

Danube Cruise West to East

DANNY TRAVEL



Austria-Slovakia-Hungary-Serbia-Romania-Bulgaria
Apr 27 – May 08 ** Oct 05 – Oct 16 ** Oct 18-Oct 29

Day 1: Depart

USA gateways airport on overnight flights to Vienna. In-flight dinner and breakfast served by carrier.

Day 2: Vienna, Austria EMBARKATION

Welcome to Austria! Upon arrival to Vienna airport meet our guides outside of the customs area. Board the buses for a short spin through the city before arriving to the ship for check-in. Prior to dinner, meet your fellow passengers and Cruise Staff for an information meeting. Then enjoy your first dinner on board, followed by a well deserved rest.

Day 3: Vienna

Your morning city sightseeing tour will introduce you to the most attractive sights of this "Imperial" capital. Starting with Hundertwasserhaus, you will continue on to Belvedere Palace, for a tour of the grounds and gardens. Then it's on to the city center via the Vienna Ringstrasse to view famous architectural gems such as the State Opera, the Parliament, the Burgtheatre, the Votiv-Church and others. The next stop will be in the old center of Vienna to view St. Stephan's Cathedral and take a walk through the pedestrian zone from Graben and Kohlmarkt to Michaela Square ending at the entrance of the Hofburg (Imperial Palace). From this point, continue past the Spanish Riding School to Albertina Square, where you will see the State Opera and the famous Hotel Sacher. Then it's back on board the bus for a drive past the famous "Prater" with its Giant Ferry Wheel. Return to the ship in time for lunch. The balance of the day is at leisure. You may choose to explore Vienna on your own or purchase an optional tour available on board. Set sail for Bratislava, Slovakia around midnight.

Day 4: Bratislava, Slovakia

Welcome to Slovakia! Enjoy a morning panoramic city sightseeing tour, including St. Martin's Cathedral, the Castle and Primate's Palace. The sightseeing will end with a walk through the Old Town – Michael's Gate, Michael's Tower, Main Square, Old Town Hall and Slovak National Theatre. Some free time for shopping and strolling. Return to the ship and set sail. Lunch on board. In the afternoon enjoy a wine tasting party featuring a selection of high quality but lesser known wines from Hungary, Serbia and Romania, accompanied with live music from our on board Gypsy Band! Dinner on board and evening free to waltz the night away!

Day 5: Budapest, Hungary

Welcome to Hungary! After breakfast a 3-hours city sightseeing tour of Budapest will include the most popular sights: The Parliament Building, St. Stefan Cathedral, the Opera, the Square of Heroes, (the Millennium monument) and the town park with the Vajdahunyad Castle etc. There will be stops at the Square of Heroes, the Fisherman's Bastion and Gellert Hill. Return to the ship for lunch. The balance of the afternoon is free to explore on your own or participate in one of our optional excursions.

Day 6: Budapest –Szentendre

After breakfast depart on your excursion to St. Andrej (Szentendre) a small picturesque village (nostalgic site) 15miles away from Budapest. Renowned as a sanctuary for artists, painters and hand crafted arts, the tour will include the Main Square with the memorial cross, the First Serbian teaching school in Hungary, Blagovestanska Church, Belgrade Church and Treasure

Diocese of Serbian Orthodox Church, etc. On the way back to the city, you will stop at a diamond cutting factory for a refreshment and to view artists at work. Return to the ship in time for lunch. The balance of the day is at leisure.

Day 7: Pesc (Mohac), Hungary

From the port of Mohac, a short bus ride will take you to visit the town of Pesc, a gem of old world architecture, often referred to as the "city for art lovers". Here you will tour Szecheni Square, Kaptalan Street and the Palace of Lorant. The tour will end with a private 20-minute organ concert performed at the Town Cathedral exclusively for our guests! Upon your return to the ship set sail on to Serbia. Weather permitting, a buffet and barbecue lunch will be held on the Sun Deck enabling you to enjoy gorgeous views of the passing countryside. In the afternoon enjoy lectures on the Balkans held by our Cruise Managers and end the day with a delightful concert of Gypsy music performed by our on board band!

Day 8: Novi Sad, Serbia - Belgrade, Serbia

Welcome to Serbia! Your first stop in this "newly" minted country will be in Novi Sad, Serbia's third largest city after Belgrade and Nis. You will be delighted with this pedestrian friendly town as you join your local guide for a walking tour through the town center(Saborna Church, Episcopal Palace, Matica Srpska, Jova Jovanovic Zmaj-City Hall (neo-renaissance) , Liberty Square). After the tour you will have free time to explore the many nooks and crannies of the town or enjoy a cappuccino and some people watching from the terrace of one of the many open air café's. Return to the ship for lunch as you continue sailing towards the "White City" – Belgrade, Serbia's vibrant capital! On arrival to Belgrade, the day will end with another special treat! After dinner, you will enjoy a private folklore show performed by members of Belgrade's renown "Frula" ("Flute") ensemble. In between the dances, a special fashion show will introduce you to the wonderful hand made sweaters of "Sirogojno" – made with special wool and local motifs. These sweaters are sold in some of the most fashionable world wide boutiques for hundreds of dollars as each one is an individual work of art. If you live in cold climates back home – one of these sweaters would be a wonderful gift to family members – or yourself!

Day 9: Belgrade

After breakfast on board, your morning sightseeing tour of this lively and vibrant city will include all of the major attractions; Kalemegdan Fortress, looming over the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers, St. Sava's Orthodox Cathedral, perched on a hill which can be seen from every part of the city, the Parliament Building, Princess Ljubica's Manor, Mark's Church, and others. The tour will end with a stroll through Knez Mihajlova Street, the main pedestrian zone full of boutiques, open air café's and galleries. Return to the ship in time for lunch. The balance of the day is free to explore the city on your own including the bohemian quarter of Skadarlia, only 15 minutes walking distance from the port. Reminiscent of Monmartr, its cobblestone streets come alive in the evening with artists, street performers, open air café's and some of the best live bands and restaurants in the city. Dinner will be served on board. Set sail for Romania this evening!

Day 10: "The Iron Gate" & Turnu Severin, Romania

In the morning hours, you will enjoy viewing a great natural attraction, as the ship passes through the highest natural gorge on the Danube, aptly named the "The Iron Gates". Over 100 km long, this canyon (gorge), was a gigantic obstacle to navigation because of its pointed rocks and cliffs, surrounded with very wild yet attractive nature. This danger was finally overcome in 1972, with the building of the "Djerdap" Hydroelectric and Navigation System, the largest of its kind in Europe. The Romanian/Yugoslav builders carried out this gigantic construction project by building a huge concrete dam which raised the level of the water by 30 to 80 meters. On both sides of the dam, two locks and two hydroelectric stations were built which today produce an average annual output of 10 billion kWh and enable safe passage for passenger and cargo ships all the way to the Black Sea. A lecture on local history will complement an unforgettable morning. Lunch on board. In the afternoon, you will arrive to the Romanian port city of Turnu Severin renowned for its Museum of Ancient History and as the

site of archaeological excavations from Roman times, including the remains of the ancient Emperor Trajan's bridge. After the tour return to the ship for dinner followed by a lively concert of Gypsy Music performed by our superb Gypsy band!

Day 11: Vidin, Bulgaria

Welcome to Bulgaria! After breakfast, embark on a walking tour of this delightful Bulgarian river port highlighted by a visit to the 13th century fortress named "Baba Vida" ("Grandma Vida") the best preserved medieval fortress in the country. Then enjoy some free time for strolling and shopping before returning to the ship for lunch and continued sailing. The afternoon is free to enjoy the passing countryside, prior to preparing for our festive Captain's Gala dinner accompanied by the "wailing" sounds of our Gypsy violins!

Day 12: Giurgiu/Magurele – Bucharest, Romania

As all good things must come to an end – so does your wonderful cruise adventure! Disembark after breakfast and depending on water levels, transfer from either Giurgiu or Turnu Magurele to the "Paris of the East" – Bucharest, Romania's lovely capital! (2 hrs). Upon reaching the city, your panorama tour will highlight major attractions including; Revolution Square, Arch d Triomphe, the National Theatre, the Rumanian Athenaeum and others. Stop for photographs at President Ceausescu's humongous "People's House" (today's Parliament) the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon. Hotel accommodation Bucharest.

Day 13: Bucharest – USA

After the breakfast transfer to the airport Otopeni for the flights to USA. BON VOYAGE!