

# THE BALTIC

SMALL SHIP CRUISING ABOARD THE MS SERENISSIMA

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA



# MS Serenissima

After a thorough renovation and upgrading, the charming, 100-passenger 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.

## 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. 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.

## Cabins & Suites

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. There are ten different grades of cabin arranged over five decks, and 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. 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 and minibar.

## 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 al fresco 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.

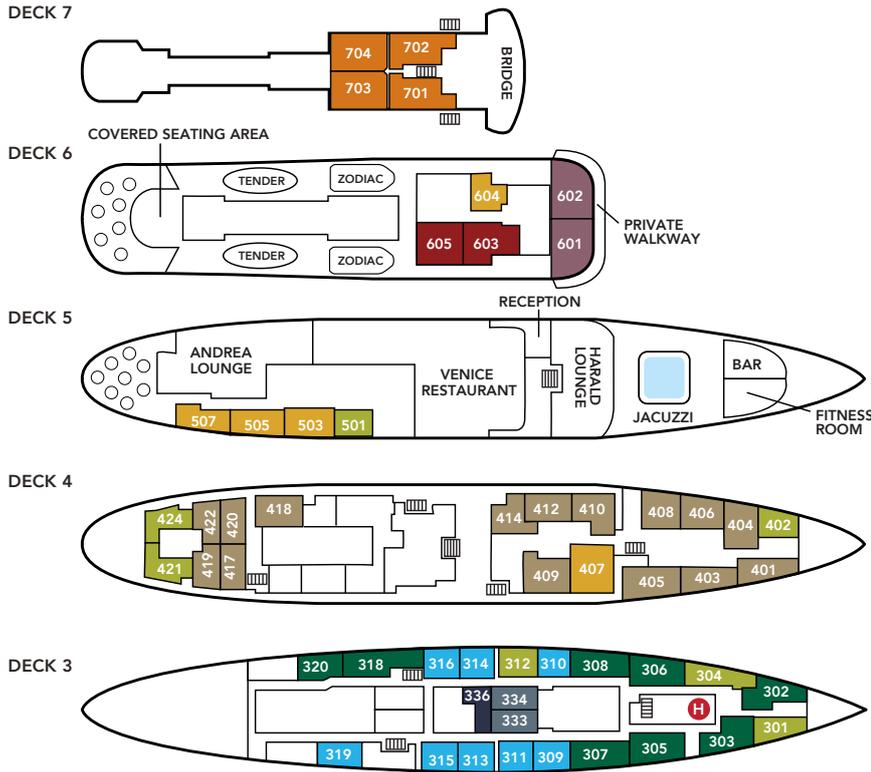


Restaurant



Harald Lounge

# Deck Plan & Cabins



- INSIDE TWIN/DOUBLE
- STANDARD STATEROOM
- STANDARD STATEROOM PLUS
- SUPERIOR STATEROOM
- DELUXE STATEROOM
- JUNIOR 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)

# Summer in the Baltic

A voyage to the islands and cities of the Baltic aboard the MS Serenissima  
with Jeremy Black

31<sup>st</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Join us on a voyage of discovery as we explore the eight nations of the Baltic. Nations who speak different languages, have a diverse culture and cuisine, worship in different churches, yet are united by a single sea. Over the centuries, wars and conflicts may have divided them, but as always trade has been the great unifier as the Hanseatic ports brought wealth and knowledge to the Baltic shores. The cities of the Baltic offer a cornucopia of delights: whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the newly independent Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters, or the sheer delight of Scandinavian ports with their colourful architecture and a freshness that is unique to the area.



After operating voyages in the Baltic for twenty five years we believe this in-depth journey offers the perfect balance of time to explore cities, towns and islands during the included excursions with our excellent local guides combined with some time to relax or explore at leisure. A highlight for many will be the fact that we have included three days in the magnificent city of St Petersburg, enough time to explore the city's many wonders. We also visit some smaller ports which the big cruise vessels are unable to access such as the islands of Christianso and Bornholm in Denmark and the Estonian Island of Saaremaa, a gem with its Medieval Episcopal castle and timeless countryside.

## Guest Speaker – Jeremy Black



Professor of History at the University of Exeter, Jeremy has lectured and written extensively on Baltic history, especially on the response to the rise of Russia and more particularly the Great Northern War. His books include Eighteenth-Century Europe and a series of studies on war from 1450 to the present. Jeremy will speak on Baltic history from the Vikings to the Cold War, with particular emphasis on the Hansa, the rise of Russia and the World Wars.



Bornholm Island

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Copenhagen, Denmark.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Copenhagen and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail this evening.

**Day 2 Christianso & Bornholm Island.** Over breakfast we arrive at the tiny island of Christianso, the easternmost part of Denmark. Using Zodiacs to land we will see the old fortress of King Christian V and learn about the island's past including its history as an island prison. Today, it is a very special and peaceful place where eider ducks appear everywhere and on the bird sanctuary of Grasholmen, thousands of herring gulls, razorbill and guillemot breed. Over lunch we sail to neighbouring Bornholm. Peaceful and scenic, Bornholm Island is a mixture of wheat fields, forests and an attractive coast dotted with fishing villages. On an island drive we will see the famous 12th century Osterlars Round Church and visit the town of Gudjem where we can sample the smoked herring. Also see Hammerhaus Castle offering fantastic views of the island's rugged coastline.

**Day 3 Gdansk, Poland.** We have a full day in this charming city. This old Hanseatic port's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. On a morning tour we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture before ending at the 15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers. Situated in the centre of the Old Town, this Medieval church took 159 years to build, and its deceptively plain exterior belies a bright, spacious interior with large windows and more than 30 beautifully decorated chapels. This afternoon is free for further independent exploration.

**Day 4 Klaipeda, Lithuania.** Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. Today we have a choice of touring options. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village



Gdansk



Saaremaa

life and visit the Memorial Museum dedicated to Lithuanians sent to Siberia or who fought against the Soviets during the Cold War years. Alternatively, take the scenic drive to the Zemaitija National Park, home to Lake Plateliali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. We will visit the bunkers, see the control centre and learn more about the weapons held at the site and their evolution. Return to the ship for lunch and maybe join a lecture as we enjoy an afternoon at sea.

**Day 5 Riga, Latvia.** This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Spend an afternoon exploring independently before enjoying a special private classical concert at the stunning 16th century Rundale Palace, one of the most outstanding monuments of Baroque and Rococo art in Northern Europe.

**Day 6 Saaremaa, Estonia.** After a relaxing morning at sea we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During an afternoon drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the

enchancing old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills.

**Day 7 Stockholm, Sweden.** Be on deck this morning as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish archipelago into Stockholm. This is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes. On arrival we will enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the MS Serenissima we will drive through old Stockholm and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour. The afternoon is free for independent exploration from our central berth before we sail tonight.

**Day 8 Mariehamn, Finland.** Arrive over breakfast into the attractive town of Mariehamn on the island of Åland in the Finnish archipelago. It is a charming little town, founded in 1861 by Tsar Alexander II and named after his wife Maria. On a morning drive we will head into the beautiful countryside along scenic roads, stopping at Badhausberget with panoramic views over the archipelago. This afternoon is free to explore the town at leisure, maybe visit the sea quarter where boats are built and repaired using traditional techniques, walk along the esplanade, an avenue of lime trees that link the harbours or enjoy time in the handicraft shops.

**Day 9 Tallinn, Estonia.** Arrive this morning in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian Parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. After lunch on board the afternoon will be at leisure for you to explore independently before we sail in the early evening.

**Days 10 to 12 St Petersburg, Russia.** We have the luxury of three days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703 by Peter

the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be including a number of tours during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, the fascinating Hermitage Museum, Catherine Palace at Pushkin and a canal cruise through the city. In your free time you may wish to join the optional excursion to Yusupov Palace, the famed scene of Rasputin's murder, or attend a folklore show. For anyone wishing to visit the ballet one evening we will be able to assist with bookings once the schedules for the theatres are released and we hope to send details 12 weeks prior to departure.

**Day 13 Helsinki, Finland to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4775	£4575
2	Standard Stateroom	£5295	£5095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£5495	£5295
4	Superior Stateroom	£5695	£5495
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5995	£5795
6	Junior Suite	£6295	£6095
7	Executive Suite	£6395	£6195
8	Owner's Suite	£6395	£6195
9	Inside Single	£4775	£4575
10	Standard Single	£5295	£5095
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£7295	£7095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£7745	£7545

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, group Russian visa.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## POST-CRUISE FINNISH LAKES EXTENSION

12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018



For those who would like to extend their time in Finland after disembarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a three night tour exploring the beauty of the Finnish Lakes.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Helsinki & Hameenlinna.** After breakfast we will disembark and enjoy a tour of Helsinki including Senate Square, the rock church and Sibelius monument before continuing out of the city to Hameenlinna and Hame Castle where we enjoy lunch. Hame Castle is one of Finland's Medieval royal castles and is believed to have been built at the end of the 13th century, following the crusade by Swedish Earl Birger to Hame region. During the Middle Ages the original fortified camp was built into a residential castle for its commandant before being used as a prison from 1837 to 1972. After our tour we will transfer to the hotel situated on a lake in the Aulanko Nature Park. Relax and enjoy the views before meeting for dinner this evening.

**Day 2 Aulanko & Tampere.** Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before our full day cruise through the beautiful forest-covered landscape of the lake district. Take in the scenery of Lake Pyhajarvi and Lake Vanajavesi before lunch on board. In the early afternoon we will make

a stop at Visavuori, the house and studio of sculptor Emil Wikstrom who designed the buildings himself and is one of the finest examples of Karelian architecture in existence. Wikstrom's home is typical of Nordic artists' homes of the time and in the studio almost 100 of Wikstrom's works are displayed. Re-boarding our ship we will continue through the lake country to Tampere where we stay overnight by Lake Pyynikki.

**Day 3 Tampere & Helsinki.** After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a scenic drive around Tampere finishing at the Nasineula restaurant, renowned in for its wonderful panoramic views over Tampere and the view beyond. After lunch continue on to littala Glass Centre, where the Aalto Vase is produced along with other signature glass pieces. The history of littala glass is on display with works of such great artists as Tapio Wirkkala and Timo Sarpaneva. We will also have the opportunity to see how these glass pieces were made before we re-board the coaches and drive to our hotel in Helsinki for an overnight stay.

**Day 4 Helsinki to London.** Enjoy a free morning to explore Helsinki before transferring to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1195** Single: **£1395**

**Price Includes:** Overnight accommodation in Helsinki, Hameenlinna and Tampere at four-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis, lunch and dinner daily, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities to guides and drivers, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.





# Hidden Baltic

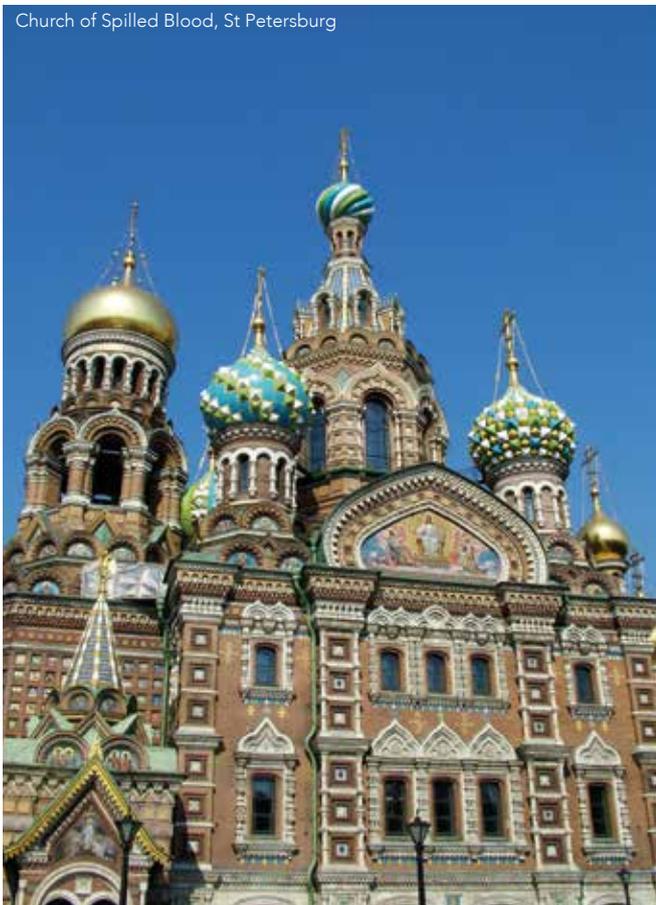
A voyage from Helsinki to Stockholm aboard the MS Serenissima with Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan  
12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018

The long sunny days of a Baltic summer are legendary and the perfect time to witness the spectacle of colour and joy that the sun brings to this northern world which, bordered by diverse kingdoms and republics in a relatively contained area, is ideally suited to exploration by ship. Whether it be the grandeur of St Petersburg and its surrounding country estates, the fascinating Baltic states and their capitals with marvellously untouched Medieval quarters or the sheer delight of small Scandinavian ports with their unique architecture, the Baltic offers a real cornucopia of delights which are all accessible from the comfort of the MS Serenissima.

After sailing from Helsinki we begin our exploration with two days in St Petersburg, perhaps the grandest city in Europe, with its imposing 18th and 19th century architecture. We continue to Tallinn, Stockholm and Riga as well as some lesser known but equally fascinating places. The Estonian Island of Saaremaa is a gem with its Medieval Episcopal Castle and timeless countryside as is Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland, a UNESCO World Heritage site fortified by well-preserved 13th century walls. We will also enjoy two new ports of call for 2018 with visits to Kotka in Finland and Ventspils in Latvia, both well off the beaten path of the many cruise ships that now ply the Baltic region and allowing for something a bit different whilst not forsaking our old time favourites such as Riga and St Petersburg where we are able to moor centrally and have allowed time for both the guided excursions and time at leisure to explore independently.



Church of Spilled Blood, St Petersburg



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Helsinki, Finland.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Helsinki and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we sail tonight.

**Day 2 Kotka, Finland.** Built on the site where the River Kymijoki meets the Baltic Sea, picturesque Kotka has a long seafaring tradition. This morning we will explore the history of the region and visit the Langinkoski Imperial Fishing Lodge which was built in 1889 for Alexander III, the future Emperor of Russia who used it as a summer home. It is now a living museum situated in a stunning nature reserve on the river. Continue to the Maritime Centre Vellamo where local guides will enlighten us about the maritime and cultural heritage of the region. The afternoon is free to explore the old city from our central berth or maybe enjoy some of the many green spaces nearby such as the Sibelius Park or Sapokko Water Garden.

**Days 3 & 4 St Petersburg, Russia.** We have two days to explore this

most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be offering a number of tours for you to choose from during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, the Hermitage Museum, Catherine Palace and Yusupov Palace.

**Day 5 Tallinn, Estonia.** This morning we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore independently.



**Day 6 Saaremaa.** This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During a morning drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon at sea.

**Day 7 Parnu.** Established in 1265, the Hanseatic town of New Parnu has been a market town, a fortress, a university town, an industrial and administrative centre as well as a resort town. Today it is the base for our excursion into the Estonian countryside. Our first call is at Viljandi, one of the oldest towns in Estonia, situated on the shores of a beautiful lake which was historically one of the key strongholds in Livonia. We will see the 13th century castle that overlooks the town before exploring the ancient cobbled streets where we find museums and galleries. We continue to Olustvere Manor for lunch. Built in an English romantic style and surrounded by a large garden there will be time to explore the gardens with pathways lined with lime, oak and maple trees. We return to Parnu via the river landscapes of the lowlands and set sail this evening.

**Day 8 Riga, Latvia.** After breakfast we will go ashore in Latvia's capital of Riga on a walking tour. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter's Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic.

Spend an afternoon exploring independently before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

**Day 9 Ventspils.** Our second day in Latvia sees us back on the Baltic coast at the city of Ventspils. This morning you may wish to head to the nearby town of Irbene and the former secret Soviet military base, known as the "starlet", which houses a number of radio telescopes including the RT32 which is the largest in Northern Europe. Formerly a base for over 2,000 soldiers and used as a site to intercept radio signals it is now used for scientific research and development. Alternatively, learn more about the fishing industry at the Open Air Museum and enjoy a steam train ride along the track built by the German army during World War I connecting Ventspils to the nearby fishing villages. This afternoon is free to explore the town further, perhaps visit the local brewery, wander the cobbled streets and quaint squares of the old town or visit the Livonian Order Castle, the oldest Medieval castle in Latvia which houses the local museum.

**Days 10 Visby, Sweden.** Today we visit this once important Hanseatic port. Best explored on foot, the beautifully preserved Medieval town snuggles inside 13th century walls, housing 44 watchtowers. In Viking times and several centuries after, the Swedish island of Gotland and especially the city of Visby, became a centre of trade in the Baltic Sea and is a World Heritage Site. Walk its streets from the Middle Ages and see its gardens ablaze with flowers, earning the city its nickname 'the city of ruins and roses'. Later, visit the Viking exhibits at the Fornsal Museum and wander the paths of the botanical gardens.

**Days 11 Stockholm to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME			
Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Inside Twin/Double	£4195	£3995
2	Standard Stateroom	£4695	£4495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£4895	£4695
4	Superior Stateroom	£5095	£4895
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£5395	£5195
6	Junior Suite	£5695	£5495
7	Executive Suite	£5795	£5595
8	Owner's Suite	£5795	£5595
9	Inside Single	£4195	£3995
10	Standard Single	£4695	£4495
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£6295	£6095
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£6595	£6395

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, group Russian visa.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## PRE & POST CRUISE EXTENSIONS



### PRE-CRUISE FINNISH LAKES EXTENSION

9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018

For those who would like to spend some time in Finland before embarking the MS Serenissima we are offering a three night tour exploring the beauty of the Finnish Lakes.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Helsinki.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in the afternoon and transfer to the hotel for an overnight stay. Enjoy some time at leisure before we meet for dinner tonight.

**Day 2 Helsinki & Hameenlinna.** After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a tour of Helsinki including Senate Square, the rock church and Sibelius monument before continuing out of the city to Hameenlinna and Hame Castle where we enjoy lunch. Hame Castle is one of Finland's Medieval royal castles and is believed to have been built at the end of the 13th century, following the crusade by Swedish Earl Birger to Hame region. During the Middle Ages the original fortified camp was built into a residential castle for its commandant before being used as a prison from 1837 to 1972. After our tour we will transfer to our hotel situated on a lake in the Aulanko Nature Park. Relax and enjoy the views before meeting for dinner this evening.

**Day 3 Aulanko & Tampere.** Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before our full day cruise through the beautiful, forest-covered landscape of the lake district. Take in the scenery of Lake Pyhajarvi and Lake Vanajavesi before lunch on board. In the early afternoon we will make a stop at Visavuori, the House and studio of sculptor Emil Wikstrom who designed the buildings himself and is one of the finest examples of Karelian architecture in existence. Wikstrom's home is typical of Nordic artists' homes of the time and in the studio almost 100 of Wikstrom's works are displayed. Re-boarding our ship we will continue through the lake country to Tampere where we stay overnight by Lake Pyynikki.

**Day 4 Tampere & Helsinki.** After breakfast in the hotel we enjoy a scenic drive around Tampere finishing at the Näsineula restaurant, renowned in for its wonderful panoramic views over Tampere and the view beyond. After lunch continue on to Iittala Glass Centre, where the Aalto Vase is produced along with

other signature glass pieces. The history of Iittala glass is on display with works of such great artists as Tapio Wirkkala and Timo Sarpaneva. We will also get to see how these glass pieces were made before we transfer to the MS Serenissima moored in Helsinki.

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#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1195** Single: **£1395**

**Price Includes:** Overnight accommodation in Helsinki, Hameenlinna and Tampere at four-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis, lunch and dinner daily, excursions, Tour Manager, gratuities to guides and drivers, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

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### POST-CRUISE STOCKHOLM EXTENSION

22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018

If you wish to explore Stockholm in more depth after disembarking the MS Serenissima, we are offering a two night extension which includes an orientation tour as well as time at leisure to explore this fascinating city.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Stockholm.** Disembark this morning and enjoy a tour of this handsome city, known as the 'city on the water'. See the Vasa Museum built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. We will drive through old Stockholm and past the

Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour before arriving at our hotel for our two night stay. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are free for independent exploration.

**Day 2 Stockholm.** Enjoy a full day to explore Stockholm at your own pace.

**Day 3 Stockholm to London.** After breakfast in the hotel we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£545** Single: **£625**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Stockholm in a central four-star hotel on a bed and breakfast basis, half day city tour, Tour Manager, gratuities to guides and drivers, transfers from the vessel to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# Sailing from the Baltic to Britain

A voyage from Stockholm to Dover aboard the MS Serenissima with  
Major JGH Corrigan & Imogen Corrigan  
22<sup>nd</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Exploring the Baltic by small ship is the most perfect way to visit this endlessly fascinating corner of Northern Europe. The history of the region is intriguing, with countries vying for commercial and political influence for over a thousand years and this complex past will be brought to life by our onboard Guest Speakers, helping us to gain a greater understanding of both old and new Baltic nations.

Our trip is certainly one of the most comprehensive, visiting as it does Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Belgium before ending in the UK. We will spend time in the charming Scandinavian ports before arriving in St Petersburg, surely the most endlessly fascinating of all Baltic ports. Our two full days here will be spent exploring Peter the Great's magnificent city as well as venturing out to some of the fabulous country estates on the Baltic shores. We will visit some relatively new states with their charming Medieval old towns, especially striking are those of Tallinn and Riga where the old and new flourish like never before since the departure of their Soviet masters. We will moor overnight in Gdansk so that we can explore this handsome city as well as enjoy a full day tour to Malbork Castle, the largest castle in the world during the 13th century and a journey along the unusual Elblag Canal. Added to this, and due to our many years of operating in the region, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with visits to some of the more remote ports and islands such as the Estonian island of Saaremaa, the Polish port of Swinoujscie and Lubeck, places only accessible by a small ship like the MS Serenissima.



Whether your interest lies in the region's Viking and Medieval history or the more recent events of the breakaway Baltic States, it is an endlessly fascinating region and our expert local guides and guest speakers will add much to your knowledge and understanding of this intriguing region.

## Guest Speaker



### Major JGH Corrigan

Commissioned from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1962, Gordon Corrigan was an officer of the Royal Gurkha Rifles before retiring from the Army in 1998. He served mainly in the Far East but also in Berlin, Cyprus, Belize and Northern Ireland. He is now a military historian and author. His television appearances include

The Gurkhas, Napoleon's Waterloo and Battlefield Detectives, and so far he has presented five series on various aspects of military history. He has conducted military history study tours in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Holland, Spain, Portugal, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.



### Imogen Corrigan

Imogen Corrigan served for twenty years in the British Army, retiring in the rank of Major. In 2004 she graduated from the University of Kent with a 1st Class Honours degree in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval History and has recently submitted for an M.Phil. at Birmingham University. She runs study tours and has lectured extensively on Anglo-Saxon and Medieval subjects in Britain and

Europe. She is a NADFAS lecturer as well as being a speaker for the Kent Federation of History, the National Trust and U3A amongst other lecturing agencies and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Stockholm, Sweden.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive in Stockholm and transfer to the MS Serenissima. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Stockholm.** We spend the morning exploring this handsome city, known as the 'city on the water'. It is built on 14 small islands among open bays and narrow channels. Enjoy a guided city tour which includes the Vasa Museum, built around the 17th century warship which sank in Stockholm's inner harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628; its discovery in 1956 and subsequent salvage in 1961 is one of the most important events in marine archaeology. In addition to the well-preserved, elaborately decorated hull, thousands of items from the ship, including hundreds of sculptures, have been recovered. On our return to the MS Serenissima we will drive through old Stockholm

and past the Parliament Building and Royal Palace which overlooks the inner harbour. After lunch be out on deck as we sail through the many islands of the Swedish Archipelago, this is a great sailing area and the islands are peppered with attractive summer homes.

**Day 3 Helsinki, Finland.** Spend a relaxing morning at sea and maybe join a lecture or find a spot to enjoy a book. Over lunch we arrive into Helsinki and an afternoon guided city tour will take us to the colourful Market Square, the President's Palace and the impressive architecture of Senate Square including the Lutheran Cathedral of Finland and Uspenski Cathedral. We continue to the Sibelius Monument and the impressive Temppeliaukio, the church in the rock before returning to the vessel and sailing this evening.

**Days 4 & 5 St Petersburg, Russia.** We have two days to explore this most endlessly captivating of Russian cities. Founded in 1703



Riga



Statue, Klaipeda



White-tailed Eagle

by Peter the Great, St Petersburg is a fascinating mix of classic and Baroque architecture on a network of canals. We will be offering a number of tours for you to choose from during our time here including visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the wonderful Peterhof Palace and Gardens, Catherine Palace and Yusupov Palace.

**Day 6 Tallinn, Estonia.** After a busy couple of days in St Petersburg we will have a morning at sea to relax on board. During lunch we arrive in the historic maritime city of Tallinn with its awe inspiring city walls and fortifications, narrow Medieval streets and the gateways which remain remarkably well preserved. In the Upper Town we will enjoy the views from Dome Hill with the extraordinary vista of domes, spires and gables and see Toompea Castle, once a fortress, and now the seat of the Estonian parliament. Walking to the Lower Old Town we will visit the main square where we will find the oldest pharmacy in Europe, the Gothic Cathedral and the 15th century Town Hall.

**Day 7 Saaremaa.** This morning we arrive at Estonia's largest island which offers a glimpse of a bygone age. Untouched by industry it is a green and very pleasant land dotted with attractive villages in a rolling forested landscape. During a morning drive we will visit the lovely capital Kuressaare with its magnificent Medieval castle and stroll through the streets of the enchanting old town. Continue inland on a journey that will take you back in time through a countryside of stone walls, thatched roofs, traditional villages and windmills. Return to the ship for lunch and spend an afternoon at sea.

**Day 8 Riga, Latvia.** This morning we will explore Latvia's capital by foot. Founded in the 13th century it became one of the most successful trading cities of the Baltic. Explore the Old Town with its Medieval streets lined with Hanseatic warehouses and punctuated with Gothic and Baroque churches including St Peter's Cathedral, the largest Medieval church in the Baltic. Spend an afternoon exploring independently before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

**Day 9 Klaipeda, Lithuania.** Founded in 1252 by the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, Klaipeda was annexed by Hitler in 1939 and almost destroyed towards the end of World War II. We will arrive over lunch and have a choice of touring options this afternoon. You may wish to head into the countryside where we will experience village life and visit the Memorial Museum, dedicated to the Lithuanians sent to Siberia to fight against the Soviets during the Cold War years. Alternatively, take the scenic drive to the Zemaitija National Park, home to Lake Plateliali and surrounded by dense forest. It was in these forests that, during the Cold War, the Soviets hid their first nuclear missile base directed at all the major European cities. Our tour will visit the Cold War Museum located in the former Soviet Missile Base. We will visit the bunkers, see the control centre and learn more about the weapons held at the site and their evolution.

**Days 10 & 11 Gdansk, Poland.** We will spend a day and a half in this charming city. This old Hanseatic port's 1000 years of history have left a collection of buildings and monuments designed in Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles. Upon arrival we will leave the city and enjoy a full day tour to Malbork

Castle and a journey on the Elblag Canal. The 13th century Malbork Castle belonged to the Teutonic Order and at the time was the largest castle in the world. Over the years it has been used as a royal residence as well as a fortress and was renovated after being damaged during World War II. The 80 kilometre Elblag Canal is a wonder of engineering designed in 1860 to connect East Prussia with the Baltic Sea. The challenges of the 100 metre difference in water levels between Bruzno Lake and Piniewo Lake was solved by a series of slipways, locks and dams with boats being carried across dry land on rail mounted trolleys. We will take a boat trip along the canal before returning to the ship in Gdansk. The following morning we will enjoy a city tour where we will walk along the cobbled streets of the Royal Way in the old quarter and view the elaborate architecture before ending at the

15th century merchant's palace of Artus Court. Also see the pride of Gdansk, Gothic St. Mary's, which is the world's largest brick church, accommodating some 25,000 worshippers.

**Day 12 Swinoujscie.** The small port of Swinoujscie is the gateway to the most beautiful stretch of the Polish coast and the Wolin National Park, Poland's first maritime park. Wolin is on the main migration path of birds in the Baltic and the white-tailed eagle that shelters here is the symbol of the park. We will spend time in the park which is home to deer, wild boar and European bison before continuing to Miedzyzdroje where we find a former German bunker which was used as a base in World War II and is now a museum of a secret weapon, the V3 supergun. Continue to Kamien Pomorski which from the 14th century belonged to the



The Catherine Palace



Bruges

Hanseatic League. The town was badly damaged in World War II, but remnants of the old town walls with Wolin Gate have survived to the present day. We will see the Gothic arcaded town hall which has been rebuilt, several half-timbered houses and the Gothic Church of St Nicholas, which now houses the Regional Museum. The town's most valuable architectural relic is the 12th century Cathedral of St John where we enjoy a concert before viewing the priceless late 13th century mural paintings which have survived in its presbytery and side chapel.

**Day 13 Lubeck, Germany.** Over breakfast we will cruise along the scenic River Trave which connects the port of Lubeck with the Baltic Sea and is dotted with summer houses. Lubeck, founded in the 12th century was the former "Queen City" of the Hanseatic League and prospered as one of Northern Europe's major ports until the 16th century. On a morning walking tour we will explore the old town, which is situated on an island completely surrounded by water and famed for its five gothic cathedrals and a multitude of hidden alleys and courtyards amongst the old merchants' houses. This afternoon is free to explore further and you may want to see the Hansemuseum, which documents the history of the Hanseatic League, sample some of the famous local marzipan or try the traditional Rotspon red wine.

**Day 14 Kiel Canal Transit.** Early this morning we begin our transit of the historic 61 mile long Kiel Canal and sail from the Baltic into the North Sea. Kaiser Wilhelm I set the first foundation stone in place on June 3, 1887 in Brunsbuttel, and the final stone was laid by Kaiser Wilhelm II on June 21, 1895, in Holtenau. Today, the Kiel Canal is one of the busiest man-made waterways in the world. Depart the canal in the early afternoon and spend the afternoon cruising.

**Day 15 Bruges, Belgium.** From the port of Ostend we drive inland to Bruges, a UNESCO site which has an illustrious history as one of the finest Medieval cities in Europe. The 15th century Belfry still dominates the centre as it did then and the Town Hall, St John Hospital and the Begijnhof border the narrow canals. On an afternoon tour we will see some of the most important monuments and buildings which survive from the Middle Ages including the Basilica of the Holy Blood, City Hall, the Begijnhof and Minnewater. You may also want to visit one of the local chocolate or lace shops for which Bruges is famous.

**Day 16 Dover, England.** Arrive this morning. Transfers will be provided to London Heathrow and London Victoria Coach Station at a fixed time.



Lubeck

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Inside Twin/Double	£5695	£5495
2	Standard Stateroom	£6195	£5995
3	Standard Stateroom Plus	£6395	£6195
4	Superior Stateroom	£6595	£6395
5	Deluxe Stateroom	£6895	£6695
6	Junior Suite	£6995	£6795
7	Executive Suite	£7495	£7295
8	Owner's Suite	£7495	£7295
9	Inside Single	£5695	£5495
10	Standard Single	£6195	£5995
2	Standard Stateroom for sole use	£8695	£8495
3	Standard Stateroom Plus for sole use	£8995	£8795

**Price Includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel from London to Stockholm, 15 nights aboard the MS Serenissima on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board, Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, group Russian visa.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.





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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Samson Fountain in Peterhof Park.