

THE DANUBE IN THE ENIGMATIC EAST: BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE

BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE – 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS



IRON GATES

Channel your inner wayfarer during this incredible 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 in Bulgaria, stop in Svislov, the river’s southernmost port, and Vidin, home to the country’s only fully preserved medieval castle – as well as an exceptional wine-making tradition. See the remains of Trajan’s Bridge – 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 barbecue 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

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| Day 1 – Bucharest/ Giurgiu | Day 3 – Vidin |
| Day 2 – Rousse/ Svislov | Day 4 – Kladovo/ Iron Gates |
| | Day 5 – Belgrade |



DATES IN 2026

26 May, 22 Sep



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, carved by the relentless waters of the Danube over millennia. From atop the Vista Deck, enjoy unhindered views as you savor al fresco barbecue and a sommelier-curated selection of wines aboard one of the only river vessels that prepares and serves right on the top deck while cruising.



ANCIENT ROCK CHURCHES AT ROUSSE

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 meet fellow cruisemates at 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. Additional options are also on offer – see the full list on our website. 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 a hub of agriculture, fishing, and higher learning. Enjoy lunch on board, followed by scenic cruising and time for a relaxing massage or spa treatment.

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. 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 – KLADOVO / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

Dobro jutro (good morning) – welcome to Serbia! Sitting on the right bank of the Danube, the site of Kladovo has been inhabited since the Early Bronze Age. Today, the eastern Serbian town is popular for its beaches, wine trails, cuisine, and adventure. Even so, the allure of the ancient past endures. This is where Roman Emperor Trajan built his legendary bridge across the Danube, and where the Romans also constructed Diana Fortress, part of a vast defensive system along the empire's border. Investigate the wonders of this fascinating port, then find a traditional pub and try a glass of the outstanding local wine. Later, reboard your ship for a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE alfresco barbecue up on the Vista Deck as you cruise through the rugged Iron Gates gorges.

DAY 5 – BELGRADE

After breakfast, disembark your ship. For Riverside transfer details, see our website.