Vassar Travel Program
Educational Excursions for Alumnae/i, Family and Friends

Passage along the Danube River
Vienna to the Black Sea
aboard the Deluxe Amadeus Silver III

with Peter Stillman,
Professor Emeritus of Political Science,
and Adelaide Villmoare,
Professor Emerita of Political Science

October 13 to 25, 2018
Dear Vassar Travelers:

We hope you will join us, fellow alumnae/i, and friends for a cruise along nearly the entire length of the storied Danube River, which flows through more countries and capitals than any other European river. Over the past two millennia, the Danube has seen the passage of Roman legions, crusading knights, the Janissaries of the Ottomans, the Hussars of the Habsburgs, and the armies of the World Wars. A channel for commerce, culture, conflict, and conquest since its banks were first settled, the Danube links the heartlands of Central Europe with the nations of the Black Sea and the East. We will have many opportunities to discuss the history, cultures, and environmental issues of this important waterway as we travel from the Habsburgs’ imperial city of Vienna, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to the now turquoise Black Sea.

This exceptional travel program features seven countries and the enchanting Danube River Valley, a region steeped in natural beauty seldom visited by American travelers. Cruise for nine nights aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe AMADEUS SILVER III, launched in 2016, and spend two nights in Romania’s elegant capital, Bucharest, whose splendid architecture led to the city’s nickname of “Little Paris.” Rich mosaic of vibrant capitals, medieval cities, charming villages, rugged countryside, and centuries-old tales and traditions awaits you. Traverse Hungary’s fabled Puszta (plains), the relatively young countries of Serbia and Croatia, the spectacular Carpathian Mountains, the dramatic gorge of the Iron Gates dividing the Carpathian and Balkan Mountains, where no fewer than six languages are spoken, and the ancient lands of Bulgaria. Become immersed in the museums and architecture of Vienna. Enjoy a masterful display of traditional horsemanship in the Hungarian heartland. Experience the fascinating Slavic heritage of Belgrade. Deepen your understanding of the Danube River with our Pre-Program Option in the handsome imperial city of Vienna and the Post-Program Option in Transylvania, where medieval castles and local lore keep the legend of Dracula alive.

Please travel and explore with us on this fascinating trip. We look forward to meeting you on board.

Sincerely,

Adelaide H. Villmoare and Peter Stillman

Study Leaders

Peter Stillman is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Vassar College. He concentrated on political philosophy since 1500, including courses on utopia, terrorism, and neoliberalism. A founder of the Environmental Studies Program, he served as its second Director and taught many environmental studies courses. He received his BA and PhD from Yale. His continuing research, with Adelaide Villmoare, addresses democracy and recovery in post-Katrina New Orleans. Having retired from hockey a while ago, he now plays golf.

Adelaide H. Villmoare is Professor Emerita of Political Science at Vassar College. Her courses included the law and politics of death and dying, media and politics, and law, justice, and politics in the U.S. Involved with the American Studies and Exploring Transfer programs, she particularly enjoyed interdisciplinary teaching. She received her BA from Smith College and MA and PhD from New York University. Struggling to make the lightest tart dough, she delights in cooking for friends and is interested in culinary adventures.
The legendary Danube River and its venerable banks are a great symbol of the diverse cultures and epic narratives of Central Europe. Fifth-century philosopher Herodotus declared it “the greatest of all rivers which we know” when ancient Greeks traveled up from the Black Sea through the naturally carved Iron Gates, frontier of the Roman Empire. As the frontier changed hands among the Roman, Ottoman and Byzantine Empires, some of the world’s most enchanting capital cities arose along its riverbanks including Vienna, Bratislava, Belgrade and Budapest. The river served as a historical path traveled by European dynasties like the Wittelsbach and Habsburgs, and in 1854, Empress Elisabeth of Austria traversed its waters to visit her future husband, Emperor Franz Joseph, in Vienna.

Journey through the unparalleled natural beauty of the Carpathian Mountains, made even more enchanting by ambered, seasonal light and mysterious, medieval ruins. The river weaves through scenic, impressive landscapes, and from its unsurpassed allure emerged the Danube School, an expressive style of 16th-century German landscape painting. The wild beauty of the Danube valley influenced artists of this movement—its flora and fauna, flowing waters, fir trees, misty atmosphere and the terrain’s natural, fairy-tale glow—kindling inspiration for a great many paintings from this period.

In addition to fine art, the river remains inextricably linked to other forms of culture; its storied waters also inspired the famous melody of Johann Strauss II’s waltz “An der Schönen blauen Donau (The Blue Danube).” This captivating region of deep historical and cultural resonance is a seldom-visited jewel of Central and Eastern Europe, with a mystique that continues to intrigue and inspire musicians, writers, artists and travelers to come from all over the world.

**U.S./Vienna, Austria**
Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14
Depart the U.S. and arrive in Vienna. Embark the deluxe Amadeus Silver III and attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception and dinner this evening.

**Bratislava, Slovakia**
Monday, October 15
Dock in Slovakia’s capital in the foothills of the impressive Carpathian Mountain range.

Beautifully restored since the end of the Cold War, the city showcases 21st-century life amid its 1000-year-old history.

Enjoy a walking tour of the city’s Staré Mesto (Old Town); its medieval, Renaissance and 19th-century architecture is among the finest in central Europe. Visit the Romanesque 14th-century Cathedral of St. Martin and the elaborate Primatial Palace, and see St. Michael’s Gate, Bratislava’s oldest preserved medieval fortification, originally built in 1300.
Budapest, Hungary
Tuesday, October 16
Austrian-born, nevertheless the “most Hungarian Habsburg,” Archduke Joseph is credited with creating in Budapest an imperial capital that rivaled Vienna. The embankments of the centuries-old twin cities of Buda and Pest, facing each other across the Danube, and the famous Buda Castle Quarter are a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Begin your tour in Pest to see the iconic neo-Gothic limestone Parliament Building, built between 1884 and 1904 on the river’s banks. Pass through Heroes’ Square and admire the monuments honoring the Magyar chiefs who conquered Hungary in A.D. 896. Drive along elegant Andrassy Avenue and see the 19th-century, neo-Renaissance Hungarian State Opera House, one of the most beautiful performing arts venues in the world.

Cross the imposing Chain Bridge, linking river-level Pest to the hills of Buda on the opposite side of the Danube. On Castle Hill, visit the late-19th-century, neo-Romanesque Fisherman’s Bastion on Castle Hill and Gothic-style St. Matthias Church, where Charles I, the last Habsburgian ruler, was coronated in 1916.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Budapest.

Kalocsa
Wednesday, October 17
Enjoy a scenic drive across Hungary’s protected Puszta, one of Europe’s largest expanses of rolling grassland plains. Visit a customary horse farm to see a performance of authentic Hungarian horsemanship. Enjoy a traditional lunch in the farm’s restaurant.

In Kalocsa, famously known for its creation of intricately patterned, brightly hued Hungarian embroidery, visit the fascinating Folk Art House and Paprika Museum for further insight into regional culture and customs and the traditional methods of cultivating paprika, the spice that locals refer to as “red gold.”

Vukovar, Croatia / Novi Sad, Serbia
Thursday, October 18
Visit remarkably renewed Vukovar, “The Hero’s Town,” and see the 18th-century Eltz Manor, two Baroque gems—the Church of St. Nicholas and Church of Sts. Philip and James—and the iconic water tower.

Novi Sad, the capital of Serbia’s autonomous province of Vojvodina, is home to the 18th-century, hilltop Petrovaradin Fortress, the “Gibraltar on the Danube.” Enjoy a walking tour through the Old Town, Stari Grad, and see the city’s most beautiful buildings—the neo-Renaissance Town Hall and the neo-Gothic Name of Mary Church. Continue to quaint Sremski Karlovci and see the 19th-century Patriarchate Court and the Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas, with its two impressive bell towers. This Baroque village is acclaimed for its wine and honey production; savor these regional favorites with a tasting in the Zivanovic Wine Cellar and Museum of Beekeeping.

Belgrade
Friday, October 19
Belgrade traces its origins from the Stone Age, followed by Romans, Byzantines, Serbs, Turks and Austrians, each of whom left lasting impressions here. Enjoy a walking tour featuring historic Terazije Square and the iconic domed Temple of St. 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 Milonavac / Cruising through the Iron Gates  
Saturday, October 20
Steeped into the cliffs of the Danube, the dramatic Golubac Fortress is the guardian to the legendary Iron Gates, which were naturally carved by the Danube River in the course of its passage through the Transylvanian Alps.
Tour Lepenski Vir, home to an exceptional Paleolithic exhibit, offering insight into the oldest urban settlement in Europe and spectacular views of the Danube Gorge, which sprawls before you in dramatic, autumnal glory.
Later, enjoy cruising through some of southeastern Europe’s most picturesque scenery.

Svishtov, Bulgaria, for Arbanasi and Veliko Târnovo / Ruse  
Sunday, October 21
Dock in Svishtov and travel to the quiet, 12th-century hillside village of Arbanasi, where nearly 90 historical buildings are protected monuments.

The Patriarch’s Church of the Ascension, declared the “mother of all churches” by the Bulgarian Kingdom in 1235, crowns the medieval citadel of Târnovo.

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Meticulously crafted, the deluxe AMADEUS SILVER III, launched in 2016, sets new standards in ship design and technology and features the comforts of a refined and traditional hotel.

The 84 stylish 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 floor-to-ceiling window that can become a French balcony at the touch of a button. Accommodations have two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, sitting area and a private bathroom with shower. Most have a minibar.

The delightful restaurant offers scenic views through panoramic windows as well as continental cuisine 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, enjoy two bars, an open-air lounge, complimentary Wi-Fi, beauty salon, boutique, massage room, fitness studio and Sun Deck. An elevator serves all passenger decks except the Sun Deck. Laundry service is available. There is no doctor on board. The Amadeus fleet has been awarded the rare “Green Certificate” of environmental preservation.

Old Town to see the famous statue of the Roman poet Ovid in Ovidiu Square and the town’s stunning blend of architecture, including neo-Egyptian, classical and neo-Moorish styles. 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.

**Fetesti/Bucharest**

**Tuesday, October 23**

Disembark the ship in Fetesti and drive through the rolling Romanian campii (plains) to the multifaceted, historic city of Bucharest. Drive along this capital city’s grand boulevard and visit the Palace of Parliament, Europe’s largest administrative building, and the open-air National Village Museum, both testaments to Romania’s fascinating political and architectural history.

Check into the Five-Star ATHÉNÉE PALACE HILTON BUCHAREST, ideally located on Piata George Enescu, named after Romania’s most famous composer.

**Bucharest**

**Wednesday, October 24**

Visit the National Art Museum in the 19th-century Royal Palace, housing Romania’s finest collection of artistic treasures. The afternoon is at leisure; the Farewell Reception is in the hotel.

**Bucharest/U.S.**

**Thursday, October 25**

After breakfast, continue on the Castles of Transylvania Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your flight home.
Included Features

**On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Deluxe AmAdeus silver iii**

- Nine-night Danube River cruise from Vienna, Austria, to Fetești, Romania.
- Deluxe, river-view, air-conditioned Suite or Stateroom.
- All meals served aboard ship.
- Complimentary wine and beer served with lunch and dinner.
- Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Farewell Dinner.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship.
- Guided tour of Bratislava’s well-preserved medieval Staré Mesto (Old Town).
- Tour of Budapest, a UNESCO World Heritage site, including visits to the historic landmarks of Fisherman’s Bastion and the ornate St. Matthias Church.
- Excursion to the Hungarian Puszta (plains), for a demonstration of horsemanship and lunch at a traditional restaurant.
- Visit to Kalocsa, famous for its fine Hungarian embroidery, to tour its Folk Art House and Paprika Museum.
- City tour of Vukovar, featuring the 18th-century Eltz Manor, two Baroque churches and the water tower.
- Excursion to Novi Sad for a walking tour of its Stari Grad and to Sremski Karlovci to see the Patriarchate Court and the Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas.
- Guided tour of the well-preserved medieval Staré Mesto (Old Town).
- Two nights in the Five-Star Athénée Palais Hilton, with breakfast each morning.
- Farewell Reception in the hotel.
- City tour to visit the Palace of Parliament, Europe’s largest administrative building.
- Tour of the National Village Museum, a fascinating and comprehensive outdoor collection of Romania’s rural architecture.
- Visit to the National Art Museum, housed in the 19th-century Royal Palace.

### 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.
- City tour to visit the Palace of Parliament, Europe’s largest administrative building.
- Tour of the open-air National Village Museum, a fascinating and comprehensive outdoor collection of Romania’s rural architecture.
- Visit to the National Art Museum, housed in 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 hotels and aboard the 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.
In 1762, six-year-old Mozart performed for Empress Maria Theresa in the Habsburgs’ exquisite Schönbrunn Palace.

**Imperial Vienna**

Pre-Program Option

The former seat of the Habsburg Empire and one of Europe’s most beautiful cities and vibrant cultural centers, Vienna showcases an open-air museum of splendid Baroque architecture in its historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Drive along the famous Ringstrasse to see this remarkable city’s most important landmarks and visit the iconic, Gothic-style Stephansdom (St. Stephen’s Cathedral). Learn more about the Austrian Empire in the Habsburgs’ summer estate at Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Spend two nights in the Five-Star InterContinental Wien.

**Castles of Transylvania**

Post-Program Option

Enjoy mysterious 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 of grand medieval castles with soaring spires where the mythical Gothic narrative of Count Dracula is kept alive through local storytelling. Tour the elegant, 19th-century fairy-tale Peleş Castle, arguably the most beautiful castle in all of Europe, and the imposing, 14th-century Bran Castle, commonly known as “Dracula’s Castle” and once the beloved Queen Marie’s summer residence. Visit the Gothic Black Church in Brasov, the town where the fabled children of Hamelin, Germany, surfaced after the Pied Piper lured them underground, and tour the UNESCO World Heritage medieval town of Sighisoara, the birthplace of Vlad Tepes (Dracula). Spend two nights in the ideally located, deluxe Aro Palace in Brasov and one night in the Five-Star Athenée Palace Hilton Bucharest.

Pre-Program and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Commissioned by Romania’s longest-serving monarch in 1873, the stunning Peleş Castle is one of Europe’s best-preserved palaces.
The stunning Peleş Castle is one of Europe's best-preserved palaces. Commissioned by Romania's longest-serving monarch in 1873, Mozart Deck

PASSAGE ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER RESERVATION FORM

Send to: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446
(312) 609-1140

Title  Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)  Class Year

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)
City  State  Zip Code

Telephone: (Home)  (Mobile)
Email Address  (Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)  Tour No. 127-10/13/18-172

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person. Imperial Vienna Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Castles of Transylvania Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

☐ Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $______ as deposit.

Make checks payable to 2018 Passage along the Danube River.

☐ I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $______ to:

☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

Card Number  Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by July 10, 2018.

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Each Participant Must Sign:

Signature  Date

∗Taxes are an additional $130 per person and are subject to change.
‡This vessel is registered in Malta under the flag of Malta.

Land/Cruise Tariff

Per person, based on double occupancy

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Early Booking</th>
<th>Early Booking</th>
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<td>CATEGORY 1</td>
<td>March 29, 2018</td>
<td>March 29, 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stateroom with window. Haydn Deck, aft. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$4495</td>
<td>$4995</td>
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<td>Stateroom with window. Haydn Deck, midship and forward.</td>
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<td>$5995</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to create a</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>French balcony; minibar. Strauss Deck, aft.</td>
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<td>Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to create a</td>
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<td>Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to create a</td>
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<td>French balcony; minibar. Mozart Deck, aft and midship.</td>
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<td>Suites</td>
<td>Junior suite with private balcony (sliding glass doors with railing), large</td>
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<td></td>
<td>sitting area with minibar. Mozart Deck, aft and midship.</td>
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Singles are available in category 5 at $7995* and in category 2 at $10395* on or before March 29, 2018. Add $1000 for reservations made after March 29, 2018.

Send to:  Thomas P. Gohagan & Company  209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500  Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446  (312) 609-1140
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT 

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CANCELLATION: For any reason, including uncontrollable factors, if the participant is required to spend an additional night(s), the participant will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to take any participant or to remove any participant from a trip without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to the person, property, safety or security of any vessel, aircraft, employees, or to Gohagan and who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line. Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and shall not be liable for any such changes. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. If in the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

REGISTRATION: Not included in any package price is trip cancellation insurance. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. If in the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

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