

THE DANUBE IN THE ENIGMATIC EAST: BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE

BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE – 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS



IRON GATES

Channel your inner wayfarer during this incredible river journey through Eastern Europe! Arrive in Bucharest, capital of Romania, then transfer to Giurgiu to board your Riverside luxury ship. From here, the “Friendship Bridge” crosses the Danube to Rousse, Bulgaria’s colorful Little Venice. Also in Bulgaria, stop in Svistov, the river’s southernmost port, and Vidin, home to the country’s only fully preserved medieval castle—as well as an exceptional wine-making tradition. See the remains of Trajan’s Bridge—one of the Romans’ greatest architectural achievements. Finally, bring your appetite and your camera up to the Vista Deck for a **UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE** al fresco barbecue as your ship moves through the rugged Iron Gates. Featuring jagged rock faces and steep, tree-covered banks, this series of gorges is nature at its best. Disembark in Belgrade, capital of Serbia.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Bucharest/ Giurgiu/ Rousse	Day 4 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates
Day 2 – Svistov	Day 5 – Belgrade
Day 3 – Vidin	



DATES IN 2027

12 May



UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

Enjoy an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. While traveling between Serbia and Romania, marvel at the other-worldly Iron Gates gorges, carved by the relentless waters of the Danube over millennia. From atop the Vista Deck, enjoy unhindered views as you savor al fresco barbecue and a sommelier-curated selection of wines aboard one of the only river vessels that prepares and serves right on the top deck while cruising.



ANCIENT ROCK CHURCHES AT ROUSSE

DAY 1 – BUCHAREST / GIURGIU / ROUSSE

Welcome to Bucharest, Romania's capital and a lively center of culture and graceful belle époque architecture! Transfer to Giurgiu on the Lower Danube to embark the luxurious Riverside Debussy. This evening, as you meet fellow cruise-mates at your first onboard dinner, the ship crosses the river to Rousse, Bulgaria, Giurgiu's sister city.

DAY 2 – SVISTOV

A relaxed morning, followed by after-lunch arrival 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. A wonderful selection of RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions is available—see our website for a full list of offerings for your cruise.

DAY 3 – VIDIN

Early late this morning in the Bulgarian port city of Vidin. This fertile hinterland is known for its tradition of wine production, which dates back to the time of the Thracians in 3500 BC. A great menu of excursions is on offer, like wine tasting, a baking demonstration at a traditional Bulgarian home, or a guided tour of Vidin and the medieval Belogradchik Fortress on the northern slopes of the Balkan Mountains.

DAY 4 – TURNU SEVERIN / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

Bună dimineața (good morning)—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 5 – BELGRADE

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

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