

ROMANIA – THE RIVER DANUBE DELTA

Early booking essential

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



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

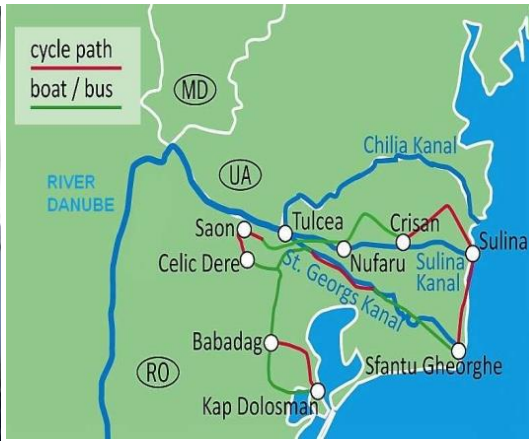
Departs: 15 April, 23 May, 9 June, 21 August, 11, 19 September 2024

Cost from: **\$3455** per person twin-share Single supplement from \$985

Includes: 5 nights' hotel boat accommodation with private bathroom facilities, 2 nights in a comfortable guesthouse in Tulcea, transfers as shown in the itinerary & from/to Bucharest Airport on arrival & departure days, 7 breakfasts, picnic lunch & dinner each night, cycle tour guide (and wildlife guide), support vehicle / boat, hire of multi-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).

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 kilometre "0"

cycling @ 25km

An 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, such as cormorants and Great White Egrets, are our companions. Kilometre "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

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. Overnight on houseboat.

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 comfortable, family-run, 4-star guesthouse.

Day 7: Lagoon tour to Cape Dolosman

cycling @ 42km

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 Bucharest Airport arriving at @ 2.00pm.

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

Also in the Danube region:

AUSTRIA GERMANY SLOVAKIA HUNGARY – EXPLORE THE DANUBE

8-days / 7-nights river cruising with easy to moderate **GUIDED** or **SELF-GUIDED** cycling



Bike and Boat cycle cruising along the **River Danube**. We offer cabins on a large 'floating hotel' on a route that visits six countries and four capital cities. Beginning in Germany at Passau where the Inn and Ilz Rivers flow into the Danube, cruise and cycle your way to **Bratislava**, the former city of Hungarian kings, **Budapest**, the 'Paris of the East'.

On the mighty River Danube spacious, traditionally built cruise ships carry up to 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 75 comfortably furnished cabins on three decks: Main, Middle and Upper.

This Bike & Boat departs: Selected Saturdays and Sundays from 28 April – 6 October 2024

Cost from: **\$1930** per person twin-share – Main Deck (twin beds)
 \$3015 per person twin-share – Upper Deck (twin beds),
 \$3720 per person twin share – Upper Deck Suite (twin beds)
Mid/High season supplement from \$175 - \$350 per person applies on selected departures.
Single cabins are available with a supplement, with very limited availability – ask for details
Guided group cycling available on selected departures at extra cost.

Or ask about Bike & Boat cruises with **guided** or **self-guided** cycling: **Danube Highlights** (Passau-Vienna-Bratislava-Passau), or **Danube and the Balkans** 15 day guided or self-guided tour (Passau-Vienna-Bratislava-Budapest-Belgrade-Iron Gates-Passau).

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

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