

# NWSCC and John & Jeanne Reinhardt present ...



Cruise in a group of 38-45 aboard our privately owned 140- to 162-passenger ships

## Eastern Europe to the Black Sea

**Hungary:** Budapest • **Croatia:** Batina, Osijek, Vukovar • **Serbia:** Novi Sad, Belgrade • **Bulgaria:** Vidin, Ruse • **Romania:** Constanta, Bucharest

ITINERARY OVERVIEW  
AUGUST 29, 2019

14 days from **\$4795**  
with international airfare  
from Portland

13 days from **\$3495**  
River Cruise Tour only



### IT'S INCLUDED

International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges, unless you choose to make your own air arrangements

**Accommodations** for 10 nights aboard a private river ship with wireless Internet access now in all common areas and cabins, and 2 nights at the Sheraton Bucharest or similar

**ALL meals:** Daily breakfasts, 10 lunches, 11 dinners—including 5 meals in local restaurants—plus onboard house beer & wine, as well as soft drinks

**7 included tours** with personal headsets and **5 Exclusive Discovery Series events**—School visit • Home-Hosted Lunch • Gypsy Women discussion • *Life Under Communism* discussion • Danube-Black Sea Canal transit & discussion

**Local Program Directors, a Grand Circle Cruise Line exclusive:** Our dedicated experts are with you and your group of 38-45 travelers from beginning to end to provide insider's knowledge and the perspective that will enrich your experience

**Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers

**All port charges**

**Baggage handling** for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips

**5% Frequent Traveler Credit** toward your next trip—an average of \$280



PLEASE MENTION THIS  
CODE WHEN BOOKING

**G9-28229**

Day 1 • Depart U.S.

Day 2-3 • Bucharest, Romania  
Included Tour Bucharest

Day 4-5 • Bucharest • Constanta  
Embark ship  
Included Tour Constanta

Day 6 • Ruse, Bulgaria  
Optional Tour Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanassi

Day 7-8 • Vidin • Iron Gates  
Included Tour Vidin

Day 9 • Belgrade, Serbia  
Included Tour Belgrade

Day 10 • Novi Sad  
Included Tour Novi Sad  
Optional Tour Sremski Karlovci

Day 11 • Croatia  
Included Tours Vukovar • Osijek

Day 12-13 • Budapest, Hungary  
Included Tour Budapest  
Optional Tour Hungarian Jewish Heritage

Day 14 • Return to U.S.  
Disembark ship

### MAXIMIZE YOUR DISCOVERIES & VALUE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS  
all with FREE Single Supplements

**Transylvania, Romania**  
3 nights pre-trip from \$695

**Prague, Czech Republic**  
4 nights post-trip from \$995

**Vienna, Austria**  
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For questions, please call **John Reinhardt at 530-330-3838**

[www.gct.com/lbs2019](http://www.gct.com/lbs2019)



## WHAT TO EXPECT

### Group Size

- This trip has a group size of 38-45 travelers

### Pacing

- 13 days, with 10 nights aboard a private river ship, and a two-night hotel stay
- Return flights often require departing in early morning
- Air travel time will be 11-20 hours and will have at least one connection

### Physical Requirements

- Walk 1-3 miles unassisted and participate in 2-3 hours of physical activities

- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

### Terrain & Transportation

- Uneven walking surfaces, including steep paths, hills, riverbanks, 25-50 stairs without handrails, and cobblestones, which can be slippery in wet or colder conditions

- Travel by 140- to 162-passenger river ship, and 49-seat coach
- Changes in water-level depths may require adjustments to your itinerary

### Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 58-82°F during cruising season
- June-August are the warmest months
- March and November weather can be unpredictable and change quickly

## YOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 1 Depart U.S.

### DAY 2 Bucharest, Romania

Arrive today in Bucharest. You are met at the airport by a Grand Circle representative and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time and hotel check-in policy, you may not be able to check into your hotel room immediately upon arrival at your hotel. Your Program Director will advise you of your check-in status and activity schedule for the day when you arrive.

You have the balance of the day to relax after your overseas flight.

Celebrate your arrival in Romania with a Welcome Drink, and get acquainted with your traveling companions and your Program Director. This evening, enjoy dinner at your hotel.

D—River Ship

### DAY 3 Bucharest

If you began your European discoveries early with our optional pre-trip extension in Transylvania, Romania, you will join the main group today. This morning, get acquainted with Bucharest

on a panoramic tour. This is an old city that has served as the capital of Wallachia and later Romania since 1659. Today, it is noted for its broad, tree-lined boulevards, well-kept parks, and mix of architectural styles that combine Neo-Classical 19th-century structures with monumental 20th-century edifices (the latter built for the most part to satisfy the late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu). You'll view the Arc de Triomphe (commemorating the achievements of World War I soldiers) and drive along Victory Avenue to Revolution Square, where recent events in history are inscribed.

After lunch on your own, enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Perhaps you'll visit the majestic Palace of the Parliament, the second largest administrative building in the world—and certainly one of the most impressive. Dive into the controversial history of how the massive palace came to be under the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. After an earthquake devastated the city in 1977, Ceausescu took advantage of the land and recruited

700 architects and around 1.5 million factory workers to complete the project. Ceausescu passed away before the massive undertaking was finally finished in 1994.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

B—River Ship

### DAY 4 Bucharest • Constanta • Embark ship

After enjoying the morning at leisure, we'll gather for lunch in a local restaurant before transferring to Constanta where you'll embark your private Grand Circle river ship, which will be your home throughout your Black Sea cruise.

Tonight, meet your fellow travelers over dinner onboard.

B,L,D—River Ship

### DAY 5 Constanta • Danube-Black Sea Canal transit • Captain's Welcome Dinner

This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Constanta, a Romanian Black Sea port that is the country's oldest continually





inhabited city. Dating back more than 2,500 years, Constanta boasts a wealth of fascinating architecture and history. Myth holds that Jason and the Argonauts stopped here after recovering the legendary Golden Fleece. On your included tour, you'll explore the beguiling city center, the Cathedral of Saints Peter & Paul, the mosaic-paved Roman Edifice of Tomis, the Art Nouveau Constanta Casino, and other highlights of this beloved city.

Following lunch, your Danube and Black Sea River Cruise begins by sailing into the Danube-Black Sea Canal, a 40-mile engineering marvel begun in 1949, but not fully completed until 1987. You'll pass through the canal's lock system and cruise by the inland port towns of Murfatlar and Medgidia.

This evening, celebrate the start of your Eastern European odyssey at the Captain's Welcome Dinner.

B,L,D—River Ship

### DAY 6 Ruse, Bulgaria • Optional Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanassi tour

Early this morning, arrive in Ruse, which is situated where the Danube forms a

natural border between Romania and Bulgaria.

You may spend your day at leisure exploring Ruse independently, or you could join us for an optional excursion to discover two key Bulgarian historic sites: Veliko Tarnovo, the capital of Bulgaria from 1186 until 1394, and Arbanassi, a historical village of Bulgarian heritage. You'll enjoy time on your own in both locations to make your own discoveries, and you'll enjoy an included traditional lunch in a local restaurant in Arbanassi.

B,L,D—River Ship

### DAY 7 Vidin, Bulgaria

This morning, enjoy panoramic views of Bulgaria en route to Vidin. After lunch, you'll arrive in Vidin, Bulgaria's main port on the Danube. Here we'll enjoy an included walking tour and a visit to Baba Vida, a medieval fortress of two walls and four towers. Baba Vida was the city's main defense in the Middle Ages and also the most important fortress of northwestern Bulgaria. Please note: Some walkways at Baba Vida have tough and uneven surfaces and dark passageways.

B,L,D—River Ship

### DAY 8 Iron Gates • Life Under Communism discussion

You have a day of leisurely cruising, and a good opportunity to observe life along the banks of the Danube from your comfortable deck chair as your Program Director provides insights about the region. After breakfast, enjoy a bridge commentary about the Danube River. Later in the morning, join us in an **Exclusive Discovery Series** discussion on Life Under Communism with your Program Director. Then, after lunch onboard, join the chef in the galley (the ship's kitchen) for a special tour.

Throughout the day, you'll cruise along a stretch of the Danube that was once a raging river pounding through deep gorges. In the 1960s, Yugoslavia and Romania cooperated on a joint venture that raised the level of the Danube with a series of hydroelectric dams called the Iron Gates. The Danube is now placid between the Iron Gates, the craggy two-mile long gorge now underwater. In the morning, you'll pass through Iron Gate II; you'll continue through Iron Gate I later this afternoon.

B,L,D—River Ship





## DAY 9 Belgrade, Serbia • Gypsy Women discussion

Early this morning, we'll arrive in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia (and former capital of Yugoslavia), one of Europe's oldest cities, and the center of political and cultural life in the country. Belgrade and the rest of Serbia are just now emerging from many years of repressive rule, with a welcoming spirit for visitors.

Enjoy a full morning in Belgrade, beginning with an included tour around this grand old city, which was built centuries ago along important east-west trade routes and used as a gateway to Western Europe from the Balkans. You'll see the Town Hall, St. Sava—the largest Orthodox cathedral in the world—and the Kalemegdan fortress. You also explore the Tito Memorial, erected to honor Josip Broz Tito, who held Yugoslavia together as an independent country in the turmoil that followed World War II and the subsequent Cold War. After your tour, enjoy lunch onboard.

**Please note:** *The Tito Memorial is closed on Mondays.*

After lunch back onboard the ship, explore the city on your own—you'll have a shuttle bus to and from the city

available for your use. Your Program Director will have suggestions for various local sights and activities for learning and discovery.

This evening, join a local gypsy woman for an **Exclusive Discovery Series** discussion. She'll provide insight into what her day-to-day life looks like, the stigma surrounding gypsy women, and how she's breaking tradition and paving the way for a new generation in this dynamic country. Enjoy tonight's dinner onboard.

B,L,D—River Ship

## DAY 10 Novi Sad • Optional Sremski Karlovci tour

After breakfast this morning, enjoy an included tour of *Novi Sad*, Serbia's cultural hub and second-largest city. The beauty of the city is in its name—*Novi Sad* in English translates to “new garden.” Nestled along a bend in the Danube River, *Novi Sad* is peppered with myriad historical and cultural monuments, verdant parks, bustling squares, a thriving pedestrian zone, and a history-rich fortress standing tall on the right bank of the river.

After lunch onboard, the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to further

discover *Novi Sad* on your own. Perhaps you'll choose to explore the Petrovaradin Fortress, built between 1692 and 1780 by the Austrians as a defense against invading Turks. Declared a historical monument 200 years later, this partially restored fortress is now a museum. Delve deep into its strange past, including a twelve-mile network of underground tunnels, a mysterious well with supposed links to black magic, and an iconic clock tower on which the size of the minute and hour hands are reversed.

Or, join us on an optional excursion to Sremski Karlovci, a culture-rich town just ten miles southeast of Novi Sad. Spend the afternoon exploring the town, including visits to a beekeeping museum and a 300-year-old wine cellar.

This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

B,L,D—River Ship

## DAY 11 Vukovar, Croatia • Osijek • School visit • Home-Hosted Lunch • Batina

After docking this morning and passing through customs in Vukovar—site of the worst artillery shelling of the Croatian-Serbian war—you'll take a short walk through the town and see some of its



scars, as well as witness its revival. Then you'll set out to explore Osijek, the administrative and economic center of eastern Croatia.

Situated on the Drava River, about 15 miles from the mouth of the Danube, the area the city occupies was populated even in prehistoric times, and the Romans erected the first urban settlement. But its advantageous geographical location made it prey to assault throughout the centuries. It was destroyed by the Huns, rebuilt in the Middle Ages, destroyed by the Turks, and rebuilt again in the 18th century. As a result, Osijek boasts an eclectic architectural heritage, which you'll see on your city tour.

Among the more notable sites are the Tvrdja, a unique urban and military complex that lies in the center of the city and was built between 1712 and 1721 by the new Austrian authorities; a neo-Gothic Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, with a 290-foot spire; and a striking, 690-foot modern pedestrian bridge that rises over the Drava. Reliving its own cruel history in our era, Osijek was heavily damaged during the Croatian-Serbian war that waged from 1991 to 1995. Now peaceful, the city is experiencing a rebirth of civic pride and cultural and economic achievement.

Following your walking tour, partake in two **Exclusive Discovery Series** events. First, visit with students at a local school (when in session) supported, in part, by Grand Circle Foundation. Then, enhance your appreciation for everyday Croatian life as you join a local family for a Home-Hosted Lunch.

Later this afternoon, transfer by motorcoach to Batina, where you'll meet your ship. Dinner is onboard this evening.

B,L,D—River Ship

## DAY 12 Budapest

After breakfast, you'll set out to explore Budapest on an included city tour. Budapest is situated on both sides of the Danube River, with Buda (the right bank)

to the west and Pest (the left bank) to the east.

In Pest, you'll see Heroes' Square, with its Millennial Column set off by equestrian statues of the ninth-century Magyar leaders who conquered this region in the ninth century. The adjoining colonnade displays more statues of kings, dukes of Transylvania, and liberty fighters who influenced the history of Hungary.

As your tour takes you over the Danube bridges into Buda, you can see how the imposing Parliament Building dominates Pest on the opposite side of the river. While in historic Buda, you'll visit Castle Hill, where a massive castle, including its protective ramparts, has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Mostly destroyed during World War II, the Royal Palace has been lovingly restored, approximating its former splendor, and now includes the Hungarian National Gallery. In your free time, you can also visit the Church of Our Lady, formerly used for the coronations of Hungarian kings. Its popular name of Matthias is in recognition of the Renaissance king who ruled in the 15th century and whose heraldic sign—a raven—is displayed on one of the towers of the church. Dating to the 13th century, the structure is an interesting mix of architectural styles used during reconstruction of the building at different times in its history. Note that during the 150-year Turkish occupation of Hungary, the church served as Eski Djami (Old Mosque) for the Turks. Inside the church you can view art of Bertalan Szekely and Karoly Lotz, 19th-century Hungarian painters.

After lunch onboard, you'll enjoy free time to relax or explore Budapest on your own.

Budapest offers some particularly fine museums and galleries. The Hungarian National Gallery contains excellent examples of Hungarian art from the Middle Ages on. The collection is comprehensive and somewhat massive, so give yourself plenty of time to enjoy it. Parliament, the Museum of

Contemporary Art, and the Budapest History Museum are also worth a visit.

Tonight, dinner is onboard.

B,L,D—River Ship

## DAY 13 Budapest • Optional Hungarian Jewish Heritage tour • Captain's Farewell Dinner

Spend the day enjoying the wonders of Budapest on your own. Or, join an optional tour exploring Hungarian Jewish Heritage. You'll visit the Great Synagogue, the largest in Europe, designed in a Moorish style but with Byzantine, Romantic, and Gothic elements. Then you'll see the Kazinczy Street Orthodox Synagogue, the center of traditional orthodox Jewish life here; the Emanuel Memorial Tree, a memorial to Hungarian victims of the Holocaust; and the Jewish Museum.

After lunch onboard, the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to make further discoveries on your own in Budapest. Celebrate your discoveries on the last night of your Danube River and Black Sea cruise at the Captain's Farewell Dinner.

**Please note:** The Hungarian Jewish Heritage optional tour is not available Saturdays and on regional holidays.

B,L,D—River Ship

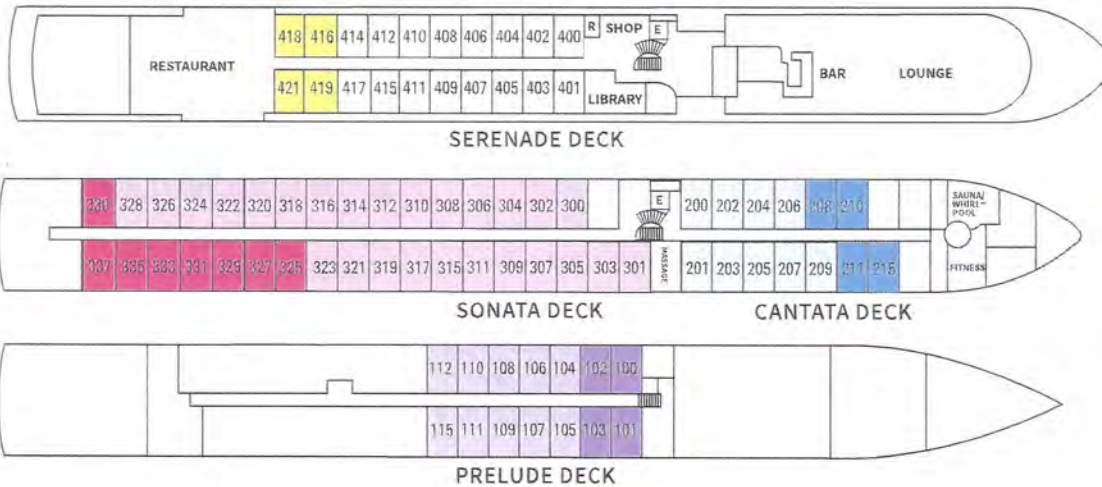
## DAY 14 Bucharest • Return to U.S.

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or travel overland to Prague, Czech Republic for your post-trip extension.

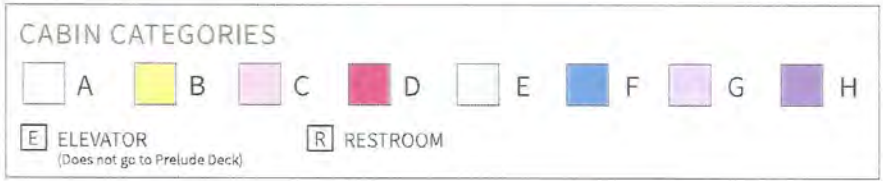
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# M/S RIVER ADAGIO



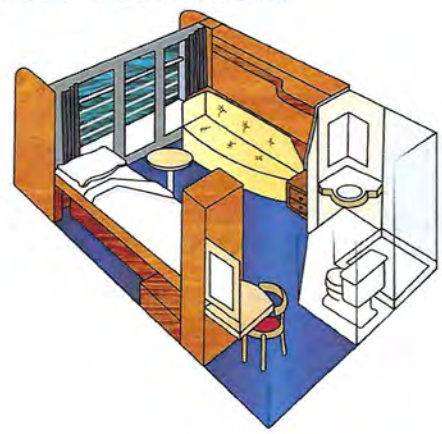
**Registry:** Malta  
**Width:** 38 ft.  
**Length:** 418 ft.  
**Passenger capacity:** 162  
**Crew/Nationality:** 38/International  
**Decks:** 4  
**Number of cabins:** 81—all outside  
**Elevator:** Yes



*Please note: Only Serenade Deck cabins have private balconies. The Sonata and Cantata decks are separated by a flight of stairs. Elevator runs from the Cantata and Sonata decks to the Serenade Deck. There is no elevator access to the Prelude Deck.*

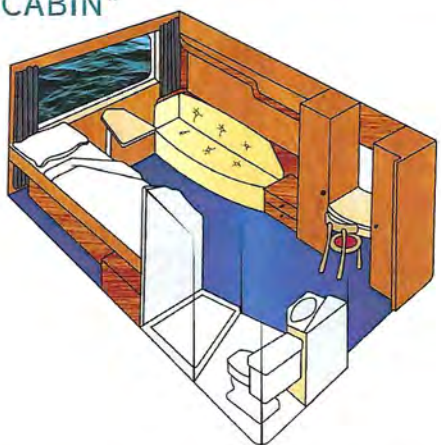
## CABIN FEATURES

### SERENADE DECK CABIN



- 160-sq.-ft. non-smoking outside cabins with a river view—Serenade Deck cabins include a private 16-sq.-ft. balcony with table and chairs
- Two stationary twin beds converted to sofas each day, and back to beds each evening
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- Individual heating & air conditioning controls
- Flat-screen color TV & radio, including CNN, movies & a “view from the bow” camera looking from the front of your ship
- Direct-dial telephone with emergency call buttons
- In-room safe

### CANTATA/SONATA/PRELUDE DECK CABIN\*



*\*Please note: Prelude Deck cabin features the same layout with a small upper window.*

## WATCH VIDEOS & FILMS ONLINE

Learn more about *Eastern Europe to the Black Sea*

### TRIP EXPERIENCE



Get to know Ruse, Bulgaria, by meeting a few people that call this town set on the banks of the Danube home.

### TRIP ITINERARY



Learn more about your itinerary, like optional tours, exclusive Discovery Series events, and more.

### PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Hear what it was like for Tatjana Bojovic to grow up during the Yugoslav Wars.

# Eastern Europe to the Black Sea

## Good Buy Plan

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### DECK

A	Serenade Deck	\$4495
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C	Sonata Deck	\$4095
D	(Middle Deck w/picture window)	\$3995
E	Cantata Deck	\$3895
F	(Middle Deck w/picture window)	\$3795
G	Prelude Deck	\$3595
H	(Lower Deck w/small window)	\$3495

Depart from:	AUGUST 29, 2019
Portland	\$1300

Additional departure cities are available. Call for details.

**Deposit:** \$500 per person.

**Single Supplement:** \$595. Single accommodations are limited. To avoid the single supplement, ask about our Roommate Matching Service.

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**GOVERNMENT TAXES AND FEES** The following government taxes and fees are now included in your airfare price. **Government and other authority taxes and fees: September 11th Security Fee** of up to \$2.50 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (maximum charge per trip—\$5.00 USD one-way, \$10.00 USD round trip). A flight segment is defined as one takeoff and one landing. **Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)** of up to \$18 per passenger. **Federal Domestic Flight Segment Fee** of up to \$3.70 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (defined as a takeoff and a landing). **U.S. or International Departure and Arrival Charges** of up to \$200 USD may apply depending on itinerary. On select itineraries that include the purchase of a pre- and/or post-trip extension, U.S. or international departure and arrival charges of up to \$300 USD may apply. Call for details. Standard Terms & Conditions can be found on the web at [www.gct.com/tc](http://www.gct.com/tc).

## Reservations & Information:

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For questions, please call

John Reinhardt at 530-330-3838



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