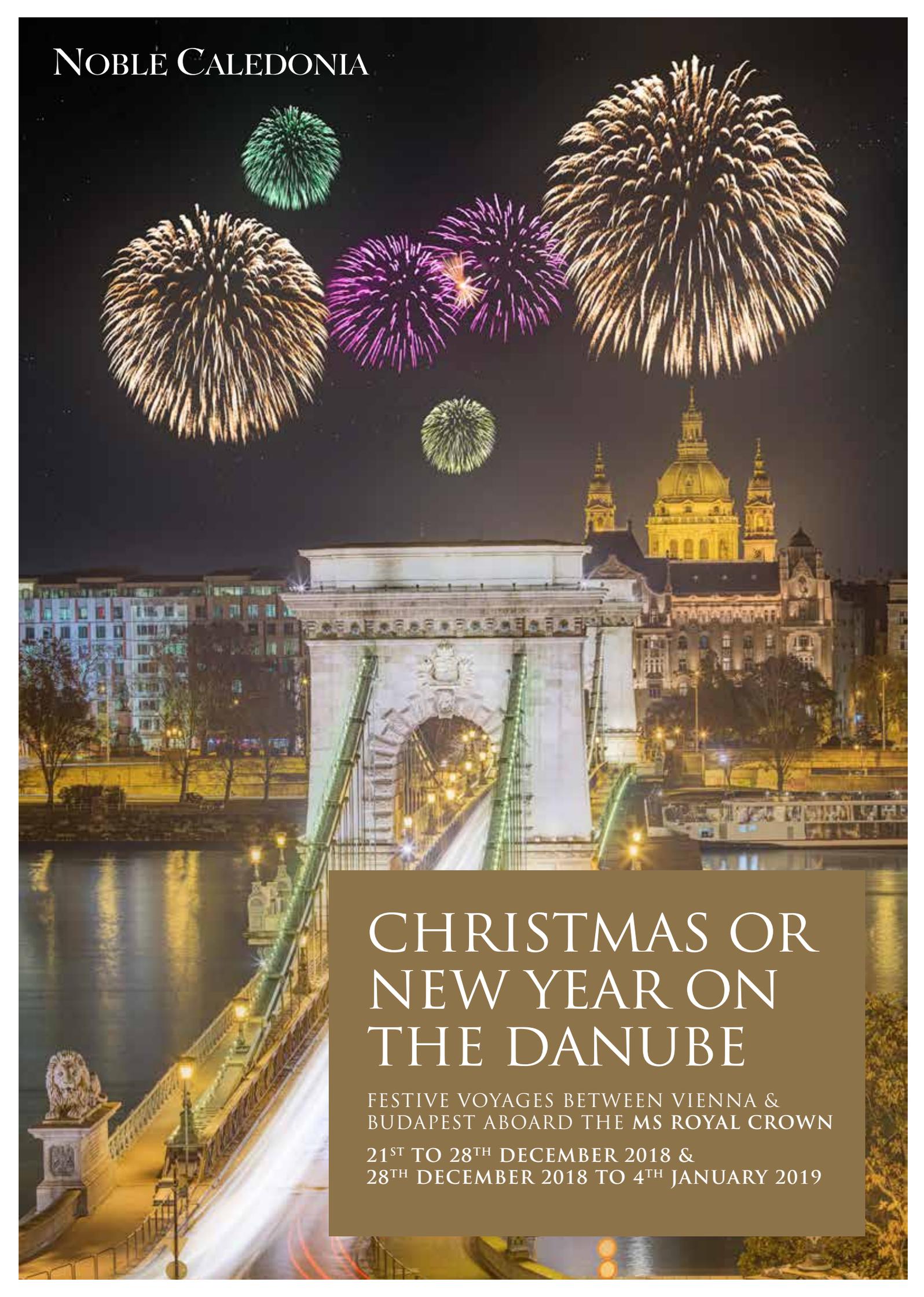


NOBLE CALEDONIA



CHRISTMAS OR  
NEW YEAR ON  
THE DANUBE

FESTIVE VOYAGES BETWEEN VIENNA &  
BUDAPEST ABOARD THE MS ROYAL CROWN

21<sup>ST</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 &  
28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 TO 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019

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 and Salzburg, 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 church in Melk Abbey. Other highlights of the week will include a full day and two evenings in Budapest, a visit to the Hungarian palace of Godollo and a tour of the scenic Danube Bend and Hungary's second city of Esztergom.

For those looking for a memorable New Year break, we heartily recommend our week long cruise aboard the MS Royal Crown. Enjoy a relaxing week on board with plenty of included shore excursions and the opportunity to see in the New Year in Vienna. Be on deck for the mighty bells of St Stephen's as they ring in the New Year. Other highlights will include a concert at one of Vienna's splendid music venues on New Year's Day, and a trip to Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart, where we will visit his home and learn more of his genius. Enjoy a leisurely start to 2019 as we make our way through the very heart of Europe in comfort and style.

If you wish to celebrate both Christmas and New Year together, these cruises can be booked as a combination 14 day cruise. For the combined cruise, Day 7 will be a full day at leisure in Budapest or there will be an optional half day tour to the nearby town of Eger.

## HENRY BLOFELD



We are delighted that Henry Blofeld will be joining us on board for our New Year's cruise and celebrations. Henry Blofeld is an English sports journalist whose rich, plummy tones are known and loved worldwide thanks to his extensive cricket commentary career on both television and radio. Since 1962, he has been a newspaper journalist and written for publications including The Guardian, The Observer, The Daily Mirror, The Daily Telegraph, The Independent, and The Express. He tours theatres around the country with fellow cricket commentator Peter Baxter, and is regularly invited to events across the country as an after dinner and motivational speaker.





Salzburg



Esztergom

# CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE

21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Vienna, Austria.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Royal Crown and embark. After dinner this evening there will be a concert on board featuring works by Mozart & Strauss. Moor overnight in Vienna.

**Day 2 Vienna.** This morning there will be 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. Return to the ship for lunch. This afternoon the ship sails from Vienna, however you may wish to join our optional excursion to the Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens which has its own Christmas market. Afterwards rejoin your vessel in Tulln, before continuing our sail on to Linz. This evening join your fellow travellers for the Welcome Drinks and Dinner.

**Day 3 Linz for Salzburg.** 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.

**Day 4 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. This evening there will be the opportunity to attend Midnight Mass in the magnificent setting of Melk Abbey.



**Day 5 Christmas Day on the Danube.** A relaxing day as we sail past Vienna and Bratislava and enjoy the good food and festivities of Christmas Day on board.

**Day 6 Esztergom to Budapest, Hungary.** On this morning's excursion, we depart by road to visit Hungary's second city of Esztergom with its magnificent cathedral, and continue outside the city to the villages and towns of the scenic Danube Bend. We re-join the vessel in Budapest and enjoy a late lunch on board and an afternoon at leisure. This evening, for those passengers who have pre-booked, there will be an optional music evening ashore (*subject to schedules & availability*).

**Day 7 Budapest.** A morning guided tour will include the Matthias Church, for centuries the scene of the coronation of the kings of Hungary; and the Fisherman's Bastion, for fine views of the city. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon, depart on a tour to the Palace of Godollo, built in 1740 and the favoured home of Sissy, the wife of Emperor Franz Josef. This evening join your fellow travellers for the Farewell Drinks & Gala Dinner.

**Day 8 Budapest, Hungary to London.** Disembark after breakfast and return to London by scheduled flight.



Vienna



# NEW YEAR ON THE DANUBE

28<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Budapest, Hungary.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Royal Crown for embarkation. Enjoy a welcome drink and music by a local Gypsy Orchestra prior to dinner this evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Budapest.** A morning city tour will include the highlights of the former twin cities of Buda & Pest. See the ornate Houses of Parliament, the beautiful Matthias Church and admire the view from the top of the Fisherman's Bastion. In the afternoon, drive out of Budapest to Godollo, a small Baroque town. Alternatively, you may wish to join our tour to the handsome Hungarian town of Kecskemét, with its tremendous Art Nouveau and Baroque architecture. On arrival enjoy a tour here, including a visit to the Kodály Museum, dedicated to the outstanding composer and music pedagogue, Zoltán Kodály. This evening, for those passengers who have pre-booked, there will be an optional evening of music ashore (*subject to schedules and availability*).

**Day 3 Esztergom & the Danube Bend.** Today you have the choice of staying on board as the vessel cruises from Budapest to Esztergom. Alternatively, you may join the overland tour which will include the scenic and cultural highlights on Hungary's Danube Bend and second city of Esztergom.

**Day 4 Bratislava & Vienna, Austria.** This morning there will be a guided walking tour of this pretty city, formerly known as Pressburg and a former capital of Hungary. See the old quarter, the ornate Baroque Palace and the ancient city gates. This afternoon, whilst cruising to Vienna, we will be joined by some Slovakian musicians who will provide music into the evening for our New Year's Eve celebrations.

**Day 5 Vienna.** After breakfast we will drive to one of Vienna's grand music venues for a New Year's concert. Afterwards, there will be a choice of two included afternoon tours; a drive around the stately Ringstrasse, stopping at St Stephen's Cathedral and a visit to the Kartnerstrasse. Alternatively, join an afternoon visit to the

beautiful Vienna Woods, including the Roman City of Baden with its thermal springs, and Heiligenkreuz where the Medieval cloister houses the remains of the last Babenberger (a packed lunch will be provided today).

**Day 6 Linz for Salzburg.** Today there will be a choice of included tours from Linz. Take 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 taken in a local restaurant. Alternatively, join a morning city tour of Linz and after lunch on board visit the Abbey of St Florian, where St Florian was drowned by pagans in 304. On our guided tour you will see Saint Florian's corridor, the Marble hall, and the Collegiate church and tomb.

**Day 7 Melk & Krems.** Today we reach the picturesque Wachau Valley where we will moor at Melk under the shadow of the great Baroque abbey. After breakfast there will be a choice of two excursions. Firstly, a guided visit to the



magnificent Melk Abbey itself, followed by a trip to the nearby charming town of Durnstein, situated in Austria's scenically splendid wine producing Wachau Valley. After a walking tour of Durnstein continue to nearby Weissenkirchen for some seasonal gluhwein. Alternatively, you may prefer a trip to Gottweig Abbey, with its splendid views of the Danube Valley. Afterwards continue on to Krems, renowned for its world class wine production, and on arrival enjoy a walking tour and a wine tasting. Return to the ship for a late lunch and this afternoon relax on board as we sail to Vienna. In the evening join your fellow travellers for the Farewell Drinks & Gala Dinner.

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

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE UP TO £1200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Christmas or New Year - 7 nights		Christmas & New Year - 14 nights	
	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Junior Suite	£2595	£2095	£4995	£3795
Superior Suite	£2895	£2395	£5395	£4195
Deluxe Suite	£2995	£2495	£5595	£4395
Premium Suite	£3095	£2595	£5795	£4595
Royal Suite	£3695	£3195	£6995	£5795
Deluxe Suite for sole use	£2995	£2495	£5595	£4395

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 7 or 14 nights aboard the MS Royal Crown on full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner • Shore excursions • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes • Gratuities.

**Not Included:** Optional tours/music ashore as described, travel insurance.



## 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 2018.

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

### 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.



Lounge



Restaurant



Deluxe Suite



Friendly service



Sun Deck

## 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

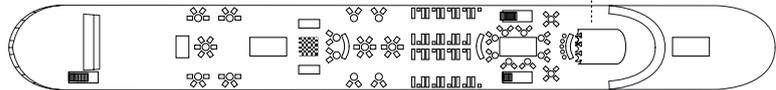
The elegant Lounge Bar is defined by its 30s inspired Art Deco style, with textured carpets, carved mahogany and plush sofas which create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. Experience unforgettable views from the large windows as you enjoy tea or coffee. The Lounge is also where our Guest Speakers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

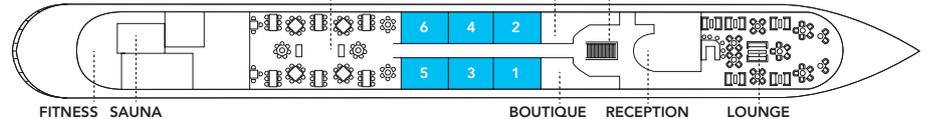
and a fitness room. There is also a small boutique and a library with a selection of books and games. Daily news sheets are also supplied.

## DECK PLAN

### LIDO DECK



### PANORAMA DECK



### 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.

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