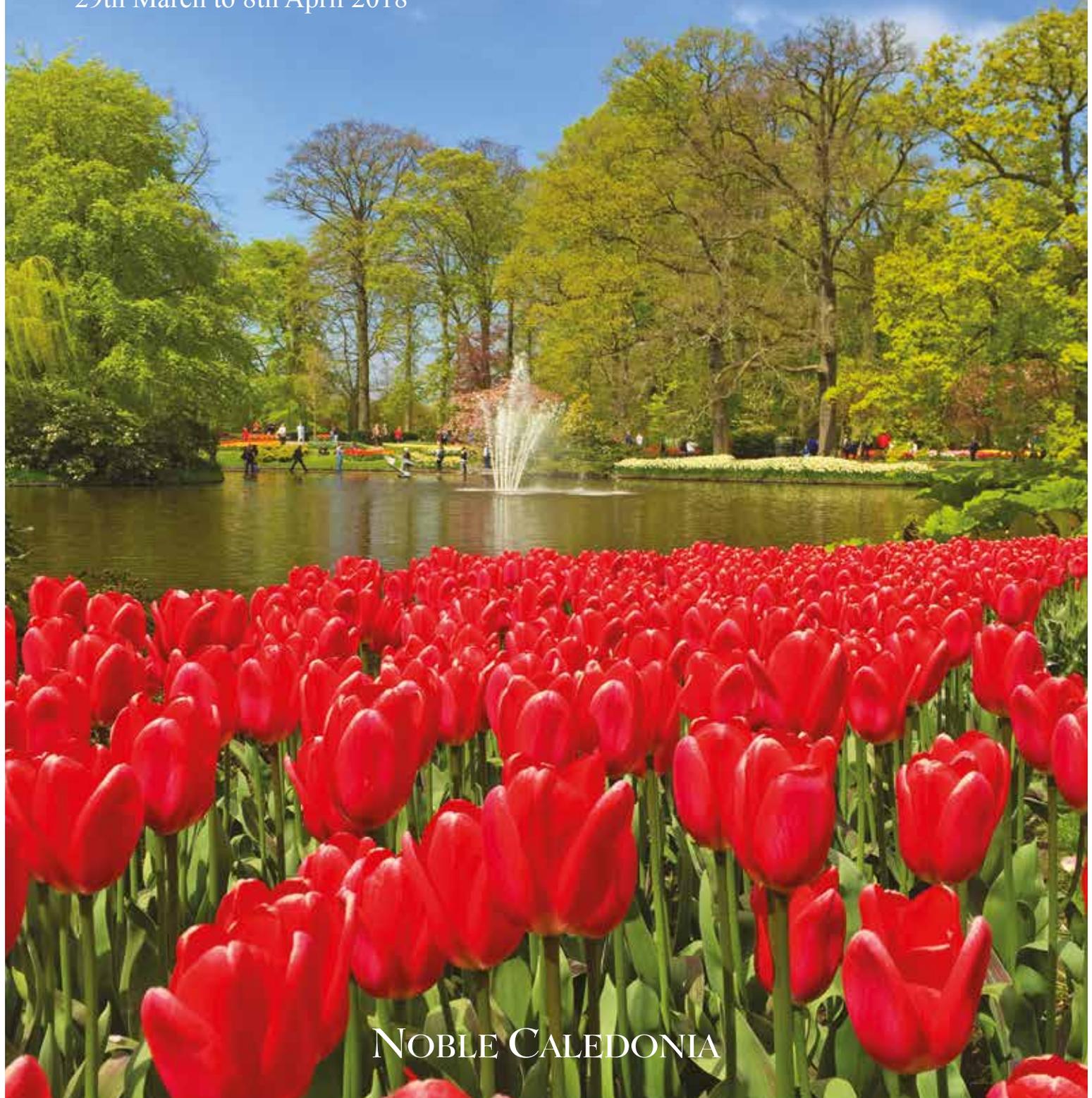


SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

SPRING FLOWERS & THE GOLDEN AGE OF DUTCH ART

A cruise exploring the horticultural highlights & art treasures of the Netherlands
aboard the MS Royal Crown

29th March to 8th April 2018



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Spring flowers outside the International Court of Justice, The Hague



The Windmills of Kinderdijk



Rembrandt's 'The Night Watch' - Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



The Palace and Gardens of Het Loo

Spring is the perfect time of year to immerse yourself in the cultural and horticultural splendours of the Netherlands. During our voyage aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS Royal Crown, we will explore the countryside in some depth, visiting the magnificent flower displays of the Keukenhof, the beautifully restored Palace and Gardens of Het Loo, the picturesque towns of the Zuider Zee, the botanical gardens in Utrecht and of course the art treasures of Amsterdam and The Hague. April is the ideal time for our journey, the bulbs will be at their best and the landscape touched by the arrival of spring. The itinerary we have designed is, we believe, a perfect mix of horticulture, history, art and Dutch lifestyle and makes for a colourful and endlessly interesting cruise.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London, Bristol, Manchester or Edinburgh to Amsterdam, Netherlands. Fly from your chosen airport by scheduled flight. Drive to the MS Royal Crown and embark. Moor overnight in Amsterdam.

Day 2 Amsterdam. After breakfast on board, we will depart for a visit to the Rijksmuseum, arguably Amsterdam's most important art venue. Housing some of the greatest examples of Western European painting and decorative arts, it boasts works by Vermeer, Goya and Rubens. Here, Rembrandt's famous 'The Night Watch' hangs in the Hall of Honour. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon there will be an optional tour to visit the 'Bloemenmarkt', one of the city's most colourful attractions and the world's only floating flower market. Alternatively, you may prefer an afternoon at leisure on board or to explore independently. Join the Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board this evening. Moor overnight.

Day 3 Amsterdam. This morning we will visit the Van Gogh Museum which houses one of the world's largest collection of works by the artist, including 'Almond Blossom' and 'The Bedroom'. Return to the MS Royal Crown for lunch and this afternoon there will be a choice of included excursions. Join a relaxing Canal Cruise, one of the most interesting ways to see this unique city. Alternatively, join our visit to the Hermitage Museum and its exhibition "Dutch Masters on the Amstel". The Hermitage's collection of paintings, prints and drawings by Dutch Masters is one of the worlds' largest. Return to the ship and this evening sail to Hoorn where we will moor overnight.

Day 4 Hoorn for Edam, Volendam & Marken. Enjoy a morning at leisure in the pretty 16th century town of Hoorn. After lunch on board we will depart for an excursion to experience three unique communities of the Zuider Zee. Our first call will be at Edam, a tranquil little town with drawbridges across canals and charming historic houses with lovely facades. Continue on to Volendam, which has always been a fishermen's village, and despite the closing of the Zuider Zee in 1932, the bustling harbour area with its many boats is still a major attraction. Our final visit will be to the fascinating village of Marken which was separated from the mainland after a storm surge in the 13th century. Here the houses and the traditional costumes are reminiscent of the past. In the old days the island was flooded quite regularly, and for this reason, houses were built on stilts and on mounds. Return to Hoorn and sail in the early evening.

Day 5 Arnhem & Het Loo. Arrive this morning into Arnhem. After breakfast on board join an excursion to the Palace of Het Loo, the favoured summer residence of the Dutch Royal family from 1686 to 1975. The Palace and grounds have undergone a spectacular restoration returning them to their original

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh & Hermitage museums in Amsterdam
- Canal cruise in Amsterdam and opportunity to visit the famous 'Bloemenmarkt'
- Het Loo Palace & Gardens
- Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague & Delft Blue Pottery
- Keukenhof Gardens at Lisse
- Botanical Gardens at Utrecht



The East Gate and Bridge, Delft



The harbour at Veere

17th century splendour. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon there will be a choice of three included excursions. Choose from a trip to visit the memorable Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein'; this renovated building houses the world's largest collection of militaria from Operation Market Garden. Alternatively, enjoy a tour to the nearby 12th century Doorwerth Castle, situated in beautiful surroundings on the Rhine and home to three museums. The interior has been restored to its 18th century state. Or finally, you may like to visit the private art collection at the Kroller Muller Museum with its late 19th and 20th century paintings. This evening we will sail towards Dordrecht.

Day 6 Dordrecht & Kinderdijk. Enjoy a relaxing morning cruise as we head towards Dordrecht. After lunch on board there will be an excursion to see the nearby marvellous Windmills of Kinderdijk, of which there are 19 in total, dating from 1740. The remainder of the day is free to explore Dordrecht with its old world atmosphere and quaint shops, cottages and canals. Sail on towards Veere this evening.

Day 7 Veere & Middelburg. Today we explore Southern Zeeland, starting in the 13th century town of Veere. Formerly a seaport but now within a lake due to the Delta works carried out in the 1960s, it is a charming place with well-preserved houses and a marina. Enjoy free time here to explore at your own pace. Return to the ship and sail on to the lovingly restored Medieval town of Middelburg whose 12th century abbey is one of the oldest in the Netherlands. Join an afternoon guided walking tour on arrival.

Day 8 Rotterdam, The Hague, Delft. From Rotterdam we depart for a full day tour. Our first stop will be The Hague for a visit to the beautiful Mauritshuis Museum with its marvellous collection of Dutch Golden Age paintings. Afterwards continue on to Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will have lunch in a local restaurant on arrival, and afterwards take a walking tour



Canal houses in Amsterdam

of this pretty town, finishing with a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery. Return to the ship and sail to Utrecht for an overnight mooring.

Day 9 Keukenhof Gardens & Haarlem. After breakfast drive to nearby Keukenhof Gardens for a morning in this extraordinary horticultural heaven. With 32 hectares of flowers, more than 7 million bulbs in bloom and 800 varieties of tulips, this is a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Afterwards we will return to the MS Royal Crown for a late lunch and time at leisure in Utrecht. Alternatively continue with an optional afternoon excursion to Haarlem. The excursion includes lunch in a local restaurant on arrival, followed by visits to the 17th century Church of St. Bavo, immortalised in the artwork of Dutch painters Pieter Saenredam and Gerrit Berckheyde, and the Frans Hals Museum, home to a spectacular display of 16th and 17th century portraits, still life's and landscapes.

Day 10 Utrecht. This morning we will visit Utrecht's Botanical Gardens at Fort Hoofddijk, a unique natural treasure consisting of thousands of plant species. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. This evening whilst we sail towards Amsterdam, enjoy your Farewell Drinks and Dinner.

Day 11 Amsterdam to London, Bristol, Manchester or Edinburgh. Disembark after breakfast. Transfer to the airport and return to your chosen UK airport by scheduled flight.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CAT	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Junior Suite	Select	£2995	£2695
Superior Suite	Select	£3095	£2795
Deluxe Suite	Select	£3395	£3095
Premium Suite	Select	£3895	£3595
Royal Suite	Panorama	£3995	£3695
Deluxe Suite for sole use	Select	£3895	£3595

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 10 nights aboard the MS Royal Crown on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions as described, Cruise Director, Tour Manager, Guest Speaker, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional excursions as described.



Premium Suite



Lido Bar



Royal Suite



Lounge



Restaurant

MS ROYAL CROWN

We are delighted to have chartered the 90 passenger MS Royal Crown for a series of European river cruises in 2018.

Your Cabin/Suite

MS Royal Crown has 45 suites which range in size from 145 square feet to the spacious Royal Suites which measure 200 square feet. All suites are fitted with spacious rosewood cupboards, a dressing table, satellite TV and radio, a safety deposit box, individually controlled air-conditioning and en-suite facilities with shower and hairdryer. Suites on the Select Deck have portholes and the Royal Suites on the Panorama Deck have large windows.

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 breakfast is served buffet style, lunch is a delightful buffet with hot and cold choices and dinner is a served four course meal. In addition, house wine, beer and soft drinks are included at both lunch and dinner.

Your Space

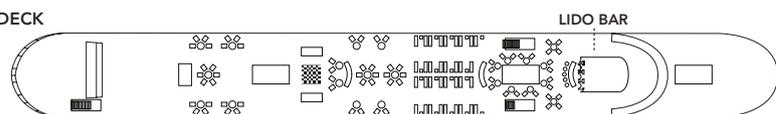
The elegant Lounge Bar is defined by its 30s inspired Art Deco style, with textured carpets, carved mahogany and plush sofas which create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. Experience unforgettable views from the large windows as you enjoy coffee or tea. The Lounge is also where

our Guest Speakers will entertain you with informative presentations. In the evenings, let the day come to an end with a choice of beverages from the extensive menu accompanied by a pianist playing a Steinway & Sons grand piano. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge and the Lido Bar (open when weather permits) where you can enjoy a drink such as fresh

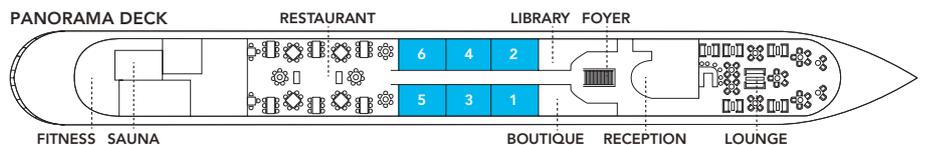
juice, a milkshake, or even a cocktail. Recline on a sun lounger and read a book or watch the changing scenery. There is also a putting green and a large chess board for your enjoyment. For some time out, relax in the wellness centre which includes a sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room. There is also a small boutique and a library with a selection of books and games. Daily news sheets are also supplied.

DECK PLAN

LIDO DECK



PANORAMA DECK



SELECT DECK



JUNIOR SUITE
 SUPERIOR SUITE
 DELUXE SUITE
 PREMIUM SUITE
 ROYAL SUITE

Please note that Junior, Deluxe & Superior Suites have fixed twin beds. Premium and Royal Suites have fixed double beds with separate mattresses and duvets, so can be made up as twins if required.

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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 images: Tulips and fountain at Keukenhof Gardens