

EXCLUSIVE NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARTERS

# MS RIVER CROWN

RIVER CRUISING ALONG THE RHINE, MAIN,  
MOSELLE & DANUBE

2027

NOBLE CALEDONIA

## CONTENTS

MS River Crown	04-09
Your Onboard Team	10-11
Spring on the Danube	12-13
Mozart & the Golden Age of Music	14-15
The Enchanting East	16-17
Across Europe by River	18-21
Secret Netherlands	22-23
River Deep & Mountain High	24-25
Roses of the Rhine	26-29
The Majestic Danube	30-31
Empires of the Danube	32-35



# EXPLORING EUROPE BY RIVER ABOARD 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 2027, we are delighted to have once again chartered the 100-passenger MS River Crown for a series of cruises along the Rhine, Main, Moselle 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 exclusive charter of the MS River Crown, which is the perfect vessel for our explorations.

Our Guest Speakers, who will accompany you on board the MS River Crown will add to your enjoyment with informative talks and, after 35 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.

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, Moselle and Danube for the genuine traveller.



# MS RIVER CROWN



We are delighted to have chartered the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown, a spacious and well-designed vessel which was built in 2008 and underwent a comprehensive upgrade in 2026. The vessel offers the luxury of space and the public areas feature panoramic windows providing marvellous views of the passing landscapes.

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, in one of the relaxing public areas or to simply rest in your well-appointed cabin.

While on board you will be looked after by our team of experienced staff including a Noble Caledonia Cruise Director, Cruise Manager and Tour Managers, all of whom have years of experience cruising the rivers of Europe. The team are in daily contact with our London office and the onboard programme is in their capable hands. A daily briefing by the Cruise Director will provide you with information on the next day's activities and expert, English-speaking local guides provide insider insights into local culture, architecture, history and traditions.

In addition you will be joined by a Guest Speaker who will provide a series of interesting talks, and a pianist will play each evening whilst you relax in the lounge. The friendly onboard crew will provide you with excellent service and do much to contribute to your enjoyment. After a day exploring ashore, you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable vessel.



The Lounge



Sun Deck



The Club



Bar



The Restaurant



The Restaurant

## YOUR DINING

While the most beautiful river scenery passes by, you can enjoy delicacies created by the Executive Chef and his team. The elegant restaurant which features floor to ceiling windows 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. Breakfast is served buffet style with a live cooking station for eggs and omelettes. Lunch is also a buffet with a selection of fresh salads, soup, hot dishes and desserts available, whilst dinner is a served four course meal. In addition, to enhance your dining experience, 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.





The Lounge at night

## YOUR SPACE

The spacious and elegantly decorated public rooms include the Restaurant and the Lounge and Bar which are located on the Upper Deck and feature floor to ceiling windows affording excellent views as you dine, relax or listen to the onboard lectures. In addition to the main lounge, there is also the Club which consists of two small lounges which are perfect if you are seeking somewhere quiet to relax with a good book and a tea or coffee. The Club is also where the small library is located along with some tables for playing bridge and board games. There is also the Atrium Lobby with comfortable seating where you can access tea and coffee 24-hours a day.

The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel with comfortable chairs and sun loungers and is the ideal location from where to watch the changing scenery when sailing. 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 area which includes a sauna, Jacuzzi, and some gym equipment.



The Club



Sauna



Queen Suite

## 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 15.5 square metres and beds in these cabins can be configured as twin or double. Premium cabins have floor to ceiling panoramic windows which can be opened to 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 comprising of a sofa, armchair and table. 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 five Standard single cabins on the Main Deck which measure 12 square metres and feature portholes. All cabins include ample storage space, a writing/dressing table, television, safety deposit box, hairdryer, small refrigerator and individually controlled air-conditioning.



Queen Suite Lounge Area



Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony



Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony



Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony



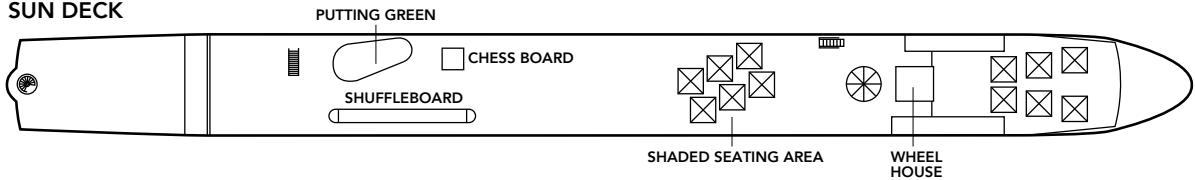
Premium Cabin with French Balcony



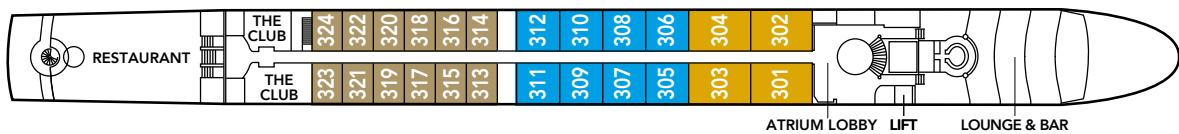
Standard Single Cabin

DECK PLAN

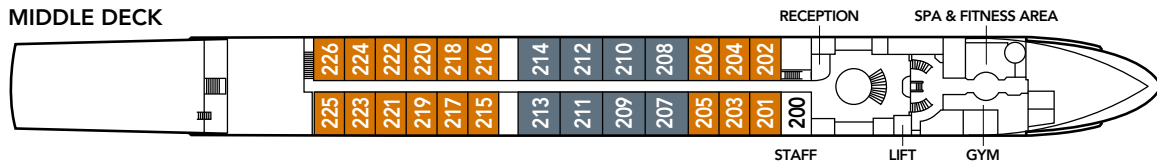
SUN DECK



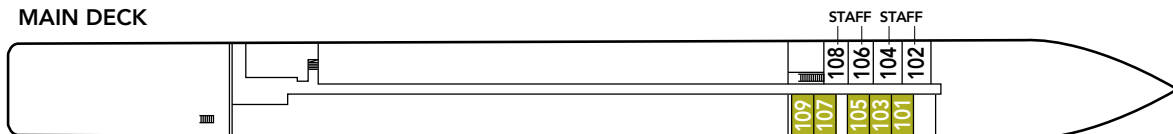
UPPER DECK



MIDDLE DECK



MAIN DECK



- QUEEN SUITE with Balcony
- PREMIUM with French Balcony
- STANDARD SINGLE with Porthole
- DELUXE with French Balcony

**VIDEO FOOTAGE**

For further insight into what to expect from a cruise aboard the MS River Crown, please refer to the video section on our website for our ship tour video of the vessel.

# YOUR ONBOARD TEAM

On all our voyages you will find informative staff on board and whilst exploring ashore you will be accompanied by excellent English-speaking local guides. Working closely with the Captain and crew, our Cruise Director along with our Cruise Manager and Tour Managers are responsible for the day to day organisation of the itinerary and briefings and they are in regular contact with the Noble Caledonia office. We have the very best in their field and they will be joined by Guest Speakers who are chosen for their in-depth knowledge of a specific subject or geographical area. Briefings by the cruise staff and informal talks by our Guest Speakers add an extra dimension to all we see and do. Below are some of the excellent Guest Speakers whom we have lined up for our 2027 cruises aboard the MS River Crown.



## ALAN MASON

Alan Mason is one of Europe's most experienced and best qualified garden designers and consultants. Having achieved the distinction of being the UK's youngest head gardener at Bramham Park when still in his 20's and then Gardens Manager to the Queen's cousin Lord Harewood at Harewood House in Yorkshire - where he and his team elevated the gardens into the top ten most visited gardens in the country - he set up his garden design consultancy in 1987. He has since designed and created gardens for royalty and other leading public figures in the UK and France. During the 80s and 90s Alan also presented the long running 'Gardens without Borders' television programme, which featured gardens in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Holland. His French links continue, particularly in Brittany and Normandy, which have a similar climate and challenges to the UK. Alan Mason is a founder member of The Professional Gardener's Guild and the founder of the Senior Garden Advisors consultancy group which brings the services of top former Head Gardeners' from Stately Homes to a wider public. Alan is also a judge of the show gardens at the prestigious Sandringham Flower Show and a garden design lecturer for The Royal Horticultural Society.



## JAMIE HAYES

Jamie has directed many new opera productions, both at home and abroad. After training at RADA, he worked for Kent Opera, Glyndebourne Festival and Touring Opera, the BBC, the RSC and English National Opera. He has directed many opera productions for leading UK festivals as well as all our most distinguished musical conservatoires. His new opera productions overseas have appeared as far away as Reykjavik, Malta and Melbourne. Jamie was Associate Director on the original production of the hit musical Miss Saigon in the West End and on Broadway. He was Director of Productions for British Youth Opera for over a decade, a company devoted to promoting the talents of our finest young opera singers in the UK. Jamie is married to the opera singer Jean Rigby and they have three children. Jamie became an accredited lecturer with The Arts Society in 2022.



## NIRVANA ROMELL

Nirvana left her native Croatia during the turbulent 1990s, with a degree in History of Western and Yugoslav art from the University of Zagreb as well as a MA in English Language and Literature. After a decade in South Africa, she arrived in England in 2003 where she has worked as a freelance lecturer, and on museum collections interpretations and staff training. Recently, she's been 'commuting' between the UK and Geneva. For nearly 20 years, she has also led study tours to the places close to her heart including the Balkans, northern Italy, France, Sweden and South Africa and is passionate about travel that expands cultural horizons and connects people, past and present. Nirvana is an Arts Society accredited speaker.



## ELIZABETH GOWING

Elizabeth Gowing was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, before training as a teacher and completing an MA at the Institute of Education, University of London. She worked both in primary education in inner London and in education policy before moving to Kosovo in 2006. She is the author of five travel books, four of which focus on the Balkans. Her most recent book, written with Robert Wilton, is *No Man's Lands: Eight Extraordinary Women in Balkan History*. As well as being a trustee of The Ideas Partnership UK, she serves as a board member of Fakoje, Albania's fact-checking NGO. In 2016 she was awarded the Mother Teresa Medal by the President of Kosovo for her humanitarian work. In 2017 she was recognised by British Prime Minister Theresa May as a 'Point of Light' for her volunteering around the world. In 2018 she was granted Kosovan citizenship by presidential decree. She lectures at the American University in Kosovo and runs training programmes on telling the story of creating positive change in the world. She is also a frequent contributor to BBC Radio 4 and an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society.



## PROFESSOR MARTYN RADY

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 the Habsburg Monarchy.



## DR SOPHIE OOSTERWIJK

Sophie was born in Gouda (Netherlands) and studied English at Leiden and Medieval Studies at York; she has two doctorates in Art History (Leicester) and English Literature (Leiden). She is a recognised specialist in European art, especially of the Medieval and Baroque periods, and previously taught art history at the Universities of Leicester, Manchester and St Andrews. Since her return to the Netherlands, Sophie has been working as a freelance researcher, tour leader and guest lecturer for the University of Cambridge, The Arts Society (formerly NADFAS), and other organisations. She is also Vice President of The Church Monuments Society and has published widely, especially on death, the danse macabre and commemorative art. Sophie is a lively and entertaining speaker who enjoys sharing her insights in European art within its historical and cultural context.



### ROSEMARY LEGRAND

Rosemary is a former nursery owner and daughter of the late George Hyde, who was a hybridist of azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of his award-winning hybrid plants can be seen at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, the de Rothschild rhododendron gardens at Exbury, Hampshire, and the National Trust

Gardens at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. Her enjoyment of photography is used to great effect in creating the atmosphere of the gardens she discusses in her range of illustrated talks. She has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world. Rosemary is an experienced public speaker and has given presentations to a wide range of organisations since 1992. She is on the RHS Speakers Register, and a speaker for NAFAS. She wrote a number of contributions for the book *1001 Gardens You Must see Before You Die* and articles for horticultural publications. She is the Chairman of the New Forest Branch of the Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group affiliated to the RHS.



### PROFESSOR RICHARD BUTTERWICK-PAWLIKOWSKI

Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski graduated in History from Cambridge, before obtaining his doctorate from Oxford. He taught European history at Oxford and Queen's University Belfast before moving to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, where he has been Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History since 2013. He is also Principal Historian of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw. Richard's academic interests range across the history and culture of Europe, especially in the eighteenth century. An admirer of the Baroque and Classical styles in the arts, he delights in Mozart's operas. He has published four single-authored books, four edited books, and many articles in scholarly periodicals and collections, and is in frequent demand as a speaker at international conferences.

Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, where he has been Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History since 2013. He is also Principal Historian of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw. Richard's academic interests range across the history and culture of Europe, especially in the eighteenth century. An admirer of the Baroque and Classical styles in the arts, he delights in Mozart's operas. He has published four single-authored books, four edited books, and many articles in scholarly periodicals and collections, and is in frequent demand as a speaker at international conferences.



### ANNA WARRILOW

Anna Warrilow studied History of Art and Italian at the University of Sussex before completing an MA in Renaissance Decorative Arts and Design at the Royal College of Art. She spent six years working as a curator in the Sculpture Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum and has also contributed to smaller collections,

including the Henry Moore Family Trust. A Blue Badge Tourist Guide since 2013, Anna founded her own guiding company in 2018. Alongside her guiding work, Anna lectures at Richmond, The American International University in London, where she teaches undergraduate courses on the history of London. She lectures regularly for art, history and academic societies and is an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society. She also provides training and Continuing Professional Development courses for students and members of the Institute of Tourist Guides.



### SIMON MARGINSON

Simon Marginson has spent the last thirty years looking at, thinking about and discussing the visual arts. A poacher turned gamekeeper, he originally trained as an artist before becoming an art historian. He holds a BA in Fine Art, an MA in Visual Culture, and a PhD in the History of Art, awarded by the University of York in 2019. A

regular public speaker, he has lectured on everything from Medieval manuscripts to European modernism, his primary area of expertise. His writings have been published in various academic journals and exhibition catalogues. He has helped organise exhibitions of British abstract painting and the art of the working class. Simon lives in Leeds and is currently completing his first book.



### DAVID PICKARD

David Pickard is one of the UK's foremost and most respected arts practitioners. His 40-year career includes leading the BBC Proms, Glyndebourne and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with roles at the Royal Opera House and the Regents Park Open Air Theatre among his earlier jobs. He combines an encyclopaedic knowledge of the classical music and operatic world with an engaging manner and a fund of stories about the highs and lows of live performance. David was educated at the King's School, Ely, where he was a chorister, and then at St Alban's School. He studied music at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, where he was awarded a Choral Exhibition. Although a keen amateur pianist and cellist, David realised early on that a performing career was best left to others, and on graduation embarked on the journey that would lead him to the Royal Albert Hall and 'the best job in classical music.'

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### OLGA VERSTAGE

Olga Verstage is a versatile presenter, combining her skills as concert pianist, historian, art historian and classicist to make her talks entertaining, lively, informative, and unusual. Olga is an accredited lecturer for the Arts Society and has a PhD in Classics and a BA in Arts History. She was Head of Classics at

King William's College on the Isle of Man and teaches various history classes, Latin and Russian at the University College Isle of Man. Olga also worked as sessional Arts History lecturer for the University of Liverpool for 12 years, and for eight years was a history tutor for the University of Chester, lecturing on various art styles from Renaissance to 20th century, Medieval History and the Crusades. Olga was born in the Crimea and attended Conservatoire in Odessa, graduating with top marks in piano performance. Olga has a wide range of lectures on all aspects of art and history, including topics on European history covering the period from Classical times to World War I, on European art from the Classical period through Early Renaissance to Late Romanticism and early 20th century art, and on music.

# SPRING ON THE DANUBE

A voyage between Vienna & Regensburg aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Alan Mason

13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2027

Flowing through imperial capitals, vineyard-clad valleys and Medieval towns, few rivers have shaped the cultural and political story of Europe as profoundly as the Danube. Along its upper reaches, between Austria and Bavaria, the river reveals a rich concentration of history, architecture and artistic achievement. Our voyage along one of the river's most captivating stretches offers the opportunity to explore the history and culture of the region combined with visits to some gardens which will be at their springtime best.



Beginning in the elegant grandeur of Vienna, once the heart of the Habsburg Empire, we will discover the city from the Baroque splendour of Schonbrunn to the architectural majesty of the Ringstrasse. Sailing westwards, we can admire the beauty of the Wachau Valley, a UNESCO-listed landscape of terraced vineyards, ruined castles and picturesque villages clustered along the banks. Here the great abbey of Melk rises high above the Danube in all its Baroque splendour. Further along the river there will be the opportunity to visit Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart, or Linz, where we will see the splendid botanical gardens; fairytale Passau at the confluence of three rivers; and finally Medieval Regensburg.

Our journey offers gentle cruising through wonderful scenery and well planned excursions at a relaxed pace, with some afternoons at leisure to relax or explore independently. When combined with some daytime cruising, informative talks from our Guest Speaker as well as the opportunity to taste some of the region's wines and enjoy a concert of music in Salzburg by the city's most famous son, we have all the ingredients for a fascinating springtime break.



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Vienna, Austria.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown and embark.

**Day 2 Vienna.** Vienna blends imperial history with a vibrant cultural scene, from grand palaces and classical music to modern art and cafes and 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 Stephen's Cathedral. Admire the marvellous facades of the Hofburg Palace, Rathaus building (city hall) and national museums, set among public gardens which will be in bloom. Alternatively, you can join a guided tour 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 MS River Crown for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon to relax on board or explore this majestic city further. This evening, enjoy the welcome drinks and dinner on board as we remain moored in Vienna overnight.

**Day 3 Vienna.** After breakfast there will be a guided tour to the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Explore the Baroque grandeur of the palace rooms and admire the intricate decoration and rich history of the palace. Following a tour of the palace, spend some time wandering through the beautiful gardens and admire the intricately designed beds, shady pathways, and hidden hideaways located within the sprawling grounds. For those who are feeling a little more adventurous, why not climb the hill to the Gloriette, which offers spectacular panoramic views of the palace and the city beyond. We will return to the MS River Crown for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 4 Melk & the Wachau Valley.** Spend the morning cruising through the beautiful Wachau Valley, famous for its wines. This afternoon we will arrive 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,



St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna



Salzburg



Wachau Valley



Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, Vienna

including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church. After our tour of Melk Abbey we will continue on to Weissenkirchen to taste some of the wonderful wines of this region.

**Day 5 Linz for Salzburg.** This morning there will be an opportunity to join a full day tour to 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. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will enjoy a special concert of music by Salzburg's most famous son before returning to the MS River Crown in the late afternoon. Alternatively, you can choose to join a morning guided tour of Linz, the capital of Upper-Austria. Explore this charming city, where art and industry combine to create a unique atmosphere. During the tour we will visit the Linz Botanical Gardens which house over 10,000 species of plant from across the globe. Explore the winding pathways and greenhouses brimming with life. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 6 Passau, Germany.** Enjoy a morning walking tour of the ancient fairytale city of Passau, the meeting point of the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers. See the old town and cathedral that houses one of the largest pipe organs in the world. Return to the vessel for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon on board cruising to Regensburg.

**Day 7 Regensburg.** After breakfast enjoy a guided stroll around Germany's largest and best-preserved Medieval city, Regensburg. We will see the twin-spired cathedral Dom St Peter, the ancient Romanesque Porta Praetoria, and the tower houses. Following the tour, visit the Thurn and Taxis Palace, a former Abbey and home of the Taxis family who played a major role in the history of the Holy Roman Empire and the German state. The afternoon is free to explore at your own pace.

**Day 8 Regensburg to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Munich airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Mayerling Hunting Lodge, Vienna Woods

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£3895	£3595
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£4095	£3795
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4295	£3995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£4495	£4195
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£4995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£3895	£3595
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£4895	£4595

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven 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.

# MOZART & THE GOLDEN AGE OF MUSIC

Explore the wonderful music & opera of the Danube with London Festival Opera aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Jamie Hayes

20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2027

Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable 100-passenger MS River Crown for this musical journey along the Danube. With our friends at London Festival Opera and our elegant river vessel, we can promise you a marvellous experience. Our eight night journey between Regensburg and Budapest will be a celebration of Mozart's life, and of the many great composers from this golden age of music. We will visit charming small towns and villages as well as the cities of Salzburg, Bratislava and Budapest, enjoying some of the finest works of music from the concertos of Mozart and the waltzes of Johann Strauss to opera and folk tunes in idyllic settings. We will also visit the city most celebrated for its musical heritage and Austria's capital, Vienna, whose classical period was a golden age in Viennese musical life. Mozart lived here for the last decade of his life and exerted great influence on the musical life of the capital.

In addition to our excursions and music ashore, we will also enjoy exclusive gala performances by London Festival Opera on board the MS River Crown in the intimate atmosphere of the lounge. The life and times of Mozart as well as the music of this golden age will be brought vividly to life by our Guest Speaker who will accompany the trip.



## EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCES BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted to announce that our long-time associates, London Festival Opera, will be joining us for three performances during the cruise. Bringing together established opera singers from major British opera companies, London Festival Opera has achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera and music performances in a wide variety of worldwide venues. They will perform a Mozart Opera Celebration featuring arias and ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*, in period costume. Other opera concerts include 'A Night in Vienna' and an Opera Soirée on board the MS River Crown whilst we are moored in Passau and Vienna.



Regensburg Cathedral and the Old Stone Bridge



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Regensburg, Germany.** Fly by scheduled flight to Munich. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Regensburg. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Regensburg.** After breakfast enjoy a guided stroll around Germany's largest and best-preserved Medieval city, Regensburg. See the twin-spired Cathedral Dom St Peter and the tower houses followed by a visit to the Thurn and Taxis Palace. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 3 Passau.** Enjoy a morning walking tour of the ancient fairytale city of Passau, the meeting point of the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers. See the old town and cathedral that houses one of the largest pipe organs in the world. After a short organ recital return to the ship for lunch. Sail in the late afternoon, and in the early evening London Festival Opera will present an Opera Soirée of Handel, Verdi, Gounod, Bizet and Puccini on board the MS River Crown. Arrive in Linz this evening and moor overnight.



London Festival Opera performing at Melk Abbey



Salzburg



Mozart's statue, Vienna



Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest



Passau



Bratislava

**Day 4 Linz for Salzburg, Austria.** From our berth in Linz we depart for Salzburg, the 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, including a visit to the house known as Geburtshaus where he was born. We also take a walk through the lovely gardens of the Mirabell Palace. Before we leave, we will enjoy a special concert of music by a string quartet at the Mozarteum Conservatory. Return to the ship and sail this evening.

**Day 5 Melk & Durnstein.** Today we will see the great Baroque Abbey of Melk, situated high above the Danube. On a morning excursion we will visit this imposing abbey including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church followed by a performance by London Festival Opera featuring arias and ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Don Giovanni*. We then sail on through the beautiful Wachau Valley and arrive later this afternoon 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. Sail in the evening.

**Day 6 Vienna.** After breakfast today depart for a guided city tour which will include the famous Ringstrasse, the Old Quarter and St Stephen's Cathedral. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently or you may like to join the included visit to the Mozarthaus, a three storey museum where Mozart lived from 1784-1787, during which time he wrote the world-famous opera 'The Marriage of Figaro' and three of the six Haydn Quartets. We will stand in the room where Mozart and Beethoven met and where Haydn told Mozart's father "your son is the greatest composer I know in person or by name". Return to the ship and enjoy a pre-dinner performance in the lounge by London Festival Opera of 'A Night in Vienna' including the works of Mozart, Johann Strauss and Lehár.

**Day 7 Bratislava, Slovakia.** This morning we will take 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 St Martin's Cathedral where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Mozart and Dvorak. Return to the ship

for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail to Budapest.

**Day 8 Budapest, Hungary.** We have the day to explore Hungary's elegant capital city. Spend the morning on an excursion that will include the old quarter visiting the Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and the Royal Palace (outside view). Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure, or alternatively join the included tour to the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum, located in the Old Academy of Music. Liszt spent a significant part of the last five years of his life here (from 1881 to 1886) and his furniture, portraits, books, pianos along with other personal belongings are on display.

**Day 9 Budapest to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

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Based on double occupancy

### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4195	£3895
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£4395	£4095
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4995	£4695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£4995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£5995	£5695
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£4195	£3895
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£5495	£5195

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight 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.

# THE ENCHANTING EAST

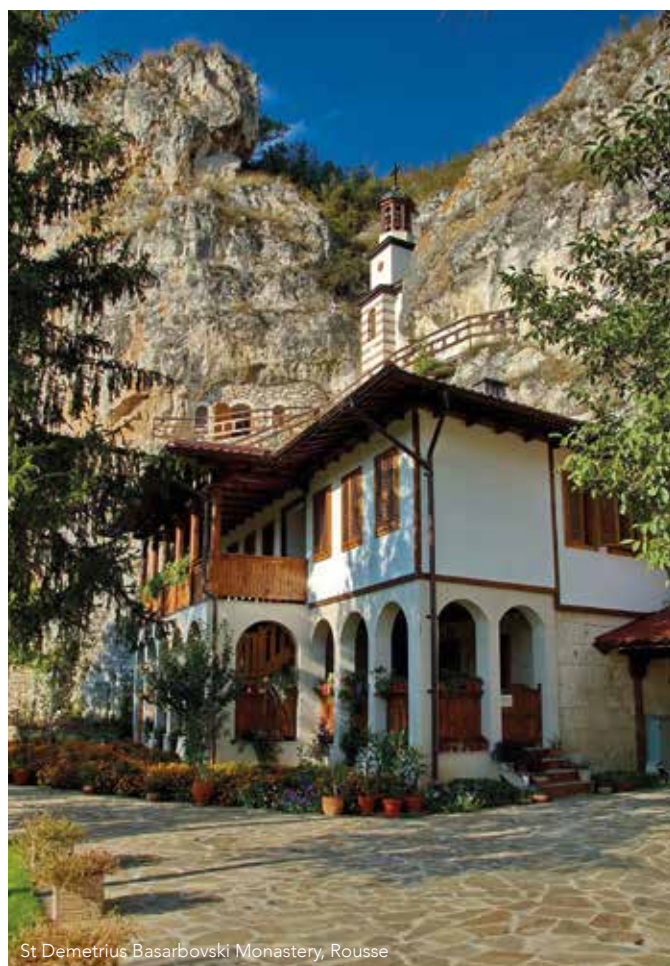
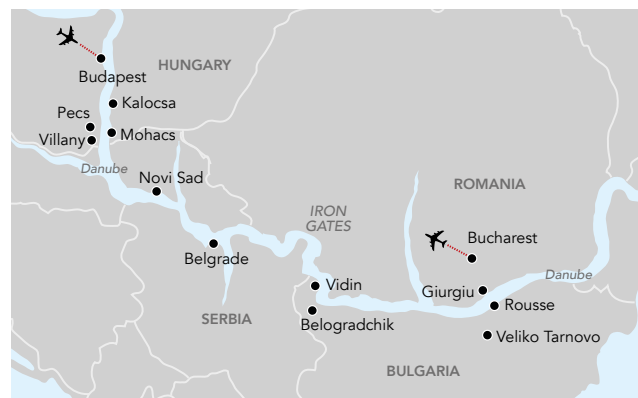
A journey between Budapest & Bucharest aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Nirvana Romell

28<sup>th</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2027

Join us aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown as we journey between the grand city of Budapest in Hungary and Romania's capital of Bucharest. 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 ten night itinerary offers gentle cruising through wonderful scenery and well planned excursions, with some time at leisure to explore independently combined with ample time to relax on board as we sail past ever changing scenery.

Our cruise is one of the world's great journeys, following as it does one of the most important trade routes since the earliest of times, linking the East with the West. We will travel from Hungary through the heart of Europe visiting Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania witnessing some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes, visiting the great historic cities of Budapest and Belgrade as well as picturesque riverside towns. From the great comfort of the MS River Crown, 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.

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 in all its springtime glory. In addition, the combination of modern and traditional culture, wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a fascinating trip.



St Demetrius Basarbovski Monastery, Rouse

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Budapest, Hungary.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Budapest. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Budapest.** Spend the morning on an excursion that will include the old quarter, the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace. Tonight enjoy your welcome drinks and dinner on board with music performed by a local gypsy band.

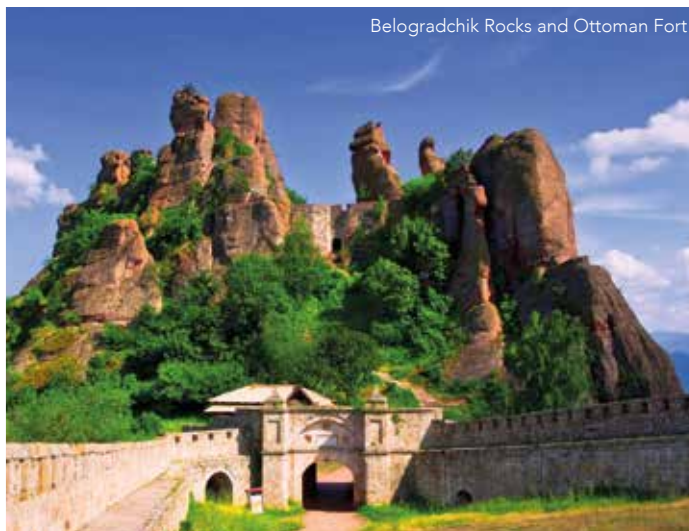
**Day 3 Kalocsa.** Arrive this morning in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. We will tour the Puszta district which will include the Paprika Museum and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise down the beautiful Danube, arriving in the port of Mohacs late tonight.

**Day 4 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. Our visit will feature the sites associated with the city's Roman Ottoman Hapsburg past, as well as the splendid Pecs Cathedral where we can listen to the sound of its organ. Continue to the town of Villany where we will enjoy lunch and a wine tasting. Villany is one of Hungary's top wine regions, known for its reds and rosés. Thanks to the area's sub-mediterranean climate, wines from Villany are full-bodied and spicy and of the highest quality.

**Day 5 Novi Sad, Serbia.** Today we will cross into Serbia, stopping at Novi Sad. Following the destruction of the three main bridges by the NATO bombing campaign in 1999, the city of Novi Sad, in the northern province of Vojvodina, has returned to normal after much rebuilding. 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 will sample some excellent wines of the former Yugoslavia. Sail in the afternoon towards Belgrade.



Novi Sad



Belogradchik Rocks and Ottoman Fort



Kalocsa's horsemanship



Budapest

**Day 6 Belgrade.** Our morning guided tour of Belgrade will visit 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 a late lunch. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before we set sail.

**Day 7 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 8 Belogradchik & Vidin, Bulgaria.** Arrive today in the Bulgarian port of Vidin from where we will drive to Belogradchik which is located close to the Serbian border. The Belogradchik Rocks are a famous Bulgarian beauty spot. The sandstone has been weathered into all manner of bizarre shapes, and housed amongst the rocks is an Ottoman fort, built on the remains of a Roman structure. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we will visit Vidin for a performance by the wonderful Vidin Symphonic Orchestra in the Philharmonic concert hall.

**Day 9 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanassi.** Arrive in Rousse, from where we depart by coach for a full-day tour 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 we will continue to the museum town of Arbanassi, famous for its 17th and 18th architecture and the unique Church of the Nativity of Christ.

**Day 10 Rousse.** After breakfast join a city tour of Rousse, birthplace of Nobel Prize winner for literature, Elias Canetti. After a brief walking tour of the city centre, we will drive a short distance to visit the Monastery of

St Demetrius Basarbovski, a fascinating rock monastery dating back to the 12th century. Return to Rousse for a wine tasting session of some splendid Bulgarian wines. This afternoon is at leisure for individual exploration, and, with its stunning architecture, charming restaurants and shops, there is much to see here. This evening we will be entertained on board by a lively Bulgarian Folk troupe followed by farewell drinks and dinner.

**Day 11 Bucharest, Romania to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Bucharest airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

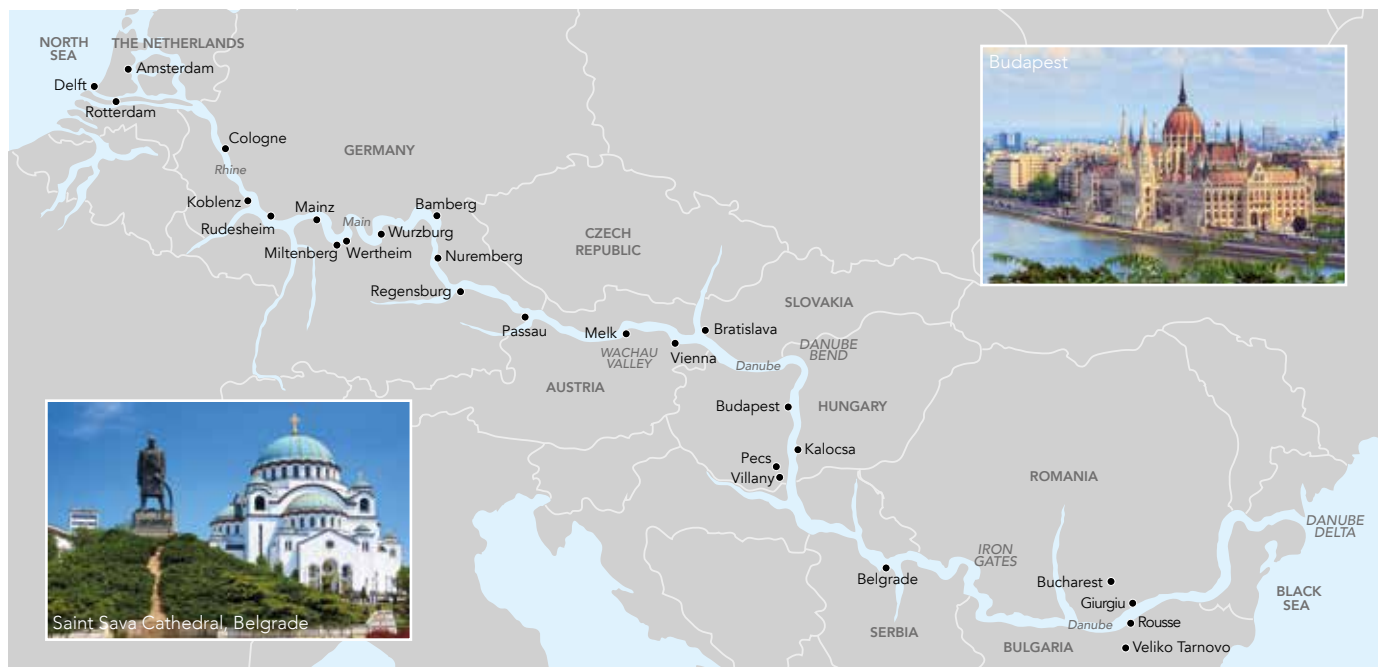
CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5495	£4995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5995	£5495
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£6295	£5795
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£6895	£6395
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6295	£5795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 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.

# ACROSS EUROPE BY RIVER

An epic river journey along the Danube, Main & Rhine Rivers aboard the MS River Crown with highlight performances by London Festival Opera

8<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September\* & 19<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2027



During this ultimate grand tour of Europe aboard the charming, 100-passenger MS River Crown you can sail across the continent, visit eight countries, travel more than 2200 miles and yet only unpack once. This is the perfect trip for those who enjoy seeing something new every day, as our floating hotel 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 music 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 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.

## SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCES BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted that London Festival Opera will be joining you on board for an 'Opera Celebration'. They will perform a Mozart Opera Celebration featuring arias and ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Don Giovanni*, in period costume. Also, 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".



Schonbrunn Palace, Vienna



Bratislava



Rhine Valley



Veliko Tarnovo



Decebal's Head, Iron Gates



Kalocsa's horsemanship



Regensburg

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Giurgiu, Romania.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Bucharest. Arrive and transfer to the MS River Crown moored in Giurgiu for embarkation. This evening we sail the short distance to Rousse where we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Rousse, Bulgaria.** We have a leisurely morning to relax on board or perhaps explore the city of Rousse independently with its stunning architecture, charming restaurants and shops. After lunch on board our guided tour will include a brief walking tour of the city centre before we drive a short distance to visit the Monastery of St Demetrius Basarbovski, a fascinating rock monastery dating back to the 12th century. We will return to Rousse for a wine tasting session of some splendid Bulgarian wines. Meet tonight for our welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

**Day 3 Veliko Tarnovo.** This morning we drive to Veliko Tarnovo, the capital of the second Bulgarian Kingdom from 1187 to 1393. We will have a guided tour of the city which is located on the Yantra River and formed a natural fortress, located on three hills with a palace, fortifications and churches built into the terrain. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will visit the museum town of Arbanassi before rejoining the MS River Crown in Nikopol and sailing this evening.

**Day 4 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 5 Belgrade, Serbia.** Spend the morning in Belgrade where 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. Spend the afternoon sailing along the Danube.

**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 and Hapsburg past, as well as the splendid Pecs Cathedral where we can listen to the sound of its organ. Continue 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 7 Kalocsa.** Arrive this morning in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. We will tour the Puszta district which will include the Paprika Museum and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise down the beautiful Danube, arriving in Mohacs in the early 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 Fisherman'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 Bratislava.

**Day 9 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Spend the morning cruising to the Slovak capital of Bratislava. On arrival, join the afternoon 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. Our tour will finish with a visit to St Martin's cathedral where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart.

**Day 10 Vienna, Austria.** Arrive this morning in Vienna, our base for the next couple of days. After breakfast 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 Stephen'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. After lunch on board you can enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore this majestic city further independently. In the early evening there



will be an onboard costumed performance by London Festival Opera, featuring an Opera Soirée with highlights from Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach and Puccini.

**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. In the early evening there will be a performance of "A Night in Vienna" by London Festival Opera on board. We will sail from Vienna late tonight.

**Day 12 Melk & the Wachau Valley.** This morning, we cruise through the picturesque Wachau Valley, famous for its wine. In the early afternoon we moor in Melk under the shadow of the great Baroque Abbey, situated on a cliff high above the Danube. Enjoy a guided tour of the abbey followed by a performance by London Festival Opera featuring aria ensembles from The Marriage of Figaro, Così fan tutte, The Magic Flute, and Don Giovanni.

**Day 13 Passau, Germany.** Sail this morning to Passau, where the Inn and Ilz rivers join the Danube. Our afternoon guided walking tour will include the old town of this Bavarian city and the breathtaking Cathedral of St Stephen which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs.

**Day 14 Regensburg.** After breakfast join a guided stroll around historic Regensburg and see the highlights such as the Old Town Hall and the World Heritage listed city centre. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy some free time to explore further at your own pace before we sail in the late afternoon and enter the Main-Danube Canal cruising through the highest point of any commercial waterway in Europe, 1331 feet above sea level.

**Day 15 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 afternoon 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.

**Day 16 Bamberg.** This morning, we arrive 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. Return to the ship and sail over lunch as we join the Main River.

**Day 17 Wurzburg.** Sail this morning to historic Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. This afternoon we will take a walking tour of this lovely town. See the old town with its collection of churches which range in style from Romanesque to Gothic, Renaissance to Baroque including the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace. Our visit will end with a wine tasting of local wines in the splendid cellar of the Burgerspital before returning to the ship as we sail to Miltenberg.

**Day 18 Miltenberg.** After a morning cruising we arrive in the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, known for its half-timbered Medieval houses. We will discover the charming town on an afternoon walking tour before we sail this evening.

**Day 19 Mainz.** Arrive in the early afternoon 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 end with a visit to the Johan Gutenberg Museum. Sail this evening as we join the Rhine River and berth overnight in Rudesheim. You may wish to take an after-dinner stroll in the town's lively Drosselgasse area.

**Day 20 Rudesheim & Koblenz.** This morning there will be some free time to explore Rudesheim independently before we sail mid-morning through the dramatic Rhine Gorge towards Koblenz passing romantic castles, lush vineyards and the infamous Lorelei rock. On arrival in Koblenz we will take a walking tour of this historic commercial centre before we sail late tonight.

**Day 21 Cologne.** Our morning in Cologne includes 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 over lunch as we cruise along the legendary Rhine River.

**Day 22 Rotterdam, the Netherlands.** We sail this morning towards Rotterdam and after lunch will depart on a tour of Delft. We begin with a visit to the Delft Blue Pottery followed by a walking tour of this pretty town. Return to the ship in Rotterdam and moor overnight.

**Day 23 Rotterdam to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Amsterdam airport for your return scheduled flight.

**\*Please note** that the September 2027 itinerary operates in the reverse direction to that shown, from Rotterdam to Bucharest. The itinerary can be viewed on our website.

## 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	£9195	£8695
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£9495	£8995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£10195	£9695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£10495	£9995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£11995	£11495
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£10495	£9995
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£11495	£10995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 22 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.



# SECRET NETHERLANDS

An exploration of the Netherlands aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Dr Sophie Oosterwijk

30<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Discover the rural tranquillity of the Netherlands during our new and unique nine night journey aboard the MS River Crown. From celebrated cities to lesser-known havens along the IJsselmeer and Wadden Sea, we will learn of the rich culture and fascinating history of the region, visit some picturesque and prosperous merchant towns, cruise through scenic landscapes and encounter highlights of the region's glorious maritime past. This is true Holland as the native Dutch would describe it.

Travelling in comfort aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown, we will glide effortlessly through the waterways of the Netherlands, discovering somewhere new each day. Highlights of our journey include Gouda, the country's culinary capital, the picturesque town of Enkhuizen, beautiful Harlingen which is one of the oldest seaports of the Netherlands, the unique communities of the Zuiderzee including the island village of Marken and the marvellous windmills of Kinderdijk. We will wander Medieval streets lined with Renaissance facades, admire Gothic churches illuminated by centuries-old stained glass, and encounter remarkable feats of engineering that continue to protect and define the Dutch landscape. There will be much of the natural world to occupy us too including a visit to a stud to see the famed Frisian Horses, an excursion to the De Weerribben-Wieden National Park and the wonderfully colourful Botanical gardens at Fort Hoofddijk in Utrecht. We will also experience local traditions and regional specialities, from world-famous cheeses and ceramics to the enduring legacy of maritime heritage and hydraulic mastery.



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Rotterdam, the Netherlands.** Fly by scheduled flight to Amsterdam. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Rotterdam and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner on board this evening.

**Day 2 Gouda.** Explore charming Gouda, one of the culinary capitals of the Netherlands. The city has a long history and boasts many Medieval and Renaissance buildings in the historic centre. During our guided walking tour we will see the 15th century town hall, the marvellous Gothic architecture and stained-glass windows of Sint Janskirk and the Medieval market squares. Of course, no visit to Gouda is complete without a sample of its namesake cheese, or for those with a sweet tooth, the city is also credited with the invention of the Dutch Stroopwafel. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 3 Enkhuizen.** Overnight we will enter the IJsselmeer, the largest freshwater lake in the Netherlands, separated from the North Sea by a man-made dyke. Moor in Enkhuizen this morning, with its well-preserved buildings dating from the 15th to 17th century, and one of the largest marinas in the Netherlands. After breakfast we will visit the fascinating Zuiderzee Museum which is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage and maritime history from the old Zuiderzee region. Here, lovingly preserved buildings display the traditional vocations and lifestyle of the

inhabitants of the Zuiderzee. Learn the history of this interesting region, and its reliance on waterworks and shipping. After lunch on board, you can enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore Enkhuizen independently.

**Day 4 Harlingen & Leeuwarden.** This morning, we will explore beautiful Harlingen, one of the oldest seaports of the Netherlands, overlooking the Wadden Sea. During our walking tour we will discover this city full of merchant houses, inner harbours, bridges and canals and visit the Hannemahuis Museum, one of the oldest merchant houses in Harlingen which is now a museum dedicated to the history of the city. After lunch on board we will visit nearby Leeuwarden, the provincial capital of Friesland and home to a wealth of history and beauty. Stroll through the city streets exploring the merchant quarters and old city centre before visiting the National Ceramics Museum. Located in the 18th century Princeshof Palace, the museum contains an extensive collection of both Dutch and Global ceramics. Return to the MS River Crown for dinner and remain moored in Harlingen overnight.

**Day 5 Harlingen.** Today, there will be a choice of tours. Take a short trip from Harlingen to the nearby town of Franeker to visit the Eise Eisinga Planetarium, the oldest working planetarium in the world. See exhibits on astronomy through the ages, and the marvellous original instruments used



Hoorn



Marken



Frisian horses



City Hall of Gouda



Utrecht

by Eise Eisinga to chart the movements of the cosmos. Following the visit we will take a walk through the charming town of Franeker before returning to the ship for lunch. Alternatively join a tour to a nearby stud farm to see the famed Frisian Horses. This majestic breed of horse is a joy to behold and has been highly valued since Roman times. During our visit we will learn about the history, breeding and culture of this distinctive purebred. Return to the ship in Harlingen and enjoy a relaxing evening sailing through the Wadden Sea and IJsselmeer.

**Day 6 Lemmer.** This morning, we set off for nearby Woudagemaal to see the Steam Pumping Station. It is exceptional as the largest and most powerful steam-driven installation for hydraulic purposes ever built and is a masterpiece of the work of Dutch hydraulic engineers and architects. Alternatively, for those who would prefer a tour with a focus on nature, there will be an excursion to the nearby De Weerribben-Wieden National Park. On arrival enjoy a guided boat trip of this beautiful wetland region. Shaped by peat extraction from the 15th century, today the area covers 6000 hectares of nature, including reed beds, meadows and dense swamp forests.

**Day 7 Hoorn.** Arrive this morning in the attractive town of Hoorn, which flourished as a trading port through the 16th and 17th centuries as a base for the Dutch East India Company. See richly appointed merchants' houses, bustling market squares, and historic buildings including the weighing house. After lunch on board we will head down the coast to visit some of the unique communities of the Zuiderzee. Visit the town of Edam, known for its quaint houses and canals spanned by drawbridges. Admire the wonderful facades, before continuing to the island village of Marken which was separated from the mainland of the Netherlands following a storm in the 13th century and continued to flood throughout the subsequent centuries. As a result, the houses here are built on stilts and raised mounds and the village has a unique feel.

**Day 8 Utrecht.** We will explore Utrecht today, one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands. The Medieval centre of this famous university town is ringed by tranquil canals and offers an enticing blend of shops, museums and a lively café culture. This morning, we will visit Utrecht's Botanical Gardens at Fort Hoofddijk, a unique natural treasure consisting of thousands of plant species. The colourful displays contain specimens from

around the world in a variety of biomes. Return to the ship for lunch followed by an afternoon at leisure in this pretty town.

**Day 9 Dordrecht & Kinderdijk.** We dock this morning in historic Dordrecht, the oldest city in the province of Holland. During our guided tour we will see the nearby marvellous Windmills of Kinderdijk, of which there are 19 in total, dating from 1740. We will then continue with a cruise around the waterways of Kinderdijk and see these quintessential symbols of the Netherlands from the water. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to explore Dordrecht with its old-world atmosphere, quaint shops, cottages and canals. Enjoy our farewell dinner on board, as we sail towards Rotterdam this evening.

**Day 10 Rotterdam to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Amsterdam airport for your scheduled flight to London.

## 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	£4995	£4495
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£4795
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5795	£5295
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5995	£5495
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£6795	£6295
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£4995	£4495
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£5795	£5295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Nine 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.

# RIVER DEEP & MOUNTAIN HIGH

A cruise along the picturesque Rhine & Moselle Rivers from the Low Countries to Basle aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Simon Marginson

8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Join us aboard the 100-passenger MS River Crown as we cruise along the mighty Rhine and lovely Moselle. This detailed look at two of Europe's great rivers will offer a captivating and endlessly romantic journey as we sail between Amsterdam and Basle experiencing the diverse scenery along the route. We have chosen early June for our sailing, a wonderful time of the year for such a cruise when the weather is ideal for touring and sightseeing and the crowds of tourists in the popular towns and cities along the rivers are yet to have arrived.

Our comprehensive journey includes some of the most interesting places in the Netherlands, the great wine producing areas along the Moselle and the historic cities of Koblenz and Cologne, combined with visits in France to Colmar and Strasbourg, an endlessly fascinating place in the delightful Alsace region. The scenery is stunning and makes an excellent combination with the artistic riches we shall see along the way from the wonderful collections on show in the museums and galleries to the fairytale castles and Medieval charms of the towns and villages along the rivers.

Each port of call has its own unique character waiting to be discovered whilst on one of our guided excursions and we have also ensured there is plenty of time to relax on board and enjoy some truly beautiful scenery whilst cruising. Our local guides and interesting talks by our Guest Speaker will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere on board.



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Rotterdam, the Netherlands.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Rotterdam and embark.

**Day 2 Rotterdam.** This morning, we depart for Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will enjoy a walking tour of this pretty town and a visit to the Delft Blue Pottery. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. This evening, join your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner.

**Day 3 Arnhem.** After breakfast join a morning tour to visit the Palace of Het Loo, the favoured summer residence of the Dutch Royal family from 1686 to 1975. This afternoon there will be a choice of two included excursions: your first option is a tour to the Airborne Museum at Villa Hartenstein, the allied headquarters during the Battle of Arnhem, and nowadays dedicated to the historic military 'Operation Market Garden' in World War II. Alternatively, you may like to visit the private art collection at the Kröller Muller Museum with its late 19th and 20th century paintings. Return to the ship and sail towards Cologne.

**Day 4 Cologne, Germany.** After breakfast join our 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. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure for independent exploration. Sail this evening towards the Moselle River.

**Day 5 Cochem.** The town of Cochem is famous for its 11th century Schloss and the Reichsburg, set impressively on a tree clad hill above a bend of the river. On the guided tour, walk along its winding Medieval streets and see the Baroque Town Hall. This afternoon we cruise further into the Moselle, passing steep banks covered with vineyards.

**Day 6 Bernkastel.** Spend the morning exploring Bernkastel, located in the heart of the Moselle Valley. Our exploration of this lovely town, will include the Medieval market square and church before we sample some of the locally produced wines. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail back toward the Rhine, arriving at the confluence of these two great rivers overnight.



**Day 7 Koblenz, the Rhine Valley & Rudesheim.** After breakfast, enjoy a walking tour of Koblenz, an important commercial centre located between the Rhine and Moselle rivers. Our late-morning cruising takes us along the romantic Rhine. Enjoy the magnificent scenery from the Rhine Gorge with the striking hilltop castles and the legendary Lorelei Rock. This afternoon, arrive in Rudesheim and join the Winzer Express mini train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated musical instruments. Remain in Rudesheim this evening.

**Day 8 Mannheim for Heidelberg.** Today 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. Return to the ship for dinner and spend the evening sailing.

**Day 9 Kehl for Strasbourg, France.** After breakfast our guided tour will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg. Start with a cruise through the fascinating old quarter of Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals. We will 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 MS River Crown for lunch. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure or alternatively join a scenic tour along Alsace's "Route des Vins", including a tasting of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 10 Breisach, Germany for Colmar, France.** 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 for lunch. Spend the afternoon sailing and this evening join your fellow travellers for farewell drinks and dinner.

**Day 11 Basle, Switzerland to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



**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	£5495	£4995
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5695	£5195
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£6195	£5695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£6495	£5995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£5495	£4995
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6495	£5995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 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.

# ROSES OF THE RHINE

A passage along the Rhine celebrating the region's splendid gardens aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Rosemary Legrand

26<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2027

The long summer days of late June and early July are perfect for exploring the beauty of the Netherlands and Germany's spectacular gardens which will be in full bloom. Join us aboard the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown as we journey along the Rhine visiting the region's most enchanting horticultural wonders with a plethora of historical, cultural and scenic delights to be enjoyed along the way.

Horticultural highlights of our river journey include the magnificent, moated house of De Wiersse in Arnhem and the rose garden in Westbroek Park which was created during the 1920s and features more than 300 varieties of roses. We will also discover delightful Ettenbuehl Castle and Garden including the rose garden which features over 10,000 flowers. Whilst in Mainz we will visit the beautiful rose gardens and Steinfurth, the oldest rose village in Germany. Here you can relax beneath the elegant rose arches and learn about the art and cultural history of the rose in the Rose Museum. Another horticultural highlight will be our visit to the Japanese Gardens of Leverkusen, with their 15,000 square metres of rare plants from many different parts of East Asia.

In addition to our garden visits, there will be guided tours to some of the region's most charming towns and cities including fascinating Strasbourg and picturesque Heidelberg. We will sample some of the local food and wines of the area including the traditional Black Forest gâteau, wines from Alsace and the sparkling wine of Eltville. There will also be ample time to relax on board to observe everyday life on the banks of the Rhine, delight in the panoramic views of the passing scenery and attend the talks by our Guest Speaker.





Beethoven's House, Bonn



Strasbourg



Rijksmuseum



Cologne Cathedral



Heidelberg

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Rotterdam, the Netherlands.** Fly by scheduled flight to Amsterdam. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Rotterdam. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Rotterdam.** This morning, we depart for The Hague for a visit to the Rose Garden in Westbroek Park. The park was created during the 1920s according to a design by Pieter Westbroek. The rose garden contains approximately 20,000 rose bushes and more than 300 varieties of roses. Afterwards continue on to Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will have lunch in a local restaurant on arrival followed by a walking tour of this pretty town and a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery.

**Day 3 Coenhaven for Amsterdam.** After breakfast, we will depart for a canal cruise to admire Amsterdam from a glass-top boat as you glide past 17th century homes, churches and 16th century merchant houses. Afterwards, we visit 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,



Breisach

and Rubens. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure and this evening join your fellow travellers for a special concert of music by a string quartet.

**Day 4 Arnhem.** After breakfast join a morning tour to the De Wiersse Castle which is surrounded by 38 acres of garden and 74 acres of landscape park and has been lived in and managed by the family since 1678. This beautiful historic garden features avenues and pergolas, fountains and statues, meadows and bridges over a gently flowing stream. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board sailing towards Cologne.

**Day 5 Cologne, Germany.** This morning, we depart for a tour to see Cologne's famous cathedral which is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe with the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world. Return to the ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon. Moor overnight.

**Day 6 Cologne & Bonn.** After breakfast there will be a choice of excursions. Depart on a tour to visit the Botanic Gardens which were established in the 19th century and are an extensive complex of gardens home to more than 10,000 species of plants. Alternatively, visit the Japanese Gardens in Leverkusen. These stunning gardens have 15,000 square metres of rare plants from many different parts of East Asia along with enchanting sculptures, ornate lanterns and arched gates. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and sail to Bonn where our afternoon walking tour will include a visit to Beethoven's House and will finish with a concert by pianist Martin Ivanov in the adjacent hall.

**Day 7 Koblenz & The Rhine Gorge.** We arrive in Koblenz this morning for a walking tour of this historic commercial centre that sits on the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. Back on board the MS River Crown this afternoon we will cruise along the romantic Rhine. Enjoy the magnificent scenery including the Rhine Gorge with its striking hilltop castles and the legendary Lorelei Rock. Arrive in Rudesheim this evening.

**Day 8 Eltville & Rudesheim.** After breakfast, join a tour to the rose garden in Eltville Castle. The gardens were founded in 1979 and boast over 350



different types of roses including climbing roses which grow up to 35 feet high. We will also see the delightful display of Japanese roses. At the height of the summer more than 10,000 roses bloom in the gardens and in 1988 the town of Eltville was nominated a "Rose Town" by the Association of German Friends of Roses. However, Eltville is famous not just for its roses but also for its Sekt (high class sparkling wine). We will enjoy a tasting before returning to the ship for lunch during which we will sail on to Rudesheim. 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.

**Day 9 Mainz.** This morning, we visit the charming village of Steinfurth for the famous rose garden and museum. Steinfurth is the oldest rose village in Germany; in the district of Bad Nauheim roses have been cultivated for more than 150 years and shipped all over the world. The permanent exhibition "Rosy Times" tells of this tradition and of the art and cultural history of the rose in the Rose Museum. This afternoon we visit the rose garden in Mainz. The garden was founded in 1825 as part of a rose exhibition and was extended considerably in 1935 for another important rose exhibition. Now there are more than 100 different types of roses to be seen. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon enjoy a guided walking tour of atmospheric Mainz which 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 end with a visit to the Johannes Gutenberg Museum. This evening, enjoy a string quartet concert on board before dinner.

**Day 10 Speyer & Heidelberg.** This morning, join a walking tour of Speyer which will include the mighty cathedral; the Romanesque Basilica was founded by Emperor Conrad II in 1030 and is one of the largest and most impressive edifices in Germany. After lunch, we visit nearby Heidelberg where we have the afternoon to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. Our tour will include the castle, a dramatically sited red sandstone ruin that dominates the city, the old town with its famous marketplace and the city gates.

**Day 11 Baden-Baden.** After breakfast, we will drive inland to the beautiful spa town of Baden-Baden. This elegant Belle-Epoque resort is one of Germany's best kept secrets. The spa assembly rooms and famous casino form the focal point of the town, both architecturally and socially. The old quarter is full of charming houses, exclusive boutiques and cafés and is fully pedestrianised. After a guided tour there will be some free time to wander around this remarkable town which somehow manages to retain its old-world charm and yet be very much of the 21st century. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon sailing towards Strasbourg.

**Day 12 Strasbourg, France.** After breakfast, our guided tour will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg. Start with a cruise through the fascinating old quarter of Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals. We will 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 MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon join the tour to Alsace which will include a tasting of some of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 13 Breisach, Germany.** This morning, we arrive in Breisach, gateway to the Black Forest. After breakfast we will travel to Freiburg for a walking tour of this vibrant city. Explore the cobblestone streets, the spectacular Munster with its 116-metre tall tower and see its 'Bächle', or miniature canals, which were once used to supply water for drinking. After our tour, we make our way through the lovely Höllen Valley to the famous resort of Titisee-Neustadt, where we will enjoy delicious Black Forest gateau before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon relax on board whilst we sail through the countryside of Alsace toward Switzerland.

**Day 14 Basle, Switzerland.** This morning, our excursion will take us to the old market square, with its brightly painted Town Hall, and along Minster Hill past many handsome 18th century houses to the Minster with its slender twin spires. The oldest part of the building dates from between the 9th and 13th centuries, although much was rebuilt in the Gothic style after the 1356 earthquake. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon enjoy a visit to the Landhuis Ettenbuehl Garden. The Seidel family first considered their garden to be a hobby but soon their interest in roses became so keen that they began to collect roses on a large scale. Now there are several themed gardens in a delightful historically English style but the most important is the rose garden with over 10,000 flowers. This evening join your fellow travellers for farewell drinks and dinner on board.

**Day 15 Basle to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

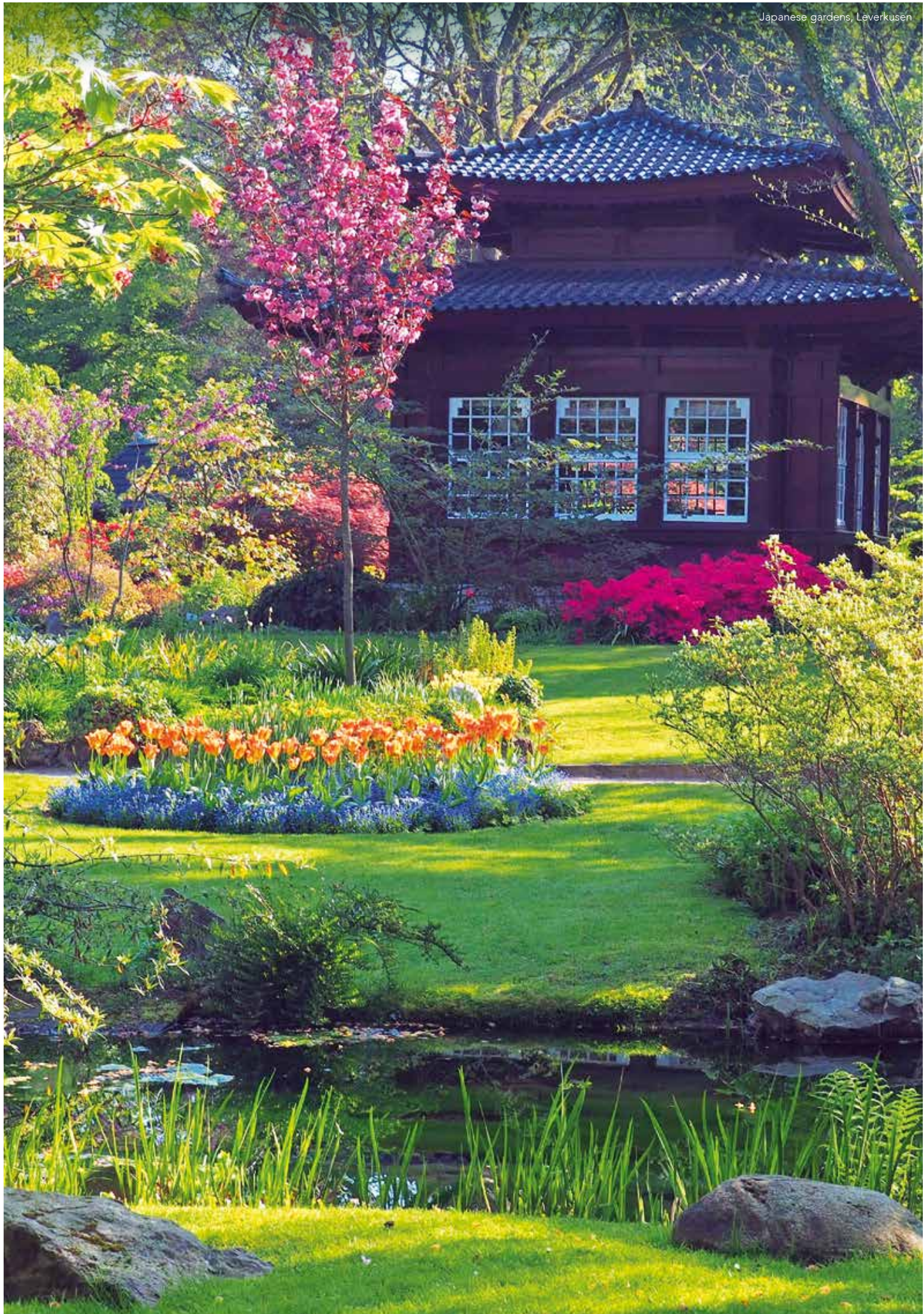
## PRICES PER PERSON

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	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£8195	£7695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£8495	£7995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£9495	£8995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£8495	£7995

**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.



# THE MAJESTIC DANUBE

A journey from Bucharest to Regensburg aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker David Pickard

23<sup>rd</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2027



During this navigation of the Danube River from Romania in the east to the romantic city of Regensburg in the west we will travel through the heart of Europe visiting seven countries; Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria 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.

We will journey through some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown, visiting the 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 about the fascinating history and culture of the region. The combination of music, traditional culture, wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a fascinating trip. 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.



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Giurgiu, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight to Bucharest. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Giurgiu. This evening we will sail the short distance to Rousse where we moor overnight.

**Day 2 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** From Rousse we depart by coach for a full day tour 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 we visit the museum town of Arbanassi, famous for its 17th and 18th century architecture and the unique Church of the Nativity of Christ. We return to the MS River Crown which will have sailed to Nikopol and continue sailing this evening.

**Day 3 Belgradchik & Vidin.** Arrive today in the Bulgarian port of Vidin. From here we will drive to Belgradchik which is located close to the Serbian border. The Belgradchik Rocks are a famous Bulgarian beauty spot. The sandstone has been weathered into all manner of bizarre shapes, and housed amongst the rocks is an Ottoman fort, built on the remains of a Roman structure. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon we will visit Vidin for a performance by the Vidin Symphonic Orchestra in the Philharmonic concert hall.

**Day 4 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. Enjoy a relaxing day on board, witnessing the beautiful scenery and attend a lecture by our onboard Guest Speaker.

**Day 5 Belgrade, Serbia.** A morning guided tour of Belgrade will visit the city's main attractions including the Kalemegdan fortress as it looms over the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers and Saint Sava Cathedral, the largest Orthodox Church in the world. Our tour will finish with a superb local folklore performance before we return to the ship for lunch. Enjoy the afternoon sailing towards Hungary.

**Day 6 Pecs, Hungary.** Spend a leisurely morning on board sailing to Mohacs and after lunch we will depart for a tour of the city of Pecs which enjoys a fine position on the slopes of the Mecsek Hills. Our guided



tour of the city will feature the sites associated with the city's Roman, Ottoman, and Hapsburg past, as well as the splendid Pecs Cathedral where we will listen to the sound of its organ.

**Day 7 Budapest.** We have the day to explore Hungary's elegant capital. After breakfast our guided tour will include the old quarter, visiting the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion from where there are stunning views of the city. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace before we sail in the early evening.

**Day 8 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Arrive over lunch in the Slovak capital of Bratislava. Join a guided walking tour of the city which was known as Pressburg and a former capital of Hungary. See the old quarter, the ornate Baroque Palace and the ancient city gates before our tour ends with a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart by a string quartet. Sail this evening.

**Day 9 Vienna, Austria.** A morning city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephen'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 join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa.

**Day 10 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. Continue on to Weissenkirchen to taste some of the wonderful wines of this region.

**Day 11 Linz for Salzburg.** After breakfast today there will be an opportunity to join a full day tour to 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. After lunch in a local restaurant we will enjoy a special concert of music by Salzburg's most famous son before returning to the MS River Crown in the late afternoon. Alternatively, you can choose to join a morning guided tour of Linz, and after lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 12 Passau, Germany.** Enjoy a morning walking tour of the ancient fairytale city of Passau, the meeting point of the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers. See the old town and cathedral that houses one of the largest pipe organs in the world. After a short organ recital we will return to the vessel.

**Day 13 Regensburg to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Munich Airport for our scheduled flight to London.



### 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	£6295	£5795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£6495	£5995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£6995	£6495
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7295	£6795
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£7895	£7395
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£6295	£5795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6495	£5995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 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.

# EMPIRES OF THE DANUBE

A journey from Regensburg to Bucharest aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Olga Verstage

5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2027



Flowing from the Black Forest of Germany through to the Black Sea, the Danube River has always played a key role in the history of Europe. At times this mighty river has been an important border to great civilisations, and at others it has been the lifeblood of the many cultures and peoples that have settled along its banks over the millennia. It is therefore no surprise that the Danube of today is one of the richest and most culturally diverse areas of Europe, formed by centuries of migration and conflict in the region. Our early autumn river journey through the heart of Europe visits seven countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania and during our two-week cruise we will explore the impressive imperial cities, witness some picturesque scenery and discover unique cultures that can be found along the banks of the Danube.

We will navigate this important river between the romantic city of Regensburg in the west to Romania in the east aboard the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown and from the great comfort of our vessel we will travel effortlessly, enjoying the varied scenery and architecture whilst learning about the rich history and culture of the region. The combination of the fascinating history of this cultural crossroads, picturesque riverside and inland towns with wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a most rewarding trip. Our included tours with excellent local guides, together with interesting talks by our Guest Speaker will bring the region to life as we sail along the majestic Danube.





The Belogradchik Rocks



Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, Vienna



Passau



Regensburg

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Regensburg, Germany.** Fly by scheduled flight to Munich. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Regensburg. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Regensburg.** This morning, we begin our journey along the Danube in the former imperial city of Regensburg. The city was once a major political and economic centre of the Holy Roman Empire, with its Medieval centre recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join a guided stroll around the historic city and see the highlights such as the Old Town Hall and the city centre. We will see the twin spired Cathedral Dom St Peter, as well as the Thurn and Taxis Palace, a former Abbey and home of the Taxis family who played a major role in the history of the Holy Roman Empire and the German state. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further at your own pace.

**Day 3 Passau.** This morning, we arrive in Passau, where the Inn and Ilz rivers join the Danube. The city was home to a bishopric since late antiquity, with its Bishops eventually being elevated as Princes under the Holy Roman Empire. Our guided walking tour will include the old town of this Bavarian city and the breathtaking Cathedral of St Stephen which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs. Spend some time exploring independently after lunch, before sailing in the late afternoon toward the Austrian border.

**Day 4 Linz, Austria for Salzburg or Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic.** Arrive in Austria overnight and moor in the city of Linz from where there will be a choice of guided tours today. Enjoy a trip to the exquisite town of Cesky Krumlov, once a key city in the Bohemian Kingdom, which rose to prominence under the Holy Roman Empire and was later subordinate to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Today the town remains one of the most picturesque Medieval centres 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, take the opportunity to join a full day tour to 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. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will enjoy a special concert of music by Salzburg's most famous son before returning to the MS River Crown in the late afternoon.

**Day 5 Vienna.** Arrive this morning in Vienna, our base for the next two days. This beautiful city has a storied history, from its origins as a Roman

colony to the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After breakfast 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 Stephen's Cathedral. Alternatively, travel to the Vienna Woods, including a visit to the Mayerling hunting lodge, where scandal once rocked the Habsburg royal family, as well as the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz. After lunch on board, you can enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore this majestic city further independently.

**Day 6 Vienna.** After breakfast join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Empress Maria Theresa. Originally constructed as a hunting lodge for the royal family, the palace has expanded and evolved over the centuries to become the Baroque masterpiece that exists today. Explore the opulent rooms of the palace and learn about the Habsburg monarchs. Following your palace tour, enjoy some free time to take a stroll around the beautiful gardens before returning to the MS River Crown for lunch. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

**Day 7 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Bratislava is one of the youngest capitals in Europe and during the time it was called Pressburg or Pozsony it was one of the most important cities in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Its location on the banks of the River Danube and at the crossroads of ancient trading routes, right at the heart of Europe, predestined it to become a meeting point of various cultures. The reign of Maria Theresa is regarded as a golden era in the city's history. During our guided city tour we will visit the 13th century Bratislava Castle which sits on a hill 80 metres above the Danube. Here we can see the Historical Museum before strolling through the elegant Baroque gardens. We also visit St Martin's Cathedral which was built in the 13th century and served as the coronation church of Hungarian royalty. Sail this afternoon along the borders of Slovakia on the north bank of the river, and Hungary on the south bank.

**Day 8 Budapest, Hungary.** Today we visit the 'Queen of the Danube', Budapest. The twin cities of Buda and Pest have flourished on the crossroads of empires. Control of Budapest has shifted many times over the centuries, from the Magyar kingdoms to the Ottoman Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Explore this beautiful and historic city on a morning excursion that will include the old quarter, the Matthias Church and the Fishermen's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch before joining an excursion out of the city to the Baroque Gödöllő Palace, which was



offered to Emperor Franz Josef and Empress Elizabeth as a coronation gift. Alternatively, 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.

**Day 9 Mohacs.** Spend a leisurely morning sailing downstream to Mohacs. After lunch we will depart for a tour of the city of Pecs which enjoys a fine position on the slopes of the Mecsek Hills. Our guided tour of the city will feature the sites associated with the city's Roman, Ottoman, and Hapsburg past, as well as the splendid Pecs Cathedral where we will listen to the sound of its organ.

**Day 10 Novi Sad, Serbia.** Today we will arrive in Novi Sad, an important Serbian trading hub that sprang up in the shadow of the Petrovaradin Fortress during its time under Habsburg Control. Following the destruction of the three main bridges by the NATO bombing campaign in 1999, the city of Novi Sad, in the Serbian northern province of Vojvodina, has returned to normal after much rebuilding. 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 will sample some excellent wines of the former Yugoslavia.

**Day 11 Belgrade.** Spend the morning in Belgrade where 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. A fortress has stood on this site since antiquity and was occupied by the Byzantine Empire until it was taken by the Ottomans in the 15th century. During our tour we will also visit 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. Spend the afternoon sailing along the Danube.

**Day 12 Cruising the Iron Gates.** Today the scenery becomes truly spectacular as you cruise through the Iron Gates, a narrow gorge between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains that has formed a natural border to many nations and states along the Danube.

**Day 13 Vidin, Bulgaria.** Arrive today in the Bulgarian port of Vidin. From here we will drive to Belogradchik which is located close to the Serbian border. The Belogradchik Rocks are a famous Bulgarian beauty spot. The sandstone has been weathered into all manner of bizarre shapes and

housed amongst the rocks, is an Ottoman fort, built on the remains of a Roman structure. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we visit Vidin for a performance by the wonderful Vidin Symphonic Orchestra in the Philharmonic concert hall.

**Day 14 Veliko Tarnovo.** Arrive in Nikopol, from where we depart by coach for a full day tour 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, famous for its 17th and 18th architecture and the unique Church of the Nativity of Christ. Rejoin the ship in Rousse and enjoy a farewell dinner. This evening the ship will cross the river into the Romanian port of Giurgiu and moor overnight.

**Day 15 Bucharest, Romania to London.** Disembark this morning in Giurgiu and transfer to Bucharest Airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## 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	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£8195	£7695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£8495	£7995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£8995	£8495
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£7495	£6995

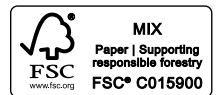
**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.





# 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.  
Cover image: Wachau Valley.