

ROMANIA – THE RIVER DANUBE DELTA

Early booking essential

8-day / 7-night easy cycling through one of Europe’s last great natural paradises



This cycling tour by “hotel boat” meanders through the stunning beauty of Europe's last natural paradise, the delta of the River Danube to mile "0", where the mighty river reaches the Black Sea.

This part of Romania offers the second largest and best preserved of Europe’s big river deltas. You will travel along canals with floating reed islands, lagoons and lakes. The landscape alternates between gently rolling hills and swamp and grasslands full of amazing wildlife and natural beauty. Life in the small fishing villages is peaceful and seemingly unchanged by time. The tranquillity, solitude and silence of this almost impenetrable wilderness are interrupted by the calls of Dalmatian pelicans, cormorants and egrets. We will explore the fauna and flora of this unique landscape with an expert wildlife guide. And our cycling will show you the rich history and hospitality of the Romanian people.

Departs Bucharest: 21st April, 9th, 19th May, 4th, 17th June, 25th August, 8th, 22nd, 29th September, 2018

Cost from: **\$2080** per person twin-share Single supplement from \$590

Includes: 5-nights hotel boat accommodation with private bathroom facilities, 2-nights in a comfortable guesthouse in Tulcea, all transfers as shown in the itinerary & from/to Bucharest, 7 breakfasts, picnic lunch & dinner each night, cycle tour guide (and wildlife-guide), support vehicle / boat, hire of 21-gear touring bike including panniers, maps & route notes (one set per cabin).

Not included: Transfer to/from the starting point, drinks, entrance fees (museums, parks, monuments), tips or gratuities, travel insurance or any personal extras, bike helmets (a limited number of helmets available for hire – but we recommend you bring your own).

Highlights: Danube Delta *World Heritage* listed biosphere reserve, Christian Orthodox monasteries at Celic Dere and Saon, the ancient settlement of Argamum & medieval fortress of Enisala.

Bike and Boat cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe (easy to moderate cycling with river or coastal cruising). They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come ‘home’ each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. These cruises are rapidly becoming the thing to do in Europe appealing to the more active mature traveller. Non-cycling passengers are always welcome on these departures but note that whilst there may be activities planned for the evenings there are no sightseeing provisions for non-cyclists during the day.

Our cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities in the company of like-minded cyclists. Tours are conducted in English but passengers may include a mix of different nationalities, adding to the cultural enjoyment of the tour.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservation



Suggested itinerary: route may be subject to change at the discretion of the captain or tour guide

Day 1: Bucharest - Tulcea

Arrive at Bucharest Airport by 2.00pm for the bus transfer (approximately 4-hours) to the River Danube Delta and to Tulcea where we embark our comfortable 'floating hotel'. Dinner and overnight on the houseboat.

Day 2 Nufaru – Sfantu Gheorge

Cycling @ 31km

We cycle today along the southernmost arm of the Danube through the Bestepe Hills nature reserve with wonderful views across the delta. At the small fishing village of Murighiol we rejoin the boat and cruise into a maze of channels, floating islands, dense forests and a true wilderness environment. Overnight on houseboat.

Day 3 The journey to mile "0"

Cycling @ 25km

A unsealed gravel path takes us to the Black Sea past lush green reeds and marshland. In the isolation of this part of our journey the abundant birdlife, cormorants and Great White Egrets are our companions. Mile "0" is at Sulina with its lighthouse and views of the sea. A place for reflection of the long journey the river has taken across Europe and the many lives that it has supported in towns and villages along its banks.

Day 4 Gulf of Musura – Crisan

Cycling @ 23km

We cycle alongside the bird haven of Musura Bay to the picturesque village of Letea. Again time seems to have stood still here. The houses are made of reed and loam, painted blue. Nearby on a sandbank, a natural wonder of nature can be seen – a tropical forest with climbing plants and vines. We spend the night moored at the fishing village of Crisan.

Day 5 The Fauna & Flora of the Danube Delta

Rest day

Today we cruise through a labyrinth of narrow waterways passing many small fishing villages. We see the splendour of the incredible diversity of the fauna and flora that make this delta a UNESCO World Heritage listed site of major significance. In the midst of a jungle of vegetation, hidden away, is the small wooden Orthodox monastery of Stipoc. In the afternoon we return to the vibrant, lively town of Tulcea.

Day 6 Abbey of the Dobrogea

Cycling @ 26km

Our journey today takes us on a round trip through a gently rolling landscape to the Orthodox nunnery of Celic Dere, the largest convent in the Dobrogea region. The Abbey of Saon with its distinctive windmill is surrounded by vineyards on the banks of the Danube. From a nearby ridge there is a fantastic view over the extensive floodplain – right to the border with Ukraine. We return to Tulcea and spend the next two nights in a family-run, 4-star guesthouse.

Day 7 Lagoon tour to Cape Dolosman

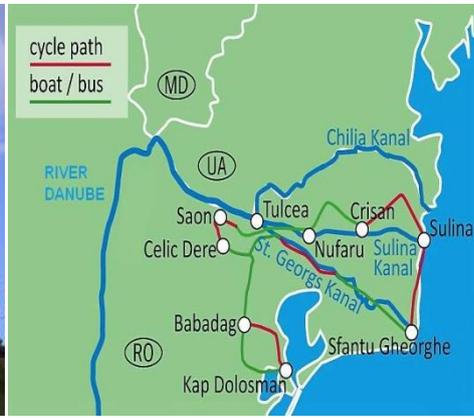
Cycling @ 30 - 45km

We take a bus to the old town of Ceamurlia de Jos. Then, we cycle past nesting sites of colourful bee-eater colonies and reach the medieval fortress of Enisala, located high above the Danube. From here the views across the Razim Lagoon are breathtaking. Our day will include a visit to the nature reserve at Cape Dolosman (with the Greek-Roman excavations of Argamum) and the delta-lakes, Golovita and Razim.

Day 8 Transfer Tulcea-Bucharest

The tour ends after breakfast with a bus journey back to the Romanian capital arriving at @ 1.00pm.

Extra nights can be arranged in either Tulcea or Bucharest - at extra cost.



Also in this region:

RIVER DANUBE - AUSTRIA GERMANY SLOVAKIA HUNGARY

8-days / 7-nights river cruising with guided cycling



Bike and Boat cycle cruising along the **River Danube**. This is a **guided** program where we offer cabins on a large floating hotel ship on a route generally flat and easy to follow. Spend your days exploring the river from Bratislava, the former city of Hungarian kings, to **Vienna** with St. Stephen's Cathedral and town hall.

On the mighty River Danube spacious, traditionally built cruise ships carrying up to 100 - 150 passengers with an attentive crew and a comfortable atmosphere. Regional cuisine is served to reflect the countries visited. Onboard there is a restaurant and bar and a sun deck with comfortable deck chairs. There are comfortably furnished cabins, (approximately 9-10sqm) usually with twin-beds each with en suite (shower and toilet), hairdryers, TV and air conditioning. All cruises start & end in Passau (Germany).

Danube Highlights

Mid Season: \$2085 per person (twin share).

High Season: \$2165 per person (twin share).

Single cabin supplement: \$625 - \$745, depending on the season

Guided cycling

Departs: 19th May, 25th August

Departs: 16th June, 28th July, 22nd September

Explore The Danube

Mid Season: \$2310 per person (twin share).

High Season: \$2390 per person (twin share).

Single cabin supplement: \$735 - \$860, depending on the season

Guided cycling

Departs: 6th, 20th May, 12th August

Departs: 3rd, 24th June, 15th July, 2nd, 16th, 30th September

We offer this as a Bike & Boat cycling tour – however, you can decide each day if you want to cycle as part of the group with the guide or independently, or not to ride at all if you prefer to stay with the boat.

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece and the Lycian Coast of Turkey. We also have similar tours in Vietnam, and several canal and river Bike & Barge routes in France, Holland and Belgium, in Germany along the Saar, Moselle & Rhine, or in the Venice Lagoon or Amalfi Coast in Italy. Inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours are available in most destinations in Europe and in North America, Australia & New Zealand.

Contact the experienced staff at Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright 3741