

Mark & Judy's "Behind The Iron Curtain" Tour 2019
Part 2: Game of Thrones in Bulgaria



Today we dock in Vidin, Bulgaria.
As you can see, they still use the Cyrillic alphabet here.



Our destination: the Medieval "Baba Vida" Fortress guarding the Danube River.



It was surrounded by a moat (aren't all forts?) with water from the Danube, which runs just beyond the other side of that wall with the Bulgarian flag.



The fortress is incredibly well preserved. The original structure dates from the 12th - 13th centuries, and was expanded over the years.



With walls up to 20 feet thick, reportedly the fortress was never breached. It was only defeated once, by a prolonged siege.



A highly strategic location between rival Empires, the fortress did change hands many times over the centuries, depending who was in charge of the country—be it Romans, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Ottomans.



In olden times there would have been a wooden drawbridge; now it's stone.



Welcome to our fort!
Won't you come in?
No booties required,
but please wipe your feet
before entering!

And—please check your sword
at the door!



Oh! I see you've met Boris! He's our.... gardener, yes.... our gardener....
....also, our Chief Torture Officer and Executioner....



This is one of our "special" VIP Guest Rooms!



Hmmm.... I wonder if there's a way to get up **there**....



Yes!

But it wasn't easy—there's a rocky ramp inside, but the stones are polished smooth by centuries of use and were quite slick. Luckily, there was a hand rail.



Sir Mark, Commander of the Knight's Watch....



and 'neath the courtyard below,
the Fairest, the Wisest, the
Fearsome but Benevolent:

Queen Judy Of Del-a-Ware!



Betcha my cannons are bigger than yours!



My favorite Medieval pin-up girl
lighting up the Dark Ages



But now it's time to return to the present day and back to the riverboat.



We wash off the dust of the ages and continue our never-ending quest to:
Live For Vacay!