

SPRING FLOWERS & THE GOLDEN AGE OF DUTCH ART

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

15th to 25th April 2020 with Guest Speaker Hendrika Foster
& 25th April to 5th May 2020 with Guest Speaker Lydia Bauman

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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 historic Castle and Gardens of Middachten, the picturesque towns of the Zuider Zee, the Hortus Botanicus, the oldest botanical garden in the Netherlands and of course the art treasures of Amsterdam and The Hague.

April is the ideal month for such a 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.



Haarlem



Delft



Rijksmuseum



Kinderdijk, Windmills



Amsterdam

GUEST SPEAKERS



Hendrika Foster – 15th April Departure

Hendrika was born in Yorkshire, of Anglo-Dutch parentage, and now lives in Hampshire. Her first career in medical rehabilitation was followed by a BA Hons with the Open University – just for pleasure; then after a move to Somerset, by an MA at the University of Bristol. Whilst lecturing for the university in their Lifelong

Learning department she also worked freelance organising and tutoring study tours to The Netherlands. With a Dutch father, the Netherlands, its art and history, have long held a special fascination for Hendrika and her family can be traced to the end of the 16th century in and around Dordrecht. Hendrika loves driving through the Dutch countryside, where so much of the landscape was known and loved by Ruisdael, and has changed very little.



Lydia Bauman – 25th April Departure

Lydia Bauman is a Polish born artist and art historian. Educated at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (BA in Fine Art) and Court and Institute of Art, London (MA in Art History, Distinction) she is now herself a passionate educator whose teaching is informed by her own understanding of the artists craft. She has acquired wide

experience of teaching through her engagement with numerous and varied adult education groups and through her work at the Tate Gallery, National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery. She is the author of the forthcoming book "Great Themes in Art".

The Itinerary

Day 1 London, Bristol or Edinburgh to Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Fly by scheduled flight or travel by Eurostar train via Brussels. On arrival into Amsterdam transfer to the MS Royal Crown in Haarlem and embark. Moor overnight in Haarlem.

Day 2 Haarlem. After breakfast, depart for a morning walking tour of Haarlem, including the Windmill de Adriaan. Our tour concludes with a visit to the Frans Hals Museum, home to a spectacular display of 16th and 17th century portraits, still lifes and landscapes. Return to the MS Royal Crown for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the city's pretty streets and café culture. Sail in the early evening towards Hoorn and tonight join your fellow travellers for the welcome drink and dinner on board.

Day 3 Edam & Marken. After breakfast we will visit two 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 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 past the island was flooded quite regularly and for this reason houses were built on stilts and on mounds. Spend an afternoon at leisure in the attractive 16th century town of Hoorn, sailing in the early evening towards Arnhem.

Day 4 Arnhem. Arrive this morning into Arnhem. After breakfast on board join an excursion to visit the memorable Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein';



Leiden



Keukenhof Gardens

this renovated building houses the world's largest collection of militaria from Operation Market Garden. Alternatively, you may like to visit the private art collection at the Kroller Muller Museum with its late 19th and 20th century paintings. Return to the MS Royal Crown for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon in Arnhem or you may like to join the included visit to the unique Middachten Castle & Gardens. Middachten has never been sold but has always passed from one generation to another. As a result, the interior of the castle still has many of the original household effects, including a large collection of portraits. The gardens, as they are now, came into being around 1900 when the garden architect, Hugo Poortman, brought back elements of the former Baroque style into the landscaped gardens, keeping trees in his "neo" Baroque garden. Sail in the evening towards Dordrecht.

Day 5 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 6 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. Sail this evening to Rotterdam.

Day 7 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 followed by a walking tour of this pretty town. Our tour will finish with a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery. Return to the MS Royal Crown and moor overnight.

Day 8 Leiden. After breakfast we depart for the vibrant city of Leiden, a treasure trove of narrow streets and canals, lined with beautiful 17th century buildings, including ancient almshouses. On our walking tour we will see the old harbour, Beestenmarkt square and the charming Weddesteege, where the world-famous painter Rembrandt was born. We continue with a visit to the Hortus Botanicus, the oldest botanical garden in the Netherlands. Return to the ship for a late lunch and sail towards Amsterdam.

Day 9 Keukenhof Gardens. After breakfast we will drive from Amsterdam to the Keukenhof Gardens for a morning in this extraordinary horticultural heaven. With 32 hectares of flowers, more than seven million bulbs in bloom and 800 varieties of tulips, this is a truly unique and unforgettable experience. We will return to the MS Royal Crown for a late lunch followed by an afternoon at leisure in Amsterdam.

Day 10 Naarden & Amsterdam. After breakfast we will depart for the ancient fortified town of Naarden, one of the best-preserved in Europe with a fascinating history. A military work of art, it has the shape of a 12-pointed star and a double ring of moats. On arrival enjoy a walking tour, followed by some free time. After lunch on board, the afternoon is at leisure to either explore independently or join the tour to the Rijksmuseum. 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. This evening join your fellow travellers for your farewell drinks and dinner.

Day 11 Amsterdam to London, Bristol or Edinburgh. Disembark after breakfast and return to the UK by scheduled flight or travel by Eurostar to London St Pancras.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
CAT	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Junior Suite	Select	£3195	£2995
Superior Suite	Select	£3295	£3095
Deluxe Suite	Select	£3595	£3395
Premium Suite	Select	£4095	£3895
Royal Suite	Panorama	£4395	£4195
Deluxe Suite for sole use	Select	£3995	£3795

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel or train travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Royal 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.



Premium Suite



Lido Bar



Royal Suite



Lounge



Restaurant

MS ROYAL CROWN

We are delighted to have once again chartered the 90 passenger MS Royal Crown for a series of European river cruises in 2020.

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

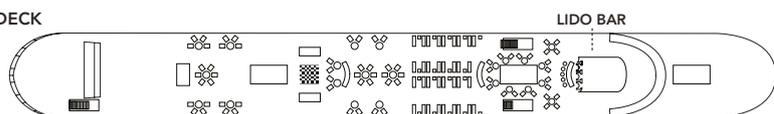
The elegant Lounge Bar is defined by its 30s inspired Art Deco style, with textured carpets, carved mahogany and plush sofas which create a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere. Experience unforgettable views from the large windows as you enjoy coffee or tea. The Lounge is also where

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

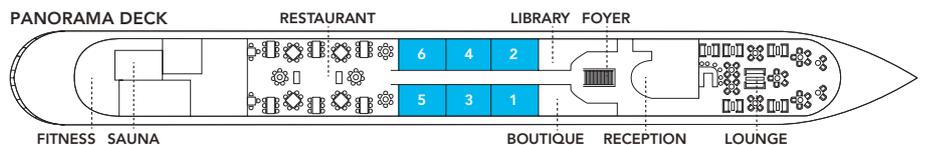
juice, a milkshake, or even a cocktail. Recline on a sun lounger and read a book or watch the changing scenery. There is also a putting green and a large chess board for your enjoyment. For some time out, relax in the wellness centre which includes a sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room. 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. Itinerary subject to water levels. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Keukenhof Gardens.