

BELGRADE LOOP ON THE LOWER DANUBE WITH IRON GATES

BELGRADE TO BELGRADE – 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS



BELGRADE

Spend a week exploring one of the most captivating sections of the Lower Danube! Begin and end in Belgrade, capital of the former Yugoslavia and capital of Serbia today! On to pretty Donji Milanovac, whose pristine setting is nothing short of stunning. But the scenery here is just the warm-up act for your highlight passage through the rugged Iron Gates, a series of gorges forming the border between Serbia and Romania. Featuring jagged rock faces and steep, tree-covered banks, this is nature at its best. Also spend time in Giurgiu, Romania, with its “Friendship Bridge” crossing the Danube to Rousse, Bulgaria’s colorful Little Venice; Svistov, the river’s southernmost port; and Vidin, home to an exceptional wine-making tradition. Returning to Romania, see remains of Trajan’s Bridge, the first bridge over the Lower Danube and one of the Romans’ greatest architectural achievements.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Belgrade	Day 5 – Rousse/ Svistov
Day 2 – Golubac/Donji Milanovac/ Iron Gates	Day 6 – Vidin
Day 3 – Vidin	Day 7 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates
Day 4 – Giurgiu/ Bucharest	Day 8 – Belgrade



DATES IN 2027

9 May



UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

Enjoy an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. In Vidin, receive a warm welcome as you visit a family in their home—and participate in a hands-on baking activity, followed by the chance to taste Bulgarian baked goods and other local favorites.

DAY 1 – BELGRADE

Welcome to the “White Fortress” of Belgrade, capital of Serbia! Embark the Riverside Debussy and settle into your luxurious Suite with the help of your personal Butler. Tonight, meet fellow shipmates during your first gourmet dinner on board.

DAY 2 – GOLUBAC / 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 3 – 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 4 – 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 5 – ROUSSE / SVISTOV

Your day begins in Rousse for an exciting 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 6 – 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 7 – 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 8 – BELGRADE

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

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