AmaWaterways

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Gems of Southeast Europe

This 7-night itinerary reaches past the best-known Danube routes into Central and Eastern Europe. Budapest's grand boulevards give way to Belgrade's lively cafe culture and the dramatic Iron Gates gorge, opening a lesser-visited but deeply rewarding side of the river.



YEAR	DIRECTION	DURATION
2026	Budapest > Giurgiu	7 nights

RIVERS	COUNTRIES
Danube	Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia

OPTIONAL LAND PACKAGE

Pre-cruise land packages are optional and may be added to a reservation at an additional cost.

Only one pre-cruise land package may be selected.

Pre-Cruise

2 Nights Vienna

DAY 1

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Arrival in Vienna

Welcome to the heart of Europe

Begin your journey in Vienna, where grandeur and grace await at every turn. After arriving and settling into your hotel, take a moment to breathe in the city's timeless charm–the first taste of the Old World elegance that will shape your adventure ahead.

- Hotel check-in

DAY 2

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The city of Waltzes

Where art, music, and majesty meet

Bio: Step into a city that moves to the rhythm of Mozart and Strauss. Explore Vienna's opulent landmarks–from the magnificent Opera House to the stately Habsburg Palace–before wandering through its historic heart, where cafés, culture, and classical music fill the air.

- 'Imperial Vienna' tour

DAY

3

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Embarkation on the Danube

Begin your river journey

Journey from Vienna to Budapest, the enchanting capital split by the Danube. Discover the treasures of Castle Hill, the stunning Fisherman's Bastion, and the glittering Chain Bridge. Then, step aboard your ship and toast to the adventures that lie ahead.

- Transfer to Budapest

The last day of the pre-cruise land package is also the first day of the cruise. Guests will check out of the hotel and transfer to embark on their ship that same day.

Cruise Days

DAY 1

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Board your ship and chart your course on the Danube

Embark on your ship and begin your journey down the Danube

Step aboard your ship in Budapest and settle into your stateroom as the city's historic skyline and the gentle flow of the Danube set the tone for your Gems of Southeast Europe journey.

- Free Time
- Embarkation

DAY 2

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

A gateway to Hungary's storied past

Immerse yourself in Pécs's Roman roots and UNESCO treasures

Sail along the Danube to Mohács, then explore Pécs, where Roman history meets vibrant squares and landmarks like St. Peter's Basilica, and the Mosque of Pasha Qasim. Wander cobblestone streets or savor the rich heritage of Hungary's Szekszárd wine region, with each moment inviting discovery of Hungary's rich heritage.

CHOOSE FROM

- Scenic Cruising
- Pécs Excursion
- Szekszárd Wine Tasting
- Guided Bike Ride Along the Danube

DAY 3

VUKOVAR, CROATIA

Manor houses, museums and Croatian wines

Explore Vukovar's prehistoric sites and charming riverside towns

Discover Vukovar on a guided city or bike tour, visiting monuments like the Vukovar water tower and the historic Eltz Manor House. In the afternoon, savor Croatian wines in the Old Cellars or explore the Vucedol Museum, where prehistoric culture comes to life.

CHOOSE FROM

- Vukovar City Tour
- Osijek Tour
- Vukovar Bike Tour
- Croatian Wine Tasting
- Vucedol Museum

DAY 4

BELGRADE, SERBIA

Tradition meets innovation in Serbia's capital

Marvel at Belgrade's iconic sites and UNESCO-protected landmarks

Explore Belgrade's vibrant streets and historic landmarks, from the Nikola Tesla Museum to the majestic Kalemegdan Fortress. Adventurous passengers can join a bike tour or hike through the city, then savor Serbian brandy and local delicacies. For a more leisurely afternoon, wander Novi Sad's charming old town and Liberty Square, immersing yourself in the region's rich culture and tradition.

CHOOSE FROM

- "the City by Two Rivers" Tour
- Belgrade Fortress Hike
- Belgrade Bike Tour
- "brandies of Belgrade" Tasting
- Novi Sad Tour

DAY 5

IRON GATES, SERBIA

The Iron Gates and Dacia's legacy

Wander ancient strongholds where history and nature collide

Visit the medieval Golubac Fortress before cruising through Serbia's awe-inspiring Iron Gates, where the Danube winds between the Carpathian and Balkan mountains. Marvel at the dramatic gorges and the striking mountainside carving of King Decebalus. Each view invites you to reflect on the wonders of this remarkable river corridor.

CHOOSE FROM

- Golubac Fortress Visit
- Scenic Cruising the Iron Gates

DAY 6

VIDIN, BULGARIA

Vidin's medieval fortress and Bulgarian traditions

Experience Bulgarian traditions like a local

Wander through Vidin, where ancient streets lead to the Baba Vida Fortress, a silent guardian of centuries past. Step into local life with a Bulgarian pastry and yogurt tasting, or pedal along Vidin's sunlit lanes and let the city's history unfold around each bend.

CHOOSE FROM

- Baba Vida Fortress and Vidin Walking Tour
- Banitsa Pastry and Yogurt Tasting
- Vidin Bike Tour

DAY 7

ROUSSE, BULGARIA

Historic Bulgaria and the artistry of Ivanovo

Explore medieval strongholds, Neo-Baroque gems, and Bucharest's 'Little Paris' charm

Discover Veliko Tarnovo's medieval fortress and serene Orthodox temples, or wander Rousse to marvel at the frescoed Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo. Journey through the Romanian countryside to Bucharest, the "Little Paris of the East," where elegant streets and historic squares invite leisurely exploration.

CHOOSE FROM

- Full Day Veliko Tarnovo Excursion
- Ivanovo Rock Hewn Churches and Rousse Highlights Tour
- Full Day Bucharest Excursion

DAY

8

GIURGIU, ROMANIA

Begin your journey home

Begin your journey home

Bid farewell to Giurgiu as you prepare for your flight home. (B)

- Disembarkation

OPTIONAL LAND PACKAGE

Post-cruise land packages are optional and may be added to a reservation at an additional cost.

Only one post-cruise land package may be selected.

Post-Cruise Option 1

2 Nights Brasov & 2 Nights Bucharest

The first day of the post-cruise land package is also the last day of the cruise. Guests will disembark their ship and transfer to the hotel that same day.

DAY 1

BRASOV, ROMANIA

Into the heart of Transylvania

Castles, Carpathians, and legends come alive

Disembark in Giurgiu and venture deep into Transylvania–a land of misty mountains and age-old myths. Visit the storied Bran Castle, famously linked to Dracula's legend, then continue to Brașov, a picturesque town nestled among the Southern Carpathians.

- Disembarkation
- Transfer to Bran
- Dracula's Castle visit
- Hotel check-in

DAY 2

BRASOV, ROMANIA

Medieval magic and myth

Take a walk through time

Stroll the cobblestone streets of Brașov, where medieval towers guard colorful facades. Then travel to Sighișoara, a UNESCO treasure and birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. Its storybook beauty contrasts its haunting history, offering a day rich with wonder and intrigue.

CHOOSE FROM

- Sighișoara excursion
- Walking tour

DAY 3

BRASOV, ROMANIA

Castles and capital splendor

From royal halls to city lights

Journey through the Carpathian foothills to Sinaia and explore the magnificent Peles Castle–an architectural masterpiece filled with European art and royal grandeur. Continue to Bucharest, Romania's lively capital, where history and modern life meet in dazzling fashion.

CHOOSE FROM

- Peles Castle tour
- Transfer to Bucharest
- Hotel check-in

DAY 4

BRASOV, ROMANIA

The Little Paris of the East

Discover grand boulevards and hidden stories

Experience Bucharest's sophisticated spirit on a guided city tour. From the monumental Palace of the Parliament to the charming old town, discover a city that celebrates both its elegant past and its vibrant present.

CHOOSE FROM

- City tour
- Old Town walking tour

DAY 5

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Begin your journey home

Begin your journey home

- Return flight home

OPTIONAL LAND PACKAGE

Post-cruise land packages are optional and may be added to a reservation at an additional cost.

Only one post-cruise land package may be selected.

Post-Cruise Option 2

3 Nights Istanbul

The first day of the post-cruise land package is also the last day of the cruise. Guests will disembark their ship and transfer to the hotel that same day.

DAY 1

GIURGIU, ROMANIA

Into the heart of Istanbul

Discover the crossroads of the world

Journey through Romania's rolling countryside to Bucharest before flying to Istanbul, where East meets West in a dazzling blend of cultures. Settle into your hotel and feel the energy of a city where empires once converged and history still whispers through every skyline.

- Disembarkation
- Transfer to Bucharest
- Flight to Istanbul
- Hotel check-in

DAY 2

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Mosques, markets, and timeless beauty

Discover the spirit of a city between two worlds

Journey through Romania's rolling countryside to Bucharest before flying to Istanbul, where East meets West in a dazzling blend of cultures. Settle into your hotel and feel the energy of a city where empires once converged and history still whispers through every skyline.Step into Istanbul's storied past on a guided walking tour through architectural masterpieces. Explore the awe-inspiring Hagia Sophia and the luminous Blue Mosque, then wander the vibrant Grand Bazaar, where centuries of trade and tradition still fill the air.

CHOOSE FROM

- Walking Tour
- Istanbul market visit

DAY 3

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Splendor of the Sultans

Take a glimpse inside the Ottoman Empire

Experience the opulence of the Topkapi Palace, home to Ottoman sultans for over four centuries. From jeweled treasures to the intimate chambers of the royal harem, every corner tells a story of power, beauty, and empire.

- Topkapi Palace visit

DAY 4

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Bid farewell and prepare for your journey home.

Return flight home

- Return flight home

Please note: itineraries can change. Your final documents will have the most current schedule.