



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
Alumni Association

September 26 to October 8, 2024

# Danube River

VIENNA TO BUCHAREST



# Danube River

## VIENNA TO BUCHAREST

The Danube River has ranked among the world's most impressive waterways—following the passage of Roman legions, crusading knights, the indomitable Janissaries of the Ottomans and the proud Hussars of the Habsburgs. Our 13-day journey through this storied region includes a 9-night river cruise and two nights in Romania's vibrant capital city of Bucharest. Watch history unfold as we cruise through seven countries with visits to five capital cities and excursions that take you deep into the rich culture of the nations that have emerged and continue to define Eastern Europe. From the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Budapest to Hungary's fabled *puszta* to the young territories of Serbia and eastern Croatia, palaces and castles tell the story of independence and pride. Watch in wonder as we cruise through the dramatic Iron Gates that divide the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains on our way to the ancient land of Bulgaria. Our tour concludes in Bucharest as we immerse ourselves in the city's unique history and ethnography—weaving a tapestry as colorful as the Danube itself.

**Front cover:** *The famous Chain Bridge links Pest to Buda on the Danube River in Hungary.*

**Cruise through the Iron Gates on the border between Serbia and Romania.**

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Bratislava Castle, Slovakia



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My fellow Hoyas,

The Danube River has set the scene for the rise and fall of empires, from the Romans to the Hapsburg dynasty. Majestic castles and fortresses tell the story of the nations that developed along its banks since ancient times. Take an extraordinary journey with alumni and friends from September 26 – October 8, 2024. Travel nearly the entire length of this fabled river, from the imperial Austrian capital city of Vienna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to Bucharest, the cosmopolitan capital of Romania.

This outstanding travel program features seven countries and the enchanting eastern Danube River Valley, an untouched region steeped in natural beauty. Cruise for nine nights aboard the deluxe AMADEUS SILVER III and spend two nights in Bucharest, where splendid architecture has earned it the nickname “Little Paris.”

A rich mosaic of medieval cities, charming villages, rugged countryside, and centuries old traditions awaits you. Visit the ancient land of Bulgaria, the relatively young territories of Serbia and eastern Croatia, Hungary’s fabled *puszta* (plains), and the UNESCO World Heritage designated landmarks of Budapest. Pass through the Iron Gates dividing the Carpathian and Balkan mountains—where no fewer than six languages are spoken—and experience the fascinating Slavic heritage of medieval Belgrade.

Deepen your knowledge of the Danube and Central Europe with our Vienna Pre Program Option and the Transylvania Post Program Option, featuring a visit to “Dracula’s Castle.” Reserve now while early booking savings are still available. Please contact the Georgetown Travel Society at 866-525-8664 or [GeorgetownTravelSociety@Georgetown.edu](mailto:GeorgetownTravelSociety@Georgetown.edu) for more details and to confirm your place today.

Hoya Saxa,

*Julia Farr*

Julie Farr C’88, Parent ’19, ’21, ’24  
Executive Director  
Georgetown University Alumni Association

**SUPERIOR**

*Our programs are classified in three categories: Value, Superior and Luxury*

**To secure your spot, call the Georgetown Travel Society at 866-525-8664  
or visit <https://alumni.georgetown.edu/travel-society>**

# HARVESTING RED GOLD

How the red pepper known as paprika made its way to Hungary centuries ago is often the subject of debate. Some trace the origins of this now-famous Hungarian spice to Portugal. Others say it was the influence of the Turks. One thing historians widely agree on, however, is that Spanish explorer Christopher Columbus brought the fiery pepper plant back to Europe from his travels to central Mexico in the late 15th century. Today, Hungary is one of the world's largest producers of paprika, cultivating and harvesting the pepper into a sweet, red velvety spice. You will likely taste paprika in almost every traditional Hungarian dish you sample on this journey along the Danube. Learn more about the unique history of this spice when visiting medieval Kalocsa, which built its first paprika mill in the 19th century. You may also see imagery of the red pepper plants in local fabrics and art, as it has become a proud symbol of Hungarian heritage.



# THE ROUTE OF EMPERORS AND KINGS



*Saint Stephen statue, Budapest, Hungary*



*Ornate interior of Saint Sava Church, Belgrade, Serbia*



*Tsarevets Fortress, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria*



*Traditional Hungarian horsemanship*

The legendary Danube River is a powerful symbol of the diverse cultures and epic narratives of Central Europe. Fifth-century B.C. philosopher Herodotus declared it “the greatest of all rivers which we know” when Greeks traveled from the Black Sea through the naturally carved Iron Gates. The land was ruled by the Roman, Ottoman, and Byzantine Empires, creating intriguing capital cities along its banks. A channel for commerce, culture, and conquest, the Danube links the heartland of Central Europe with nations beyond the Black Sea. Our cruise through this fascinating region takes us to seven of the 10 countries where the mighty Danube flows—Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania. The history and culture of these nations continue to inspire musicians, writers, artists, and travelers from all over the world.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).





## 13-DAY/12-NIGHT ITINERARY

### Depart Home City

#### Day 1

Depart your home city for your flight to Vienna, Austria.

### Vienna, Austria

#### Day 2

Arrive the next day in the capital city of Vienna, where you will embark the AMADEUS SILVER III. Attend the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner this the evening. (R,D)

### Vienna/ Bratislava, Slovakia

#### Day 3

In Bratislava, enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town. See the Gothic 14th-century St. Martin's Cathedral and the elaborate Primate's Palace, a breathtaking 18th century landmark. Stroll through St. Michael's Gate, the only remaining portion of the city's medieval fortifications. (B,L,D)

### Budapest, Hungary

#### Day 4

Start the day on the Buda side of the river to see Castle Hill and visit St. Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. In Pest, see the Parliament Building, the second largest in Europe. At UNESCO-inscribed Heroes' Square, admire monuments honoring Magyar chiefs who established the Kingdom of Hungary. Along Andrassy Avenue, see the Hungarian State Opera House and the Chain Bridge that links Pest to Buda. (B,L,D)

### Kalocsa

#### Day 5

Enjoy a scenic drive through Hungary's protected *puszta* and visit a farm to see a performance of Hungarian horsemanship. Learn about the history of paprika on your way to Kalocsa, where you will visit the Folk Art House and the Bishop's Palace. (B,L,D)

### Vukovar, Croatia/ Novi Sad, Serbia

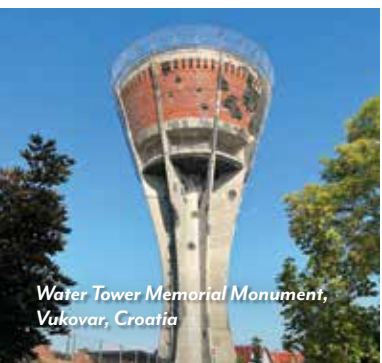
#### Day 6

In Vukovar, see 18th-century Eltz Manor and the iconic GRAND HOTEL, famously purchased by the city's Labor Movement in 1919. Visit the Baroque Church of Saints Philip and James. Enjoy a walking tour of Novi Sad's Old Town to see the Name of Mary Church, Town Hall, and the 17th-century Petrovaradin Fortress, nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the Danube." (B,L,D)

### Belgrade

#### Day 7

Embark on a tour of Belgrade, featuring Terazije Square and Temple of St. Sava. Visit Kalemegdan Fortress and the famous "House of Flowers" museum dedicated to former Yugoslavia's leader, Josip Broz Tito. (B,L,D)



Water Tower Memorial Monument,  
Vukovar, Croatia



Lepenski Vir archeological site, Serbia



*Visit Heroes' Square in Budapest, Hungary*

## **Donji Milanovac/ Iron Gates**

### **Day 8**

Visit Lepenski Vir archeological site and museum to see the impressive exhibition center of Paleolithic artifacts.

Later, enjoy spectacular views of the Danube Gorge and cruise past the Iron Gates.

(B,L,D)

## **Nikopol, Bulgaria for Arbanasi and Veliko Tarnovo/Ruse**

### **Day 9**

Visit Arbanasi's perfectly preserved Konstantsaliev House, a unique, fortress-like structure originally built at the end of the 17th century and reconstructed several times—today serving as an ethnographic museum.

The next stop will be a visit to the Church of the Nativity before continuing to the city of Veliko Tarnovo, one of Bulgaria's oldest settlements.

Explore the historical center of this “City of the Tsars” and see the 12th-century Tsarevets Fortress. (B,L,D)

## **Constanța, Romania**

### **Day 10**

In Constanta Old Town, see the poet Ovid's statue in Ovidiu Square, the Great Mahmudiye Mosque and the Orthodox Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul. Enjoy a Captain's Farewell Reception on board this evening. (B,L,R,D)

## **Fetești/ Bucharest, Romania/ Disembark river boat**

### **Day 11**

Your land tour in Bucharest begins with a tour of the city that includes lunch at a local restaurant and a visit to the immense Palace of Parliament, the world's second largest administrative building. Check in to the INTERCONTINENTAL ATHÉNÉE PALACE BUCHAREST. (B,L)

## **Bucharest**

### **Day 12**

Today you will visit the National Museum of Art of Romania, located in the Royal Palace in Revolution Square, and the National Village Museum. The largest of its kind in Europe, this open-air ethnographic museum features a collection of 50 buildings representing the history and design of Romania's rural architecture. Enjoy a farewell reception at the hotel this evening. (B,R)

## **Bucharest/Return to Home City**

### **Day 13**

Check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for a flight back to your home city. (B)



*The People's House, Bucharest, Romania*



**Amadeus Silver III** The elegant and meticulously crafted Amadeus Silver III, newly renovated in 2020, features all the comforts of a refined and traditional hotel. The English-speaking, international crew provides warm hospitality. The Amadeus fleet has earned the “Green Globe Certificate” of environmental sustainability. The 84 stylish staterooms and suites are among the most spacious of any European river boat (172 to 284 square feet). Suites include a private balcony, and select staterooms feature a unique floor-to-ceiling window that lowers to French-balcony height at the touch of a button. Accommodations have two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, sitting area, private bathroom with shower, and a minibar.



**2024 DEPARTURE DATE: September 26 to October 8** (Embarkation: September 27 at 4:00 pm)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Rate through Feb. 16, 2024	Rates after Feb. 16, 2024
C4	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$4,945</b>	\$5,495
C1	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$5,845</b>	\$6,495
B4	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$6,295</b>	\$6,995
B1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$6,745</b>	\$7,495
A1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Mozart Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$7,195</b>	\$7,995
Suite	Suite with <b>private balcony</b> (sliding glass doors with railing), sofa and bath robes. <i>Mozart Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$7,915</b>	\$8,795

**BONUS SAVINGS!** Pay in full at the time of booking to receive additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Single supplements apply to the following categories, C1 and C4, at 160% of the per person double price and are subject to availability. Single price for all other cabin categories is at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$95 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

**To secure your spot, call the Georgetown Travel Society at 866-525-8664 or visit <https://alumni.georgetown.edu/travel-society>**

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## PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

### Vienna

**September 24 to 27, 2024** (Tour Begins: September 25)

Vienna showcases an open-air museum of splendid Baroque architecture in its historical center—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Along the famous Ringstrasse, see this remarkable city's most important landmarks. Visit Hofburg Palace and see the Gothic-style *Stephansdom* (Saint Stephen's Cathedral). Learn more about the Austrian Empire in Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Habsburgs' summer estate. Accommodations are for two nights in the 5-star INTERCONTINENTAL VIENNA hotel.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*     **\$985**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*     **\$1,370**



## POST-PROGRAM OPTION

### Transylvania

**October 8 to 11, 2024** (Tour Ends: October 10)

Extend your tour by three nights to explore the treasures of medieval Transylvania. Highlights include the 19th-century Peles Castle; the imposing, 14th-century Bran Castle (believed to have inspired the Dracula story); the Black Church in Brasov; the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Sighisoara; and UNESCO-inscribed Prejmer, the largest fortified church in southeast Europe. Spend two nights in the ARO PALACE in Brasov and one night in the 5-star INTERCONTINENTAL ATHÉNÉE PALACE HOTEL BUCHAREST.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*     **\$1,095**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*     **\$1,370**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**SPECIAL SAVINGS!** Early Booking up to \$1,760 per couple, plus receive Bonus Savings if you pay in full at the time of booking! Call for details.



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