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Craig
travel

GRAND LOWER DANUBE



SEP 17 - 29, 2025 | 13 DAYS | 29 MEALS
LÜFTNER CRUISES • AMADEUS NOVA • EXCURSIONS IN EVERY PORT
JOURNEY LEADER: CATHY SEMLER

Passing through the impressive Iron Gates between Serbia and Romania

Cruising along the Lower Danube reveals the essence of Eastern Europe, where grand imperial cities transition into charming rural towns and dramatic landscapes. Centuries of history will unfold before us—from ornate palaces echoing with the sounds of Strauss waltzes to weathered fortresses standing guard over the river. Every twist of the Danube brings a new marvel: the towering cliffs of the Iron Gates, framed by the majestic Carpathian and Balkan mountains, tranquil stretches of untouched wilderness, and cities full of life and energy.

This journey is designed with our comfort and enjoyment in mind, moving at a leisurely pace. Days are filled with scenic cruising and exciting ports of call, while evenings offer fine dining and relaxation. With most meals, tips, taxes, and shore excursions included, we are free to savour every moment in this spectacular corner of Europe.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Europe
- 3 night accommodations as indicated or similar
- 8-night deluxe cruise in an outside stateroom on the AMADEUS Nova or similar
- Transfers between airports, hotels and the ship
- Baggage handling shipside and at hotels
- Welcome cocktail reception and welcome dinner aboard the ship
- All meals during the cruise plus quality European wines with dinner
- Services of your journey leader and / or cruise director
- Guided shore excursions in each port
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Journey Leader

We are pleased to have **Cathy Semler** leading this exciting journey along the Danube. Cathy retired as a high school principal after devoting 35 years to the teaching profession. She is a seasoned traveller who loves the opportunity to learn from new adventures. Her travels have taken her to Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, India, Costa Rica, Ireland, and various destinations throughout Europe. She enjoys visiting iconic cities such as Paris, Amsterdam, and London, as well as hiking in the mountains and cruising to different countries. Cathy is looking forward to this next adventure with you.



Our Cruise Ship • AMADEUS Nova

AMADEUS Nova defines the future of responsible luxury cruising. Impeccably designed down to the last detail, this vessel introduces the latest green technologies, reflecting our commitment to respect the nature of the remarkable destinations visited.

Joining the fleet in 2024, The beautiful AMADEUS Nova retains the design essence found throughout the AMADEUS line. Spacious personal accommodations, floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows in every cabin, and choice of bed configuration in all categories (double or twin bedding). The technology you don't see—hybrid engines, solar panels, and cutting-edge energy conservation—is as important as what you do see. Around each corner, discover elegant spaces to roam, multiple dining venues, a heated swimming pool, and unparalleled views from every suite.

Purpose-built to sail the safe scenic waters of Europe's rivers, she has three decks with cabins and public rooms plus a spacious Sun Deck for viewing the countryside.

When the sun lowers in the Western skies, slip into your favourite evening clothes and wander into the elegant wine bar. Soft voices fill the air as new friends gather to enjoy a four-course dinner as the AMADEUS Nova's attentive staff anticipates your every request.



SEP 17, Wednesday **DEPART CANADA**

Travellers from across Canada fly to Vienna, Austria.

SEP 18, Thursday **ARRIVE IN VIENNA**

Upon arrival in Vienna, we will be greeted by a local representative and embark on a city tour, including the historic Ringstrasse with its impressive state buildings. The tour continues past the Imperial Palace, which has evolved over centuries and now houses Austria's president. The day concludes with our welcome dinner at the hotel, featuring a three-course meal.

Imperial Riding School or similar (2 nights) **D**

SEP 19, Friday **VIENNA**

Today is yours to explore Vienna as you wish. Wander through world-class museums, relax in beautiful parks, or have a coffee in one of the city's charming cafés. **B**

SEP 20, Saturday **VIENNA / EMBARKATION**

After breakfast, we visit Schönbrunn Palace, the summer home of the imperial family and a superb example of Austrian Baroque architecture. Afterwards, we will board our ship, followed by a welcome cocktail and welcome dinner before setting sail for Bratislava at night.

AMADEUS Nova or similar (8 nights) **BD**

SEP 21, Sunday **VIENNA / BRATISLAVA**

As the sun rises, we arrive in the Slovakian capital. Located at the confluence of the Morava and Danube Rivers, Bratislava impresses with its Gothic and Baroque architecture. During a morning tour, visit Castle Hill for breathtaking views, then explore the historic centre. Back on board, enjoy a leisurely lunch before departing for the local wine region. Here you will have the chance to join an optional tour of a family-owned vineyard. **BLD**

SEP 22, Monday **ESZTERGOM / BUDAPEST**

During our morning excursion in Esztergom, we will visit Hungary's largest church, the Basilica, renowned for its beauty. We then tour the artists' village of Szentendre before gliding towards Budapest, the "Queen of the Danube." Here architectural wonders like Matthias Church and Fisherman's Bastion await, alongside the "An Authentic Taste of Budapest" tour, which starts at the market hall and continues to the famous geothermal baths. As night falls, we cruise through the illuminated city, while enjoying a lively folklore show featuring local artists dancing and singing onboard. **BLD**

SEP 23, Tuesday **VUKOVAR**

In eastern Croatia, Vukovar serves as our gateway to the natural world. In the afternoon, our excursion begins in Vukovar and takes us to Kopački Rit, one of the largest wetlands in Europe, home to a variety of birds, animals, and plants. Explore this pristine landscape by boat, passing through untouched marshes and floodplains. In the village of Kopačevo, you can sample Croatian fruit brandies and wines before continuing our drive to the village of Osijek for a walk through the town. Back in Vukovar, we board the ship and enjoy a leisurely dinner as we cruise to Belgrade. **BLD**

SEP 24, Wednesday **BELGRADE, SERBIA**

Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, effortlessly blends Western influence with its rich cultural roots and history. We start our morning with a tour of Kalemegdan Fortress, where the



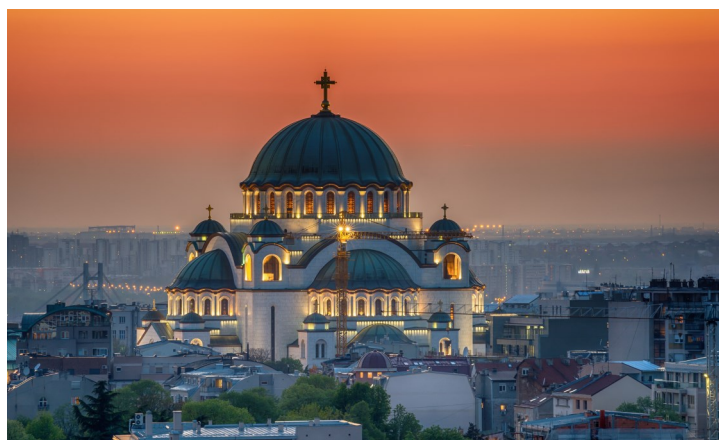
Bratislava's Old Town



Explore the serene wetlands of Kopački Rit by boat



Aerial view of the charming village of Szentendre



St. Sava Cathedral overlooking Belgrade at sunset

Sava River meets the Danube, offering stunning views and captivating historical insights. Continue to the National Museum, Parliament, and St. Sava Cathedral, the world's largest Orthodox church. Afterward, you may choose to visit Topola and Oplenac to explore the heritage of the Serbian royal family. In the evening, enjoy a private bus tour through Belgrade, taking in the city's dazzling lights, followed by an authentic Serbian folklore performance. Conclude the day with a stroll through Skadarlija, the artists' quarter, before unwinding at a local restaurant or pub. BLD

SEP 25, Thursday GOLUBAC / DONJI MILANOVAC

Explore the fortress of Golubac, famous for its breathtaking views and storied past. Opt for an excursion to the Stone Age archeological site of Lepenski Vir or join us in a hike through Djerdap National Park to the famous Kovilovo viewpoint. Later, rejoin the ship in Donji Milanovac for scenic cruising through the gorges marking the border between Serbia and Romania. Unwind as we pass the narrow Cazan gorge, taking in the majestic Carpathian and Balkan mountains, the Mraconia monastery, and the towering rock sculpture of King Decebalus. BLD

SEP 26, Friday SVISHTOV / ROUSSE / GIURGIU

Arrive in Svishtov, Bulgaria, the southernmost point on the Danube. Choose between a tour of Rousse with a visit to the Basarbovo Rock Monastery, or an optional visit to Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi. Both options offer deep cultural insights. BLD

SEP 27, Saturday HARSOVA

From Harsova, you can join a full-day tour to the Danube Delta, bookable only onboard. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the world's largest wetlands. Travel by bus to Tulcea, then board boats for a guided tour of the reserve, known for its diverse wildlife. Return to the ship in the evening for a folklore program. BLD

SEP 28, Sunday DISEMBARK / BUCHAREST

After disembarking in Fetesti, we journey to Bucharest, Romania's vibrant capital. Explore this lively city, known for its eclectic architecture spanning various eras. Enjoy an afternoon of sightseeing followed by a traditional lunch. We then check into our centrally located hotel before gathering for our farewell dinner. **Hotel TBA** (1 night) BLD

SEP 29, Monday BUCHAREST / CANADA

Travellers gather today for our flights back to Canada. B

Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Cruise / Tour Only (Join / Leave hotel)	\$6,345
Toronto	\$8,315
Montreal / Ottawa	\$8,495
Halifax / Winnipeg / Thunder Bay	\$8,555
St. John's	\$8,595
Regina / Saskatoon / Victoria	\$8,695
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$8,655
Single Supplement for Cat C-4.....	\$1,175

Rates are per person based on sharing a Cat C-4 Outside Twin (panoramic window) on Haydn Deck. Cruise/Tour only cost exclude airfares and airport transfers. Airfares and air carrier are estimated, subject to change, and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Supplements to upgrade to higher category:

Category/Description/Deck	Sharing Twin
C-1 Deluxe (Haydn - panoramic window)	\$595
B-4* Deluxe (Strauss - panoramic window)	\$1,295
B-1* Deluxe (Strauss - panoramic window)	\$1,745
A-1* Deluxe (Mozart - panoramic window)	\$2,295
Suite Deluxe (Mozart - walk-out exterior balcony).....	\$3,425

*Cabins have a drop-down panoramic window that extends across the entire width of the cabin and can open to make the stateroom become its own balcony. Stateroom categories are subject to availability at the time of booking - book early for the best choice. See the deck plan for full details on various categories available. Singles are extremely limited, please enquire for rates or visit our website. River cruise price is based on sharing a twin-bedded stateroom with a private bathroom. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes, and fees effective July 2024, and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. This river cruise will be escorted with a minimum of 20 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrolment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due May 15, 2025

Deposit is \$1,200 per cabin

To reserve your place on this cruise, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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CT Rating 2.5/5 - Slightly Challenging: Excursions and land arrangements include some extensive walks, often over rough surfaces. Cobblestones are common in many European cities, making walking more difficult. Access to some decks and to shore in some ports may involve steep steps. Members should be in good physical condition and able to walk a kilometre or more without assistance to fully enjoy this cruise.

**Book by November 29, 2024
 and save \$200 per person**