

THE DANUBE IN THE ENIGMATIC EAST PLUS AUSTRIA & GERMANY

BUCHAREST TO NUREMBERG – 16 DAYS / 15 NIGHTS

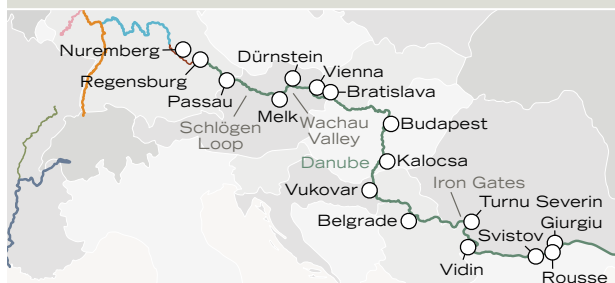


FISHERMEN'S BASTION, BUDAPEST

Spend two weeks cruising through eight countries along the Lower and Upper Danube. You'll visit five capitals, each with a different personality; experience incomparable local wines, orchard fruits, and the world's best paprika; and make scenic passages through the Iron Gates, Wachau Valley, and Main-Danube Canal. Begin in Romania, where settlement dates to the Stone Age, followed by Bulgaria, Serbia, and Croatia, whose War of Independence in the 1990s steeled the people's spirit. In Hungary, Budapest will make an impression, while Bratislava, Slovakia, is an unexpected gem. In Austria, waltz your way through Vienna and conclude in Germany, where Regensburg, Nuremberg, and more await your acquaintance!

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Bucharest/ Giurgiu/ Rousse	Day 8 – Budapest
Day 2 – Svistov	Day 9 – Budapest
Day 3 – Vidin	Day 10 – Bratislava
Day 4 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates	Day 11 – Vienna
Day 5 – Belgrade	Day 12 – Dürnstein/ Melk
Day 6 – Vukovar	Day 13 – Passau
Day 7 – Kalocsa	Day 14 – Regensburg
	Day 15 – Nuremberg
	Day 16 – Nuremberg



DATES IN 2027

12 May



RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences—like a VIP, after-hours entrance to enchanting Belvedere Palace. You'll feel like an aristocrat as you bask in the ornate Baroque ambiance; are treated to a private orchestral performance; and enjoy a rare opportunity for a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".

DAY 1 – BUCHAREST / GIURGIU / ROUSSE

Welcome to Bucharest, Romania's capital and lively center of culture and graceful belle époque architecture! Transfer to Giurgiu on the Lower Danube to embark your ship, get settled into your luxurious suite, and meet fellow cruisemates at your first onboard dinner.

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 Pusztá (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.



RUINS OF VIDIN SYNAGOGUE



DÜRNSTEIN CASTLE



MICHAEL'S GATE, BRATISLAVA

DAY 9 – BUDAPEST

Some cities demand more time, and Budapest is certainly one of them! You might enjoy a visit to Austrian Empress Sisi's beloved Gödöllő Palace, or time on the Buda side of the river to see the Castle District, the Matthias Coronation Church, and Fisherman's Bastion with its fairytale towers and turrets.

DAY 10 – BRATISLAVA

A leisurely morning is followed by an after-lunch arrival in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. Spend time at the impressive Danubiana Art Museum, e-bike through the area wetlands, or discover the country's delicious wines or beers. If you prefer exploring independently, stroll up to Bratislava Castle or do some shopping in the pedestrian-only Old Town.

DAY 11 – VIENNA

Welcome to Vienna, Austria's inimitable capital that was influenced heavily over the centuries by monarchs and musicians alike! Visit the Habsburg rulers' primary residence at Hofburg Palace, or the Spanish Riding School, where the famed Lipizzaner stallions train. Tonight, join our RIVER-SIDE SIGNATURE after-hours entrance into stunning Belvedere Palace for a private orchestral performance and a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".

DAY 12 – DÜRNSTEIN / MELK

A Danube favorite is on tap today. If you're feeling active, lace up your hiking shoes and trek up to Dürnstein Castle or enjoy the scenery from atop an e-bike. A tasting of the Wachau's popular wines is also available. Rejoin your ship for lunch and scenic cruising to Melk for a tour through its splendid Baroque abbey or a visit to Artstetten Castle to see where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand still reside today.

DAY 13 – PASSAU

A lot of exciting possibilities today! Early risers might enjoy a day trip to Mozart's exquisite Salzburg or to medieval Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic. For a more leisurely start to the day, arrive this afternoon in Passau, Germany's City of Three Rivers, for a guided tour of the medieval city center or a visit to an artists' workshop.

DAY 14 – REGENSBURG

Mid-morning stop in Regensburg, which was influenced and built by many cultures over its 2,000 years. Join a walk through the Old Town and sample sausage at the world's oldest continuously operating restaurant, or enjoy a boat ride through the Danube Gorge and a visit to Weltenburg Abbey, where monks began brewing beer in 1050 AD.

DAY 15 – NUREMBERG

Bewitchingly beautiful yet historically damaged, few cities have suffered the split personality that Nuremberg has. Today, you'll get the backstory during a selection of excursions. Join an expert guide to see the Old Town with its King's Gate, former customs house, Executioner's Bridge, and more. Or, a WWII-focused tour might be of interest, featuring the Nazi Party Rally Grounds and the Palace of Justice where the Nuremberg trials took place.

DAY 16 – NUREMBERG

After breakfast, disembark your ship. For River-side transfer details, see our website.

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