

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

# CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE

A festive cruise aboard the RV Advance with  
Guest Speaker Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski

20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024



NOBLE CALEDONIA





For those looking for a memorable break over the festive period we heartily recommend our Christmas cruise aboard the 100-passenger RV Advance, our elegant floating hotel that will transport you in comfort and style along this most delightful of rivers.

Christmas in Central Europe is a special time and nowhere is this more evident than in the cities, towns and villages of the Danube. Our Christmas cruise has been planned to include the Christmas markets in Vienna, a 'Mozart tour' in Salzburg, and a day in the lovely Wachau Valley with a visit to the village of Weissenkirchen where the traditional joys of Christmas can be best enjoyed. For those who wish to attend Midnight Mass we have made arrangements for a visit to the magnificent Cathedral of St Stephen in Passau. Other highlights of the week will include a morning tour of Bavarian Passau and a visit to the southern Vienna woods to see the Cistercian Monastery in the village of Heiligenkreuz. There will also be the opportunity to join an excursion to Vienna's Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, a World Heritage Site that is beautifully serene in winter.

This will be a relaxing week as we slowly make our way through the very heart of Europe. Ashore you will see a wonderful mix of the historic and cultural diversity of the region, witness stunning scenery and visit picturesque towns and villages, all with their own unique history and adorned with twinkling lights and festive decorations.







State Opera House, Vienna



Schonbrunn Palace, Vienna



Weissenkirchen



View of Cathedral of St Stephen, Passau

## GUEST SPEAKER – PROFESSOR RICHARD BUTTERWICK-PAWLIKOWSKI



Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski graduated in History from Cambridge, before obtaining his doctorate from Oxford. He taught European history at Oxford and Queen's University Belfast before moving to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, where he has been Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History since 2013. He is also Principal Historian of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw. Richard's academic interests range across the history and culture of Europe, especially in the eighteenth century. An admirer of the Baroque and Classical styles in the arts, he delights in Mozart's operas. He has published four single-authored books, four edited books, and many articles in scholarly periodicals and collections, and is in frequent demand as a speaker at international conferences.



Vienna Christmas Market

## ITINERARY

**Day 1 London or Manchester to Vienna, Austria.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the RV Advance for embarkation and moor overnight.

**Day 2 Vienna.** This morning there will be a choice of excursions. Enjoy a city sightseeing tour, driving around the 'Ring' visiting the Old Quarter including St Stephen's Cathedral and the Christmas market outside the City Hall. Alternatively, you may wish to join an excursion to the Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens which has its own Christmas market. After lunch on board enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

**Day 3 Melk & Weissenkirchen.** This morning we will reach the picturesque Wachau Valley, famous for its wine. We will moor under the shadow of the great Baroque abbey, situated on a cliff high above the Danube. After a guided tour of the abbey we will drive to the charming town of Weissenkirchen for some seasonal gluhwein and traditional Schrammel music.





Melk Abbey



Monastery at Heiligenkreuz, Vienna



Wachau

**Day 4 Linz for Salzburg, Austria.** After breakfast today join a full day tour to Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and famous for its architectural treasures and music festival. Our guided excursion will concentrate on Mozart's family and his musical contemporaries. Visits will be made to the house known as Tanzmeisterhaus, where he was born and spent his early life, Schloss Mirabell and the Residenz. Lunch will be in a local restaurant and before we leave we will enjoy a special concert of music by Salzburg's most famous son. Return to the ship in the late afternoon. Alternatively, take a morning walking tour of Linz and after lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 5 Passau, Germany.** 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 Stephen which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs. After lunch on board, the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. This evening there will be the opportunity to attend Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen.

**Day 6 Christmas Day on the Danube.** A relaxing day as we sail towards Vienna and enjoy the good food and festivities of Christmas Day on board the RV Advance.

**Day 7 Vienna, Austria.** After breakfast we leave the city and drive south towards the beautiful forests known as the Vienna Woods. Visit the delightful Cistercian Monastery of Heiligenkreuz (Holy Cross) for a guided tour and then drive through the woods to Mayerling to see the hunting lodge where Crown Prince Rudolf took his own life with his commoner lover, Maria Vetsera. Finally, we will drive through the lovely Helenental (Helen's Valley), which was the inspiration for Beethoven's 6th Symphony. Return to the ship for lunch and a free afternoon. After dinner this evening there will be a concert on board featuring works by Mozart and Strauss as we moor overnight.

**Day 8 Vienna to London or Manchester.** Disembark after breakfast and return by scheduled flight.



RV Advance at sunset

**PRICES PER PERSON**  
Based on double occupancy

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

CAT	CABIN DESCRIPTION	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
D	Standard Stateroom	Deck 2	£3695	£3495
C	Standard Stateroom	Deck 3	£3895	£3695
B	Large Stateroom	Deck 2	£4095	£3895
A	Large Stateroom	Deck 3	£4195	£3995
Suite	Two-room Suite	Deck 3	£5495	£5295
D	Standard Stateroom for sole use	Deck 2	£4195	£3995
C	Standard Stateroom for sole use	Deck 3	£4395	£4195

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven nights aboard the RV Advance on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.





## RV ADVANCE

The 100-passenger RV Advance is a luxurious, boutique river ship which was built in 2017, and launched into service in 2023. No expense has been spared to create a vessel which is a joy to travel on with stylish public rooms and elegant staterooms along with an expansive Sun Deck. The atmosphere is warm and convivial and within days you will have made new friends in the open seating restaurant, on the shore excursions or whilst relaxing in the comfortable public areas. You will find yourself amongst like-minded people in an English-speaking environment. A musician will play each evening whilst you relax in the lounge, Guest Speakers will provide a series of interesting talks and our Cruise Director will host informative port briefings. After a day exploring ashore, you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable vessel.



Category C Stateroom

### YOUR STATEROOM

Staterooms on board have a luxurious feel and are arranged over two decks. All feature French balcony window, mini-refrigerator, satellite television and movies on demand, coffee machine, dressing table, safety deposit box and individually controlled air conditioning. Staterooms feature a King-sized bed which can be configured as a double bed and, in Categories A, B and the Suite, the bed is river facing. Ensuite facilities include a spacious walk-in shower, sustainable luxury bath amenities, bathrobes, vanity unit and hairdryer. The standard staterooms measure 17.5 square metres, the large staterooms measure 23.5 square metres and the two suites feature a separate living room with a fireplace and measure 47 square metres.

### YOUR DINING

While the most beautiful river scenery passes by, you can 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. During the day, coffee, pastries, cheeses and charcuterie board are also available at The Bistro on Deck 3 and light meals are also available through room service if required. In the Skylight and Pop-Up bar you can enjoy unlimited soft drinks, tea and coffee during the opening hours. At the coffee station next to the guest's services desk, water, tea and coffee are available, at any time. In addition, regional wines, beer and soft drinks are included at both lunch and dinner.



The Restaurant



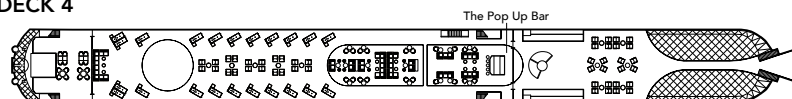


## YOUR SPACE

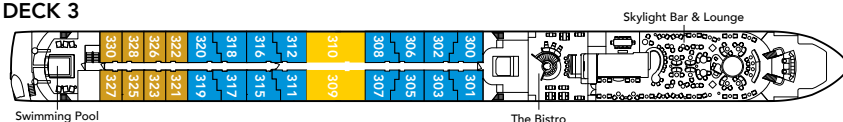
The elegant Skylight Lounge and Bar is the focal point and social hub of the vessel and features a range of comfortable seating along with a selection of books and games. With the floor to ceiling windows you can experience the wonderful scenery whilst enjoying your choice of beverage. The Skylight Lounge is where our Guest Speakers will entertain you with informative presentations and in the evenings, let the day come to an end with a choice of beverages from the extensive menu accompanied by a musician playing the piano. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the Wheelhouse and the Pop-Up Bar (open when weather permits) where you can enjoy a drink with your fellow travellers. The Sun Deck is the perfect spot to recline on a sun lounger and read a book or watch the changing scenery. There is also a well-equipped Fitness Room on board, an indoor pool with a counter-current swimming system, massage salon, complimentary self-service guest laundry, a lift which serves Decks 2 and 3 and unlimited complimentary internet access.

## DECK PLAN

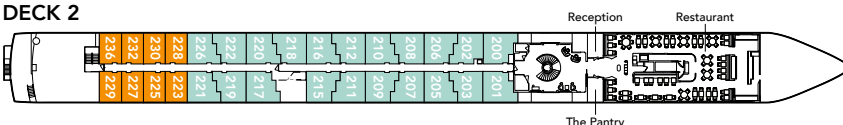
### DECK 4



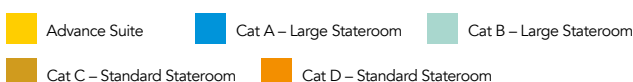
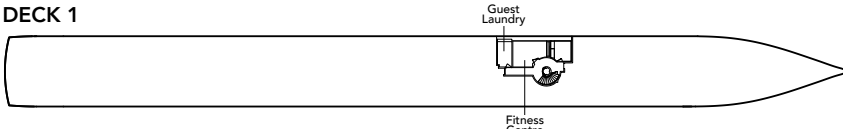
### DECK 3



### DECK 2



### DECK 1



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Vienna Town Hall.