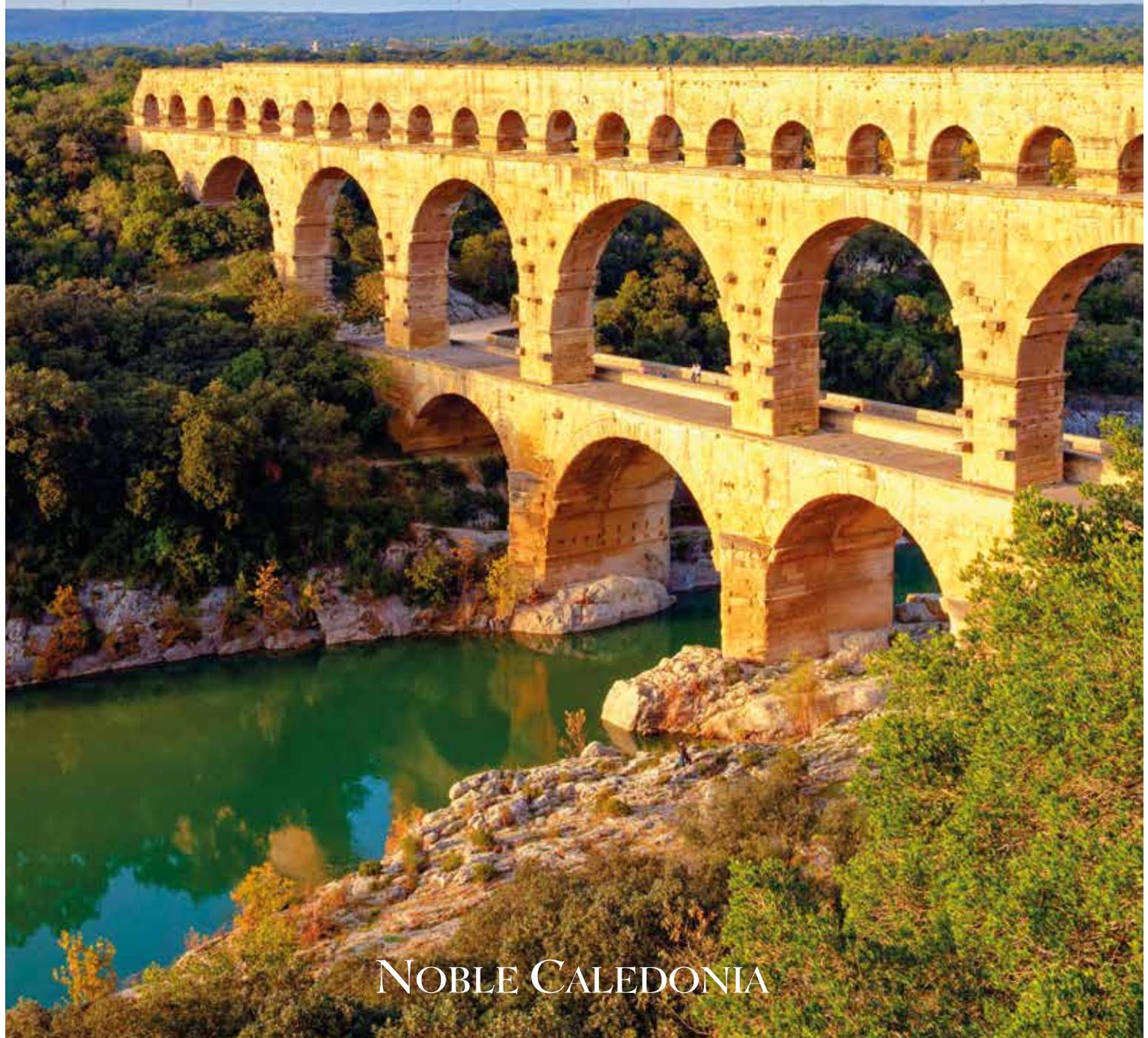


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

ROMANS ON THE RHONE

Discover the cultural & historical splendours of the Rhone
aboard the MS Van Gogh
7th to 14th October 2027



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Originating in the Valais region of the Swiss Alps, the historic River Rhone meanders down through the Jura mountains to Lyon where it meets the River Saone and continues south through Provence. Perhaps more than any other region of France, Provence has experienced a truly diverse and turbulent history. Nomadic tribes and settlements can be traced back over 300,000 years and during our exploration of Provence, we will learn about the region's history, from the Roman Empire to the feuding warlords of the Middle Ages. Provence was one of Rome's earliest conquests outside of Italy, and few regions of the extensive Roman Empire have retained such impressive buildings.

Our unique itinerary reveals many historic highlights including the magnificent Pont du Gard which, built during the time of Emperor Claudius is the highest existing Roman aqueduct and one of the most impressive examples of Roman civil engineering, and the Maison Carree monument in Nimes, a remarkably well-preserved oblong Roman temple. We will also spend time Arles, known as the 'Little Rome of Gaul', with its many Roman remains including the amphitheatre and Roman Theatre. Such monuments testify to Rome's great power and with our Guest Speaker and excellent local guides, we will visit these imposing Roman relics, learning more of Roman antiquity. There will also be ample time spent on board sailing, allowing you to appreciate the wonderful scenery and absorb the subtle changes in landscapes along the river. All this will be accomplished with ease from the comfort of the delightful 100-passenger MS Van Gogh.



GUEST SPEAKER – DR ROSS KING



Dr Ross King is the author of numerous books on French and Italian art, history and architecture, including *Brunelleschi's Dome*, *The Judgment of Paris*, and *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*. He has won both the Governor-General's Award in Canada and the BookSense Book of the Year in the United States. In tandem with his writing, Ross is an active fundraiser for the arts and a passionate lecturer and tour guide. He has participated in numerous study tours throughout France and Italy. He is both a Smithsonian Expert and an Accredited Lecturer with The Arts Society. He has lectured in many American museums, including at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Frick Collection, and the National Gallery.



Fourviere Basilica, Lyon



Temple of Augustus and Livia, Vienne



Pont Benezet, Avignon

Carrières des Lumières

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Lyon, France. Fly by scheduled flight. Upon arrival transfer to the MS Van Gogh and embark. Meet your fellow travellers this evening during welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Lyon. This morning we will discover the charming city of Lyon. Our guided city tour will begin with a stop at the Fourviere Basilica which dominates the skyline of Lyon and from where we can take in breathtaking views. The history of the basilica dates from 1168 when Olivier de Chavannes, a canon of Lyon Cathedral, founded a church over the ruins of the old Roman forum. The small chapel that was dedicated to the Virgin Mary has been destroyed and rebuilt many times. Its current known form dates back to 1740 and its most recent renovation was in 2008. We will continue to the remains of the original Roman Theatre and Odeon, which are still used today for musical performances. Later, we return to Lyon's old town where a walking tour will discover the 'traboules', a type of passageway that is typical of the city. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon relax on board as we sail past the confluence of the Rhone and Saone rivers as we make our way to Vienne.

Day 3 Vienne. We will spend this morning in the fine Roman town of Vienne, beautifully located in the Rhone Valley and surrounded by hills. During our walking tour, we will learn about its Roman era with a visit to the Temple of Augustus and Livia, as well as the Gallo-Roman Museum which houses many artefacts from the town. During our walk we will also discover the Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral St Maurice. Those who wish can ascend the hillside above the town to visit Vienne's Roman theatre which was one of the largest in the Roman Empire with a capacity for 13,000 spectators. Relax on board this afternoon as we continue our journey south.

Day 4 Arles. Enjoy a leisurely morning on board as we sail through the Provencal countryside toward the city of Arles where we will arrive over lunch. Once a major port under the Romans, the city has a unique and extensive history that can be seen plainly throughout its charming, cobbled streets which are built among and often integrate the Roman ruins. This afternoon, join a walking tour into the old town of Arles, including the famous amphitheatre, the Roman theatre, and the former cathedral of St Triomphe, a Romanesque Basilica constructed in the 12th century. Continue to the archaeological museum, where artefacts from across Arles' long history are

displayed. Due to centuries of silt build-up and shifting river courses, there are some exceptionally well-preserved artefacts that have been discovered in the Rhone, including a rare trading barge from the Roman era. Return to the ship this evening and remain moored overnight.

Day 5 Arles for Nimes. This morning we will embark on a tour to the city of Nimes, one of the finest examples of prosperous Gallo-Roman settlements in southern France. Originally named Nemausus (for the local god of spring), the city served as a regional Celtic capital. Though succumbing to Roman control in 121 BC, the city's continued importance was assured by its location on the Via Domitia, the main Roman road between northern Italy and Spain. The best-known monument of Nimes is the Maison Carree, a remarkably well-preserved oblong Roman temple built during the 1st century AD, featuring exquisite carvings along the cornice and on the Corinthian capitals. Today, the building is a museum and contains an imposing statue of Apollo. We will enjoy lunch ashore before we continue to the scenic Gardon Gorge, an area of natural beauty around the River Gardon. See the famous Pont du Gard, an aqueduct bridge that spans the river in three tiers of arches. This exceptionally preserved bridge which was built in the 1st century AD, once provided fresh water to Nimes and remains one of the best-preserved sections of aqueduct in the world. After our visit we will rejoin the MS Van Gogh in Avignon. Alternatively, you may choose to join a half day tour to the nearby village of Les Baux-de-Provence to visit the spectacular Carrières des Lumières. Located in a former quarry, this ever-changing space displays wonderful educational light shows projected throughout the carved-out space. These shows usually focus on the life and work of famous artists, telling their stories through light and sound as you explore the space. Return to Arles and sail to Avignon, where we remain moored overnight.

Day 6 Avignon. This morning there will be a choice of excursions. You may like to join a tour to the nearby village of Vaison la Romaine, the site of France's most extensive archaeological site. Excavations of this sleepy village began in the early 20th century and revealed a trove of Roman ruins and artefacts. Explore the streets and foundations of a once thriving Roman town and visit the remarkably well-preserved theatre dug into the hillside. Alternatively, you may wish to explore the charming Medieval city of Avignon, the great City of the Popes which is enclosed by Medieval walls. Our guided walking tour here will include the Palais des Papes, one of the wonders of

Arles



Tournon sur Rhone

Provence and the largest and most important Medieval Gothic buildings in Europe. We will also visit the Cathedral and famous Pont Benezet, a ruined bridge that once spanned the Rhone between Villeneuve les Avignon and Avignon. Return to the ship for lunch, before enjoying an afternoon at leisure in Avignon. Sail this evening.

Day 7 Tournon sur Rhone. Arrive overnight in the town of Tournon sur Rhone, overlooked on one bank by Tournon Castle, and on the other by the terraced vineyards of Tain L'Hermitage. Today we will cross to the opposite bank of the river to visit Tain L'Hermitage. This important winemaking centre produces many excellent Côtes du Rhône wines and we will visit one of the local vineyards for a tour and a tasting. Following your visit, return to the town for a walk through the centre, admiring its Medieval church and famous school. Spend the afternoon at leisure before enjoying the farewell dinner as we sail for Lyon this evening.

Day 8 Lyon to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Lyon Airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Main Deck Twin	£3395	£3195
2	Upper Deck Twin with French Balcony	£3695	£3495
3	Main Deck Single	£3395	£3195

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

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Annecey Pre-cruise Extension

4th to 7th October 2027

If you would like to spend some time in France's Haute-Savoie region before embarking the MS Van Gogh we are offering a three night extension in the charming lakeside city of Annecey.



Annecey

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Annecey, France. Fly by scheduled flight to Geneva. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to Le Pelican Hotel, located on the shores of Lake Annecey just a five minute walk from the historic centre of Annecey. After check in enjoy free time before we meet for dinner this evening. (D)

Day 2 Annecey. After breakfast in the hotel we will discover Annecey, the capital of Haute-Savoie and known as the "Venice of the Alps". Stroll through the old town with its charming canals, flowery banks, adorable little bridges and beautiful houses with colourful facades. In the heart of the old town, admire the Palais de l'Île, a former prison and courthouse, and stroll along rue Sainte-Claire lined with pretty arcaded houses. Explore the quays, bridges and old pedestrian streets to discover the eventful history of the city built along the Thiou. After lunch we return to the hotel for a free afternoon and evening to explore at your own pace, you may wish to climb up to the Chateau d'Annecey for views over the town or take a wander on the lakeside. (B, L)

Day 3 Yvoire. Depart this morning for a tour of Yvoire. On the shores of Lake Geneva, this adorable Medieval village is considered one of the most beautiful villages in France. With over 700 years of history, we will see the charming ramparts, fortified gates and the impressive 14th century castle and garden. After lunch at a local restaurant, we make our way back to Annecey for a final afternoon and evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 4 Annecey to Lyon. After breakfast in the hotel we will drive to Hautecombe Abbey located on the shores of Lac du Bourget, France's largest natural lake. Here we will tour the abbey and enjoy a cruise of the lake. After lunch we continue our journey to Lyon to embark the MS Van Gogh. (B, L)



Yvoire

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Room Category	Price
Classic Twin	£1495
Superior Lake View	£1895
Classic Single	£1795
Superior Lake View Single	£2195

Price Includes: Three nights at Le Pelican Hotel in Annecey, meals as indicated including drinks (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner), tours as described, Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS VAN GOGH

For our voyages along the Rhone we have chartered the delightful MS Van Gogh from our associates at Croisi Europe. The vessel accommodates a maximum of 105 passengers and offers spacious public areas and comfortable cabins. She is a charming vessel and joining you on board will be a Noble Caledonia team including a Cruise Director, Tour Manager and Guest Speaker.

Your Cabin

The cabins are spread across the Main and Upper Decks and all are outside facing. All cabins are attractively furnished and feature an en-suite bathroom with shower, TV, telephone, safe, hairdryer, individual air-conditioning and heating controls, and a closet. Twin cabins measure 15 square metres and single cabins measure 11 square metres. Cabins on the Main Deck feature picture windows, and those on the Upper Deck feature French Balcony style (floor to ceiling) sliding windows, allowing you to admire the passing scenery from your cabin.

Your Space

The public areas aboard the MS Van Gogh are both elegantly furnished and spacious. The lounge on the Upper Deck is a relaxing environment in which to admire the passing scenery, socialise and enjoy a drink from the bar. There is also a spacious Sun Deck with comfortable deck furniture, the perfect place to relax and appreciate the beautiful vistas whilst cruising along the Rhone. The open-seating restaurant is located on the Upper Deck and there is a small souvenir shop on board.

Your Dining

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



Main Deck Twin



Upper Deck Twin



Lounge



Bar

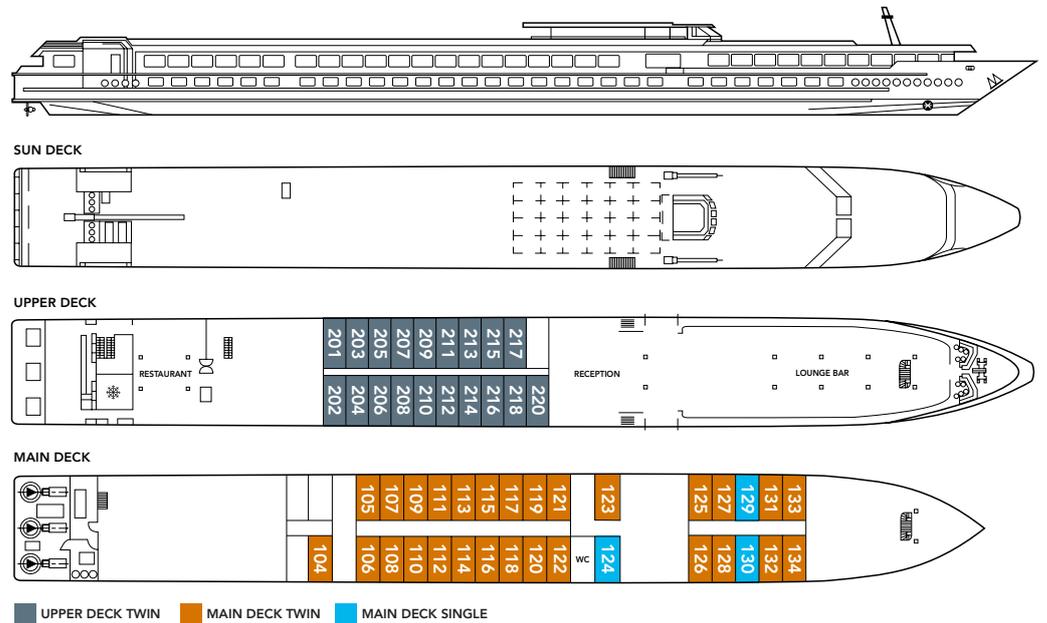


Restaurant

Life On Board

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

DECK PLAN



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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: Pont du Gard.