

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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

# EASTERN TREASURES

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

1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June & 17<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

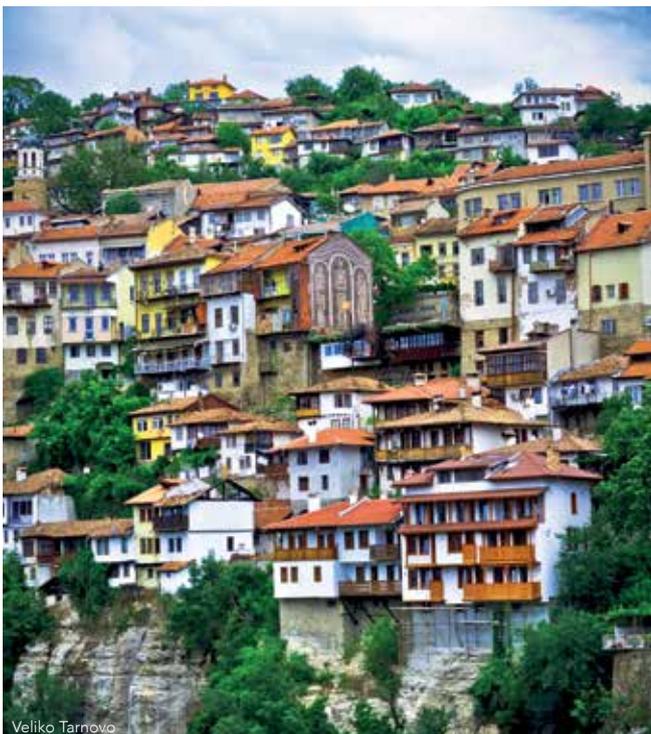
Join us aboard the MS Royal Emerald for what promises to be a splendid journey as we navigate the Danube river from the delta in the east to Vienna. We have timed our exploration of this fascinating region in June and October, perfect months to enjoy a voyage along the Danube. The high season crowds have either not yet arrived or just departed and the temperatures are ideal for exploring.

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 way that makes for a fascinating voyage. We will sail through some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes and spend time in the great and lesser known cities and towns of the eastern Danube, visiting Romania's stately capital, Bucharest, historic Veliko Tarnovo in Bulgaria, and bustling Belgrade in Serbia. Experience the cultural delights of Hungary at Pecs, Villany, Budapest and Bratislava, before our final day is spent exploring Austria's elegant capital, Vienna. Our excursions with excellent local guides and interesting talks by our Guest Speaker will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere. To enhance your holiday further we are offering a five night 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

- City of the Tsars – Veliko Tarnovo
- The Belgradchik Rocks & Vidin's Philharmonic orchestra
- Scenic cruising through the Iron Gates
- Folklore dance display in Belgrade
- Hungary's famous wine region of Villány
- Splendid Budapest & Vienna



Veliko Tarnovo

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Bucharest, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight to Romania's capital city. On arrival transfer to Fetesti (approx. 2.5 hours) for embarkation aboard the MS Royal Emerald. Sail in the 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 of delta and explore on local boats. Return to the MS Royal Emerald and sail in the afternoon. Tonight join your fellow travellers for Welcome Drinks and Dinner.

**Day 3 Bucharest.** Following an early breakfast aboard our vessel we will drive to Bucharest and explore the main sights of the 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, you may prefer to visit the fascinating Village Museum, an open-air ethnographic museum located in the Herăstrău Park, showcasing traditional Romanian village life. The museum is huge and features 272 authentic peasant farms and houses from all over Romania. After our afternoon tours, we will depart for the port of Giurgiu to re-join our vessel and sail on to Rouse for an overnight mooring. After dinner this evening we will be entertained by a lively Bulgarian Folk troupe.

**Day 4 Rouse, Bulgaria.** This morning join a guided city tour of Rouse, birthplace of Nobel Prize winner for literature, Elias Canetti. After our short walking tour of the city centre we will drive a short distance to visit the Monastery of St Demetrius Basarbovski, a fascinating rock monastery dating back to the 12th century. Return to Rouse for a wine tasting session of some splendid Bulgarian wines. This afternoon is at leisure for individual exploration. With its stunning architecture, charming restaurants and shops, there is much to explore here. Moor overnight.

**Day 5 Veliko Tarnovo.** From Rouse 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



Decebalus Head sculpted in rock, Iron Gates Gorge



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 7 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 8 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 Novi Sad.

**Day 9 Novi Sad.** Following the destruction of the three main bridges by the NATO bombing campaign in 1999, the city of Novi Sad, in the Serbian northern province of Vojvodina, has returned to normal and much rebuilding has taken place. The city is rich in historic buildings including the fortress, Bishop's House, Clock Tower and numerous churches, some of which will be seen on our morning tour. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon sailing along the wonderful Danube.

**Day 10 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 Villány, including lunch and wine tasting. Villány is one of Hungary's top wine regions, known for its reds and rosés. Thanks to the area's sub-Mediterranean climate, wines from Villány are full-bodied and spicy and of the highest quality. Return to the ship and sail towards Kalocsa.

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 century architecture and the unique Church of the Nativity of Christ. We return to the MS Royal Emerald at Svistov and sail.

**Day 6 Belogradchik & Vidin.** This morning we continue cruising, reaching

**Day 11 Kalocsa.** Today we are in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. Your tour of the Pusztas district will include the town and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise down the beautiful Danube.

**Day 12 Budapest.** After breakfast we depart on a tour of Hungary's elegant capital. Our guided excursion will include the old quarter, a visit to the 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.

**Day 13 Bratislava.** Arrive this afternoon at the Slovak Capital of Bratislava. After lunch on board, join an afternoon 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. Sail in the early evening.

**Day 14 Vienna, Austria.** A morning city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse, and the Old Quarter including St Stephen's Cathedral. Return to the MS Royal Emerald for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure, or join an optional tour to Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa.

**Day 15 Vienna to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

**SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON PLUS NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON CATEGORIES 1 TO 3 FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

CATEGORY	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
1 Standard Suite	£3295	£2995
2 Balcony Suite	£3695	£3395
3 Deluxe Balcony Suite	£3795	£3495
4 Junior Balcony Suite	£4295	£3995
5 Royal Balcony Suite	£4695	£4395
1 Standard Suite for sole use	£3295	£2995
2 Balcony Suite for sole use	£3695	£3395
3 Deluxe Balcony for sole use	£3795	£3495

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Royal Emerald on full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.  
**Not included:** Travel insurance, optional excursion on day 14.

## PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION – DISCOVER TRANSYLVANIA

27<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June & 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Council Square, Brasov



Sibiu



Bran Castle



Transylvania, located in central Romania is a region of exquisite countryside surrounded by the arc of the dramatic Carpathian mountain chain. This region is home to some of Europe's best-preserved Medieval towns, most notably Brasov. We begin our five night tour in Sibiu, with its cobblestone streets and pastel-coloured houses. We also encounter stunning castles such as Bran, near Brasov – a Gothic fairy-tale structure associated with 15th century Walachian Prince Vlad Tepes, the inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula. We explore the notable town of Biertan and its 14th century UNESCO Church-Fortress, the fairy-tale Peles Castle, built by King Carol I in the 19th century, and the dramatic citadel at Rasnov.

### THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Sibiu, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight via Munich, arriving in the afternoon. On arrival transfer to your four-star hotel for a two night stay. Dinner tonight will be at your hotel.

**Day 2 Sibiu.** After breakfast at your hotel, join a walking tour of colourful Sibiu, followed by some free time before lunch in the old city. Later, we will drive to Sibiel, a pretty village situated 20 kilometres from Sibiu. Here we visit a unique and superb museum of glass painted icons, located in the old village church. This evening, enjoy a traditional dinner during which we will be able to talk to our local hosts about Romanian daily life in a Transylvanian village.

**Day 3 Biertan, Sighisoara & Brasov.** After breakfast depart for picturesque Biertan. Your first glimpse of the town's Medieval church is unforgettable: towering 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 with its cobbled streets, burgher houses and ornate churches. Also visit the Clock Tower known as the Council Tower, built in the second half of the 14th century and expanded in the 16th century. Enjoy lunch in "Dracula's House" restaurant, followed by some free time. Afternoon departure for Brasov and on arrival check in to your four-star hotel for a three night stay. Dinner tonight will be taken at a local restaurant.

**Day 4 Azuga, Sinaia & Rasnov.** After breakfast we will have a city tour of Brasov, including the City Hall Square, St Nicholas Church and the Old City. We continue on to Azuga in Prahova Valley, home of the Royal Cellar which is the wine supplier for the Royal family. We will stop

at a local vineyard for lunch and enjoy some wine tasting. Continue on to see the fairy-tale Peles Castle, built by King Carol I in the 19th century. Afterwards we head back towards Brasov, and on the way visit the Rasnov Citadel, a historic monument and landmark in Romania. This outstanding citadel was first mentioned in documents in the 1335, built as a defense against invading Tartarian armies. Please note that the entrance to the citadel is a 15 minute up-hill walk for those who wish to visit inside. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant.

**Day 5 Brasov.** After breakfast, visit the Black Church, followed by some free time in the Old City. Lunch will be taken in a local restaurant and this afternoon is at leisure to relax or sightsee independently. This evening enjoy dinner in the nearby resort town of Poiana Brasov.

**Day 6 Brasov to Fetesti.** After breakfast this morning, depart for a visit to Bran 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. We then depart for Ploiesti with lunch on arrival before continuing our journey on to Fetesti, where we will embark the MS Royal Emerald. Sail in the evening.

**Prices per person** Based on double occupancy

**Twin: £1195    Single: £1455**

**Price Includes:** Five nights accommodation at four star hotels in Sibiu and Brasov, full board throughout, wine & soft drinks with lunch and dinner, all sightseeing as described, water during excursions, gratuities.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# 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 2019. This elegant vessel was built in 2008 and offers a range of luxurious and comfortable suites, the majority with outdoor balconies. The atmosphere on board is friendly and welcoming and 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 five grades of cabin categories:

**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

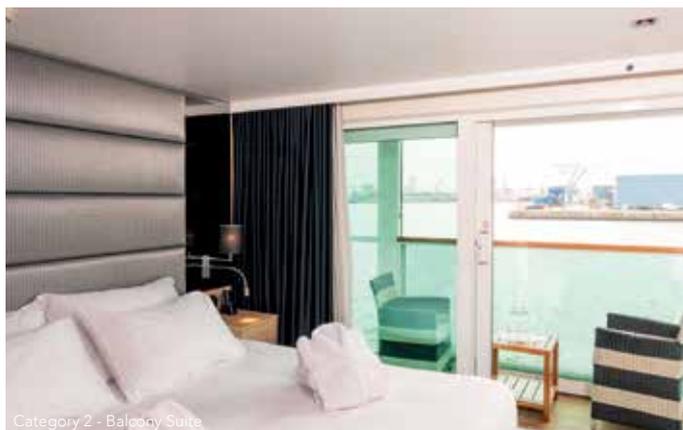
225 square feet. These suites offer a full length outdoor balcony, ensuite bathroom and are tastefully designed.

**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 3 Cabin



Category 2 - Balcony Suite



Category 5 - Royal Balcony Suite



Panorama Bar & Lounge



Crystal Dining Room



Open Air Lounge



L'Occitane Bath Products



Reception

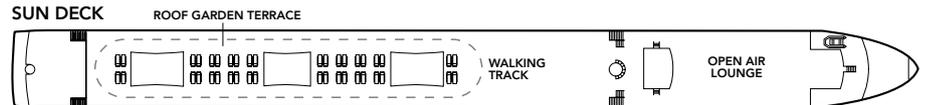
## YOUR SPACE

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.

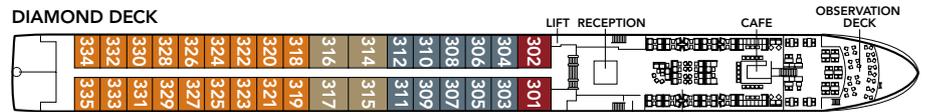
## YOUR DINING

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.

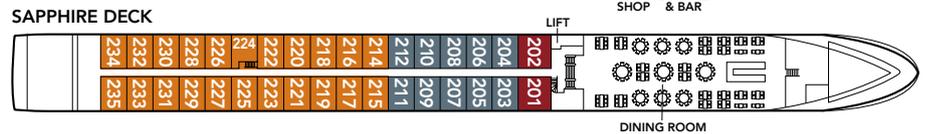
### SUN DECK



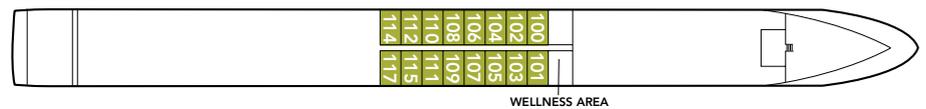
### DIAMOND DECK



### SAPPHIRE DECK



### JEWEL DECK



## 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.

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