

Passage to Eastern Europe Viking River Cruise Lines

By

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Map from Viking River Cruises



Overview

- See Bucharest's 3,000-room Palace of Parliament.
- Make *banitsa* bread with a home cook in Vidin.
- Explore Belgrade's Ottoman and European treasures, including 6th-century Kalemegdan Fortress.
- View the Danube's towering Iron Gate.
- Visit a Croatian family's Osijek home.
- Witness Hungary's daredevil Puszta horsemen.
- Behold Budapest's grandeur.
- Once hidden behind the Iron Curtain, the eastern Danube still has secrets to reveal on this enriching cruise tour.

Day 1 Bucharest, Romania

- Arrive in Bucharest and transfer to your hotel 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.

Day 2 Bucharest

- After breakfast, check out of your hotel and take a 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. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Open Air Museum—Rustic homes reassembled, Bucharest, Romania



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Open Air Museum



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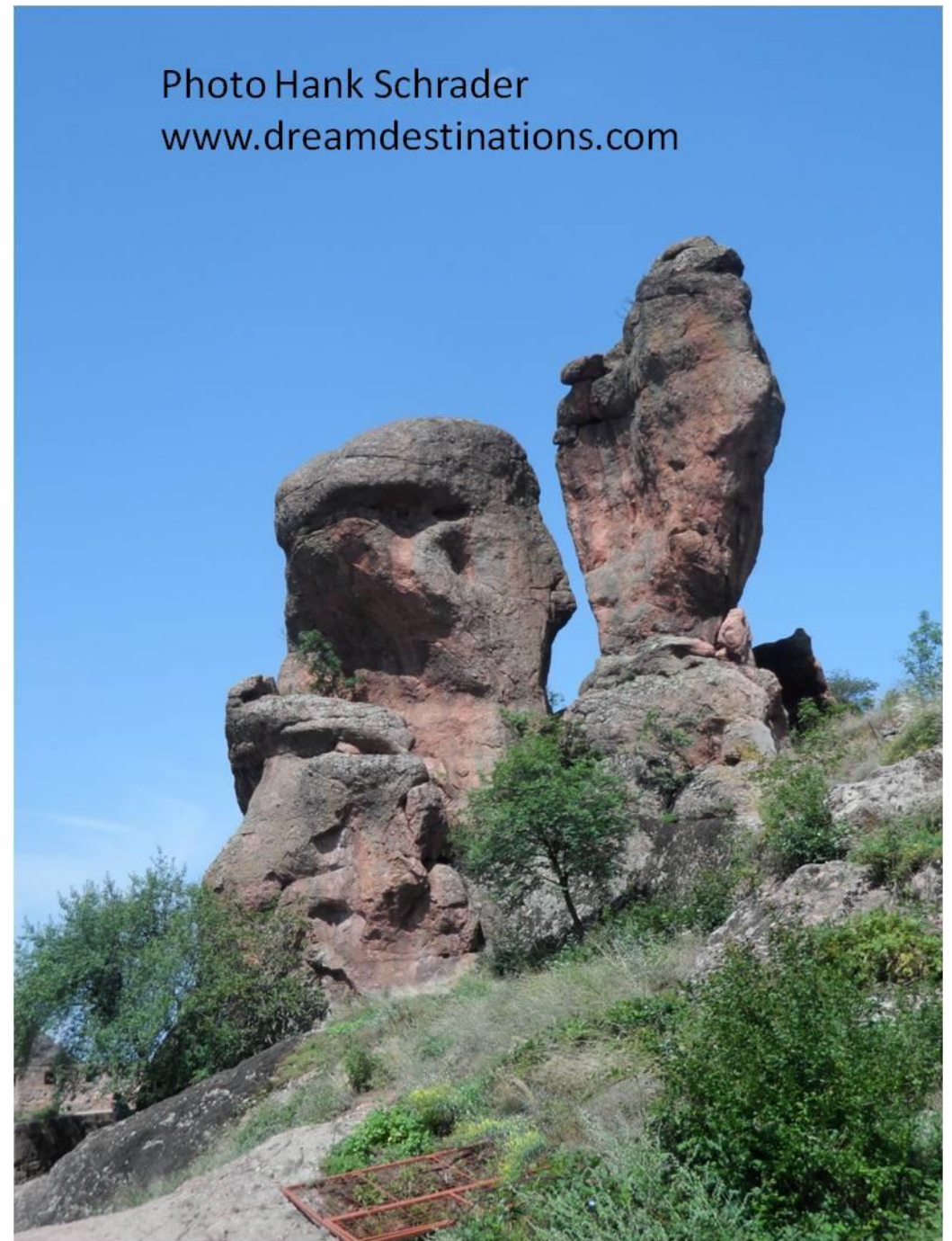
Day 3 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi, Bulgaria

- After breakfast, disembark at Ruse 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. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 Vidin, Bulgaria

- 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. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Belogradchik rock formations



More Belogradchik rocks

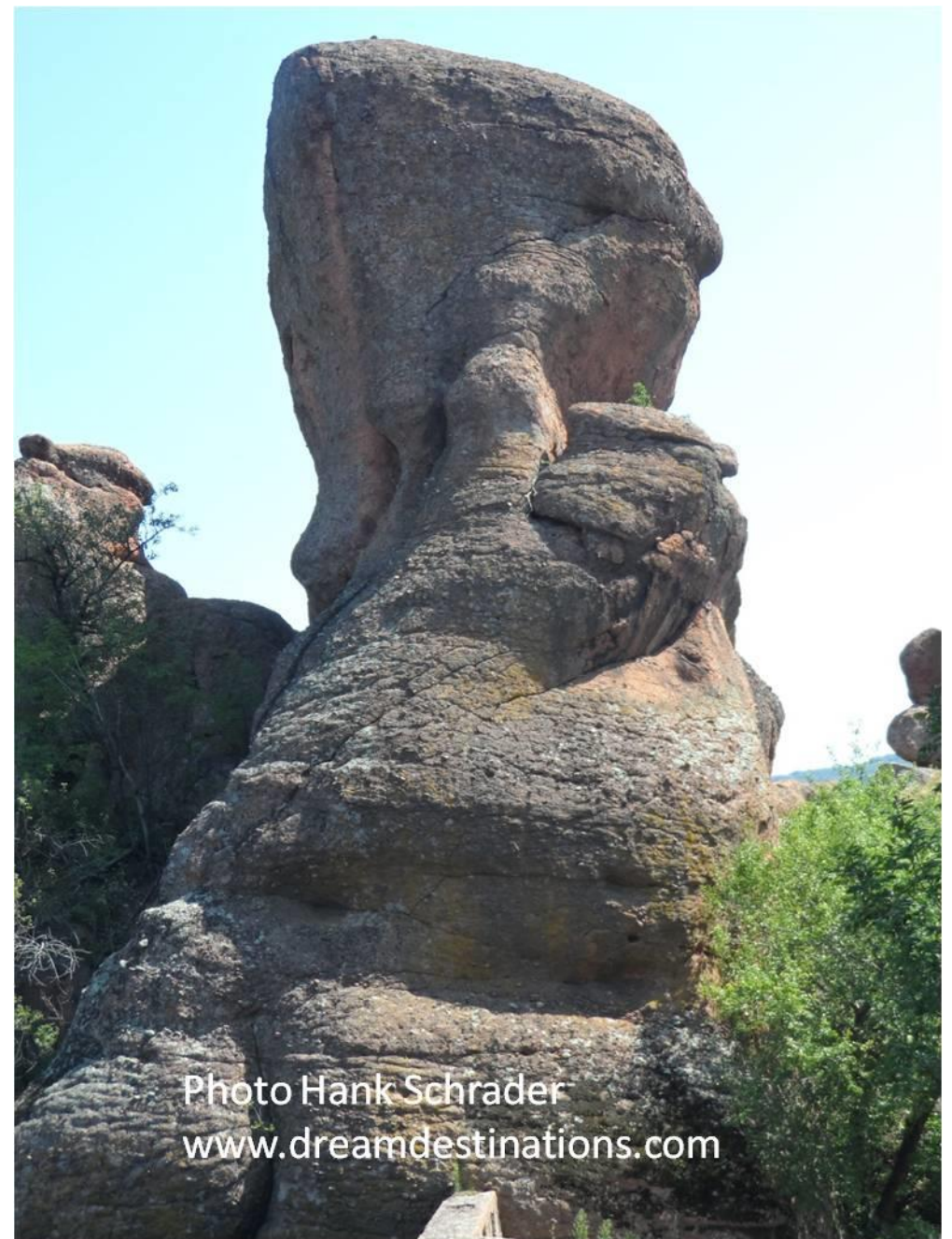


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More exposed Belogradchik rocks

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Belogradchik Fortress built among the rocks



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More of the Belogradchik fortress



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A passage gate of the Belogradchik Fortress



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Day 5 Golubac, Serbia

- This morning, 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.
- Arrive in Donji Milanovac where you can choose to disembark and join an optional tour, or continue to enjoy scenic sailing.
- Arrive in Golubac and join an included tour of the Golubac Fortress where you will admire sweeping views over the Danube.
- Enjoy dinner on board before departing to Belgrade. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



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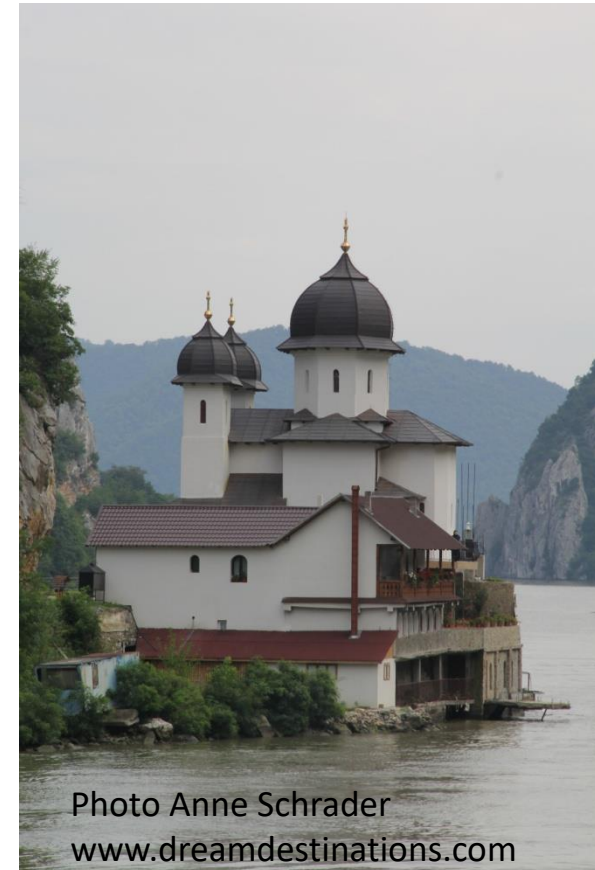
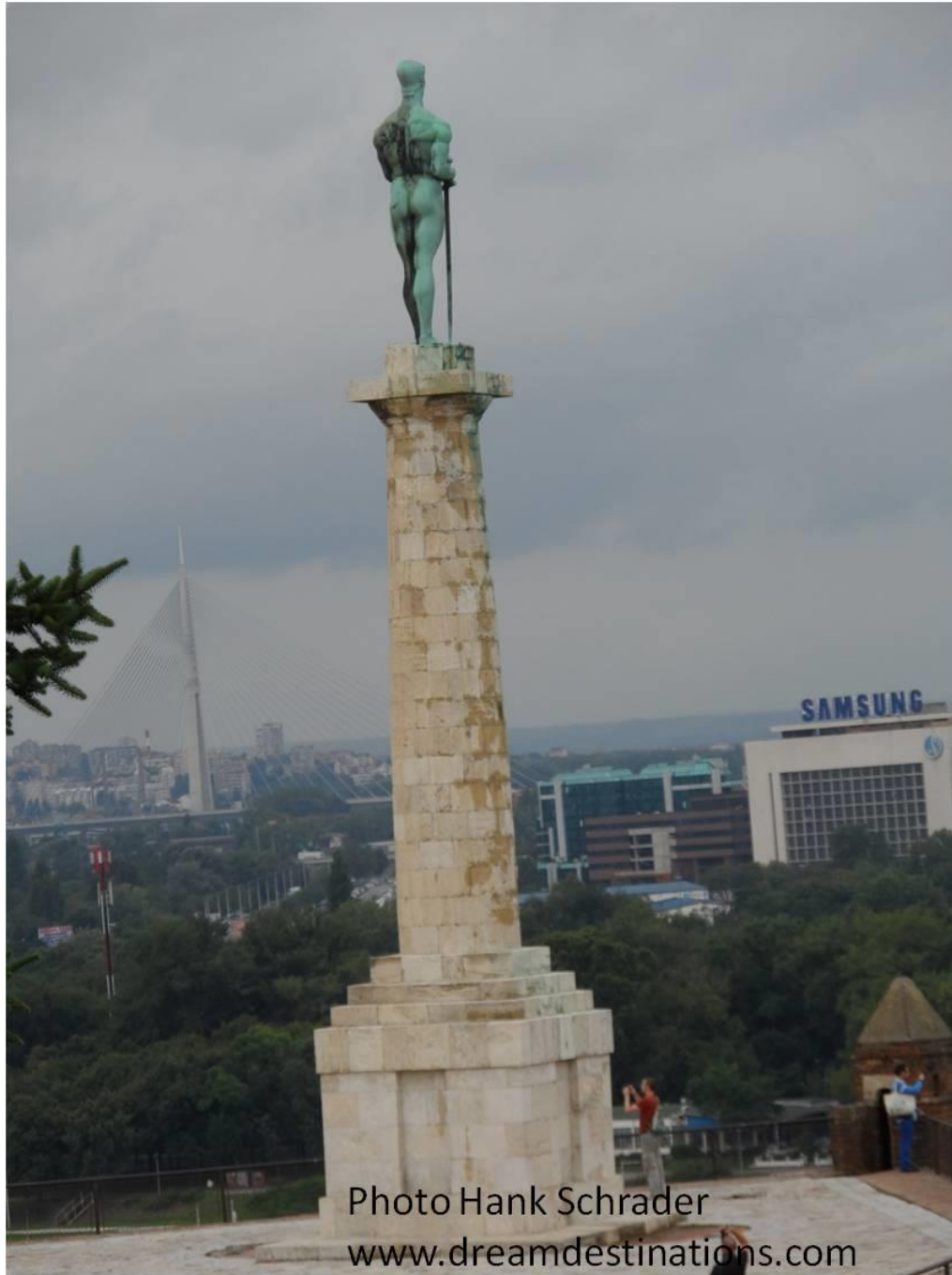


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Day 6 Belgrade, Serbia

- 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.
- Enjoy dinner on board your ship. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Monument to
the Victor, the
protector of
Belgrade, Serbia

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Kalemegdan Fortress Belgrade, Serbia



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Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade Serbia



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

St, Sava
Cathedral
Belgrade,
Serbia

Day 7 Osijek, Croatia

- 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. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8 Kalocsa, Hungary

- 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 dinner on board as we depart for Budapest. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 9 Budapest, Hungary

- Disembark after breakfast and take a tour of Budapest.
- Begin in Pest, where you see the National Opera House and historic Heroes' Square.
- Cross the Chain Bridge to Buda, where you walk along Castle Hill to Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church and visit the Grand Market.
- Check in to your hotel 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. (Breakfast)

Day 10 Budapest, Hungary

- 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.
- Your Viking Host is available to help you plan your time in Budapest.
(Breakfast)

Day 11 Budapest, Hungary

- 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.
(Breakfast)

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