

OPTIONAL TRIP

12 October 2025

Our day has a single leading character: the Danube — the river that simply links histories, towns and people on both banks. We'll get to know it up close: from the coach, from the bridge and, most of all, from the deck of a local boat. The route is straightforward and flows just as naturally: **Bucharest – Giurgiu – Ruse – cruise – Tutrakan (Turtucaia)** – and back to Bucharest.

We **depart at 09:00** from the **Marshal Garden Hotel** and make a short stop in Giurgiu. There, we meet our friends in the city and visit the Masonic Temple, a building raised with heart by the local community. It's the perfect moment to connect with the idea of links and continuity before we cross the Friendship Bridge to Ruse.

Once in Ruse, we board the **Ruschuk boat** for a two-hour cruise. The vessel has an indoor lounge and an open deck — ideal for views and photographs. The crew are ready to share stories about the area, and the pace is relaxed, holiday-like. The route is truly scenic: we glide past Ruse's riverside promenade, slip under the Friendship Bridge and venture downstream towards a quieter stretch of the Danube, depending on water levels and traffic. This is where it becomes clear why the river is rightly called the backbone of the region. It has long bridged the economies and cultures on both shores.

After the cruise we continue by coach to Tutrakan (or Turtucaia, as we know it). The town proudly stands on the site of the Roman fort of Transmarisca, part of the Danube limes that once protected the Empire's frontier. Even today, the Bulgarian shore — including the Tutrakan section — is on the UNESCO Tentative List, underlining the site's historical importance. Modern history is just as compelling: an important First World War battle took place here in September 1916 between Romanian and German forces, and the military memorial near the town soberly honours those who fell on both sides.

Before dinner we make a short stop at the **Museum of Fishing and Boatbuilding** in Tutrakan. Here we see how tools and techniques evolved on the Lower Danube and discover the local craft of wooden boatbuilding. It's a brief visit, but it helps us see the town differently: not only as a strategic point on the map, but as a community that has always lived "from the river" and "with the river".

The evening is dedicated to a hearty local dinner at **Hanul Dalboka**. We enjoy a warm atmosphere in a natural setting, with a folk programme performed by a local ensemble. The menu is simple and tasty, and the mood is friendly, never fussy. At around 21:00 we say our goodbyes and head back to Bucharest on the same route.

We end a day with the Danube as our beacon. It has guided us from a lively Temple in Giurgiu to the port of Ruse, from a boat deck to Tutrakan's Roman history, from fishermen's stories to a delicious meal. One river, two countries, one coherent experience — simple, well-planned and easy to share.

Dress code: **Casual**

Contact person: Mr. Teodor Calimanescu

Tel: +40 722 507.657

E-mail: reservations@ordinulmark.ro

