

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

THE ENCHANTING DANUBE

A CRUISE ALONG THE DANUBE WITH MUSICAL
AND CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS AND GUEST SPEAKER
PROFESSOR MARTYN RADY ABOARD THE MS CHARLES DICKENS

27TH MAY TO 10TH JUNE 2024



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Join us as we navigate the Danube River from Romania in the east to the romantic city of Regensburg in the west. We travel through the heart of Europe visiting eight countries; Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany. From the earliest of times the Danube has been one of Europe's most important trade routes linking the eastern shores with central Europe and this stretch of the river offers a diversity of history and culture quite unlike anywhere else. Our included tours with excellent local guides, together with interesting talks by our Guest Speaker, will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere as we sail along the majestic Danube.

We will journey through some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS Charles Dickens, visiting the great historic cities of Belgrade, Budapest and Vienna, as well as picturesque riverside and inland towns. From the great comfort of our vessel we will cruise effortlessly, enjoying the varied scenery and architecture whilst learning more about a region that has seen more of its fair share of conflicts, revolutions and wars. The combination of music, traditional culture, wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a fascinating trip. To enhance your holiday further we are offering a six-night pre-cruise extension in the magical region of Transylvania in Romania, offering the chance to visit some of the last untouched and least travelled areas of Europe. There is also the opportunity to spend some time in Prague at the end of the cruise.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London or Manchester to Bucharest, Romania. Fly by scheduled flight to Bucharest and on arrival transfer to the MS Charles Dickens in Giurgiu. Embark and sail this evening.

Day 2 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. From our berth in Svistov, we drive to Veliko Tarnovo, the capital of the second Bulgarian Kingdom from 1187 to 1393. The city formed a natural fortress, located on three hills surrounding the Yantra River. A palace, fortifications and churches were built into the terrain. Across the river, ancient stone houses seemingly perched on top of each other rise up the steep riverbank. After lunch in a local restaurant, visit the museum town of Arbanassi before we return to the MS Charles Dickens in Nikopol and sail.

Day 3 Cruising through the Iron Gates. Today the scenery becomes truly spectacular as we cruise through the Iron Gates, a narrow Danube gorge between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains.

Day 4 Belgrade, Serbia. Spend the morning in this interesting city. A half-day tour will highlight the city's main attractions, including the Kalemegdan fortress as it looms over the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Saint Sava Cathedral, the largest Orthodox Church in the world, and Tito's Memorial. Our tour will finish with a superb local folklore performance before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon cruising. Arrive this evening in Novi Sad.

Day 5 Novi Sad. After breakfast we depart for a visit of Novi Sad, in the Serbian northern province of Vojvodina. The city is rich in historic buildings including the fortress, Bishop's House, Clock Tower and numerous churches, some of which will be seen on our morning tour. Our exploration of Greater Novi Sad includes a wine tasting in nearby Sremski Karlovic where we sample some excellent wines of the former Yugoslavia. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon relax on board as we cruise towards Hungary.

GUEST SPEAKER – MARTYN RADY



Martyn Rady is Masaryk Professor Emeritus of Central European History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, a part of University College London. He has written books on German, Hungarian and Romanian history, and has edited and translated some of the leading texts for the history of Hungary – most recently the earliest Hungarian chronicle, written in Latin about the year 1200, and an eye-witness account of the Mongol invasion of Hungary in 1241. He has broadcast extensively on television and radio, discussing subjects ranging from contemporary politics in Central Europe to vampirism and the history of the Habsburg Monarchy.





Decebal's Head, Iron Gates Gorge



Durnstein



City Hall Square, Pecs



Passau



Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest

Day 6 Pecs & Villany, Hungary. From the port of Mohacs, we will depart for a full day scenic tour of Pecs and Villany. The city of Pecs enjoys a fine position on the slopes of the Mecsek Hills. The visit will feature the sites associated with the city's Roman Ottoman Hapsburg past, as well as the opportunity to hear the splendid sound of the organ in Pecs Cathedral. Continue on to the town of Villany where we will enjoy lunch and a wine tasting. Villany is one of Hungary's top wine regions, known for its reds and rosés. This evening we sail the short distance to Kalocsa where we moor overnight.

Day 7 Kalocsa. Charming Kalocsa is renowned for paprika production and our tour of the Puszta district will include the town and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise down the beautiful Danube, arriving in Budapest in the late evening. Moor overnight.

Day 8 Budapest. We have the day to explore Hungary's elegant capital. Spend the morning on an excursion that will include the old quarter, the Matthias Church and the Fishermen's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. After dinner this evening, join your fellow travellers on deck to enjoy the wonderful "Budapest by Night" sailing as we depart towards Bratislava.

Day 9 Bratislava, Slovakia. Arrive over lunch in the Slovak capital of Bratislava. Join a guided walking tour of the city, formerly known as Pressburg, a former capital of Hungary. See the old quarter, the ornate Baroque Palace and the ancient city gates. Finish your tour with a visit to the beautiful Klarissen Church where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart.

Day 10 Vienna, Austria. This morning there will be a choice of tours. A city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephan's Cathedral. Alternatively, travel to the Vienna Woods, including a visit to the Mayerling hunting lodge, where scandal once rocked the royal family, as well as the Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is at leisure to explore this majestic city further.

Day 11 Vienna. After breakfast join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the MS Charles Dickens for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace.

Day 12 Durnstein & Melk. Arrive this morning in the pretty town of Durnstein, where King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned. Enjoy some free time ashore to explore and perhaps sample some of the town's delicious Marillenschnaps or strudel. We then sail on through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards the great Baroque Abbey of Melk, situated high above the

Danube. On arrival in the afternoon depart for an excursion to see this imposing abbey, followed by an uplifting performance by a clarinet quintet. Return to the ship and sail this evening for Linz.

Day 13 Linz for Salzburg or Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic. From the town of Linz a choice of full day tours will be available. Enjoy a trip to the exquisite town of Cesky Krumlov set on the Vltava River in Bohemia's southern region, and one of the most picturesque in Europe. We will visit the stunning castle and take a walking tour of the Old Town, followed by some free time to explore at leisure. Alternatively, depart for Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and famous for its architectural treasures and music festival. Our guided excursion will concentrate on Mozart's family and his musical contemporaries. Visits will be made to the house known as Tanzmeisterhaus where he spent his early life, and the Residenz. We also take a walk through the lovely gardens of the Mirabell Palace. Both tours include lunch in a local restaurant. Return to the ship and sail this evening towards Germany.

Day 14 Passau, Germany. Arrive this morning in Passau, where the Inn and Ilz rivers join the Danube. Our guided walking tour will include the old town of this Bavarian city and the breathtaking Cathedral of St Stephan which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board.

Day 15 Regensburg to London or Manchester. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Munich airport for your return scheduled flight to London or Manchester.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CAT	CABIN DESCRIPTION	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
C	Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4995	£4795
B	Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£5095
A	Suite	Upper Deck	£5995	£5795
D	Standard Cabin with Window for sole use	Main Deck	£4995	£4795
C	Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6295	£6095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 nights aboard the MS Charles Dickens on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner and from the Bar all day • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

PRE-CRUISE TRANSYLVANIA & ROYAL ROMANIA EXTENSION 21ST TO 27TH MAY 2024

Before joining the MS Charles Dickens we are offering the opportunity to explore Transylvania with our six night escorted tour. Transylvania is located in central Romania and is a region of exquisite countryside surrounded by the arc of the dramatic Carpathian mountain chain. The region is home to some of Europe's best preserved Medieval towns which we will explore.

Council Square, Brasov



THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Sibiu, Romania. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for a three-night stay. Tonight, gather for the traditional bread and salt welcome, followed by a welcome drink and dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 2 Sibiu & Sibiel. This morning we take a walking tour of colourful Sibiu, a town visited by the Queen together with King Ferdinand in May 1919, followed by some free time before lunch in the old city. Later, drive to Sibiel, a pretty village situated 20 kilometres from Sibiu. Here we visit a unique and superb museum of glass painted icons, located in the old village church. This evening enjoy a traditional dinner during which we will be able to talk to our local hosts about Romanian daily life in a Transylvanian village before we return to our hotel in Sibiu. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Sibiu & Alba Iulia. After breakfast depart for Alba Iulia, the town where Ferdinand and Marie were crowned Kings of the Great Romania. On arrival we visit the stunning White Citadel and the Coronation Cathedral, as well as the Unification Museum. Lunch will be in a local restaurant, followed by some time here at leisure. Return to Sibiu and dinner this evening will be at our hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Biertan & Sighisoara. This morning we depart for picturesque Biertan. Your first glimpse of the town's Medieval church is unforgettable; it towers over the square below, surrounded by vividly painted houses and backed by vineyards. On arrival we visit the UNESCO 14th century fortified church, once the home to the Lutheran Bishop of Transylvania. Continue on to Sighisoara and explore the Old Town with its cobbled streets and ornate churches. Enjoy lunch in "Dracula's House" restaurant followed by some free time. Continue on to Brasov where we will be staying for two nights. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Brasov & Bran. A morning city tour of Brasov will include the City Hall Square, St Nicholas Church and the Old City. After lunch we continue to the world famous 'Dracula's Castle', built as a fortress in 1212 by the Knights of the Teutonic Order. Vlad Tepes, better known as Vlad the Impaler, used the castle as headquarters for his incursions into Transylvania. (B, L)

Day 6 Azuga, Sinaia & Bucharest. Departing Brasov this morning we make our first stop at Azuga in the Prahova Valley, home of the Royal Cellar which is the wine supplier for the Royal family. We will stop at a local vineyard for lunch and enjoy some wine tasting. Continue to Sinaia to see the fairytale Peles Castle, built by King Carol I in the 19th century. Afterwards we continue onto Bucharest for an overnight stay. (B, L)

Day 7 Bucharest to Giurgiu. This morning enjoy a tour of Bucharest including the Parliament Palace, the second largest administration building in the world. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to Giurgiu for embarkation of the MS Charles Dickens. (B, L)

Prices per person Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1495 Single: £1795

Price Includes: Six nights hotel accommodation, meals as described (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner), wine & soft drinks with included lunches & dinners, excursions as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

POST-CRUISE PRAGUE EXTENSION – 10TH TO 13TH JUNE 2024

We are offering the opportunity to spend three nights after your cruise in the romantic city of Prague, the ancient capital of Charles IV's Bohemian Kingdom, set on the banks of the Vltava River.

THE ITINERARY



astronomical clock and finally Charles Bridge and the Church of St Nicholas. The remainder of the evening is at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Prague. A morning panoramic tour of the city begins with a private visit to the impressive Strahov monastery library with its amazing collection of ancient books and manuscripts. We then visit the Basilica and the Convent building before continuing to the castle,

scene of the famous defenestration in 1618. Finally, visit the magnificent St Vitus Cathedral and walk along Golden Lane before returning to the hotel. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure. (B)

Day 3 Prague. Today is free to sightsee and explore at your own pace. (B)

Day 4 Prague to London. After breakfast transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Prices per person Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1095 Single: £1395

Price Includes: Three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch), wine & soft drinks with included lunches, excursions as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS Charles Dickens

MS CHARLES DICKENS

The elegant MS Charles Dickens is a stylish and well-designed vessel. Built to accommodate a maximum of 150 passengers, we will be limiting the passenger capacity to just 100 for our charters, ensuring a tranquil atmosphere on board and ample space for all. The vessel has a warm and friendly atmosphere and offers the perfect environment in which to relax and enjoy the passing scenery. Whilst on board, you will find yourself amongst like-minded travellers in an English-speaking environment accompanied by an expert Noble Caledonia team, including a Guest Speaker who will provide a series of interesting talks, and our Cruise Director who will host informative port briefings. The friendly crew excel in providing excellent service and after a day exploring ashore on one of the included guided tours, you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable vessel.

YOUR CABIN

Cabins are arranged over three decks and are well planned and smartly furnished featuring mahogany and stylish soft furnishings. The majority of cabins feature floor to ceiling sliding glass doors opening to a French Balcony providing wonderful views and access to fresh air. The cabins with French Balcony on the Middle and Upper Decks measure 15 square metres, whilst the four suites on the Upper Deck measure 23 square metres and feature a seating area and balcony with chairs. There are nine double cabins on the Main Deck which measure 14 square metres and feature high windows. All cabins are en-suite with shower and feature ample storage space, a writing/dressing table, television, safety deposit box and individually controlled air-conditioning.



Category B & C cabin



Category A cabin



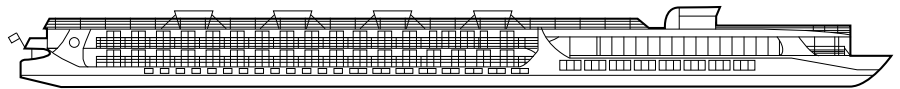
YOUR DINING

While the most beautiful river scenery passes by, you can enjoy delicacies in the Restaurant created by the Executive Chef and his team. The restaurant features large windows and 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 from 06.30 hours. Breakfast is a sumptuous buffet with omelettes and fresh eggs prepared to order, 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 as well as all day from the bar. 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.

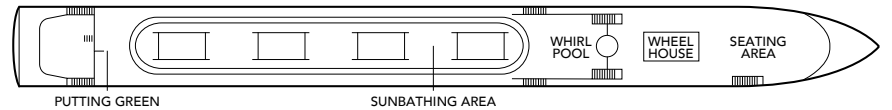
YOUR SPACE

The social hub of the vessel is the spacious Lounge and Bar on the Upper Deck which benefits from floor to ceiling windows, affording excellent views as you relax or listen to the onboard lectures. The lounge also features a small library and there is a café area at the aft of the Upper Deck where tea and coffee are available all day and this area leads to some outdoor, covered seating. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge and the forward viewing area is the ideal location to watch the changing scenery. The Sun Deck features plenty of comfortable chairs and sun loungers in addition to a small putting green, large chess board and a small whirlpool for your enjoyment. There is also a small fitness room and a sauna on board and a lift between the Middle and Upper Decks.

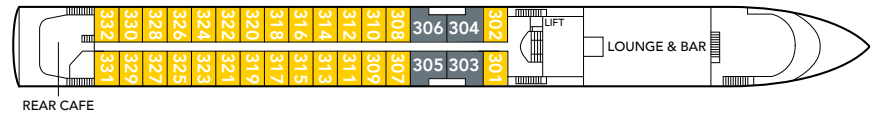
DECK PLAN



SUN DECK



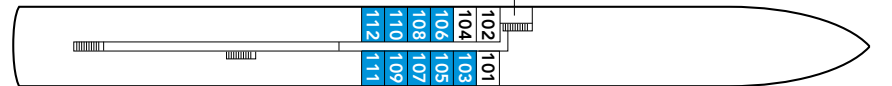
UPPER DECK



MIDDLE DECK



MAIN DECK



- Cat A – Suite with Balcony
- Cat C – Cabin with French Balcony
- Cat B – Cabin with French Balcony
- Cat D – Cabin with window

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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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: Budapest.