Access to the remote British Overseas Territory of St Helena has always been exclusively by sea. From the three ships that first approached the island in 1502 to the Union Castle Liners that were once frequent visitors, today just one ship remains, and in this modern world in which we live, this will change. An airport is under construction and the first flights are scheduled for early 2016 bringing a new generation of tourists to St Helena.

Before then, the Saints and the crew of the RMS St Helena invite you to be part of history, and to experience a voyage on board this unique ship. Held in great esteem and affection by all those that have experienced her, a voyage on board the RMS St Helena will lead to life-long friendships and a sense that you have been part of a nostalgic period of travel, where getting there is as much a part of the holiday as the destination.

The RMS St Helena carries just 156 passengers and 55 crew in 56 good quality comfortable cabins. Many combinations are available and this brochure sets out to give you a preview of just some of the options. Our reservations teams in the UK and South Africa can custom design your requirements providing you with a most memorable experience and holiday.

To find out more, call and speak with one of our advisers who will be happy to give you a tailor made individual quote and itinerary.
Being on board the RMS St Helena has been described as being similar to staying in a country house hotel on water. Your initial thoughts may well be how you might fill each day, hours relaxing on deck, or reading novel after novel may well excite you. Of all the comments received about life on board the ship, the most common is how quickly each day seems to pass as many activities and events unfold, and books are left unopened in favour of long and interesting conversations with other passengers on board.

You are looked after 24 hours a day. Two bars, a full service dining room, a sun deck, shop, swimming pool, glass fronted ocean view gym, library and lots of photographs and memorabilia will all keep you entertained.

Breakfast and lunch can be taken in the dining room or in the sun lounge. Buffet lunch can be enjoyed on the sun deck, which is adjacent to the sun lounge. There is a choice of two dinner sittings each evening, which are taken in the dining room and there is an impressive 5 course menu from which to choose, as well as a selection of fine wines available.

The daily edition of the Ocean Mail (the ship’s own newspaper) sees the days events come to life. Whether it is deck quoits, ocean cricket, a skittles tournament, quizzes, informative talks or video and film nights, the entertainment is perfectly balanced and the choice to join in or simply watch the fun unfold is yours.

The Royal Mail Ship St Helena is a world away from the razzamatazz of the big cruise liners. Built to convey passengers and cargo to the island of St Helena, the RMS is a reminder of a bygone era of travel. She is a unique vessel and is a working ship that is special to the people of St Helena and those that have travelled on her.

For reservations please call our booking agent on +44(0)20 7575 6480 or email reservations@awsml.co.uk
In 1815 St Helena was deemed to be the safest place to send Napoleon; today the island is just as safe. Whilst it may be untrue to say that time has completely stood still, it seems like it has passed less quickly than in the rest of the world. An old world charm engulfs the island, and many of the traditions observed today are as important as they were centuries ago.

Situated in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, this small British island territory is one of the remotest places on Earth and also is one of the most extraordinary places you can visit. It is a place of unique character and unspoilt beauty. Its contrasting and spectacular scenery, centuries-old military fortifications and graceful buildings make it the perfect place for active exploration.

Lying 1200 miles from the south west coast of Africa and 1800 miles from the coast of South America and occupying just 47 square miles of land, this isolated island boasts immense natural beauty, with an abundance of changing vistas and landscapes. Depending on the time of day, the reflection of the sun against the turquoise blue sea and the barren cliff tops is a sight few have been fortunate to witness.

Charm is all around you. The St Helenians or ‘Saints’ as they are known, are a melting pot of different cultures made up throughout the centuries including Europeans, Africans, South Americans and Chinese. Today’s population numbers about 4200. Incredibly welcoming, the Saints are genuinely interested in their visitors and are proud to show off their island. The joie de vivre and generosity of the Saints is profoundly clear to visitors, and whether it is a contemporary wedding, an open day or festival, party or dance, it seems that all are invited to take part.

The Saint Helena flag, proudly encompassing the union flag, fluttering above the castle in Jamestown, and cricket being played at Francis Plain, remind you that you are in fact on British soil. Exotic looking flowers on the roadside, coffee beans ripening in the sun, and a relaxed approach to life, make you aware that you are indeed in another part of the world.

Jamestown, the capital, sits in an extraordinary deep crevasse and is the centre for government. The recently opened museum is well worth a visit and exhibits chart the history of the early settlers, right up to the issues affecting modern day St Helena.

There are 68 miles of road on the island and a speed limit of just 30mph. Vehicles can be rented, so you can enjoy touring the island at your own pace and discovering some of its hidden treasures, from tropical forests cascading down mountain sides to verdant pastures and rolling hills.

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Mysterious, secretive and curious are certainly phrases that can be attributed to the remote British territory of Ascension Island, located at the crossroads of the South Atlantic. Of immense strategic importance throughout the ages, the island’s military history and current status is undisputed. Today, via RAF flights from Brize Norton, the island is more accessible to tourists, visiting the very special wildlife found here as well as enjoying pristine white beaches, sun drenched under the tropical blue skies.

Ascension is the world’s second largest nesting ground for the famous green turtles. Although nesting does take place throughout the year, the majority of turtles arrive in November, while mating takes place between December and July, with eggs taking between 45 and 70 days to incubate. Guides are available for visitors to learn and observe these beautiful, yet endangered species.

As well as the rich bird life and marine life, Ascension has some dramatic scenery, mainly of volcanic origin, with 44 craters dotted around the island.

In complete contrast to this is Green Mountain. Thanks to its location just a few degrees south of the Equator, Ascension is blessed with warm tropical weather nearly all year round, however, if you want to get away from the heat, a trip to Green Mountain could do the trick. The mountain is nearly always shrouded in cloud, and the lush vegetation and cooler climate is quite a contrast to the rest of the island – you could be forgiven for thinking you’d stepped into a rainforest. The only exotic creatures you’re likely to encounter though are a few feral sheep and the land crabs and the picnic area near the Red Lion is often full of colourful African Monarch butterflies. The views from the Mountain are spectacular on a clear day, and there are several walks which take you around the top of the mountain. A short trek from the Red Lion will bring you to the summit – 859 metres above sea level – and the Dew Pond surrounded by a towering bamboo grove.

Tourist accommodation on the island is provided by the Obsidian in Georgetown, which has comfortable rooms all with en suite facilities. Other accommodation is provided at Hayes House.

Car rental is available on the island. Due to the low number of vehicles, reservations should be made in advance.

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THINGS TO KNOW before you board

How do I join my voyage?
You can talk to our reservations team prior to making a booking and as soon as your booking is confirmed full details of how to join the vessel will be sent to you with your tickets.

How much luggage can I bring?
Passengers are allowed two suitcase sized bags per person in their cabin. Please bear in mind when packing that each piece of luggage must weigh no more than 23 kilos for handling purposes. If you have more bags than this please contact our reservations team for details.

Is there a dress code?
There is no strict dress code but The Ocean Mail gives information on recommended evening wear. In general the following applies:

Daytime During the day dress is casual – shorts, t-shirts and swim wear – although swim wear should not be worn in the dining room.

Evening Guests may prefer to dress slightly more formally during the evening – a tie however is not required. Passengers may decide to dress more formally at the Captain’s Cocktail evening. Gentlemen may wish to wear a jacket and tie and ladies a cocktail dress. Again, this is entirely optional.

Footwear Non-slip shoes should be worn on deck and on the smaller boats when going ashore. For safety reasons high heels and flip flops are not allowed to be worn when joining or leaving the vessel.

What meals are included?
Three meals are served daily (breakfast, lunch and dinner) in the dining room. A continental style breakfast and buffet lunch is also available in the sun lounge. Deck BBQs may also be arranged depending on the weather. Dinner is served in the dining room and two sittings are available to choose from. Some second sitting tables are hosted by the ship’s officers. Special dietary requests can be catered for. Please indicate this at the time of booking.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea is served in the sun lounge and lounge daily. Tea and coffee is available 24hrs a day in the sun lounge, guests may also make their own in the pantries located on both A and B decks.

Is there any shopping onboard?
The shop stocks a range of duty free goods, souvenirs and other items such as confectionery, toiletries, and postcards. The bureau can set up passenger accounts and provides information on shore excursions, entertainment schedules and other general passenger requests.

What currency is used onboard?
Currency on board is UK Sterling and the St Helena Pound. There is a limited currency exchange facility available at the bureau: currencies accepted are Rands, US Dollars and Euros. UK sterling cheques are accepted as well as travellers cheques, debit cards and Visa or Mastercard credit cards. (Credit card transactions are subject to a nominal handling charge, currently 3%).

Is there phone and internet access?
Mobile phones do not work when at sea, but do work in port in Cape Town. There is a satellite phone available onboard and internet facilities are planned to be available from early 2014. There is a charge for the use of these facilities, please see the Bureau staff onboard.

WWW.RMS-ST-HELENA.COM
What about leisure facilities on board?
The RMS St Helena provides daily entertainment throughout the voyage organised by the ship’s officers and crew. There is a small library on board as well as a number of games and puzzles available. Films are shown in the lounge and passengers can enjoy the ship’s swimming pool or the well equipped glass fronted gym overlooking the ocean.

What about electricity on board?
The electricity supply on board is the same as in the UK (240v AC) and standard 3 pin sockets are provided in all cabins. Adaptors are available from the bureau for a small deposit.

Are there facilities for children?
A playroom area is provided with television and games for our younger passengers. Age appropriate activities are provided by our on board team on a daily basis.

Where can I smoke on board?
Smoking is only permitted at designated areas on the outer decks. The interior of the ship, including all cabins is non-smoking.

Should I plan to leave a gratuity?
Unlike many major cruise lines gratuities are entirely at your discretion and are not added into your on board account. If you would like to show your appreciation to a member of your cabin, restaurant or bar staff, this can be arranged with the individuals concerned or via the Bureau onboard.

What if I am feeling sea sick?
Don’t worry, nowadays sea sickness is best countered by either tablets or with an injection, please speak to the Ship’s resident doctor who will be able to assist.

What if I have mobility issues?
Corridors and stairs are well equipped with handrails and there is a passenger lift available as well as a stair lift to the promenade deck. Before making a booking please familiarise yourself with the clauses in our terms and conditions under Health, Fitness to travel and Disabilities. If you have any further questions please contact our reservations team.

Finally, what about passports, visas & insurance?
It is the responsibility of the individual passenger to ensure that passports and any required visas are in order before travelling. St Helena requires a minimum of 6 months validity on your passport and South Africa requires two clear pages for stamping on entry and exit. You must also provide evidence of travel insurance on arrival at St Helena to enter the island. If travelling via South Africa on a one way flight ticket, you will be required to show your RMS ticket to immigration officials.

All passengers transiting through Ascension Island will require an entry permit and proof of medical insurance.

For reservations please call our booking agent on +44(0)20 7575 6480 or email reservations@awsml.co.uk
Discover the remote islands of St Helena and Ascension on this example 12 day tour from Cape Town.

- Cape Town to Ascension Island
- Natural beauty and enchanted landscapes
- Two islands of contrast
- An adventure quite like no other
- Abundance of wildlife

Day 1-5: Board the RMS St Helena. Revel in the onboard activities, or simply relax and watch the ocean waves dance around the ship as she sails to St Helena. You may be lucky enough to see marine and bird life on route.

Day 6-7: Binoculars at the ready as you see the island ahead on the horizon. For the most part witness the same view as the early explorers saw as the island’s features come ever closer. The next days are spent exploring the diversity of St Helena and discovering the way of life of this remote, but spectacular British Territory. Accommodation for 2 nights is arranged at one of the hotels on the island.

Day 8: Leaving St Helena behind us, we sail north west to Ascension Island, a remote and somewhat secretive cross roads in the middle of the Atlantic.

Day 11: Arrival into Ascension Island, a mix between a tranquil tropical paradise and a busy military base.

Day 12: Arrive Brize Norton.

This tour can be done in reverse from Brize Norton to Cape Town. Please see our website for the RAF flight schedule or call our reservations department for more details. Duration and itinerary may differ slightly. Tailor make your trip by adding hotel accommodation in and allowing us to arrange your flight to Cape Town.

Choose your accommodation in St Helena to suit your needs. Please see our website for itinerary or call our reservations department for more details.
THE EXPLORER

Explore St Helena on this example 19 day tour, and experience the feeling of calm as the RMS St Helena leaves you on the island as she continues her journey to Ascension Island.

- Cape Town to St Helena
- A British outpost in the South Atlantic
- Steeped in history
- Dramatic coastal scenery and enchanted landscapes
- A unique way of life

Day 1-5: Board the RMS in Cape Town and sail to St Helena. Enjoy the on board activities, learn about the early explorers who came to the island in much the same fashion as you are doing today.

Day 6-13: Explore this stunning island, so full of natural beauty, wonderfully friendly people and an abundance of activities to enjoy. Visit the Napoleonic sites of Briars Pavilion, Longwood House and Napoleon’s Tomb and walk on pastures once occupied by prisoners of war during the Boer Wars. Meet Jonathan the tortoise, possibly the oldest tortoise in the world, enjoying life amongst the magnificent gardens of Plantation House, the Governor’s official residence. Of course, no visit to St Helena would be complete without taking in some of the magnificent coastal and inland walks, which can be guided if you prefer. Botanical and Endemic Plant and Fauna Tours are available locally and the St Helena Conservation Group and National Trust arrange guided walks throughout the year.

Take a leisurely tour in the island’s only Charabanc, a highlight of which is a stop at the top of Jacob’s Ladder with tremendous views across Jamestown. Whilst in Jamestown, a visit to the museum is highly recommended. Here you can see the history of Britain’s second oldest colony laid out before you, including issues of the current day that are helping to shape the future of the island. For those wishing to be more independent, cars can be rented and we suggest that reservations should be made prior to arrival on the island.

Day 14-18: Leave the island for the return journey to Cape Town.

Day 19: Arrive Cape Town. Tour ends.

Please note: Flights to and from the UK are not included in the fare. The itinerary may differ slightly, and time at each location may vary. Please see our website for the itinerary or call our reservations department for more details. Tailor make your trip by adding hotel accommodation in and allowing us to arrange your Cape Town flight. Choose accommodation in St Helena to suit your needs.
The cabins are spacious and range from quality grade singles to 4 berth, most of which can be adapted by folding away bunks to fit various combinations. All cabins are air conditioned. All on A and B decks, and some on C deck have en suite facilities.

For your comfort
Our cabins offer a combination of the following facilities – please see page 17 for full details.

- En suite toilet
- En suite shower
- Wash basin
- Wardrobe units
- Chest of drawers
- Dressing table with over light mirror
- Hair dryer
- Armchair
- Settee
- Stool
- Coffee table
- Fridge
- Tea-making facilities
A Deck - T4 (4 people)
Capacity: 27.35 m³
Cabins: A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, A11, A15, A17, A19, A29, A31
Alternative grade for reduced occupancy: T2S or T4S

PROMENADE DECK
Promenade Deck - P1 (5 people)
Capacity: 31.83 m³
Cabin: P1
Alternative grade for reduced occupancy: T2S or T4S

SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATION

B Deck - T2S (2 people)
Capacity: 36.35 m³
Cabins: B36, B37
Alternative grade for reduced occupancy: T1S

A Deck - T2H (2 people)
Capacity: 19.43 m³
Alternative grade for reduced occupancy: T1

ECONOMY ACCOMMODATION

C Deck - 4B0 (4 people)
Capacity: 11.08 m³
Cabins: C41, C48
Alternative grade for reduced occupancy: 2BOS Budget Twin

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**DECK** | **TYPE** | **OCCUPANCY** | **CABIN** | **PORTHOLE/ WINDOW** | **PICTURE/ WINDOW** | **TWIN BED** | **UPPER & LOWER BED** | **ADDITIONAL SINGLE BED** | **EN SUITE TOILET** | **EN SUITE SHOWER** | **WASH BASIN** | **WARDROBE UNITS** | **CHEST OF DRAWERS** | **DRESSING TABLE WITH OVER LIGHT MIRROR** | **HAIR DRYER** | **ARMCHAIR** | **SETTEE** | **STOOL** | **COFFEE TABLE** | **FRIDGE** | **TEA-MAKING FACILITIES** | **APPROX. SIZE (M³)** | **DECK PLAN COLOUR**
**Promenade** | P1 | 5 People | P1 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 2 | 2 | • | • | 31 | **Promenade** | **DECK PLAN COLOUR**
A | TBW | 4 People | A30 | 4 People | P1 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 4 | 2 | • | 25 | **A**
A | T2H | 2 People | A8, A10, A12, A14, A16, A22, A23, A24, A25, A26, A27, A28 | • | • | • | • | 1 or 2 | 1 | • | • | • | 19 | **A**
A | T3 | 3 People | A18, A20 | • | • | • | • | • | 3 | 1 | • | • | • | • | 24 | **A**
A | T4 | 4 People | A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, A11, A15, A17, A19, A21, A29, A31 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 4 | 2 | • | • | 27 | **A**
B | T2S | 2 People | B36, B37 | • | • | • | • | 2 | 2 | • | • | • | • | • | • | 36 | **B**
B | T2HS | 2 People | B32, B33, B34, B35 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 26 | **B**
B | T4S | 4 People | B38, B39 | • | • | • | • | • | 2 | 2 | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | 36 | **B**
B | T2 | 2 People | B43, B41 | • | • | • | • | 2 | 2 | • | • | • | 22 | **B**
B | T2 | 2 People | B45 | • | • | • | • | 2 | 2 | • | • | • | 21 | **B**
B | T2 | 2 People | B47 | • | • | • | • | 2 | 2 | • | • | • | 20 | **B**
B | T2S | 2 People | B49 | • | • | • | • | 2 | 2 | • | • | • | 26 | **B**
B | TBW | 3 People | B40 | • | • | • | • | • | 3 | 2 | • | • | • | • | 28 | **B**
C | 2BI | 2 People | C43, C44, C45, C46, C47, C48, C50, C51 | • | 2 (½ height) | 1 | • | • | • | • | 9.5 | **C**
C | 2BO | 2 People | C49 | 2 (½ height) | 1 | • | • | • | • | 11 | **C**
C | 2B1W | 2 People | C46, C49, C47 | 2 (½ height) | 1 | • | • | • | • | 11 | **C**
C | 4BO | 4 People | C41, C48 | 4 (½ height) | 2 | • | • | • | • | 11 | **C**


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ST HELENA ISLAND

There is plenty of accommodation on St Helena to suit your style and budget. We’ve shown some here and you can find out more at www.sthelenatourism.com

CONSULATE HOTEL
Situated in the heart of Jamestown, this 18th century colonial building is just a few minutes walk from the seafront. A focal point for locals, the hotel offers comfortable accommodation with en suite facilities, restaurant and snack bar.

FARM LODGE
This is a lovingly restored former East India Company planter’s house, built in 1750 and situated in 5 acres of lush grounds, just 15 minutes from Jamestown. Rooms have been splendidly furnished echoing the heritage of its former Georgian elegance and all have en suite facilities. Excellent food is served, much of which has been grown in the grounds of the property.

WELLINGTON HOUSE HOTEL
This is a family owned and operated hotel in the centre of Jamestown and offers comfortable accommodation on a full board basis with plenty of traditional St Helena dishes on offer. The rooms do not have en suite facilities.

THE TOWNHOUSE B&B (SUSAN’S)
Ideally situated in Market Street in Jamestown, Susan’s is just a five minute walk into the centre of town. The property has five rooms, of which three have en suite bathrooms and the remaining two have a wash basin and shared bathroom. There is a large lounge and a kitchen available for guest use.

SELF CATERING AND BED & BREAKFAST
A variety of bed and breakfast and self-catering cottages and lodges are available for short or long term rent. We can provide more information at the time of enquiry.

ASCENSION

OBSIDIAN HOTEL
Formerly the official Government guest house, this hotel has been restored to provide excellent accommodation comprising double and single rooms, and apartments with balconies or patios. There is a restaurant and the open air bar is a focal point for local gatherings on the island.

CAPE TOWN

TOWN HOUSE HOTEL
Located in the heart of Cape Town, this small 107 bedroom hotel offers outstanding friendly service in a peaceful setting. Facilities include a heated swimming pool and fitness centre and a complimentary shuttle service operates between the hotel and the V&A Waterfront.

COMMODORE HOTEL
Located on the Victoria and Albert Waterfront, near the lively and bustling centre of Cape Town, the hotel has beautiful coastal views. Rooms are spacious and superbly furnished and guests can enjoy excellent facilities including an outdoor pool, sauna and steam room and gym.

FLIGHTS
AW Ship Management is able to make reservations for the RAF flights between Brize Norton and Ascension Island for civilian passengers. Flights normally operate twice a week but the civilian seat allocation is limited. We therefore advise you make your reservation well in advance. Please see our fares and sailings insert for prices, or speak to one of our reservation agents or log onto the website for up to date information.

AW Ship Management is a fully bonded ATOL (Air Travel Organisers License) holder and as such can arrange international and domestic flights with all the major airlines.
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