

Active & Discovery on the  
Lower Danube  
Avalon Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

# Map from Avalon Waterways



# Cruise Overview

- Looking for countless ways to experience four of the most fascinating European countries along the Lower Danube?
- Avalon's Active & Discovery cruises present a diverse range of hands-on adventures that also engage your heart and mind throughout Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Croatia.

Our exciting menu of Classic, Discovery and Active excursions along the Lower Danube leads you off the beaten path and onto the winding bike paths, scenic hiking trails, and cultural and culinary avenues of the beautiful Balkans.

- Prepare to uncover the past and dive into the present in the most interactive ways. No other river cruise offers more elevating experiences on the Lower Danube than an Active & Discovery cruise.

## **Move.**

Enjoy a little get-up-and-go on your cruising vacation when you:

- Get ready to gush on a guided walk through the beautiful eco-patch up to Kroushuna Waterfalls.
- Hike through the famous Belogradchik rock formations resembling people and animals in the Balkan mountain range.
- Pedal from WWII to today on a historic bicycling tour through the waterfront capital of Belgrade.

# Overview

- **And be moved.**  
Get off the beaten path and relish the world when you:
- •Feast on a foodie tour of Romanian cuisine – a perfect mix of Balkan, Ottoman, French and Russian influences.
- Celebrate the comeback of Bulgarian wines post-communism with a music-accompanied winery tour and tasting.
- Taste local honey specialties at the Museum of Beekeeping while learning about Serbia’s sweet beekeeping profession.

Plus, Classic sightseeing is always available in every port along the way.

Activate your senses and discover a world of wonder in all-new, entirely “you” ways on your personal, passion-packed cruise along the Lower Danube.

# Day 1 Bucharest

- Welcome to Bucharest—The “Paris of the East”
- The day is yours to relax and enjoy Bucharest.
- Spend some free time exploring this fascinating city on your own to discover its trendy shops, cafés, museums, beautiful homes, and churches along Victory Avenue.

# Bucharest Romania



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**Open Air Museum—Rustic homes reassembled**



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**Vlad Tepes in the Lipscani district,**



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**Palace of the Parliament**

# Day 2 Bucharest

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Take a guided natural walk in the Văcărești Nature Park. Also known as Urban Delta, this wetland is home to more than 150 different species of birds and small mammals. Enjoy this green get away and learn more about this special green area located only 4km away from the center of Romania's capital, Bucharest. OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Discover the joie de vivre of Romanian cuisine -- a tasty hodge-podge of Balkan, Ottoman, French, and Russian influences. OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of the Romanian capital city of Bucharest with its tree-lined boulevards and Arc de Triomphe—honoring WWI Romanian soldiers. See the Royal Palace Square—the scene of the city's 1989 riots to overthrow the communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.
- Travel to Oltenita to board your Avalon Suite Ship® this afternoon.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO NIKOPOL

# Ornate home Bucharest, Romania



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# Coltea Hospital Bucharest Romania

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# National Museum of Art Bucharest, Romania

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# The Savings Bank Palace is being converted into the Art Museum of Bucharest, Romania



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# Palace of the National Military Circle Bucharest, Romania

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# Vlad Tepes in the Lipsicani district—Dracula! Bucharest, Romania



# Ruins of the Curtea Palace, Lipscani district Bucharest



# Annunciation Church of Saint Anthony Lipscani district Bucharest



# Lipscani district Bucharest

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# Day 2 Optional Excursion (Extra Expense)

- **Inside Ceausescu's Spring Palace**
- From solid gold toilet paper holders to an indoor pool and cinema, get a rare peek into the home and private life of a former Communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, on this enthralling guided tour of his Palatul Primaverii (Spring Palace).

# Palace of the Parliament Bucharest, Romania. It is the second largest building in the world.

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**Palace of the Parliament**

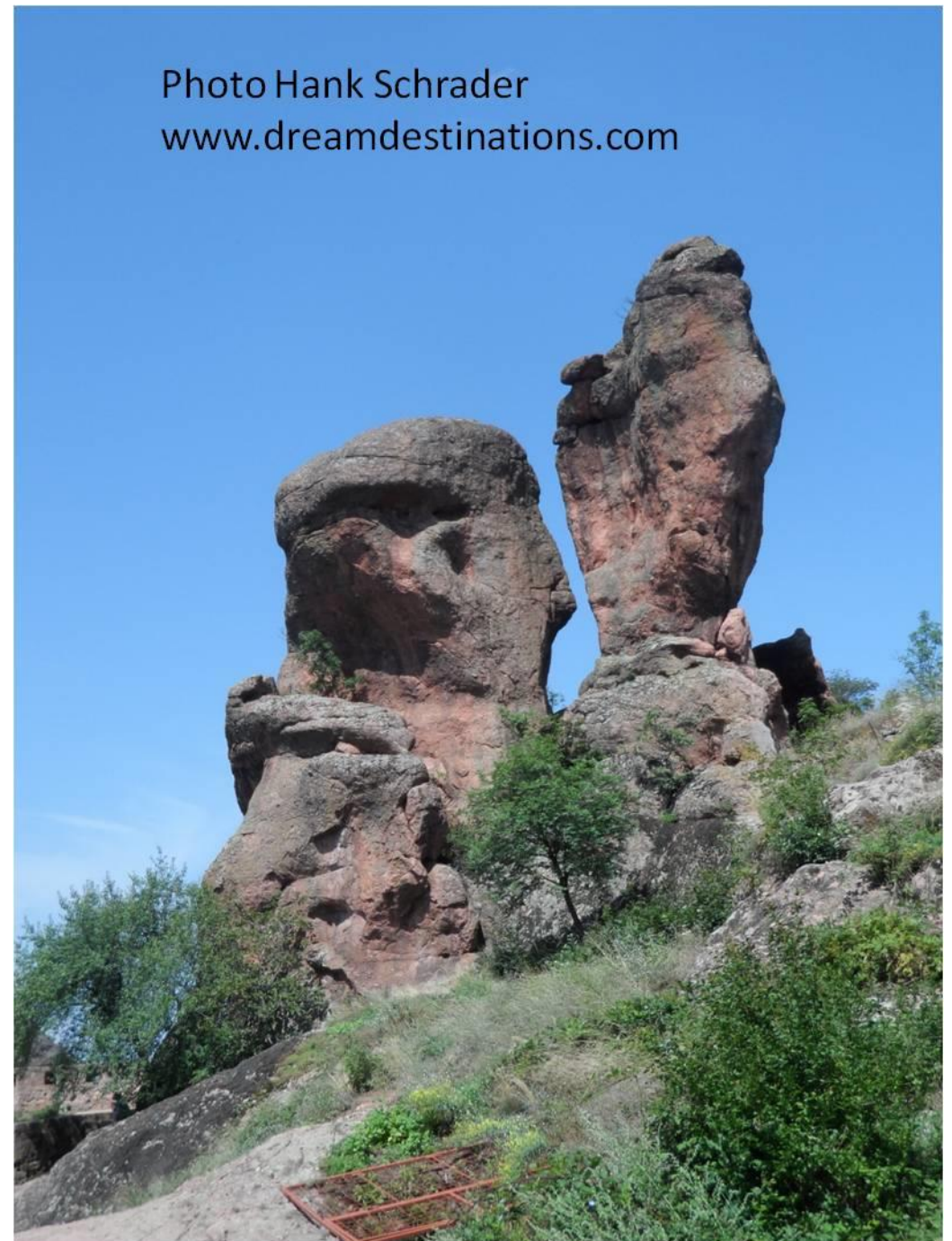
# Day 3

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Follow your expert local guide through the beautiful eco-patch up to Kroushuna Waterfalls. OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a full-day Guided Tour to the former Bulgarian capital of Veliko Târnovo—with its ancient stone houses clinging to the cliffs above the Yantra River.
- Discover one of the oldest towns in Bulgaria (circa 4300 BC), as well as the Bulgarian Revival architecture in the 15th-century town of Arbanassi.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VIDIN**

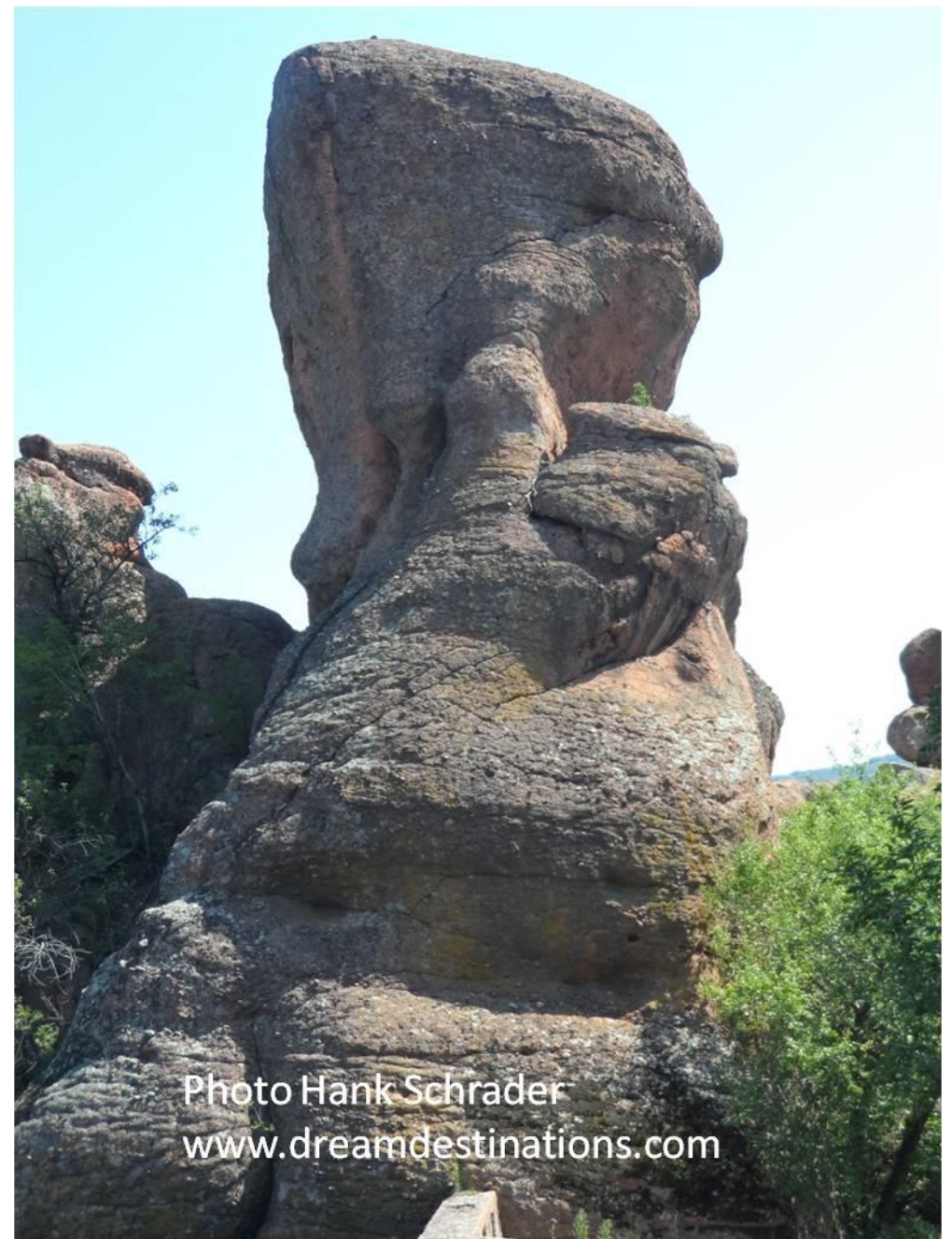
# Day 4 Vidin

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a panoramic trek on the rocky landscape of Belogradchik OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Get to learn everything about the production technologies of the Bulgarian wines and enjoy a tasting of the various labels produced by a local well-known winery. All accompanied by local snacks and symphonic music. OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join Guided Sightseeing in Vidin, followed by a visit to Baba Vida Fortress, Bulgaria's only completely preserved medieval castle.
- This evening, enjoy live entertainment on board with a Bulgarian folklore show.
- OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO DONJI MILANOVAC

# Belogradchik rock formations



# More Belogradchik rocks



# More exposed Belogradchik rocks

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# Belogradchik Fortress built among the rocks



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# More of the Belogradchik fortress



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# A passage gate of the Belogradchik Fortress



# Baba Vida Castle, Vidin, Bulgaria



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# Baba Vida Castle, Vidin Bulgaria



# More of Baba Vida Castle

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# One of the keep towers of Baba Vida Castle



# Statue of Baba Vida outside the castle



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# Play about the history of the Baba Vida Castle



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# Day 5

- Sail through the spectacular and narrow Iron Gates Gorge—a natural border between Serbia and Romania.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy this scenic hike through Djerdap National Park and stop along the way to taste some local specialties before returning to your Avalon ship. OR
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION** Join a Guided Tour to Lepenski Vir—an important Mesolithic archaeological site chronicling prehistoric cultures, settlements, and art. Marvel at the ancient discoveries and artifacts, as well as the unique views the site affords of the Danube Gorge. OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a guided tour of Donji Milanovac and learn the basic of the Cyrillic Serbian alphabet inside the local primary school. Meet locals and get to know the art of crocheting while learning about the history of this little Serbian town.

# Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



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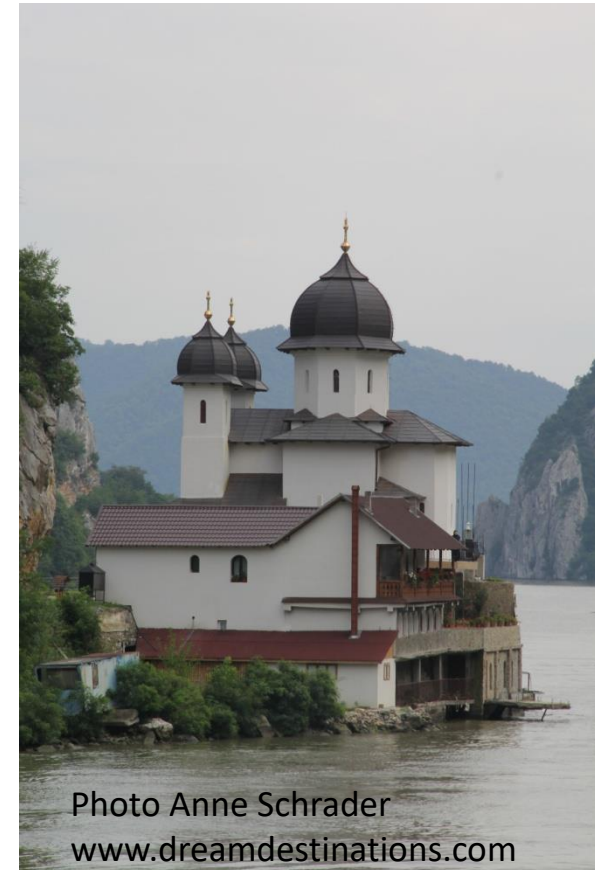


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## Day 5 Golubač.

- Enjoy a brief sailing to Golubač.
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Visit the Fortress of Golubač, one of the best-preserved medieval fortresses in Europe.
- You'll hear about its tumultuous history as a border control defense in the Middle Ages, and a source of conflict between Serbia, the Habsburg Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO NOVI SAD**

# Day 6 Novi Sad

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a guided hike tour to the Petrovaradin part of the town. Located on the right bank of the Danube, across from the main part of Novi Sad, this area will amaze you for its scenic views, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Get to learn more about the beekeeper profession on this guided tour of Novi Sad by stopping to the Honey Museum and by tasting local honey specialties. OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Novi Sad, the second largest town in Serbia. Admire its Austro-Hungarian old town, with its baroque buildings, and ancient fortifications.

# Petrovaradin Fortress Novi Sad, Serbia

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# Petrovaradin Fortress Clock Tower



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# Novi Sad as seen from the Petrovaradin Fortress



# Novi Sad, Serbia



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# More Wall Art, Novi Sad



# Dunavska Street Novi Sad, Serbia

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# Bishop's Residence Novi Sad, Serbia

# Bishops Palace Residence, Novi Sad. Serbia

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# The Name of Mary, Catholic Church

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# Name of Mary Church

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# Svetozar Meletic Statue in Freedom Square, Novi Sad



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# Town Hall on Freedom Square

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# Another View of the Town Hall



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# Serbian Orthodox Church



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# Day 6 Ilok

- Enjoy a brief cruise to Ilok while having lunch onboard.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a scenic bike ride through the easternmost town in Croatia and be mesmerized by the beauty of Ilok. OR;
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Explore the town of Vukovar and meet a local beer brewer who will share with you his fascinating story during a beer tasting. OR;
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Ilok, with its 1,000-year-old winemaking tradition still thriving and its medieval fortress protected for its Croatian cultural heritage.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BELGRADE

# Ilok Castle

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# Day 7 Belgrade

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Get a real taste of Serbia on this guided bike tour focusing on the history of Belgrade, from WWII to today, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Go way beyond the ordinary and get to know Belgrade through its remarkable people and innovative minds. .OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Belgrade—where the Danube and Sava Rivers converge—and see the city’s many fascinating sights, including Saint Sava, one of the world’s largest Orthodox churches.
- Spend free time in Belgrade exploring Knez Mihailova Street—Belgrade’s central pedestrian thoroughfare with many lively cafés, shops, and cultural spots. You might consider partaking one of the Optional Excursion available.

# Belgrade Serbia



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**St Sava Cathedral**

**Parliament**



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# Belgrade, Serbia

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St, Sava  
Cathedral  
Belgrade,  
Serbia





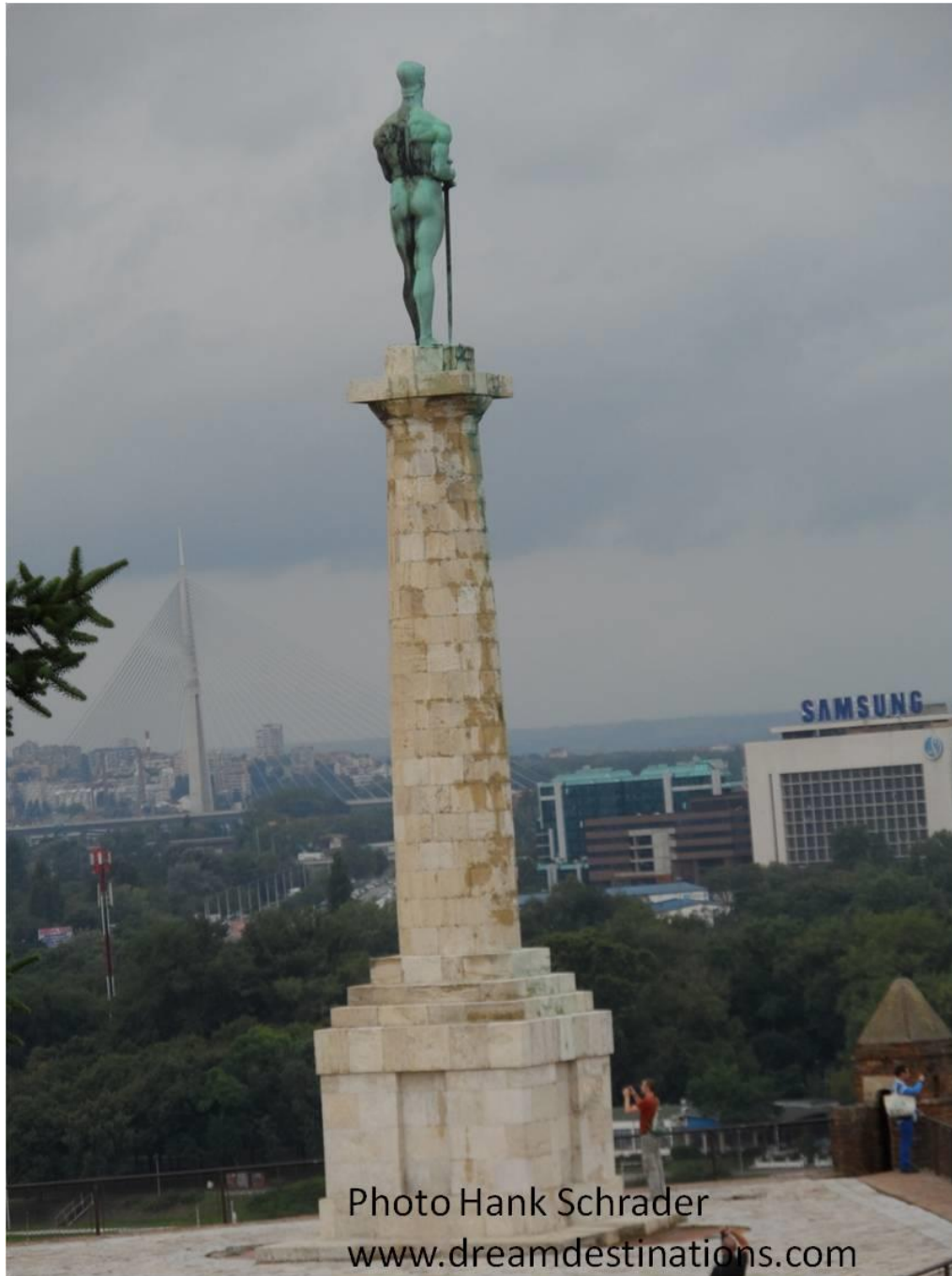
# St. Sava Statue Belgrade, Serbia

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# Belgrade, Serbia



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Monument to  
the Victor, the  
protector of  
Belgrade, Serbia

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# Kalemegdan Fortress Belgrade, Serbia



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# Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade Serbia

# Day 7 Belgrade

- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Before dinner, attend an onboard Lecture to learn about the rich history, destinations, and culture of the Balkan states.
- Optional Excursions (Extra Expense)
- **Bohemian Dinner in Skadarlija**
- Enjoy a feast of hearty local dishes and live music during this dinner excursion in Belgrade's historic, bohemian Skadarlija district.
- **Belgrade Pottery Painting Workshop**
- Put on your artist's hat and paint your own beautiful pottery in an art studio in Belgrade!
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BELGRADE**

# Day 8 Belgrade

- Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

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