

# SPRING IN THE ISLES

A VOYAGE TO LUNDY ISLAND, THE ISLES  
OF SCILLY & THE CHANNEL ISLANDS  
ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

10<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Abbey Gardens, Tresco



Alderney



Grey seal

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 MS Serenissima in Plymouth and visit some of the most idyllic islands including Sark and Alderney, Tresco, St Agnes and St Martin's, with their crystal-clear waters and fine white sandy beaches that would not disgrace a Caribbean island. We have also included a visit to Lundy Island where the puffins will be in abundance.

We will explore on foot amazing little-contained worlds as well as the stunning sub-tropical Abbey Gardens on Tresco. The MS Serenissima is the perfect small ship for such a venture. A maximum of just over 90 passengers allows us to explore places otherwise inaccessible to larger ships and, with our nimble Zodiac craft, we can land on out of the way coves and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers.



## Our View

*“The United Kingdom is surrounded by a number of island groups offering wonderful scenery, wildlife and small communities and our voyage will include time in two of these groups: the Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands. Our small ship, the MS Serenissima, is able to anchor and use local boats or the ship's Zodiacs to land at the small harbours which serve the islands and, with just 90 passengers we will not overrun the islands but instead will be absorbed into the towns and island life. Our time will be spent walking the nature trails, seeing the abundant birdlife and flowers and experiencing life in these remote communities.”*

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 Plymouth, England.** Embark the MS Serenissima this afternoon in Plymouth. Transfers will be provided from Plymouth Railway station at a fixed time. Enjoy the Welcome Dinner and drinks as we sail this evening.

**Day 2 Lundy Island.** We have scheduled a whole day on Lundy, a remote island in the Bristol Channel. Although small, just three miles long by half a mile wide, its isolation has made it a home for a range of wildlife whilst it is home to a clutch of listed buildings and monuments. The towering cliffs and rocky shoreline are a haven

for migrating seabirds, whilst Sika deer, red deer and Soay sheep can also be seen as we walk along its traffic-free lanes and paths. Spend the day being as active as you wish, maybe explore the wide bays and coves by way of hanging valleys, see ancient burial chambers, climb the lighthouse, have a drink or lunch at the tavern or buy the island's 'puffin stamps' at the shop.

**Days 3 to 5 Isles of Scilly.** We will spend three days exploring the Isles of Scilly. From our central anchorage, we will use the local tenders to visit a number of the islands in the group. We will visit

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, maybe visit the Valhalla collection of ship figureheads from ships wrecked on the islands or relax in the café. On St Agnes we find the most southwesterly community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks. 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. Maybe join a boat trip to the island of Annet, the second largest of the uninhabited islands and a bird sanctuary. We are not allowed to land here but will cruise the coastline alive with puffins, European storm petrels and shag. We will tender ashore to Bryher, the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Take the chance to

wander along the tracks that cross the island amongst hedgerows and fields bursting with wildflowers. The active may wish to climb Watch Hill, where in the past islanders would keep watch for ships in distress or alternatively take a stroll to one of the beautiful beaches. See the northernmost island of the group, St Martin's, a small island community of just 120 residents. Enjoy time to explore independently, climb one of the viewpoints for vistas over the islands and the offshore seal colonies or maybe join one of our birders on a guided walk.

### Days 6 to 8 Guernsey, Herm, Alderney & Sark, Channel Islands.

Over the next three days we will visit the islands of the Baliiwick of Guernsey. 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



Beach, Tresco



Puffin



Castle Cornet, Guernsey



Landing by Zodiac



Herm in spring

and beaches and visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes and covered in fragments of shattered china, or join a cliff walk along the scenic coastline. We will 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. Here, you will have free time to explore, perhaps take a stroll over to Shell or Belvoir Beach whilst our naturalists will be ashore on the lookout for wildflowers and birds. On 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. Maybe 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. At Sark 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. The more active may wish to hire a bicycle and explore independently.

**Day 9 Portsmouth.** Disembark this morning. A transfer will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway station at a fixed time.

#### SHIP TO SHORE

This cruise is not classified as an expedition cruise; however Zodiac landing craft may be used and integral to the operation of the voyage due to the small ports we will be visiting where we may be at anchor.

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price
2	Standard Stateroom	£3395
3	Classic Stateroom	£3595
4	Superior Stateroom	£3995
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£4195
6	Junior Suite	£4595
7	Owner's Suite	£4995
8	Serenissima Suite	£4995
10	Standard Single	£4595

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Eight nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

#### Pre-Cruise Dartmouth Extension 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020



Dartmouth

For those who would like to spend some time in Dartmouth before embarking the MS Serenissima, we are offering the opportunity to join our two night extension staying at the Dart Marina Hotel & Spa. The hotel is in a wonderful setting by the river and offers exceptionally comfortable rooms. Situated a short walk from the town centre, you can take time to explore the historic centre or visit some of the nearby attractions including Agatha Christie's former residence at Greenways, a boat trip on the River Dart, join the steam railway along the south Devon coast or visit the nearby naval college. In 2020 Dartmouth will be part of the Mayflower 400 celebrations which commemorate the Pilgrim voyage to the Americas which departed from Dartmouth in August 1620. We will also have some time in Plymouth, where the Mayflower visited before crossing the Atlantic, before embarking the MS Serenissima.

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Standard room with balcony & partial sea view	£355
King room with French doors & sea view	£385
King room with balcony & partial sea view	£395
Standard room for sole use	£575

**Price Includes:** Two nights accommodation at the Dart Marina Hotel & Spa on a bed and breakfast basis, transfers from Totnes railway station to the hotel and from the hotel to the MS Serenissima in Plymouth.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# MS SERENISSIMA



Harald Jarl Lounge



Serenissima Suite



The Restaurant



On Deck



Deluxe Stateroom

The charming MS Serenissima began her career as the Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. Since 2003, when she was extensively renovated, she has been operating as a classic cruise ship. With her small size and fleet of Zodiac landing craft, she can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to the big cruise ships.

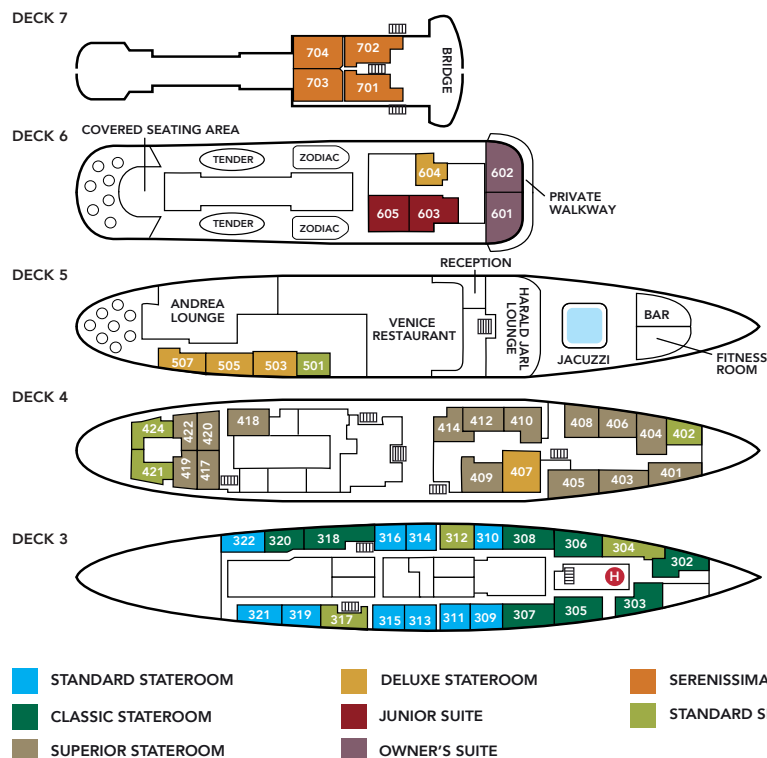
## Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 95 passengers, the cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully air conditioned with an en-suite bathroom with shower, (please note cabins 601-605 and 507 have a bath with shower attachment) and a selection of toiletries in addition to a hairdryer, robes and slippers. All cabins come equipped with telephone, flat screen television, safety deposit box and other thoughtful appointments. Due to the very nature of the ship, the cabins do vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.

## Your Dining

The free seating Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and, with its Deck 5 location, all of the tables benefit from great views. Breakfast is served buffet-style with cooked dishes available and eggs to order by the ship's accomplished chef. Lunch is also served buffet-style with hot and cold dishes available. Dinner is served a la carte and is four courses, except at the Captain's Dinner, which is a six course affair. In good weather there are al fresco dining facilities available and tea and coffee are available around the clock in the Andrea Lounge.

## MS SERENISSIMA DECK PLAN & CABINS



## Your Space

The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Jarl Lounge is more intimate. The outside areas include a spacious observation deck, a lido area with Jacuzzi, outside bar and a covered seating

area. Perhaps, one of the best known and loved features of this vessel is its unique Swedish 18th century influenced, country house style which works particularly well on a vessel of this vintage, providing intimacy and a classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

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