

THE DANUBE IN THE ENIGMATIC EAST: BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE

BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE – 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS



BELGRADE

Channel your inner wayfarer during this river journey through Eastern Europe! Arrive in Bucharest, capital of Romania, then transfer to Giurgiu to board your Riverside luxury ship. From here, the “Friendship Bridge” crosses the Danube to Rousse, Bulgaria’s colorful Little Venice. Also stop in Svistov, the river’s southernmost port, and Vidin, home to an exceptional wine-making tradition. Returning to Romania, visit Turnu Severin, where remains of Trajan’s Bridge can still be spotted from the river – one of the Romans’ greatest architectural achievements. Finally, bring your appetite and your camera up to the Vista Deck for a **UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE** al fresco lunch as your ship moves through the rugged Iron Gates. Featuring jagged rock faces and steep, tree-covered banks, this series of gorges is nature at its best. Disembark in Belgrade, capital of Serbia.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Bucharest/ Giurgiu	Day 4 – Turnu Severin/ Iron Gates
Day 2 – Rousse/ Svistov	Day 5 – Belgrade
Day 3 – Vidin	



DATES IN 2025

7 Oct



UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE

UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE features an authentic destination experience that leaves an unforgettable impression. While traveling between Serbia and Romania, marvel at the other-worldly Iron Gates gorges. From atop the Vista Deck, enjoy unhindered views as you savor a **UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE** barbeque lunch and a sommelier-curated selection of wines aboard one of the only river vessels that prepares and serves gourmet fare right on the top deck while cruising.

DAY 1 – BUCHAREST / GIURGIU

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. If you look across the river, you'll see Rousse, Bulgaria, Giurgiu's sister city, which can be accessed via the Danube Bridge, at one time the only bridge connecting the two countries. Relax as you settle in, then tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner.

DAY 2 – ROUSSE / SVISTOV

Your day begins in Rousse for an exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, including a visit to an ancient cave monastery and tasting of authentic Bulgarian foods. After your tour, 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 a university town with an esteemed institute of finance and economics. Enjoy lunch on board, followed by a relaxed afternoon of scenic cruising and time to take advantage of your ship's many amenities!

DAY 3 – VIDIN

Early arrival 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. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a great menu of excursions, like wine tasting, a visit to a traditional Bulgarian home, and a guided tour of Vidin and the well-preserved medieval Belogradchik Fortress on the northern slopes of the Balkan Mountains. Learn about the many cultures that contributed to the creation of Vidin over the centuries, including the Romans, Serbians, Hungarians, Ottomans, and Austrians. Your ship departs before dinner and cruises throughout the night.

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 sightsee-

ing, 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 barbeque up on the Vista Deck as you cruise through the stunning Iron Gates gorges – a travel highlight you'll remember forever!

DAY 5 – BELGRADE

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

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

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

BUCHAREST TO NUREMBERG, 16 DAYS / 15 NIGHTS

Add more of Serbia to your luxury cruise, as well as Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany. This trip does it all! See our website's DANUBE 8-COUNTRY SPECTACULAR WITH MAIN-DANUBE CANAL for details.

BUCHAREST TO AMSTERDAM, 23 DAYS / 22 NIGHTS

Add Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands to your cruise. See our website's UNABRIDGED DANUBE, MAIN & RHINE: BUCHAREST TO AMSTERDAM for details.