



# VIKING CRUISES

*Exploring the World in Comfort®*

## *Passage to Eastern Europe* 2013 At-A-Glance



**Let us take you to the cities, towns and natural wonders of Eastern Europe, where so many fairy tales began. Experience two nights in bustling Budapest, cosmopolitan capital of Hungary; sail past dramatic natural wonders like the soaring white cliffs of the Iron Gate region; visit the Serbian capital of Belgrade and the Croatian town of Osijek; discover historical treasures of Bulgaria; and admire the graceful charms of the Romanian capital of Bucharest where you will enjoy one overnight stay. This itinerary is, quite simply, a revelation.**

Sail dates available March to November 2013  
Budapest to Bucharest *or* Bucharest to Budapest  
Ship sailing this itinerary: Viking Aegir or Viking Embla

## ***Passage to Eastern Europe*** **Included Features**

- 7-day cruise with river-view stateroom
- 2 nights at the moderate deluxe Budapest Hilton & 1 night at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Bucharest(or similar)
- 8 guided tours with audio headset
- All onboard meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners, featuring regional specialties and including Welcome Cocktail Reception & Dinner and Captain's Farewell Dinner, plus breakfast at Budapest & Bucharest hotels
- Visit 1 UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Culture Curriculum<sup>SM</sup>: Enjoy folkloric performances; attend lectures on Serbia today, Dracula & the European Union; learn about icons & orthodox religion; enjoy authentic flavors of Eastern Europe

### **Included Tours:**

Budapest city tour  
Kalocsa city tour  
Osijek excursion  
Belgrade city tour

Belogradchik Fortress excursion  
Veliko Tarnovo excursion  
Nativity Church tour  
Bucharest city tour

### **Optional Tours:**

Optional Szentendre Excursion  
Optional Gödöllő Palace Visit  
Optional Kovacica Excursion

Optional tours are purchased on board ship  
and are subject to availability & minimum participation

## ***Passage to Eastern Europe*** **Journey Highlights**

### **The Danube's Iron Gate**

The Iron Gate area of the lower Danube River is one of the world's most scenic river gorges. Enormous white chalk cliffs flank the river, which forms part of the boundary between Serbia and Romania; at times the gorge is quite narrow. Marvel at the large carved face of the ancient Dacian king Decebalus on the cliff sides.

### **Home on the Puszta**

Stretching across Hungary is a vast prairie known as the Puszta. Here the hardy, whip-cracking horse herders known as *csikós* lived and worked. Like the fabled cowboy of the American west, the 19th-century *csikós* has been romanticized in Hungarian folk songs, dances and literature. Enjoy an exciting demonstration of traditional Puszta horsemanship and other folk arts.

### **Lunchtime in Bulgaria**

Disembark for a full day's excursion to Bulgaria's former capital, Veliko Tarnovo. Explore Tsaravets Hill and the ruins of the royal castle there, then proceed to Arbanasi for lunch with the locals. Try a typical dish like shopska salad, made from chopped vegetables and a white brined cheese called sirene. Taste some moussaka, Bulgarian sausage or tarator, a cold yogurt-based soup. For dessert, have some halvah or baklava, a pastry made with honey and phyllo.

### **The Best of Budapest**

The Danube River divides this Hungarian capital city and UNESCO site into "Buda" and "Pest." Explore both parts, starting with Pest's National Opera House and historic Heroes' Square. In Buda, stroll Fishermen's Hill to Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church. Take free time to explore the city's spas and shopping.

### **Beautiful Belgrade**

Discover Serbia's beautiful capital, Belgrade, whose history dates back some 7,000 years. Walk through the grounds of Kalemegdan Fortress and peek inside the Orthodox cathedral. Take the afternoon to enjoy the city's gracious architecture or visit one of its many museums. After dinner, check out Belgrade's famous nightlife before a late departure.

## *Passage to Eastern Europe* **Budapest to Bucharest Itinerary**

**Day 1 Budapest, Hungary**

- Budapest airport transfer\*
- Hotel Check-in
- Free time to explore Budapest

**Day 2 Budapest, Hungary**

- Tour of Budapest, a UNESCO Site, including the National Opera House, Heroes' Square, Parliament, Fishermen's Bastion, Matthias Church, Chain Bridge and Elizabeth Bridge

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

**Day 3 Budapest, Hungary**

- Embark ship
- Free day to explore Budapest

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**Day 4 Kalocsa, Hungary**

- Kalocsa city walk including visit to Archbishop's Palace
- Puszta horsemanship performance

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 5 Osijek, Croatia**

- Osijek excursion

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 6 Belgrade, Serbia**

- Guided city walk including Kalemegdan Fortress, Orthodox cathedral & Square of the Republic
- Free time to explore Belgrade

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 7 Iron Gate, Serbia**

- Scenic cruising through the Danube's Iron Gate

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 8 Vidin & Belogradchik, Bulgaria**

- Belogradchik Fortress excursion
- Free time to explore Vidin

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 9 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi, Bulgaria**

- Full-day excursion to Veliko Tarnovo including Tsarvavets Hill and ruins of the royal castle
- Lunch at local restaurant in Arbanasi
- Tour of Nativity Church

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 10 Giurgiu & Bucharest, Romania**

- Disembark in Giurgiu
- Hotel check-in
- Tour of Bucharest including Arch of Triumph, the Antim Monastery, former Royal Palace and the Palace of Justice
- Free time to explore Bucharest

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

**Day 11 Bucharest, Romania**

- Bucharest airport transfer\*

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

\* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

## *Passage to Eastern Europe* **Bucharest to Budapest Itinerary**

**Day 1 Bucharest, Romania**

- Bucharest airport transfer\*
- Hotel check-in
- Free day to explore Bucharest

**Day 2 Bucharest & Giurgiu, Romania**

- Tour of Bucharest including Arch of Triumph, the Antim Monastery, former Royal Palace and the Palace of Justice
- Board ship in Giurgiu
- Welcome Reception & Dinner

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 3 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi, Bulgaria**

- Full-day excursion to Veliko Tarnovo including Tsarvavets Hill and ruins of the royal castle
- Lunch at local restaurant in Arbanasi
- Tour of Nativity Church

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 4 Vidin & Belogradchik, Bulgaria**

- Belogradchik Fortress excursion
- Free time to explore Vidin

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 5 Iron Gate, Serbia**

- Scenic cruising through the Danube's Iron Gate

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 6 Belgrade, Serbia**

- Guided city walk including Kalemegdan Fortress, Orthodox cathedral & Square of the Republic
- Free time to explore Belgrade

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 7 Osijek, Croatia**

- Osijek excursion

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 8 Kalocsa, Hungary**

- Kalocsa city walk including visit to Archbishop's Palace
- Pusza horsemanship performance

*Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 9 Budapest, Hungary**

- Tour of Budapest, a UNESCO Site, including the National Opera House, Heroes' Square, Parliament, Fishermen's Bastion, Matthias Church, Chain Bridge and Elizabeth Bridge
- Disembark ship
- Hotel Check-in
- Free time to explore Budapest

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

**Day 10 Budapest, Hungary**

- Free time to explore Budapest

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

**Day 11 Budapest, Hungary**

- Budapest airport transfer\*

*Included Meals: Breakfast*

\* Airport transfers included when air is purchased from Viking River Cruises. Transfers must be with flights that arrive/depart on ship or included hotel check-in or check-out day only.

## Explore More

More days means more to discover. We offer exciting ways to see even more of the region with extension packages you can add before or after your Viking journey.

### **Vienna Extension**

**3 nights—\$699 per person**

Extend your journey with additional days in Vienna, “City of Waltzes.” Explore this imperial city with a visit to the Hofburg Palace and go shopping along the famed *Ringstrasse*. Three nights at the **Hilton Vienna Plaza** (or similar), daily breakfasts, panoramic city tour and hotel/airport transfer are included along with the services of a Viking host.

The deluxe **Hilton Vienna Plaza** is located in the heart of commercial Vienna, overlooking the historic *Ringstrasse*. The hotel features a restaurant and bar; business center; fitness room and solarium and concierge services. Air-conditioned rooms include telephone, television, internet access, safe, minibar, hairdryer and coffee/tea making facilities.

### **Bucharest & Transylvania Extension**

**3 nights—\$699 per person**

Extend your Passage to Eastern Europe journey with three nights in Romania. Encounter the mysteries of Transylvania with an excursion to Brasov featuring tours of Peles and Dracula’s Castle. Itinerary includes one night at the **Ramada Hotel, Brasov** and two nights at **Radisson Blu**.

The first class **Ramada Brasov** is ideally located adjacent to the heart of the city’s business district. The hotel has a gym/fitness center; sauna and steam room; and free shuttle service to the city center. Room amenities include television, internet access and safe, iron/ironing board, coffee maker and hair dryer.

The **Radisson Blu Hotel, Bucharest** is located across from the former Royal Palace on Calea Victoriei. Its location affords guests optimal proximity to culture, shopping and business. The rooms are decorated in warm tones, and blend leisure and sophistication to create pure relaxation. With views of the nearby landscaped garden, each room provides guests with both modern amenities and picturesque surroundings. Room amenities include LCD TV, internet access, iron/ironing board and individual climate control. From authentic pasta enjoyed on the patio to superb cognac savored in the late-night lounge, fabulous dining awaits guests at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Bucharest.

\* Hotels are subject to change without notice at which time, a comparable alternative will be offered.

**Prague Extension**  
**3 nights—\$699 per person**

Extend your journey by discovering the Czech Republic's vibrant capital, the "City of a Hundred Spires." Three nights at the **Hilton Prague** (or similar), daily breakfast, panoramic city tour and the services of a Viking host are all included.

The superior first class **Hilton Prague** is conveniently located on the right bank of Vltava River within walking distance from the city center and major attractions, and the bus and underground stations are only a five-minute walk from the hotel. The hotel has three restaurants, a bar and a wide selection of shops; a health club and spa offering a swimming pool, dry and wet sauna, jacuzzi, gym, health bar; beauty salon and other amenities. Air-conditioned rooms are equipped with a television, telephone, safe and hair dryer.

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See your travel agent or call us at 1-877-668-4546  
[www.vikingrivercruises.com](http://www.vikingrivercruises.com)

## The Viking Experience

### **Quietvox Tour Earphones**

With our Quietvox tour earphones, there are no worries about missing any interesting details during your shore excursions. Each guest will receive a lightweight, portable receiver that can be worn around the neck or slipped into a pocket. The comfortable earpiece with individual volume control allows you to hear your guide's comments no matter where you are standing and makes every place on your tour the "best seat in the house."

### **Onboard Enrichment**

*Culture Curriculum<sup>SM</sup>*. To help you further appreciate the countries that you will visit, we complement your shore excursion with a broad range of immersive activities, on board and ashore. Enjoy folkloric performances; attend lectures on Serbia today, Dracula & the European Union; learn about icons & orthodox religion; enjoy authentic flavors of Eastern Europe.

*Expert Program Directors*. Viking River Cruises Program Directors are selected for their comprehensive knowledge of the regions you will be visiting. They have a fine appreciation of each destination's nuances and a genuine passion for travel and are there to help from the first moment to the end of your journey. If you have any questions, would like recommendations or have any concerns during your itinerary, do not hesitate to contact your Program Director.

### **General Physical Fitness**

Our tours and cruises are not physically demanding, however, *because of the nature of many of the sites you will be visiting, this tour may not be appropriate for guests with certain medical conditions and physical restrictions*. Walking tours are often on uneven ground or cobblestones and may include stairs and steep inclines. If you have concerns or questions, please discuss the nature of your itinerary with your Viking River Cruises Travel Consultant.

### **Complimentary Wine with Onboard Dinner and Lunch Service**

Enjoy complimentary bottled wine with onboard dinner and lunch service. We feature two varietals—one white and one red—that pair beautifully with our onboard menu of contemporary and regional specialties.



## Before You Go

Visit our website at [vikingrivercruises.com](http://vikingrivercruises.com) (or [vrc.com](http://vrc.com)) where you can not only learn more about all the places you might go with Viking, but you can also immerse yourself in the experience from the comfort of your own home. There is information abound and you can watch videos of destinations, take a virtual tour of a cruise ship or get a list of recommended readings.

### Passports & Visas

Passports are necessary however no visas are required for U.S. citizens for this itinerary. Non-U.S. citizens, please check your consulate for visa information.

### Viking's All-Inclusive Airfare & Transfers

For your convenience, you can purchase roundtrip trans-oceanic air travel directly from Viking in conjunction with your river cruise or cruisetour. Viking's air packages are a great value because they include your transfers between airport and ship or hotel. And, when you reserve your air with Viking and purchase Viking's all-inclusive travel protection policy, your air travel is covered by the policy as part of your Viking itinerary. Select from more than 165 different gateways (additional gateways available) in economy or the upgraded service of Premium Economy or Business Class (trans-oceanic portion); once your reservation has been made, we will confirm your flight schedules 75 days before departure.

### E-Check Program

Viking offers special incentives when you pay via e-check (electronic debit to your checking account)—a quick and convenient way to pay for your vacation. Ask for details when making your reservation.

### Viking Travel Protection

Viking Travel Protection allows you to cancel your trip for any reason. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that whatever may arise—even a pre-existing medical condition—you retain 100% of your travel value. Premiums are based on trip cost and start at only \$249 per person!

### Climate – Average High/Low Temperature (°F)

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
Belgrade	53/37	63/46	72/53	77/59	81/61	81/61	74/55	64/46	51/39
Bucharest	50/32	64/42	73/50	80/57	83/60	83/59	76/52	64/42	44/35
Budapest	51/37	62/45	71/53	77/58	80/61	80/60	72/54	61/46	47/37

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