

INTO THE LOWER DANUBE: HUNGARY, SERBIA, BULGARIA & ROMANIA

BUDAPEST TO BUCHAREST – 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



BELGRADE

And now for something completely different—a spectacular foray into the less-traveled Balkans! From Budapest, the irrepressible Queen of the Danube, begin your cruise in style during an evening departure amidst the Hungarian capital's twinkling lights. On to Mohács, where decisive battles in 1526 and 1687 marked the beginning and end of the Ottoman Empire's control of Hungary—and whose colorful Busó culture is positively captivating. In Serbia, stop in Novi Sad for a choice of excursions, like a wine and honey experience, authentic ethno farm visit, or the massive Petrovaradin Fortress; in pretty Donji Milanovac, the City of 100,000 Roses; and the capital, Belgrade, one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities. On to Vidin in Bulgaria, one of the river's southernmost sections, and Giurgiu, Romania. Along the way, enjoy scenic cruising through the rugged Iron Gates Gorge—spectacular!

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Budapest	Day 5 – Golubac / Donji Milanovac / Iron Gates
Day 2 – Kalocsa / Mohács	Day 6 – Vidin
Day 3 – Novi Sad	Day 7 – Giurgiu / Bucharest
Day 4 – Belgrade	



DATES IN 2027

6 May



UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

Enjoy an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. From Novi Sad, travel to the southern slopes of Mount Fruška Gora to explore an ancient monastery and sample the traditional brandy produced by the monks. Then, continue to a prestigious vineyard for a tasting of the mountain's outstanding wines.

DAY 1 – BUDAPEST

Welcome to Budapest, Hungary's gorgeous capital spanning both sides of the Danube. Embark the Riverside Debussy and relax as your personal Butler helps you get settled into your luxurious Suite, then head up to the Vista Deck for a grand departure from Budapest. As the ship moves slowly past the city's stunning landmarks, raise a glass of champagne to toast your exciting adventure! Afterward, get acquainted with fellow shipmates during your first gourmet dinner on board.

DAY 2 – KALOCSA / MOHÁCS

Remain in Hungary and, after a quick stop in Kalocsa, cruise farther south for a stop in Mohács, where the Roman and Ottoman Empires both played important roles. With a great RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, learn all about the colorful Busójárás Carnival traditions at the Busó Udvar Museum, explore historic Pécs, or visit the St. Nicholas Watermill and Treadmill, one of the few remaining mills still using traditional stones. See our website for a complete list of the excursions available on your cruise. A delightful onboard dinner awaits this evening as your ship cruises on to Serbia.

DAY 3 – NOVI SAD

Get an early start this morning in Novi Sad, Serbia's second-largest city. How about seeing the sights by e-bike, visiting a historical ethno farm that's protected as part of the area's cultural heritage, or touring Petrovaradin Fortress, the colossal Gibraltar of the Danube! Another option is our UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE outing to Mount Fruška Gora, site of the country's oldest national park. Surrounded by nature's beauty, you'll explore an ancient monastery, sample brandy made by the resident monks, and then get an introduction to Serbia's wine-growing heritage, followed by a tasting.



PETROVARADIN FORTRESS

DAY 4 – BELGRADE

Today, the spotlight shines on the “White Fortress” of Belgrade. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a panoramic coach tour of the Serbian capital and a visit to Belgrade Fortress. Or, encounter some of the country's most incredible natural beauty during a visit to the Zasavica Nature Reserve—including a scenic cruise and tasting of authentic Balkan donkey cheese!

DAY 5 – GOLUBAC / DONJI MILANOVAC / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

A highlight-packed day awaits, beginning at ancient Golubac for a tour of Golubac Fortress, the formidable Gateway to the Iron Gates. Alternatively, head to the Lepenski Vir archaeology site to visit the 8,000-year-old Mesolithic settlement. Guests who choose this option will rejoin the ship at the next stop in Donji Milanovac, where highlights include the stately Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas. Then, reboard and head to the Vista Deck for a beautiful al fresco dinner as the ship passes through the stunning Iron Gates gorges, the boundary between Serbia and Romania.

DAY 6 – VIDIN

This morning you'll find yourself in one of the Lower Danube's southernmost sections. Step off the ship in the Bulgarian port city of Vidin, a fertile hinterland known for its wine production, which dates back to the time of the Thracians in 3500 BC. Learn about the many cultures that contributed to the creation of Vidin over the centuries, including the Romans, Serbians, Hungarians, Ottomans, and Austrians. Highlights here include two well-preserved medieval fortresses; Orthodox churches, a synagogue, and a mosque; and a collection of Renaissance-era buildings. Don't miss our excursion featuring the famous Belogradchik Rocks, or a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE visit to a traditional Bulgarian home for a baking demonstration of local specialties. Spend the late afternoon and evening back on the ship, where a pampering massage or a swim in the counter-current pool may be the perfect way to wrap up an exciting day.

DAY 7 – GIURGIU / BUCHAREST

After breakfast, disembark your ship. For Riverside transfer details, see our website.

This cruise has extensions available, see our website for options.