



The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

Hungary, Croatia, Serbia and Bulgaria

Between Budapest and Sofia – Cultural heritage, unspoiled nature and gastronomy in 4 countries along the Danube

Introduction:

On this journey you will discover the history and exceptional natural beauty of Hungary, Croatia, Serbia and Bulgaria. During the tour you will visit three capitals, several historical sites from Roman and Medieval times and explore beautiful landscapes. The tour will be complimented by local and traditional gastronomy and wines.

Starting in Hungary`s beautiful capital Budapest, this journey leads you through the picturesque cities Pécs in Hungary and Novi Sad in Serbia. You will visit Belgrade, the capital of Serbia and one of the most vibrant and exciting cities of the Balkans. The tour will end in Bulgaria`s capital Sofia which history dates back to times even before the Romans came.

Itinerary: Budapest > Pécs > Villany > Pécs > Osijek via Baranja Wine Region > Sremska Mitrovica-Fruška Gora > Novi Sad > Stari Kostolac > Smederevo > Belgrade > Smederevo > Viminacium > Golubac > Lepenski Vir > Djerdap > Kladovo > Rajacke Pimnice > Felix Romuliana > Zajecar > Belogradchik > Vratsa > Sofia

Duration: 13 days

Best way of transport: private car or camper

More information about The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route:

<http://romanemperorsroute.org/>

| Day | Destinations |
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| Hungary | |
| 1 | Arrival at Budapest airport Budapest Explore Budapest, the capital of Hungary during a sightseeing tour. Stroll around the city by foot or TukTuk, with a sightseeing bus or on board a ship. Budapest offers numerous sightseeing possibilities. Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman City of Aquincum • Royal Palace • Parliament • Thermal Baths and Spas • The Danube and bridges • Great Synagogue • Basilica of St. Stephen Goulash, Paprika chicken, Langosh, Pálinka – enjoy the typical regional cuisine and a nice glass of wine during the dinner. Overnight in Budapest. |
| 2 | Budapest |
| 3 | Budapest-Pécs (237 km) and Pécs-Villany (34km) |

| | <p>Drive to Pécs – one of the most charming and interesting cities to visit in Hungary. Discover the numerous historical sites and beautiful fine art. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late Roman and early Christian cemetery – Cella Septichora • Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul • Széchenyi Square and Mosque of Pasha Kasim • Zsolnay Cultural Quarter <p>Drive to Villany and enjoy a tasteful dinner and regional wine tasting at Villany Winery Bock Hotel Ermitage or at one of the other quality wine tasting locations. Overnight in Pécs. <i>Accommodation tip: Pécs Corso Hotel</i></p> |
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| Day Destinations | |
| Croatia | |
| 4 | <p>Pécs-Osijek via Baranja Wine Region (104 km)</p> <p>Drive to Osijek with a stopover in Baranja Wine Region. Make a break at the Battina Battle Memorial and enjoy a wonderful view over Croatia, Serbia and Hungary. A traditional lunch and excellent wine from the Baranja wine region awaits you in Zmajevac village for example at Josić Winery. After the lunch take a rest at the lookout along Belje Wine Road, take a boat ride in Kopački rit Nature Park or a stroll around in Zlatna Greda Park. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battina Battle Memorial • Zmajevac Village and Josić Winery • Belje Wine Road • Kopački rit Nature Park • Zlatna Greda <p>Continue to Osijek. Taste Slavonian cuisine and local wine in one of the many restaurants in Osijek. Overnight in Osijek. <i>Accommodation tip: Hotel Tvrdja or Hotel Waldinger</i></p> |
| Croatia & Serbia | |
| 5 | <p>Osijek Osijek-Sremska Mitrovica (110 km)</p> <p>Take a relaxing morning stroll in Osijek. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tvrdā Fortress • River promenade • Bridge of Youth • Freemasonry • The Cathedral • Secession district with monumental public and private buildings <p>Drive to Sremska Mitrovica. Visit Sirmium – one of the major imperial capitals in the late Roman Empire. For a refreshing cool-down take a short swim at the city beach near the city centre. It is one of the most beautiful beaches in Serbia. Explore the city during a sightseeing tour or enjoy the beautiful nature. Highlights include:</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirmium Imperial Palace • City beach • Bridge of St. Irinei • Srem Museum • Zasavica Nature Reserve <p>Dinner and overnight in Sremska Mitrovica or Fruška Gora.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Sremska Mitrovica-Fruška Gora (35 km) and Fruška Gora -Novi Sad (32 km)</p> <p>Continue your trip to Fruška Gora National Park. The mild, sunny slopes of Fruška Gora are covered with fertile vineyards, forests, and lakes. Also known as the Serbian Holy Mount due to the large number of monasteries. Have lunch and wine tasting at one of the numerous wineries, e.g. Deuric Winery and enjoy the beautiful nature surrounding you. Visit one of the old orthodox monasteries or take a walk in beautiful nature. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruška Gora National Park • Deuric Winery • Besenovo, Kuvezdin, Petkovica, and Sisatovac monasteries <p>Drive to Novi Sad. Discover during a sightseeing tour the main highlight of Novi Sad: the Petrovaradin Fortress. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petrovaradin Fortress • Svetozar Miletic Square • Danube Park • Dunavska Street • The Name of Mary Church • The Synagogue • Štrand <p>Enjoy the end of the evening during a traditional Serbian dinner, e.g. at Plava Fralja. Overnight in Novi Sad. <i>Accommodation tip: Hotel Sheraton or Hotel Leopold</i></p> |
| 7 | <p>Novi Sad-Belgrade (100 km)</p> <p>Belgrade</p> <p>The vibrant capital city of Serbia has something to offer for everyone. Just stroll around the city or explore Belgrade's main highlights during a sightseeing tour. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgrade Fortress (Roman history) • St. Sava church • Museum of Yugoslavia • Skadarlija • Sava Mala • Royal Compound in Dedinje • Nikola Tesla Museum • Zemun • Mount Avala |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat ride on the Danube <p>Have dinner in one of the many restaurants in Belgrade and think back over your eventful journey. Overnight in Belgrade. <i>Accommodation tip: Hotel Envoy</i> <i>Restaurant tip: Klub Knjizevnika</i></p> |
| 8 | <p>Belgrade – Smederevo (55 km) Smederevo – Stari Kostolac (54 km) Stari Kostolac – Srebrno Jezero (20 km)</p> <p>Drive to Smederevo – the heart of the Morava wine region. Taste for example at the Winery Jeremić typical wines from the region and enjoy lunch at nearby restaurants arranged by the winery. If time allows drive to the city and climb the medieval Smederevo fortress. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winery Jeremić • Smederevo Fortress <p>Continue to Stari Kostolac. Visit Viminacium Archeological Site, which was one of the most important Roman cities and military camps in the period from the 1st to the 4th century. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphitheater • Mausoleum and Tombs • The Baths • Porta praetoria <p>End your day in Srebrno Jezero (Silver Lake), a nice small touristic resort on the Danube river, where the Danube is at its widest point, with a beautiful view on the Danube river and several nice outdoor terraces and restaurants along the river. Dinner and overnight in Srebrno Jezero</p> |
| 9 | <p>Srebrno Jezero – Golubac (30 km) Golubac – Lepenski Vir (57 km) Lepenski Vir – Tekija (34 km) Tekija – Kladovo (30 km)</p> <p>Drive along the Danube to the town of Kladovo in the East of Serbia. This road will lead you through the famous Djerdap Gorge, the “Iron Gate”, and you will pass several cultural and natural highlights. Visit the medieval fortress of Golubac, the prehistoric excavation of Lepenski Vir and take a boat ride through the famous Djerdap Gorge and see the Tabula Traiana from the river. If time allows it, you can drive up to Kapetan Misin Breg (near Donji Milanovac), where you have a magnificent view over the Danube River and where an interesting sculpture garden was created. Highlights on the road include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval Golubac Fortress • Prehistoric settlement of Lepenski Vir • Kapetan Misin Breg • Visitor Center of Djerdap National Park in Donji Milanovac • Boat ride on the Danube river (from Tekija) through the Iron Gate |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traian's bridge and the head of King Decebal • Historical Museum in Kladovo • Traian 's bridge (in Kladovo) <p>You will end your day in the pleasant town of Kladovo where you can take a stroll along the Danube or enjoy one of the outdoor terraces. Dinner and overnight in Kladovo. <i>Hotel tip: Hotel Aquastar Danube</i></p> |
| 10 | <p>Kladovo – Rajacke Pimnice (80 km) Rajacke Pimnice – Felix Romuliana (55 km) Felix Romuliana – Zajecar (10 km)</p> <p>During this day you will discover some of the historical and gastronomical highlights of the Eastern Part of Serbia. Rajacke Pimnice is the oldest wine town of Serbia that dates back to the 18th century. Here you will find many traditional and old fashioned wine cellars next to each other. The nearby Vratna Monastery dates back to the 14th century and lies at the foot of the so called "Vratna Gates", a natural wonder and a nice starting point for a short hike,</p> <p>Continue your tour to Felix Romuliana, a archeological site which is enlisted on the World Heritage List of UNESCO. This complex consists of the remainings of Roman palaces and temples with where built by emperor Galerius.</p> <p>From Felix Romuliana you will drive to the town of Zajecar, where you will find a department of the National Museum of History of Serbia. The museum host a collection of Roman artifacts that were found in and around Felix Romiliana. Overnight and dinner in Zajecar</p> <p>Points of the interest on the way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine Cellars of Rajacke Pimnice • 14th Century Vratna Monastery and the Vratna Gates • Archeological site 'Felix Romuliana' • National Museum of History in Zajecar |
| 11 | <p>Zajecar – Belogradchik (55 km, optional: via Vidin – 105 km) Belogradchik – Vratsa (109 km)</p> <p>Continue your journey into northeastern Bulgaria. On your way you will find several sites of historical interest including the Baba Vida Fortress in Vidin, whose roots go back to Roman times and the Kaleto Frotress in Belogradchik which is located on the northern slope of the Balkan Mountains in a stunning landscape of spectacular rock formations. The tour of the day will end in Vratsa, which is a town located on the edge of Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park and idea base to explore the nature in the surroundings as well as the nearby Ledenika Cave. Highlights on the road include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baba Vida Fortress in Vidin • Kaleto Fortress in Belogradchik • The rock formations of Belogradchik • The City of Vratsa • Ledenika Vace |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park <p><i>Gastronomy tip: Madona Tavern Belogradchik</i></p> |
| 12 | <p>Vratsa – Sofia (112 km)</p> <p>The tour will end in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The history of this city goes back to times long before the Romans came and the city has been conquered by many different tribes. The city has a vibrant atmosphere and is the most popular tourist destination to be visited in Bulgaria, besides the coast and the mountain resorts. The most important tourist attractions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander Nevsky Cathedral Vitosha Boulevard, the pedestrian street with many cafés, restaurants and boutiques Boyana Church with fresco from the 10th century National Historical Museum of Bulgaria Banya Bashi mosque, from the 16th century The Church of St. George The National Palace of Culture, with its numerous events The Ivan Vazov National Theater |
| 13 | Departures from Sofia |

Further information

General Travel Tips

- This itinerary is cross border. Make sure to book border crossing at the car rental company.
- You start in Budapest and finish your journey in Sofia. Make sure to book a different car reception and delivery location.

How to arrive to Budapest and how to travel

- Non-stop flights to Budapest from many different airports including Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart, Cologne, Hamburg, Brussels, Amsterdam, Eindhoven, London
- Car-hire is possible at the airport. All main rental car agencies are represented.

Tourist information Budapest

<https://www.budapestinfo.hu/>

Tourist information Pécs

<https://www.iranypecs.hu/en/index.html>

Tourist Information Bilje (Baranja Region)



<http://tzo-bilje.hr/en>

Tourist Information Osijek

<http://tzo-bilje.hr/en>

Tourist Information Sremska Mitrovica

<http://tosmomi.rs/>

Zasavica Nature Reserve

<http://www.zasavica.org.rs>

National Park Fruska Gora

<https://www.npfruskagora.co.rs/>

Tourist Information Novi Sad

<http://novisad.travel/en/>

Tourist information Belgrade

<http://www.tob.rs/>

Tourist Information Serbia

<http://www.serbia.travel>

Tourist information Srebrno Jezero

<http://www.srebrnojezero.com>

National Park Djerdap:

<http://www.npdjerdap.rs>

Tourist information East Serbia

<http://www.visiteasterbia.rs>

Tourist Information Kladovo:

<http://www.tookladovo.rs>

Tourist Information Zajecar

<http://www.tozajecar.rs>

Tourist Information Bulgaria

<http://www.visitbulgaria.net>

Tourist Information Sofia

<http://visitsofia.bg>



Arrival to Budapest Airport

- Budapest Ferenc Liszt International airport is located 16 km's east from the city center and connected by highway
- Bus line 100E connects the airport with Deak Ferenc Square in the city center and runs every 30 mins. Travelling time is approx. 45 mins.
- Bus line 200E connects the airport with Kobanya-Kispest railway station, where you can take the Metro line 3 to reach the city center. This bus leaves every 10 mins and the total travelling time including Metro is approx. 50 mins.

Departure from Sofia Airport

- Sofia Airport is located 10 km's east from the city centre and well connected by road
- Sofia Metro Line 1 connects Sofia Airport to the city centre. The journey time from Sofia Airport to the city centre is approximately 18 min.