

# SAILING THROUGH THE LESSER ANTILLES & BEYOND

A UNIQUE EXPLORATION FROM ANTIGUA  
TO SURINAME ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA  
20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2019

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



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join the MS Serenissima for this unique voyage of over 1000 nautical miles from the Caribbean Island of Antigua to Paramaribo in Suriname. In between we visit islands and cities rich in natural wonders from tropical flowers, indigenous birds and coral reefs to impressive waterfalls. These natural world highlights will be combined with time spent in small, welcoming towns where we will meet friendly islanders. As we sail short distances we have full days in many of the glorious islands in the Lesser Antilles and have the luxury of time to wander and explore at our own pace whilst seeing some of the more remote and harder to reach areas.

One of the highlights of our voyage will be our extended time in the former British colony of Guyana, one of the least visited countries in South America but home to a diverse amount of wildlife and natural wonders. Meanwhile in Paramaribo, Suriname's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we will hear about the history of this former British settlement which was swapped with the Dutch for New York in 1667. There are many ships cruising the Caribbean waters but if you prefer a chance to explore in small groups and to visit the smaller islands and off the beaten track destinations then this is the trip for you.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Antigua.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in St Johns. Tonight enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Antigua.** A onetime British colony, Antigua is justly famous for its beaches, said to total more than 300. We have a day here and on a morning tour will 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. In the afternoon either spend time in St Johns, on one of the local beaches or join a cricketing tour of the island including the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Stanford Cricket Ground and the Antigua Cricket Ground (ARG). Keith Fredericks (Freddo), a cricketer who represented

Antigua at regional level and Head Groundsman at the ARG will delight in giving a talk and guided tour of the club house and the ground. Finally, before returning to the vessel there will be a private appearance by one of Antigua's cricket West Indian Legends.

### Day 3 Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe.

Known as the "papillon" due to the butterfly shape of the two main islands, Guadeloupe offers a taste of France within the Caribbean. From our berth in Pointe a Pitre we will head to mountainous Basse Terre which is home to the Guadeloupe National Park covering 17,000 hectares of tropical forest and topped by the Soufriere volcano. A walk through the rainforest will bring us to the impressive 245 metre Carbet Falls, the highest in the Lesser Antilles whilst we keep an eye out for the resident wildlife. Return to the

ship via one of the island's rum distilleries. The afternoon is free to explore Pointe a Pitre and its colonial architecture including the Place de La Victoire as well as the vibrant market.

### Day 4 Cabrits, Dominica.

Stepping back in time, the island of Dominica is still the primitive garden that Columbus first sighted in 1493. An area of tropical rainforests, flowers of incredible beauty and animals that exist nowhere else in the world. We arrive this morning in the small port of Cabrits, just below the National Park and the former British garrison of Fort Shirley. There will be a choice of activities today and the active can climb to the fort to explore the ruins, visit the small museum and maybe wander the surrounding trails on the lookout for birds, hermit crabs and lizards. For the keen birders we will offer a tour





Green Heron, Dominica



Admiralty Bay, Bequia



Kaieteur Falls, Guyana

driving through the plantations to the Morne Diablotin National Park where, from the viewpoint we hope to see the two endemic parrots of Dominica. Alternatively, join a local boat for a journey along the Indian River, a mangrove lined creek with interesting bankside vegetation including gnarled tree roots and which is home to herons, egrets, hummingbirds and iguanas.

**Day 5 St Lucia.** St Lucia is a splendidly rugged island of towering mountains, lush green valleys and acres of banana plantations. We will moor in sight of the island's best known feature, the twin peaks of the Pitons, which rise dramatically from the sea to more than 2400 feet. In the nearby town of Soufriere we can visit the bubbling sulphur springs, part of a low lying volcano which erupted thousands of years ago. Our island tour will also include the splendid botanical gardens, and one of the local plantations where we learn about cocoa production.

**Day 6 St Vincent & The Grenadines.** Arrive this morning in bustling Kingstown, capital of St Vincent and gateway to the Grenadines. This morning we drive to the outskirts of the city to the 19th century Fort Charlotte and the oldest botanical gardens in the western hemisphere. Dating from 1765, this 20 acre site was developed to provide medicinal plants. Over lunch we sail to Bequia. This delightful Grenadine

island is totally unspoilt, a place of pure escapism with a charming old world atmosphere. Only seven miles by two it is a long way from the well beaten tourist track, a serene and peaceful island with some of the best beaches in the Caribbean. Choose to spend time in the main town of Port Elizabeth, find a spot on a local beach to relax or join a drive to Spring Bay where we can visit the Hawksbill Turtle sanctuary.

**Day 7 Tobago.** Today is dedicated to exploring the natural wonders of Tobago. We will anchor in the small fishing village of Charlotteville which is situated in Man of War Bay and enjoy a choice of activities. There will be an island drive which will include the Argyle Waterfall for a refreshing swim and a chance to explore the lush surrounding forest. The keen birders will enjoy a visit to Little Tobago, a hilly arid island situated 1.5 miles offshore and an important seabird sanctuary for frigate birds, brown boobies and red billed tropic birds. Meanwhile the waters around Goat Island offer some of the region's best coral reefs and abundant marine life - perfect for snorkelling or taking a glass bottomed boat trip.

**Day 8 Trinidad.** Due to its location close to the South American mainland, Trinidad has a unique diversity of plant and animal species which we will discover today. From our berth at Port of Spain we will drive inland to

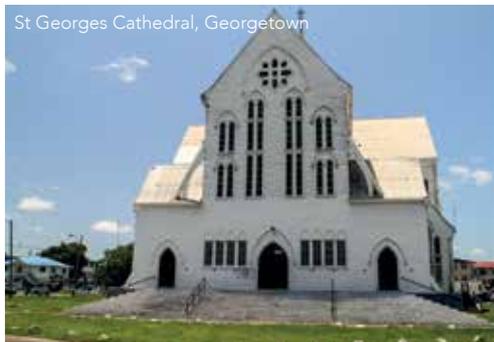
the Asa Wright Nature Centre. Founded on a former cocoa and coffee plantation in 1967 it comprises 1500 acres of forest providing habitat for a range of wildlife. We will explore on a series of guided walks, searching for the 166 species of birds. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and this afternoon either take time to explore Port of Spain and maybe visit the botanical gardens or National Museum. Alternatively, in the late afternoon join a tour to the Caroni Nature Sanctuary, a mangrove swamp covering an area of 40 square miles. On arrival at the sanctuary we board a flat-bottomed boat and slowly travel along the beautiful peaceful waterways and lagoons admiring the beauty of the landscape and a variety of birds including egrets and herons and other wildlife. The most astounding bird is the Scarlet Ibis, a large bright red bird feeding and nesting here and we hope to catch them as they return to their nests at sunset.

**Day 9 At Sea.** Enjoy a relaxing day at sea as we sail towards the South American coast. Maybe join a lecture in the lounge, enjoy a book in the library or find a spot on deck.

**Days 10 to 12 Georgetown, Guyana.** Arrive today in Guyana, South America's only English speaking country and our base for three days of discovery. Georgetown was called Longchamps under the French

and Stabroek under the Dutch, so it comes as no surprise that the tree lined streets are a wonderful mix of colonial styles. During our time here we will include a half day city tour to include St Georges Cathedral, St Andrew's Kirk and the Stabroek Market, once described as a "bizarre bazaar", which contains every conceivable item from household goods and gold jewellery to fresh meat and vegetables brought to town on the river daily. We will also join a local flight to the Kaieteur National Park. Here, the mighty Kaieteur Falls plunge 822 feet to the bottom of a rocky gorge. Five times the height of Niagara Falls and an amazing 30,000 gallons of water per second crashes to the depths below. Our third day will take us to the Essequibo River, Guyana's longest river and the third largest in South America. Using local boats we will explore the river, landing on one of the many islands to take nature walks to see the wildlife and plants or seeing the old Dutch forts that line the banks before wandering thorough the town of Bartica.

**Day 13 Paramaribo, Suriname.** This morning we continue our journey along the South American coastline and this afternoon arrive in the capital of Suriname, Paramaribo, located on the banks of the Suriname River. The city has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and on our guided tour we will see the many historic colonial buildings and



St Georges Cathedral, Georgetown



Soufriere Volcano



Yellow-tufted woodpecker

tree-lined avenues. This is a city of many colours and cultures and one of the few places in the world where Mosques, Hindu Temples, Synagogues and Christian churches coexist peacefully side by side. Visit the city's leafy park, Palm Garden which was created in 1682 and home to more than 1000 palms, the waterfront and Fort Zeelandia, originally named Fort Willoughby by the British in 1651.

**Day 14 Paramaribo to London.**

After breakfast on board we will disembark and drive to the Commewijne District just outside of Paramaribo, a beautiful agricultural area of creeks, rivers and former plantations. Here we will take

nature walks on the look-out for birds, monkeys and lizards before visiting the museum at New Amsterdam, an 18th century fort built to protect the city where we can also see the resident giant lilies. After lunch we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

**Day 15 London.** Arrive today.

**SHIP TO SHORE**

This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing craft may be integral to the operation of the voyage due to the small ports we will be visiting where we may be at anchor.



Paramaribo



Orchid

**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	£6995	£6695
3	Classic Stateroom	£7295	£6995
4	Superior Stateroom	£7595	£7295
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7795	£7495
6	Junior Suite	£8295	£7995
7	Owner's Suite	£9295	£8995
8	Serenissima Suite	£9295	£8995
10	Standard Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 13 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.

# MS SERENISSIMA



Harald 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 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

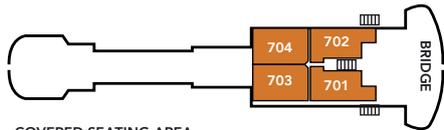
served a la carte and is four courses, except at the Captain's Dinner, which is a six course affair. Where possible, local produce is sourced for an authentic dining experience. A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water is included at lunch and dinner. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee are available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.

## Your Space

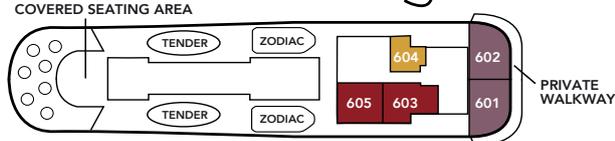
The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library and Wi-Fi is available at an extra cost throughout the vessel. The outside areas really are something special. A spacious observation 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

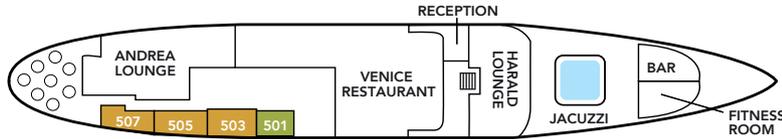
DECK 7



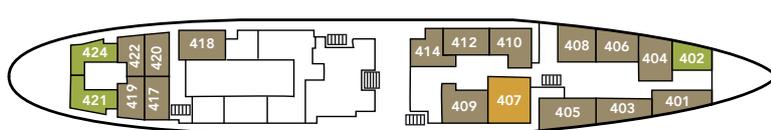
DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span> STANDARD STATEROOM  | <span style="color: gold;">■</span> DELUXE STATEROOM | <span style="color: orange;">■</span> SERENISSIMA SUITE   |
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> CLASSIC STATEROOM  | <span style="color: red;">■</span> JUNIOR SUITE      | <span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> STANDARD SINGLE |
| <span style="color: brown;">■</span> SUPERIOR STATEROOM | <span style="color: purple;">■</span> 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)



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: Scarlet Ibis