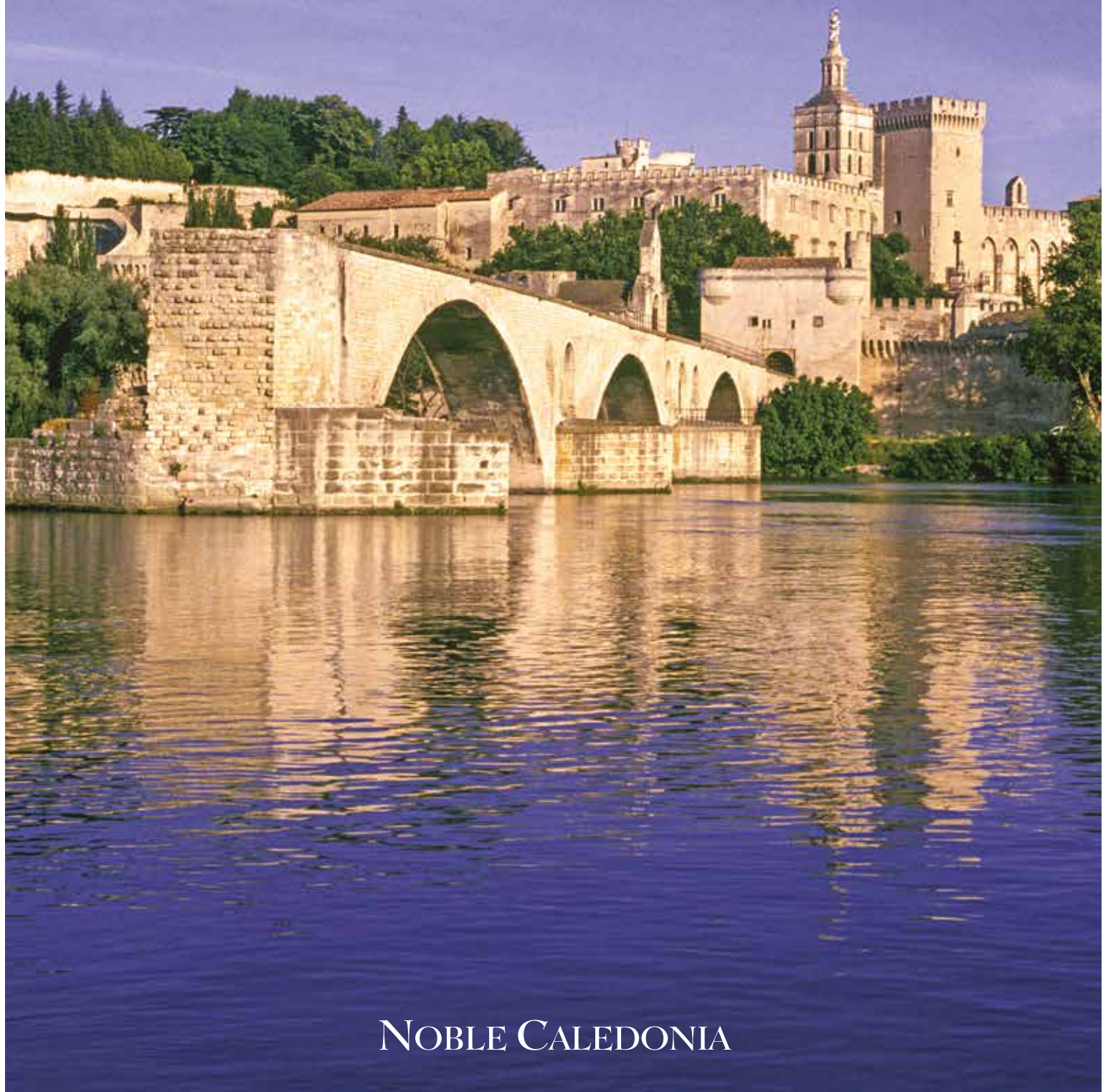


# PASSAGE ALONG THE RHONE

Explore the wonders of Provence  
from aboard the MS Camargue

16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May & 24<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA

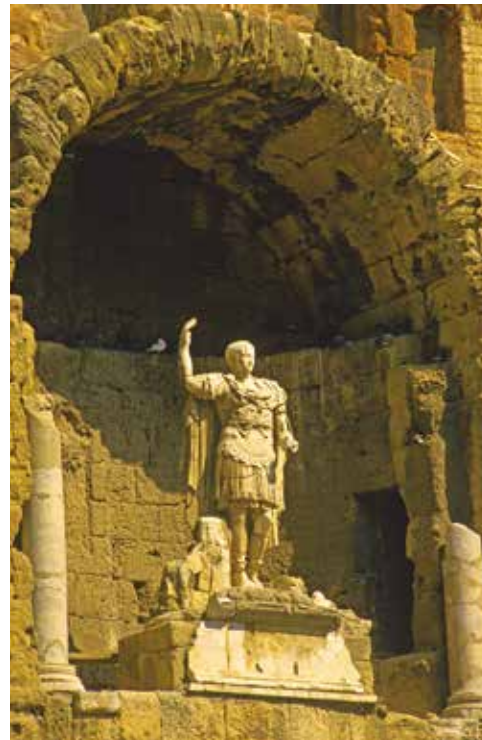
Exploring any country by river provides the traveller with an extra insight, understanding and lasting memory. This is particularly true of France where Mother Nature has provided the most perfect

means of observing a great swathe of the country and as we meander along the scenic Rhone we will explore one of her loveliest corners. The Rhone, dubbed the 'River of Angels' by Robert Louis Stevenson, offers a passage through history past great architectural treasures, through some truly wonderful scenery and an ever-changing countryside dotted with cypress, umbrella pine and vines.

Our programme combines excursions ashore to nearby towns and sites as well as time at leisure, so you can truly relax and experience all that the region has to offer. There will be the opportunity to explore France's gastronomic capital Lyon and visit Avignon, the great City of Popes which boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. We will also discover some of the many impressive Roman sites including the amphitheatre at Arles, the Roman theatre of Orange and the magnificent Pont du Gard. But, no trip to Provence would be complete without visiting the surrounding countryside and we will visit the Ardeche Gorges as well as some of the surrounding hillside villages. All this will be accomplished with ease from the comfort of the delightful MS Camargue.



Abbaye Saint Andre



Statue of Caesar Augustus in the amphitheatre at Orange



Chateau de Grignan



Temple of Augustus and Livia, Vienne

## The Itinerary – 16th May 2020 Departure

**Day 1 London to Lyon, France.** Fly by scheduled flight to Lyon or travel by train from London St Pancras. Upon arrival transfer to the MS Camargue and embark. Meet your fellow travellers this evening during welcome drinks and dinner. The ship will moor overnight in Lyon.

**Day 2 Lyon.** Today begins with a guided tour of the old part of the city, including the amazingly decorated 19th century hilltop Basilica of Notre Dame. Take a walk through the 'Halles de Lyon', a famous food market where renowned chefs are often spotted selecting their ingredients. The afternoon is free to wander past the shops and cafes on the banks of the Saone, or perhaps visit the marvellous fabric museum (Musee Historique des Tissus), the equally fascinating Musee des Beaux-Arts, housed in a 17th century Benedictine Abbey, or the modern Musee des Confluences located at the southern tip of the Presqu'île at the confluence of the Rhone and the Saone. Sail south to Vienne during dinner.

**Day 3 Vienne.** We will spend this morning in the fine Roman town of Vienne, beautifully located in the Rhone Valley and surrounded by hills. On our walking tour, we will learn about its Roman era with a visit to the Temple of Augustus & Livia and the Roman theatre located in the centre of town. Also visit the Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral St Maurice. Relax on board this afternoon as we continue sailing south.

**Day 4 Ardeche Gorges & Chateau Grignan.** This morning we will visit the Ardeche Gorges with its magnificent scenery, most notably the spectacular limestone cliffs and the Pont d'Arc, the largest natural arch in Europe. We will also stop at a lavender museum where we will learn about the secrets of the flower and its culinary, medicinal and cosmetic uses. Return to the ship for lunch after which we will drive Grignan. A charming hillside village, Grignan was made famous by Madame de Sevigne in her letters. Here we will visit a truffle farm where we will have the chance to taste some of these local delicacies. Continue to Chateau de Grignan which, originally built in the 11th century, was transformed into a luxurious residence during the Renaissance.

**Day 5 Orange & Chateaufort du Pape.** This morning we have a half day tour of Orange, site of the greatest of all Roman theatres to survive in the West. The magnificent, semicircular Theatre Antique, situated in the centre of town, was built just before the birth of Christ. Accommodating 7000 spectators, its acoustics are superb. This is also the only Roman theatre still possessing its original Imperial statue of Caesar Augustus, which, at 12 feet in height, is one of the tallest in existence. After lunch on the ship we will enjoy a wine tasting in Chateaufort du Pape, an area renowned for its rich ruby reds.



Colourful Provence



Pont du Gard



Pont d'Arc, Ardeche Gorges

## The Itinerary – 24 May 2020 Departure

**Day 6 Pont du Gard & Uzes.** Today we will drive to Pont du Gard, the impressive Roman aqueduct built in the first century as part of a system to bring water to Uzes and Nimes. Later, continue to historic Uzes, a gem of a town with a captivating history and some imposing and very beautiful buildings including the castle of the Ducs d'Uzes. This afternoon we will sail to Avignon. Perhaps enjoy an evening stroll through the narrow streets inside the Medieval walls.

**Day 7 Avignon & Abbaye Saint-Andre.** The great City of the Popes boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. We will also visit the Cathedral and famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon. After lunch on board, we will visit Abbaye Saint-Andre's beautiful gardens with its Florentine inspiration and excellent views of Avignon and the Rhone Valley. The Abbey is located atop the hill known as Mont Andaon and now lies within the impressive Saint Andre fortress.

**Day 8 Arles.** Our final morning will be spent exploring Arles. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Arles sits on a low hill where the Rhone river branches in two parts to the sea. The town dates back to the 7th century BC and was a major Gallo-Roman city. The Roman sites are unique in that they are integrated into the houses and buildings of the town. During our walking tour we will see the huge amphitheatre and the former Cathedral of St Trophime, a Romanesque Basilica constructed in the 12th century. After lunch on the ship, enjoy some free time before we sail upstream to Avignon. This evening join your fellow travellers for farewell drinks and dinner.

**Day 9 Avignon to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Marseille or Nice airport for the return scheduled flight to London, or travel by train to London St Pancras.

**Day 1 London to Avignon, France.** Fly by scheduled flight to Marseille or Nice airport or travel by train from London St Pancras. Upon arrival transfer to the MS Camargue and embark. Meet your fellow travellers this evening during welcome drinks and dinner. The ship will moor overnight in Avignon.

**Day 2 Avignon & Abbaye Saint-Andre.** The great City of the Popes boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. We will also visit the cathedral and famous Pont Benezet, a bridge that spans the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon. After lunch on board, we will visit Abbaye Saint-Andre's beautiful gardens with its Florentine inspiration and excellent views of Avignon and the Rhone Valley. The Abbey is located atop the hill known as Mont Andaon and now lies within the impressive Saint Andre fortress.

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**Day 4 Pont du Gard, Uzes & Chateauneuf du Pape.** Today we will drive to Pont du Gard, the impressive Roman aqueduct built in the first century as part of a system to bring water to Uzes and Nimes. Later, continue to historic Uzes, a gem of a town with a captivating history and some imposing and very beautiful buildings including the castle of the Ducs d'Uzes. After lunch on the ship we will enjoy a wine tasting in Chateauneuf du Pape, an area renowned for its rich ruby reds.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CAT	CABIN DESCRIPTION/DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Cat 4	Main Deck Twin	£2695	£2495
Cat 3	Main Deck Single	£3195	£2995
Cat 2	Upper Deck Twin with French Balcony	£2895	£2695
Cat 1	Upper Deck Single with French Balcony	£3495	£3295
Junior Suite	Upper Deck Twin with French Balcony	£3195	£2995

#### PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air or train travel

- Eight nights aboard the MS Camargue on a full board basis
- All-inclusive drinks from 10.00 am to 11.00 pm (please note that premium brands & sparkling wines are not included)
- Shore excursions • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

*NB. The transfer time between Avignon and Marseille airport is 1 hour and 15 minutes, and between Avignon and Nice airport is 2 hours and 45 minutes.*



Lyon from the top of Notre Dame de Fourvière

**Day 5 Orange.** This morning we have a half day tour of Orange, site of the greatest of all Roman theatres to survive in the West. The magnificent, semicircular Theatre Antique, situated in the centre of town, was built just before the birth of Christ. Accommodating 7000 spectators, its acoustics are superb. This is also the only Roman theatre still possessing its original Imperial statue of Caesar Augustus, which, at 12 feet in height, is one of the tallest in existence. Later on we sail to Viviers and enjoy some free time in this charming location.

**Day 6 Ardeche Gorges & Chateau Grignan.** This morning we will visit the Ardeche Gorges with its magnificent scenery, most notably the spectacular limestone cliffs and the Pont d'Arc, the largest natural arch in Europe. We will also stop at a lavender museum where we will learn about the secrets of the flower and its culinary, medicinal and cosmetic uses. Return to the ship for lunch after which we will drive to Grignan. A charming hillside village, Grignan was made famous by Madame de Sevigne in her letters. Here we will visit a truffle farm where we will have the chance to taste some of these local delicacies. Continue to Chateau de Grignan which, originally built in the 11th century, was transformed into a luxurious residence during the Renaissance.

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**Day 8 Lyon.** Today begins with a guided tour of the old part of the city, including the amazingly decorated 19th century hilltop Basilica of Notre Dame. Take a walk through the 'Halles de Lyon', a famous food market where renowned chefs are often spotted selecting their ingredients. The afternoon is free to wander past the shops and cafes on the banks of the Saone, or perhaps visit the marvellous fabric museum (Musee Historique des Tissus), the equally fascinating Musee des Beaux-Arts, housed in a 17th century Benedictine Abbey, or the modern Musee des Confluences located at the southern tip of the Presqu'île at the confluence of the Rhone and the Saone. This evening join your fellow travellers for farewell drinks and dinner.

**Day 9 Lyon to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Lyon airport for the return scheduled flight to London, or travel by train to London St Pancras.

## AIX-EN-PROVENCE EXTENSION

24th to 27th May 2020 (post-cruise extension in conjunction with 16th May departure)  
& 21st to 24th May\* 2020 (pre-cruise extension in conjunction with the 24th May departure)



Local market, Aix-en-Provence

For those wishing to spend some more time exploring this wonderful region, we are offering the opportunity to join a three night extension in charming Aix-en-Provence.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 St-Remy-de-Provence & Le Jardin de l'Albertain.** Disembark this morning and enjoy a tour of St Remy de Provence. Nestled in the hills of Les Alpilles, the town centre is full of narrow Medieval alleyways, fountains and squares. We will visit Saint Paul de Mausole where Vincent Van Gogh was interned for a year. It was here where he painted 150 canvasses, including "Olive Grove" and "Starry Night". After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit Le Jardin de l'Albertain. Later transfer to our hotel in Aix-en-Provence. The evening is free to dine independently.



Cezanne's Monte Sainte Victoire

**Day 2 Sainte Victoire Mountain & Aix-en-Provence.** After breakfast at our hotel, we will drive to Sainte Victoire Mountain, the subject of many of Paul Cezanne's paintings. Back in Aix-en-Provence, we have some free time for lunch then will meet our guides for our afternoon walking tour where we discover the town's leafy boulevards and public squares lined with 17th and 18th century mansions. Fountains hold an important place in the architecture here and the city is also known as the 'city of a thousand fountains', a name which it more than lives up to with its many beautiful and intricate marble sculpted fountains that can be found in nearly every square. We finish with a visit to the Granet art museum. Dinner tonight is under your own arrangements.

**Day 3 Cassis.** We depart this morning for Cassis where we will enjoy a boat trip through the Calanques National Park. Enjoy some free time for lunch under your own arrangements, after which we will return to Aix-en-Provence for a late afternoon and evening at leisure.

**Day 4 Aix-en-Provence to London.** Transfer to Marseille airport for the scheduled flight to London.

*\* Please note that for the 21st May extension, the order of visits and meal arrangements varies slightly. Full details can be viewed at [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)*

**Prices per person** based on double occupancy

Twin: £795; Single: £1195

**Price Includes:** Three nights accommodation in Aix-en-Provence on a bed and breakfast basis, tours as described, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers, lunch on day 1.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, lunch on days 2 & 3, all dinners.



MS Camargue at Avignon

# MS CAMARGUE

For our voyages along the Rhone we have chartered the delightful MS Camargue from our associates at Croisi-Europe. The vessel accommodates just 104 passengers and offers elegant and spacious public areas and comfortable and well appointed cabins. She is a charming vessel and joining you on board will be a Noble Caledonia team including a Cruise Director, Tour Manager and Guest Speaker.



Category 2 Cabin

#### Your Cabin

The vessel has a total of 54 cabins, comprising of 50 twin bedded cabins and four single cabins with a double bed. All are attractively furnished and feature cable TV, safe, hairdryer, individual air-conditioning and heating controls, ample storage and a dressing table. Twin cabins measure 14 square metres and single cabins measure 9 square metres. Cabins on the Main Deck feature large picture windows which can be opened and those on the Upper Deck feature

French Balcony style (floor to ceiling) sliding windows, allowing you to admire the passing scenery from your cabin.

#### Your Space

Public areas aboard the MS Camargue are both elegantly furnished and spacious. The lounge on the Upper Deck is a relaxing environment in which to admire the passing scenery, socialise and enjoy a drink from the bar and it is here that the resident musician will entertain after a day of exploration. There is also a spacious Sun Deck on board with comfortable deck furniture, the perfect place to relax and appreciate the passing scenery whilst cruising along the Rhone. In addition, there is a small souvenir shop on board.

#### Life On Board

The friendly onboard staff will provide you with excellent service and do much to contribute to your enjoyment throughout your journey. You will find yourself amongst like-minded guests in an English speaking environment and the atmosphere onboard is relaxed and informal with a comfortable and casual dress code. A daily briefing by the Cruise Director will provide you with information on the next day's activities and expert English speaking guides will accompany you on the included excursions. In addition you will be accompanied by a Guest Speaker who will provide entertaining and informative talks.



Junior Suite



Restaurant



Lounge



Bathroom

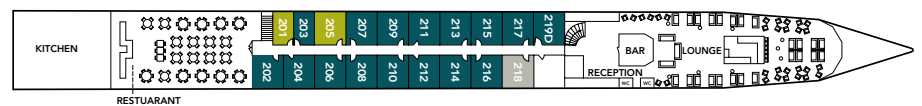


Bar

### Your Dining

The elegant restaurant is located on the Upper Deck and seats all guests in one sitting in an open seating arrangement. Breakfast is a buffet service with hot and cold dishes on offer and lunch includes two or three courses served to the table in addition to a buffet selection of breads, pasta, salads, cheese and fruit. Dinner is a four course affair and served to your table. House wine, beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner, and tea and coffee are available in the lounge from 6.00 am to midnight daily.

### UPPER DECK



### MAIN DECK



CATEGORY 1
  CATEGORY 2
  CATEGORY 3
  CATEGORY 4
  JUNIOR SUITE

Please note that cabins 125 and 219 have double beds.

# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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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: Pont Saint Benezet and the Palais des Papes, Avignon