

Treasures of the Danube Emerald Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Map from Emerald Waterways



Cruise Overview

- A classic journey on the Rhine, Main, and Danube rivers promises spectacular landscapes, rich culture, and fascinating history, where world-class cities are complemented by romantic towns.
- 14 nights on board an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- 1 night in a hotel in Bucharest
- Airport transfers to and from the ship
- The services of an Emerald Cruises Cruise Director
- Port taxes and charges
- All tipping and gratuities

Day 1 Bucharest

- Welcome to Bucharest, where you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel, perfectly situated in the city, for your overnight stay.
- Nicknamed the 'Paris of the East', the centre of Bucharest encapsulates a distinctive Parisian atmosphere, with wide avenues adorned by famous landmarks and quaint leafy boulevards that cross the city.

Day 2 Bucharest--Giurgui

- After enjoying the plush surrounds of your hotel this morning, you'll have the opportunity to learn about some of Bucharest's most iconic attractions during a guided drive around the city, including a visit to the Spring Palace.
- Then, you'll have time to explore the leafy boulevards at your leisure.
- After your insightful tour, you'll be transferred from Bucharest to Giurgiu, on the banks of the Danube, where a warm welcome from your captain and crew awaits on board your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- **Included Excursion**
Guided drive through Bucharest with a visit to the Spring Palace
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Dinner

Palace of the Parliament (Spring Palace)

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 3 Rousse—Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi

- Today, you'll have the opportunity to learn about Bulgarian history, as you explore the former capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire with your local guide.
- On your included tour, you'll have the chance to traverse its cobbled streets and observe its impressive medieval fortifications.
- Afterwards, you'll be taken to neighboring Arbanasi, situated overlooking the Yantra River, a tributary of the Danube that is known for its many scenic gorges.
- Explore the past with your local guide, as your tour visits a number of traditional houses and ancient churches.
- If you would prefer to do something more active, then instead, you could choose to embark on a guided hike to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, known for their famous 14th-century frescoes.
- Tonight, you'll have the chance to mingle with your fellow guests while enjoying the welcome reception and dinner.

Day 3 Excursions

- **EmeraldPLUS**
Choir concert in Arbanasi
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided hike to Ivanovo Church
- **Included Excursion**
Tour of Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi
- **DiscoverMORE**
Paint and Wine class (extra expense)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Vidin

- Viticulture forms the heart of life in the most western town in Bulgaria, where sun-kissed vineyards pepper the banks of the Danube and winemaking has prospered for generations.
- Your included tour of Vidin will introduce you to a peaceful side of life that revolves around wine, as you weave through a local vineyard and learn about their produce, before enjoying a tasting session.
- Afterwards, your local guide will take you to Baba Vida, a fortress that was originally constructed at the turn of the 10th century and is known for being one of only a handful of beautifully preserved castles in the country.
- If you're feeling more active, you can instead choose to embark on a guided hike to Belogradchik Fortress, located on the northern slopes of the Balkan Mountains.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided hike to Belogradchik Fortress
- **Included Excursion**
Visit to a local vineyard with wine tasting & a visit to Baba Vida Fortress
- **DiscoverMORE**
Traditional Bulgarian pastry making (extra expense)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Baba Vida Castle, Vidin, Bulgaria



Baba Vida Castle, Vidin Bulgaria



More of Baba Vida Castle

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One of the keep towers of Baba Vida Castle



Statue of Baba Vida outside the castle



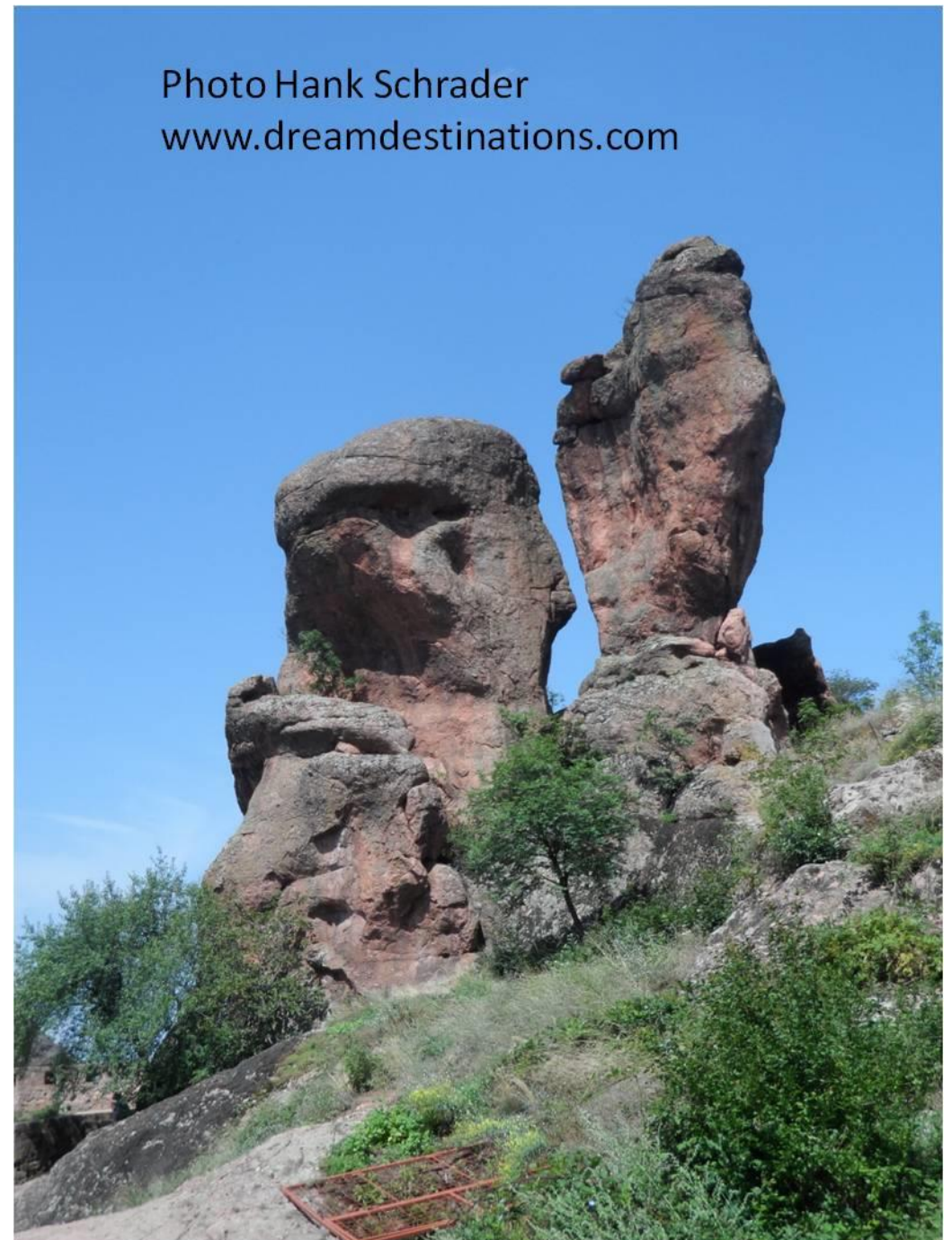
Photo Hank Schrader
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Play about the history of the Baba Vida Castle



Photo Hank Schrader
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Belogradchik
Rock Formations
EmeraldACTIVE
Hike to
Belogradchik
Fortress



More Belogradchik rocks

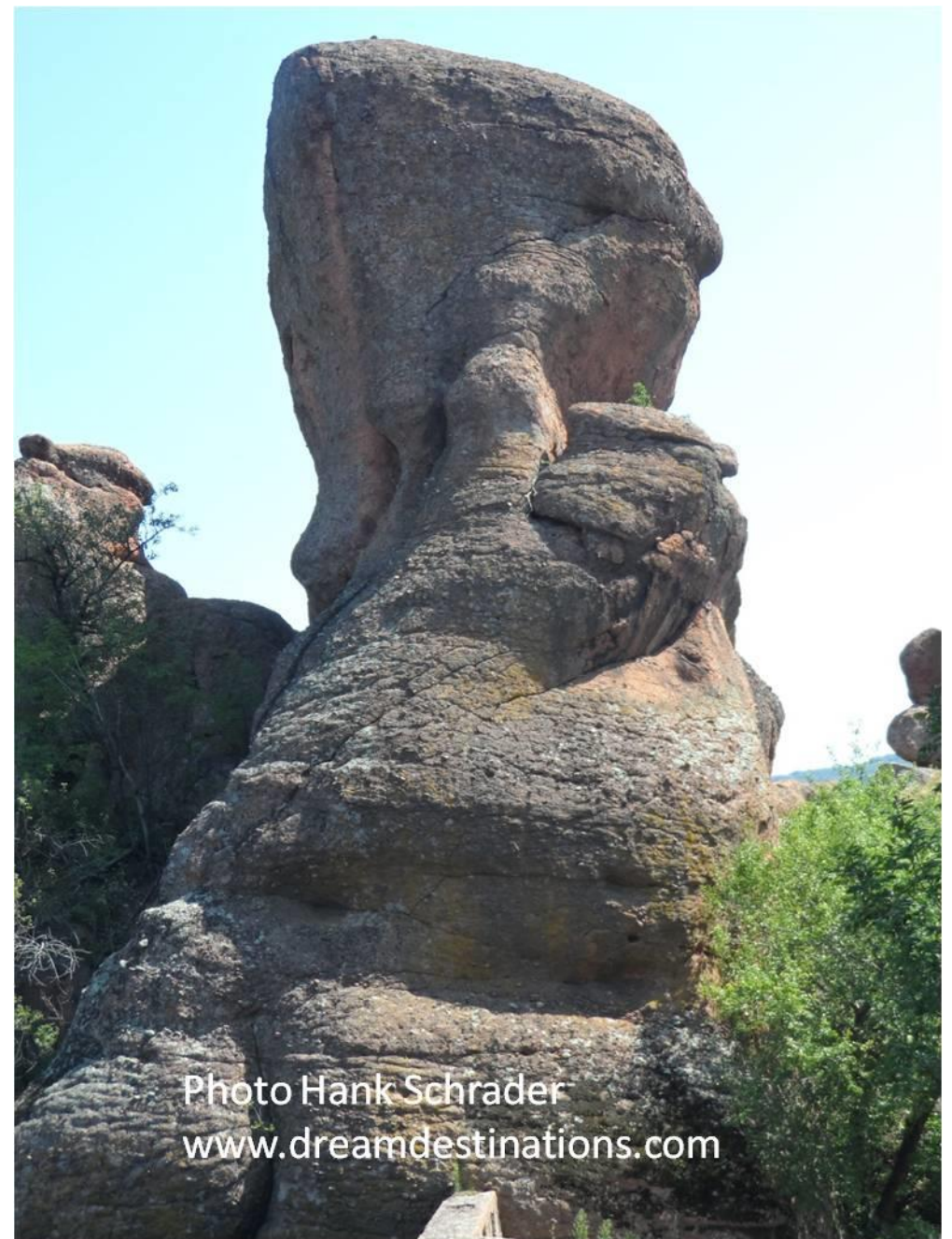


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More exposed Belogradchik rocks

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Belogradchik Fortress built among the rocks



Photo Hank Schrader
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More of the Belogradchik fortress



Photo Hank Schrader
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A passage gate of the Belogradchik Fortress



Photo Hank Schrader
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Day 5 Donji Milanovac--Golubac

- This morning, relax on board and admire your surroundings as we sail along the mighty Danube to Donji Milanovac, where a visit to the Lepenski Vir archaeological site, one of Europe's best-hidden gems, awaits.
- Located right on the riverbanks, the Palaeolithic site is one of the most important of its kind on the continent, effortlessly capturing more than eight millennia of history.
- Archaeologists from around the world have used this site to learn about a number of different Stone Age settlements and the way that prehistoric cultures moved across Europe.
- **Included Excursion**
Visit to Lepenski Vir archaeological site and museum
- **DiscoverMORE**
Golubac Castle Visit (extra expense)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



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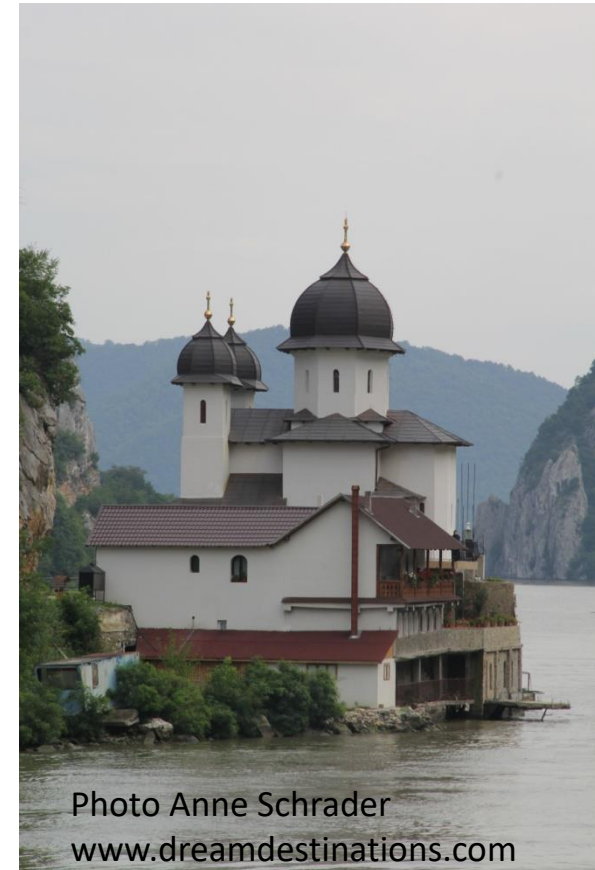


Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 Belgrade

- Serbia's vibrant capital is yours to explore today. Your local guide will take you on a coach tour through the heart of the city, highlighting its many landmarks and the iconic Belgrade Fortress.
- The coach will pass through the center, where you'll notice reminders of the country's turbulent history, set amongst the quiet and peaceful streets.
- Witness the ornate beauty of the Church of Saint Sava, one of the largest religious buildings in Europe, before stopping for a tour of the Museum of Yugoslavia.
- If you're feeling more active, then you may instead choose to learn about Belgrade's history during a guided bike tour.
- This evening, you will be invited to the Horizon Lounge where a traditional Serbian folklore show will provide spectacular entertainment.

Day 6 Excursions

- **EmeraldPLUS**
Serbian folklore evening show on board
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided bike tour in Belgrade
- **Included Excursion**
Guided tour of Belgrade
- **DiscoverMORE**
Routes of Nikola Tesla (extra expense)
- **DiscoverMORE**
National Opera Theatre (extra expense)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Belgrade Serbia



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St Sava Cathedral

Parliament



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Belgrade, Serbia

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St. Sava Statue
Belgrade,
Serbia

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Belgrade, Serbia



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DiscoverMORE
National
Opera
Theatre tour
(extra
expense)



Day 7 Vulkovar--Osijek

- Today, you will have the opportunity to explore one of Croatia's postcard-worthy historic university towns, full of delightful waterfront promenades and quaint cobbled streets.
- Embark on a guided walk around Osijek Fortress, a true icon in the romantic Old Town, before a truly unforgettable EmeraldPLUS experience, as you're invited into the home of a local family for a traditional Croatian lunch.
- Enjoy an evening of sailing further up the Danube towards Hungary.,
- **EmeraldPLUS**
Home-hosted lunch with a Croatian family
- **Included Excursion**
Guided walking tour of Osijek Fortress
- **DiscoverMORE**
Vucedol Culture Museum (extra expense)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Kalocsa

- In the morning, we will sail to Kalocsa, a place known for its paprika production and colorful festivals.
- Discovering Hungary's culture is an easy task in Kalocsa, where traditional folk art can be found around every corner and old traditions pave the way for daily life.
- Later, you will venture to the Puszta, or Great Hungarian Plain, to visit a traditional Puszta horse farm.
- Your guide will teach you about the traditional performances of the Magyar cowboys, and you'll have the opportunity to witness some of their exceptional equestrian skills first-hand as they showcase some of their exercise drills.
- This evening, enjoy an authentic Hungarian folklore show on board, followed by a traditional dinner.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
Puszta Equestrian Heritage
- **EmeraldPLUS**
Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 Budapest

- Today enjoy your leisure day and continue exploring the magnificent city of Budapest.
This evening, enjoy an authentic Hungarian folklore show on board, followed by a traditional dinner.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
A traditional Hungarian folklore show
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 Budapest

- Architecture from across the centuries shines a light on the history of the Hungarian capital.
- Originally two separate cities, Buda to the west and Pest to the east offer incredibly different views on the culture of one of the liveliest cities in Eastern Europe.
- Today, you'll have the opportunity to explore the city during a guided tour, including Heroes' Square and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Andrassy Avenue and Buda Castle District.
- Alternatively, enjoy a hike to Gellert Hill for a postcard-worthy panorama view of the Danube banks.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Hike to Gellert Hill
- **Included Excursion**
Guided coach tour of Budapest
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Buda Castle Budapest

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Fisherman's Bastion Budapest

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Gothic Matthias Church Budapest



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Gothic Matthias Church Budapest



Day 11 Bratislava

- This morning, relax on board as we sail to Bratislava.
- An ancient landscape awaits, where remarkable towers add to a skyline that perfectly encapsulates the history of the city, and preserved medieval fortifications tell tales of a turbulent past.
- Your local guide will take you through the heart of the city, as you soak in the sights of the lavish Episcopal Summer Palace and the neo-Renaissance façade of the Slovak National Theatre.
- If you're feeling more active, you could instead choose to hike around the serene gardens of Bratislava Castle, which provides the perfect setting for the Shakespeare festival that occurs during the summer months.
- This afternoon, you will be invited into the home of a local family to learn more about their traditions and culture over coffee and cake.

Day 11 Excursions

- **EmeraldPLUS**
Home-hosted coffee and cake with a local family
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
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)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hike to Bratislava Castle

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Old Town Hall Bratislava

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Michael's Gate

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



St Martin's Cathedral Bratislava



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Primacial Palace Bratislava



Photo Anne Schrader

www.dreamdestinations.com

Slovak National Theater Bratislava

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Day 12 Vienna

- Sweeping boulevards and world-famous art exhibitions welcome you to Vienna, a city which perfectly encapsulates the opulence of the Habsburg Monarchy and their ornate Baroque palaces.
- The Austrian capital is an art-lover's dream, and your guided tour will include a visit to the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the largest art museum in the country and one of the most important museums worldwide.
- If you're feeling more active, then you may opt to explore on two wheels instead, cycling along the riverbanks before touching on Danube Island and Prater, the famous Viennese amusement park, home to the traditional 19th-century Ferris wheel.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided bike tour in Vienna
- **Included Excursion**
Vienna art tour with a visit to the Kunsthistorisches Museum
- **DiscoverMORE**
Viennese evening concert (extra expense)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 Krems-- Dürnstein

- This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Göttweig Abbey, a true treasure overlooking the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Valley.
- Visible from great distance, it's one of Austria's most important Benedictine abbeys and attracts visitors from all over the world and provides epic panorama views.
- Afterwards, your Star-Ship will sail through the fascinating Wachau Valley, part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Cultural Landscape, and on to Dürnstein.
- Alternatively, embark on a guided bike tour from Krems to Dürnstein, passing terraced vineyards, castles and ruins along the way, before arriving where your Star-Ship is docked in Dürnstein.

Day 13 Krems-- Dürnstein

- In the afternoon we arrive in Dürnstein; a small town nestled in the heart of the Wachau wine region.
- You'll have the chance to hike to the medieval ruins of Dürnstein Castle, the site where King Richard I was held prisoner following his return from the Third Crusade, and part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Cultural Landscape, a place peppered with natural lookout points that highlight the beauty of the region.
- **Included Excursion**
Guided tour of Göttweig Abbey
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided hike to Dürnstein Castle
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided bike tour along the Danube
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Durnstein, Austria



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Durnstein from the Danube. The Blue Tower is part of Durnstein Abby

Ruins of Durnstein Castle where Richard the Lionhearted was held for ransom in 1192



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Durnstein

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Spitz Wachau Valley

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Wachau Valley

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Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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Wachau Valley

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Aggstein Castle Ruins Wachau Valley

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Hinterhaus Castle Ruins Wachau Valley

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Schonbuhl Castle Wachau Valley

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Day 14—Engelhartszell--Passau

- After a morning of sailing along the Danube, we will take you into the heart of Passau.
- Nicknamed the Dreiflüssestadt, meaning the ‘the city of three rivers’, it’s situated at the confluence of the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers.
- Your included guided tour of Passau will unveil its noteworthy Gothic and Baroque architecture.
- If you're feeling active, you could join a bike tour along the River Inn, one of the three rivers converging in Passau.
- After your tour, enjoy some free time to explore Passau at your leisure, before spending an evening sailing blissfully towards Regensburg.

Day 14 Excursions

- **Included Excursion**
Guided tour of Passau
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided bike tour along the River Inn
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Hike into town, Engelharstzell
- **DiscoverMORE**
Visit to Schuetz Museum Engelhartszell (extra expense)
- **DiscoverMORE**
Excursion to the Bavarian Forest (extra expense)
- Inclusions: 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

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St. Stephen's Cathedral Passau

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

Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 15 Regensburg

- This morning, we arrive in Regensburg, a city built on the site of an ancient Roman fort.
- Your guided walking tour of Regensburg will showcase its UNESCO World Heritage-listed medieval center, where narrow cobbled lanes and tall façades help to define the character of this enchanting Bavarian city.
- Alternatively, you could join a bike tour to the Walhalla monument, which towers high above the slopes of the Danube. From here, you can enjoy a fascinating view of the surrounding landscape and the river.
- This evening, enjoy a traditional Bavarian band performance on board.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
Traditional Bavarian band performance on board
- **EmeraldPLUS**
Walking tour of Regensburg with Bavarian sausage tasting
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
Guided bike tour to the Walhalla monument
- **DiscoverMORE**
Excursion to Nuremberg (extra expense)
- Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Regensburg Germany

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Walhalla Monument Bike Tour

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 16

- After breakfast, it's time to say farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of Roman architecture and the rich culture of the Danube River with you.
- Please book your flight to depart out of Munich after 12:45 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.
- Inclusions: Breakfast

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