

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON

# BALKAN TREASURES

Explore Croatia's beautiful coast & islands aboard the Queen Eleganza combined with a two-night stay in Lake Bled and an exploration of Bosnia-Herzegovina

4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May & 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May\* 2022



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us for this unique itinerary which combines an exploration of Croatia's spectacular coastline with its intense blue sea and amazingly picturesque islands with explorations of both Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. This region has much to offer the genuine traveller and our cruise itinerary has been carefully designed to visit some marvellous places which do not cater for the big ships. Each night during our voyage we will remain moored in the picturesque harbours affording the opportunity to dine ashore on some evenings to enjoy the floodlit splendour and lively café society which is so atmospheric.

Before we embark the 36-passenger Queen Eleganza, we have two days to explore Slovenia and some of the country's hidden treasures including the beautiful cobalt-blue Lake Bled with its tiny castle-topped island and the largest underground cave system in Europe at Postojna. From here we transfer to the attractive coastal town of Opatija where we embark the Queen Eleganza for our journey along the coast of Croatia. Witness a range of scenic delights from the island of Dugi Otok, surrounded by hills, vines and ancient olive groves to the dramatic waterfalls of Krka and the pretty island of Brac. We will also visit the historic cities of Zadar and Split with their history dating back to Roman times.

After our cruise we have three days to explore Croatia's lesser-visited neighbour, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Often overshadowed by its tumultuous past, it has emerged from its recent civil war reincarnated and offers the visitor a wealth of historical and cultural treasures, highlights of which will be the cities of Sarajevo and Mostar.



## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Lake Bled, Slovenia.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Ljubljana. On arrival transfer to our hotel in Lake Bled for our two night stay. Check in and enjoy time at leisure before meeting for dinner in the hotel this evening. (D)

**Day 2 Lake Bled.** Using the local "pletna" boats, this morning we will cruise the lake and make our way to Blejski Otok, an island situated in the middle of the lake where we can visit the Chapel of Santa Maria. Returning to the lakeside we will make our way to Bled Castle located high on the rock face above the lake, protecting the town since 1004. We end our visit at the picturesque old town of Radovljica, one of the best-preserved towns in Slovenia with houses dating back to the 15th century. After lunch in the town we will return to the hotel in Lake Bled for an afternoon at leisure. Maybe take the walking track around the lake for further views or relax and enjoy the hotel facilities. We will meet for dinner tonight in the hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 Lake Bled, Postojna Caves & Opatija, Croatia.** After breakfast at the hotel, we make our way to Croatia. We will drive through the Karst region of Slovenia, known for its rich natural habitat. The Postojna Cave is a 21 kilometre long karst cave system, a web of underground passages, galleries and chambers, the biggest in Europe. There is almost no corner in the cave without a beautiful stalactite or stalagmite. The cave boasts the oldest underground train in the world, which we will use to partly explore this underground jewel but the two kilometres of its most attractive part is taken on foot allowing us to slowly take in the many natural and unusual

wonders of the darkness. After lunch we continue our journey to Opatija where we embark the Queen Eleganza. Tonight, enjoy the welcome dinner on board as we moor overnight. (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Rab.** Sail during breakfast for the island of Rab where we will take a guided walk through the picturesque Old Town, a perfectly preserved late Medieval Adriatic settlement squeezed into a slender peninsula along which are dotted a sequence of Romanesque campaniles. We have the opportunity this evening to dine ashore and sample one of the many local restaurants and we will remain moored overnight in the harbour. (B, L)

**Day 5 Zadar.** Cruise this morning to Zadar, once a dominant city on the Adriatic coast rivalling Venice, Zadar is today a treasured city that has preserved its historical core. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour strolling around the old town with its Roman columns and portals, Romanesque churches and Renaissance and Baroque palaces. Of particular interest are the 9th century circular Church of St Donat, and the 13th century Romanesque cathedral. Tonight, there will be the opportunity to dine in one of the city's many restaurants as we moor overnight. (B, L)

**Day 6 Dugi Otok.** We continue our journey south cruising past numerous islands before we arrive at Sali, a traditional fishing village on the island of Dugi Otok surrounded by hills and ancient olive groves. On a walking tour of the town we will see the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a stunning wooden altar from the 17th century. We also hope



Mostar



Sarajevo

to visit the nearby Telascica Nature Park, a beautiful area of islands, islets, rugged cliffs and coves which are home to many endemic plants. Enjoy dinner on board this evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 7 SibeniK & Krka National Park.** After a morning cruising we arrive in SibeniK where we visit the majestic waterfalls of Krka. We will take a guided walk along wooden walkways and across bridges through this unique fjordlike landscape with its multiple waterfalls and interesting flora and fauna. Return to SibeniK and enjoy an early evening walking tour through the historic town seeing the Cathedral of St James, the old city walls, and the theatre before returning to the vessel for dinner on board. (B, L, D)

**Day 8 Split.** This morning we sail the short distance to Split and this afternoon will enjoy a guided walk through the town. Explore the Palace of Diocletian, built by the emperor in 295-305 AD as his retirement villa. Much of this large building is well preserved and the palace contains Split's old town within its walls, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. It is a wonderful spot to wander the maze of streets. We will moor centrally this evening and you can enjoy dinner in one of the many restaurants in the city. (B, L)

**Day 9 Pucisca, Brac & Opuzen.** Sail this morning for Brac and the attractive port of Pucisca located at the end of a long bay. Brac is world renowned for the quality of its stone which was used for the Diocletian's Palace in Split as well as the White House in Washington and other parliament buildings in Europe. Spend the morning in the charming small town, voted one of the prettiest in Europe, where the buildings' white roofs create an ambient atmosphere. Over lunch we sail to Opuzen arriving this evening. Enjoy dinner on board as we moor overnight. (B, L, D)

**Day 10 Opuzen to Blagaj & Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina.** After breakfast we will disembark in Opuzen and begin our journey to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Our first call will be at Pocitelj, situated on the Neretva River, which is a splendid Ottoman city dating back to the Middle Ages. Here, King Tvrtko I of Bosnia built a fortress in 1383 which was later conquered by the Turks in 1471. Today this is truly a magical open-air museum with many Ottoman monuments, such as the Hadzi Alija Mosque and the Clock Tower. After lunch in a local restaurant we will continue on to Blagaj Tekke, also known as the Dervish Monastery. The tekija was built to host gatherings of the Sufi Brotherhood, and the stunning half-timbered tekija rests beside the fast-flowing blue-green Buna River. Arrive in Mostar in the early evening and check in to our hotel for an overnight stay. Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 11 Mostar to Sarajevo.** In the 15th century, Mostar became a thriving centre on the banks of the emerald Neretva River under the Ottoman Turks. Damaged by the military conflict in the 1990s, the town has been carefully restored by UNESCO and declared a World Heritage Site. Admire the ethereally graceful Stari Most ("The Old Bridge"), originally built in 1566, the nearby Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque and an old Turkish house, among other sites. You may also wish to explore the old bazaar independently, a haven for the city's artists and craftsmen. After lunch we will continue our journey to Sarajevo and check in to our hotel this afternoon. Meet later this evening for dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 12 Sarajevo.** After breakfast at the hotel we will take a walking tour of Sarajevo including Sarajevo City Hall, one of the most beautiful buildings from the Austro-Hungarian period. It is the National Library of Bosnia-Herzegovina and faces the Miljacka River and the Emperor's Mosque, the city's oldest mosque. We will continue on to see the Latin Bridge, where Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914. We will also take a walk through Bascarsija, the old part of the town built in the Ottoman period, where we can learn about the local food, crafts, and traditions. After lunch in a local restaurant we continue to the nearby mini spa town of Ilidza, where Franz Ferdinand and his wife stayed in June 1914. We will visit the public park of Vrelo Bosne, an oasis of greenery and gushing streams of water, one of the country's prime natural attractions. Our day ends with a visit to the Tunnel Museum, the centrepiece of which is a 25 metre section of the 1 metre wide, 1.6 metre high hand-dug tunnel under the airport runway that acted as the city's lifeline to the outside world during the 1992-95 siege. Walking through a short, restored section is the moving culmination to a visit that includes an archive video, a minefield garden and a fascinating museum within the shell-pounded house that hid the tunnel entrance. Return to the hotel and this evening enjoy our final dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 13 Sarajevo to London.** After breakfast at the hotel we will check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

**\*Please note** that the 10th May departure operates in the reverse direction from Sarajevo to Slovenia. Full itinerary can be viewed online at [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Twin/Double cabin on the Lower Deck	£4195	£3995
2	Twin Cabin on the Main Deck	£4195	£3995
3	Twin Cabin on the Main Deck	£4495	£4295
4	Twin/Double cabin on the Main Deck	£4895	£4695
5	Double cabin on the Main Deck	£5195	£4995
6	Double cabin on the Lower Deck for sole use	£4195	£3995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Lake Bled • Seven nights aboard the Queen Eleganza • Overnight hotel accommodation in Mostar • Two nights hotel accommodation in Sarajevo • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager in Slovenia & Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cruise Director aboard the Queen Eleganza • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



Cat 4 Twin Cabin



Queen Eleganza



Restaurant

## QUEEN ELEGANZA

For our Croatian Coastal cruises, we are delighted to have chartered the beautifully crafted Queen Eleganza which was launched in April 2018. Built by Croatian hands, this modern and stylish vessel is one of the finest Croatian flagged vessels of its kind and, with a maximum of just 36 guests, there is the added benefit of a relaxed and informal atmosphere on board. The team of friendly Croatian crew members all speak English and their excellent service and hospitality will do much to add to your enjoyment. Meals served on board have a home cooked feel and feature wholesome, fresh and tasty Mediterranean cuisine and, when dining ashore independently, your knowledgeable Cruise Director will recommend popular local restaurants. This is the perfect ship to escape the formalities of larger vessels and enjoy the casual nature of small ship cruising along the most beautiful of coastlines.

### Your Cabin/Suite

The 18 cabins are attractively designed with neutral décor and stylish furnishings. There are six different grades of cabin arranged over two decks; all cabins feature either portholes (all lower deck cabins), small windows (categories 3 & 5) or picture windows (categories 2 & 4) and are spacious with a well-designed layout, comfortable seating and all the mod cons. The cabins vary in shape and size, from 12m<sup>2</sup> to 22.5m<sup>2</sup>, adding to the vessel's overall charm. Facilities include air conditioning/heating, a spacious shower, large sink with under sink drawer space, a wardrobe, drawers and spacious under bed storage, flat screen television, radio, hairdryer and safety deposit box. Each cabin also has an en-suite bathroom with a shower and toiletries with a small window.

### Your Space

The vessel has been designed with spacious outside public areas including a large Sun Deck with an excellent shaded area. Whether you choose to spend your time indoors in the lounge or bar area, or on a comfortable lounge on the Sun Deck, the ship has many perfect spots from which to relax and watch the passing scenery.

### Your Dining

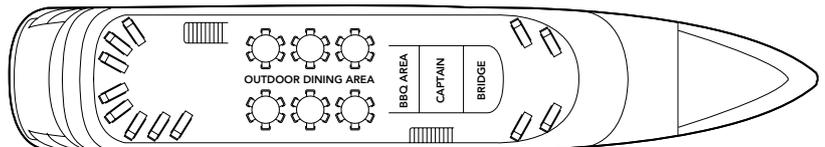
Meals on board are a casual affair. Breakfast is buffet style with eggs cooked to order. Lunch and dinner feature locally sourced fresh food. In good weather, there will be the opportunity to dine al-fresco. House wine/ beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner and there is a 24 hour tea/ coffee station.



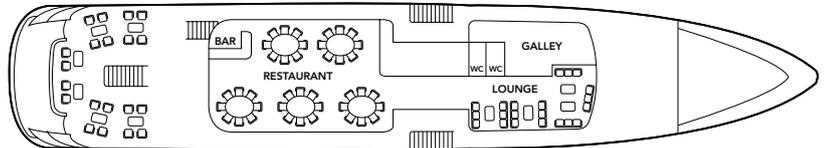
Sun Deck

### QUEEN ELEGANZA DECK PLAN

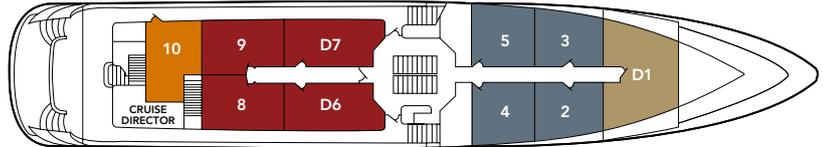
#### SUN DECK



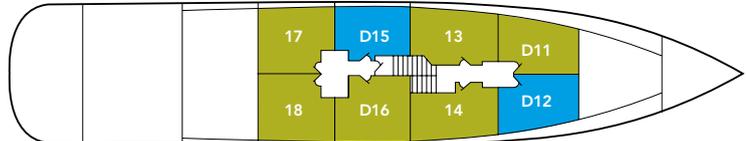
#### UPPER DECK



#### MAIN DECK



#### LOWER DECK



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

Please note that D indicates cabins which have a fixed double bed

## NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE

+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | [info@noble-caledonia.co.uk](mailto:info@noble-caledonia.co.uk) | [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)



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

Cover image: Lake Bled.