

NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£300**  
PER PERSON

DECERALOS REX  
DRACAN FECIT

# EASTERN TREASURES

A cultural exploration from the delta lands of the Danube  
to the majestic city of Vienna MS Royal Emerald

16<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018



Join us for what promises to be a splendid journey as we navigate the Danube River from the delta in the east to Austria's elegant capital, Vienna. We will sail through Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and Austria on one of the world's great journeys through some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes. From the earliest times the Danube has been one of Europe's most important trade routes linking the eastern shores with central Europe and it is the combination of modern and traditional culture along the that way makes for a fascinating voyage. Excursions with excellent local guides and interesting talks by our guest speaker will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere as we sail along the Danube in all its early summer glory. To enhance your holiday further we are offering a six night pre-cruise extension in the beautiful region of Transylvania in Romania, during which you will travel through some of the last untouched and least travelled areas of Europe.

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Danube Delta wetlands
- City of the Tsars – Veliko Tarnovo
- The Belogradchik Rocks and Vidin's Philharmonic orchestra
- Scenic cruising through the Iron Gates
- Folklore dance display in Belgrade
- Hungary's famous wine region of Villany
- "Queen of the Danube" – Budapest



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Bucharest, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight and on arrival transfer to Fetesti (approx. 2.5 hours) for embarkation aboard the MS Royal Emerald. Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Danube Delta.** The vast Danube Delta is one of the most important wetlands left in Europe. We will access this unique region from Mila 35 at the entrance to the delta and explore by local boats. Return to the vessel and sail in the afternoon. Tonight join your fellow travellers for Welcome Drinks and Dinner.

**Day 3 Bucharest.** Arrive this morning in the port of Chicu Calarasi for a drive to Bucharest. We will explore the main sights of this city and see the boulevards with their decidedly French style. After lunch in a local

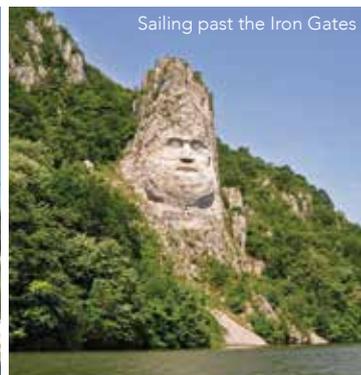
restaurant there will be a choice of afternoon visits. You may wish to visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world at 3.77 million square feet. This gargantuan construction is Ceausescu's most infamous creation and makes for a fascinating tour (*please note that closure at short notice is possible if unannounced official functions are taking place*). Alternatively, visit the fascinating Village Museum, an open-air ethnographic museum located in the Herastrau Park, showcasing traditional Romanian village life. The museum extends to over 100,000 square metres, and contains 272 authentic peasant farms and houses from all over Romania. Afterwards we head to the port of Giurgiu where we re-join our vessel and sail onto Rousse for an overnight mooring. After dinner this evening we will be entertained by a lively Bulgarian folk troupe.



Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade



Parliament Palace, Bucharest



Sailing past the Iron Gates



Gate of Fisherman Bastion, Budapest



Pelicans, Danube Delta

**Day 4 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** From Rousse we depart by coach for a full day tour 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, famous for its 17th and 18th architecture and the unique Church of the Nativity of Christ. We return to our ship at Svistov and sail.

**Day 5 Belogradchik & Vidin.** This morning we continue cruising, reaching the Bulgarian port of Vidin in the early afternoon. After lunch on board we will drive to Belogradchik which is located close to the Serbian border. The Belogradchik Rocks are a famous Bulgarian beauty spot. The sandstone has been weathered into all manner of bizarre shapes, and housed amongst the rocks is an Ottoman fort, built on the remains of a Roman structure. The excursion will end with a visit to Vidin for a performance of classical music by a string quartet from the wonderful Vidin Philharmonic.

**Day 6 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 7 Belgrade, Serbia.** Arrive in Belgrade this morning and join a tour of the city's main attractions including Saint Sava Cathedral, the largest Orthodox Church in the world and Tito's Memorial. The tour will end with an excellent dance display from a local folklore troupe. Sail in the afternoon towards Mohacs.

**Day 8 Pecs & Villany, Hungary.** Arrive into Mohacs this morning and after breakfast we 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. Thanks to the area's sub-Mediterranean climate, wines from Villany are full-bodied and spicy and of the highest quality. Return to the ship and sail towards Budapest.

**Day 9 Budapest.** Arrive early this morning and after breakfast depart on a tour of Hungary's elegant capital. The excursion will include the old quarter,

a visit to Matthias Church, and the Fisherman's Bastion from where there are stunning views of the city. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore ashore or relax on board the ship.

**Day 10 Vienna, Austria.** This morning relax on board as we cruise towards Vienna, arriving around midday. After lunch depart for a city tour, including the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter and St Stephan's Cathedral. Alternatively join an excursion to Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the ship and this evening gather with your fellow travellers for the Farewell Drinks & Gala Dinner.

**Day 11 Vienna to London.** Disembark after breakfast and either enjoy a morning ashore at leisure or join an excursion to Vienna Woods before your return to London by scheduled flight.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CATEGORY	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
1 Standard Suite	£2495	£2195
2 Balcony Suite	£2795	£2495
3 Deluxe Balcony Suite	£2895	£2595
4 Junior Balcony Suite	£3295	£2995
5 Royal Balcony Suite	£3695	£3395
6 Royal Panorama Suite	£4295	£3995
1 Standard Suite for sole use	£2495	£2195
2 Balcony Suite for sole use	£2795	£2495

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Royal Emerald on full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Guest Speaker • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## Pre-Cruise Transylvania Extension 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018



Before embarking the MS Royal Emerald we are offering the opportunity to explore Transylvania, located in Central Romania. Transylvania is a region of exquisite countryside surrounded by the arc of the dramatic Carpathian mountain chain and is home to some of Europe's best-preserved Medieval towns and stunning castles.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Cluj-Napoca, Romania.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to your four-star hotel for a two night stay. Tonight gather for the traditional bread and salt welcome, followed by a Welcome Drink and Dinner at your hotel.

**Day 2 Cluj-Napoca.** Today we depart for a visit to this historical capital of Transylvania, dating back to the Roman conquest of Dacia. The city is an important cultural and academic centre and our tour will include the Old Town, the Cathedral of St Michael, and the Baroque-era Banffy Palace (outside view). Lunch will be in a local restaurant, followed by a visit to the city's renowned Botanical Gardens, founded by the academic Alexandru Borza in 1920. The site covers 14 hectares and is home to more than 10,000 plants. Return to the hotel and this evening is at leisure.

**Day 3 Rimetea, Alba Iulia & Sibiu.** After breakfast we depart for the village of Rimetea. Renowned for its traditional white houses with green windows, Rimetea is one of the best conserved and most beautiful cultural attractions in Romania, and was the first village in the country to be granted the Europa Nostra award for the successful preservation of its architectural heritage. On arrival enjoy some time including refreshments in a local guesthouse. We then continue on to Alba Iulia, the town where Ferdinand and Marie were crowned Kings of the Great Romania. We will have lunch here in a local restaurant, after which we visit the stunning White Citadel and the Coronation Cathedral, as well as the Unification Museum. We then continue on to the town of Sibiu and check in to our hotel for a two night stay. Dinner this evening will be at the hotel.

**Day 4 Sibiu & Sibiel.** After breakfast join a walking tour of colourful Sibiu followed by some free time before lunch in the old city. Later we will drive to Sibiel and visit a unique and superb museum of glass painted icons, located in the old village church. Return to Sibiu and this evening is free to enjoy this pretty town at leisure.

**Day 5 Biertan, Sighisoara & Brasov.** After breakfast depart for picturesque Biertan where the first glimpse of the town's Medieval church is unforgettable; it towers over the square below, surrounded by vividly painted houses and backed by vineyards. On arrival we visit the UNESCO 14th century fortified church, once the home to the Lutheran Bishop of Transylvania. Continue on to Sighisoara and on arrival explore the Old Town. Enjoy some free time here for lunch and exploring at leisure before we continue onwards to Brasov. Check in to our hotel for two nights and dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant.

**Day 6 Brasov & Bran.** After breakfast depart for a city tour of Brasov, including the Old City, City Hall Square, St Nicholas Church and the Black Church. We then continue on towards Bran, with a lunch stop en-route. On arrival in Bran we will take a tour to see the world famous 'Dracula's Castle', built as a fortress in 1212 by the Knights of the Teutonic Order. Vlad Tepes, better known as Vlad the Impaler, used the castle as headquarters for his incursions into Transylvania. Afterwards, we return to Brasov and the remainder of the day is at leisure. This evening enjoy a Farewell Drink & Dinner in the nearby resort town of Poiana Brasov.

**Day 7 Sinaia to Fetesti.** Check out of the hotel and depart for the picturesque town of Sinaia for a visit of the fairy-tale Peles Castle, commissioned by King Carol I in the 19th century. Nestled at the foot of the Bucegi Mountains, this elaborately decorated castle is a masterpiece of German neo-Renaissance architecture and considered by many to be one of the most stunning castles in Europe. We then continue on for a lunch stop at Ploiesti before our final journey to Fetesti to embark the MS Royal Emerald.

---

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1195** Single: **£1455**

**Price Includes:** Six nights hotel accommodation at four-star hotels as described • Meals as described • Wine & soft drinks with included lunches & dinners • Excursions • Gratuities • Tour Manager.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinner on days 2 & 4, lunch on day 5.



# 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



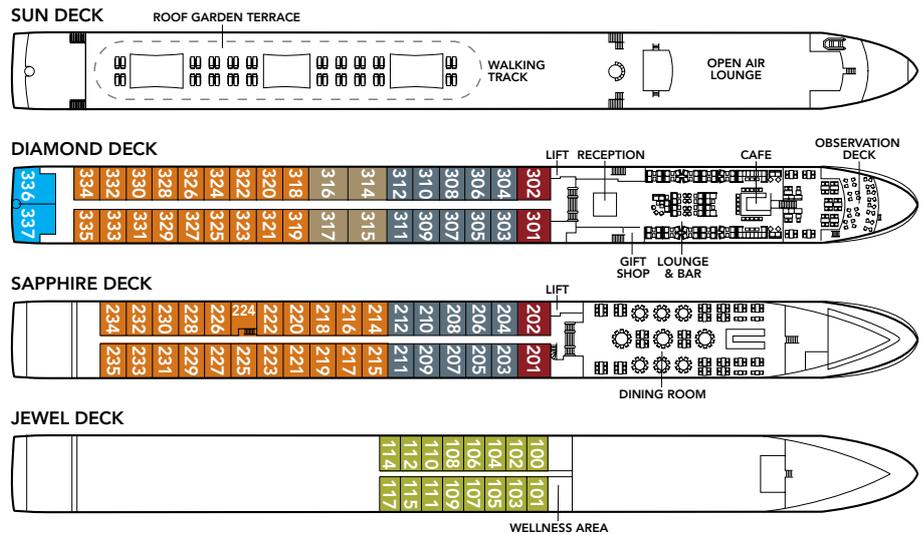
Bar

## 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



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

Cover image: Iron Gates