



Les GORGES du
Danube

The Iron Gate Riviera

Your perfect getaway



DARKO PERIĆ

“MAGNUM EST STARE IN DANUBII RIPA”

„The Danube is my sea.”

Darko Perić

Our acclaimed actor **Darko Perić**, originally from Kladovo, gained international recognition for his role in the series ***La Casa de Papel (Money Heist)***.

In the short documentary **The Danube Is My Sea (Dunav je moje more)**, he presents a genuine look at the Kladovo region's rich history and cultural heritage, intertwined with his childhood experiences and upbringing in Kladovo.



The film is available on the @hotelaquastardanube **YouTube** channel or by scanning the **QR code**.



Discover Serbia's hidden gem

The area located between Golubac and Kladovo stands out for its breathtaking natural beauty and the intriguing heritage of prehistoric civilizations.

Here, nature, history and adventure converge harmoniously, providing unforgettable experiences, ranging from cruises and exploring ancient fortresses to indulging in delightful local cuisine.

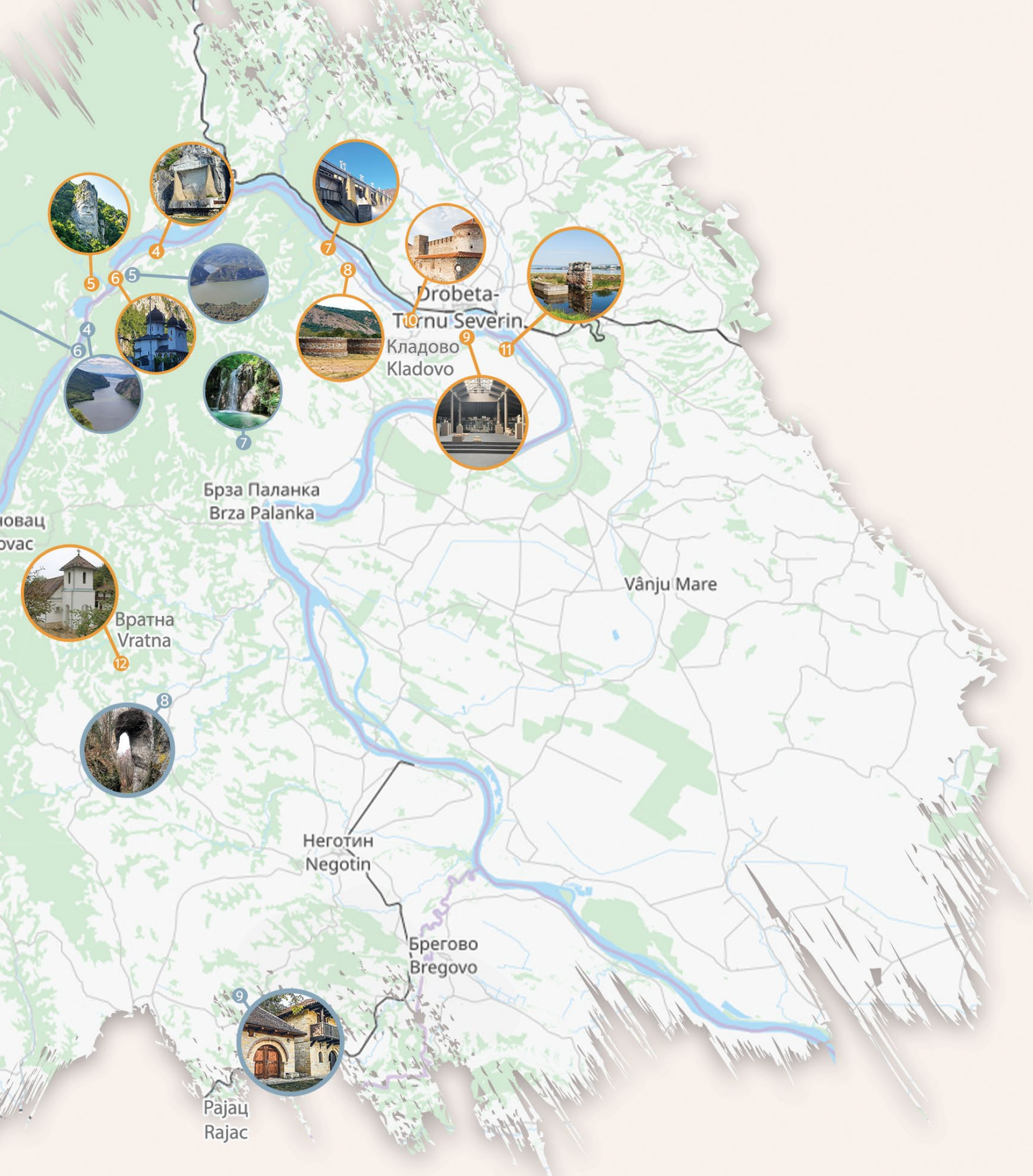
Hiking and biking trails lead to spectacular viewpoints, while the Danube River presents excellent opportunities for fishing and kayaking. Nature enthusiasts may discover hidden lakes and waterfalls, and a vibrant calendar of events highlights the essence of local traditions and hospitality.

Uncover the hidden treasures of this region and explore all the essential sites you will not want to miss out on.



CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

1. Golubac Fortress
2. Tumane Monastery
3. Lepenski Vir
4. Trajan's Plaque (*Tabula Traiana*)
5. Statue of Decebalus
6. Mraconia Monastery
7. Đerdap Hydroelectric Power Plant
8. Roman fortification Diana
9. The Archaeological Museum of Đerdap
10. Fetislam Fortress
11. Trajan's Bridge
12. Vratna Monastery



NATURAL WONDERS AND LANDMARKS

1. Šuplja Stena Natural Arch
2. Rajko's Cave
3. Beli Izvorac Waterfall
4. Ploče Viewpoint
5. Small Štrbac Viewpoint
6. Big Štrbac Viewpoint
7. Blederiya Waterfall
8. Vratna Gates
9. Rajac Wine Cellars



Aquastar Danube Hotel and Danube Gorge Cruises

The ***Aquastar Danube Hotel***, a 4-star hotel located on the Danube in Kladovo, in addition to the city beach, is the perfect choice for guests looking to explore Đerdap National Park, immerse themselves in nature's glorious sites, and discover the rich cultural and historical heritage of the region.

As part of the Iron Gate Riviera, the ***Aquastar Danube Hotel*** in Kladovo, the ***Aquastar Maxim*** boat, and the ***Aquamarine*** Hotel in Golubac will be fully operational by 2027.

Since 2008, we have proudly welcomed ***more than 287,000 visitors***, engaging them in exploring the UNESCO Geopark Đerdap, the town of Kladovo, as well as the region's historical landmarks, cultural heritage, and breathtaking landscapes.

Unique Hotel Amenities For an Extraordinary Stay

Discover the amenities at the Aquastar Danube Hotel for total relaxation, recreation, and unforgettable moments on the banks of the Danube.

Wellness & Gastronomy

Hotel guests can relax at the contemporary **SPA & Wellness** center, which features:

- Indoor and seasonal outdoor swimming pools;
- Jacuzzi, sauna, and steam room;
- Gym and exercise rooms;
- Professional massages and relaxation therapies;



For gourmet experiences, the hotel features two top-notch restaurants with panoramic terraces:

- **Terasa Restaurant** – National and international cuisine, focusing especially on fish specialties and seafood.
- **La Perouse Café Bar & Restaurant** – An authentic Aussie-style menu with innovative culinary combinations.



Business Events and Conferences

The hotel offers two cutting-edge conference rooms for seminars, conferences, and business events, equipped with advanced technology that includes a simultaneous translation system.

Unforgettable Iron Gate Gorge Cruises

Our services and amenities are beautifully complemented by the **Aquastar Maxim** passenger boat, which offers a delightful experience as you cruise through the breathtaking Iron Gate Gorge. During the standard two-hour tour, guests get to explore the most picturesque parts of the gorge, uncovering stunning landscapes, fascinating historical landmarks, and the enchanting secrets of the Danube.

Exclusive Arrival-by-boat Programs from Belgrade

For those seeking a truly different travel experience, we also offer arrival-by-boat programs from Belgrade. During the cruise along the Danube, guests have the opportunity to enjoy exceptional service, panoramic views, and a specially curated gastronomic experience.

Upon arriving in Kladovo, the exploration of the Iron Gate Riviera continues, featuring organized tours, visits to historical landmarks, and opportunities to unwind at the hotel.

Aquamarine Hotel

Luxury on the Banks of the Danube River

Opening in 2027

The **Aquamarine Hotel**, covering an area of 6,600 m², will be located in the idyllic city of Golubac, where the Danube is at its widest. This luxurious complex will offer guests an unforgettable experience, thanks to its exclusive private lagoon that will make every stay unique.

With 72 luxurious rooms and 24 suites, all featuring a view of the Danube, this hotel will be the perfect place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. With a total of 216 beds and 72 extra beds, guests will have access to comfortable and spacious accommodations. The impressive water park with slides will provide entertainment for all ages, while the 350 m² SPA & Wellness center will guarantee complete recovery and relaxation. Hotel Aquamarine will be unique for its private beach within the lagoon, and to make your experience complete, a beach bar will be available within the lagoon itself.

Perfect for Business and Private Events

For business guests, the hotel provides a conference hall with 220 seats, equipped with modern technology, making it ideal for meetings, seminars, and corporate events. The dining room and à la carte restaurant, with a total capacity of 284 seats, will satisfy even the most demanding gourmands while offering beautiful views of the Danube. The lobby bar will accommodate 32 guests.

Private Beach Exclusive Experience

The **Aquamarine Hotel** offers its guests a private beach, ideal for sunbathing, swimming, and total relaxation to the sound of the waves. This will be the perfect place for those seeking a luxurious holiday in pristine nature.





Cultural and Historical Monuments and Sites

The Iron Gate Riviera is a mosaic of historical stories written along the banks of the Danube. From fortresses that protected empires to ancient shrines and monumental Roman structures, each location holds fascinating traces of the past.

The Golubac Fortress watches over the entrance to the Iron Gate Gorge, while Lepenski Vir reveals one of the oldest settlements in Europe. The legacy of the Roman emperor Trajan, monasteries concealed in pristine nature, and captivating monuments on both banks of the Danube narrate the story of the centuries that shaped this region.

Golubac Fortress

The impressive Golubac Fortress rises at the entrance to the Iron Gate Gorge, where the Danube reaches its widest point. This 14th-century medieval gem, with its 10 towers and massive walls, bears witness to the turbulent past and strategic importance of the area. Following a comprehensive restoration completed in 2019, the fortress regained its former glory, offering visitors the chance to explore its mysterious passages, towers, and bastions. From the tops of the towers, visitors can enjoy a spectacular view of the Danube and the surrounding nature, making it a favorite spot for photography. Here, where the Danube resembles the sea, the construction of the high-class Aquamarine Hotel is underway, providing guests with top comfort and a unique view of the river.

Tumane Monastery

Tumane Monastery stands tall, nestled in untouched nature, encircled by ancient forests, and the only sound that can be heard for miles is the gentle flow of the Tumanska River. Legend has it that it is the endowment of the renowned 14th-century hero Miloš Obilić. It is famous for housing the miraculous relics of Saint Zosimus and Saint Jacob, leading many to call it the "Ostrog of the Danube." This sacred site is linked to numerous accounts of healings and spiritual rejuvenation, drawing thousands of pilgrims and visitors each year. The monastery features a mini-zoo and a shop that sells homemade products crafted by the monastic community.





Széchenyi and Baross Plaques

The cliffs of the Iron Gate Gorge feature the Széchenyi and Baross plaques, testaments to the remarkable engineering achievements of the 19th century. The Széchenyi plaque, situated on the Romanian bank, honors István Széchenyi, who spearheaded the efforts to regulate navigation through the Iron Gates. On the same bank, the Baross plaque commemorates Gábor Baross, who furthered this initiative and facilitated safer navigation through the treacherous sections of the Danube. These monuments continue to symbolize humanity's determination in overcoming natural challenges and are easily seen from boats traveling through the Iron Gate Gorge.



Lepenski Vir

Lepenski Vir, one of the most important prehistoric sites in Europe, bears witness to the lives of people from 9500 to 5500 BC. This Mesolithic settlement, situated on the right bank of the Danube, is renowned for its trapezoidal homes and captivating "fish-people" sculptures, which illustrate the early artistic and spiritual expression of the local population. The excavated remains indicate a remarkably organized community, while the on-site museum vividly recreates their daily lives through multimedia displays. Visiting Lepenski Vir is a distinctive chance to engage with the distant past and explore one of Europe's earliest urban centers.





Trajan's Plaque (Tabula Traiana)

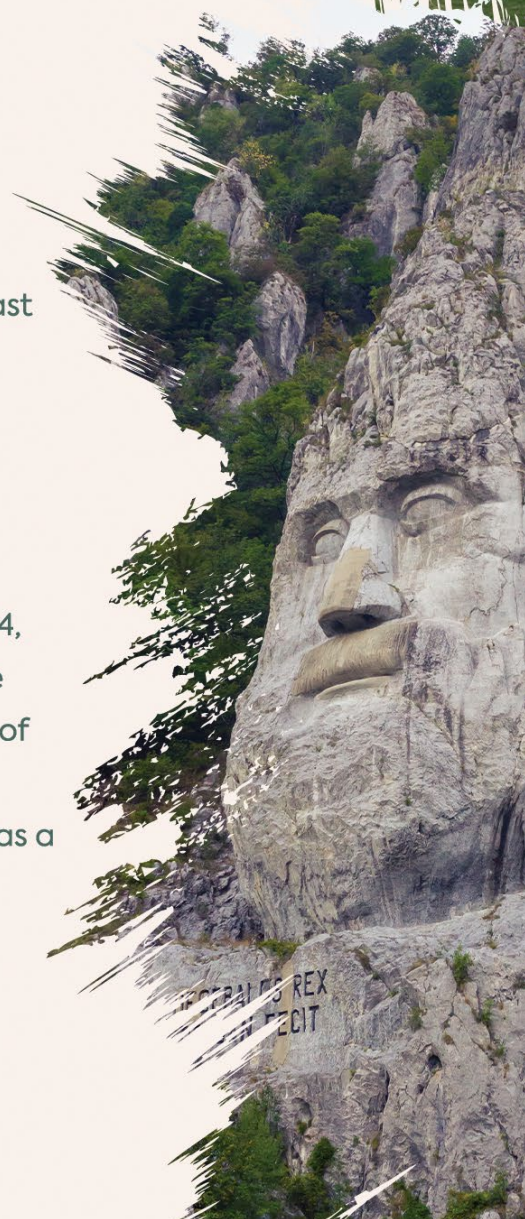
The Trajan's Plaque (Tabula Traiana), an ancient Roman monument from the 2nd century AD, rises above the cliffs of the Iron Gate Gorge. This marble plaque, inscribed in Latin, commemorates the completion of the Roman road through the gorge, which was vital for Trajan's campaigns against the Dacians. Initially located adjacent to the Roman road, the plaque was elevated in 1969 to protect it from flooding caused by the Đerdap I hydroelectric power plant's construction. The best views of the plaque are from the Danube during cruises, allowing visitors to vividly experience tales of Roman conquests and engineering feats.



Statue of King Decebalus

The monumental statue of King Decebalus, the last ruler of Dacia, rises on the steep cliffs of the Romanian bank of the Danube. Standing at 40 meters tall, it holds the title of the largest rock sculpture in Europe.

Its construction took a decade, from 1994 to 2004, and today it stands as one of the most attractive landmarks of the Iron Gate Gorge. The best view of the statue is from the Danube, where its face, carved in the rock, fascinates visitors and serves as a reminder of the centuries-old struggle of the Dacians against the Romans.





Signal Balloon Stations

While sailing through the Iron Gate Gorge, travelers' attention is drawn to Varnica and Pena, former balloon stations (unique signal stations) on the Serbian side of the Danube. These stations played a crucial role in regulating navigation through the dangerous waters of the Iron Gate Gorge during the 19th and early 20th centuries. At a time when modern navigation systems did not exist, this method significantly increased navigation safety through the turbulent and unpredictable Danube.

Today, Varnica and Pena stand as quiet witnesses to the past, still representing interesting historical sites along the route through the Iron Gate Gorge and reminding visitors of the centuries-long efforts to ensure safe navigation on this mighty river.



Mraconia Monastery

Nestled almost at the water's edge on the Romanian side of the Danube, the Orthodox Monastery of Mraconia boasts a history that stretches back to the 15th century. This former hermitage has faced destruction multiple times, and its remnants were submerged during the construction of the Đerdap I hydroelectric power plant in 1970. After being rebuilt in 2000 at a new location, the monastery now draws attention for its unique position within the Iron Gate Gorge. Its architecture, along with the tranquil surroundings, makes it a spiritual haven and one of the most captivating sights along a Danube cruise.





Đerdap Hydroelectric Power Plant

Once a wild and untamed stretch of the Danube, this site is now home to the Đerdap Hydroelectric Power Plant — also known as the “Iron Gates,” the largest hydroelectric complex on the Danube. Completed in 1972 as a joint project between Serbia and Romania, the dam created Lake Đerdap, the largest artificial lake in Serbia.

A standout feature is the river lock system — the largest in Europe — where even the heaviest ships pass through, offering visitors a truly spectacular view. The on-site historical gallery tells the story of the plant’s construction and serves as a symbolic bridge between the past and future of this mighty river.



Memorial to the Victims of the Kladovo Transport

This monument not only commemorates the tragic events of the past but also stands as a testament to the courage and solidarity shown by the local community as they helped their Jewish neighbors during World War II. Today, it serves as a place of remembrance and education, reminding visitors of the weight of these crimes — and the priceless value of unity and mutual support in difficult times.

The memorial serves as more than a historical reminder; it conveys a strong message for future generations. It urges us all to foster tolerance, understanding, and to combat hatred and intolerance in every age.





The Roman fortification Diana

Overlooking the Danube and near Kladovo are the remnants of the Roman fortification Diana, a significant military hub for the Roman Empire in this region of Europe. Constructed in the early 2nd century during Emperor Trajan's reign, it was part of the fortified limes, safeguarding the Moesia province's border against barbarian invasions.

Inside its sturdy walls were barracks, baths, and a harbor, where Roman legions oversaw activity along the Danube. Today, Diana serves as an archaeological treasure, uncovering evidence of Roman soldiers and traders' lives, with its walls still standing as reminders of ancient history.



The Archaeological Museum of Đerdap

The Archaeological Museum of Đerdap is located in the heart of Kladovo, where civilizations have intertwined for centuries. It's an invaluable treasure trove of history that unveils the stories of the people who lived along the mighty Danube River, from prehistoric times to the modern era. This museum offers a unique opportunity for visitors to journey through time, from the mysterious figures of Lepenski Vir, through the Diana Fortress, to medieval remnants and Turkish fortifications.



Each exhibit, whether an ancient tool, a piece of armor, or lavish jewelry, testifies to the rich past of this region. For those exploring the Iron Gate Gorge, this is an unmissable stop where history comes to life before the eyes of passersby.



Fetislam Fortress

Tucked away in Kladovo, right along the stunning banks of the Danube, you'll find the impressive Fetislam Fortress, one of the most significant military fortifications in the Balkans. Constructed in the 16th century during the Ottoman expansion, its name in Turkish translates to "The Gate of Islam." This magnificent fortress consists of a Small and Large City, with robust walls, towers, and gates that once vigilantly protected the approach to the Danube while overseeing trade and military routes. Over the centuries, Fetislam has witnessed many conflicts—from the Ottoman-Habsburg wars to its liberation from the Turks in 1867, when it came under the Serbs' guardianship along with six other fortresses. Today, Fetislam invites visitors to explore its rich history in a whole new way. After a careful reconstruction, its walls, gates, and towers have been lovingly restored to their original splendor, allowing tourists to step back in time and experience the fortress at the height of its glory. The interior spaces have been transformed for cultural and artistic events, and the spacious courtyards now proudly host festivals, concerts, and various other events.





Remains of Trajan's Bridge

One of the truly remarkable engineering achievements of the ancient world along the Danube is Trajan's Bridge, an awe-inspiring structure that Emperor Trajan built in the early 2nd century to enable his legions to cross with ease during their campaign against the Dacians. When it was built, this bridge held the title of the longest in the world, extending an astonishing 1,135 meters and resting on 20 impressive pillars that soared from the river.

Crafted by the renowned Roman architect Apollodorus of Damascus, the bridge incorporated a delightful mix of stone, brick, and wood, with graceful arches spanning the mighty Danube. For more than a century, it functioned as an essential trade and military lifeline, seamlessly connecting Roman provinces with lands to the north of the Danube.

Vratna Monastery and Vratna Gates

The Vratna Monastery is a spiritual haven located in the Timok region, 36 km from Negotin, near a village sharing its name. Nestled by the Vratna mountain river, the monastery is encircled by steep cliffs on all sides except the east, which gives it a distinctively isolated look. It derives its name from the nearby Vratna Gates, known for their natural stone bridges.



Established in the 14th century, tradition holds that it was constructed by Saint Nicodemus of Tismana, a Serbian-Greek monk and the spiritual mentor to Prince Lazar.

The Vratna Monastery's most cherished relic is the miraculous icon of the Most Holy Mother of God, known as the Holy Mother of Vratna, created by Greek iconographers in the 17th or 18th century. For centuries, devotees have visited this icon to pray for healing.

Today, the Vratna Monastery serves as a female monastic community that not only fosters spiritual life but also engages in beekeeping and the growing of medicinal herbs. Coupled with its stunning natural beauty, the monastery is a sanctuary of peace, prayer, and historical importance.



Rogljevo and Rajac Wine Cellars

In the hills of eastern Serbia, near Negotin, you'll find the enchanting Rogljevo and Rajac Wine Cellars—establishments that have been producing wine for over two centuries.

The Rajac Wine Cellars encompass approximately 200 charming stone cellars, whereas Rogljevo consists of around 150. Their distinctive architecture creates an ideal environment for the aging of wine. Envision ambling through narrow stone streets, inhaling the delightful aroma of aged wooden barrels, and observing local residents who continue to practice traditional winemaking methods. This wine oasis is genuinely unparalleled. With candidates for UNESCO protection, these wine cellars represent a remarkable fusion of history, architecture, and exceptional wines, attracting visitors from all corners of the globe.

Interesting Fact

During this period, this charming part of Serbia thrived wonderfully! To ensure the production of high-quality wine, it was essential to keep the wine separate from agricultural activities. Beautiful wine cellars were constructed just outside the villages, creating perfect spots for storing wine with exceptional hygiene standards. Each delightful house in the village boasted its very own wine cellar!





Natural Wonders and Landscapes

The stunning nature of the Iron Gate Riviera provides awe-inspiring views. The mighty and ever-changing Danube has carved out the longest and most captivating river gorge in Europe.

Along its banks, viewpoints offer sweeping vistas that are truly breathtaking. Meanwhile, the Đerdap National Park's heart is home to untouched forests, caves, and concealed waterfalls.

The natural bridges and sedimentary formations, formed over centuries, showcase nature's might. Additionally, the crystal-clear lakes and the underground realm of Rajko's Cave conceal remarkable sights that are worth discovering.

Đerdap National Park

Positioned on the right bank of the Danube in northeastern Serbia, the park stretches from the Golubac fortress to a dam near Novi Sip, covering approximately 638 km². In 2020, it was designated as the first and only UNESCO Geopark in Serbia, highlighting its geological and cultural significance.

The park's main feature is the stunning Iron Gate Gorge, commonly referred to as the Iron Gates, which spans about 100 km. This is the longest gorge in Europe and includes four smaller gorges along with three valleys, creating a breathtaking landscape. In select locations, cliffs rise up to 300 meters above the river, while the Danube narrows to a mere 150 meters in width.

Đerdap is a paradise for nature lovers and adventurers. The park offers a unique chance to explore biodiversity, featuring over 1,000 recorded plant species, including rare and relict varieties, as well as a diverse array of animal life.

For history and archaeology enthusiasts, Đerdap showcases numerous cultural landmarks. The highlight is Lepenski Vir, a prehistoric settlement that is over 8,000 years old, offering a glimpse into the life and artistry of Neolithic communities.

Visitors can partake in various activities, including hiking, cycling, bird watching, or cruising on the Danube, immersing themselves in the stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage of the area. Viewpoints such as Big and Small Štrbac on Mount Miroč provide breathtaking views of the Danube and the surrounding mountains, ensuring an unforgettable experience for every visitor.

Đerdap National Park Viewpoints

The Iron Gates of the Danube, also referred to as Đerdap National Park, presents a variety of stunning viewpoints that deliver breathtaking vistas of the river and its enchanting gorges.

Viewpoints such as Big Štrbac and Small Štrbac, along with Ploče, provide opportunities for nature enthusiasts and photographers to capture extraordinary landscapes, particularly at sunrise and sunset when the hues of the sky and water create mesmerizing scenes. Well-kept trails lead to these locations, making it possible for visitors to enjoy a leisurely stroll through pristine nature.



Šuplja Stena Natural Arch

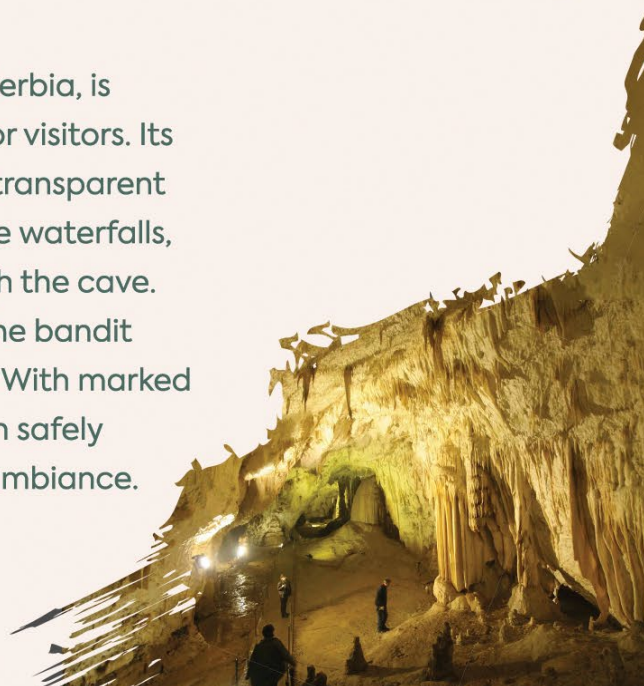
Located around 12 km from Majdanpek, the Šuplja Stena Natural Arch is a stunning natural stone bridge. Standing at a height of 44.8 meters with an opening width of 9.7 meters, it holds the title of the highest natural bridge in Serbia. Visitors can reach it via a well-maintained hiking trail that is about 1,300 meters long, providing a delightful walk through beautiful scenery and a chance to admire unique geological formations.

Beli Izvorac Waterfall

Located near Majdanpek, the Beli Izvorac Waterfall is a natural monument. This distinctive formation was formed by limestone deposition, creating a series of cascades and pools filled with crystal-clear water. Encircled by lush greenery, this spot allows visitors to savor the tranquility of unspoiled nature, away from the city's hustle and bustle.

Rajko's Cave

Rajko's Cave, a stunning underground marvel in Serbia, is situated near Majdanpek and is well-equipped for visitors. Its lit corridors wind through rooms decorated with transparent stalactites, stalagmites, and cascading travertine waterfalls, while Rajko's underground river meanders through the cave. Legend has it that this was once the hideout of the bandit called Rajko, which is how the cave got its name. With marked pathways and knowledgeable guides, visitors can safely experience its exceptional beauty and mystical ambiance.

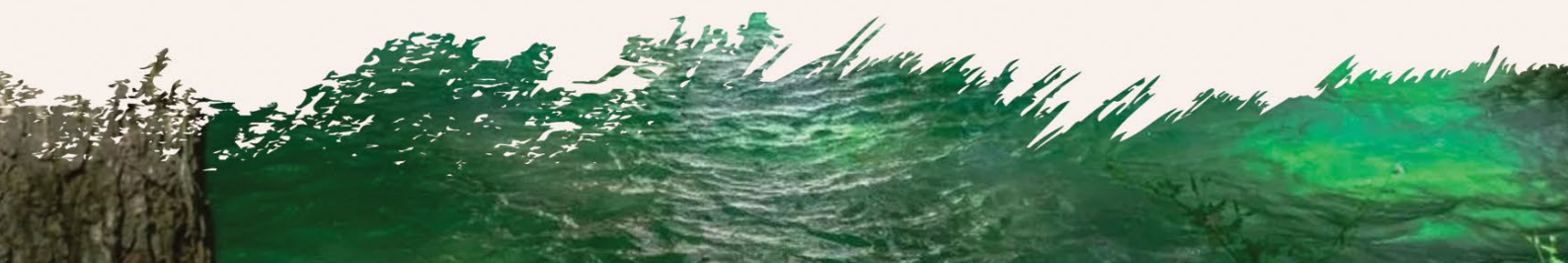




Blederija Waterfall

Deep in the lush green forests of eastern Serbia, just a stone's throw from the charming village of Reka, you'll discover one of the region's most enchanting natural treasures – the Blederija Waterfall. Towering at about 8 meters, it truly mesmerizes visitors with its sparkling, crystal-clear water cascading gracefully down the travertine rocks, creating beautiful emerald pools perfect for a refreshing dip on those warm summer days.

The water of Blederija flows from a karst source, and its special composition is key to forming its breathtaking travertine structures. Encircled by a thick, vibrant forest, this hidden gem offers a wonderful escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life, making it an ideal haven for nature lovers.



Vratna Natural Arches

The Natural Arches in Vratna Gorge represent an exceptional geomorphological formation. Three remarkable natural arches—Big Gates, Small Gates, and Dry Prerast—are collectively known as “The Vratna Gates.” Nestled in the deep canyon of the Vratna River, they rank among the most prominent natural arches in Europe. The sheer size and shape of the arches captivate visitors, and passing beneath their stone formations offers a truly remarkable experience. This location serves as a haven for hikers, adventurers, and photography lovers alike, where the tranquil atmosphere of the monastery harmoniously blends with untamed nature, creating a unique setting for both spiritual and thrilling pursuits. Whether you seek a calm escape at the Vratna Monastery or wish to explore the otherworldly vistas of the Vratna arches, this region promises to enchant you with its beauty and hidden wonders.

Group excursions to the Vratna Gates and Vratna Monastery are available through the *Aquastar Danube Hotel*.



Instagram Impressions



Scan the QR code and explore over 2,000 impressions from guests who have already visited the Vratna Gates.



Activities and Events at the Iron Gate Riviera

Whether you're passionate about adrenaline sports, nature, history, or gourmet food and wine, the Iron Gate Riviera offers many activities that guarantee an unforgettable experience. Discover the hidden treasures of Đerdap National Park, navigate the mighty Danube, explore magical caves and historic fortresses, seek out rare bird species, indulge in authentic culinary delights and excellent wines, or relax in serene monasteries and wellness centers.

No matter how long your visit lasts, the Iron Gate Riviera provides a perfect blend of adventure, relaxation, and cultural exploration. Here are the best ways to enjoy it:

Cruising Through the Iron Gate Gorge

To truly appreciate the Iron Gate Riviera, embark on a sailing adventure through its stunning main feature—the Iron Gate Gorge. A cruise on the Danube showcases breathtaking landscapes, including the majestic Kazan cliffs, Roman and medieval relics, and awe-inspiring natural vistas. With a knowledgeable guide, you'll discover the historical and geographical wonders of this extraordinary region of Europe, experiencing the Danube in all its glory.

For an unforgettable journey, consider the *Aquastar Maxim* boat, which offers unforgettable cruising through the Iron Gate Gorge. This comfortable tourist cruise allows travelers to immerse themselves in the enchanting atmosphere of the Danube, while expert guidance enhances their encounter with the region's remarkable natural and cultural heritage.

To date, more than
39,000 people
have cruised with us along the Danube.

The ***Aquastar Maxim*** accommodates 70 passengers and offers a pleasant atmosphere on indoor and outdoor decks, complemented by the convenience of an onboard bar. The vessel has two high-resolution LCD monitors, a simultaneous translation system, and state-of-the-art sound equipment, making it perfect for seminars, training sessions, and conferences on the water.



A Journey Through History Along the Danube River

From May to October, every Friday, guests can enjoy a Danube cruise departing from Belgrade, available for both individual and group bookings. There is also an option for a *Three-day cruise that delves into the history of the Danube.*



Complete arrangements can be found at: www.hotelkladovo.rs

Two-Hour Cruise through the Iron Gate Gorge

The trip commences at the pier in Tekija, guiding you through stunning landscapes all the way to the Kazan Gorge.

Throughout the journey, you'll be able to enjoy:

- **Travel Comfort:** The *Aquastar Maxim* features a cozy enclosed lounge and a sun deck equipped with lounge chairs, ideal for unwinding while taking in the stunning views of the Iron Gate Gorge.
- **Significant Locations:** The cruise showcases significant historical and natural sights, including Trajan's Plaque (Tabula Traiana), where the Roman Emperor Trajan left his lasting imprint in the rock; Small Kazan, the Danube's deepest point; and the rock-carved statue of the last Dacian king, Decebalus. You will also observe the Orthodox Monastery of Mraconia, the balloon stations, and get a glimpse of the Large Kazan, the narrowest section of the Danube.

- **Onboard Bar:** Throughout the journey, you can enjoy a drink at our onboard bar while our guide shares valuable insights to enhance your experience.

Customized Cruises upon Request

In addition to the previously mentioned pre-scheduled options, we also arrange exclusive private and business events. The favored route for personalized cruises travels from Golubac to Tekija. Additionally, we offer cruises along routes like Belgrade—Smederevo—Donji Milanovac—Golubac—Tekija—Kladovo.

If you're looking to organize a special promotion for your company, seminar, team building, board meeting, or media conference, the Aquastar Maxim boat offers perfect conditions for such occasions.



SPA & Wellness

For a complete escape and ultimate relaxation from the hustle of daily life, the Iron Gate Riviera boasts premium wellness facilities along the Danube. The Aquastar Danube Hotel in Kladovo serves as an ideal retreat, featuring a luxurious spa center, saunas, massages, and pools that offer panoramic river views.

Soon, vacationers will have another luxurious relaxation spot: the *Aquamarine Hotel* in Golubac, slated to open in 2027. This upcoming hotel promises exceptional comfort and an unforgettable experience at the heart of the Iron Gate Riviera.





Rowing, Kayaking, and Sailing

For those looking for a more active outing on the river, the Iron Gate Riviera provides excellent rowing, kayaking, and sailing opportunities. The Đerdap Regatta unites water sports fans, while the Golubac Sailing Cup takes place annually in Golubac. Paddling through the calmer areas of the gorge or navigating secret river bends by kayak offers a unique connection with nature and the majestic Danube.

Walking, Hiking, and Cycling

Iron Gate Riviera features numerous trails for those who enjoy an active vacation—from relaxing strolls through the pristine landscapes of Đerdap National Park to more demanding hikes that lead to breathtaking viewpoints, including Small and Big Štrbac. Cyclists will especially appreciate the EuroVelo 6 route, a famous European cycling path that runs along the Danube, providing a unique opportunity to explore this part of Serbia on two wheels. Whether you enjoy strolls, thrilling ascents, or cycling adventures, the Iron Gate Riviera offers scenic beauty and excitement.



Fishing and Hunting Tourism

The Danube and Lake Đerdap offer an ideal destination for anglers, featuring plentiful catches of catfish, zander, carp, and various other species.

Traditional methods, such as the unique “clonk” technique (*bućka*), are embedded in local culture, and the *Zlatna bućka Đerdapa* competition in Tekija attracts enthusiastic fishermen from across the region. In addition to fishing, organized hunting tourism in the mountainous areas of Đerdap provides nature enthusiasts the opportunity to partake in traditional hunting experiences within an authentic environment.

Archaeological and Cultural Tourism

Lepenski Vir, Golubac Fortress, the Roman fortification Diana, Fetislam Fortress, Rajac Wine Cellars and the Đerdap Archaeological Museum represent just a fraction of the rich historical heritage of this area. These locations unveil stories of the earliest civilizations, Roman conquests, and medieval battles, providing an unforgettable connection to the past right at your fingertips.



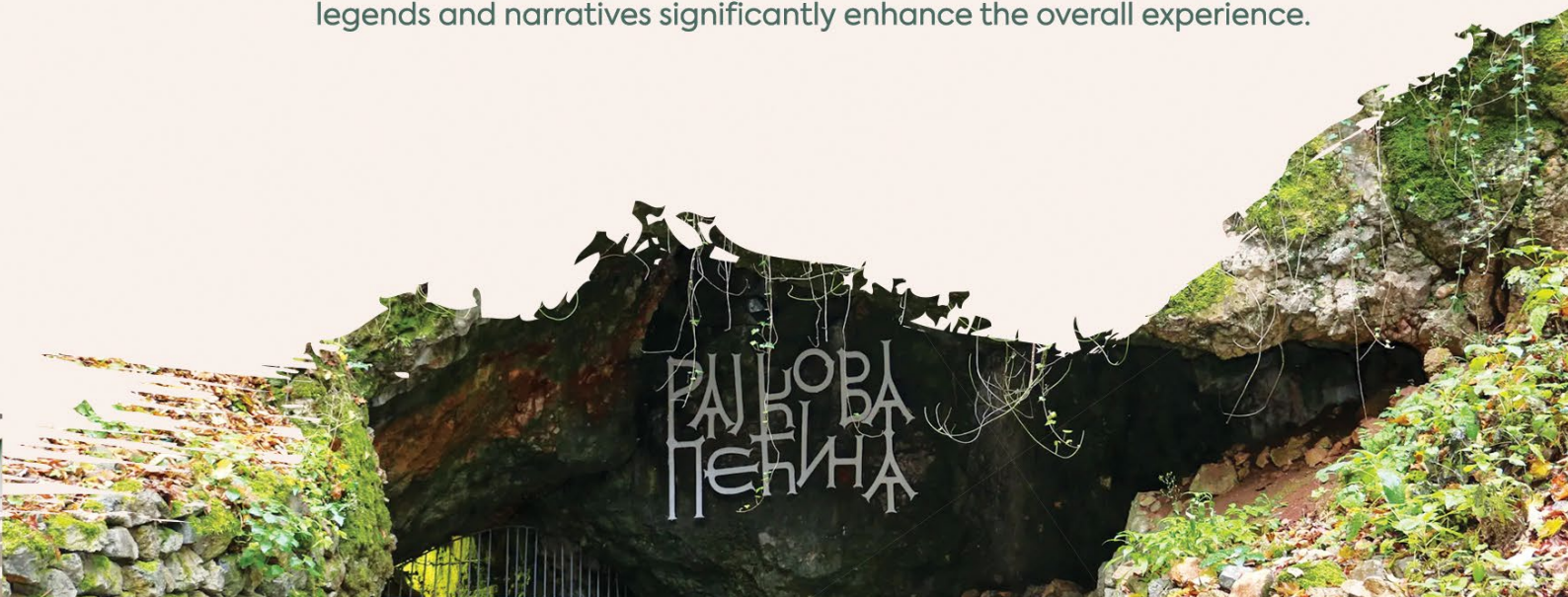


Religious Tourism

The Iron Gate Riviera is a treasure trove of Orthodox sanctuaries that have lovingly preserved this beautiful region's spiritual and cultural heritage for centuries. You can visit the Tumane Monastery, a renowned pilgrimage site, or explore the enchanting vibe of the Vratna Monastery, famous for its natural stone arches — gates. Don't forget to check out the Bukovo Monastery, which beautifully combines the spiritual and winemaking traditions of the Negotinska Krajina region. These monasteries, tucked away in untouched nature, provide a serene escape and an extraordinary glimpse into the rich history of Orthodox Christianity in this area.

Speleological Adventures

Rajko's Cave features captivating underground formations replete with stalactites, stalagmites, and crystalline structures. Guided tours of this natural marvel facilitate secure exploration of the cave chambers, while the accompanying legends and narratives significantly enhance the overall experience.





Off-road Tours and Safari Adventures

For thrill-seekers, off-road excursions in Đerdap National Park offer a chance to discover untouched surroundings. With the help of terrain vehicles or ATVs, you can access secluded viewpoints, traverse wooded trails, and enjoy Đerdap from a fresh perspective.

Traditional Events

The Border Rock Festival in Kladovo, *Zlatna bućka Đerdapa* — a fishing contest in Tekija, the *Etno festival* in Kladovo, and *Jorgovan Fest* on Miroč are a few events that capture the essence of this region. *Zlatna bućka Đerdapa* is notable for being a prestigious competition, attracting top fishermen and upholding the fishing traditions of the Danube. Featuring music, local cuisine, and traditional crafts, these events invite participants to immerse themselves in the region's authentic atmosphere. The *Golubac Sailing Cup* brings together water sports lovers, while the *Đerdap Regatta* presents a distinctive chance to explore the Danube through a rowing experience. Each event intertwines tradition, nature, and hospitality, offering visitors an unforgettable experience.





Photo Safari

The breathtaking views of the Iron Gate Gorge and wildlife and sunsets along the Danube offer ideal subjects for enthusiastic photographers. Guided photo safaris lead you to the most stunning spots for capturing remarkable images.

Wine Tourism

The Iron Gate Riviera offers a rich selection of wineries, ranging from modern establishments to family-owned cellars with deep-rooted traditions. Wine enthusiasts can taste local varieties while discovering the production methods. A distinctive experience is offered at the Rajac and Rogljevo Wine Cellars, remarkable stone complexes where wine ages in a genuine environment.

Gastronomy

Đerdap's cuisine is renowned for its fish soup, freshly caught fish, and homemade cheeses. At local restaurants and ethno-homesteads like Kapetan Mišin Breg, you can savor the authentic flavors of this region while experiencing the fusion of gastronomy and tradition.



OFFERS AND CURRENT PACKAGES

If you're searching for an ideal getaway, the *Aquastar Danube Hotel* in Kladovo offers exclusive packages that blend luxurious lodging, exquisite dining, and wellness experiences along the Danube.

Moreover, the *Aquastar Maxim* boat cruise provides an opportunity to discover the Iron Gate Gorge from a stunning perspective — on the water. Experience breathtaking views of the magnificent Danube and the surrounding historical sites.

A CRUISING JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER: THREE-DAY PACKAGE

NATIONAL PARK ĐERDAP AND IRON GATE GORGE. BELGRADE, SMEDEREVO, RAM, GOLUBAC, LEPENSKI VIR, AND TRAJAN'S PLAQUE (TABULA TRAIANA)

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS (BY BOAT AND BY BUS)

DEPARTURE DATES FOR THE 2025 SEASON

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AVGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
16 th	20 th 27 th	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd	5 th , 19 th , 26 th	3 rd

DAY 1: Belgrade—Smederevo—Ram—Veliko Gradište—Golubac—Iron Gate Gorge—Donji Milanovac—Tekija—Kladovo (240 km): Passengers meet at the Belgrade pier (Karadžorđeva Street, next to Branko's Bridge) at 07:15am for check-in and boarding. The cruise departs from the Belgrade Fortress towards Kladovo, passing the Smederevo Fortress and the entrance of the Morava River into the Danube, and then continuing by the medieval Ram Fortress in the section where the Danube is widest in Serbia. The journey includes views of Srebrno jezero and Veliko Gradište. As you approach the Golubac Fortress, the cruise enters Đerdap National Park, known as the Iron Gates. Cruise through Europe's longest and deepest gorge, showcasing the beauty of the Danube. This area's unique flora and fauna reflect one of the continent's oldest settlements — Lepenski Vir. Next, the cruise continues past Donji Milanovac and into the most exciting part of Iron Gate Gorge — Kazan Gorge, passing by the statue of the last Dacian king Decebalus and the site where Roman Emperor Trajan made his mark on the rock, called Trajan's Plaque (Tabula Traiana). The arrival in Tekija occurs after around 9.5 hours of cruising, followed by a brief bus transfer to Kladovo and check-in at the Aquastar Danube hotel. Dinner and an overnight stay are part of the package.

DAY 2: Kladovo: Breakfast. Enjoy free time for spa activities (pools, sauna, etc.) or participate in an optional excursion.

EXCURSION 1: Kladovo—Archaeological Museum— Roman fortification Diana—Hydroelectric Power Plant Đerdap—Trajan’s Bridge—Kladovo (3.5 hours). Begin your journey at the Đerdap Archaeological Museum, showcasing significant artifacts from various cultures spanning the prehistoric, Roman, and medieval eras along the Danube. Afterwards, visit the Roman fortification Diana briefly, then explore the Đerdap Hydroelectric Power Plant. Completed in 1974, this was Europe’s most significant project that year, fundamentally changing the Danube’s course and impacting local communities and historical landmarks. Next, discover the remnants of Trajan’s Bridge, which was the world’s largest bridge for over 1,000 years after its completion. Constructed by Roman Emperor Trajan in the early 2nd century to cross the Danube and subjugate the Dacian tribes, it stands as a stunning testament to engineering excellence. The excursion wraps up at the hotel with a snack and local wine tasting. **Minimum number of people required for realization: 15 adults.**

EXCURSION 2: Kladovo—Vratna—Rajac Wine Cellars—Kladovo. Upon arriving in the village of Vratna, we will explore Europe’s three tallest natural stone bridges, situated above the river of the same name. Close to this stunning natural feature is the Vratna Monastery, which is believed to have originated in the 14th century. As we proceed through Negotin, we reach the village of Rajac, where we’ll visit the Rajac Wine Cellars. According to official reports, this complex comprises over 160 interconnected structures set into the ground, designed explicitly for wine production and storage. This wine-producing area is celebrated for its outstanding quality wines. After our tour comes wine tasting and lunch in Rajac Wine Celles, followed by dinner at the hotel and an overnight stay. **Minimum number of people required for realization: 15 adults.**

DAY 3: Kladovo—Lepenski Vir—Kapetan Mišin Breg —Golubac Fortress—Belgrade (240 km) Breakfast. Departure by bus at 09:30 AM. The bus ride along the Danube includes a photo stop at a viewpoint overlooking the Kazan. Upon arrival at the archaeological site of Lepenski Vir, one of the oldest urban settlements in Europe and the world, visitors will experience the most outstanding achievement of the Mesolithic culture, dating back to around 6500 BC. After the tour, there will be a lunch break at the Kapetan Mišin Breg ethnic restaurant. As the journey continues, a stop will be made to visit the Golubac Fortress, initially built in the mid-14th century. This fortress, which has been destroyed, rebuilt, and expanded multiple times, historically served as a border fortification among Serbia, Hungary, and Turkey. The planned arrival time in Belgrade is in the evening.

ACCOMMODATION IN A DOUBLE ROOM	ACCOMMODATION IN A SINGLE ROOM	CHILDREN AGED 0-7	CHILDREN AGED 7-12
€275 PER PERSON	€50 SURCHARGE	FIRST CHILD STAYS FREE. SECOND CHILD PRICE - 50%	50% DISCOUNT

The price includes:

- A cruise from Belgrade to Tekija on the first day;
- Bus transfers (from Tekija to Kladovo on the first day and from Tekija to Belgrade on the last day);
- Breakfast and lunch served on board during the cruise;
- Half-board accommodation at the Aquastar Danube Hotel (buffet dinner and breakfast);
- Access to the hotel's SPA and Wellness center, which features a pool, sauna, jacuzzi, steam bath, massage chairs, and fitness room;
- Lunch provided on the return journey on the third day;
- Entrance tickets for Lepenski Vir and Golubac Fortress;
- Services of both the tour guide and local guides;
- Costs associated with travel organization.

Not included in the price:

- Beverages consumed during the cruise and at the hotel;
- An optional excursion on the second day (requires a minimum of 15 registered passengers):
Excursion 1 (Archaeological Tour): €30 per person, children up to 7 years go FREE of charge, children aged 7-12 years €15.
Excursion 2 (Vratna and Rajac): €45 per person, children up to 7 years go FREE of charge, children aged 7-12 years €25.
- Payments for optional excursions should be made at the hotel reception.
- Tourist taxes and guest insurance on the boat and in the hotel (adults: 90 RSD per person per day, children aged 7-15 years: 50 RSD per person per day);
- Additional individual expenses for passengers (mini bar, hand massages, laundry, and ironing services, etc.).

Note:

The program is subject to changes and amendments in case of unforeseen circumstances.

The program may change slightly by the start of the tourist season.

The expected duration of the cruise from Belgrade to Tekija depends on the cruising conditions.

The Aquastar Maxim boat, built in 2014, is 28 meters long and 7 meters wide. It can accommodate up to 70 passengers in the modern salon area, which is equipped with a bar, a large high-resolution LCD monitor, and a contemporary sound system. There are lounge chairs on the upper sun deck, perfect for sunbathing. Lunch is served buffet-style. The boat's technical specifications enable smooth sailing in accordance with the planned program and cruising times.

SPA WEEKEND BREAK

FRIDAY-SUNDAY – €230 for 2 persons in a standard room.

A great choice for couples and families seeking a shorter yet fulfilling vacation filled with enjoyment of the SPA amenities and activities.

This package includes:

- Accommodation in a standard room on a half-board basis (breakfast and dinner).
- Unlimited access to the SPA & Wellness center, featuring an indoor pool, seasonal outdoor pool, sauna, steam bath, jacuzzi, massage chairs, and fitness center.
- An outdoor children's playground that is safe and suitable for small children.
- Two children up to 7 years old sharing a bed with their parents stay for FREE.
- Free parking and Wi-Fi.

Additional services for an extra charge:

- Mini bar, hand massages, laundry, and ironing services.
- Room service and optional excursions.
- Bicycle rental for exploring the surroundings.

Notes:

- Meals are served buffet-style. If there are fewer guests in the hotel, meals will be provided as a set menu.
- Smoking and pets are not permitted in hotel rooms.

Tourist tax and insurance are not included in the price:

- Adults: 90 RSD per person per day, children aged 7-15 years: 50 RSD per person per day, children aged 0-6 years: FREE.

Children's Rates and Extra Charges:

- Accompanied by two adults, two children up to 7 years stay for free;
- Children aged 7 to 12 years pay 50% of the package price;
- Children over 12 years old pay full price.

A 50% surcharge applies to the rate for a single room. Surcharge for a studio or family room: €20 per day. Surcharge for a luxury suite: €30 per day.

Valid for stays from April 1 to September 30, 2025 (excluding religious and state holidays).

WELLNESS RETREAT PACKAGE

6 days / 5 nights: €245 per person in a double room (*any day of the week*)

8 days / 7 nights: €322 per person in a double room

Special offer (Sunday—Friday): 6 days / 5 nights: €215 per person

For those seeking a longer vacation that includes comprehensive wellness and recreational activities.

This package includes:

- Accommodation in a standard double room (double or twin) on a half-board basis — hearty breakfast and dinner;
- Unlimited access to the SPA & Wellness center, featuring an indoor pool and seasonal outdoor pool, sauna, steam bath, jacuzzi, massage chairs, and fitness center;
- One-time bike rental to explore the area (2 hours);
- Outdoor children's playground, safe and suitable for small children;
- FREE stay for two children up to 7 years old sharing a bed with parents;
- Free parking and Wi-Fi;
- A complimentary city tour for guests staying 7 nights or more.

Additional Information:

- Meals are served buffet style. If fewer than 10 guests are staying at the hotel, meals will follow a set menu.
- Smoking and pets are not allowed in hotel rooms.
- The city tour takes place on Wednesdays, although the schedule may change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Additional services available for an extra fee include the mini bar, hand massages, laundry and ironing services, room service, optional excursions, and bicycle rentals.

Tourist tax and insurance are not included in the price:

- Adults: 90 RSD per person per day, children aged 7-15 years: 50 RSD per person per day, children aged 0-6 years: FREE.

Children's Rates and Extra Charges:

- Accompanied by two adults, two children up to 7 years old stay for free, children aged 7 to 12 years pay 50% of the package price, children aged 12 and over pay full price.

A 50% surcharge applies to the rate for a single room. Surcharge for a studio or family room: €20 per day.
Surcharge for a luxury suite: €30 per day.

Valid for stays from April 1 to September 30, 2025 (excluding religious and state holidays).

UNFORGETTABLE CRUISE THROUGH THE IRON GATES GORGE

Regular trips during the season are scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays. The boat journey starts from the Tekija pier and takes you through stunning landscapes from Tekija to the Large Kazan.

During the cruise, you can enjoy:

- **Travel comfort** — The Aquastar Maxim boat features an indoor salon and a sun deck with lounge chairs, ideal for relaxation while enjoying panoramic views of the Iron Gate Gorge;
- **Notable sights** — The cruise includes views of Trajan's Plaque (Tabula Traiana), Small Kazan — the Danube's deepest section, the statue of King Decebalus carved into the rock, the Mraconia Monastery, and signal balloon stations;
- **Onboard bar** — Enjoy in refreshing drinks as the guide shares insights about the landmarks.

Price:

- **Adults:** 20 €
- **Children (ages 0-7):** Free;
- **Children (ages 7-12):** 10 €

This boat trip is the perfect addition to your vacation — enjoy the Danube's natural beauty and cultural landmarks!

Book your holiday and enhance it with a cruise through the Iron Gates Gorge, wellness activities, and enjoyment on the beautiful banks of the Danube.



How to Reach the Iron Gate Riviera?



By Car

The fastest and most flexible way to reach the Iron Gate Riviera is by car. From Belgrade, take the M24 highway via Smederevo, Požarevac, and Veliko Gradište, following the Danube all the way to Golubac, Donji Milanovac, and Kladovo. Arrival is also possible from other directions — from Niš via Zaječar and Negotin.




By Boat

For those who want a unique arrival experience, as part of the package tour "A Cruising Journey Through History Along the Danube River," it is possible to reach Tekija and Kladovo by boat from Belgrade. This route passes through the most beautiful parts of the Danube, including the Iron Gate Gorge, offering unforgettable views and guided tours along historical landmarks.



By Bus

There are regular bus lines connecting Belgrade to cities on the Iron Gate Riviera — Golubac, Donji Milanovac, and Kladovo. Additionally, transport is available from other major cities such as Novi Sad, Niš, and Kragujevac, making it easy to get to the area from different parts of Serbia.

A man with a full grey beard and a light-colored cap is sitting on a riverbank. He is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and has tattoos on his arms. He is looking directly at the camera. The background shows a river and a sunset sky with silhouettes of trees in the foreground.

*See you
on the coasts of the
Danube River!*

RECOMMENDED BY

Darko Perić

Let the charm of the Iron Gate Riviera be your next unforgettable journey

Beyond its wonderful amenities, landmarks, and destinations that truly highlight the magnificence of nature and rich history, your visit promises to be filled with unforgettable experiences at every turn. This exotic gem beautifully blends nature, culture, and tradition into one amazing adventure!

**Plan your stay today and discover
one of the most stunning destinations in the Balkans!**



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