

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

TREASURES OF THE BALKANS

A voyage from from Split to Corfu aboard the MS Monet

17th to 27th April 2026



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Cultural and natural wonders abound in the Balkans and the region offers so much for the genuine traveller. At the crossroads of east and west and with a history forged over the centuries and influenced by so many, the combined effect of the natural beauty with the intriguing history and stunning architecture of the towns and cities makes for a fascinating voyage. During this unique voyage aboard the MS Monet we will sail from Split to Corfu visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania along the way, cruising through turquoise waters, admiring the spectacular landscapes and visiting some of the region's greatest sites in the company of our knowledgeable Guest Speaker and local guides.

Whilst in Split we will visit the Diocletian Palace built by the Romans which we will explore before setting sail for Bosnia and Herzegovina to discover the enchanting World Heritage Site of Mostar. Returning to Croatia we visit the wonderful walled city of Dubrovnik and spend time in the old town before sailing to Montenegro where a highlight for many will be our arrival into Kotor, a 14th century walled fortress town fronted by a sublime bay and surrounded by limestone cliffs. Next is Albania which, often overlooked, is full of scenic wonders, Medieval towns, culturally rich cities and sweeping landscapes. We will spend four days exploring its treasures including the vibrant city of Tirana, the evocative ruins of the ancient city of Apollonia and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint before our journey concludes in Corfu with its rich historical heritage dating back to the 8th century BC.

This is not an itinerary that a large cruise ship could operate but one that is ideal for the 50-passenger MS Monet. We are able to visit some marvellous places that do not cater for the big ships and our daily tours, accompanied by excellent local guides will introduce you to the fascinating history of the region as we explore Roman ruins, Ottoman houses, Venetian castles, Byzantine churches and some charming towns.





Guest Speaker – Nirvana Romell



Nirvana left her native Croatia during the turbulent 1990s, with a degree in History of Western and Yugoslav art from the University of Zagreb as well as an MA in English Language and Literature. After a decade in South Africa, she arrived in England in 2003 where she worked as a freelance lecturer, and on museum collection interpretations and staff training. Recently, she has been 'commuting' between the UK and Geneva. For nearly 20 years, she has also led study tours to the places close to her heart - the Balkans, northern Italy, France, Sweden and South Africa – and is passionate about travel that expands cultural horizons and connects people, past and present.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Split, Croatia. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Monet and embark. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 2 Split. After breakfast we will take a guided walk through the town including the Palace of Diocletian which was built by the emperor in 295-305 AD as his retirement villa. Much of this large building is well preserved and the palace contains Split's Old Town within its walls, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times and a wonderful spot to wander the maze of streets. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore further at your own pace. Alternatively, join us as we drive the short distance to the ancient site of Salona, the Roman capital of Dalmatia and a city that was once home to over 40,000 people. Archaeologists have excavated remains of temples, amphitheatres, early Christian churches, burial grounds, and baths which we can explore with our local guides.

Day 3 Ploce for Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. From our berth in Ploce we will cross the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina for our visit to Mostar.

In the 15th century, Mostar became a thriving centre on the banks of the emerald Neretva River under the Ottoman Turks. Damaged by the military conflict in the 1990s, the town has been carefully restored by UNESCO and declared a World Heritage Site. Admire the ethereally graceful Stari Most ("The Old Bridge"), originally built in 1566, the nearby Koski Mehmed Pasha Mosque and an old Turkish house, among other sites. After lunch in a local restaurant you may also wish to explore the old bazaar, a haven for the city's artists and craftsmen.

Day 4 Dubrovnik, Croatia. After breakfast, enjoy a guided walk through this breathtaking city. Dubrovnik's many historic and cultural treasures have earned it designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and we will see the major attractions such as the Rector's Palace, the Romanesque-Gothic Dominican and Franciscan Monasteries, and the Sponza Palace. This afternoon is free to explore independently and perhaps enjoy a walk on the city walls.

Day 5 Kotor, Montenegro. Be on deck as we enter the Gulf of Kotor and sail up the fjord-like entrance to the Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor. This really is an extraordinary place full of marvellous architecture and pretty town squares. Our walk will include the 12th century Cathedral of St Tryphon, the ancient town gates, the Maritime Museum and Romanesque churches including St Luke's. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy the afternoon to explore at your own pace. Those feeling active may wish to take the strenuous climb to the Castle of San Giovanni which offers wonderful views over the bay and town below.

Day 6 Shengjin, Albania. Our exploration of Albania begins this morning from the northern port of Shengjin. We drive inland to the town of Shkodra which was founded in the 4th century BC and has been occupied by the Romans, Serbians and Venetians. Those feeling active can choose to climb up to visit Rozafa Castle which rises majestically on a rocky hill just outside the city, explore the site and enjoy the views of the plains below. Alternatively, a scenic drive of the landscapes of northern Albania will be available before re-joining your fellow travellers for a visit to the local Marubi Museum and a 'slow food' lunch of locally sourced ingredients at a nearby farm and restaurant. Return to the ship in the afternoon and we will sail towards the port of Durres where we moor overnight.



Split



Palaioakstrista



Butrint

Day 7 Durres. The coastal city of Durres was colonised by the Greeks in 627 BC and still has the remains of a 15,000 seat amphitheatre, the second largest in the Balkans. This morning we will head inland to Tirana to see the fascinating nuclear bunker built by the dictator Enver Hoxha in the 1970s and only recently opened to the public. This underground building is packed with original artefacts from the communist period. Afterwards continue walking through the city centre to see the mosque, Clock Tower and the “Blloku” area of the city. Alternatively, for a more leisurely option, join a panoramic tour of Tirana’s main sights. After lunch at a local farm we return to Durres to visit the Medieval city and the Archeological Museum before sailing late this evening.

Day 8 Vlore. Just south of Durres is the port of Vlore and from here we drive two hours to another UNESCO treasure, the hillside town of Berat, with its steep cobbled streets and Ottoman style houses surrounded by mountains and olive and grape groves. We will explore the oldest quarter of the city known as Kalaja, where the castle has presided over the city for 2,000 years, and enjoy a local lunch here. En-route back to Vlore, we plan to visit Apollonia, once a great city and an important port. Founded by the Corinthians in 588 BC, it prospered under Greek colonisation and Rome. It was here Octavian learned of the assassination of his great uncle Caesar and set upon his bid for power ultimately becoming emperor. Archaeological excavations by successive French missions dating back to Napoleon III mean a large area of the site is now visible. Alternatively, for a more leisurely option, you may choose to visit Apollonia in the morning followed by lunch on board the MS Monet and an afternoon at leisure.

Day 9 Sarande. This morning we will discover the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a guided tour explore the ruins that feature the remains of many eras and cultures. From the Hellenistic period there are temples, the promenade and the 4th century BC theatre. From the Roman era are public baths, gymnasium and fountains. From the Byzantine era we see chapels and the large Basilica of St Peter and St Paul, whilst the Venetians are represented by a watchtower and a small castle with commanding views over the Straits of Corfu. Return to the ship for lunch and a relaxing afternoon on board while we sail the short distance to Corfu where we moor overnight.

Day 10 Corfu, Greece. Praised by Homer in ‘The Odyssey’ and selected by Shakespeare as the setting for ‘The Tempest’, the island retains evidence of cultural heritage from each of its past rulers - Byzantium, Venice, France, Russia and Great Britain. Our guided tour will include the famous Byzantine Monastery of the Virgin at Paleokastritsa which is still inhabited by a community of monks. The small museum houses some priceless Byzantine icons. Spend some time in the serene monastery gardens that afford a splendid view over the turquoise waters of the bay. Continue to Mon Repos Palace, the summer residence of the British Governors of Corfu which now houses a museum, including many Ionian treasures, and is surrounded by a large park. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore Corfu Town with its idyllic pastel coloured Venetian mansions and fine museums.

Day 11 Corfu to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck	£4995	£4795
C	Twin/Double with windows on Parisien/Lumiere Deck	£5395	£5195
B	Superior Double with windows of Lumiere Deck	£5895	£5695
A	Deluxe Twin with windows on Lumiere Deck	£6495	£6295
D	Twin/Double with portholes on Camille/Parisien Deck for sole use	£6495	£6295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Monet on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

MS MONET



Ships of all different sizes and styles can make the selection of a cruise a somewhat hit and miss affair, and whilst some companies attempt to please everybody, we prefer to continue with our focus on small ships and to that end are delighted to have once again chartered the 50-passenger MS Monet for a series of fascinating cruises in the Adriatic and Aegean. Originally built in 1970, the MS Monet is a 220 foot motor yacht and was converted and launched as a passenger ship in 1998, fully renovated in 2016 and upgraded again in 2018. If you find large resort style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers attractive then of course this isn't the vessel for you. However, if you prefer an informal and warm atmosphere more akin to a private yacht combined with an itinerary dedicated to both discovery and relaxation then you need look no further.



Category A Cabin

Your Cabin

All the cabins on board the MS Monet are designed for comfort and have a warm and inviting feel with light fabrics and wood trimmings. Cabins range in size from 9 to 22 square metres and Categories A, B & C are equipped with windows, while those in Category D have portholes. Cabins 104-107, 112, 119, 205 and 210-215 feature twin beds and all other cabins have fixed double beds. Facilities include en-suite bathroom with shower, television, minifridge, safety deposit box, air-conditioning and hairdryer.

Your Space

The public areas include a main lounge and bar with comfortable sofas on the Lumiere Deck, a restaurant located on the Parisian Deck and the Lumiere Open Deck al fresco dining area where meals can be enjoyed when weather permits. The Lumiere Sun Deck provides a delightful sun exposed space with sun loungers and a Jacuzzi, ideal for relaxation and wonderful views.

Your Dining

Located on the Parisian Deck, the glass enclosed indoor dining room seats all passengers in a single sitting with unassigned seating and allows for wonderful panoramic views of the stunning scenery as we sail. The Lumiere Open Deck provides a covered area where guests can enjoy meals al fresco on some days, weather permitting. Food is served at the table or displayed on the hot and cold buffet stands. The menu is international, with a focus on local specialties. A choice of house wine, beer and soft drinks are served with lunch and dinner.

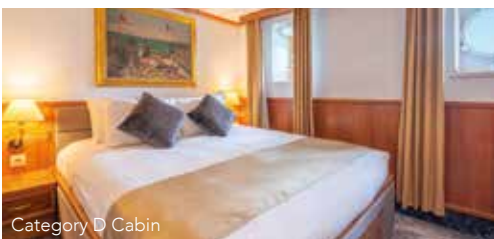


Category C Cabin – fixed twin cabin

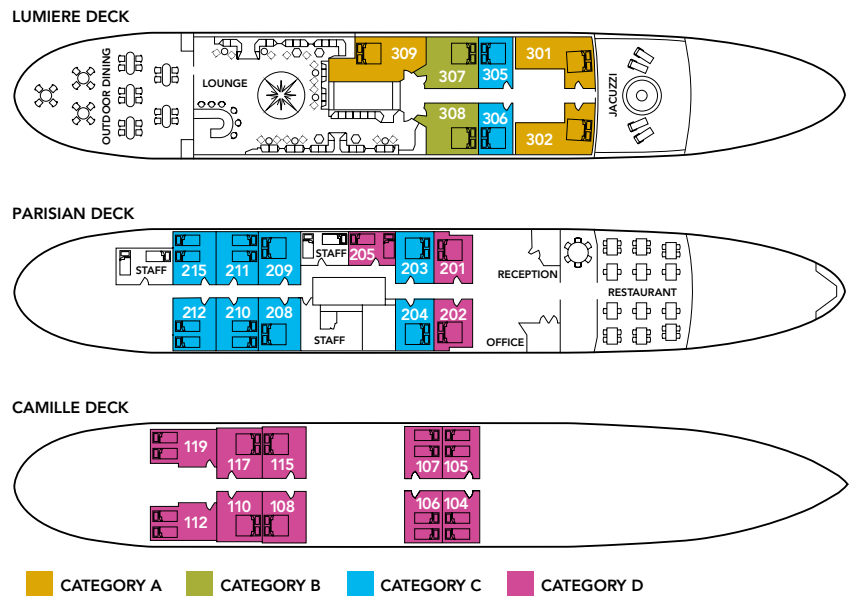


Life On Board

In many ways the virtues of small ship cruising are best expressed by detailing what you will not find on board the MS Monet. For instance, there will be no organised entertainment and no black tie events. What there will be is a warm and convivial atmosphere in which you can learn more about the culture and ancient civilisations of the region in the company of like-minded people with a high level of service. During the day, life on board focuses around the indoor lounge area, and the indoor and outdoor dining spaces, as well as the open and inviting deck areas including the Jacuzzi. These are natural gathering places and perfect for relaxing in a comfortable chair with a good book or socialising with your fellow passengers and enjoying the views.



DECK PLAN



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
 +44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk
 www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Holy Trinity Byzantine church, Berat.