LOWER DANUBE WANDERLUST WITH IRON GATES Belgrade to Bucharest – 4 days / 3 nights



IRON GATES

The Danube River is legendary, passing some of the world's most famous cities and capitals. But beyond the fame and acclaim of the Upper Danube is a section of the river far fewer travelers have experienced. This 4-day luxury cruise is an introduction to the Lower Danube, broadening your horizons in unimaginable ways. Embark in Belgrade, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. Explore the "White Fortress" and learn about its turbulent past as part of the former Yugoslavia. Then, on to pretty Donji Milanovac. Enveloped by a lake, mountain, and national park, its setting is nothing short of stunning. But the scenery here is just the warm-up act for what's next: a highlight passage through the rugged Iron Gates, a series of gorges forming the border between Serbia and Romania. Afterward, visit Vidin in one of the river's southernmost sections. Without a doubt, a cruise with bragging rights!





UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE features 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 luxurious Riverside Debussy and settle in – if you arrive early, join our tour into the Zasavica Nature Reserve for a scenic panoramic cruise and a tasting of rare Balkan donkey cheese. Tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner. Ship departs late and cruises overnight.

DAY 2 – 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, the Lepenski Vir archaeological site and open-air museum, and the unique sculpture of a sitting mammoth, unofficial mascot of the town! 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 our passage through the incredible Iron Gates, 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. This fertile hinterland is known for its wine production, which dates back to the time of the Thracians



RUINS OF THE VIDIN SYNAGOGUE



RUINS OF MEDIEVAL BELOGRADCHIK FORTRESS, BULGARIA

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 join a hands-on baking demonstration of local specialties. 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 4 - GIURGIU / BUCHAREST

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

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

With Riverside, the fun doesn't have to stop here! You can continue your journey like this:

BELGRADE TO BUDAPEST, 12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

Add Romania, Croatia, and Hungary to your luxury cruise, ending in majestic Budapest, the irrepressible Queen of the Danube. See FROM THE LOWER DAN-UBE TO BUDAPEST WITH IRON GATES on the website for more information!