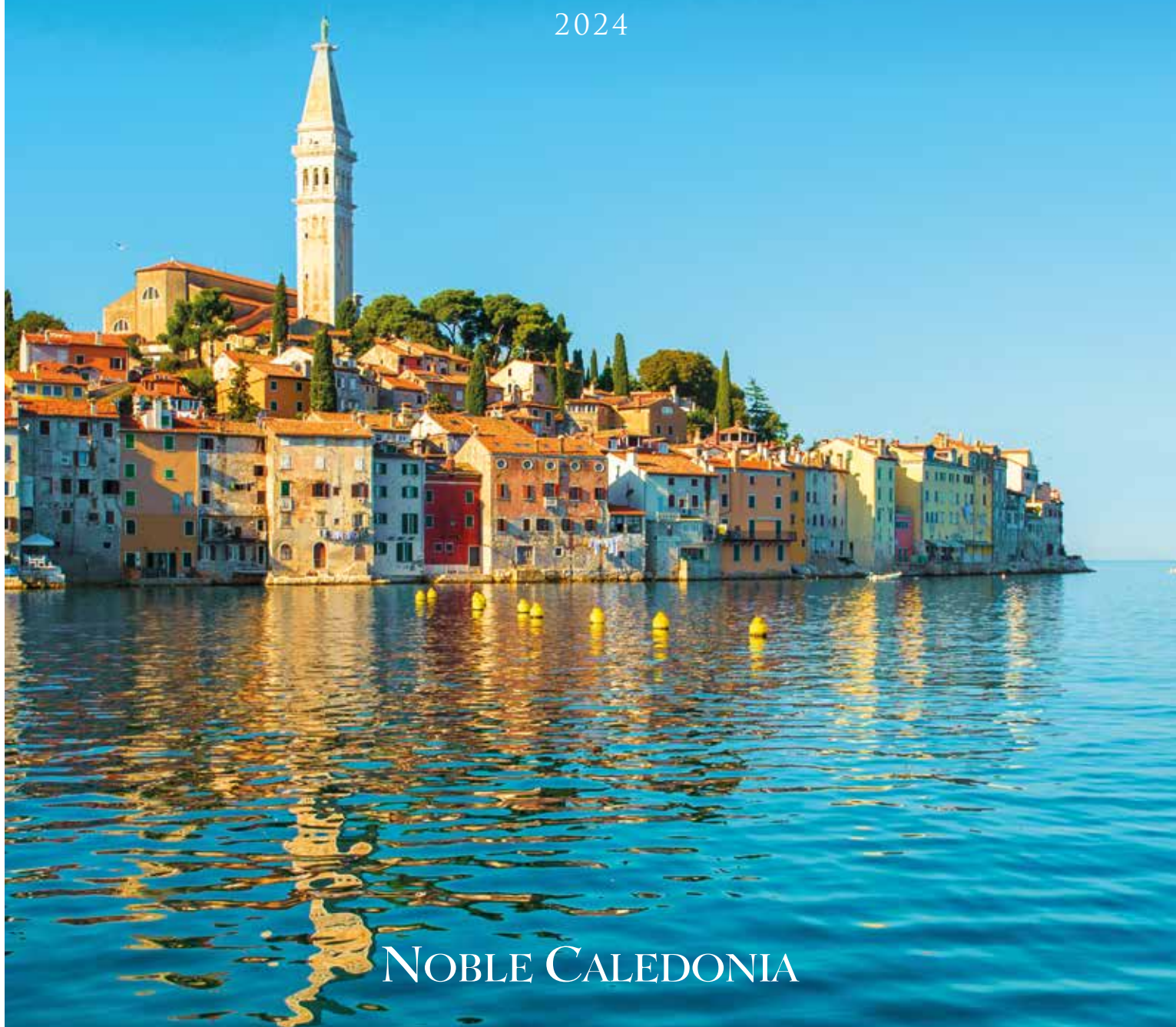


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

SMALL SHIP CRUISING
IN THE
**ADRIATIC
& GREECE**

ABOARD THE 50-PASSENGER MS MONET

2024



NOBLE CALEDONIA



MS MONET

Ships of all different sizes and styles can make the selection of a cruise a somewhat hit and miss affair, and whilst some companies attempt to please everybody, we prefer to continue with our focus on small ships and to that end are delighted to have once again chartered the 50-passenger MS Monet for a series of fascinating cruises in 2024. Originally built in 1970, the MS Monet is a 220 foot motor yacht and was converted and launched as a passenger ship in 1998, fully renovated in 2016 and upgraded again in 2018. If you find large resort style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers attractive then of course this isn't the vessel for you. However, if you prefer an informal and warm atmosphere more akin to a private yacht combined with an itinerary dedicated to both discovery and relaxation then you need look no further.



Category A Cabin - 309



Category C Cabin

Your Cabin

All the cabins on board the MS Monet are designed for comfort and have a warm and inviting feel with light fabrics and wood trimmings. Cabins range in size from 9 to 22 square metres and Categories A, B & C are equipped with windows, while those in Category D have portholes. Cabins 104-107, 112, 119, 205 and 210-215 feature twin beds and all other cabins have fixed double beds. Facilities include en-suite bathroom with shower, television, minifridge, safety deposit box, air-conditioning and hairdryer.

Your Space

The public areas include a main lounge and bar with comfortable sofas on the Lumiere Deck, a restaurant located on the Parisian Deck and the Lumiere Open Deck al fresco dining area where meals can be enjoyed when weather permits. The Lumiere Sun Deck provides a delightful sun exposed space with sun loungers and a Jacuzzi, ideal for relaxation and wonderful views.

Your Dining

Located on the Parisian Deck, the glass enclosed indoor dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting with unassigned seating and allows for wonderful panoramic views of the stunning scenery as we sail. The Lumiere Open Deck provides a covered area where guests can enjoy meals al fresco on some days, weather permitting. Food is served at the table or displayed on the hot and cold buffet stands. The menu is international, with a focus on local specialties. A choice of house wine, beer and soft drinks are served with lunch and dinner.



Lumiere Open Deck



Lounge



Restaurant



Lounge

Life On Board

In many ways the virtues of small ship cruising are best expressed by detailing what you will not find on board the MS Monet. For instance, there will be no organised entertainment and no black tie events. What there will be is a warm and convivial atmosphere in which you can learn more about the culture and ancient civilisations of the region in the company of like-minded people with a high level of service.

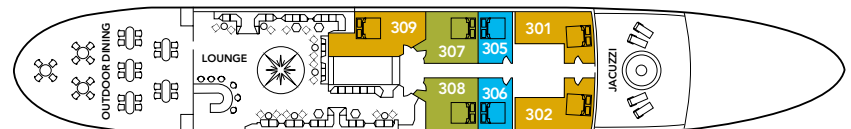
During the day, life on board focuses around the indoor lounge area, and the indoor and outdoor dining spaces, as well as the open and inviting deck areas including the Jacuzzi. These are natural gathering places and perfect for enjoying your meals al fresco, relaxing in a comfortable chair with a good book or socialising with your fellow passengers and enjoying the views.



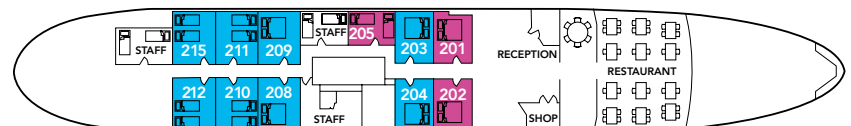
Lumiere Deck

DECK PLAN

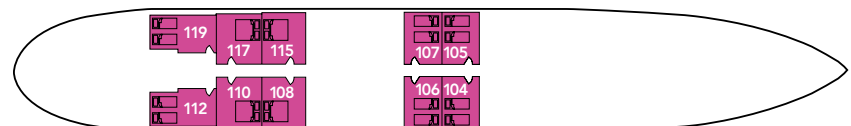
LUMIERE DECK



PARISIAN DECK



CAMILLE DECK



CATEGORY A CATEGORY B CATEGORY C CATEGORY D

AROUND THE ADRIATIC

A 12-night discovery of the Adriatic including Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Italy & Slovenia aboard the 50-passenger MS Monet

25th April to 7th May* & 10th to 22nd October 2024

From its top to bottom, the stunning Adriatic Coast offers some of the finest coastal scenery in the world with its intense blue sea, picturesque coastline and charming villages, towns and cities. We invite you to join us aboard the 50-passenger MS Monet on this comprehensive voyage which has been designed to visit Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Italy and Slovenia, combining five of the countries that border the Adriatic into a twelve night trip. Regular travellers to this part of the world will know that spring and autumn are lovely times of year to explore the region with the absence of the summer crowds, and weather that is ideal for touring and sightseeing.

Our exploration combines some 'must see' sites together with little known and rarely visited places that are totally unsuitable for vessels larger than ours. We will visit wonderful Medieval towns and explore fascinating ancient sites including Albania's coastal city of Durres with its Roman amphitheatre, Apollonia, the ancient city of Illyria and Croatia's former Roman settlement of Pula. Highlights will include our exploration of Kotor, Montenegro's 14th century walled fortress town fronted by a sublime bay and the scenic delights of Croatia's Istrian Peninsula. In addition, we spend five days in Italy including the little-known seaside town of Pesaro and Venice where we have a full day to explore its wonders.



This is a journey very much for the connoisseur of romantic landscapes and ancient history and will be particularly enjoyable as, with a maximum of just 50 guests, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with our Guest Speaker and local guides, adding immeasurably to our knowledge of the region.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Dubrovnik, Croatia. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the MS Monet. Sail this evening.

Day 2 Kotor, Montenegro. Be on deck this morning as we sail through the stunning fjord-like scenery into Kotor. On arrival at our berth, we will take a morning walking tour to explore this Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. This really is an extraordinary place full of marvellous architecture and pretty town squares. Our tour will include the 12th century Cathedral of St Tryphon, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore at your own pace. Those feeling active may wish to take the strenuous climb to the Castle of San Giovanni which offers wonderful views over the bay and town below.

Day 3 Durres & Tirana, Albania. Arrive in Albania at the coastal city of Durres which was colonised by the Greeks in 627 BC and still has the remains of a 15,000 seat amphitheatre, the second largest in the Balkans. This morning we will head inland to Tirana where we will see the fascinating nuclear bunker built by the dictator Enver Hoxha in the 1970s and only recently opened to the public. This underground building is packed with original artefacts from the communist period. Afterwards continue walking through the city centre to see the mosque, Clock Tower and the "Blloku" area of the city. After lunch at a local farm we return to Durres to visit the Medieval city and the Archaeological Museum before sailing late this evening.

Day 4 Vlore. Spend a relaxing morning at sea before arriving into Vlore over lunch. This afternoon we drive to nearby Apollonia, the ancient city of Illyria. Set on rolling hills the city reached its zenith around the 4th to 3rd centuries BC when it is believed the population numbered over 70,000. It was here Octavian learned of the assassination of his great uncle Caesar and set upon his bid for power ultimately becoming emperor. See the city council building with its surviving facade, the library, triumphal arch, theatre, Byzantine monastery and temple of Artemis.

Day 5 Otranto & Lecce, Italy. Our first call in Italy is the port of Otranto in Puglia from where we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture. A guided walk will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. We return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore Otranto independently, maybe walk the winding streets or along the seaside promenade. The highlight is the wonderful cathedral with its Medieval mosaic floor created by the monk, Pantaleone, between 1163 and 1165. You can also see the Chapel of the Dead which shows the bones and skulls of 813 martyrs killed by the invading Turks in 1480.

Day 6 Monopoli & Alberobello. From our berth in Monopoli we drive into the Puglian countryside which is scattered with 'trulli', limestone dwellings built with dome or conical roofs. We will enjoy a pleasant walk in Alberobello, a fairy-tale trulli village and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and see St Anthony Church also built in trullo style. Alternatively enjoy a free morning in Monopoli where you can wander through the historic centre, visit the cathedral or see the Castello di Carlo V. After lunch on board we spend a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Pescara & Chieti. Continuing our journey north we arrive in Abruzzo. From our berth in Pescara we visit Chieti which lies on a crest along the Pescara River with its unmistakable profile of the high belltower of San Giustino and the Majella Mountains and Gran Sasso in the background. It was a Roman town, Teate, and an important Medieval centre which is why when walking through the city one can see Roman and Medieval ruins side by side. Of special importance is the Pinacoteca C. Barbella, hosting works of Abruzzese artists, as well as the Museo Archeologico Nazionale, the richest archaeological museum in the region where we find the Capestrano Warrior statue. The region is also famous for its wines and we will visit a vineyard which produces the benchmark Montepulciano d'Abruzzo and the zesty, savoury pink Cerasuolo.



Trulli Houses, Alberobello



Apollonia



Otranto



Rovinj



Venice

Day 8 Pesaro & Urbino. Arrive this morning in the attractive seaside resort of Pesaro, the birthplace of the composer Gioachino Rossini. We will visit the house where he was born in 1792 and the small museum containing some of his original scores and documents. See the Conservatory, built with funds bequeathed to the Town Council on his death in 1868, and the local theatre which was named after him. We also head inland to the UNESCO city of Urbino, birthplace of the artist Raphael, with a historic centre that appears little changed since the 15th century when it became a centre of culture attracting artists and scholars from all over Italy. See the Duomo, the house where Raphael was born in 1483, which is now a museum, as well as the impressive Palazzo Ducale where we find the National Gallery of Marche containing a stunning collection of Renaissance art.

Day 9 Venice. From our central berth we will take a walking tour to discover the hidden corners of Venice. An off the beaten track itinerary takes us to the Arsenale, a colossal shipyard of the Serenissima Republic; the San Giorgio dei Greci Church and its secret courtyard; Campo Santa Maria Formosa, one of the city's largest squares and Marco Polo's House. We end at the Chiesa della Pietà, a former convent and orphanage and an authentic masterpiece of the 18th century by Giorgio Massari. The young orphans that stayed here were encouraged to study music and their most famous teacher was Antonio Vivaldi. It was here that he composed the Four Seasons and we have arranged for an exclusive private concert of Vivaldi themed music performed by a Venetian orchestra. It will be a thrilling experience to hear the music performed where it was created. The rest of the day is free to explore and discover the city at your own pace and we sail late for anyone who wishes to dine ashore or take an after dinner stroll.

Day 10 Koper, Slovenia. For our day in Slovenia we drive to Piran, one of the most photogenic cities in the Mediterranean. Influenced by the Venetian Republic, which left its mark on most Istrian towns, Piran has maintained the clustered Medieval structure of narrow winding streets, houses huddled close together and numerous squares and churches. Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of the city and named after the violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini. After lunch on board spend the afternoon at leisure in Koper. Maybe visit Tito Square, the impressive Praetorian Palace or the 11th century cathedral.

Day 11 Rovinj & Pula, Croatia. Arrive in Croatia at the atmospheric town of Rovinj where the houses inside the old town are small and lean into each other creating a unique atmosphere. Our guided walking tour will include the Franciscan Monastery, City Palace and the 17th century clock tower before we visit the town's main landmark, St Euphemia Church, which is built on the top of a small hill. This Baroque building built in Venetian style was dedicated to the saint and martyr whose sarcophagus, according to a legend, was miraculously washed ashore somewhere around 800 AD. The afternoon is free to explore further or maybe join a tour to the tip of the Istrian Peninsula and the former Roman settlement of Polensium, now known as Pula. Here we will discover one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres left in the world. The Arena, built in the 1st century AD was designed to host gladiatorial contests with seating for up to 20,000 spectators.

Day 12 Zadar. Once a dominant city on the Adriatic Coast rivaling Venice, Zadar is today a treasured city which has preserved its historical core. Enjoy a morning walking tour strolling around the old town with its Roman columns and portals, Romanesque churches and Renaissance and Baroque palaces. Of particular interest are the 9th century circular Church of St Donat, and the 13th century Romanesque cathedral. Return to the ship for lunch and a final afternoon cruising as we sail to Split.

Day 13 Split to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

*** Please note** that the 25th April 2024 departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown, from Split to Dubrovnik. Full itinerary can be viewed online.



Kotor

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
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£5295	£5095
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£5595	£5395
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£5995	£5795
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£6495	£6295
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£6795	£6595

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not included: Travel insurance.

TREASURES OF THE ADRIATIC

A journey between Dubrovnik & Venice aboard the MS Monet

7th to 15th May, 28th June to 6th July* & 31st August to 8th September 2024

From its top to bottom, the stunning Adriatic Coast offers some of the finest coastal scenery in the world and its collection of beautiful bays, hidden inlets and a myriad of islands both large and small make it one of the most appealing areas for small ship cruising. If you are to do justice to this enchanting corner of Europe, we believe that exploring by small ship is a must and with the 50-passenger MS Monet we are able to offer a wonderfully interesting itinerary as her size enables us to call into some less developed places and once moored, going ashore is quick and easy.

Our voyage from Dubrovnik to Venice is a heady mix of islands and ports representing a fascinating itinerary combining as it does some 'must see' sites together with little known and rarely visited places that are perfectly suited for our vessel. Following our overnight mooring and time spent discovering Dubrovnik, our calls along the Adriatic coast will include the delightful islands of Korcula and Brac, the World Heritage Site of Split with the ancient laneways of Diocletian's Palace, the dramatic waterfalls of Krka and charming Mali Losinj in the northern Kvarner Gulf. From Koper in Slovenia we will visit the picturesque Medieval town of Piran before arriving in Venice. In addition to some daytime cruising which allows us to enjoy the magnificent views, our central moorings afford the opportunity to take a stroll after dinner in some marvellous places that are particularly atmospheric in the evening.

Whether it be the scenic waterways and indentations or the wealth of historic buildings, this unique area has so much to offer the genuine traveller and our itinerary will be appreciated by those who enjoy an eclectic mix of places and an informal style of cruising.





Dubrovnik



Krka Falls



Split



Mali Losinj



Pula

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Dubrovnik, Croatia. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Monet and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik is a breathtaking sight and its many historic and cultural treasures have earned it the designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Founded by the Romans in the 7th century, it eventually came under the influence of the Byzantine Empire, then Venice, Hungary and finally Turkey. This morning our local guides will lead us through the bustling old town taking in the beautiful civic buildings, the Rector's Palace, the Romanesque-Gothic Dominican and Franciscan Monasteries and the Sponza Palace. This afternoon is free to relax on board or to explore independently. Maybe take a walk on the city walls or ride the cable car up Mount Srd for the wonderful views over the city.

Day 3 Korcula. Spend the day on the island of Korcula, the reputed birthplace of the explorer Marco Polo. A morning guided tour will include a walk along Korcula's crooked Medieval streets revealing elegant squares flanked with palaces of the old nobility. After lunch on board we drive to the interior of the island, past olive groves and vineyards offering views down to the coast below. On our visit to a winery, we will learn more about the mainly white wines, which have been cultivated on the island for centuries, before enjoying a tasting.

Day 4 Brac & Split. Awake on the island of Brac and the attractive port of Pucisca located at the end of a long bay. Brac is world renowned for the quality of its stone which was used for the Diocletian's Palace in Split as well as the White House in Washington and other parliament buildings in Europe. Spend the morning in the charming small town, voted one of the prettiest in Europe, where the buildings' white roofs create an ambient atmosphere. Over lunch we sail the short distance to Split where a guided walk includes the Diocletian's Palace, built by the emperor in 295-305 AD as his retirement villa. Much of this large building is well preserved and the palace contains Split's old town within its walls, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. It is a wonderful spot to wander the maze of streets. We sail late tonight for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 5 Sibenik & Krka National Park. From our berth in Sibenik we visit the majestic waterfalls of Krka. Take a morning guided walk on wooden walkways and across bridges through this unique fjord-like landscape with its multiple waterfalls and interesting flora and fauna. This afternoon we will have some free time to explore the historic town including the Cathedral of St James, the old city walls and the theatre before we sail this evening.

Day 6 Mali Losinj. We will spend the morning at sea arriving in the early afternoon at Mali Losinj which sits at the foot of a protected harbour on the southeast coast of Losinj Island. It is the island's mild climate and rich flora that give Mali Losinj its reputation as one of the most fragrant islands in Croatia; its air is scented with lavender, sage and rosemary. The seafront of the old town is lined with a string of imposing 19th century houses and villas and is a pleasant place to wander. Sail late tonight.

Day 7 Rovinj & Pula. Our last day in Croatia will be based at the atmospheric town of Rovinj where the houses inside the old town are

small and lean into each other creating a unique atmosphere. We leave the town this morning and drive to the tip of the Istrian Peninsula and the former Roman settlement of Polensium, now known as Pula. Here we will discover one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres left in the world. The Arena, built in the 1st century AD was designed to host gladiatorial contests with seating for up to 20,000 spectators. After lunch either relax on board or explore Rovinj. Our guided walking tour will include the Franciscan Monastery, City Palace and the 17th century clock tower before we visit the town's main landmark, St Euphemia Church, which is built on the top of a small hill. This Baroque building built in Venetian style was dedicated to the saint and martyr whose sarcophagus, according to a legend, was miraculously washed ashore somewhere around 800 AD.

Day 8 Koper, Slovenia. From our berth in Koper we drive to Piran, one of the most photogenic cities in the Mediterranean. Influenced by the Venetian Republic, which left its mark on most Istrian towns, Piran has maintained the clustered Medieval structure of narrow winding streets, houses huddled close together and numerous squares and churches. Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of the city and is named after the violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini. After lunch on board, enjoy some time at leisure in Koper. Maybe visit Tito Square, the impressive Praetorian Palace or the 11th century cathedral.

Day 9 Venice, Italy to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

*** Please note** that the 28th June departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown from Venice to Dubrovnik. Full itinerary can be viewed online.

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
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£3695	£3495
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£3995	£3795
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£4395	£4195
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£4795	£4595
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£4995	£4795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

CROSSROADS OF EMPIRES

A journey through the Adriatic & Aegean aboard the MS Monet

15th to 27th May, 16th to 28th June*, 8th to 20th September & 20th September to 2nd October* 2024

For thousands of years southeastern Europe has been a crossroads of empires. Greeks, Persians, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans all left their mark on the culture, philosophy, art and architecture of this region. In more recent times, some of the countries that occupy this strategic part of Europe have been at the centre of conflict as world powers continue to contend for influence and control. We invite you to join us on this voyage between Venice and Athens to explore this fascinating corner of the world as we sail through turquoise waters, admire rugged landscapes and visit some of the region's greatest sites.

This is not an itinerary that a large cruise ship could operate but one that is ideal for the 50-passenger MS Monet. We have timed our voyages for the months of May, June and September when the crowds of summer are yet to arrive or have departed and the temperatures are perfect for exploration. We will experience the beauty and charm of Venice, picturesque Slovenia, the wonderfully preserved Medieval town of Korcula, and Montenegro's walled fortress town of Kotor along the Dalmatian coast. We also discover some of the fascinating ancient sites in the region including Diocletian's Palace in Split, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint, Albania, whose ruins span some 2,500 years and the ancient Sanctuary of Apollo in Delphi, Greece. Another highlight of this memorable voyage will be spending time on deck to take in the dramatic views as we sail through the remarkable Corinth Canal.

The rich legacy of multiple civilisations, each building atop another, is evident everywhere during our itinerary and our guided trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore in small groups with our excellent local guides and knowledgeable Guest Speaker. Whether your interest lies in ancient history, modern politics or simply the joy of experiencing new places, this journey has much to offer.





The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Venice, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Monet and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Venice. This morning is free to explore Venice at your own pace. After lunch we embark on a walking tour to discover the hidden corners of the city. An off the beaten track itinerary takes us to the Arsenale, a colossal shipyard of the Serenissima Republic; the San Giorgio dei Greci Church and its secret courtyard; Campo Santa Maria Formosa, one of the city's largest squares and Marco Polo's House. We end at the Chiesa della Pietà, a former convent and orphanage and an authentic masterpiece of the 18th century by Giorgio Massari. The young orphans that stayed here were encouraged to study music and their most famous teacher was Antonio Vivaldi. It was here that he composed the Four Seasons and we have arranged for an exclusive private concert of Vivaldi themed music performed by a Venetian orchestra. It will be a thrilling experience to hear the music performed where it was created.

Day 3 Koper, Slovenia. This morning we drive to Piran, one of the most photogenic cities in the Mediterranean. Influenced by the Venetian Republic, which left its mark on most Istrian towns, Piran has maintained the clustered Medieval structure of narrow winding streets, houses huddled close together and numerous squares and churches. Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of the city and named after the violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini. After lunch on board, maybe take some time at leisure in Koper or cross the border to the nearby Italian city of Trieste. Once the major port for the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it is now a bustling city with a mixed identity. See the historical palaces, Piazza Unità d'Italia and the wonderful waterfront. Continue to the Castle of Miramare, located on the northern point of the Adriatic Sea. Formerly the home of Emperor Maximilian, its interior is unique as each room resembles a different passion and its gardens are rich and lush, decorated by an amazing array of plants.

Day 4 Pula, Croatia. Overnight we sail to the tip of Croatia's Istrian Peninsula and the former Roman settlement of Polensium, now known as Pula. On our morning tour we will discover one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres left in the world. The Arena, built in the 1st century AD, was designed to host gladiatorial contests with seating for up to 20,000 spectators. Exploring the town further we will see the varied architecture from Baroque palaces, Christian churches and Austrian villas. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon at sea.

Day 5 Split. After breakfast we will take a guided walk through the town including the Palace of Diocletian which was built by the emperor in 295-305 AD as his retirement villa. Much of this large building is well preserved and the palace contains Split's Old Town within its walls, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. It is a wonderful spot to wander the maze of streets. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further at your own pace. Alternatively, join us as we drive the short distance to the ancient site of Salona, the Roman capital of Dalmatia and a city that was once home to over 40,000 people. Archaeologists have excavated remains of temples, amphitheatres, early Christian churches, burial grounds, and baths which we will explore with our local guides.

Day 6 Korcula. Our final day in Croatia will be spent on the island of Korcula, the reputed birthplace of the explorer Marco Polo. A morning guided tour will include a walk along Korcula's crooked Medieval streets revealing elegant squares flanked with palaces of the old nobility. After lunch on board we drive to the interior of the island, past olive groves and vineyards offering views down to the coast below. On our visit to a winery we will learn more about the, mainly white, wines that have been cultivated on the island for centuries before enjoying a tasting.





Day 7 Kotor, Montenegro. Be on deck this morning as we enter the Gulf of Kotor and sail up the fjord-like entrance to the Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor. This really is an extraordinary place full of marvellous architecture and pretty town squares. Our walk will include the 12th century Cathedral of St Tryphon, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore at your own pace. Those feeling active may wish to take the strenuous climb to the Castle of San Giovanni which offers wonderful views over the bay and town below.

Day 8 Durres & Tirana, Albania. Arrive in Albania at the coastal city of Durres which was colonised by the Greeks in 627 BC and still has the remains of a 15,000 seat amphitheatre, the second largest in the Balkans. This morning we will head inland to Tirana where we will see the fascinating nuclear bunker built by the dictator Enver Hoxha in the 1970s and only recently opened to the public. This underground building is packed with original artefacts from the communist period. Afterwards continue walking through the city centre to see the mosque, Clock Tower and the "Blloku" area of the city. After lunch at a local farm we return to Durres to visit the Medieval city and the Archaeological Museum before sailing late this evening.

Day 9 Sarande for Butrint. Spend a relaxing morning at sea before arriving into Sarande which is our base to discover the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a guided tour explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre. From the Roman era are the public baths, gymnasium and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu. Return to the ship and this evening we sail the short distance to Corfu where we moor overnight.

Day 10 Corfu, Greece. Today we explore the island of Corfu, one of the most richly endowed of all the Greek Isles. Praised by Homer in 'The Odyssey' and selected by Shakespeare as the setting for 'The Tempest', the island retains evidence of cultural heritage from each of its past rulers - Byzantium, Venice, France, Russia and Great Britain. Our guided tour will include the famous Byzantine Monastery of the Virgin at Paleokastritsa which is still inhabited by a community of monks. The small museum houses some priceless Byzantine icons. Spend some time in the serene monastery gardens that afford a splendid view over the turquoise waters of the bay. Continue to Mon Repos Palace, the summer residence of the British Governors of Corfu which now houses a museum including many Ionian treasures and is surrounded by a large park. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore Corfu Town at your own pace.

Day 11 Preveza for Nikopolis. Sail to the Greek mainland and the port of Preveza from where we head for the little known ancient city of

Nikopolis, one of the largest and most important sites in the whole of Greece. Built by the Roman Emperor Octavianus Augustus following his victory at Aktium in 31 BC over Antony and Cleopatra, inside its extensive walls are the Odeum, the Theatre, the Nymphaeum and the monument to Augustus. Later, the city flourished in the early Christian period as the seat of the archbishop of old Epiros, but earthquakes and invading Goths and Vandals led to its demise. After lunch on board there will be some time to explore this pretty yacht lined harbour town before we sail in the afternoon.

Day 12 Delphi & Corinth Canal. From our berth in Itea we visit the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The hillside ruins here are exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, the site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. Be on deck this afternoon as we transit the Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like ours which can now make this journey. Later we arrive into the port of Piraeus and moor overnight.

Day 13 Athens to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

*** Please note** that the 16th June and 20th September departures operate in the reverse direction to that shown, from Athens to Venice. Full itinerary can be viewed online.

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
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£5195	£4995
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£5595	£5395
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£6095	£5895
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£6695	£6495
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£6995	£6795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance.



TO THE LAND OF GODS & HEROES

A passage around the Peloponnese combined with the islands of Kefalonia & Ithaca aboard the 50-passenger MS Monet

27th May to 6th June 2024

The Peloponnese is home to an extraordinary collection of great archaeological sites with tangible traces of the many civilisations which have at one point over the course of history called this region home including classical temples, Mycenaean palaces, Byzantine cities and Ottoman and Venetian fortresses. The peninsula is of course also the setting for numerous myths and legends which will be brought to life by our local guides who travel aboard the MS Monet for the duration of the cruise, adding an extra dimension to all we see and experience.

The Peloponnese was where Hercules fought the Nemean lion, the legendary Spartan warriors battled and from where Paris of Troy eloped with Helen. Beyond these fascinating sites, there is also beautiful mountainous scenery, mysterious caves, vast gorges, charming villages and superb beaches. Our fascinating cruise begins with a transit of the Corinth Canal which, whilst only built in the 19th century was conceived as long ago as the 7th century BC. It is only possible to transit the canal on a small ship like the MS Monet and the experience offers a wonderful start to our cruise.

We have designed our ten night itinerary to include many of the most fascinating sites in the region combined with ample time at leisure to wander the picturesque lanes and harbours of some of Greece's most delightful towns including the picturesque town of Vathy on Ithaca, the beautiful city of Nafplio and the fishing town of Gytheio on the Mani Peninsula. Amongst the many ancient world highlights of our voyage are our visits to the sacred site of Delphi, the ruins of Olympia, the famous citadel of Mycenae, the renowned theatre at Epidaurus and the Byzantine hillside town of Mystras.

Whether you are interested in ancient history, Greek myths or simply the joy of cruising aboard a small ship and experiencing new places and islands in this beautiful region, our voyage has something for everyone.



Epidaurus



Church of Agioi Theodoroi, Mystras

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Athens, Greece. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Monet moored in Piraeus.

Day 2 Corinth Canal & Corinth. Sail early and be on deck later this morning as we navigate the narrow Corinth Canal. Completed in 1893 and only 6.4 kilometres long and 21.5 metres wide, it is only small ships like the MS Monet which can now make this journey. Over lunch we dock in the port of Corinth which flourished under both Greek and Roman rule due to its significant location on the Isthmus of Corinth which controlled trade routes as well as being home to the naval power which took colonies in Syracuse and Corfu. It has also been closely linked to St Paul who lived here for a number of years and is known through his letters to the Christian community. This afternoon we will explore the site of Ancient Corinth seeing the Temple of Aphrodite, the 6th century BC Temple of Apollo, built on a hill overlooking the marketplace, and the Roman Forum.

Day 3 Itea & Delphi. Spend the morning at the sacred site of Delphi, one of Greece's most important sites of antiquity. The hillside ruins here are

exceptional and we will explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, site of the sacred Delphic Oracle and walk along Delphi's Sacred Way, visiting the Treasury of the Athenians and the 5000 seat theatre dating from the 4th century BC. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon along the waterfront in Itea. We sail late for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 4 Argostoli, Kefalonia. After a leisurely morning at sea we arrive in Kefalonia, the largest of the Ionian Islands. From our berth in Argostoli we drive to the famous lighthouse of Agioi Theodoroi, the remarkable Venetian castle of Saint George and the 16th century Saint Gerasimos monastery. St. Gerasimos is the patron saint of Kefalonia, and his relic is kept in the monastery, in a silver urn. Near to the monastery we find the Robala vineyards. Wines have been grown here since the 12th century and we will learn about the processes and enjoy a tasting before we return to the ship via Kourkoumelata, one of the prettiest villages of the island.

Day 5 Vathy, Ithaca. Ithaca, one of the most legendary of all Greek islands is unspoiled by tourism, yet has a fascinating history. Relics date back to



4000 BC and by Mycenaean times it was the capital of a kingdom that included surrounding islands and part of the Peloponnese coast. It was under Odysseus that this kingdom reached its zenith, sending 12 ships to the Trojan War. During a scenic drive of the island we will visit the village of Stavros and the Monastery of Panagia Katharon which is located on Mount Neritos and offers wonderful views of the island below. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to enjoy the delightful town of Vathy at leisure.

Day 6 Katakolon for Olympia. Pastoral and lush, Olympia's plentiful ruins are shaded by Aleppo pines and olive trees. The fame of Olympia rests upon the Olympic Games. During the celebrations that accompanied the Games, competitors, while not forgetting that they were Athenians, Spartans or from other city states, remembered that they were Greeks and regarded an Olympic victory as the highest honour. We will see the gymnasium, the stadium and the palestra or wrestling school. We will also explore the Altis, or sacred precinct of Zeus, which houses structures including the Temple of Zeus, one of the largest temples on the Greek mainland and the Archaeological Museum which houses some fine sculptures and artefacts from the site. After our visit you may choose to return to the MS Monet for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in Katakolon or stay in Olympia to explore further independently.

Day 7 Pylos. Today we will call into the home of Nestor, the wise king of Pylos who fought for the Greeks at Troy and advised Odysseus's son, Telemachus, on how best to deal with the evil suitors chasing his mother, Penelope. From our central berth in Navarino Bay, we will drive through the enchanting countryside to Methoni, one of the most impressive Medieval fortresses in Greece. The Venetians built Methoni on the Ionian Sea and Koroni on the Gulf of Messenia in the 13th century to safeguard their newly acquired Greek Empire. Also visit the castle of Neokastro which today houses the Centre for Underwater Archaeological Studies. Sail in the early afternoon and enjoy time at sea as we continue our journey around the Peloponnese.

Day 8 Gytheio for Mystras. Arrive this morning at the picturesque port of Gytheio from where we head inland to Mystras, a remarkably intact Byzantine hillside town that once housed a population of 20,000 people. Here we visit the Cathedral of Agios Dimitrios, where the two-headed eagle which is the symbol of the Palaeologos Dynasty is carved into a plaque on the floor. According to tradition, this is where Constantine XII stepped when he was crowned king. Strolling through the narrow lanes of the dead city, we will also visit the Church of Agia Sophia, the Palace of the Despot and the Monastery of Pantanassa, with its brilliant frescoes. The afternoon is free to explore Gytheio at your own pace, maybe take a walk on the promenade, visit the lighthouse or people watch from a waterfront taverna.

Day 9 Nafplio & Nemea. Enjoy a morning cruising arriving into Nafplio at lunchtime. Looking out across the translucent water of the bay towards the Arcadian Mountains, Nafplio's sheltered location below a rocky headland and large natural fortress crowned by a Venetian castle is perhaps unrivalled in Greece. From our berth we take a scenic drive through the Argos Plain to Nemea, the site of a religious sanctuary which

hosted the pan-Hellenic athletic games every two years from 573 BC until 271 BC. The mythical origin of the Games is sometimes ascribed to Hercules who, after his first labour in which he had to kill the Nemean lion living in the caves of Mount Tritos above the site, established the athletic games in honour of his father, Zeus. Nemea was not a town or settlement but a venue where festivities were held during the games and our tour will include the Temple of Zeus, the bath house and the stadium before spending time in the small but excellent on site museum. Nemea is also famous for its red wines and we will enjoy a wine tasting at a local vineyard. Return to Nafplio and enjoy time wandering the twisting labyrinthine streets, view the Venetian and Turkish architecture and maybe enjoy a pre-dinner drink ashore. Moor overnight.

Day 10 Nafplio, Mycenae & Epidaurus. Drive this morning to the famous citadel of Mycenae which is located high above the confluence of two boulder strewn ravines and accessed by way of the Lion Gate. Once inside the gate, we will explore the Royal Palace, the shaft graves and the remains of the city walls. An archaeological briefing within the Treasury of Atreus (also known as the Tomb of Agamemnon) will add to our understanding and appreciation of the sights. After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit one of the most renowned of Greece's ancient sites. Situated on the slopes of a beautiful and wooded valley, Epidaurus was known throughout the Hellenic world for its unique medical facilities and healing treatments. Dedicated to Aesclepius, the god of healing, the city was filled with curative spas and baths and only priests had access to certain secret sites. Most of the ruins of Epidaurus have been reduced to their foundations, with the exception of the astonishing theatre which is in an admirable state of preservation. Built into the ground, rather than above it, it is known for its fantastic acoustics, which we will observe during our visit.

Day 11 Athens to London. Disembark this morning in Lavrion and transfer to Athens airport for our scheduled flight to London.

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PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PASSAGE THROUGH THE BALKANS

An exploration of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro & Albania aboard the MS Monet

2nd to 10th October 2024

The Balkans has always had an allure for the genuine traveller and despite its often turbulent past, cultural and natural wonders abound in the region. At the crossroads of east and west and with a history forged over the centuries and influenced by so many, there are a wealth of fascinating cultural sites and natural world marvels to discover and with the MS Monet as our base we will visit five of the Balkan states. Regular travellers to this part of the world will know that autumn is a lovely time to explore the region with the absence of the summer crowds and weather that is ideal for touring.

During our voyage from Venice to Dubrovnik we will explore charming Medieval towns, visit the bustling cities of Piran, Zadar and Tirana and whilst sailing between our destinations will witness some of the most beautiful scenery Europe has to offer with mountains that sweep down to the intense blue sea and islands that lace the coast. Historic wonders abound from UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as the historic city of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kotor, Montenegro's 14th century walled fortress town fronted by a sublime bay to the remarkable amphitheatres in Pula and Durres. We will also visit one of most important archaeological sites in the Balkans in Montenegro, the fortress and open-air museum of Old Bar whose settlement dates back to the 8th century AD.

With a maximum of just 50 guests, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides, adding immeasurably to our knowledge of the region. There will also be some late departures from port and overnight moorings, allowing for the opportunity to enjoy the evening atmosphere of some delightful harbour towns.





Pula



Zadar

Rovinj



Piran

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Venice, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Monet and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Koper, Slovenia. From our berth in Koper we drive to Piran, one of the most photogenic cities in the Mediterranean. Influenced by the Venetian Republic, which left its mark on most Istrian towns, Piran has maintained the clustered Medieval structure of narrow winding streets, houses huddled close together and numerous squares and churches. Tartini Square is the gem found in the very centre of the city and is named after the violinist and composer Giuseppe Tartini. After lunch on board, enjoy some time at leisure in Koper. Maybe visit Tito Square, the impressive Praetorian Palace or the 11th century cathedral.

Day 3 Rovinj & Pula, Croatia. Arrive in Croatia at the atmospheric town of Rovinj where the houses inside the old town are small and lean into each other creating a unique atmosphere. Leaving the town this morning we travel to the tip of the Istrian Peninsula and the former Roman settlement of Polensium, now known as Pula. Here we will discover one of the best preserved Roman amphitheatres left in the world. The Arena, built in the 1st century AD was designed to host gladiatorial contests with seating for up to 20,000 spectators. After lunch on board an afternoon walking tour of Rovinj will include the Franciscan Monastery, City Palace and the 17th century clock tower before we visit the town's main landmark, St Euphemia Church, which is built on the top of a small hill. This Baroque building built in Venetian style was dedicated to the saint and martyr whose sarcophagus, according to a legend, was miraculously washed ashore somewhere around 800 AD.

Day 4 Zadar. Once a dominant city on the Adriatic coast rivalling Venice, Zadar is today a treasured city that has preserved its historical core. During our guided walking tour we will stroll around the old town with its Roman columns and portals, Romanesque churches and Renaissance and Baroque palaces. Of particular interest are the 9th century circular Church of St Donat and the 13th century Romanesque cathedral. Return to the ship for lunch and some free time before we sail in the late afternoon.

Day 5 Ploce for Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today we cross the border into Bosnia-Herzegovina for our visit to Mostar. In the 15th century, Mostar became a thriving centre on the banks of the emerald Neretva River under the Ottoman Turks. Damaged by the military conflict in the 1990s, the town has been carefully restored by UNESCO and declared a World Heritage Site. Admire the ethereally graceful Stari Most ('The Old Bridge'), originally built in 1566, the nearby Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque and an old Turkish house, among other sites. You may also wish to explore the old bazaar independently, a haven for the city's artists and craftsmen.

Day 6 Bar, Montenegro. Spend the morning at sea as we arrive in Montenegro at lunchtime. From our berth we drive the short distance to the ruins of Old Bar which was built in the hills to protect its residents from attack yet was still subject to invasion from the Venetians, Serbians and Ottoman Empire. Enter via the 11th century city gates and as we wander through the citadel we can see the Ottoman bathhouse, the 17th century

aqueduct plus the remains of a Franciscan Monastery and cathedral which were converted to mosques by the Turks. Alternatively remain in the new town, take a stroll on the seaside promenade and visit the elegant Palace of King Nikola built facing the water in 1885. Today, it houses a collection of antiquities, folk costumes and royal furniture whilst the shady gardens contain plants cultivated from seeds and cuttings collected from around the world by Montenegro's sailors.

Day 7 Durres & Tirana, Albania. Arrive in Albania at the coastal city of Durres which was colonised by the Greeks in 627 BC and still has the remains of a 15,000 seat amphitheatre, the second largest in the Balkans. This morning we will head inland to Tirana where we will see the fascinating nuclear bunker built by the dictator Enver Hoxha in the 1970s and only recently opened to the public. This underground building is packed with original artefacts from the communist period. Afterwards continue walking through the city centre to see the mosque, Clock Tower and the "Blloku" area of the city. After lunch at a local farm we return to Durres to visit the Medieval city and the Archaeological Museum before sailing this evening.

Day 8 Kotor, Montenegro. Be on deck this morning as we enter the Gulf of Kotor and sail up the fjord-like entrance to the Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor. This really is an extraordinary place full of marvellous architecture and pretty town squares. Our walk will include the 12th century Cathedral of St Tryphon, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon exploring at your own pace. Those feeling active may wish to take the strenuous climb to the Castle of San Giovanni which offers wonderful views over the bay and town below.

Day 9 Dubrovnik, Croatia to London. Check out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London.

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A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£4795	£4595
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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Itinerary & ports subject to change.
Cover image: Rovinj.