

LOWER DANUBE JOURNEY WITH IRON GATES

BUDAPEST TO BELGRADE – 11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS

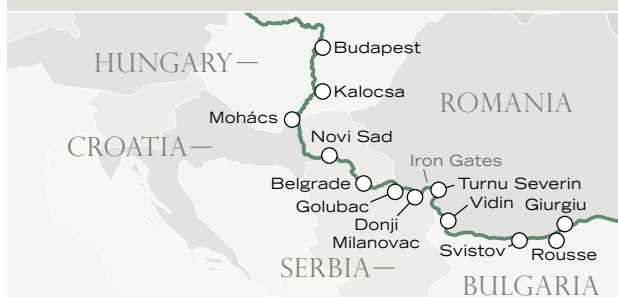


BELGRADE

If the road less traveled calls to your soul every time, then this is the luxury cruise for you! Spend more than a week exploring the enigmatic Lower Danube and its enthralling Balkans. Begin in Budapest, whose regal Hungarian Parliament Building, Castle District, and other highlights reveal the strength and spirit of the Hungarian people. On to Mohács, where decisive battles marked the beginning and end of the Ottoman Empire's control of Hungary. Also stop in Novi Sad, the second-largest city in Serbia, and Belgrade, capital of the former Yugoslavia and capital of Serbia today! On to the scenic setting of Donji Milanovac, and a highlight passage through the rugged Iron Gates gorges that form a natural border between Serbia and Romania. Also spend time in Giurgiu, Romania; Rousse, Bulgaria's colorful Little Venice; Svislov, the river's southernmost port; and Vidin, home to an exceptional wine-making tradition.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Budapest	Day 7 – Giurgiu/ Bucharest
Day 2 – Kalocsa/ Mohács	Day 8 – Rousse/ Svistov
Day 3 – Novi Sad	Day 9 – Vidin
Day 4 – Belgrade	Day 10 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates
Day 5 – Golubac/Donji Milanovac/ Iron Gates	Day 11 – Belgrade
Day 6 – Vidin	



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 – MOHÁCS

Remain in Hungary, cruising 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 and tour the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory, or visit the St. Nicholas Watermill and Treadmill, one of the few remaining mills still using traditional stones. You'll find a complete list of the excursions available throughout your cruise on our website. 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.

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 – DONJI MILANOVAC / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

A relaxed morning—ideal for breakfast, hot coffee or tea, and an abundance of beautiful scenery. By late morning, arrive in Donji Milanovac, a town built on the remains of an 8,000-year-old Mesolithic settlement. Known as the Serbian Hollywood for the many movies filmed here, highlights include the stately Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas. Join us for an exciting excursion to the Lepenski Vir archaeological site and open-air museum, or maybe stroll along the main street with its colorful shops and cafés—a great place for interacting with the locals and sampling delicious Serbian specialties like grilled meats and homemade pastries. Reboard your ship and head to the Vista Deck for a beautiful al fresco dinner during our passage 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 majestic Belogradchik Rocks. Spend the late afternoon and evening back on the ship, where a pampering massage or a dip in the counter-current pool may be the perfect way to wrap up an exciting day.



BELGRADE FORTRESS



BELOGRADCHIK ROCKS

DAY 7 – GIURGIU / BUCHAREST

Bună dimineața (good morning)—welcome to Bucharest, Romania's political and cultural capital. If you look across the river, you'll see Rousse, Bulgaria, Giurgiu's sister city, which can be accessed via the Danube Bridge, at one time the only bridge connecting the two countries. We'll help you make the most of your time here with wonderful RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions.

DAY 8 – ROUSSE / SVISTOV

Your day begins in Rousse for an exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, including a visit to an ancient cave monastery. Additional options are also on offer—see the full list on our website. Afterward, meet up with the ship in Svistov, a cultural center that was severely damaged during the Russo-Turkish War, sacked by the Russians in 1878, and nearly destroyed by an earthquake in 1977. Since then, it has recovered as a hub of agriculture, fishing, and higher learning. Enjoy lunch on board, followed by scenic cruising and time for a relaxing massage or spa treatment.

DAY 9 – VIDIN

Early arrival this morning back in Bulgaria for additional RIVERSIDE CHOICE activities in Vidin. How about a tasting of delicious Bulgarian wines, or a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE hands-on baking workshop at a traditional Bulgarian home?

DAY 10 – TURNU SEVERIN / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

Welcome back to Romania! Turnu Severin dates back to around 105 AD as an ancient Roman fort that grew to include temples, a theater, baths, a forum, port, and craftsmen guilds. The Bridge of Apollodorus (known as Trajan's Bridge today) was built over the Danube to allow Roman troops to cross the river, and was one of the Romans' greatest architectural achievements. During guided sightseeing, see the bridge and other Roman ruins, as well as Severin Medieval Fortress, built in 1230; the Neoclassical Water Castle, built in 1914; and the Iron Gates Museum. The area is also renowned for its extensive rose gardens and quality white wines, so finding a traditional pub or restaurant to relax and try a glass or two might be worth your while. Reboard your ship around mid-day for an exquisite UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE al fresco lunch up on the Vista Deck as you cruise through the stunning Iron Gates gorges—a travel highlight you'll remember forever!

DAY 11 – BELGRADE

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



IRON GATES