

# LOWER DANUBE 5-COUNTRY POTPOURRI

BUCHAREST TO BUDAPEST – 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS



BELGRADE

Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary – this special cruise along the Lower Danube spotlights five amazing Eastern European countries! Arrive in Bucharest, capital of Romania, and transfer to Giurgiu to board your luxury ship. From here, the “Friendship Bridge” crosses the river to Ruse, Bulgaria’s colorful Little Venice. Also in Bulgaria, stop in Svistov, the river’s southernmost port, and Vidin with its excellent wine-making tradition. Next, have your camera ready as you pass through the rugged Iron Gates, a series of gorges showing nature at its best. Pause in Serbia in the capital of Belgrade, and in Croatia’s Vukovar to learn about the devastation from its War of Independence in the 1990s. Finally, enter Hungary for stops in Kalocsa, Paprika Capital of the World, and the capital of Budapest with its gorgeous Castle District, Parliament Building, and other highlights.

### ITINERARY

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|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Day 1 – Bucharest/<br>Giurgiu  | Day 5 – Belgrade |
| Day 2 – Rousse/<br>Svistov     | Day 6 – Vukovar  |
| Day 3 – Vidin                  | Day 7 – Kalocsa  |
| Day 4 – Kladovo/<br>Iron Gates | Day 8 – Budapest |
|                                | Day 9 – Budapest |



### DATES IN 2026

26 May, 22 Sep



### RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences. From Kalocsa, travel out onto the legendary Hungarian Puszta (Great Plain) for an entertaining presentation featuring expert horsemanship, traditional folk dancing, and a taste of authentic csikós (cowboy) cuisine.

## 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 fellow cruisemates at your first gourmet dinner on board.

## DAY 2 – ROUSSE / SVISTOV

Your day begins in Rousse with an exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, including a visit to an ancient cave monastery. A full list of the excursions available throughout your cruise is 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 a relaxed afternoon of scenic cruising and time to take advantage of your ship's many amenities.

## DAY 3 – VIDIN

Early arrival 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 offers wine tasting, a visit to a traditional Bulgarian home, and a guided tour of Vidin and 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.

## DAY 4 – KLADOVO / IRON GATES SCENIC CRUISING

Dobro jutro (good morning) – welcome to Serbia! The site of Kladovo has been inhabited since the Early Bronze Age. Today, it's popular for its beaches, wine trails, cuisine, and adventure, yet 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 al fresco barbecue up on the Vista Deck as you cruise through the rugged Iron Gates gorges.

## DAY 5 – BELGRADE

Your ship arrives this morning in the "White Fortress" of Belgrade, capital of Serbia. You might enjoy a heritage tour that reveals what the country was like as the former Yugoslavia, or how about an electric bicycle tour to see the highlights in an active way?

## DAY 6 – VUKOVAR

Today, discover the tenacity and fortitude of Vukovar, which was almost completely destroyed during the Croatian War of Independence in the 1990s. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you can view the city's murals during a refreshing e-bike tour; embark on a fun beer-brewing experience; or visit the 5,000-year-old Vučedol archaeological site, followed by a unique wine tasting that quickly reveals why this region has been known since Roman times for its wine culture.

## DAY 7 – KALOCSA

A leisurely morning, then disembark mid-day in Kalocsa, one of Hungary's oldest towns and the Paprika Capital of the World! Here, a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE excursion whisks you out onto the rugged Hungarian Puszta (Great Plain) for a remarkable display of expert horsemanship, lively folk dancing, and delicious local food.

## DAY 8 – BUDAPEST

After breakfast, your ship makes its grand arrival into Budapest, Hungary's gorgeous capital. Disembark and see the highlights by comfortable coach; visit the Hungarian Parliament Building; or explore historic Szentendre, a historic town that was reduced to a single family and their service staff during the Ottomans' rule of the 17th century. Today, its lovely cobblestone streets are lined with Baroque-style homes and a Mediterranean atmosphere.

## DAY 9 – BUDAPEST

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