

LIMITED AVAILABILITY – SAVE £200 PER PERSON

# SMALL SHIP CRUISING ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

SPRINGTIME VOYAGES IN THE AEGEAN,  
BLACK SEA & MEDITERRANEAN

MARCH TO MAY 2022



# MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



Venice Restaurant



Andrea Lounge

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

## Your Cabin/Suite

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



## Your Dining

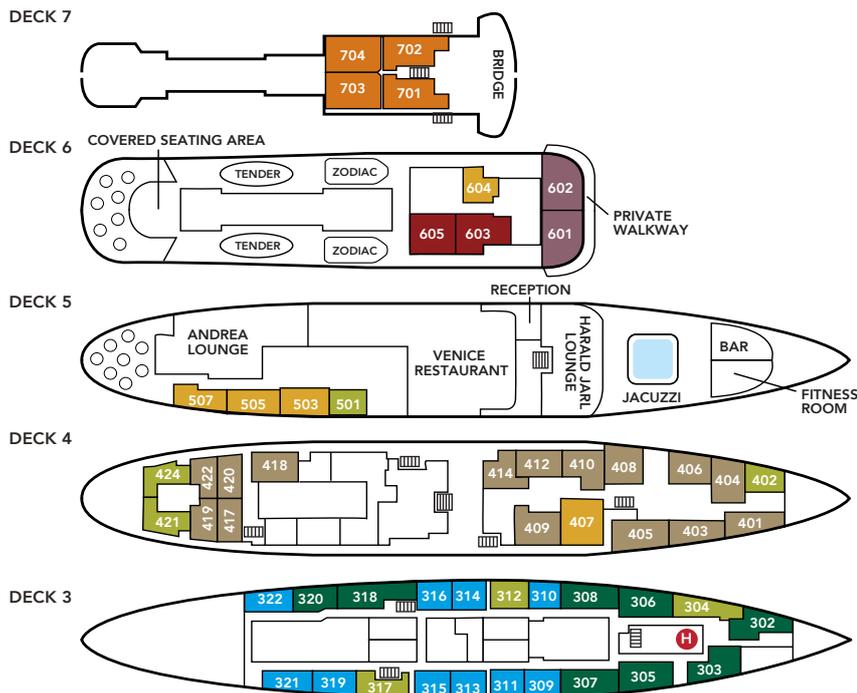
The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. The picture windows also make the restaurant wonderfully light and airy. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order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

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

## Your Space

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

# MS SERENISSIMA DECK PLAN & CABINS



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

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



**DELUXE STATEROOM**  
(15 to 25 square metres)



**SUPERIOR STATEROOM**  
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



**CLASSIC STATEROOM**  
(14 to 19 square metres)



**STANDARD STATEROOM**  
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



**STANDARD SINGLE**  
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



Lido Deck



**SERENISSIMA SUITE**  
(25 square metres)



**OWNER'S SUITE**  
(22 square metres)



**JUNIOR SUITE**  
(21 square metres)

# Aegean Antiquities

A voyage from Thessaloniki to Istanbul aboard the MS Serenissima with Guest Speaker Nigel McGilchrist  
5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Join us aboard the 95-passenger MS Serenissima as we explore some of the unspoiled islands, timeless villages and ancient sites of the Aegean. This wonderful region has attracted, inspired, and fascinated travellers throughout the centuries and during this voyage we will concentrate on the splendid archaeological sites of the Eastern Aegean, an incomparable region of Greek and Roman architectural treasures. Visiting some of the most historic and scenically beautiful places in Greece and Turkey, our itinerary represents small ship cruising at its best and is timed for April when, in the absence of high summer crowds, 3000 years of history can be viewed in relative peace and quiet.

During our voyage we will explore the history, culture and myths of ancient Greece and Turkey including visits to sacred Delos, the ancient city of Ephesus, one of the most famous Graeco-Roman sites in the Mediterranean, and Pergamon which was one of the cultural capitals of antiquity and is one of the finest archaeological sites in Turkey. In between, we will also visit the quintessential, white-washed villages of the Greek Isles and sail through some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in the Mediterranean. There will be some late departures from port, which afford the opportunity to take a stroll in some marvellous places that are particularly atmospheric in the evening and we have also included time at leisure on some of the islands to stroll around the villages and towns and soak up the atmosphere. Whether you are interested in ancient history or simply enjoy cruising amongst beautiful scenery, this voyage has much to offer.



## Guest Speaker - Nigel McGilchrist



Nigel McGilchrist has lived and worked in the Mediterranean – Italy, Turkey and Greece – for nearly forty years. After graduating from Oxford with a starred First in English, he began teaching at the University of Rome and subsequently worked for the Italian Superintendence of Fine Arts. All his spare time was spent exploring the lands, coasts and the cultures of the Mediterranean world. He has lectured for many years on the art and history

of the area for museums and institutions in Europe and America – among them, the Getty Museum and the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. He has taken many specialist tours to Italy, Greece, Sicily and Malta; and has been a Guest Speaker for several Noble Caledonia cruises. He was formerly Dean of European Studies for a consortium of American universities. He is the author of a twenty-volume series of survey/guides of the archaeology, history and art of the sixty inhabited Aegean Islands. He lived previously in Umbria, where he produced wine and oil; he now lives in Greece.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Thessaloniki, Greece.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Thessaloniki.** Spend the day in Greece's second city of Thessaloniki. During our morning tour we 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 and 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 to explore at your own pace before we sail this evening.

**Day 3 Volos for Meteora.** From our berth in Volos we will drive through the fertile plains of Thessaly towards Meteora ("monasteries in midair"), one of the most extraordinary sights in Greece and in all Europe. Rising from Thessaly's valley are gigantic rocks on top of which are monasteries built by hermits some 600 years ago and which are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the monastery of Varlaam, originally founded in the 14th century and covered in fine frescoes and the monastery of Roussanou. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before we return to the MS Serenissima and sail this evening.

**Day 4 Skyros.** Spend the morning at sea as we cruise to Skyros, the most remote and least developed of the Sporades Islands. On an afternoon tour we will visit Chora, the island's capital and one of the most beautiful villages in Skyros. On a hill above Chora sits an imposing Byzantine castle and the monastery of Saint George, one of the most important landmarks on the island which offers views over the Aegean and the surrounding islands. Also see the statue to British poet Rupert Brooke who died on the island during the First World War.

**Day 5 Delos & Syros.** Though the smallest of the Cyclades, Delos 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 over lunch to Syros which was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century and the capital Ermoupolis was Greece's principal port. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to stroll through the town where 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 whitewashed houses. *Please note that we will be at anchor in Delos and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.*

**Day 6 Patmos.** 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. 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 7 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. We will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus and the spectacular Grand Theatre, originally built in the 3rd century BC by the Greeks, and later expanded by the Romans to its present capacity of 24,000. St Paul used to give his sermons from this theatre which has a row of seats 30 metres above the orchestra. The afternoon is free to explore Kusadasi at your own pace.

**Day 8 Pergamon.** From our berth in Dikili 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 BC 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. Lunch today will be enjoyed in one of the local restaurants.

**Day 9 Canakkale for Troy.** Arrive this morning into the port of Canakkale, our gateway for Troy. Ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was at one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. Our tour follows the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann, the archaeologist who discovered Troy and 'Priam's Treasure', the jewels that, Schliemann claimed, were worn by Helen of Troy. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. We can also visit the on-site Troy Museum. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea as we sail to Istanbul.

**Day 10 Istanbul to London.** Be on deck this morning as we sail into Istanbul. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## Post-cruise Istanbul Extension

14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022



For those who wish to spend some time discovering Istanbul after disembarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night hotel extension with included sightseeing.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Istanbul, Turkey.** Disembark after breakfast and start our exploration of Istanbul at the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire and the site of speeches, chariot races, and riots. Next, visit the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica and now an imperial mosque. Known for its massive domed roof and colourful mosaics, this structure is widely regarded as the world's finest example of Byzantine architecture. A short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent covered cisterns in Istanbul. After lunch we transfer to our hotel and have the remainder of the day and evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 2 Istanbul.** After breakfast we spend the morning at the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Since 1924 it has been preserved as a museum, and it is noted for its beautiful shaded courtyards and elegant architecture. Return to the hotel for a free afternoon, maybe visit the spice market or find a bargain at the Grand Bazaar before we meet for dinner tonight. (B, D)

**Day 3 Istanbul to London.** Check out of the hotel this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**      Single: **£895**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

### 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
2	Standard Stateroom	£4295	£4095
3	Classic Stateroom	£4595	£4395
4	Superior Stateroom	£4895	£4695
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5295	£5095
6	Junior Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
7	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8	Serenissima Suite	£6195	£5995
10	Standard Single	£4895	£4695

**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 • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# Circumnavigation of the Black Sea

A springtime voyage discovering the wonderful Black Sea region aboard the MS Serenissima with Guest Speaker Major Gordon Corrigan

14<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April & 26<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Join us aboard the MS Serenissima as we explore the shores of the Black Sea, one of the most fascinating and historically rich regions in the world. Our voyage begins in Istanbul and from the Golden Horn follows the Turkish coast to Trabzon (Trebizond) before crossing to Georgia where the richness of its culture reflects the influence of Greeks, Byzantines, Persians, Turks and Mongols. Georgia's 'Golden Age' reached its height between the reigns of David the Builder and his granddaughter, Queen Tamara, in the 11th and 12th centuries.

From Georgia we follow the coastline to Russia's premier resort and spa, Sochi. Here the microclimate produces wonderful year round weather and a lush countryside. After a day at sea which will be filled with interesting lectures by our onboard Guest Speaker, we reach Odessa, the historic city founded by Catherine the Great at the mouth of the great River Dnieper where we have the benefit of an overnight stay. We continue to Constanta an ancient metropolis and Romania's largest seaport. Finally, we reach Nessebar, a delightful Bulgarian town with a fascinating history before our cruise ends where it all began, in the captivating city of Istanbul.

Such a journey as this would be totally impractical by any means other than a cruise. Whether your interest lies in ancient or military history, architecture, literature, contemporary politics or just in visiting some of the most atmospheric and fascinating places on earth, the Black Sea has a lot to offer. Local guides and our onboard Guest Speaker will contribute greatly to our enjoyment and understanding of this intriguing corner of the world where East meets West.



## Guest Speaker - Major Gordon Corrigan



Gordon Corrigan spent most of his adult life as an officer of the Royal Gurkha Rifles. He is now a military historian and the author of a number of books on subjects ranging from the Hundred Years War to the Peninsula War to the First and Second World Wars. To date he has been the presenter of five TV series dealing with various aspects of military history, in addition to regular appearances in documentaries. He conducts military history

study tours and is a regular speaker on Noble Caledonia cruises. He is an Honorary Research Fellow of the Universities of Birmingham and Kent, a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, a Member of the British Commission for Military History, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farriers. During our cruise he will be lecturing on the history of the nations and the areas that we will be visiting or travelling through.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London/Manchester to Istanbul, Turkey.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

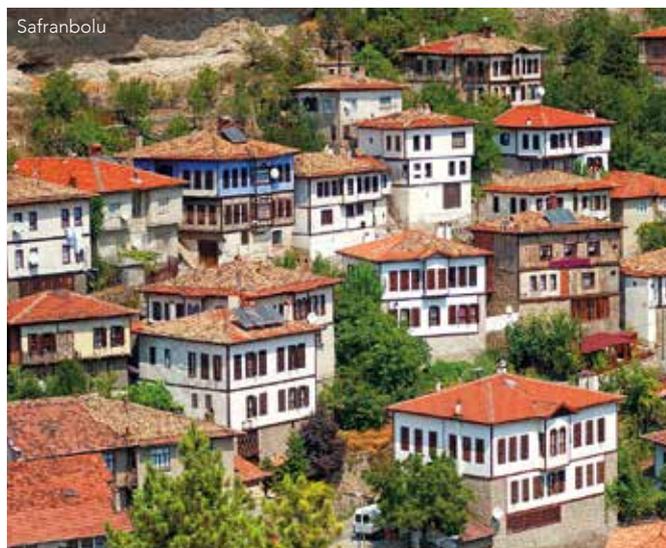
**Day 2 Istanbul.** We start our exploration of Istanbul at the Hippodrome, the centre of civic life in the capital of the Ottoman Empire and the site of speeches, chariot races, and riots. Next, visit the nearby Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th century painted tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, first a Byzantine patriarchal basilica, later an imperial mosque and today a museum. Known for its massive domed roof and colourful mosaics, this structure is widely regarded as the world's finest example of Byzantine architecture. A short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent covered cisterns in Istanbul. Return to the ship for lunch



Istanbul



Blue Mosque, Istanbul



Safranbolu



National Theatre, Odessa

and enjoy a free afternoon to explore further. Be on deck this evening as we sail down the Bosphorus towards the Black Sea.

**Day 3 Bartin.** From the port of Bartin in ancient Paphlagonia, we have a choice of excursions today. The morning tour will include a drive along the coast to nearby Amasra (ancient Sesamus) which is located on a headland in between two bays. We will explore the attractive old town which was founded by the Milesians in the 6th century BC and later became an important possession of both Byzantium and Genoa. See the Genoese citadel and learn more about its Greek and Roman past. Alternatively join a full day tour to the UNESCO site of Safranbolu, a preserved Ottoman style town named for its prominence in saffron production. On a walking tour we will visit the marketplace, the streets where copper makers, iron makers and Turkish delight makers work, the Mosque and a Turkish Hammam all from the time of Suleiman the Magnificent. Our tour will end at a typical Safranbolu house which is now an ethnographical museum. Enjoy lunch in an Ottoman caravanserai before returning to the MS Serenissima and sailing this evening.

**Day 4 Sinop.** Founded by the Greeks in the 7th century BC Sinop flourished as a Black Sea port on the caravan route. On a walking tour this morning we will discover this walled city including the 13th century Alaadin Mosque, constructed after the Seljuk conquest of the Sinop Province. The architecture is representative of the Seljuk period consisting of a rectangular plan featuring five domes. A fountain adorns the courtyard, which also contains ancient tombs. We will visit the Archaeological Museum of Sinop with a collection of objects dating from the Hittite, Hellenistic, Phrygian, Roman and Byzantine periods and the Ethnography Museum located in a typical Ottoman House. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon cruising.

**Day 5 Trabzon.** Trabzon is a gateway to Eastern Turkey and Iran which was founded in the 7th century BC. On our morning excursion we

drive through the picturesque mountain scenery to Sumela to see the dramatic Byzantine monastery carved out of a sheer rock face in the Pontic Alps. After lunch on board we discover the church of Aya Sofia and the old town of Trabzon, then travel to the outskirts to visit Ataturk's lovely villa set high on a cliff above the city.

**Day 6 Batumi, Georgia.** Enjoy a day amongst the sights and sounds of charming Batumi. On a full day tour visit the ancient Gonio fortress dating back to the first century AD and the Ethnographic Museum that highlights the varied and fascinating history of the country. Continue to the impressive botanical garden 'Dendrarium' and see the golden statue of Medea before heading to the bustling farmers market. Lunch will be served in a local restaurant where we will also enjoy a truly exhilarating private performance of Georgian song and dance by the Adjara State Assembly of Music and Dance.

**Day 7 Sochi, Russia.** We have a day to explore delightful Sochi, framed by the Caucasus Mountains and famous for its marvellous climate and health spas. On a morning tour we will visit Dagomy's tea plantation, the most northerly in the world where we learn about the cultivation processes and challenges before having the chance to enjoy a local brew. After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit Stalin's Dacha; built in 1937 as his summer residence it remains intact as it was in Stalin's time.

**Day 8 At Sea.** Enjoy a day at sea as we cruise to Odessa. Maybe join one of the lectures or find a spot on deck.

**Days 9 & 10 Odessa, Ukraine.** We have a day and a half to explore this fascinating city. Founded by Catherine the Great in 1794 following the Russian victory over the Turks, Odessa today is a busy port and popular resort. On our morning tour we will see the famous Potemkin Steps, Primorsky Boulevard and the Preobrazhensky Cathedral. This afternoon is free to explore at leisure and we hope to enjoy a concert this evening at the acoustically perfect Opera House. On our second day we recall Odessa's former splendour by visiting the impressive Pototsky

Casino in Constanta



Palace which is now home to the Fine Arts Museum which contains the most significant collection of art in the Ukraine. After our visit a short drive takes us to the Gagarin Mansion, designed by Otton in the middle of the 19th century for the nobleman, Prince Gagarin. This now houses the Museum for Russian & Ukraine Literature. Tour the museum before enjoying a superb violin recital in the Golden Hall. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at sea.

**Day 11 Constanta, Romania.** During breakfast we arrive in Constanta, known as Tomis to the Greeks but named Constanta by the Romans. Choose this morning to stay in Constanta and enjoy a tour to include the excellent Archaeological Museum and a visit to the Treasury to see the gigantic 3rd century Roman Mosaic. Later, stretch your legs with a walk along the Black Sea waterfront promenade. Alternatively join a full day tour to Bucharest. We will explore the main sights of the city and see the boulevards with their decidedly French style. After lunch in a local restaurant we visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world at 3.77 million square feet and renowned as former dictator Ceausescu's most infamous creation.

**Day 12 Nessebar, Bulgaria.** After a morning at sea we will arrive in the ancient town of Nessebar, a delightful place to spend an afternoon. A guided walk of the town will include the 5th century Bishopric, the 12th century St Stephen's Church and some of the traditional-style houses with their overhanging first floors above winding cobbled lanes.

**Day 13 Istanbul, Turkey to London/Manchester.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London or Manchester.

## 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
2	Standard Stateroom	£5695	£5495
3	Classic Stateroom	£5995	£5795
4	Superior Stateroom	£6395	£6195
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£6895	£6695
6	Junior Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
7	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8	Serenissima Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	£6195	£5995

**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 • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes • Group visa for Russia.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Pre-cruise Istanbul Extension

12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April & 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022



For those who wish to spend some time discovering Istanbul before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night hotel extension with included sightseeing.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London/Manchester to Istanbul, Turkey.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to the hotel for our two night stay. Meet this evening for dinner in the hotel restaurant. (D)

**Day 2 Istanbul.** Our day begins with a visit to the Suleymaniye Mosque, the largest in the city and a masterpiece of the 16th century architect Sinan before we continue to the small yet lavishly decorated Chora Church. Part of a Byzantine monastery complex (now a museum) it was originally built outside the city walls of Constantine the Great. View the many frescoes and mosaics here depicting the beginnings of Christianity. Before lunch in a local restaurant stop at the Fener Greek Quarter, visiting the Greek Patriarchate and Orthodox Church and Balat, the Jewish Quarter, which dates back to the Byzantine period. Return to the hotel and the remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 3 Istanbul.** Take some time to explore independently or relax in the hotel before we check out in the late morning. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before continuing to the impressive Topkapi Palace, a complex of buildings and annexes that was used as the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for nearly 400 years. Since 1924 it has been preserved as a museum, and it is noted for its beautiful shaded courtyards and elegant architecture. In the late afternoon we will transfer to the MS Serenissima for embarkation. (B, L)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**      Single: **£895**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Nessebar





# Ancient Wonders of the Classical World

A voyage from Istanbul to Malta aboard the MS Serenissima with Guest Speaker Dr Steve Kershaw  
8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The seas between Istanbul and Malta offer access to a wealth of ancient sites, unspoiled islands and traditional towns and with the 95-passenger MS Serenissima we can take you on a voyage through the playground of the Greek Gods learning of the myths and legends that surround these enchanted lands. 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.

From Istanbul, one of the world's most captivating cities, we will sail through turquoise waters, call into white washed villages, admire rugged landscapes and see some of the Ancient world's most fascinating sites including Troy where our tour will follow the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann and Pergamon, one of the cultural capitals of antiquity and one of the finest archaeological sites in Turkey. We continue to Greece where from Nafplio, one of the most beautiful towns on mainland Greece, we will visit Epidaurus and Mycenae. We also visit Mystras, a Medieval ghost town set on a cliff overlooking the site of ancient Sparta and one of the best preserved Byzantine towns in Greece, with excellent examples of 14th and 15th century architecture. Our final call in Greece is for Olympia, the principal shrine of Zeus and Hera and the site of the original Olympic Games. Before our journey ends in the impressive port of Valletta, we spend an afternoon exploring beautiful Syracuse in Sicily.

Our itinerary has been carefully designed to combine some 'must see' sites together with some smaller places that are totally unsuitable for vessels larger than ours and in addition to our guided excursions, 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.



Epidaurus Theatre



## Guest Speaker - Dr Steve Kershaw



Dr Steve Kershaw is a tutor in Classics for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society (ex-NADFAS), and lectures for the Victoria and Albert Museum's Early Medieval: 300-1250 and The Classical World and Classical Revivals courses. His publications include The Penguin Dictionary of Classical Mythology, A Brief Guide to the Greek Myths, A Brief Guide to Classical Civilization,

A Brief History of the Roman Empire, and A Brief History of Atlantis: Plato's Ideal State. He is the author and tutor for Oxford University's online courses in Greek Mythology and The Fall of Rome. In 2016 he appeared as an Expert Contributor to The History Channel's 'Barbarians Rising' series, and he has travelled widely in the world of the Greeks and Romans, both physically and intellectually.

## The Itinerary

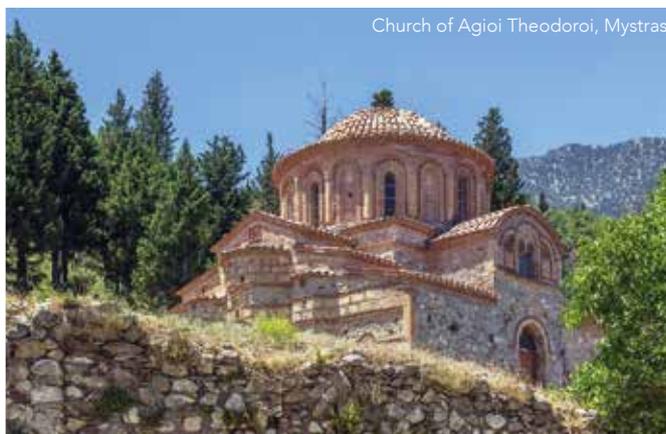
**Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner and be on deck this evening as we depart our berth and sail down the Bosphorus.

**Day 2 Canakkale.** Enjoy a leisurely morning at sea arriving in the early afternoon at Canakkale, our gateway for Troy. Ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was at one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. Our tour follows the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann, the archaeologist who discovered Troy and 'Priam's Treasure', the jewels that, Schliemann claimed, were worn by Helen of Troy. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. We can also visit the on-site Troy Museum.

**Day 3 Pergamon.** From the port of Dikili we will drive inland to Pergamon with its splendid Acropolis towering above the valley of the Caicus River. This city, built by Alexander's warring generals became one of the cultural capitals of antiquity, its library rivalling those of Athens and Alexandria. Today Pergamon is one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. We will take a cable car up to the Acropolis to see the remains of the citadel and the city walls, the foundations of the Zeus Altar and the Royal Palace. Enjoy a local lunch and time in



Nafplio



Church of Agioi Theodoroi, Mystras



Pergamon

the archaeological museum before returning to the MS *Serenissima* and sailing this evening.

**Day 4 Syros & Delos, Greece.** Our first call in Greece is at the island of Syros which was the largest cultural and trade centre of the Aegean in the 19th century and the capital Ermoupolis was Greece's principal port. Enjoy a leisurely morning to stroll through the town where 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 whitewashed houses. Over lunch we sail to 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. *Please note that we will be at anchor in Delos and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.*

**Days 5 & 6 Nafplio.** Nafplio's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivalled in Greece. We have a day and a half to explore and will include a tour to Epidaurus. 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. Most of the ruins of Epidaurus have been reduced to their foundations, with the exception of the astonishing theatre. We will also 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 BC until 271 BC. 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 bathhouse 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. There will also be the opportunity to see the famous citadel of Mycenae where we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. An archaeological briefing within the Treasury of Atreus (also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon) will add to our understanding and appreciation of the sights. We will also ensure there is time to wander Nafplio's twisting labyrinthine streets to view the Venetian and Turkish architecture.

**Day 7 Kalamata & Mystras.** We arrive in Kalamata this morning but our destination is Mystras, a remarkably intact Byzantine hillside 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 for lunch, refreshments will be served at the picturesque tavern located just beneath the site offering sweeping views over the local terrain. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure and perhaps explore Kalamata old town or stroll along the promenade and dip into the turquoise waters from the beach.

**Day 8 Katakolon for Olympia.** Arrive this morning at the port of Katakolon, our base for an 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 and 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. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea as we sail to Sicily.

**Day 9 Syracuse, Sicily.** After a morning at sea we arrive in Syracuse which was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean which 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 will 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. We will sail late this evening for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll from our central berth.

**Day 10 Valletta, Malta to London.** Be on deck this morning as we sail into the impressive port of Valletta. Disembark after breakfast 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
2	Standard Stateroom	£4395	£4195
3	Classic Stateroom	£4595	£4395
4	Superior Stateroom	£4895	£4695
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5295	£5095
6	Junior Suite	£5695	£5495
7	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8	Serenissima Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	£5195	£4995

**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 • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Pre-cruise Istanbul Extension

6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Hagia Sophia



For those who wish to spend some time discovering Istanbul before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night hotel extension with included sightseeing.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to the hotel for our two night stay. Meet tonight for dinner in the hotel restaurant. (D)

**Day 2 Istanbul.** After breakfast at the hotel we start our exploration of Istanbul which will include the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia. A short walk brings us to the Basilica Cistern, which dates back to the 6th century and is supported by 336 Corinthian columns making it one of the most magnificent covered cisterns in Istanbul. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and the remainder of the day at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 3 Istanbul.** Take some time to explore independently or to relax in the hotel before we check out in the late morning. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before continuing to the impressive Topkapi Palace. In the late afternoon we will transfer to the MS Serenissima for embarkation. (B, L)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**      Single: **£895**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Istanbul, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), drinks with lunch & dinner, tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Post-cruise Malta Extension

17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Valletta



If you would like to extend your time in Malta after disembarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night stay at the Grand Hotel Excelsior.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Valletta, Malta.** Disembark after breakfast for a walking tour of Valletta, the 16th century 'Fortress City' built by the Knights of St John. After lunch we transfer to our hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 2 Mdina.** A morning tour will take us to Mdina. Known as 'Silent City', Mdina is Phoenician in origin and was the fortified capital of the island before the arrival of the Knights. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, D)

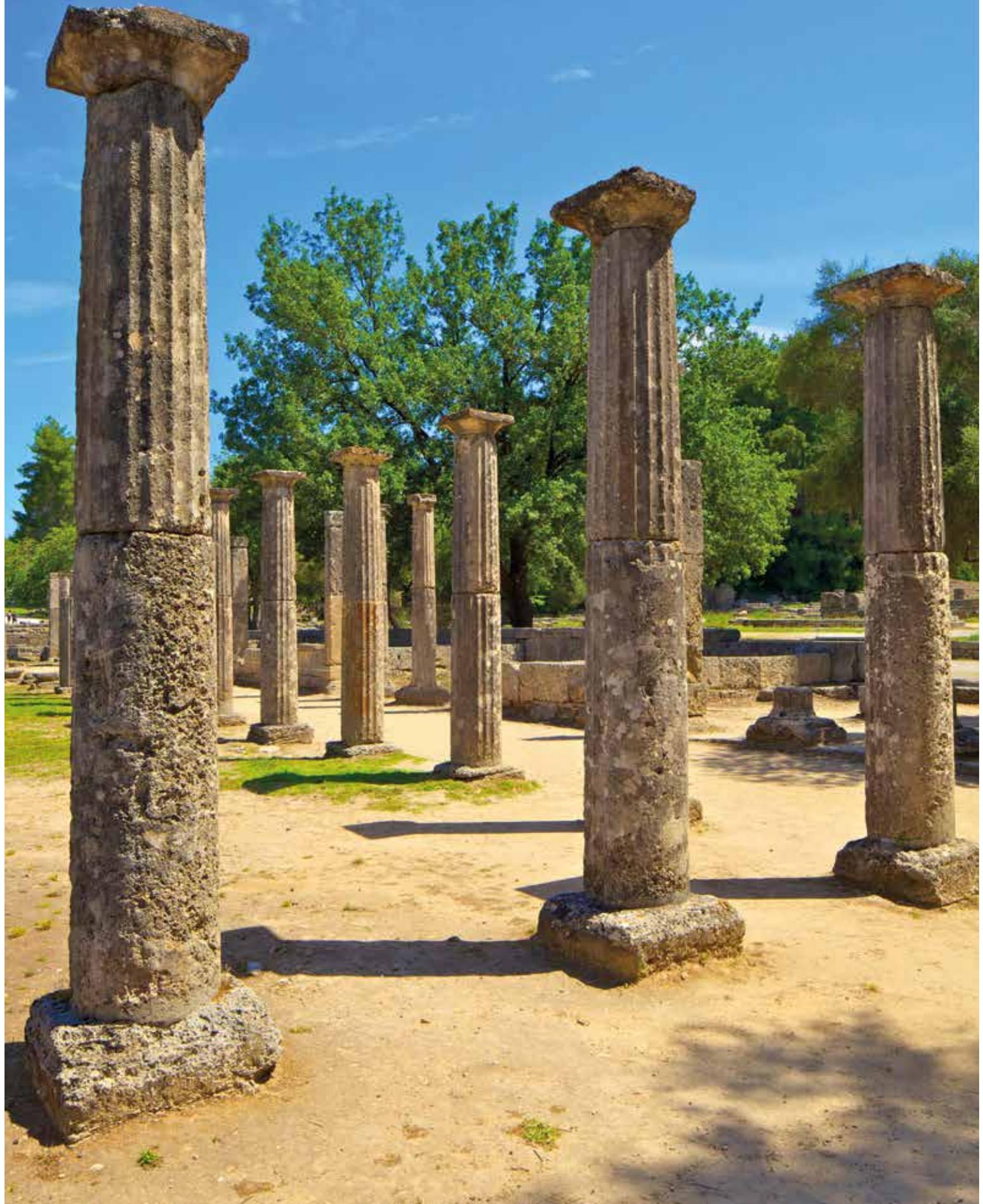
**Day 3 Valletta to London.** Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**      Single: **£945**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation at the Grand Hotel Excelsior (or similar), meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), drinks with lunch & dinner, tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# Island Hopping in the Mediterranean

A voyage from Malta to Malaga aboard the MS Serenissima with Guest Speaker Dr Steve Kershaw  
17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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 journey from Malta to Malaga aboard the MS Serenissima. Our intention has been to design a voyage as if it were to be undertaken on a small private yacht, staying away from the larger commercial centres and concentrating on some of the most picturesque and interesting places in the region.



Late spring is the perfect time for our voyage, when the summer crowds have yet to arrive but the weather is perfect for touring and sightseeing. We have created our island hopping itinerary to combine time in Sicily, Sardinia and the Balearic Islands, 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.

Added to our fascinating itinerary we have the pleasure of cruising aboard the MS Serenissima. From time to time we may pass a huge cruise liner and at times like this we can be thankful that with just 95 passengers, we are able to visit atmospheric ports and villages which the big ships cannot access. We will discover timeless islands with their aura of history, unique island lifestyles and spectacular beauty which will capture our hearts as we travel a less well trodden path across the Mediterranean.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight to Malta. On arrival transfer to the MS Serenissima and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

**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 which rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. This morning we will 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. Continuing to explore the island of Ortigia we will 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. The afternoon is free to explore independently before meeting this evening for a private concert in one of the town's palazzos accompanied by local food and wine.

**Day 3 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 exploring 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. Those who wish to spend longer here 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 ship for lunch and enjoy free time in Messina before we sail this evening.

**Day 4 Lipari & Stromboli, Aeolian Islands.** We anchor off 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. After landing by Zodiac, 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. Maybe stay in town for lunch before we sail in the late afternoon. Enjoy dinner anchored off the volcanic island of Stromboli. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs to transfer ashore.*

**Day 5 Palermo, Sicily.** 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 ship for lunch and this afternoon either enjoy some time to explore independently or join an excursion to Monreale Cathedral, said to be the most beautiful Norman Church in Italy, designed and completed by William the Good in 1174. With its thick walls and powerful towers, the exterior looks like an austere fortress yet it is the interior of this great cathedral which is its crowning glory. Here the large nave, with its side aisles and grey granite columns set off the exquisite Byzantine mosaics on the walls above the arches.

**Day 6 Cagliari, Sardinia.** After a morning at sea we arrive in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, an ancient city which dates back to the Phoenicians and Romans. Choose to take a walking tour around the old town with its narrow streets running along a steep hillside and see the terraced Piazza del Palazzo and the 14th century Cathedral of St Cecilia. Alternatively, drive along the southwestern 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 a Carthaginian warehouse and various Roman buildings, including the baths with splendid mosaics and the theatre.

**Day 7 Alghero.** 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 will use the attractive port as our base for a day of exploration in the region.



Cagliari



Cathedral, Palma de Mallorca



Greek Theatre, Taormina

This morning's panoramic drive takes us to Nuraghe Palmavera with its main tower of the Nuraghe, which still has its dome shaped ceiling that dates back to 1100 years BC. The complex, which was abandoned in the 5th century BC due to fire, shows the different phases of social life and political organisation of the tribal community. We return to Alghero for lunch on board after which there will be some time to explore the town at your own pace. Maybe enjoy a walk through the Medieval streets and along the city walls or visit the archaeological museum before we sail in the late afternoon. *Please note that we will be at anchor today and will use the vessel's Zodiacs or local tender to transfer ashore.*

**Day 8 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. This morning choose to join an island drive including 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. After lunch on board there will be time this afternoon to explore the pretty harbour town of Mahon at your own pace.

**Day 9 Palma, 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. Over the course of just seven kilometres the railway rises 199 metres, runs through 13 tunnels and crosses several bridges. We will enjoy some time to explore Soller before taking a scenic drive to the village of Valldemossa. With a population of around 2000, Valldemossa is a quiet and traditional town with narrow streets and lanes. We will enjoy a walk around the town followed by lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Palma where we will have some time to explore at leisure.

**Day 10 Cartagena, Spain.** Arrive at lunchtime in Spain's main naval port of Cartagena for an afternoon of exploration in a historic city that dates back to the Phoenicians. Hannibal used it as his capital city on the Iberian peninsula and named it after Carthage in North Africa whilst the Romans used it as a strategic port and administrative 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 11 Malaga to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## Pre-cruise Malta Extension

15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022



Valletta

If you would like to spend some time in Malta before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a two night stay providing the chance to explore Valletta and the surrounding area.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Valletta, Malta.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the hotel and check in for our two night stay. After some time at leisure we will meet for dinner this evening. (D)

**Day 2 Valletta.** Enjoy a morning walking 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. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

**Day 3 Mdina.** This morning we will tour the city of 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 local lunch before transferring to the MS Serenissima moored in Valletta. (B, L)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695**      Single: **£945**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

### 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
2	Standard Stateroom	£4695	£4495
3	Classic Stateroom	£4995	£4795
4	Superior Stateroom	£5295	£5095
5	Deluxe Stateroom	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
6	Junior Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
7	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
8	Serenissima Suite	£7095	£6895
10	Standard Single	£5995	£5795

**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.



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports & itineraries subject to change.  
Cover image: Syros.