

EXTRA DEPARTURE DATES RELEASED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EDWARD LEAR & ALBANIA & GREECE THROUGH THE EYES OF BYRON

SMALL SHIP CRUISING ABOARD THE MS MONET
OCTOBER 2020

NOBLE CALEDONIA



MS MONET

We are delighted to have chartered the MS Monet for a series of cruises along the Adriatic and Ionian coasts in 2020. 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



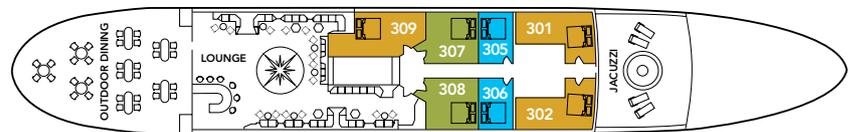
Lounge

Life On Board

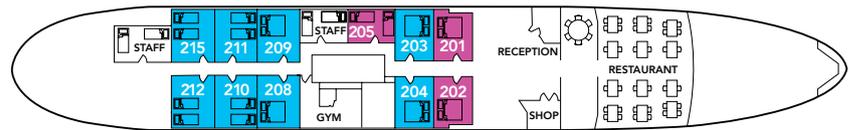
During the day, life on board focuses around the indoor lounge area, and the indoor and outdoor dining spaces, as well as the open and inviting deck areas including the Jacuzzi. These are natural gathering places and perfect for enjoying your meals al fresco, relaxing in a comfortable chair with a good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

DECK PLAN

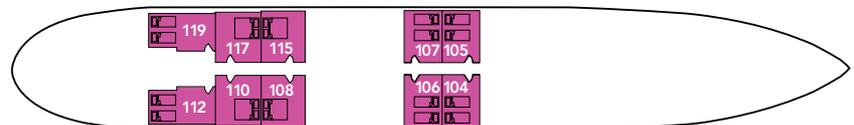
LUMIERE DECK



PARISIAN DECK



CAMILLE DECK



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



MS Monet

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EDWARD LEAR

A journey along the Adriatic & Ionian coasts aboard the MS Monet

12th to 23rd October 2020

“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 minds-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. Talks on board during our voyage aboard the MS Monet will not only be illustrated with his paintings but with extracts from his journals and letters, especially the delightfully lighthearted ones to his sister Anne. 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.

Our journey will take us to many of the places he 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, 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.” Andrew Cochrane, Noble Caledonia Founder & Director

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Gatwick to Split, Croatia. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Monet moored in Split Harbour and sail this evening.



Day 2 Kotor, Montenegro. Be on deck 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 an afternoon 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.

Day 3 Tirana & Kruje, Albania. Form the port of Durres we drive inland to the capital of Tirana and enjoy a full day excursion to explore the city and Kruje Castle. 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 4 Vlore. From our berth in the port of Vlore we drive two hours to a 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 important port. Founded by the Corinthians in 588 BC it prospered under Greek colonisation and Rome. 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 and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.



Day 5 Sarande. Nearby the port of Sarande is the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World heritage Site and must see in Albania. Its history spans two and a half millennia and for centuries it 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 6 Corfu, Greece. 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 affording the opportunity to go ashore to Corfu Town after dinner, the ideal time to appreciate this special place.

Day 7 Igoumenista. Enjoy a full day tour to the Byzantine city of Ioannina founded by Justinian in the 6th century AD. It was in the late Byzantine period 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 8 Preveza. Today we head for the little known ancient city of Nikopolis, one of the largest sites and most important 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. Enjoy a free afternoon to further explore Preveza at leisure.

Day 9 Argostoli, Cephalonia. Spend the morning on Cephalonia and 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 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 1950's earthquake sealed its fate. Our island drive will include the capital of Argostoli and

the Aghie Theodori Lighthouse. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at sea.

Day 10 Delphi & Corinth Canal. We will berth this morning at the port of Itea and 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. Sail this afternoon through the

Gulf of Corinth before we navigate the narrow Corinth Canal in the early evening. Arrive in Piraeus this evening where we moor overnight.

Day 11 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 disembark after breakfast and spend the morning visiting the Acropolis and Parthenon as well as the Acropolis Museum. After lunch we will transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 12 Athens to London Heathrow. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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	£3995	£3795
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£4195	£3995
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£4495	£4295
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£4995	£4795
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£4595	£4395

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • Overnight hotel accommodation in Athens with breakfast • Lunch on day 11 • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Shore Excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

ALBANIA & GREECE THROUGH THE EYES OF BYRON

A journey along the Ionian coast aboard the MS Monet

22nd to 31st October 2020

In 1809 Lord Byron set sail on his two year Grand Tour which ultimately took him to Albania and Greece with his great friend John Cam Hobhouse. He fell in love with the region and the people and whilst on tour he began work on the poem 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' which when published on his return shot him to literary stardom. Byron was the ideal Romantic poet, gaining notoriety for his scandalous private life, described by Lady Caroline Lamb as "mad, bad and dangerous to know". From his letters written whilst touring we gain an insight into the man, his perceptions and the times as well as the excitement he felt on his first journey to the 'Orient'. As we travel along the coast of Albania and Greece we will visit many places Byron explored and learn of the colourful characters he encountered including the formidable tyrant Ali Pasha of Tepelena.



Byron's passion for Greece never faltered and in 1823 he returned to the island of Cephallonia, spent £4000 refitting the Greek Fleet and took command of a Greek unit of freedom fighters against the Ottoman Empire. His short but chaotic and fascinating life ended in Messolonghi in 1824 where he died of a fever. Looking at a beautiful region such as this through the eyes of someone who lived two hundred years ago does add an extra dimension to the geography and history and introduces us to more recent events in a corner of Europe with a deeply complicated past.

Our fascinating itinerary combines some 'must see' historical wonders together with little known and rarely visited places that are perfectly suited for our vessel. With a maximum of just 50 guests, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with our Guest Speaker and local guides, adding immeasurably to our knowledge of the region. Ensure you are on deck for our transit of the Corinth Canal which, whilst only built in the 19th century, was conceived as long ago as the 7th century BC, a wonderful start to our cruise and only possible aboard a small ship such as the MS Monet.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Heathrow to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Monet moored in Piraeus.

Day 2 Lavrion. From the port of Lavrion it is a short drive to Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon, one of the major monuments of the Golden Age of Athens. Nearby, see the Temple of Athena and a fortress built in 413 BC during the Peloponnesian War against the Spartans. Whilst spending several months in Athens in 1810-11 Byron visited Sounion; his name is carved on one of the columns and in his poem 'Isles of Greece' he mentions Sounion.

Day 3 Corinth Canal & Corinth. Be on deck this morning as we navigate the narrow Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like the MS Monet which can now make this journey. In the late morning we dock in Corinth which Byron visited with his friend Lord Sligo in the summer of 1810. His rhymed, tragic narrative poem, 'The Siege of Corinth' was published in 1816 and was inspired by the Ottoman

massacre of the Venetian garrison holding the Acrocorinth in 1715. On an afternoon tour we will visit the extensive remains of ancient Corinth including the Temple of Apollo and from here we can see the hill of Acrocorinth where stood a Medieval fort, the inspiration of the poem.

Day 4 Delphi. Spend a leisurely morning at sea and arrive over lunch in Itea. From here we spend the afternoon exploring the archaeological treasures of the ancient site of Delphi and one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. Byron visited in 1809, carving his name on a column in the gymnasium: 'Yet there I've wandered by the vaulted rill Yes! Sighed over Delphi's long deserted shrine, Where, save that feeble fountain, all is still.' It was nearly one hundred years after Byron's visit that serious excavations began revealing some major buildings and structures of the sanctuary of Apollo and of Athena Pronoia including thousands of objects, many of which are housed in the Archaeological Museum. We will see the site of the sacred Delphic Oracle, walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visit the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC.

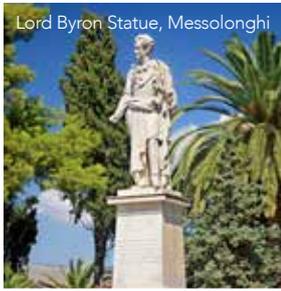
Day 5 Messolonghi. Situated on the northern shore of the Gulf of Patra, this picturesquely sited small city sits between craggy mountains and Europe's largest lagoon. In January 1824 Byron journeyed to Messolonghi leading a force of Suliote troops he had funded with the aim of recapturing the Turkish occupied fortress of Lepanto. But his plans were interrupted by the arrival of the Ottoman navy. With the help of the Messolonghi Byron Society, our exploration here will include a visit to the Garden of Heroes. Here, just inside the Gate of Exodus where the Ottoman forces massacred fleeing Greeks sits a prominent statue of Lord Byron.

Day 6 Argostoli, Cephalonia. We will spend the day here on the largest of the Ionian islands. From our base in the capital Argostoli, we visit the village of Metaxata where Byron spent four months in 1823 and a statue of remembrance sits proudly in the main square of the village, near where the house he occupied once stood. The devastating earthquake of 1953 destroyed much of the island's buildings. A drive across the island brings us to the delightful, quiet coastal village of Assos. Choose to

climb up to the castle of Assos or stroll along the front.

Day 7 Igoumenista. Today, on a full day tour we visit one of the loveliest of Greek cities, Ioannina. The walls of its old fortified city enclose an old quarter that Byron would recognise, spiked with minarets. He spent about a month in the region much taken with the scenery 'many a mount sublime'. It was in Ioannina that Byron probably first saw himself as the future saviour of Ottoman controlled Greece and began composing Childe Harold's Pilgrimage. The highlight today will be Ali Pasha's fortress and from its ramparts we will gaze across the lake just as it had impressed Byron and John Hobhouse in 1809. Visit the Ali Pasha Museum and later walk in this enchanting capital of the Epirus region. We enjoy a local lunch and also plan a stop to visit the remote and impressive Ancient Theatre and Oracle of Dodoni.

Day 8 Sarande, Albania. From the port of Sarande we drive to the nearby historic UNESCO site of Butrint. Founded as Greek colony, a Roman city and Bishopric, it enjoyed a period of prosperity under a Byzantine administration



Lord Byron Statue, Messolonghi



Delphi



Butrint



Church, Metaxata



Argostoli lighthouse

and then the Venetians. Abandoned in the late Middle Ages the site today offers a remarkable glimpse of all its past. It is thanks to the Butrint Foundation, founded by Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, that we can appreciate this remarkable site which has over the past 25 years been conserved, preserved and developed far beyond what Byron witnessed. On a guided tour we will explore the Hellenistic temples, promenade and the 4th century BC theatre as well as the Roman public baths, gymnasium and fountains. Further into the site, from the Byzantine era, we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a hill-top watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu.

Day 9 Vlore. Today on a full day tour we will drive inland to Gjirokastra, a charming hillside town which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Byron spent time here and its cobbled streets and fortified

Ottoman houses have changed little since his time. We will visit the interesting museum learning about Ali Pasha and Byron's time in this historic town. After lunch in a local restaurant take a stroll through the 17th century Ottoman Bazaar before heading north to Tepelena. It was here that Byron stayed as guest of Ali Pasha Tepelena, the so-called Lion of Janina. In a letter to his mother Byron provides a description of his host, ending with, 'He has been a mighty warrior, but is as barbarous as he is successful roasting rebels'. We will see the castle built by Ali Pasha to enclose his palace. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to nearby Apollonia and an afternoon at leisure. Apollonia, the ancient city of Illyria reached its zenith around the 4th to 3rd centuries BC when it is believed the population numbered over 70,000.

Day 10 Tirana to London Heathrow. Disembark in Durres and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London.

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	£3345	£3145
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£3545	£3345
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£3845	£3645
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£4345	£4145
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£3845	£3645

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Not Included: Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Tirana Extension 31st October to 2nd November 2020

Skanderbeg Square, Tirana



If you would like to spend some additional time in Albania after your cruise aboard the MS Monet, we are offering a two night hotel stay in the capital city of Tirana.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Durres & Tirana, Albania. Disembark and explore the port city of Durres which was colonised by the Greeks in 627 BC and still has the remains of a 15,000 seat amphitheatre, the second largest in the Balkans. We will explore the Medieval city and the Archaeological Museum and also enjoy a local lunch before transferring to our hotel in Tirana.

Day 2 Tirana. After breakfast join a full day tour. We drive the short distance to Kruje, renowned as the birthplace of Skanderbeg, a military commander who defended the country against the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century. We will visit the 6th century castle perched above the city before visiting the Skanderbeg Museum. After a local lunch we continue our exploration of Tirana and see the fascinating nuclear bunker built by the dictator Enver Hoxha in the 1970s and only recently opened to the public. This underground building is packed with original artefacts from the communist period. Afterwards continue to the National Museum before walking through the city centre to see the mosque, Clock Tower and the "Bloku" area of the city. Return to the hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Day 3 Tirana to London Gatwick. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£345** Single: **£395**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation with breakfast, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, lunch on Day 1 & 2, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Itinerary & ports subject to change.
Cover image: Delphi, Greece