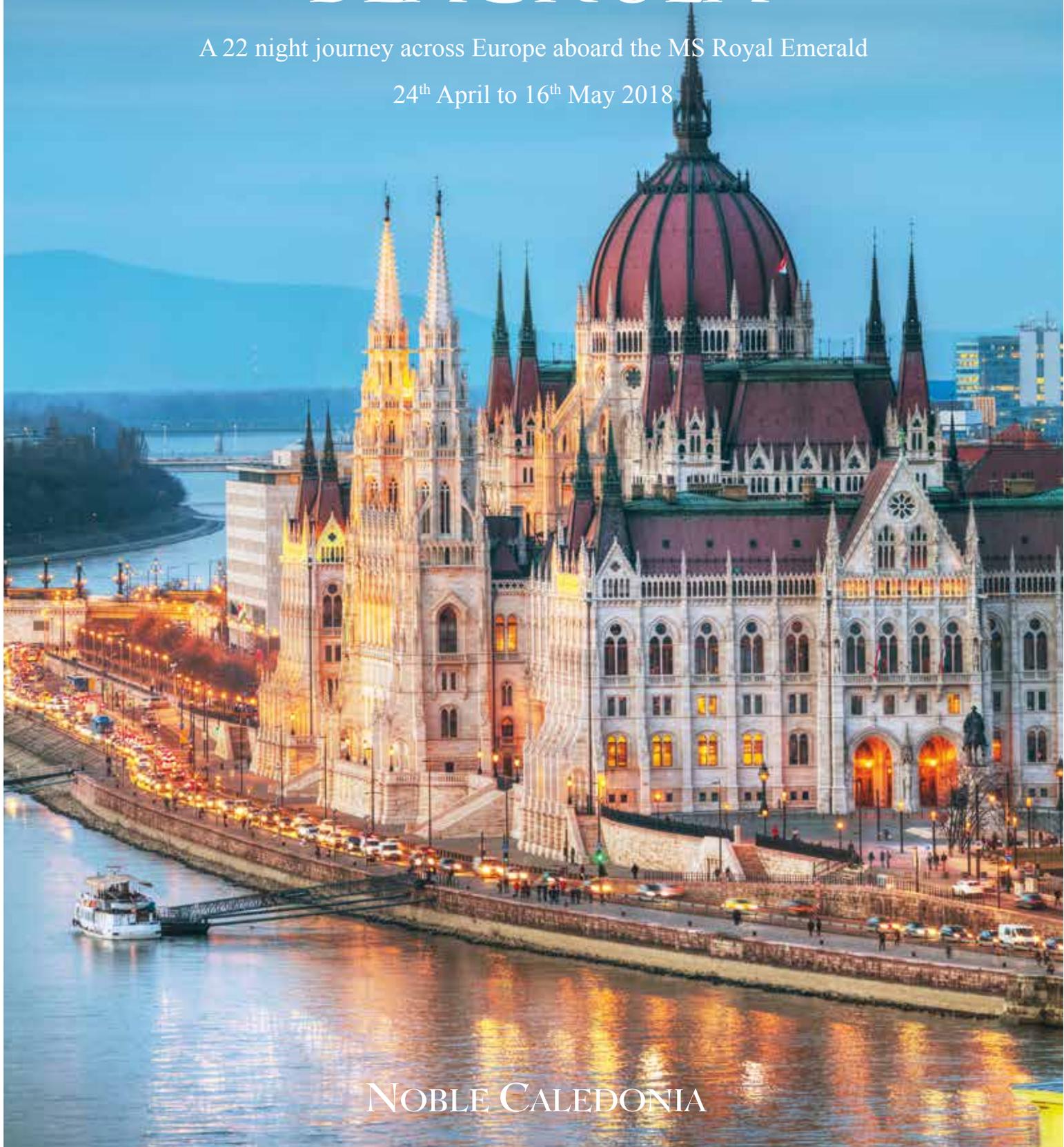


# FROM AMSTERDAM TO THE BLACK SEA

A 22 night journey across Europe aboard the MS Royal Emerald

24<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
UP TO  
**£1000**  
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us for the 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 Emerald 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 and from historic locations to iconic buildings, our itinerary is brimming with highlights. 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

- Visit the unique Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam
- See beautiful chocolate box towns and villages along the Romantic Rhine
- Explore the grand cities of Vienna & Budapest
- Wine tasting in Wurzburg
- Dvorak concert by a string quartet in Bratislava
- Spectacular cruising through the Iron Gates

## THE ITINERARY

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

**Day 2 Amsterdam.** After breakfast 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. Here, Rembrandt's famous 'The Night Watch' hangs in the Hall of Honour. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure, or you may wish to join one of our included tours. Firstly on offer is a canal cruise, the perfect way to admire the city from a glass-top boat as you glide past 17th century homes, churches and 16th century merchant houses. Alternatively, visit the Van Gogh Museum which houses one of the world's largest collection of works by the artist including 'Almond Blossom' and 'The Bedroom'. This evening join your fellow travellers for Welcome Drinks & Dinner on board.

**Day 3 Keukenhof Gardens.** From Amsterdam, drive to nearby Keukenhof Gardens for a morning in this extraordinary horticultural heaven. With 32 hectares of flowers, more than 7 million bulbs in bloom and 800 varieties of tulips, this is a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Following our visit we will return to the MS Royal Emerald for a late lunch and sail towards Cologne.

**Day 4 Cologne, Germany.** This morning cruise 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 a total area of almost 8000 square metres, room for more than 20,000 people and the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world. Afterwards visit a "Brauhaus" to sample some of the local Kolsch beer. Sail in the evening.

**Day 5 Koblenz, Burg Thurant & Alken.** After breakfast today we depart for a gentle walking tour of this historic commercial centre. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we set off for our scenic trip to nearby Alken. Our first stop will be at majestic Burg Thurant, whose ancient ruins dominate the village from on high. The views from here are wonderful. We then visit Alken, one of the Moselle's oldest settlements, tracing its roots to Celtic and Roman times. Enjoy a wine tasting here, followed by some free time to explore the streets with half-timbered houses and flower-filled window boxes. Later we return to the MS Royal Emerald in Koblenz where we moor overnight.

**Day 6 Rhine Gorge to Rudesheim.** Depart Koblenz this morning and sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge to Rudesheim, passing romantic castles, lush vineyards and the infamous Lorelei rock. Arrive into Rudesheim in the late afternoon, and on arrival we take the Winzereexpress mini-train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated



Keukenhof Gardens



Bamberg



Melk Abbey

musical instruments. Return to the ship for dinner, after which there will be some free time in port and we recommend a visit to the town's lively Drosselgasse to sample the famous Rudesheimer Kaffee. Sail in the late evening.

**Day 7 Mainz.** Arrive early this morning in atmospheric Mainz. Our walking tour here will include the Hoefchen ("Little Court"), residence of the city's archbishops until the 15th century and the Kirschgarten with its romantic half-timbered houses and Marian-Fountain. Your tour ends with a visit to the Johan Gutenberg Museum. Sail at lunchtime as we enter the River Main.

**Day 8 Miltenberg & Wertheim.** This morning on a 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 9 Wurzburg.** Arrive this morning in historic Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. Tour this lovely town including the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace. The visit ends with a 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.

**Day 10 Bamberg.** This morning 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 11 Nuremberg.** 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. Discover the city's spectacular Medieval architecture, including the 900 year-old ramparts that surround the city, the Imperial Castle and more. Sail at lunchtime and continue cruising through the highest point of any commercial waterway in Europe, 1331 feet above sea level.

**Day 12 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 a relaxing afternoon of cruising as we head towards Melk.

**Day 13 Melk, Austria.** Morning cruising, arriving into Melk after lunch, where we will enjoy a guided tour of this magnificent abbey. Return to the ship for lunch and continue our sail through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards Vienna.

**Day 14 Vienna.** This morning we offer a choice of Viennese tours. Firstly, a city tour of Austria's elegant capital. See the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephan's Cathedral. Alternatively, you may prefer to join our tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure to relax or explore this grand city further. This evening there will be an opportunity to attend an optional evening of music ashore at the State Opera House or Volksoper (subject to availability).

**Day 15 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Arrive early 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 spend the afternoon at leisure. Sail in the late evening.

**Day 17 Kalocsa.** Arrive this morning in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. Our 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 as we make our way towards Serbia.

**Day 18 Belgrade, Serbia.** Spend the afternoon 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. Sail in the late evening.

**Day 19 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 20 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



Decebal's head, Iron Gates Gorge

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 re-join the MS Royal Emerald in Rousse and sail in the evening.

**Day 21 Constanta, Romania.** Early this morning, arrive in Cernavoda at the entrance to the Black Sea Canal. Drive to nearby Constanta, a popular resort city whose colourful history dates back to ancient Greek and Roman times. On a guided tour see the fascinating Museum of Ethnography and also visit the Archaeological Museum. 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 22 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, situated at the entrance to the Danube Delta and enjoy an afternoon boat trip into the delta wetlands. This afternoon we depart for our overnight cruise to Fetesti. Tonight join your fellow travellers for a Gala Farewell Dinner.

**Day 23 Bucharest to London/Manchester/Bristol/Edinburgh.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to the UK.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £1000 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CATEGORY	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
1 Standard Suite	£4495	£3495
2 Balcony Suite	£4895	£3895
3 Deluxe Balcony Suite	£4995	£4495
4 Junior Balcony Suite	£5395	£4895
5 Royal Balcony Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
6 Royal Panorama Suite	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
1 Standard Suite for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
2 Balcony Suite for sole use	£4895	£4395

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 22 nights aboard the MS Royal Emerald on full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions & music events as described • Gratuities • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, optional evening ashore in Vienna.

## Post-Cruise Bucharest Extension 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018



Romanian Athenaeum

Bucharest is known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Epoque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"). During our stay in this dynamic and fascinating capital, we will visit its most iconic structure, the massive, communist-era Parliament Palace, which has 1100 rooms. We will also explore 'Old Bucharest' in the nearby historic Lipschani district. We will spend a day outside of the city for our visit to the mysterious Snagov Monastery which is situated north of Bucharest on an island in the middle of Snagov Lake, it is said to be the burial place of the Prince of Wallachia, Vlad Tepes III, a folk hero in Romania who was revered for his leadership and fierce protection of his subjects. We will also visit Mogosoia Palace, with its notable architectural influences from the Venetian and Ottoman eras. Our accommodation will be the four star Park Inn by Radisson, a comfortable and centrally located hotel.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Fetesti to Bucharest, Romania.** Disembark the MS Royal Emerald in Fetesti and transfer to Bucharest (approx. 2.5 hour drive). On arrival there will be a panoramic tour of the city's highlights. Afterwards we will relax over lunch at the Phoenicia Restaurant. Continue to the Park Inn by Radisson for a three night stay.

**Day 2 Discover 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 enjoy 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, Lipschani 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 to Mogosoia.** After breakfast we will depart for our visit to Snagov Monastery. This monastery was founded in 1408 by Mircea the Elder, Vlad Dracula'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. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and continue 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/Edinburgh.** After breakfast at your hotel there will be free time to relax, sightsee or shop at leisure before we transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to the UK.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£595** Single: **£795**

**Price Includes:** Three nights accommodation at the Park Inn by Radisson Hotel on bed and breakfast basis, lunch on days 1, 2 & 3, drinks with included meals (wine/beer/soft drinks), all sightseeing & entrance fees as described, Tour Manager, services of a local English speaking guide throughout, transfers.

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



# MS ROYAL EMERALD

We are delighted to have chartered the MS Royal Emerald for a series of river cruises along Europe's main waterways in 2018. This elegant vessel was built in 2008 and offers a range of luxurious and comfortable suites, the majority with outdoor balconies. The vessel accommodates a maximum of 171 passengers, providing a friendly and welcoming atmosphere on board. With its expansive Sun Deck there is ample opportunity to watch the world gently pass by as you relax on board your floating hotel.

## YOUR SUITE

There are six grades of cabin categories:

**Royal Panorama Suites** (Category 6: 336 & 337) are situated at the aft of the Diamond Deck and at 325 square feet are the largest on board. Enjoy panoramic views of the passing scenery from the private, full length balcony and through the floor to ceiling windows which stretch across two walls of the cabin.

**Royal Balcony Suites** (Category 5: 314-317) are situated on the Diamond Deck and measure 300 to 315 square feet and offer an outdoor balcony, lounge area and an oversized bathroom.

**Junior Balcony Suites** (Category 4: 201-202 & 301-302) are situated on the Diamond and Sapphire Decks and measure 250 square feet. All have a private, full length balcony and stylish ensuite bathroom featuring a large vanity basin and spacious shower.

**Deluxe Balcony Suites** (Category 3: 303-312 and 203-212) are situated in prime locations on the Diamond and Sapphire Decks and measure 225 square feet. These suites offer a full length outdoor balcony, ensuite bathroom and are tastefully designed.

**Balcony Suites** (Cat 2: 318-335 and 214-235) are located on Diamond and Sapphire Decks and measure 205 square feet. They feature a full length outdoor balcony, ensuite bathroom and comfortable facilities.

**Standard Suites** (Cat 1: 100-112, 114-115 & 117) are located on the Jewel Deck and measure 160 square feet, and offer a spacious and clever layout to maximise your comfort. Windows in these cabins are picture windows, elevated to standing-height view and there is no balcony.



Category 5 - Royal Balcony Suite



Category 2 - Balcony Suite



Category 6 - Royal Panorama Suite



Lounge



Dining Room



Open Air Lounge



Reception



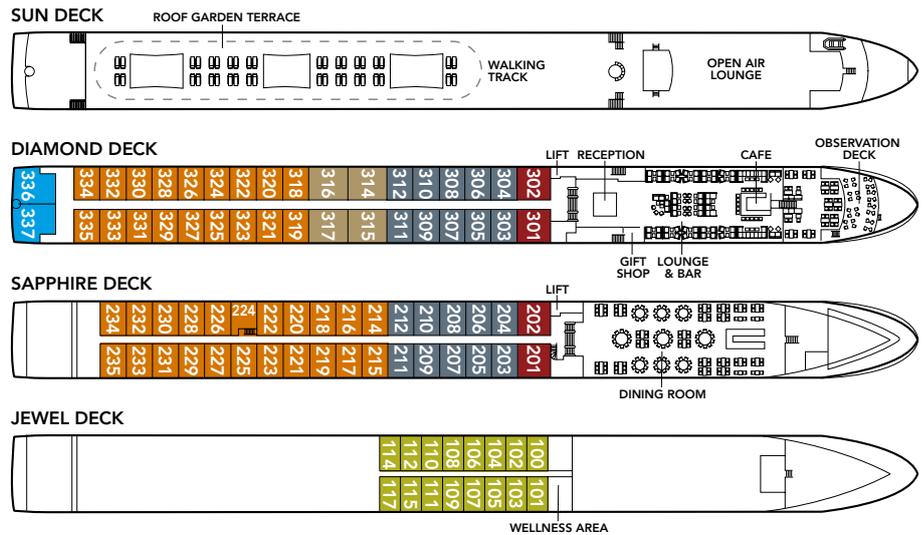
Bar

## YOUR SPACE

Spread over four decks, the onboard facilities include the Crystal Dining Room which is situated on the Sapphire Deck and serves delicious fare in a comfortable setting with open seating throughout. The Panorama Lounge & Bar is situated on the Diamond Deck and is a convivial social space with large floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows which create a bright and airy ambience. On the spacious Sun Deck there is plenty of deck furniture where you can relax in the shade or enjoy the pleasant weather. There is also a Walking Track for those who wish to keep fit. To add to your comfort, the ship also offers a gift shop, a lift between the Sapphire and Diamond Decks and a Wellness Area on Jewel Deck.

## YOUR DINING

Meals are always taken in an open seating arrangement to allow you to meet and mingle with your fellow travellers. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style and feature hot and cold dishes whereas dinner is served at your table. The cuisine is a selection of regional specialties and international dishes. House wine/beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner. There is also a 24 hour tea & coffee station. A complimentary bottle of water is placed in all cabins and replenished each day and small water bottles are provided to take with you on shore excursions.



- CATEGORY 1
- CATEGORY 2
- CATEGORY 3
- CATEGORY 4
- CATEGORY 5
- CATEGORY 6

## LIFE ON BOARD

The vessel offers luxury and elegance in smart and refined surroundings, ensuring a welcoming and informal atmosphere on board. The friendly crew of 48 will do their utmost to ensure your stay is enjoyable, informative and agreeable

throughout. A daily briefing by the Cruise Director will offer information on the next day's activities and English-speaking local guides provide insider knowledge into the local culture, horticulture, architecture, and history.

# NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE  
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

