

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

Sailing the Spanish Main

From Panama to Havana aboard the MS Serenissima

6th to 24th February 2017

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Havana



Sloth

Our voyage from the shores of Panama to Cuba offers the perfect opportunity to escape the British winter to destinations with teeming rainforests, cool cloud forests, beautiful beaches, remarkably diverse landscapes, pristine coral reefs, magnificently diverse wildlife and fascinating cultures and history.

We visit some little known, pristine and remote islands including Panama's San Blas archipelago, Colombia's Isla Providencia, Guanaja Island in Honduras and Belize's Half Moon Caye. Our time spent on these island paradises is interspersed with excursions to some of the region's most fascinating Mayan sites including the opportunity to explore both Tulum and Chichen Itza in Mexico and the lesser known Lamanai Archaeological Reserve in Belize with its massive pyramids. Not forgetting the incredible biodiversity of the region, we also visit some of Costa Rica's national parks to view endemic and diverse flora and fauna. Our itinerary ends on a high note with two nights moored in the vibrant Cuban capital of Havana, a fitting finale to our unique itinerary.

A flexible itinerary and knowledgeable onboard team will enable us to make the most of each day, whether we are landing on remote beaches by Zodiac, watching out for wildlife or learning more of the history and culture of the places we are visiting. With just over 100 passengers, we can explore in small groups ashore and enjoy a convivial atmosphere onboard.



San Blas Islands



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Panama City, Panama. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay.

Day 2 Panama City. Panama City is a combination of the historic old town, declared a UNESCO Historical monument, and the ultra-modern new town. We will stroll along the cobblestone streets of the Casco Viejo visiting the colonial mansions and 17th century churches and convents before continuing to Panama Viejo and the original ruins of the city which was founded in 1517 and burnt to the ground by British pirate Henry Morgan. This afternoon is free to either explore further or join an excursion to the Panama Canal observation Centre. Here we will learn about the expansion of the Canal before visiting the Miraflores Locks Visitor centre where we see the history of the canal and watch the ships as they pass through.

Day 3 Portobelo & Gatun Locks. After breakfast in the hotel we will leave the Pacific coastline of Panama City and head to the

colonial city of Portobelo on the Caribbean side. Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1502, this delightful town is in an area once known as the paradise for pirates. We will visit Fort San Geronimo, Fort San Felipe, Customs House and the Black Christ Church (the patron Saint of Portobelo) before making our way to the Gatun Locks. These are the largest locks on the Panama Canal and raise ships 29.5 metres from the Caribbean waters to the level of Lake Gatun. After our visit we will transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Colon and sail tonight.

Day 4 San Blas Islands. Arrive this morning at the stunning San Blas Archipelago which is made up of over 400 islands which line the north coast of Panama with dazzling white sandy beaches set in a turquoise sea. The islands are home to the indigenous Kuna Indians who gained self-rule from the government of Panama in the 1920s and maintain their traditional way of life including the production of colourful fabric art known as 'molas'. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea.



Tulum



Macaw, Costa Rica

Day 5 Bocas del Toro. Today we explore the Bocas del Toro archipelago, pristine islands which are now part of a national marine park. We spend the morning surrounded by astounding beauty and using local boats will explore the mangroves where we hope to see sloths, dolphins in the water and find a remote beach to swim and snorkel on the coral reefs. This afternoon we will visit the small town of Bocas del Toro and have free time to wander amongst the fine old Spanish buildings.

Day 6 Puerto Limon, Costa Rica. This morning we head south to the Cahuita National Park. The area is filled with beautiful 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, among the boat-billed heron, among others. Our naturalist guide will lead us through the trails of the rainforest, sharing his vast knowledge on this fragile ecosystem. After lunch onboard the afternoon is free to relax or join an excursion to the Tortuguero National Park which is home to more than 2000 plant species and over 400 species of birds together with a number of endangered mammals. We will drive through vast banana plantations to the tiny port of Moin where we board long boats that take us into the waterways of the park for eye-level views of the astounding flora and fauna.

Day 7 Isla Providencia, Colombia. Often referred to as 'Old

Providencia' in English, Providencia is a beautiful Colombian island that is little known and 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 we have an opportunity to spend the afternoon on an island tour and travel in local boats to Crab Cay for snorkelling.

Day 8 At sea. Relax onboard, find a spot on deck or maybe join one of our lectures as we continue our journey north.

Day 9 Guanaja Island, Honduras. Arrive this morning in Honduras and the small island of Guanaja. The easternmost of the three Bay Islands, Guanaja is covered in a forest of Caribbean pine and when Christopher Columbus landed on the island in 1502, he named it the Isla de Pinos (Island of Pines). Unlike some of the surrounding islands only small ships like ours can anchor here and we will spend the day exploring the island and its surroundings. Spend time in the small town, use local boats to explore the mangrove channels, snorkel on one of the nearby cays, visit the small turtle sanctuary or join nature walks with the local guides.

Day 10 Livingston, Guatemala. Surrounded by water and jungle, Livingston is a settlement of Garifuna people accessible only by sea which is just one of the



Cathedral of San Cristobal, Old Havana

things that makes it unique among Guatemalan cities. We will transfer onto local boats and venture up the Rio Dulce hoping to see pelicans, cormorants and herons as we cruise up the river before arriving at the Ak'tenamt project, a local social development organisation supporting sustainable tourism. Here we will walk the trails viewing birds and plants before returning to spend time in Livingston itself.

Day 11 Belize City, Belize. We have an interesting day ahead as we travel inland to the ancient Mayan city of Lamanai (translates to 'submerged crocodile'). From the nearby town of Orange Walk Bridge we board local boats for a wildlife cruise through mangroves, wetlands and forests. Look out for egrets, herons, kingfishers, snail kites and black collared hawks as we make our way up river past Morelet's crocodiles. A short walk

through the jungle brings us to the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve with its massive pyramids which are in fact pyramids built upon pyramids. Local guides will tell the story of this site which is the only Mayan city known to have been inhabited through every age of Mayan civilisation.

Day 12 Half Moon Caye. We will sail out into the Caribbean Sea during the night for a morning in paradise. Here there are reefs for the snorkellers to explore, the area was the first area to be environmentally protected in 1982 and is now part of the larger Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, a World Heritage Site of UNESCO. On Half Moon Caye there will be the opportunity to visit the red footed booby sanctuary, the only nesting site in the region, home to approximately 4000 of these large, somewhat gawky birds.



Days 13 & 14 Cozumel for Tulum & Chichen Itza, Mexico. The island of Cozumel is our base for two days as we plan trips to the Mayan sites of Tulum and Chichen Itza. We will travel by boat to mainland Mexico for our tour to the Mayan site of Tulum, perched forty feet above the sea on a cliff and with its impressive defensive walls made it one of the best fortified sites of the Maya. It has a fascinating history and architecture with the pyramid, El Castillo, being the most impressive. Meanwhile our full day tour to Chichen Itza will include the great main plaza with the adjoining imposing El Castillo, also known as the Pyramid of Kukulkan. Other buildings include the Temple of the Carved Panels, the Temple of the Warriors and the nearby Group of the Thousand Columns, the Ball Court and the Caracol Observatory.

Day 15 At sea.

Day 16 Havana, Cuba. On our first morning in the Cuban capital we will discover Habana Vieja (Old Havana) which was once enclosed within fortified walls. We will explore its twisting, cobbled streets that lead to beautifully restored Baroque churches, castles and palaces and visit the 16th century Plaza de Armas, the oldest plaza in the city and its original administrative centre. In the afternoon we will explore Hemingway's Cuba on a walking tour. Visit the legendary writer's finca in San Francisco de Paula and the Ernest Hemingway Museum. Later, call into Cojimar Village, the inspiration for 'The Old Man and the Sea'. This evening we hope to be entertained after dinner by local

musicians onboard as we remain moored overnight.

Day 17 Havana. Today we offer a choice of excursions. For those who wish to explore Havana further we will enjoy a morning in new Havana driving along the Malecon, Havana's seafront to Vedado. See the Plaza de la Revolucion and the headquarters of President Fidel Castro and his Council of Ministers. In the afternoon we will embrace one of the traditional industries of Cuba with a visit to a cigar factory learning about the traditional techniques still in practice today. Alternatively enjoy a full day tour

to the Vinales Valley in the Pinar del Rio Province. It is here that some of the best tobacco is grown, harvested and processed. We will learn about the production techniques, see the traditional Cuban country lifestyle and enjoy lunch before our scenic drive back to the ship.

Day 18 Havana to London.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled indirect flight to London.

Day 19 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Inside Twin/Double	£7095	£6595
2	Standard Stateroom	£7595	£7095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£7895	£7395
4	Superior Stateroom	£8095	£7595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£8295	£7795
6	Junior Suite	£8695	£8195
7	Executive Suite	£9195	£8695
8	Owner's Suite	£9195	£8695
9	Inside Single	£7095	£6595
10	Standard Single	£7995	£7495
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£10895	£10395
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£11095	£10595

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Panama City on a bed and breakfast basis, 15 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: Please note that although this cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, the vessel will be at anchor and Zodiacs used to transport passengers ashore in all ports with the exception of Colon, Puerto Limon, Cozumel and Havana where we will be alongside.

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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 onboard 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.

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.

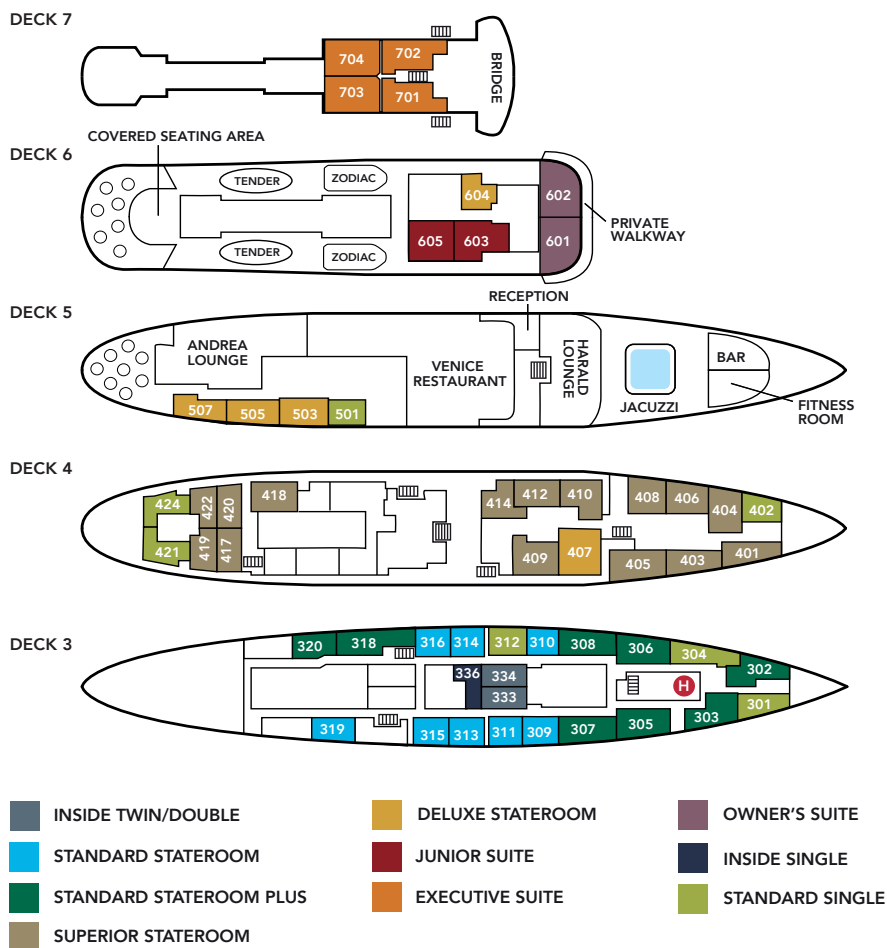
A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are included at lunch and dinner. Tea and coffee are served around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.



Restaurant



Harald Lounge



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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