

Our Black Sea Voyage, 2014

By Hank Schrader

Accredited Cruise Counselor

River Cruise Expert

Black Sea Voyage—the lower Danube



Day 1 Budapest

- Embark upon your river cruise ship, docked in the city center.
- This evening, meet your fellow passengers at the Welcome Dinner as the ship cruises past Budapest's illuminated riverfront. (D)

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Budapest at Night illuminated riverfront cruise

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 2 MOHACS - PECS - VILLANY

- Depart for your excursion to Pécs, the 2010 European Union Cultural Capital. Founded more than 2,000 years ago by the Romans, Pécs was an important cultural base during many centuries of Ottoman rule.
- After lunch, enjoy a wine-tasting excursion to sample aromatic, spicy wines from the vineyards of Villány. (B,L,D)

The Barbacan a gate tower of the old Castle, Pecs, Hungary

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Pecs, Hungary

Photo Hank Schrader
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Day 3

VUKOVAR, CROATIA - NOVI SAD, SERBIA

- This morning, enjoy a “Yugoslav Civil War” tour of Vukovar including the Ovcara Memorial, the monumental cross that serves as a memorial to those who lost their lives during Croatia’s struggle for independence or choose to take a wine tasting excursion to Ilok instead
- Enjoy lunch on board as you cruise to Novi Sad, Serbia. On your afternoon walking tour of the city, you will see the Petrovaradin fortress, a mighty stronghold no enemy has ever breached, now home to a hotel, museum and artists’ studios. Guests will also see the Old Town District and Danube Park. (B,L,D)

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Ovchara Memorial,
the monumental
cross that serves as a
memorial to those
who lost their lives
during Croatia's
struggle for
independence

Petrovaradin Fortress Novi Sad, Serbia

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Novi Sad. Serbia



Day 4 BELGRADE

- Wake up in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, and enjoy a panoramic tour of the city, that includes the Kalemegdan Fortress and the Serbian Orthodox Temple of St. Sava.
- As an alternative, take the “Tito’s Memorial” tour, which includes a visit to the House of Flowers where the tomb of Josip Tito is located.
- After either tour, you will have free time in the city center to stroll along Prince Michael Street, the city’s main shopping area. (B,L,D)

Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade, Serbia



Belgrade, Serbia



St Sava Cathedral

Parliament



The Serbian Orthodox Temple of St. Sava



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 5 CRUISING THROUGH THE IRON GATES - VIDIN, BULGARIA

- Today, enjoy a full day of cruising through one of Europe's most awe-inspiring natural wonders, the Iron Gates. Here the Danube narrows as it winds through a series of magnificent gorges between Serbia and Romania.
- The banks of the river along this natural border are lined with sheer-faced rocks that stretch high overhead, a sight that will be an unforgettable highlight of your Black Sea adventure. (B,L,D)

Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



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Day 6 VIDIN

- Your day begins with a visit to Belogradchik, a beautifully restored castle dating back to the Dark Ages, located in a stunning landscape of unusual rock formations.
- Next is the Baba Vida Fortress, the only entirely preserved medieval castle in the country. Standing guard over the Danube at the Bulgarian frontier town of Vidin, this massive medieval castle has thick walls and four imposing towers.
- Inside, you'll be treated to a fascinating historical reenactment. The ship departs early afternoon. (B,L,D)

Belogradchik Rocks, Bulgaria

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Belogradchik Fortress, Bulgaria

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Baba Vida Castle, Vidin Bulgaria



Baba Vida Castle, Vidin, Bulgaria



Photo Hank Schrader
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Play about the history of the Baba Vida Castle



Photo Hank Schrader
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Day 7 GIURGIU - BUCHAREST, ROMANIA - ROUSSE, BULGARIA

- Enjoy a full day excursion to Bucharest, the “Paris of the East.” Begin your day with a city tour that features a visit to the Open Air Museum, dedicated to preserving the traditional architecture of rural Romania.
- After lunch, guests will have a choice between free time in the newly renovated Lipscani district, the historical city center of Bucharest, or a guided tour of the Palace of the Parliament.
- Return to the ship afterward and enjoy a free evening. (B,L,D)

Bucharest, Romania



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Open Air Museum—Rustic homes reassembled



Photo Anne Schrader
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Vlad Tepes in the Lipsani district,



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Palace of the Parliament

Day 8 ROUSSE – DISEMBARKATION

- Disembark the ship in Rousse (B)

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- **We want to be your travel consultants!**
- **Please contact us at:**
- aschrader@dreamdestinations.com or
- hschrader@dreamdestinations.com or
- Call us at:
- 832-244-0215 (Anne cell); 713-397-0188 (Hank Cell) or 713-436-5287
- Or visit at www.dreamdestinations.com
- www.pinterest.com/visitdd or
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Anne (832-244-0215)

