



EASTERN EUROPE & BALKANS UNVEILED

9 Days  **Budapest** > Bucharest |

Hidden treasures rediscovered

For much of the 20th century, the remarkable wonders of Eastern Europe were concealed behind a thick veil of secrecy. Now, those once mysterious lands are open to all.

Take a fascinating journey along the Danube, from Budapest all the way to Romania, where the river spills into the Black Sea. Your cruise will take you through untouched lands punctuated by towns and cities that still look as they might have over a hundred years ago. You will see the hidden gems of Eastern Europe, from the eclectic Serbian city of Belgrade to the well-preserved Baroque town of Osijek in Croatia, cruising through narrow gorges and soaring cliffs of the Danube's Iron Gate. This varied itinerary will also give you ample time to relax on board in luxurious surrounds as you watch Danube River life rolling by.



Cruise pricing starting from **\$X,XXX** per person



All-inclusive highlights

- 5-Star Scenic Space-Ship with up to 163 guests
- Spacious Balcony Suites with an innovative Scenic Sun Lounge
- Exclusive Scenic Enrich experience with a magical choir performance in the crypt of the remarkable St. Sava Church.
- Enjoy a choice of up to five on board dining experiences, from casual to fine dining
- All meals included while on board
- Complimentary premium beverages all day, every day — not just at meal times
- Butler service for every suite
- Complimentary full mini-bar restocked daily
- Scenic Cruise Director to guide and assist & expert local guides
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout your cruise
- Return airport transfers
- All tipping and gratuities on board and on shore



EASTERN EUROPE & BALKANS UNVEILED

9 Days  **Budapest > Bucharest** |

Journey Code: BUBU.1

Day 1

Budapest

Welcome to Budapest, the Hungarian capital and one of Europe's most diverse and vibrant cities. Divided by the Danube, with Buda on one side and Pest on the other, this city became united in 1873 when a newly built bridge connected the two. The city is an architectural treasure trove comprising styles from Gothic to Art Nouveau and everything in between. It is also well known for its hot springs and thermal baths and has a vibrant nightlife scene. Board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship, your home for the next week. Please book your flight to arrive into Budapest prior to 05:00 PM.

Meal: B.

Day 2

Mohacs

You will arrive in Mohacs this morning. Straddling the Danube, this small Hungarian town was the site of the 16th century Battle of Mohacs, which led to the destruction of the Hungarian monarchy and the rise of Ottoman and Habsburg rule.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore your way with one of these excursions:

Guided tour of Pees: Located close to the Croatian border, this guided tour will take you to the city's first telephone exchange, which opened in 1885; the Turkish Bath of Pasha Memi, demolished in the late 19th century but unearthed in the 1970s, and more.

Villany wine village: The region of Villany is known for its big, bold red wines. Visit the charming village, with rows of historic wine cellars where you can sample local drops.

Zsolnay Ceramics Museum: Founded in 1853, Zsolnay Porcelain has a proud history of creating hand-painted ceramics. View a splendid collection housed in the company's former factory.

Meal: B.L.D.

Day 3

Osijek

Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive this morning in the Croatian town of Osijek, a small city with a turbulent history. Many of the grand Baroque buildings remain standing but bear the scars of the war. Osijek is famous for its food, which features plenty of paprika, locally-made sausages, and river fish.

Scenic Freechoice: Choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities:



 River cruise  Cruise start/finish  Enrich  Freechoice  Overnight

Walking tour of Osijek: Take a guided walking tour of Osijek to see the highlights of the town, including the well preserved Baroque Old Town and fortress. You'll also have the opportunity to hear some traditional and classical music popular in the region.

Baranja wine region: In this picturesque region straddling Croatia and Hungary, explore a rich wine-making tradition and scenic vineyards. Enjoy a tasting experience blending bold notes, local culture, and breathtaking landscapes.

After your touring this morning, visit the home of a local Croatian family and have lunch with the family members. Immerse yourself in this cultural and culinary experience, and enjoy an authentic meal prepared with fresh vegetables from the host's garden.

Meals: B.L.D.

Day 4

Belgrade

The capital of Serbia, Belgrade, is known as the 'Door to Central Europe' and lies at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. This eclectic city is steeped in history, Brutalist and Art Nouveau buildings, and a bohemian vibe. One of the oldest capitals in Europe, Belgrade, has been rebuilt almost 40 times.

Scenic Freechoice: Explore more of the region on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Walking tour of Belgrade: Tour the iconic

sites of the city with a guide. You will explore the city's highlights, such as the cobbled streets of the Bohemian Quarter and Kalemegdan Fortress. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore on your own. **Panoramic tour of Belgrade with Tito's Memorial:** Join a panoramic tour of Belgrade with a local guide. See and learn about the major sites of the city, including the Ottoman heritage of the Old Town, and visit the memorial dedicated to Tito, the former ruler of Yugoslavia.

Cycling tour along the Danube: Trace the banks of the Danube on two wheels during this guided cycling tour. This afternoon, you're free to explore Belgrade further. You might like to soak up the bohemian culture with a wander along the cobblestoned Skardalija Street, a district once frequented by writers and artists and other creative souls, now home to traditional restaurants, local stores, and galleries.

Scenic Enrich

Visit St. Sava Temple, the largest Orthodox temple in the Balkans. Have a chance to admire the fresco-lined walls of the cathedral's crypt, where the church choir will perform some of the most beautiful hymns just for you. The crypt's remarkable acoustics make this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as white marble adorns the remarkable ceilings.

Meal: B.L.D.

Day 5 Cruising Day

Today you'll cruise through the spectacular scenery of the Djerdap Gorge system, or Iron Gates. This stretch of the Danube is the natural border between Serbia and Romania, and features four narrow gorges, soaring cliffs, and the mighty rock carving of Decebalus, the former Romanian king. Spend some time relaxing in your suite, many of which feature a Scenic Sun Lounge, allowing you uninterrupted views to watch a rolling tapestry of river life as you cruise the Danube. Perhaps relax on the Sun Deck, then mingle with other guests in the Panorama Lounge & Bar

Meals: B.L.D.

Day 6 Svishtov > Rousse

Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive in the Bulgarian town of Svishtov this morning. Here you will have the choice to disembark and take an excursion to Veliko Tarnovo, known as the City of the Kings, or stay on board and cruise towards Rousse, which has been described as 'Little Vienna'.

Scenic Freechoice: Discover more on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions: Excursion to Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanassi: Take a full-day excursion from Svishtov to Veliko Tarnovo, one of Bulgaria's oldest towns. Enjoy the panoramic views of the old town and see the Asenevtsi Brothers Monument. You will then venture to the nearby leafy village of Arbanassi.

Walking tour of Rousse: Stay on board your Scenic Space-Ship and enjoy a relaxing morning cruising to Rousse. Upon arrival, join a local guide for a sightseeing tour of this opulent town and an exclusive piano recital.

Meals: B.L.D.

Day 7 Silistra

Arrive in Silistra early this morning. This Bulgarian town has changed hands many times over the centuries. As a major Turkish fortress and trade centre in the 15th century, it played a significant role

in the Russo-Turkish wars of the 1870s, briefly became part of Romania after the Second Balkan War, and finally reverted to Bulgaria in 1940. The town is dotted with historic sites stretching back to late Roman times.

Scenic Freechoice: Choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities: Active walk to Silistra Fort: Take a guided walking tour of the fort and learn about its history. It is the best-preserved of the six points in the Turkish fortification system.

Visit Alfatar Village: Take an excursion to the small village of Alfatar, located just outside of Silistra. Visit the ethnographic museum featuring a typical country house, see customary attire, and visit the Alfatar school to meet local children with a charming choir performance and learn about daily life for young Bulgarians. Sveshtari Thracian Secrets: Explore the ancient Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari and discover the rich heritage and flavours of Bulgaria on this unique guided tour.

Meals: B.L.D.

Day 8 Giurgiu > Bucharest

This morning, farewell your Scenic Space-Ship and transfer to Bucharest. The capital of Romania was once called the 'Paris of the East'; however, WWII changed the face of the city, with much of its Art Nouveau and Art Deco architecture destroyed. Now, a unique mix of Art Nouveau remnants and Brutalist-era architecture sits alongside wide, tree-lined boulevards and leafy squares, hidden street art, and thriving nightlife.

Upon arrival, take an orientation tour of the city by coach, from the south of Bucharest to Primaverii Palace, stopping to see its squares, including Union Square, University Square, Roman Square, Victory Square, and Charles de Gaulle Square.

Scenic Freechoice: After the city tour, personalise the rest of your morning with the following Scenic Freechoice activities: Ceausescu's Spring Palace: Located in one of the wealthiest districts in Bucharest, this 1960s residence is made up of 80 distinctive and elegant rooms decorated with silk wallpaper, wood

panels, paintings by famous Romanian painters, mosaics, marble, chandeliers, and mirrors made of Murano glass. Village Open Air Museum: Explore the ethnography exhibits depicting Romanian heritage and culture at the Village Open Air Museum. The museum depicts authentic houses, barns, churches, and more, rebuilt by craftsmen using traditional techniques. Afterwards, head to your hotel and dine with your fellow guests.

Meals: B.L.D.

Day 9 Bucharest

After breakfast, transfer to Bucharest airport for your onward journey, taking with you a treasure trove of wonderful memories.

Meals: B.

This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

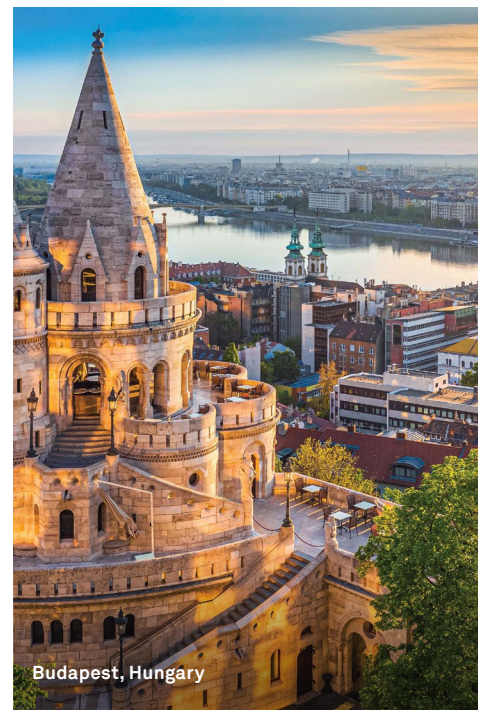
Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Key

 Freechoice

 Enrich

**Meals: Breakfast (B),
Lunch (L), Dinner (D).**



Budapest, Hungary