

# 2020 Danube Discovery

## Seven Countries & 5 Capital Cities Cruise

**Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Osijek, Novi Sad,  
Belgrade, Vidin & Bucharest**

*12 days / 11 nights **MV River Discovery II**  
Cruise from Vienna to Bucharest*





## *Itinerary:*

### *Day 1 – Vienna, AUSTRIA*

*Embarkation after 3 pm*

*(Meal: D)*

On arrival, check-in to your floating hotel. In the evening enjoy a welcome cocktail and information meeting followed by your first dinner on board.



### *Day 2 – Vienna, AUSTRIA*

*(Meal: B/L/D)*

Morning city sightseeing of Austria's Imperial includes *Hunderwasser*, the Ringstrasse, the Parliament, the State Opera, *Hofburg (Imperial Palace)* and Belvedere Palace (*second stop*). The *last* stop will be in the old center of Vienna to take a walk through the pedestrian zone from Graben and Kohlmarkt to Michaela Square ending at the entrance of the *St. Stephan's Cathedral*. The balance of the day is at leisure. You may choose to explore Vienna on your own or purchase an optional tour.

### *Day 3 – Bratislava, SLOVAKIA*

*(From 04:00 to 24:00)*

*(Meal: B/L/D)*

**Welcome to Slovakia!** Depart on a morning walking tour of this lovely city with its famous St. Martin's Cathedral followed by a walk through the Old Town. Enjoy free time for shopping and strolling and return to the ship for lunch. The balance of the day is free to explore on your own or partake in an optional tour.

### *Day 4 – Budapest, HUNGARY*

*(From 13:00 - Overnight)*

*(Meal: B/L/D)*

**Welcome to Hungary!** Morning at sail. In the afternoon, your motor coach tour of this lovely city will include the most popular sights: The Parliament Building, St. Stefan Cathedral, the Opera, the Heroes Square, and the town park with the Vajdahunyad Castle. There will be stops at the Fisherman's Bastion and Gellert Hill. Return to the ship for dinner. In the evening we recommend the optional Hungarian Folk Show.



**Day 5– Budapest, HUNGARY**

**(From 00:00 to 21:00)**

**(Meal: B/L/D)**

Full free day to explore and enjoy pedestrian friendly Budapest on your own, or partake in one of our optional excursions as outlined below! **Evening surprise! Prior to dinner enjoy a 45 minute concert performed by a local Gypsy duo in the lounge.**

**Day 6 – Osijek, CROATIA**

**(From 15:00 to 20:00)**

**(Meal: B/L/D)**

**Welcome to Croatia!** View the passing vista's from the sun deck, as you sail into the Drava River toward Osijek, Croatia's 4<sup>th</sup> largest city. In the afternoon delight in a bus and walking tour of the Old Town including the Tvrdja (Citadel), the best-preserved and largest ensemble of baroque buildings in Croatia. At the end of the tour, taste a refreshment drink with snacks accompanied by live entertainment featuring Croatian folk music and “*tamburica*”, the Croatian version of a banjo. Then enjoy some free time in the town before returning to your ship for dinner. Sail on!



**Day 7 - Novi Sad, SERBIA**

**(From 04:00 – 01:30am next day)**

**(Meal: B/L/D)**

**Welcome to Serbia!** Your first stop in this “newly” minted Balkan country will be in **Novi Sad**, Serbia's third largest city after Belgrade and Nis. Join your local guide for a walking tour through the town center. After the tour you will have free time to explore this lovely town on your own **or partake in the optional Serbian Cultural Heritage & Wine Tasting tour**



**Day 8 – Belgrade, SERBIA** (From 07:00am to 01:30am next day) (Meal: B/L/D)

Morning motor coach tour of this lively and vibrant capital will include all of the major attractions: Kalemegdan Fortress, St. Sava's Orthodox Cathedral, and many other highlights ending with a stroll through Knez Mihajlova Pedestrian Street. This afternoon we recommend the highly popular *optional excursion to a local Serbian "salash" (farm)*, where you will meet an authentic Serbian multi-generation family and enjoy a wonderful taste of Serbian home-made food, unlimited booze, live music and hospitality! After dinner, relish in a private folklore show on board.

**Day 9 – Full day sailing & passage through "The Iron Gate" Gorge** (Meal: B/L/D)  
(Golubac 08:00-09:00; Donji Milanovac 11:30-14:00)

Enjoy passing vistas as well as participate in talks on Balkan History presented by your Cruise Director. The highlight of the day will be the passage through the "*The Iron Gates*", the highest gorge on the Danube. Over 100 km long, this canyon, was a gigantic obstacle to navigation because of its pointed rocks, cliffs, and changing water levels, surrounded with very wild, yet attractive nature. This danger was finally overcome in 1972, with the building of the "*Djerdap*" lock. *Tonight prepare for your Captain's Farewell Dinner!*

**Day 10 – Vidin – BULGARIA** (From 00:00 – 18:00) (Meal: B/L/D)

**Welcome to Bulgaria!** After breakfast, embark on a walking tour of this delightful Bulgarian river port highlighted by a visit to the 13<sup>th</sup> century fortress named "**Baba Vida**" ("*Grandma Vida*"). Then enjoy some free time for strolling and shopping or take the optional **Belogradchik Rock excursion**.

**Day 11 – Turnu Magurele - Bucharest – ROMANIA** (Meal: B)  
(Arrive 03:00 from 08:30 – Disembarkation) **END CRUISE**

Disembark after breakfast. Dock at the Romanian port of Turnu Magurele and transfer to the "*Paris of the East*" – Bucharest, Romania's lovely capital! (2,5 hours). Your city tour will highlight the major attractions including **Arch D' Triumph**, the National Theatre and a photo stop at the **Parliament** the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon. Then it's on to your first class hotel, where after check-in you will have free time to explore this lovely city at your leisure and enjoy dinner at one of the local restaurants on your own. Check in at hotel in Bucharest for 1 night.

(NOTE: If taking the optional *Dracula Extension* you will enjoy your last night in Bucharest AFTER returning from Brasov).

**Day 12 – Bucharest, ROMANIA – FLY HOME** (Meal: B)

Enjoy a final breakfast and say good bye to your fellow travelers. Please make your own way to the airport for your flight to your next destination.

# Danube Discovery Cruises 2020

## “SEVEN Danube Countries - FIVE Capitals”

### 2020 Departure dates & Prices with MV River Discovery II

**7 COUNTRY CRUISE: Per person / twin in A\$ – “C” Category Low Deck**

Tour Code	Rotation	Arrival	Departure	Cruise only
DD200413	VIE-BUH	Apr 13 (MON) - Vienna	Apr 24 (FRI)	A\$4125
DD200503	VIE-BUH	May 3 (SUN) - Vienna	May 14 (THU)	A\$4410
DD200512	BUH-VIE	May 12 (TUE) - Bucharest	May 23 (SAT)	A\$4550
DD200523	VIE-BUH	May 23 (SAT) - Vienna	Jun 3 (WED)	A\$4550
DD200601	BUH-VIE	Jun 1 (MON) - Bucharest	Jun 12 (FRI)	A\$4550
DD200612	VIE-BUH	Jun 12 (FRI) - Vienna	Jun 23 (TUE)	A\$4550
DD200722	VIE-BUH	Jul 22 (WED) - Vienna	Aug 2 (SUN)	A\$4410
DD200831	VIE-BUH	Aug 31 (MON) - Vienna	Sep 11 (FRI)	A\$4550
DD200920	VIE-BUH	Sep 20 (SUN) - Vienna	Oct 1 (WED)	A\$4550
DD200929	BUH-VIE	Sep 29 (TUE) - Bucharest	Oct 10 (SAT)	A\$4550
DD201010	VIE-BUH	Oct 10 (SAT) - Vienna	Oct 21 (WED)	A\$4410
DD201019	BUH-VIE	Oct 19 (MON) - Bucharest	Oct 30 (FRI)	A\$4270

Cruise Rotation: VIE - BUH = Sailing from Vienna to Bucharest  
 BUH - VIE = Sailing from Bucharest to Vienna (Reverse Itinerary)

#### UPGRADES with surcharge for MV River Discovery II:

Cat “B” (Middle – French Balcony) A\$570 pp, Cat “A” (Upper – French Balcony): \$710 pp,  
 Upper Deck Jr. Suite: A\$1420 pp. Twin Cabin for single occupancy (Cat C only) Add 50% of the cabin rate,  
 Single occupancy of Cat “B & A” – Add 75% of the cabin rate  
 Single use of Suite – add 100% - subject to availability.

#### INCLUDED CRUISE FEATURES:

- Accommodations for 10 nights/11 days in all outside cabins in category of your choice
- Total of 30 meals: 11 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners
- FREE wine/beer/soft drink/water for both Lunch and Dinner daily while on the cruise portion
- Water/coffee/chocolate station 24 hours + early riser breakfast, afternoon cake and late night snacks
- Shore excursions, daily sightseeing programs, onboard lectures and folklore performances/music concerts and other surprises as outlined in the itinerary (excludes optional tours)
- Live music playing each evening
- Professional English speaking Cruise Directors and local, English speaking guides throughout.
- 1 night first class hotel with buffet breakfast in Bucharest. (Novotel, Capital or similar)
- Port fees and cruise fuel surcharges of USD188 included.



## 8 INCLUDED SIGHTSEEING TOURS AND SHORE EXCURSIONS

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|-------------------------------|---|
| • VIENNA, <b>AUSTRIA</b>      | City tour including Belvedere Palace park               |
| • BRATISLAVA, <b>SLOVAKIA</b> | City tour including old town and Primate Palace         |
| • BUDAPEST, <b>HUNGARY</b>    | City tour including Fisherman's Bastion                 |
| • OSIJEK, <b>CROATIA</b>      | City tour with wine tasting & live entertainment        |
| • NOVI SAD, <b>SERBIA</b>     | Walking tour  |
| • BELGRADE, <b>SERBIA</b>     | City by bus & walking tour                              |
| • VIDIN, <b>BULGARIA</b>      | City Tour including Baba Vida's Fortress                |
| • BUCHAREST, <b>ROMANIA</b>   | City tour including Parliament House ( <i>outside</i> ) |

### **ON BOARD SPECIAL CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Welcome drink on arrival and info meeting
- Lectures on Balkan History and Modern Balkans today
- On board Concert of Gypsy Music (Budapest)
- Serbian Folklore performance and fashion show on board (Belgrade)
- Farewell cocktails and Captains Gala Dinner
- AUDIVOX aids for all shore excursions and FREE WI-FI (wherever available)

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Any air tickets.
- Arrival and departure from / to airport transfers.
- Any travel and document fees including Visa requirements (none currently required)
- Costs of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone, liquor, souvenirs, etc.
- Tips to Crew, Cruise Directors, local guides and other staff along the route.
- Any increases in costs due to unforeseen circumstances such as; additional fuel surcharges, exchange rates or Government imposed taxes and fees not known at this time.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** While every effort will be made to adhere to the schedules outlined above, please note that all times listed are tentative and all stops and sights outlined are subject to change, substitution or alteration for reasons of passenger safety and reasons beyond our control including but not limited to: inclement weather, lock schedules, low or high water levels, museum closures and availability of specified attractions due to blackout periods, holidays or similar. Passenger compliance understanding and cooperation will sincerely be appreciated!

## Optional Extension Tour “Dracula”

**OPTIONAL 2 NIGHT/3 DAY “DRACULA” EXTENSION – \$715 pp/twin, \$925 single**

**Day 1 (12): Ship Disembark (Turnu Magurele) – Brasov, [ROMANIA](#) Meal: D**

After saying goodbye to your fellow cruise passengers, board a **separate bus** and head north through the beautiful Romanian countryside towards Brasov, Romania’s second largest city and renowned summer & winter resort. Along the way, stop at *Sinaia* and tour the impressive **Peles Castle\***, the residence of the last Romanian King. Arrive to Brasov and check in to your first class hotel in time for dinner and overnight. *\*If closed, Peles Castle will be visited on the return to Bucharest.*

**Day 2 (13) BRASOV: [ROMANIA](#) Meal: B, SD)**

After a buffet breakfast, begin your half day sightseeing tour with a short bus ride to the infamous **Bran Castle**, the “historic” home of *Count Vlad the Impaler* – popularized world over in Bram Stoker’s novels featuring the blood-thirsty “*Count Dracula*”. This imposing castle and the surrounding museum site will both entertain and educate you about the true life figure of Count Vlad, the Romanian national hero who fought the bloody Turkish occupation with equal ferociousness. The afternoon is free to explore this lively city on your own and enjoy dinner on your own at one of the many local restaurants.



**Day 3 (14) BRASOV – BUCHAREST – Meal: B**

After breakfast it’s time to check-out of your hotel and board your bus for the leisurely 2 hour ride back towards Bucharest. On arrival, delight in a half day city tour of the “**Paris of the East**” before checking in to your first class hotel. The balance of the day is free for exploring this friendly city on your own. In the evening, enjoy a special **farewell dinner\*** at one of the popular local restaurants featuring national specialties and live entertainment.

**Day 4 (15) BUCHAREST – HOME Meal: B**

After a final breakfast, tour finish. **BON VOYAGE!**

**INCLUDED:** Round trip transfers between Bucharest and Brasov (2 hours), 2 nights first class 4\* hotel accommodations (ARO Palace/Capitol or similar) , 2 buffet breakfasts, 1 dinner at the hotel, sightseeing of Peles Castle, sightseeing of Brasov City, Bran Castle and a special Farewell Dinner.

NOT included: Meals other than outlined, costs of a personal nature, Tips to Escort and Driver

# Upstream Program from Bucharest to Vienna

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## *Day 1 – Bucharest, ROMANIA*

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

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## *Day 2 – Bucharest – Turnu Magurele – EMBARKATION after 4 pm – Set Sail 21:00*

**(From 00:00 to 21:00)**

**Meal: 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**.”(outside). Then, continue through the Romanian countryside (**2.5 hrs**) to the port of **Turnu Magurele** to embark your “floating hotel.” A welcome drink and info meeting will precede dinner.

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## *Day 3 – Vidin, BULGARIA*

*(From 13:00 to 23:00)*

*Meal: B, L, D*

During the morning at sail, a presentation from the Captain and his crew will precede lunch. 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 before returning to the ship or take the *optional* Belogradchik Rocks excursion.

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## *Day 4 – SAIL through “The Iron Gates”*

**(Morning at sail; Donji Milanovac 14:00-15:30; Golubac 18:30-22:00)**

**Meal: B, L, D**

In the morning the ship passes through the highest natural gorge on the Danube; aptly name “**The Iron Gates**.” Over 100 km 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 Hydroelectric and Navigation System, the largest of its kind in Europe. The Romanian/Yugoslav builders carried out this gigantic construction project by building a huge concrete dam which raised the level of the water by 30 to 80 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. The fantastic views will be complemented with on board lectures and activities.

Early afternoon, the ship will dock at Donji Milanovac, the first port of call in Serbia, for border procedures. Enjoy the afternoon either sailing another stretch of this beautiful area or take part in our new optional tour of the fantastic recently re-opened Golubac Fortress and Lepenski Vir.

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## *Day 5 – Belgrade, SERBIA*

*(From 07:00 to 23:00)*

*Meal: B, L, D*

Your morning bus and walking 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 which can be seen from every part of the city; Princess Ljubica's Manor; Knez Mihajlova Pedestrian Street and more. The balance of the day is at leisure to explore on your own or to partake in the highly recommended *optional* excursion to a **Serbian “salash”** (farm), where you will meet an authentic Serbian multi-generation family and enjoy a wonderful taste of Serbian home-made food, unlimited booze, live music, and hospitality! To end a fun-filled day, do not miss the **Serbian Folk** performance on board.

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## *Day 6 -- Novi Sad, SERBIA*

*(From 06:00 to 20:00)*

*Meal: 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. After the tour you will have free time to explore the town on your own or take the *optional Taste of Serbia tour* featuring visits to the Orthodox Monastery and the wine producing Zhivanovic family. Dinner is back on board.



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<b>Day 7-- Osijek, CROATIA</b>	<b>(From 07:00 to 13:30)</b>	<b>Meal: B, L, D</b>
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**Welcome to Croatia!** View the passing vista's from the sun deck, as you sail into the Drava River toward Osijek, Croatia's 4<sup>th</sup> largest city. On arrival, depart on a bus and walking tour of the Old Town including the Tvrdja (Citadel), the best-preserved and largest ensemble of baroque buildings in Croatia. At the end of the tour, enjoy wine tasting accompanied by live entertainment featuring Croatian folk music and "tamburica", the Croatian version of a banjo. Then enjoy some free time in the town before returning to the ship for lunch as you set sail for Hungary.

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<b>Day 8 – Budapest, HUNGARY</b>	<b>(From 13:00 ---</b>	<b>Meal: B, L, D</b>
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On board lectures and other activities will fill the morning. After lunch, disembark for a panoramic tour of Budapest's most popular sights: the Parliament Building, St. Stephen's Basilica, the Opera House, and the town park with Vajdahunyad Castle. There will be stops at the Fisherman's Bastion and Gellert Hill. The evening is free to explore on your own or purchase the **optional** Hungarian National Folk Show which will be followed by a bus transfer to the Buda Hills to view the magnificent filigree bridges of Budapest as they are lighted for the night.

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<b>Day 9 – Budapest, HUNGARY</b>	<b>--- 21:00)</b>	<b>Meal: B, L, D</b>
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A full free day to explore this vibrant city on your own or partake in one of the **optional** tours such as a **walking tour through the fabulous Budapest Market and Vaci Utca, the famous pedestrian street** (am) or visit the renowned *Bakos Puzsta* (pm) where you will enjoy a wonderful equestrian performance by the Hungarian Czikos (cowboys) along with samplings of local Palinka brandy and tasty snacks. This evening, another treat is in store; a delightful concert performed by a local Gypsy duo in the lounge. After dinner, be sure to go to the sun deck to observe the magnificent views of Budapest at night as you depart Hungary on the way to Slovakia.

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<b>Day 10 – Bratislava, SLOVAKIA</b>	<b>(14:00 to 21:00)</b>	<b>Meal: B, L, D</b>
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**Welcome to Slovakia!** In the morning, pass through **Gabcikovo** lock, the only lock on the Danube River located between Vienna and Budapest. This lock is the country's largest hydroelectric power plant in terms of generating electricity. Next, put on your walking shoes for an afternoon walking tour of this lovely city with its famous St. Martin's Cathedral and the Primate's Palace followed by a walk through the Old Town. Tonight prepare for our festive **Captains Gala Dinner!**

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<b>Day 11 – Vienna, AUSTRIA</b>	<b>(04:00 to ----</b>	<b>Meal: B, L, D</b>
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Morning city sightseeing of Austria's Imperial capital will include the **Hunderwasser**, the Ringstrasse, the Parliament, the State Opera, **Hofburg (Imperial Palace)** and Belvedere Palace. The last stop will be in the old center of Vienna to take a walk through the pedestrian zone from Graben and Kohlmarkt to Michaela Square ending at the entrance of the **St. Stephan's Cathedral**. The balance of the day is at leisure. You may choose to explore Vienna on your own or purchase one of the **optional** tours such as a visit to the *Schonbrunn Palace* or an evening Classical Concert featuring music of Strauss and Mozart.

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<b>Day 12 – Vienna, AUSTRIA</b>	<b>END CRUISE</b>	<b>FLY HOME</b>
<b>(DISEMBARKATION 09:00)</b>		<b>(B)</b>

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As all good things must come to an end, after breakfast, bid your crew goodbye and disembark with a suitcase full of memories! (Services end with breakfast) **Bon Voyage!**