

EXCLUSIVE NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARTERS

# MS RIVER CROWN

RIVER CRUISES ALONG THE RHINE, MAIN & DANUBE

MAY TO JULY 2024



NOBLE CALEDONIA



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# INTRODUCING THE MS RIVER CROWN



Travelling across Europe by river offers an insight that cannot easily be had by more conventional forms of transport. The leisurely pace and quietness of the vessel allows you to be at one with your surroundings and the ever changing scenery and immediate accessibility of an area so steeped in history are just some of the many advantages of exploring by river.

For 2024, we are delighted to have chartered the 100-passenger MS River Crown for a series of cruises along the Rhine, Main and Danube. We have been offering river cruises since our establishment in 1991 and in that time have witnessed an incredible growth in the number of vessels plying the rivers of Europe. The new, ultra-modern river cruise ships can accommodate hundreds of passengers, however, we have been searching for a vessel aboard which we can offer a more intimate and convivial experience and are therefore pleased to have been able to secure our charters of the MS River Crown which is the perfect vessel for our explorations.

Built in 2008 and refurbished in 2013 with further works taking place prior to our charters in 2024, the elegant MS River Crown offers a range of comfortable cabins and suites. The vast majority of cabins feature French balconies offering wonderful views and for many the opportunity to open the doors to the fresh air is a great bonus. The vessel has a unique style, far removed from the modern river cruise ships and features beautiful rosewood panelling throughout. With a spacious lounge at the front of the vessel which benefits from extensive panoramic windows, and an expansive Sun Deck, there is ample space and opportunity to watch the world gently pass by as you relax on board your floating hotel.

Our Guest Speakers, who will accompany you on board the MS River Crown will add to your enjoyment with informative talks and, after 30 years of operating cruises along the rivers of Europe, we have accumulated the very best of local guides for our excursions. Their enormous wealth of knowledge and their own individual views provide colour to our trips leaving you with a lasting memory of all you see. In addition, our experienced Cruise Director, Cesar Perez, will be overseeing the day to day operation on board and providing informative port briefings.

Daily guided tours are included in the price, as are drinks with lunch and dinner, as well as gratuities which makes for all-round ease and enjoyment when travelling aboard the MS River Crown. Whether your main interest lies in history, politics, art, wine, music or simply enjoying the stately pace as we navigate through ever changing scenery, we believe we offer the most comprehensive range of river journeys along the Rhine, Main and Danube for the genuine traveller

We look forward to welcoming you on board.

Tim Cochrane  
Managing Director



## MS RIVER CROWN

The elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown is a spacious and well designed vessel. The atmosphere on board is friendly and informal and within days you will have made new friends in the open-seating restaurant, on the shore excursions or whilst relaxing in the comfortable public areas. You will find yourself amongst like-minded people in an English-speaking environment and for those who seek peace and quiet, there will always be the opportunity to find a secluded spot on the Sun Deck or simply rest in your well-appointed cabin. A musician will play each evening whilst you relax in the lounge, Guest Speakers will provide a series of interesting talks and our Cruise Director will host informative port briefings. After a day exploring ashore, you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable vessel.

### YOUR CABIN

The spacious cabins are arranged over three decks and are well planned and smartly furnished. Premium cabins on the Middle and Upper Deck measure 18 square metres and beds in these cabins can be configured as twin or double. Premium cabins feature a French Balcony providing wonderful views and access to fresh air. Also on the Middle and Upper decks are the Deluxe cabins with French Balcony which measure 22 square metres and feature fixed double beds along with a seating area. The four spacious, two room Queen Suites on the Upper Deck measure 30 square metres and feature both a French Balcony and separate balcony with chairs and a table, living room area with separable sliding door, a double bed and spacious bathroom with separate bath and shower. Finally, there are four Standard cabins on the Main Deck which measure 12 square metres and have fixed twin beds and portholes. All cabins feature ample storage space, a writing/dressing table, television, safety deposit box, small refrigerator, and individually controlled air-conditioning.

### 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 for early risers, tea, coffee and pastries are available from 06.30 hours. Breakfast is served buffet style, lunch is a combination of a delightful buffet and hot dishes served to order and dinner is a served four course meal. In addition, house wine, beer and soft drinks are included at both lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea is also provided with a choice of cakes and to finish the day, snacks are available in the lounge in the late evening.

### YOUR SPACE

A well designed feature of the MS River Crown is the positioning of the Restaurant and the Lounge and Bar on the Upper Deck. These public areas have floor to ceiling windows, affording excellent views as you dine, relax or listen to the onboard lectures. There is also a small library on board and The Club, a perfect place if you are seeking somewhere to relax with a good book and a tea or coffee. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge and is the ideal location to watch the changing scenery. There is also a putting green and a large chess board on the Sun Deck for your enjoyment. For some time out, you can relax in the wellness centre which includes a sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room.







Queen Suite



Restaurant



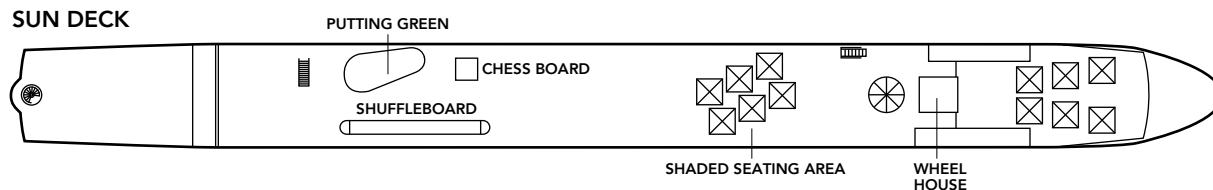
Theatre Lounge & Bar



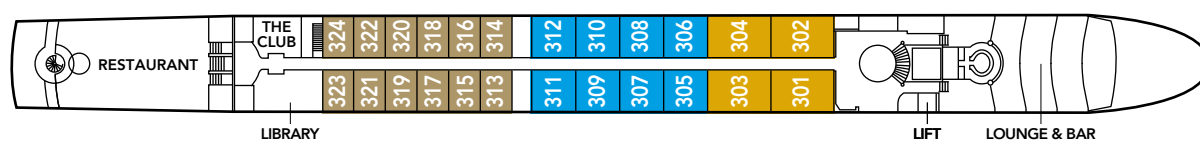
On deck

## DECK PLAN

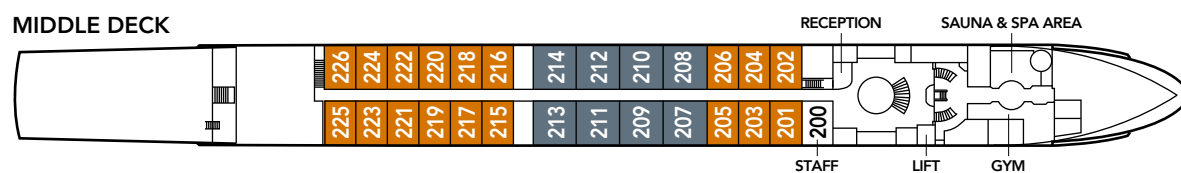
### SUN DECK



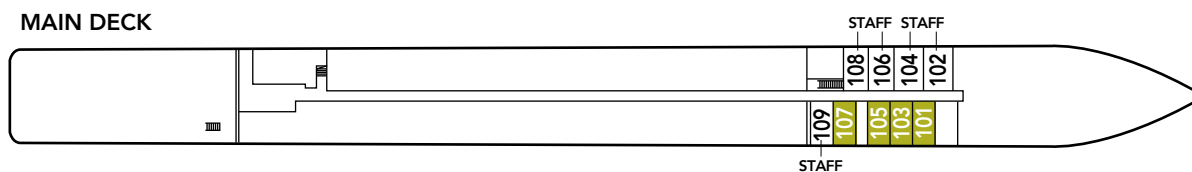
### UPPER DECK



### MIDDLE DECK



### MAIN DECK



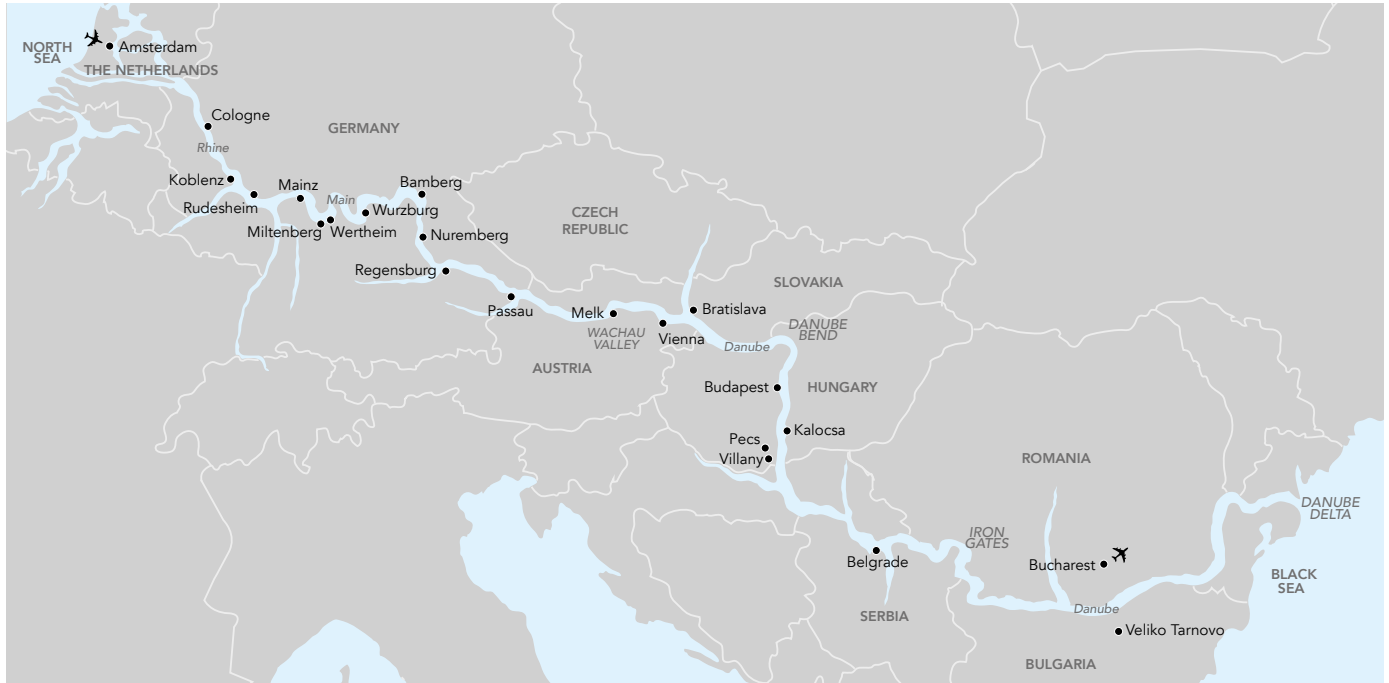
- QUEEN SUITE with Balcony
- PREMIUM with French Balcony
- STANDARD TWIN with Porthole (sole use)

- DELUXE with French Balcony

# ACROSS EUROPE BY RIVER

A journey across Europe with Guest Speaker Michael Hindley & highlight performances by London Festival Opera aboard the MS River Crown

6<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Join us aboard the charming 100-passenger MS River Crown for this grand tour of Europe as we sail from Amsterdam to Bucharest, visit eight countries and yet only have to unpack once. This is the perfect trip for those who enjoy seeing something new every day, as the MS River Crown transports you in considerable comfort between great cities, towns and villages, past ever-changing landscapes where the slow speed of the vessel allows us to absorb the views of town and country.

Each port of call has its own unique character waiting to be discovered whilst on one of our guided excursions. From historic locations to iconic buildings, our itinerary is brimming with highlights including the grand cities of Vienna and Budapest; the picturesque towns along the Rhine and Main including Miltenberg and Rudesheim; wine tasting in Wurzburg and musical performances. There will of course also be plenty of time to relax on board and enjoy some truly beautiful scenery especially whilst cruising through the dramatic Rhine Gorge and through the spectacular Iron Gates.

If you have never experienced a river journey it is difficult to explain the sheer pleasure that comes from travelling across Europe observing everyday life on the banks of the Danube, Main and Rhine rivers. You can let the world slip by as you relax on the Sun Deck or in the Lounge and delight in awe-inspiring panoramic views of the passing scenery. Guided excursions with excellent local guides, highlight musical performances by London Festival Opera and interesting talks by our Guest Speaker will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere on board as we sail along the European waterways.

## GUEST SPEAKER – MICHAEL HINDLEY



Michael Hindley was born in Blackburn, UK and educated at London University (BA Hons in German and French), Lancaster University (MA in Comparative Cultural Studies), and the Free University of West Berlin. Michael also has a post graduate diploma in International Law. Michael was an elected council leader in Northwest England, a Lancashire County Councillor and a Member of the European

Parliament for three terms (1984-99). He was the Majority Leader on the Trade Committee (1989-99). During this time Michael was part of the group which worked towards Sweden and Finland joining the EU in 1995. Michael is now a freelance political consultant and has acted as an expert adviser for the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and written a report on Fair Trade for the United Nations, International Trade Centre, Geneva. Michael is a frequent lecturer on European politics and has lectured at the Universities of Greifswald and Gottingen, Germany and worked with the University of Tallinn, Estonia. He has recently published a book on Britain's relationship with Europe since 1945 entitled *The Semi-Detached European*.







Cologne Cathedral



Wurzburg



Melk Abbey



Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace, Wurzburg

## SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted that London Festival Opera will perform an Opera Celebration during your stay in Melk and Vienna. In the beautiful setting of Melk Abbey experience delightful arias and ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*. Whilst in Vienna there will be two onboard performances; a costumed Opera Soirée with arias and

ensembles from Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach and Puccini, and a magical repertoire, "A Night in Vienna".

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London or Manchester to Amsterdam, Netherlands.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown and moor overnight.

**Day 2 Amsterdam.** After breakfast there will be a choice of tours; depart for a visit to the Rijksmuseum, arguably Amsterdam's most important art venue. Housing some of the greatest examples of Western European painting and decorative arts, it boasts works by Vermeer, Goya, and Rubens. Alternatively, you may like to take a canal cruise and admire the city from a glass-top boat as you glide past 17th century homes, churches and 16th century merchant houses. Return to the ship for lunch and sail towards Cologne. This evening join your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner on board.

**Day 3 Cologne, Germany.** This morning we will cruise along the legendary Rhine. Pass Duisburg and Dusseldorf before arriving in

Cologne for a tour to see the city's famous cathedral. The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe, with the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world. Our guided tour will continue with a visit to a "Brauhaus" to sample some of the local Kolsch beer. Sail this evening.

**Day 4 Koblenz & Rudesheim.** Arrive in Koblenz for a morning walking tour of this historic commercial centre. Return to the ship and sail mid-morning through the dramatic Rhine Gorge to Rudesheim, passing romantic castles, lush vineyards and the infamous Lorelei rock. We will arrive into Rudesheim in the late afternoon and on arrival join the Winzerexpress mini-train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated musical instruments. Return to the MS River Crown for dinner, after which there will be some free time to perhaps visit to the town's lively Drosselgasse.

**Day 5 Mainz.** Arrive this morning in atmospheric Mainz where our guided walking tour will include the Hoefchen ("Little Court"), residence of the city's archbishops until the 15th century, the Kirschgarten with its romantic half-timbered houses and Marian-Fountain. Our tour will include a visit to the Johan Gutenberg Museum. Sail at lunchtime as we enter the River Main.

**Day 6 Miltenberg & Wertheim.** During this morning's walking tour, see the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, known for its half-timbered Medieval houses. Return to the ship for lunch whilst sailing on to beautiful Wertheim. Enjoy some free time this afternoon in this charming market town.

**Day 7 Wurzburg.** Sail overnight to historic Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. We will tour this lovely town including the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace. Our visit will end with a wine tasting of local wines in the splendid cellars of the Residenz. 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 Bamberg.





Bratislava



Budapest



Saint Sava Cathedral, Belgrade



Decebal's Head, Iron Gates



Passau

**Day 8 Bamberg.** Today 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. 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 9 Nuremberg.** The city of Nuremberg's long and sometimes troubled history has left its mark on the city and there is 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 and discover the city's spectacular Medieval architecture. Sail at lunchtime and continue cruising through the highest point of any commercial waterway in Europe, 1331 feet above sea level.

**Day 10 Regensburg.** Early this morning we enter the Danube River, arriving in Regensburg mid-morning. Join a guided stroll around historic Regensburg, and see the highlights such as the Old Town Hall, the World Heritage listed city centre and the ancient Romanesque Porta Praetoria. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon to explore further at your own pace.

**Day 11 Passau.** For our final call in Germany we call at 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. In the late afternoon we sail towards Austria.

**Day 12 Melk & the Wachau Valley to Vienna, Austria.** 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. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we sail through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards Vienna.

**Day 13 Vienna.** This morning there will be a choice of tours. A city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse and the

Old Quarter including St Stephan's cathedral. Alternatively, you may prefer a visit to the impressive Zentralfriedhof (Vienna Central Cemetery), the second largest in Europe, and with honorary graves of renowned Austrian musicians, historians and politicians. 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 an onboard costumed performance by London Festival Opera. We remain moored overnight in Vienna for anyone who wishes to take an after dinner stroll.

**Day 14 Vienna.** After breakfast join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. In the early evening there will be a performance of "A Night in Vienna" by London Festival Opera on board. Sail late tonight.

**Day 15 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Overnight we sail the short distance to 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 for lunch and spend the afternoon cruising.

**Day 16 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 Fishermen's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace. After dinner this evening, join your fellow travellers on deck to enjoy the wonderful "Budapest by Night" sailing as we depart towards Kalocsa.

**Day 17 Kalocsa.** Arrive this morning in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. We will tour the Puszt district which will include the town and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise along the beautiful Danube, arriving in Mohacs in the early evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 18 Pecs & Villany.** From the port of Mohacs, we will depart 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 the opportunity to hear the sound of the organ 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.

**Day 19 Belgrade, Serbia.** Spend today in this interesting 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 before we sail tonight.

**Day 20 Cruising through the Iron Gates.** Today the scenery becomes truly spectacular as we cruise through the Iron Gates, a narrow Danube gorge between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains.

**Day 21 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 returning to the MS River Crown in Rousse and sailing this evening.

**Day 22 Bucharest, Romania to London or Manchester.** Disembark in Giurgiu after breakfast and transfer to Bucharest airport for your return scheduled flight to the UK.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£7795	£7295
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7995	£7495
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£8495	£7995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£9095	£8595
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£10095	£9595
Standard Twin with porthole for sole use	Main Deck	£7795	£7295
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£9795	£9295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 21 nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions & music events as described • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Performances by London Festival Opera • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## POST-CRUISE BUCHAREST EXTENSION 27<sup>TH</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

If you would like to spend some time in Bucharest after disembarking the MS River Crown, we are offering a three night post-cruise extension.

Romanian Athenaeum, Bucharest



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 Giurgiu to Bucharest, Romania.** Disembark the MS River Crown and transfer to Bucharest. On arrival there will be a panoramic city tour of the city's highlights followed by lunch at the Phoenicia Restaurant. Continue on to the hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 2 Bucharest.** Today we visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world at 3.77 million square feet. This gargantuan construction is Ceausescu's most infamous creation and makes for a fascinating tour. After our tour we will have lunch in 'Carul cu Bere', Bucharest's oldest beer house, with its colourful Belle Epoque interior, stained-glass windows and classic Romanian fare. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, including a visit to Stravropoleos Church, Lipscani Lane, Manuc's Inn and the Old Princely Court. The remainder of the day and evening will be at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 3 Snagov & Mogosoaia.** After breakfast, depart for our visit to Snagov Monastery. This monastery was founded in 1408 by Mircea the Elder, Vlad Dracul's grandfather. Vlad, also known as Vlad Tepes is the historical character on whom Bram Stoker's book Dracula is based and is said to be buried here by the monks in 1476. We continue on to visit Mogosoaia Palace, built in the 17th century in the Romanian Renaissance style. After lunch in a local restaurant we return to Bucharest for an evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 4 Bucharest to London or Manchester.** After breakfast we transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to the UK. (B)

**Prices per person** Based on double occupancy

Twin: £895 Single: £1195

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), excursions as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# THE ENCHANTING DANUBE

A cruise along the Danube with musical and cultural highlights and Guest Speaker  
Professor Martyn Rady aboard the MS River Crown

27<sup>th</sup> May to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024



Join us as we navigate the Danube River from Romania in the east to the romantic city of Regensburg in the west. We travel through the heart of Europe visiting eight countries; Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany. From the earliest of times the Danube has been one of Europe's most important trade routes linking the eastern shores with central Europe and this stretch of the river offers a diversity of history and culture quite unlike anywhere else. Our included tours with excellent local guides, together with interesting talks by our Guest Speaker, will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere as we sail along the majestic Danube.

We will journey through some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown, visiting the great historic cities of Belgrade, Budapest and Vienna, as well as picturesque riverside and inland towns. From the great comfort of our vessel we will cruise effortlessly, enjoying the varied scenery and architecture whilst learning more about a region that has seen more of its fair share of conflicts, revolutions and wars. The combination of music, traditional culture, wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a fascinating trip. To enhance your holiday further we are offering a six-night pre-cruise extension in the magical region of Transylvania in Romania, offering the chance to visit some of the last untouched and least travelled areas of Europe. There is also the opportunity to spend some time in Prague at the end of the cruise.

## GUEST SPEAKER – PROFESSOR MARTYN RADY



the Habsburg Monarchy.

Martyn Rady is Masaryk Professor Emeritus of Central European History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, a part of University College London. He has written books on German, Hungarian and Romanian history, and has edited and translated some of the leading texts for the history of Hungary – most recently the earliest Hungarian chronicle, written in Latin about the year 1200, and an eye-witness account of the Mongol invasion of Hungary in 1241. He has broadcast extensively on television and radio, discussing subjects ranging from contemporary politics in Central Europe to vampirism and the history of



Kalosca's horsemanship





Decebal's Head, Iron Gates Gorge



City Hall Square, Pecs



Passau



Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London or Manchester to Bucharest, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight to Bucharest and on arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Giurgiu. Embark and sail this evening.

**Day 2 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** From our berth in 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 return to the MS River Crown in Nikopol and sail.

**Day 3 Cruising through the Iron Gates.** Today the scenery becomes truly spectacular as we cruise through the Iron Gates, a narrow Danube gorge between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains.

**Day 4 Belgrade, Serbia.** Spend the morning in this interesting city. A half-day tour will highlight 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 and an afternoon cruising. Arrive this evening in Novi Sad.

**Day 5 Novi Sad.** After breakfast we depart for a visit of Novi Sad, in the Serbian northern province of Vojvodina. The city is rich in historic buildings including the fortress, Bishop's House, Clock Tower and numerous churches, some of which will be seen on our morning tour. Our exploration of Greater Novi Sad includes a wine tasting in nearby Sremski Karlovic where we sample some excellent wines of the former Yugoslavia. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon relax on board as we cruise towards Hungary.

**Day 6 Pecs & Villany, Hungary.** From the port of Mohacs, we will depart 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 the

opportunity to hear the splendid sound of the organ in 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. This evening we sail the short distance to Kalocsa where we moor overnight.

**Day 7 Kalocsa.** Charming Kalocsa is renowned for paprika production and our tour of the Puszt district will include the town and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise down the beautiful Danube, arriving in Budapest in the late evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 8 Budapest.** 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 Fishermen's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch and an enjoy an afternoon at leisure. After dinner this evening, join your fellow travellers on deck to enjoy the wonderful "Budapest by Night" sailing as we depart towards Bratislava.

**Day 9 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Arrive over lunch 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.

**Day 10 Vienna, Austria.** This morning there will be a choice of tours. A city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephan's Cathedral. Alternatively, travel to the Vienna Woods, including a visit to the Mayerling hunting lodge, where scandal once rocked the royal family, as well as the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore this majestic city further.

**Day 11 Vienna.** After breakfast join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace.



Durnstein



**Day 12 Durnstein & Melk.** Arrive this morning in the pretty town of Durnstein, where King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned. Enjoy some free time ashore to explore and perhaps sample some of the town's delicious Marillenschnaps or strudel. We then sail on through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards the great Baroque Abbey of Melk, situated high above the Danube. On arrival in the afternoon depart for an excursion to see this imposing abbey, followed by an uplifting performance by a clarinet quintet. Return to the ship and sail this evening for Linz.

**Day 13 Linz for Salzburg or Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic.** From the town of Linz a choice of full day tours will be available. Enjoy a 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 some free time to explore at leisure. Alternatively, depart for Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and famous for its architectural treasures and music

festival. Our guided excursion will concentrate on Mozart's family and his musical contemporaries. Visits will be made to the house known as Tanzmeisterhaus where he spent his early life, and the Residenz. We also take a walk through the lovely gardens of the Mirabell Palace. Both tours include lunch in a local restaurant. Return to the ship and sail this evening towards Germany.

**Day 14 Passau, Germany.** 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. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board.

**Day 15 Regensburg to London or Manchester.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Munich airport for your return scheduled flight to London or Manchester.

Salzburg



## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4995	£4795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£5095
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5795	£5595
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5995	£5795
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£6995	£6795
Standard Twin with porthole for sole use	Main Deck	£4995	£4795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6295	£6095

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



## PRE-CRUISE TRANSYLVANIA & ROYAL ROMANIA EXTENSION 21<sup>ST</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

Before joining the MS River Crown we are offering the opportunity to explore Transylvania with our six night escorted tour. Transylvania is located in central Romania and is a region of exquisite countryside surrounded by the arc of the dramatic Carpathian mountain chain. The region is home to some of Europe's best preserved Medieval towns which we will explore.

Council Square, Brasov



### THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Sibiu, Romania.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for a three-night stay. Tonight, gather for the traditional bread and salt welcome, followed by a welcome drink and dinner at the hotel. (D)

**Day 2 Sibiu & Sibiel.** This morning we take a walking tour of colourful Sibiu, a town visited by the Queen together with King Ferdinand in May 1919, followed by some free time before lunch in the old city. Later, drive to Sibiel, a pretty village situated 20 kilometres from Sibiu. Here we visit a unique and superb museum of glass painted icons, located in the old village church. This evening enjoy a traditional dinner during which we will be able to talk to our local hosts about Romanian daily life in a Transylvanian village before we return to our hotel in Sibiu. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 Sibiu & Alba Iulia.** After breakfast depart for Alba Iulia, the town where Ferdinand and Marie were crowned Kings of the Great Romania. On arrival we visit the stunning White Citadel and the Coronation Cathedral, as well as the Unification Museum. Lunch will be in a local restaurant, followed by some time here at leisure. Return to Sibiu and dinner this evening will be at our hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Biertan & Sighisoara.** This morning we depart for picturesque Biertan. Your first glimpse of the town's Medieval church is unforgettable; it towers over the square below, surrounded by vividly painted houses and backed by vineyards. On arrival we visit the UNESCO 14th century fortified church, once the home to the Lutheran Bishop of Transylvania. Continue on to Sighisoara and explore the Old Town with its cobbled streets and ornate churches. Enjoy lunch in "Dracula's House" restaurant followed by some free time. Continue on to Brasov where we will be staying for two nights. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Brasov & Bran.** A morning city tour of Brasov will include the City Hall Square, St Nicholas Church and the Old City. After lunch we continue to the world famous 'Dracula's Castle', built as a fortress in 1212 by the Knights of the Teutonic Order. Vlad Tepes, better known as Vlad the Impaler, used the castle as headquarters for his incursions into Transylvania. (B, L)

**Day 6 Azuga, Sinaia & Bucharest.** Departing Brasov this morning we make our first stop at Azuga in the Prahova Valley, home of the Royal Cellar which is the wine supplier for the Royal family. We will stop at a local vineyard for lunch and enjoy some wine tasting. Continue to Sinaia to see the fairytale Peles Castle, built by King Carol I in the 19th century. Afterwards we continue onto Bucharest for an overnight stay. (B, L)

**Day 7 Bucharest to Giurgiu.** This morning enjoy a tour of Bucharest including the Parliament Palace, the second largest administration building in the world. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to Giurgiu for embarkation of the MS River Crown. (B, L)

**Prices per person** Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1495 Single: £1795

**Price Includes:** Six nights hotel accommodation, meals as described (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), wine & soft drinks with included lunches & dinners, excursions as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## POST-CRUISE PRAGUE EXTENSION – 10<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

We are offering the opportunity to spend three nights after your cruise in the romantic city of Prague, the ancient capital of Charles IV's Bohemian Kingdom, set on the banks of the Vltava River.

### THE ITINERARY



astronomical clock and finally Charles Bridge and the Church of St Nicholas. The remainder of the evening is at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 2 Prague.** A morning panoramic tour of the city begins with a private visit to the impressive Strahov monastery library with its amazing collection of ancient books and manuscripts. We then visit the Basilica and the Convent building before continuing to the castle,

**Day 1 Regensburg to Prague, Czech Republic.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Prague (approx. 3 hours). On arrival we will have lunch before joining our local guide for a walking tour of the Old City including Wenceslas Square, the Old Town Square, with its famous

scene of the famous defenestration in 1618. Finally, visit the magnificent St Vitus Cathedral and walk along Golden Lane before returning to the hotel. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure. (B)

**Day 3 Prague.** Today is free to sightsee and explore at your own pace. (B)

**Day 4 Prague to London.** After breakfast transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Prices per person** Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1095 Single: £1395

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch), wine & soft drinks with included lunches & dinners, excursions as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



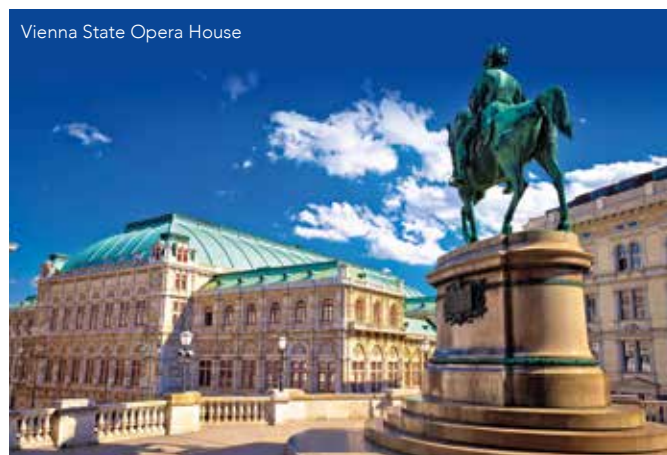
# THREE RIVER ODYSSEY

A river journey from Budapest to Basle aboard the MS River Crown

18<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

This journey aboard the wonderfully comfortable, 100-passenger MS River Crown from Budapest to Basle travels through the very heart of Europe and includes passages along three great rivers - the Danube, Main and Rhine. Whilst rivers may not always offer the most direct route, they do offer the most interesting. They allow us to weave through the landscape on a meandering journey experiencing the countryside, villages and towns from a very different perspective to that offered by road. A journey such as this will appeal to those who enjoy seeing something different each day but do not find the thought of long coach journeys appealing. We will sail through Europe with great ease, enjoying relaxing interludes on board in between our varied visits ashore.

This detailed look at three of Europe's great rivers will offer a captivating and endlessly romantic journey. Embarking in the wonderful city of Budapest we will have two weeks ahead of us to take a comprehensive look at an area of infinite cultural riches. Baroque churches, cathedrals and abbeys will be seen in all their splendour, often contrasting with their naturally beautiful, rustic surroundings. Old quarters of winding lanes and alleys lined by Medieval houses contrast with the modern architecture in the city centres. The river Main in particular meanders through some of Bavaria's most beautiful landscapes, dotted with vineyards, historic towns and villages, peaceful monasteries and imposing Medieval castles.



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Budapest, Hungary.** Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS River Crown.

**Day 2 Budapest.** After breakfast our guided tour of the splendid city of Budapest will include the old quarter, visiting the Matthias' Church and the Fisherman's Bastion from where there are stunning views of the city. After lunch on board, the afternoon will be free to explore at leisure. In the early evening join your fellow travellers in the lounge for a piano recital before we sail tonight.

**Day 3 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Arrive over lunch 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.

**Day 4 Vienna, Austria.** 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, travel to the Vienna Woods, including a visit to the Mayerling hunting lodge, where scandal once rocked the royal family, as well as the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore this majestic city further at your own pace.





**Day 5 Wachau Valley & Melk.** Spend the morning cruising through the beautiful Wachau Valley, famous for its wines and arrive this afternoon in Melk with its majestic Baroque abbey situated on a cliff, high above the Danube. After lunch, depart for a guided tour of the abbey, including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church.

**Day 6 Passau, Germany.** Arrive over lunch 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.

**Day 7 Regensburg.** On our guided morning stroll around this World Heritage listed historic city, widely regarded as the Medieval wonder of Germany we will see the majestic twin-spired cathedral Dom St Peter, the ancient Romanesque Porta Praetoria and the tower houses. The afternoon is free to explore this charming town at your own pace.

**Day 8 Nuremberg.** After a morning cruising we arrive in Nuremberg, the capital of Franconia where there will be a choice of tours. A guided tour of the old city sees the vast walls, Zeppelin Field, the site of the Nuremberg Trials and the Palace of Justice. Alternatively join a visit to the lovely Hesperides Gardens, developed in the 17th and 18th centuries by rich tradesmen and often referred to as the "Baroque Gardens".

**Day 9 Bamberg.** Arrive this morning in Bamberg, one of Germany's most beautiful historic towns. Its relative geographical location, some 40 miles north of Nuremberg was a key factor in preserving its magnificent architectural heritage from the ravages of war. Every single European style from the Romanesque onwards, has left its mark on Bamberg, each bequeathing at least one major building. Return to the ship for lunch and sail later this afternoon.

**Day 10 Wurzburg.** We spend the 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.

**Day 11 Miltenberg.** We arrive today in the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, renowned for its half-timbered Medieval houses. On a walking tour see the picturesque triangular shaped Marktplatz and the restored castle. Alternatively, visit Mespelbrunn Castle, one of the loveliest castles in northern Bavaria. The castle is located in a small, hidden and picturesque valley within the Spessart forest and it was because of this concealment that it survived the Thirty Years War and remained unscathed during both World Wars. It was first built in the 15th century and then renovated in beautiful Renaissance style.

**Day 12 Mannheim for Heidelberg.** From our berth in Mannheim, we visit nearby Heidelberg to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. During our guided tour which will include a visit to the city's castle and gardens, we will stroll through Heidelberg's enchanting old

town and see its Renaissance building, 'Zum Ritter', which survived the fire of 1693.

**Day 13 Strasbourg.** Arrive this morning and 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. Return to the ship for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure, or alternatively join a scenic tour along Alsace's "Route des Vins", including a tasting of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 14 Breisach for Colmar.** From our berth in Breisach, we will cross the River Rhine into France and drive to the capital of the Upper Rhine region, Colmar. We begin with a visit to the impressive Unterlinden Museum which dates back to the 13th century. Admire a fine collection of religious Medieval paintings and also paintings from the 20th and 21st centuries including works by Picasso and Monet. The highlight of the Museum is the Isenheim Altar, a wonderful triptych created for the monastery at Isenheim by Mattheus Grunewald. We continue on for a short walk through the charming Old Town, with delightful patrician houses and winding lanes and enjoy some free time before our drive back to Breisach to reboard the MS River Crown. This evening join your fellow travellers for farewell drinks and dinner.

**Day 15 Basle to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4995	£4795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£5095
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5795	£5595
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5995	£5795
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£6995	£6795
Standard Twin with porthole for sole use	Main Deck	£4995	£4795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6295	£6095

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



MS River Crown, Budapest

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Bamberg.