

SOUTH AFRICAN COASTAL ODYSSEY

EXPLORE SOUTH AFRICA'S STUNNING LANDSCAPES,
WILDLIFE & HISTORY ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

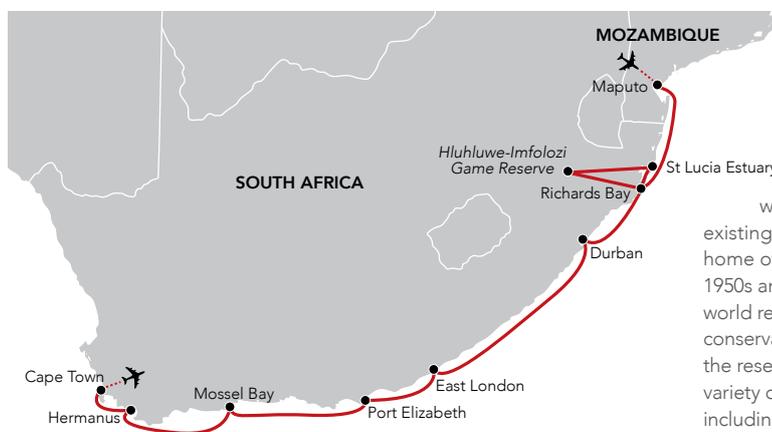
17TH TO 30TH JANUARY &
28TH JANUARY TO 10TH FEBRUARY* 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA

South Africa is one of the most beautiful and diverse countries on earth. A land of contrasts with extraordinary wildlife, fascinating cultures and vast open spaces, this magnificent country casts a lifelong spell on all who visit. For this coastal exploration we will travel in comfort and style aboard the 100-passenger MS Serenissima from Maputaland in the far northeast and the coral-fringed Indian Ocean to the southernmost tip and the shores of the Atlantic where the stunning beaches, winelands and the vibrant city of Cape Town await.

Accompanied by our knowledgeable expedition team and excellent local guides, our first calls are in Kwazulu-Natal where we will learn of the Zulu Kingdom, visit the St Lucia Wetlands with its prolific birdlife and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, Africa's oldest game reserve. After a visit to the cosmopolitan city of Durban we head to the Xhosa heartland of the Eastern Cape with an afternoon at sea along the Wild Coast, home to some of the most beautiful coastal scenery in the world. We will also travel inland to experience close encounters with lions, elephants, cheetahs and rhinos at some superb wildlife parks; Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve and Addo Elephant Park, both malarial free and home to the big five.

The second half of our voyage takes us along the picturesque Garden Route where few fail to be seduced by the glorious natural beauty and incredible coastal vistas. From our base at historic Mossel Bay we will visit sleepy coastal towns, the bustling town of Knysna and enjoy scenic drives through indigenous forests. Those wishing to head inland and explore the mountain scenery can visit the Klein Karoo with its dramatic, arid scenery and ostrich farms. Finally we arrive into the charming Western Cape and the wonderful city of Cape Town for two full days, ample time to join some of the included escorted excursions and to enjoy some time at leisure to explore independently.



park extends itself over 96,000 hectares, has an immense variety of flora and fauna and is hugely popular not only for its "Big Five" but for the vast birdlife with more than 300 species existing within the reserve. As the home of Operation Rhino in the 1950s and 1960s, the Park became world renowned for its white rhino conservation. In addition to rhino, the reserve has a spectacular variety of bird and animal life, including elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, blue wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, cheetah, mountain reedbeek, kudu and warthog. Return to the ship this evening and sail after dinner.

and rich colours, before seeing the city centre buildings, the Golden Mile beachfront and the botanical gardens. Alternatively head inland to the Midlands and the area famed as the capture site of Nelson Mandela on the 5th August 1962. Our guide will provide us with the history of his capture before we have time to explore the museum and monument erected to this event. Afterwards we will continue to the Howick Falls, a picturesque 100 metre waterfall known to the Zulu people as KwaNogqaza, Place of the Tall One. Return to the MS Serenissima for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at sea as we continue our journey along the South African coast.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Maputo, Mozambique. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

a dinner of local specialities. Return to the MS Serenissima for an overnight mooring.

Day 2 Maputo, Mozambique. Arrive today and transfer to the MS Serenissima for embarkation. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail tonight.

Day 4 iSimangaliso Wetlands & Hluhluwe - Imfolozi Game Reserve. Today we will enjoy the natural wonders of Kwazulu Natal. After breakfast we drive north to the Narrows of the St Lucia Estuary which forms part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park World Heritage Site. Upon arrival in St Lucia Town we enjoy a boat ride on the lake which is dotted with marshy, sandbank-islands that are home to thousands of birds. Over 526 different bird species can be found in the St Lucia Wetlands Reserve. The echo of the fish eagle's haunting cry can be heard while you view the basking and nesting sites of the Nile crocodile and the hundreds of hippos that make their homes in the estuary; the greatest occurrence of both crocodile and hippo in Southern Africa. After lunch we continue to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, the oldest game reserve in all of Africa. Set in the heart of KwaZulu-Natal, the

Day 5 Durban. Spend the morning in Durban, the capital of Kwazulu-Natal and a blend of diverse cultures from Asia, Africa and Europe making it one of the most cosmopolitan towns in South Africa. Choose to either join a city tour including the vibrant Victoria Street Market, a heady mix of fragrant spices

Day 6 East London. After a morning at sea we arrive in East London which sits on the Buffalo River in the Eastern Cape, located between the Sunshine Coast to the south and the Wild Coast to the north. This afternoon choose to enjoy a game drive at the Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve. Our drive from the ship

Day 3 Richards Bay, South Africa. Relax on board this morning as we cruise towards South Africa arriving into Kwazulu Natal and the port of Richards Bay at lunchtime. Set up as a makeshift harbour, during the Anglo Zulu War in 1879, Richards Bay has flourished into one of the main ports of South Africa and a gateway to Zululand. After clearing immigration and customs formalities we will spend the afternoon learning more about the Zulu Kingdom which grew in the late 18th century under the leadership of Shaka to become one of the most powerful kingdoms in Southern Africa. We will learn about the Zulu traditions, see demonstrations of weaving, pottery and dance before enjoying



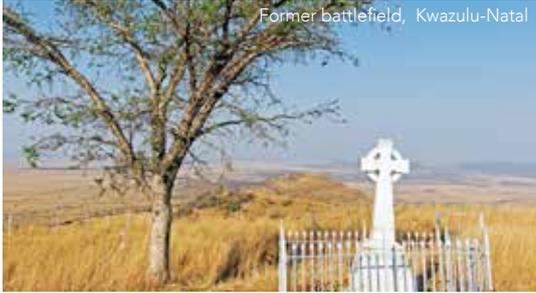
Hippos, St Lucia estuary



Durban botanical gardens



African elephant, Addo Elephant Park



Former battlefield, Kwazulu-Natal



Howick Falls



Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve

will take us past beaches, farmland and traditional Xhosa villages before we enjoy a game drive on the reserve. Here we will search for a variety of wildlife including white lion, elephant, white rhino, wildebeest, giraffe, warthog, zebra, buffalo, springbok, impala, gemsbok, blesbuck and the rare Eastern Cape kudu. The birdlife includes gracious crested crane, secretary bird, ground hornbill and ostrich. Alternatively visit the township of Mdantsane, reputedly the second largest township in South Africa and home to over 1.5 million people. The original inhabitants were people who, during the apartheid era, were forcibly removed from what was known as East Bank in East London. It is divided into eighteen zones which are named numerically in the chronological order of their establishment. Our township guide will provide us with stories of the people who live there and explain the developments being made to improve the lives of the residents. We will return to the ship via Duncan Village, another low income residential area, where we can see the developments being made with

an emphasis on health care, adult education and child health.

Day 7 Port Elizabeth. Spend the day in the “friendly city” of Port Elizabeth. After breakfast we will enjoy a morning excursion to the Addo Elephant Park, 51,000 hectares of bush country and home to 450 elephants which were bred from the few that remained in the area after the herd was almost wiped out by the hired game hunter Major P.J. Pretorius in the 1920’s. On a game drive through the park we hope to be able to encounter this rare animal, as well as a variety of other game, which was recently introduced to the reserve including lion, hyena, cheetah, zebra, eland, kudu, red hartebeest and wild dogs. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon walking tour of Port Elizabeth. See the 52 metre high Campanile, built in 1923 in memory of the first British settlers who arrived in 1820, St Mary’s Cathedral, the Library, the Post Office, City Hall and the Donkin Memorial, a stone pyramid erected in memory of Sir Rufane Donkin’s wife Elizabeth after whom Port

Elizabeth was named. Alternatively enjoy a full day at the Pumba Private Game Reserve which covers 6,000 hectares and is the first of the Eastern Cape game reserves to introduce a white lion breeding programme. We also find over 300 different species of birds, giraffe, zebra, hippo, cheetah, warthog, hyena and wild dogs.

Days 8 & 9 Mossel Bay. We enjoy a day and a half in Mossel Bay, situated on the Garden Route and an excellent base to explore the region. You may choose to explore the historic town which was founded in the 15th century as an export harbour for wool and ostrich feathers. Learn more about the history of the port at the Maritime Museum and the natural history at the Granary museum with specimens of local plants and flowers. Enjoy a day driving along the coast road and the Wilderness Lakes to Knysna Lagoon where we take a local ferry to the Featherbed Nature Reserve and enjoy a guided nature walk through the coastal forest where we may see the duiker, one of the smallest and most endangered of

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A flexible itinerary and knowledgeable onboard team will enable us to make the most of each day and with just 100 like-minded passengers we can explore in small groups and enjoy a convivial atmosphere on board.

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Hermanus



Zulu woman



Ostrich farm, Klein Karoo



Vineyards, Stellenbosch

the antelope species, which is now part of a breeding programme on the island. Enjoy lunch on the island before returning for some time in Knysna, a hub of craft shops, boutiques, flea markets and cafes. For those who prefer to see some of the interior there will be an option to head inland via the Outeniqua Mountains to the beautiful, desert like Karoo before continuing to Oudtshoorn in the Klein Karoo. The Klein Karoo is an oasis-like setting in a fertile valley cupped by the Swartberg and Outeniqua mountain ranges, and originated as a settlement along the Grobbelaars Rivers which meanders southwards from the Swartberg, providing fertile soil and water for irrigation. Enjoy a visit to an Ostrich farm where we learn about this important industry before returning to the ship and the lush garden route forests.

Day 10 Hermanus. Enjoy a morning at sea arriving at Hermanus, a former whaling port and a centre for whale watching trips during the South African winter months. There will be a choice of excursions this afternoon and you may decide to enjoy a taste of the local wines in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. The cool maritime climate and the right soil

composition combine to make this the ideal location for Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay vines. In this picturesque valley we enjoy a unique wine tour among the southernmost vineyards in Africa. Alternatively the more active may prefer a guided hike in the nearby Fernkloof Nature Reserve which covers 1,800 hectares in the Kleinrivier mountains. Enjoy the great views of Hermanus and of the new harbour as well as great mountain scenery and we hope to view some of the 1,474 species of flowers and 92 species of birds that can be found in the reserve.

Days 11 & 12 Cape Town. We have two full days to explore wonderful Cape Town. We will ensure that our time in Cape Town is well balanced allowing time to enjoy escorted excursions as well as some free time to explore at your own pace. During our time here you will be able to choose from a range of excursions including the famous Cape Winelands of Stellenbosch, the beautiful Cape Peninsula including Groot Constantia, Fish Hoek, Simonstown, Cape Point, Chapman's Peak and Hout Bay, a chance to enjoy the views from the top of Table Mountain or experience the townships and

Cape Flats shantytowns and the prison at Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was held. In the evenings you may choose to dine ashore at one of the wonderful restaurants in the waterfront area.

Day 13 Cape Town to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 14 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE UP TO £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure price	Special offer price
2	Standard Stateroom	£6295	£5795
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£6495	£5995
4	Superior Stateroom	£6695	£6195
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£6995	£6495
6	Junior Suite	£7795	£7495
7	Executive Suite	£8295	£7995
8	Owner's Suite	£8295	£7995
9	Inside Single	£6295	£5795
10	Standard Single	£7495	£6995
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£8295	£7795
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£8495	£7995

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Please note that the 28th January departure operates in the reverse direction. Full details can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

Ship to Shore: Please note that we will be at anchor at some ports where we will use Zodiac landing craft to tender ashore.

Kruger Extension

Pre-cruise - 14th to 18th January 2018; Post-cruise - 9th to 12th February 2018*



Itinerary

Day 1 London to Johannesburg. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Johannesburg. Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel in the Rosebank suburbs of Johannesburg where the remainder of the day and evening are free to relax after our journey.

Day 3 Johannesburg to Kruger National Park. After breakfast in the hotel we return to the airport for our scheduled flight to Nelspruit's Kruger Airport. The Kruger National Park is South Africa's largest game reserve at nearly 2 million hectares of land that stretches for 352 kilometres (20,000 square kilometres) from north to south along the Mozambique border and is given over to an almost indescribable wildlife experience. This is the land of baobabs, fever trees, knob thorns, marula and mopane trees underneath which lurk the Big Five (buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion and rhino), the Little Five (buffalo weaver, elephant shrew, leopard tortoise, ant lion and rhino beetle), the birding

Big Six (ground hornbill, kori bustard, lappet-faced vulture, martial eagle, pel's fishing owl and saddle-bill stork) and more species of mammals than in any other African game reserve. We will transfer to the Jock Safari Camp where we enjoy lunch before embarking on our first game drive this afternoon. Return to the camp for a traditional Boma dinner this evening.

Day 4 Kruger National Park. Hot and cold beverages will be waiting for you after your early morning wake up call. Enjoy a morning game drive showcasing the wildlife and nature of the southern region of Kruger National Park, followed by breakfast at the lodge. Bounded by the Crocodile River in the south and the Sabie River in the north, the southern region is also host to the jagged ridge of the Lebombo Mountains along the border to Mozambique, and the highest point in the park, Khandzalive, in the southwestern. The valleys are home to trees rarely found in other parts of the Kruger Park, such as the Cape chestnut, coral tree and lavender fever-berry. On the whole, there is more game purported to exist in the southern part of the park, so if you don't make it to the northern reaches of the Kruger National Park, you won't miss out. After breakfast, embark on an optional morning bush walk, followed by free time and a leisurely lunch. Later this afternoon you can enjoy another game drive before dinner at the lodge.

Day 5 Kruger National Park to Maputo. After another dawn game drive we will enjoy breakfast and check out of the lodge before

driving to the border and crossing into Mozambique for embarkation of the MS Serenissima in Maputo.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Pre-cruise: Twin: **£1845** Single: **£2195**

Post-cruise: Twin: **£1295** Single: **£1495**

Price Includes: Overnight accommodation in Johannesburg on a bed and breakfast basis (pre-cruise extension only), 2 nights accommodation at the Lukimbi Safari Lodge or Jock Safari Camp on a full board basis and including game drives, flight from Johannesburg to Kruger, transfers, taxes, gratuities to drivers and guides.

Not included: Travel insurance.

Please note that numbers are limited due to the small size of the lodge. Please also note that the 9th February post-cruise extension operates in the reverse direction and is one night shorter with no overnight stay in Johannesburg. Full details can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Rovos Rail Extension

Pre-cruise - 24th to 29th January 2018 *; Post-cruise - 29th January to 1st February 2018



Itinerary

Day 1 Cape Town, Embark Pride of Africa. Disembark this morning and transfer to Cape Town station to check in and embark the Pride of Africa. Spend the morning aboard as we travel inland through the winelands before enjoying lunch and afternoon tea on board the train. In the early evening we will disembark and explore the historical village of

Matjiesfontein, an authentic perfectly preserved Victorian village, founded by James Logan as a refreshment stop in 1884, which also boasts an impressive museum on the platform. After our visit we return to the train for dinner.

Day 2 Pride of Africa & Kimberley. Enjoy a morning at leisure as we continue our journey towards Pretoria. Enjoy breakfast and lunch as we travel before we arrive in Kimberley in the early afternoon. Here we enjoy a city tour and a visit to the Diamond Mine Museum and the world's largest man-made excavation, the Big Hole. Return to the train for afternoon tea and dinner.

Day 3 Pretoria to London. Enjoy breakfast on board as the train travels via Krugersdorp and Johannesburg arriving into Pretoria in the late morning. Disembark and transfer to Johannesburg airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 4 London. Arrive this morning.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Pullman Suite: **£1595**

Deluxe Suite: **£2395**

Pullman Suite for sole occupancy: **£2795**

Price Includes: Two nights aboard the Pride of Africa on an all-inclusive basis (excluding premium brand drinks), excursions, gratuities, transfers.

Not included: Travel insurance.

Please note that the 24th January pre-cruise extension operates in the reverse direction and includes an overnight hotel stay in Pretoria before embarking the Pride of Africa and an overnight hotel stay in Cape Town before embarking the MS Serenissima. Full details can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



MS Serenissima

The handsome MS Serenissima began her career as Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. Extensively renovated in 2003 she was rechristened MS Andrea and began her career as a classic cruise ship, and was chartered by Noble Caledonia for a number of years. In spring 2012 MS Andrea was purchased by our long-standing associates Volga Dream and renamed the MS Serenissima. After a thorough renovation and upgrading, the charming MS Serenissima commenced cruise operations in April 2013 and since then we have chartered her for multiple voyages. With her small size she can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to the big cruise ships. She appears an impressive sight when moored, and is capable of both destination and expedition cruising.

Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 100 passengers, the cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully air conditioned with an en-suite bathroom with shower and a selection of toiletries in addition to a hairdryer, robes and slippers. All cabins come equipped with telephone, flat screen television, safety deposit box and other thoughtful appointments. Bottles of still and sparkling water are replenished daily. There are ten different grades of cabin arranged over five decks, and with the exception of the inside cabins, all staterooms feature either windows or portholes. Because of the very nature of the ship, the cabins do vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm. Choose from the cosy inside cabins of approx 10 square metres, to the sumptuous newly built executive suites of 25 square metres boasting private balconies, minibar and all the mod cons.



Owner's Suite



Andrea Lounge

Your Space

The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library with a computer for internet access and Wi-Fi is available at an extra cost throughout the vessel. The outside areas really are something special. A spacious observation deck allows 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with a Jacuzzi and outside bar. The newly built 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 4 courses, except for at the Captain's Dinner, which is a 6 course affair. Where possible, local produce is sourced for an authentic dining experience. A choice of red or white wine, beer, soft drinks, and water are included at lunch and dinner. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee is available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.



Cruising



Restaurant



Executive Suite



Deluxe Stateroom



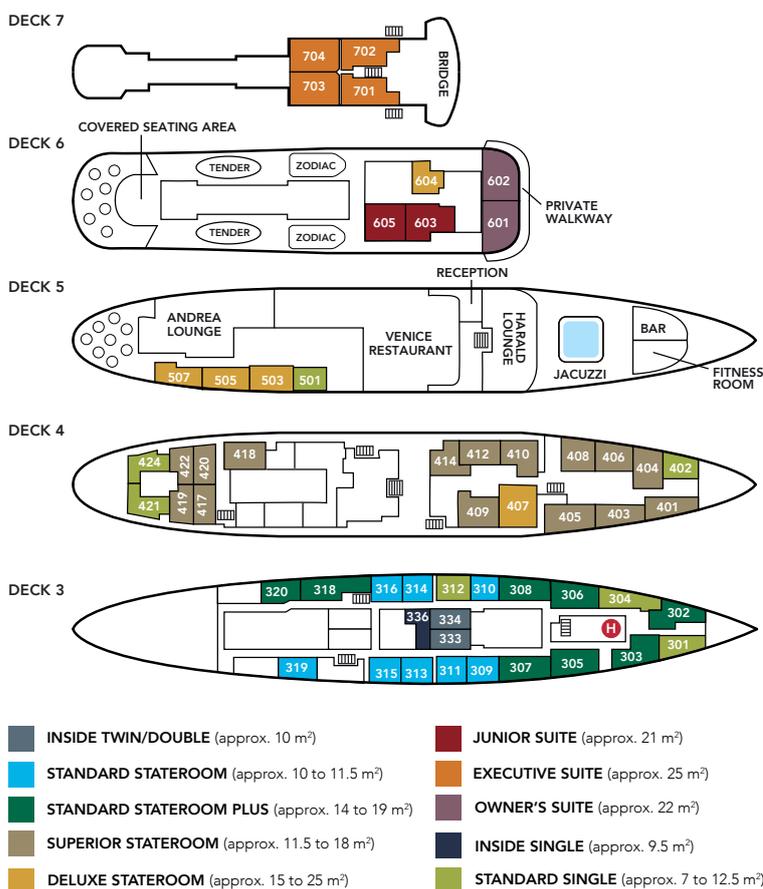
Harald Lounge

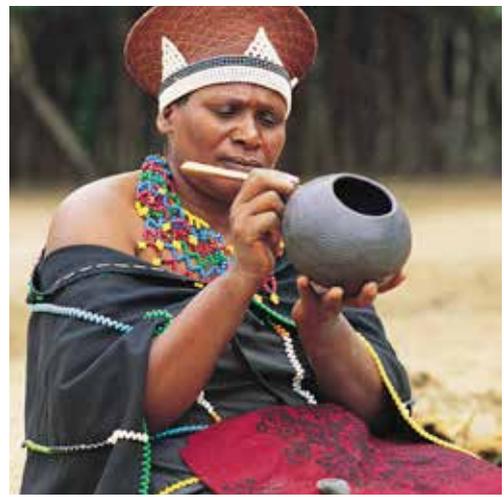
Life On Board

The European captain, officers, expedition staff and crew offer a first class service and have been selected for their professionalism and caring attitudes. The atmosphere on board is warm and welcoming, and the emphasis is not on around the clock entertainment and dining, but instead on well-thought out itineraries, relaxation, time spent with like-minded passengers and discovery. After a day of adventure and exploration, returning to the comfort of your sophisticated ship and its friendly crew will be a pleasure.

For your Comfort, Safety & 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. For added comfort, the vessel features stabilisers. The ship has an open bridge policy so during your voyage you will have the chance to visit the Captain and Officers. There is a doctor on board, and staff are trained in first aid.





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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change.
Cover image: Table Montain, Cape Town

