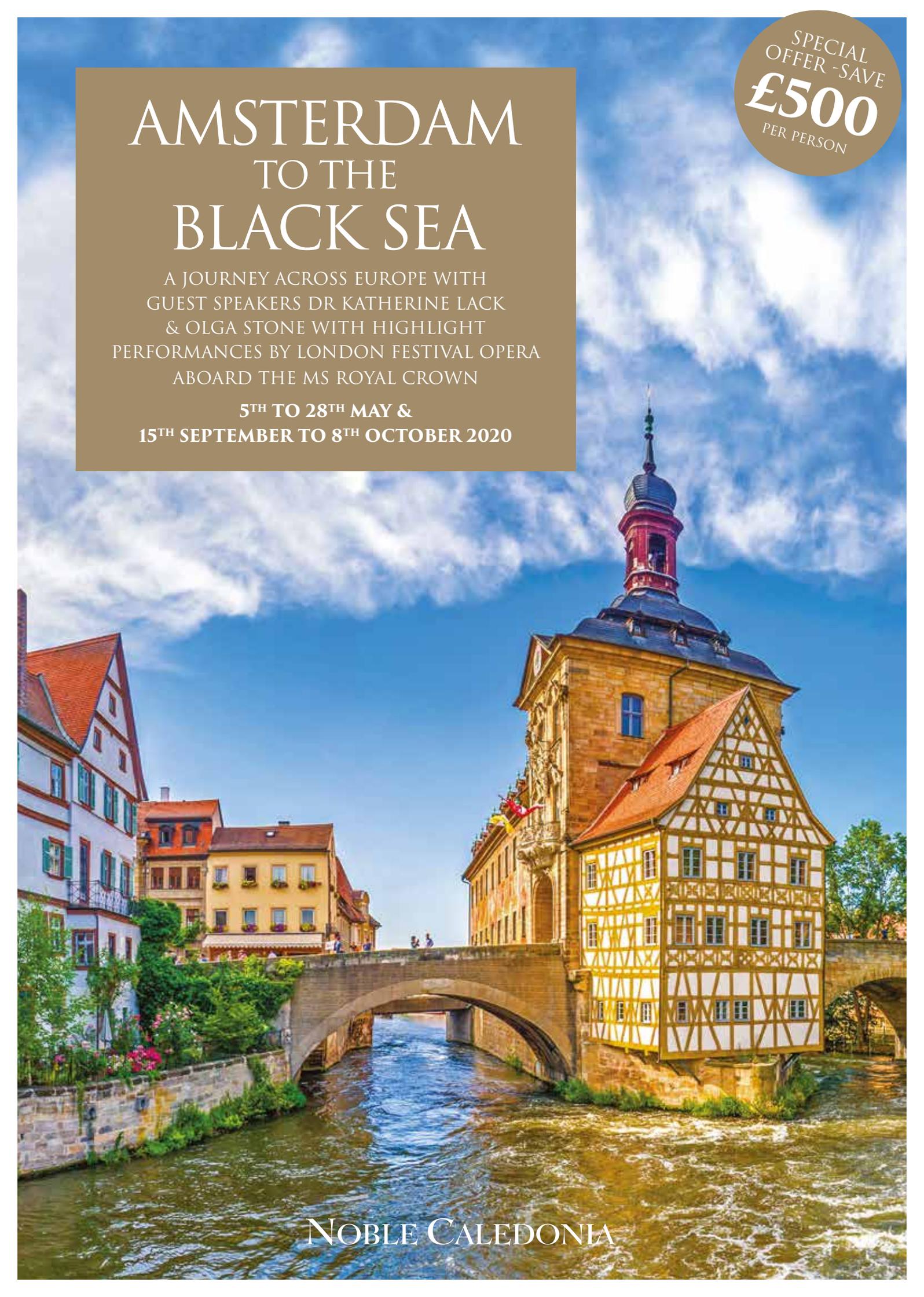


# AMSTERDAM TO THE BLACK SEA

A JOURNEY ACROSS EUROPE WITH  
GUEST SPEAKERS DR KATHERINE LACK  
& OLGA STONE WITH HIGHLIGHT  
PERFORMANCES BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA  
ABOARD THE MS ROYAL CROWN

5<sup>TH</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY &  
15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020

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



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.



Decebalus' Head sculpted in rock, Iron Gates Gorge

## GUEST SPEAKERS



### Olga Stone – Travelling on board from Amsterdam to Vienna

Olga Stone was born in Crimea, Ukraine. She graduated from the Odessa Conservatoire with distinction in piano, piano accompaniment and the teaching of music and then became a professional pianist and accompanist. Olga moved to the Isle of Man in 1998 and, in 2001, was elected a Fellow of Trinity College of Music in London. Olga has performed in various venues around the world. She also teaches piano, Classics and Russian at King William's College (Isle of Man) and is the organist at St Andrew's Church, Isle of Man. Apart from degrees in Music, Olga has a MA in Classics and BA in the History of Arts and is a part-time History lecturer for the University of Liverpool and for the University of Chester.



### Dr Katherine Lack – Travelling on board from Vienna to Bucharest

Kate originally trained as an agricultural scientist at Oxford, where she took a doctorate in 1985. More recently she has been a visiting lecturer in Medieval and church studies at Birmingham University, and this diverse background has encouraged her to explore the links between superficially different subjects. Kate now lectures and leads training seminars on a range of historical subjects. Kate has written two books tracing historical journeys and their cultural background, and a biography of Duke Robert Curthose, all of which give an insight into life in the 'dark ages' and Medieval times.



Amsterdam



Melk Abbey



Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace, Würzburg



Cologne Cathedral

## SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted that London Festival Opera will perform an Opera Celebration during your stay in Melk and Vienna. In the beautiful setting of Melk Abbey experience delightful arias and ensembles from The Marriage of Figaro, Cosi Fan Tutte, Don Giovanni and The Magic Flute. Also whilst in Vienna there will be two onboard performances; a costumed Opera Soirée with arias and

ensembles from Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach and Puccini, and a magical repertoire, "A Night in Vienna".

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London / Manchester / Bristol or Edinburgh to Amsterdam, Netherlands.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Royal Crown. Moor overnight in Amsterdam.

**Day 2 Amsterdam.** After breakfast there will be a choice of tours; depart for a visit to the Rijksmuseum, arguably Amsterdam's most important art venue. Housing some of the greatest examples of Western European painting and decorative arts, it boasts works by Vermeer, Goya, and Rubens. Alternatively, you may prefer to join the tour to nearby Zaans Schans and see the historic windmills, distinctive wooden houses and artisan workshops. Return to the MS Royal Crown for lunch and sail towards Cologne. This evening join your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner on board.

+44 (0)20 7752 0000

**Day 3 Cologne, Germany.** This morning we will cruise along the legendary Rhine. Pass Duisburg and Dusseldorf before arriving in Cologne for a tour to see the city's famous cathedral. The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe, with the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world. Our guided tour will continue with a visit to a "Brauhaus" to sample some of the local Kolsch beer. Sail this evening.

**Day 4 Koblenz & Rudesheim.** Arrive in Koblenz for a morning walking tour of this historic commercial centre. Return to the ship and sail mid-morning through the dramatic Rhine Gorge to Rudesheim, passing romantic castles, lush vineyards and the infamous Lorelei rock. We will arrive into Rudesheim in the late afternoon and on arrival join the Winzerexpress mini-train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated musical instruments. Return to the MS Royal Crown for dinner, after which there will be some free time to perhaps visit to the town's lively Drosselgasse.

**Day 5 Mainz.** Arrive this morning in atmospheric Mainz where our guided walking tour will include the Hoefchen ("Little Court"), residence of the city's archbishops until the 15th century, the Kirschgarten with its romantic half-timbered houses and Marian-Fountain. Our tour will end with a visit to the Johan Gutenberg Museum. Sail at lunchtime as we enter the River Main.

**Day 6 Miltenberg & Wertheim.** During this morning's walking tour, see the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, known for its half-timbered Medieval houses. Return to the ship for lunch whilst sailing on to beautiful Wertheim. Enjoy some free time in this charming market town.

**Day 7 Würzburg.** Arrive this morning in historic Würzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. We will tour this lovely town including the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace. Our visit will end with a wine tasting of local wines in the splendid cellars of the Residenz. Also see the old town with its collection of churches which range in style from Romanesque to Gothic, Renaissance to Baroque, before returning to the ship for lunch as we sail to Bamberg.



Germany's picturesque Rhine Valley



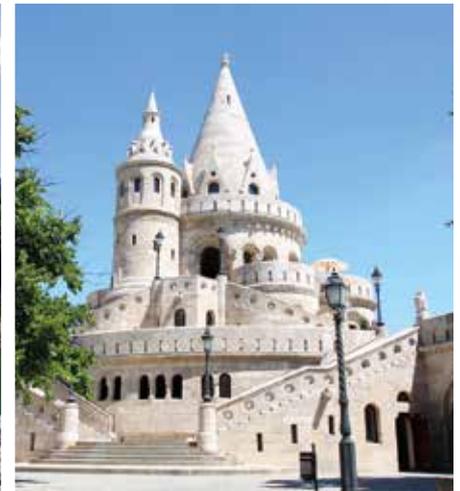
Schonbrunn Palace, Vienna



Passau Cathedral and the Old Town



The Iron Gates Gorge



Fisherman Bastion, Budapest

**Day 8 Bamberg.** This morning we enter the Main-Danube Canal at Bamberg, one of Germany's most beautiful historic towns. Its geographical location, some 40 miles north of Nuremberg, was a key factor in preserving its magnificent architectural heritage from the ravages of war. Every European style from the Romanesque onwards has left its mark on Bamberg, each bequeathing at least one major building. We arrive around midday, and after lunch on board we will have a walking tour of this beautiful Medieval city. Return to the ship and sail in the early evening.

**Day 9 Nuremberg.** The city of Nuremberg's long and sometimes troubled history has left its mark on the city and there is plenty to discover during our morning tour. Three towering castles overlook Nuremberg, and its old city which is contained within vast walls is a joy to explore. Visit the World War II sites, including the Third Reich Party Rally Grounds and discover the city's spectacular Medieval architecture. Sail at lunchtime and continue cruising through the highest point of any commercial waterway in Europe, 1331 feet above sea level.

**Day 10 Regensburg.** Early this morning we enter the Danube River, arriving in Regensburg after breakfast. Join a guided stroll around historic Regensburg, and see the highlights such as the Old Town Hall, the World Heritage listed city centre and the ancient Romanesque Porta Praetoria. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 11 Passau.** Arrive this morning in Passau, where the Inn and Ilz rivers join the Danube. Our guided walking tour will include the old town of this Bavarian city and the breathtaking Cathedral of St. Stephan which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs. Enjoy an organ recital before returning to the vessel for lunch and an afternoon sailing.

**Day 12 Melk & the Wachau Valley to Vienna, Austria.** This morning we will reach the picturesque Wachau Valley, famous for its wine. We will moor in Melk under the shadow of the great Baroque Abbey, situated on a cliff high above the Danube. Enjoy a guided tour of the abbey followed by a performance by London Festival Opera featuring aria ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Don Giovanni*. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we sail through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards Vienna.

**Day 13 Vienna.** This morning there will be a choice of tours. 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. Alternatively, you may prefer a visit to the impressive Zentralfriedhof (Vienna Central Cemetery), the second largest in Europe, and with honorary graves of renowned Austrian musicians, historians and politicians. We also visit the Church of St. Charles Borromeo, a significant Art Nouveau church building. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore this majestic city further. In the early evening there will be an onboard costumed performance by London Festival Opera, featuring an Opera Soirée with highlights from Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach and Puccini.

**Day 14 Vienna.** After breakfast join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the MS Royal Crown for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. In the early evening there will be a performance of "A Night in Vienna" by London Festival Opera on board.

**Day 15 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Arrive this morning in the Slovak capital of Bratislava. Join a guided walking tour of the city, formerly known as Pressburg, a former capital of Hungary. See the old quarter, the ornate Baroque Palace and the ancient city gates. Finish your tour with a visit to the beautiful Klarissen Church where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart. Return to the ship and cruise to Budapest arriving in the late evening.

**Day 16 Budapest, Hungary.** 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 enjoy an afternoon at leisure. After dinner this evening, join your fellow travellers on deck to enjoy the wonderful "Budapest by Night" sailing as we depart towards Kalocsa.

**Day 17 Kalocsa.** Arrive this morning in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. Your tour of the Puszta district will include the town and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise down the beautiful Danube, arriving in Mohacs in the early evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 18 Pecs & Villany.** From the port of Mohacs, we will depart 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. The visit 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 where we will enjoy lunch and a wine tasting. Villany is one of Hungary's top wine regions, known for its reds and rosés.

**Day 19 Belgrade, Serbia.** Spend today 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. Our tour will finish with a superb local folklore performance before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure. Sail in the evening.

**Day 20 Cruising through the Iron Gates.** Today the scenery becomes truly spectacular as we cruise through the Iron Gates, a narrow Danube gorge between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains.

**Day 21 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** From Svistov, we drive to 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 before we rejoin the MS Royal Crown in Rousse and sail in the evening.

**Day 22 Constanta, Romania.** Early this morning we 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 see the Museum of National History and Archaeology and the Museum of Ethnography. Return to the ship for a late lunch and sail in the afternoon along the snaking Danube as we make our way to the Black Sea.

**Day 23 The Black Sea & Danube Delta.** Awake early today to experience a sunrise cruise. Weather conditions permitting we hope to make a short voyage to the periphery of the Black Sea. Later we cruise to Mila 35,



White Pelican, Danube Delta

situated at the entrance to the Danube Delta and enjoy an afternoon boat trip into the delta wetlands. Tonight join your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner.

**Day 24 Bucharest to London / Manchester / Bristol or Edinburgh.**

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to the UK. *Please note regional flights to the UK will be indirect.*

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

**LIMITED AVAILABILITY - SAVE £500 PER PERSON**

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Junior Suite	Select	£7295	£6795
Superior Suite	Select	£7395	£6895
Deluxe Suite	Select	£7695	£7195
Premium Suite	Select	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Royal Suite	Panorama	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Deluxe Suite for sole use	Select	£8695	£8195

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 23 nights aboard the MS Royal Crown on full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions & music events as described • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest speaker • Performances by London Festival Opera • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**POST-CRUISE BUCHAREST EXTENSION**  
28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May & 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Before returning to the UK, you may like to join our three night extension exploring the city of Bucharest with its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"). We will be based at the four star Park Inn by Radisson, a comfortable and centrally located hotel.

**The Itinerary**

**Day 1 Cernavoda to Bucharest.** Disembark the MS Royal Crown in Cernavoda and transfer to Bucharest (approx. 3 hours). On arrival there will be a panoramic city tour of the city's highlights followed by lunch at the Phoenicia Restaurant. Continue on to the hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

**Day 2 Bucharest.** After breakfast we set off for a visit to 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. After our tour we will have lunch in "Carul cu Bere", Bucharest's oldest beer house, with its colourful Belle Epoque interior, stained-glass windows and classic Romanian fare. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, including a visit to Stravropoleos Church, Lipscani Lane, Manuc's Inn and the Old Princely Court. The remainder of the day and evening will be at leisure.

**Day 3 Bucharest to Snagov & Mogosoia.** After breakfast at your hotel, depart for our visit to Snagov Monastery which 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. Afterwards lunch will be in a local restaurant, and this afternoon we continue on to visit Mogosoia Palace, built in the 17th century in the Romanian Renaissance style. Return to Bucharest for an evening at leisure.

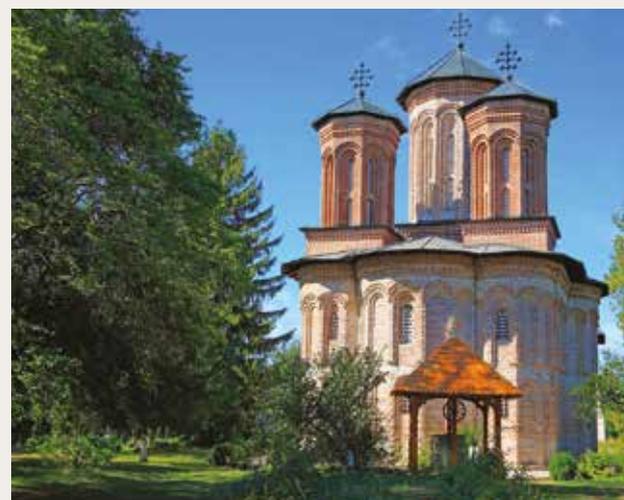
**Day 4 Bucharest to London/Manchester/Bristol or Edinburgh.** After breakfast at the hotel there will be a tour to the Village Museum, a fascinating open-air museum showcasing traditional Romanian village life. Return to the city for some free time before we transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to the UK. *Please note regional flights to the UK will be indirect.*

**Prices per person** Based on double occupancy

**Twin: £795    Single: £945**

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation on bed & breakfast basis, lunch on days 2 & 3, drinks with included meals, excursions as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinners daily, lunch on day 4.



Snagov Monastery



## 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 2020.

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 and radio, 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.

## 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.

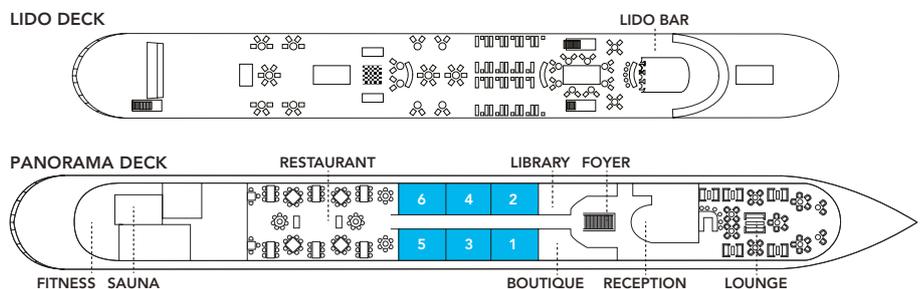
## YOUR SPACE

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 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.

## DECK PLAN

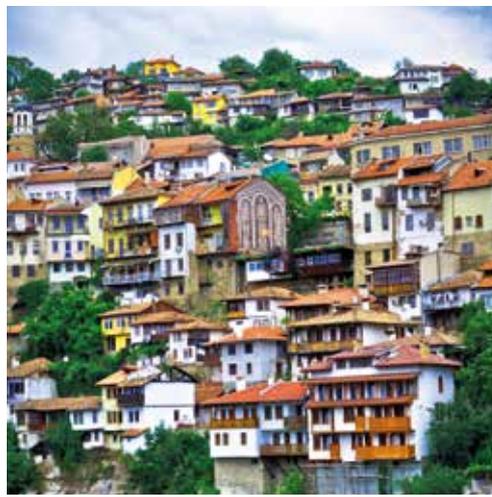


### SELECT DECK



■ JUNIOR SUITE ■ SUPERIOR SUITE ■ DELUXE SUITE ■ PREMIUM SUITE ■ ROYAL SUITE

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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Ports & itinerary are subject to change and water levels. All special offers are subject to availability.  
Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: The Old Town Hall on an island in the Regnitz River, Bamberg