

BELGRADE LOOP ON THE LOWER DANUBE WITH IRON GATES

BUDAPEST TO BUCHAREST – 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

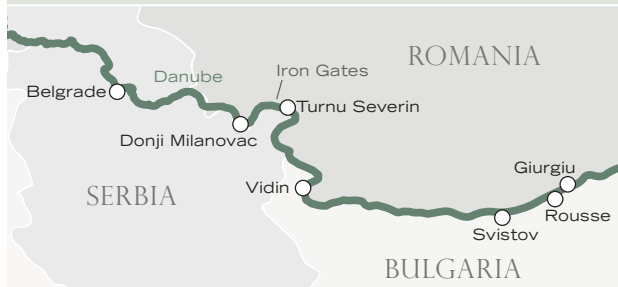


IRON GATES

Spend a week exploring one of the most captivating sections of the Lower Danube! Begin and end in Belgrade, capital of the former Yugoslavia and capital of Serbia today! On to pretty Donji Milanovac, whose pristine setting is nothing short of stunning. But the scenery here is just the warm-up act for your highlight passage through the rugged Iron Gates, a series of gorges forming the border between Serbia and Romania. Also spend time in Giurgiu, Romania, with its “Friendship Bridge” crossing the Danube to Rousse, Bulgaria’s colorful Little Venice; Svistov, the river’s southernmost port; and Vidin, home to the country’s only fully preserved medieval castle. Returning to Romania, visit Turnu Severin, where remains of Trajan’s Bridge can be spotted from the river. The first bridge over the Lower Danube, this was one of the Romans’ greatest architectural achievements.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Belgrade	Day 5 – Rousse/ Svistov
Day 2 – Donji Milano vac/Iron Gates	Day 6 – Vidin
Day 3 – Vidin	Day 7 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates
Day 4 – Giurgiu/ Bucharest	Day 8 – Belgrade



DATES IN 2025

4 Oct



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 on-board dinner.

DAY 2 – DONJI MILANOVAC / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

Time to ease into your morning the way you like. By late morning, step ashore in Donji Milanovac, a town built on 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! Don't miss time along the main street with its colorful shops and cafés. 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 in 3500 BC. 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 and participate in a hands-on baking demonstration. Back on the ship later, a pampering massage may be the perfect way to cap this exciting day.

DAY 4 – GIURGIU / BUCHAREST

Another day, another exciting city – and country! Spend the whole day discovering the heart and soul of Bucharest, capital of Romania. This is the area where Prince Vlad Tepes had a fortress in the 15th century, but Bucharest's Dracula ties are just the tip of the iceberg! Begin with a panoramic coach tour of the highlights and see what rural peasant life was like at the interactive National Village Museum. Stop for a gourmet lunch and sommelier-hosted wine tasting at a lovely lakeside restaurant, then learn about the city's past under Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. See the building where he escaped by heli-

copter during the 1989 revolution, and visit the 3.5-million square foot (330-thousand square meter) Palace of Parliament, one of the world's largest administrative buildings.

DAY 5 – ROUSSE / SVISTOV

Your day begins in Rousse, where RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a visit to an ancient cave monastery and tasting of authentic Bulgarian foods. Afterward, meet up with the ship 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 an agricultural and fishing center and an esteemed university town. Enjoy lunch on board, followed by a relaxed afternoon of scenic cruising and time to take advantage of your ship's amenities.

DAY 6 – VIDIN

Return to Vidin early this morning for more time to explore this intriguing city. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a great menu of excursions, like wine tasting or a guided tour of Vidin and medieval Belogradchik Fortress on the northern slopes of the Balkan Mountains. Your ship departs before dinner and cruises throughout the night.

DAY 7 – 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 eventually had temples, a theater, baths, a forum, 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; and the Iron Gates Museum. The area is also renowned for its delicious white wines, so maybe stop by a local tavern to try a glass! Reboard your ship around midday for a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE barbeque lunch up on the Vista Deck as you pass again through the Iron Gates.

DAY 8 – BELGRADE

After breakfast, disembark the Riverside Debussy and enjoy complimentary transfers to the airport, train station, or central hotel.