

LOWER DANUBE EXPLORER: BUDAPEST LOOP WITH IRON GATES

BUDAPEST TO BUDAPEST – 15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS

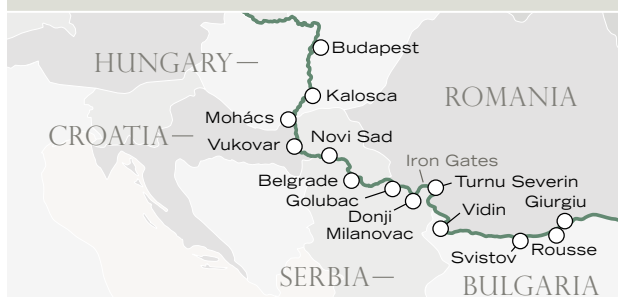


IRON GATES

Discover some of the Danube's best kept secrets on this extraordinary cruise into the Balkan region. Begin and end in Budapest before cruising on to Mohács, where decisive battles marked the beginning and end of the Ottoman Empire's control of Hungary. Then, enter Serbia for stops in Novi Sad and Belgrade, the mesmerizing capital. On to scenic 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; Svistov, the river's southernmost port; Kalocsa, the Paprika Capital of the World; and other exciting cities.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Budapest	Day 9 – Vidin
Day 2 – Mohács	Day 10 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates
Day 3 – Novi Sad	Day 11 – Belgrade
Day 4 – Belgrade	Day 12 – Vukovar
Day 5 – Donji Milanovac/ Iron Gates	Day 13 – Kalocsa
Day 6 – Vidin	Day 14 – Budapest
Day 7 – Giurgiu/ Bucharest	Day 15 – Budapest
Day 8 – Rousse/ Svistov	



DATES IN 2027

6 May



RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences. From Kalocsa, travel out onto the legendary Hungarian Puszta (Great Plain) for an entertaining presentation featuring expert horsemanship, traditional folk dancing, and a taste of authentic csikós (cowboy) cuisine.

DAY 1 – BUDAPEST

Welcome to Budapest, Hungary's bustling 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. 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 tasting of Balkan donkey cheese, the most expensive cheese in the world!

DAY 5 – DONJI MILANOVAC / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

A relaxed morning—ideal for breakfast 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.



ZASAVICA NATURE RESERVE

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.

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.



BELGRADE

DAY 8 – ROUSSE / SVISTOV

Your day begins in Rousse with an exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, including a visit to an ancient cave monastery. 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 a relaxed afternoon of scenic cruising and time to take advantage of your ship's many amenities.

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

Your ship arrives this morning back in the Serbian capital. You might enjoy a heritage tour that reveals what the country was like as the former Yugoslavia, or how about an e-bike tour to see the highlights in an active way?

DAY 12 – VUKOVAR

Today, discover the tenacity and fortitude of Vukovar, which was almost completely destroyed during the Croatian War of Independence in the 1990s. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you can view



PARLIAMENT, BUDAPEST

the city's murals during a refreshing e-bike tour; embark on a fun beer-brewing experience; or visit the 5,000-year-old Vučedol archaeological site, followed by a unique wine tasting that quickly reveals why this region has been known since Roman times for its wine culture.

DAY 13 – KALOCSA

A leisurely morning, then disembark mid-day in Kalocsa, one of Hungary's oldest towns and the Paprika Capital of the World! Here, a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE excursion whisks you out onto the rugged Hungarian Puszta (Great Plain) for a remarkable display of expert horsemanship, lively folk dancing, and delicious local food.

DAY 14 – BUDAPEST

After breakfast, your ship makes its grand re-arrival into Budapest. Disembark and see the highlights by comfortable coach; visit the impressive Hungarian Parliament Building; or explore the artists' village of Szentendre, a historic town that was reduced to a single family and their service staff during the Ottomans' rule in the 17th century. Today, its lovely cobblestone streets are lined with Baroque-style homes and a Mediterranean atmosphere.

DAY 15 – BUDAPEST

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