

Voyages aboard
MS SERENISSIMA
2018

AEGEAN - MEDITERRANEAN - NORWAY - WHITE SEA - BALTIC



NOBLE CALEDONIA





Small Ship Cruising with Noble Caledonia

Ships of all different sizes and styles can make the selection of a cruise a somewhat hit and miss affair, and whilst some companies attempt to please everybody, we prefer to continue with our focus on small ships and to that end are delighted to have once again chartered the 100 passenger, MS Serenissima for a series of fascinating cruises in 2018.

In many ways the virtues of small ship cruising are best expressed by detailing what you will not find on board. For instance, there will be no organised entertainment and no black tie events. What there will be is a warm and peaceful atmosphere in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people in comfortable surroundings and with a high level of service. Due to her size, the MS Serenissima has the freedom of the seas and can come alongside in small docks or drop anchor in any suitable spot allowing us to still seek out and visit the ports which the larger cruise ships are unable to access.

Whilst on board you can listen to presentations from our onboard Guest Speakers and the informative port briefings from our Cruise Director and when ashore, explore the sites with our expert local guides. We will also ensure, whenever possible, that you have some time to discover the destination independently if you wish. After a day of discovery, you can then join different people each evening and discuss the day's adventures over dinner.



MS Serenissima

The handsome 100-passenger MS Serenissima began her career as the Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. Extensively renovated in 2003 she was rechristened MS Andrea and began her life as a classic cruise ship, and was chartered by Noble Caledonia for a number of years. In spring 2012 MS Andrea was purchased by our long-standing associates Volga Dream and renamed the MS Serenissima. After a thorough renovation and upgrading, the charming 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 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 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. 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 classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

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. The ship can also accommodate passengers with mobility restrictions in cabin number 407 and there is an elevator that serves decks 3 to 6.



Harald Lounge



Cruising



Restaurant



Jacuzzi



Andrea Lounge

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 all fresco dining facilities available in good weather. Where possible, local produce is sourced for an authentic dining experience. 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. In keeping with the relaxed atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure and dress is informal except for the Captain's Dinner for which you may wish to dress in smarter attire.

Life On Board

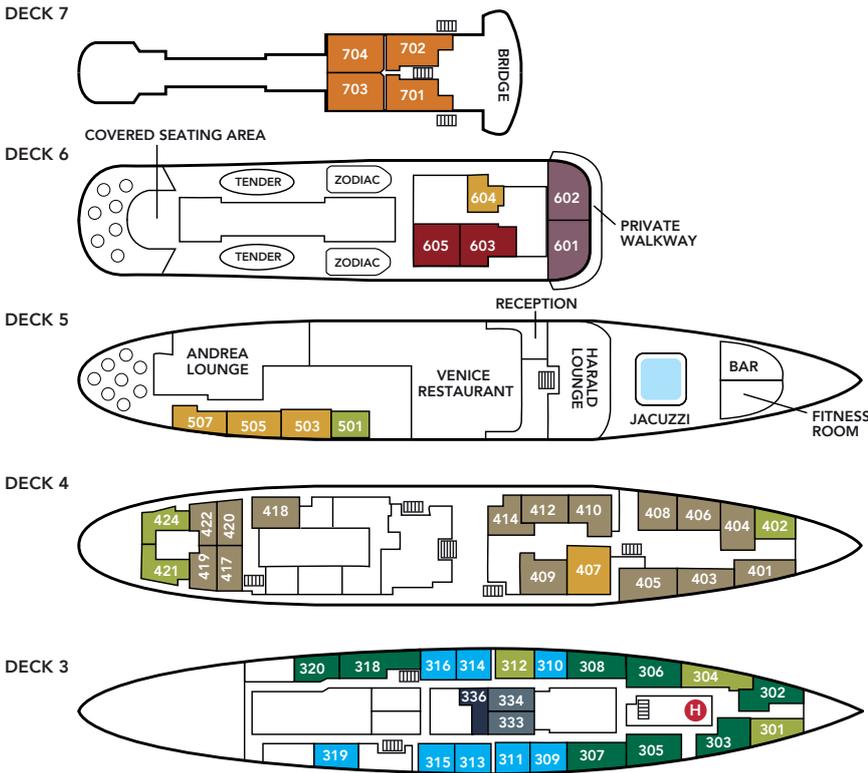
The MS Serenissima is more akin to a country-hotel than one of the large ships trawling the seas today. The European Captain, Officers and crew offer a first class service and have been selected for their professionalism and caring attitudes. The atmosphere on board is warm and

welcoming, and the emphasis is not on around the clock entertainment and dining, but instead on well-thought out itineraries, relaxation, time spent with like-minded passengers and discovery.

For your Comfort, Safety and Security

There are so few ships of this generation still cruising and MS Serenissima is a great testament to her present and previous owners that they have seen fit to invest considerable sums over the years to keep her in top form and complying with the stringent health and safety requirements. There is a Doctor on board and during your voyage you will have the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the bridge.

Deck Plan & Cabins



Harald Lounge

- INSIDE TWIN/DOUBLE
- STANDARD STATEROOM
- STANDARD STATEROOM PLUS
- SUPERIOR STATEROOM
- DELUXE STATEROOM
- JUNIOR SUITE
- EXECUTIVE SUITE
- OWNER'S SUITE
- INSIDE SINGLE
- STANDARD SINGLE



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)

Guest Speakers

On all our voyages you will find informative staff on board and whilst exploring ashore you will be accompanied by excellent English-speaking local guides. Working with the Captain and crew, our cruise staff are responsible for the day to day organisation of the itinerary and briefings and they are in regular contact with the Noble Caledonia office. We have the very best in their field and they are also joined by Guest Speakers who are chosen for their in-depth knowledge of a specific subject or geographical area. Briefings by the cruise staff and informal talks by our Guest Speakers add an extra dimension to all we see and do. Below are just some of the excellent team we have lined up to join the MS Serenissima in 2018.



George Hart

Following degrees in Classics and in Egyptian Art and Archaeology from University College London, George Hart joined the staff of the British Museum in 1973. He was the Principal Lecturer on the British Museum's antiquities collections from Egypt, Greece, the Levant and

civilisations of the Mediterranean World and ran courses on Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs. George is also an Editorial Advisor on its bulletin, *Egyptian Archaeology*. Having taken early retirement from the British Museum in 2004 to devote more time to writing, he is a regular speaker on cruises in the Mediterranean.



Arthur Cottrell

A graduate of the University of Cambridge, Arthur Cottrell has had a lifelong interest in cultural history, both in Europe and Asia, and has lived and travelled widely in Asia. An author of more than 30 books which explore his fascination with why peoples act as they do, he is also the

editor of *The Penguin Encyclopaedia of Ancient Civilisations* and *The Penguin Encyclopaedia of Classical Civilisations*. Arthur Cottrell retired in 2005 as Principal of Kingston College, London. His latest book, *The Near East: A Cultural History*, inspired by a comment from Noble Caledonia passengers looking for a narrative history of the whole area during a Mediterranean tour in 2014, is due for publication in 2017.



Dr Richard Chartres

Richard Chartres is currently Bishop of London and Dean of HM Chapels Royal. Before ordination he taught Ancient History in the International School in Seville. More recently he has served as Gresham Professor of Divinity and published a history of the College. He is the

Founder of the St Ethelburga Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and works extensively in the inter-faith field. He was closely involved in the establishment of St Mellitus College which is now the largest Theological College in the country. He also represents the Church of England in its relations with the Eastern Orthodox Church. Most recently he has been appointed an Ambassador for the World Wild Life Fund and has published in the area of religion, science and the environment.



Nigel McGilchrist

Nigel McGilchrist was a scholar at both Winchester College and at Oxford University. He has lived and worked in the Mediterranean area – Italy, Greece and Turkey – for over thirty-five years, working initially for the Italian Ministry of Arts in the field of wall-painting conservation. He began teaching

at Rome University, then taught for the University of Massachusetts, and was formerly Dean of European Studies for a consortium of American Universities. He lectures widely in art and archaeology at museums and institutions in Europe and the USA. He spent nearly a decade walking, exploring and documenting the monuments and curiosities of the sixty inhabited Greek Aegean islands, preparing a completely new survey-guide of their archaeology, history and art, published in a complete version of twenty volumes as *McGilchrist's Greek Islands*. In abbreviated form, the work is published as the *Blue Guide to The Aegean Islands*. He now lives on the island of Kythera.



Professor David Abulafia

David Abulafia is Professor of Mediterranean History at the University of Cambridge, where he is also Paphos Professorial Fellow of Gonville and Caius College. He has written extensively about the history of Sicily and Spain, particularly during the Middle Ages. David's

books include *The Discovery of Mankind*, which looks at the Atlantic in the age of Columbus, and the bestselling *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean* (published by Penguin Books). David Abulafia is a Fellow of the British Academy, which awarded him a British Academy Medal for *The Great Sea* in 2013, and is also a Commendatore of the Italian Order of the Star. He is now writing a history of the oceans for Penguin Books.



Sir Tony Brenton

Sir Tony Brenton is a distinguished British diplomat and commentator on public affairs issues. He served for over thirty years with the British Foreign Service, including postings in the Middle East, the European Union, Washington DC, and Russia. In particular he was in charge

of the British Embassy in Washington through the Iraq War, and was British Ambassador to Russia through a particularly tense time in UK/Russia relations. He has been a lead UK negotiator on such problems as global climate change and international energy and human rights issues. He has written a well received book, *"The Greening of Machiavelli"*, on international environmental politics. On retirement from the Foreign Service he has settled in Cambridge, where he is a Fellow of Wolfson College and a Senior Fellow at the International studies Department. His book *"Historically Inevitable?"* on the Russian revolution was published in June 2016. He is now also a regular commentator and contributor on international affairs on the BBC and in such publications as the *Daily Telegraph*.



Major JGH Corrigan

Commissioned from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1962, Gordon Corrigan was an officer of the Royal Gurkha Rifles before retiring from the Army in 1998. He served mainly in the Far East but also in Berlin, Cyprus, Belize and Northern Ireland. He is now a military historian

and author. His next book, on the Hundred Years War, is to be published shortly. His television appearances include *The Gurkhas*, *Napoleon's Waterloo* and *Battlefield Detectives*, and so far he has presented five series on various aspects of military history.



Imogen Corrigan

Imogen Corrigan served for twenty years in the British Army, retiring in the rank of Major. In 2004 she graduated from the University of Kent with a 1st Class Honours degree in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval History and has recently submitted for an MPhil at Birmingham University. She runs

study tours and has lectured extensively on Anglo-Saxon and Medieval subjects in Britain and Europe. She is a NADFAS lecturer as well as being a speaker for the Kent Federation of History, the National Trust and U3A amongst other lecturing agencies and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

The Voyages

Having the MS Serenissima on long term charter has meant we have full control over her schedule and have devised a fascinating sequence of cruises for 2018. From island hopping through the Aegean in the spring to summer voyages in the Norwegian Fjords, White Sea and Baltic, the rest of the year will be spent exploring Italy's islands and the Mediterranean, accessing many ports suitable only for vessels the size the MS Serenissima.



PAGES 10-13

In the Footsteps of St Paul

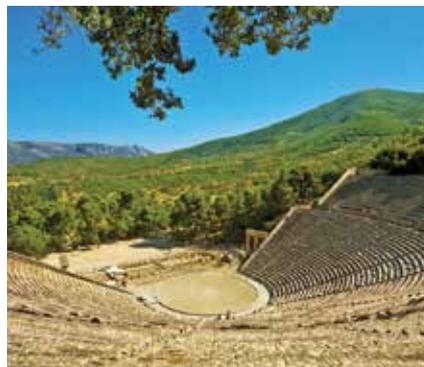
A voyage through the Mediterranean and Aegean with Dr Richard Chartres
23rd March to 3rd April 2018



PAGES 14-15

Aegean Island Odyssey

A springtime voyage through the Greek Islands with Nigel McGilchrist
3rd to 13th April 2018



PAGES 16-19

Peloponnese - The Land of Gods and Heroes

Discover the many wonders of the Peloponnese with Arthur Cottrell
13th to 24th April 2018



PAGES 20-23

A Cruise Across the Middle Sea

From the Aegean to the Atlantic with Professor David Abulafia
24th April to 8th May 2018



PAGES 24-25

Spring on the Edge

A voyage from Lisbon to Portsmouth
8th to 19th May 2018



PAGES 26-27

Midsummer in Norway & the Scottish Isles

A voyage from Aberdeen to Tromsø
21st June to 3rd July 2018



PAGES 28-29

Exploring the White Sea

A journey to the Northern Cape and beyond to Russia's White Sea with Sir Tony Brenton
3rd to 17th July 2018



PAGES 30-33

From the Norwegian Fjords to the Baltic Sea

A voyage from Tromso to Copenhagen
17th to 31st July 2018



PAGES 34-35

Summer in the Baltic

A voyage to the islands and cities of the Baltic
with Jeremy Black
31st July to 12th August 2018



PAGES 36-37

Hidden Baltic

A voyage from Helsinki to Stockholm with
Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan
12th to 22nd August 2018



PAGES 38-41

Sailing from the Baltic to Britain

A voyage from Stockholm to Dover with
Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan
22nd August to 6th September 2018



PAGES 42-43

Islands of the Mediterranean

A voyage from Valencia to Valletta
12th to 22nd September 2018



PAGES 44-45

Circumnavigation of Sicily

An in-depth exploration of the wonders of Sicily
22nd September to 2nd October 2018



PAGES 46-49

Islands of Italy

An exploration of Italy's islands and Corsica
with Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan
2nd to 11th October 2018



PAGES 50-53

The Italian & French Rivas

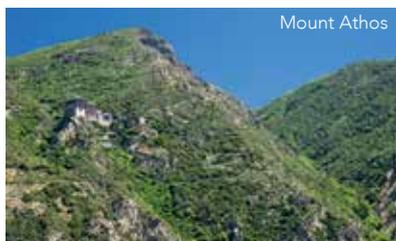
Discover the beauty of the Mediterranean Rivas
11th to 21st October 2018



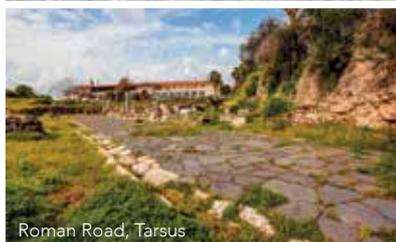
PAGES 54-55

Art & Antiquities of the Mediterranean

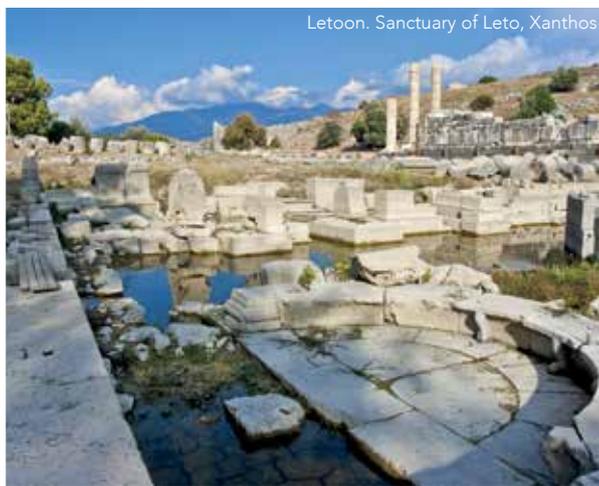
A voyage celebrating the modern art and
architecture of the Mediterranean Coast
21st October to 2nd November 2018



Mount Athos



Roman Road, Tarsus



Letoon. Sanctuary of Leto, Xanthos

the 2nd century A.D. stadium, the baths complex and two magnificent round towers of the Greek Gate. After a local lunch continue to Antalya to visit the excellent Archaeological Museum.

Day 5 Xanthos & Patara. From our berth at Fethiye we travel to the south east to discover the rich Lycian towns of the past. Drive along Esme River to the ancient city of Xanthos which was Lycia's prominent capital city built on a great cliff overlooking the river. Xanthos boasts several significant ruins, including the Nereid Monument, an exquisite Ionic building whose figured friezes are in the British Museum. Continue to Letoon, a city named after Leto, mother Goddess of Lycians. We will see the ruins of the temples dedicated to Leto, Artemis and Apollo and the amphitheatre. Enjoy a local lunch before visiting Patara, located amidst sand dunes and by a long sandy beach. The city was conquered by Alexander the Great and St Paul stopped here on his way to Rome in A.D. 60. It was also the birthplace of St. Nicholas. See the Grand Theatre and the ruins of the temples. *Please note that we may be at anchor today in which instance the vessel's Zodiacs will be used to access the shore.*

Day 6 Didim, Miletus & Priene. From the port of Didim we will drive to Priene an ancient Greek holy city and the home of an important temple of Athena. Priene's picturesque ruins include several columns of the Temple of Athena, much of the city wall, a well-preserved theatre and a council chamber. We will continue to Miletus one of the most important cities in ancient Greek world and visited by St Paul on his third missionary journey. Here were Minoans, Mycenaeans and

one-time allies of the Trojans. The city foolishly led a revolt of the Ionian Greek cities against the powerful Persian Empire who ruled until the arrival of Alexander in the 4th century BC. Here is a fine theatre, well laid out chessboard street plans, two agoras (market places), baths, a council chamber, fortifications, a stadium and harbour workings. After lunch on board we will have time to explore the colossal temple and oracle to Apollo in Didim. *Please note that we may be at anchor today in which instance the vessel's Zodiacs will be used to access the shore.*

Day 7 Patmos, Greece. Of all the Greek islands, Patmos, is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western; it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into the beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. From here continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Upon entering into the courtyard, admire the intricate pebbled laid floor, decorated arches and frescoes adorning the entrance to the chapel of Christodoulos. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or maybe enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

Day 8 Kusadasi & Ephesus, Turkey. Arriving at Kusadasi at breakfast time we will drive to the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings

including the library of Celsus and the temples of Serapis and Hadrian. Once the capital of Ionia, St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey and we will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus. We will see the spectacular Grand Theatre, originally built in the 3rd century B.C. by the Greeks, and later expanded by the Romans to its present capacity of 24,000. From this theatre, which has a row of seats 30 metres above the orchestra, St Paul used to give his sermons. Enjoy a free afternoon strolling in Kusadasi or join an excursion to the site of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and see the ruined Basilica of St John.

Day 9 Pergamon. On today's full day tour we will drive inland, past fertile fields and olive trees, to the present day modern town of Bergama, once known as Pergamon, a great centre of culture. Today Pergamon is one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. We will visit the Asclepion, a healing centre from the 4th century B.C. and one of the most important sites of Pergamon. Discover the Temple of Asclepius, the amphitheatre, and walk through the sacred corridor and down the ancient, arcaded, marble paved boulevard. Continue into the town of Bergama and visit the Archaeological Museum which houses relics discovered during the excavations of Pergamon. En-route we will see the Basilica which was one of the earliest of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. Take a cable car up to the Acropolis to explore the remains of the citadel and the city walls, the foundations of the Zeus Altar, and the Royal Palace. A local lunch will be served ashore.

“

During this cruise and from the comfort of the MS Serenissima we will follow in the footsteps of St Paul, visiting ancient sites and witnessing evidence of Greek, Roman and also Byzantium history and culture.

”

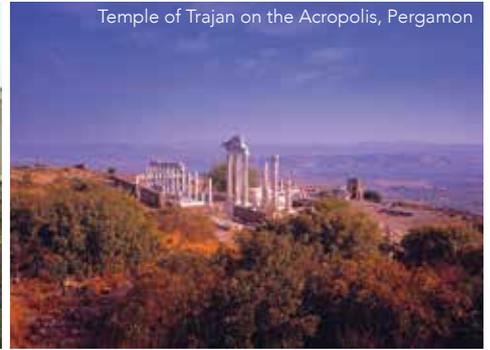




Mosaic, Patmos



Ancient Pergamon



Temple of Trajan on the Acropolis, Pergamon

Day 10 Philippi & Mount Athos, Greece. The ancient port of Neapolis, modern day Kavala, was where St Paul first stepped on European soil following his journey from Troas in Turkey. This morning we will arrive at the port and like St Paul make our way to nearby Philippi, a Roman town where he preached and sowed the seeds of Christianity in Europe. We will visit the ruins of the ancient city, the two Basilicas, the Forum, the Octagon, St. Paul's church, the so - called jail of St. Paul and the classical theatre. On our way back to the pier we will stop and visit Lydia site, the stream where Lydia, St. Paul's first European convert was baptised, as well as the modern baptistery. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch as we sail this afternoon arriving this evening off the Athos Peninsula, dominated by the peak of Mount Athos which rises to 2033 metres. Also known as Holy Mountain, a monastic community was established here in 963 when the monk Athanasios established the monastery of Great Lavra, which is still the largest and most prominent of the 20 monasteries located here. We will use the MS

Serenissima to cruise along the coastline viewing the monasteries from the sea and this afternoon, Reverend Chartres will lead an Easter Sunday service on board.

Day 11 Thessaloniki. Our final call will be in Greece's second city of Thessaloniki where St Paul preached in 49-50 A.D. and wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. Our morning tour will explore the Vergina Royal Tombs Museum, which displays the superb decorated facades of the temple-like tombs of King Philip II and a young prince (thought to be Alexander IV), the treasures found within them and a reconstruction of the Great Mound that originally marked the site of the Royal Tombs. The tombs were discovered in 1977-78 by the archaeologist Manolis Andronikos. Until their discovery they were covered by a protective tumulus 13 metres high and 110 metres across. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 12 Thessaloniki to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.



Paphos Harbour

Pre-Cruise Cyprus Extension

20th to 23rd March 2018

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Limassol, Cyprus. Fly by scheduled flight to Larnaca. On arrival transfer to the Mediterranean Hotel in Limassol for a three night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet this evening for dinner in the hotel.

Day 2 Paphos. After breakfast in the hotel we will embark on a full day tour to Paphos and its surroundings where St Paul and St Barnabas introduced Christianity. On the way we will stop at Petra tou Romiou (the birthplace of the Goddess Aphrodite), before continuing to Ayios Neophytos Monastery (the 12th century Enclistra Hermitage and the nearby 16th century monastery). In Paphos, we will visit St. Paul's Pillar and the ruins of the Basilica of Chrysolitissa before enjoying lunch in a local restaurant. This afternoon we will continue to the archaeological park where we visit the House of Aion and Theseus and the Palace of Proconsul Sergius Paulus where St Paul performed a miracle and the Proconsul converted to Christianity. We will enjoy some free time in the picturesque harbour of Paphos before returning to our hotel for dinner this evening.

Day 3 At Leisure. A relaxing day to enjoy the hotel facilities or maybe make your way into Limassol and explore independently. Dinner is included this evening in the hotel.

Day 4 Famagusta & Embark MS Serenissima. Enjoy breakfast in the hotel before checking out and driving to the Strovilia check point, from where we will pass to the northern part of Cyprus. Here we visit the archaeological site of Salamis including the theatre and ruins of the Roman baths before continuing to the Tomb of Saint Barnabas and its monastery, built on an ancient basilica. After lunch we will visit the fort of Famagusta and Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque, formerly known as St. Nicholas Cathedral. After our visit we will transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Larnaca.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4995	£4795
2	Standard Stateroom	£5295	£5095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£5495	£5295
4	Superior Stateroom	£5595	£5395
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5895	£5695
6	Junior Suite	£6295	£6095
7	Executive Suite	£6595	£6395
8	Owner's Suite	£6595	£6395
9	Inside Single	£4995	£4795
10	Standard Single	£5295	£5095
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£6395	£6195
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£6895	£6695

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled 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, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker, transfers, gratuities, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Turkish visa.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Sea View Twin: **£595**; Sea View Single: **£695**

Price Includes: Three nights accommodation in a sea view room at the Mediterranean Hotel in Limassol on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner daily), lunches on days 2 & 4, Tour Manager, transfers, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Aegean Island Odyssey

A springtime voyage through the Greek Islands with Nigel McGilchrist
3rd to 13th April 2018

Join us aboard the MS *Serenissima* as we explore some of the unspoiled islands, timeless villages and ancient sites of the Aegean. The main objective when planning this island hopping voyage was to explore some of the lesser visited islands where 3000 years of history can be viewed in relative peace and quiet. Some of the islands we have included are very difficult to access without relying on the local ferry network such as Fourni, Lipsi and Icaria and it is during our time on such islands that you will truly be able to appreciate the unique atmosphere and island life. When combined with the dramatic scenery and the clear waters of the Aegean, it is evident why this region has inspired writers, poets and artists since the time of Homer.

After many years of experience of operating cruises in the Aegean, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with a mix of guided excursions and time at leisure to explore the charming villages independently or perhaps visit a nearby beach. We have planned some late departures from port, which afford the opportunity to enjoy dining ashore or an after dinner stroll in some towns which are particularly atmospheric in the evening. Owing to the fact that our small ship can moor centrally, we have the added advantage of being able to access the towns and villages by foot in many of the ports of call instead of by long coach transfers. Whether you are interested in ancient history or simply enjoy cruising amongst beautiful scenery, this voyage has a lot to offer.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Thessaloniki, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight, on arrival transfer to the MS *Serenissima* and sail this evening.

Day 2 Samothrace. Enjoy a morning at sea as we sail to the small island of Samothrace. This rarely visited island contains one of the ancient world's great sites, the Sanctuary of the Great Gods the site of important religious ceremonies. We will visit the main archaeological site including the Greek theatre, ruined temples and the ruins of a rotunda built for Arsinoe one of the largest circular buildings from ancient Greece.

Day 3 Chios. The birthplace of Homer, Chios remained a significant Aegean island into the Byzantine period. Homer mentions the island by name several times in the *Odyssey*, calling it 'paipaloessa', or craggy, a richly deserved epithet. The island is rich in ancient ruins and this morning we will visit

the 11th century Monastery of Nea Moni, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most important ecclesiastical monuments in Greece. Return to the MS *Serenissima* for lunch and this afternoon either relax and explore Chios Town independently or join a tour to the south of the island where we visit the beautifully preserved 14th century fortress village of Mesta and the elaborately decorated houses of Pirgi enjoying time to wander through their maze like streets.

Day 4 Samos. Overnight we will sail the short distance to Samos which lays claim to be the birthplace of Hera, the mathematician Pythagoras and philosopher Epicurus. From the port of Vathy we will visit the excellent archaeological museum with one of the richest collections in Greece including the five metre tall Kouros rescued from the Hereion and dedicated to the god Apollo. Continue to the Sanctuary



of Hera, the second largest temple ever built in Greece dating from the 6th century B.C. before arriving at the charming village of Pythagorio. After lunch on board we enjoy a free afternoon and evening in Vathy when you may wish to learn about the local wine production at the museum of Samos wines, visit a local beach or wander through the historic quarter of Ano Vathy.

Day 5 Icaria & Fourni. According to Greek myth, Icaria was created when Icarus crashed into the sea after flying too close to the sun. Today it is one of the least developed but visually dramatic Greek islands with beautiful coves, deep valleys and hidden beaches. On a morning scenic drive we will explore the villages and discover why the islanders here have a longer life expectancy than anywhere else in Europe. The island is also revered as the birthplace of Dionysus, the God of wine and we plan to visit one of the local vineyards. Enjoy lunch on board as we sail to one of the best kept secret islands in the Aegean, Fourni. Once a haven for pirates who enjoyed the island's remote setting and little changed for centuries, it has a wonderfully peaceful atmosphere. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to walk up from the harbour to the charming main square and enjoy a drink whilst watching island life. Sail over dinner to Patmos where we moor overnight. This evening the Easter celebrations begin with the Anastasi Mass at midnight when the local congregation walk with lighted candles between their homes and the churches.

Day 6 Patmos. Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians, both Orthodox and Western, and it was here that St. John received his revelation. Today, being Greek Easter our arrangements will be flexible around the local celebrations. We plan to visit the grotto of St. John, this small cave, now converted into the beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. In the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches we will enjoy a traditional Greek Easter lunch and hope to have the opportunity to climb to the Monastery of St. John the Theologian. Here we can admire the intricate pebbled laid floor, decorated arches and frescoes adorning the entrance to the chapel of Christodoulos. We will return to the ship this afternoon and have some free time for further exploration as we moor overnight.

Day 7 Lipsi & Leros. Today we can use our small ship to visit two of the less visited islands of the Dodecanese. Sail at first light to Lipsi, at just eight kilometres long, the tiny island is popular with yachts and has avoided the development of many surrounding islands. It is a wonderful place to spend a few hours walking amongst the whitewashed houses or watching the daily activities of the locals. Over lunch we cross to nearby Leros, the island of Artemis the God of hunting where we enjoy an afternoon exploring the island. From the village of Lakki we drive to the capital, Platanos to see the Pandeli Castle which overlooks Agia Marina offering wonderful views from the ramparts to the harbour below and islands beyond. Also learn about the fierce fighting that took place here during World War II and visit the war museum and tunnels in Merikia. We remain in Leros until late for anyone wishing to enjoy an evening ashore.

Day 8 Nisyros & Tilos. Arrive this morning in the pretty port town of Mandraki on the small island of Nisyros. You may wish to enjoy a relaxing morning wandering through the village

and climb to the Monastery of Panagia Spilianor or visit the archaeological museum. Alternatively join the drive to the Polyvotis Volcano named after the Titan imprisoned under the rock of Nisyros during the battle with the gods. Here we will learn more of the legends and have the chance to walk into the caldera. Over lunch sail to timeless Tilos, this lovely island has still to find its way onto the pages of tour operator's brochures so retains traditional atmosphere. See Livadia a lively little town and Megalo Chorio its tiny capital, rich in Crusader castles.

Day 9 Simi. Relax on board this morning as we sail the short distance to the island of Simi a small, mountainous and much indented pretty island. The harbour of Gialos is particularly attractive and we have an afternoon to enjoy some time to stroll through the colourful cobbled streets. The Simians were famous boat builders and are mentioned in the Illiad as sending boats to assist the siege of Troy but are better known today for their sponge diving. Return to the ship for dinner and sail this evening.

Day 10 Delos & Syros. This morning we visit Delos, which though the smallest of the Cyclades was once the political and religious centre for the whole of the Aegean. Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, it boasted

an oracle second only to that of Delphi. Explore the magnificent archaeological site including the marble sanctuary of Apollo. Sail during lunch to Syros which was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century and the capital Ermoupoli was Greece's principal port. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon with a stroll in the town of Ermoupoli, the capital of the Cyclades. The prosperity of the island in the 19th and early 20th century created through commerce and shipping is reflected in the architecture with a beautiful square, town hall and theatre. Overlooking Ermoupoli stands the hill-top Ano Syros, the original Medieval district with narrow lanes and white washed houses.

Day 11 Athens to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Thessaloniki Post-Cruise Extension



1st to 3rd April 2018
If you would like to spend some time in Thessaloniki before embarking

the MS Serenissima, we are offering a two night extension including a tour of Thessaloniki and a guided visit to the Vergina Royal Tombs Museum. For full details please visit our website, www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4195	£3995
2	Standard Stateroom	£4495	£4295
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4595	£4395
4	Superior Stateroom	£4995	£4795
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5295	£5095
6	Junior Suite	£5895	£5695
7	Executive Suite	£6195	£5995
8	Owner's Suite	£6195	£5995
9	Inside Single	£4195	£3995
10	Standard Single	£4495	£4295
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5595	£5395
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£5695	£5495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: Please note that we will be at anchor at the following ports and will use Zodiacs or local boats to tender ashore: Samothrace, Fourni, Lipsi, Delos.



Syros



Monastery, Chios



Leros



Delos



Simi

Peloponnese - The Land of Gods and Heroes

Discover the many wonders of the Peloponnese with Arthur Cotterell
13th to 24th April 2018

The Peloponnese is home to an extraordinary collection of great archaeological sites with tangible traces of the many civilisations which have at one point over the course of history called this region home including classical temples, Mycenaean palaces, Byzantine cities and Ottoman and Venetian fortresses. The islands are of course also the setting for numerous myths and legends which will be brought to life by our Guest Speaker and local guides. It was here that Hercules fought the Nemean lion, the legendary Spartan warriors battled and from where Paris of Troy eloped with Helen. Beyond these fascinating sites, there is also beautiful mountainous scenery, mysterious caves, vast gorges, charming villages and superb beaches.

With such an abundance of historical and natural wonders, we have planned our most comprehensive exploration of the islands yet. Over the course of eleven nights, our voyage will introduce you to the picturesque ports of Nafplio and Pylos, the Byzantine city of Mystras, the stunning coastal scenery of Mani, the sporting history of Olympia and Nemea and the quirky Odontotos railway. Travelling in April we will have the added advantage of witnessing the carpets of wildflowers. Upon leaving the Peloponnese we ensure we stay a little off the beaten track with our visit to Kythira Island and make the essential visit to Delphi. Finally, ensure you are on deck when we transit the Corinth Canal, which whilst only built in the 19th century was conceived as long ago as the 7th century BC, a wonderful end to our cruise and only possible on a small ship such as the MS Serenissima.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Piraeus. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Nafplio & Epidaurus.

Enjoy a morning cruising arriving into Nafplio at lunchtime. Looking out across the translucent water of the bay towards the Arcadian Mountains, Nafplio's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivalled in Greece. This afternoon we will visit one of the most renowned of Greece's ancient sites. Situated on the slopes of a beautiful and wooded valley, Epidaurus was known throughout the Hellenic world for

its unique medical facilities and healing treatments. Dedicated to Aesclepius, the god of healing, the city was filled with curative spas and baths and only priests had access to certain secret rites.

Most of the ruins of Epidaurus have been reduced to their foundations, with the exception of the astonishing theatre. Still used for special performances, the theatre is in an admirable state of preservation. Built into the ground, rather than above it, it is known for its fantastic acoustics, which we will observe during our visit. Return to Nafplio and enjoy time wandering the twisting labyrinthine streets, view the Venetian and Turkish architecture and maybe enjoy a pre-dinner drink ashore. Moor overnight.

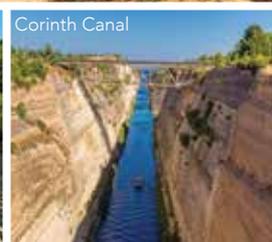
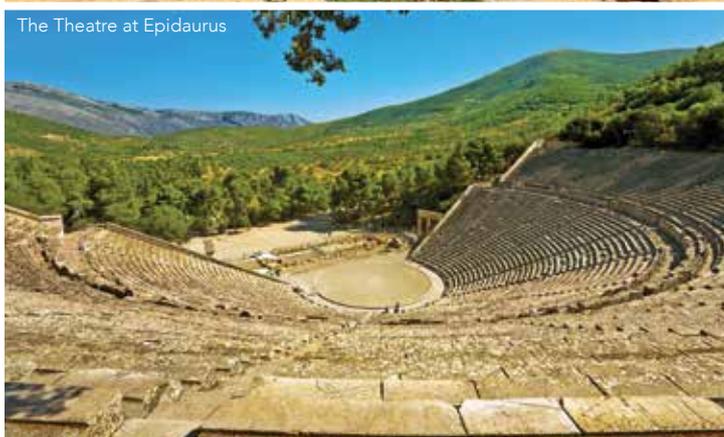
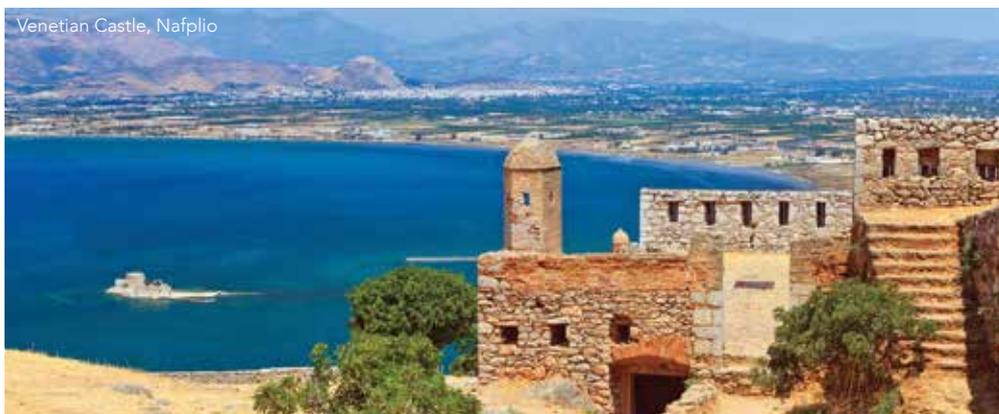
Day 3 Nafplio, Mycenae & Nemea.

After breakfast we will enjoy a scenic drive through the Argos Plain to Nemea, the site of a religious sanctuary which hosted the pan-Hellenic athletic games every two years from 573 B.C. until 271 B.C. The mythical origin of the Games is sometimes ascribed to Hercules who, after his first labour in which he had to kill the Nemean lion living in the caves of Mount Tritos above the site, established the athletic games in honour of his father, Zeus. Nemea was not a town or settlement but a venue where festivities were held during the games and our tour will include the Temple of Zeus, the bath house and the stadium before spending time in the small but excellent on site museum. Nemea is also famous for its red wines and we will enjoy a wine tasting at a local vineyard before we continue to the famous citadel of Mycenae which is located high above the confluence of two boulder-strewn ravines and accessed by way of the Lion Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. An archaeological briefing within the Treasury of Artreus (also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon) will add to our understanding and appreciation of the sights. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to Nafplio this afternoon and sailing this evening.



Day 4 Monemvasia. This is a magical place. A massive rock rises dramatically out of the sea and on top there is a fortress. However, the real attraction is the Medieval town with its narrow cobbled streets and winding stairways which lead to a warren of stone houses with walled gardens and courtyards, and the main square dominated by an old cannon and the cathedral. On a morning walking tour we will visit the town and the afternoon will be free to relax onboard or explore independently. Return to the ship in the early evening as we sail towards the island of Kythira for an overnight mooring.

Day 5 Kythira. Situated between the Peloponnese and Crete, the island of Kythira was, according to mythology, the birthplace of the goddess Aphrodite. We have a day to spend on this picturesque mountainous island where we will hopefully see expanses of wildflowers while driving through the countryside. A morning drive will take us to the Medieval village of Mylopotamo where we will visit the little church, the abandoned castle and enjoy some local delicacies in the town square. In Katolivadi we will visit the Byzantine museum which houses a collection of Byzantine and Post Byzantine art including murals from the Early Christianic years to the Post Byzantine, works of religious painting and objects of religious rituals. In Livadi we will see the Great English stone bridge built during English rule before ending in the capital of Chora where we explore the Venetian castle, old mansions and



“

Ensure you are on deck when we transit the Corinth Canal, a wonderful end to our cruise and only possible on a small ship such as the MS Serenissima.

”

enjoy the traditional architecture. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further independently.

Day 6 Gythio & Mystras. We arrive in picturesque Gythio this morning and head north towards Sparta, the capital of Laconia and a prominent city-state in ancient Greece. However our destination today is Mystras, a remarkably intact Byzantine town that once housed a population of 20,000 people. Here we visit the Cathedral of Agios Dimitrios, where the two-headed eagle which is the symbol of the Palaeologos Dynasty is carved into a plaque on the floor. According to tradition, this is where Constantine XII stepped when he was crowned king. Strolling through the narrow lanes of the dead city, we will also visit the Church of Agia Sophia, the Palace of the Despots and the Monastery of Pantanassa, with its brilliant frescoes. Before returning to the vessel, refreshments will be served at the picturesque tavern located just beneath the site offering sweeping views over the local terrain.

Day 7 Diros Caves & Mani Peninsula. After breakfast this morning we will head south from Gythio towards the beautiful Mani peninsula. Our day will start at the

impressive Diros Caves an area of 16,700 m² where over 2,800 water passages have been discovered. We will board small boats in the cave and enjoy a 2.5 kilometre long, winding passageway through an intricate network of passages and galleries, decorated with gleaming stalagmites and stalactites, whose reflection in the water accentuates their natural beauty. The remainder of the morning will be spent on the Mani peninsula visiting the villages and enjoying the wonderful views along the coast and the flowers along the roadside. Visit Aeropoli named after Ares, the God of War, for its role in the War of Independence. Here we find tower houses, constructed with field stones, which are distinct from the traditional blue and white buildings that characterise many Greek villages. Meanwhile in Kardamyli we find a seaside village with unique architecture and beautiful views. Enjoy a traditional Greek lunch with great views before a scenic drive back to the MS Serenissima.

Day 8 Pylos. This morning we will call into the home of Nestor, the wise king of Pylos who fought for the Greeks at Troy and advised Odysseus's son, Telemachus, on how best to deal with the evil suitors chasing his mother, Penelope. From our

berth in Navarino Bay, we will drive through the enchanting countryside to Methoni, one of the most impressive Medieval fortresses in Greece. The Venetians built Methoni on the Ionian Sea and Koroni on the Gulf of Messenia in the 13th century to safeguard their newly acquired Greek Empire. Also visit the castle of Neokastro which today houses the Centre for Underwater Archaeological Studies. Enjoy lunch on board and a free afternoon to explore Pylos independently. For those interested in learning more about King Nestor we will arrange an afternoon tour to his palace situated a short distance from Pylos and considered one of the best preserved of the Mycenaean Palaces in Greece.

Day 9 Olympia. The port of Katakolon will be our base today for our excursion to Olympia. Pastoral and lush, Olympia's plentiful ruins are shaded by Aleppo pines and olive trees. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see



the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland and the Archaeological Museum which houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. After our visit you may choose to return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in Katakolon or stay in Olympia to explore further independently.

Day 10 Delphi. Leaving the Peloponnese for a day we arrive during breakfast in Itea from where there will be a choice of excursions. This morning we will visit the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The ruins here are exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century B.C. After our visit you can choose to enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and drive through breathtaking mountain scenery to the Ossiou Loukas Monastery, one of the finest examples of a 12th century Byzantine Church. Alternatively return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon in Itea or join a visit to the nearby picturesque seaside village of Galaxidi where a guided walk will pass the Agios Nikolaos Church and historical buildings.

Day 11 Corinth & Corinth Canal. The port of Corinth flourished under both Greek and Roman rule due to its significant location on the Isthmus of Corinth which controlled trade routes as well as being home to the naval power which took colonies in Syracuse and Corfu. It has also been closely linked to St Paul who lived here for a number of years and through his letters to the Christian community. This morning you may choose to explore the site of Ancient Corinth seeing the Temple of Aphrodite, the 6th century B.C. Temple of Apollo, built on a hill overlooking the market place and the Roman Forum. Alternatively enjoy a trip on the Odontotos railway which climbs 750 metres from the seaside village of Diakopto to the mountain town of Kalavrita through the Vouraikos Gorge. The train passes through stunning scenery as it travels alongside the river, past waterfalls and through tunnels up the mountain. Enjoy some time to explore Kalavrita before returning to the MS Serenissima for lunch. Be on deck this afternoon as we transit the Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like ours which can now make this journey. This evening we continue sailing to Piraeus where we moor overnight.

Day 12 Athens to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London.



Thessaloniki



Meteora

Pre-Cruise Extension Thessaloniki to Athens

9th to 13th April 2018

If you would like to explore some of northern Greece before embarking the MS Serenissima, we have a four night extension available.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Thessaloniki. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet tonight for a welcome dinner.

Day 2 Thessaloniki & Kalambaka. Enjoy a morning walking tour of Thessaloniki visiting the early Christian and Byzantine monuments. After lunch in a local restaurant we will explore the Vergina Royal Tombs Museum. Discovered in 1977 by the archaeologist Manolis Andronikos they display the superb decorated facades of the temple-like tombs of King Philip II and a young prince (thought to be Alexander IV), the treasures found within them and a reconstruction of the Great Mound that originally marked the site of the Royal Tombs. After our visit we continue to Kalambaka for our overnight stay. Enjoy free time for dinner in the town.

Day 3 Meteora & Pelion Railway. Today we will spend the morning at awe-inspiring Meteora, where extraordinary monasteries are perched on a cluster of majestic soaring rock pillars; a truly spectacular and unique sight. We will visit the nunnery of Agios Stefanos and then continue to the imposing Varlaam Monastery, founded in 1518, which contains frescoes by the Theban iconographer Fragkos Katelavos. Later relax over lunch in a local restaurant in Milies before we board the Pelion Railway to Volos which follows the 60 centimetre gauge line, one of the narrowest in the world, from Milies to Ano Lehonia. Our journey will offer spectacular views. On arrival we transfer to Volos for an overnight stay.

Day 4 Volos & Thermopylae. Spend the morning at the Archaeological Museum of Volos, one of the oldest in Greece and the main archaeological museum in Thessaly. Here we will find a wealth of exhibits from the prehistoric to Roman periods. Continue to the site of Thermopylae, a mountain pass made famous as the location where 300 Spartans and their legendary leader Leonidas led the Greek army of only 6000 men against the invasion of 100,000 Persians in 480 B.C. Despite their inferior numbers they held the pass for three days before being overrun. After lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Athens for an evening at leisure and overnight stay.

Day 5 Athens. After breakfast we drive to the Acropolis, a symbol of the glory of ancient Greece. We will see the Temple of Athena Nike (Wingless Victory), and the Erechtheum, with its classical Porch of Maidens, the Caryatids. Stand in awe of what is considered the most perfect example of classical architecture in the world – the Parthenon. Looking down from the Acropolis we will see the two ancient theatres in its shadow, the Greek theatre of Dionysos where the masterpieces of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes debuted to delighted audiences, and the theatre of Herod Atticus. A brief walk will bring you to the new Acropolis museum situated right opposite by the foot of the Acropolis. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional Greek lunch and some free time in Plaka, before we transfer to Piraeus to embark the MS Serenissima.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4595	£4395
2	Standard Stateroom	£4895	£4695
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4995	£4795
4	Superior Stateroom	£5395	£5195
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5695	£5495
6	Junior Suite	£6295	£6095
7	Executive Suite	£6595	£6395
8	Owner's Suite	£6595	£6395
9	Inside Single	£4595	£4395
10	Standard Single	£4895	£4695
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5995	£5795
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£6095	£5895

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled 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 including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: Please note that due to the limited infrastructure at some of our ports of call during this itinerary, we expect to be at anchor and use the Zodiacs on some days.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £895; Single: £995

Price Includes: Overnight hotel accommodation in Thessaloniki, Kalambaka, Volos and Athens on a bed and breakfast basis, lunch on days 2, 3, 4 and 5, dinner on day 1, guided excursions, transfers, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

The Tholos at the Sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, Delphi



A Cruise Across the Middle Sea

From the Aegean to the Atlantic with Professor David Abulafia
24th April to 8th May 2018

Come with us to some of the greatest historic cities, ancient sites and charming islands as we make our way from the Aegean across the Middle Sea to Lisbon 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 Athens we will traverse the Corinth Canal by daylight before visiting the fascinating sites of Delphi and Olympia, Sicily with its incredible wealth of treasures and spend time exploring the Balearic Islands. Upon reaching mainland Spain we will call into the naval port of Cartagena and Motril, from where we will explore the treasures of Moorish Spain during our visit to the magnificent Alhambra, before our arrival in the great maritime city of Cadiz.

This itinerary is very much a classic that has been enjoyed over the decades and combines 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.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Pireaus.

Day 2 Corinth Canal & Delphi. Be

on deck this morning as we transit the Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like ours which can now make this journey. During the remainder of the morning we sail to Itea arriving in the early afternoon. From here we will visit to the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The ruins here are exceptional. We will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5,000 seat theatre dating from the fourth century B.C.

Day 3 Olympia. The port of Katakolon will be the base for our morning excursion to Olympia. Pastoral and lush, Olympia's plentiful ruins are shaded by Aleppo pines and olive trees. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland

and the Archaeological Museum that houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea as we sail to Sicily.

Day 4 Syracuse, Sicily. After a morning at sea we arrive into Syracuse over lunch. Founded by the Greeks in 734 B.C. by the 5th century Syracuse was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean and rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. We have a choice of tours today, either 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 site of the curious 'Dionysus' 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. Alternatively, explore the Baroque village of Noto. Built in 1703 Noto is a picturesque city located on the terraced slopes of Mount Iblei, among olive groves and almond trees. Here we find Sicilian Baroque-style palaces and monuments. A quiet walk along the central streets will reveal the 18th century Palazzo Ducezio and some baroque churches: San Francesco Immacolata, The Cathedral, San Carlo, Santa Chiara and the imposing Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, built in 1737. Return to the ship for dinner and sail this evening.



Day 5 Valletta, Malta. Sail this morning into the grand harbour of Valletta, the 16th century "Fortress City" built by the Knights of St John. On our morning tour we will see the highlights of Valletta and enjoy 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 and the palace where Napoleon Bonaparte is believed to have stayed in 1798. Our final stop will be at the richly decorated St John's Cathedral. The barrel vault of the cathedral is painted with scenes from the life of St. John and the floor is inlaid with the glittering tombs of 400 Knights. Chapels around the sides belong to the different "tongues" of the Order and in the oratory is Caravaggio's intensely moving picture, "The Beheading of St. John". We will return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and this afternoon you can choose to relax on board, return to Valletta or join a tour to Mdina which lies at the heart of the island. It was originally given the name of "Citta Nobile" and 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.

Day 6 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily. Founded in 280 B.C., Licata has grown into an important commercial centre but the main reason for our visit is to drive inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site on Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has

some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best wine making regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch. Return to the MS Serenissima in the late afternoon and sail this evening.

Day 7 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for the day. From the port choose to either travel to the nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterized by its winding cobbled stone streets and beautiful courtyards. Alternatively, travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 B.C. as well as the theatre from which you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon to explore Trapani at your own pace.

Day 8 At Sea. Enjoy a day to relax at sea. Perhaps join one of the lectures in the lounge or find a quiet spot on deck.

Day 9 Port Mahon, Menorca. Arrive this morning into Menorca, the most northerly

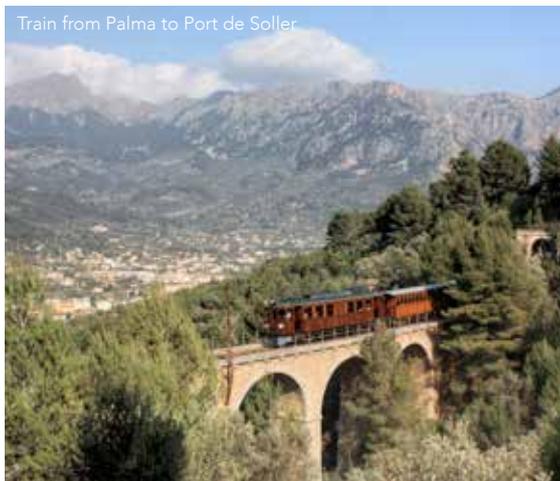
of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism. The island of Menorca offers pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. On our afternoon tour we will see the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago before making our way to aristocratic Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca. Situated at the head of a long channel from the sea, the city has had its share of disputes over sovereignty, and its character reflects the influence of Moorish, Turkish and Spanish rule. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Mahon.

Day 10 Port de Soller, Mallorca. The largest of the Balearic Islands, Mallorca has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under control of Carthage the principal city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. This morning we anchor off the attractive town of Soller from where we will take the beautifully maintained vintage train that connects Soller with Palma. Whilst on board we enjoy splendid mountain views of the Serra de Tramuntana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of just seven kilometres the railway rises 199 metres and runs through thirteen tunnels and crosses several bridges. We will return to Soller this afternoon for the opportunity to enjoy some free time to explore the quaint town. *Please note that we may be at anchor today and therefore use the vessel's Zodiacs or local tenders.*

Day 11 Cartagena, Spain. After a leisurely morning at sea we arrive

this afternoon in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena. Enter the deep natural harbour through two fortified rocky headlands for an afternoon of exploration in a historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. The city walls remained intact until the 20th century, creating a dense historic centre. Take the lift or walk up to Concepcio Castle for amazing views of the city and harbour, view the Roman amphitheatre and the archaeological site of Molinete where work continues to uncover the Roman city. Later enjoy a stroll along the tree-lined harbour promenade as we return to the MS Serenissima.

Day 12 Motril. Motril is the base today for our visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Alhambra, one of the finest examples of Moorish culture, art and architecture. Alhambra's construction began in the 11th century on the red hill known as Assabika which overlooks Granada. The Alcazaba fortress was the first structure to be built, followed by the royal palace and residence of members of the court. We will visit the most important halls and courtyards of the Alhambra, including the Alcazaba Fortress, the Serrallo, the Patio of los Arrayanes (Myrtle Courtyard), the Hall of la Barca, the Salon of the Embajadores (Ambassadors Hall), the Patio de los Leones (Lions Courtyard), the Hall of the Abencerrajes, the Royal Baths and the Palace of Charles V. Next to the Alhambra, we will also visit the sumptuous Generalife Gardens, the luxurious summer retreat of the Moorish kings of Granada. The beautiful gardens feature abundant and varied flora and stunning water features.



Train from Palma to Port de Soller



Generalife Gardens

Day 13 Cadiz. Located on a peninsula jutting out into a bay Cadiz is almost entirely surrounded by water. It is the oldest surviving city in Spain, founded by the Phoenicians in 1100 B.C. and later occupied by the Carthaginians, Romans, Visigoths and Moors. During our guided tour we will discover the most beautiful monuments and landmarks of the city including the Mudejar-style tobacco factory, Santo Domingo Church, the Santa Catalina Fortress and finally the Cathedral of Cadiz and Diocesan Museum in the old city. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to explore further. Alternatively, join a full day tour to Seville where we will see the Alcazar with its exotic terraced garden. Built by the Moors in the 14th century 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 and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant.

Day 14 Portimao, Portugal. Our first call in Portugal is at Portimao where we will wander back in time to the era of the Portuguese Discoveries. Our morning tour will take us to Lagos, the ancient maritime town that Prince Henry the Navigator called home. On a guided walk we will see the city walls, the fortress, the site of the former slave market and the statue of Prince Henry the Navigator. We then head for Sagres, a fishing village that was the starting point for many expeditions and the location of Prince Henry's navigation school. Return to the ship via Cape St. Vincent, the most South West point of Europe known as "The End of the World" and the lighthouse for one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. Enjoy lunch on board and an afternoon at sea.

Day 15 Lisbon to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4895	£4695
2	Standard Stateroom	£5595	£5395
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£5695	£5495
4	Superior Stateroom	£5995	£5795
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£6095	£5895
6	Junior Suite	£6495	£6295
7	Executive Suite	£6995	£6795
8	Owner's Suite	£6995	£6795
9	Inside Single	£4895	£4695
10	Standard Single	£5595	£5395
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5995	£5795
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£6095	£5895

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 14 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 including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Coimbra, Portugal

Post-Cruise Portugal Extension

8th to 11th May 2018

The Itinerary

Day 1 Lisbon to Coimbra. Disembark this morning and enjoy a scenic drive in Lisbon before continuing out of the city to Tomar where we will visit the Convento de Cristo. Founded in 1160 by Gualdim Pais, and headquarters of the legendary Knights Templar, this extraordinary monument is a rambling concoction of Gothic, Manueline and Renaissance architecture. After lunch we will continue our journey to Coimbra and check in to the Hotel Quinta das Lagrimas, our base for the next two nights.

Day 2 Coimbra. Spend the day in charming Coimbra, the Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years and the site of the country's greatest university for the past five centuries. Visit the stunning 16th to 18th century buildings, including the Paco das Escolas (Royal Palace). We will enjoy lunch at the university followed by a free afternoon for individual exploration.

Day 3 Guimaraes. After breakfast in the hotel we will drive to Guimaraes, the birthplace of Afonso Henriques, the first independent King of Portugal. Guimaraes has beautifully preserved its illustrious past; its Medieval centre is a warren of lanes and picturesque plazas framed by 14th century edifices and on an adjacent hill stands the 1,000 year old castle and the palace built by the first duke of Braganca in the 15th century. Overnight at Hotel Toural.

Day 4 Guimaraes to London. Spend the morning in Braga, an elegant town laced with ancient narrow lanes, plazas and Baroque churches. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before we transfer to Oporto for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£545**; Single: **£765**

Price Includes: Three nights hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis as described, tours as described, Tour Manager, lunches, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, dinners.



Spring on the Edge

A voyage from Lisbon to Portsmouth
8th to 19th May 2018

Join the MS Serenissima in Lisbon next spring for this coastal voyage of some 1500 miles to Portsmouth visiting some marvellously historic and scenic places along the way. Giving the large ports a wide berth, we will instead call into some small islands and places away from the well traversed routes of the larger cruise lines.

We will witness some splendid gardens in all their springtime glory, step into the pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, spend time exploring some charming Breton islands and taste some local ports and wines. All this is combined with the rich maritime history of the region and the sheer beauty of the coastal landscapes making for an endlessly fascinating cultural experience.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Lisbon, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima.

Day 2 Figueira da Foz for Coimbra. Located at the mouth of the Mondego River, Figueira da Foz is one of central Portugal's prime beach resorts. However, the reason for our call is to visit the nearby city of Coimbra, the Medieval capital of Portugal for over 100 years. On a walking tour we will view the stunning buildings from the 16th to 18th centuries before we head to the University which was recently appointed UNESCO status. Founded in the 13th century we will see the Chapel of Sao Miguel and the Joanine Library which houses over 300,000 works dating back to the 16th century. After a local lunch, choose to return to Figueira da Foz or stay in Coimbra for some free time.

Day 3 Oporto. Continuing our journey in Portugal we arrive this morning into the port of Leixoes, the base for our day of activities around Oporto. This morning we will explore Oporto seeing the impressive St. Francis Church and the Ribeira before continuing to a local port wine cellar. Here we will be able to learn all about these wines and how they are produced before we enjoy a tasting. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore independently. Alternatively, the keen gardeners may prefer to join

the tour to the 17th century Casa do Campo. The Baroque style garden was built around the 18th century and is one of the most artistic gardens in Portugal.

Day 4 Villagarcia de Arousa, Spain. Arrive in Galicia this morning from where we have a choice of excursions. There will be a half day tour to some of the wonderful houses and gardens of the Galicia region. Visit the Pazo de Oca, a Baroque stately home known as the 'Galician Versailles' and 'El Generalife of the north' due to the beauty of its gardens. Continue to Pazo de Ribadulla dating from the 16th century and set in a beautiful location on the shores of the Ulla Valley. The garden was developed by the Armada family in the 1870s and is today renowned for its outstanding collection of camellia trees, giant magnolias, olive trees and Liriodendrons. Return to the vessel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively enjoy a full day discovery of 'Rias Baixas' which translates as low estuaries. Visit the 15th century Pazo de Rubianes where we find one of the three official lordships in Spain. Visit the 11 hectare garden before we continue to the cellar of Martin Codax where we will learn about local wine production and techniques and enjoy a tasting. After a tapas lunch we drive to El Grove and board a catamaran for a journey along the estuary towards the bateas, the floating docks used for mussel farming. Learn about the local industry before enjoying

some freshly caught mussels on the way back to the vessel.

Day 5 Santiago de Compostela.

From our berth in La Coruna we will make our way to Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the chance to hike a short section towards Santiago. Otherwise transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias; the Quintana Plaza; House of Parra; facade of Azabachería; and the facade of San Martin Pinaro. Enjoy lunch at a Parador and some free time before returning to the ship.



Day 6 Gijon. Gijon is the largest city in Asturias and our base for a morning ashore in nearby Oviedo, the modern capital of the Asturias region. Oviedo is recognised as the most culturally significant and historically interesting city of the province and after a panoramic drive we begin a walking tour where we will see the San Salvador Gothic Cathedral before exploring the restored Old Town decorated with beautiful sculptures.

Day 7 Belle Ile, France. Belle Ile is the largest of all Breton islands with a dramatic coastline comprising cliffs, creeks and beaches. We will arrive during lunch in Le Palais, the



island's capital which is dominated by a star shaped 16th century citadel. Enjoy time to explore the small town at your leisure.

Day 8 Concarneau. One of Brittany's main fishing ports and a centre for the French tuna industry, the town of Concarneau also appeals as a destination in its own right with its historic 'ville close', the walled city, built on a small island in the centre of the harbour. Spend the morning exploring the narrow streets or climb onto the ramparts for spectacular views. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon there is a choice of excursions. You may choose to explore the town further or join us as we visit pretty Pont Aven made famous by the many painters including Paul Gauguin, who were attracted by the village setting and came here at the end of the 19th century. They formed 'L'Ecole de Pont Aven' school of painting which focused on colour and symbolism. We will enjoy riverside walks, view the numerous watermills and see the spots where the artists used to paint. We return to the ship via the traditional village of Kerascoet, a lovely site offering wonderfully preserved thatched cottages dating back to the 15th century.

Day 9 Roscoff & Ile de Batz. This morning we arrive in the Brittany port of Roscoff from where we take a short ferry ride to the nearby charming Ile de Batz. This small traffic-free island, at only three square miles, is a perfect place to spend a morning. From the harbour you may wish to join a walk to the Jardin George Delaselle. This exotic garden was developed in 1897 and now contains more than 2,500 different

varieties of plants originating from as far afield as New Zealand and Chile. We will be shown around by the head gardener who will explain the cultivation processes. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon we will explore the town and its environs. See the impressive Renaissance mansions and continue to Saint Vougay and see the 'Chateau de Kerjean', one of the finest Renaissance buildings in Brittany.

Day 10 Isles of Scilly, UK. Spend the morning on traffic free Treco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous sub-tropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Enjoy time to wander at your own pace along the paths. After lunch we will tender ashore to Bryher, the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Our naturalists will lead a number of guided walks along the tracks that cross the island amongst hedgerows and fields bursting with wildflowers. The active may wish to climb Watch Hill, where in the past islanders would keep watch for ships in distress or alternatively take a stroll to one of the beautiful beaches.

Day 11 Dartmouth. Awake this morning at our anchorage in the River Dart. On a choice of excursions you may choose to visit 'Greenway', the wonderful historic house and garden that was once home to Agatha Christie. There will be time to explore many of its restored gardens, including the Camellia Garden, a wonderful place to sit and ponder on the history of the house and the notable residents

Santiago de Compostela



Coimbra



Concarneau



and visitors that have included Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake. Alternatively visit the 1920s country retreat of the D'Oyly Carte family at Coletton Fishacre. Lose yourself in the RHS accredited garden by the sea as we wander the paths through glades and past tranquil ponds. Meanwhile the house interior is imbued with 1920s elegance and Art Deco features and we can glimpse life both upstairs and downstairs from the glamorous saloon to the servants' rooms. Return to the vessel for lunch followed by an afternoon at leisure to explore Dartmouth.

Day 12 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway station and our London departure airport at a fixed time.

Royal Palace, Sintra



Pre-Cruise Sintra Extension

6th to 8th May 2018

Before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night extension to Sintra. Sintra's stunning setting in the hills behind Lisbon makes it an ideal starting point for our journey and the area is home to some of Portugal's finest palaces and gardens which we will explore.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Lisbon, Portugal. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival in Lisbon we transfer to the nearby hill town of Sintra for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for a welcome dinner this evening.

Day 2 Sintra. We start the day in the Royal Palace in the centre of Sintra, an interesting mix of styles with the original building dating back to the 15th century. Exploring on foot we continue to the Regaleira Gardens, an exotic and theatrical early 19th century creation and by complete contrast visit the Quinta Torre de Ribafria, with its Medieval origins. After lunch we head for the Monserrate Gardens, a wonderfully romantic place designed by Sir Francis Cook in the mid-19th century.

Day 3 Sintra to Lisbon. After breakfast in the hotel we drive to Queluz Palace for a morning of exploration in these very formal, yet intimate gardens. Often referred to as the Versailles of Portugal, this former royal palace is surrounded by extensive grounds. See the Malta Garden famous for its musical concerts, the Hanging Garden, its statues, ponds, grotto and the azulejo-tiled canal where the royal family would go boating. Continue to Lisbon for lunch and some free time in old Lisbon before embarking the MS Serenissima in the late afternoon. Sail in the early evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
1	Inside Twin/Double	£3695
2	Standard Stateroom	£4295
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4495
4	Superior Stateroom	£4795
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£4995
6	Junior Suite	£5395
7	Executive Suite	£5595
8	Owner's Suite	£5595
9	Inside Single	£4095
10	Standard Single	£4295
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5295
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£5495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Lisbon, 11 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team, Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£469**; Single: **£625**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Sintra on breakfast only basis, transfers from Lisbon airport to the hotel and hotel to ship, tours, dinner on day 1, lunches on days 2 and 3, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Midsummer in Norway & the Scottish Isles

A voyage from Aberdeen to Tromsø
21st June to 3rd July 2018

Our voyage begins on the east coast of Scotland in the port of Aberdeen. From here, we call into Kirkwall, capital of the Orkney Islands, before our journey takes in the remote Shetland Islands, where we learn of the many legends that have shaped this mystical place. Cruising north, we will get our first glimpse of Norway, and begin our navigation of the fjords. Words cannot describe the awe-inspiring scenery as we take in views of mountains, glaciers, waterfalls, valleys and truly dramatic fjords. Amongst them, Naerofjorden has been included on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

This itinerary uniquely combines the wonders of the natural world with the historical and cultural highlights of the area. Our visits will include the archeological site of Jarlshof in the Shetlands, Haugesund to learn of Norway's Viking heritage and Alesund to marvel at the Art Nouveau architecture. We will also spend time exploring the narrow and deep sided Trollfjorden and witnessing the prolific birdlife at Runde and the Vega Archipelago, home to more than 230 species of birds. With our small ship we are able to access small harbours which are just not accessible to the larger cruise ships and ferries and we will be able to get up close to see nature at its rawest, cruise rugged coastlines and witness the vibrant colours of this wonderful region.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland.

Embark the MS Serenissima this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen airport and train station at a fixed time. Sail this evening for the Orkney Islands.

Day 2 Kirkwall, Orkney Islands.

This morning we arrive at the Orkney capital of Kirkwall from where we will head into the west of Mainland, Orkney's largest island. We will pass through gentle rolling landscape and into the Neolithic Heartland of Orkney; an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of pre-historic archaeology. We will see the Standing Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar; a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5000 years. We continue to the 5000-year-old village of Skara Brae and see the remarkable dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms only 150 years ago. Time

permitting we will also visit Birsay, the ancient centre of Viking power and explore St Magnus Church which dates back over 900 years. This afternoon is free to explore Kirkwall independently or maybe join our naturalists on a guided walk looking at the local flora and fauna.

Day 3 Lerwick, Shetland Islands.

From the Shetland capital we will visit the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof. The site was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – late Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, an Iron-Age broch and wheelhouses, several Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead, and the 16th century laird's house. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore this historic

port. Perhaps wander through its narrow stone lanes or maybe visit the excellent Shetland Museum, containing artefacts from shipwrecks and the whaling era.

Day 4 Haugesund, Norway.

After a morning at sea our first call in Norway will be at the port of Haugesund. It was in nearby Avaldsnes where, a thousand years ago, King Harald Fairhair united Norway into a single kingdom, and it was from this area that the Viking Kings ruled Norway for more than 500 years. The region has laid claim to the title of Norway's Birthplace and Homeland of the Viking Kings. On an afternoon tour we will visit the 13th century St Olavs church which was built by Haakon Haakonson and seen as a symbol of the unification of the Norwegian Kingdom. Later we will learn about the Viking Age at the Nordvegen Heritage Centre before ending at a Viking Farm complete with long houses, round houses and a large boat shed.

Day 5 Rosendal, Hardangerfjord.

Arrive this morning in Hardangerfjord, the third largest fjord in the world. We will dock in Rosendal and drive along the fjord towards the small part of the Hardangerfjord called Maurangerfjord, experiencing the idyllic scenery and farms on the way and viewing the magnificent Langfoss waterfall. When we arrive at the small village of Sunndal we will walk to Bondhus Lake which is surrounded by a fascinating landscape of fjords and mountains. After lunch on board we have free time to explore the town, maybe visit the 12th century Kvinnerad church or see the gardens at Barony Rosendal.

Day 6 Bergen. Over breakfast we arrive in the lovely fjord capital of Bergen. A guided excursion will include King Hakons Hall, the Rosenkrantz Tower and St. Mary's Church which was built around 1170 and is one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Norway. Continue to Trolldhaugen, the home of



Norway's most famous composer, Edvard Grieg where we explore the house and gardens before enjoying a private concert of his music. We return to the ship via the Hanseatic Quarters of 'Bryggen'. This afternoon is at leisure to explore at your own pace.

Day 7 Sognefjorden & Naerofjorden.

We spend the day enjoying spectacular fjord scenery from aboard the MS Serenissima. Sognefjorden, Norway's longest and deepest fjord extends more than 200 kilometres inland and is surrounded by three national parks. Here we will see thundering waterfalls, glacier arms stretching down into green valleys and many small farms clinging to the mountainside. We will continue to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Naerofjorden, one of the many fjord arms of Sognefjord and considered one of the most dramatic. If time and weather permits we will drop the Zodiacs to find a suitable landing to explore and enjoy a walk. This evening we will moor at the village of Flam.

Day 8 Flam. This morning we will embark on one of the most dramatic train rides in Europe. The Flam Railway is only 20 kilometres long but a masterpiece of engineering. The train climbs up from sea level to 867 metres during these 20 kilometres, crossing back and forth across rivers and through 20 tunnels. To allow you to view the magnificent scenery the train will proceed slowly and stop at the Kjosfossen waterfall where you may leave the train to take a closer look or take some pictures. We will leave the



Likholefossen



Bergen



Orkney Islands



Puffins, Runde



Bronnoysund & Mount Torghatten

train at Vatnahalsen and walk from the station to the Mountain Hotel where there will be time to relax before re-boarding the train back to Flam. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to spend time relaxing in the village before we sail back along the scenic fjords this evening. At this time of year, with the long evenings, it is a perfect time to relax on deck after dinner and watch the world go by.

Day 9 Dalsfjord & Bygstad.

Dalsfjord lies at the heart of Western Norway with its starkly contrasting fjord scenery, half way between Bergen and Alesund. This little-known fjord arm has a gentler landscape where powerful and diverse watercourses have left their impression on the scenery and settlements. Today's tour will take us through this beautiful environment and over to Sunnfjord with its magnificent waterfalls and mountains. We will visit Sunnfjord Museum, which provides an insight into how life was in local settlements in the mid-1800s, before taking a scenic drive to the region known as 'the waterfall country' stopping at the Huldefossen and Likholefossen waterfalls and returning via the Hestadfjord where we find the 19th century Hestad Church located in idyllic surroundings.

Day 10 Runde & Alesund. Be on deck early this morning as we cruise by the bird cliffs at Runde, one of the largest nesting cliffs in Norway and home to half a million birds. More than 240 different species have been observed here including puffins, gannets,

razorbills and northern fulmar. We continue to Alesund, one of the most beautiful towns in Norway. It is a great place to spend a morning exploring the streets with their Art Nouveau buildings or the more active may like to enjoy a walk up Mount Aksla taking the 418 steps for magnificent views of the town, islands and Sunnmore Alps. Return to the ship for lunch as we continue our journey north.

Day 11 Torghatten & Vega Island.

This morning Mount Torghatten, one of the most famous landmarks on the Norwegian coast, will come into view. A fairly strenuous optional walk will take you to the 'hole' in the mountain which has been eroded by the sea. For those wishing to have a more relaxing morning our naturalists will lead some gentler walks along the water's edge. Over lunch we sail to the Vega Archipelago, made up of more than 6000 islands, reefs and skerries, which was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 2004 as it represented "the way generations of fishermen/farmers have, over the past 1500 years, maintained a sustainable living in an inhospitable seascape near the Arctic Circle, based on the now unique practice of eider down harvesting." We will gain an insight into the traditions of egg and down collection and can learn more at the local museum or enjoy walks around the island spotting the eider ducks and unique flora. We continue our journey north and will cross the Arctic Circle tonight when we will raise a glass in the midnight sun when passing the island of Vikingen.

Day 12 Lofoten Islands & Trollfjorden. Our final morning sees us in the Lofoten Archipelago, an enchanting area of picturesque villages with jagged granite mountain peaks forming a dramatic backdrop. We will have a full day tour to explore the villages and see the life of these islands. We will disembark in the small fishing village of Reine revered as one of the most beautiful in Norway before driving through the dramatic Lofoten scenery to Nusfjord. Enjoy a guided walk around this UNESCO World Heritage Site seeing the restored fishing cabins and local

stores. After lunch we will continue to the picturesque seaside village of Vikten and the Viking Museum at Borg. Our day ends in Svolvær where the ship will have sailed to meet us. This evening we enjoy time on deck as we sail through the beautiful, narrow and steep sided Trollfjorden witnessing the birdlife, waterfalls and dramatic scenery.

Day 13 Tromso to London Stansted.

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to a private terminal at London Stansted airport.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£5195	£4995
2	Standard Stateroom	£5395	£5195
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£5695	£5495
4	Superior Stateroom	£5950	£5750
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£6195	£5995
6	Junior Suite	£6450	£6250
7	Executive Suite	£7195	£6995
8	Owner's Suite	£7195	£6995
9	Inside Single	£5195	£4995
10	Standard Single	£5395	£5195
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£7745	£7545
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£8195	£7995

Price Includes: Economy class air travel aboard specially chartered flight from Tromso to London Stansted, 12 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.

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.

Exploring the White Sea

A journey to the Northern Cape and beyond to Russia's White Sea with Sir Tony Brenton
3rd to 17th July 2018

For decades the White Sea was a forbidden area and today because of its geographic isolation it remains a region of great mystery. During this voyage we will have six days in the region where we will concentrate on Archangel and the Solovetsky Islands. It was on the Solovetsky Islands that Stalin built one of his infamous Gulags, the 'Red Army' established a vital submarine base and an important shipbuilding industry was founded.

The most fascinating aspect of the Solovetsky islands is the 16th century Solovetsky Monastery. This vast Medieval fortress with its fascinating and turbulent history is remarkably well preserved. It is believed that Vikings, both English and Norman came to the White Sea to fish and trade for furs up until the 13th century when global cooling made navigation difficult. In 1553 captain Richard Chancellor was shipwrecked in the White Sea whilst seeking a northern sea route to China. Never one to miss an opportunity, he negotiated trade privileges with Ivan the Terrible which opened diplomatic relations between England and Russia and resulted with a monk from the ancient Nikol-Karelski Monastery becoming the first Russian ambassador to England.

The region is awash with intriguing history, much of which both ancient and modern will be brought to life by our local guides and our guest speaker. Beginning our journey in Norway's northern port of Tromsø we also have the opportunity of exploring the region of the North Cape as well as Murmansk, the largest city north of the Arctic Circle in the world. Here we will visit the cemetery of the officers and soldiers of the Allied Forces who bravely manned the convoys during World War II. To add to your experience, you will be joined on board by an expert team including naturalists who through onboard briefings and lectures will add to your understanding of the geology, flora and fauna of the region.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Stansted to Tromsø, Norway. Fly by specially chartered flight from a private terminal at London Stansted airport. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS *Serenissima*, sail this evening.

Days 2 & 3 North Cape, Norway.

We will spend a day and a half taking a close look at the magnificent landscape of the area known as Finnmark. This wilderness area is home to many thousands of Sami people and we will visit North Cape Hall with its panoramic views and exhibits of the history of the Cape. There will be the opportunity to explore the wildlife and scenery on foot and by Zodiac. The deeply carved fjords and unspoiled islands of this little-known area are just perfect for expedition cruising. We hope to use our Zodiacs to explore the magnificent bird cliffs at Gjesvaerstappen Island home to

thousands of gannets, guillemots, puffins and razorbills. We will round the North Cape and see the monument erected on top of the 307 metre cliff of Mageroya Island and drive to the North Cape Plateau from the port of Skarsvag.

Day 4 Murmansk, Russia. Our first call in Russia will be at the historic city of Murmansk. Founded in 1916, the city of Murmansk today has a population of approximately half a million. Murmansk was the last city founded in the Russian Empire and during the Cold War was a centre of Soviet submarine activity. After clearing Russian customs we will have the afternoon to discover more of the city. See the impressive Palace of Culture and the Memorial Complex to the Defenders of the Polar region with the imposing statue of Alyosha facing out to sea. You can then choose to visit

the Museum of the Northern Fleet detailing the formation of Russia's first navy and the Murmansk convoys during the World War II or alternatively see the Museum of Regional Studies devoted to the history of the Pomor

and Lappish people as well as the flora and fauna of the area. If time permits we also hope to visit the Lenin Icebreaker, launched in 1957 as the world's first nuclear powered ship and now a museum.



Beluga whales

Days 5 to 7 White Sea. We have three days exploring this remote and little visited area. Whilst we have a planned itinerary it will be subject to change based on weather conditions and local authorities however we hope to visit a number of the small communities and islands. Zodiacs will land us at Morzhovets Island where we can visit the lighthouse, see the abandoned military unit or join a walk to see the birdlife at the lakes. We may visit the Kanin Peninsula which divides the White and Barents Seas and hope to see owls, plovers and divers. Visit Shoina Village on the Kanin Peninsula, which was once the second largest port in the area after Murmansk but now has a population of just 300 as the town has been engulfed by sand being washed up from the sea and blown ashore. It has been described as the "northernmost desert" in the world. Meanwhile at Dvorovaya Bay we will use Zodiacs to view the cliffs that are home to thousands of kittiwakes and guillemots that nest here in summer.

Days 8 to 10 Solovetsky Islands, Russia. Sitting in the middle of the White Sea is the Solovetsky archipelago, a mythical, ethereal and timeless place. We will spend three days exploring this UNESCO

site of outstanding natural beauty. It is on this isolated archipelago that we will find the Solovetsky Monastery. Within its extensive defensive walls are two 16th century cathedrals, housing some stunning icons and many other buildings including watchtowers and gates, icon-painting workshop, residential chambers and a number of workrooms which allowed this impressive monastery to exist in almost complete isolation. We will visit the botanical gardens, developed by the monks in the 19th century, where because of its microclimate all manner of vegetables and fruit are able to grow. The monastery was used by Stalin as a particularly harsh gulag, but in recent years a great effort has been made to restore the complex to some of its former glory. For the active there will be an opportunity to hike to Beluga Cape to view the Beluga whales that make this area home in the summer months or climb to the top of Sekiraya Hill with wonderful panoramas over the island and White Sea. Making the most of the almost perpetual daylight we will call into some of the smaller islands. On Zayatsky Island we will see the 3rd century BC Neolithic structures, the fascinating labyrinths and the St Andrew wooden church ordered by Peter the Great in 1702. Meanwhile on Anzer we can take a scenic forest walk to the islands monastery.

Day 11 Archangel, Russia.

Archangel lies on both banks of the Northern Dvina River near its exit into the White Sea and is spread over 40 kilometres along the banks of the river and numerous islands of its delta. In the 18th century this city was the centre of Russian ship building. Today, it is a timber-logging and fishing area. On our guided walk through its streets we will learn of its intriguing history and the area's



occupation by 'White Russians' immediately after the 1918 Revolution. During World War II, Archangel was a major port for both receiving from the allies and as a base for the North Sea Fleet. Amazingly, the surrounding waters are blocked by ice for up to 190 days a year, but through the use of ice-breakers remain open for most of the year. A city excursion will include the old quarter with its wooden houses, Trotsky Prospect and the Orthodox Church. Also see the 17th century Merchant Yard, the site of Russia's first shipyard and home to a museum devoted to the history of the city. This evening we enjoy a Russian folk show on board before we clear Russian customs and start our journey back to Norway.

Day 12 At Sea. Spend the day at sea, enjoy the lecture programme or find a spot on deck.

Day 13 Vardo, Norway. After a morning at sea we return to Norway at the island of Vardo, the oldest town in northern Norway and the country's easternmost community. Today it is a prosperous fishing town which has had an interesting past. Here we find the 18th century, star shaped Vardohus Fortress built as a defence against Russia and also the Steilneset Memorial which honours the victims of the 17th century Vardo Witch trials. At the Pomor Museum we can learn about the "pomor trade" between Russia and Norway which was based on

the bartering of fish and corn up until the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. We may also be able to see the nearby island of Hornoya which is home to around 80,000 nesting seabirds including puffin, guillemots and kittiwakes.

Day 14 Hammerfest, Norway. Spend the morning cruising before we arrive in the world's most northernmost town during lunch. During World War II the city was the Germans main U-boat base in Finnmark and a supply centre for their vessels attacking Russia however during their retreat in 1945 the city was destroyed. This afternoon we can visit the Museum of Reconstruction which documents the rebuilding of the region and also the Polar Bear Society which showcases the town's proud traditions of hunting and fishing in the Arctic. Also see the Meridian Column, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which commemorates the 19th century survey conducted by Russian scientist, Friedrich Struve, to determine the arc of the global meridian and calculate the size and shape of the earth. Alternatively enjoy a walk up to the Salen viewpoint offering views over the bay and islands.

Day 15 Tromso to London Stansted. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to a private terminal at London Stansted airport.



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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£6295	£6095
2	Standard Stateroom	£6695	£6495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£6895	£6695
4	Superior Stateroom	£7195	£6995
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£7495	£7295
6	Junior Suite	£7995	£7795
7	Executive Suite	£8795	£8595
8	Owner's Suite	£8795	£8595
9	Inside Single	£6295	£6095
10	Standard Single	£6695	£6675
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£7695	£7495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£7895	£7695

Price Includes: Economy class return air travel aboard specially chartered flight, 14 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Russian visa.

Ship to Shore: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used on some days to explore coastlines and to transport passengers ashore. Some remote destinations which we will be visiting are only accessible by Zodiacs.

From the Norwegian Fjords to the Baltic Sea

A voyage from Tromso to Copenhagen
17th to 31st July 2018

A voyage along Norway's beautiful coastline offers the traveller scenery on an epic scale. The immense size of the magnificent fjords, the cascading waterfalls, the picturesque fishing villages and dramatic snow-capped mountains with farms clinging to their slopes are a sight to behold. The region is certainly one of our most popular destinations and simply perfect for exploration by small ship.

With almost 25 years of experience in operating cruises in Norway, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary featuring as it does a combination of majestic fjords, small towns, cultural history and wildlife. We begin in the Arctic Circle at Tromso from where we sail south to the enchanting Lofoten Islands for a full day to explore the villages and experience life on the islands. For those interested in the history of the region we visit Trondheim, Norway's capital during the Viking Age until 1217. We will also have the opportunity to see the best-preserved Viking ships in existence during our guided tour of Oslo before we sail to the northernmost tip of Denmark for a day in the delightful resort of Skagen.

Our days will be spent on guided excursions with local guides, on walks with our naturalists and on deck of the MS Serenissima as we cruise amongst the fjords. There will also be ample time to relax and enjoy the summer days independently when in some of the delightful towns such as Lillesand, Kragero and Denmark's Helsingor, ports which the larger cruise vessels in the region are unable to access.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Stansted to Tromso, Norway. Fly by specially chartered flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Embark and enjoy a Welcome Drink and Dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 2 Lofoten Islands. Our first morning of exploration sees us in the Lofoten Archipelago, an enchanting area of picturesque villages with jagged granite mountain peaks forming a dramatic backdrop. We will have a full day tour to explore the villages and see the life of these islands. We will disembark in Svolvær and drive to the picturesque seaside village of Vikten and the Viking Museum at Borg before driving through the dramatic Lofoten scenery to Nusfjord. Here we will enjoy a guided walk around this UNESCO World Heritage Site seeing the restored fishing cabins and local stores, followed by lunch. Our day ends in the small fishing village of Reine revered as one of the most beautiful in Norway, where the MS Serenissima will have sailed to meet us.



Day 3 Torghatten. Over breakfast we will cross the Arctic Circle as we pass by the island of Vikingen where we will see the Arctic Circle Monument marking the location. We will continue to cruise through Bronnoysund and in the early afternoon Mount Torghatten will come into view, one of the most famous landmarks on the Norwegian coast. A fairly strenuous walk will take you to the 'hole' in the mountain which has been eroded by the sea. For those wishing to have a more relaxing afternoon our naturalists will lead some gentler walks along the water's edge.





Lofoten Cathedral



Torghatten



Copenhagen



Puffin, Runde

Day 4 Trondheim. Arrive this morning into Trondheim. Founded in A.D.997 by Viking King Olav Tryggvason, Trondheim was Norway's first capital city and we will discover its historical treasures today. We will drive past the old wooden buildings and visit the 11th century Nidaros Cathedral built over the grave of St Olav and richly ornamented in stone with stunning stained glass windows. We continue to Ringve Manor, a typical manor house of the Trondelag district and home to Norway's only musical instrument museum, before enjoying a panoramic view of the city from the Sverresli Viewpoint. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon cruising.

Day 5 Runde & Alesund. Be on deck early this morning as we cruise by the bird cliffs at Runde, one of the largest nesting cliffs in Norway and home to half a million birds. More than 240 different species have been observed here including puffins, gannets, razorbills and Northern Fulmar. We continue to Alesund, one of the most beautiful towns in Norway, arriving at lunchtime. It is a great place to spend an afternoon exploring the streets with their Art Nouveau buildings. The more active can enjoy a walk up Mount Aksla taking the 418 steps for magnificent views of the town, islands and Sunnmore Alps.

Day 6 Nordfjord & Olden. At dawn we will enter the spectacular scenery of Nordfjord as we cruise towards the small village of Olden. From here we travel up the beautiful Olden Valley and where the road ends we continue on foot to the great cascade of water which rushes from beneath the Briksdal Glacier. After lunch on board you can choose to enjoy some free time in Olden or join us on a visit to Jostedalbreen National Park, home to one of the last great ice sheets in Europe with some sections over 1,200 feet deep. Our scenic drive will also take us through the mountains, past rivers and lakes before ending at Videster with wonderful views towards Lodalskapa Peak and the Buldrefossen Waterfall.

Day 7 Dalsfjord & Bygstad. Dalsfjord lies at the heart of Western Norway with its starkly contrasting fjord scenery, half way between Bergen and Alesund. Its little-known fjord arms and gentler landscape in harmony with powerful and diverse watercourses have left their impression on the landscape and settlement. Today's tour will take us through this beautiful environment with its magnificent waterfalls and mountains. We will visit Sunnfjord Museum, which provides an insight into how life was in Sunnfjord settlements in the mid-1800s, before taking a scenic

drive to the region known as 'the waterfall country' making various stops at waterfalls and small settlements.

Day 8 Bergen. We arrive this morning in the lovely fjord capital of Bergen. A guided excursion will include King Hakon's Hall, the Rosenkrantz Tower, the Bergen Theatre and St. Mary's Church which was built around 1170 and is one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Norway. Continue to Troidhaugen, the home of Norway's most famous composer, Edvard Grieg where we explore the house and gardens before enjoying a private concert of his music. We return to the ship via the Hanseatic Quarters of 'Bryggen'. After lunch on board you can enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace. We sail late this evening for anyone who wishes to enjoy dinner ashore or an evening stroll.

Day 9 Hardangerfjord & Rosendal. Hardangerfjord is the third largest fjord in the world and from our berth in Rosendal we will drive along the fjord towards the small part called Maurangerfjord, experiencing the idyllic scenery and farms on the way and viewing the magnificent Langfoss waterfall. When we arrive at the small village of Sunndal we will walk to Bondhus Lake which is surrounded

“

With our small ship we are able to access small harbours which are just not accessible to the larger cruise ships and ferries and we will be able to get up close to see nature at its rawest, cruise rugged coastlines and witness the vibrant colours of this wonderful region.

”





Royal Palace, Oslo



Trondheim

by a fascinating landscape of fjords and mountains. After lunch on board we have free time to explore the town, maybe visit the 12th century Kvinnherad church or see the gardens at Barony Rosendal.

Day 10 Lillesand. Enjoy a relaxing morning cruising before we arrive over lunch at one of Norway's best kept secrets, the charming summer resort of Lillesand. Using our small ship we navigate the small islands and skerries which dot the coastline making the approach to the town from the sea a truly memorable sight. We will enjoy a few hours ashore in Lillesand exploring the old town with its old white clapboard houses, beautiful gardens and the local shipping museum whilst enjoying the unique atmosphere of a Norwegian summer resort.



Skagen

Day 11 Kragero. Surrounded by nearly 500 islands and skerries, Kragero is a charming town in the region of Telemark and a popular summer retreat. Enjoy a morning at leisure to explore the downtown area, walking through the narrow streets and alleyways amongst the old wooden houses. Alternatively, join a cruise through the hundreds of large and small islands that line the coast which are home to wildflowers, seabirds and lighthouses. After lunch on board we head inland to the Telemark Canal. When completed in 1892, after five years of construction, it was described as the 'eighth wonder of the world'.

We will join one of the local nostalgic boats as they transit the 18 locks, lifting the ship 72 metres above sea level and enjoy the changing scenery as we travel from the sea to the mountains.

Day 12 Oslo. Be on deck this morning as we navigate the Oslo Fjord, a marvellous sight as the fjord dramatically narrows on the approach to the city. Founded in the 11th century, Oslo has much to offer the visitor and on a morning tour we will see the Akershus Fortress, Royal Palace and Parliament Building before spending some time at the Viking Ship Museum. Here we find discoveries from the great ship burials at Oseberg, Gokstad and Tune as well as finds from the chieftain grave at Borre. The three ships, which are the best-preserved Viking ships in existence, were found in large burial mounds in the Oslo fjord region. As they were burial ships they contained rich furnishings of wood and textiles and these materials, dating from the Viking Period, are rarely found in such a good state of preservation. Our tour will end at Holmenkollen Hill where we find the world-renowned ski jumping area and ski museum as well as wonderful views to the city and Oslofjord below. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city at leisure. This evening we sail late for anyone wishing to dine ashore or enjoy an evening stroll.

Day 13 Skagen, Denmark. After a leisurely morning at sea we arrive in Denmark at its northernmost port of Skagen, a 600-year-old market town. The breathtaking scenery and light has inspired artists such as Ancher and Kroyer whilst the surrounding area has been designated by the World Wide Fund for Nature as a rare, authentic natural beauty spot.

Enjoy an afternoon exploring the winding alleys in the atmospheric old quarters or the vibrant atmosphere at the marina. Alternatively, take the chance to see the artwork inspired by the region in the local museum or maybe enjoy a drink from the town's micro-brewery.

Day 14 Helsingor & Copenhagen. The Danish king, Eric of Pomerania built a fortress in the early 15th century to enforce the collection of dues for all ships wishing to enter the Baltic. In the following century Frederick II rebuilt the castle into a magnificent Renaissance castle, Kronborg was considered at the time to be the strongest fortress in Europe. The castle is known to many as 'Elsinore' the setting for Shakespeare's tragedy, Hamlet,

Prince of Denmark. The play has been performed in the castle many times and included such prominent actors as Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud. We will enjoy a morning exploring the castle and the old town before returning to the ship for lunch. Sail over lunch to Copenhagen where on a short city tour this afternoon we will see the Palace of Amalienborg with its four identical Rococo buildings which have been the Royal Residence since 1784, the Little Mermaid Fountain, Christiansborg Castle, the Royal Theatre and Nyhavn before ending at the Tivoli Gardens.

Day 15 Copenhagen to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to London Heathrow or Stansted.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£5495	£5295
2	Standard Stateroom	£5995	£5795
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£6195	£5995
4	Superior Stateroom	£6395	£6195
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£6695	£6495
6	Junior Suite	£6795	£6595
7	Executive Suite	£7295	£7095
8	Owner's Suite	£7295	£7095
9	Inside Single	£5495	£5295
10	Standard Single	£5995	£5795
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£7495	£7295
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£7745	£7545

Price Includes: Economy class air travel aboard specially chartered flight from London to Tromso and aboard scheduled flight from Copenhagen to London, 14 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, onboard team including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts are integral to the operation of the voyage due to the small ports we will be visiting where we will be at anchor and will utilise the Zodiacs to transport guests ashore.



Summer in the Baltic

A voyage to the islands and cities of the Baltic with Jeremy Black
31st July to 12th August 2018

Join us on a voyage of discovery as we explore the eight nations of the Baltic. Nations who speak different languages, have a diverse culture and cuisine, worship in different churches, yet are united by a single sea. The cities of the Baltic offer a cornucopia of delights: whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the newly independent Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters, or the sheer delight of Scandinavian ports with their colourful architecture and a freshness that is unique to the area.

After operating voyages in the Baltic for twenty five years we believe this in-depth journey offers the perfect balance of time to explore cities, towns and islands during the included excursions with our excellent local guides combined with some time to relax or explore at leisure. A highlight for many will be the fact that we have included three days in the magnificent city of St Petersburg, enough time to explore the city's many wonders. We also visit some smaller ports which the big cruise vessels are unable to access such as the islands of Christianso and Bornholm in Denmark and the Estonian Island of Saaremaa, a gem with its Medieval Episcopal castle and timeless countryside.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Copenhagen, Denmark. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Copenhagen and transfer to the MS Serenissima.

Day 2 Christianso & Bornholm Island. Over breakfast we arrive at the tiny island of Christianso, the easternmost part of Denmark. Using Zodiacs to land we will see the old fortress of King Christian V and learn about the island's past including its history as an island prison. Today, it is a very special and peaceful place and on the bird sanctuary of Grasholmen, thousands of herring gulls, razorbill and guillemot breed. Over lunch we sail to neighbouring Bornholm. Peaceful and scenic, Bornholm Island is a mixture of wheat fields, forests and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On an island drive we will see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudjem where we can sample the smoked herring. Also see Hammerhaus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline.

Day 3 Gdansk, Poland. We have a full day in this charming

city. This old Hanseatic port's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture before ending at the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. This afternoon is free for further independent exploration.

Day 4 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Today we have a choice of touring options. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village life and visit the Memorial Museum dedicated to Lithuanians sent to Siberia or who fought against the Soviets during the Cold War years. Alternatively, take the scenic drive to the Zemaitija National Park, home to Lake Plateliali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear



missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. Return to the ship for an afternoon at sea.



Day 5 Riga, Latvia. This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Spend an afternoon exploring independently before enjoying a special private classical concert at the stunning 16th century Rundale Palace, one of the most outstanding monuments of Baroque and Rococo art in Northern Europe.

Day 6 Saaremaa, Estonia. After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone

age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During an afternoon drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills.

Day 7 Stockholm, Sweden. Be on deck this morning as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago into Stockholm. On arrival we will enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. The afternoon is free for independent exploration.

Day 8 Mariehamn, Finland. Arrive over breakfast into the attractive town of Mariehamn on the island of Aland in the Finnish archipelago. It is a charming little town, founded in 1861 by Tsar Alexander II and named after his wife Maria. On a morning drive we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads, stopping at Badhausberget with panoramic views over the archipelago. This afternoon is free to explore the town at leisure.

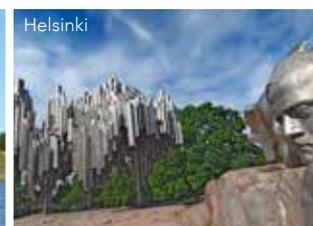


Day 9 Tallinn, Estonia. Arrive this morning in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian Parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. After lunch on board the afternoon will be at leisure for you to explore independently before we sail in the early evening.

the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be including a number of tours during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, the fascinating Hermitage Museum, Catherine Palace at Pushkin and a canal cruise through the city. In your free time you may wish to join the optional excursion to Yusupov Palace, the famed scene of Rasputin's murder, or attend a folklore show. For anyone wishing to visit the ballet one evening we will be able to assist with bookings once the schedules for the theatres are released and we hope to send details 12 weeks prior to departure.

Days 10 to 12 St Petersburg, Russia. We have the luxury of three days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703 by Peter

Day 13 Helsinki, Finland to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Post-Cruise Finnish Lakes Extension

12th to 15th August 2018

For those who would like to extend their time in Finland after disembarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a three night tour exploring the beauty of the Finnish Lakes.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Helsinki & Hameenlinna. After breakfast we will disembark and enjoy a tour of Helsinki before continuing out of the city to Hameenlinna and Hame Castle where we enjoy lunch. Hame Castle is one of Finland's Medieval royal castles and is believed to have been built at the end of the 13th century, following the crusade by Swedish Earl Birger to Hame region. After our tour we will transfer to the hotel situated on a lake in the Aulanko Nature Park. Relax and enjoy the views before meeting for dinner this evening.

Day 2 Aulanko & Tampere. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before our full day cruise through the beautiful forest-covered landscape of the lake district. Take in the scenery of Lake Pyhajarvi and Lake Vanajavesi before lunch on board. In the early afternoon we will make a stop at Visavuori, the house and studio of sculptor Emil Wikstrom. Wikstrom's home is typical of Nordic artists' homes of the time and in the studio almost 100 of Wikstrom's works are displayed. Reboarding our ship we will continue through the lake country to Tampere where we stay overnight by Lake Pyynikki.

Day 3 Tampere & Helsinki. After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a scenic drive around Tampere finishing at the Nasineula restaurant, renowned in for its wonderful panoramic views over Tampere and the view beyond. After lunch continue on to Iittala Glass Centre, where the Aalto Vase is produced along with other signature glass pieces. Later, drive to our hotel in Helsinki for an overnight stay.

Day 4 Helsinki to London. Enjoy a free morning to explore Helsinki before transferring 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4775	£4575
2	Standard Stateroom	£5295	£5095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£5495	£5295
4	Superior Stateroom	£5695	£5495
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5995	£5795
6	Junior Suite	£6295	£6095
7	Executive Suite	£6395	£6195
8	Owner's Suite	£6395	£6195
9	Inside Single	£4775	£4575
10	Standard Single	£5295	£5095
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£7295	£7095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£7745	£7545

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 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 including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, group Russian visa.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1195**; Single: **£1395**

Price Includes: Overnight accommodation in Helsinki, Hameenlinna and Tampere at four star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis, lunch and dinner daily, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities to guides and drivers, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Hidden Baltic

A voyage from Helsinki to Stockholm with Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan
12th to 22nd August 2018

The long sunny days of a Baltic summer are legendary and the perfect time to witness the spectacle of colour and joy that the sun brings to this northern world which, bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, is ideally suited to exploration by ship. Whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the fascinating Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters or the sheer delight of small Scandinavian ports with their unique architecture, the Baltic offers a real cornucopia of delights which are all accessible from the comfort of the MS Serenissima.

After sailing from Helsinki we begin our exploration with two days in St Petersburg, perhaps the grandest city in Europe, with its imposing 18th and 19th century architecture. We continue to Tallinn, Stockholm and Riga as well as some lesser known but equally fascinating places. The Estonian Island of Saaremaa is a gem with its Medieval Episcopal Castle and timeless countryside as is Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland, a UNESCO World Heritage site fortified by well-preserved 13th century walls. We will also enjoy two new ports of call for 2018 with visits to Kotka in Finland and Ventspils in Latvia, both well off the beaten path of the many cruise ships that now ply the Baltic region and allowing for something a bit different whilst not forsaking our old time favourites such as Riga and St Petersburg where we are able to moor centrally and have allowed time for both the guided excursions and time at leisure to explore independently.

Church of Spilled Blood, St Petersburg



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Helsinki, Finland. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Helsinki and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 2 Kotka, Finland. Built on the site where the River Kymijoki meets the Baltic Sea, picturesque Kotka has a long seafaring tradition. This morning we will explore the history of the region and visit the Langinkoski Imperial Fishing Lodge which was built in 1889 for Alexander III, the future Emperor of Russia who used it as a summer home. It is now a living museum situated in a stunning nature reserve on the river. Continue to the Maritime Centre Vellamo where local guides will enlighten us about the maritime and cultural heritage of the region. The afternoon is free to explore the old city from our central berth or maybe enjoy some of the many green spaces nearby such as the Sibelius Park or Sapokko Water Garden.

Days 3 & 4 St Petersburg, Russia. We have two days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be offering a number of tours for you to choose from during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, the Hermitage Museum, Catherine Palace and Yusupov Palace.

Day 5 Tallinn, Estonia. This morning we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main

square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore independently.



Day 6 Saaremaa. This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During a morning drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Parnu. Established in 1265, the Hanseatic town of New Parnu has been a market town, a fortress, a university town, an industrial and administrative centre as well as a resort town. Today it is the base for our excursion into the Estonian countryside. Our first call is at Viljandi, one of the oldest towns in Estonia, situated on the shores of a beautiful lake which was historically one of the key strongholds in Livonia. We will see the 13th century castle that overlooks the town before exploring the ancient cobbled streets where we find museums and galleries. We continue to Olustvere Manor for lunch. Built



in an English romantic style and surrounded by a large garden there will be time to explore the gardens with pathways lined with lime, oak and maple trees. We return to Parnu via the river landscapes of the lowlands and set sail this evening.

Day 8 Riga, Latvia. After breakfast we will go ashore in Latvia's capital of Riga on a walking tour. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter's Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Spend an afternoon exploring independently before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

Day 9 Ventspils. Our second day in Latvia sees us back on the Baltic coast at the city of Ventspils. This morning you may wish to head to the nearby town of Irbene and the former secret Soviet military base, known as the "starlet", which houses a number of radio telescopes including the RT32 which is the largest in Northern Europe. Formerly a base for over 2,000 soldiers and used as a site to intercept radio signals it is now used for scientific research and development. Alternatively, learn more about the fishing industry at the Open Air Museum and enjoy a steam train ride along the track built by the German army during World War I connecting Ventspils to the nearby fishing villages. This afternoon is free to explore the town further, perhaps visit the local brewery, wander the cobbled

streets and quaint squares of the old town or visit the Livonian Order Castle, the oldest Medieval castle in Latvia which houses the local museum.

Days 10 Visby, Sweden. Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town snuggles inside 13th century walls, housing 44 watchtowers. In Viking times and several centuries after, the Swedish island of Gotland and especially the city of Visby, became a centre of trade in the Baltic Sea and is a World Heritage Site. Walk its streets from the Middle Ages and see its gardens ablaze with flowers, earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the Viking exhibits at the Fornsal Museum and wander the paths of the botanical gardens.

Day 11 Stockholm to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Pre & Post Cruise Extensions



For those who would like to spend some time in Finland before embarking the MS Serenissima

we are offering a three night tour exploring the beauty of Finnish Lakes. After the cruise, there is also a two night extension available staying in Stockholm. For full details of both extensions please refer to our website, www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4195	£3995
2	Standard Stateroom	£4695	£4495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4895	£4695
4	Superior Stateroom	£5095	£4895
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5395	£5195
6	Junior Suite	£5695	£5495
7	Executive Suite	£5795	£5595
8	Owner's Suite	£5795	£5595
9	Inside Single	£4195	£3995
10	Standard Single	£4695	£4495
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£6295	£6095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£6595	£6395

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 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 including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, group Russian visa.
Not Included: Travel insurance.



Windmills of Saaremaa Island



Riga

Sailing from the Baltic to Britain

A voyage from Stockholm to Dover with Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan
22nd August to 6th September 2018

Exploring the Baltic by small ship is the most perfect way to visit this endlessly fascinating corner of Northern Europe. The history of the region is intriguing, with countries vying for commercial and political influence for over a thousand years and this complex past will be brought to life by our onboard Guest Speakers, helping us to gain a greater understanding of both old and new Baltic nations.

Our trip is certainly one of the most comprehensive, visiting as it does Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Belgium before ending in the UK. We will spend time in the charming Scandinavian ports before arriving in St Petersburg, surely the most endlessly fascinating of all Baltic ports. Our two full days here will be spent exploring Peter the Great's magnificent city as well as venturing out to some of the fabulous country estates on the Baltic shores. We will visit some relatively new states with their charming Medieval old towns, especially striking are those of Tallinn and Riga where the old and new flourish like never before since the departure of their Soviet masters. We will moor overnight in Gdansk so that we can explore this handsome city as well as enjoy a full day tour to Malbork Castle, the largest castle in the world during the 13th century and a journey along the unusual Elblag Canal. Added to this, and due to our many years of operating in the region, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with visits to some of the more remote ports and islands such as the Estonian island of Saaremaa, the Polish port of Swinoujscie and Lubeck, places only accessible by a small ship like the MS Serenissima.

Whether your interest lies in the region's Viking and Medieval history or the more recent events of the breakaway Baltic States, it is an endlessly fascinating region and our expert local guides and guest speakers will add much to your knowledge and understanding of this intriguing region.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Stockholm, Sweden. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Stockholm and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Stockholm. We spend the morning exploring this handsome city, known as the 'city on the water'. It is built on 14 small islands among open bays and narrow channels. Enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the MS Serenissima we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and

Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour. After lunch be out on deck as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish Archipelago, this is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes.

Day 3 Helsinki, Finland. Spend a relaxing morning at sea and maybe join a lecture or find a spot to enjoy a book. Over lunch we arrive into Helsinki and an afternoon guided city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Temppeliaukio, the church in the rock before returning to the vessel and sailing this evening.

Days 4 & 5 St Petersburg, Russia. We have two days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703





by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be offering a number of tours for you to choose from during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, Catherine Palace and Yusupov Palace.

Day 6 Tallinn, Estonia. After a busy couple of days in St Petersburg we will have a morning at sea to relax on board. During lunch we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall.

Day 7 Saaremaa. This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During a morning drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its

magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon at sea.

Day 8 Riga, Latvia. This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter's Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Spend an afternoon exploring independently before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

Day 9 Klaipeda, Lithuania. Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. We will arrive over lunch and have a choice of touring options this afternoon. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village life and visit the Memorial Museum, dedicated to the Lithuanians sent to Siberia to fight against the Soviets during the Cold War years. Alternatively, take the scenic drive to the Zemaitija

National Park, home to Lake Platelali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. We will visit the bunkers, see the control centre and learn more about the weapons held at the site and their evolution.

Days 10 & 11 Gdansk, Poland. We will spend a day and a half in this charming city. This old Hanseatic port's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Upon arrival we will leave the city and enjoy a full day tour to Malbork Castle and a journey on the Elblag Canal. The 13th century Malbork Castle belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. The 80 kilometre Elblag Canal is a wonder of engineering designed in 1860 to connect East Prussia with the Baltic Sea. The challenges of the 100 metre difference in water levels between Bruzno Lake and Piniewo Lake was solved by a series of slipways, locks and dams with boats being carried across dry land on rail mounted trolleys. We will take a boat trip along the

“

Our voyage is certainly one of the most comprehensive in the Baltic, visiting as it does Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Belgium before ending in the UK.

”





canal before returning to the ship in Gdansk. The following morning we will enjoy a city tour where we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture before ending at the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers.

Day 12 Swinoujscie. The small port of Swinoujscie is the gateway to the most beautiful stretch of the Polish coast and the Wolin National Park, Poland's first maritime park. Wolin is on the main migration path of birds in the Baltic and the white-tailed eagle that shelters here is the symbol of the park. We will spend time in the park which is home to deer, wild boar and European bison before continuing to Miedzyzdroje where we find a former German bunker which was used as a base in World War II and is now a museum of a secret weapon, the V3 supergun. Continue to Kamien Pomorski which from the 14th century belonged to the Hanseatic League. The town was badly damaged in World War II, but remnants of the old town walls with Wolin Gate have survived to the present day. We will see the Gothic arcaded town hall which has been rebuilt, several half-timbered houses and the Gothic Church of St Nicholas, which now

houses the Regional Museum. The town's most valuable architectural relic is the 12th century Cathedral of St John where we enjoy a concert before viewing the priceless late 13th century mural paintings which have survived in its presbytery and side chapel.

Day 13 Lubeck, Germany. Over breakfast we will cruise along the scenic River Trave which connects the port of Lubeck with the Baltic Sea and is dotted with summer houses. Lubeck, founded in the 12th century was the former "Queen City" of the Hanseatic League and prospered as one of Northern Europe's major ports until the 16th century. On a morning walking tour we will explore the old town, which is situated on an island completely surrounded by water and famed for its five gothic cathedrals and a multitude of hidden alleys and courtyards amongst the old merchants' houses. This afternoon is free to explore further and you may want to see the Hansemuseum, which documents the history of the Hanseatic League, sample some of the famous local marzipan or try the traditional Rotspon red wine.

Day 14 Kiel Canal Transit. Early this morning we begin our transit of the historic 61 mile long Kiel Canal and sail from the Baltic into the North Sea. Kaiser Wilhelm I set the first foundation stone in place on June 3, 1887 in Brunsbuttel,

and the final stone was laid by Kaiser Wilhelm II on June 21, 1895, in Holtenau. Today, the Kiel Canal is one of the busiest man-made waterways in the world. Depart the canal in the early afternoon and spend the afternoon cruising.

Day 15 Bruges, Belgium. From the port of Ostend we drive inland to Bruges, a UNESCO site which has an illustrious history as one of the finest Medieval cities in Europe. The 15th century Belfry still dominates the centre as it did then and the Town Hall, St John Hospital and the Begijnhof

border the narrow canals. On an afternoon tour we will see some of the most important monuments and buildings which survive from the Middle Ages including the Basilica of the Holy Blood, City Hall, the Begijnhof and Minnewater. You may also want to visit one of the local chocolate or lace shops for which Bruges is famous.

Day 16 Dover, England. Arrive this morning. Transfers will be provided to London Heathrow and London Victoria Coach Station at a fixed time.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£5695	£5495
2	Standard Stateroom	£6195	£5995
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£6395	£6195
4	Superior Stateroom	£6595	£6395
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£6895	£6695
6	Junior Suite	£6995	£6795
7	Executive Suite	£7495	£7295
8	Owner's Suite	£7495	£7295
9	Inside Single	£5695	£5495
10	Standard Single	£6195	£5995
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£8695	£8495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£8995	£8795

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Stockholm, 15 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 including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, group Russian visa.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Catherine Palace

Islands of the Mediterranean

A voyage from Valencia to Valletta
12th to 22nd September 2018

There are of course no shortages of cruise vessels plying the major ports and cities of the Mediterranean, but few are inclined to focus on just the islands and devote a complete itinerary to them as we have done with this delightful voyage from Valencia to Valletta aboard the MS Serenissima. Our intention has been to design a voyage as if it were to be undertaken on a small private sailing ship, staying away from the larger commercial centres and concentrating on some of the most picturesque and interesting places in the region.

Late summer is the perfect time for our voyage, when the crowds of August have dispersed but the weather is perfect for touring and sightseeing. We have created our itinerary to reach the islands of the Mediterranean combining time in the Balearics, Sardinia, Corsica, Sicily, Elba and Malta, all of which are easy to visit individually but difficult to combine independently in a ten night trip. We will have time on each island to see the main sites but also explore some of the smaller ports and less visited destinations. We have ensured that each day has an enjoyable mix of culture with some time at leisure to explore under your own steam or time relaxing at sea.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valencia, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival, transfer to the MS Serenissima and enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Palma de Mallorca, Mallorca. Mallorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, has a rich history dating back to the Phoenicians when it was under control of Carthage, the principal North African city at that time, before flourishing under Roman rule. From our berth in Palma we will take the beautifully maintained vintage train that connects Palma with the pretty town of Soller on the island's west coast and enjoy splendid mountain views of the Serra de Tramuntana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will enjoy some time to explore Soller before taking a scenic drive to the village of Valldemossa, a quiet and traditional town with narrow streets and lanes constructed with blonde stone. We will enjoy a walk around the town and lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Palma where we will have some time to explore at leisure or return to the MS Serenissima.

Day 3 Port Mahon, Menorca. Over breakfast we arrive in Menorca, the most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism. The island offers pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. On

our morning tour we will see the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago before making our way to aristocratic Ciudadella, the architectural showpiece of Menorca. Situated at the head of a long channel from the sea, the city has had its share of disputes over sovereignty, and its character reflects the influence of Moorish, Turkish and Spanish rule. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy the afternoon at leisure in the pretty port town of Mahon.



Cathedral, Palma de Mallorca

Day 4 Alghero, Sardinia. The Medieval city of Alghero was colonised by the Catalans in the 14th century and today there is still a strong Catalan identity throughout the town and it is often even referred to as "Barceloneta". We arrive during lunch and will use the attractive port as our base for an afternoon of exploration in the region. This morning's panoramic drive takes us to Nuraghe Palmavera. The main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling dating back to 1,100 years B.C. The complex,



which was abandoned in the 5th century B.C., due to fire shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. Alternatively spend the afternoon exploring Alghero at your own pace. Maybe enjoy a walk through the Medieval streets or along the city walls, visit the archaeological museum or simply relax in a café. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs or local tender.*

Day 5 Calvi, Corsica. Arrive this morning in Calvi, the capital of the prosperous Balagne region of the island. Enjoy the vista of the surrounding green hills that form a natural amphitheatre and is known as the 'Garden of Corsica'. A guided tour will lead us through the alleyways and cobbled streets before continuing to the imposing citadel. Built by the Genoese, this 15th century structure has seen off several assaults through the centuries and offers wonderful views from its five bastions. We will also see the Caserne Sampiero and 13th century Cathedral St Jean Baptiste. This afternoon there will be an opportunity to explore the flora of Corsica with a visit to the seven hectare Parc de Saleccia where you can explore the range of paths through the gardens.

Day 6 Portoferraio, Elba. Today we call into the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing from the island's busy capital Portoferraio, we set out for a delightful drive exploring the southern region of this charming island with superb views over the coastline. The first stop will be Villa San Martino which was the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte and has been transformed into a museum. Later enjoy some time at leisure in Porto Azzurro to browse around and shop among the many local boutiques of this delightful town which is dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress and a picturesque harbour. Our drive

continues along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa which is beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. As any self-respecting mansion on Elba, La Chiusa claims to have once housed Napoleon during his exile here. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced and in the estate's garden facing the sea, we will enjoy a delicious sampling of the local wine. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.



Portoferraio, Elba

Day 7 Bonifacio, Corsica. Today we return to Corsica and berth in Bonifacio's stunning natural harbour. Well known by Odysseus as the home of the savage and giant Laestrygonians, today Bonifacio's breathtaking cliff-top setting and relaxed pace make it one of the most welcoming ports in the Mediterranean. On our morning tour we will explore the narrow streets and the historical heart of the town. We will discover the Bosco quarter with the St Francis Convent, the 14th century church of St Marie Majeure and take in the views from the cliff top on which the city is built. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea as we sail to Sicily.

Day 8 Trapani, Sicily. Spend the morning at sea arriving in Trapani at lunchtime. From the port choose to either travel

to the nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobbled stone streets and beautiful courtyards. Alternatively travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 B.C. as well as the theatre.

Day 9 Licata for Piazza Armerina.

Founded in 280 B.C., Licata has grown into an important commercial centre. However our main reason for this stop is to drive inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site on Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, which is located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best wine making regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of the vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch.

Day 10 Gozo, Malta. Arrive this morning at the Maltese island of Gozo, a lovely place to spend a day. On a morning drive we will visit the Ggantija Temples in Xaghra. Dating back to 3,600 B.C., the temples, which are now recognised as a World



Heritage Site, are one of the most significant archaeological finds in Malta. Continue to Our Lady of Victories Church, one of the most richly embellished places of worship on the island which was elevated to the rank of a minor Basilica in 1967. We return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore at your own pace. In the late afternoon we will sail the short distance to Valletta where we moor overnight.

Day 11 Malta to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Post-Cruise Malta Extension

22nd to 24th September 2018

If you would like to spend some time in Malta after disembarking the MS Serenissima we are offering the opportunity to enjoy a two night stay in Valletta.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Valletta, Malta. After breakfast we will disembark and take 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. After lunch in a local restaurant we will transfer to the hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 2 Mdina. Spend the morning in Mdina, originally this city, was given the name of "Citta Nobile" and is now known as the "Silent City" at the heart of the island. Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the Island, before the arrival of the Knights. Enjoy a walking tour before we return to the hotel in the late morning. The afternoon is free before we meet for dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Malta to London. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4495	£4195
2	Standard Stateroom	£4695	£4395
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4795	£4495
4	Superior Stateroom	£5195	£4895
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5595	£5295
6	Junior Suite	£6195	£5895
7	Executive Suite	£6495	£6195
8	Owner's Suite	£6495	£6195
9	Inside Single	£4495	£4195
10	Standard Single	£4895	£4595
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5695	£5395
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£5795	£5495

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 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.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £495; Single: £795

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, included tours, lunch on day 1, dinner on day 2, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, transfers, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Circumnavigation of Sicily

An in-depth exploration of the wonders of Sicily
22nd September to 2nd October 2018

The island of Sicily has an incredible wealth of treasures and a geography which lends itself beautifully to exploration by sea with most points of interest located close to the coast. Owing to its benevolent climate and superb strategic position, Sicily has been coveted, fought over and colonised numerous times with the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Bourbons having all made their mark. With our circumnavigation of the island aboard the MS Serenissima we have the luxury of time allowing us to explore at a relaxing pace Sicily's rich heritage which is the result of so many invading civilisations.

From magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas, there is so much to explore during our circumnavigation of the islands which we have timed in September when the crowds of summer will have departed and the temperatures will be pleasant for our guided tours. We will visit the Roman mosaics of Villa Romana di Casale, the Valle dei Templi, the superbly well-preserved Greek temples of Segesta and the Norman Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, Byzantine Monreale Cathedral and the stunning Greek theatre at Taormina. We have planned some late departures from port, which afford the opportunity to enjoy dining ashore or an after dinner stroll in some towns which are particularly atmospheric in the evening. In addition, local guides and our onboard guest speaker will contribute greatly to your enjoyment and understanding of Sicily.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Valletta.

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 and rivalled 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. 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. After lunch on board enjoy a free afternoon to explore independently.

Day 3 Licata for Piazza Armerina. Founded in 280 BC, Licata has grown into an important commercial centre. The main reason for this stop, however, is to

drive inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site on Sicily, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, located close to Piazza Armerina amidst wooded rolling countryside. This huge villa was built in the 3rd century and has some stunning floor mosaics. Our return drive takes us through the province of Caltanissetta, recognised today as one of the best wine making regions in Italy thanks above all to its production of high quality, prestigious red wines including Nero D'Avola. We will break our journey at one of these vineyards and enjoy a chance to sample some wine over a Sicilian lunch.

Day 4 Agrigento. Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains and a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded in greenery of olive and almond trees, admire the Temple of Hera, the Temple of

Concord, the Dioscuri Temple, the Temple of Olympic Jove and the Temple of Hercules. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Agrigento.

Day 5 Trapani. Today, from the port of Trapani you can choose to either travel to the nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterized by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Alternatively, travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon to explore Trapani.

Day 6 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 choose to see the remarkable Medieval mosaics in the cathedral at Monreale or join a tour to Cefalu. A walking tour will include the splendid Norman-Arab Cathedral, begun in 1131 and famous for its mosaics including a superb image of Christ Pantocrator. We also visit a Medieval wash-house and the Osterio Magno, the 11th century residence of King Ruggiero II. Enjoy some free time to explore this photographic town before we return to Palermo.

Day 7 Lipari Island. We will spend the day at the picturesque island of Lipari situated in the Aeolian Islands off the north coast of Sicily. Here we will find an amazing collection of ruins from the prehistoric through to the Roman period. Lipari town



is a thriving little place prettily located between two harbours. Our morning tour includes a visit to the upper town set within fortress walls and a drive around the volcano followed by a visit to the Archaeological Museum with its impressive relics from nearby excavations. The afternoon is free to soak up the atmosphere of this picturesque island.

Day 8 Messina for 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 visiting 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.

Day 9 Agrigoli for Paestum, Italy. After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at the small port of Agrigoli which is a convenient location for our afternoon excursion to Paestum. Founded by Greeks in 600 BC, this well preserved and fascinating site was rediscovered in 1752. On our half day tour we will see the impressive



Temple Poseidon, the Basilica, Amphitheatre and Aethenian before spending some time in the museum, adjacent to the site.

Day 10 Naples. Arrive this morning in Naples and see the Norman castle that protects the port and the backdrop of Vesuvius in the distance. There will be a choice of excursions today and you may choose to take the ferry and spend the day on the garden island of Ischia. A tour of the island will focus on La Mortella, a wonderful garden designed by architect Russell Page for Lord and Lady William Walton. Divided into two parts called the Valley and Upper Garden, the areas are linked by a network of paths and inviting walks from where you can enjoy the breathtaking views

of the Bay of Forio. We will have lunch at a local restaurant before enjoying free time to explore the main town. Alternatively, enjoy a day in Naples where a morning tour will take us to Herculaneum. This wealthy Roman town was completely submerged by volcanic mud following the 79 AD eruption of Vesuvius. Since its rediscovery in 1709, excavations have revealed beautiful public baths, villas and gardens of noble families, decorated with murals and floor mosaics, and the remains of a theatre. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Naples.

Day 11 Naples to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Pre-Cruise Malta Extension

20th to 22nd September 2018

If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night stay at a the Phoenecia Hotel (or similar) offering the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Malta. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay and spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Meet 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 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" and at the heart of the island. 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 followed by a city tour and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Valletta.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4495	£4295
2	Standard Stateroom	£4695	£4495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4795	£4595
4	Superior Stateroom	£5195	£4995
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5595	£5395
6	Junior Suite	£6195	£5995
7	Executive Suite	£6595	£6395
8	Owner's Suite	£6595	£6395
9	Inside Single	£4495	£4295
10	Standard Single	£4895	£4695
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5695	£5495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£5795	£5595

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 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 including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Ship to Shore: Please note that the MS Serenissima will be at anchor in Lipari and Agropoli and therefore the Zodiac craft will be used to transport passengers ashore.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £495; Single: £745

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation at the Phoenecia Hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, tours as described, dinner on day 1, lunch on day 3, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Islands of Italy

An exploration of Italy's islands and Corsica with Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan
2nd to 11th October 2018

Here is a wonderful and rare opportunity to visit the islands of Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica and Elba from the comfort of the delightful MS Serenissima. The islands feature an array of ancient ruins and attractive towns and villages which we will discover during our included, guided excursions whilst we have also allowed for ample time to explore independently. Having the MS Serenissima as our base means we will be able to access some of the more remote ports and moor centrally allowing for easy access to the towns.

Sailing from Naples we first visit the island of Sicily which, with a history of 3000 years has a wealth of sites to discover from magnificent Doric temples to great Byzantine cathedrals and bizarrely styled villas. From here we sail to Sardinian waters and visit Cagliari, from where we will have the opportunity to visit the wonderful ruins of Nora and Isla Maddalena where the superb anchorage was used by Nelson to shelter his fleet during the long blockade of Toulon from 1803 to 1805 and the gifts which he presented to the locals are still on display. Our penultimate island is Corsica which, despite officially being a part of France, has its own identity in everything from customs to language and benefits from magnificent geographical diversity ranging from stunning natural harbours to picture perfect hilltop villages and a majestic countryside of vineyards and deep valleys. Leaving the charms of Corsica behind we call in to the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile, before our arrival in Livorno.

This is a voyage that will appeal to those who love Italy, and who enjoy hopping between islands. Local guides and our onboard guest speakers will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of these Italian gems and you will find yourself wanting to return time and time again.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Naples, Italy.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima for embarkation. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board this evening and an overnight mooring.

Day 2 Naples. There will be a choice of excursions today and you may choose to take the ferry and spend the day on the garden island of Ischia. A tour of the island will focus on La Mortella, a wonderful garden designed by architect Russell Page for Lord and Lady William Walton. Divided into two parts called the Valley and Upper Garden, the areas are linked by a network of paths and inviting walks from where you can enjoy the breathtaking views of the Bay of Forio. Spread over two hectares there are fountains, ponds, streams and scattered everywhere are water loving plants. We will have lunch at a local restaurant before enjoying free time to explore the main town. Alternatively, enjoy a day in Naples where a morning tour will take us to Herculaneum. This wealthy Roman town was

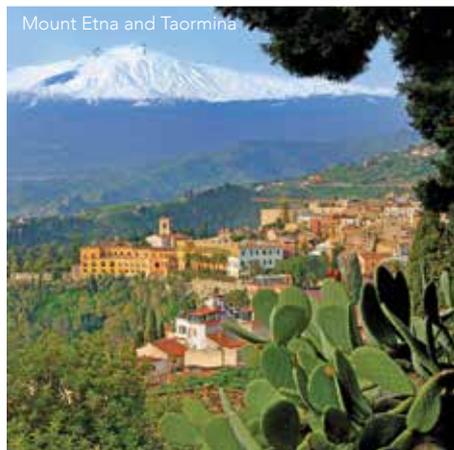


completely submerged by volcanic mud following the 79 AD eruption of Vesuvius. Since its rediscovery in 1709, excavations have revealed beautiful public baths, villas and gardens of noble families, decorated with murals and floor mosaics, and the remains of a theatre. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Naples.

Day 3 Messina for Taormina, Sicily. Enjoy a relaxing morning as we cross the Tyrrhenian Sea to Sicily. From the nearby port of Messina we will drive to Taormina and enjoy the afternoon in this 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



Isla Maddalena



Mount Etna and Taormina



Palermo Cathedral



Fishing port of St Florent

guided tour will include walking the characteristic alleys before visiting the 15th century Palazzo Corvaja and the impressive Greek Theatre from where there are marvellous views over the town and coast.

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 choose to see the remarkable Medieval mosaics in the cathedral at Monreale or alternatively join a tour to Cefalu. The town is of Greek origin; its name, meaning "head," derives from its perch on a precipitous rocky headland. A walking tour will include the splendid Norman-Arab Cathedral, begun in 1131 and famous for its mosaics, including a superb image of Christ Pantocrator. We also visit a Medieval wash-house and the Osterio Magno, the 11th century residence of King Ruggiero II. Enjoy some free time to explore this photographic town before we return to Palermo.

Day 5 Trapani. Trapani was the landing point for Peter of Aragon in 1282 to start the Spanish occupation of Sicily and is our base for the day. From

the port choose to either travel to the nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician Astarte, Greek Aphrodite or Roman Venus. A tour will take us to this stunning site high above the sea and to the beautifully preserved Medieval town characterised by its winding cobblestone streets and beautiful courtyards. Alternatively, travel inland to explore Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive. See the unfinished temple dating from 424 BC as well as the theatre from which you can enjoy excellent views of the countryside and distant coastline. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we sail towards Sardinia.

Day 6 Cagliari, Sardinia. Arrive this morning in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. On a morning 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 Cecilia. After lunch, choose to relax on board, explore Cagliari or join the excursion to the ruins of Nora which are in a lovely setting overlooking the sea. Here history can be viewed from Bronze Age Nuragic civilisations to Roman and Carthaginian in well preserved ruins including the remains of a Carthaginian warehouse, Roman baths with splendid mosaics and a theatre which is almost completely intact dating from the height of the Empire.

Day 7 Olbia & Isla Maddalena, Sardinia. In the late morning we will arrive on the northern coast of Sardinia and have a couple of hours to explore Olbia, a fetching city with a charming historic centre full of boutiques, wine bars and piazzas. After lunch on board we will travel to the island of La Maddalena by local boats from the port of Palau and spend the afternoon exploring this pretty island well off the beaten tourist track. In 1789 Napoleon, then a young artillery commander, was thwarted in his attempt to take the Maddalena archipelago by local Sardinian forces and in 1803 Lord Nelson arrived and used the superb anchorage at La Maddalena to shelter his fleet during the long blockade of Toulon from 1803 to 1805. In recognition of the kindness shown by the islanders, Nelson donated some silver candle holders and a crucifix which can still be seen today in the church.

Day 8 Bastia and St Florent, Corsica. Situated on the north of the island of Corsica, Bastia was the old Genoese capital and is now a busy port. Its setting is handsome, the classic Mediterranean allure of pale, sunlit streets flanked with tall colourful buildings. A walking tour of the historic quarter will include the 15th century cathedral, chapels and Baroque buildings such as the Oratoire St Roch, Oratoire de l'Immaculee Conception and the Roccoco church, St Jean Baptiste, famous for its twin campaniles. This afternoon choose to relax on board, enjoy some free time in

“

Local guides and our onboard guest speakers will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of these Italian gems and you will find yourself wanting to return time and time again.

”





The citadel and port of Bastia

Bastia or join an excursion to the small fishing port of St Florent. Our drive will take us through the Nebbio which takes its name from the thick mist that sweeps over the region and is now reputed for its fine wines from Patrimonio. On arrival in St Florent we will have time to wander the maze of narrow streets and take a coffee in one of the waterfront cafes whilst watching the yachts in the marina.

Day 9 Portoferraio, Elba. Today we call into the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing the island's busy capital Portoferraio we set out for a delightful drive exploring the southern region of this charming island with superb views over the coastline. The first stop will be Villa San Martino which was the summer residence of Napoleon Bonaparte and has been transformed into a museum. Later enjoy some time at leisure

in Porto Azzurro to browse around and shop among the many local boutiques of this delightful town which is dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress and a picturesque harbour. Our drive continues along the coast to the 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa, beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. As with any self-respecting mansion on Elba, La Chiusa claims to have once housed Napoleon during his exile here. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced. In the estate's garden facing the sea a delicious sampling of the local wine will be served. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.

Day 10 Livorno to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Pisa 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4070	£3870
2	Standard Stateroom	£4250	£4050
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4350	£4150
4	Superior Stateroom	£4700	£4500
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5060	£4860
6	Junior Suite	£5600	£5400
7	Executive Suite	£5960	£5760
8	Owner's Suite	£5960	£5760
9	Inside Single	£4070	£3870
10	Standard Single	£4450	£4250
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5240	£5040
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£5320	£5120

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, nine 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 including Guest Speakers, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Villa Il Poggiale



Siena

Post-Cruise Tuscany Extension

11th to 15th October 2018

Extend your time in Italy with our four night Tuscany stay which includes accommodation at the wonderful Villa il Poggiale and a number of tours to the highlights of the region.

Villa Il Poggiale

Villa Il Poggiale is a manor house located in the heart of Tuscany near San Casciano in Val di Pesa. The property is listed as a 'Historical Residence' of Italy and has been tastefully restored by the current owners. After a day exploring the surrounding area or whilst relaxing at the villa you can take a dip in the pool or a drink in the rose garden before being treated to a candlelight dinner of local specialties in the restaurant. There is also a spa at the property offering massages and other treatments. Each bedroom at the Villa Il Poggiale is unique with walls painted in light colours typical of the region. The elegant rooms overlook the Chianti hills and feature antique furniture. Each room offers a private bathroom, air-conditioning, mini-bar, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities, satellite television, safe deposit box and Wi-Fi.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Livorno to Villa il Poggiale. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Florence for a walking tour in the historic city centre. Our tour includes the Duomo, with its Brunelleschi's works of art, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistery, with such beautiful doors that Michelangelo called them the Gates of Paradise. Continue to the Piazza Della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, Ponte Vecchio, the only bridge in Florence to survive the WWII bombings and the Santa Croce Basilica. Enjoy time at leisure for lunch and exploration before we transfer to the villa. Check in to the Villa il Poggiale and the remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner in the hotel tonight.

Day 2 Vinci. Spend the morning at the villa and enjoy lunch before we set off for an afternoon tour to Vinci, the town where Leonardo da Vinci was born on the 15 April 1452 and where you can discover monuments and places celebrating his memory and his legacy. Visit the Museo Leonardiano, Palazzina Uzielli and the Conti Guidi Castle, which houses one of the broadest and most original collections devoted to Da Vinci the engineer, the architect and the scientist, and to the history of Renaissance technology in general. We will also visit the house where da Vinci was born. Return to the villa for dinner.

Day 3 Siena & San Gimignano. This morning we will drive to Medieval and mystical Siena, located in the heart of the Chianti wine region. Our walking tour will include the exquisite marble cathedral, the beautiful Mangia Tower, the Town Hall and the Fonte Gaia. Also see the Piazza del Campo, the site of the famous "Palio", a horse race with no rules and one of the most colourful Italian festivals. After free time for lunch or further exploration we will meet and drive to San Gimignano, a well preserved Medieval village. Explore the ancient squares, buildings, narrow and shady alleys and soaring slender towers of this stunning town. Return to the villa this afternoon and enjoy dinner here this evening.

Day 4 Villa il Poggiale. Spend the day at leisure, either relaxing at the villa or exploring the surrounding area independently. Enjoy a Farewell Dinner at the villa this evening.

Day 5 Pisa to London. Check out after breakfast and transfer to Pisa airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1595** Single: **£2495**

Price Includes: Four nights hotel accommodation at the Villa il Poggiale on a bed and breakfast basis, dinner each night, lunch on day 2, tours as described, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance, lunches on days 1,3, 4 and 5.



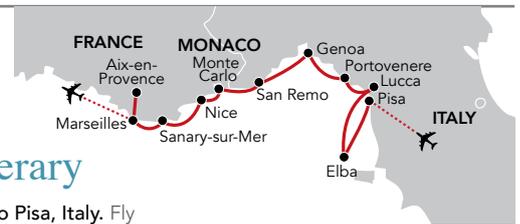
The Italian & French Rivieras

Discover the beauty of the Mediterranean Rivieras

11th to 21st October 2018

The British love affair with the French and Italian Rivieras dates back to the 18th century and the days of the Grand Tour. It is not surprising when you consider the charms on offer coupled with the wonderful climate. Our cruise from Livorno to Marseilles promises to be a relaxing and informative journey and is timed for the month of October in order that we will benefit from relatively crowd free sites and cooler temperatures. Immerse yourself in the artistic, historical and cultural gems and explore the stunning harbours and charming villages that we will pass along the way.

Our itinerary is very much a classic that has been enjoyed over the decades but with some interesting variations. In the Italian Riviera with its breathtaking coastal scenery we explore the Ligurian capital of Genoa, rich in maritime history and an archaeological heritage that speaks of its former glory and also San Remo. We also visit the lovely Tuscan town of Lucca and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Portovenere. Sailing to France, we capture the essence of the Cote d'Azur in glamorous Monte Carlo and the beautiful city of Nice before calling into the pretty Provençal port of Sanary Sur Mer for a stroll around the picturesque harbour or a boat trip around the hidden bays of Les Calanques. With so many experiences on offer, we have planned our time carefully to ensure there is adequate opportunity to relax onboard, join the guided excursions and explore under your own steam with the added advantage of some overnight moorings allowing for after dinner strolls.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Pisa, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to nearby Livorno to embark the MS Serenissima. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Elba. We leave the mainland for a day to call into the enchanting island of Elba, best known as Napoleon's island of exile from 1814 to 1815. Departing the island's busy capital, Portoferraio, we set out for a delightful drive of the southern region of this charming island with superb views over the coastline. The first stop will be at Villa San Martino, the summer residence on the island of Napoleon Bonaparte. Nowadays the villa has been transformed into a museum. Later we enjoy some time at leisure in

Porto Azzurro to browse around and shop among the many local boutiques of this delightful town, dominated by an ancient Spanish fortress and a picturesque harbour. Continuing the drive along the coastline we will reach the old 17th century country wine farm, La Chiusa which is beautifully nestled in a vineyard estate surrounded by olive trees and overlooking the ocean. As any self-respecting mansion on Elba, La Chiusa claims to have once housed Napoleon during his exile here. Experience the estate's interesting cellar to learn how the wine is handled and produced. In the estate's garden facing the sea, a delicious sampling of the local wine will be served. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Portoferraio.

Day 3 Lucca. From the port of Viareggio we will make our way inland to the lovely town of Lucca. Hidden behind imposing Renaissance walls it boasts delightful cobbled streets, handsome piazzas and shady promenades. Our tour will include the Basilica di San Fredino the roman amphitheatre and the San Martino Cathedral, the most important religious monument in Lucca. After a lunch of local specialties we will make our way to the Baroque Santa Caterina Church where we will enjoy a concert of the local composer, Giacomo Puccini's, work. Return to our ship for dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 4 Portovenere. Arrive during breakfast at Portovenere, situated south east of the Cinque Terre, on a rocky peninsula on the Gulf of Poets, an area in the Gulf of La Spezia which was once popular with writers such as Byron, Shelley and DH Lawrence. Portovenere is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the harbour is a charming place, lined with brightly coloured houses and narrow Medieval

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild



Portoferraio



French riviera near Nice and Monaco





streets that lead up the hill to a castle. For those who wish to explore the Cinque Terre, there will be an excursion to the villages of Riomaggiore, Corniglia and Manarola with time in each place to explore. *Please note that the vessel will be at anchor today and Zodiacs or local tenders will be used.*

Day 5 Genoa. Many regard Genoa as having the largest historic city centre in Europe as a result of having been, for centuries, a powerful commercial seaport and city-state. It was the birthplace of Christopher Columbus and its maritime roots have fostered a dialect that has absorbed elements of Neapolitan, Calabrese and Portuguese over the centuries. Our morning walking tour through the historic town centre will include the Piazza de Ferrari and the Palazzo Ducale. We will visit the Cisterne del Ducale, the ancient cellars of the palace, where we will enjoy a light buffet of typical Genoese fare such as bruschetta and focaccia accompanied by some local wine. This afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently. You may wish to visit the excellent "Museo del Mare" or aquarium in the old port, visit Columbus's house in the city or relax onboard.

Day 6 San Remo. In the late 19th century San Remo enjoyed a reputation as a premier resort for wealthy European and noble families including Empress Nicholas II of Russia and Tchaikovsky who completed Eugene Onegin here in 1878. The Russian influence can still be seen in the onion domed Russian Orthodox church on the seafront. Enjoy time to explore the twisting labyrinth of lanes in the old town

that lead up from the waterfront or maybe walk along the promenade to the gardens at Villa Ormond. This afternoon we will enjoy a tour inland to the Medieval town of Dolceacqua which is made up of two villages connected by a Medieval humpback bridge which inspired Monet who defined it as "a jewel of lightness". Our walking tour will take us through the picturesque alleys to the Doria Castle and we will also enjoy a tasting of the village's famous Rossese red wine and olive oil in a local taverna. We sail over dinner arriving into Monte Carlo this evening for anyone who wishes to enjoy an after dinner stroll or maybe visit the casino. *Please note that the vessel will be at anchor in San Remo and Zodiacs or local tenders will be used.*

Day 7 Monte Carlo, Monaco. The Principality of Monaco is the epitome of Riviera chic. This tiny enclave of 370 acres surrounds a sheltered harbour that draws yachts from around the world to enjoy the beautiful scenery, mild weather and elegant casino. Glamorous Monte Carlo is one of Monaco's four quarters, which also include La Condamine, the business district; Monaco-ville, the capital and Fontvieille, an area built on reclaimed land. This morning our tour will include Monaco Old Town and Monte Carlo, the afternoon will be free for independent exploration. The evening we sail the short distance for an overnight mooring in Nice.

Day 8 Nice, France. This morning we drive along the coast to the quaint village of Eze perched on a rocky peak overlooking the Mediterranean. We will have some time to wander the cobblestone streets before continuing to Saint

Jean Cap Ferrat and our visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Built in 1900 in Italian palazzo style and surrounded by magnificent gardens it houses an unbelievable collection of works including tapestries, furniture, candelabras, terracottas, porcelains and Chinese vases. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore Nice independently. Maybe choose to visit one of the city's museums dedicated to artists such as Henri Matisse or Marc Chagall, walk amongst the charming architecture of the old city or enjoy a stroll along the palm tree lined Promenade des Anglais.

Day 9 Sanury Sur Mer. Today we will anchor off the picturesque and typically Provençal port of Sanury sur Mer. Colourful 'pointu' fishing boats bob in the harbour and pretty white and pink cottages line the shallow sandy beach. Spend the morning strolling around the town at leisure and perhaps enjoy a bouillabaisse in one of the local restaurants. This afternoon there will be the choice of a boat trip to Les Calanques, stunning fjordlike inlets carved into the limestone that stretch along the coast from Marseilles to Cassis or alternatively there will be an excursion inland to the hilltop Medieval village of Le Castellet. This remarkable stronghold, formerly owned by the Lords of Les Baux, has well preserved ramparts, a carefully restored 12th century church and a castle dating back to the 11th century. We will have time to explore the village and its winding streets before enjoying a wine tasting at one of Le Castellet's centuries-old vineyards

Day 10 Marseilles. From our berth in Marseilles we will offer a

“

With so many experiences on offer, we have planned our time carefully to ensure there is adequate opportunity to relax onboard, join the guided excursions and explore under your own steam with the added advantage of some overnight moorings.

”





San Remo

choice of excursions today. You can choose to head inland to Aix en Provence which was founded by the Romans in the 1st century and is now more renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will visit his studio which still houses his equipment and the objects he used for models and the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' located on the heights of Aix en Provence, a few hundred metres from the Atelier Cezanne, and is famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant we spend some time in Aix with its leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Alternatively spend the day in Avignon, the great City of the

Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe, built in the 14th century as a fortified palace for the pontifical court. We also visit the cathedral and famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon and the Pont du Gard, one of the wonders of antiquity, built by Agrippa in 19B.C. This imposing aqueduct-bridge was built by the Romans in order to provide the city of Nimes with fresh water from the Uzès area. Both tours return to the MS Serenissima for dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 11 Marseilles to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4225	£3925
2	Standard Stateroom	£4655	£4355
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4785	£4485
4	Superior Stateroom	£4905	£4605
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5295	£4995
6	Junior Suite	£5995	£5695
7	Executive Suite	£6395	£6095
8	Owner's Suite	£6395	£6095
9	Inside Single	£4225	£3925
10	Standard Single	£4655	£4355
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5655	£5355
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£5785	£5485

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 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, Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Pre-Cruise Tuscany Extension

7th to 11th October 2018

Extend your trip with our four night stay in Tuscany at the wonderful Villa Il Poggiale and enjoy a number of tours to the highlights of the region as well as time to relax in the villa's beautiful grounds.

Villa Il Poggiale

Villa Il Poggiale is a manor house located in the heart of Tuscany near San Casciano in Val di Pesa. The property is listed as a 'Historical Residence' of Italy and has been tastefully restored by the current owners. After a day exploring the surrounding area or whilst relaxing at the villa you can take a dip in the pool or a drink in the rose garden before being treated to a candlelight dinner of local specialties in the restaurant. There is also a spa at the property offering massages and other treatments. Each bedroom at the Villa Il Poggiale is unique with walls painted in light colours typical of the region. The elegant rooms overlook the Chianti hills and feature antique furniture. Each room offers a private bathroom, air-conditioning, mini-bar, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities, satellite television, safe deposit box and Wi-Fi.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Pisa, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight and transfer to the Villa Il Poggiale. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner in the hotel tonight.

Day 2 Florence. After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to Florence for a walking tour. Founded by the Romans, the city fell in the 15th century to the rule of the Medici family. It is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance and is possibly one of the most beautifully preserved and artistically rich cities in the world. Our tour includes the Duomo with its Brunelleschi's works of art, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistery, with doors so beautiful that Michelangelo called them the Gates of Paradise. Continue to the Piazza Della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, Santa Croce Basilica and Ponte Vecchio, the only bridge in Florence to survive the bombings during World War Two. After some free time for lunch or further exploration we will visit a local winery where we taste the wine and enjoy a Tuscan dinner.

Day 3 Vinci. Enjoy a relaxing morning at the hotel. This afternoon we travel the short distance to Vinci, where Leonardo da Vinci was born on 15 April 1452 and where you can discover monuments and places celebrating his legacy. Visit the Museo Leonardiano, Palazzina Uzielli and the Conti Guidi Castle, which house one of the broadest and most original collections devoted to Leonardo the engineer, the architect and the scientist, and to the history of Renaissance technology in general. Also visit the house where da Vinci was born, surrounded by the centuries-old olive trees of Montalbano. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Day 4 Siena & San Gimignano. This morning we will drive to Medieval and mystical Siena, located in the heart of the Chianti wine region. Our walking tour will include the exquisite marble cathedral, the beautiful Mangia Tower, the Town Hall and the Fonte Gaia. Also visit the Piazza del Campo, the site of the famous 'Palio', a horse race with no rules and one of the most colourful Italian festivals. After free time for lunch or further exploration we will meet and drive to San Gimignano, a well preserved Medieval Village. Explore the ancient squares, buildings, narrow and shady alleys of this stunning town. Return to the hotel where we will enjoy dinner this evening.

Day 5 Livorno, Embark MS Serenissima. Enjoy a relaxing morning before we check out of the hotel and transfer to the MS Serenissima.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1695** Single: **£1995**

Price Includes: Four nights hotel accommodation at the Villa Il Poggiale on a bed and breakfast basis, all excursions, dinner each night, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, lunches.



Art & Antiquities of the Mediterranean

A voyage celebrating the modern art and architecture of the Mediterranean Coast
21st October to 2nd November 2018

The late 19th century witnessed an extraordinary flowering of art that transformed the Cote d'Azur into the greatest concentration of modern art in Europe and during our three days in France at the start of our voyage we will enjoy some of the great works by Chagall, Matisse and Cezanne. Sailing from France we follow the coast around to Spain's province of Catalonia and our first call will be to the Medieval town of Figueres, the birthplace of Salvador Dali. Then on to Barcelona, a unique and marvellous city with its Modernista architecture. Staying in Catalonia our next call will be the historic city of Tarragona, a veritable museum-town with remains of all the civilisations that have crossed the Iberia. Before our journey continues south we sail to the Balearic Island of Menorca to explore its rich history and experience the tranquillity and beauty of Valldemossa, a town that has been a source of inspiration for many artists. Our voyage continues along the Spanish coast visiting the great city of Valencia with its 13th century cathedral with paintings by Goya, the great naval port of Cartagena with its fine Roman remains, Granada and the incomparable Alhambra and penultimately Gibraltar. We end on a high note with our passage up the Guadalquivir river to Seville, surely the perfect way to arrive at this wonderful Andalusian city.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Marseilles, France. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima and embark.

Day 2 Aix en Provence. From our berth in Marseilles we head inland to Aix en Provence. Founded by the Romans in the 1st century it is now more renowned as the home of artist Paul Cezanne. We will visit his studio and the Jas de Bouffan estate, Cezanne's parents' country house which contains many of the painter's celebrated works. We will continue to the 'Terrain des Peintres' located on the heights of

Aix en Provence and famous for the wonderful views of the Montagne Sainte Victoire which Cezanne often painted in the latter part of his life. After lunch in a local restaurant we will spend some time in Aix.

Day 3 Port Vendres. The 'Cote Vermeille', or rocky coast, is one of the most beautiful parts of the Mediterranean and inspired some of the world's most famous artists. This morning we will drive the short distance to Collioure which has always been a source of inspiration for artists. Here we will have time to explore the

colourful streets, visit the local artist studios and the 12th century Royal Castle. After lunch on board, the afternoon is free to enjoy exploring Port Vendres at leisure.

Day 4 Roses, Spain.

The former Greek colony of Roses is our base for a day on the Costa Brava. We will travel inland to Medieval Figueres, an impressive town of Modernist and Neoclassical architecture which is most renowned as the birth place of Salvador Dali. Our tour includes the impressive 18th century castle of St Ferran and the old city walls before continuing to the Dali Theatre Museum. Designed by Dali himself, the museum takes us through the life of the artist. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and this afternoon we will travel along the coast to the archaeological site of Empuries. Founded by Greek merchants in the 6th century BC as Emporion, it was a commercial hub and became a major port. In 218 BC the town was taken by the Romans who built an even greater city above the Greek town.



Collioure

Day 5 Barcelona. Our morning tour of the enchanting city of Barcelona will include the Medieval Gothic quarter which was built on the site of a Roman city. We will discover remains of the Roman past such as the impressively well preserved columns of the Temple of August as well as the Placa Sant Jaume and Placa del Rei before arriving at the great 14th century cathedral, located in the heart of Barcelona and known as 'La Seu'. We then continue to the Sagrada Familia passing by Passeig de Gracia, containing several of the city's most celebrated pieces of



architecture such as Casa Batllo and La Pedrera, both designed by Gaudi within the space of a few years. The Temple dedicated to the Sacred Family is Gaudi's most emblematic work and the greatest exponent of his genius, which has become a symbol of Barcelona all over the world despite remaining unfinished. We will return to the vessel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

Day 6 Tarragona. During the second Punic War in 218 AD the city of Tarraco was established as a garrison which developed into the main military base for the Roman army in Spain. Today we can still see remnants of the Roman period as we explore the city by foot. Meanwhile on the outskirts of the city we will see the Pont de les Ferreres, a Roman bridge that formed part of the aqueduct that brought water to the city from the Francoli River. After lunch on board we have time to explore Tarragona at leisure or, alternatively, drive to the Moestir de Poblet, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 7 Palma de Mallorca. From our berth in Palma we will take the beautifully maintained vintage train that connects Palma with the pretty town of Soller on the island's west coast and enjoy splendid mountain views of the Serra de Tramuntana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will enjoy some time to explore Soller before taking a scenic drive to the village of Valldemossa, a quiet and traditional town with narrow streets and lanes constructed with blonde stone. It is also a source of inspiration to the many artists that live here and we hope to be able to visit a local studio to learn first-hand about their methods. We will enjoy a walk around the



Plaza de Espana, Seville

town and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the MS Serenissima.

Day 8 Valencia. Valencia is a vibrant, somewhat chaotic and a typically Spanish city. Join a guided walking tour to see some of the fine Baroque buildings including the cathedral, the 15th century Gothic Silk Exchange and the old 'La Carmen' quarter. This afternoon can be spent at leisure exploring independently or join us as we visit the Fine Arts Museum. Alternatively, visit the Colegio del Patriarca with its wonderful Renaissance courtyard, church and a museum with works including a 'Last Supper' by Ribalta.



Barcelona

Day 9 Cartagena. After a morning at sea we arrive during lunch 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. 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.

Day 10 Motril for Alhambra. Today we will drive inland to the magnificent, UNESCO World

Heritage listed Alhambra and Generalife Gardens. During our guided tour we will visit the most important halls and courtyards of the Alhambra and we also visit the sumptuous Generalife Gardens, the luxurious summer retreat of the Moorish kings of Granada.

Day 11 Gibraltar. We have the day to explore this strategic British outpost of the Mediterranean. We will use the cable car to climb the 426 metre Rock of Gibraltar and at the top will enjoy a private lecture which will bring the history of Gibraltar to life. We will visit the Great Siege Tunnels, a labyrinth of tunnels built to defend Gibraltar from Spanish and French attacks between 1779 and 1783 and revered as one of the finest defensive systems. Also visit the Gibraltar Museum where we can learn more about the Great Siege, the geological origins of the rock and also the natural history. Enjoy lunch on board followed by some free time.

Day 12 Seville. Overnight we will cruise up the Guadalquivir River towards Seville arriving during breakfast. On our morning excursion we will see one of Seville's greatest monuments, the Alcazar with its exotic terraced garden. Built by the Moors in the 14th century, 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. This afternoon will be at leisure.

Day 13 Seville to London. Disembark this morning 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4295	£4095
2	Standard Stateroom	£4995	£4795
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£5145	£4945
4	Superior Stateroom	£5245	£5045
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5545	£5345
6	Junior Suite	£6195	£5995
7	Executive Suite	£6695	£6495
8	Owner's Suite	£6695	£6495
9	Inside Single	£4295	£4095
10	Standard Single	£4995	£4795
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£5995	£5795
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£6145	£5945

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild

Nice Pre-Cruise Extension

18th to 21st October 2018

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Nice. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the Hotel Boscolo B4 Nice Plaza, our base for the next three nights. Meet for a welcome dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 2 Saint Jean Cap Ferrat & Museum Chagall. We drive to Saint Jean Cap Ferrat and visit the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. Built in 1900 in Italian palazzo style and surrounded by magnificent gardens it houses an unbelievable collection of works including tapestries, furniture, candelabras, terracotta's, porcelains and Chinese vases. After a light lunch we visit the Marc Chagall Museum. Chagall was one of the great masters of the School of Paris and his work was essentially inspired by religion. During his early thirties, one night, he had a vision of angels, and from that day on, blue and angels dominated his work. The museum houses the famous series of seventeen paintings illustrating his biblical message, the books of Genesis, Exodus and the Song of Songs, and the series of ten other paintings, including the triptych named Resistance, Resurrection, Liberation. After our tour we return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Day 3 Saint Paul de Vence & Chapelle du Rosaire. After breakfast in the hotel we visit the Maeght Foundation. This exceptional site contains one of the most important collections in Europe with paintings, sculptures, drawings and graphic works of modern art from the 20th century such as Bonnard, Braque, Calder, Chagall, Chillida, Giacometti, Leger, Miro, Ubc, and contemporary artists such as Adami, Calzolari, Caro, Del Re and Dietman. From here we will continue onto Saint Paul de Vence, a fortified village where we will enjoy lunch in the legendary Colombe d'Or where many artists visited and the walls were soon covered by paintings, which often were exchanged for a stay or a few meals. From 1920 modern painters such as Soutine, Signac, Modigliani, rediscovered the atmosphere of the village, and artists, sculptors, writers and actors elected the place as their main meeting point, making Saint Paul de Vence a famous Riviera landmark. Later we head to Vence and visit the Chapelle du Rosaire, a unique building which was designed and constructed by Henri Matisse. Between 1948 and 1951, Matisse worked tirelessly on the plans, designing every element of the building, from the exterior to the details of decoration. Remarking upon the chapel's completion, Henri Matisse stated that "I want those entering my chapel to feel themselves purified and lightened of their burdens ... I regard it, despite all its imperfections, as my masterpiece ... as an effort which is the culmination of a whole life dedicated to the search for truth." Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Day 4 Nice to Marseille. Enjoy a morning at leisure, take the chance to explore Nice or maybe visit the Musee Matisse containing one of the largest collections of his work. Meet in the hotel in the early afternoon for our transfer to Marseilles where we will embark the MS Serenissima.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1145**; Single: **£1345**

Price Includes: Scheduled flight from London to Nice, three nights accommodation at Hotel Boscolo B4 Nice Plaza (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, gratuities, dinner on day 1, tours as described, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



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 subject to change.

