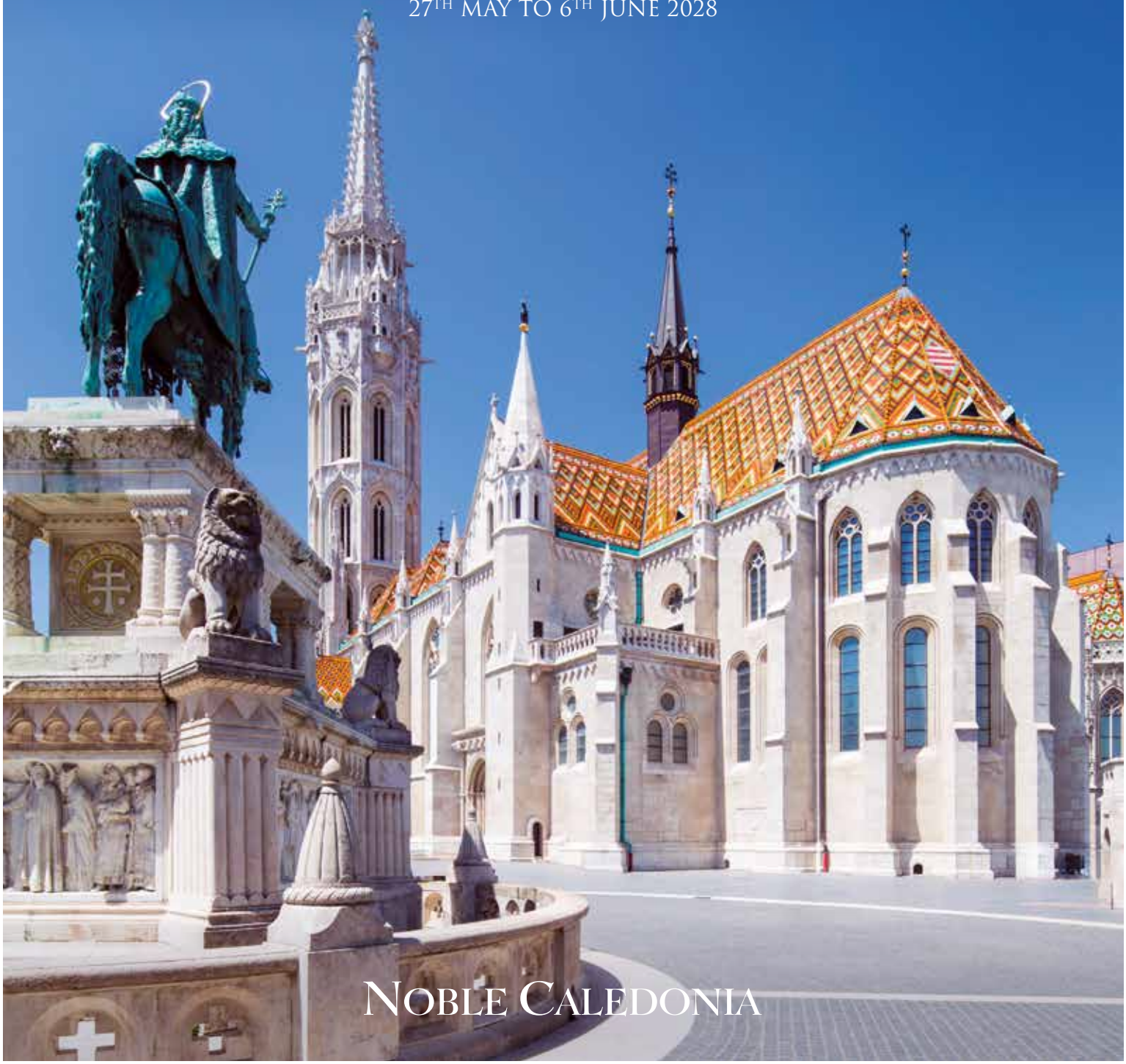
SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £500 PER PERSON

THE ENCHANTING EAST

A JOURNEY BETWEEN BUCHAREST & BUDAPEST
ABOARD THE MS RIVER CROWN WITH GUEST SPEAKER MARTIN SIXSMITH

27TH MAY TO 6TH JUNE 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA


Budapest

Join us aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown as we journey between the grand city of Budapest in Hungary and Romania's capital of Bucharest. 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 ten night itinerary offers gentle cruising through wonderful scenery and well planned excursions, with some time at leisure to explore independently combined with ample time to relax on board as we sail past ever changing scenery.



Our cruise is one of the world's great journeys, following as it does one of the most important trade routes since the earliest of times, linking the East with the West. We will travel from Romania through the heart of Europe visiting Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary witnessing some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes, visiting the great historic cities of Budapest and Belgrade as well as picturesque riverside towns. From the great comfort of the MS River Crown, 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.

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. In addition, the combination of modern and traditional culture, wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a fascinating trip.

GUEST SPEAKER – MARTIN SIXSMITH



Martin Sixsmith is a writer, presenter and former television correspondent. He was the BBC's Central and Eastern Europe Correspondent in the 1980s, reporting on the political upheavals that changed the shape of the continent and the world. In the 1990s, Martin was the BBC's correspondent Moscow and Washington. Between 1997 and 2002 he worked for the British Government as Director of Communications and Press Secretary to several cabinet ministers. He worked as a consultant on the BBC2 political sitcom *The Thick of It* and the 2010 movie In the Loop. In 2013, his book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee* was made into the film Philomena, starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. It was nominated for four Oscars. His non-fiction books include *Putin's Oil; Moscow Coup; The Litvinenko File; Russia, A Thousand Year Chronicle of the Wild East*; and *The War of Nerves – Inside the Cold War Mind*. His latest book *My Sins Go With Me* is a story of bravery and treachery in the Resistance to Nazi occupation in World War Two. In 2011, he presented the BBC's 50-episode history of Russia on Radio Four. In 2014 he presented Radio Four's 25-part history of psychology and psychiatry.


Decebal Statue, Iron Gates Gorge


Matthias Church and Fisherman's Bastion


Kalemegdan fortress


Pecs Cathedral

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Giurgiu, Romania. Fly by scheduled flight to Bucharest. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Giurgiu. Sail to Rousse and moor overnight.

Day 2 Rousse, Bulgaria. After breakfast join a city tour of Rousse, birthplace of Nobel Prize winner for literature, Elias Canetti. After a brief walking tour of the city centre, drive a short distance to visit the Monastery of St Demetrius Basarbovski, a fascinating rock monastery dating back to the 12th century. Return to Rousse for a wine tasting session of some splendid Bulgarian wines. This afternoon is at leisure for individual exploration of the city and, with its stunning architecture, charming restaurants and shops, there is much to see. This evening we will be entertained on board by a lively Bulgarian folk troupe followed by welcome drinks and dinner.

Day 3 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanassi. From Rousse we depart by coach for a full day tour 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, famous for its 17th and 18th architecture and the unique Church of the Nativity of Christ. We return to the MS River Crown which will have sailed to Nikopol and continue sailing this evening.


Belogradchik Rocks and Ottoman Fort

Day 4 Belogradchik & Vidin. Arrive today in the Bulgarian port of Vidin. From here we will drive to Belogradchik which is located close to the Serbian border. The Belogradchik Rocks are a famous Bulgarian beauty spot. The sandstone has been weathered into all manner of bizarre shapes, and housed amongst the rocks is an Ottoman fort, built on the remains of a Roman structure. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we visit Vidin for a performance by the wonderful Vidin Symphonic Orchestra in the Philharmonic concert hall.

Day 5 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. Enjoy a relaxing day on board, witnessing the beautiful scenery and attend a lecture by our onboard Guest Speaker.

Day 6 Belgrade, Serbia. A morning guided tour of Belgrade will visit 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 a late lunch. The afternoon is at leisure to explore further before we sail tonight.

Day 7 Novi Sad. Today we will arrive in Novi Sad. Following the destruction of the three main bridges by the NATO bombing campaign in 1999, the city of Novi Sad, in the Serbian northern province of Vojvodina, has returned to normal after much rebuilding. 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. Sail in the afternoon towards Mohacs.

Day 8 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 splendid Pecs Cathedral where we can listen to the sound of its organ. Continue 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. Thanks to the area's sub-mediterranean climate, wines from Villany are full-bodied and spicy and of the highest quality.

Day 9 Kalocsa. Arrive this morning in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. We will tour the Puszta district which will include the


St Demetrius Basarbovski Monastery, Rousse

Paprika Museum and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Spend a relaxing afternoon on board as we cruise along the beautiful Danube, arriving into Budapest late this evening.

Day 10 Budapest. This morning's guided tour of Budapest will include the old quarter, the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace. Tonight enjoy the farewell evening on board with music performed by a local gypsy band.

Day 11 Budapest to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

2027 Departure
We are also operating this itinerary in April 2027 which will operate in the reverse direction to that shown from Budapest to Bucharest. At the time of going to print, there is limited availability for our April 2027 departure and details can be viewed on our website

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5495	£4995
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5795	£5295
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£6395	£5895
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£6695	£6195
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£5495	£4995
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6495	£5995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS River 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.

Bucharest Pre-cruise Extension
24th to 27th May 2028


Bucharest

If you would like to spend some time in Bucharest before embarking the MS River Crown, we are offering a three night extension.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Bucharest, Romania. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to our central hotel for a three night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 2 Bucharest. Today we visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest administrative building in the world at 3.77 million square feet. This gargantuan construction is Ceausescu's most infamous creation and makes for a fascinating tour. After our tour we will have lunch in "Carul cu Bere", Bucharest's oldest beer house, with its colourful Belle Epoque interior, stained-glass windows and classic Romanian fare. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, including a visit to Stravropoleos Church, Lipscani Lane, Manuc's Inn and the Old Princely Court. The remainder of the day and evening are at leisure. **(B, L)**

Day 3 Snagov Monastery & Mogosoaia Palace. After breakfast, depart for our visit to Snagov Monastery. This monastery was founded in 1408 by Mircea the Elder, Vlad Dracul's grandfather. Vlad, also known as Vlad Tepes is the historical character on whom Bram Stoker's book Dracula is based and is said to be buried here by the monks in 1476. We continue on to visit Mogosoaia Palace, built in the 17th century in the Romanian Renaissance style. After lunch in a local restaurant we return to Bucharest for an evening at leisure. **(B, L)**

Day 4 Bucharest to Giurgiu. Check out of our hotel and drive to the MS River Crown moored in Giurgiu, enjoying lunch en route. Embark in the late afternoon. **(B, L)**


Snagov Monastery

PRICES PER PERSON
Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1195** Single: **£1495**

Price Includes: Three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), excursions, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.
Not Included: Travel insurance.



MS RIVER CROWN

We are delighted to have chartered the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown, a spacious and well-designed vessel. The vessel offers the luxury of space and the public areas feature panoramic windows providing marvellous views of the passing landscapes. The atmosphere on board is friendly and informal and within days you will have made new friends in the open-seating restaurant, on the shore excursions or whilst relaxing in the comfortable public areas. You will find yourself amongst like-minded people in an English-speaking environment and for those who seek peace and quiet, there will always be the opportunity to find a secluded spot on the Sun Deck, in one of the relaxing public areas or to simply rest in your well-appointed cabin. While on board you will be looked after by our team of experienced staff including a Noble Caledonia Cruise Director, Cruise Manager and Tour Managers, all of whom have years of experience cruising the rivers of Europe. In addition you will be joined by a Guest Speaker who will provide a series of interesting talks, and a pianist will play each evening whilst you relax in the lounge.

YOUR CABIN

The spacious cabins are arranged over three decks and are well planned and smartly furnished. Premium cabins on the Middle and Upper Deck measure 15.5 square metres and beds in these cabins can be configured as twin or double. Premium cabins have floor to ceiling panoramic windows which can be opened to a French Balcony providing wonderful views and access to fresh air. Also on the Middle and Upper decks are the Deluxe cabins with French Balcony which measure 22 square metres and feature fixed double beds along with a seating area comprising of a sofa, armchair and table. The four spacious, two room Queen Suites on the Upper Deck measure 30 square metres and feature both a French Balcony and separate balcony with chairs and a table, living room area with separable sliding door, a double bed and spacious bathroom with separate bath and shower. Finally, there are five Standard single cabins on the Main Deck which measure 12 square metres and feature portholes. All cabins include ample storage space, a writing/dressing table, television, safety deposit box, hairdryer, small refrigerator and individually controlled air-conditioning.

YOUR DINING

While the most beautiful river scenery passes by, you can enjoy delicacies created by the Executive Chef and his team. The elegant restaurant which features floor to ceiling windows has 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. Breakfast is served buffet style with a live cooking station for eggs and omelettes. Lunch is also a buffet with a selection of fresh salads, soup, hot dishes and desserts available, whilst dinner is a served four course meal. In addition, to enhance your dining experience, house wine, beer and soft drinks are included at both lunch and dinner. 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 spacious and elegantly decorated public rooms include the Restaurant and the Lounge and Bar which are located on the Upper Deck and feature floor to ceiling windows affording excellent views as you dine, relax or listen to the onboard lectures. In addition to the main lounge, there is also the Club which consists of two small lounges which are perfect if you are seeking somewhere quiet to relax with a good book and a tea or coffee. The Club is also where the small library is located along with some tables for playing bridge and board games. There is also the Atrium Lobby with comfortable seating where you can access tea and coffee 24-hours a day. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel with comfortable chairs and sun loungers and is the ideal location from where to watch the changing scenery when sailing. There is also a putting green and a large chess board on the Sun Deck for your enjoyment. For some time out, you can relax in the wellness area which includes a sauna, Jacuzzi, and some gym equipment.



The Restaurant



Queen Suite



Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony



The Lounge



Sun Deck

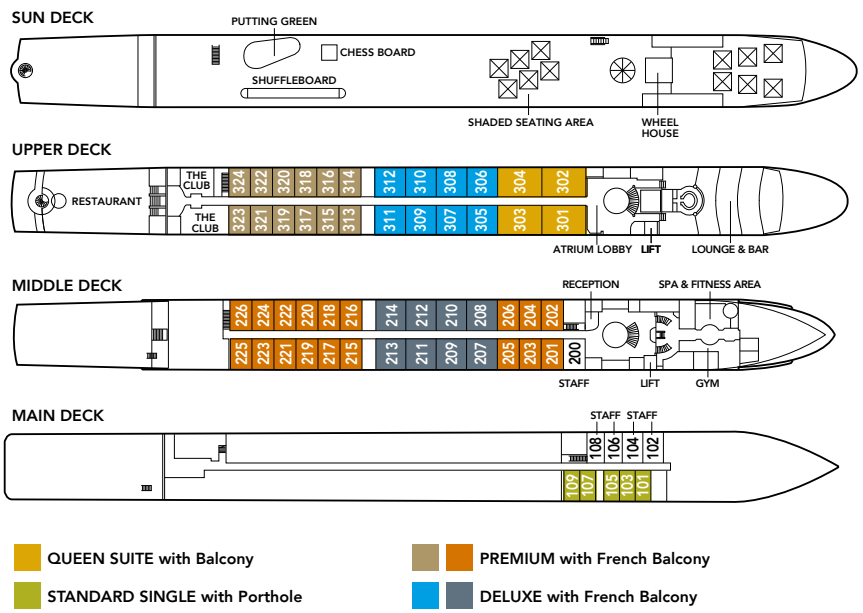


Premium Cabin with French Balcony



The Club

DECK PLAN



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: St. Matthias Church and St Stephen Statue, Hungary.