Passage along the Danube River
Vienna to the Black Sea
aboard the Exclusively Chartered Deluxe Amadeus Silver II
October 4 to 16, 2020
Dear Alumni, Friends and Parents,

The Danube River has ranked among the world's most impressive waterways following the passage of Roman legions, crusading knights, the indomitable Janissaries of the Ottomans and the proud Hussars of the Habsburgs. A channel for commerce, culture and conquest, the Danube links the heartland of Central Europe with nations beyond the Black Sea. Join us for an extraordinary journey along nearly the entire length of this fabled river, from the Habsburgs' imperial capital of Vienna, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to the captivating Black Sea.

This outstanding travel program features seven countries and the enchanting eastern Danube River Valley, an untouched region steeped in natural beauty unknown to many Western travelers. Cruise for nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe AMADEUS SILVER II and spend two nights in Romania's elegant capital of Bucharest, where splendid architecture has earned it the nickname "Little Paris."

A rich mosaic of medieval cities, charming villages, rugged countrysides and centuries-old tales and traditions awaits you. Visit the ancient land of Bulgaria, the relatively young territories of Serbia and eastern Croatia, Hungary's fabled Puszta (plains) and the UNESCO World Heritage-designated castles, palaces and squares of Budapest. Cruise through the dramatic Iron Gates dividing the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains—where no fewer than six languages are spoken—and experience the fascinating Slavic heritage of medieval Belgrade.

Deepen your knowledge of the Danube and Central Europe with our Imperial Vienna Pre-Program Option and the Castles of Transylvania Post-Program Option, including "Dracula's Castle." This unique program sells out each year, so book now while space and Early Booking Savings are still available.

Sincerely,
Allison Johnson

Please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu if you have questions.

"The Gohagan staff really nailed the logistics for our trip! Everything ran smoothly and seemingly effortlessly from our viewpoint. I was very impressed! The staff on the tour went out of their way to make sure we had everything we needed."
—Rice alums, class of '73 & '74, on a recent Traveling Owls trip operated by Gohagan & Company.
The legendary Danube River and its venerable banks are a powerful symbol of the diverse cultures and epic narratives of Central Europe. Fifth-century B.C. philosopher Herodotus declared it “the greatest of all rivers which we know” when Greeks traveled from the Black Sea through the naturally carved Iron Gates. The land was ruled by the Roman, Ottoman and Byzantine Empires, creating some of the world’s most intriguing capital cities along the banks including Vienna, Bratislava, Belgrade and Budapest.

Follow in the wake of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great and Francis Joseph I, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. Journey through the unparalleled natural beauty of the Carpathian Mountains, even more captivating in the warm autumn light. The history and culture of this fascinating region are a jewel of Central and Eastern Europe, continuing to intrigue and inspire musicians, writers, artists and travelers from all over the world.

U.S./Vienna, Austria
Sunday and Monday, October 4 and 5
Depart the U.S. on Sunday. Arrive in Vienna on Monday and embark the deluxe Amadeus Silver II. Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception and dinner this evening.

Bratislava, Slovakia
Tuesday, October 6
Dock in Slovakia’s capital in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. Beautifully restored since the end of the Cold War, the festive “little big city” of Bratislava showcases 21st-century life amid its two-thousand-year-old history. Enjoy a walking tour of the city’s Staré Mesto (Old Town) and its medieval, Renaissance and 19th-century architecture, among the finest in Central Europe.

Visit the Gothic, 14th-century Saint Martin’s Cathedral, where 19 Hungarian kings and queens were crowned, and the elaborate Primate’s Palace, famous for its rare collection of 17th-century English tapestries. See Michael’s Gate, Bratislava’s oldest preserved medieval fortification, built in 1300, and the eclectic, 14th-century Old Town Hall, embedded with a cannonball fired by Napoleon Bonaparte during his siege of the city in 1809.

Budapest, Hungary
Wednesday, October 7
Referred to as the “most Hungarian Habsburg,” Austrian Archduke Joseph Anton Johan, is credited with creating Budapest, an imperial capital that rivaled the scale and flamboyance of Vienna. Swaths of historical Budapest have been granted UNESCO World Heritage status: the embankments of the Danube, including grandiose monuments of the centuries-old

Cover photo: Cruise through the Iron Gates between the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains, Serbia and Romania’s natural boundary.
Photo this page: Enjoy the perspective of Hungary’s Parliament Building from the Sun Deck of the Amadeus Silver II.
twin cities of Buda and Pest; the medieval Buda Castle Quarter, site of the Roman city of Aquincum; and the illustrious palaces, mansions and squares of elegant Andrássy Avenue.

In Pest, see the Gothic Revival, limestone Hungarian Parliament Building, the second largest parliament in Europe, completed in 1904. At UNESCO-inscribed Heroes’ Square, admire monuments honoring Magyar chiefs who occupied the Carpathian Basin and established the Kingdom of Hungary in A.D. 896. Along Andrássy Avenue, see the 19th-century, neo-Renaissance Hungarian State Opera House, one of the world’s most beautiful performing arts venues.

Cross the landmark Széchenyi Chain Bridge, the first stone bridge to link river-level Pest to the hills of Buda. On Castle Hill, visit the late-19th-century, neo-Romanesque Fisherman’s Bastion which affords exceptional city views, and the astonishing Gothic-style Saint Matthias Church, where Charles I, the last Habsburg ruler, was coronated in 1916.

Kalocsa and Puszta
Thursday, October 8
Enjoy views of Hungary’s scenic, protected Puszta, one of Europe’s largest expanses of rolling grassland plains, where pastoral traditions have prevailed for over two millennia. Visit a working horse farm to see a performance of authentic Hungarian horsemanship and enjoy a traditional lunch of regional specialties in the farm’s restaurant.

In Kalocsa, known for its intricate, brightly hued Hungarian embroidery, visit the House of Folk Art and Paprika Museum for further insights into this local art form and the traditional methods of cultivating paprika, the spice referred to as “red gold.”

Vukovar, Croatia/Novi Sad, Serbia/Sremski Karlovci
Friday, October 9
Visit remarkably renewed Vukovar, “The Hero’s Town.” See restored landmarks and monuments that stand as powerful symbols of resistance, including 18th-century Eltz Manor, a paradigm of Croatian Baroque architecture; the iconic Grand Hotel, famously purchased by the city’s Labour Movement in 1919; and the imposing red-brick water tower. Visit the Baroque Church of Saints Philip and James and see its intricate stained-glass windows.

“The Athens of Serbia,” Novi Sad is Serbia’s vibrant second city. Enjoy a walking tour of the pedestrian-only Stari Grad (Old Town) to see the city’s most beautiful buildings—the neo-Gothic Name of Mary Church and the neo-Renaissance Town Hall. Crowning the Old Town, the 18th-century Petrovaradin Fortress, the “Gibraltar on the Danube,” is Europe’s second largest fortress. On a panoramic tour of quaint Sremski Karlovci, see the lovely 19th-century Patriarchate Court and the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas with its impressive twin bell towers. Savor two regional favorites—wine and honey—with tastings in a local wine cellar and the Museum of Beekeeping.

Belgrade
Saturday, October 10
Belgrade traces its origins from the Stone Age, and was ruled by Celts, Byzantines, Serbs, Ottoman Turks and Austrians, each leaving a lasting impression. Enjoy a walking tour featuring historical Terazije Square and the domed Temple of Saint Sava, Serbia’s patron saint.

Visit the strategic Kalemegdan Fortress, one of the world’s oldest fortifications, commissioned by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I in A.D. 535. Tour the famous “House of Flowers” memorial dedicated to former Yugoslavia’s longstanding leader, Josip Broz Tito.

Donji Milanovac for Lepenski Vir/
Cruising through the Iron Gates
Sunday, October 11
Tour Lepenski Vir, an exceptional Paleolithic site (6500 to 5500 B.C.) and archaeological exhibition
center—stone idols found in Lepenski Vir, including the famous nine-thousand-year-old Foremother sculpture, represent the oldest stone sculptures in Europe. Enjoy spectacular views of the Danube Gorge in its dramatic, autumnal glory. Cruise through southeastern Europe’s picturesque scenery, passing the Golubac Fortress, guardian to the legendary Iron Gates, naturally carved by the Danube River.

**Nikopol, Bulgaria, for Arbanasi and Veliko Târnovo**

*Monday, October 12*

Dock in Nikopol and continue to the picturesque, 12th-century hillside village of Arbanasi, where nearly 90 historical buildings are protected monuments. See distinctive stone houses, famous for their fortified Bulgarian architecture and richly decorated interiors. Learn more about the comfortable life of a 17th-century merchant in the perfectly preserved Konstantsaliev House and admire elaborate icons and frescoes in the 15th-century Church of the Nativity of Christ.

Continue to the medieval town of Veliko Târnovo, capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire between the 12th and 14th centuries and often likened to Rome and Constantinople in greatness. Savor lunch in a local restaurant and enjoy a walking tour of the town center, an open-air museum of National Revival architectural splendor, and see the magnificent 12th-century Tsarevets Fortress.

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See Michael’s Gate and regard its elegant copper roof, a prominent symbol of Bratislava, crowning the medieval citadel of Veliko Târnovo.

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**Fetești, Romania, for Constanța and Adamclisi**

*Tuesday, October 13*

The principal Romanian seaport of Constanța was established in the sixth century B.C. as the Greek trading settlement of Tomis. The port later became a part of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires. Today, it remains an amalgam of these historic civilizations. Explore Constanța’s Old Town on a walking tour and view the Roman poet Ovid’s famous statue in Ovidiu Square. Later, see the many elegant mansions and hotels that remain from the 19th century when King Carol I revived Constanța. This afternoon, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and time at leisure.

En route to the ship, stop in Adamclisi, where the Tropaeum Traiani commemorates Roman Emperor Trajan’s victory over the Dacians in A.D. 102. Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception and dinner this evening.

**Fetești/Bucharest**

*Wednesday, October 14*

Disembark the ship in Fetești and drive through the rolling Romanian campii (plains) to the fascinatingly diverse capital city of Bucharest. Along the Grand Boulevard, visit the Palace of Parliament—the infamous vision of Nicolae Ceaușescu and valued as the world’s most expensive administrative building—and the open-air National Village Museum.

Check into the ideally located, Five-Star Athénée Palace Hilton Bucharest.
The elegant and meticulously crafted Amadeus Silver II features all the comforts of a refined and traditional hotel.

The 84 upscale Staterooms and Suites are among the most spacious of any European river ship (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 stylish restaurant offers scenic views through panoramic windows. Continental cuisine is served featuring fresh, local ingredients. Daily meals include early-risers’ coffee, buffet breakfast and lunch, afternoon tea, four-course dinner with complimentary wine and beer, and late-evening snack.

For your leisure time on board there are two bars, an open-air lounge, a beauty salon, a boutique, a massage room, a fitness studio and the Sun Deck. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available (conditions permitting) and an elevator serves all passenger decks except the Sun Deck. There is no doctor on board.

The Amadeus fleet has earned the important “Green Globe Certification” of environmental sustainability.

Bucharest
Thursday, October 15
Visit the National Art Museum in the 19th-century Royal Palace, housing Romania’s finest collection of artistic treasures. Your afternoon is at leisure; enjoy the Farewell Reception in the hotel this evening.

Bucharest/U.S.
Friday, October 16
After breakfast, continue on the Castles of Transylvania Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

The glorious Kalemegdan Fortress, at the confluence of the Danube and Sava Rivers, defended Belgrade in 115 battles.
Included Features
On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Deluxe AMADEUS SILVER II

◆ Nine-night Danube River cruise from Vienna, Austria, to Fetești, Romania.
◆ Deluxe, river-view, air-conditioned Suite or Stateroom.
◆ All meals aboard ship.
◆ Complimentary wine and beer served with lunch and dinner.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting).
◆ Guided tour of Bratislava’s well-preserved medieval Staré Mesto, including visits to the Gothic Saint Martin’s Cathedral and the opulent Primate’s Palace.
◆ Tour of Budapest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, including visits to Heroes’ Square, the Fisherman’s Bastion and Saint Matthias Church.
◆ Excursion to the Hungarian Puszta for a demonstration of horsemanship and lunch in a farm’s traditional restaurant.
◆ Tour of the House of Folk Art and Paprika Museum in Kalocsa, renowned for its fine Hungarian embroidery.
◆ City tour of emotive Vukovar, featuring its restored Eltz Manor and symbolic water tower.
◆ Tour of vibrant Novi Sad to see its celebrated Start Grad.
◆ Excursion to Sremski Karlovci to see the remarkable Patriarchate Court and the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, and taste wine and honey in a local wine cellar and the Museum of Beekeeping.
◆ Tour of Serbia’s capital of Belgrade, including the medieval city center and the storied Kalamegdan Fortress.
◆ Excursion to the world-renowned archaeological excavation site of Lepenski Vir.
◆ Passage through the dramatic Iron Gates, dividing the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains.
◆ Excursion to quaint Arbanasi with visits to the Konstantsaliev House and the Church of the Nativity of Christ.
◆ Walking tour of Veliko Târnovo, the Second Bulgarian Empire capital, with lunch.
◆ Excursion to Constanța including a walking tour of the Old Town, with lunch.
◆ Stop in Adamclisi to see the Roman Tropaeum Traiani monument.

Scenic transfer from Fetești to Bucharest.

In Bucharest, Romania

◆ Two nights in the Five-Star Athénée Palace Hilton, with breakfast each morning.
◆ Farewell Reception in the hotel.
◆ Visit to the dignified Palace of Parliament, with lunch.
◆ Tour of the open-air National Village Museum.
◆ Visit to the National Art Museum inside the 19th-century Royal Palace.

Always Included

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom aboard ship and on excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Imperial Vienna
Pre-Program Option*
The former seat of the Habsburg Empire and one of Europe’s most vibrant cultural centers, Vienna showcases an open-air museum of splendid Baroque architecture in its historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Along the famous Ringstrasse, see this remarkable city’s most important landmarks and visit the 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. Spend two nights in the historical, Five-Star Hotel Imperial Vienna.

Castles of Transylvania
Post-Program Option*
Enjoy mystical Transylvania, Latin for “the land beyond the forest,” and central Romania’s rich medieval heritage. Admire the auburn splendor of the Carpathian Mountains, an evocative backdrop for grand castles with soaring spires where the Gothic narrative of Count Dracula lives on in local lore. Tour the 19th-century fairy-tale Peleş Castle, one of the most beautiful castles in Europe; the imposing, 14th-century Bran Castle, known as “Dracula’s Castle”; and Romania’s beloved Queen Marie’s former summer residence. See the Gothic Black Church in Braşov; visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated, 14th-century Sighișoara, the birthplace of Vlad Țepeș; and visit UNESCO-inscribed Prejmar, the largest fortified church in southeast Europe. Spend two nights in the ideally located, deluxe ARO PALACE in Braşov and one night in the Five-Star Athénée Palace Hilton Bucharest.

*The Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
LAND/CRUISE TARIFF excluding taxes*

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Singles are available in category 5 at $9495* and in category 2 at $11895* on or before March 23, 2020. Add $1000 for reservations made after March 23, 2020.

*Taxes are an additional $130 per person and are subject to change.

†AMADEUS Silver II has been specially contracted for this program, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.
Admire Budapest’s fairy-tale Fisherman’s Bastion, built not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section.

Arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing inspection fees not listed in the "Included Features" section of the brochure; airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal excursions; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers

Specific room/cabin assignments may be changed at the discretion of the hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is to weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, to detract from the enjoyment of the program by others. Specific room/cabin assignments may be changed at the discretion of Gohagan.

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