

Danube Explorer & Highlights of Budapest Emerald Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Overview

- Bringing you closer to the local culture on the banks of the Danube River with an extended stay in magnificent Budapest you'll visit five countries and five stunning UNESCO World-heritage listed sites on this breathtaking itinerary through the heartland of central Europe.
- Immersive experiences and local delights define this once-in-a-lifetime journey as you experience the traditional entertainment, regional cuisine, and century-spanning history of this vast and dynamic region.
- Explore timeless architecture, historic landmarks, and thriving cultural forces.

Map From Emerald Waterways



Your Cruise Includes:

- 7 nights on board an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- Airport transfers to and from the ship
- The services of an Emerald Cruises Cruise Director
- Port taxes and charges
- All tipping and gratuities

Included Excursions

- Culinary tour of Budapest with Grand Market visit
- Walking tour of Bratislava
- Guided tour of Vienna
- Guided tour of Melk Abbey

EmeraldPLUS

- Bavarian brunch
- Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board
- Local Slovakian entertainment on board
- Guided tour of Český Krumlov

EmeraldACTIVE

- Hike to Buda Hill
- Guided hike to Bratislava Castle
- Bike tour in Vienna
- Guided bike tour along the Danube River
- Hike to Veste Oberhaus

Dining Highlights

- 19 superb meals including 7 Breakfasts (B), 5 Lunches (L), 7 Dinners (D)
- Including a Welcome and Farewell Reception & Dinner
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner on board

Day 1 Budapest

- Welcome to the 'Pearl of the Danube'. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the contemporary surrounds of your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship, where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to welcome you.
- This evening, join your fellow guests for a traditional Hungarian folklore show.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board
- Please book your flight to arrive into Budapest prior to 05:00 PM.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner

Day 2 Budapest

Welcome to Budapest, where an amazing end to a fantastic trip awaits.

Explore the city's cobbled medieval quarter today, as you embark on a coach tour through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city center.

Your guide will teach you about the Hungarian capital's culinary scene and the tour will finish at the neo-Gothic Grand Market, Budapest's largest and most expansive indoor market, where you'll have time to explore on your own.

If you are feeling more active, you can instead choose to hike to Buda Hill. The surrounding area has been rebuilt several times, most recently following the air raids of WWII. Some 18th-century Baroque houses still stand, best explored from the medieval paths and alleyways in the area around Buda Castle.

Day 2 Budapest Excursions

EmeraldPLUS

Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board

EmeraldACTIVE

Hike to Buda Hill

Included Excursion

Culinary tour of Budapest with Grand Market visit

DiscoverMORE

Hungarian Bath Experience (extra expense)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Buda Castle Budapest

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Great Market Budapest

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Inside the Great Market Budapest



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Inside the Great Market Budapest



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Fisherman's Bastion Budapest

Photo Anne Schrader
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Gothic Matthias Church Budapest



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Gothic Matthias Church Budapest



Day 3 - Budapest

- Today, we invite you to a special dinner and a traditional folklore show for a truly immersive local experience, presenting you with a great chance to get to know your fellow travelers and to spend the evening in town just like the locals do.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Dinner & folklore show in Budapest
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Retro tour of post-Communist Budapest (extra expense)
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Jewish heritage tour (extra expense, please note not available on Saturday)
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Budapest by Night (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 - Budapest

- On our last morning in Budapest, enjoy a leisurely walk in the town or use one of the onboard bikes for one last ride through the Hungarian capital.
- In the afternoon, our ship sets sail on the magnificent Danube River onto our next destination – Slovakia.
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Excursion to Szentendre (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Bratislava

- Relax on board as we sail into the capital of Slovakia this morning.
- This graceful nation of leafy avenues became an independent country in 1993, and since then, has flourished as a new capital and made a name for itself as a cultural center.
- The romantic cobblestone lanes that weave through the city are yours to explore with your local guide, as you enjoy a walking tour of the ancient town center, including the Slovak National Theatre and a range of Gothic and Art Nouveau buildings
- .Alternatively, embark on a guided hike to Bratislava Castle, a landmark steeped in legend, that looks as though it has been plucked from the pages of a fairytale. This striking building has been rebuilt several times, most recently in a Renaissance style.
- Tonight, enjoy some local Slovakian entertainment on board.

Day 5 Bratislava Excursions

- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Local Slovakian entertainment on board
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided hike to Bratislava Castle
- **Included Excursion**
- Walking tour of Bratislava
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Skoda tour of post-Communist Bratislava (extra expense)
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Carpathian Wine Route (extra expense)

- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hike to Bratislava Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Town Hall Bratislava

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Michael's Gate

This gate is the only remaining gate from the walled city of Bratislava

Photo Anne Schrader
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St Martin's Cathedral Bratislava



Primacial Palace Bratislava



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Slovak National Theater Bratislava

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 - Vienna

- Sweeping boulevards and world-famous art exhibitions welcome you to Vienna, the birthplace of revolutionary breakthroughs in the fields of music and psychology.
- The city perfectly encapsulates the opulence of the Habsburg Monarchy and their ornate Baroque palaces, some of which you will be able to see during your guided coach tour of the Ringstrasse, followed by a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city center and its surrounding classical architectural styles, evidence of the melting pot of artistic influences that existed here at the turn of the 20th century.
- If you are feeling more active, then perhaps choose to explore on two wheels, cycling along the river to the Danube Island.

Day 6 Vienna Excursions

- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Bike tour in Vienna
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Vienna
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Exclusive Viennese evening concert (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Habsburg Palace Vienna

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



St.
Stephens
Cathedral
Vienna



Day 7 - Weissenkirchen – Melk

- Effortlessly suspended in time, Weissenkirchen is one of the most frequented parts of the Wachau wine region, where the delightful warm weather creates the perfect setting for viticulture.
- Today, join your Activity Manager for a hike in town before you set sail to Melk.
- Later, sail through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Valley and arrive in Melk, where you'll enjoy a guided tour of Melk Abbey.
- Originally a lavish castle gifted to Benedictine monks during the 11th century, this opulent Baroque building is home to some of the most important collections of medieval manuscripts.

Day 7 Excursions

- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour along the Danube River
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Hike in Weissenkirchen with activity manager
- **Included Excursion**
- Tour of Melk Abbey
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Visit to Schallaburg Castle (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hinterhaus Castle Ruins Wachau Valley

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Aggstein Castle Ruins Wachau Valley

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Wachau Valley

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Wachau Valley

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Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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Spitz Wachau Valley

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Schonbuhl Castle Wachau Valley

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Melk Abbey

Melk

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 8 - Linz – Český Krumlov

- This morning, your Star-Ship will dock in Linz, and you will be transferred by coach to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed centre of Český Krumlov, a town built around a 13th century castle.
- Join your local guide on a walk along the labyrinth of winding cobblestone streets, passing the colorful façades of buildings, as you learn about how they have survived the test of time.
- The town surrounds the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Český Krumlov Castle, and your guided tour will include the 15th-century St. Vitus Church and a number of delightful Gothic façades.

Day 8 Shore Excursions

- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Guided tour of Český Krumlov
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Linzer torte making workshop (extra expense, not available on all departures)
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Excursion to Salzburg (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Dinner

Cesky Krumlov

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Cesky Krumlov



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Salzburg Austria

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Salzburg Austria



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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Day 9 - Passau

- Narrow cobblestone streets and the aroma of freshly baked gingerbread welcome you to Passau, a town nestled on the confluence of three of Europe's main waterways.
- This important historic trading center borders Austria and boasts a distinctive blend of cultures.
- Experience a typical Bavarian farm for some interesting insights into the life of local farmers and livestock farming, then try their homemade specialties.
- Alternatively, you can set off on a hike, catching sights such as the Mariahilf and St. Severin, an ancient church dating back to the Ottonian dynasty

Day 9 Shore Excursions

- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Hike to Veste Oberhaus
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Bavarian brunch
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Bavaria Live (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Passau, where three rivers meet—the Inn, the Ilz and the Danube



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Passau

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



The Veste Oberhaus Passau

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



St. Stephen's Cathedral Passau

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



St. Stephen's
Cathedral Passau.
Its organ has 17,947
pipes.

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 10 - Passau

- After breakfast, it's time to disembark the Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of Europe's iconic skylines with you.
- Please book your flight to depart out of Munich after 01:00 PM.
- This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast

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