

2023

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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Passage Along the Danube River: Vienna to the Black Sea

October 7 - 19, 2023

with **Peter Galbraith AB '73, Former US Ambassador**



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Hungary's Parliament Building in Budapest, towers over the river.

Join this custom-designed, 13-day travel program

visiting seven countries, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the enchanting eastern Danube River Valley, a mystical region steeped in natural beauty that remains virtually unknown to Westerners. Cruise for nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe *AMADEUS STAR* from the Habsburgs' imperial capital of Vienna to the Black Sea. Here, a rich mosaic of medieval cities, charming villages and rugged countrysides await you, from the ancient lands of Bulgaria to the relatively young territories of Serbia and eastern Croatia, the spectacular Carpathian Mountains and Hungary's fabled *Puszta* (plains) to the glittering palaces of Budapest. Admire a masterful display of traditional horsemanship in the Hungarian heartland, immerse yourself in the Slavic heritage of medieval Belgrade and cruise through the dramatic Iron Gates, which divide the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains.

The safety and well-being of our travelers remains our highest priority. Cruise lines and some other providers of services (as well as, potentially, some countries) require all passengers traveling on our programs to present confirmation of a full COVID-19 vaccination, and, as well, passengers may have to produce evidence of a recent negative COVID test. All our staff are committed to adhering to all health and safety protocols from the start of your trip to the end as directed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overseas health officials as well as those protocols mandated by your cruise company (if applicable) and other suppliers of services. Detailed protocol information tailored to your travel program will be mailed to you along with additional pre-departure information.

Activity Level 3:

Many of the cities and towns being visited were founded centuries ago, and the terrain is rugged. Therefore, a fair amount of walking along narrow cobblestone streets, stone floors or uneven and/or slippery terrain and climbing several flights of stairs (some without railings) is to be expected. Walking excursions often cover distances of at least one mile and are approximately three hours in length.

Study Leaders



Veteran HAA Travels
Study Leader

Peter W. Galbraith

AB '73 is an author, academic, commentator, politician, policy advisor,

and former United States diplomat. He graduated from Harvard College and earned an MA from Oxford University and a JD from Georgetown University Law Center. From 1993 to 1998, he served as the first U.S. Ambassador to Croatia, where he was co-mediator of the 1995 Erdut Agreement that ended the Croatian War of Independence. His distinguished career has also focused on Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, East Timor, and the United Nations. He is on the Board of Directors of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, the research arm of the Council for a Livable World. In addition to two critically acclaimed books on the Iraq War, Ambassador Galbraith has written extensively for a range of publications including *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Guardian*.

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Schedule by Day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Home City/ Vienna, Austria

Depart your home city and arrive the next day in Vienna,

Staré Mesto (Old Town). Visit the Gothic 14th-century Cathedral of St. Martin and the elaborate Primate's Palace, famous for its collection of 17th-century English tapestries. See St. Michael's Gate. (B,L,D)

Along Andrásy Avenue, see the Hungarian State Opera House. Cross the Chain Bridge linking Pest to Buda. On Castle Hill, visit St. Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Kalocsa

Enjoy a scenic drive through Hungary's scenic, protected Puszta grassland plains and visit a horse farm to see a performance of Hungarian horsemanship. Enjoy a traditional lunch in the farm's restaurant. Continue to Kalocsa to visit the House of Folk Art and Paprika Museum. (B,L,D)



St. Michael's Gate is the only remaining intact portion of the city's medieval fortifications.

Austria, and embark the AMADEUS STAR. Attend the Captain's Welcome Reception and dinner in the evening. (R,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

Vienna/ Bratislava, Slovakia

In Bratislava, enjoy a walking tour of the

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Budapest, Hungary

In Pest, see the Parliament Building, second largest in Europe. At UNESCO-inscribed Heroes' Square, admire monuments honoring Magyar chiefs who established the Kingdom of Hungary.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Vukovar, Croatia/ Novi Sad, Serbia

In Vukovar, see the iconic GRAND HOTEL, famously purchased by the city's Labor Movement in 1919, and the 18th-century Eltz Manor.



Visit the Church of St. Sava, Serbia's patron saint.

Visit the Baroque Church of Saints Philip and James. Enjoy a walking tour of Novi Sad's Old Town to see the Name of Mary Church, Town Hall and the 18th-century Petrovaradin Fortress, Europe's second largest fortress.

Continue to Karlovci to visit the Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas and Patriarchate Court.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Belgrade

Embark on a tour of Belgrade, featuring Terazije Square and Temple of St. Sava. Visit Kalemegdan Fortress and the famous "House of Flowers" museum dedicated to former Yugoslavia's leader, Josip Broz Tito. (B,L,D)

center of Paleolithic artifacts. Enjoy views of the Danube Gorge and cruise past the Iron Gates. (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Nikopol, Bulgaria/ Veliko Tarnovo/ Ruse

Visit Arbanasi's perfectly preserved Konstantsaliev House and the 15th-century Birth



Walk through the Freedom Square of Novi Sad admiring the 18th and 19th century architecture.

While in Karlovci, a city famous for honey and wine production, stop at the Museum of Beekeeping to enjoy a honey tasting. (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Donji Milanovic/ Iron Gates

Visit Lepenski Vir to see the impressive exhibition

of Christ Church. Continue to Veliko Tarnovo's historical town center and see the 12th-century Tsarevets Fortress. (B,L,D)



Trip Registration Is Easy

Step 1: Visit:

<https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/danube-2023>

Step 2: Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form.

Step 3: Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

Constanta

In Constanta Old Town, see the poet Ovid’s statue in Ovidiu Square, the Great Mahmudiye Mosque, and the Orthodox Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul.

Enjoy a Captain’s Farewell Reception on board this evening with your fellow travelers.

(B,L,R,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Fetesti/Bucharest, Romania/ Disembark river boat

Arrive and disembark the river boat in Bucharest. Visit the Palace of Parliament, the world’s second largest building. Check into the INTERCONTINENTAL ATHÉNÉE PALACE BUCHAREST. (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Bucharest

Visit the National Art Museum, housing Romania’s finest collection of artistic treasures, and tour the Village Open Air Museum. Enjoy the farewell reception this evening. (B,R)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Bucharest/ Home City

The immense Palace of Parliament is the second largest building in the world.



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IMPERIAL VIENNA PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Vienna showcases an open-air museum of splendid Baroque architecture in its historical center—a UNESCO World Heritage site. Along the famous Ringstrasse, see this remarkable city’s most important landmarks. Visit Hofburg Palace and see the Gothic-style Stephansdom (Saint Stephen’s Cathedral). Learn more about the Austrian Empire in Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the Habsburgs’ summer estate. Accommodations are for two nights in the historical, five-star HOTEL IMPERIAL VIENNA.

Double Pricing: \$895 Single Pricing: \$1,245

CASTLES OF TRANSYLVANIA POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Extend your tour by three nights to explore the treasures of medieval Transylvania. Highlights include the 19th-century Peles Castle; the imposing, 14th-century Bran Castle; the Black Church in Brasov; the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Sighisoara; and UNESCO-inscribed Prejmarthe, the largest fortified church in southeast Europe. Spend two nights in the Aro Palace in Brasov and one night in the five-star ATHÉNÉE PALACE HILTON BUCHAREST.

Double Pricing: \$995 Single Pricing: \$1,245



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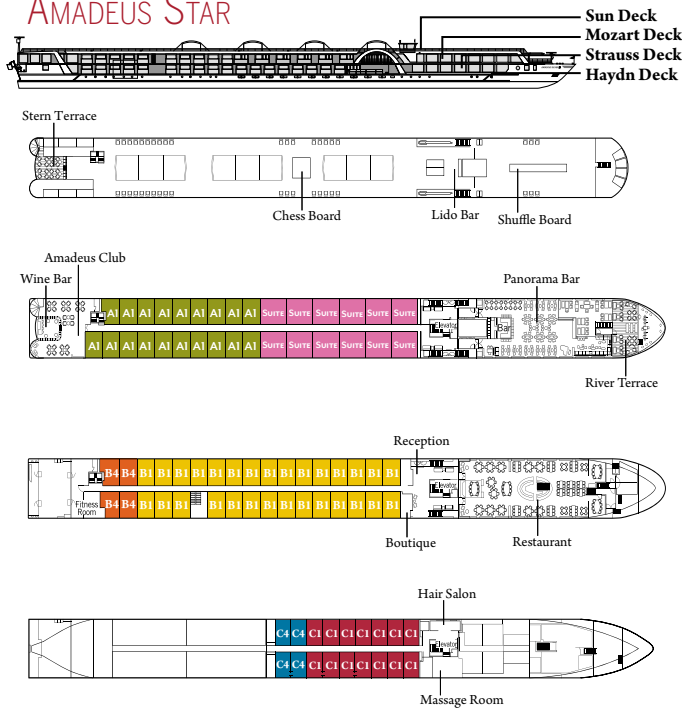
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AMADEUS STAR



Rates Per Person

CATEGORY/DECK

C4 \$5,025

Stateroom with small panoramic window.
Haydn Deck, aft.

C1 \$5,425

Stateroom with small panoramic window.
Haydn Deck, midship.

B4 \$6,025

Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to French-balcony height.
Strauss Deck, aft. (limited availability)

B1 \$6,625

Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to French-balcony height; minibar. *Strauss Deck, midship. (limited availability)*

A1 \$7,125

Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to French-balcony height.
Mozart Deck, aft and midship. (limited availability)

SUITE \$7,725

Suite with private balcony (sliding glass doors with railing), sofa, and bath robes.
Mozart Deck, midship.



The AMADEUS STAR features all the comforts of a refined and traditional hotel. The stylish restaurant offers scenic views through panoramic windows and continental cuisine featuring fresh, local ingredients. Daily meals include early-risers' coffee, breakfast, and lunch with complimentary wine and beer, afternoon tea, a four-course dinner (also with complimentary beverages), and a late-evening snack. For your leisure time on board there are two bars, an open-air lounge, a boutique, a massage room, a beauty salon, a fitness studio, and the Sun Deck. Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available and an elevator serves all passenger decks except the Sun Deck. There is no doctor on board.

The 82 stylish staterooms and suites are among the most spacious of any European river boat (172 to 284 square feet). Suites include a private balcony and select staterooms feature a unique floor-to-ceiling window that lowers to French-balcony height at the touch of a button. Accommodations have two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, sitting area, and private bathroom with shower. Most have a minibar. The AMADEUS STAR meets the highest safety standards; the AMADEUS fleet has earned the important "Green Globe Certificate" of environmental sustainability.