



Cruise Details

Name:	Transylvania & Enchantment of Eastern Europe & Budapest Escape
Reference:	EMERALDECBT050526-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Astra
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	05 May 26
Departs From:	Bucharest
Arrives On:	19 May 26
Arrives At:	Budapest
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

Itinerary

Day 1: Bucharest (Romania)

When you arrive in Bucharest, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your perfectly situated hotel, including a one-night stay in Bucharest.

Arrives On: 05 May 26

Day 2: Bucharest (Romania)

After breakfast, your Transylvanian adventure will begin. You will board coaches to the town of Brasov, a harmonious mixture of traditional medieval charm and modern city life, located in the centre of Transylvania. On your way you will visit the world-famous Bran Castle, otherwise known as Dracula's Castle - the perfect setting for a vampire lord. Although there is no clear evidence that links Vlad the Impaler (Dracula) to Bran Castle, much of the myth surrounding Prince Vlad is true. Dracula ruled this extraordinarily beautiful place for a couple of decades in the 15th century. Rising above on a rocky hilltop, Bran Castle visit is sure to amaze with its remarkable architecture and

mystical history.

Included Excursion
Visit of Bran Castle en route to Brasov

Arrives On: 06 May 26

Day 2: Brasov (Romania)

Arrives On: 06 May 26

Day 3: Brasov (Romania)

Join us today in a city tour of Brasov and explore its rich multicultural past with a visit to the Museum of Urban Civilizations, highlighting the city's Saxon roots and historic urban identity. The largest Gothic church east of Vienna, Black Church, is part of this immersive experience as well.

Included Excursion
City tour of Brasov

DiscoverMORE
The UNESCO fortified Church Prejmer (extra expense)

Arrives On: 07 May 26

Day 4: Brasov (Romania)

While being in the heart of Transylvania, you may want to explore on own some downtime in Brasov, visiting the Old Town Square, wander through the narrow colourful streets, or hike up Mount Tampa.

DiscoverMORE
Sighisoara & Viscri Village (extra expense)

Arrives On: 08 May 26

Day 5: Brasov (Romania)

After breakfast, check out at the hotel and board coaches for a scenic drive back to Bucharest crossing south the Carpathian Mountains to reach Sinaia. Known as "Pearl of the Carpathians", it is also the home of one of Romania's most beautiful palaces - Peles Castle. This stunning building was built by the first King of Romania, Carol I of Hohenzollern – Sigmaringen, and used as summer residence. Inaugurated in 1883 the castle has 160 rooms with opulent decor and invaluable collections of art and furniture.

Included Excursion
Peles Castle visit with lunch

Arrives On: 09 May 26

Day 5: Bucharest (Romania)

Arrives On: 09 May 26

Day 6: Bucharest (Romania)

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

EmeraldPLUS
Choir concert

Arrives On: 10 May 26

Day 6: Giurgiu (Romania)

Arrives On: 10 May 26

Day 7: Ruse (Bulgaria)

Today, you'll have the opportunity to learn about Bulgarian history, as you explore the city that many call "The Little Vienna". Immerse yourself in the beauty of its Neo-Baroque and Neo-Rococo architecture and stroll along the charming promenade. 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.

Included Excursion
Walking tour of Rousse

EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike to Ivanovo Church

DiscoverMORE
Full day Tour of Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi (extra expense)

Arrives On: 11 May 26

Day 8: Vidin (Bulgaria)

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.

Included Excursion
Visit to a local vineyard with wine tasting & a visit to Baba Vida Fortress

EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike to

Belogradchik Fortress

DiscoverMORE

Traditional Bulgarian pastry making (extra expense)

Arrives On: 12 May 26

Day 9: Donji Milanovac (Serbia)

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)

Arrives On: 13 May 26

Day 9: Golubac (Serbia)

Arrives On: 13 May 26

Day 10: Belgrade (Serbia)

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. The coach will pass through the centre, 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.

Included Excursion

Highlights of Belgrade

EmeraldPLUS

Serbian folklore evening show on board

EmeraldACTIVE

Guided bike tour in Belgrade

DiscoverMORE

Routes of Nikola Tesla (extra expense)

Arrives On: 14 May 26

Day 11: Vukovar (Croatia)

<p><p>Today, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a truly unforgettable EmeraldPLUS experience, as you're invited into the home of a local family for a traditional Croatian lunch.
Enjoy an afternoon of sailing further up the Danube towards Hungary, before joining your fellow passengers for a farewell dinner.</p></p><p>EmeraldPLUS
Home-hosted lunch with a Croatian family</p><p>DiscoverMORE
Vucedol Culture Museum (extra expense, please note this tour is not available on Mondays due to the Museums closure and will be replaced with Baranja wine region with tasting).</p>

Arrives On: 15 May 26

Day 12: Ordas (Hungary)

<p><p>In the morning, 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.</p></p><p>EmeraldPLUS
Puszta Equestrian Heritage</p><p>EmeraldPLUS
Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board</p>

Arrives On: 16 May 26

Day 13: Budapest (Hungary)

<p><p>Today you will be transferred to your centrally located accommodation in Budapest, where a two-night stay in the city is certain to delight. Upon arrival you will embark on an guided coach tour through the boasting capital of Hungary, view the Chain Bridge that connect the Buda to the Pest side and glimpse upon Budapest's trademark - the Parliament.</p></p><p>Included Excursion
A guided coach tour of Budapest</p>

Arrives On: 17 May 26

Day 14: Budapest (Hungary)

<p><p>Today, the storied capital of Budapest is yours to explore at leisure, perhaps crossing the Chain Bridge to see how the city differs in Buda and Pest or stopping to try some delightful Hungarian treats.</p></p>

Arrives On: 18 May 26

Day 15: Budapest (Hungary)

<p><p>After breakfast, it is time to bid farewell to your fellow passengers as you leave your accommodation for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of a home-hosted Croatian experience and the ornamented Buda Castle district with you.</p></p><p><p>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.</p></p>

Arrives On: 19 May 26

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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