

*Viking River Cruises*  
**Passage to Eastern Europe 2019**  
*Day by Day*



**Sun 10/6** Depart US, fly overnight

**Mon 10/7 - Day 1** Arrive at the Bucharest airport and transfer to the superior first-class Radisson Blu Hotel Bucharest (or similar) in the heart of the city for a 1-night stay. Spend the rest of the day relaxing, or do some exploring on your own.

**Tue 10/8 - Day 2** After breakfast, check out of your hotel and take a morning tour of the city. See the city's wide boulevards, the Romanian Athenaeum, the Arch of Triumph and the Palace of Parliament. Visit the outdoor Muzeul Satului, otherwise known as the Village Museum, where authentic dwellings from all regions of the country have been relocated and reassembled, including rural cottages, farmhouses and water mills. During lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a lively folkloric performance that recalls the simple pleasures of rural life. You then proceed to Giurgiu to board your ship and enjoy a welcome dinner. (B, L, D)

*Included tour* of Bucharest & the Village Museum (duration: 7 1/2 hrs.) Embarkation.  
**FROM MODEST RURAL DWELLINGS TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST BUILDING**



Explore Romania's fascinating capital, an impressive collection of unique architecture and grand monuments. Founded in the 14th century, Bucharest became Romania's capital in 1859 with the merging of Moldavia and Wallachia. See the city's wide boulevards, the Romanian Athenaeum, the Arch of Triumph and other highlights. Ceausescu's expansive Palace of Parliament is the largest civilian building in the world, with 3,000 rooms and 24-carat gold ceilings. Visit the outdoor Muzeul Satului, otherwise known as the Village Museum, where authentic dwellings from all regions of the country have been relocated and reassembled, including rural cottages, farmhouses and water mills. During lunch at a local

restaurant, enjoy a lively folkloric performance that recalls the simple pleasures of rural life.

*Optional tour at additional cost:* Highlights of Bucharest (duration: 6 hrs.) Embarkation.  
**ADMIRE STUNNING ARCHITECTURE AND DISCOVER ROMANIA'S POLITICAL PAST**



Explore the sights of Bucharest on a tour of the Romanian capital. Embark your coach for a scenic drive to Spring Palace—once the residence of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. View the collection of treasures and personal items that have remained intact since the revolution of 1989. Next, take the subway to Roman Square. Visit the beautiful concert hall and admire the fresco depicting stories of Romanian history. Walk down the Calea Victoriei (Victory Avenue) and admire the stunning architecture as you pass the National Art Museum, National Library and Crețulescu Church. At Revolution Square, stop and view the building that was once home to the Central Committee of the Communist Party and see the balcony on which Ceausescu gave his final speech before he was arrested and executed. In the

(\*Note: Costs not yet published for optional tours.)

Old Town, you will stroll through the narrow cobblestone streets and stop at the oldest beerhouse in the city for a traditional lunch with locally brewed beers.

**Wed 10/9 - Day 3** After breakfast, disembark at Russe for a full-day excursion to Bulgaria's former capital, Veliko Tarnovo. See Tsaravets Hill and the ruins of the royal castle. During free time, shop for local crafts along Samovodska Charshia. Continue your venture to Arbanasi for lunch in a local restaurant and a guided tour of the Nativity Church, with its intricate floor-to-ceiling murals and icons. Return to your ship for dinner. (B, L, D)

Included tour of Veliko Tarnovo & Arvanasi (duration: 8 1/2 hrs.)

#### WITNESS TRUE BULGARIAN CHARACTER



Tour two cultural gems rich in Bulgarian heritage during this full-day excursion into the heart of the country. You will begin with a drive through Russe. Then continue to Veliko Tarnovo, a fascinating medieval town built around Tsarevets Hill and its hilltop royal castle. After a coffee break overlooking the Old Town, stop at the Yantra River bridge for a nice view of the majestic Assenev Brothers monument, a towering obelisk flanked by horses. Next, explore Samovodska Charshia, a traditional street teeming with handicrafts, or visit the castle ruins and enjoy vistas of the Old Town and countryside. Afterward, proceed to Arbanasi, rich in history and Greek influence. After lunch at a local restaurant, sample the Damascus Rose products, locally made from the essence of roses. After, you will

visit a local merchant house and see the intricate frescoes of the Nativity Church with a local guide.

Optional tour at additional cost of Russe Highlights (duration: 3 hrs.)

#### THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A REMARKABLE ARCHITECTURAL ENSEMBLE



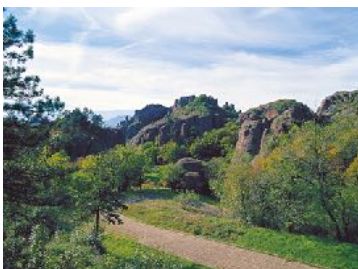
Marvel at the brilliant architectural variety of Bulgaria's most important river port, for which it is often called "Little Vienna." Established in the 1st century, Russe is a repository of neo-baroque, neo-rococo, Empire, Renaissance and Secession brilliance. During this guided excursion, you will see the city's most beloved landmarks. Pass the rich, crimson-hued Opera House; the Liberty Monument, the symbol of the city completed around the turn of the 20th century; and the neoclassical Theater and Concert Hall. Continue to the baroque Old City Center, a collection of architectural styles, and the impressive Sveta Troitsa, or Holy Trinity, Church with its hexagonal tower. Then, browse the fascinating collection at the Museum of History, which houses 140,000 artifacts and items discovered in

Danube castles. After a stop at the engaging Ethnographic Museum, where you will learn what life was like in this corner of Bulgaria in the 19th century, return to your ship.

**Thu 10/10 -Day 4** Arrive in the picturesque Bulgarian port of Vidin, and take an excursion to see Belogradchik Fortress, built right into the striking Belogradchik Rocks. See the fortress's amazing construction, begun in Roman times and greatly extended by Bulgarian tsars and the Ottomans, and enjoy breathtaking views. Enjoy lunch on board your ship; then you have free time to explore Vidin's city center, Orthodox churches and the ruins of the city's once-grand synagogue. We depart during dinner. (B, L, D)

Included tour of Belogradchik Rocks & Fortress (duration: 4 hrs.)

#### SPECTACULAR ROCK FORMATIONS AND THE FORTRESS THEY HELPED SHAPE



Journey into one of the most scenic regions of Bulgaria for a unique glimpse of how geography helped create an architectural treasure. Join your guide for a drive from Vidin to the Belogradchik Rocks. With their strange, red-hued cliffs and massifs, these breathtaking mountains strike a dramatic pose. The result of millennia of weathering, river erosion, freezing, and countless other factors, these formations are more than Bulgaria's great natural wonder. They are also a curiosity for the multitude of fantastic figures and profiles that emerge when you catch them at just the right angle. Silhouettes of people, towers, ships, mushrooms, palaces and animals populate the cliffs. You will also see the fascinating Belogradchik Fortress, built by Ottoman conquerors in a maze of rock columns and pillars. You will have time to walk around the compound and

enjoy superior views of the caves and rock shapes from its many terraced courtyards.

(\*Note: Costs not yet published for optional tours.)

Optional tour at additional cost of Vidin Home-Hosted Cooking Demonstration (duration: 3 1/2 hrs.)

### THE FINE ART OF BULGARIA'S CELEBRATED BANITSKA PASTRY



See how everyday Bulgarians live; learn how to prepare the nation's beloved *banitsa*, and how the diet here helps some locals live to 100. Drive with your guide to a home near Vidin, where your gracious hosts greet you with freshly baked traditional round bread. Relax, get comfortable and look around the house and garden. Then, head to the kitchen to see how Bulgaria's *banitsa* is prepared, and try preparing it for yourself. This phyllo pastry, a central part of family celebrations, may be prepared with spinach, cheese, grated pumpkin or whatever ingredient is on hand. Often, the baker inserts a lucky charm into the dough before cooking so it can be discovered with much surprise later. As your *banitsa*, cooks, you can sample the local yogurt and learn to curdle your own. Locals love yogurt in Vidin, and they claim it is why so many of them are centenarians.

**Fri 10/11 - Day 5** Today, enjoy scenic cruising as you travel through one of the most picturesque areas of the Lower Danube. The Iron Gate is one of Europe's most dramatic natural wonders—a spectacular narrow gorge with enormous white limestone cliffs. Take in your Cruise Director's commentary about the region and scenic points of interest as you sail toward the next port. (B, L, D)

**Sat 10/12 - Day 6** Wake up in Belgrade, capital of Serbia. Take a guided walk through the grounds of Kalemegdan Fortress, now a stately park; also see the Orthodox cathedral and stop at the Square of the Republic. Enjoy lunch on board your ship before you have free time to explore Belgrade's gracious architecture or visit one of its many museums, such as the Nikola Tesla Museum. Dine on board your ship or experience some of Belgrade's nightlife. We depart very late this evening. (B, L, D)

Included tour of Panoramic Belgrade (duration: 4 hrs)

### TOUR THE "WHITE CITY" AT THE SCENIC CONFLUENCE OF TWO RIVERS



See Belgrade's many fine monuments and architectural splendor during this enlightening tour of Europe's most resilient city. The Serbian capital of Belgrade overlooks the confluence of the Danube and Sava Rivers. Ravaged and rebuilt 20 times in its history, many of the city's finest buildings have been gloriously restored. Begin with a guided walk around the famed Kalemegdan Fortress. Its stalwart walls loom over the Old

Town; impressive medieval gates enclose Orthodox churches, Turkish baths, a soaring monument to "The Victor" and more. You will also enjoy a stroll in the park around the fortress, taking in the picturesque vistas of the river. Later, witness some of modern-day Belgrade during a short

panoramic drive. Stop in the Square of the Republic to admire the statue of Prince Michael. You will have free time here in the adjacent pedestrian shopping area to browse the stores before returning to your ship.

Optional tours at additional cost of Kovačica Art Colony (duration 3 1/2 hrs.)

### WITNESS NAÏVE ART AND THE ART OF VIOLIN MAKING



Journey into the Pannonian Basin to learn about the Naïve Art movement and to visit a violin-making studio. In the 1950s, Kovačica residents Martin Paluska and Jan Soko took brushes to canvas without formal training, and began to paint daily life around them. Perspective was not a concern for them, nor was realism. But the Naïve Art style that they created stuck and became a movement. Journey into the Carpathian Basin, past soybean and sunflower fields, where Slovaks, Serbs, Hungarians, Romanians and Slavs live in harmony side by side. Here, you will learn about the Naïve Art movement from an expert and browse the village collection. Some of the finest violins are made in Kovačica, too, as you will see when you visit the studio and home of violin maker Jan Nemček. The master will demonstrate some of his techniques and play a tune on a violin that he constructed.

(\*Note: Costs not yet published for optional tours.)

Optional tour at additional cost Behind the Scenes at the Serbian Opera (duration: 2 hrs.)

### **GET AN INSIDER'S GLIMPSE OF A NATIONAL INSTITUTION**



Join us on a small-group excursion for a behind-the-scenes tour of Serbia's treasured National Theater, home of Serbian opera. In 1868, Prince Michael invited the founder of the Novi Sad Serbian National Theater to open another performance center in Belgrade. Serbians have flocked here to celebrate their culture and tradition ever since. The theater's original design mirrored the Teatro alla Scala opera house in Milan. Today, as it overlooks Republic Square like royalty, Belgrade's National Theater houses three artistic ensembles (of opera, drama and ballet) under its roof, with more than 600 performances per year. So dedicated are its musicians, legend says that they have even held daily performances during air raids. A short drive delivers you to its doors, and you will take a guided tour behind the scenes. After, enjoy an exclusive performance of four breathtaking arias and visit the theater's museum while sipping sparkling wine.

Optional tours additional cost Best of Belgrade (duration: 6 hrs.)

### **SERBIA'S RESURRECTED "WHITE CITY"**



Explore the rich history and culture of Serbia's capital, set where the graceful Sava and Danube Rivers meet. Once the center of a civil war, Belgrade today is an exuberant, forward-looking city. Drive with your guide to the ancient Kalemegdan Fortress, the pinnacle of the city. Enjoy a guided walk through the surrounding park. Then, during a panoramic tour, pass the Church of St. Sava, one of the largest Orthodox churches in the world; the imposing Town Hall, once home of the Obrenović dynasty; the Moscow Hotel, where Albert Einstein and Robert De Niro stayed; and Republic Square. Next, tour the Tito Memorial, a moving tribute dedicated to the "Father of Yugoslavia," Marshal Josip Tito. Later, descend underground into a vast labyrinth owned by the wine-making Panajotović family. Enjoy lunch and a tasting in these fascinating cellars.

Optional tour at additional cost Historic Belgrade on Foot (duration: 3 1/2 hrs.)

### **WALKING TOUR OF SERBIAN CAPITAL**



Stroll the historic streets of Belgrade and see the city's architectural highlights on a walking tour. Meet your guide at the ship and head to Kalemegdan Park. Marvel at the landscape dominated by the imposing fortress, and admire the view overlooking the confluence of the rivers. Built in the 3rd century BC by the Romans, the fortress guarded the border separating the ruling Roman Empire from barbarian lands across the Danube, later the divider between the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires. Explore the grounds as you learn of its dramatic storied past. Next, walk through the bohemian quarter, which has attracted local artists since the late 19th century. Explore the quaint streets lined with old taverns and enjoy a stop at a local restaurant for a taste of the local specialty, cherry pie. Continue to Nikola Pašić Square and along the Grand Boulevard to Knez

Mihailova Street. Enjoy free time to stroll the pedestrian area and indulge in some shopping.

Optional tour at additional cost Bicycling Belgrade (duration: 2 1/2 hrs. )

### **PEDAL THROUGH THE CAPITAL CITY'S GREEN SIDE**



Join locals on a leisurely exploration of a popular urban outdoor escape along the banks of the Sava River. Begin your bicycle tour near the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers, where the city of Belgrade has its roots. From the other side of the river, see the poignant memorial to the victims of the Holocaust among the Serbian Jewish community before you head up the Sava. Surprisingly soon, you leave the bustle of Belgrade behind as you wind your way through parklands and quiet residential neighborhoods toward Ada Lake, located on an island in the river. This small idyll, lined with cozy cafés and sunny beaches, provides the perfect urban oasis and is very popular with the people of Belgrade. Spend some time taking in the tranquil surroundings and enjoy a refreshing drink before heading back to your ship.

(\*Note: Costs not yet published for optional tours.)

**Sun 10/13 - Day 7** Cruise along the Danube, arriving at Vukovar around noon. Disembark for an afternoon excursion to the charming Croatian city of Osijek. Inhabited since Neolithic times, this area has had several heydays under the Romans, the Ottomans and the Hapsburgs; now, Vukovar is revered for its baroque buildings, parks and monuments. Return on board for dinner. (B, L, D)

*Included tour* Osijek & Vukovar (duration: 4 1/2 hrs.)

#### **TOUR TWO MAJOR CROATIAN CITIES AND VISIT A LOCAL FAMILY**



See the highlights of Vukovar and Osijek, and stop to meet a Croatian family along the way. You will meet your guide and make the short drive to Vukovar, passing the Vuka River, the palace of the former Count Eltz and the city's main street, lined with buildings that carry echoes of Northern Europe. As you arrive in Osijek, you will pause to visit a local family in their home and learn about their daily lives. After, continue to the Osijek Citadel complex for a walking tour. Enjoy a concert in the Rising of the Holy Cross Church. Then explore Holy Trinity Square, see the town's only surviving gate and stroll the picturesque promenade along the Drava River. See more of the town by coach, passing green parks and driving along European Avenue, the most scenic street in Osijek, lined with elegant baroque and Belle Epoque buildings.

*Optional tour at additional cost* of Croatian Countryside & Wine Tasting (duration: 3 1/2 hrs.)

#### **CROATIAN CASTLES AND FINE VINTAGES**



Discover the rich and varied history of Northern Croatia and sample some of its delicious wines. Since Roman times, this region of the country has been coveted, thanks to its strategic location on the Danube. During this enlightening excursion, you will drive with your guide to one of the area's renowned museums, a castle with fascinating medieval origins, where you will browse a rich and revealing collection of artifacts dating back centuries. As you tour the castle chambers and halls, Croatia's past comes alive in priceless relics that have survived the ages. You will also turn to the fruits of the earth when you descend into a wine cellar in the historic town of Ilok. In these dim corridors, you will taste two white wines and one red and experience for yourself why its prized grapes and hearty vintages have helped put Croatia on every oenophile's map.

**Mon 10/14 - Day 8** Sail into Hungary this morning, arriving in Kalocsa after lunch. Take a guided city tour followed by a short organ concert at St. Joseph Church. Then, you are treated to a performance of traditional Puszta horsemanship. Return to the ship and enjoy a festive final dinner on board as we depart for Budapest. (B, L, D)

*Included tour* of Kalocsa & Puszta (duration: 3 1/2 hrs.)

#### **HUNGARY'S CAPITAL OF PAPRIKA AND EQUESTRIAN ARTS**



Visit one of Hungary's major cultural centers and attend a breathtaking display of traditional horsemanship. Depart your ship for a short drive to the city of Kalocsa, where a rich history is flavored by the town's renowned peppery paprika. In Holy Trinity Square, you will see the splendid cathedral and admire the Archbishop's Palace. After a short organ concert at St. Joseph Church, continue to the Bakodpuszta Equestrian Center. The people of the Hungarian Puszta region have long relied on the horse for transport, settlement and defending their land. Many locals worry that their country's equestrian connection is being lost to a motorized world, so they hold fast to rural ways and to their four-legged comrades, elevating horsemanship to an art form. You'll witness the sometimes acrobatic culmination of this long-cherished relationship during a thrilling show.

(\*Note: Costs not yet published for optional tours.)

**Tue 10/15 - Day 9** Disembark after breakfast and take a tour of Budapest. Begin in Pest, where you see the National Opera House and visit historic Heroes' Square. Cross the Chain Bridge to Buda, where you walk along Castle Hill to Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church. Check in to the deluxe Budapest Hilton (or similar) for a 2-night stay, then take the rest of the day to sightsee on your own. Explore a museum, do some shopping or relax in one of the Art Nouveau spas. (B) Note: Lunch & dinner are on your own.

Included tour of Panoramic Budapest (duration: 4 hrs.)

### **HUNGARY'S GRACEFUL AND INSPIRING CAPITAL**



Take in one of Europe's great cultural capitals. Over the last few decades, Budapest has reemerged as one of the continent's iconic cities, divided by the lilting Danube and connected by the graceful Chain Bridge. Meet your guide at your ship for a panoramic tour, beginning in modern Pest. Along the elegant Andrassy Avenue, the Champs-Élysées of Budapest, admire the Hungarian State Opera House. Stop at Heroes' Square, a wide-open plaza of monuments and statues commemorating the Magyar state. Across the river, explore the more traditional Buda side of the city. Here you will visit the Castle District with its massive hilltop castle complex, the turreted Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church, named for the country's most popular medieval king. From the heights of

Buda Hill, enjoy fantastic views of the famous Chain Bridge, the first span to ever connect the two halves of the city when it opened in 1849.

**Wed 10/16 - Day 10** Take a full day to explore Budapest on your own. Ride the city's innovative, efficient metro; walk through the City Park or along the Pest embankment for views of the Buda Castle District; explore the Buda Castle Labyrinth; visit the Jewish Quarter and tour the beautifully restored Dohány Street Synagogue. (B) Note: Lunch & dinner are on your own.

Optional tour at additional cost of Szentendre & the Margit Kovács Museum (duration: 4 hrs.)

### **HUNGARY'S RENOWNED RICH AND THRIVING ARTISTS' CENTER**

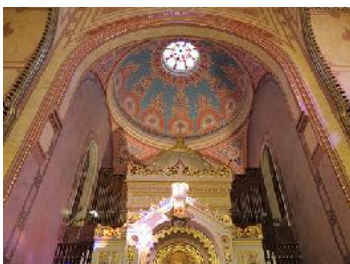


Stroll the delightful streets of Szentendre, a colorful village of galleries and artists, and pay a visit to one of its renowned museums commemorating one of the town's beloved. With cobblestone streets, pastel facades and a red-roofed townscape, Szentendre overflows with charm. In the 1500s, the Hungarian-Serbian community laid the foundations of what we see here today; at one time, eight Serbian Orthodox churches served this rural hamlet. The town holds fast to its roots. And today, it is home to a thriving artists' community, embodied in the richly hued houses and decorated storefronts. Journey here with your guide and amble along the narrow, picturesque streets, pausing to browse inviting galleries that display the work of local artists. You will also visit the Margit Kovács

Museum; this artist's early 20th-century ceramics and other sculptures won her international accolades as they captured a rich tableau of past times in the Hungarian countryside.

Optional tour at additional cost of Dohány Street Synagogue & Jewish Budapest (duration: 3 hrs.)

### **IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A CHERISHED HISTORY**



Explore Budapest's Jewish history and heritage, including the Jewish Quarter and massive synagogue. A century ago, Budapest had a thriving Jewish community. In the years leading up to and including World War II, half of the city's 250,000 Jews were killed. The 19th-century Moorish-Revival Dohány Street Synagogue (Great Synagogue), the largest in Europe, was converted to a stable. Today, a rich Jewish history is preserved, as you will see with your guide. During a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter, once the Budapest Ghetto, admire the Great Synagogue with its glittering interior. In the synagogue complex, browse religious relics at the Jewish Museum and view the "Tree of Life" memorial to the 400,000 Hungarian Jews killed by Nazis. Note that the synagogue is not open to tours on Saturdays and Jewish holidays.

(\*Note: Costs not yet published for optional tours.)

*Optional tour at additional cost of Gödöllő Royal Palace & Gardens (duration: 3 1/2 hrs.)*

### **ONE OF HUNGARY'S LARGEST, MOST IMPORTANT PALACES**



Visit one of Hungary's most beloved monuments, built by a count in the 1760s. Gödöllő Royal Palace was built by Count Antal Grassalkovich, well-respected among the monarchy and a confidante of Empress Maria Theresa. But when the last direct male descendant in the family died, it was bought for the royal couple as a summer house. In the 20th century, Soviet troops used it as a barracks and transformed some wings into rest homes for the aged. Restoration began in 1985 and continues today. Upon arrival, you will tour the elegantly adorned rooms of King Franz Joseph's suite. See the lush furnishings and finely detailed woodwork of Empress Elisabeth's private apartments. And

pause in the impressive Grand Hall to imagine the royal court gathering for ceremonial occasions. Later, there will be time to admire the French-inspired gardens and vast, beautifully manicured park surrounding the palace.

**Thu 10/17 - Day 11** After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight. Or extend your journey with 2 additional nights in bustling Budapest or 3 nights in Prague, the Czech Republic's gracious capital. (B)

*(\*Note: Costs not yet published for optional tours.)*

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## **Optional 3-night Pre-Cruise Extension - Bucharest (\$799) - includes breakfasts; lunch & dinner on your own**

**Thu. 10/3** Depart USA, fly overnight

**Fri 10/4 - Pre-Day 1 Bucharest**



Welcome to Bucharest. Transfer to your First-Class hotel in the heart of the city, with the former Royal Palace and great shopping at your doorstep. The rest of the day you are free to relax or begin exploring the city's wide boulevards and gracious architecture on your own. Your Viking Tour Director is available to help you plan your time in Bucharest so you can make the most of your visit.

**Sat 10/5 - Pre-Day 2 Transylvania**



After breakfast, check out of your hotel and take a motor-coach drive through the Transylvania countryside. Stop for a tour of Peleş Castle, a 19th-century fortification in Sinaia that melds numerous European architectural styles and materials into a harmonious and romantic structure. Continue to Braşov, where you have a panoramic city tour featuring the city's Gothic-style Black Church. Check in to your First-Class hotel (or similar). You have a free evening to enjoy the town square, with its Council House (complete with the ancient Trumpets Tower) and

lovely fountain. Your Viking Tour Director is available to help you plan your time in Braşov so you can make the most of your visit. (B)

### Sun 10/6 - Pre-Day 3 Transylvania & Bucharest



This morning, check out of your Braşov hotel. Take a short ride to Bran Castle, commonly known as Dracula's Castle. This landmark citadel, built in the 14th century and used by Saxon and Walachian kings, is the best known of several locations linked to the Dracula legend; it was used by Vlad Tepes, or "Vlad the Impaler," as his headquarters for his incursions into Transylvania. The castle has Gothic and baroque furnishings and decorative arts on display. After your tour, return to your First-Class Bucharest hotel. (B)

### Mon 10/7 - Pre-Day 4 Bucharest



You have the day at leisure in Romania's gracious capital city, which offers the Palace of Parliament, as well as many churches and monasteries, museums, parks, gardens and interesting neighborhoods. Or join an optional excursion to the rustic village of Snagov and the Snagov Forest, a protected area of oak, hornbeam and lime trees and a picturesque lake. Upon arrival at the lake's shore, you will cross the bridge onto an islet that has hosted the Snagov Monastery for almost 700 years. This imposing-looking building has been a place of refuge, escape and imprisonment since its founding.

Vlad the Impaler is said to be buried inside the ornately decorated sanctuary. After time to explore, continue to the Mogoşoaia Palace, a splendid work of Brâncovenesc style, a blend of Ottoman and Venetian. Set in elegant gardens, this history museum and art gallery was once home to Romanian nobles. (B)

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## Optional 2-night Post-Cruise Extension - Budapest (\$449) - includes breakfasts; lunch & dinner on your own

### Thu 10/17 - Post-Day 1 Budapest



After breakfast, disembark and we take you to the First-Class Hilton Budapest (or similar) in Buda's Castle District. Take the rest of the day to enjoy some of the sights and sample some Hungarian cuisine. Walk through Pest and do some shopping along Váci Street. Cross the Danube via the famous Chain Bridge to enjoy the hillier



Buda neighborhoods. A Viking host is available to help you plan your time in Budapest so you can make the most of your visit.

### Fri 10/18 Post-Day 2 Budapest



You have a full day to further explore Budapest. Tour the Hungarian National Gallery, visit the Bartók Museum or enjoy one of the city's elegant thermal spas. (B)

### Sat. 10/19 Post-Day 3 Budapest

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight. (B)



# Optional 3-night Post-Cruise Extension - Prague

**(\$799)** - includes breakfasts; lunch & dinner on your own

## Thu 10/17 - Post-Day 1 Prague



We transfer you from your ship to the First-Class Hilton Prague Hotel (or similar), overlooking the Vltava River near the historic Old Town and the shopping district. The rest of the day is free to explore on your own and sample some of the hearty local cuisine. This evening, see the city's monuments, like the National Theater, Prague Castle and the famous Charles Bridge, beautifully illuminated. A Viking host is available to help you plan your time in Prague so you can make the most of your visit.

## Fri 10/18 - Post-Day 2 Prague



Begin the day with a panoramic tour of Prague, including a guided walk through Prague Castle. Few cities embody the past as authentically as Prague, the Czech Republic's atmospheric capital on the Vltava River that clings to its history with unwavering passion. Prague's medieval architecture is its most prominent, but the city is also a rich repository of Romanesque, baroque and Art Nouveau buildings that stir the imagination. After your tour, enjoy a free afternoon and evening to visit some of the city's landmarks or museums. (B)

## Fri 10/19 - Post-Day 3 Prague



You have a full day to further explore Prague. See more of the Old Town or check out some of Prague's more modern sights like the Frank Gehry-designed Dancing House, an unusual office building inspired by Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Walk across the Charles Bridge, see the mesmerizing Astronomical Clock and the poignant Lennon Wall, and stand in historic Wenceslas Square. Wander past the colorful cottages in Golden Lane, where Franz Kafka lived and worked. Or in the Jewish Quarter, see the 13th-century Altneuschul, Europe's oldest, active synagogue. (B)

## Sat 10/20 - Post-Day 4 Prague



After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight. (B)