



The Danube Gorge

## The Danube to the Black Sea

aboard ms Serenity

Germany – Austria – Slovakia – Hungary – Serbia – Romania – Bulgaria

Wake up to breathtaking views as we follow the course of the blue Danube on its extraordinary journey to the Black Sea. This leisurely cruise reveals some of eastern Europe's greatest treasures, taking you through no less than seven countries with spectacular scenery and exciting capital cities. Natural wonders include the picturesque Wachau valley of Austria, the Iron Gate Gorge which cuts through the Carpathian and the Balkan mountains, and the exotic waters of the Black Sea which lap the beautiful Romanian coast. Explore both sides of Budapest, see the beautiful architecture of Bratislava and Belgrade, and wander the pretty streets of Vienna – city of whirls and waltzes. Every day is an adventure which will create lasting memories.

### Day 1: UK – Munich (Rail)

We journey aboard Eurostar from St Pancras International to Brussels and continue by high-speed rail to Munich, where we check in at our overnight hotel.

### Day 2: Munich – Passau (Rail) / UK – Passau (Air)

We continue our rail journey and board our ship in Passau, known as the 'three rivers city' due to its unique location where the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers meet. Those travelling by air join today. You can then relax on board as we begin our cruise towards Vienna, which takes us through the beautiful Wachau valley.

### Day 3: Vienna, Austria

Experience the delights of Vienna, capital of Austria. Grand palaces, baroque castles, magnificent squares and striking monuments are just some of the key features of this beautiful city, which is a world heritage site. In the morning you can join our optional city tour and in the afternoon we have an optional excursion visiting the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace. Later today we cruise towards Kalocsa.

### Day 4: Kalocsa, Hungary

We arrive in Kalocsa this afternoon, a small village in the great plains of Hungary. Much of the country's paprika comes from the pepper fields surrounding this small town – there's even a Paprika Museum and Paprika Street in the centre. It is also known for its beautiful handmade embroidery. Our optional guided tour points out the highlights before we continue cruising towards the country of Serbia.

### Day 5: Belgrade, Serbia

The city of Belgrade lies at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. We arrive in the afternoon with plenty of time to see the highlights of this Serbian capital. You can start by joining our optional city tour, which is a great way to see the main sights including the huge Belgrade Fortress



and St Sava Church, one of the biggest churches in the world. Later this evening we cruise towards Romania/Bulgaria.

### Day 6: Eisernes Tor, the Iron Gate Gorge

Enjoy a full day cruising through the breathtaking scenery of Eisernes Tor, the Iron Gate – the largest river gorge in Europe which carves a channel through the Carpathian mountains. The views are spectacular, with the Derdap national park on the southern side of the Danube in Serbia and the Portile de Fier Nature Park on the northern side in Romania. It's a fantastic day to spend relaxing on the sun deck.

### Day 7: Ruse, Bulgaria

After breakfast our ship docks in Ruse, the fifth largest city in Bulgaria, where you can join our optional excursion to Ivanovo and the Basarbovo Monastery. Here you will find a group of rock-hewn churches, chapels and monasteries inscribed on the world heritage list, one of which we visit. After a

short city tour through the centre of Ruse we return to our ship and cruise towards Cernavoda.

### Day 8: Cernavoda & the Black Sea

Early this morning we arrive in the Romanian city of Cernavoda, where our included excursion takes you to the Black Sea. We visit Constanta, the main port city of Romania, and take a city tour including photo stops at Ovidius Square, the Great Mahmudiye Mosque, the St Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral (1885), the casino and the Genoese lighthouse. You can also visit the famous Roman mosaic. We then continue by coach to Mamaia, the most famous seaside resort in Romania, where we enjoy a delicious lunch along with the chance to paddle in the Black Sea.

### Day 9: Giurgiu, Romania – Turnu Magaurele, Romania

We arrive in Giurgiu, Romania, early this morning. Our optional excursion takes you to the Romanian capital of Bucharest, where there's plenty of time to



Bratislava Castle

explore the wide tree-lined boulevards and admire many landmarks including Parliament Palace – the second largest building in the world after the US Pentagon, the Arch of Triumph and the beautiful Romanian Atheneum. We return to our ship in the city of Turnu Magaurele and cruise towards the Iron Gate Gorge.

### Day 10: Eisernes Tor, the Iron Gate Gorge

Enjoy another full day cruising through the spectacular Iron Gate Gorge.

### Day 11: Novi Sad, Serbia

Novi Sad is the second largest city in Serbia after Belgrade. The most recognised landmark is the Petrovaradin Fortress, which dominates the city from its position on the right bank of the Danube. There's also the historic neighbourhood of Stari Grad. Our optional guided tour takes in many highlights before we continue cruising towards Mohács.

### Day 12: Mohács, Hungary

We reach Mohács this morning, which is just across the Hungarian border. In the afternoon you can join our optional excursion to Pécs – home to the world famous Zsolnay ceramics and the largest Turkish ruins in Hungary. Later this evening we cruise upriver towards Budapest.

### Day 13: Budapest, Hungary

Budapest is said to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Join our optional tour to see the highlights of both sides of the city – traditional Buda and the more cosmopolitan Pest. We offer a further optional excursion this afternoon to the Puszta,

a vast prairie where we visit a traditional ranch and enjoy a tour of the grounds in a horse-drawn carriage, before watching a spectacular live horse show. Later today we cruise towards Bratislava.

### Day 14: Bratislava, Slovakia

We reach Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, this afternoon. This historic city is dominated by its castle, set high above the Danube and once a frontier post of the Roman empire. There's also the unique suspension bridge, another key landmark which was announced as the building of the century when it opened in 1972. Join our optional guided tour to take in the main sights and experience the rich culture in and around the old town before our ship cruises towards Melk.

### Day 15: Melk, Austria

The small town of Melk lies in the beautiful Wachau valley. Here you can join our optional excursion visiting the Benedictine Abbey – one of the most famous monastic houses in Austria, which has been occupied by monks for over 900 years. You can relax onboard for the remainder of the day as we cruise to our final port of call.

### Day 16: Passau – Munich, Germany (Rail) / UK (Air)

After a truly memorable cruise we bid farewell to our captain and his crew and travel by rail to the city of Munich, where we check in at our overnight hotel. Those travelling by air depart today.

### Day 17: Munich – UK (Rail)

After breakfast we continue by rail to Brussels where our Eurostar connection returns us to London.

15 DAYS FROM  
£1999



### YOUR CRUISE INCLUDES

- Fourteen nights' cruise on a full board basis
- Excursion: Constanta & Mamaia
- For included visits see itinerary
- Services of a Cruise Manager

### BY RAIL

- Travel by Eurostar from London St Pancras
- Connecting rail journeys
- Coach transfers between station and ship
- Two nights' half board accommodation

### BY AIR

- Return flights from Heathrow. Prices are subject to change and availability and will be confirmed at the time of booking
- Coach transfers between airport and ship

For more travel arrangement details see pages 30 & 31

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

- Vienna city tour ..... £25
- Schönbrunn Palace ..... £35
- Kalocsa – paprika town ..... £20
- Belgrade city tour ..... £21
- Ivanovo guided tour ..... £21
- Bucharest city tour ..... £35
- Novi Sad city tour ..... £21
- Pécs city tour ..... £25
- Budapest city tour ..... £21
- Puszta horse show ..... £36
- Bratislava city tour ..... £24
- Melk Abbey ..... £21

Pre-book package price £249  
Saving per person £58

2018 dates	No. of days	Airport	Train station
29 July	17	–	St Pancras
30 July	15	LHR	–
9 September	17	–	St Pancras
10 September	15	LHR	–

### HOLIDAY PRICES

AIR & RAIL INCLUSIVE - from £1999 per person				
Dates	Deck	All Airports 15 days	Rail 17 days	Join at Ship 15 days
July & September	Main	£1999	£2099	£1699
	Middle	£2249	£2349	£1949
	Panorama	£2499	£2599	£2199

For deck plan and cabin occupancy see page 7

All cabins have two berths, single occupancy 50% supplement

For airport key see page 3

INSURANCE & DEPOSITS – see page 32 for details



Ruse