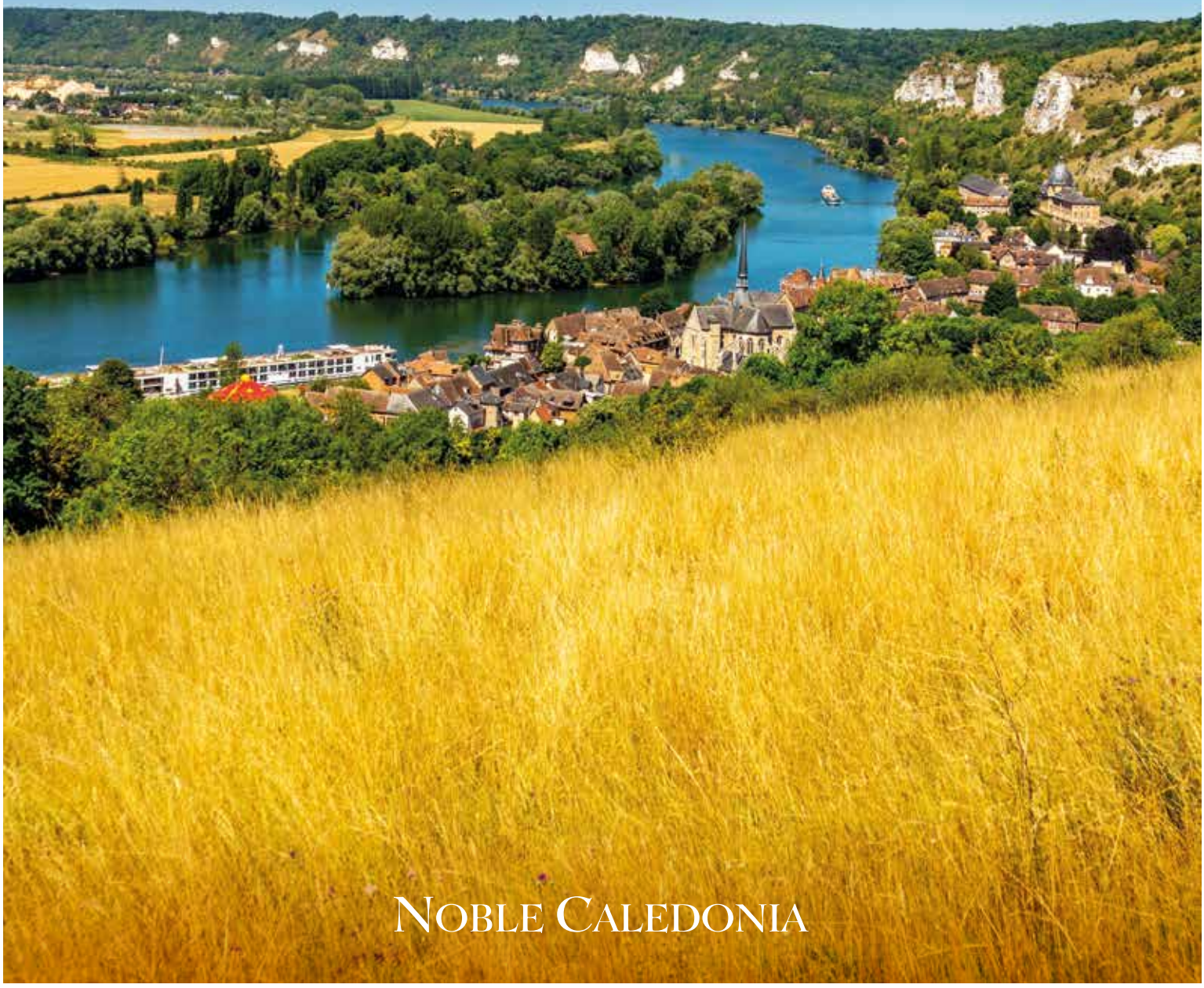
SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON

THE SEINE & NORMANDY

LANDSCAPES OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

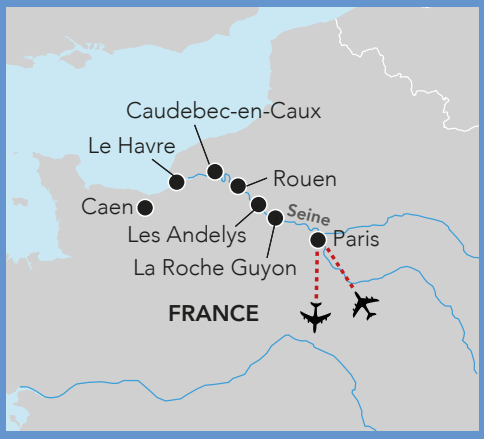
A seven night voyage along the Seine aboard MS R.E. Waydelich L.J.

5th to 12th October 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Flowing from the heart of Paris through the picturesque Seine Valley, with its orchards, rolling countryside and striking chalk cliffs, the River Seine has witnessed the rise and fall of kingdoms, inspired some of the greatest Impressionist painters and has long been at the centre of Normandy's history, connecting the castles, monasteries and historic towns of the region. Our voyage offers the opportunity to explore the landscapes that shaped one of history's most remarkable figures William the Conqueror, whilst discovering the region's rich heritage from the comfort of our elegant river vessel, the MS R.E. Waydelich L.J.



Beginning in the enchanting city of Paris, we will moor in the heart of France's capital before cruising through the Normandy countryside, a charming area of gently undulating woods, orchards, pastures and clear streams. Each bend in the river reveals something of interest: picturesque villages, monasteries, abbeys and architecture that spans from the Medieval to the ultra-modern. Highlights of our itinerary include a visit to Monet's retreat at Giverny, where he lived for more than 40 years, exploring the historic streets of Rouen with their reminders of Joan of Arc and discovering the magnificent ruins of Jumieges Abbey and the birthplace of William the Conqueror at Falaise. We will explore Caen, one of the principal centres of his rule in Normandy and where he founded the magnificent Abbaye aux Hommes. There will also be the opportunity to discover the charming harbour town of Honfleur and the imposing Chateau Gaillard, Richard the Lionheart's mighty fortress overlooking the Seine.

Throughout our journey, a knowledgeable Guest Speaker will bring the history of the region to life, exploring the story of William the Conqueror, the Norman legacy and the events that shaped both France and England. With the combination of fascinating history, beautiful landscapes and afternoons spent leisurely cruising along one of France's most beautiful rivers, this promises to be a fascinating and rewarding voyage.



Chateau Gaillard, Les Andelys


Eiffel Tower


Cathedral of Notre Dame


Claude Monet's Water Garden

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London or Manchester to Paris, France. Fly by scheduled flight from London or Manchester to Paris or join the Eurostar at St Pancras International Train Station. On arrival, transfer to the MS R.E. Waydelich L.J. moored in Paris. Meet your fellow guests during the welcome dinner on board and enjoy the evening ambience of the 'City of Lights'.

Day 2 Paris. This morning there will be a guided tour into the Medieval heart of Paris, with a visit to Isle de la Cite. This island in the centre of the Seine is one of the oldest districts of Paris, and home to some of its most famous landmarks. Visit Sainte Chapelle, one of the oldest surviving sections of the Medieval royal palace, and the private chapel of the royal family of France. Marvel at the intricate Gothic architecture and impressive stained-glass windows that once protected a collection of sacred Christian relics. We continue to the Cathedral of Notre Dame, one of Paris's most well-known landmarks. Enjoy some free time here or cross the river to the Latin Quarter, where the famous Shakespeare and Company bookshop can be found on the opposite bank. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon on board as we sail toward La Roche Guyon, arriving this evening.

Day 3 La Roche Guyon & Giverny. From our berth in La Roche Guyon, we have a choice of tours today. Discover the charm and beauty of this corner of Normandy with a visit to nearby Giverny. It was here that impressionist artist Claude Monet lived and worked from 1883 until his death in 1926. His beautifully laid out Norman and Japanese-inspired gardens became the subject of his famous Water Lilies series of paintings. Today the home has been lovingly maintained as a museum. Wander the garden pathways and visit the house where the great painter spent over half of his life. Alternatively, join a guided walk through the village of La Roche Guyon, known as one of the most beautiful in France, and visit the Chateau, which was partially carved from the chalk cliffs along the riverbank. The village was an important toll station for shipping along the Seine and was a key strategic location during World War II, when the occupying Germans set up a command centre in the tunnels behind the Chateau. Today the Chateau's ornate frontage overlooks tranquil riverside orchards. Return to the ship this afternoon, and sail through the meandering Seine valley, admiring charming villages and steep chalk cliffs as we sail to Rouen.

Day 4 Rouen. This morning, take a stroll ashore in Rouen, the 'City of a Hundred Spires'. From its capture by Rollo, the first Duke of Normandy, to the execution of Joan of Arc during the Hundred Years War, the city has been pivotal to the combined history of both France and England, which is evident through the many historical monuments that can be found among its streets. Explore the cathedral, which contains the tombs of several prominent dukes and members of the Angevin Royal Family. Wander through the Medieval centre, along the Rue du Gros Horloge to see the 14th century astronomical clock, which remains in working order to this day. Our guided walk will conclude in the old market square, where Joan of Arc was famously burned at the stake in 1431. The square today is home to a church dedicated to Saint Joan and surrounded by original half-timbered Medieval buildings. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon sailing through green landscapes of the lower Seine.

Day 5 Caudebec-en-Caux. Awake today in Caudebec-en-Caux, nestled in a bend of the river and surrounded by peaceful bucolic scenery. The town was once a wealthy trading port, and its charming streets and architecture reflect its prosperity during the Medieval and Early Modern periods. After breakfast enjoy a stroll through the Medieval streets and admire the town's flamboyant Gothic church. Later we travel to the ruins of Abbaye Jumieges. This prominent Benedictine monastery was founded in the 7th century, and was visited by William the Conqueror in 1067, who consecrated a church on its grounds one year after the Battle of Hastings. The site was destroyed and rebuilt several times over the centuries, and eventually abandoned during the French Revolution, however its impressive limestone architecture still stands overlooking the river, leading Victor Hugo to describe it as 'the most beautiful ruin in France'. Return to the ship for lunch and catch the scent of sea air from the sun deck as we make our way toward the Seine Estuary and Le Havre.


La Roche Guyon


Abbaye Jumieges, Caudebec-en-Caux


Les Andelys


14th Century Astronomical Clock, Rouen


Honfleur

Day 6 Le Havre for Normandy. This morning there will be a choice of tours from Le Havre into the heart of Normandy. Follow in the footsteps of William the Conqueror and discover his birthplace in the Norman town of Falaise, where he was born in 1027. Explore the 12th century castle, built atop the site of the original, and learn about William's early life and the castle's strategic importance through interactive exhibits throughout the keep. Continue to the nearby city of Caen, the former capital of Normandy. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will explore Caen's Medieval city centre and learn of its importance during the Medieval period and its restoration and reconstruction after World War II. Visit the church of Sainte Etienne and the Abbaye aux Hommes, which was commissioned by William and his wife, Mathilde, and became his final resting place following his death in 1087. Alternatively, join a half-day tour to the nearby town of Honfleur, which is famous for its colourful houses lining the old harbour. Enjoy a walk through the town centre, visiting the old harbour, customs house and the St Catherine Church, the largest wooden church in France. Sail this evening.

Day 7 Les Andelys. Enjoy a leisurely morning on board as we cruise upstream towards Paris. This afternoon we will moor in the picturesque town of Les Andelys. Nestled in a sweeping bend of the river, and surrounded by towering chalk cliffs, the town of Les Andelys has been an important waystation since the early Medieval period and was extensively fortified under the reign of Richard the Lionheart. The town was pivotal to the defence of English-held Normandy, and was protected by the imposing Chateau Gaillard, one of the most important castles of the Medieval period. This afternoon we will stroll through the charming Medieval streets and market squares of the town, before climbing to the promontory to visit the ruins of Chateau Gaillard. Return to the ship this evening and enjoy the farewell dinner on board as we return to Paris.

Day 8 Paris to London or Manchester. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London or Manchester. Alternatively transfer to Paris Gare du Nord Station to join the Eurostar to St Pancras International Train Station.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CATEGORY	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Main Deck Twin	£3495	£3195
Upper Deck Twin	£3995	£3695
Main Deck Twin for sole use	£4495	£4195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel or travel by Eurostar • Seven nights accommodation aboard the MS R.E. Waydelich L.J. on a full board basis • All-inclusive drinks from 10am to 11pm (please note that premium brands & sparkling wines are not included) • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

NB. Ports and itinerary subject to change, water levels and weather conditions.



MS R.E. WAYDELICH L.J.

For our journey along the River Seine we have chartered the delightful MS R.E. Waydelich L.J. Launched in 2018 the vessel accommodates a maximum of 74 passengers, providing a warm and intimate atmosphere on board. With plenty of light and a large Sun Deck, there is ample opportunity to watch the world gently pass by as you relax on board your comfortable floating hotel.

Your Cabin

The cabins are spread across the Main and Upper Decks and all are outside facing and measure 14.5m^2. All cabins are located above water level affording outside views from their large windows and there is plenty of natural light both within the cabins and in the public areas. All cabins are fitted with a bathroom with shower, washbasin and WC. Cabins also feature a safe, ample storage space, flat screen television, small desk and seating area, hair dryer, plus all have their own climate control units. All cabins have two separate mattresses laid together forming a double bed, although these can be separated on request (please note cabin 216 features a fixed double bed).

Your Space

Public areas aboard the MS R.E. Waydelich L.J. are both elegantly spacious and furnished. Spread over three decks, the onboard facilities include a delightful restaurant which accommodates all guests in one sitting. The lounge is a pleasant space for relaxation and the large panoramic windows create a bright and airy ambience. The Lounge also features a large TV and bar area which is accessible from the reception area. On the large, spacious Sun Deck there is comfortable deck furniture where you can relax in the shade or enjoy the pleasant weather. The onboard shop sells various practical and souvenir items. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the vessel's public areas though there may be sections of the river when internet connection is slow or not available.

Your Dining

Meals are taken in the single sitting restaurant on the vessel's Main Deck. The restaurant seats all passengers in an open seat arrangement and tables are arranged to seat groups of four, six and eight. Breakfast is served buffet style and features both hot and cold dishes, whereas dinner is served to your table with a choice of main course. Lunches served on board will be a combination of buffet style and table service. Cuisine is a selection of regional specialties and international dishes. Alcoholic and soft drinks are included in your holiday price (excluding premium brands) as are tea and coffee which are available throughout the day on a self-serve basis and with meals.



Upper Deck Cabin with French Balcony



Main Deck Cabin



Restaurant



Lounge



Reception



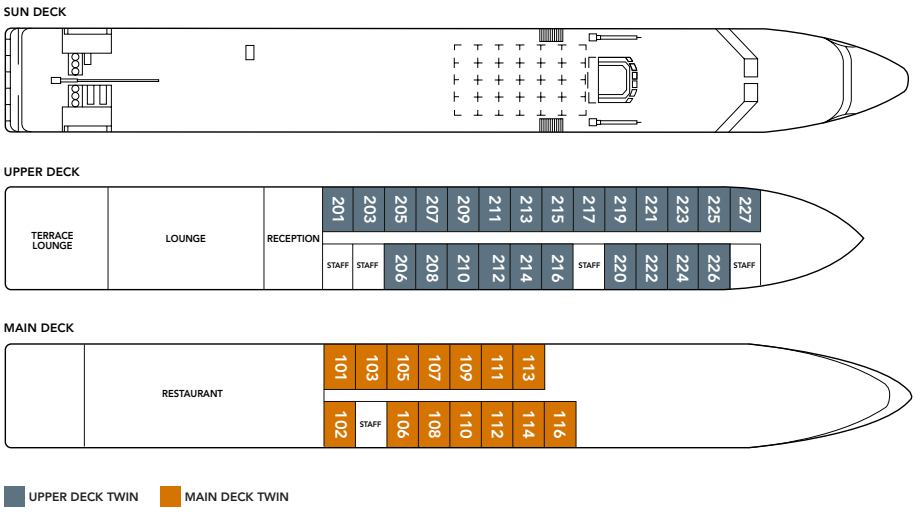
Bar

Life On Board

The vessel is comfortable with a convivial and informal atmosphere on board. The friendly crew will do their utmost to ensure your stay is enjoyable, informative and agreeable throughout. 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 knowledge into the local culture, architecture, history and traditions.



Sun Deck



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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: Seine Valley.