deluxe cruises

Cruise Details

Name:	Lower Danube Discovery with Transylvania
Reference:	SCENICVBTR201027-2
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Crystal
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	20 Oct 27
Departs From:	Bucharest
Arrives On:	08 Nov 27
Arrives At:	Budapest
Cruise Nights:	19
Total Vacation Days:	20

Itinerary

Day 1: Bucharest (Romania)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.

Welcome to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. It has a complex – and sometimes confronting – past, having spent more than four decades under Communist rule. But today, it’s a dynamic, modern and energetic city with a thriving café culture, excellent museums and pockets of glorious Belle Epoque architecture. Check into your hotel for an overnight stay.

Arrives On: 20 Oct 27

Day 2: Bucharest (Romania)

This morning, you’ll begin your journey into Transylvania by travelling from Bucharest to the medieval town of Sibiu. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with your
fellow travellers after checking into your luxury hotel.

Arrives On: 21 Oct 27

Day 2: Sibiu, Transylvania (Romania)

Arrives On: 21 Oct 27

Day 3: Sibiu, Transylvania (Romania)

Today you'll wake in Sibiu. The fortified town is a historian's delight, filled with museums, cathedrals and palaces to discover. This afternoon, travel to the village of Sighisoara, the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. It's also one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Europe, with cobblestone lanes and colourful buildings that have remained largely unchanged since the 12th century. Scenic Freechoice:
Today you can choose from the following Scenic Freechoice:

Explore the walled city: The World Heritage-listed walled city at the centre of Sighisoara was built by the Saxons between the 12th and 17th centuries and much of it still stands today. A local guide will show you the highlights.

Hike the hill: If you're feeling more active, hike up the covered stairway to the 14th century Church on the Hill. It's a spectacular example of Gothic Transylvanian architecture and has been restored many times throughout history. The climb rewards you with superb views over the city. Afterwards you'll travel to Brasov, a colourful town that brings together Gothic spires, medieval watchtowers, sprawling squares and Soviet-era concrete. Here, check into your hotel for a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 22 Oct 27

Day 3: Sighișoara, Transylvania (Romania)

Arrives On: 22 Oct 27

Day 3: Brasov (Romania)

Arrives On: 22 Oct 27

Day 4: Brasov (Romania)

This morning, your guide will show you the sights of Brasov, a charming town that brings together Gothic spires, medieval watchtowers, sprawling squares and Soviet-era concrete.

Dracula is Transylvania's most famous figure. Though author Bram Stoker never visited Romania, he is said to have been inspired by the place you'll visit this afternoon – Bran Castle. Perched dramatically on a clifftop, this white stone fortress was built in the 14th century and is a maze of narrow passageways, hidden rooms and sunny courtyards.

Tonight, join your fellow travellers and enjoy a delicious dinner in one of Brasov's finest restaurants.

Arrives On: 23 Oct 27

Day 5: Brasov (Romania)

After breakfast, a local guide will take you to Peles Castle, a Neo-Classical masterpiece built in the 1870s by the first king of Romania as a summer residence. Inside, the rooms are exquisitely decorated with paintings, carved wood and stained glass. Nearby, Sinaia Monastery is the oldest monastery in the region and is home to two churches, one from the 17th century and one built by the royal family in the 19th century.

This afternoon, you'll begin the journey back to Bucharest, where you'll check into your hotel for the night. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.

Arrives On: 24 Oct 27

Day 5: Bucharest (Romania)

Arrives On: 24 Oct 27

Day 6: Bucharest (Romania)

Following a guided tour of Bucharest this morning you will be transferred to Constanta where our friendly crew await your arrival and welcome you on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship.

Balcony Suites have windows that convert into a Scenic Sun Lounge, allowing you fresh air and uninterrupted views of ever-changing landscapes and life along the riverbanks. Relax and raise a glass to the days ahead at this evening's welcome reception.

Arrives On: 25 Oct 27

Day 6: Constanta (Romania)

Arrives On: 25 Oct 27

Day 7: Constanta (Romania)

Sitting on the Black Sea coast, Constanta is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe, dating back to 600 BC. Join a guided tour to learn about this long and fascinating heritage. Visit Ovid Square, Orthodox Cathedral, the stunning promenade and Genovese Lighthouse.

After lunch, your Scenic Space-Ship will depart for the Bulgarian town of Silistra.

Arrives On: 26 Oct 27

Day 8: Silistra (Bulgaria)

Wake up in Silistra this morning. This Bulgarian town has changed hands many times over the centuries. It was a major Turkish fortress and trade centre in the 15th century, played a

significant role in the Russo-Turkish wars of the 1870s, briefly became part of Romania after the Second Balkan War, and finally reverted to Bulgaria in 1940. The town is dotted with historic sites stretching back to late Roman times. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from one of this Scenic Freechoice and explore your way:

Active walk to Silistra Fort: Take a guided walking tour of the 19th century fort and learn about its history. It is the best preserved of the six points of the Turkish fortification system, which played an important role in the Russo-Turkish wars.

Visit Alfatar village: On this exclusive experience, travel to this small village outside of Silistra. Learn how its people have lived over the centuries and kept their traditions alive in the ethnographic museum and see the beautifully restored Holy Trinity Temple, a treasured symbol of the Bulgarian Orthodox religion. You'll also visit the school to meet local children and hear about daily life for young Bulgarians. Return to your Scenic Space-Ship this afternoon and enjoy time at leisure. You may wish to stretch your legs with on the walking track on the Sun Deck.

Arrives On: 27 Oct 27

Day 9: Ruse (Bulgaria)

This morning, dock in the town of Rousse, often described as 'Little Vienna'. Join a local guide on a sightseeing tour of this opulent town this morning, resplendent in Belle Epoque architecture and leafy manicured squares. You will also learn about traditional Bulgarian handicrafts, sample some delicious local wine and delight in a short piano recital.

Spend the rest of the day relaxing on board. Perhaps you'd like to visit the modern gym for an invigorating workout or, if you'd prefer to wind down, head to the wellness centre for a relaxing massage~.

Arrives On: 28 Oct 27

Day 10: Vidin (Bulgaria)

You will arrive early in Vidin, Bulgaria, this morning. This historic town has a well-preserved medieval fortress and sits between the borders of Bulgaria and Romania. The region boasts a fertile landscape where wine has been grown for almost a century. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from the following Scenic Freechoice morning excursions to tailor your journey:

Hiking to Belogradchik Castle ruins: Take an active hiking tour to the Belogradchik Fortress. Admire the unique rock formations and the remnants of the ancient stronghold constructed when the region was part of the Roman Empire.

Visit to a local winery: Travel to Negovanovtsi village and Dos Alamos Winery for a tour and tasting. Established in 2013, this boutique vineyard grows Bulgarian Rubin grapes (used for high-quality reds) as well as Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon.

Ancestry of the Kitchen – Banitsa cooking demonstration: Recipes have long been passed

down through generations and are often kept as a family secret. Meet with a local who will tell you about life in this region as well as divulging a family recipe of traditional Banitsa, a delicious cheese-filled pie made with filo pastry.

Triangle of Tolerance walking tour: Join a walking tour of Vidin to learn its history and the legacy of tolerance among its residents. You will see the Metropolis Orthodox church of St. Nicholas, the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Dimitar, the Osman Mosque, and the Synagogue.

Arrives On: 29 Oct 27

Day 11: Iron Gates (Romania)

This morning, you will cruise through the spectacular scenery of the Iron Gates. This stretch of the Danube is the natural border between Serbia and Romania and features four narrow gorges, soaring cliffs and the might rock carving of Decebalus, the former Romanian king.

Later, dock in the charming town of Golubac, which is home to one of Europe's best preserved medieval fortresses. It was strategically built at the section of the Danube River that narrows to form the Iron Gate gorge. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from one of these afternoon Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Golubac Fortress: Take a guided tour of the 14th century fortress, built on a steep embankment of the Danube in the Djerdap National Park. It has nine towers connected by ramparts and has been an imposing figure above the river for centuries.

Lepenski Vir archaeological site: One of the most significant archaeological sites in the region, Lepenski Vir was first inhabited some 12,000 years ago. Tour the excavation site of 136 building ruins, a central square, fireplaces and stone idols. Learn how it was discovered and gain a fascinating insight into Europe's early stone age.

Hike through Djerdap National Park: Join a local park ranger and local guide and hike through the Djerdap National Park. Enjoy spectacular sights along the way such as Golubac Fortress and incredible views over the Danube River.

Arrives On: 30 Oct 27

Day 11: Golubac (Serbia)

Arrives On: 30 Oct 27

Day 12: Belgrade (Serbia)

The capital of Serbia, Belgrade is known as the 'Door to Central Europe' and lies at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. This eclectic city is steeped in history, with Neolithic ruins found nearby, a fortress built by the Romans, Brutalist buildings that sit beside Art Nouveau architecture, and a bohemian vibe. One of the oldest capitals in Europe, Belgrade has been rebuilt almost 40 times. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Guided city tour: By coach

and foot, you'll tour the major sites of the city with a guide. See the cobbled streets of the Bohemian Quarter and Kalemegdan Fortress, which has been the site of more than 100 battles and offers panoramic views of the rivers below. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore on your own.

Panoramic city tour including Tito's Memorial: Join a local guide to tour the city's highlights, including the Ottoman old town, Kalemegdan Fortress and Republic Square, followed by some free time. You will also visit the memorial dedicated to Tito, the former ruler of Yugoslavia.

Cycling tour along the Danube: Trace the banks of the Danube on two wheels, admiring the beautiful scenery and learning about the fascinating history of Belgrade from your local guide.

Central Belgrade stroll with coffee and cake: Discover Central Belgrade on a leisurely stroll from the historic Kalemegdan Fortress down Knez Mihailova Street, Belgrade's bustling pedestrian boulevard. Pause to enjoy a cup of expertly brewed coffee paired with a tasting of signature cake from one of the city's beloved bakeries. This tour perfectly blends cultural exploration with sweet indulgence, offering a true taste of Belgrade's vibrant heart and flavours. Scenic Enrich
Choir performance in St. Sava: Visit St. Sava, the largest orthodox temple in the Balkans. Have a chance to explore the frescos-lined walls of the cathedrals crypt where the church choir will perform some of the most beautiful hymns just for you. Due to the acoustics in the crypt, this incredible performance is a once of a lifetime opportunity.

Arrives On: 31 Oct 27

Day 13: Novi Sad (Serbia)

Arrive in Novi Sad early this morning. Serbia's second largest city is a lively place of music, art and liberal freedoms. It is also an ethnically diverse city, has a thriving contemporary art scene with several large scale public murals and hosts vibrant festivals, all while nurturing its rich 500 year history. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Guided tour of Novi Sad: Join your local guide as you discover all that makes this city a true highlight of this region, from the 18th century Petrovaradin Fortress, to charming Dunavska Street, lined with colourful buildings and a popular place for walking, gathering and dining.

Hike to Petrovaradin Fortress: A symbol of the city, the fortress is often referred to as 'Gibraltar on the Danube'. Learn about its powerful history, dating back to the Middle Ages, as you hike to and be rewarded with magnificent views over the Danube River and city below.

Vojvodina farmhouse flavours: Experience a unique cooking demonstration at a traditional farmstead (locally called Salaš), where you'll discover the secrets of authentic regional cuisine. Savour the true taste of Vojvodina's rich culinary heritage in a warm and welcoming atmosphere as you enjoy freshly brewed coffee and homemade buns.

Fruška Gora National Park: Explore Serbia's oldest national park, where the landscape is blanketed with oak and beech wood forests, more than 60 family vineyards, and 16 monasteries. Visit the oldest monastery, dating to the 16th century, and stop by a winery for a tasting.

Arrives On: 01 Nov 27

Day 14: Vukovar (Croatia)

Cross into Croatia this morning and dock in Vukovar, a poignant city with a turbulent history. Over the past 500 years it has been part of the Ottoman, Habsburg and Austro-Hungarian empires, and in the 1990's was the epicentre of the Croatian War of Independence. Many of the grand Baroque buildings remain standing but bear the scars of the war. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Walking tour of Osijek: Travel by coach from Vukovar to the charming Croatian city of Osijek for a guided walking tour. Explore the well-preserved Baroque Old Town and fortress, soaking in the area's historic elegance.

Vukovar chronicles - A river town's tale of resilience: Discover the 'Hero Town' of Vukovar, famed for its courageous defence during the Croatian War of Independence in the early 1990's. Though heavily damaged by war, the city has been rebuilding, and its spirit of resilience and stories of bravery remain central to the city's character, with museums and monuments preserving its legacy of sacrifice and hope.

Baranja wine region: The fertile soil of the Baranja region is famous for its exceptional white wines. Visit family-owned wineries to savour locally produced wine in rustic cellars or outdoor terraces with sweeping views of the vines. After your exploration this morning, you will visit the home of a local Croatian family for lunch. Immerse yourself in this cultural and culinary experience as you enjoy an authentic meal prepared with fresh vegetables from the host's garden. North-eastern Croatia is the 'breadbasket' of the country, so it is only natural that the villagers take great pride in their gardens. You'll be treated to a feast for both the palate and the eyes.

Arrives On: 02 Nov 27

Day 15: Mohács (Hungary)

Straddling the Danube, this small Hungarian town was the site of the 16th century Battle of Mohács, which led to the destruction of the Hungarian monarchy and the rise of Ottoman and Habsburg rule. From here, you will explore the surrounding regions. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice activities:

Guided tour of Pécs: First settled by the Romans and then later the Turks, and located close by the Croatian border, Pécs is a mélange of cultures. On a guided tour, you can see its Roman ruins, Turkish baths, Baroque buildings, and decorative arts and crafts, like porcelain.

Villány wine stories: Visit a charming town in the Villány wine region, known for its exceptional red wines, particularly bold, full-bodied varieties. See its rows of historic wine cellars, sample local wines and visit an old mill.

Mohács traditions and flavours: Experience the rich traditions and multicultural heritage, where Hungarians, Croats and Serbs live in unity. Explore the Busóudvar Museum to learn about the World Heritage-listed Busójárás festival, visit important historic sites, and taste halászlé, a traditional fish stew made with fresh Danube River fish and

world-famous Hungarian paprika.

Arrives On: 03 Nov 27

Day 16: Ordas (Hungary)

You will arrive in Hungary's Great Plain region this morning. Known for its rich history, this region is renowned for producing some of the world's most intricate and beautiful folk art, particularly its detailed embroidery. Today, the region has retained much of its rural charm. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover more about local culture on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Hungarian traditions: This region is teeming with culture and traditions. It is famous for its traditional handicrafts such as needlework and embroidery. Learn about the origins of these beautiful designs as well as other crafts.

Hungarian horse show: Travel to Kalocsa, located on the Great Hungarian Plain, with an agricultural history dating back more than 2,000 years. Watch a traditional horse show, meet the horsemen who will demonstrate impressive equestrian skills and enjoy a tasting of local delicacies.

Arrives On: 04 Nov 27

Day 17: Budapest (Hungary)

Wake in Budapest this morning. Divided by the Danube, with Buda on one side and Pest on the other, this city became united in 1873 when a newly built bridge connected the two. It’s an architectural treasure trove comprising styles from Gothic to Art Nouveau and everything in between. It is also well known for its hot springs and thermal baths and has a vibrant nightlife scene. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from a range of Scenic Freechoice activities on offer this morning:

Guided hike of Buda: Strap on your walking shoes for a beautiful hike through the Buda district of the city. On your walk, see Várkert Bazár and beautifully landscaped gardens, all while enjoying great views over the Danube River and the cities architecture.

Budapest’s past and present: This walking and coach tour will give insight on Budapest’s communist past and life today as part of the European Union, including the 1956 Hungarian revolution and the significant Jewish events that have shaped modern culture.

Beethoven’s favourite getaway: Travel to Brunszvik Castle, a favourite retreat of the famed composer, to admire its Neo-Gothic architecture and the grand gardens. Learn about Beethoven’s life in the dedicated Memorial Museum.

Etyek region wineries and vineyards: The Etyek wine region, often called the ‘Vineyard of Budapest’, is renowned for its crisp, aromatic white wines and sparkling wines. Learn about its winemaking tradition and taste local vintages.

Jewish heritage tour: During this tour you will learn about the significant Jewish events from history that have shaped the culture of today. You will also visit the fascinating Jewish Museum and impressive synagogue. This evening, transfer to Vac for your exclusive Scenic Enrich event. Scenic Enrich
Classical concert at Gödöllõ Royal Palace: Tonight, step back into Hungary’s imperial past as you attend an exclusive classical concert inside Gödöllõ Royal Palace, one of the favourite residences of Queen Elisabeth of Hungary. The world’s second largest Baroque Palace, it dates back to the 18th century.

Arrives On: 05 Nov 27

Day 18: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Enjoy a relaxing morning on board your Scenic Space-Ship as you cruise through Hungary and into Slovakia. Request a coffee from your butler and enjoy it in the comfort of your Scenic Sun Lounge as the beautiful Danube scenery rolls by. Take a dip in the Vitality Pool^, work out in the gym, book in for a massage~ or be soother by the healing properties of the Salt Therapy Lounge.

Slovakia’s capital since independence in 1993, Bratislava is a modern multicultural metropolis with an intriguing history. Its Old Town is glorious with medieval and Gothic architecture. Its well-preserved hilltop castle, which dates back to the ninth century, still dominates the town. These charming historic sites contrast with its brutalist socialist architecture, which is evident around the city. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover the city on one of this afternoon’s Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Communist tour of Bratislava: Journey behind the Iron Curtain and learn about Bratislava during the communist regime. Your local guide will share how this controversial regime impacted directly on the daily lives of Slovaks and shaped Bratislava’s complex identity.

Walking tour of Bratislava: Join a knowledgeable local guide to see the highlights of the city, including the Hlavné Námestie (main square) and the Old Town Hall while learning about the history of the city.

Coffee and cake with a Slovakian family: On this authentic and immersive experience, you’ll visit a local family home to gain an insight about the everyday lives of Slovaks, while enjoying delicious coffee and cake.

Arrives On: 06 Nov 27

Day 19: Budapest (Hungary)

Return to Budapest today. Your ultra-luxury Scenic Space-Ship will dock after lunch, giving you free time to explore on your own this afternoon. Perhaps, pack your swimsuit and make your way to one of Budapest’s thermal baths for a relaxing soak in the therapeutic waters. Széchenyi Baths are the largest, boasting 15 indoor baths and three vast outdoor pools. Or check out the Jewish Quarter’s famous ruin bars, which are housed in old and abandoned buildings that were left in decay after WWII.

Arrives On: 07 Nov 27

Day 20: Budapest (Hungary)

Your journey comes to an end this morning. After a final breakfast in your hotel, check out and transfer to Budapest Airport for your return flight to the UK. Leaving with cherish memories to last a lifetime. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions. ^Not available on all ships
~Massage services are an additional cost.

Arrives On: 08 Nov 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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