

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EDWARD LEAR

A journey along the Ionian & Adriatic coasts
aboard the MS Monet with Guest Speaker Tim Stimson

8th to 19th October 2021

NOBLE CALEDONIA

An Introduction by Andrew Cochran, Noble Caledonia Founder & Director



“ I have always loved Edward Lear’s landscape paintings and drawings. When I think of an area or place in Greece or the Balkans often the first image I see in my mind’s eye is one of Lear’s paintings. He magically captures the very essence of the place and time in a way photographs rarely do. Not only a great artist, he was also the master of the pen and during this voyage, the talks on board will not only be illustrated with his paintings but with extracts from his journals and letters, especially the delightfully light-hearted ones to his sister Ann. His words and images from over 150 years ago are still as meaningful and fresh today and will add a welcome dimension to our travels through remarkable landscapes and historic sites.



We hope you can join us aboard the MS Monet for this fascinating journey through Greece, its islands and along the coasts of Albania and Montenegro. Our voyage will take us to many of the places which Edward Lear visited, some still looking much the same as he encountered where we can share his moods, feelings and humour. The splendid legacy of his paintings and drawings can be seen as all the more remarkable considering that throughout his life he suffered from chest complaints, epileptic fits, poor eyesight and depression. Added to this he had to contend with a fear of horses and often severe sea-sickness but through all trials, he was at his best whilst on the move. A troubled soul, but undoubted genius, he was an English eccentric of the very best kind.

Lear, like Byron was captivated by the rugged beauty of Albania and in particular the daily life and bazaars. His landscapes of the Ionian Islands illustrate his brilliance in portraying nature and in the mountains and ancient sites he showed his unique talent at its best. ”

Guest Speaker – Tim Stimson



Tim’s involvement in art began with the practical; for a number of years he was a professional painter/ ceramicist in Scotland and Wales, before returning to university to study literature and the history of art, then training to teach adults. For the last 30 years Tim has been a freelance cultural/

art historian, specialising in 17th and 19th century art and society and he has recently completed a second lecture tour of Australia. Tim has lectured for a number of universities, including Cambridge University, and he now lectures for the WEA, The Arts Society (previously known as NADFAS) and The Art Fund, and presents residential study courses in Britain and Europe.

“Having lectured on Edward Lear for over 20 years, he has become an old and dear friend of mine, whom I am delighted to introduce to audiences around the world. Edward Lear’s ‘Book of Nonsense’ has never been out of print, but what isn’t realised often is that he made his living producing topographical watercolours of great delicacy. A man of original and versatile genius: ornithologist, diarist, musician, traveller- this warm and delightful human-being expressed his simple philosophy through timeless humour.” Tim hopes that passengers on this cruise will be equally fascinated by Lear’s legacy and will present illustrated lectures focusing on his biography with quotations from his writings throughout.



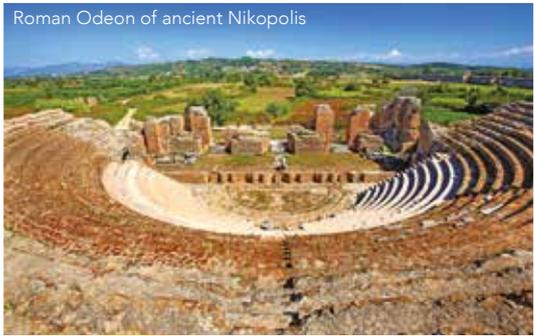
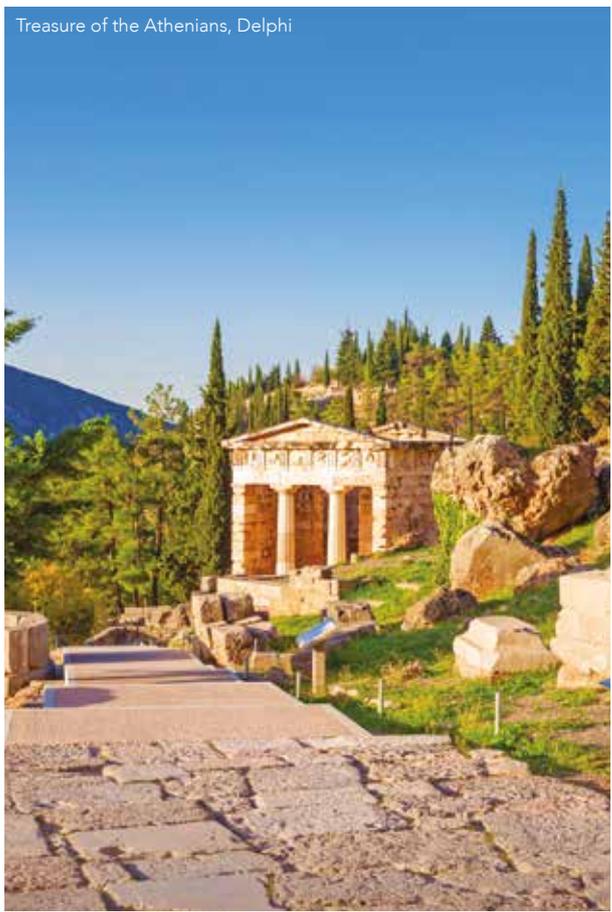
Butrinto, Albania by Edward Lear (oil on canvas - 1861)



Edward Lear



Corfu from Santa Decca by Edward Lear (oil on canvas - 1862)



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the NJV Plaza Hotel and check in for an overnight stay. Enjoy time at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 2 Athens. Lear visited Athens in 1848 with his friend Charles Church, spending a number of weeks here and producing over 100 paintings and drawings. We will spend the morning visiting the Acropolis and Parthenon as well as the Acropolis Museum, before taking lunch and driving to the port of Piraeus to embark the MS Monet in the late afternoon.

Day 3 Corinth Canal & Delphi. Spend a leisurely morning on board as we navigate the narrow Corinth Canal and cruise along the Gulf of Corinth to berth at the port of Itea. After lunch on board we will visit Delphi, one of the most evocative of ancient Greek sites. Lear obviously thought so "Delphi clinging to the rocks above a sea of olive trees". Nestling on the slopes of Mount Parnassos, the site is of significant religious and political importance; pilgrims flocked from all over the Hellenic world to the Oracle of Delphi. Take some time to enjoy the austere beauty of the valley and the Sanctuary of Athena and the Sanctuary of Pythian Apollo. We hope to visit the museum before returning to the ship for dinner as we sail out into the Ionian Sea.

Day 4 Argostoli, Cephalonia. Spend the morning at sea bound for Cephalonia. After lunch, explore the island including the ruins of the fortress of San Giorgio. Lear painted the castle in 1863 whilst working on his 'Views in the Seven Ionian Islands' hoping that the publication would find commercial success. The timing fitting in with the British administration returning the islands back to Greece. First fortified by the Byzantines and later developed by the Venetians, San Giorgio lost its importance and decay and the 1950s earthquake sealed its fate. Our island drive will include the capital of Argostoli and the Aghii Theodori Lighthouse.

Day 5 Preveza. Returning to the Greek mainland we head for the little known ancient city of Nikopolis, one of the largest and most important sites in the whole of Greece. Built by the Roman Emperor Octavianus Augustus following his victory at Aktium in 31 BC over Antony and Cleopatra, inside its extensive walls are the Odeum, the Theatre, the Nymphaeum and the monument to Augustus. Later, the city flourished in the early Christian period as the seat of the archbishop of old Epiros but earthquakes and invading

Goths and Vandals led to its demise. Lear visited Nikopolis in 1849 and his lithograph of the site shows little has changed in the last 170 years. Spend the afternoon exploring Preveza at leisure.

Day 6 Igoumenitsa. Enjoy a full day tour to the Byzantine city of Ioannina. Justinian was founded in the 6th century AD but it was in the late Byzantine period, 13th to 15th century, that the city flourished with the arrival of Byzantine families following the Fourth Crusade and the Sack of Constantinople. Ioannina joined Greece in 1913 following a period in the 18th and 19th centuries when the city was a major centre of the modern Greek Enlightenment. Lear was very taken with the city, in a letter to his sister Ann he commented "I think the scene of the Citadel, lake and mountains, is really one of the grandest and most beautiful I ever saw". We explore the old city on foot with its castle, museums and mosques as well as enjoying some free time in the Stoa Louli arcade with its cafes, shops and art galleries. A highlight will be the visit to Ali Pasha's house, that enigmatic symbol of Ottoman rule. We enjoy a local lunch and also plan a stop to visit the remote and impressive Ancient Theatre and Oracle of Dodoni. This area was a site of worship and pilgrimage from 2000 BC until Roman times and was dedicated at one time to the Mother Goddess Gaia and then to Zeus.

Day 7 Corfu. And so, to Corfu, the island Lear loved visiting no fewer than nine times and where he spent three years. In his diary in 1866 he wrote "Can I give no idea of the Paradise island to other". Admittedly, the island has seen many changes since his time, but there are still corners where it is possible to see why he held the island in such affection. We have the day to explore and will start with a visit to the sumptuous regency style Palace of St Michael and St George Museum in lovely Corfu town. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a drive across the island to visit the famous Byzantine Monastery of the Virgin at Paleokastritsa which is still inhabited by a community of monks. The small museum houses some priceless Byzantine icons. Spend some time in the serene monastery gardens that afford a splendid view over the turquoise waters of the bay. We will overnight in port allowing for the opportunity to go ashore to Corfu Town after dinner, the ideal time to appreciate this special place.

Day 8 Sarande, Albania. Nearby, is the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and must see in Albania. Its history spans two and a half

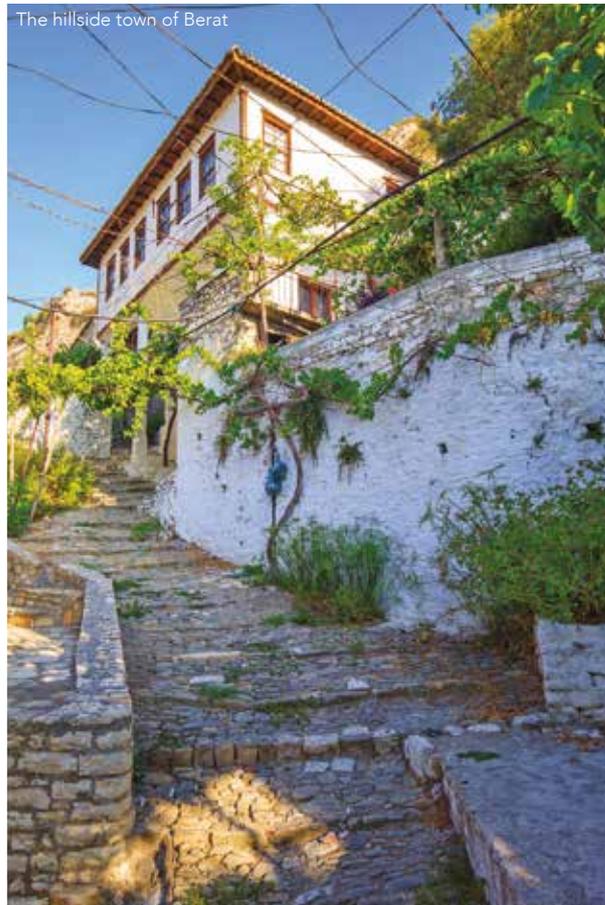
St George, Corfu



Aghii Theodoros Lighthouse, Argostoli



Bay of Kotor



The hillside town of Berat

millennia and for centuries was overgrown and forgotten. Lear visited in 1857 and was fascinated by the powerful fortifications but at the time there was little else for him to see as restoration only started in the 20th century. He would be truly amazed if he could see the site today, it is extraordinary. Our guided walk will reveal the ruins from many eras and cultures including the Hellenistic theatre, Roman public baths and the Venetian Watch Tower. As well as the history, take in the spectacular views, the ancient city occupies a bluff of land which protrudes into the Vivari Channel, a stretch of water that connects the Strait of Corfu to the inland saltwater of Lake Butrint. We enjoy some refreshments before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in Sarande.

Day 9 Vlore. Just north of Sarande is the port of Vlore and from here we drive two hours to another UNESCO treasure, the hillside town of Berat which Lear visited in 1848. Some of his most important works were painted here and even today it is an artist's dream with its steep cobbled streets and Ottoman style houses surrounded by mountains and olive and grape groves. We explore on foot the oldest quarter of the city known as Kalaja, where the castle has presided over the city for 2000 years and enjoy a local lunch here. En-route to Berat, we plan to visit Apollonia, once a great city and an important port. Founded by the Corinthians in 588 BC, it prospered under Greek colonisation and Rome. It was here Octavian learned of the assassination of his great uncle Caesar and set upon his bid for power ultimately becoming emperor. Archaeological excavations by successive French missions dating back to Napoleon III mean a large area of the site is now visible, certainly considerably more than Lear witnessed after spending a draughty night in a 13th century monastery. For a more leisurely option choose to visit Apollonia in the morning followed by a free afternoon.

Day 10 Tirana & Kruje. Form the port of Durres we enjoy a full day excursion to explore Tirana and Kruje Castle and drive inland to the capital Tirana. Much has changed since Lear's visit in 1848 but it remains a fascinating place with disintegrating Soviet style buildings, brand new architecture and historic buildings surrounded by picturesque upland scenery that Lear found so enchanting. After a local lunch we continue to Kruje Castle. Lear was very taken with the area, as he sat and sketched he noted "the lovely landscape in a land of loveliness, than any place I ever saw". Built in the 6th century, perched above the town of Kruje

it was the headquarters of the Dragon of Albania, Skanderberg, who resisted the Ottoman forces in the mid 15th century, hindering their expansion into Western Europe. Visit the museum in the castle dedicated to the legendary Albanian leader and the Ethnographic Museum in an interesting 19th century house.

Day 11 Kotor, Montenegro. Be on deck early this morning as we navigate the Gulf of Kotor. This beautiful fjord-like area is best seen from the water as we make our way to the town of Kotor. We will explore this Medieval UNESCO town on a guided walk seeing the 12th century St Tryphon's Cathedral and the ancient town gates. Lear painted one of his finest landscapes here, capturing the light over towering mountains. Return to the MS Monet for lunch and spend the afternoon relaxing as we sail along the coast of Montenegro and Croatia bound for the port of Split.

Day 12 Split, Croatia to London. Disembark this morning and return to London by scheduled flight.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£4195	£3995
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£4395	£4195
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£4695	£4495
A	Deluxe Double with windows on Lumiere Deck	£5195	£4995
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£4895	£4695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight accommodation in Athens with breakfast & dinner • 10 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS MONET

We are delighted to have chartered the MS Monet for a series of cruises through the Adriatic and Aegean in 2021. Launched in 1998, fully renovated in 2016 and upgraded again in 2018, she is a 220 foot motor yacht accommodating a maximum of 50 guests. If you find large resort style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers attractive then of course this isn't the vessel for you. However, if you prefer an informal and warm atmosphere more akin to a private yacht combined with an itinerary dedicated to both discovery and relaxation then you need look no further.



Category A Cabin - 309



Category C Cabin

Your Cabin

All the cabins on board the MS Monet are designed for comfort and have a warm and inviting feel with light fabrics and wood trimmings. Cabins range in size from 9 to 22 square metres and Categories A, B & C are equipped with windows, while those in Category D have portholes. Cabins 104-107, 112, 119, 205 and 210-215 feature twin beds and all other cabins have fixed double beds. Facilities include en-suite bathroom with shower, television, minifridge, safety deposit box, air-conditioning and hairdryer.

Your Space

The public areas include a main lounge and bar with comfortable sofas on the Lumiere Deck, a restaurant located on the Parisian Deck and the Lumiere Open Deck al fresco dining area where meals can be enjoyed when weather permits. The gym can be found on the Parisian Deck and the Lumiere Sun Deck provides a delightful sun exposed space with sun loungers and a Jacuzzi, ideal for relaxation and wonderful views.

Your Dining

Located on the Parisian Deck, the glass enclosed indoor dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting with unassigned seating and allows for wonderful panoramic views of the stunning scenery as we sail. The Lumiere Open Deck provides a generous covered area where guests can enjoy meals al fresco, weather permitting. Food is served at the table or displayed on the hot and cold buffet stands. The menu is international, with a focus on local specialties. A choice of house wine, beer and soft drinks are served with lunch and dinner.



Lumiere Open Deck



Lounge



Restaurant



Lounge

Life On Board

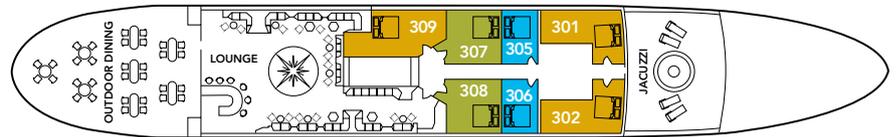
During the day, life on board focuses around the indoor lounge area, and the indoor and outdoor dining spaces, as well as the open and inviting deck areas including the Jacuzzi. These are natural gathering places and perfect for enjoying your meals al fresco, relaxing in a comfortable chair with a good book or socialising with your fellow passengers and enjoying the views.



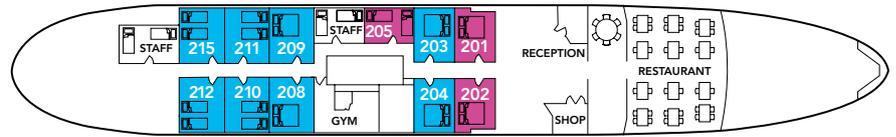
MS Monet

DECK PLAN

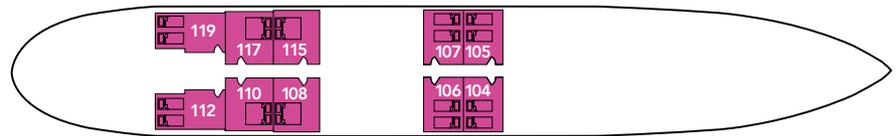
LUMIERE DECK



PARISIAN DECK



CAMILLE DECK



■ CATEGORY A
 ■ CATEGORY B
 ■ CATEGORY C
 ■ CATEGORY D

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports and itinerary subject to change.
Cover image: Fortress of San Giorgio, Cephalonia.