

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
£500  
PER PERSON

# GLORIOUS GARDENS & THE GOLDEN AGE OF DUTCH ART

A journey along the Dutch waterways  
aboard the MS Royal Emerald

28th March to 6th April  
& 6th to 15th April 2018



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Spring is the perfect time of year to immerse yourself in the cultural and horticultural splendours of the Netherlands. Join us aboard the MS Royal Emerald as we explore the countryside in some depth, visiting the wonderful flowers of the Keukenhof, the beautifully restored Palace and Gardens of Het Loo, the picturesque towns of the Zuider Zee, the botanical gardens in Utrecht, and of course the art treasures of Amsterdam and The Hague.

The itinerary we have designed is, we believe, a perfect mix of horticulture, history, art and Dutch lifestyle and makes for a colourful and endlessly interesting cruise. We will also enjoy the great comfort of the MS Royal Emerald as we criss-cross the Netherlands along the intricate network of rivers and waterways that make Holland such a unique place.



## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh & Hermitage Museums in Amsterdam
- Canal cruise in Amsterdam & opportunity to visit the famous 'Bloemenmarkt'
- Majestic Het Loo Palace & Gardens
- Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague & Delft Blue Pottery
- Keukenhof Gardens at Lisse
- De Wierse Gardens or the Airborne Museum at Arnhem
- Botanical Gardens at Utrecht & opportunity to visit the lavish De Haar Castle



De Haar Castle and Gardens, Utrecht



Drawbridge and the town of Edam



Dutch Golden Age paintings in the Mauritshuis Museum, The Hague



The Palace and Gardens of Het Loo

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 London, Bristol, Manchester or Edinburgh to Amsterdam, Netherlands.** Fly from your chosen airport by scheduled flight or travel by train from London St Pancras. Drive to the MS Royal Emerald and embark. Moor overnight in Amsterdam.

**Day 2 Amsterdam.** After breakfast on board, we will depart for a visit to the Rijksmuseum, arguably Amsterdam's most important art venue. Housing some of the greatest examples of Western European painting and decorative arts, it boasts works by Vermeer, Goya, and Rubens. Here, Rembrandt's famous *'The Night Watch'* hangs in the Hall of Honour. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore ashore or relax on board your ship. Alternatively, there will be an optional tour to visit the "Bloemenmarkt", one of the city's most colourful attractions and the world's only floating flower market. Join the Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board this evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 3 Amsterdam.** After breakfast today we will depart for the Van Gogh Museum which houses one of the world's largest collection of works by the artist, including *'Almond Blossom'* and *'The Bedroom'*. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon there will be a choice of included excursions. Join a relaxing canal cruise, one of the most interesting ways to see this unique city. Alternatively, join our visit to the Hermitage Museum and their exhibition *"Dutch Masters on the Amstel"*. The Hermitage's collection of paintings, prints and drawings by Dutch Masters is one of the worlds' largest. Return to the MS Royal Emerald and sail in the evening to Hoorn where we moor overnight.

**Day 4 Hoorn, Edam & Volendam.** After breakfast on board we depart for our exploration of the Zuider Zee. We will drive to Edam, a tranquil little town with drawbridges across canals and charming historic houses with lovely facades. We then continue on to the attractive town of Volendam to see its colourful wooden houses and old fishing boats in the harbour. Enjoy some free time here before returning to the ship in Hoorn for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy some free time in this pretty 16th century town. Later we set sail for Arnhem.

**Day 5 Arnhem & Het Loo.** Arrive this morning into Arnhem. After breakfast on board join an excursion to the Palace of Het Loo, the favoured summer residence of the Dutch Royal family from 1686 to 1975. The Palace and grounds have undergone a spectacular restoration returning them to their original 17th century splendour. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon there will be a choice of two included excursions. Choose from a

trip to visit the memorable Airborne Museum "Hartenstein"; this renovated building houses the world's largest collection of militaria from Operation Market Garden. Alternatively, enjoy a visit to the wonderful De Wiersse Gardens, a moated manor house designed and managed by the family since 1678. This evening we sail towards Dordrecht.

**Day 6 Dordrecht & Kinderdijk.** Depart this morning for a visit to see the marvellous Windmills of Kinderdijk, of which there are 19 in total, dating from 1740. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this ingenious system of windmills and water management has been in operation here for nearly a thousand years and makes for a fascinating visit. Return to your ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore Dordrecht with its old world atmosphere and quaint cottages and canals. Sail on towards Rotterdam in the early evening.

**Day 7 Rotterdam, The Hague, Delft.** From Rotterdam we depart for a full day tour. Our first stop will be The Hague for a visit to the beautiful Mauritshuis Museum with its marvellous collection of Dutch Golden Age paintings. Afterwards continue on to Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will have lunch in a local restaurant on arrival, and afterwards take a walking tour of this pretty town, finishing with a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery. Return to the ship and sail to Utrecht for an overnight mooring.

**Day 8 Keukenhof Gardens & Haarlem.** After breakfast drive to nearby Keukenhof Gardens for a morning in this extraordinary horticultural heaven.



The Windmills of Kinderdijk



Rembrandt's 'The Night Watch' - Rijks



Church of St Bavo, Haarlem



Tulips at the Bloemenmarkt, Amsterdam

With 32 hectares of flowers, more than 7 million bulbs in bloom and 800 varieties of tulips, this is a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Afterwards we will return to the MS Royal Emerald for a late lunch and time at leisure in Utrecht. Alternatively, continue with an optional afternoon excursion to Haarlem. The excursion includes lunch in a local restaurant on arrival, followed by visits to the 17th century Church of St. Bavo, immortalised in the artwork of Dutch painters Pieter Saenredam and Gerrit Berckheyde, and the Frans Hals Museum, home to a spectacular display of 16th and 17th century portraits, still life's and landscapes.

**Day 9 Utrecht.** This morning we will drive the short distance to the nearby De Haar Castle, which dates from the 13th century. The castle was completely restored in the 20th century by renowned architect Pierre Cuypers for the wealthy Van Zuylen family. Our visit will include a tour of the beautiful interior as well as some time in the surrounding park and gardens. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in this pretty town. Alternatively, join our included tour of Utrecht's Botanical Gardens at Fort Hoofddijk, a unique natural treasure consisting of thousands of plant species. This evening enjoy Farewell Drinks and Dinner on board as we sail towards Amsterdam.

**Day 10 Amsterdam to London, Bristol, Manchester or Edinburgh.** Disembark after breakfast and return to your chosen UK airport by scheduled flight or to London St Pancras by Eurostar.



The Old Harbour at Hoorn

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

**SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

CATEGORY	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
1 Standard Suite	£2495	£1995
2 Balcony Suite	£2795	£2295
3 Deluxe Balcony Suite	£2895	£2395
4 Junior Balcony Suite	£3295	£2795
5 Royal Balcony Suite	£3695	£3195
6 Royal Panorama Suite	£4295	£3795
1 Standard Suite for sole use	£2495	£1995
2 Balcony Suite for sole use	£2795	£2295

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

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, optional excursions on days 2 & 8.



Frans Hals Museum, Amsterdam



The East Gate and Bridge, Delft



# 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 2009 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

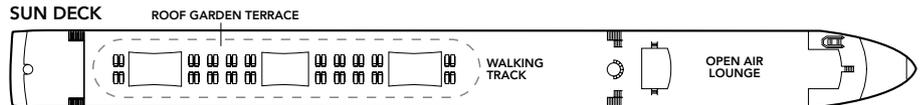
## YOUR SPACE

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.

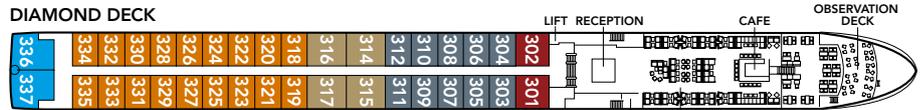
## YOUR DINING

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.

### 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.

# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change and water levels. All special offers are subject to availability.  
 Cover image: Dutch windmill and colourful spring flowers at Keukenhof Gardens