



2016  
SMALL SHIP CRUISING AROUND THE  
**BRITISH ISLES**  
SEA EXPLORER • MS SERENISSIMA • OCEAN NOVA

NOBLE CALEDONIA





# DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF BRITAIN AND HER ISLANDS....

Make 2016 the year you become better acquainted with the treasures of your homeland. Most of us promise ourselves that one day we will see more of our lovely islands and highlands but the thought of tedious journeys along busy roads often leads us instead, to jump on an aircraft to some distant spot when some of the most picturesque and beautiful places in the world are on our doorstep. That does not mean that access is always easy. In fact much of which we annually explore can only be approached from the sea. From the early beginnings of the company when we operated one or two British Isles cruises, we now offer in excess of ten trips. Every year the popularity of small ship cruising in our own waters grows and this is immensely rewarding as the vast majority of our passengers are from Britain.

**W**e have many years of experience in designing trips to the hidden corners of our remotest places and yet, every year we discover something new. Although we set sail with a set itinerary it is the unscheduled events that often become the highlight of the journey and our ideally suited vessels will allow access to places larger vessels are unable to venture and with our fleet of Zodiac landing craft, we can explore inlets, fjords, bird sanctuaries and land in otherwise inaccessible places. Flexibility is the key to an expedition cruise; often the whole day's schedule will be changed to maximise your experience, something that would not be possible on a large cruise ship.

Enjoy these very special places with us. The sheer diversity of the landscape and lifestyles will amaze you, as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter. In an age of rapid centralisation and common identity, it is fortifying to know that life with its unique traditions and values still can be found on the edges of our islands. Whether you be an avid gardener, birdwatcher, amateur historian or simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting places in the world then one of the expedition cruises featured on the following pages could be for you.

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# Sea Explorer

Like her sister ships, our very own MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky, Sea Explorer is one of the finest small ships in the world and owing to popular demand of our two flagships, we are delighted to have chartered her for a variety of voyages in 2016. The vessel accommodates just 114 passengers, making her more akin to a country hotel than a cruise ship. Built in Italy in 1991 and refurbished in 2005 the Sea Explorer offers exceptionally spacious and well designed suites, beautifully appointed public areas and a high standard of service and food. Previously named Corinthian II this private yacht-like cruise ship is outfitted with the most current navigational and communications technology as well as with retractable fin stabilizers for smooth sailing. The vessel is ice strengthened and features a fleet of ten Zodiac inflatable craft for forays ashore.



## Your Cabin/Suite

With a maximum of 114 passengers accommodated in 57 spacious outside facing suites, the Sea Explorer offers suites across its five decks. Those on the lower deck have portholes, the middle two decks have a large picture window and the two top decks have patio doors leading on to a private balcony. On average the suites measure 245 sq. ft. Each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathrooms, large wardrobes and excellent storage. There are mini-fridges, telephones, satellite televisions and CD/DVD players in each suite. Suites feature queen size beds which can be configured into twins or double depending on your preference.

## Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a lounge, elegant bar, library with internet access, fitness room and a single sitting dining room. Outside there is a rear sun deck, where passengers can relax in warmer weather with shade, a bar, spa pool and comfortable deck furniture.



Restaurant

## Your Dining

The single sitting dining room is located on Deck 2 and is both spacious and light. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style with a selection of hot and cold dishes, and fresh produce. Dinner is served to your table and comprises of four courses with a vegetarian option always available. Complimentary wine and beer is served with dinner and in good weather there will be the opportunity to take your meals

on the Sun Deck on deck 5. There is a 24-hour coffee and tea station with some sweet snacks provided too.





Suite



Suite



Lounge



The Library



The Club

### Life Onboard

The atmosphere onboard is focused on exploration and discovery with all the creature comforts you would expect from a vessel of this calibre. The onboard crew of 72 provide fine onboard service and the vessel features four star amenities. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, informative talks and briefings from the onboard team and of course good food, which is created by the highly regarded master chefs. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly comfortable ship. The dress policy is casual and comfortable for exploration ashore.

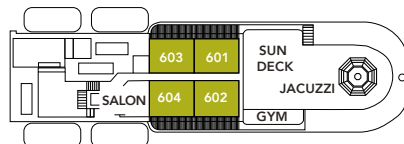
### For your Comfort, Safety & Security

The vessel carries 114 passengers in comfort and with 72 crew onboard your journey will be enhanced by attentive onboard service. Smoking is restricted to outside areas and a lift serves all decks. There is a medical centre onboard with doctor.

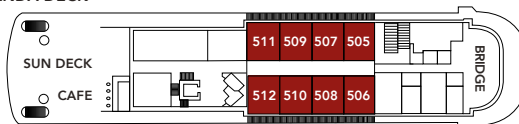


Jacuzzi

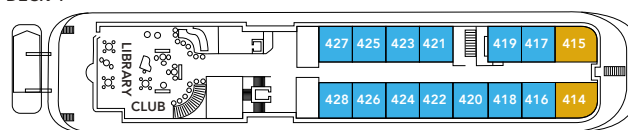
#### PENTHOUSE DECK



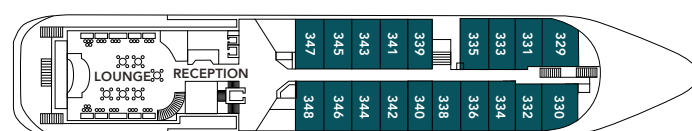
#### VERANDA DECK



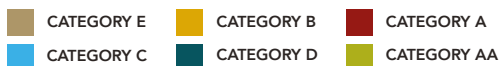
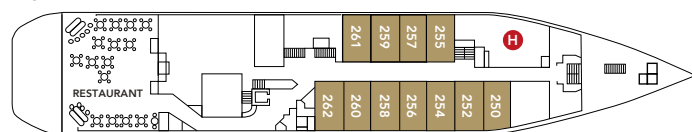
#### DECK 4



#### DECK 3



#### DECK 2



# Island Hopping in the Hebrides

An expedition voyage exploring the majestic beauty of the remote Hebrides  
9th to 16th May 2016



You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places without realising that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be close to home. Nowhere is this truer than around Scotland's magnificent coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic.

In the northern summer when the sun barely shrinks below the horizon, there's a stillness and an almost wistful feeling in the air. This is the time when the enchanted visitor will be moved and seduced by the majesty of the islands, lochs and seascapes. The sheer diversity of the landscapes and lifestyles will amaze you, as will the spirit and warmth of the small communities we will encounter. In an age of rapid centralization and common identity, it is fortifying to know that life, with its unique traditions and values, can still be found on the edges of our islands.

This is not a cruise in the conventional sense, more an exploration with 100 or so passengers who wish to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the islands. Learn something of their history, see the abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world. Having arranged hundreds of small ship cruises around Scotland, we have learned that everyone takes something different from the experience. We are indeed fortunate in having such marvellous places so close to home. Now, more than ever there is a great appreciation for the peace, beauty and culture of this special corner of the UK.

## Our View

*"It is almost as if the Hebrides were custom made for small ship cruising. Whilst only covering short distances during our voyage and therefore maximising our time ashore, we are able to experience so much diversity. We cruise from the remote, beautiful and uninhabited islands of Mingulay and St Kilda to view the stunning birdlife of Handa and Lunga. We meet the small communities that call Tanera Mor and Canna home, see the archaeological wonders of Stornoway and the spiritual Iona Abbey. When composing these itineraries we are always having to decide what to omit due to the wealth of treasures in the region and we feel after almost 25 years of operating voyages in the region that we have the perfect mix. To try and visit these islands independently requires numerous ferries and overnight stops but with the all-suite Sea Explorer as our base it makes the experience hassle free."*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oban, Scotland.** Embark the Sea Explorer this afternoon and sail this evening. A transfer will be available from Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow Airport at a fixed time.

**Day 2 Mingulay & Pabbay.** This promises to be a most memorable day as we circumnavigate the uninhabited islands at the very tip of South Uist. Making good use of our Zodiacs we will explore the islands and make beach landings. These islands are a nature reserve with important breeding populations of razorbills, guillemots, black guillemots, puffins, fulmars and shags. There are also five species of gull, all the seabirds being attracted by the cliffs and caves which offer safe nesting sites. The islands also have significant historical sites, including the old village on Mingulay which the last islanders left in 1912.

**Day 3 St Kilda.** Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. For some this is almost a pilgrimage and a moving experience as we drop anchor off Village Bay on the island of Hirta. The local Ranger will come aboard for a brief talk on the island before we have the chance to wander through the village. The largest island, Hirta, once supported a population of over 200, but the last islanders left in the 1930s. The Medieval village has been restored by the National Trust for Scotland and offers a marvellous link with the past. Also a National Nature Reserve, St Kilda is one of the only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The islands are also an important breeding ground for many seabirds including Atlantic puffins and northern fulmars. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Borera. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.



**Day 4 Handa & Tanera Mor.** Just south of Cape Wrath is the island of Handa. Owned by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, it is one of the largest sea bird colonies in North West Europe. Nearly 200,000 seabirds gather here to breed including guillemots, razorbills, great skuas kittiwakes, Arctic skuas and puffins. We will spend some time Zodiac cruising around the island with the chance to see some of this impressive birdlife. During lunch sail down the coast to Loch Broom and the Summer Isles. We hope to visit the only inhabited island of Tanera Mor. Take a walk, enjoy the stunning views, look out for otters and seals and the prolific bird life. Perhaps stop at the unique post office, whose own rare stamps are much sought after by collectors.

**Day 5 Stornoway & The Shiants.** On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, today's tour takes you across the island to the beautiful west coast of the island and to Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. Visit the excellent visitor centre to learn more about the site and venture out amongst the stones themselves to experience their mysterious atmosphere. Continue around the west coast to the site of Dun Carloway Pictish Broch. Probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family





St. Kilda



Puffin in flight



Exploring by Zodiac



Canna

complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. It would also have served as a visible statement of power and status in the local area. We then head north to Gerrannan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional blackhouses where people and animals lived in close proximity. The houses are made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. This afternoon we will board the Zodiacs for a cruise around the spectacular basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. This is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully White Tailed Eagles.

**Day 6 Canna and Muck.** Today, we will visit the Small Isles. Spend the morning on Canna which is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and with a population of only twenty has a fertile and prosperous farm. We will enjoy a guided walk along the shore and through the woods and fields to where there is a chance of seeing both golden and sea eagles. Sail during lunch past the island of Rum to the neighbouring island of Muck. The smallest of the Small Isles measuring just one mile by two we have the afternoon to explore on foot. The energetic may want to climb to the highest

point on Beinn Airein and enjoy the views across the islands or alternatively join one of our on board team on a nature walk on the lookout for seals and birdlife.

**Day 7 Lunga & Iona.** Weather permitting we will take to the Zodiacs to explore the tiny Treshnish Islands, located in the waters between Mull and Tiree. Now uninhabited, this group of low lying islands is home to thousands of sea birds in particular Kittiwakes, Shags, Fulmars, Guillemots and Razorbills and a large population of common and Atlantic grey seals. Hopefully, land on the largest of the islands, Lunga to walk amongst the amazingly tame puffins and see the remnants of past habitation that dates back to Viking times. Sail over lunch to Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years, but has also been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. For it was to this flat Hebridean Island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises.

**Day 8 Oban.** Disembark after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Station and International Airport arriving in the late morning.



Iona

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING			
Cat	Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price
E	Suite with portholes	2	£3540
D	Suite with window	3	£3865
C	Suite with window	4	£4180
B	Corner Suite with window	4	SOLD OUT
A	Suite with private balcony	Veranda	SOLD OUT
AA	Suite with private balcony	Penthouse	SOLD OUT
E	Suite with portholes for sole use	2	SOLD OUT
D	Suite with window for sole use	3	SOLD OUT
C	Suite with window for sole use	4	SOLD OUT

**Price Includes:** Seven nights aboard the Sea Explorer on a full board basis including wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia Expedition team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities onboard and whilst on excursions.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# Summer in the Islands and Highlands of Scotland

An expedition voyage exploring Scotland's remote islands  
14th to 23rd August 2016



If you have always had a hankering to visit some of the remotest and most inaccessible islands in Scotland, this is the ideal opportunity. Join us aboard the all suite Sea Explorer as we sail from the port of Leith to the islands on the edge, visiting both inhabited and uninhabited islands and places of great natural beauty, rich in wildlife and mystical history.

Local experts will meet us along the way adding much to our knowledge and making for a more comprehensive and peaceful experience. Learn something of their history, see the abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those who appreciate the natural world.

We are indeed fortunate in having such marvellous places so close to home. Now, more than ever there is a great appreciation of the peace, beauty and culture which these tiny islands on the edge possess. The islands are wonderful places to escape from the modern world, to slow down to their pace and enjoy the nature, sea and landscapes.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Leith, Scotland.** Embark the Sea Explorer this afternoon and sail this evening. A transfer to the vessel will be available from Edinburgh Waverley Station and Edinburgh Airport at a fixed time.

**Day 2 Kirkwall, Orkney.** After a morning at sea 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 evening we will be entertained by local musicians onboard as we moor overnight.

**Day 3 Westray & Papa Westray, Orkney Islands.** Today we explore the islands to the north of the Orkney mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, an RSPB reserve on the sea cliffs and home to up to 100 000 nesting seabirds. We also see Notland Castle an incomplete fortress built in the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour, Mary Queen of Scots Sheriff of Orkney whilst in the main village of Pierowall we find the Westray Heritage Centre housing Neolithic carvings. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Papa Westray. Here we can visit the 3500 year old Knap of Howar a Neolithic farm building that claims to be the oldest standing house in Europe and the 12th century St Boniface Kirk. In the north of the island is the North

Hill reserve, home to arctic terns and skuas and also the extremely rare Scottish primrose.

**Day 4 Unst & Fetlar, Shetland Islands.** We begin our exploration of Shetland in the northern islands of Unst and Fetlar. Unst is Britain's most northerly inhabited island and at the Heritage Centre we will learn about the islanders struggles over the centuries and the industries that have prospered whilst the Unst Boat Haven is dedicated to the history of the island's distinctive wooden boats which descend from Viking craft. Also discover Hermaness National Nature Reserve with views over to Muckle Flugga stacks and home to thousands of gannets and puffins as well as rare arctic alpine plants. Over lunch we sail to Fetlar, inhabited for over 5000 years the island lays claim to being the first Norse landing site in the Shetland Islands. Known as the most fertile of the Shetland Islands the wild flowers bring colour to the landscape whilst the birdlife on the island is prolific. At the Fetlar Interpretative Centre and museum we will learn about the wildlife and archaeological history before exploring ourselves.

**Day 5 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 6 Scrabster.** Spend the day in Scrabster, the most northerly port on the Scottish mainland. This morning,



visit the Castle and Gardens of Mey which was built between 1566 and 1572 by George Sinclair, 4th Earl of Caithness. The castle was purchased by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in 1952 who restored the castle for use as a holiday home and created the beautiful gardens we will see today. This afternoon we drive along the coast to Dunnet Bay, a glorious crescent of sand and dunes which is home to many seabirds and unusual flora which we will discover on a guided walk with the local ranger. We continue to Dunnet Head to see the lighthouse built in 1831 by Robert Stevenson and enjoy the views over to Orkney. As we return to the ship we will visit the Medieval Canisbay Kirk whose position over the Pentland Firth has meant it has been a landmark for shipping for centuries. During dinner onboard tonight we sail around Cape Wrath on our way to the Hebrides.

#### Day 7 Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, today's tour takes you across the island to the beautiful west coast and Callanish. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. Visit the excellent visitor centre to learn more about the site and venture out amongst the stones themselves to experience their mysterious atmosphere. Continue around the west coast to the site of Dun Carloway Pictish Broch. Probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. It would also have served as a visible statement of power and status in the local area. We then head north to Gearranan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses where people and animals lived in close proximity. The houses are made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast.

**Day 8 Canna & Rum, Small Isles.** Today, we will visit the Small

Isles arriving at breakfast time at Canna, owned by the National Trust for Scotland and with a population of only 20 but a fertile and prosperous farm. We will enjoy a guided walk along the shore and through the woods and fields. We will learn about the history of the islands, hear stories of life in a small remote community and visit the historic Celtic cross which dates back around 1300 years. For the birders there is also the chance of seeing both golden and sea eagles. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Rum, starting at the village hall we can explore the nature trails enjoying the wildflowers along the paths or watching for wildlife at the Otter Hide. We also hope to see sea eagles which were re-introduced to Scotland on Rum in the 1980s alongside Manx Shearwaters and Divers.



Zodiac landing

#### Day 9 Iona & Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

At breakfast time we arrive at Iona which for more than 1000 years has been a place of deep spiritual significance. No less than 62 kings of Scotland are buried here and St Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD as early Christianity spread through northern Britain from this remote island community. We have time to explore the Abbey or take a walk amongst the wildflowers across the island to the "Bay at the Back of the Ocean". Over lunch we sail to the Isle of Mull and the pretty port of Tobermory. Spend the afternoon at leisure in the town walking amongst the colourful buildings or maybe take the coastal walk to the Rubhanan Gall lighthouse. This evening we enjoy a talk onboard from the local distillery, we will learn about the whisky distilling processes and have a chance to taste the final product.

**Day 10 Oban.** Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Station and Glasgow Airport at a fixed time to arrive in the late morning.



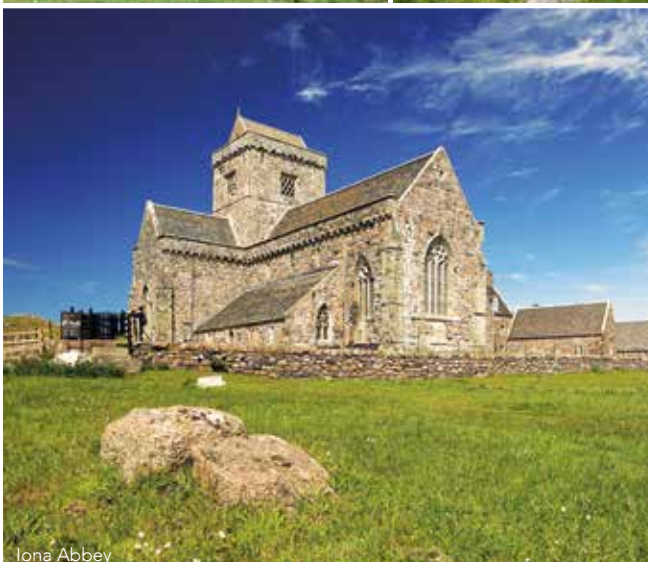
Ring of Brodgar



Cattle, Canna



Celtic Cross, Iona



Iona Abbey

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer
E	Suite with portholes	2	£4075	£3575
D	Suite with window	3	£4395	£3895
C	Suite with window	4	£4695	£4195
B	Corner Suite with window	4	£4955	£4455
A	Suite with private balcony	Veranda	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
AA	Suite with private balcony	Penthouse	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
E	Suite with portholes for sole use	2	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
D	Suite with window for sole use	3	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
C	Suite with window for sole use	4	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**Price Includes:** Nine nights aboard the Sea Explorer on a full board basis including wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia onboard team, transfers, port taxes, gratuities onboard and whilst on excursions.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**NB.** Ports subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability.

# MS Serenissima

The handsome 100-passenger MS Serenissima began her career as the Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. 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.



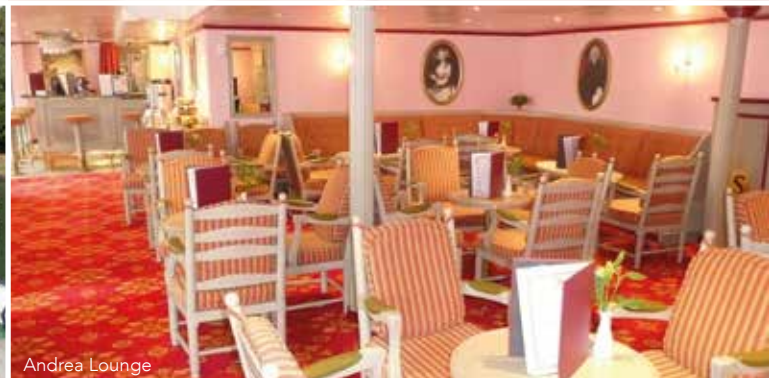
Harald Lounge



Restaurant



Cruising



Andrea Lounge

## Your Cabins/Suite

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. 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.

## Your Space

The facilities onboard include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library with a computer for internet access. The outside areas are something special with a spacious observation deck allowing for 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with fitness room, Jacuzzi and outside bar. The covered seating area at the back of deck 6 is ideal for relaxing with a drink in hand. 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.

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

## Life Onboard

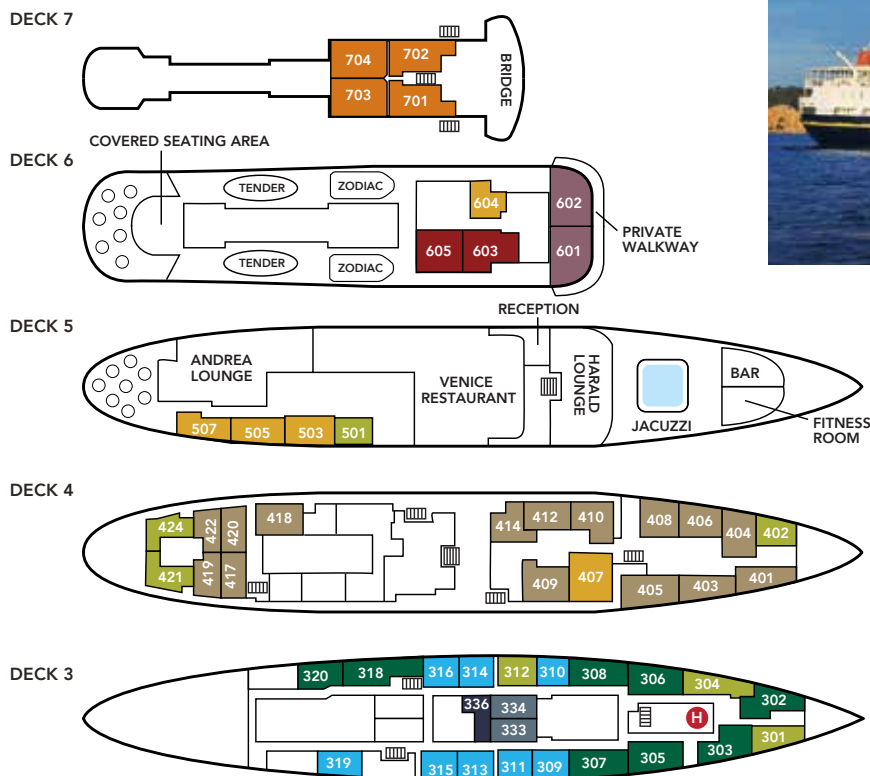
The MS Serenissima is more akin to a country-hotel than one of the large ships trawling the seas today. The European Captain, Officers and crew offer a first class service and have been selected for their professionalism and caring attitudes. The atmosphere onboard is warm and welcoming, and the emphasis 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 onboard and during your voyage you will have the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the bridge.



Deck Plan & Cabins



- 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)

# Island Life

An exploration of the Channel Islands and Isles of Scilly  
1st to 8th May & 15th to 22nd May 2016

Sometimes, a few days away in a totally different environment is just what the doctor ordered, particularly if it does not involve flights. Join the charming MS Serenissima in Portsmouth and visit some of the most idyllic islands including Sark, Alderney, Tresco, St Martins and St Agnes with their crystal clear waters and fine white sandy beaches that would not disgrace a Caribbean island. These islands are so close yet are not easily visited and whilst the sailing distances are relatively short, there is much to see and experience. From the Channel Islands which combine beautiful scenery, gallic charm and reminders of their occupation during World War II along the coastlines to the remote Isles of Scilly where nature abounds.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Portsmouth.** Embark this afternoon at the cruise terminal in Portsmouth. Parking is available for those choosing to drive.

**Day 2 Guernsey & Herm, Channel Islands.** Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers'. There will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china. This afternoon we are on Herm, the smallest inhabited Channel Island and at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, perfect for exploring on foot.

**Day 3 Alderney & Sark.** Sail over breakfast to timeless Alderney. Visit the Island's only town, St Anne, which has all the old-world charm of a Normandy village with tiny squares and pastel shaded cottages and shops. Enjoy a free morning either walking along the pretty quiet lanes, join a short walk to see the German fortifications or a longer walk with our naturalists heading to the cliffs to see the abundant birdlife. Over lunch we sail to Sark where we will use our Zodiacs to land on this peaceful traffic free island. Horse drawn carriages take us along the narrow lanes alive with the songs of chaffinches, skylarks and mistle thrush as we see the narrow isthmus which joins Little Sark and Big Sark and the enchanting gardens at La Seigneurie.

**Day 4 Jersey.** From our anchorage in Jersey we will enjoy a morning

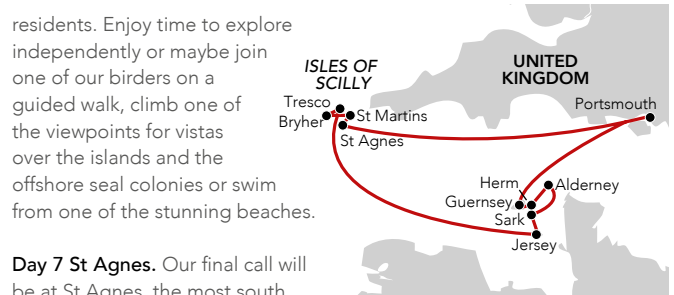
drive to the east coast of the island viewing the magnificent landscapes before arriving at Mont Orgeuil, the impressive fortification that has witnessed island life through the middle ages, French Wars and German Occupation. Continue to Samares Manor Gardens. Built in 1920 by Sir James Knott these gardens include special areas for culinary and cosmetic plants as well as a "physic" garden of traditional medicinal plants along with a rose and lavender garden. We also visit the Orchid Gardens, where orchid varieties are cultivated in a specialized greenhouse beautifully appointed with flowing streams and little rock gardens.

**Day 5 Tresco, Isles of Scilly.** Enjoy a relaxing morning at sea as we cruise over to the lovely Isles of Scilly arriving at lunchtime. We will spend the afternoon on traffic free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical 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.

**Day 6 Bryher & St Martins.** This morning local tenders will land us on 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. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail the short distance to the northernmost island of the group, St Martins. Enjoy an afternoon in this small island community of just 120



Alderney



residents. Enjoy time to explore independently or maybe join one of our birders on a guided walk, climb one of the viewpoints for vistas over the islands and the offshore seal colonies or swim from one of the stunning beaches.

**Day 7 St Agnes.** Our final call will be at St Agnes, the most south westerly community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs, this delightful tiny island is a birdwatcher's paradise and offers marvellous coastal walks. Enjoy walks in the old town, see the lighthouse or maybe visit the local museum. Meanwhile the small island of Gugh lies across a narrow

sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age.

**Day 8 Portsmouth.** Disembark this morning at the cruise terminal in Portsmouth.

## 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£2730	£2530
2	Standard Stateroom	£2905	£2705
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£3050	£2850
4	Superior Stateroom	£3150	£2950
5	Deluxe Stateroom	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
6	Junior Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
7	Executive Suite	£4095	£3895
8	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
9	Inside Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**Price Includes:** Seven nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis with house wine and beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, parking in Portsmouth, all gratuities, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance.

**Ship to Shore:** This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used each day to transport passengers ashore and tenders will be used in the Isles of Scilly.



# Gardens by the Sea

A springtime exploration of the gardens of Britain and Ireland

8th to 15th May 2016

Spring is a wonderful time to explore the gardens of Britain and Ireland as they burst to life in a wave of colours. Benefitting from the gulf-stream, the gardens on the south west coast of the United Kingdom and Ireland are home to a vast array of varieties that do not survive in other parts of the country. During our voyage we will visit both mainland towns and offshore islands, historic homes with cultivated grounds and places where wildflowers line the roads and pathways. This opportunity to see the wonderful gardens on the Isles of Scilly, Channel Islands and Southern Ireland is only possibly with a small ship like the MS Serenissima which can call in these ports. We have also ensured that we have chosen destinations suitable for independent exploration for those who may wish to be a little more footloose.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Portsmouth.** Embark this afternoon at the cruise terminal at Portsmouth. Parking is available for those choosing to drive.

**Day 2 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 the gardens, including the Camellia Garden, a wonderful place to sit and ponder on the history of the house and the notable residents 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 Coleton Fishacre. Lose yourself in the RHS accredited garden by the sea as we wander the paths through glades and past tranquil ponds.

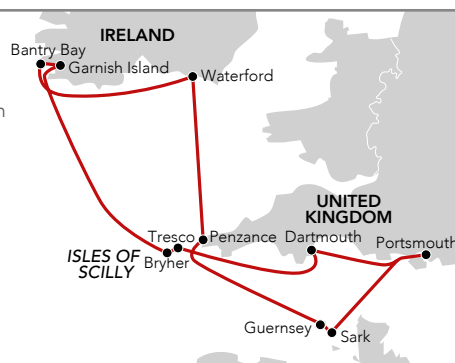
**Day 3 Tresco & Bryher, Isles of Scilly.** Spend the morning on traffic free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous sub-tropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than

20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon visit Bryher, the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Either enjoy time to relax or join our naturalists on guided walks.

**Day 4 Garnish Island and Bantry Bay, Ireland.** Sail this morning into the sheltered harbour of Glengariff. Here local boats will take us to Garnish Island and the beautiful Ilnacullin Gardens. The sheltered position and Gulf Stream is favourable to the growth of ornamental plants, many normally only found in sub-tropical or Mediterranean climates. This afternoon you may wish to stay onboard, enjoy some free time in the small town or join the excursion to Bantry House, overlooking Bantry Bay. We will explore the house, one of the finest historic houses in Ireland along with the gardens.

**Day 5 Waterford.** From our berth in the town of Waterford we will drive to Mount Congreve, a spectacular woodland garden on the banks of the River Suir. This privately owned seventy acre garden has a collection of over three thousand trees and shrubs and is particularly stunning

in spring when the gardens are awash with magnificent sweeps of flowering azaleas, camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon to explore Waterford.



**Day 6 Penzance.** Today we arrive off Penzance, our base for our day in Cornwall. A morning excursion will visit St Michael's Mount, the family home of the St Aubyn's who have resided here since 1647. Cut off from the mainland at high tide, it is a fascinating place with an intriguing history. After lunch onboard join the trip to the beautiful Helford River and the 26 acre ravine garden of Trebah.

**Day 7 Guernsey & Sark, Channel Islands.** Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers'. There will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively enjoy an island drive including Sausmarez Manor where we can explore the

house and subtropical gardens which are the setting for over 200 sculptures by over 90 international artists. Afterwards we enjoy the wonderful scenery and views of the coastline before travelling to the Little Chapel, built in 1914 to replicate the grotto at Lourdes. Over lunch we sail to Sark where we will use our Zodiacs to land on this peaceful traffic free island. Horse drawn carriages take us along the narrow lanes alive with the songs of chaffinches, skylarks and mistle thrush and bright with the colours of the wildflowers on the banks. We will see the narrow isthmus which joins Little Sark and Big Sark and the enchanting gardens at La Seigneurie.

**Day 8 Portsmouth.** Disembark this morning after breakfast.

## 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	£2550	£2250
2	Standard Stateroom	£2850	£2550
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£3150	£2850
4	Superior Stateroom	£3350	£3050
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£3550	£3250
6	Junior Suite	£3895	£3595
7	Executive Suite	£4295	£3995
8	Owner's Suite	£4295	£3995
9	Inside Single	£2550	£2250
10	Standard Single	£2850	£2550
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£4275	£3975
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£4725	£4425

**Price Includes:** Seven nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, all gratuities, port taxes, parking at Portsmouth.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance.

**Ship to Shore:** This cruise is NOT classified as an expedition cruise, however Zodiac landing crafts will be used each day to transport passengers ashore and tenders will be used in the Isles of Scilly.

# Britain and Ireland Odyssey

An exploration of the outlying islands of England, Scotland and Ireland  
22nd May to 1st June 2016



This expedition voyage will appeal to those who wish to visit some of the remotest and inaccessible islands in England, Scotland and Ireland. This is a truly unique voyage visiting as it does the remarkable islands on the edge of the British Isles with only one non-island call during our voyage; such is the advantage of having a self-sufficient vessel with the qualities of the MS Serenissima. We will sail from Portsmouth and during our cruise visit both inhabited and uninhabited islands and places of great natural beauty, rich in wildlife and mystical history. We have also included a number of gardens which given the timing of our cruise will be coming into bloom from the Isles of Scilly to the Hebrides and for keen birders there are numerous highlights including sailing past the Cliffs of Moher which are home to an estimated 30 000 birds and also cruising past two of the largest gannetries in the world.

Our exploration will be made all the more enjoyable by the use of our Zodiac landing craft, similar to those used by Jacques Cousteau. Zodiacs enable us to land in remote places, providing for an unusual perspective and make the otherwise inaccessible readily available. Our expedition staff have a wealth of local knowledge, having undertaken numerous expeditions around Britain and Ireland. They will go ashore with you and provide evening round-ups of the day's events and briefings onboard. Their knowledge and enthusiasm of the natural world will add much to your enjoyment as each day brings us new discoveries.



## Our View

*“The islands around the edge of England, Scotland and Ireland are home to remote communities, wonderful wildlife and history that dates back thousands of years. Difficult to visit independently, our cruise is devised to access some of these places where we can meet the locals be they farmers or landlords, puffins or seals. From the historic naval town of Portsmouth we visit the Channel Islands, Isles of Scilly, Aran Islands, Outer and Inner Hebrides on our quest to visit the outlying islands. We will find beautiful blooming gardens, walk through islands of wildflowers and watch in wonder as thousands of birds fill the sky as we cruise past their breeding grounds. We will also appreciate the history of the region from the archaeological sites of the Aran Islands and Isle of Lewis to the more modern history of St Kilda. Join us as we take this wonderful opportunity to explore the islands on the edge.”*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Portsmouth.** Embark this afternoon, transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway station at a fixed time. Sail this evening for the Channel Islands.

### Day 2 Guernsey and Herm, Channel Islands.

Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers'. There will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port Harbour. Alternatively enjoy a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and also visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Herm the smallest inhabited Channel Island and at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, perfect for exploring on foot. You will have free time to explore, perhaps take a stroll over to Shell or Belvoir Beach. Alternatively join our naturalists on the lookout for wildflowers and birds.

### Day 3 Tresco & St Agnes, Isles of Scilly.

Spend the morning on traffic free Tresco, 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, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the cafe. Sail over lunch to St Agnes, the most south westerly community in the United Kingdom. Surrounded by rocks and reefs, this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks with over one third designated as "sites of special scientific interest". The small island of Gugh lies across a narrow sandbar and here we find a single stone monolith called the 'Old Man of Gugh' which dates back to the Bronze Age. The active may wish to



walk up Kitten Hill with views over to St Marys or alternatively enjoy a drink at the Turk's Head.

### Day 4 Garnish Island and Bantry Bay, Ireland.

Sail this morning into the sheltered harbour of Glengariff. Here local boats will take us to Garnish Island and the beautiful Inacullin Gardens. These remarkable gardens owe their existence to the creative partnership, some seventy years ago of Anna Bryce, then owner of the island and Harold Peto, architect and garden designer. The sheltered position and Gulf Stream is favourable to the growth of ornamental plants, many normally only found in sub-tropical or Mediterranean climates. We return by local boats sailing past "Seal Island" the home to 250 common seals before enjoying lunch onboard. This afternoon you may wish to stay onboard, enjoy some free time in the small town or join the excursion to Bantry House, overlooking Bantry Bay. We will explore the house, one of the finest historic houses in Ireland along with the gardens.

**Day 5 Aran Islands.** This morning we will cruise by the magnificent Cliffs of Moher. Rising to 213 metres and over five miles long they are home to an estimated 30,000 birds including Atlantic puffin, razorbills, guillemots and choughs. A little further up the coast and some 30 miles from the Galway Coast are the Aran Islands. We will call into the largest Inishmore and explore some of the early Christian sites. This island was a place of monastic study from



the earliest Christian times. Also, see the dramatic stone fort of Dun Aengus, parts of which date back some 3000 years. Late May is the perfect time to see these islands as the wild flowers should be at their best.

**Day 6 Tory Island.** After a morning at sea we arrive at Tory Island located off the northwest coast of Ireland and home to 150 or so Gaelic speakers. Although only 14 miles offshore, it feels like many more and island life here is full of traditions. Meet some of the local community in the village hall and enjoy some of their legendary storytelling, music and dance. Tory Island is also famous for its migratory birds; seabirds nest here in large numbers and a puffin colony nests on the northern cliffs. Look out for guillemots, kittiwakes, fulmars, storm petrels and manx shearwaters whilst the corncrake has become a main attraction on the island.



**Day 7 Iona & Lunga, Scotland.** Arrive this morning at Iona which for more than 1000 years has been a place of deep spiritual significance. No less than 62 kings of Scotland are buried here and St Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD as early Christianity spread through northern Britain from this remote island community. We have time to explore the Abbey, take a walk amongst the wildflowers across the island to the "Bay at the Back of the Ocean" or keep an eye and ear out for the elusive corncrakes. Over lunch we sail to the tiny Treshnish Isles, located in the waters between Mull and Tiree. Now uninhabited, this group of low lying islands is home to thousands of sea birds and a large population of common and Atlantic grey seals. Hopefully, land on the largest of the islands, Lunga to walk amongst the amazingly tame puffins and see the remnants of past habitation that dates back to Viking times.

**Day 8 St Kilda, Outer Hebrides.** Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles

beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us onboard before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

**Day 9 Stornoway and Shiant Islands.** On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design which stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. We also visit the Dun Carloway Pictish Broch, probably built sometime in the last century

BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. Our final stop is the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast. Sail this afternoon past the Shiant Islands a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. This is an excellent place to spot seals and hopefully White Tailed Eagles.

**Day 10 Canna & Rum.** Today, we will visit the Small Isles. Spend the morning on Canna, owned by the National Trust for Scotland and with a population of only 20 but a fertile and prosperous farm. We will enjoy a guided walk along the shore and through the woods and fields to where there is a chance of seeing both golden and sea eagles. Sail during lunch to the adjoining island of Rum which is a nature reserve. We will walk the nature trail, a beautiful area of wild flowers and typical Scottish island scenery.

**Day 11 Oban.** Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Central Station at a fixed time.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING		
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
1	Inside Twin/Double	£3495
2	Standard Stateroom	SOLD OUT
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	SOLD OUT
4	Superior Stateroom	£4250
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£4550
6	Junior Suite	£4895
7	Executive Suite	£5395
8	Owner's Suite	£5395
9	Inside Single	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	SOLD OUT
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	SOLD OUT

**Price Includes:** Ten nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, all gratuities, transfers, port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance.

# Hebrides to the Faroes

An island hopping expedition  
1st to 11th June 2016



Come with us and see nature in the raw. After the huge success of this itinerary over the last few years we are delighted to be able to offer it again in 2016. This expedition cruise will appeal to those who prefer their islands deserted, but with abundant bird and wildlife. You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places without realising that some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be close to home and nowhere is this truer than the islands off Scotland's indented coastline which form stepping stones into the Atlantic. During this unique voyage, we will journey along rugged coastlines and visit once inhabited islands. We will witness vibrant colours, amazingly prolific birdlife, explore deserted villages and learn of the history and ancient culture of unique island life.

Such a journey can of course only be undertaken by a special vessel with the self-sufficient qualities of the MS *Serenissima*. With our Zodiacs we will be able to land on remote beaches and cruise close to shorelines and cliffs crowded with birdlife. Enabling us to land in remote places, the Zodiacs make the otherwise inaccessible readily available. Although we will set sail with a schedule, this will not be set in stone as these are perfect waters for expedition cruising and our Captain and Expedition team will keep a flexible approach allowing for the opportunity to fully experience the unexpected whether it be a sighting of dolphins, a whale or any unusual event.

## Our View

*"Join us on an adventure as we explore the remote and inaccessible islands between the Hebrides and the Faroe Islands. Most cruises to this region concentrate on the larger islands and ports whereas the flexibility of the MS *Serenissima* and the ability to use Zodiac landing craft mean we can explore the more remote places of interest. We will explore islands of historical significance such as St Kilda and North Rona which once supported vibrant communities but which are now uninhabited; witness wonderful birdlife on Lunga and Mykines where we can walk amongst the puffins as they fly to and from their burrows; discover the archaeological sites on the Isle of Lewis and the infamous Abbey on Iona. We also spend three days in the Faroe Islands allowing us time to see the lives of those that call this remote archipelago home."*



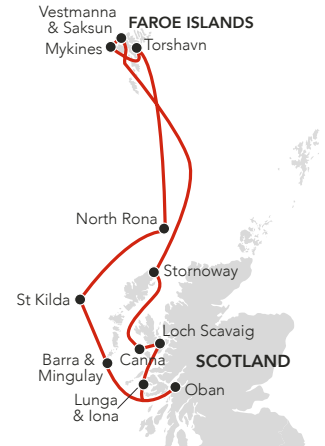
Guillemot

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oban.** Embark this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow Central Railway station and Glasgow Airport at a fixed time whilst parking can be arranged in Oban. Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Barra & Mingulay, Outer Hebrides.** Today we explore the remote islands at the tip of South Uist including Mingulay and Barra. We will use the Zodiacs to explore and hope to make some beach landings. Despite there being a continuous population on Mingulay for at least two thousand years, evacuation began in 1907 and the island was completely abandoned by its residents in 1912. The islands are also a nature reserve with important breeding populations of razorbills, guillemots, black guillemots, puffins, fulmars and shags. On Barra, the southernmost inhabited islands in the Outer Hebrides, we find the 15th Century Kisimul Castle, seat of the Clan Macneil, and a key defensive stronghold situated on a rock in the bay. We have time to explore the castle before landing at Castlebay where we can explore the town and maybe visit the "Dualchas", the Heritage Centre with collections showcasing the history of the islands.

**Day 3 St Kilda.** Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local



ranger will join us onboard before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray. These impressive stacks rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

**Day 4 North Rona.** Spend the day around North Rona, an isolated island some fifty miles north of Cape Wrath. The last islanders left North Rona in 1844 and today it is home to thirteen species of breeding seabirds including large colonies of great black-backed gulls, great skuas and puffins. There is also a large population of grey seals which we hope to observe on a Zodiac cruise. If weather permits we will also visit the gannet colony on Sula Sgeir home to over 5,000 breeding pairs and renowned as the least visited national nature reserve in Britain.

**Day 5 Torshavn, Faroe Islands.** Enjoy a morning at sea before we arrive in the Faroe Islands at lunchtime. From our berth in Torshavn we will join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St. Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900-year old "Roystovan", the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. We remain in the port until late tonight for anyone who wishes to explore the town or enjoy a nightcap ashore.





Vestmanna cliffs



Loch Scaivaig



Torshavn



Callanish Standing Stones

#### Day 6 Vestmanna and Saksun.

Today we explore the northwest corner of Streymoy and the cliffs at Vestmanna. Here we will board local boats to explore these vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the thousands of sea birds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. After lunch onboard we will drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We visit Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse, which is now a museum and visit a traditional Faeroese wooden church in Kollafjord.

#### Day 7 Mykines.

Our last call in the Faroes will be at the westernmost island of Mykines. One of the loveliest of the archipelago, it is wonderfully green and its single village with bright turf roofed houses and turf streets is a delight. One of the best walks in the Faroes can be found here at "Lundaland" (land of the puffin) on the islet of Mtkinesholmur, which is connected to Mykines by a small bridge. There will be time to explore the lighthouse which was built in 1909, and view the large numbers of puffins and gannets that inhabit the island. Enjoy an afternoon at sea.

**Day 8 Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland.** After a morning at sea we return to Scotland and the Isle of Lewis. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we

will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. We also visit the Dun Carloway Pictish Broch, probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. Our final stop is the Garrannan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast.

#### Day 9 Canna & Loch Scaivaig.

Today, we will visit the Small Isles. Spend the morning on Canna, owned by the National Trust for Scotland and with a population of only 20 but a fertile and prosperous farm. We will enjoy a guided walk along the shore and through the woods and fields to where there is a chance of seeing both golden and sea eagles. Sail during lunch to lovely Loch Scaivaig. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over

the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic afternoon our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals.

#### Day 10 Lunga & Iona.

Arrive this morning at the tiny Treshnish Isles, located in the waters between Mull and Tiree. Now uninhabited, this group of low lying islands is home to thousands of sea birds and a large population of common and Atlantic grey seals. Hopefully, land on the largest of the islands, Lunga to walk amongst the amazingly tame puffins and see the remnants of past habitation that dates back to Viking times. Sail over lunch

to Iona which for more than 1000 years has been a place of deep spiritual significance. No less than 62 kings of Scotland are buried here and St Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD as early Christianity spread through northern Britain from this remote island community. We have time to explore the Abbey, take a walk amongst the wildflowers across the island to the "Bay at the Back of the Ocean" or keep an eye and ear out for the elusive corncrakes.

**Day 11 Oban.** Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Central 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
1	Inside Twin/Double	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Stateroom	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£3950	£3750
4	Superior Stateroom	£4250	£4050
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£4550	£4350
6	Junior Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
7	Executive Suite	£5395	£5195
8	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
9	Inside Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**Price Includes:** Ten nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, all gratuities, shore excursions, port taxes, transfers/parking at Oban.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance.

# Midsummer in the Scottish Isles

An expedition voyage around the Hebrides  
11th to 18th June 2016



If ever an archipelago was made for expedition cruising it is the islands off Scotland's west coast. Join us aboard the MS *Serenissima* and witness some of the finest scenery, learn of the region's fascinating history and meet the endearing people that call the islands home. Scotland's magnificent coastline is an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic and in the northern summer, when the sun barely shrinks below the horizon, there is a stillness and an almost wistful feeling in the air. This is the time when the enchanted visitor will be moved and seduced by the majesty of the islands, lochs and seascapes.

One of Europe's true last remaining wilderness areas affords the traveller a marvellous island hopping journey through stunning scenery accompanied by spectacular sunsets and prolific wildlife. With our naturalists and local guides we will explore the length and breadth of the isles, and with our nimble Zodiac craft be able to reach some of the most remote and untouched places. There is no better way to explore this endlessly fascinating and beautiful region that will cast its spell on you than by small ship. Whether your interest lies in wildlife, gardens, photography, ancient history or simply an appreciation of this unique corner of the kingdom, this unique voyage has something for everyone.

## Ship's Log

We have operated many similar voyages and below are some extracts from past ship logs which should provide you with an insight into what you can expect from this island hopping adventure:



**Iona, Staffa and Lunga – June 2014:** We awoke to find ourselves anchored in the Sound of Iona and went ashore by Zodiac for a pleasant walk up to the Abbey. Little remains of the early Christian settlement, founded around AD 563 by St Columba and 12 companions who had sailed from Ireland. It became one of the most important monasteries in early Medieval Europe, renowned as a centre of learning and artistic excellence; it was here, it is thought, that the famous Book of Kells was begun (now in Trinity College, Dublin). The buildings declined into picturesque ruins

but have continued to attract visitors and pilgrims to the present day and the Abbey as we saw it today has been lovingly restored during the 20th century. Many passengers heard corncrakes calling in the gardens and fields around the village and some were lucky enough to catch sight of one. While we were ashore the ship had repositioned round the south of the island to north of the sandbank in the Sound of Iona. All too soon it was time to return to the ship for lunch as we still had a full day ahead. Once the ship had anchored off Staffa half of our passengers were landed on the island to walk round into Fingal's Cave, while others were taken by Zodiac into the cave, swapping over later. The latter was a distinct highlight, made possible only by the ship's Zodiacs so not many visitors are able to view the wondrous basalt columns from within the cave itself! John showed a short but spectacular slide presentation to Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture as the ship moved on to Lunga. It was after five when we began our landing but it was a bright sunny afternoon which showed the Hebridean vista to full effect –from

the Cuillin of Rum to the Paps of Jura, even distant Ben Nevis was just visible. But the climax of a very full day must be the puffins that awaited us at the top of a short, slightly rocky path. Lying down meant that the birds soon became used to our presence, providing unparalleled close encounters – well worth the climb! Some of the more energetic followed John along a cliff path to Harp Rock, which was crammed with nesting guillemots, some razorbills, more puffins, fulmars, kittiwakes and shags – all presenting wonderful photo opportunities. Those who could not face the climb were still able to enjoy the spectacle from the Zodiacs as thousands of puffins and other seabirds were resting on the sea. It had been an unbelievably successful first day, a long one perhaps, but one never to be forgotten. Dinner proved especially welcome as MS *Serenissima* continued north to anchor off Canna for the night, against a most wonderful sunset.



**Shiant and Inverewe – June 2014:** By breakfast the ship had anchored amongst the Shiant Islands in the Minch. Once more we were viewing Tertiary basalt columns just like Staffa and Canna but this time several hundred feet tall and thronging with seabirds, many of whom sat on the calm sea as our Zodiacs cruised close off shore. A landing was out of the question given the seaweed-covered rocks but more was to be seen from the boats. A sea eagle was evident on the skyline and some passengers did glimpse a young golden eagle. We saw grey seals hauled out ashore, or swimming around the Zodiacs while we investigated some interesting sea caves before then turning along the huge boulder scree along the east side of Garbh Eilean with its huge numbers of



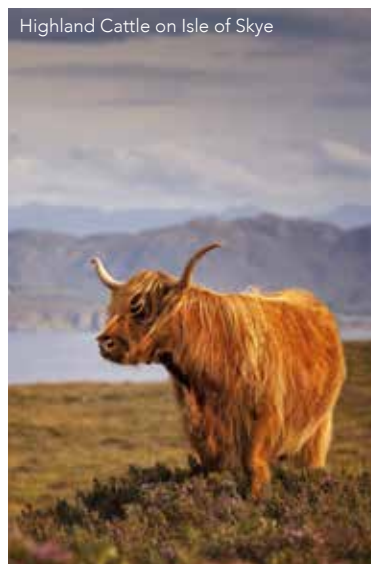
razorbills, puffins and shags. There were also some great skuas flying around, looking for an opportunity to rob the auks of the food they carried to feed chicks. We next crossed the Minch to Loch Ewe and anchored off Inverewe Gardens where the warm currents of the Gulf Stream enable a host of exotic plants – Himalayan rhododendrons, Tasmanian eucalypts and many Chilean/South African plants - to be grown here amongst some native Scots Pines and other tall trees. The last Zodiac run brought everyone back to the ship in time for another talk by John, this time about St Kilda, its human and natural history, as a primer for tomorrow's visit, possibly the climax of our cruise.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oban.** Embark this afternoon in Oban. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow Central station – Glasgow International Airport to arrive in the late afternoon. Parking can also be arranged for those choosing to drive. Sail tonight.

**Day 2 Rum & Canna.** Today, we will visit the Small Isles arriving at breakfast time at Rum. Starting at the village hall we can explore the nature trails enjoying the wildflowers along the paths or watching for wildlife at the Otter Hide. We also hope to see sea eagles which were re-introduced to Scotland on Rum in the 1980s alongside Manx Shearwaters and Divers. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Canna, owned by the National Trust for Scotland and with a population of only 20 but a fertile and prosperous farm.





Highland Cattle on Isle of Skye



St Kilda



White Tailed Eagle



Dunvegan Castle

We will enjoy a guided walk along the shore and through the woods and fields. We will learn about the history of the islands, hear stories of life in a small remote community and visit the historic Celtic cross which dates back around 1300 years. For the birders there is also the chance of seeing both golden and sea eagles.

**Day 3 Isle of Skye.** Awake this morning to the impressive sight of the Cuillins Mountains which form the dramatic backdrop to the freshwater Loch Corruisk. This is great walking country and you can join our naturalists as they lead a number of hikes searching for flowers and birdlife. For those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals. Over lunch we sail along the rugged coastline of Skye to Loch Dunvegan where we visit Dunvegan Castle, the famous seat of the MacLeods. It is a Hebridean Fortress, set on a rocky platform with commanding views of the Loch. See the castle and lovely gardens and time permitting, the seal colony on the adjoining rocks.

**Day 4 Tanera Mor & Inverewe Gardens.** Arrive this morning in the beautiful Summer Isles, and the only inhabited island of Tanera Mor. On a guided walk enjoy the stunning views and look out for otters and seals and the prolific bird life. Stop at the unique post office, whose own rare stamps are much sought after by collectors. During lunch sail into Loch Ewe for our visit to the imposing gardens of Inverewe, surely one of the finest sited gardens in all Scotland. Designed by Osgood Mackenzie in 1862 it is home to exotic and tender plants which thrive in their northerly location warmed by the

Gulf Stream and protected by over 100 acres of woodland planted as shelter. Enjoy a guided walk or take time to explore at your own pace.

**Day 5 Shiant Islands & Stornoway.**

At dawn we anchor off the Shiant Islands a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis. This is an excellent place to spot grey seals hauled out on the rocks whilst on the cliffs we find White Tailed Eagles, puffins and shags. If conditions permit we will use the Zodiacs to explore the sea caves. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail to Stornoway where we enjoy an afternoon tour starting on the islands west coast. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. We also visit the Dun Carloway Pictish Broch, probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. It would also have served as a visible statement of power and status in the local area. Our final stop is the Gearranan Blackhouse Village – a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses where people and animals lived in close proximity. The houses are made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views at this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast.

**Day 6 St Kilda.** Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some

fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. The largest island, Hirta, once supported a population of over 200, but the last islanders left in the 1930s. The Medieval village has been restored by the National Trust for Scotland and offers a marvellous link with the past. The islands are an important breeding ground for many seabirds including Atlantic puffins and northern fulmars. The local ranger will join us onboard before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

**Day 7 Lunga & Iona.** Arrive this morning at the tiny Treshnish Isles, located in the waters between Mull and Tiree. Now uninhabited, this group of low lying islands is home

to thousands of sea birds and a large population of common and Atlantic grey seals. Hopefully, land on the largest of the islands, Lunga to walk amongst the amazingly tame puffins and see the remnants of past habitation that dates back to Viking times. Sail over lunch to Iona which for more than 1000 years has been a place of deep spiritual significance. No less than 62 kings of Scotland are buried here and St Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD as early Christianity spread through northern Britain from this remote island community. We have time to explore the Abbey or take a walk amongst the wildflowers across the island to the "Bay at the Back of the Ocean".

**Day 8 Oban.** Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Station and International Airport to arrive in the late morning.

**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
1	Inside Twin/Double	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Stateroom	£2850	£2650
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£3150	£2950
4	Superior Stateroom	£3350	£3150
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£3550	£3350
6	Junior Suite	£3895	£3695
7	Executive Suite	£4295	£4095
8	Owner's Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
9	Inside Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
10	Standard Single	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**Price Includes:** Seven nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard, Noble Caledonia onboard team, shore excursions, all gratuities, port taxes, transfers, parking at Oban.  
**Not Included:** Travel Insurance.

# Ocean Nova



We have chartered the expedition ship, the Ocean Nova for our unique island hopping expedition. The vessel was built in Denmark in 1992 with high ice class to serve Greenland's west coast. In 2006 she was completely refurbished and has now a career as a small and comfortable expedition ship.

## Your Cabin

The Ocean Nova accommodates just 84 passengers. Cabins are spread over two decks and include cabins for the single traveller, double and triple cabins, all with sea-view and private facilities. The double cabins have either two lower beds or upper and lower beds. The triple cabins have upper and lower beds. In your cabin you will also find a desk with chair and ample storage space for clothes and equipment. They are well designed with typical Scandinavian light woods.

## Your Space

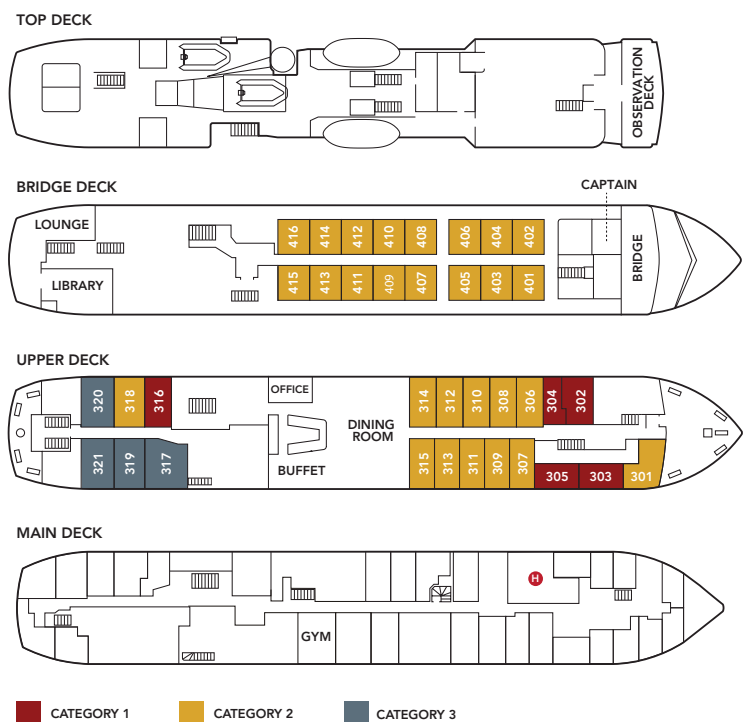
The Panorama lounge located on the Top deck affords excellent views and is the main meeting place where you can enjoy a drink with a breath taking view of the surrounding landscape. It is here that our Expedition Team will entertain and educate you with lectures on biology, history, geology or ornithology with daily briefings. There is also a library with panoramic views and a good selection of books on the area you are visiting. Onboard there is a satellite phone, small gym and medical doctor. Passengers are welcome on the Bridge and there is always something to see or search for from the spacious observation decks.

## Your Dining

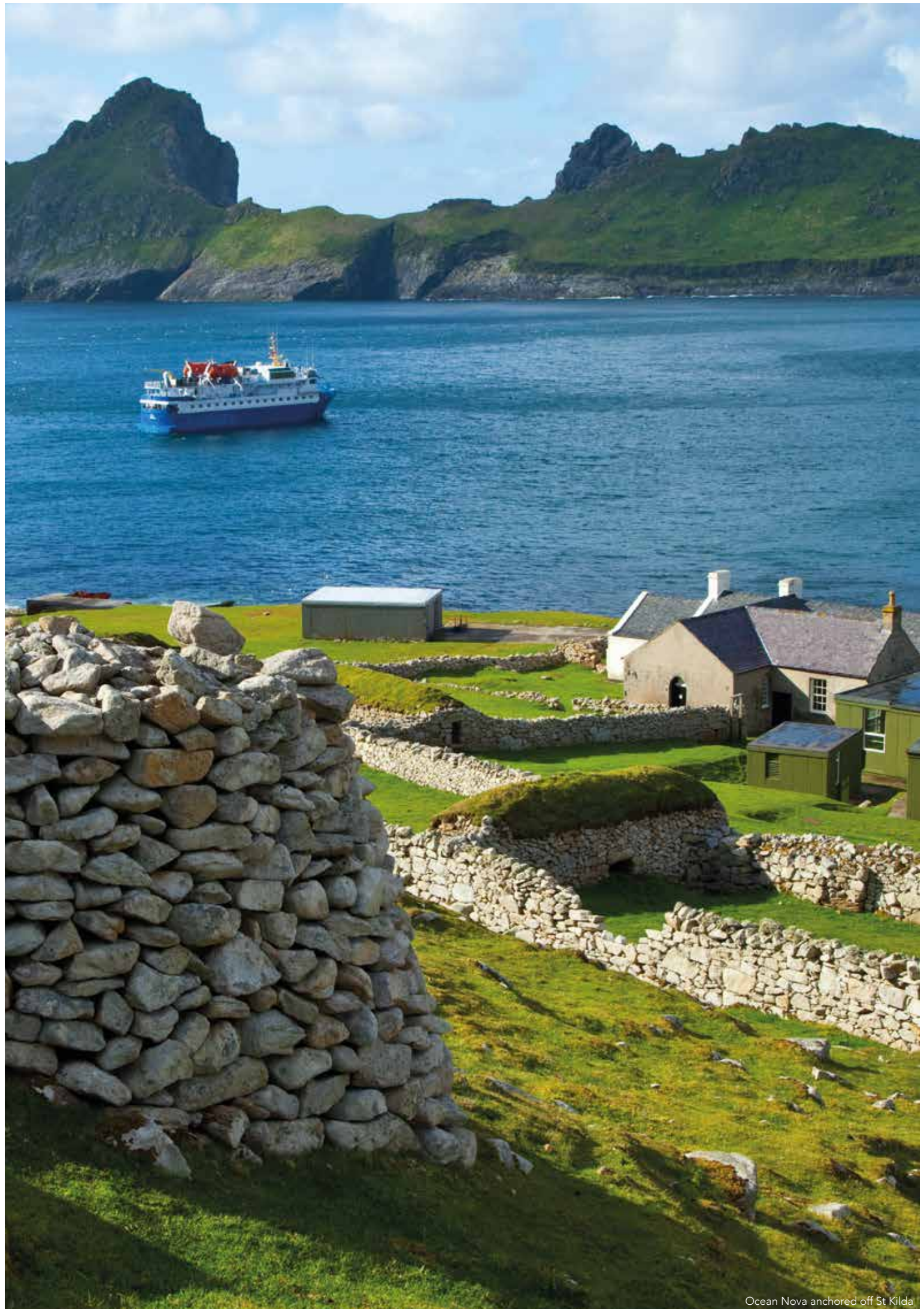
The comfortable dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting and offers delicious hearty meals with a mixture of table service and buffet. It is comfortable and spacious enough to accommodate all passengers and expedition staff in one seating, and the portholes allow you to take in your surroundings as you dine. The informal dining arrangement adds to the friendly atmosphere onboard and meals are a great chance to discuss all you have seen with your fellow travellers, and for the expedition team to share their knowledge.

## Life Onboard & Exploring Ashore

The atmosphere onboard is informal and time onboard is often spent out on deck keeping watch for wildlife or admiring the spectacular view. The schedule can change due to weather conditions or unexpected wildlife sightings which adds to the adventure. Daily briefings from our expedition team will prepare you for each day's activities and experts in subjects such as ornithology or marine biology will give talks and accompany us ashore.







Ocean Nova anchored off St Kilda



# Wild Scotland

An exploration of the remote islands of Scotland  
17th to 27th May 2016



Ring of Brodgar



## Our View

“Few cruise ships offer the chance to explore in-depth the islands off the northern coast of Scotland. Due to popular demand, in 2016 we are repeating this unique expedition which includes the remote, uninhabited outposts of St Kilda and North Rona with the inhabited island of Foula and the northernmost point of the United Kingdom at Unst. Such a trip would be almost impossible to arrange independently and requires a small ship with the expeditionary qualities of the Ocean Nova to deliver. With our fleet of Zodiacs and our experienced expedition team we can make safe landings on remote beaches and visit islands and communities far off the traditional tourist routes. As we go ashore in our small groups we know we also will not swamp the islands when we arrive and can appreciate the isolation and wildness of these special places.”

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Oban.** Embark the Ocean Nova in the afternoon. A transfer will be provided from Glasgow Central Station and the international airport to Oban at a fixed time. Sail in the early evening.

**Day 2 Berneray, Pabbay & Mingulay.** This promises to be a most memorable day as we circumnavigate the uninhabited islands at the very tip of South Uist. Making good use of our Zodiacs we will explore the islands and make beach landings. These islands are a nature reserve with important breeding populations of razorbills, guillemots, black guillemots, puffins, fulmars and shags. There are also five species of gull, all the seabirds being attracted by the cliffs and caves which offer safe nesting sites. The islands also have significant historical sites, including the old village on Mingulay which the last islanders left in 1912 and which we will visit this afternoon.

**Day 3 St Kilda.** Arrive at first light in St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. For some this is almost a pilgrimage and a moving experience as we drop anchor off Village Bay on the island of Hirta. The local Ranger will come aboard for a brief talk on the island before we have the chance to wander through the village. St Kilda once supported a population of over 200, but the last islanders left in the 1930s. Recent restoration work on the village by the National Trust for Scotland offers a marvellous link with the past.

Later, cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Boreray.

**Day 4 North Rona.** Spend the day around North Rona, an isolated island some fifty miles north of Cape Wrath. The last islanders left North Rona in 1844 and today it is home to thirteen species of breeding seabirds including large colonies of great black-backed gulls, great skuas and puffins. There is also a large population of grey seals which we hope to observe on a Zodiac cruise. If weather permits we will also visit the gannet colony on Sula Sgeir home to over 5000 breeding pairs and renowned as the least visited national nature reserve in Britain.

**Day 5 Papa Stour & Foula, Shetland Islands.** This morning we use our Zodiacs to explore the stunning cliff scenery, sea stacks, arches, blowholes and coastal caves of Papa Stour. Over lunch we sail to Foula, one of Britain's most remote inhabited islands. Apart from a narrow coastal strip of more fertile croftland, Foula is an expanse of peat and moorland rising steeply to five dramatic peaks. In the long midsummer days, Foula's wildflowers provide a glorious burst of colour. The world's largest colony of Great Skuas compete fiercely with many Parasitic Jaegers for breeding territories.

**Day 6 Unst and Fetlar, Shetland Islands.** We continue our exploration of Shetland in the northern islands of Unst and Fetlar. Unst is Britain's most northerly inhabited island and at the Heritage Centre we will learn

During this expedition cruise aboard the ideally suited Ocean Nova, we will travel out into the Atlantic for a visit to St Kilda. Once inhabited, this special island is now left to the birds, thousands of seabirds on huge cliffs that rise from the ocean.

We also visit Unst, Britain's most northerly inhabited island and Fetlar which lays claim to being the first Norse landing site in the Shetlands. On Lerwick we explore the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof and during our time on remote Fair Isle we will enjoy a walk and spend time with some of the sixty or so inhabitants of this tiny island sandwiched between Orkney and Shetland. After exploring the fascinating sites of Mainland, Orkney including the Standing Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar and Skara Brae, we sail back to the Scottish mainland, passing the huge cliffs of Copinsay on the way which are home to a vast colony of seabirds including 20,000 guillemots.

Each day will bring new experiences and we will witness vibrant colours, amazingly prolific birdlife, deserted villages and learn of the history and ancient culture of unique island life.



Seal Pup



about the islanders struggles over the centuries and the industries that have prospered whilst the Unst Boat Haven is dedicated to the history of the islands distinctive wooden boats which descend from Viking craft. Alternatively discover Hermaness National Nature Reserve with views over to Muckle Flugga stacks and home to thousands of gannets and puffins as well as rare arctic-alpine plants. Over lunch we sail to Fetlar, inhabited for over 5000 years the island lays claim to being the first Norse landing site in the Shetlands. Known as the most fertile of the Shetland Islands the wild flowers bring colour to the landscape whilst the birdlife on the island is prolific. At the Fetlar Interpretative Centre and museum we will learn about the wildlife and archaeological history before exploring ourselves.

**Day 7 Lerwick, Shetland Islands.**

After breakfast 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 8 Mousa & Fair Isle.** This morning we arrive at the island of Mousa to see the forty-foot defensive tower built by the Picts more than 2000 years ago, and the tallest, best preserved example of an Iron Age broch (tower) in

Britain. Return to the vessel for lunch as we sail to Fair Isle where the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend us a warm welcome. Enjoy a walk across the island, perhaps visiting the Bird Observatory, searching out the puffin slopes.

**Day 9 Westray & Papa Westray, Orkney Islands.** Today we explore the islands to the north of the Orkney mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, an RSPB reserve on the sea cliffs and home to up to 100 000 nesting seabirds. We also see Notland Castle an incomplete fortress built in the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour, Mary Queen of Scots Sheriff of Orkney whilst in the main village of Pierowall we find the Westray Heritage Centre housing Neolithic carvings. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Papa Westray. Here we can visit the 3500 year old Knap of Howar a Neolithic farm building that claims to be the oldest standing house in Europe and the 12th Century St Boniface Kirk. In the north of the island is the North Hill reserve, home to arctic terns and skuas and also the extremely rare Scottish primrose.

**Day 10 Kirkwall & Copinsay, Orkney Islands.** This morning 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. As we sail back to the Scottish mainland we cruise past the huge cliffs of Copinsay which are home to a vast colony of seabirds including 20 000 guillemots, 600 puffins and 4500 pairs of kittiwakes.

**Day 11 Aberdeen.** Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to the train station and airport at a set time.



Exploring by Zodiac



Arctic Skua



Jarlshof



Broch of Mousa, Shetland Islands

**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
1	Bunk bedded cabin for twin use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Twin	£3895	£3695
3	Superior	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
1	Bunk bedded cabin for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2	Standard Twin sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**Price Includes:** Ten nights aboard the Ocean Nova on a full board basis including wine and beer with lunch and dinner onboard, transfers, shore excursions, Noble Caledonia Expedition Team, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance.

**NB.** Ports and itinerary subject to change based on local weather conditions.





Cruises with this logo visit out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and many landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. Cruises such as these will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.



## NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: St Michael's Mount.