

Places you visit



Day 1: Bucharest

Begin your journey in Romania's capital city. After checking into your hotel, enjoy free time and get acquainted with the city. Dinner is included.

Day 2: Bucharest

Referred to as the "Little Paris of the East", Bucharest is Romania's cultural capital. Noteworthy buildings include the Palace of Justice, Arch of Triumph and Antim Monastery. You will see the Palace of Parliament, known as the "House of the People", the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon. After lunch in a local restaurant, visit Revolution Square. Then a coach will take you through the Romanian countryside to visit the Village Museum before boarding your ship.

Day 3: Silistra & Varna

Wake up in Silistra and drive through rural Bulgaria to Varna, a Black Sea resort. Take a short cruise on the Black Sea, followed by lunch in a local restaurant. During free time you can stroll along the town's pedestrian zone, explore its beaches, or visit the Varna Museum.

Day 4: Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi

Enjoy the picturesque Bulgarian countryside on your way to Bulgaria's former capital, Veliko Tarnovo. See Tsaravets Hill and the ruins of the royal castle, then shop along Samovodska Charshia, a street lined with traditional buildings and craftspeople selling their wares. Lunch in the quaint town of Arbanasi, before visiting the Nativity Church with its splendid frescoes.

Day 5: Vidin & Belogradchik

One of Bulgaria's oldest riverside towns, Vidin houses the only entirely preserved

medieval Bulgarian castle dating back to the 13th century. Vidin is largely an agricultural and trade centre, renowned for its wines. Today's tour takes you to Belogradchik. Stop at Belogradchik Castle, built by Ottoman conquerors in a maze of rock columns and pillars. It is now an open-air museum and you walk through the compound and explore its many terraced courtyards for views of the city's amazing rock formations.

Day 6: Iron Gate & Kostolac

Cruise along one of the most scenic areas of the Lower Danube, flanked by enormous white chalk cliffs. Your journey is broken with an excursion to Kostolac in Serbia. See the archaeological site at Viminacium, a former Roman capital with wide streets, luxurious baths and an amphitheatre, recently opened to the public.

Day 7: Belgrade

Belgrade, the ancient capital of Serbia, is dominated by its famed Kalemegdan Fortress that looms over the old town. Ride up to the Fortress and walk through its impressive grounds. A highlight of the city is its graceful Orthodox cathedral.

Day 8: Kalocsa

Kalocsa is a traditional Hungarian town. Stop at the House of Folk Arts and learn about the area's time-honoured farming traditions with a visit to a 200-year-old farm house. In the city centre see the cathedral and Archbishop's Palace before enjoying a performance of traditional Puszta horsemanship.

Day 9: Budapest

The Hungarian capital originally comprised two settlements – the Buda Hills on the west bank and the plains of Pest on the east bank, straddling a gentle curve in the

Danube River. Your city tour starts in the modern Pest with a ride along Andrassy Utca, where you pass the National Opera House and arrive at Heroes' Square. Continue past the Parliament and St Stephen's Basilica. Cross the river to traditional Buda with its baroque houses and Castle District. Catch a spectacular view of the city below from Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church.

Day 10: Bratislava

The capital of Slovakia, Bratislava is filled with lovingly restored baroque city palaces and dominated by an enormous castle above the Danube. On your walking tour of Bratislava's old town you see its medieval fortifications, Michael's Tower, Trinity Church and St Martin's Cathedral.

Day 11: Vienna

The capital of Austria is filled with green parks, elegant stores, theatres and gracious boulevards. Known as the "City of Waltzes," Vienna is considered the centre of classical music, and here Strauss, Beethoven and Mozart composed many of their finest pieces. Today's tour takes you past the Opera House and Hofburg Palace. During your free afternoon explore this imperial city and make sure to stop in one of the city's cafes to taste the famous Sacher Torte.

Day 12: Melk & Linz

Set amidst an important wine-growing region with picturesque villages and hilltop castles, the charming city of Melk lies at the confluence of the Danube and Melk Rivers at the base of the Wachau Valley. Tour the imposing 900-year-old Benedictine abbey, a stunning example of baroque architecture that overlooks the town from its dramatic hilltop location. See its collection of medieval

manuscripts, ceiling paintings and frescoes. Your afternoon is spent cruising through the picturesque Wachau Valley. After dinner you arrive in Linz, originally a Roman-castle settlement of the first century A.D. Sample some wines from the famous Wachau Valley.

Day 13: Passau

Your walking tour takes you through this 2,000-year-old city at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube Rivers. Stop at St Stephen's Cathedral for a special concert on Europe's largest pipe organ.

Day 14: Regensburg

Having escaped major damage during World War II, the picturesque town of Regensburg is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities and the oldest city along the Danube. Founded by Marcus Aurelius over 2,000 years ago, Regensburg has many architectural treasures. During your guided walk, you see the Town Hall, St Peter's Cathedral and the 12th century Old Stone Bridge.

Day 15: Nuremberg

The second largest city in Bavaria, Nuremberg is filled with Gothic churches and traditional half-timbered houses. Although nearly destroyed during World War II, the remaining medieval city walls still feature some of the watchtowers and gateways. Nuremberg was well known historically for its metal and toy craftsmanship, and the city is infamous for its role in WWII, as both the site of Zeppelin Field's Nazi rallies and as the site of the war crimes trials at the Palace of Justice. Your tour includes the Zeppelin Field and the Palace of Justice.

Day 16: Nuremberg

Disembark.



Belgrade, St Sava Church



Bucharest