



TourMagination

discovery+community

Danube River Cruise: Balkan Discovery From Budapest to Bucharest

October 17-23, 2019

Leaders: Marlin & Barb Hershey



Morning on the Danube, near Mohács. Photo credit: Byron Howes

Enjoy a 10-day cruise in the lovely Balkan countries of Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania with a community of TourMagination travellers and tour leaders Marlin and Barb Hershey. See the incredible natural beauty along the Danube plus a sampling of art, architecture, history, and prehistory of these varied cultures. Marlin and Barb are experienced travellers and have led previous tours to Africa and Europe. They look forward to introducing you to the wonders along the Danube River. On an optional extension in Romania, discover the wonders of the medieval city Sighișoara, Oct. 23-26.

Itinerary

Thursday, October 17 Budapest, Hungary

Arrive in Budapest—Hungary's captivating capital city! This afternoon, board your river cruise ship and settle in, then enjoy a dinner on board. Overnight cruise to Mohács.

Friday, October 18 Mohács or Pécs, Hungary

Today, you can choose to join a morning guided sightseeing tour of Mohács—a quiet Danube harbour town with its historical memorial parks, statues, and distinctive churches. See the remarkable medieval St. Nicholas Watermill, one of only a few remaining watermills that still produces stone-ground grain. Or you could take a guided tour of nearby Pécs to see Turkish architecture and 4th-century Christian underground tombs with fascinating murals. The Pécs option also includes an organ concert. Overnight cruise to Belgrade.



Belgrade. Photo credit: Kevin Wallis

Saturday, October 19 Belgrade, Serbia

This morning, attend an onboard lecture to learn about the rich history and culture of the Balkan states. Then join a guided sightseeing tour of Belgrade, where the Danube and Sava Rivers converge. See the city's many fascinating sights, including Saint Sava, one of the world's largest Orthodox churches. Spend free time exploring the city on your own on Knez Mihailova Street, Belgrade's central pedestrian thoroughfare with many lively cafés, shops, and cultural spots. Later, enjoy live entertainment and then dinner on your ship. Or savour a traditional Bohemian dinner in the Skadarlija Quarter of Belgrade. Overnight cruise to Donji Milanova.

Sunday, October 20 Lepenski Vir and Iron Gates Gorge, Serbia

Join a guided tour to Lepenski Vir, an important Mesolithic archaeological site that showcases a very early phase in the development of the prehistoric culture in Europe and possibly Europe's first city. Marvel at the ancient discoveries and artifacts, as well as the unique views the site affords of the Danube Gorge. After lunch on the ship, you'll sail through the spectacular and narrow Iron Gates Gorge, a natural border between Serbia and Romania. Overnight cruise to Cetate.

Monday, October 21 Cetate, Romania & Vidin, Bulgaria

This morning if you're feeling active, join your cruise Adventure Host for a jog along the river bank in Cetate, a small village along the Danube.

Later visit the Danube's old grain-shipping port on a guided tour of Cetate, including tasting delicious local specialties in a picturesque spot. Sail to Vidin this afternoon. Join a guided tour to Belogradchik to see the remarkable rock formations on the western slopes of the Balkan Mountains, sculpted by 200 million years of natural elements. Evening/overnight cruise to Nikopol.

Tuesday, October 22 Veliko Târnovo & Arbanassi, Bulgaria

Join a full-day tour to the former Bulgarian capital of Veliko Târnovo with its ancient stone houses clinging to the cliffs above the Yantra River. Discover one of the oldest towns in Bulgaria (circa 4300 BC), as well as the Bulgarian Revival architecture in the 15th-century town of Arbanassi. Alternatively, sail with the ship to Rousse, known as "Little Vienna" for its baroque and neoclassical buildings, where you can join a guided sightseeing tour of Bulgaria's largest inland port and visit its impressive Holy Trinity Church or take an afternoon jog through the park with your Adventure Host. Later, enjoy a Bulgarian folklore show. Overnight cruise to Oltenita.

Wednesday, October 23 Oltenita, Romania

Arrive in Oltenita and disembark your ship. Depart for home with pleasant memories of your experiences along the Danube River, or continue to explore Romania on an optional extension.

Optional Tour Extension Itinerary

Wednesday, October 23 Sighișoara

Transfer from the cruise port in Oltenița to Sighișoara, a city located in the historic region of Transylvania, known for its UNESCO World Heritage designated walled Old Town.

Thursday, October 24 Sighișoara

Today is dedicated to exploring Sighișoara's well-preserved medieval Old Town on a private tour. You'll visit the striking 14th century clock tower at the city's main gate, the Church on the Hill with its original frescoes and gothic-style architecture, the Scholar's Stairs, the cemetery, and more.

Friday, October 25 Sighișoara

Admire the beautiful countryside around Sighișoara as you either take a winery tour or visit local fruit farms. The rest of the day, enjoy free time to explore the city on your own and perhaps go shopping for unique local goods.

Saturday, October 26

Say farewell to friends old and new as you depart for home.



The Iron Gates. Photo credit: Michael Clarke



Sighișoara, Transylvania.



Stay at Hotel Central Park, Sighișoara, owned by Wilmer Otto.

Main Tour Fare per person

	CAD	USD
Category D	\$3,953	\$3,163
Category A	\$4,862	\$3,890
Category P	\$5,033	\$4,027

Single Supplement costs available upon request.

Main Tour Fare includes

- Ship accommodations and onboard amenities
- All onboard dining
- Expert tour leaders & knowledgeable local guides
- Shore excursions in every port
- Port charges

Main Tour Fare excludes

- International airfare & airport transfers
- Gratuities for ship staff and guides
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Insurance

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

Payments

Rates shown are in effect 09/18. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

Optional Extension Fare per person:

CAD: Double Occupancy \$1,363; Single Supplement \$310

USD: Double Occupancy \$1,090; Single Supplement \$235

Optional Extension Fare includes

- Hotel accommodations
- Transfer from cruise port and transfer to hotel
- All breakfasts, all dinners
- Expert leaders & knowledgeable site guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals
- Port charges

Optional Extension Fare excludes

- International airfare & airport transfers
- Lunches
- Drinks with meals
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

Canadian contact:

TourMagination
501 - 20 Erb St W
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T2

USA contact:

TourMagination
2308 Wood Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Telephone: 519.885.2522

Fax: 519.885.0941

Toll-free: 800.565.0451

office@tourmagination.com

www.tourmagination.com

TICO # 50014