

ROMANIA – THE RIVER DANUBE DELTA

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



Departs Bucharest: 11th *, 28th April, 27th * May, 9th , 24th June, 23rd August, 14th, 29th September 2012

* a different itinerary is offered on these dates to the one shown below - ask for details

Cost per person: \$1695 (share twin) Single supplement \$385

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, breakfast, picnic lunch & dinner each day, cycle tour guide (& wildlife-guide), support vehicle & boat, 21-speed-touring bike hire including panniers.

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.

This cycling tour by “hotelboat” 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 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.

Bike and Boat cruises combines 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 non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist 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.

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 - including English or German speaking with French, Italian or Dutch (as the other main languages) - adding to the cultural enjoyment of the tour.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservation



Suggested itinerary:

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 join the comfortable floating hotel. Dinner and overnight on the houseboat.

Day 2 Nufaru – Sfantu Gheorge (cycling is approximately 30 km)

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” (approximately 20 km)

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 (approximately 17 km)

We cycle to the bird haven of Musura Bay to the picturesque village of Late. Again time seems to have stood still here. The houses made of reed and loam and are 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 (approximately 27-34 km)

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 the next two-nights are spent in a 4-star guesthouse.

Day 7 Lagoon-tour to the cape Dolosman (approximately 31 km)

We take a bus to the old Turkish village of Babadag. 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 from Tulcea to Bucharest

The tour ends after breakfast with a bus journey back to the Romanian Capital arriving at @ 2.00pm.

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



We offer this as a Bike & Boat cycling tour however, you can decide each day if you want to join the bike ride cycling 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 & Dalmatian Coast of Turkey. We also have similar tours in Vietnam & several canal & river Bike & Boat routes in Holland, Belgium & Germany – along the Saar, Moselle & Rhine or in Italy.

Other sailing holidays are available in Corsica, Tuscany or Sicily & also in Australia or New Zealand.

Inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours are available in most destinations in Europe, Australia & New Zealand.

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

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