

SPECIAL  
OFFER -SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

# ACROSS EUROPE BY RIVER

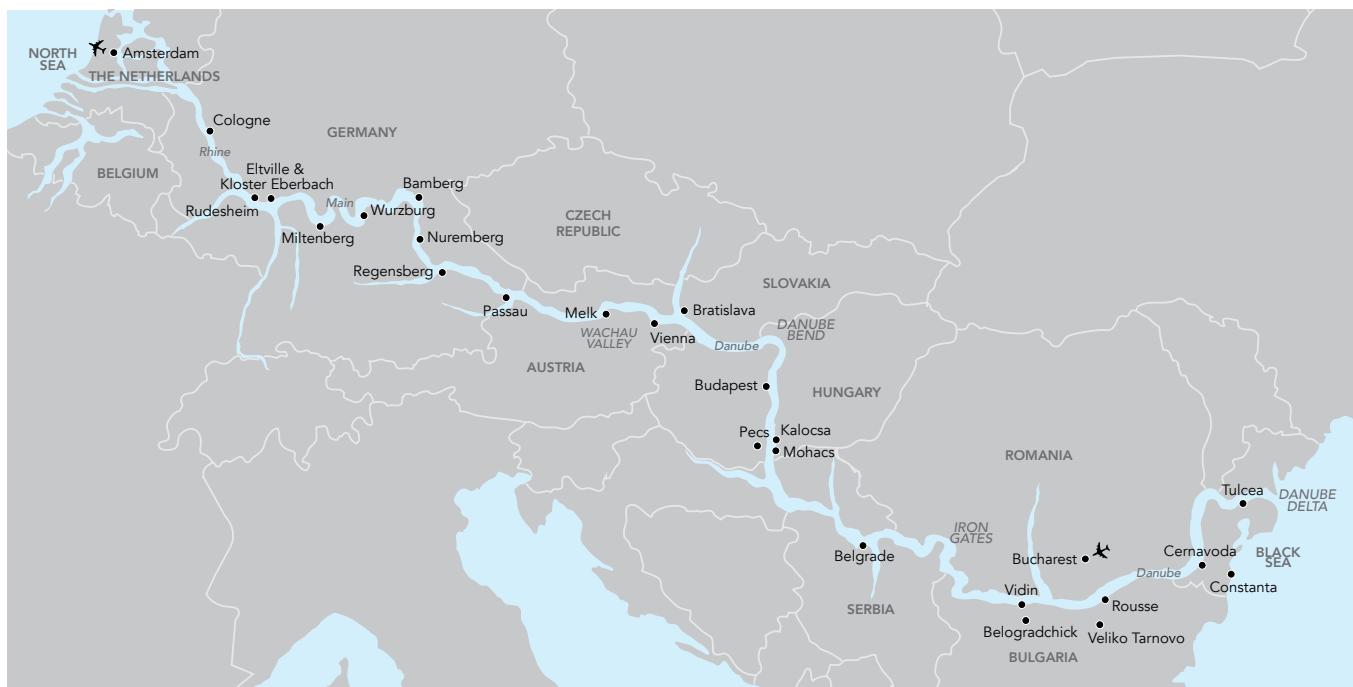
A RIVER VOYAGE FROM THE  
DANUBE DELTA TO AMSTERDAM  
ABOARD THE MS ROYAL CROWN  
WITH HIGHLIGHT PERFORMANCES  
BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2019

NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join us aboard the charming MS Royal Crown for our ultimate grand tour of Europe as we sail clear across the continent, visit eight countries, travel more than 2200 miles and yet only have to unpack once. This is the perfect trip for those who enjoy seeing something new every day, as the MS Royal Crown transports you in considerable comfort between great cities, towns and villages, past ever-changing landscapes where the slow speed of the vessel allows us to absorb the views of town and country.

Each port of call has its own unique character waiting to be discovered whilst on one of our guided excursions. From historic locations to iconic buildings, our itinerary is brimming with highlights including the grand cities of Vienna and Budapest; the picturesque towns along the Rhine and Main including Miltenberg and Rudesheim; wine tasting in Wurzburg and music performances. There will of course also be plenty of time to relax on board and enjoy some truly beautiful scenery especially whilst cruising through the dramatic Rhine Gorge and through the spectacular Iron Gates.



## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Arbanassi, famous for its 17th & 18th century architecture
- The wine region of Villany in Hungary
- Spectacular cruising through the Iron Gates
- Dvorak concert by a string quartet in Bratislava
- Visit the grand cities of Budapest and Vienna
- Wurzburg's sumptuous Residenz Palace
- Three exclusive performances ashore by London Festival Opera



Great Black Cormorants, Danube Delta

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London/Manchester/Bristol/Edinburgh to Bucharest, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Royal Crown in Fetesti (approx. 2 hour drive). Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Danube Delta.** The vast Danube Delta is one of the most important wetlands left in Europe. We will access this unique region from Mila 35 at the entrance to the delta and explore by local boats. Return to the vessel and sail in the afternoon. Tonight join your fellow travellers for Welcome Drinks and Dinner.

**Day 3 Constanta.** Early this morning, arrive in Cernavoda at the entrance to the Black Sea Canal. Drive to nearby Constanta, a popular resort city. Its colourful history dates back to ancient Greek and Roman times. On a guided tour we will see the Museum of National History and Archaeology and the Museum of Ethnography.

**Day 4 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** From Rousse, enjoy a full day tour to the city of Veliko Tarnovo, the capital of the second Bulgarian Kingdom from 1187 to 1393. The city formed a natural fortress, located on three hills surrounding the Yantra River. A palace, fortifications and churches were built into the terrain. Across the river, ancient stone houses seemingly perched on top of each other rise up the steep riverbank. After lunch in a local restaurant, visit the museum town of Arbanassi.

**Day 5 Belogradchick & Vidin.** Arrive this morning in the Bulgarian port of Vidin. After breakfast on board we will drive to Belogradchik which is located close to the Serbian border. The Belogradchik Rocks are a famous



The Iron Gates Gorge



Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest



Schonbrunn Palace, Vienna



Cathedral of Saint Sava, Belgrade

## SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted to announce that London Festival Opera will be presenting A Feast of Opera in three enchanting historic settings - Amorbach Abbey for an Opera Gala featuring the works of the great German, French and Italian composers, Kloster Eberbach for a recital covering three centuries of great operatic repertoire, and Vollards Castle for a recreation of a

19th century Opera Soirée performed in period evening dress.

Bulgarian beauty spot. The sandstone has been weathered into all manner of bizarre shapes, and housed amongst the rocks is an Ottoman fort, built on the remains of a Roman structure. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we visit Vidin for a performance of classical music by a string quartet from the wonderful Vidin Philharmonic.

**Day 6 Cruising Through the Iron Gates.** Today the scenery becomes truly spectacular as you cruise through the Iron Gates, a narrow Danube gorge between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains.

**Day 7 Belgrade, Serbia.** Spend the morning in this interesting city. A half-day tour highlights the city's main attractions, including the Kalemegdan fortress as it looms over the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Saint Sava Cathedral, the largest Orthodox Church in the world, and Tito's Memorial. Your tour ends with a superb local folklore performance ashore. Sail this afternoon towards Hungary.

**Day 8 Pecs & Villany, Hungary.** This morning we arrive in the port of Mohacs, and depart after breakfast for a full day scenic tour of Pecs and Villany. The city of Pecs enjoys a fine position on the slopes of the Mecsek Hills and our tour will feature the sites associated with the city's Roman Ottoman Hapsburg past, as well as a short organ recital in the splendid

Pecs Cathedral. Continue on to the town of Villany for lunch and wine tasting. Villany is one of Hungary's top wine regions, known for its reds and rosés. Thanks to the area's sub-Mediterranean climate, wines are full-bodied and spicy and of the highest quality. Sail in the evening towards Budapest.

**Day 9 Budapest.** We have the day to explore Hungary's elegant capital. Spend the morning on an excursion that will include the old quarter, the Matthias Church and the Fishermen's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure, or you may wish to join our optional excursion to the fascinating Museum of Music History, with its wonderful collection of instruments and interactive displays. Tonight there will be a "Budapest by Night" cruise as we sail on towards Slovakia.

**Day 10 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Cruise through Hungary to Slovakia, arriving in the capital in the afternoon. Enjoy a walking tour of the city see the old quarter, the ornate Baroque Palace and the ancient city gates. Our tour will finish with a visit to the beautiful Klarissen Church where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart.

**Day 11 Vienna, Austria.** A morning city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse, and the Old Quarter including St Stephan's Cathedral. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Tonight there will be an optional evening of music ashore at the State Opera House or similar, subject to availability and depending on schedules.

**Day 12 Vienna.** After breakfast join our delightful tour to the Vienna Woods, including a visit to the Mayerling hunting lodge, where scandal once rocked the royal family, as well as the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure, or you may wish to join our optional excursion to Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Sail overnight towards Melk.

**Day 13 Wachau Valley & Melk.** Enjoy a morning cruise as we sail through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards the great Baroque Abbey of Melk, situated high above the Danube. After lunch, depart for a guided tour of the abbey, including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church.



Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace, Wurzburg



Passau



Melk Abbey



Germany's picturesque Rhine Valley



Cologne Cathedral

**Day 14 Passau, Germany.** Arrive in the early afternoon in Passau, where the Inn and Ilz rivers join the Danube. After lunch on board join the tour that will include a scenic drive and a guided walk through the Old Town. Tour the breathtaking Cathedral of St. Stephan, which contains the world's largest church pipe organ. Return to your ship and sail on towards Regensburg.

**Day 15 Regensburg.** Enjoy a morning guided stroll around historic Regensburg, Germany's largest and best preserved Medieval city. See the twin-spired cathedral Dom St Peter, the treasury and the tower houses. Return to the ship for lunch, and sail on towards Nuremberg.

**Day 16 Nuremberg.** Join a morning guided tour of this historic city, capital of Franconia. On our tour see the old city within the vast walls and visit Zeppelin Field and the site of the Nuremberg Trials, the Palace of Justice. We have the afternoon at leisure here to explore further.

**Day 17 Bamberg.** Arrive in Bamberg in the morning and enjoy a tour of one of Germany's loveliest cities. Its relative geographical location, some 40 miles north of Nuremberg, was a key factor in preserving its architectural heritage from the ravages of war. Every single European style from the Romanesque onwards, has left its mark on Bamberg, each bequeathing at least one major building. This afternoon the ship remains in Bamberg, allowing you free time to explore further. Sail onwards in the late afternoon.

**Day 18 Wurzburg.** After a morning of scenic cruising, arrive in Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. Tour this attractive town including the Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace and the old town with its impressive collection of churches. Your tour in this magnificent palace ends with a wine tasting in the Residenz Cellar.

**Day 19 Miltenberg.** We arrive today in the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, renowned for its half-timbered Medieval houses. On a walking tour see the picturesque triangular shaped Marktplatz and the restored castle. Return to the vessel for lunch followed by a short drive to nearby Amorbach Abbey for an afternoon performance by London Festival Opera of celebrated opera arias and ensembles.

**Day 20 Eltville & Kloster Eberbach.** Arrive this afternoon into the small town of Eltville and transfer the short distance to nearby Kloster Eberbach, established in the 13th century by Cistercian monks from Clairvaux in France, and the outstanding backdrop to the film "The Name of the Rose". Our visit there will include a performance of popular repertoire by London Festival Opera and a chance to taste wine made from the world-famous Steinberg vineyard. Afterwards return to the MS Royal Crown and enjoy some free time in Eltville before we sail.

**Day 21 Rudesheim.** After breakfast today depart by coach to nearby Vollrads Castle. This grand estate has been the Greiffenclau residence since the 14th century and the making of wine on this site can be traced back to 1211. We will enjoy a visit to the Vinothek to sample some of their splendid wines. Afterwards, enjoy the final concert in the company of London Festival Opera with a performance in period costume for an added visual impact. Return to your ship for lunch and sail this afternoon through the scenic Rhine Gorge as we head towards Cologne.

**Day 22 Cologne.** We arrive this morning into Cologne, and take a tour to see the city's famous cathedral. The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe with a total area of almost 8000 square metres and room for more than 20,000 people, and the second tallest spire and facade in the world. Return to your ship and spend a relaxing afternoon cruising towards Amsterdam.



Budapest



Amsterdam

**Day 23 Amsterdam, Netherlands.** Arrive into Amsterdam at lunch time and this afternoon visit one of the great art houses of Europe. Choose between the Rijksmuseum, with its splendid collection of old masters, including Rembrandt's famous "The Night Watch" which hangs in the Hall of Honour. Alternatively, you may prefer a visit to the Van Gogh Museum, which offers one of the world's largest collection of works by the artist, including "Almond Blossom" and "The Bedroom". Tonight join your fellow travellers for the Farewell Drinks and Dinner.

**Day 24 Amsterdam to London/Manchester/Bristol/Edinburgh.**  
Disembark this morning for the return scheduled flight to the UK.

#### PRICES PER PERSON

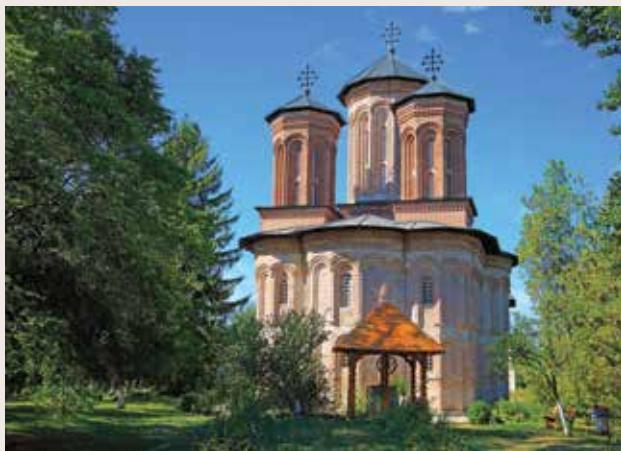
Based on double occupancy

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

CAT	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Junior Suite	Select	£6995	<b>£6495</b>
Superior Suite	Select	£7095	<b>£6595</b>
Deluxe Suite	Select	£7195	<b>£6695</b>
Premium Suite	Select	£7595	<b>£7095</b>
Royal Suite	Panorama	£7995	<b>£7495</b>
Deluxe Suite for sole use	Select	£7595	<b>£7095</b>

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 23 nights aboard the MS Royal Crown on full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Guest Speaker • Cruise Director • Performances by London Festival Opera • Tour Manager • Gratuities • Complimentary Wi-Fi on board • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, optional tours on Days 9, 12 and music evening ashore in Vienna on day 11.

## PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION



Snagov Monastery

### BUCHAREST

25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019

If you would like to spend some time in Bucharest before embarking the MS Royal Crown we are offering a three night pre-cruise extension.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Bucharest, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to your four star hotel for a three night stay. Tonight join your fellow travellers in the hotel restaurant for a Welcome Drink and Dinner.

**Day 2 Discover Bucharest.** After breakfast enjoy a panoramic city tour of the city's highlights, including the National Theatre, the University Square, the Romanian Athenaeum, the National Art Museum, the Opera House, the Military Academy, the Arch of Triumph, Victory Avenue, and the Free Press House. We complete the morning with a walking tour of the Old Town, including a visit to Stravropoleos Church, Lipscani Lane, Manuc's Inn and the Old Princely Court. Enjoy lunch in "Carol cu Bere", Bucharest's oldest beer house, with its colourful Belle Epoque interior, stained-glass windows and classic Romanian fare. This afternoon we will visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world at 3.77 million square feet. This gargantuan construction is Ceausescu's most infamous creation, and makes for a fascinating tour. Return to your hotel, and dinner will be under your own arrangements this evening.

**Day 3 Snagov & Mogosoaia.** After breakfast at your hotel, depart for our visit to Snagov Monastery. This monastery was founded in 1408 by Mircea the Elder, Vlad Dracul's grandfather. Vlad, also known as Vlad Tepes is the historical character on whom Bram Stoker's book Dracula is based and is said to be buried here by the monks in 1476. After lunch in a local restaurant we continue on to visit Mogosoaia Palace, built in the 17th century in the Romanian Renaissance style. Return to Bucharest for an evening at leisure. Dinner will be under your own arrangements tonight.

**Day 4 Bucharest to Fetesti.** After breakfast there will be free time to relax, sightsee or shop at leisure before your afternoon departure for Fetesti (approx. 2 hour drive). On arrival embark the MS Royal Crown.

Prices per person Based on double occupancy

Twin: £795 Single: £945

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation on bed & breakfast basis, dinner & welcome drink on Day 1, lunch on Days 2 & 3, drinks with included meals (wine/beer/soft drinks), all sightseeing and entrances as described, transfers, services of a local English speaking guide throughout.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinners on Days 2 and 3, lunch on Day 4.



## ROYAL CROWN - RIVER CRUISING AT ITS BEST

We are delighted to have chartered the MS Royal Crown for a series of European river cruises in 2019.

This elegant vessel combines the nostalgic charm of the 1930s with the comfort and service of a four-star vessel. No expense has been spared to create not only a vessel that is beautiful to look at, but also a great joy to travel on. Spacious teak decks, elegant public rooms and staterooms with mahogany, rosewood and marble, together with rich fabrics and specially designed furniture, all blend together to create a unique river vessel.



Built in 1996 and refurbished in 2010, the 90 passenger MS Royal Crown was designed for the rivers flowing through the heart of Europe. Exquisite furniture, expensive materials and accessories give the vessel its unique atmosphere. Facilities on board include a library, boutique, fitness area, lounge with panoramic views and a restaurant with open seating.

Outside there is a large Sun Deck, Lido Bar, a putting green and large scale chessboard. On board the efficient air-conditioning system ensures a comfortable temperature. Two powerful engines propel the vessel up to a speed of 12 knots.



Royal Suite



Premium Suite



Lounge



Restaurant



Deluxe Suite



Friendly service



Sun Deck

## YOUR CABIN/SUITE

MS Royal Crown has 45 suites which range in size from 145 square feet to the spacious Royal Suites which measure 200 square feet. All suites are fitted with spacious rosewood cupboards, a dressing table, satellite TV, a safety deposit box, individually controlled air-conditioning and en-suite facilities with shower and hairdryer. Suites on the Select Deck have portholes and the Royal Suites on the Panorama Deck have large windows.

a choice of beverages from the extensive menu accompanied by a pianist playing a Steinway & Sons grand piano. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge and the Lido Bar (open when weather permits) where you can enjoy a drink such as fresh juice, a milkshake, or even a cocktail. Recline on a sun lounger and

read a book or watch the changing scenery. There is also a putting green and a large chess board for your enjoyment. For some time out, relax in the wellness centre which includes a sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room. There is also a small boutique and a library with a selection of books and games. Daily news sheets are also supplied.

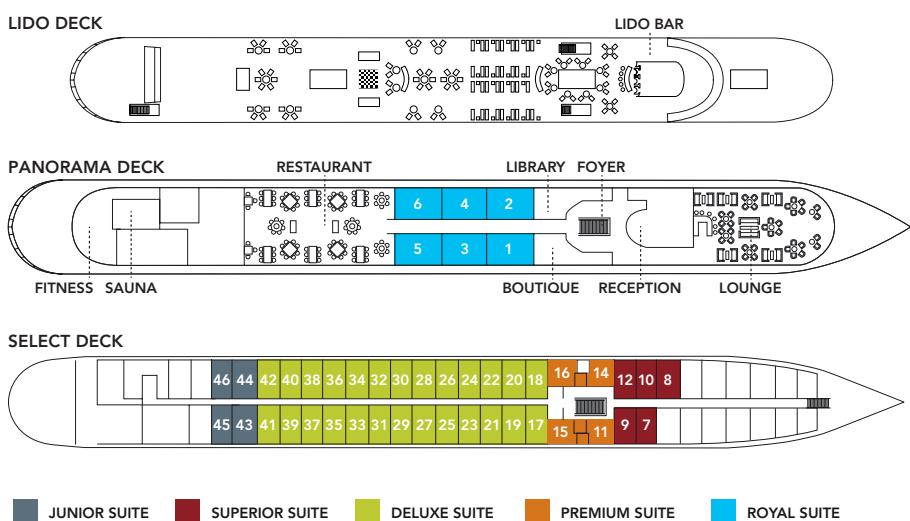
## YOUR DINING

While the most beautiful river scenery passes by, enjoy delicacies created by the Executive Chef and his team. The restaurant has open seating, allowing you to sit where and with whom you like at each meal. In the morning breakfast is served buffet style, lunch is a delightful buffet with hot and cold choices and dinner is a served four course meal. In addition, house wine, beer and soft drinks are included at both lunch and dinner.

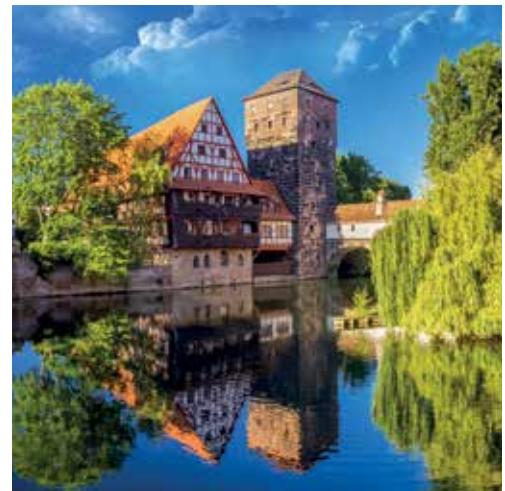
## YOUR SPACE

The elegant Lounge Bar is defined by its 30s inspired Art Deco style, with textured carpets, carved mahogany and plush sofas which create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. Experience unforgettable views from the large windows as you enjoy tea or coffee. The Lounge is also where our Guest Speakers will entertain you with informative presentations. In the evenings, let the day come to an end with

## DECK PLAN



Please note that Junior, Deluxe & Superior Suites have fixed twin beds. Premium and Royal Suites have fixed double beds with separate mattresses and duvets, so can be made up as twins if required.



# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change.

Cover image: The half-timbered town hall, Bamberg

