

THE DANUBE IN THE ENIGMATIC EAST: FIVE-COUNTRY SAMPLER

BUCHAREST TO BUDAPEST – 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS



BELGRADE

Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary—this special cruise along the Lower Danube spotlights five amazing Eastern European countries! Arrive in Bucharest, capital of Romania, and transfer to Giurgiu to board your luxury ship. From here, the “Friendship Bridge” crosses the river to Rousse, Bulgaria’s colorful Little Venice. Also in Bulgaria, stop in Svistov, the river’s southernmost port, and Vidin with its excellent wine-making tradition. Next, have your camera ready as you pass through the rugged Iron Gates, a series of gorges showing nature at its best. Pause in Serbia in the capital of Belgrade, and in Croatia’s Vukovar to learn about the devastation from its War of Independence in the 1990s. Finally, enter Hungary for stops in Kalocsa, Paprika Capital of the World, and the capital of Budapest with its gorgeous Castle District.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Bucharest/ Giurgiu/ Rousse	Day 5 – Belgrade
Day 2 – Svistov	Day 6 – Vukovar
Day 3 – Vidin	Day 7 – Kalocsa
Day 4 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates	Day 8 – Budapest
	Day 9 – Budapest



DATES IN 2027

12 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 – 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

Your ship arrives this morning in the "White Fortress" of Belgrade, capital of Serbia. 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 6 – 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 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 7 – 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 8 – BUDAPEST

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

DAY 9 – BUDAPEST

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

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