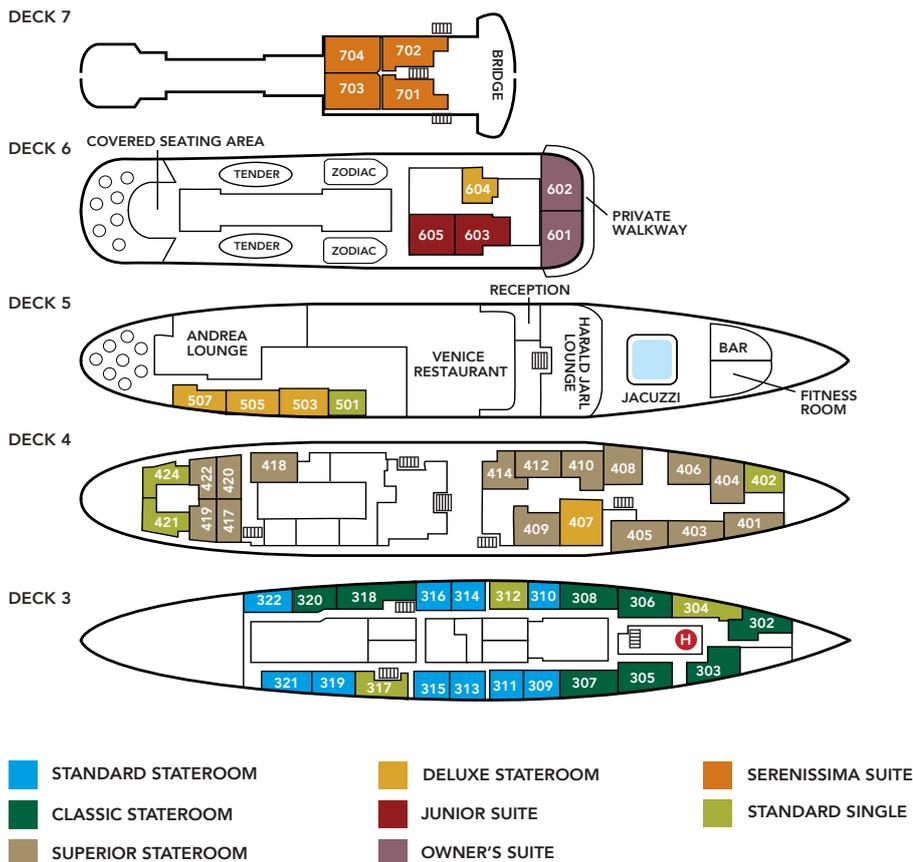
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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

with hot and cold dishes available. Dinner is served à 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 and soft drinks 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.

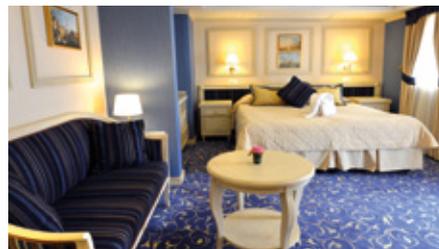
## Your Space

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 country house style which has recently been updated with some Art Deco styling which 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



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)



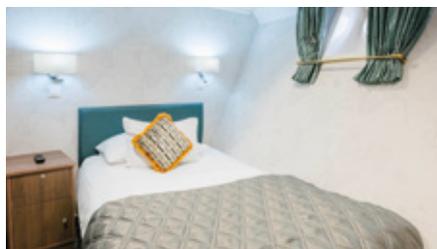
**SUPERIOR STATEROOM**  
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



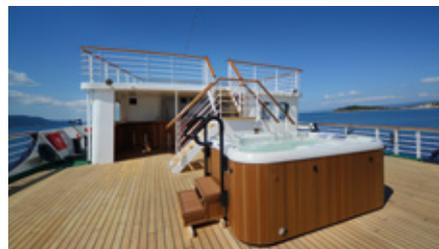
**CLASSIC STATEROOM**  
(14 to 19 square metres)



**STANDARD STATEROOM**  
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



**STANDARD SINGLE**  
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



Lido Deck



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Puffin, Grimsey Island, Iceland.