SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON

SECRET NETHERLANDS

AN EXPLORATION OF THE NETHERLANDS
ABOARD THE MS RIVER CROWN

30TH MAY TO 8TH JUNE 2027, 26TH APRIL TO 5TH MAY
& 30TH JUNE TO 9TH JULY 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join the MS River Crown in Rotterdam and discover the rural tranquillity of the Netherlands during our new and unique nine night journey. 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.

GUEST SPEAKER – 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 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.
Please note that Sophie will be joining our 2027 departure. The Guest Speakers for our 2028 departures are yet to be confirmed at the time of going to print and will show on our website once confirmed.


De Weerribben-Wieden National Park


Enkhuizen

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown 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 Princesshof 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 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.


Hoorn


Frisian horses


City Hall of Gouda


Utrecht

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 the airport for your scheduled flight to London.


Marken

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CATEGORY	DECK	2027 BROCHURE PRICE	2027 SPECIAL OFFER PRICE	2028 BROCHURE PRICE	2028 SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4995	£4495	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£4795	£5495	£4995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5795	£5295	£5995	£5495
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	£6495	£5995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	£6995	£6495
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£4995	£4495	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£5795	£5295	£5995	£5495

Please note that at the time of going to print there are just five cabins remaining for our 2027 departure.

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.



Deluxe Cabin with french Balcony



MS River Crown



Restaurant

MS RIVER CROWN

We are delighted to have chartered the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown, a spacious and well-designed vessel. 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 you will find yourself amongst like-minded people in an English-speaking environment. Whilst 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. 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.

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 feature a French Balcony providing wonderful views and access to fresh air. Also on the Middle and Upper decks are the Deluxe cabins with French Balcony which measure 22 square metres and feature fixed double beds along with a seating area. The four spacious, two room Queen Suites on the Upper Deck measure 30 square metres and feature both a French Balcony and separate balcony with chairs and a table, living room area with separable sliding door, a double bed and spacious bathroom. Finally, there are five Standard single cabins on the Main Deck which measure 12 square metres and feature portholes. All cabins feature ample storage space, a writing/dressing table, television, safety deposit box, small refrigerator, and individually controlled air-conditioning.

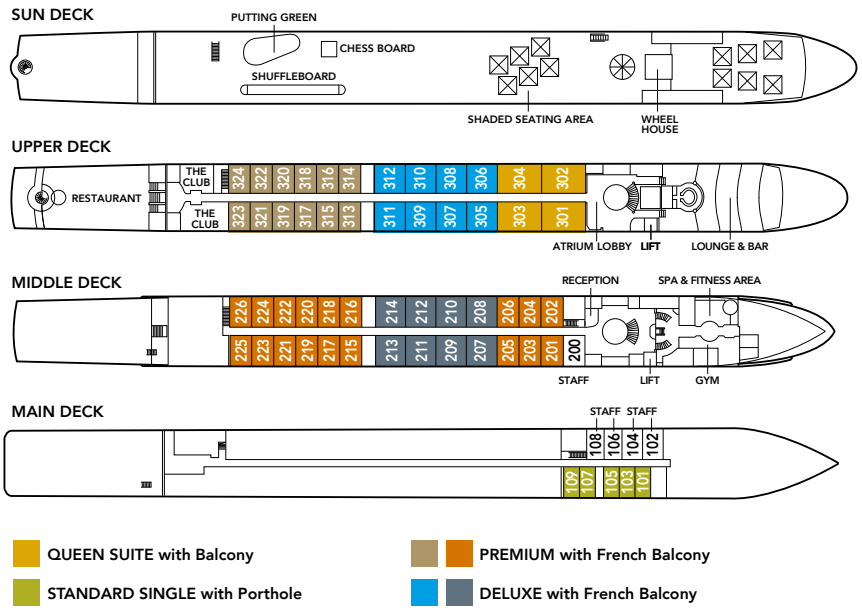
YOUR DINING

While the most beautiful river scenery passes by, enjoy delicacies created by the Executive Chef and his team. The restaurant has open seating, allowing you to sit where and with whom you like at each meal. In the morning for early risers, tea, coffee and pastries are available. Breakfast is served buffet style, lunch is a combination of a delightful buffet and hot dishes served to order and dinner is a served four course meal. In addition, house wine, beer and soft drinks are included at both lunch and dinner. Afternoon tea is also provided with a choice of cakes and to finish the day, snacks are available in the lounge in the late evening.

YOUR SPACE

A well designed feature of the MS River Crown is the positioning of the Restaurant and the Lounge and Bar on the Upper Deck. These public areas have floor to ceiling windows, affording excellent views as you dine, relax or listen to the onboard lectures. There is also an Atrium Lobby with seating where you can access tea and coffee 24-hours a day, whilst the Club area on board comprises of two small lounges, a perfect place if you are seeking somewhere to relax with a good book. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge and is the ideal location to watch the changing scenery. There is also a putting green and a large chess board on the Sun Deck for your enjoyment. For some time out, you can relax in the wellness centre which includes a sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room.

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: Windmills of Kinderdijk.