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STERLING VACATIONS...an experience in travel since 1973

Danube River Cruise FAM

from **\$1499*** 12-days/11-nts Bucharest, Romania to Vienna, Austria
Visiting 7 countries

Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria & Romania



Budapest, Hungary

2015 DATE:

October 16-27 (Bucharest to Vienna)

TRAVEL AGENT/COMPANION USD RATE*
per person/double occupancy

\$1499* Cat. C - center ship, main deck

**Government and port taxes are an additional \$199 p.p.*

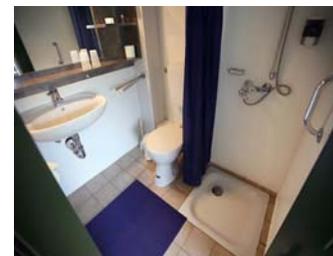


ALL-INCLUSIVE FAM AMENITIES:

- ≈ 1 night first-class hotel in Bucharest
- ≈ 10 nights river-view cruise accommodations
- ≈ Welcome aboard cocktail
- ≈ All meals onboard ship / breakfast at the hotel
- ≈ Wine, beer, soft drink with dinner (2 glasses)
- ≈ Daily sightseeing and shore excursions included
- ≈ Wine tasting with Gypsy Concert
- ≈ Captain's cocktail party and specialty dinner
- ≈ Live music every evening
- ≈ Educational lectures on Balkans past & present
- ≈ Optional air & transfers available
- ≈ Optional pre-cruise Dracula Extension only \$399 (3-day mostly inclusive)

MS KLEINE PRINZ

The vessel is the first-class, 90 passenger "Little Prince" which has a spacious open sun deck, reception area, restaurant, panorama lounge and bar, gift shop and elevator. All cabins have large picture windows, private bath with shower, TV, telephone & hair dryer. Wi-Fi is available onboard. Smoking is only allowed on open decks the open deck.



Danube River Cruise Itinerary – Bucharest to Vienna

Day 1 FLY USA – Bucharest

Overnight flights to Europe and on to Romania's capital, Bucharest.

Day 2 Bucharest, ROMANIA

Upon arrival in Bucharest, transfer to your first class hotel (Novotel or similar). Due to various arrival times, there are no activities planned for this day. Dinner is on your own.

Day 3 Bucharest (B, D)

After breakfast it's time to check-out of the hotel and take a panoramic tour of Bucharest including Revolution Square, Arch de Triumph, the National Theatre, and the second largest building in the world, the "People's House." Then continue through the Romanian countryside to the port to embark your "floating hotel." A welcome drink will precede dinner.

Day 4 Vidin, BULGARIA (B, L, D)

During the morning at sail, join your guide for a lecture about the Danube region. Then, presentation of the Captain and his crew will be followed by a wine tasting party with live music. Upon arrival in Vidin, depart on a walking tour of this delightful Bulgarian river port highlighted by a visit to the 13th century fortress named "Baba Vida" ("Grandma Vida"), the best preserved medieval fortress in the country. Then enjoy some free time for strolling and shopping or purchase one of our optional tours before returning to the ship.

Optional: Excursion to Belogradchik: The most famous natural phenomena in the Belogradchik and its region are the Belogradchik Rocks.

Day 5 Sail thru "The Iron Gates" – Donji Milanovac, SERBIA (B, L, D)

After breakfast enjoy on board lectures followed by marvelous vistas as our ship passes through the highest natural gorge on the Danube, aptly named "The Iron Gates". Over 100km long, this gorge was a gigantic obstacle to navigation because of its pointed rocks and cliffs. This danger was overcome in 1972, with completion of the Djerdap Dam which raised the level of the water by 30 to 90 meters. On both sides of the dam, two locks were built which enable safe passage for passenger and cargo ships all the way to the Black Sea. Lunch on board. Cross into Serbia. Your first stop in Serbia will be at the typical laid back riverside town of Donji Milanovac (pop. 2000) where your Cruise Director will take you on an informal walk through the city center. Enjoy some free time or take the optional Venimicium Tour.

Day 6 Belgrade, SERBIA (B, L, D)

Your morning sightseeing tour of this lively and vibrant city will include all of the major attractions: Kalemegdan Fortress, looming over the confluence of the Danube and Sava rivers; St Sava's Orthodox Cathedral, perched on a hill overlooking the city; Princess Ljubica's Manor; Knez Mihajlova pedestrian street and more. Return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon is free to explore Belgrade on your own as the ship is located in the heart of the city just underneath Kalemegdan Fortress. Or, better yet, instead of lunch on board, come and join us for a truly wonderful *optional* excursion the small village of Jarak, where you will experience authentic Serbian country life! Here 3 generations of the Tosic family will welcome you and show you around their home and farm, along with their fruit orchards where they brew their own "slivovitz," or plum brandy – Serbia's national drink. Enjoy authentic Serbian food, including "pita" (cheese pie), homemade "kulen" (special salami) and the house specialty - *chicken paprikash* – while the family entertains you with classic songs and dances you'll be sure to enjoy. Dinner onboard with a fun Serbian Folk Dance performance and hand knit sweater fashion show on board.

Day 7 Novi Sad, SERBIA & Vukovar, CROATIA (B, L, D)

Early this morning, arrive in Novi Sad, the third largest Serbian city after Belgrade and Nis. You will be delighted by this pedestrian friendly town as you join your local guide for a walking tour through the town center. Return to the ship for a grill party lunch on the Sun Deck (subject to weather),

while sailing across the Danube to Vukovar, Croatia. Here you will enjoy another walking tour along the riverside promenade dotted with shops, cafes, restaurants and the Franciscan Monastery that stand high above the town. Continue sailing towards Hungary.

Day 8 Mohacs – Pecs, HUNGARY (B, L, D)

Following the Hungarian lowlands, the ship will arrive at the port of Mohacs. A 45 min bus ride will take you to the town of Pecs, a gem of old world architecture. Your sightseeing will include the Szecheni Square, Kaptalan Street with its beautiful restored medieval houses, the Palace of Lorant, and a visit to the catacombs with wine tasting in a wine cellar. In the afternoon, continue sailing to Budapest.

Day 9 Budapest, HUNGARY (B, L, D)

After breakfast, disembark for a tour of Budapest's most popular sights: the Parliament Building, St. Stephen's Basilica, the Opera House, and the town park with Vajdahundyad Castle. There will be stops at the Square of Heroes (the Millennium monument), the Fisherman's Bastion and Gellert Hill. Return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon and evening are free to explore on your own. A Hungarian Folk Orchestra performance will also be offered as an optional tour in the evening.

Day 10 Budapest – Szentendre, HUNGARY (B, L, D)

After breakfast depart on an excursion to Szentendre, a small picturesque village (17th century) 25 km from Budapest. Renowned as a sanctuary for artists, painters and hand crafted arts, the tour will include the Main Square with the Memorial Cross, the first teaching school in Hungary, Preobrazenska Church, and the Church of the Hill. Enjoy some free time to shop. After lunch on board, the afternoon is free time in Budapest. An optional Puzsta equestrian performance will also be available for purchase on board. Set sail at around 7 pm.

Day 11 Bratislava, SLOVAKIA (B, L, D)

During your morning at sail, enjoy the passing picturesque Hungarian landscape and a final lecture on modern Balkans today, presented by our Cruise Directors.. You arrive in Slovakia in the afternoon. Depart on your city sightseeing tour, including St. Martin's Cathedral and the Primate's Palace. The sightseeing will end with a walk through the Old Town pedestrian friendly zone where you will see Michael's Gate, Michael's Tower, Main Square, Old Town Hall and Slovak National Theatre. You will have some free time for shopping and strolling. Return to the ship and set sail. Tonight, get ready for your Captain's gala dinner.

Day 12 Vienna, AUSTRIA (B, L, D)

Your morning city sightseeing tour will introduce you to the most attractive sights of this "Imperial" capital. Starting with Hundertwasserhaus, continue on to Belvedere Palace, for a tour of the gardens. Then it's on to the city center via the Vienna Ringstrasse to view famous architectural gems such as the State Opera, the Parliament, the Burgtheatre, the Votiv-Church and others. The next stop will be in the old center of Vienna to view St. Stephan's Cathedral and take a walk through the pedestrian zone from Graben and Kohlmarkt to Michaela Square ending at the entrance of the Hofburg (Imperial Palace). From this point, continue past the Spanish Riding School to Albertina Square, where you will see the State Opera and the famous Hotel Sacher. The afternoon is at leisure or an optional tour of Schonbrunn Palace. A Classical Viennese Concert is offered as an evening optional tour

Day 13 Vienna – Home (B)

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport with your suitcase full of memories, for your home bound flights.

Booking Form: www.sterlingvacations.com/main/book_trip/book_trip.php

Transfer may be added for an additional \$80 round trip or transfers are FREE when using our economy airfare. Call for quote.