

OCTOBER 2024 GEMS OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE + Transylvania

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

From Vienna to Bucharest, and countless treasures in between, touch history in Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, as you sail along the exotic 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. Nature lovers will relish the opportunity to see Bulgaria’s natural wonder, Belogradchik, a fairytale stone world of fantastic shapes associated with interesting legends; or to bike through Belgrade’s sprawling Kalemegdan Park. Wine connoisseurs will have a chance to taste history from the centuries-old wine-growing hills dating back to the Romans in Ilok, a royal and vinous town. 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.

Price Estimated as on March 10, 2021

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	Vienna	Hotel check-in
2	Vienna	“Imperial Vienna” tour
3	Budapest	Transfer to Budapest EMBARKATION
4	Budapest Mohács	Scenic cruising Pécs excursion OR Szekszárd wine tasting OR Mohács bike tour
5	Vukovar Ilok Novi Sad	City tour and Eltz Castle OR Croatian wine tasting “The Athens of Serbia” walking tour OR Novi Sad bike tour OR Fruska Gora National Park hike Evening Petrovaradin Fortress visit
6	Belgrade	“The City by Two Rivers” tour Royal Palace and Tito’s Memorial tour OR Quburich Brandy tasting Belgrade bike tour OR Belgrade Fortress hike
7	Iron Gates	Full-day scenic cruising
8	Vidin	Baba Vida Fortress and Belogradchik with choir OR Banitsa pastry and yogurt tasting OR Vidin bike tour
9	Rousse	Veliko Tarnovo excursion OR Rousse walking tour and Rock-Hewn Churches
10	Giurgiu	Bucharest Excursion DISEMBARKATION
	Sinaia	Transfer to Brasov Sinaia Excursion Peleş Royal Castle tour
	Braşov	Hotel check-in
11	Braşov	Braşov walking tour “Dracula’s Birthplace,” Sighişoara excursion
12	Braşov	Transfer to Bran

Category	Description	DBL – PP(USD)
SS	Suite - French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 350 sq. ft.	\$7,258.00
AA	French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 235 sq. ft.	\$5,958.00
AB	French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 235 sq. ft.	\$5,758.00
BA	French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 210 sq. ft.	\$5,558.00
BB	French Balcony & Outside Balcony, 210 sq. ft.	\$5,358.00
C	French Balcony, 170 sq. ft.	\$4,758.00
D	Fixed Windows, 170 sq. ft.	\$3,958.00
E	Fixed Windows, 170 sq. ft.	\$3,659.00



Estimated Dates: Oct 24- Nov 4, 2024

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	Bran	Dracula’s Castle visit
	Bucharest	Hotel check-in
13	Bucharest	“Paris of the East” tour OR Old Town walking tour
14	Bucharest	Return flight home

Day 1, ARRIVE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA. Arrive in Vienna and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2, VIENNA. The “City of Waltzes” offers a treasure trove of gems just waiting to be discovered on your city tour. See the majestic Opera House and the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburgs before concluding in Vienna’s historic city center. (B)

Day 3, VIENNA – BUDAPEST, HUNGARY – EMBARKATION. Transfer from Vienna via motorcoach to Budapest where you’ll be taken on a city tour. Visit the UNESCO-listed Castle Hill district, Fisherman’s Bastion, St. Stephen’s Basilica and the Chain Bridge. (B,D)

Day 4, 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 5, VUKOVAR, CROATIA – NOVI SAD, SERBIA. Vukovar is a Croatian symbol of resistance, which you’ll better understand on your city tour showcasing the Ovčara Memorial and Eltz Castle. Alternatively, choose a wine tasting in Ilok, a center of wine production since Roman times, where you’ll sample its famous Grasevina, Traminac and Frankovka wines. Back on board, cruise to Novi Sad, sometimes called the “Serbian Athens.” Discover Novi Sad on a walking tour to Dunavski Park and through Stari Grad, the Old Town center. If you prefer a more active exploration, join a guided biking tour or hike through Fruška Gora National Park. During the evening, visit Petrovaradin Fortress, a mighty stronghold no enemy has ever breached. (B,L,D)

Day 6, BELGRADE. Explore Serbia’s capital, Belgrade, on a city tour, which includes the Kalemegdan Fortress and the Serbian Orthodox Temple of St. Sava. Visit the Royal Palace, the official residence of the Serbian Royal Family; and then tour the House of Flowers, the mausoleum of Marshal Tito, who became the first President of Yugoslavia. Alternatively, you can enjoy a taste of the region by sampling Serbian plum brandy, Šljivovitz, and delicious local delights at the Quburich Distillery. Later in the afternoon, for those wishing a more active adventure, join a guided bike tour or hike to Belgrade Fortress. (B,L,D)

Day 7, SCENIC CRUISING THROUGH THE IRON GATES. The Iron Gates is 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)

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Day 8, 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. Continue on to Belogradchik, one of Bulgaria’s natural wonders, where you can hike around its most spectacular rock formations. 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 9, ROUSSE – GIURGIU, ROMANIA. Visit Bulgaria’s ancient capital, Veliko Tarnovo, with its medieval fortress and multiple orthodox temples. You can opt instead 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. Later in the day, travel through the Romanian countryside to the capital of Bucharest, known as the “Little Paris of the East.” Enjoy a panoramic tour of the historic city center and its elegant architecture, followed by a visit to the Palace of the Parliament, the second largest administrative building in the world. (B,L,D)

Day 10, GIURGIU – DISEMBARKATION– BRAȘOV. Disembark the ship in Giurgiu and continue to the legendary region of Transylvania, a place deeply rooted in myth and history. Your first stop on the road to Transylvania will be 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 neo-Renaissance with 160 rooms filled with priceless European art. After your tour of Peles Castle you will depart for Brasov. (B)

Day 11, BRAȘOV – SIGHIȘOARA. Enjoy a walking tour around Brașov. Afterward, 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. His home is still here, marked with a placard; however, today it houses a kitschy restaurant called “Casa Dracula.” (B)

Day 12, BRAN – BUCHAREST. En route to Bucharest, you’ll visit Transylvania’s legendary Bran Castle, forever linked with the legend of Dracula. Later in the day, transfer to Bucharest and check into your hotel. (B)

Day 13, BUCHAREST. Bucharest, Romania’s capital, has earned its nickname, the “Little Paris of the East,” with its wide boulevards and Arc de Triomphe. Enjoy a visit to the city’s most impressive sites—including the historic city center and the Palace of the Parliament, second only to the Pentagon as the largest administrative building in the world. Alternatively, you can choose a walking tour the historic old town. (B)

Day 14, DEPART BUCHAREST. Bid farewell to Bucharest as you prepare for your flight home. (B)