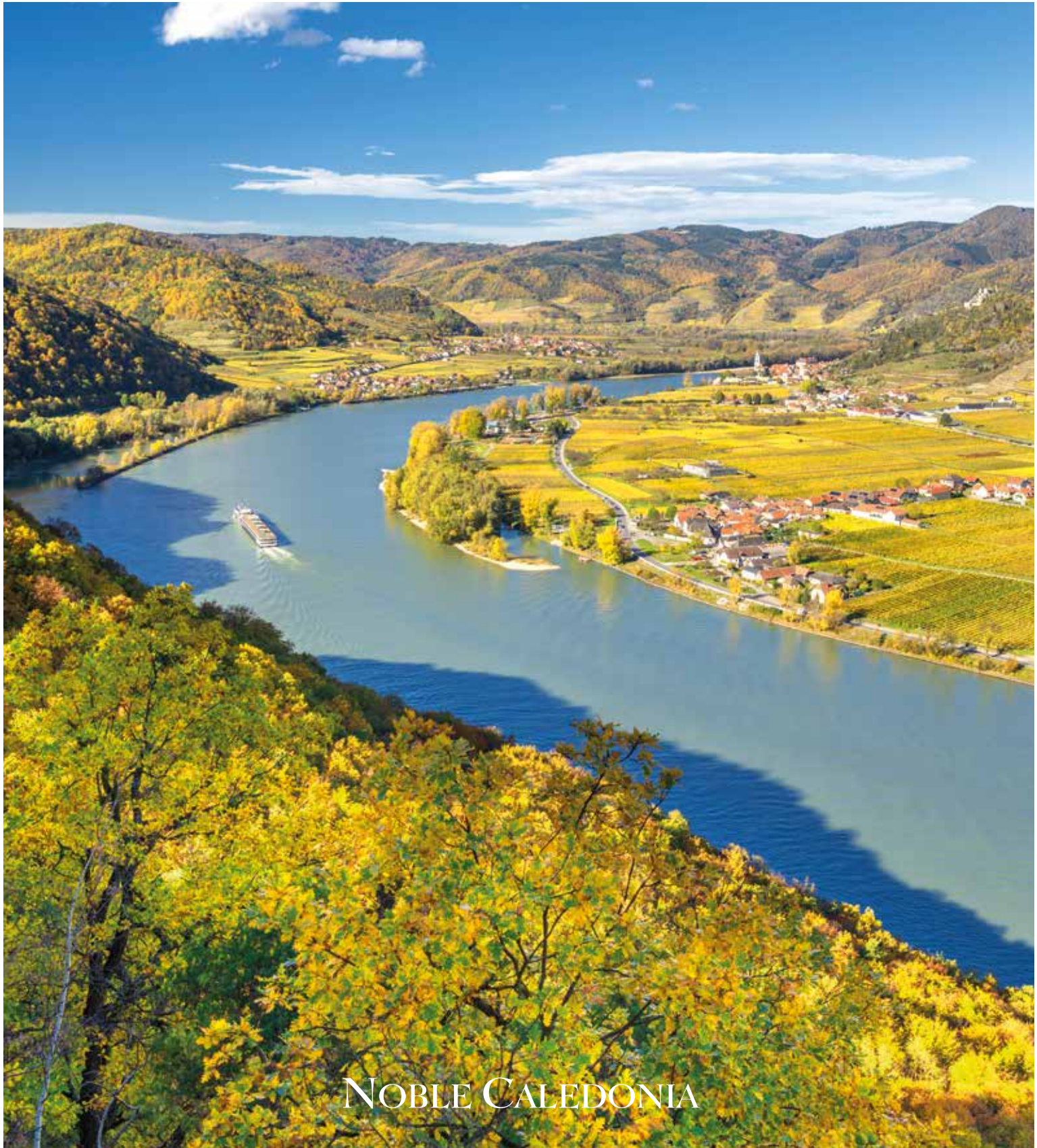


EXCLUSIVE NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARTERS

# MS RIVER CROWN

RIVER CRUISING ALONG THE RHINE, MAIN,  
MOSELLE & DANUBE

2026



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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# EXPLORING EUROPE BY RIVER ABOARD THE MS RIVER CROWN

Travelling across Europe by river offers an insight that cannot easily be had by more conventional forms of transport. The leisurely pace and quietness of the vessel allows you to be at one with your surroundings and the ever changing scenery and immediate accessibility of an area so steeped in history are just some of the many advantages of exploring by river.

For 2026, we are delighted to have chartered the 100-passenger MS River Crown for a series of cruises along the Rhine, Main, Moselle and Danube. We have been offering river cruises since our establishment in 1991 and in that time have witnessed an incredible growth in the number of vessels plying the rivers of Europe. The new, ultra-modern river cruise ships can accommodate hundreds of passengers, however, we have been searching for a vessel aboard which we can offer a more intimate and convivial experience, and are therefore pleased to have been able to secure our exclusive charter of the MS River Crown, which is the perfect vessel for our explorations. Prior to our charter of the vessel, the MS River Crown will be undergoing an extensive refurbishment so the appearance of the cabins and public areas will differ to the images shown over the following pages.

Our Guest Speakers, who will accompany you on board the MS River Crown will add to your enjoyment with informative talks and, after almost 35 years of operating cruises along the rivers of Europe, we have accumulated the very best of local guides for our excursions. Their enormous wealth of knowledge and their own individual views provide colour to our trips leaving you with a lasting memory of all you see.

Daily guided tours are included in the price, as are drinks with lunch and dinner, as well as gratuities which makes for all-round ease and enjoyment when travelling aboard the MS River Crown. Whether your main interest lies in history, politics, art, wine, music or simply enjoying the stately pace as we navigate through ever changing scenery, we believe we offer the most comprehensive range of river journeys along the Rhine, Main, Moselle and Danube for the genuine traveller.



# MS RIVER CROWN



We are delighted to have chartered the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown, a spacious and well-designed vessel which was built in 2008 and is undergoing a comprehensive upgrade in late 2025. 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. Guest Speakers will provide a series of interesting talks and our Cruise Director will host informative port briefings. After a day exploring ashore, you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable vessel.



Atrium Lobby



The Club

## 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 for early risers, tea, coffee and pastries are available. Breakfast is served buffet style, 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. 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

A well designed feature of the MS River Crown is the positioning of the Restaurant and the Lounge and Bar on the Upper Deck. These public areas have floor to ceiling windows, affording excellent views as you dine, relax or listen to the onboard lectures. There is also an Atrium Lobby with seating where you can access tea and coffee 24-hours a day, whilst the Club area on board comprises of two small lounges, a perfect place if you are seeking somewhere to relax with a good book and a tea or coffee. The huge Sun Deck covers almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge and is the ideal location to watch the changing scenery. 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 centre which includes a sauna with shower facilities, and a fitness room.



Restaurant



Wellness Centre



Bar



Lounge



Premium Cabin with French Balcony



Deluxe Cabin with French Balcony



Queen Suite



Queen Suite configuration

## 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 feature 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. Finally, there are five Standard single cabins on the Main Deck which measure 12 square metres and feature portholes. All cabins feature ample storage space, a writing/dressing table, television, safety deposit box, hairdryer, small refrigerator and individually controlled air-conditioning.



Premium Cabin configuration



Deluxe Cabin configuration



Standard Single Cabin

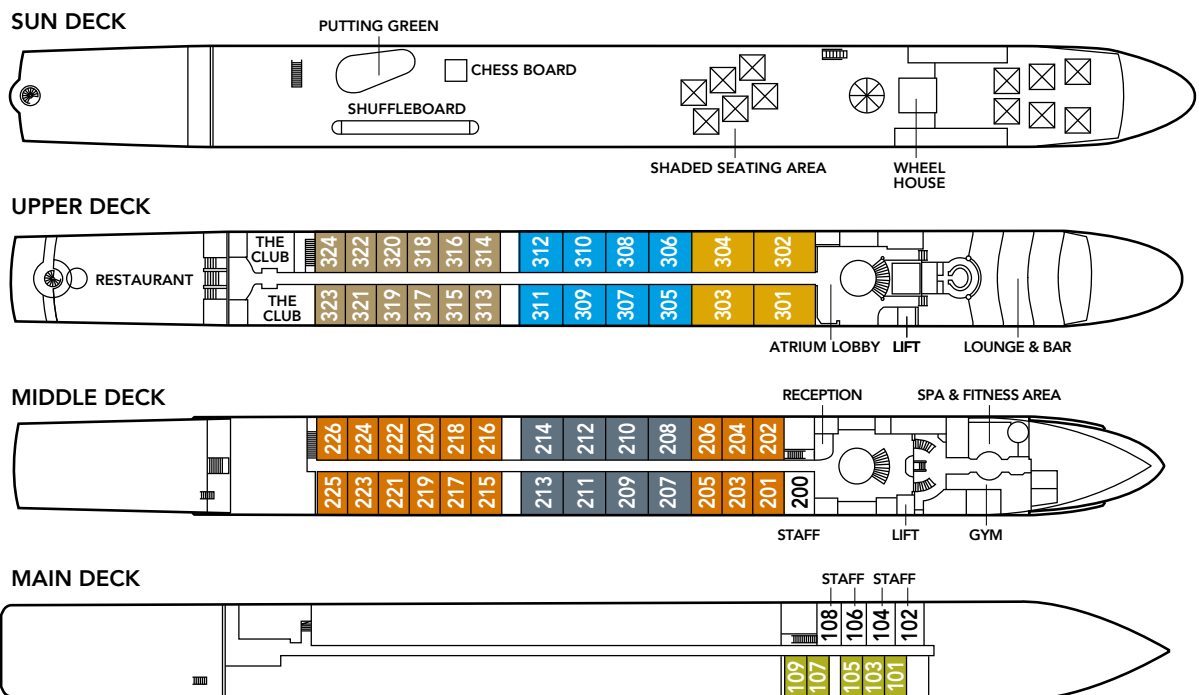
**RIVER CROWN REFURBISHMENT** – Please note that the images shown are of the vessel prior to the refurbishment which is planned for late 2025. Therefore upon embarkation the vessel will look different to the images shown. Once the refurbishment is complete, updated images will be available online.



Sun Deck



## DECK PLAN



- QUEEN SUITE with Balcony
- PREMIUM with French Balcony
- STANDARD SINGLE with Porthole
- DELUXE with French Balcony

# TIMELESS LANDSCAPES OF THE LOW COUNTRIES

A scenic river voyage discovering the art, history & culture of Belgium & the Netherlands aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Stella Grace Lyons

17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Spring is the perfect time of year to immerse yourself in the cultural and horticultural splendours of Belgium and the Netherlands and our itinerary is a well balanced mix of horticulture, history, art and culture. For art lovers we have included the fine establishments of The Hague and Nueneen, home of the Van Gogh Village Museum, whilst we will also visit the horticultural splendours of Keukenhof. Not forgetting the beautiful Flemish cities, we spend time in Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges where we will explore the historic canals, cobbled streets and Medieval buildings. We also visit Southern Zeeland's charming and lesser known ports of Middelburg and Veere. From the comfort of the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown, 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.



## GUEST SPEAKER – STELLA GRACE LYONS



Stella Grace Lyons is a freelance Art History lecturer, speaker and writer accredited with The Arts Society. Stella gained her BA in the History of Art with a 1st class in her dissertation from the University of Bristol and her MA in History of Art from the University of Warwick. She spent a year studying Renaissance art in Italy at the British Institute

of Florence and three months studying Venetian art in Venice. In addition, she attended drawing classes at the prestigious Charles H. Cecil studios in Florence. Stella runs her own online lectures, *Stella Talks* and is a sought-after lecturer for art societies, travel companies and private members' clubs. Stella has also lectured for the University of South Wales. She has written about art for several publications, including *The Arts Society Magazine*.



## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Keukenhof Gardens, one of the world's largest flower gardens
- Explore Antwerp's Medieval gems & Rubens' House
- Spend time in the beautiful cities of Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges
- Explore Southern Zeeland
- Visit the Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague & Delft Blue Pottery

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Brussels, Belgium.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown for embarkation. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Brussels.** After breakfast we take a panoramic drive around Belgium's capital city where we will see the most important landmarks before exploring the city centre on foot. See the stunning Grand Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its Town Hall and Guild Houses. Our tour will end with a tasting of the well-known Belgian beer. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon sailing and this evening meet your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner.

**Day 3 Antwerp.** Spend the day in the 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 or join a tour to the Museum Plantin-Moretus which has acquired UNESCO World Heritage status; an astonishing place that is home to the world's oldest printing press and priceless manuscripts. Sail this evening towards Ghent.

**Day 4 Bruges.** This morning we drive to Bruges which was one of the largest and finest cities in Europe. The 15th century Belfry still dominates the centre and the Town Hall, St John Hospital and the Begijnhof border the narrow canals. 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. Return to the MS River Crown and moor overnight.

**Day 5 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





Old Church Tower, Nuënen



Keukenhof Gardens



Gravensteen Castle, Ghent



Middelburg

1432. We also visit the ancient port at Graslei with its unique row of historic buildings, St Nicholas' Church and those feeling active can explore the grandiose Castle of the Counts (Gravensteen). Return to the ship for lunch and sail.

**Day 6 Nuënen, the Netherlands.** Arriving into the Netherlands we drive this morning to Nuënen where Van Gogh lived between 1883 and 1885 and where he painted his first major work 'The Potato Eaters'. We will visit the Van Gogh Village Museum which depicts his time in the city and its influence on his painting styles. We will also see some of the locations in Nuënen painted or sketched by the artist. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free for relaxation or independent exploration.

**Day 7 Dordrecht & Kinderdijk.** Dordrecht will be our base to see the nearby marvellous Windmills of Kinderdijk, of which there are 19 in total, dating from 1740. Return to the ship for lunch and the remainder of the day is free to explore Dordrecht with its old world atmosphere and quaint shops, cottages and canals.

**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 followed by a walking tour of this pretty town and a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery.

**Day 9 Keukenhof Gardens.** After breakfast drive to 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. Return to the ship for a late lunch and the remainder of the afternoon is free for independent sightseeing in Rotterdam. Sail in the late afternoon.

**Day 10 Middelburg & Veere.** Today we explore Southern Zeeland, starting with the lovingly restored Medieval town of Middelburg whose 12th century abbey is one of the oldest in the Netherlands. Join a guided walking tour this morning before returning to the ship for lunch after which we sail on to 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. This evening join farewell drinks and dinner on board as we sail back to Brussels.

**Day 11 Brussels, Belgium to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Antwerp

## 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	£4995	£4495
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£4795
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5795	£5295
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5995	£5495
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£6795	£6295
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£4995	£4495
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6295	£5795

**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.

# THE GOLDEN AGE OF DUTCH ART

A journey through Belgium & the southern provinces of the Netherlands aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Brian Healey

27<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable MS River Crown as we journey to the very heart of the Low Countries' enchanting artistic wonders with a plethora of historical, cultural and scenic delights to be enjoyed along the way. Spring is a wonderful time to visit the region, each port of call has its own unique character waiting to be discovered and from historic locations to iconic buildings, our itinerary is brimming with highlights. For art lovers we have included the fine establishments of the Rijksmuseum, Mauritshuis Museum, The Hague and Nuenen, home of the Van Gogh Village Museum, whilst we will also visit the horticultural splendours of Keukenhof. Our journey offers gentle cruising through wonderful scenery and well planned excursions at a relaxed pace, with some afternoons at leisure to relax or explore independently. The artistic treasures of this Golden Age will be brought vividly to life by our Guest Speaker who will accompany the trip.



## GUEST SPEAKER – BRIAN HEALEY



Brian has enjoyed a lifetime of artistic exploration and learning, pursuing parallel careers as a modern linguist, professional artist and director of his own design company. After a highly successful career teaching at prestigious public schools in both the UK and Austria, for the last fifteen years he has become widely known throughout the cruise

and travel industry for his inspirational lectures and art workshops to which he brings a unique practical insight. A fully accredited Arts Society lecturer, he has undertaken an extensive programme of speaking engagements including Australia, courtesy of ADFAS. Examples of his atmospheric watercolours can be seen in private collections all over the world.

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Antwerp's Medieval gems
- See the historic buildings and architecture of Maastricht
- Visit Keukenhof Gardens, one of the world's largest flower gardens
- See Amsterdam's art treasures in the Rijksmuseum
- Witness the old world charms of Dordrecht & the marvellous Windmills of Kinderdijk
- Visit the Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Brussels, Belgium.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown and embark. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Brussels.** After breakfast our excursion will take us on a panoramic drive around Belgium's capital city where we will see the most important landmarks before exploring the centre on foot. See the stunning Grand Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its Town Hall and Guild Houses. Our tour will end with a tasting of the well-known Belgian beer. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon sailing and this evening meet your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner.

**Day 3 Antwerp.** Spend the morning in the 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 guided tour here will include a visit to St James's Church. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon sailing as we make our way towards Maastricht.

**Day 4 Maastricht, the Netherlands.** Spend the morning in one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands. Our walking tour will help us discover this hidden gem, filled with historic monuments and beautiful architecture. See the Market Square with its 17th century Town Hall and the Basilica of St Servatius, situated on Maastricht's grandest square. Return to the MS River Crown and spend the afternoon sailing.

**Day 5 Nuenen.** After breakfast we drive to Nuenen where Van Gogh lived between 1883 and 1885 and painted his first major work 'The Potato Eaters'. We will visit the Van Gogh Village Museum which depicts his time in the city and its influence on his painting styles. We will also see some of the locations in Nuenen painted or sketched by the artist. Return to the ship for lunch and sail in the late afternoon.



The Peace Palace, The Hague



Maastricht skyline



Het Loo Palace



Mauritshuis Museum, The Hague



Amsterdam

**Day 6 Arnhem.** After breakfast on board join an excursion to visit the memorable Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein'; 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 River Crown for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon in Arnhem or you may like to join the included visit to Het Loo Palace. Built towards the end of the 17th century in Dutch-Baroque style for the Stadtholder King William III and his consort Princess Mary, Het Loo Palace became the summer residence of the House of Orange-Nassau until the death of Queen Wilhelmina in 1962, when it eventually became property of the state. Sail in the evening towards Utrecht.

**Day 7 Keukenhof Gardens.** After breakfast drive to 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. Return to the ship for a late lunch and sail in the afternoon.

**Day 8 Amsterdam.** This morning, we take a canal cruise and admire the city from a glass-top boat as you glide past 17th century homes, churches and 16th century merchant houses. Afterwards, we visit 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. Return to the ship for lunch and sail this afternoon.

**Day 9 Dordrecht & Kinderdijk.** Dordrecht will be our base to see the nearby marvellous Windmills of Kinderdijk, of which there are 19 in total, dating from 1740. Return to the ship for lunch and the remainder of the day is free to explore Dordrecht with its old-world atmosphere and quaint shops, cottages and canals. Sail in the early evening.

**Day 10 Rotterdam, The Hague.** From Rotterdam we depart for The Hague, where we visit the beautiful Mauritshuis Museum and its marvellous collection of Dutch Golden Age paintings. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free for independent exploration in Rotterdam. Moor overnight.

**Day 11 Amsterdam to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Amsterdam Airport for our scheduled flight.



Grand Place, Brussels

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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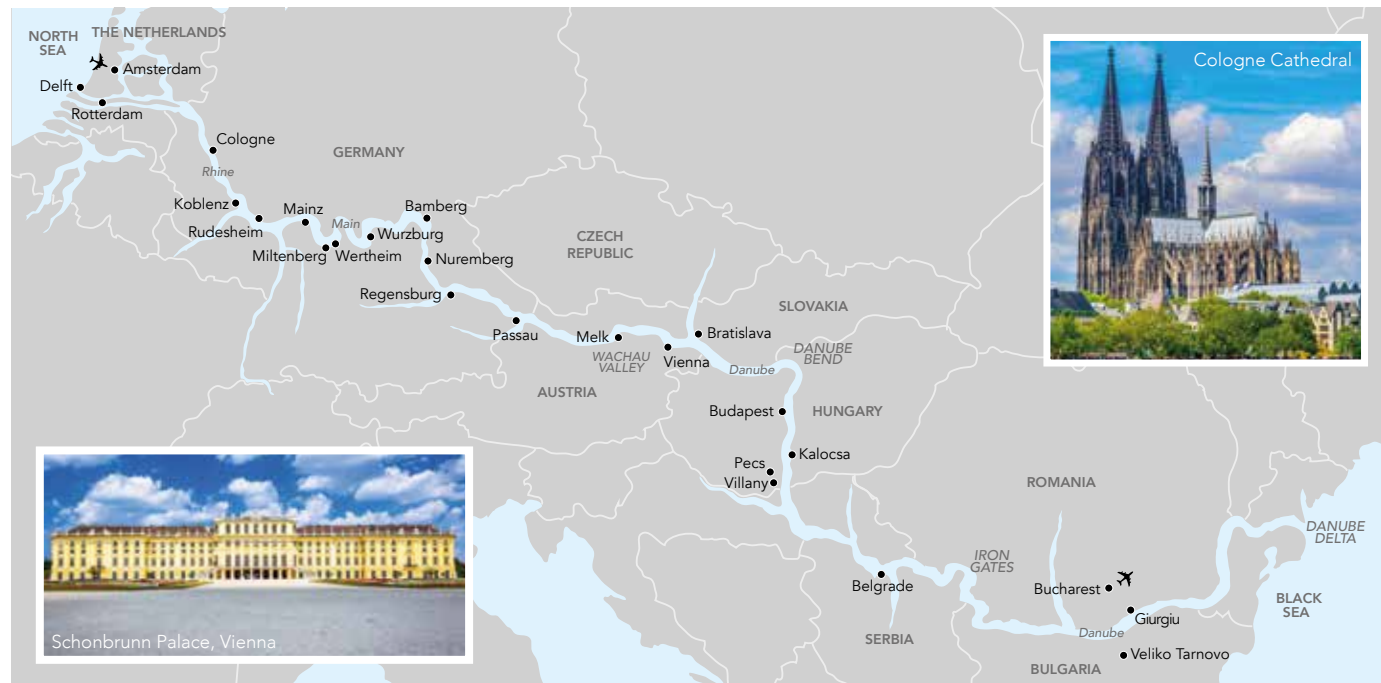
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**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# ACROSS EUROPE BY RIVER

An epic river journey along the Rhine, Main & Danube aboard the MS River Crown with highlight performances by London Festival Opera

7<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May & 1<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026



Here is the ultimate grand tour of Europe, Sail across the continent, visit eight countries, travel more than 2200 miles and with the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown as our base, unpack only once. This is the perfect trip for those who enjoy seeing something new every day, as our floating hotel transports you in considerable comfort between great cities, towns and villages, past ever-changing landscapes where the slow speed of the vessel allows us to absorb the views of town and country.

Each port of call has its own unique character waiting to be discovered whilst on one of our guided excursions. From historic locations to iconic buildings, our itinerary is brimming with highlights including the grand cities of Vienna and Budapest; the picturesque towns along the Rhine and Main including Miltenberg and Rudesheim; wine tasting in Wurzburg and music performances. There will of course also be plenty of time to relax on board and enjoy some truly beautiful scenery especially whilst cruising through the dramatic Rhine Gorge and the spectacular Iron Gates.

If you have never experienced a river journey it is difficult to explain the sheer pleasure that comes from travelling across Europe observing everyday life on the banks of the Danube, Main and Rhine rivers. You can let the world slip by as you relax on the Sun Deck or in the Lounge and delight in awe-inspiring panoramic views of the passing scenery. Guided excursions with excellent local guides, highlight musical performances by London Festival Opera and interesting talks by our Guest Speaker will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere on board as we sail along the European waterways.

## EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCES BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted to announce that our long time associates, London Festival Opera, will present an Opera Celebration during your cruise. They will perform a Mozart Opera Celebration featuring arias and ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Don Giovanni*, in period costume. Also, whilst in Vienna there will be two onboard performances: a costumed Opera Soirée with arias and ensembles from Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach and Puccini, and a magical repertoire, "A Night in Vienna". Bringing together artists from the major British opera companies including the Royal Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, the company has a considerable reputation and has appeared in some of the world's leading venues including as a guest company in one of Italy's greatest opera houses, La Fenice.





Bratislava



Budapest



Saint Sava Cathedral, Belgrade



Decebal's Head, Iron Gates



Bamberg

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### PROFESSOR RICHARD BUTTERWICK-PAWLIKOWSKI



Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski graduated in History from Cambridge, before obtaining his doctorate from Oxford. He taught European history at Oxford and Queen's University Belfast before moving to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, where he has been Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History since 2013. He is also Principal Historian of the Polish History Museum in Warsaw. Richard's academic interests range across the history and culture of Europe, especially in the eighteenth century. He has published four single-authored books, four edited books, and many articles in scholarly periodicals and collections, and is in frequent demand as a speaker at international conferences.

**Richard will be on board from 7th to 19th May & 13th to 22nd September 2026.**

### SIR NICHOLAS KENYON



Sir Nicholas Kenyon was Managing Director of the Barbican Centre 2007 - 2021. He was Controller, BBC Radio 3 1992-8, and Director of the BBC Proms from 1996 to 2007. Previously he was a music critic for The New Yorker, The Times and Observer, and editor of Early Music 1983-92. He ran the BBC's Live Events and TV Classical Music departments, including the Queen's Jubilee Concerts of 2002. He has lectured widely and published books on Bach, Mozart, Simon Rattle, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and early music. He edited *The City of London: a Companion Guide*, and his most recent book is *The Life of Music*. He is now a Distinguished Affiliate Scholar of Pembroke College Cambridge, researching the history of the early music revival, and is an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College Oxford. He was knighted in the 2008 New Year Honours, and in 2011 received the British Academy President's medal for outstanding service to the arts and humanities.

**Nicholas will be on board from 1st to 13th September 2026.**

### PROFESSOR 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.

**Martyn will be on board from 19th to 28th May 2026.**



Wurzburg



Melk Abbey

## THE ITINERARY

### Day 1 London or Manchester to Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown moored in Rotterdam.

**Day 2 Rotterdam for Delft.** After breakfast we depart on a morning tour of Delft. We begin with a visit to the Delft Blue Pottery followed by a walking tour of this pretty town. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail towards Cologne.

**Day 3 Cologne, Germany.** This morning we will cruise along the legendary Rhine. Pass Duisburg and Dusseldorf before arriving in Cologne for a tour to see the city's famous cathedral. The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe, with the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world. Our guided tour will continue with a visit to a "Brauhaus" to sample some of the local Kolsch beer. Sail this evening.

**Day 4 Koblenz & Rudesheim.** Arrive in Koblenz for a morning walking tour of this historic commercial centre. Return to the ship and sail mid-morning through the dramatic Rhine Gorge to Rudesheim, passing romantic castles, lush vineyards and the infamous Lorelei rock. We will arrive into Rudesheim in the late afternoon and on arrival join the Winzerexpress mini-train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated musical instruments. Return to the MS River Crown for dinner, after which there will be some free time to perhaps visit the town's lively Drosselgasse.

**Day 5 Mainz.** Arrive this morning in atmospheric Mainz where our guided walking tour will include the Hoefchen ("Little Court"), the residence of the city's archbishops until the 15th century, the Kirschgarten with its romantic half-timbered houses and Marian-Fountain. Our tour will end with a visit to the Johan Gutenberg Museum. Sail at lunchtime as we enter the River Main.

**Day 6 Miltenberg.** During this morning's walking tour, see the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, known for its half-timbered Medieval houses. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon sailing.

**Day 7 Wurzburg.** Sail overnight to historic Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. Our morning will begin with a walking tour of this lovely town. See the old town with its collection of churches which range in style from Romanesque to Gothic, Renaissance to Baroque including the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace. Our visit will end with a tasting of local wines in the splendid cellar of the Burgerspital before returning to the ship for lunch as we sail to Bamberg.

**Day 8 Bamberg.** This morning, we enter the Main-Danube Canal at Bamberg, one of Germany's most beautiful historic towns. Its geographical location, some 40 miles north of Nuremberg, was a key factor in preserving its magnificent architectural heritage from the ravages of war. Every

European style from the Romanesque onwards has left its mark on Bamberg, each bequeathing at least one major building. After lunch on board, enjoy a walking tour of this beautiful Medieval city. Return to the ship and sail in the early evening.

**Day 9 Nuremberg.** The city of Nuremberg's long and sometimes troubled history has left its mark on the city and there is plenty to discover during our morning tour. Three towering castles overlook Nuremberg, and its old city which is contained within vast walls is a joy to explore. Visit the World War II sites, including the Third Reich Party Rally Grounds and discover the city's spectacular Medieval architecture. Sail at lunchtime and continue cruising through the highest point of any commercial waterway in Europe, 1331 feet above sea level.

**Day 10 Regensburg.** Early this morning we enter the Danube River, arriving in Regensburg mid-morning. Join a guided stroll around historic Regensburg and see the highlights such as the Old Town Hall and the World Heritage listed city centre. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further at your own pace.

**Day 11 Passau.** This morning we arrive 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 Stephen which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs. In the late afternoon we sail towards Austria.

**Day 12 Melk & the Wachau Valley to Vienna, Austria.** This morning we will reach the picturesque Wachau Valley, famous for its wine. We will moor in Melk under the shadow of the great Baroque Abbey, situated on a cliff high above the Danube. Enjoy a guided tour of the abbey followed by a performance by London Festival Opera featuring aria ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Don Giovanni*. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon we sail through the beautiful Wachau Valley towards Vienna.

**Day 13 Vienna.** 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 Stephen'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. In the early evening there will be a costumed performance on board by London Festival Opera, featuring an Opera Soirée with highlights from Verdi, Bizet, Offenbach and Puccini.

**Day 14 Vienna.** After breakfast join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. In the early evening there will be a performance of "A Night in Vienna" by London Festival Opera on board. Sail late tonight.

**Day 15 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Overnight we sail the short distance to 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. The tour will conclude with a visit to St Martin's Cathedral where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon cruising.

**Day 16 Budapest, Hungary.** 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 to explore at your own pace. After dinner this evening, join your fellow travellers on deck to enjoy the wonderful "Budapest by Night" sailing as we depart towards Kalocsa.

**Day 17 Kalocsa.** Arrive this morning in charming Kalocsa, renowned for paprika production. We will tour the Puszta district which will include the Paprika Museum and a spectacular display of Hungarian horsemanship. Depart this afternoon for a relaxing cruise down the beautiful Danube, arriving in Mohacs in the early evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 18 Pecs & Villany.** 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.

**Day 19 Belgrade, Serbia.** Spend the morning cruising and arrive in Belgrade at midday. A half day tour highlights 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.

**Day 20 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 21 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** From 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 rejoining the MS River Crown in Rousse and sailing this evening.

**Day 22 Giurgiu, Romania to London or Manchester.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Bucharest airport for the return scheduled flight.

## 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	£8195	£7695
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£8495	£7995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£9295	£8795
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£9495	£8995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£10495	£9995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£8195	£7695
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£9995	£9495

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 21 nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions & music events as described • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Performances by London Festival Opera • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

## POST-CRUISE BUCHAREST EXTENSION 28<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY & 22<sup>ND</sup> TO 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026

If you would like to spend some time in Bucharest after disembarking the MS River Crown, we are offering a three night post-cruise extension.

Romanian Athenaeum, Bucharest



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 Giurgiu to Bucharest, Romania.** Disembark the MS River Crown and transfer to Bucharest. On arrival there will be a panoramic city tour of the city's highlights followed by lunch in a local restaurant. Continue on to the hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure. (B, L)

**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, Lipscuri Lane, Manu's Inn and the Old Princely Court. The remainder of the day and evening will be at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 3 Snagov & Mogosoaia.** 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 London or Manchester.** After breakfast in the hotel, we transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight. (B)

**Prices per person** Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1195 Single: £1595

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), excursions, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# THE MAJESTIC DANUBE

A journey from Bucharest to Regensburg aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Professor Martyn Rady

28<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026



During this navigation of the Danube River from Romania in the east to the romantic city of Regensburg in the west we will travel through the heart of Europe visiting seven countries; Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria 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.

We will journey through some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown, visiting the 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 about the fascinating history and culture of the region. The combination of music, traditional culture, wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a fascinating trip. 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.

## GUEST SPEAKER – PROFESSOR 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.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Bucharest, Romania.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Giurgiu. Later this evening we will sail to Rouse and moor overnight.

**Day 2 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.** From Rouse 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 we visit the museum town of Arbanassi, famous for its 17th and 18th century architecture and the unique Church of the Nativity of Christ.

**Day 3 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 MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon we will visit Vidin for a performance by the Vidin Symphonic Orchestra in the Philharmonic concert hall.

**Day 4 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 5 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 and Saint Sava Cathedral, the largest Orthodox Church in the world. Our tour will finish with a superb local folklore performance before we return to the ship for lunch. Enjoy the afternoon sailing towards Hungary.

**Day 6 Pecs, Hungary.** Spend a leisurely morning on board sailing to Mohacs and after lunch we will depart for a tour of the city of Pecs which enjoys a fine position on the slopes of the Mecsek Hills. Our guided tour of the city will feature the sites associated with the city's Roman, Ottoman, and Hapsburg past, as well as the splendid Pecs Cathedral where we will listen to the sound of its organ.



Salzburg



City Hall Square, Pécs



Passau



Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest

**Day 7 Budapest.** We have the day to explore Hungary's elegant capital. After breakfast our guided tour will include the old quarter, visiting the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion from where there are stunning views of the city. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace before we sail in the early evening.

**Day 8 Bratislava, Slovakia.** Arrive over lunch in the Slovak capital of Bratislava. Join a guided walking tour of the city which was known as Pressburg and a former capital of Hungary. See the old quarter, the ornate Baroque Palace and the ancient city gates before our tour ends with a concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart by a string quartet. Sail this evening.

**Day 9 Vienna, Austria.** A morning city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephen'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 join a tour to see Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa.

**Day 10 Wachau Valley & Melk.** Spend the morning cruising through the beautiful Wachau Valley, famous for its wines, and arrive this afternoon in Melk with its majestic Baroque abbey situated on a cliff, high above the Danube. After lunch, depart for a guided tour of the abbey, including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church. Continue on to Weissenkirchen to taste some of the wonderful wines of this region.

**Day 11 Linz for Salzburg.** After breakfast today there will be an opportunity to join a full day tour to 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. After lunch in a local restaurant we will enjoy a special concert of music by Salzburg's most famous son before returning to the MS River Crown in the late afternoon. Alternatively, you can choose to join a morning guided tour of Linz, and after lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 12 Passau, Germany.** Enjoy a morning walking tour of the ancient fairytale city of Passau, the meeting point of the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers. See the old town and cathedral that houses one of the largest pipe organs

in the world. After a short organ recital return we will return to the vessel and sail in the late afternoon.

**Day 13 Regensburg to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.



Decebal's Head, Iron Gates Gorge

## 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	£6295	£5795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£6495	£5995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£6995	£6495
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7295	£6795
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£7895	£7395
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£6295	£5795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6495	£5995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 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.

# MOZART & THE GOLDEN AGE OF MUSIC

Explore the wonderful music & opera of the Danube with London Festival Opera aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speakers David Pickard or Jamie Hayes

9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June & 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Join us aboard the wonderfully comfortable 100-passenger MS River Crown for this musical journey along the Danube.

With our friends at London Festival Opera and our elegant river vessel, we can promise you a marvellous experience. Our eight night journey between Regensburg and Budapest will be a celebration of Mozart's life, and of the many great composers from this golden age of music. We will visit charming small towns and villages as well as the cities of Salzburg, Bratislava and Budapest, enjoying some of the finest works of music from the concertos of Mozart and the waltzes of Johann Strauss to opera and folk tunes in idyllic settings. We will also visit the city most celebrated for its musical heritage and Austria's capital, Vienna, whose classical period was a golden age in Viennese musical life. Mozart lived here for the last decade of his life and exerted great influence on the musical life of the capital.

In addition to our excursions and music ashore, we will also enjoy exclusive gala performances by London Festival Opera on board the MS River Crown in the intimate atmosphere of the lounge. The life and times of Mozart as well as the music of this golden age will be brought vividly to life by our Guest Speaker who will accompany the trip.



## GUEST SPEAKERS



### DAVID PICKARD

David Pickard is one of the UK's foremost and most respected arts practitioners. His 40-year career includes leading the BBC Proms, Glyndebourne and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with roles at the Royal Opera House and the Regents Park Open Air Theatre among his earlier jobs.

He combines an encyclopaedic knowledge of the classical music and operatic world with an engaging manner and a fund of stories about the highs and lows of live performance. David was educated at the King's School, Ely, where he was a chorister, and then at St Alban's School. He studied music at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, where he was awarded a Choral Exhibition. Although a keen amateur pianist and cellist, David realised early on that a performing career was best left to others, and on graduation embarked on the journey that would lead him to the Royal Albert Hall and 'the best job in classical music.

**David will be on board for the June 2026 departure.**



### JAMIE HAYES

Jamie has directed many new opera productions, both at home and abroad. After training at RADA, he worked for Kent Opera, Glyndebourne Festival and Touring Opera, the BBC, the RSC and English National Opera. He has directed many opera productions for leading UK festivals as well as all our most distinguished musical conservatoires. His new opera productions overseas have appeared as far away as Reykjavik, Malta and Melbourne. Jamie was Associate Director on the original production of the hit musical Miss Saigon in the West End and on Broadway. He was Director of Productions for British Youth Opera for over a decade, a company devoted to promoting the talents of our finest young opera singers in the UK. Jamie is married to the opera singer Jean Rigby and they have three children. Jamie became an accredited lecturer with The Arts Society in 2022.

**Jamie will be on board for the October 2026 departure.**

## MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Highlight performances by London Festival Opera
- String quartet at the superb Mozarteum Conservatory in Salzburg
- Concert of Dvorak and Mozart music in Bratislava
- A visit to the fascinating Mozarthaus Museum in Vienna
- Tour of the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum in Budapest

## EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCES BY LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted to announce that our long-time associates, London Festival Opera, will be joining us for three performances during the cruise. Bringing together established opera singers from major British opera companies, London Festival Opera has achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera and music performances in a wide variety of worldwide venues. They will perform a Mozart Opera Celebration featuring arias and ensembles from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*, in period costume. Other opera concerts include 'A Night in Vienna' and an Opera Soirée on board the MS River Crown whilst we are moored in Passau and Vienna.



Regensburg Cathedral and the Old Stone Bridge



Melk Abbey



Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest



Budapest



Bratislava

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Regensburg, Germany.** Fly by scheduled flight to Munich. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Regensburg. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Regensburg.** After breakfast enjoy a guided stroll around Germany's largest and best-preserved Medieval city, Regensburg. See the twin-spired Cathedral Dom St Peter and the tower houses followed by a visit to the Turn and Taxis Palace. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 3 Passau.** Enjoy a morning walking tour of the ancient fairytale city of Passau, the meeting point of the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers. See the old town and cathedral that houses one of the largest pipe organs in the world. After a short organ recital return to the ship for lunch. Sail in the late afternoon, and in the early evening London Festival Opera will present an Opera Soirée of Handel, Verdi, Gounod, Bizet and Puccini on board the MS River Crown. Arrive in Linz this evening and moor overnight.

**Day 4 Linz for Salzburg, Austria.** From our berth in Linz we depart for Salzburg, the 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, including a visit to the house known as Geburtshaus where he was born. We also take a walk through the lovely gardens of the Mirabell Palace. Before we leave, we will enjoy a special concert of music by a string quartet at the Mozarteum Conservatory. Return to the ship and sail this evening.

**Day 5 Melk & Durnstein.** Today we will see the great Baroque Abbey of Melk, situated high above the Danube. On a morning excursion we will visit this imposing abbey including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church followed by a performance by London Festival Opera featuring arias and ensembles from The Marriage of Figaro, Così Fan Tutte, and Don Giovanni. We then sail on through the beautiful Wachau Valley and arrive later this afternoon 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. Sail in the evening.

**Day 6 Vienna.** After breakfast today depart for a guided city tour which will include the famous Ringstrasse, the Old Quarter and St Stephen's Cathedral. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon will be at leisure to explore independently or you may like to join the included visit to the Mozarthaus, a three storey museum where Mozart lived from 1784-1787, during which time he wrote the world-famous opera 'The Marriage of Figaro' and three of the six Haydn Quartets. We will stand in the room where Mozart and Beethoven met and where Haydn told Mozart's father "your son is the greatest composer I know in person or by name". Return to the ship and enjoy a pre-dinner performance in the lounge by London Festival Opera of 'A Night in Vienna' including the works of Mozart, Johann Strauss and Lehár.

**Day 7 Bratislava, Slovakia.** This morning we will take 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 St Martin's Cathedral where a string quartet will perform a concert of music by Mozart and Dvorak. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board as we sail to Budapest.

**Day 8 Budapest, Hungary.** We have the day to explore Hungary's elegant capital city. Spend the morning on an excursion that will include the old quarter visiting the Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and the Royal Palace (outside view). Return to the ship for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure to relax or sightsee independently or for those who wish there will be an included tour to the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum, located in the Old Academy of Music. Liszt spent a significant part of the last five years of his life here (from 1881 to 1886) and his furniture, portraits, books, pianos along with other personal belongings are on display.

**Day 9 Budapest to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

\*Please note that 2nd October 2026 departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown, from Budapest to Regensburg. Full itinerary can be viewed online.

## PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4195	£3895
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£4395	£4095
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£4995	£4695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£4995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£5995	£5695
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£4195	£3895
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£5495	£5195

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Eight nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions & music events as described • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Performances by London Festival Opera • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.

# THREE RIVER ODYSSEY

A river journey between Budapest & Basle aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Dr Sophie Oosterwijk

17<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

This journey aboard the wonderfully comfortable, 100-passenger MS River Crown from Budapest to Basle travels through the very heart of Europe and includes passages along three great rivers - the Danube, Main and Rhine. Whilst rivers may not always offer the most direct route, they do offer the most interesting. They allow us to weave through the landscape on a meandering journey experiencing the countryside, villages and towns from a very different perspective to that offered by road. A journey such as this will appeal to those who enjoy seeing something different each day but do not find the thought of long coach journeys appealing. We will sail through Europe with great ease, enjoying relaxing interludes on board in between our varied visits ashore.



This detailed look at three of Europe's great rivers will offer a captivating and endlessly romantic journey. Embarking in the wonderful city of Budapest we will have two weeks ahead of us to take a comprehensive look at an area of infinite cultural riches. Baroque churches, cathedrals and abbeys will be seen in all their splendour, often contrasting with their naturally beautiful, rustic surroundings. Old quarters of winding lanes and alleys lined with Medieval houses contrast with the modern architecture in the city centres. The River Main in particular meanders through some of Bavaria's most beautiful landscapes, dotted with vineyards, historic towns and villages, peaceful monasteries and imposing Medieval castles.

## GUEST SPEAKER – DR SOPHIE OOSTERWIJK



Dr Sophie Oosterwijk was born in Gouda and studied English at Leiden and Medieval Studies at York before obtaining two doctorates in Art History (Leicester) and English Literature (Leiden). She is a recognised specialist in Early Netherlandish, Flemish and Dutch art and previously taught Art History at the Universities of Leicester, Manchester and St Andrews before returning to the Netherlands to take up a research post at Utrecht University. Sophie is currently a freelance researcher and a regular guest lecturer for the University of Cambridge, The Arts Society, and other organisations. She is also co-editor of the international journal *Church Monuments*, and she has published widely, especially on death, the Danse Macabre and commemorative art. Sophie is a lively speaker who specialises in discussing art in its historical and cultural context.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Budapest, Hungary.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown.

**Day 2 Budapest.** After breakfast our guided tour will include the old quarter, visiting the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion from where there are stunning views of the city. After lunch on board, the afternoon will be free to explore at leisure before we sail early this evening.

**Day 3 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 concert of music by Dvorak and Mozart by a string quartet.

**Day 4 Vienna, Austria.** A morning city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take us around the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephen'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 at your own pace.

**Day 5 Wachau Valley & Melk.** Spend the morning cruising through the beautiful Wachau Valley, famous for its wines, and arrive this afternoon in Melk with its majestic Baroque abbey situated on a cliff, high above the Danube. After lunch, depart for a guided tour of the abbey, including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church. Continue on to Weissenkirchen to taste some of the wonderful wines of this region.

**Day 6 Passau, Germany.** Arrive over lunch 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 Stephen which contains one of the world's largest church pipe organs.

**Day 7 Regensburg.** On our guided morning stroll around this World Heritage listed historic city, widely regarded as the Medieval wonder of Germany, we will see the majestic twin-spired Cathedral Dom St Peter, the





Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace, Wurzburg



ancient Romanesque Porta Praetoria and the tower houses. The afternoon is free to explore this charming town at your own pace.

**Day 8 Nuremberg.** After a morning cruising we arrive in Nuremberg, the capital of Franconia. The city's long and sometimes troubled history has left its mark and there is plenty to discover during our afternoon tour. Visit the World War II sites, including the Third Reich Party Rally Grounds and discover the city's spectacular Medieval architecture.

**Day 9 Bamberg.** This morning we arrive in Bamberg, one of Germany's most beautiful historic towns. Its geographical location, some 40 miles north of Nuremberg, was a key factor in preserving its magnificent architectural heritage from the ravages of war. Every European style from the Romanesque onwards has left its mark on Bamberg, each bequeathing at least one major building. Return to the ship for lunch and as we sail this afternoon the MS River Crown leaves the Main-Danube Canal and enters the River Main.

**Day 10 Wurzburg.** We spend the morning in historic Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. Our tour of this lovely town will include the old town with its collection of churches which range in style from Romanesque to Gothic, Renaissance to Baroque, as well as the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace. Our visit will end with a wine tasting of local wines before returning to the ship for lunch as we sail towards Miltenberg.

**Day 11 Miltenberg.** We arrive today in the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, renowned for its half-timbered Medieval houses. On a walking tour see the picturesque triangular shaped Marktplatz and the restored castle. Sail in the afternoon.

**Day 12 Mannheim for Heidelberg.** From our berth in Mannheim, we visit nearby Heidelberg to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. During our guided tour which will include a visit to the city's castle and gardens, we will stroll through Heidelberg's enchanting old town and see its Renaissance building, 'Zum Ritter', which survived the fire of 1693.

**Day 13 Kehl, Germany for Strasbourg, France.** From the nearby town of Kehl, our guided tour this morning will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg including the fascinating old quarter. Start with the Quai de la Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals, see the Ponts Couverts, a series of wooden bridges dating back to the 13th century, the Place Gutenberg and the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the tallest Medieval building in Europe. Return to the ship for lunch.

This afternoon is at leisure, or alternatively join a scenic tour along Alsace's "Route des Vins", including a tasting of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 14 Breisach, Germany for Colmar, France.** From our berth in Breisach, we will cross the River Rhine into France and drive to the capital of the Upper Rhine region, Colmar. We begin with a visit to the impressive Unterlinden Museum which dates back to the 13th century. Admire a fine collection of paintings including religious Medieval ones and some from the 20th and 21st centuries, including works by Picasso and Monet. The highlight of the Museum is the Isenheim Altar, a wonderful triptych created for the monastery at Isenheim by Mattheus Grunewald. Continuing on we take a walk through the charming Old Town with delightful patrician houses and winding lanes and enjoy some free time before our drive back to Breisach to reboard the MS River Crown. The afternoon is free for independent exploration in Breisach. Sail in the evening.

**Day 15 Basle, Switzerland to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to London.

## 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	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£8195	£7695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£8495	£7995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£9495	£8995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£8495	£7995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 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.

**NB:** It will be necessary to close the sun deck whilst sailing through sections of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal and the Main River.

# ROSES OF THE RHINE

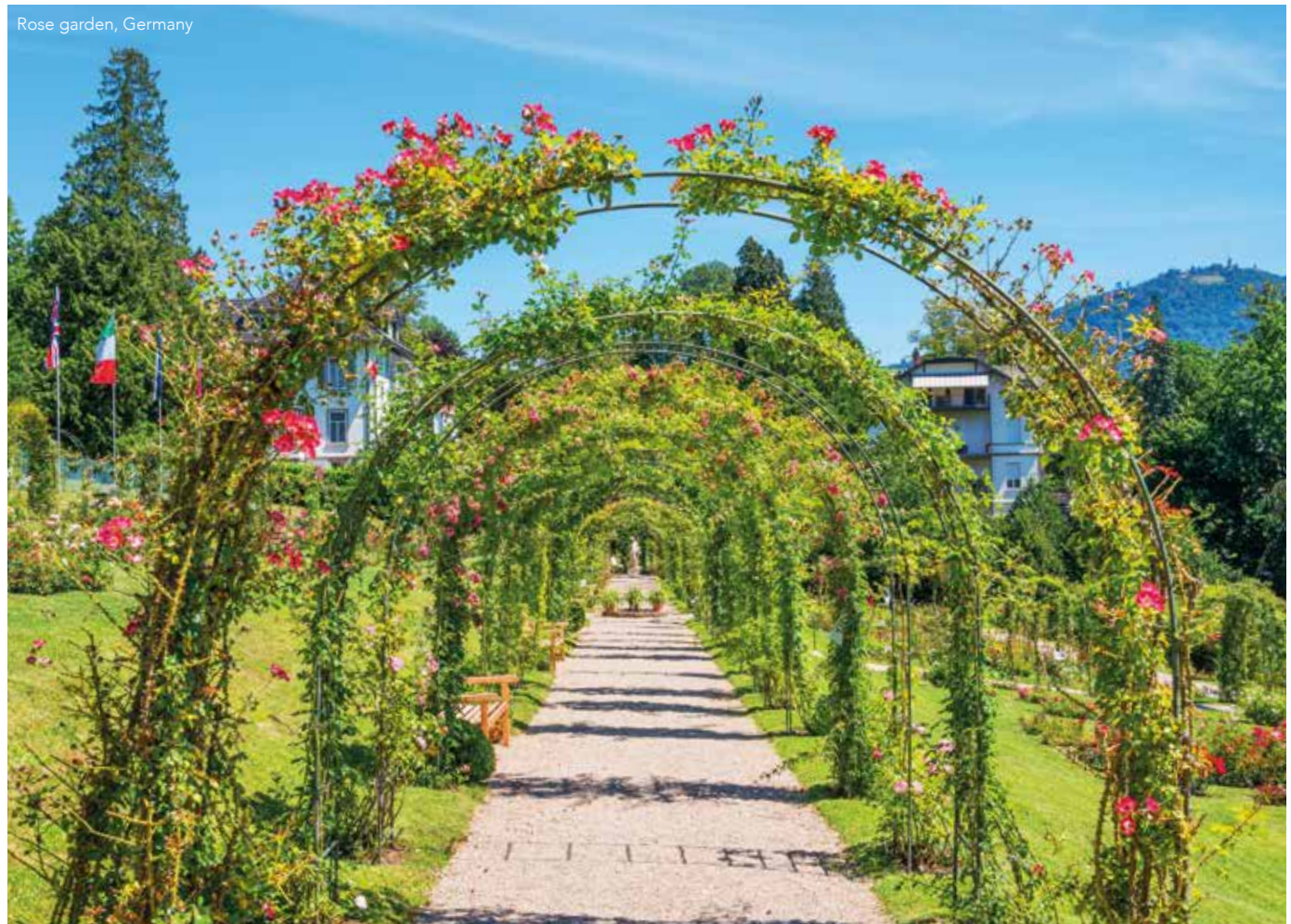
A passage along the Rhine celebrating the region's splendid gardens aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Rosemary Legrand

1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026

The long summer days of July are perfect for exploring the beauty of Germany and the Netherlands' spectacular gardens which will be in full bloom. Join us aboard the elegant 100-passenger MS River Crown as we journey along the Rhine visiting the region's most enchanting horticultural wonders with a plethora of historical, cultural and scenic delights to be enjoyed along the way.

Our journey begins in Basle where we visit the delightful Ettenbuehl Castle and Garden including the rose garden which features over 10,000 flowers. Horticultural highlights continue in Mainz where we visit the beautiful rose gardens and Steinfurth, the oldest rose village in Germany. Here you can relax beneath the elegant rose arches and learn about the art and cultural history of the rose in the Rose Museum. Another horticultural delight will be our visit to the Japanese Gardens of Leverkusen, with their 15,000 square metres of rare plants from many different parts of East Asia. Arriving in the Netherlands we will visit the magnificent, moated house of De Wierse in Arnhem and the rose garden in Westbroek Park which was created during the 1920s and features more than 300 varieties of roses.

In addition to our garden visits, there will be guided tours to some of the region's most charming towns and cities including fascinating Strasbourg and picturesque Heidelberg. We will sample some of the local food and wines of the area including the traditional Black Forest gateau, wines from Alsace and the sparkling wine of Eltville. There will also be ample time to relax on board to observe everyday life on the banks of the Rhine, delight in the panoramic views of the passing scenery and attend the talks by our Guest Speaker.



Rose garden, Germany



Collegiate Church, Baden-Baden



Beethoven's House, Bonn



Rijksmuseum



Cologne Cathedral



Strasbourg

## GUEST SPEAKER – ROSEMARY LEGRAND



Rosemary is a former nursery owner and daughter of the late George Hyde, who was a hybridist of azaleas and rhododendrons. Many of his award-winning hybrid plants can be seen at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, the de Rothschild rhododendron gardens at Exbury, Hampshire, and the National Trust Gardens at Kingston Lacy in Dorset. Rosemary had the honour of presenting the late Queen Elizabeth II with a collection of her father's azaleas named after the Queen's former Head Gardener, Fred Nutbeam, at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1996. She has travelled extensively to gardens in many parts of the world and is an experienced public speaker. She is on the RHS Speakers Register and also speaks for NAFAS; she wrote a number of contributions for the book, *1001 Gardens you must see before you die* and articles for Royal Horticultural Society publications.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Basle, Switzerland.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Basle.** This morning's excursion will take us to the old market square, with its brightly painted Town Hall, and along Minster Hill past many handsome 18th century houses to the Minster with its slender twin spires. The oldest part of the building dates from between the 9th and 13th centuries, although much was rebuilt in the Gothic style after the 1356 earthquake. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon enjoy a visit to the Landhaus Ettenbuehl Garden. The Seidel family first considered their garden to be a hobby but soon their interest in roses became so keen that they began to collect roses on a large scale. Now there are several themed gardens in a delightful historically English style but the most important is the rose garden with over 10,000 flowers. This evening join your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner on board.

**Day 3 Breisach, Germany.** Early this morning we arrive in Breisach, gateway to the Black Forest. After breakfast we will travel to Freiburg for a walking tour of this vibrant city. Explore the cobblestone streets, the spectacular Munster with its 116-metre tall tower and see its 'Bächle', or miniature canals, which were once used to supply water for drinking. After our tour, we make our way through the lovely Höllen Valley to the famous resort of Titisee-Neustadt, where we will enjoy delicious Black Forest gâteau before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon relax on board whilst we sail through the countryside of Alsace.

**Day 4 Strasbourg, France.** After breakfast our guided tour will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg. Start with a cruise through the fascinating old quarter of Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals. We will see the Ponts Couverts, a series of wooden bridges dating back to the 13th century, the Place Gutenberg and the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the tallest Medieval building in Europe. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and this afternoon join the tour to Alsace which will include a tasting of some of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 5 Baden-Baden, Germany.** After breakfast this morning, we will drive inland to the beautiful spa town of Baden-Baden. This elegant Belle-Epoque resort is one of Germany's best kept secrets. The spa assembly rooms and famous casino form the focal point of the town, both architecturally and socially. The old quarter is full of charming houses, exclusive boutiques and cafés and is fully pedestrianised. After a guided tour there will be some free time to wander around this remarkable town which somehow manages to retain its old-world charm and yet be very much of the 21st century. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon on board sailing towards Speyer.

**Day 6 Speyer & Heidelberg.** This morning join a walking tour of Speyer which will include the mighty cathedral; the Romanesque basilica was founded by Emperor Conrad II in 1030 and is one of the largest and most impressive edifices in Germany. After lunch, we visit nearby Heidelberg where we have the afternoon to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. Our tour will include the castle, a dramatically sited red sandstone ruin that dominates the city, the old town with its famous marketplace and the city gates.



**Day 7 Mainz.** This morning we visit the charming village of Steinfurth for the famous rose garden and museum. Steinfurth is the oldest rose village in Germany; in the district of Bad Nauheim roses have been cultivated for more than 150 years and shipped all over the world. The permanent exhibition "Rosy Times" tells of this tradition and of the art and cultural history of the rose in the Rose Museum. This afternoon we visit the rose garden in Mainz. The garden was founded in 1825 as part of a rose exhibition and was extended considerably in 1935 for another important rose exhibition. Now there are more than 100 different types of roses to be seen. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon enjoy a guided walking tour of atmospheric Mainz which will include the Hoefchen ("Little Court"), residence of the city's archbishops until the 15th century, the Kirschgarten with its romantic half-timbered houses and Marian-Fountain. Our tour will end with a visit to the Johannes Gutenberg Museum. This evening there will be a concert by a string quartet on board before dinner.

**Day 8 Eltville & Rudesheim.** After breakfast, join a tour to the rose garden in Eltville Castle. The gardens were founded in 1979 and boast over 350 different types of roses including climbing roses which grow up to 35 feet high. We will also see the delightful display of Japanese roses. At the height of the summer more than 10,000 roses bloom in the gardens and in 1988 the town of Eltville was nominated a "Rose Town" by the Association of German Friends of Roses. However, Eltville is famous not just for its roses but also for its Sekt (high class sparkling wine). We will enjoy a tasting before returning to the ship for lunch during which we will sail on to Rudesheim. On arrival join the Winzerexpress mini-train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated musical instruments. This evening perhaps enjoy the holiday atmosphere of Rudesheim's quaint little streets and alleys and taste the excellent Rieslings as we moor overnight in Rudesheim.

**Day 9 The Rhine Gorge & Koblenz.** Our morning of cruising takes us along the romantic Rhine. Enjoy the magnificent scenery from the Rhine Gorge with the striking hilltop castles and the legendary Lorelei Rock. This afternoon we arrive in Koblenz for a walking tour of this historic commercial centre.

**Day 10 Bonn & Cologne.** Our morning walking tour of Bonn will include a visit to Beethoven's House and will finish with a concert by pianist Martin Ivanov in the adjacent hall. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and sail to Cologne. This afternoon we depart for a tour to see the city's famous cathedral which is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe with the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world.

**Day 11 Cologne.** After breakfast there will be a choice of excursions. Depart on a tour to visit the Botanic Gardens which were established in the 19th century and are an extensive complex of gardens home to more than 10,000 species of plants. Alternatively, visit the Japanese Gardens in Leverkusen. These stunning gardens have 15,000 square metres of rare plants from many different parts of East Asia along with enchanting sculptures, ornate lanterns and arched gates. Return to the ship for lunch and sail towards Arnhem.

**Day 12 Arnhem, the Netherlands.** After breakfast join a morning tour to the De Wiersse Castle which is surrounded by 38 acres of garden and 74 acres of landscape park and has been lived in and managed by the family since 1678. This beautiful historic garden features avenues and pergolas, fountains and statues, meadows and bridges over a gently flowing stream. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon sailing towards Rotterdam.

**Day 13 Rotterdam.** This morning we depart to The Hague for a visit to the rose garden in Westbroek Park. The park was created during the 1920s according to a design by Pieter Westbroek. The rose garden contains approximately 20,000 rose bushes and more than 300 varieties of roses. Afterwards continue on to Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will have lunch in a local restaurant on arrival followed by a walking tour of this pretty town and a visit to see the Delft Blue Pottery.

**Day 14 Coenhaven for Amsterdam.** After breakfast, we will drive into Amsterdam for a canal cruise to admire the city from a glass-top boat as you glide past 17th century homes, churches and 16th century merchant houses. Afterwards, we visit 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. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This evening join your fellow travellers for a special concert of music by a string quartet followed by farewell drinks and dinner on board.

**Day 15 Amsterdam to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

## PRICES PER PERSON

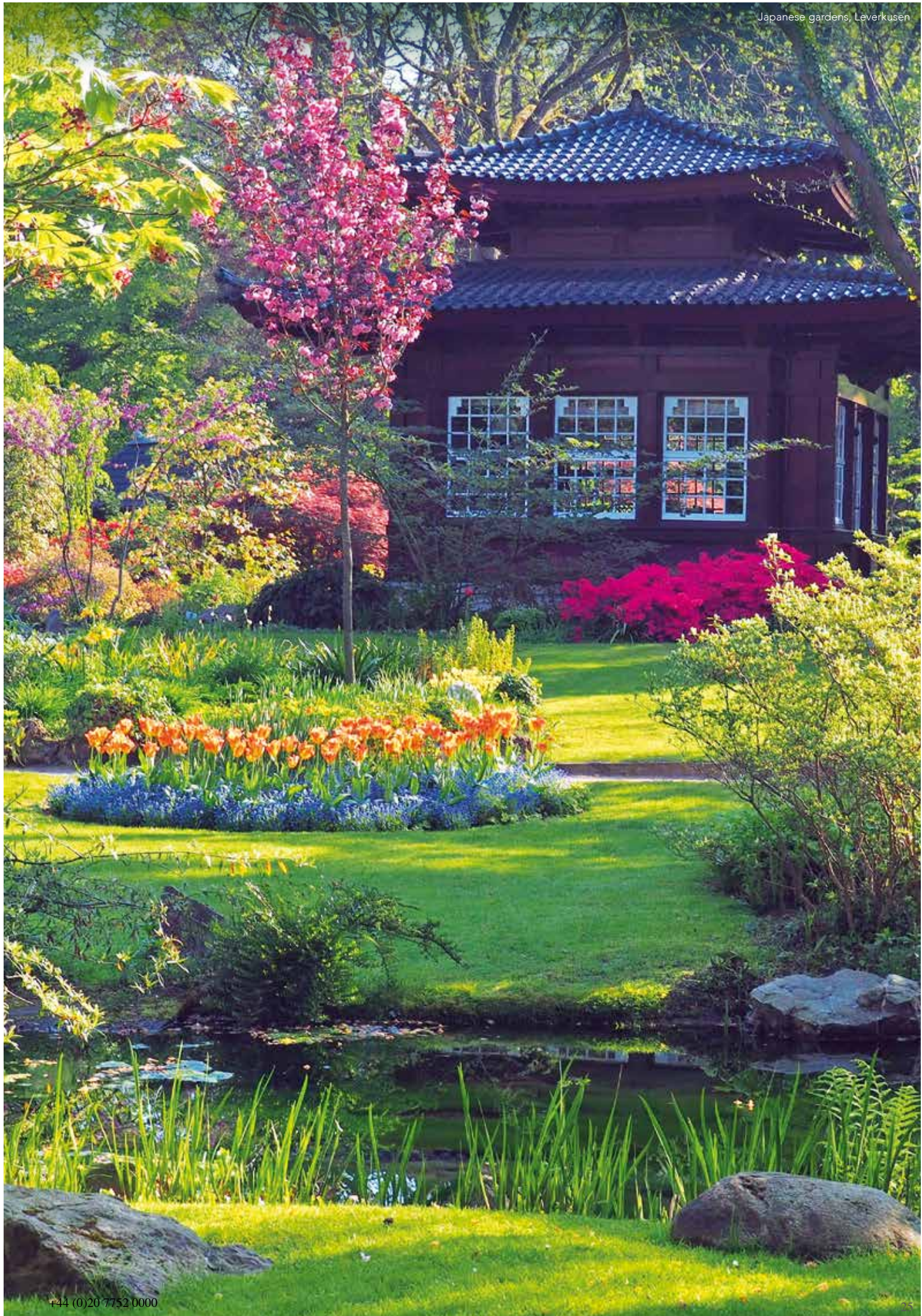
Based on double occupancy

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

CATEGORY	DECK	BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
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Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£9495	£8995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£8495	£7995

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 14 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.





# THE ENCHANTING EAST

A journey between Bucharest & Budapest aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Martyn Rady

22<sup>nd</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

Join us aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown as we journey between Romania's capital of Bucharest and the grand city of Budapest in Hungary. 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 autumn 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 Belgrade and Budapest 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 all its autumnal glory. In addition, the combination of modern and traditional culture, wine tasting and folklore along the way makes for a fascinating trip.

## GUEST SPEAKER – PROFESSOR 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.



Tsarevets fortress, Veliko Tarnovo

## THE ITINERARY

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

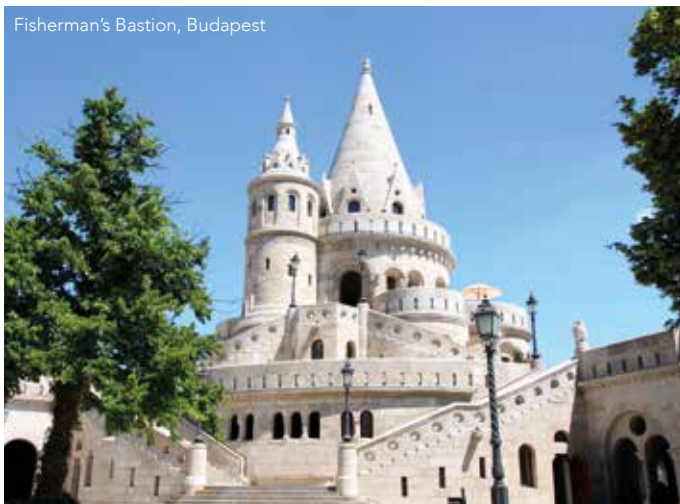
**Day 2 Rouse, Bulgaria.** After breakfast join a guided city tour of Rouse, birthplace of Nobel Prize winner for literature, Elias Canetti. After a brief walking tour of the city centre, drive a short distance to visit the Monastery of St Demetrius Basarbovski, a fascinating rock monastery dating back to the 12th century. Return to Rouse 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 Rouse we depart 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.

**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.

**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



Fisherman's Bastion, Budapest



Pecs



Kalocsa's horsemanship



Decebal's Head, Iron Gates Gorge

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. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before we set sail.

**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 this afternoon towards Mohacs.

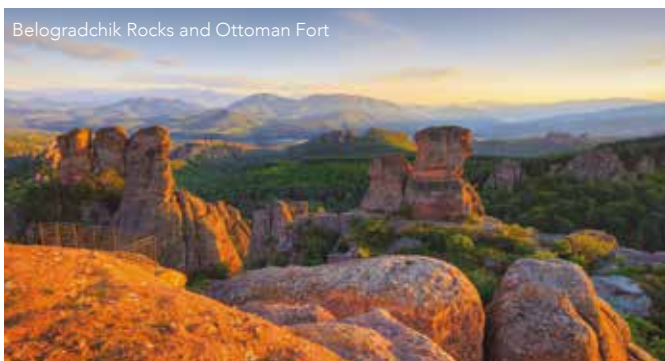
**Day 8 Pecs & Villany, Hungary.** From the port of Mohacs, we will depart for a full day scenic tour of Pecs and Villany. The city of Pecs enjoys a fine position on the slopes of the Mecsek Hills. The visit will feature the sites associated with the city's Roman Ottoman Hapsburg past, as well as the 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, 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 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 Fishermen'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.

Belogradchik Rocks and Ottoman Fort



**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	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5495	£4995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5995	£5495
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£6295	£5795
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£6895	£6395
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6295	£5795

**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.

# GLORIES OF THE MAIN & RHINE

A scenic journey from Bavaria to Basle aboard the MS River Crown  
with Guest Speaker Michael Hindley

10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Autumn is one of the loveliest times in Middle Europe when the forests and vineyards are in full colour. Enjoy the colourful foliage, the tranquil beauty of the countryside and the contrasts and vibrancy of the cities and towns along the Main and Rhine rivers as we cruise along them aboard the elegant, 100-passenger MS River Crown. If you have not cruised along such rivers before, nothing can prepare you for the peace and beauty of it. To relax on deck or in the beautiful lounge whilst the world floats by is a fortifying experience. Such vistas cannot be appreciated from any other means of transport, the stately pace and quietness of the vessel allows you to be at one with your surroundings.



This is a river voyage through idyllic landscapes, past centuries old villages, towns and cities which have witnessed the fascinating and turbulent history of Middle Europe. From Regensburg we cruise along the tranquil waters of the Main River visiting the enchanting towns of Bamberg and Miltenberg and continue onwards along the Rhine to explore the fascinating cities of Heidelberg and Strasbourg in addition to the splendid town of Colmar. Over the course of ten nights our river vessel will transport us along the Main and Rhine in considerable comfort and with great ease, allowing us to relax and enjoy the scenery and interesting guided excursions. When combined with some daytime cruising, informative talks from our Guest Speaker as well as the opportunity to sample some wonderful wines along the way, we have a fascinating trip.



## GUEST SPEAKER – MICHAEL HINDLEY



Michael Hindley was born in Blackburn, UK and educated at London University (BA Hons in German and French), Lancaster University (MA in Comparative Cultural Studies), and the Free University of West Berlin. Michael also has a post graduate diploma in International Law. Michael was an elected council leader in Northwest England, a Lancashire County Councillor and a Member of the European Parliament for three terms (1984-99). He was the Majority Leader on the Trade Committee (1989-99). Michael is now a freelance political consultant and has acted as an expert adviser for the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Michael is a frequent lecturer on European politics and has lectured at the Universities of Greifswald and Gottingen, Germany and worked with the University of Tallinn, Estonia. Most recently he has been a guest lecturer at Mangalore University, India. He has recently published a book on Britain's relationship with Europe since 1945 entitled *The Semi-Detached European*.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Munich, Germany.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown in Regensburg.

**Day 2 Regensburg.** On our guided morning tour we will stroll around this World Heritage listed historic city. Widely regarded as the Medieval wonder of Germany, we will see the majestic twin-spired cathedral Dom St Peter, the ancient Romanesque Porta Praetoria and the tower houses. The afternoon is free to explore this charming town at your own pace.

**Day 3 Nuremberg.** Nuremberg's long and sometimes troubled history has left its mark on the city and there is plenty to discover during our afternoon tour. Visit the World War II sites, including the Third Reich Party Rally Grounds, and discover the city's spectacular Medieval architecture.

**Day 4 Bamberg.** Arrive in Bamberg this morning, one of Germany's most beautiful historic towns. Its geographical location, some 40 miles north of Nuremberg, was a key factor in preserving its magnificent architectural heritage from the ravages of war. Every European style from the Romanesque



onwards has left its mark on Bamberg, each bequeathing at least one major building. Return to the ship for lunch and sail this afternoon as the MS River Crown leaves the Main-Danube Canal and enters the River Main.

**Day 5 Wurzburg.** This morning we arrive in historic Wurzburg, the wine capital of Franconia. We will tour this lovely town including the old town with its collection of churches which range in style from Romanesque to Gothic, Renaissance to Baroque, as well as the magnificent Prince Bishop's Residenz Palace. Our visit will end with a wine tasting of local wines before we return to the MS River Crown for lunch and spend a relaxing afternoon on board sailing towards Miltenberg.

**Day 6 Miltenberg.** We arrive today in the pretty Franconian town of Miltenberg, renowned for its half-timbered Medieval houses. On a walking tour see the picturesque triangular shaped Marktplatz and the restored castle. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon sailing.

**Day 7 Mainz.** Arrive this morning in atmospheric Mainz where our guided walking tour will include the Hoefchen ("Little Court"), residence of the city's archbishops until the 15th century, the Kirschgarten with its romantic half-timbered houses and Marian-Fountain. Our tour will end with a visit to the Johan Gutenberg Museum. The afternoon is free to explore further independently.

**Day 8 Mannheim for Heidelberg.** From our berth in Mannheim, we visit nearby Heidelberg to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. During our guided tour, which will include a visit to the city's castle and gardens, we will stroll through Heidelberg's enchanting old town and see its Renaissance building, 'Zum Ritter', which survived the fire of 1693.

**Day 9 Kehl, Germany for Strasbourg, France.** From the nearby town of Kehl, our guided tour this morning will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg including the fascinating old quarter. Start with the Quai de la Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals, see the Ponts Couverts, a series of wooden bridges dating back to the 13th century, the Place Gutenberg and the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the tallest Medieval building in Europe. After lunch on board you can choose to spend the afternoon at leisure or alternatively join a scenic tour along Alsace's "Route des Vins", including a tasting of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 10 Breisach, Germany for Colmar, France.** From our berth in Breisach, we will cross the River Rhine into France and drive to the capital of the Upper Rhine region, Colmar. We begin with a visit to the impressive Unterlinden Museum which dates back to the 13th century. Admire a fine collection of religious Medieval paintings and also paintings from the 20th and 21st centuries, including works by Picasso and Monet. The highlight of the Museum is the Isenheim Altar, a wonderful triptych created for the monastery at Isenheim by Mattheus Grunewald. We continue on for a walk through the charming Old Town, with delightful patrician houses and winding lanes and enjoy some free time before our drive back to Breisach to reboard the MS River Crown. The afternoon is free for independent exploration in Breisach.

**Day 11 Basle, Switzerland to London.** Disembark this morning and transfer to Basle airport for our scheduled flight to London.

### 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	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£7495	£6995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£8195	£7695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£8495	£7995
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£9495	£8995
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£7295	£6795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£8495	£7995

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**Not Included:** Travel insurance.  
**NB:** It will be necessary to close the sun deck whilst sailing through sections of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal and the Main River.

# RIVER DEEP & MOUNTAIN HIGH

A cruise along the picturesque Rhine & Moselle Rivers from Basle to the Low Countries aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Martin Sixsmith

20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Join us aboard the 100-passenger MS River Crown as we cruise along the mighty Rhine and lovely Moselle. This detailed look at two of Europe's great rivers will offer a captivating and endlessly romantic journey as we sail from Basle to Amsterdam experiencing the diverse scenery along the route. October is a wonderful month for such a cruise, the weather is ideal for touring and sightseeing and the crowds of tourists in the popular towns and cities along the rivers will have dispersed.

Our comprehensive journey includes some of the most interesting places in the Netherlands, the great wine producing areas along the Moselle and the historic cities of Koblenz and Cologne, combined with visits in France to Colmar and Strasbourg, an endlessly fascinating place in the delightful Alsace region. The scenery is stunning and makes an excellent combination with the artistic riches we shall see along the way from the wonderful collections on show in the museums and galleries to the fairytale castles and Medieval charms of the towns and villages along the rivers.

Each port of call has its own unique character waiting to be discovered whilst on one of our guided excursions and we have also ensured there is plenty of time to relax on board and enjoy some truly beautiful scenery whilst cruising. Our local guides and interesting talks by our Guest Speaker will create an enjoyable, informative and lively atmosphere on board.





Delft



Rudesheim



Heidelberg



Bernkastel

## 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 in 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.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Basle, Switzerland.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown. Sail this evening.

**Day 2 Breisach, Germany for Colmar, France.** From our berth in Breisach, we will cross the River Rhine into France and drive to Colmar, the capital of the Upper Rhine region. Our guided tour will begin with a visit to the impressive Unterlinden Museum which dates back to the 13th century. Admire a fine collection of religious Medieval paintings and also paintings from the 20th and 21st centuries including works by Picasso and Monet. The highlight of the museum is the Isenheim Altar, a wonderful triptych created for the monastery at Isenheim by Mattheus Grunewald. We continue on for a short walk through the charming Old Town, with delightful patrician houses and winding lanes and enjoy some free time before our drive back to Breisach to reboard the MS River Crown for lunch. Spend the afternoon sailing and this evening join your fellow travellers for welcome drinks and dinner.

**Day 3 Kehl, Germany for Strasbourg, France.** After breakfast our guided tour will introduce us to the delights of Strasbourg. We will start with a cruise through the fascinating old quarter of Petite France where the River Ill splits into a number of canals. We will see the Ponts Couverts, a series of wooden bridges dating back to the 13th century, the Place Gutenberg and the Cathedral of Notre Dame, the tallest Medieval building in Europe. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch. This afternoon is at leisure or alternatively join a scenic tour along Alsace's 'Route des Vins', including a tasting of the region's splendid wines.

**Day 4 Mannheim, Germany for Heidelberg.** From our berth in Mannheim, we visit nearby Heidelberg to enjoy this most picturesque and romantic of German cities which is home to Germany's oldest university, dating back to 1386. Our guided tour will include a visit to the city's castle and gardens and we will also stroll through Heidelberg's enchanting old town and see its Renaissance building, 'Zum Ritter', which survived the fire of 1693. Return to the ship for lunch and spend a leisurely afternoon on board sailing.

**Day 5 Rudesheim, the Rhine Valley & Koblenz.** After breakfast, join the Winzer Express mini-train to visit Siegfried's Musical Instrument Museum, home to one of Germany's most fascinating collections of automated musical instruments. Our late-morning cruising takes us along the



Colmar



romantic Rhine. Enjoy the magnificent scenery from the Rhine Gorge with the striking hilltop castles and the legendary Lorelei Rock. This afternoon we will arrive in Koblenz for a walking tour of this historic commercial centre. Sail this evening.

**Day 6 Bernkastel.** Spend the morning cruising to Bernkastel, located in the heart of the Moselle Valley. After lunch on board we will depart for an exploration of this lovely town, including the Medieval market square and church before we sample some of the locally produced wines.

**Day 7 Cochem.** The town of Cochem is famous for its 11th century Schloss and the Reichsburg, set impressively on a tree clad hill above a bend of the river. On our guided tour we will walk along its winding Medieval streets and see the Baroque Town Hall. This afternoon we cruise back up the Moselle, rejoining the Rhine and reaching Cologne after midnight.

**Day 8 Cologne.** After breakfast there will be a guided tour to see the city's famous cathedral. The cathedral is the largest Gothic church in northern Europe, with the second tallest spire and largest façade in the world. Our tour will continue with a visit to a 'Brauhaus' to sample some of

the local Kolsch beer. After lunch on board, this afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration before we sail this evening towards Arnhem.

**Day 9 Arnhem, the Netherlands.** This morning's guided tour will be to the Palace of Het Loo, the favoured summer residence of the Dutch Royal family from 1686 to 1975. This afternoon there will be a choice of two included excursions: you can choose to join a tour to the Airborne Museum at Villa Hartenstein, the allied headquarters during the Battle of Arnhem, and nowadays dedicated to the historic military 'Operation Market Garden' in World War II. 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 ship and sail towards Rotterdam.

**Day 10 Rotterdam for Delft.** This morning we depart for Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. We will enjoy a walking tour of this pretty town and a visit to the Delft Blue Pottery. After lunch on board, the afternoon is at leisure before we meet this evening for farewell drinks and dinner on board as we sail to Amsterdam.

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



## 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	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£5495	£4995
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£5995	£5495
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£6295	£5795
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£6895	£6395
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£5295	£4795
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£6295	£5795

**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.





# CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ON THE DANUBE

Festive cruises between Vienna and Budapest aboard the MS River Crown with Guest Speaker Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski

21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December 2026 & 28<sup>th</sup> December 2026 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027

If you are looking for a memorable break over the festive period we heartily recommend our river cruise over Christmas or New Year along the Danube aboard the 100-passenger MS River Crown. We will travel through the very heart of Europe in great comfort and whilst exploring ashore, we will see a wonderful mix of the historic and cultural diversity of the region, witness stunning scenery and visit picturesque towns and villages, all with their own unique history and adorned with festive decorations.

Christmas in Central Europe is a special time and nowhere is this more evident than in the cities, towns and villages of the Danube. Our cruise has been planned to include the Christmas market in Vienna, a 'Mozart tour' in Salzburg, and a day in the lovely Wachau Valley with a visit to the village of Weissenkirchen where the traditional joys of Christmas can be best enjoyed. For those who wish to attend Midnight Mass we have made arrangements for a visit to the magnificent church in Melk Abbey.

Highlights of our New Year cruise include ample time in Budapest to explore the wonders of the city, a tour of the scenic Danube Bend and the charming city of Bratislava. Take the opportunity to see in the New Year in the wonderful city of Vienna and be on deck as the mighty bells of St Stephen's ring in the New Year. On New Year's Day, we will attend a concert at one of Vienna's splendid music venues. For those who would like to celebrate both Christmas and New Year on board our two cruises can be combined into a 14 night voyage, full details of which can be viewed on our website.

## GUEST SPEAKER – PROFESSOR RICHARD BUTTERWICK-PAWLIKOWSKI



Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski graduated in History from Cambridge, before obtaining his doctorate from Oxford. He taught European history at Oxford and Queen's University Belfast before moving to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London, where he is now Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History. He also holds the Chair of European Civilization at the Warsaw campus of the College of Europe. Richard's academic interests range across the history and culture of Europe, but he especially favours the eighteenth century. He has published four books and many articles in scholarly periodicals and collections. He is in frequent demand as a speaker and we are delighted that he will be joining us for both the Christmas and New Year cruise.

## CHRISTMAS ITINERARY – 21<sup>ST</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2026

### THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Vienna, Austria.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown and embark. After dinner this evening enjoy a concert on board featuring works by Mozart and Strauss. Moor overnight in Vienna.

**Day 2 Vienna.** This morning there will be a choice of tours. Join a city sightseeing tour of Vienna, driving around the 'Ring' and visiting the Old Quarter including St Stephen's Cathedral and the Christmas market outside the City Hall. Alternatively, you may wish to join an excursion to the Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens which has its own Christmas market. Return to the MS River Crown for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon on board sailing to Linz.

**Day 3 Linz for Salzburg.** After breakfast today there will be an opportunity to join a full day tour to 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. Following lunch in a local restaurant we will enjoy a special concert of music by Salzburg's most famous son before returning to the vessel in the late afternoon. Alternatively, you can choose to join a morning tour of Linz and after lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 4 Melk & Weissenkirchen.** This morning we will reach the picturesque Wachau Valley, famous for its wine. We will moor under the shadow of the great Baroque abbey which is situated on a cliff high above the Danube. After a guided tour of the abbey we will drive to the charming town of Weissenkirchen for some seasonal gluhwein and traditional Schrammel music. This evening there will be the opportunity to attend Midnight Mass in the magnificent setting of Melk Abbey.



**Day 5 Christmas Day on the Danube.** A relaxing day as we enjoy the good food and festivities of Christmas Day on board.

**Day 6 Esztergom to Budapest, Hungary.** On this morning's excursion, we visit Hungary's second city, Esztergom, and its magnificent cathedral. Continue outside the city to the villages and towns of the scenic Danube Bend. We re-join the vessel in Budapest and enjoy a late lunch on board and an afternoon and evening at leisure to relax or explore independently. This evening we hope to arrange an optional evening of music ashore (subject to schedules and availability).

**Day 7 Budapest.** Spend the morning on an excursion that will include the old quarter and the Fishermen's Bastion, for fine views of the city. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon, depart on a tour to the Palace of Godollo, built in 1740 and the favoured home of Sissy, the wife of Emperor Franz Josef. This evening join your fellow travellers for farewell drinks and dinner.

**Day 8 Budapest to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.



Salzburg



Esztergom



Schonbrunn Palace

## NEW YEAR ITINERARY – 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2026 TO 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2027

### THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Budapest, Hungary.** Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS River Crown and embark. Enjoy a welcome drink and music by a local Gypsy Orchestra prior to dinner this evening. Moor overnight.

**Day 2 Budapest.** A morning city tour will include the highlights of the former twin cities of Buda and Pest. See the ornate Houses of Parliament, the beautiful Matthias Church and admire the view from the top of the Fisherman's Bastion. In the afternoon, drive out of Budapest to Godollo, a small Baroque town where we visit the 18th century palace. This evening we hope to arrange an optional evening of music ashore (subject to schedules and availability).

**Day 3 Esztergom & the Danube Bend.** Today you have the choice of staying on board as the MS River Crown cruises from Budapest to Esztergom. Alternatively, you may join the overland tour which will include the scenic and cultural highlights on Hungary's Danube Bend and second city of Esztergom with its cathedral. This evening we continue cruising towards Slovakia.

**Day 4 Bratislava, Slovakia & Vienna, Austria.** This morning there will be a guided walking tour of the pretty city of Bratislava, formerly known as Pressburg and a former capital of Hungary. See the old quarter, the ornate Baroque Palace and the ancient city gates. This afternoon, whilst cruising to Vienna, we will be joined by musicians who will provide entertainment into the evening for our New Year's Eve celebrations.

**Day 5 Vienna.** After a leisurely breakfast we will drive to one of Vienna's grand music venues for a New Year's concert. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon a city tour of Austria's elegant capital will take



us around the famous Ringstrasse and the Old Quarter including St Stephen's Cathedral.

**Day 6 Vienna.** Today there will be a choice of included tours from Vienna. Join a tour to the beautiful Vienna Woods, including the Roman City of Baden with its thermal springs, and Heiligenkreuz where the Medieval cloister houses the remains of the last Babenberger. Alternatively, you may wish to join an excursion to the Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens, the favourite summer residence of Maria Theresa. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore at your own pace.

**Day 7 The Wachau Valley & Melk.** Today we reach the Wachau Valley, arriving in the morning in the picturesque 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 continue our short sail on to Melk, where on arrival we will see the great Baroque Abbey situated high above the Danube, and after lunch on board, our afternoon excursion will take us to this imposing abbey including the Imperial Staircase, the Marble Hall and the abbey church. In the evening join your fellow travellers for farewell drinks and dinner.

**Day 8 Vienna to London.** Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

CAT	DECK	CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR ON THE DANUBE		CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ON THE DANUBE	
		Brochure Price	Special Offer Price	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Premium with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£3695	£3395	£6595	£6295
Premium with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£3895	£3595	£6995	£6695
Deluxe with French Balcony	Middle Deck	£3995	£3695	£7195	£6895
Deluxe with French Balcony	Upper Deck	£4295	£3995	£7795	£7495
Queen Suite with Balcony	Upper Deck	£5295	£4995	£9795	£9495
Standard Single with porthole	Main Deck	£3695	£3395	£6595	£6295
Premium with French Balcony for sole use	Middle Deck	£4695	£4395	£8595	£8295

### Christmas & New Year on the Danube – Combination Cruise

21<sup>st</sup> December 2026 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027

If you wish to celebrate both Christmas and New Year together, our two cruises can be combined and booked as a 14 night cruise. For the combined cruise day 8 will include a full day tour of Eger with lunch at a local restaurant. Full itinerary can be viewed online.

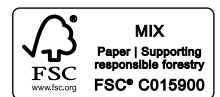
**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven or 14 nights aboard the MS River Crown on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port & airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, optional evening music event in Budapest.



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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: Along the River Danube towards Durnstein.