

LOWER DANUBE WITH HUNGARY, SERBIA, BULGARIA & ROMANIA

BUDAPEST TO BUCHAREST – 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



BELGRADE

And now for something completely different – a spectacular foray into the less-traveled Balkans! From Budapest, the irrepressible Queen of the Danube, begin your cruise in style during an evening departure amidst the Hungarian capital's twinkling lights. On to Mohács, where decisive battles in 1526 and 1687 marked the beginning and end of the Ottoman Empire's control of Hungary – and whose colorful Busó culture is positively captivating. In Serbia, stop in Novi Sad for a choice of excursions, like a visit of Petrovaradin Fortress, an authentic ethno farm visit, or an active guided bike tour; in pretty Donji Milanovac, the City of 100,000 Roses; and the capital, Belgrade, one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities. On to Vidin in Bulgaria, one of the river's southernmost sections, and Giurgiu, Romania. Along the way, enjoy scenic cruising through the rugged Iron Gates Gorge – spectacular!

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Budapest	Day 5 – Donji Milanovac/Iron Gates
Day 2 – Mohács	Day 6 – Vidin
Day 3 – Novi Sad	Day 7 – Giurgiu/Bucharest
Day 4 – Belgrade	



DATES IN 2025

1 Oct



UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE features an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. Travel into the countryside for an encounter with the exquisite scenery and wildlife found in Serbia's oldest national park, then enjoy a unique wine pairing at a family-run, cool-climate vineyard on the southern slopes of Mount Fruška Gora.

DAY 1 – BUDAPEST

Welcome to Budapest, regal capital of Hungary! Embark the luxurious Riverside Debussy and relax as you settle in. If you arrive early, join us for a walk through the Buda side of the Danube with its mesmerizing Castle District. Tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner. Also enjoy a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE twilight departure from Budapest on the Vista Deck, complete with twinkling lights, stunning landmarks, and champagne!

DAY 2 – MOHÁCS

Early morning arrival in Mohács, Hungary, where the Roman and Ottoman Empires played significant roles. With a great RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, you can learn all about the colorful Busójárás Carnival traditions at the Busó Udvar Museum, or explore historic Pécs and visit the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory. A gourmet dinner is served on board as your ship cruises to Serbia.

DAY 3 – NOVI SAD

Get an early start this morning in Novi Sad, Serbia's second-largest city. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, take a guided walk through Novi Sad and tour Petrovaradin Fortress, the colossal Gibraltar of the Danube; hop on a bike for an invigorating guided ride; or visit a historical ethno farm that's protected as part of the area's cultural heritage. Also available: a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE outing to Fruška Gora, Serbia's oldest national park, for a wine pairing and tasting in a scenic setting! Afterward, head back to your ship to soak in the river's natural beauty as you make your way to Belgrade.

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 scenic cruise and tasting of authentic Balkan donkey cheese!

DAY 5 – DONJI MILANOVAC / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

A relaxed morning is followed by arrival in Donji Milanovac, a town built on the remains of an 8,000-year-old Mesolithic settlement. Highlights include the stately Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas, the Lepenski Vir archaeological site and open-air museum, and the unique sculpture of a sitting mammoth, unofficial mascot of the town!



RUINS OF VIDIN SYNAGOGUE

Don't miss time 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 UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE al fresco dinner during additional cruising through the Iron Gates.

DAY 6 – VIDIN

This morning you'll find yourself in one of the Lower Danube's southernmost sections, stepping ashore in the Bulgarian port city of Vidin. This fertile hinterland is 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 UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE visit to a Bulgarian home to learn about everyday life here and to participate in a fun, hands-on baking activity. Spend the late afternoon and evening back on the ship, where a pampering massage may be the perfect way to wrap up an exciting day.

DAY 7 – GIURGIU / BUCHAREST

After breakfast, disembark the Riverside Debussy in Giurgiu and enjoy complimentary transfers to the Bucharest airport.