

LIMITED AVAILABILITY REMAINING - SAVE £500 PER PERSON



JOURNEY THROUGH THE HEART OF EUROPE

A grand voyage from Basle to the Black Sea
aboard the MS Royal Crown
With highlight performances by London Festival Opera
31st May to 25th June 2019

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us aboard the MS Royal Crown for this ultimate European journey, a truly fascinating and unique voyage along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers all the way from Basle to the Black Sea. Our elegant floating hotel will transport you through historical, cultural and scenic delights as we traverse nine countries over the course of 25 nights.

If you enjoy seeing something new every day then this is the perfect cruise for you. From historic locations to iconic buildings and beautiful scenery, our itinerary is brimming with highlights including the grand cities of Vienna and Budapest, the picturesque towns along the Rhine and Main including Breisach and Miltenberg as well as cruising through the scenic beauty of the Wachau Valley and the spectacular Iron Gates.

When not exploring ashore, you can relax on board whilst observing everyday life on the banks of the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers and delight in awe-inspiring panoramic views of the passing scenery. Guided excursions with excellent local guides, interesting talks by our Guest Speakers and highlight performances by London Festival Opera will create an enjoyable and informative atmosphere on board.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Bishop's Residenz and wine tasting in Wurzburg
- Visit the grand cities of Vienna and Budapest
- Weltenburg Abbey and the dramatic Danube Gorge
- Scenic sailing through the Wachau Valley
- Dvorak concert by a string quartet in Bratislava
- The splendours of Pecs Cathedral and Villany
- Spectacular cruising through the Iron Gates

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA: PERFORMANCES IN GREIN, MELK & VIENNA



We are delighted to announce that London Festival Opera will be performing a Celebration of Opera during your time in Austria. Their performances will include a private Opera Gala in costume (arias by Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach & Puccini) in the wonderful Stadttheater in Grein, followed by a concert of

Mozart in the historic setting of Melk Abbey (featuring *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni* & *The Magic Flute*). Their final concert, 'A Night in Vienna' (including Mozart, Strauss & Lehár) will be performed on board whilst we are moored in Vienna, 'The City of Music'.



The half-timbered town hall, Bamberg



Schonbrunn Palace, Vienna



Saint Sava Cathedral, Belgrade

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Basle, Switzerland. Fly by scheduled flight and transfer to the MS Royal Crown. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Basle. This morning's excursion will take us to the old market square, with its brightly painted Town Hall, and along Minster Hill past many handsome 18th century houses to the Minster with its slender twin spires. The oldest part of the building dates from between the 9th and 13th centuries, although much was rebuilt in the Gothic style after the 1356 earthquake. Return to the MS Royal Crown for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure. Set sail this evening whilst we enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner.

Day 3 Breisach & Colmar, Germany & France. This morning we arrive in Breisach, gateway to the Black Forest. After breakfast we will depart for a scenic excursion through the area's mountain landscape, meadows and dense forest. During our tour we will ensure there is time to sample some delicious Schwarzwald Kirschtorte. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon will be at leisure in the pretty town of Breisach, or for those who wish there will be an included excursion to the charming town of Colmar, capital of the Alsace region. Colmar offers an exciting glimpse of 1000 years of European history with its wonderfully preserved historical centre, careful restoration and friendly ambience. Sail in the evening to Strasbourg.

Day 4 Strasbourg, France. After breakfast, join a guided tour which will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg including the fascinating old quarter. Start with the Quai de la Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals, see the Ponts Couverts, a series of wooden bridges dating back to the 13th century, the Place Gutenberg and the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the tallest Medieval building in Europe. After lunch on board, enjoy an afternoon of relaxing cruising as we make our way towards Mannheim.

Day 5 Heidelberg, Germany. From our berth in Mannheim, we visit nearby Heidelberg where we have a day to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. A morning tour will include the castle, a dramatically sited red sandstone ruin that dominates the city, the old town with its famous market place and the city gates. Return to the ship for lunch and sail towards Miltenberg.

Day 6 Miltenberg & Wertheim. Arrive this morning into the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, known for its half-timbered Medieval houses. Enjoy a guided walking tour here before returning to the ship for lunch and sailing on to beautiful Wertheim where you can enjoy some free time in this charming market town.

Day 7 Wurzburg. Arrive this morning in historic Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. Tour this lovely town including the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace where our visit ends with a wine tasting of local wines in the splendid cellars. Also see the old town with its collection of churches which range in style from Romanesque to Gothic, Renaissance to Baroque, before returning to the ship for lunch as we sail to Kitzingen for an overnight mooring.

Day 8 Kitzingen & Rothenburg. After breakfast join a walking tour of Kitzingen which will include the famous Leaning Tower, built during the 13th century. Legend has it that the golden ball that sits at the top of the crooked roof contains the heart of the original Count Dracula. Also see the Old Main Bridge, Kitzingen Church and the Renaissance Town Hall. End your tour with a local wine tasting, where you will sample several different wines and learn about the history of wine production in the region. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. For those who wish there will be an



Traditional houses in La Petite France, Strasbourg



White Pelican in the Danube Delta



Interior of Melk Abbey



The beautiful Wachau Valley

included excursion by coach on the Romantic Road to Rothenburg, the best preserved Medieval town in Germany.

Day 9 Bamberg. This morning we enter the Main Danube Canal at Bamberg, one of Germany's most beautiful historic towns. Its geographical location, some 40 miles north of Nuremberg was a key factor in preserving its magnificent architectural heritage from the ravages of war. Every European style from the Romanesque onwards has left its mark on Bamberg, each bequeathing at least one major building. We arrive around midday, and after lunch on board we will have a walking tour of this beautiful Medieval city. Return to the ship and sail in the early evening.

Day 10 Nuremberg. The city of Nuremberg's long and sometimes troubled history has left its mark on the city and there's plenty to discover during our morning tour. Three towering castles overlook Nuremberg, and its old city which is contained within vast walls is a joy to explore. Visit the World War II sites, including the Third Reich Party Rally Grounds. Discover the city's spectacular Medieval architecture, including the 900 year-old ramparts that surround the city, the Imperial Castle and more. Sail at lunchtime and continue cruising through the highest point of any commercial waterway in Europe, 1331 feet above sea level.

Day 11 Kelheim & Regensburg. This morning we arrive in the pretty town of Kelheim where our tour will include the unique Liberation Hall. We then embark local boats for a sail through the Danube Gorge and view the dramatic 400 foot cliffs. Our tour ends at the impressive Weltenburg Abbey, where we will have some refreshments and time to explore. Return to your ship in Kelheim for lunch and sail on to Regensburg. On arrival here enjoy some free time in this World Heritage listed city.

Day 12 Passau. Arrive this morning in Passau, where the Inn and Ilz rivers join the Danube. Our guided walking tour will include the old town of this Bavarian city and the breathtaking Cathedral of St. Stephan which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs. Enjoy an organ recital before returning to the vessel for lunch.

Day 13 Linz & Cesky Krumlov, Austria & Czech Republic. From the town of Linz a choice of tours is available today. Enjoy a full day trip to the exquisite town of Cesky Krumlov set on the Vltava River in Bohemia's southern region, and one of the most picturesque in Europe. We will visit the stunning castle and take a walking tour of the Old Town, followed by lunch in a local restaurant. This afternoon will be free to explore further before returning to the MS Royal Crown. Alternatively, you may prefer to join a morning half day tour to the outstanding Monastery of St Florian, the largest in Upper Austria and where St Florian was drowned by pagans in 304. On our guided tour you will



see St Florian's corridor, the Library, Marble Hall and the Collegiate church and tomb. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure.

Day 14 Grein & the Stadttheater, Austria. Enjoy a morning of relaxing cruising as we sail to Grein, a pretty riverside town. On arrival this afternoon we will visit Schloss Greinburg, the privately owned Austrian castle of the Ducal House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Afterwards, we continue to The Grein Stadttheater, considered to be the oldest secular theatre in Austria, built into the former granary of the town hall by its citizens in 1791, and still preserved in its original form. On arrival enjoy a splendid costumed performance by London Festival Opera, featuring an Opera Gala with highlights from Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach and Puccini. This evening we sail to Melk.

Day 15 Melk & the Wachau Valley to Vienna. This morning we will reach the picturesque Wachau Valley, famous for its wine. We will moor in Melk under the shadow of the great Baroque Abbey, situated on a cliff high above the Danube. Enjoy a guided tour of the abbey followed by a performance by London Festival Opera featuring arias and ensembles from Mozart's celebrated operas. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we sail through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards Vienna.

Day 16 Vienna. A morning city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephan's Cathedral. Alternatively join a guided visit to the impressive Zentralfriedhof (Vienna Central Cemetery), the second largest in Europe, and with honorary graves of renowned Austrian musicians, historians and politicians. Mozart, Beethoven and other luminaries of the musical world (Schubert, Brahms, Strauss) are buried, or memorialised here. We also visit the Church of St. Charles Borromeo, a significant Art Nouveau church building. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore this majestic city further. In the early evening there will be a performance of 'A Night in Vienna' by London Festival Opera, followed by dinner in the restaurant.

Day 17 Vienna. After breakfast join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 18 Bratislava, Slovakia. Arrive this morning in the Slovak capital of Bratislava. Join a 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. Finish your tour with a visit to the beautiful Klarissen Church where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart. Return to the ship and cruise to Budapest arriving in the late evening.

Day 19 Budapest, Hungary. We have the day to explore Hungary's elegant capital. Spend the morning on an excursion that will include the old quarter, the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. After dinner this evening, join your fellow travellers on board for a "Budapest by Night" cruise as we head towards Mohacs.

Day 20 Pecs & Villany. From the port of Mohacs, depart after breakfast 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.

Day 21 Belgrade, Serbia. Spend the morning in this dynamic city. A half-day tour highlights the city's main attractions, including the Kalemegdan fortress as it looms over the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Saint Sava Cathedral, the largest Orthodox Church in the world, and Tito's Memorial. Our tour will finish with a superb local folklore performance before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure.

Day 22 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 23 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. From Svistov, we drive 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 before we re-join the MS Royal Crown in Rouse and sail in the evening.

Day 24 Constanta, Romania. Early this morning, arrive in Cernavoda at the entrance to the Black Sea Canal. Drive to nearby Constanta, a popular resort city. Its colourful history dates back to ancient Greek and Roman times. On a guided tour see the Museum of National History and Archaeology and the Museum of Ethnography. Return to the ship for a late lunch and sail in the afternoon along the snaking Danube as we make our way to the Black Sea.

Day 25 The Black Sea & Danube Delta. Awake early today to experience a sunrise cruise, and weather conditions permitting we hope to make a short voyage to the periphery of the Black Sea. Later we cruise to Mila 35, situated at the entrance to the Danube Delta and enjoy an afternoon boat trip into the delta wetlands. Tonight join your fellow travellers for a Gala Farewell Dinner.

Day 26 Bucharest to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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CAT	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Junior Suite	Select	£7495	£6995
Superior Suite	Select	£7595	£7095
Deluxe Suite	Select	£7695	£7195
Premium Suite	Select	£8195	£7695
Royal Suite	Panorama	£8795	£8295
Deluxe Suite for sole use	Select	£7995	£7495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 25 nights aboard the MS Royal Crown on full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions & music events as described • Performances by London Festival Opera • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Complimentary Wi-Fi on board • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.
Not Included: 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 2019.

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

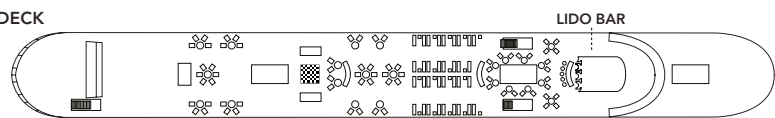
The elegant Lounge Bar is defined by its 30s inspired Art Deco style, with textured carpets, carved mahogany and plush sofas which create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. Experience unforgettable views from the large windows as you enjoy tea or coffee. The Lounge is also where our Guest Speakers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

read a book or watch the changing scenery. 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

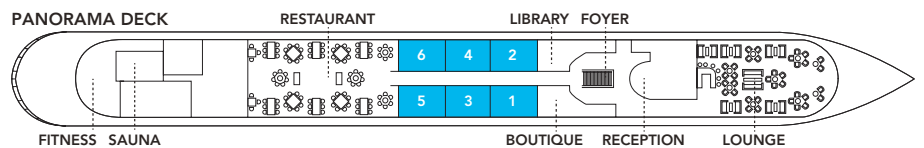
sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room. There is also a small boutique and a library with a selection of books and games. Daily news sheets are also supplied.

DECK PLAN

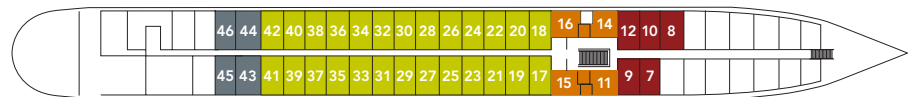
LIDO DECK



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.

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: St Stephen's statue, Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest