

SPECIAL  
OFFER -SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON

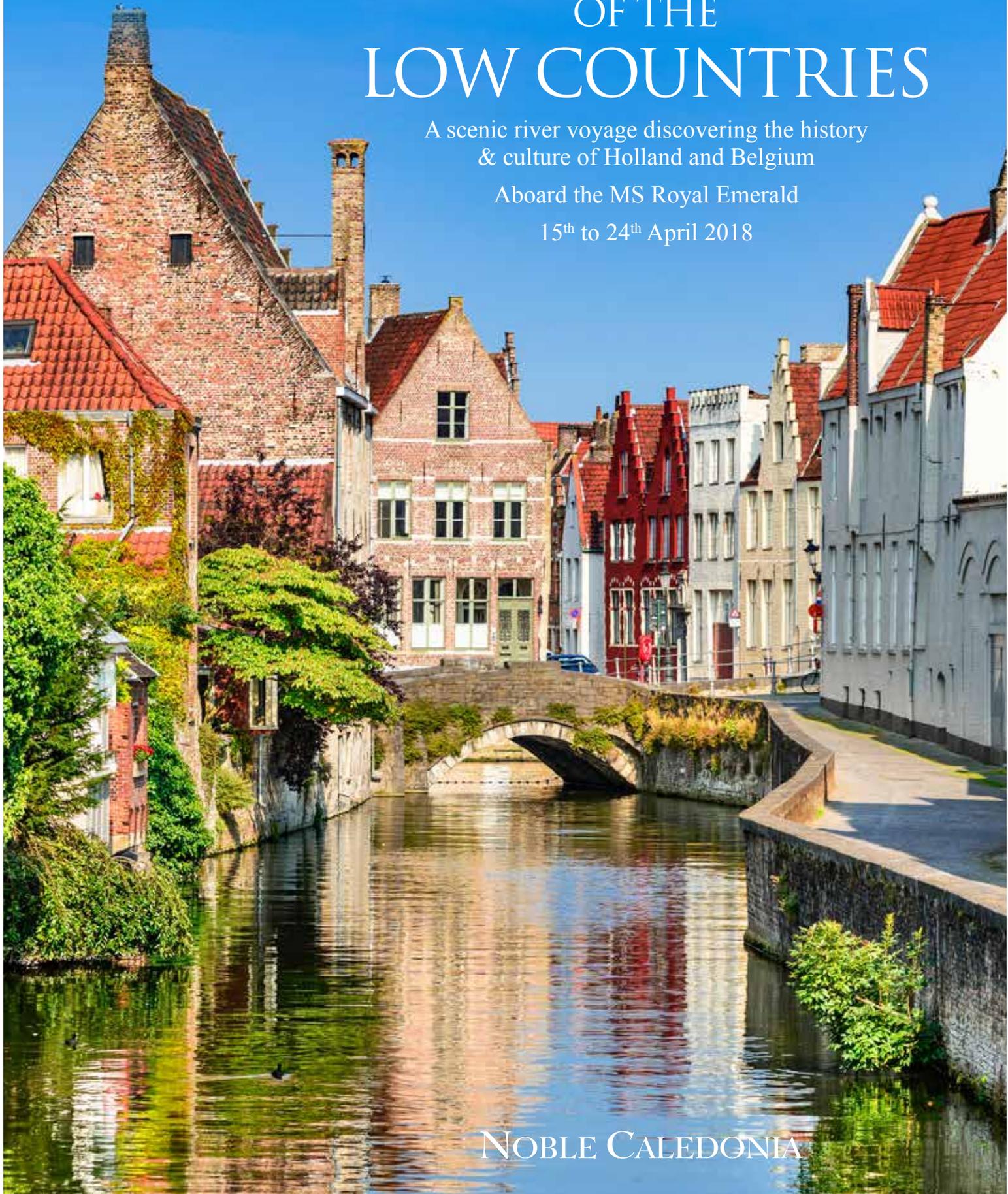
# TIMELESS LANDSCAPES OF THE LOW COUNTRIES

A scenic river voyage discovering the history  
& culture of Holland and Belgium

Aboard the MS Royal Emerald

15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018

NOBLE CALEDONIA





Amsterdam

Our springtime exploration of Holland and Belgium is a wonderful mix of art, culture and history. For art lovers we have included the fine establishments of Amsterdam and The Hague whilst we will also visit the horticultural splendours of Keukenhof and the pretty towns of the Zuider Zee. Not forgetting the beautiful Flemish cities, we also spend time in Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges where we will explore the historic canals, cobbled streets and Medieval buildings. From the comfort of the elegant MS Royal Emerald, we will criss-cross the intricate network of rivers and waterways that make the Low Countries such a unique region and will witness the gentle landscape and picturesque cities and towns which so inspired the Old Masters.





Keukenhof Gardens



The Palace and Gardens of Het Loo

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Amsterdam's art treasures in the Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum
- Keukenhof Gardens at Lisse
- Majestic Het Loo Palace & Gardens or Arnhem's Airborne Museum
- Antwerp's Medieval gems & Rubens' House
- The beautiful cities of Ghent and Bruges
- Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague & Delft Blue Pottery
- Holland's Zuider Zee communities

## THE ITINERARY

### Day 1 London, Bristol, Manchester or Edinburgh to Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Fly from your chosen airport by scheduled flight or travel by train in Standard Premier Class from London St Pancras. Drive to the MS Royal Emerald and embark. Moor overnight in Amsterdam.

**Day 2 Amsterdam.** After breakfast on board, 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 and Rembrandt's famous 'The Night Watch' hangs in the Hall of Honour. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively, there will be an included tour to the nearby picturesque village of Zaanse Schans, famous for its beautiful windmills. Here, you will enjoy a cheese-making demonstration and a tasting. Join the Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board this evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 3 Amsterdam.** After breakfast today we will depart for 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. Following our visit we will return to the MS Royal Emerald for a late lunch. The afternoon is at leisure, or you may wish to join our included visit to the impressive Van Gogh Museum, which houses one of the world's largest collections of work by the artist including 'Almond Blossom' and 'The Bedroom'. Return to the ship and sail overnight to Nijmegen.

**Day 4 Arnhem.** After breakfast on board we depart on 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 17th century splendour. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon there is a choice of included tours; you may wish 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 visit to the Kroller-Muller Museum, a national art museum and sculpture garden, located in the Hoge Veluwe National Park. The museum was founded by art collector Helene Kroller-Muller and opened in 1938. Return to the ship and sail on towards the city of Antwerp.

**Day 5 Antwerp, Belgium.** Arrive in Belgium's charming city of Antwerp. In the mid-16th century it was one of Europe's most important cities and home to Baroque painter Pieter Paul Rubens. Today, Antwerp retains an intriguing Medieval heart alongside a vibrant café culture, a riverside fortress and a truly impressive Gothic cathedral. Our morning tour here will include a visit to the delightfully restored Rubens House and St Jacobskerk. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore ashore further. We will offer an optional tour to visit the Museum Plantin-Moretus, which has acquired UNESCO World Heritage Status; an astonishing place which is home to the world's oldest printing press and priceless manuscripts. Sail this evening towards Ghent.

**Day 6 Ghent.** After breakfast today we will explore the highlights of this Flemish gem including St Bavo's Cathedral, home to the unique altarpiece "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb", painted by the Van Eyck brothers in 1432. We also visit the ancient port at Graslei with its unique row of historical buildings, St Nicholas' Church and the grandiose Castle of the Counts (Gravensteen). After lunch on board, enjoy an afternoon at leisure to shop or sightsee further.

**Day 7 Ghent for Bruges.** Bruges was one of the largest and finest cities in Europe. The 15th century Belfry still dominates the centre as it did then and the Town Hall, St John Hospital and the Begijnhof border the narrow canals. We drive here from Ghent and on arrival take a walking tour. We will see some of the most important places and buildings which survive from the Middle Ages including the Basilica of the Holy Blood, City Hall, the Begijnhof, Minnewater and the Belfry and Church of Our Lady. The tour will end with a visit to a local chocolatier and a delicious tasting. Return to the ship for a late lunch and this afternoon sail towards Rotterdam.

**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.



Hoorn Harbour

Afterwards continue on to Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will have lunch in a local restaurant on arrival, and afterwards take a walking tour of this pretty town finishing with a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery. Return to the ship and sail to Hoorn for an overnight mooring.

**Day 9 Hoorn, Edam & Volendam.** After breakfast on board we will depart for an excursion to experience two unique communities of the Zuider Zee. Our first call will be 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. Return to Hoorn for lunch on board, and this afternoon is at leisure in this pretty 16th century town. Sail in the early evening towards Amsterdam, arriving in the late evening for an overnight mooring. As we sail, join your fellow travellers for the Farewell Drinks and Dinner.

**Day 10 Amsterdam to London, Bristol, Manchester or Edinburgh.** Disembark after breakfast and return to the UK by scheduled flight or to London St Pancras by Eurostar.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CATEGORY	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
1 Standard Suite	£2495	£1995
2 Balcony Suite	£2795	£2295
3 Deluxe Balcony Suite	£2895	£2395
4 Junior Balcony Suite	£3295	£2795
5 Royal Balcony Suite	£3695	£3195
6 Royal Panorama Suite	£4295	£3795
1 Standard Suite for sole use	£2495	£1995
2 Balcony Suite for sole use	£2795	£2295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel or Eurostar train travel in Standard Premier Class • Nine nights aboard the MS Royal Emerald on full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Cruise Director • Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, optional excursion on day 5.

Brabo Fountain, Great Market Square, Antwerp



Dutch Golden Age paintings in the Mauritshuis Museum, The Hague



# MS ROYAL EMERALD

We are delighted to have chartered the MS Royal Emerald for a series of river cruises along Europe's main waterways in 2018. This elegant vessel was built in 2008 and offers a range of luxurious and comfortable suites, the majority with outdoor balconies. The vessel accommodates a maximum of 171 passengers, providing a friendly and welcoming atmosphere on board. With its expansive Sun Deck there is ample opportunity to watch the world gently pass by as you relax on board your floating hotel.

## YOUR SUITE

There are six grades of cabin categories:

**Royal Panorama Suites** (Category 6: 336 & 337) are situated at the aft of the Diamond Deck and at 325 square feet are the largest on board. Enjoy panoramic views of the passing scenery from the private, full length balcony and through the floor to ceiling windows which stretch across two walls of the cabin.

**Royal Balcony Suites** (Category 5: 314-317) are situated on the Diamond Deck and measure 300 to 315 square feet and offer an outdoor balcony, lounge area and an oversized bathroom.

**Junior Balcony Suites** (Category 4: 201-202 & 301-302) are situated on the Diamond and Sapphire Decks and measure 250 square feet. All have a private, full length balcony and stylish ensuite bathroom featuring a large vanity basin and spacious shower.

**Deluxe Balcony Suites** (Category 3: 303-312 and 203-212) are situated in prime locations on the Diamond and Sapphire Decks and measure 225 square feet. These suites offer a full length outdoor balcony, ensuite bathroom and are tastefully designed.

**Balcony Suites** (Cat 2: 318-335 and 214-235) are located on Diamond and Sapphire Decks and measure 205 square feet. They feature a full length outdoor balcony, ensuite bathroom and comfortable facilities.

**Standard Suites** (Cat 1: 100-112, 114-115 & 117) are located on the Jewel Deck and measure 160 square feet, and offer a spacious and clever layout to maximise your comfort. Windows in these cabins are picture windows, elevated to standing-height view and there is no balcony.



Category 5 - Royal Balcony Suite



Category 2 - Balcony Suite



Category 6 - Royal Panorama Suite



Lounge



Dining Room



Open Air Lounge



Reception



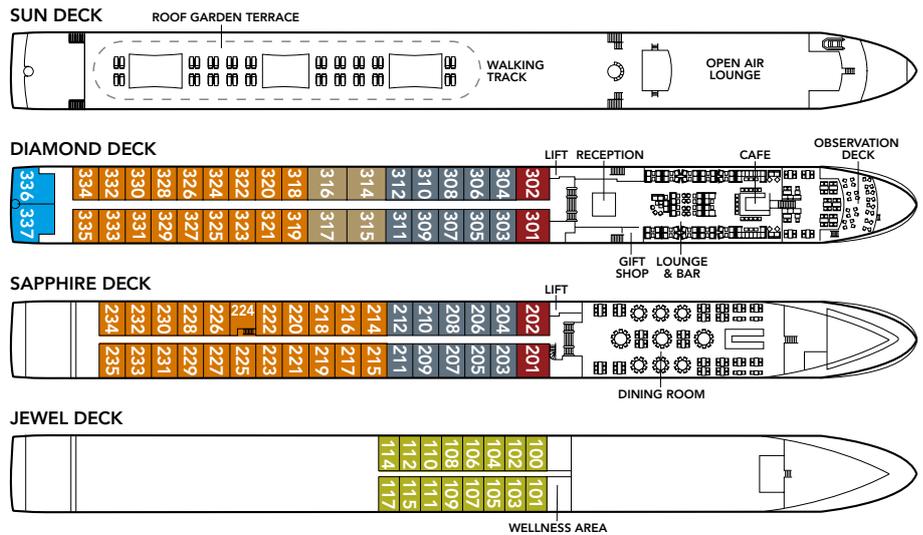
Bar

## YOUR SPACE

Spread over four decks, the onboard facilities include the Crystal Dining Room which is situated on the Sapphire Deck and serves delicious fare in a comfortable setting with open seating throughout. The Panorama Lounge & Bar is situated on the Diamond Deck and is a convivial social space with large floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows which create a bright and airy ambience. On the spacious Sun Deck there is plenty of deck furniture where you can relax in the shade or enjoy the pleasant weather. There is also a Walking Track for those who wish to keep fit. To add to your comfort, the ship also offers a gift shop, a lift between the Sapphire and Diamond Decks and a Wellness Area on Jewel Deck.

## YOUR DINING

Meals are always taken in an open seating arrangement to allow you to meet and mingle with your fellow travellers. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style and feature hot and cold dishes whereas dinner is served at your table. The cuisine is a selection of regional specialties and international dishes. House wine/beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner. There is also a 24 hour tea & coffee station. A complimentary bottle of water is placed in all cabins and replenished each day and small water bottles are provided to take with you on shore excursions.



- CATEGORY 1
- CATEGORY 2
- CATEGORY 3
- CATEGORY 4
- CATEGORY 5
- CATEGORY 6

## LIFE ON BOARD

The vessel offers luxury and elegance in smart and refined surroundings, ensuring a welcoming and informal atmosphere on board. The friendly crew of 48 will do their utmost to ensure your stay is enjoyable, informative and agreeable

throughout. A daily briefing by the Cruise Director will offer information on the next day's activities and English-speaking local guides provide insider knowledge into the local culture, horticulture, architecture, and history.

# 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: Bruges.