

***EASTERN DANUBE
RIVER CRUISE
WITH FLIGHTS***



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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Eastern Danube River Cruise & Budapest with Flights

Stay: 7 nights outside cabin, 2 nights hotel, overnight flight

Travel style: Escorted river cruise with flights from Australia

Booking code: EDRCG11M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

11 Days Eastern Danube River Cruise with Budapest

About the holiday

Discover the magic of Europe on this stunning river cruise that ticks all the boxes!

River cruising offers the unique opportunity to visit Europe's historic cities and charming villages as you sail the world's most beautiful waterways. Cruise aboard a sleek, modern floating hotel, equipped with features and amenities to make your voyage comfortable and carefree.

Begin with a flight to Hungary, where you'll discover the medieval architecture of Budapest during the 2-night stay. Then board your river cruise for a stunning journey to through Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Why you'll love this trip...

- During your Budapest City Tour, see the Parliament, Heroes Square, Royal Palace and Matthias Church
- View an exciting horse show in Puszta, Hungary
- Visit Osijek, the economic and cultural centre of the eastern Croatian region of Slavonia
- Explore the highlights of Belgrade and learn about the city's turbulent history
- Sail through the famed Iron Gates, flanked by the Carpathian and Balkan mountain ranges
- Discover the elegant city of Ruse, dating back to the Ottoman Empire

Travel dates

Cruise Budapest to Giurgiu or in reverse

2024 & 2025 - Select dates in October

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Contact us for current prices and cruises at other times of the year.

Email hello@mytravelxp.com for more information or call 1300 168 910



Escorted River Cruise includes:

- Return economy airfare to Budapest & from Bucharest
 - Fly from Australian capital cities (surcharges may apply)
- 2 nights Budapest in a 5-star hotel
- 7 nights Eastern Danube River Cruise
 - MS Monarch Baroness or similar
 - Outside Category E cabin with private facilities
- River port charges of US\$190 per person included
- Cruise & hotel portorage
- One-way transfer to Bucharest Airport
- 22 meals: 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- Cruise director & activities host throughout cruise
- Local host in Budapest
- Services of local guides in all major cities
- Shore excursions per itinerary
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring during excursions

Package excludes:

Airport transfer in Budapest - can be pre-purchased on request

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for cruise crew, tour manager, guides & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by airline, hotel, river cruise company & local operators.

Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.

Call 1300 168 910 to ask about upgrading your cabin or flights

River cruise features & amenities:

- Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner
- Wine and beer with dinners
- Locally inspired recipes
- Early riser breakfast in addition to buffet breakfast
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access in public areas
- Self-serve coffee and tea station
- Lounge serving premium spirits (charges apply)
- Fitness centre
- Non-smoking ship interior
- Shore excursions conducted exclusively in English by licensed guides

Itinerary:

DAY 1, Tuesday - Fly from Australia to Hungary

DAY 2, Wednesday - Arrive in Budapest

Arrive in Budapest and make your own way to the hotel (transfer can be pre-booked on request for a fee). The remainder of the day is at leisure to discover Buda and Pest in this elegant city with its wealth of historic monuments linked by eight graceful bridges. This evening, enjoy a drink and orientation meeting with your local host at the hotel at approximately 6 PM. We recommend that you select flights which arrive no later than 4 PM

Overnight: Budapest

DAY 3, Thursday - Budapest City Tour

Your morning tour begins on the Pest side of the city; view the Parliament, City Park and Heroes Square. Admire the Buda side with beautiful views of the Royal Palace, Matthias Church and the graceful medieval architecture. Explore the city's wonderful shops and cafes this afternoon on your own. Tonight, perhaps join an *optional* dinner and show in Budapest. Travel to the outskirts of Budapest for a traditional Hungarian dinner in a scenic forested location. While dining, you'll be entertained by colourfully dressed dancers performing a variety of spirited folk dances accompanied by a group playing live music

Optional: Dinner & Show in Budapest (PM)

Overnight: Budapest

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4, Friday - Budapest Castle District Tour & Cruise Embarkation

Begin the day with a tour of the Budapest Castle District. Stroll around cobbled streets of the Castle Hill quarter and learn about its fascinating history.

View the Royal Palace and visit the 13th century Matthias Church, the coronation site of Hungarian kings. From Fisherman's Bastion, admire panoramic views of the city. Free time to explore the area on your own before heading to Philosophers' Garden, featuring bronze statues of philosophers and religious figures. Walk around the garden, offering beautiful views of the city. Afterward, drive to the port to embark your cruise. Tonight, meet your Cruise Director and enjoy dinner as it sets the mood for your delightful river cruise. The ship remains docked in Budapest

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5, Saturday - Morning in Budapest, Afternoon Sailing

In the morning, discover the delights of Budapest independently. Immerse yourself in the heritage of the "City of Baths" and visit a traditional Turkish bathhouse with its thermal pools and spas or, stroll along the Danube Promenade, a walkway along the Danube that goes from the Elisabeth Bridge to Chain Bridge, offering stunning views of the capital. Another option is to head to Margaret Island, a quiet getaway within the city, that serves as a recreational park, located in the middle of the Danube River. This afternoon, the ship sails for Vukovar

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6, Sunday - Vukovar & Osijek

Arrive in Vukovar, the largest river port in Croatia. Spend the day learning about both the ancient and recent history of the area. The region is full of culture, with numerous museums conveying the story of Vukovar's chaotic past. Visit Osijek, the economic and cultural centre of the eastern Croatian region of Slavonia. During lunch, set sail to Novi Sad, the second largest city in Serbia, offering picturesque architecture and vibrant nightlife

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7, Monday - Belgrade City Tour

Explore the highlights of Belgrade and learn about the city's turbulent history and architecture. Visit the imposing Kalemegdan Fortress dramatically situated at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers and the lovely park surrounding it. Perhaps, continue to the Republic Square and view the National Theater, National Museum and the Prince Mihail monument. Stroll along Knez Mihajlova street, the main pedestrian and shopping zone in the city. Afterwards, arrive at the Vracar Plateau to view the Saint Sava Temple, the largest Orthodox Church in the city

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8, Tuesday - Iron Gates & Scenic Sailing

Spend the day admiring the picturesque countryside as your travel eastward. Soak in the history as you view the Carpathian and Balkan mountain ranges. Sail through the famed Iron Gates, a gorge that contains a pair of hydroelectric dams and power stations. It is easy to understand why visitors flock to this stunning gorge. The landscape around the area is truly breathtaking

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9, Wednesday - Full Day in Vidin

Cross the border into Bulgaria and wake up in the port town of Vidin. Today a guided tour explores this town with its many historic and cultural landmarks such as the Baba Vida Fortress and the town's mosque. Be sure to sample the regional wine, as Vidin is known for its fertile climate ideal for the production of premium wine grapes. Perhaps join the *optional* Belogradchik Rocks & Medieval Fortress*. Travel through the scenic countryside to the fortress of Belogradchik built by the Romans and expanded over the years by Bulgarian and Ottoman rulers. The fortress also known as Kaleto, is one of the best-preserved fortresses in the country. The view from the fortress of the surrounding fascinating sandstone rock formations is breathtaking. Free time to explore on your own before a panoramic drive through the historic part of Vidin, that includes brief stops at some of the city's landmarks. Sail away mid-afternoon

**Passengers who choose this optional, will not be able to participate in the included tour of Vidin.*

Optional: Belogradchik Rocks & Medieval Fortress (AM)

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10, Thursday - Ruse City Tour

Today explore Ruse, one of Bulgaria's most elegant cities, brimming with history from the Ottoman Empire. Take a walking tour and view the building of the Tax Administration with its wonderful facade, adorned with seven different symbolic figures on the roof as well as the Monument of Liberty. You will visit the oldest orthodox church in town from the 17th century called The Trinity. Or, journey south on the *optional* tour of the village of Arbanassi in Veliko Tarnovo. This soaring village atop a high peak exemplifies the Bulgarian National Revival architectural movement

Optional: Full Day Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanassi

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11, Friday - Depart Romania

Disembarkation will end at 9:30 AM. This morning, you will be transferred to the airport in Bucharest for your departure flight. The Bucharest airport is approximately a 2-hour drive from the port.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day-by-day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, river levels, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

Optional tours:

Book your Optional Tours before you travel. See more, save time, save money.

- Tours purchased while travelling may cost an extra 10% or more
- Tours often sell out. Avoid disappointment
- Save your cash. Credit card processing may not be possible locally
- Travel insurance may only cover services purchased prior to departure
- Optional tour options vary by the day of operation and cruise direction
- Call our office for current prices & bookings up to 1 week prior to departure

Dinner & Show in Budapest

Travel this evening to the outskirts of Budapest for a traditional Hungarian dinner in a scenic forested location. While dining, you'll be energetically entertained by colourfully dressed dancers performing a variety of spirited folk dances accompanied by a group playing live gypsy music.

Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

Belogradchik Rocks & Medieval Fortress

Depart Vidin, and travel through the scenic Bulgarian countryside to the town of Belogradchik, nestled amidst stunning rock formations. Arrive at the fortress of Belogradchik built by the Romans and expanded over the years by Bulgarian and Ottoman rulers. The fortress also known as Kaleto, is one of the best-preserved fortresses in the country, The view from the fortress of the surrounding fascinating sandstone rock formations is breathtaking. Free time to explore on your own before returning to Vidin. Upon arrival, take a panoramic drive through the historic part of Vidin, that includes brief stops at some of its landmarks. Afterward, drive back to the ship.

**This tour will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes.*
Approximate tour duration is 3.5 hours.

Full Day Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi

Begin the day with a scenic drive through the expanses of the Danube plains, to the city of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria's former medieval capital. Tour the city that is one of the most picturesque places in Bulgaria, characterized by narrow cobbled lanes, medieval remains of fortifications and churches and an evocative handicraft market. Afterward, continue to the nearby historic village of Arbanasi, famous for its rich past and colourfully painted 15th century Church of the Nativity. Enjoy a typical Bulgarian lunch including local wine or beer. Approximate tour duration is 8 hours.

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Travel On Demand Pty Ltd trading as My Travel Experience

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This is a summary in brief for our customers:

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
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3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 120 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip.
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

My Travel Experience manages a professional client operating account. All booking payments are held securely to pay for your travel services. We do not retain your money and funds are distributed promptly to travel service providers, including but not limited to, airlines, tour operators, cruise lines and hotels. We are required to pay the providers deposits and final payments and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

Phone 1300 168 910

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