DANUBE RIVER CRUISE WITH ROMANIA



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Danube River Cruise with Romania

Duration: 14 days

Stay: 7 nights outside cabin, 6 nights hotel

Travel style: Escorted river cruise & tour

Booking code: DRRG14M

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

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

14 Days Danube River Cruise with Romania

About the holiday

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

Cruise aboard a sleek, modern river cruise ship on a stunning journey through Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. Begin in Regensburg, one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore 2500-year-old town of Passau or choose to join the optional tour to picturesque Salzburg. Tour the historic Benedictine Abbey in Melk, before stopping in Durnstein, one of the prettiest towns on the Danube. Take in the stunning palaces of Vienna and experience the young and old in the city of Bratislava. Final stop on the cruise is Budapest, where you view the medieval architecture of Budapest and panoramic views from atop Fisherman's Bastion.

The spectacular journey continues with a drive into Romania and overnight stay at Timisoara, a vibrant city on the Bega River. Then travel to Transylvania to explore the mythical 14th century Hunedoara Castle. Marvel at other impressive castles and monasteries, including fabled Bran Castle, known famously as 'Dracula's Castle'. So many breathtaking experiences will be enjoyed before the tour comes to an end in beautiful Bucharest, commonly called the 'Paris of the East'.

Why you'll love this trip...

- Tour the historic Benedictine Melk Abbey, one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture
- Take a city tour of Vienna and view Hofburg Palace, Vienna Opera House and St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Explore the cobblestone lanes of the historic town centre in Bratislava
- See magnificent panoramic views of Budapest from atop Fisherman's Bastion
- Take a walking tour of Sibiu, with its impressive Old Town
- Discover Sighisoara, one of Romania's most charming medieval towns
- Tour medieval Bran Castle, made famous by Bram Stoker's novel Dracula
- Romantic Peles Castle, former summer residence of Romania's first royal family

Travel dates

2024 & 2025 - Departs from May to November, prices vary depending on travel dates Email hello@mytravelxp.com for more information or call 1300 168 910



Escorted River Cruise includes:

- 13 nights accommodation
 - 7 nights outside cabin aboard MS Monarch Queen
 - 1 night Timisoara
 - o 1 night Sibiu
 - o 2 nights Brasov
 - 2 nights Bucharest
- River port charges of \$190 per person
- Hotel & cruise porterage
- 31 meals: 13 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 12 dinners
- Cruise director & activities host throughout cruise
- Tour manager in Timisoara, Sibiu, Brasov & Bucharest
- 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:

Flights to Europe - contact us for the latest airfare deals Airport & cruise port transfers - 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, WiFi access 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 hotels, river cruise company & local operators.

Cancellation fees & booking conditions apply.

Call 1300 168 910 to ask about upgrading your cabin or adding 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, Sunday - Embark in Regensburg

Make your own way to the port in Regensburg. The group transfer can be pre-booked for an additional fee and will operate at approximately 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM. The port is a 1.5-hour drive from the Munich airport. Embarkation begins at 2 PM. After arrival formalities, time to relax on board. Tonight, meet your Cruise Director and enjoy dinner as it sets the mood for your delightful river cruise

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Dinner

DAY 2, Monday - Regensburg City Tour

This morning, explore Regensburg, one of Germany's largest and best-preserved medieval cities, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The guided walking tour highlights the city's stunning architecture as you view the Old Town Hall, Dom St. Peter and the Porta Praetoria, gateway to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. Marvel at beautiful churches and one of the oldest stone bridges crossing the Danube. Return to the ship for lunch or spend the afternoon at leisure discovering the delights of Regensburg on your own. In the afternoon the ship will set sail for Passau

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3, Tuesday - Morning in Passau

Dock this morning in 2500-year-old Passau, known for its pastel patrician houses, cafes, cobblestone lanes and riverfront promenade. Passau is a Bavarian town with a mix of Roman, Italian Baroque and Gothic architecture. Explore Passau independently in the morning.

Alternatively, join the *optional* full day tour to picturesque Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and setting for the *Sound of Music*. The walking tour will include some of Salzburg's most historic sites including Mirabell Palace, the Abbey, Salzburg Cathedral, and St. Peter's Cemetery. After lunch at a local restaurant, there will be time to discover Salzburg on your own before returning to the ship. If you choose to remain onboard the ship, continue sailing during lunch and relax this afternoon. In early evening, all passengers will rejoin the ship and continue sailing for Melk

Optional: Tour of Salzburg Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4, Wednesday - Melk Abbey

Disembark in Melk this morning for a guided tour of the historic Benedictine Abbey, considered one of the finest examples of Baroque architecture in Europe. View the Abbot's chambers, the Kaiser's walk and the lavish library. Then, return to the ship and continue cruising through the scenic Wachau Valley. This afternoon, arrive in the village of Durnstein, one of the prettiest towns on the Danube. Free time to stroll this quintessential village in the heart of the Wachau wine district. Walk along medieval cobblestone streets revealing 16th century town houses and wine taverns

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5, Thursday - Vienna City Tour

Your morning tour of romantic Vienna introduces you to this Imperial city with its legendary opulence and elegance. Drive along the famed Ringstrasse, Vienna's main boulevard lined with magnificent palaces, parks and monuments, as well as the Opera House and the Austrian Parliament. Walk through the lavish Hofburg Palace on the way to St. Stephen's Cathedral. Spend the afternoon at leisure, or, join the *optional* tour to the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace, once summer residence of the Habsburgs. Visit the gorgeous Baroque apartments and stroll through the world-famous manicured gardens. Tonight, perhaps take the opportunity to attend an evening of Viennese culture in the "City of Music" at an *optional* recital performance of the classical masterpieces of Mozart and Strauss

Optional: Schonbrunn Palace Tour (PM)
Optional: Classical Viennese Recital (PM)

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6, Friday - Bratislava City Tour

This morning, enjoy the tranquil scenery as you sail along the scenic Danube. At noon, arrive in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, a mix of modern and Baroque architecture. This capital city is among the youngest in Europe, yet retains a rich history dating back more than 2000 years.

Walk along the cobblestone lanes of the historic town centre. View St. Martin's Cathedral, coronation site of the kings of Hungary, the 13th century Old Town Hall and the Franciscan church. Time to explore this colourful city on your own before returning to the ship for dinner as you sail for stunning Budapest

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7, Saturday - Budapest City Tour

Begin the tour on the Pest side of the city; view the Parliament, City Park and Heroes Square. Cross to Buda to see the Royal Palace, Matthias Church and the graceful medieval architecture along the cobbled streets. Explore the city's wonderful shops and cafes this afternoon on your own. Tonight, savor a lavish dinner on board

Overnight: River Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8, Sunday - Disembarkation, Timisoara City Tour

This morning, bid farewell to your Cruise Director and meet your Tour Manager as you disembark in Budapest. Begin your drive to Timisoara in Romania; a vibrant city on the Bega River, built around lavish parks and gardens where the Romanian revolution began in 1989. After free time for lunch, embark on a city tour where you will view the ruins of the Timisoara Fortress, 14th century Hunyadi Castle, and the elegant residential section

Overnight: Timisoara Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9, Monday - Depart for Sibiu, Visit Hunedoara en route

The drive this morning takes you to the region of Transylvania. Visit the mythical 14th century Hunedoara Castle built on old Roman fortifications with huge pointed towers, a massive drawbridge and soaring battlements. This fortress, transformed many times over the years, became the castle of Matthias Corvinus, known as the "Raven King." Then, drive to the charming town of Sibiu, with its maze of cobbled streets and Baroque squares. This cultural centre of Europe attracted many musicians in the 19th century and today is the centre of Romania's major music festivals. Tonight, dinner is at a local restaurant

Overnight: Sibiu

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 10, Tuesday - Tour Sibiu & Sighisoara, Travel to Brasov

A guided walking tour begins the day in the bohemian Old Town that still retains the grandeur of its earlier days with a medieval wall guarding the historic area where narrow streets pass by steep-roofed 17th century buildings. View Great Square, Little Square and the Evangelical Cathedral.

At the Bridge of Lies, the first forged iron bridge in the country, view decorations of rosettes and geometric motifs. Then depart to Sighisoara, the best-preserved medieval city in Southeastern Europe with fortified walls, cobblestone lanes and 16th century gingerbread houses. Tour the town's famous Clock Tower Museum; view the workings of the magnificent clock with its moving wooden figurines. Then head south to Brasov, nestled at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains. Tonight, enjoy dinner together

Overnight: Brasov

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11, Wednesday - Tour Bran Castle, Brasov City Tour

Travel south to fabled Bran Castle, surrounded by an aura of mystery and legend, commonly known as "Dracula's Castle." Perched high atop a 200-foot-high rock, Bran Castle owes its fame to the commanding towers and turrets as well as to the myth created around Bram Stocker's character, Count Dracula. Tour the castle, that now serves as a museum displaying art and furniture collected by Queen Marie. Return to Brasov for a walking tour of this lovely city famous for its Town Hall Square filled with ornately trimmed Baroque structures and the first Romanian school with its collection of rare books. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure

Overnight: Brasov Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12, Thursday - Peles Castle & Sinaia Monastery en route to Bucharest

This morning, head to Sinaia. Here, you'll truly be enchanted by a visit to romantic Peles Castle, former summer residence of Romania's first royal family. The castle is a masterpiece of German Neo-Renaissance architecture. Its 160 rooms are decorated with the finest examples of European art. Afterward, proceed to the 17th century Sinaia Monastery in the Prahova Valley, named after the great St. Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. Take a tour of the monastery and its grounds. The museum of Sinaia Monastery is the first religious museum in the country and houses invaluable worship objects. Arrive in the Romanian capital of Bucharest with its lovely parks, gardens, wide boulevards and avenues shaded by centuries-old trees **Overnight:** Bucharest

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 13, Friday - Bucharest City Tour

Morning tour in Bucharest, named the "Paris of the East," takes you to the replica of the French Arc de Triomphe, built in 1935 to commemorate the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in WWI. Visit the gigantic Parliament Palace, second-largest building in the world after the Pentagon in the U.S. See the Romanian Athenaeum, the Opera House, the National Military Club, and the Military Academy.

In your free time this afternoon, stroll down Victory Avenue, a historic street lined with shops, museums, cafes and elegant homes. Bid farewell to your Tour Manager and share wonderful memories at tonight's dinner and festive folklore show

Overnight: Bucharest Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 14, Saturday - Depart Romania

Check out of the hotel this morning and if you're flying out today, please make your own way to the airport.

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.

• Call our office to book these tours up to 1 week before your departure

Tour of Salzburg

Enjoy a full-day excursion to beautiful Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and inspiration for the Sound of Music. The walking tour will include some of Salzburg's most historic sites including Mirabell Gardens and a stop outside the house where Mozart lived. Lunch is included at a local restaurant, and then there will be time to explore the streets of Salzburg on your own before returning to the boat. Approximate tour duration is 9 hours.

Schonbrunn Palace Tour

Enjoy an afternoon guided tour of the magnificent Schonbrunn Palace, once the summer residence of the Habsburg emperors. Visit the gorgeous apartments and stroll through the world-famous manicured and aromatic gardens. Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

Classical Viennese Recital

Experience a delightful evening of Viennese culture in the "City of Music." Attend a recital featuring the classical masterpieces of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Strauss, two of Vienna's most famous citizens. The musicians will bring to life the passionate strains of Mozart, a child prodigy who blossomed into one of history's greatest composers and Strauss, the Waltz King, who composed the Blue Danube. The chamber orchestra is accompanied by a professional dance performance, recalling the golden age of the 19th-century Viennese ballrooms. Approximate tour duration is 2.5 hours.

Is this trip right for you?

This moderately active trip covers a fair amount of ground each day. Expect from three to four hours walking every touring day. The pace is moderate, however you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. There is a potential for cruise sailings to be impacted by river water levels, or other factors which may impact safe navigation. This may cause part or all of the cruise itinerary to be operated by motor coach and may also involve hotel accommodations.

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