



2027 GEMS OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE

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11 NIGHTS · 7-NIGHT CRUISE BUDAPEST, HUNGARY TO GIURGIU, ROMANIA, 2 NIGHTS BRASOV, 2 NIGHTS BUCHAREST

From Hungary to Romania, and countless treasures in between, touch history as you cruise along the lower Danube. Celtic fortifications, medieval towns and grand cities, along with the natural beauty of pastoral landscapes and the Danube's famed Iron Gates, showcase the best of eastern Europe. Wine connoisseurs will have a chance to taste history from the centuries-old wine-growing hills dating back to the Romans in Croatia. Be treated to the flavors, sights, sounds and cultures of this diverse swath of the continent. And the active adventurers will appreciate hiking to the UNESCO-designated Ivanovo Rock Hewn Churches and biking through Belgrade's Kalemegdan Park and Vidin's Baba Vida castle. Be treated to the flavors, sights, sounds and cultures of this diverse swath of the continent.

DAY	DESTINATION	YOUR ITINERARY
1	Budapest	RIVER CRUISE EMBARKATION
2	Budapest Mohács	Scenic cruising Pécs excursion OR Szekszárd wine tasting OR Guided Bike Ride Along the Danube
3	Vukovar	Highlights of Vukovar tour OR Osijek Tour OR Vukovar bike tour Croatian wine tasting OR Vucedol Museum
4	Belgrade	"The City by Two Rivers" tour OR Full-day Novi Sad excursion OR Belgrade Fortress hike "Brandies of Belgrade" tasting OR Belgrade bike tour
5	Iron Gates	Golubac Fortress visit Scenic Cruising – The Iron Gates
6	Vidin	Baba Vida Fortress and Vidin Walking Tour OR Banitsa pastry and Yogurt tasting OR Vidin bike tour
7	Rousse	Full-day Veliko Tarnovo excursion OR Full-day Tsarevets Fortress hike OR Ivanovo Rock-Hewn Churches & Rousse Highlights Tour OR Full-day Bucharest Excursion
8	Giurgiu	RIVER CRUISE DISEMBARKATION Transfer to Bran
	Bran	Dracula's Castle visit
	Braşov	Hotel check-in
9	Braşov	Sighişoara excursion OR Fortified Churches excursion Braşov walking tour
10	Braşov Bucharest	Peleş Royal Castle tour and transfer to Bucharest Hotel check-in
11	Bucharest	Old Town walking tour
12	Bucharest	Return flight home

Day 1, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY – EMBARKATION.

Day 2, MOHÁCS – PÉCS. Enjoy a scenic morning cruise to Mohács. You'll then visit Pécs, founded more than 2,000 years ago by the Romans. Visit the UNESCO-designated Christian Necropolis; St. Peter's Basilica, the city's main Catholic cathedral along with its catacombs; and Széchenyi Square, the heart of Old Town Pécs. You will also see the Mosque of Pasha Qasim the Victorious, one of the symbols of the city. Or for wine connoisseurs, you'll want to go to the Szekszárd wine region, one of the oldest red-wine-growing areas in Hungary, established more than 2,000 years ago. You may also take an exhilarating guided bike tour around Mohács. (B,L,D)

Day 3, VUKOVAR, CROATIA. Enjoy your morning in Vukovar on a guided city tour where you may visit sites such as Eltz Manor House and Vukovar's famous water tower. Alternatively, you may see Osijek on a guided tour. For those looking for a more active experience, you may explore Vukovar on an active bike tour. In the afternoon, enjoy a Croatian wine tasting and tour in the Old Cellars, famous for their Grasevina, Traminac and Frankovka wines. You can also choose to explore the Vucedol Museum, home to fascinating exhibits on prehistoric culture and one of the most important archaeological sites in Europe. (B,L,D)

Day 4, BELGRADE. Explore Serbia's capital, Belgrade, on a city tour, which includes the Nikola Tesla Museum, encompassing the world-renowned inventor's life and inventions, as well as the Kalemegdan Fortress and the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sava, the largest such church in the world. You may also explore Novi Sad, a city rich in tradition and culture, on a full-day excursion. Begin your tour at the Dunavski (Danube) Park; stroll through Stari Grad, the old town center; and explore Liberty Square, which is dominated by the Old Town Hall and the Petrovaradin Fortress. Alternatively, you can hike to Belgrade Fortress. In the afternoon, enjoy a taste of the region by sampling a few types of Serbian brandy paired with delicious local appetizers, including Šljivovitz, which was added in 2022 to UNESCO's list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage." For those wishing a more active adventure, join a guided bike tour. (B,L,D)

Day 5, SCENIC CRUISING THROUGH THE IRON GATES. Visit Golubac Fortress, one of the best-preserved medieval fortresses in Europe, and delight in exquisite wines sourced from Rajačke Pimnice, a prominent viticulture region in Serbia, complemented by the flavors of traditional Serbian cheese and bread. Then cruise through the Iron Gates – one of Europe's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. The Danube narrows as it winds through a series of magnificent gorges between the Carpathian and Balkan mountains, forming a natural border between Serbia and Romania. The ancient King Decebalus, the last king of Dacia, is proudly carved into the mountainside and always captivates travelers. (B,L,D)

Day 6, VIDIN, BULGARIA. Explore Vidin, one of Bulgaria's oldest cities, and surrounding areas with a choice of excursions. Discover Baba Vida Fortress, the largest preserved medieval castle in Bulgaria. Alternatively, visit a local home for a demonstration of traditional Bulgarian yogurt and Banitsa, a pastry you will also get to make. You also have the choice to bike through Vidin and to the castle. (B,L,D)

Day 7, ROUSSE – GIURGIU, ROMANIA. Visit Bulgaria's ancient capital, Veliko Tarnovo, with its medieval fortress and multiple orthodox temples. For more active exploration, join an unforgettable hike up the iconic Tsarevets Fortress in Veliko Tarnovo. Explore its ancient walls, towers, and the Patriarchal Church, adorned with stunning modernist frescoes. You may also opt to go to Rousse, known for its 19th- and 20th-century Neo-Baroque and Neo-Rococo architecture, and then afterwards visit the UNESCO-designated Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo with frescos revealing exceptional artistry of 14th-century paintings. You may also join a full-day tour to Bucharest, known as the "Little Paris of the East." Enjoy a guided tour of the historic city center and its elegant architecture. (B,L,D)

Day 8, GIURGIU – DISEMBARKATION– BRAȘOV. Disembark the ship in Giurgiu and continue to the legendary region of Transylvania, a place deeply rooted in myth and history. Arrive in the quaint mountain town of Bran where you will have lunch and visit the famous Bran castle, otherwise known as Dracula's Castle. After your tour of Bran Castle, you will continue to Brașov. Considered the heart of Romania and surrounded by the beautiful Southern Carpathians, Brașov is one of the most visited cities in Romania. (B)

Day 9, BRAȘOV – SIGHIȘOARA. Dracula lovers will be in for another treat with an excursion to Sighișoara, birthplace to Transylvania's most notorious ruler, Vlad Țepeș, also known as Vlad the Impaler or Dracula. It's hard to believe that this perfectly preserved UNESCO-designated town filled with resplendent pastel-colored buildings, stone lanes, medieval towers and pedestrian-friendly Old Town was Vlad's place of birth. Alternatively, discover the charm of Transylvania with a visit to the fortified churches of Prejmer and Hărman. Marvel at the impressive medieval architecture, defensive walls, and well-preserved frescoes that tell the stories of centuries past, all while enjoying the serene countryside setting. After returning from your excursion, you will enjoy a walk through history as you take a tour of Brașov's Old town before ending at your hotel. (B)

Day 10, BRAN – BUCHAREST. En route to Bucharest, you'll visit the quaint mountain town of Sinaia. While in Sinaia you will visit Peles Castle. Peles Castle is considered by many to be one of the most stunning castles in Europe and a masterpiece of German new-Renaissance with 160 rooms filled with priceless European art. After your tour of Peles Castle you will depart for Romania's capital city of Bucharest. (B)

Day 11, BUCHAREST. Bucharest, Romania's capital, has earned its nickname, the "Little Paris of the East," with its wide boulevards and Arc de Triomphe. This morning, enjoy a walking tour through the historic old town of Bucharest. You will observe the many changes this capital city has experienced through a mixture of architectural styles and cultural influences. Bucharest's eclectic architecture is a mix of historical, neo-classical, communist-era and modern buildings. Your guided tour will take you through the old town and show you the most popular places in Bucharest while hearing stories of its history and getting local insights for shopping and dining opportunities. The afternoon is free for you to explore the city on your own. (B)

Day 12, DEPART BUCHAREST. Bid farewell to Bucharest as you prepare for your flight home. (B)

(B,L,D) – Indicates Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included on this day.

Itinerary is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the itinerary schedule provided with your final travel documents.