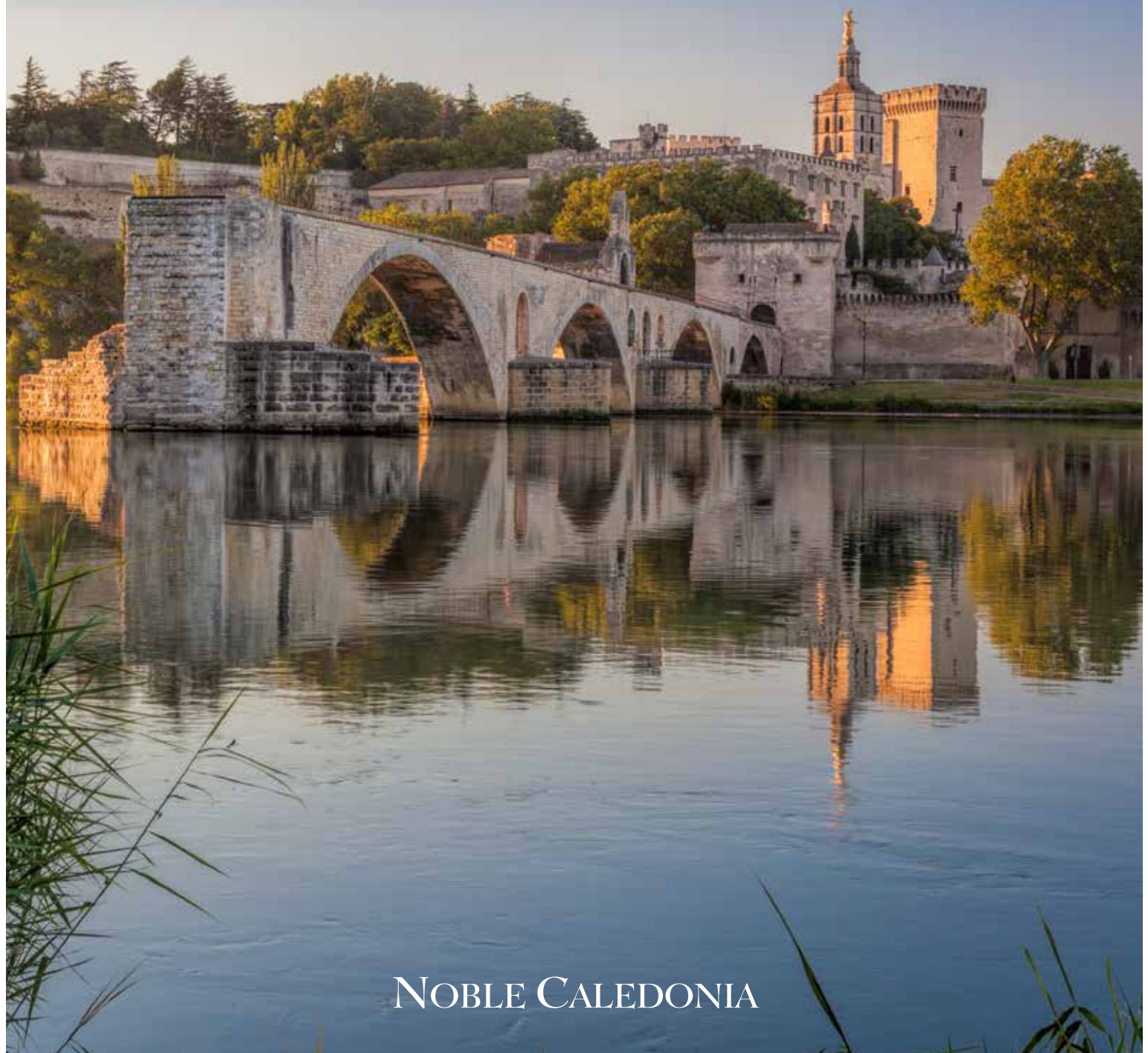


SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£200**  
PER PERSON

# PASSAGE ALONG THE RHONE

Discover the cultural & natural splendours of the Rhone  
aboard the MS Van Gogh

15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May & 30<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Abbaye Saint-Andre



Palais des Papes, Avignon



Exploring any country by river provides the traveller with extra insight, understanding and a 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 Van Gogh.



Pont du Gard

## The Itinerary

**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 Van Gogh in Avignon and embark. Meet your fellow travellers this evening during welcome drinks and dinner. The ship moors overnight in Avignon.

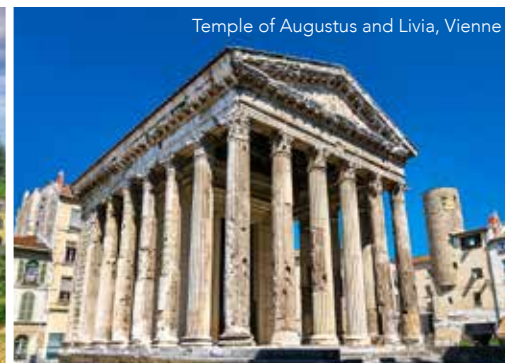
**Day 2 Avignon & Abbaye Saint-Andre.** The great City of the Popes boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. We will also 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.

**Day 3 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





Vienne Valley



Temple of Augustus and Livia, Vienne



Chateauneuf du Pape

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 board, enjoy some free time before we sail upstream this evening.

**Day 4 Pont du Gard, Uzès & 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 Uzès and Nîmes. Later, we continue to historic Uzès, a gem of a town with a captivating history and some imposing and beautiful buildings including the castle of the Ducs d'Uzès. After lunch on board the ship we will enjoy a wine tasting in Chateauneuf du Pape, an area renowned for its rich ruby reds.

**Day 5 Orange & Viviers.** 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. Sail later to Viviers and enjoy some free time in this charming town.

**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.

**Day 7 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 north.

**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.



Lyon

## 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
1	Main Deck Twin	£2895	£2695
2	Upper Deck Twin with French Balcony	£3095	£2895
3	Main Deck Single	£3395	£3195
2	Upper Deck Twin with French Balcony for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air or train travel • Eight nights aboard the MS Van Gogh on a full board basis • All-inclusive drinks from 10am to 11pm daily (please note premium brands & sparkling wine are not included) • Shore excursions • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

**N.B.** The outbound transfer time from Marseille airport to Avignon is 1 hour and 15 minutes, and from Nice airport to Avignon is 2 hours and 45 minutes.



## Aix-en-Provence Pre-Cruise Extension 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May & 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Aix-en-Provence



Cassis



View of Sainte Victoire Mountain

Before embarking the MS Van Gogh in Avignon, we are offering the opportunity to join our three night pre-cruise extension in Aix-en-Provence.

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Aix-en-Provence, France.** Fly by scheduled flight to Marseille and transfer to our hotel in Aix-en-Provence. Meet later tonight for our welcome dinner. (D)

**Day 2 Sainte Victoire and 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 before we 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. (B)

**Day 3 Cassis.** We depart this morning for Cassis where we will enjoy a boat trip through the Calanques National Park. Here, long narrow deep fjord-like inlets have cut into the limestone cliffs. Enjoy some free time for lunch under your own arrangements, after which we will return to Aix-en-Provence for the late afternoon and evening at leisure. (B)

**Day 4 St Remy-de-Provence.** After breakfast we will 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 transfer to the MS Van Gogh moored in Avignon. (B, L, D)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£945**    Single: **£1345**

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L- Lunch, D – Dinner), Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

N.B. Please be advised that train travel is not available in conjunction with the pre-cruise extension.





# MS VAN GOGH

For our voyages along the Rhone we have chartered the delightful MS Van Gogh from our associates at Croisi Europe. The vessel accommodates a maximum of 105 passengers and offers spacious public areas and comfortable 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.

## Your Cabin

The cabins are spread across the Main and Upper Decks and all are outside facing. All cabins are attractively furnished and feature an ensuite bathroom with shower, flat screen TV, telephone, safe, hairdryer, individual air-conditioning and heating controls, and a closet. Twin cabins measure 15 square metres and single cabins measure 11 square metres. Cabins on the Main Deck feature picture windows, 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

The public areas aboard the MS Van Gogh 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. There is also a spacious Sun Deck with comfortable deck furniture, the perfect place to relax and appreciate the passing scenery whilst cruising along the Rhone. The open-seating restaurant is located on the Upper Deck and there is a small souvenir shop on board.

## Your Dining

Meals are taken in a single sitting in the MS Van Gogh's bright and airy restaurant located on the Upper Deck. The open-seating restaurant offers delicious international cuisine and regional specialities. Breakfast and lunch are buffet style with hot and cold items and dinner is a served set menu with a choice of either two main courses or a vegetarian option. Alcoholic and soft drinks are included in your holiday price (excluding premium brands and sparkling wine) as are tea and coffee which are available throughout the day on a self-serve basis and with meals.





Lounge



Bar



Restaurant

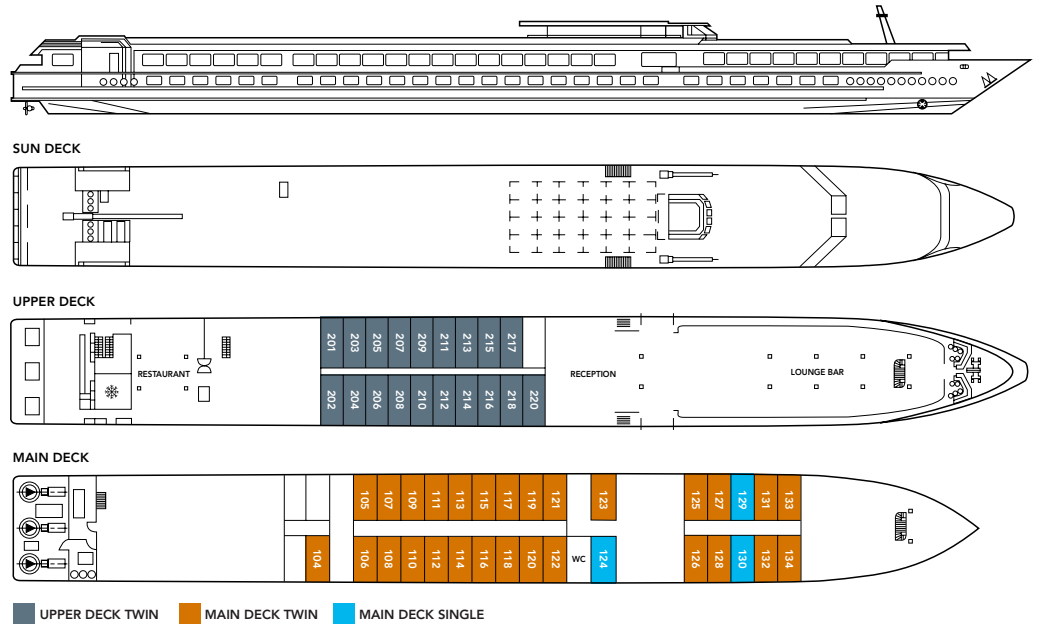


Main Deck Single

## DECK PLAN

### 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 on board 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.



# 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: Avignon.