

# European Sojourn Viking River Cruises

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Overview

- See Bucharest's 3,000-room Palace of Parliament.
- Make *banitsa* bread with a home cook in Vidin.
- Explore Belgrade's Ottoman and European treasures, including 6th-century Kalemegdan Fortress.
- View the Danube's towering Iron Gate.
- Visit a Croatian family's Osijek home.
- Witness Hungary's daredevil Puszta horsemen.
- Behold Budapest's grandeur.
- Once hidden behind the Iron Curtain, the eastern Danube still has secrets to reveal on this enriching cruise tour.

# Day 1 Amsterdam

- Arrive in Amsterdam, then transfer to your ship.\*
- After boarding, the afternoon is yours to relax or explore the city on your own.
- If your arrival schedule permits, you may wish to visit the Rijksmuseum, or the van Gogh Museum next door.
- (Dinner)
- \* Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

# Rijksmuseum

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# Day 2 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

- This morning we sail to Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for a tour of this ingenious network of windmills and other flood management devices.
- You learn why the windmills were built and see how they work, plus you enter a working windmill for a tour of its mechanisms and living quarters.
- Return on board for lunch and an enjoyable afternoon of Dutch diversions: sample handcrafted Dutch cheeses and *jenever*, a distilled juniper liquor, and take in a culturally enriching presentation on the Dutch Golden Age.
- We cruise through the night. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Kinderdijk

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## Day 3 Cologne, Germany

- Begin your day with a morning tour of Cologne, Germany's fourth-largest city.
- Stroll through Old Town past St. Martin's Church and see the Dom, Germany's largest cathedral and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Spend your free time enjoying Cologne's atmospheric waterfront, or perhaps join an optional excursion on which you ascend to the Dom's roof for up-close views of the cathedral's architecture and bird's-eye vistas of Cologne.
- Afterward, return on board for dinner.
- Alternately, you may set off on an optional excursion to explore Cologne's spirited beer culture, sampling *Kölsch*, a light, crisp beer brewed only in Cologne, and enjoying a *brauhaus* dinner.
- After, return to your ship for a late-evening departure.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

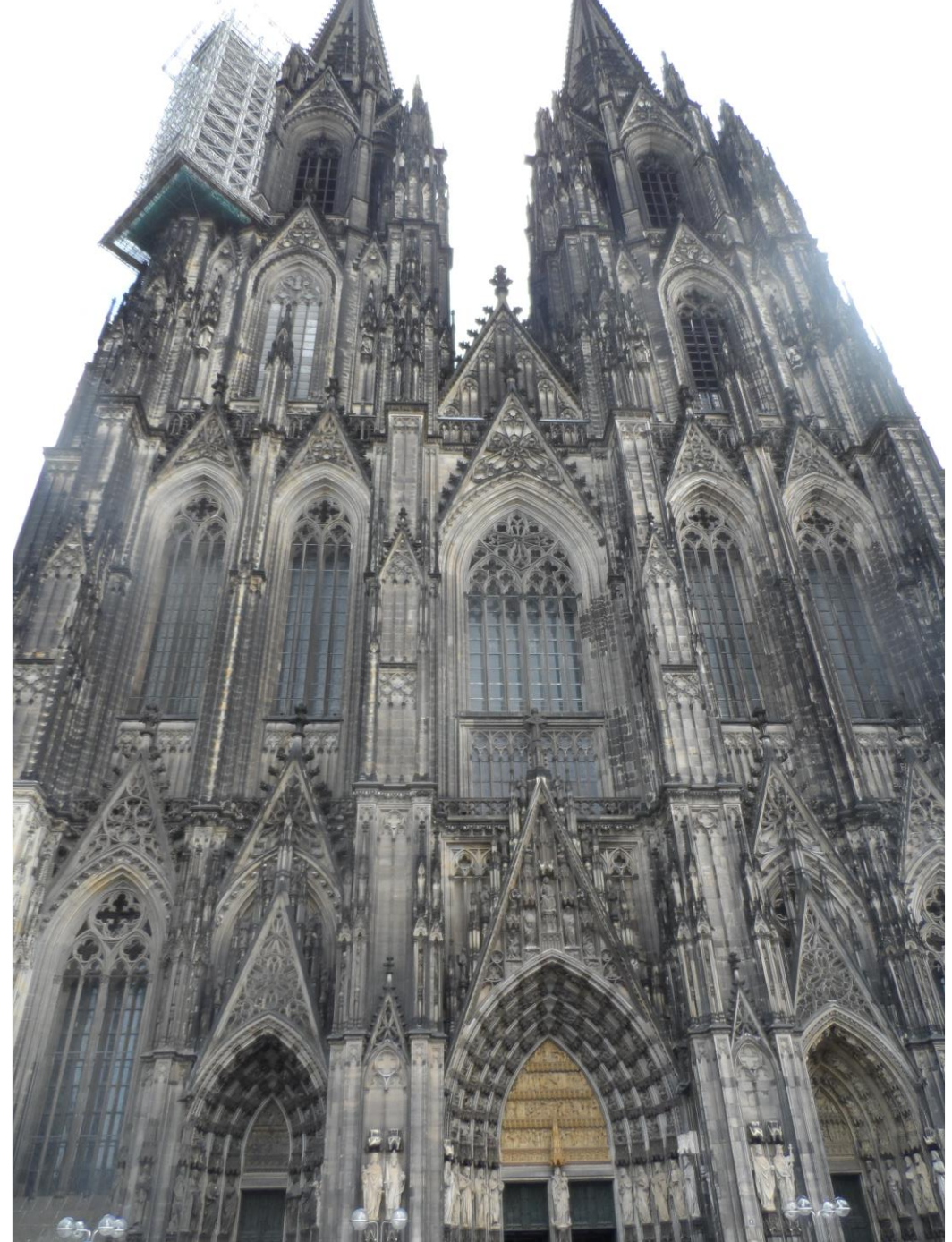
# Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Cologne Cathedral



# German-Roman Museum Cologne

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# Hohenzollern Bridge Cologne



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# Christmas Markets in Old Market Square Cologne



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## Day 4 Koblenz, Germany

- Cruise past hilltop castles along the Rhine, stopping in Koblenz to visit Marksburg Castle, the only Rhine fortress never destroyed.
- After your tour, continue cruising this stunning stretch of the Rhine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Be sure to keep an eye out for the Lorelei Rock, which marks the river's narrowest point and is named after the legendary Rhine maiden who lured sailors to their demise.
- Lunch and dinner are served on board your ship.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Marksburg Castle



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# Marksburg



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



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# Marksburg

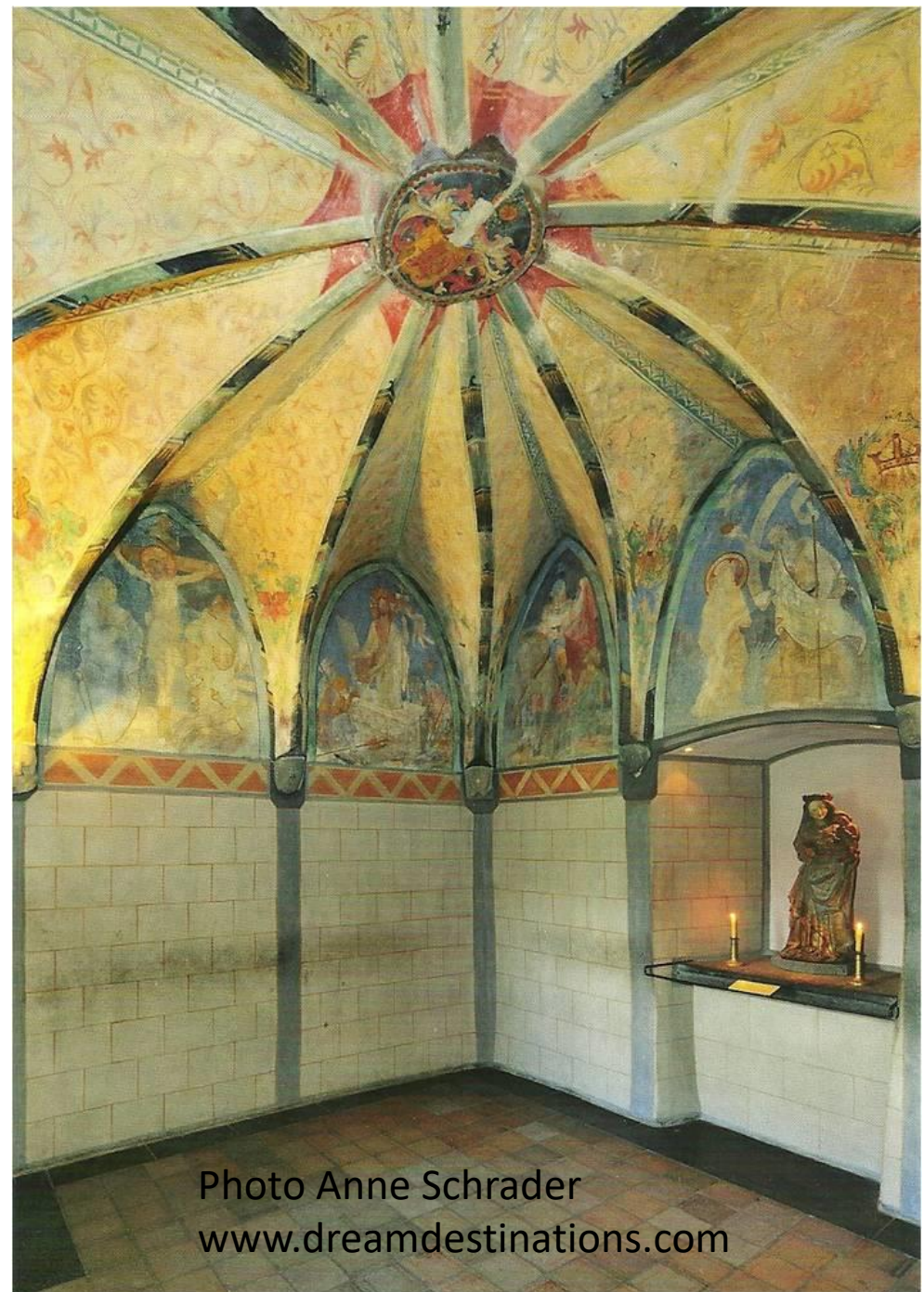


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# Maus (Mouse) Castle

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# Katz (Cat) Castle

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Lorelei—this tree-covered cliff inspired the legend of a love forsaken siren who lures sailors to their death by her enchanting song in this swift flowing, narrow part of the Rhine.



# Schönburg Castle on the rock massif above Oberwesel

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# Pfalzgrafenstein Castle (foreground) & Gutenfels Castle on the Hill

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# Reichenstein Castle



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## Day 5 Miltenberg, Germany

- The morning is spent sailing along the beautiful Main River as it winds its way through the Spessart region, home of the actual Snow White.
- During our sail, be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to learn about the region's glassblowing traditions during a live demonstration.
- After lunch, we stop in Miltenberg, known for its half-timbered houses and Germany's oldest inn.
- Join our walking tour that concludes with free time for you to explore.
- We sail through the night.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Alter Markt Platz Miltenberg



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# St. Jacobus Church. In the background on the right is Miltenberg Castle

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# Miltenberg



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# Day 6 Würzburg, Germany

- This morning, you may choose to join an optional full-day excursion along Germany's picturesque "Romantic Road" to Rothenburg, with its turreted city wall and impressive Gothic and baroque architecture.
- Upon returning to Würzburg, enjoy a tour of the Bishops' Residenz, one of Germany's largest and most ornate baroque palaces and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Rejoin your ship for dinner.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Marienberg Fortress Würzburg





# Old Stone Bridge Würzburg

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# Residenz Palace Würzburg



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# Garden statue Residenz Palace



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# Rothenburg ob der Tauber (Extra Cost)

- Rothenburg ob der Tauber—, ob means above the Tauber River), is one of the most visited towns in Germany
- This walled city has all its ramparts intact, has massive gates, and many folks walk the walls or part of the walls as I did during our previous visit.
- Its medieval past is everywhere—the impressive town hall, half-timbered buildings, a criminal museum, a carved wooden altarpiece masterpiece in St. Jacobs Church--all are surrounded by massive fortifications.



Translated from German, Plönlein is the small square at a fountain". This is probably the most famous picture of Rothenburg.



Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Market Square Rothenburg.



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Burger Gate  
(Castle Gate)  
Rothenburg. This  
gate was built  
around 1460 and  
is the western gate  
entrance. It is the  
highest gate tower  
of the town  
fortifications.



Photo Anne Schrader  
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## Day 7 Bamberg, Germany

- Continue along the Main–Danube Canal this morning, arriving in Bamberg in early afternoon.
- Enjoy a tour of Bamberg, with its medieval city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your walking tour includes a visit to the magnificent 11th-century cathedral, reworked in late Romanesque style in the 13th century, and the picturesque city hall built on a tiny island in the middle of a river.
- Take some free time to enjoy Bamberg and sample some of the town's distinctive smoke-flavored beer before returning on board.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



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Bamberg  
Rathaus  
(town hall)

# Bamberg Cathedral





# New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

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# Day 8 Nuremberg, Germany

- After breakfast, disembark in Nuremberg and visit the ruins of Zeppelin Field, the Nazi parade grounds of the 1930s; then see the Palace of Justice, site of the infamous Nuremberg Trials.
- Alternately, you may take an optional World War II tour that includes the illuminating Documentation Center Museum.
- After lunch, spend free time exploring Nuremberg's Old Town.
- Or, join an optional tour to discover the secret network of underground bunkers where priceless art was hidden in wartime.
- We depart just before dinner.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Day 9 Regensburg, Germany

- Arrive in Regensburg midday.
- After lunch, tour this wonderfully preserved medieval city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including structures dating back to Roman times.
- Discover many 13th- and 14th-century patrician houses and see the splendid St. Peter's Cathedral.
- During free time, visit the Alte Würstküche (Old Sausage Kitchen), Germany's oldest restaurant.
- Alternately, you may choose to disembark this morning and drive with your guide to Munich for an optional full-day tour of this cultural and historic city, rejoining your ship in time to enjoy dinner on board before our evening departure.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Regensburg, Germany

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# Porta Praetoria Roman ruins used in a new building Regensburg



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# Old Town Hall Regensburg

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# Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



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# Day 10 Passau, Germany

- Arrive this morning in Passau, at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube Rivers.
- Your guided walk along the town's narrow streets takes you through Old Town and past traditional patrician houses.
- Admire the New Bishop's Residence and see the impressive baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral; its ornate interior is home to one of Europe's largest church organs.
- Enjoy lunch on board your ship and return to the city for further exploration on your own before departing.
- Alternately, set out this morning with your guide to enjoy a full-day optional tour of picturesque Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart and setting of *The Sound of Music*.
- We cruise through the night.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# The Veste Oberhaus Passau

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# Passau

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# St. Stephen's Cathedral Passau

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St. Stephen's  
Cathedral. Its organ  
has 17,947 pipes.  
Passau, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Passau, where three rivers meet—the Inn, the Ilz and the Danube



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Day 11 Melk, Austria

- After breakfast, visit the abbey at Melk, a 900-year-old Benedictine monastery featuring Austria's finest Italian baroque architecture.
- Rejoin your ship; cruise through the spectacular Wachau Valley this afternoon.
- Before dinner, you have time to explore the time-honored town of Krems and see the Steiner Tor, the last remaining city gate, or take an optional excursion to a local winery to sample some local vintages from this famous wine-producing region.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



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# Melk

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# Schonbuhl Castle

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# Aggstein Castle Ruins

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# Hinterhaus Castle Ruins

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# Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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# Spitz Wachau Valley

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# Wachau Valley

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# Krems

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# Day 12 Vienna, Austria

- Today we tour the Austrian capital of Vienna.
- Ride along the Ringstrasse, which replaced the city walls in the mid-19th century.
- See some of the city's baroque architecture, including the world-famous Opera House, St. Stephen's Cathedral and Hofburg Palace.
- Return to your ship for lunch. The rest of the day is yours to further explore. As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time.
- Alternately, you may choose to join an optional excursion to see the famed Lipizzaner Stallions;
- or, express your creativity and create a lasting keepsake at an optional art workshop inspired by the work of Gustav Klimt.
- After dinner, relax or enjoy an optional classical concert.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Habsburg Palace Vienna

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# St. Stephens Cathedral Vienna

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# Day 13 Vienna, Austria

- Enjoy a day at leisure in Vienna. Perhaps see an unrivaled collection of Old Masters at the Museum of Fine Arts,
- or visit the Albertina.
- Maybe ride the Riesenrad, the world's oldest Ferris wheel.
- Alternately, you may join an optional tour to Schönbrunn Palace, the "Versailles of Vienna," or enjoy a Viennese waltz lesson as well as visiting the palace during a full-day optional excursion.
- A cup of coffee or tea and a slice of exquisite Sachertorte are a must for any afternoon in Vienna.
- Later, rejoin your ship and sail for Budapest.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Schönbrunn Palace (extra cost)

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# Schönbrunn Palace

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# Day 14 Budapest, Hungary

- The Danube River divides Hungary's capital city into the once separate towns of Buda and Pest.
- Explore both sides, starting with Pest's National Opera House and historic Heroes' Square.
- In Buda, walk along Castle Hill to Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church.
- Enjoy lunch on board your ship, with the rest of the day to explore on your own.
- Alternately, choose one of our optional excursions designed to allow you to delve deeper into the history, culture and cuisine of this fascinating city.
- Return to your ship for a traditional Hungarian dinner.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Buda Castle Budapest

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# Fisherman's Bastion Budapest

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# Gothic Matthias Church Budapest



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# Gothic Matthias Church Budapest



# Day 15 Budapest, Hungary

- After breakfast, disembark for a final free day in Budapest to explore a museum; do some shopping; ride the innovative, efficient metro; visit one of the Art Nouveau spas, or see the Great Synagogue and Jewish Quarter.
- As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time.
- Enjoy a final evening in the bustling Hungarian capital.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Day 16 Kalocsa, Hungary

- Arrive in Kalocsa, Hungary this morning and take a guided city tour visiting the town center followed by a short organ concert at St. Joseph Church.
- Then, you are treated to a performance of traditional Puszta horsemanship. Return on board and enjoy your lunch during departure.
- Dine on board. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

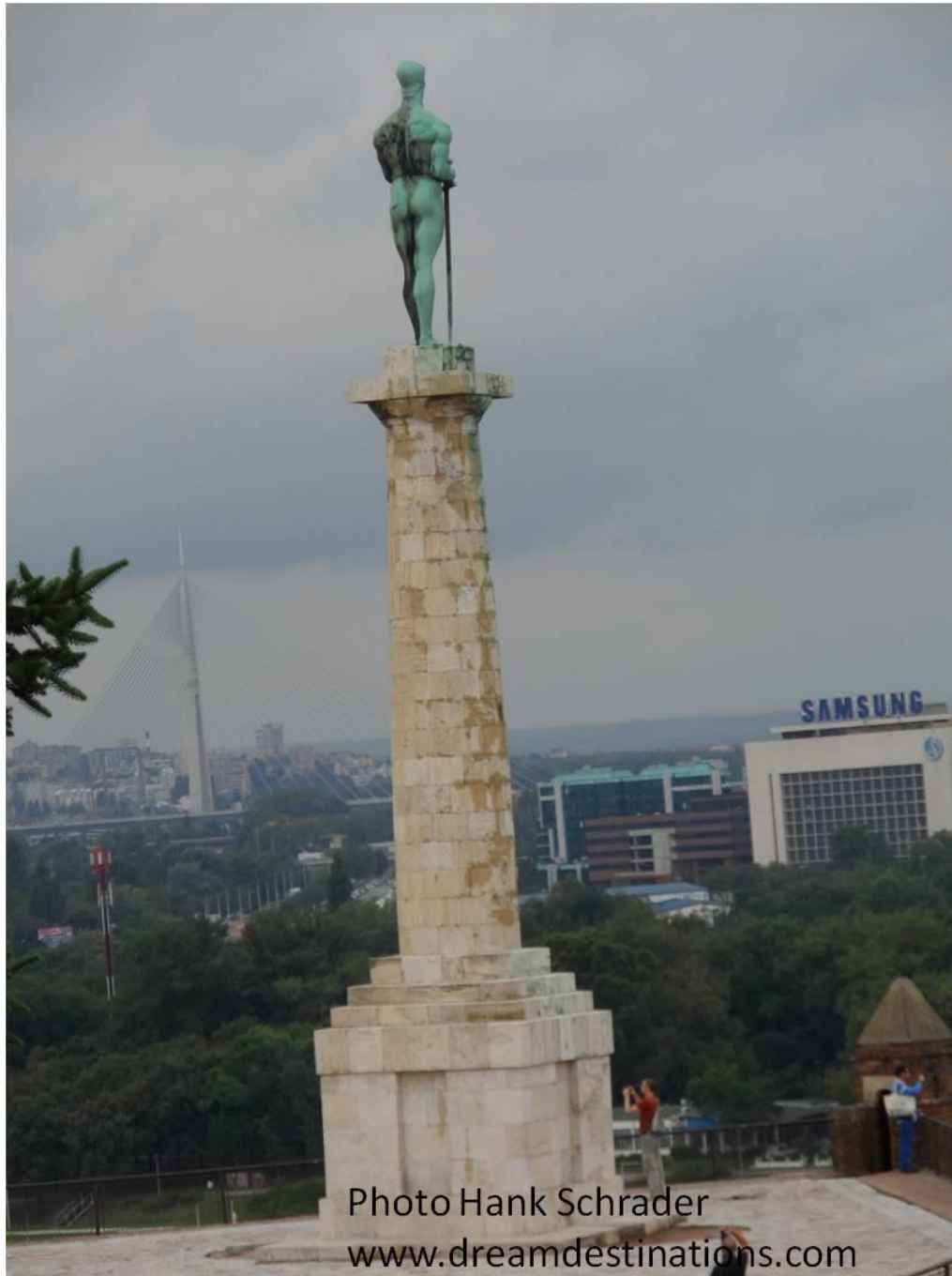
# Day 17 Osijek, Croatia

- Wake up in Vukovar and have breakfast before your excursion to the Croatian city of Osijek.
- Inhabited since Neolithic times, this area has had several heydays under the Romans, the Ottomans and the Hapsburgs; now, Vukovar is revered for its baroque buildings, parks and monuments.
- Return on board for lunch and enjoy free time before an early-evening departure.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Day 18 Belgrade, Serbia

- Wake up in Belgrade, capital of Serbia.
- Take a guided walk through the grounds of Kalemegdan Fortress, now a stately park; also see the Orthodox cathedral and stop at the Square of the Republic.
- Enjoy lunch on board your ship before you have free time to explore Belgrade's gracious architecture or visit one of its many museums.
- Dine on board your ship or experience some of Belgrade's nightlife.
- We depart very late this evening.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Monument to  
the Victor, the  
protector of  
Belgrade, Serbia

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# Kalemegdan Fortress Belgrade, Serbia



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

Photo Hank Schrader  
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# Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade Serbia





Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

St, Sava  
Cathedral  
Belgrade,  
Serbia

# Day 19 Golubac, Serbia

- Sail to Golubac this morning and enjoy an included tour of the Golubac Fortress and admire sweeping views over the Danube.
- You may also choose to join an optional tour; explore Europe's first settlement from the Stone Age,
- or take an invigorating hike to Djerdap National Park.
- Rejoin your ship in Donji Milanovac for lunch.
- This afternoon, enjoy scenic cruising as you travel through one of the most picturesque areas of the Lower Danube.
- The Iron Gate is one of Europe's most dramatic natural wonders—a spectacular narrow gorge with enormous white limestone cliffs.
- Take in your Program Director's commentary about the region and scenic points of interest as you sail toward your next port.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



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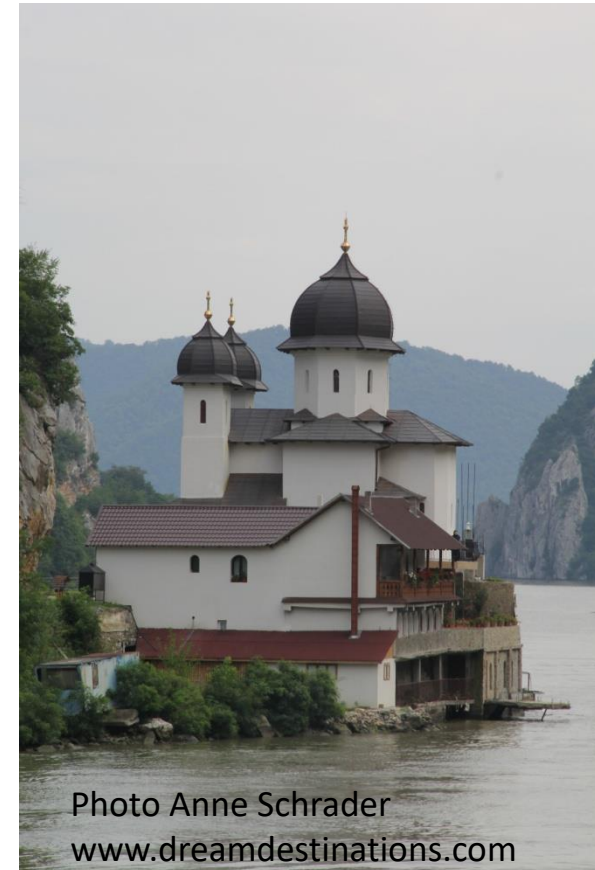


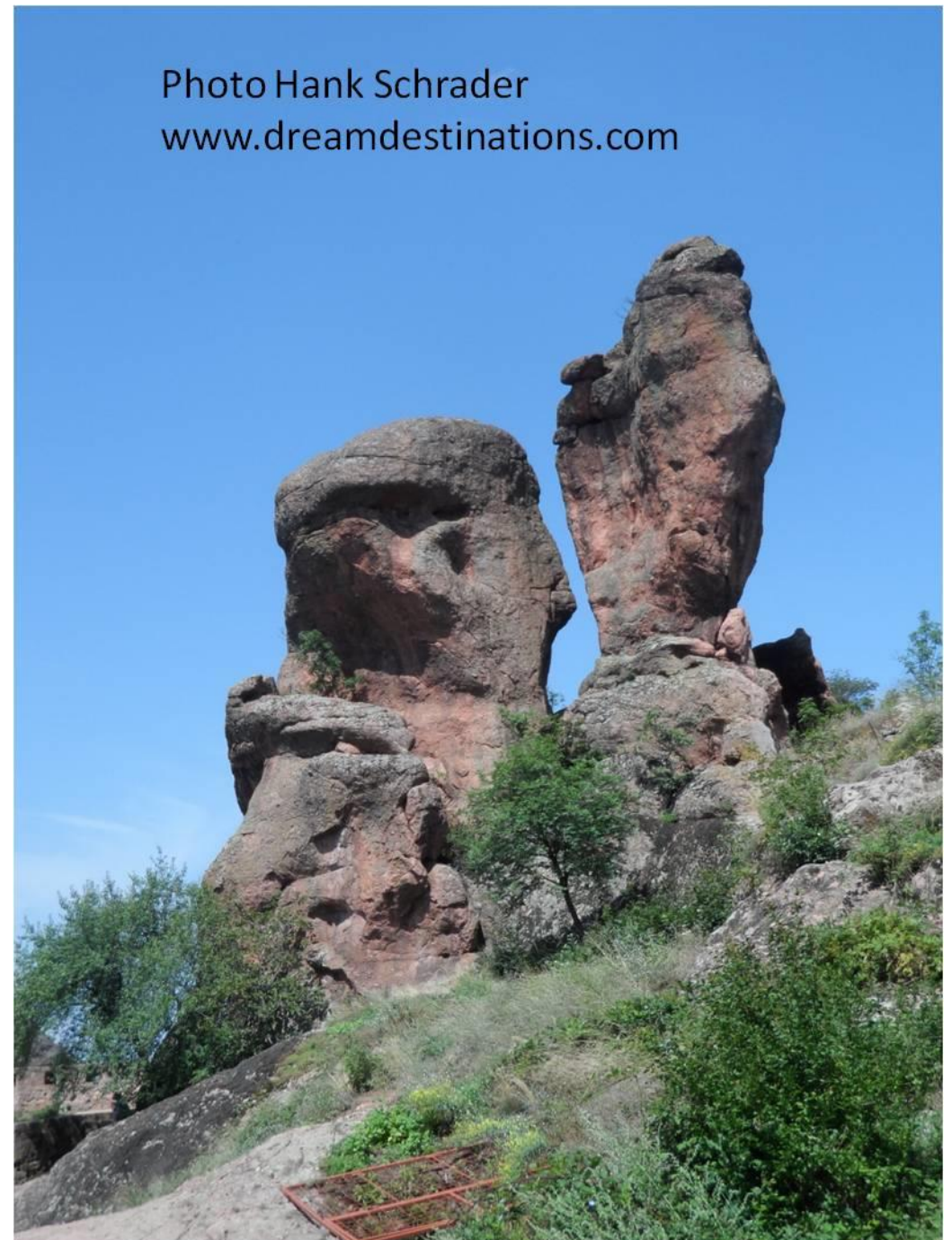
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# Day 20 Vidin, Bulgaria

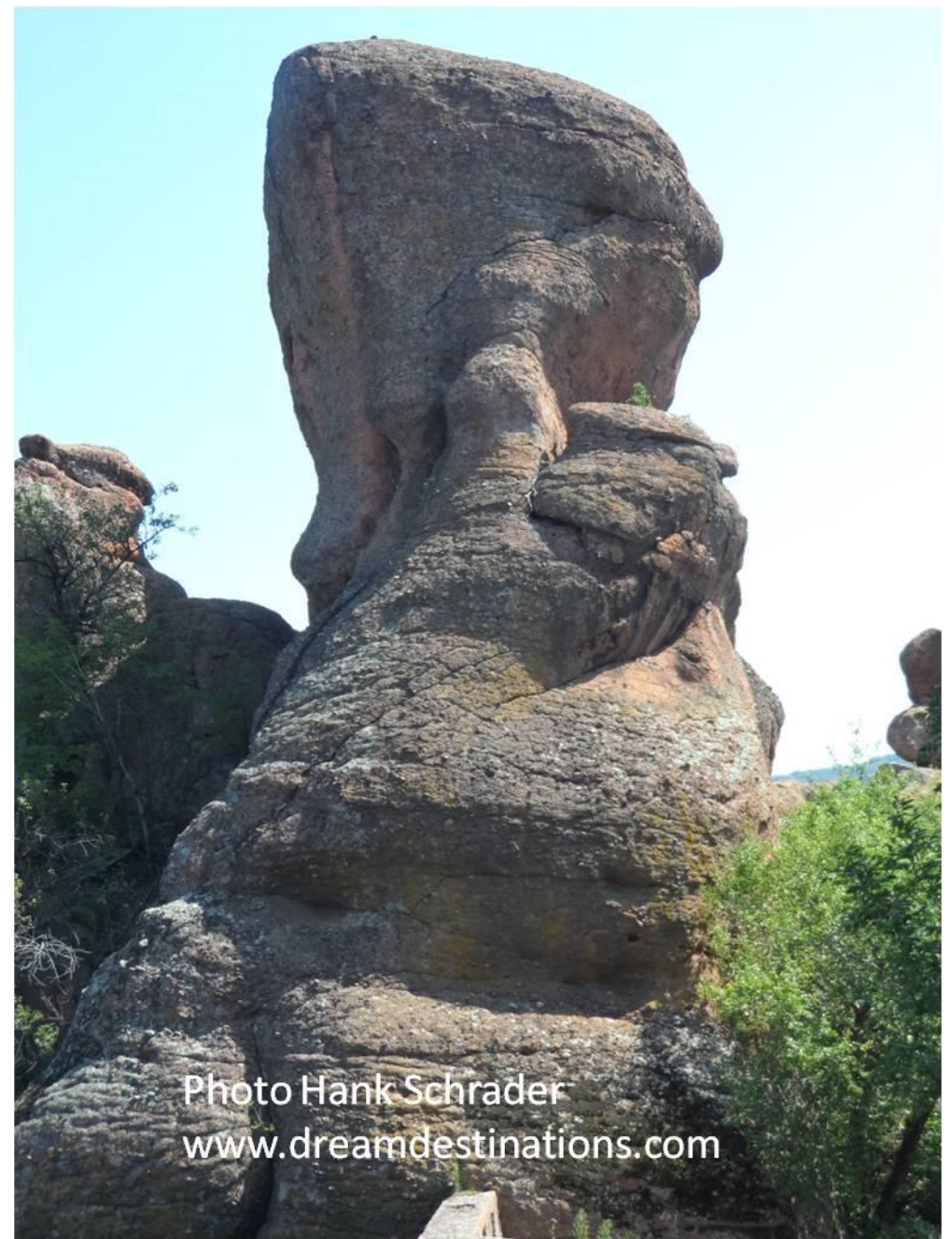
- Arrive in the picturesque Bulgarian port of Vidin, and take an excursion to see Belogradchik Fortress, built right into the striking Belogradchik Rocks.
- See the fortress's amazing construction, begun in Roman times and greatly extended by Bulgarian tsars and the Ottomans, and enjoy breathtaking views.
- Enjoy lunch on board your ship; then you have free time to explore Vidin's city center, Orthodox churches and the ruins of the city's once-grand synagogue.
- We depart during dinner.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# 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





# Day 21 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi, Bulgaria

- After breakfast, disembark at Ruse for a full-day excursion to Bulgaria's former capital, Veliko Tarnovo.
- See Tsaravets Hill and the ruins of the royal castle.
- During free time, shop for local crafts along Samovodska Charshia.
- Continue your venture to Arbanasi for lunch in a local restaurant and a guided tour of the Nativity Church, with its intricate floor-to-ceiling murals and icons.
- Return to your ship for dinner.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 22 Bucharest, Romania

- Disembark in Giurgiu and set off by motor coach to Bucharest for a day of exploration.
- After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a tour of Romania's lovely capital city.
- See the city's wide boulevards, the Romanian Athenaeum, the Arch of Triumph and the Palace of Parliament.
- Visit the outdoor Muzeul Satului, otherwise known as the Village Museum, where authentic dwellings from all regions of the country have been relocated and reassembled, including rural cottages, farmhouses and water mills.
- After your tour, proceed to your hotel and enjoy a final evening in Bucharest.
- (Breakfast, Lunch)



# Open Air Museum—Rustic homes reassembled, Bucharest, Romania



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# Open Air Museum



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



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# Open Air Museum



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# Day 23 Bucharest, Romania

- After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight.
- Or, extend your journey with 3 nights in Bucharest and Transylvania.
- (Breakfast)

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