

# PASSAGE TO HISPANIOLA & BEYOND

A VOYAGE BETWEEN  
COSTA RICA & ANTIGUA  
ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY TO 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£300**  
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



If you have been contemplating a cruise around the Caribbean and are looking for an itinerary which combines some beautiful tropical isles still untouched by the hands of mass tourism with some fascinating and relatively unknown ports of call, then this unusual voyage from the wildlife rich shores of Costa Rica across to Antigua could offer the perfect solution. The region is imbued with colour and culture with a wealth of historical sites and great natural beauty.

Our itinerary is an eclectic mix of calls including visits to Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, British Virgin Islands and the Dutch Antilles with each day presenting something new to discover ranging from national parks, beautiful beaches, coral reefs and waterfalls to historical sites and forts of the Spanish, Dutch and British colonial periods. Our voyage offers an easy and comfortable way to explore the region and with the MS Serenissima we are able to visit some small islands and ports which the larger cruise vessels simply cannot access. Our knowledgeable onboard team will enable us to make the most of each day whether we are landing on remote beaches by Zodiac, searching for endemic flora and fauna or learning about the history of the region.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to San Jose, Costa Rica.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Real Intercontinental hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 2 Puerto Limon.** After a morning at leisure we will check out of the hotel and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before transferring to the MS Serenissima in Puerto Limon. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 3 Puerto Limon.** This morning we head south to the Cahuita National Park. The area is filled with wildlife that includes howler monkeys, white-faced capuchin

monkeys, raccoons, sloths, otters, coatis, agoutis, armadillos and porcupines. Several avian species also live in the swamp forest including the green ibis, the green kingfisher, the yellow crowned night-heron, the frigate bird and the boat-billed heron among others. Our naturalist guides will lead us through the trails of the rainforest, sharing their vast knowledge of this fragile ecosystem. After lunch on board you can choose to spend the afternoon at leisure or join a restored passenger train and travel through beautiful scenery to catch a glimpse of some more of Costa Rica's amazing wildlife such as

sloths and monkeys. The train track is part of the Atlantic Railway which was opened in 1890 to link San Jose with the country's east coast but closed to regular services after severe damage by an earthquake in 1991. For the second part of the trip we will board a boat and travel along the scenic Tortuguero canals, where waterfowl, white-faced and spider monkeys can be spotted.

**Day 4 Isla Providencia, Colombia.** Often referred to as 'Old Providence' in English, Providencia is a beautiful Colombian island that is little known and relatively untouched by the hand of tourism. Along with its smaller sister island

of Santa Catalina, it is enclosed by an extensive barrier reef system of some 35 kilometres in length, making it one of the most significant reefs in the world. Captured twice by Henry Morgan and his buccaneers who aimed to make it a British possession, it nevertheless ended up Spanish and is now a remote Colombian island. Arriving at lunchtime, spend the afternoon on an island tour, take a nature walk or travel in local boats to Crab Cay for swimming and snorkelling.

**Day 5 At Sea.** Relax on board, find a spot on deck to read or



Church, Santiago de Cuba



Mount Soufriere, Montserrat



Citadelle Laferriere, Cap Haitien



Castille del Morro, Santiago de Cuba

Sloth, Cahuita National Park



Capuchin monkeys , Cahuita National Park

maybe join one of the lectures as we continue our journey north.

#### Day 6 Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Arrive this morning on the north coast of Jamaica and the small, bustling port of Port Antonio, renowned as the world's banana capital and once home to Errol Flynn who described it as a 'paradise unspoiled by human hands'. This morning you can opt to join a rafting trip on the Rio Grande as skilled raftsmen will impart their local knowledge about the native flora and fauna and the history and people of the area as we take in the wonderful natural surroundings. Alternatively, enjoy a scenic drive to Reach Falls situated in the lush Montane Forest. We will have time to enjoy the falls and walk in the surrounding forest which is home to many species of fern as well as a variety of birds. Enjoy a swim in the emerald pool at the foot of the falls before returning to the MS Serenissima for lunch. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Port Antonio or relax on a local beach.

#### Day 7 Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.

During breakfast we arrive into Cuba and the port of Santiago de Cuba. A morning tour commences with a panoramic drive through the city including stops at the Moncada Garrison, which still bears bullet holes from Fidel Castro's attempted coup in 1953 and the imposing Plaza de la Revolucion and the 16th

century Casa de Diego Velazquez considered the oldest house in Cuba. We will also drive out of the city through lush tropical scenery to the Castillo del Morro which guards the entrance to the harbour, affording magnificent views. This afternoon is free to explore further independently.

#### Days 8 & 9 Cap Haitien, Haiti.

After a morning at sea we arrive at Cap Haitien on the north coast of Haiti at lunchtime. Well off the traditional cruise route, we have a day and a half in this historical city. Founded by the French in 1670, it grew into one of the richest and grandest cities in the Caribbean and was the centre of the revolution in the early 19th century when the liberated slaves rose up against the French colonial rulers. A city tour will include the striking Notre Dame Cathedral and local market. Those feeling active will want to visit the stunning Citadelle Laferriere, the largest fortress in the Caribbean located inland and 900 metres above sea level. Built in 1804 as the independent slaves looked to defend themselves from British and Spanish forces, it was not required and remains in good condition. See the large collection of cannons and walk the walls highlighting the fortress's strategic position but also with wonderful views to Cap Haitien. Return to the MS Serenissima via the remains of the 19th century Sans Souci Palace. We also hope to visit one of the off

shore islands to relax on the beach and learn more about the culture of voodoo from our local speakers.

#### Day 10 Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic.

Sailing along the northern coast of Hispaniola we will arrive in the Dominican Republic this morning. We will berth in Puerto Plata from where we will head inland to Santiago de los Caballeros which was founded in 1495 by 30 Spanish aristocrats and the country's first capital. We will see the 'Monumento a Los Heroes de la Restauracion' dedicated to those who fought for independence from Spain in 1865 and now the social hub for the city. At the Centro Cultural Leon we will see exhibits showcasing Dominican history, arts and culture as well as learning about the city's main industry of cigar production. We will enjoy lunch in the city before returning to the vessel this afternoon.

**Day 11 Samana.** Arrive this morning at the Samana Peninsula renowned for its beautiful beaches, turquoise waters and lush mountains. In addition it is a centre for migrating humpback whales that are usually resident in the Marine Mammal Sanctuary from January to March. If conditions permit this morning we will use the Zodiacs or local boats to view these amazing creatures. This afternoon we visit Los Haitises National Park where we will explore magnificent limestone caves covered in Taino

Indian art and visit Bird Island where we learn the importance of the many migratory and indigenous birds that inhabit the mangroves.

#### Days 12 & 13 British Virgin Islands.

These islands are recognised throughout the seafaring world as one of the finest sailing areas. The 36 islands and cays sit in a dazzling turquoise sea surrounded by beautiful coral reefs. We have a day and a half here and will drop anchor and use our Zodiacs to explore. We may make calls at the islands of Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and Tortola. We will enjoy island drives and allow for time to relax on the beautiful beaches and swim and snorkel in the clear waters.

#### Day 14 Sint Eustatius, Dutch Antilles.

In the 18th century the port of Oranjestad was a major player in the trade between Europe and the new world. Today the island maintains a low key existence and has avoided the modernisation and development of its neighbours. We will explore the small town including the 17th century fort and the museum with information on slavery, colonial relics and historical artefacts. Meanwhile, those feeling active may wish to take the strenuous hike to 'The Quill', the 600 metre hill that dominates the landscape. This afternoon is at leisure for further exploration.



Bird Island, Samana

**Day 15 Montserrat.** Ask any Caribbean connoisseur about their favourite places and Montserrat will always be high on the list. Following the damaging volcanic eruptions of 1995 and 2010, the island is slowly recovering. We will visit the volcano observatory and learn how the islanders coped with the devastation the eruptions caused. We also see some of the untouched areas which are as beautiful as ever. This evening we sail the short distance to Antigua where we will moor overnight.

**Day 16 Antigua to London.** Disembark this morning and take a morning tour to enjoy the views from Shirley Heights before heading to Nelson's Dockyard, beautifully located in English Harbour. See the impressive collection of restored historic buildings which were occupied by the British Navy from 1707 till 1899. After lunch we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

## 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	£7895	£7595
3	Classic Stateroom	£8095	£7795
4	Superior Stateroom	£8295	£7995
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£8795	£8495
6	Junior Suite	£9295	£8995
7	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8	Serenissima Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose with breakfast • 14 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 • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Cuba Tourist Card.

**NB:** Our planned calls to Haiti will be subject to travel advice from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and should the calls not be permitted, an alternative plan will be made.

## Pre-Cruise Costa Rica Extension 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021



Before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering the opportunity to join a five night tour of Costa Rica which will include Poas Volcano National Park, Arenal Park and Monteverde.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to San Jose, Costa Rica.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival, transfer to the Real Intercontinental Hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Day 2 San Jose to Arenal.** Following breakfast at our hotel, we will first head to the Doka Estate for an insight into one of Costa Rica's prime exports, coffee. We will learn the processes involved in the harvesting and manufacturing of this ubiquitous beverage. We will continue to Poas Volcano National Park, where after a short walk, we will be treated to spectacular 180 degree views of the volcano's crater and the picturesque surrounding areas. Following lunch in a local restaurant, we will transfer to the Tabacon Hot Springs which are heated by the nearby volcano and set in a tropical paradise. We will have some time here to relax before transferring to Arenal and checking in to the Kioro Hotel for a two night stay. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

**Day 3 Arenal.** After breakfast, we depart for a guided visit to Arenal Park. Here, we will take a walk through the area where the Arenal volcanic eruption took place in 1968, learning about the destruction this caused and the subsequent rebirth of life via the rich mineral deposits the eruption provided to the region. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a treetop cable car ride and for the more adventurous, to participate in a zip-line adventure, providing an exhilarating bird's eye view of the park. Following lunch, there will be time to relax and explore Arenal at leisure.

**Day 4 Arenal to Monteverde.** After breakfast we will start our stunning journey to Monteverde including a stop for lunch at the Bon Appetit Restaurant. Afterwards enjoy some time at leisure absorbing the region's lush and verdant flora and fauna whilst taking in its rare and diverse biosphere. Continue on to Monteverde and check-in to the El Establo Hotel for our two night stay. Tonight we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Day 5 Monteverde.** Today we will experience the hanging bridges of Monteverde Cloud Forest Sky Walk which cross the canyons below and bring us face to face with the upper level of the forest canopy. The trails extend for slightly over a mile and a half and we will be accompanied by local guides. Biologists now know that about 90 percent of all organisms in a rainforest are found in the canopy. Among the 400 species of birds, some of the best known species are: the quetzal, the bird bell, the black turkey bird, the mot-mot, the orange-bellied trogon, and the bare-neck umbrella bird. We will also have the opportunity to make our way up to one of the highest mountains in the area by Sky Tram, a tranquil way to take in the natural beauty of the forest. After lunch we will enjoy further exploration of the forest with a walk in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve. Dinner tonight will be served at a local restaurant.

**Day 6 Monteverde to San Jose.** After breakfast and a morning at leisure in the hotel we transfer to San Jose meet our fellow travellers and continue with the main itinerary from Day 1.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £2295  
Single: £2795

**Price Includes:** Overnight hotel accommodation in San Jose, two nights hotel accommodation in Arenal and Monteverde, all meals as mentioned in itinerary, transfers and excursions as described, gratuities, English speaking guide, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB:** Hotels may vary to those mentioned but will be of similar standard.

# 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

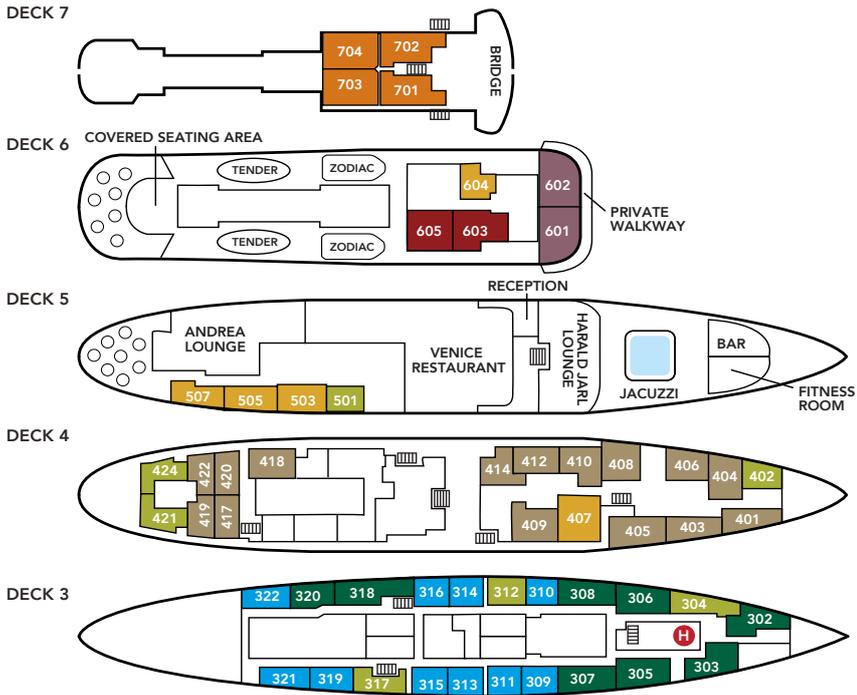
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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



- STANDARD STATEROOM
- DELUXE STATEROOM
- SERENISSIMA SUITE
- CLASSIC STATEROOM
- JUNIOR SUITE
- STANDARD SINGLE
- SUPERIOR STATEROOM
- OWNER'S SUITE

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)

During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

## NOBLE CALEDONIA

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

All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, Costa Rica.