

SICILY & THE BARBARY COAST

DISCOVER THE ROMAN SITES
OF SICILY & NORTH AFRICA
ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA
20TH TO 30TH OCTOBER 2020

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Located in Sicily and on the North African coast, betwixt the desert and the sea are some of Rome's most magnificent sites which we will discover during this fascinating voyage from Malta to Casablanca. Our cruise begins with three days of exploration in Sicily, an endlessly fascinating island which lends itself beautifully to discovery by small ship as most points of interest are close to the sea. We will visit the magnificently sited Doric temples of Agrigento, the Imperial Roman Villa of Casale, regarded as one of the finest Roman sites on the island and Segesta, one of the grandest Doric monuments to survive.

Like Sicily, North Africa's Barbary Coast is best explored by sea and after a morning in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari we will sail south to Algeria where the favourable desert influenced climate has been remarkably kind to the historic sites. During our three days in Algeria we will visit Bejaia from where you can discover the Roman ruins of Djemila, some of the finest preserved in North Africa. We also spend a morning exploring the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans. Our final day in Algeria focuses on Medieval Tlemcen, one of country's finest cities.

For those who enjoy exploring the ancient world, this itinerary has it all. The magnificent sites provide an unparalleled experience of life in classical times which with the help of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and local guides, will be brought vividly back to life.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta.

Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Valletta. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board as we set sail this evening.

Day 2 Licata for Piazza Armerina, Sicily.

From the port of Licata we travel inland to what is regarded as the finest Roman site in 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. Return to the MS Serenissima in the late afternoon and sail tonight.

Day 3 Agrigento & Valley of the Temples.

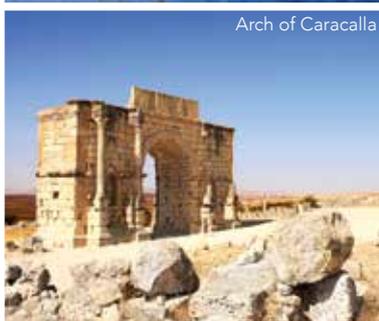
Although handsome in its own right and awash with Medieval atmosphere, Agrigento is not our main reason for calling at this southern coast port. Close by is the Valle dei Templi, a series of Doric temples and the most captivating of Sicilian Greek remains, and a grouping unique outside Greece. Surrounded 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 and shuttles will run from the port to the town and the excellent archaeological museum where you can explore at leisure.

Day 4 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. This morning we will travel to the nearby town of Erice, famed in antiquity for its temple dedicated to the goddess of love, the Phoenician



Medina, Tangier



Arch of Caracalla



El Mansourah, Tlemcen

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 a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 5 Cagliari, Sardinia. Arrive over breakfast in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. During our 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 Mary. Alternatively, drive along the south-western coast to reach Nora which was founded by the Phoenicians but also has Carthaginian and Roman ruins. After a period of Roman prosperity, there was a decline and in the 3rd century AD the city was engulfed by the sea. Still visible today are the remains of Carthaginian warehouses and various Roman buildings including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail this afternoon towards the North African coast.

Day 6 Bejaia, Algeria. Bejaia is built on a beautiful bay protected by mountains which give the city a splendid backdrop. A minor port in Roman times it was named Saldae having been founded by the Roman Emperor Vespasian and is our base for a choice of options today. Maybe choose a full day tour to Djemila which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981 due to its unique adaptation of Roman architecture to a mountain environment. In a remarkable setting the ruins are some of the finest preserved in North Africa. We will drive along a very scenic route and traverse spectacular scenery as we climb from little Kabilya towards the high plateau of Setif where the Roman ruins are located. View the Arch of Caracalla, the Forum, the Basilica and the Temples before viewing the mosaics which are displayed in the museum, representing the best collection in Algeria. This is a long but rewarding excursion. An alternative excursion will be a drive through the valley of the Soumman, the legendary meeting place of the leaders of the Freedom Fighters. It was here that they launched the revolution of the 1st November 1954 which lasted for seven years until they gained independence for Algeria on the 5th July 1962. Afterwards visit a Berber village in Kabylia where we visit a typical house and various workshops where things are still made in the old-fashioned unhurried way. Enjoy a "dégustation" of Berber olive oil whilst tasting the different types

of bread and other local produce as we gain an insight into Berber culture and history.

Day 7 Algiers. Depart this morning for the ancient city of Tipaza which was probably founded by the Phoenicians but really came into being under the Romans. The city was extended by Emperor Claudius and grew wealthy on Mediterranean trade. It was built on three small hills, which overlooked the sea. There are ruins of three Basilicas, two Cemeteries, the Baths, the Theatre, the Nymphaeum and the unusual oval shaped Amphitheatre. We will enjoy a typical Algerian lunch before continuing to the mysterious Mausoleum of Mauretania, which lies in the hills above the sea about 18 kilometres away from Tipaza. It is one of the most breathtaking sights in Algeria. The vast pyramid-like structure is named the Tomb of the Christian on account of the large crosses that decorate the tomb which predates Jesus Christ. We return to the ship via the Martyrs' Monument which offers spectacular views over the city.

Day 8 At Sea. Spend the day at sea, maybe join a lecture or find a spot on deck.

Day 9 Ghazaouet for Tlemcen. This morning we reach the western side of Algeria and the port of Ghazaouet located close to the border with Morocco. From here we drive approximately 50 miles inland

to Tlemcen, an interesting and cultured city. Our visit will include the 11th century Great Mosque and the deconsecrated Sidi Bel Hassan Mosque which was transformed into a museum in 1901 and houses a selection of mosaics, carvings and pottery. After a local lunch we will continue to El Mansourah to see the remains of an old minaret and El Mechouar, which was built as a citadel in 1145 before it became the royal residence of the Zianide dynasty in the 13th century.

Day 10 Tangiers, Morocco. Having passed the Straits of Gibraltar this morning we arrive in Tangier at lunchtime. Since Tangier was founded in the 4th century BC, Carthaginians, Romans, Phoenicians, Vandals, Arabs, Spaniards, Portuguese and the English have jealously fought for the right to control it. On an afternoon walking tour we will explore the Medina, see the views from the Kasbah situated at the highest point of Tangiers, visit the museum and then wander through the Grand Souk. Alternatively drive across the beautiful Rif Mountains to Tetouan. Visit the unique School of Art Dar Sanaa which is situated in a former palace and teaches the most traditional of Moroccan crafts to its students before we continue to the Medina which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient medina is full of narrow alleys and streets with vendors selling local handicrafts, foods and spices. Our tour will end at the old Royal Palace,



Trapani



Cagliari

a 17th century building which is itself a reflection of the Hispano-Moresque architecture, and the nearby Hassan II square. Stop to savour the Moroccan tea and fresh pastries at a local Riad in the heart of the Medina before returning to Tangiers.

Day 11 Casablanca to London.

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



Moroccan spices

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£4295	£3995
3	Classic Stateroom	£4495	£4195
4	Superior Stateroom	£4895	£4595
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5395	£5095
6	Junior Suite	£5895	£5595
7	Owner's Suite	£6795	£6495
8	Serenissima Suite	£6995	£6695
10	Standard Single	£4995	£4695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Algeria group visa • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Please note: We have included a group visa for Algeria in the price which covers all participants for the included tours described. For any passengers wishing to explore independently whilst in Algeria, you will need to arrange a visa before arrival through the Algerian embassy which can take around four weeks to process.

Pre-Cruise Malta Extension

18th to 20th October 2020



If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night stay at a centrally located hotel and the opportunity 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. 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 which was once the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. We will have lunch in one of the local restaurants before transferring to the MS Serenissima.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£545** Single: **£895**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation 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.

Post-Cruise Marrakech Extension

30th October to 1st November 2020



After disembarking in Casablanca we are offering the opportunity to extend your time in Morocco with a two night stay in the "Red City" of Marrakech.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Casablanca to Marrakech, Morocco. Disembark the MS Serenissima this morning

and enjoy a brief orientation drive around Casablanca. On arrival in Marrakech we will have lunch before checking into our hotel. Later we will have time to wander in the souks and visit Jemaa El Fna, the main square. Tonight we will meet for dinner in the hotel.

Day 2 Marrakech. This morning we visit the 19th century Bahia Palace where we see the intricate work undertaken by the local artisans on wood, plaster and tile to decorate this splendid home and garden. Continue to the 16th century El Badi Palace and admire what remains of its huge, four part garden and amazing architecture before arriving at the Majorelle Garden which houses a collection of plants from the four corners of the earth, flourishing amongst elegant ornamental ponds. Return to the hotel and spend the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 3 Marrakech to London. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695** Single: **£995**

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



Andrea Lounge



The Restaurant

The charming MS Serenissima began her career as the Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. Since 2003, when she was extensively renovated, she has been operating as a classic cruise ship. Previously known as the MS Andrea, she was upgraded again in 2013 and started her new life as the MS Serenissima. With her small size she can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to the big cruise ships and appears an impressive sight when moored. With her fleet of Zodiacs, she is capable of both destination and expedition cruising.

Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 95 passengers, there are eight different grades of cabin arranged over five decks, and all feature either windows or portholes. The cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully air conditioned with an en-suite bathroom with shower (please note cabins 601 - 605 and 507 have a bath with shower attachment) and a selection of toiletries in addition to a hairdryer, robes and slippers. All cabins come equipped with telephone, flat screen television, safety deposit box and other thoughtful appointments. Bottles of still and sparkling water are replenished daily. Due to the very nature of the ship, the cabins vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.



Your Dining

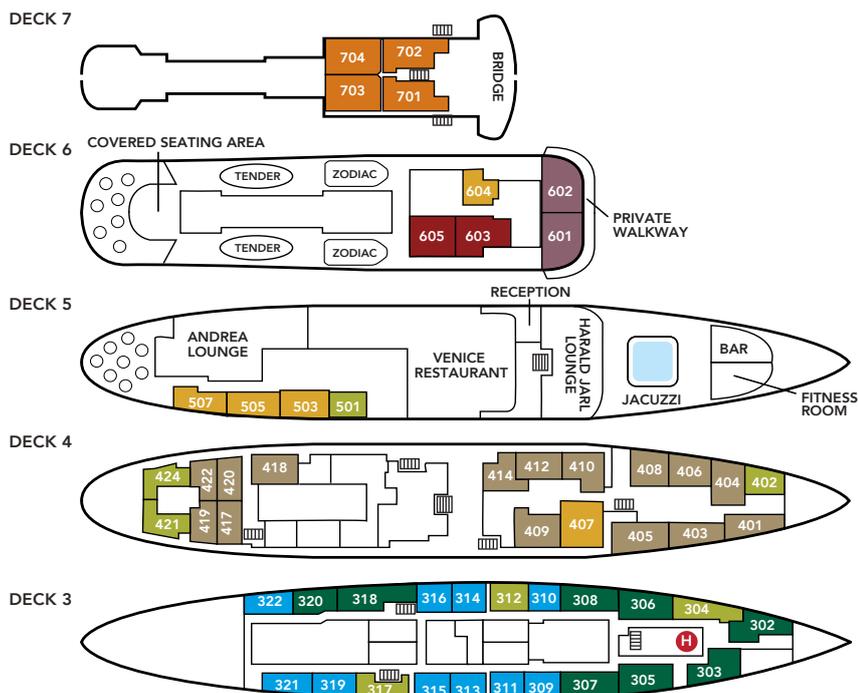
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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

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

Your Space

The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Jarl Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library and Wi-Fi is available at an extra cost throughout the vessel. The outside areas really are something special. A spacious observation deck allows 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with Jacuzzi and outside bar. The covered seating area at the back of Deck 6 is ideal for relaxing with a drink in hand. Perhaps, one of the best known and loved features of this vessel is its unique style. During the major refit in Sweden the then owners commissioned Swedish interior designers to create a Gustavian style interior. This bright Swedish 18th century influenced, country house style works particularly well on a vessel of this vintage, providing intimacy and a classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

MS SERENISSIMA DECK PLAN & CABINS



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

NB. Please note cabin sizes vary in each category and measurements shown are approximate.



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



CLASSIC STATEROOM
(14 to 19 square metres)

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