

Balkan Discovery Avalon Waterways

By

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Map from Avalon Waterways



Cruise Overview

- Experience the extraordinary destinations of Eastern Europe on this Danube River cruise adventure through the Balkans.
- You'll cruise through the rich landscapes and cultural locales of Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania.
- Embark on your Avalon Suite Ship® in Budapest, the lively Hungarian capital, and cruise to Pécs, where you'll visit underground burial chambers with fascinating murals, now part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Take a fascinating guided tour of the Serbian capital of Belgrade, one of the oldest cities in Europe, where the Sava River meets the Danube.

Overview (cont)

- Cruise through the dramatic views of Iron Gates Gorge—a natural border between Serbia and Romania.
- Visit Bulgaria's Belogradchik, and see the fascinating rock formations sculpted by natural elements for over 200 million years.
- On an excursion to the ancient Bulgarian capital of Veliko Târnovo, you'll visit Arbanassi's Church of the Nativity, housing an impressive collection of frescoes.

To round out this timeless Eastern European river cruise, you'll stay in Romania's vibrant capital of Bucharest, known as the "Paris of the East."

- A local expert will show you many of its historical treasures, such as the Arc de Triomphe, built in honor of WWI soldiers.

Day 1 Budapest

- Welcome to Hungary. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Budapest must arrive by 2 pm.
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MOHÁCS

Day 2 Mohacs

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Mohacs by foot as you follow the lead of your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a morning Guided Sightseeing Tour of Mohács—the quiet Danube harbor town with its historical memorial parks, statues, and distinctive churches.
- Tour the remarkable medieval St. Nicholas Watermill—one of only a few remaining watermills performing stone-ground grain processing, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of nearby Pécs to see its 4th-century Christian underground tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with fascinating murals.
- You'll also enjoy an organ concert on your tour.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ILOK

The Barbican a gate tower of the old Castle, Pecs, Hungary

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Early Christian Cemetery, Pecs

Photo Hank Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Cella Septichora Visitors Center



Burial Chamber Mosaics

Photo Hank Schrader
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Another view of the Burial Chamber Mosaic



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Pecs, Hungary

Photo Hank Schrader
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Pecs Cathedral

Photo Hank Schrader
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Fresco inside Pecs Cathedral



Trinity Statue

In the background,
Pasha Kasim Mosque

Photo Hank Schrader

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Day 3

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided tour of Ilok, with its 1,000-year-old wine making traditions still thriving and its medieval fortress protected for its Croatian cultural heritage.
- Enjoy a brief cruise to Novi Sad while having lunch onboard.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Get your daily dose of exercise, join your Adventure Host on this walk in and around town, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Novi Sad, the second largest town in Serbia.
- Admire its Austro-Hungarian old town, with its baroque buildings, and ancient fortifications.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BELGRADE**

Ilok Castle

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Petrovaradin Fortress Novi Sad, Serbia

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Petrovaradin Fortress Clock Tower



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Novi Sad as seen from the Petrovaradin Fortress



Novi Sad, Serbia



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More Wall Art, Novi Sad



Dunavska Street Novi Sad, Serbia

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Bishop's Residence Novi Sad, Serbia

Bishops Palace Residence, Novi Sad. Serbia

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The Name of Mary, Catholic Church

Photo Anne Schrader
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Name of Mary Church

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Svetozar Meletic Statue in Freedom Square, Novi Sad



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Town Hall on Freedom Square

Photo Anne Schrader
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Another View of the Town Hall



Photo Anne Schrader
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Serbian Orthodox Church



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 4 Belgrade:

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Discover Belgrade's central walkway with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Belgrade—where the Danube and Sava Rivers converge—and see the city's many fascinating sights, including Saint Sava—one of the world's largest Orthodox churches.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Attend an onboard Lecture to learn about the rich history, destinations, and culture of the Balkan states.
- Spend your free time exploring the city on your own this afternoon on Knez Mihailova Street—Belgrade's central pedestrian thoroughfare with many lively cafés, shops, and cultural spots.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO GOLUBAČ**

Day 4 Optional Tours (Extra Cost)

- **Bohemian Dinner in Skadarlija**
- Enjoy a feast of hearty local dishes and live music during this dinner excursion in Belgrade's historic, bohemian Skadarlija district.
- **Rise & Fall of Socialism: Belgrade Private Yugo Tour**
- Feel the spirit of Yugoslavia. The Yugo tour is the ultimate way to experience the rise and fall of socialist Yugoslavia with all your senses.

Belgrade Serbia



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

St Sava Cathedral

Parliament



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Belgrade, Serbia

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St, Sava
Cathedral
Belgrade,
Serbia



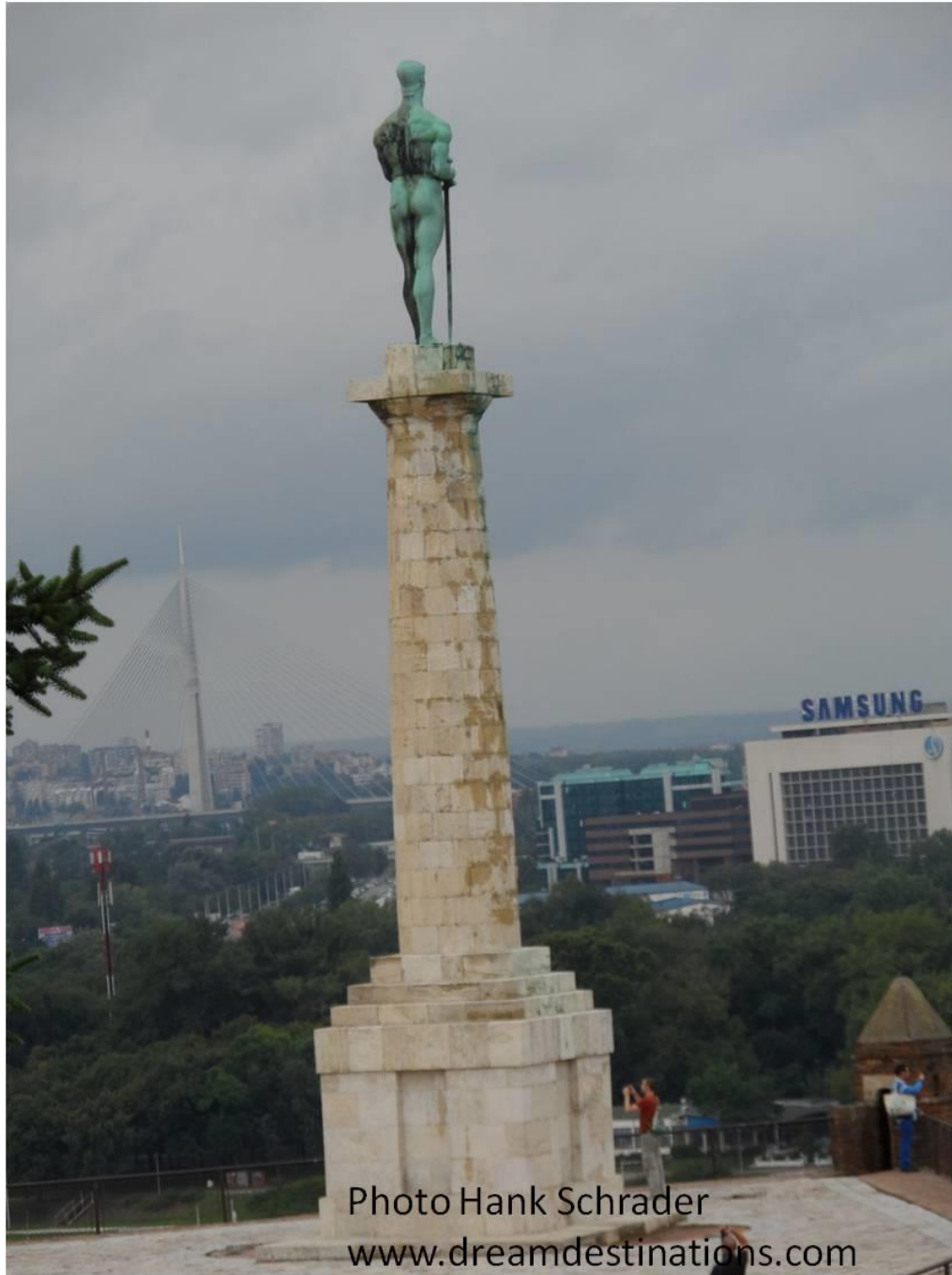
St. Sava Statue
Belgrade,
Serbia

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Belgrade, Serbia



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Monument to
the Victor, the
protector of
Belgrade, Serbia

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Kalemegdan Fortress Belgrade, Serbia



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

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Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade Serbia

Day 5 Golubač–Donji Milanovac–Iron Gates

CLASSIC EXCURSION: Visit the Fortress of Golubač, one of the best-preserved medieval fortresses in Europe.

You'll hear about its tumultuous history as a border control for defense in the Middle Ages, and a source of conflict between Serbia, the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire, OR:

CLASSIC EXCURSION Join a Guided Tour to the Mesolithic archaeological site of Lepenski Vir with unique views of the Danube Gorge.

Sail through the spectacular and narrow Iron Gates Gorge—a natural border between Serbia and Romania.

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VIDIN

Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



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Day 6 Vidin

ACTIVE EXCURSION: Wander and discover this town join your Adventure Host for a bike ride around town, OR:

CLASSIC EXCURSION: Join Guided Sightseeing to Baba Vida Fortress, followed by a Guided Tour of Belogradchik.

Marvel at the remarkable rock formations on the western slopes of the Balkan Mountains, sculpted by 200 million years of natural elements, OR:

DISCOVERY EXCURSION: Discover more than two centuries of a proud family history of Bulgarian winemaking with a tour and tasting at a local winery.

Here, you'll enjoy a wine tasting in the cellars.

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ROUSSE

Baba Vida Castle, Vidin, Bulgaria



Baba Vida Castle, Vidin Bulgaria



More of Baba Vida Castle

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One of the keep towers of Baba Vida Castle



Statue of Baba Vida outside the castle



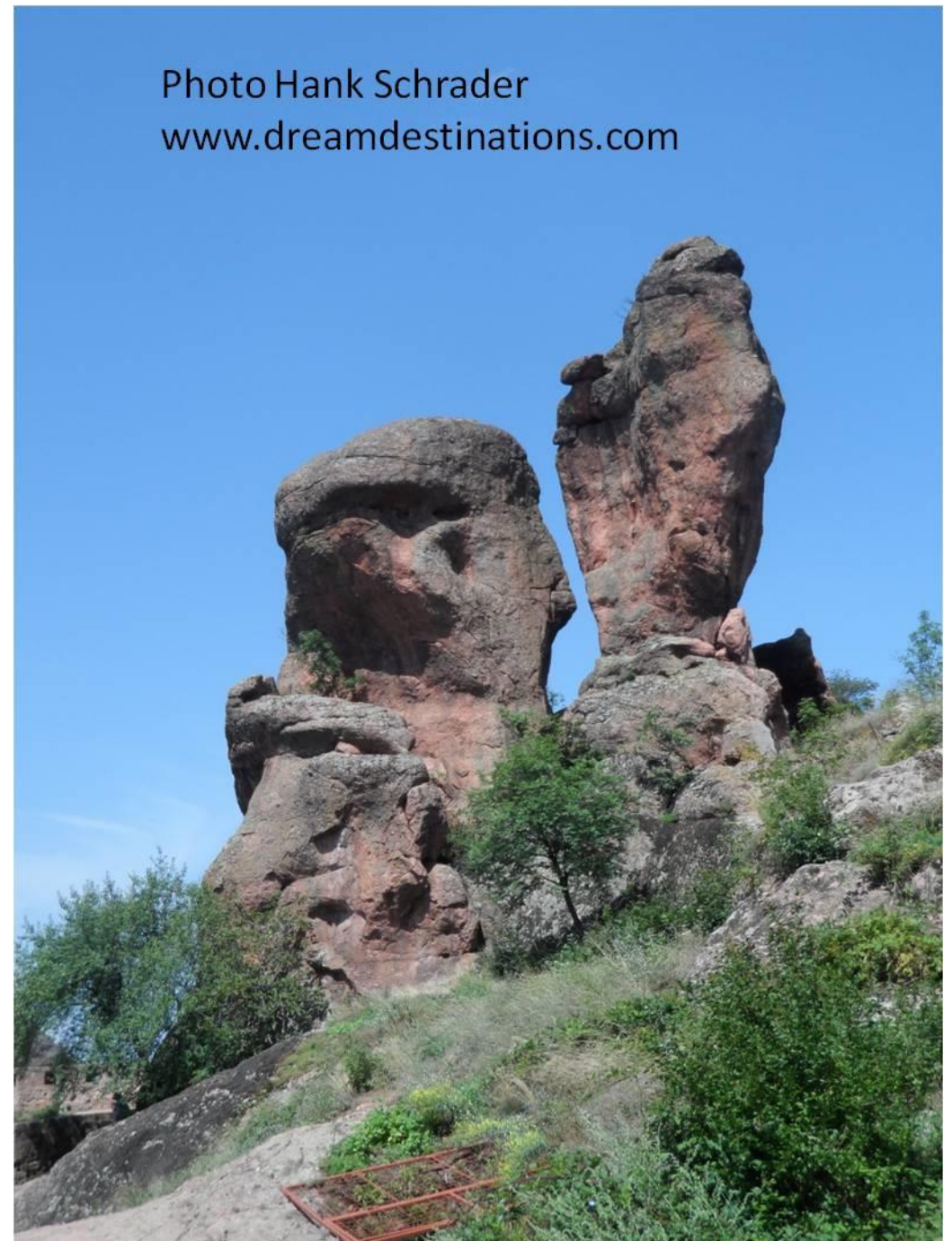
Photo Hank Schrader
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Play about the history of the Baba Vida Castle



Photo Hank Schrader
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Belogradchik rock formations



More Belogradchik rocks

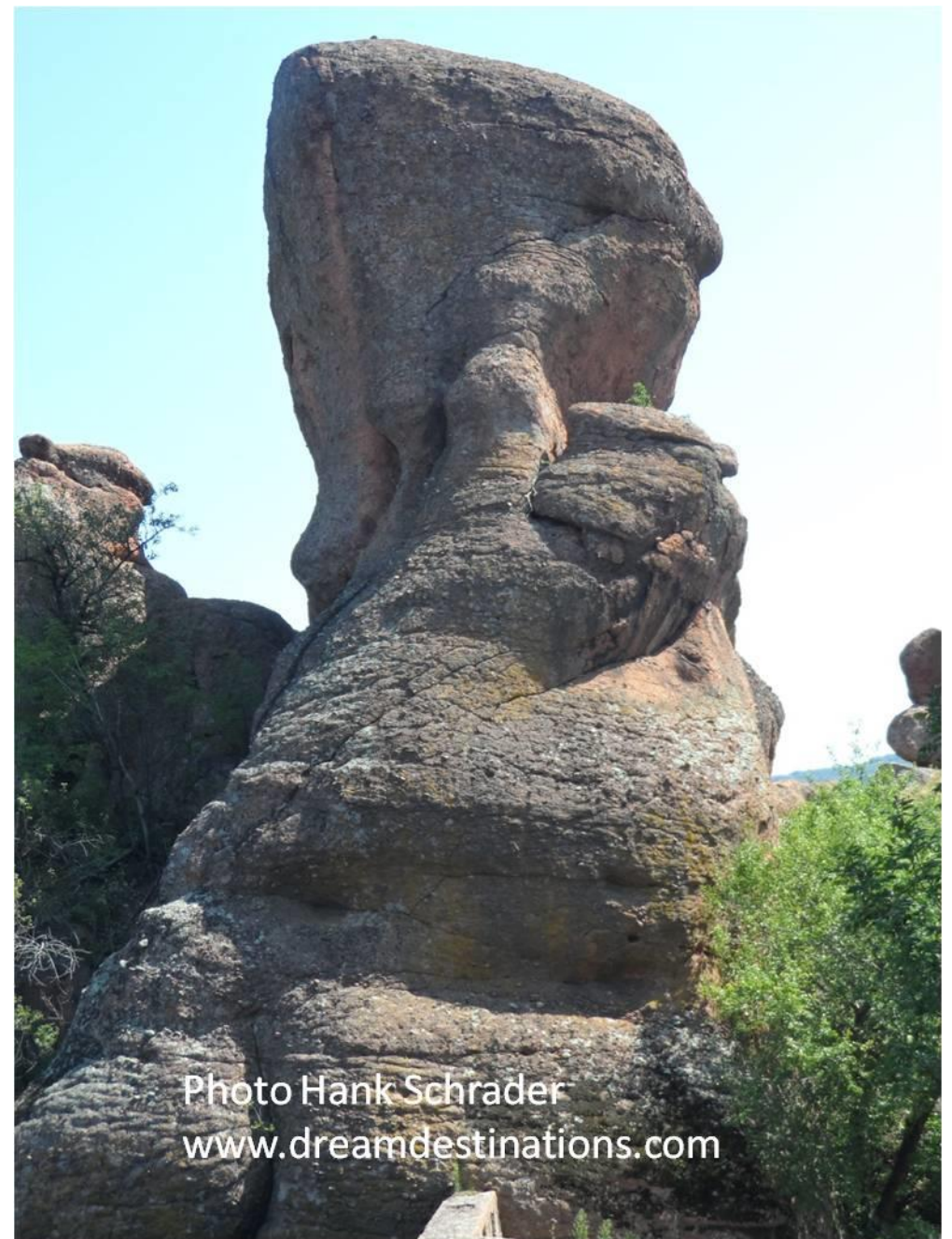


Photo Hank Schrader
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More exposed Belogradchik rocks

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Belogradchik Fortress built among the rocks



Photo Hank Schrader
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More of the Belogradchik fortress



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A passage gate of the Belogradchik Fortress



Photo Hank Schrader
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Day 7 Rousse, Veliko Târnovo and Arbanassi:

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Rousse's old town by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a full-day Guided Tour to the former Bulgarian capital of Veliko Târnovo—with its ancient stone houses clinging to the cliffs above the Yantra River.
- Discover one of the oldest towns in Bulgaria (circa 4300 BC), as well as the Bulgarian Revival architecture in the 15th-century town of Arbanassi, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Bulgaria's largest inland port and visit its impressive Holy Trinity Church.
- Later, enjoy live entertainment on board with a Bulgarian folklore show.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO OLTENITA**

Day 8 Bucharest

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of the Romanian capital city of Bucharest with its tree-lined boulevards and Arc de Triomphe—honoring WWI Romanian soldiers.
- See the Royal Palace Square—the scene of the city’s 1989 riots to overthrow the communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.
- Spend some free time exploring on your own to visit shops and museums. See the beautiful home and churches along Victory Avenue.

Ornate home Bucharest, Romania



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Coltea Hospital Bucharest Romania

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National Museum of Art Bucharest, Romania

Photo Anne Schrader
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The Savings Bank Palace is being converted into the Art Museum of Bucharest, Romania



Photo Anne Schrader
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Palace of the National Military Circle Bucharest, Romania

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Vlad Tepes in the Lipsicani district—Dracula! Bucharest, Romania



Ruins of the Curtea Palace, Lipsyani district Bucharest



Annunciation Church of Saint Anthony Lipscani district Bucharest



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Lipscani district Bucharest

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Bucharest Romania



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Open Air Museum—Rustic homes reassembled



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Vlad Tepes in the Lipscani district,



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Palace of the Parliament

Day 8 Optional Tours (Extra Expense)

- **Inside Ceausescu's Spring Palace**
- From solid gold toilet paper holders to an indoor pool and cinema, get a rare peek into the home and private life of a former Communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, on this enthralling guided tour of his Palatul Primaverii (Spring Palace).
- **Bites & Highlights of Bucharest**
- Discover the joie de vivre of Romanian cuisine- a tasty hodge-podge of Balkan, Ottoman, French, and Russian influences--on this special foodie walking tour.

Palace of the Parliament Bucharest, Romania. It is the second largest building in the world.

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Palace of the Parliament

Day 9 Bucharest

- Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning

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