

## *The Potomac Ski & Adventure Club*

*Presents*



### *The Danube Delta \* Bike & Barge Adventure*

**May 18 – 28, 2019**

**Price: \$1,940\* Land Only**

\* Air Fares Not Available yet. Land Portion Subject to Euro Adjustments

For those who "have seen everything, hiked or cycled everywhere" this experience will cap all the others! A combination of up-close immersion by boat and bicycle along the otherwise unreachable wonders of a major river delta --- where the majestic Danube flows into the Black Sea. An adventure not to be missed.

Cycle and sail the lagoons, lakes and reed islands of Romania's wildlife rich Danube Delta, one of Europe's last untouched corners of wilderness. In the company of Delta Cormorants and Great White Egrets, journey from the town of Tulcea to 'Mile 0' where the Danube empties into the Black Sea.

Exceeded only by the Great Barrier Reef and the Galapagos Archipelago, the Delta is the world's third largest region of biodiversity and is a sanctuary for over 300 species of birdlife. Guided by a local wildlife expert, this journey will uncover the flora, fauna and Romanian folklore of this vast UNESCO wetland.

This cycling trip by “hotel boat” leads one through the stunning beauty of Europe’s last natural paradise: Danube Delta to kilometer "0", where the mighty Danube River ends into the Black Sea. The tour winds through Romania’s Danube onto the second largest and best preserved of Europe’s deltas, traveling along canals with floating reed islands, lagoons and lakes.

The landscape alternates between gently rolling hills, swamp and prairie land and amazing with its diversity and beauty. Life in small fishing villages is tranquil, with the solitude and silence of the almost impenetrable thicket many times interrupted only by the calls of Dalmatian Pelicans, Cormorants and Egrets. Under our expert guides we’ll discover the fauna and flora of this landscape, which is also rich in ancient history. Enjoy Romanian hospitality and cuisine on board our floating hotel and in the cozy Guest House in the port city of *Tulcea*.

Our Tour will begin and end in Romania’s Capital city of **Bucharest**, with a 3-night extension.

#### What’s Included in the Trip:

- Round trip transfer from Bucharest to Boat’s Embarkation port
- 5-nights on hotel boat; 2-nights at a 4\* Guest House in Tulcea
- Breakfast; Lunch (box or picnic); and Dinner daily while on tour
- Bike Guide/Wildlife Guide
- Support Van and Boat
- Rental 21-speed hybrid bikes (No E-bikes available nor necessary)
- Maps & Informational material for biking

#### What’s NOT Included

- Air Fare; 3-night post-trip at 4\* hotel in Bucharest (TBD)
- Optional Side-trips or tours, nor additional Extensions
- Trip Insurance: Medical coverage required; Trip Cancellation encouraged

- Price Indicated is for Double Occupancy. VERY limited # of Singles
- Total of 10 Cabins Available for a maximum of 20 Participants Permitted on the Boat
- Land portion subject to Euro exchange rate of \$1.20. Increases will adjust price

**Mail Deposit of:** \$300 with Registration Form to:

**Trip Leader:** [Frank Peñaranda](#) (301) 593-6472. To register, download [Registration Form](#).

**Please scroll down to view additional information and Images**

**[Blue Ridge Ski Council \(BRSC\) Member.](#)**

PSAC is a member of the BRSC, and as such, any member of a BRSC club is entitled to the same privileges as a PSAC member.



## General Information

**Boat & Cabins:** The “Floating Hotel” consists of a main boat with 10 cabins, sun deck and restaurant, pulled by a motor “tug”. Additionally, there is an accompanying boat that transports the cyclists through the narrowest canals of the delta and brings them back to the main ship, as well as a raft with a platform especially for the bicycles.

The cozy cabins are approx. 9 m<sup>2</sup>, equipped with separate beds, shower and toilet plus two screened windows that can be opened, as the cabins are not air conditioned. However, the evenings and nights by the water are cool so you can enjoy your sleep.

**Biking Terrain and degree of difficulty:** Bike paths will vary in terrain and surface throughout our daily excursions. There will be some gravel and sandy stretches, requiring good biking skills, but the overall daily distances are in the 25-40 km range. Some stretches are done by boat or bus, but in cases of fatigue, there’ll be a support van available to carry bikers to our next destination. Moreover, there is always the option to remain on board the boat and just cruise along.



**What to Visit and See:** With our experienced local wildlife- and bike guides we’ll learn to recognize birds by their noise or in flight, discover rare plants and animals, learn about the life of the Delta residents and the incredible eventful past of this region, which fascinated the Romans, Greeks and Dacians.

**Lodgings & Food:** We’ll be lodged on a modern floating Hotel for most of our tour, and in a family run, comfortable 4\* guesthouse while in Tulcea. We’ll be served daily breakfast and a lunch picnic or pack while bicycling. The daily dinner meals will be traditional, consisting of fish, meat and vegetables. Some accommodations can be made for those with special dietary needs at additional cost.





## Daily Itinerary

### Day 1: Bucharest

Individual arrival at Bucharest/Airport with a 2 p.m. bus transfer (approx. 4 h) to the starting Point of Tulcea in the Danube Delta. On reaching the boat, we'll be greeted by the on-board crew and have time to socialize with our fellow cyclists over dinner that evening.

### Day 2: Nufaru – Sfantu Gheorge, approx. 31 km



In the morning we sail to Nufaru, then bike a route that follows the most southern Danube arm eastward, through the nature reserve of Bestepe Hills, to the small fishing village of Murighiol. There we'll rejoin the boat to explore Danube birdlife and wilderness through a maze of channels, floating islands, dense forests and a pure wilderness experience before reaching the Black Sea port of Sfanta Gheorge.

### Day 3: The journey to kilometer "0", approx. 25 km

Cycling a well-graded gravel track, our guide will lead us north to 'Mile 0' at Sulina, where the Danube empties into the Black Sea, with expanses of reed and marshland to our left and the Black Sea to our right. In the tranquil Danube Delta, Cormorants and Great White Egrets are our permanent companions. There is ample time to explore the wildlife and chat with the local fishermen along the way.

### Day 4: Gulf of Musura – Crisan, approx. 23 km

From the bird lovers paradise of Musara Bay we pedal to the timeless village of Letea, with its distinct white and blue washed reed houses. Today's route explores Romania's oldest nature reserve, Letea Forest, which has since been declared a world heritage site due to its distinct sub-tropical climate. The day ends with an afternoon cruise to the fishing village of Crisan, where the boat moors for the night.

### Day 5: The Fauna & Flora of the Danube Delta (day of rest)



This is a day off the bike as we sail into the heartland of the Delta to seek out the diverse flora and fauna. One of the largest expanses of reed beds in the world, the sedate waters of the Delta is a delight to explore. We'll cruise through a labyrinth of narrow waterways passing by small fishing villages and again experience the incredible diversity of the Fauna and Flora of the UNESCO World Heritage Danube Delta. If we're lucky we may encounter a rare sighting of a Black Stork or the blue beaked White Headed Duck. In the late afternoon the boat

leaves the tranquil waters of the Delta for Tulcea and the last night onboard the boat.

### ***Day 6: Monasteries of the Dobrogea, approx. 26 km***

Today we'll take a round trip through a gently undulating landscape to the orthodox monastery *Celic Dere*, the biggest convent of the Dobrogea territory. The beautiful monastery of *Saon* with its distinctive windmill is located amidst some of Romania's finest vineyards right on the bank of the Danube. From a ridge one has a fantastic view over the extensive and green floodplain directly off the border to the Ukraine. Then, back to Tulcea where we'll overnight at Tulcea guesthouse 4\*.



### ***Day 7: Lagoon-tour to the cape Dolosman, approx. 42 km***



After a short bus transfer to the town of Babadag, it's onto the bikes for a gentle ride to the medieval fortress of Enisala. Sitting high over the Danube, there are impressive views over Lagoon Razim. Beyond Razim is Lake Golvita, the two of which are separated by the Greek-Roman excavations of Argamum. In the late afternoon we'll return to the guesthouse in Tulcea for a Romanian farewell dinner.

### ***Day 8: Transfer Tulcea – Bucharest***

After breakfast a 9:00 a.m. bus transfer back to the Romanian capital of Bucharest, arriving at the Airport at approx. 2 p.m. Possibility of additional nights in Tulcea or Bucharest. Our Extension will be in Bucharest for 3-nights.

### ***Other Images***





