



## Cruise Details

Name:	Danube Explorer & Budapest
Reference:	EMERALDECPN080427-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Dawn
Regions:	Danube
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Departs On:	08 Apr 27
Departs From:	Budapest
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Arrives On:	17 Apr 27
Arrives At:	Passau
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Cruise Nights:	9
Total Vacation Days:	10

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

Welcome to Hungary and the 'Pearl of the Danube,' Budapest. You'll be met at the airport and then transferred to the stylish surrounds of your Emerald Star-Ship, where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to welcome you on board. Please book your flight to arrive into Budapest prior to 05:00 PM.

Arrives On: 08 Apr 27

### Day 2: Budapest (Hungary)

Budapest is Eastern Europe's liveliest and most cosmopolitan city. The Hungarian capital is divided by the iconic Danube River, with Buda and Pest on either side. They can be reached via the Chain Bridge, one of the city's most symbolic structures. Included Excursion  
Budapest tour with Grand Market visit  
Explore Budapest's cobbled medieval quarter today on a coach tour through the World Heritage-listed city centre. 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.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board  
This evening, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, join your fellow guests to enjoy a traditional Hungarian folklore show performed on board your Emerald Star-Ship.

**EmeraldACTIVE**  
Hike to Gellert Hill  
Strap on your walking shoes for a beautiful hike up to the World Heritage-listed site of Gellért Hill. On your walk, take in the stunning views of the Danube River and the city's architecture. You'll pass landmarks like Várkert Bazaar and beautifully landscaped gardens, making this an unforgettable experience in Budapest.

**DiscoverMORE**  
Etyek uncorked (extra expense)  
Just outside Budapest, Etyek is a tranquil wine region celebrated for its distinctive varieties. Wineries here mix old traditions with modern methods, and you'll stroll through picturesque vineyards before visiting a historic cellar to enjoy a tasting of six local wines and traditional pogácsa bread.  
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 3.5 hours

Arrives On: 09 Apr 27

### Day 3: Budapest (Hungary)

Spend another full day uncovering the charms of Budapest and the surrounding region.

**Included Excursion**  
Excursion to Szentendre  
Visit the picturesque village of Szentendre, where cobblestone streets evoke a Mediterranean atmosphere that has inspired many artists. Take a walking tour through the pedestrian city centre to admire the Baroque architecture, churches, colourful houses and narrow, cobbled streets. The main square, Fo Tér, and the alleyways around it are lined with art galleries, museums and shops.

**DiscoverMORE**  
Sisi and the Charm of Gödöllő with cake tasting (extra expense)  
Step into Hungary's royal past on a visit to Gödöllő, home to one of the country's most beautiful Baroque palaces. Once the favourite retreat of Emperor Franz Joseph and Empress Sisi, the palace offers a rare glimpse into the personal lives of the Habsburgs. End your visit with a delightful Hungarian cake tasting.  
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 4h

**DiscoverMORE**  
Jewish heritage tour (extra expense)  
On this thoughtful tour, your local guide will introduce you to some of the most significant Jewish events from history that have shaped Budapest's culture. You will see the buildings that once played important roles in the flourishing Jewish trade that existed prior to World War II. In Pest, the 'Shoes on the Danube' memorial stands as a striking reminder of what happened to the Jewish communities in Budapest during wartime.   
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours

**DiscoverMORE**  
Retro tour of post-Communist Budapest (extra expense)  
Explore Budapest in an original way with this unique driving tour in a Communist-style vehicle. This panoramic sightseeing tour of the city will show you important sites from its Communist past, like the House of Terror on Andrassy street, Hero Square,

Podmaniczky Street (where you can still see the World War II bullet holes in the walls), and St. Stephen's Basilica, before visiting the Retro Museum.   
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 2.5 hours

**DiscoverMORE**  
Budapest by night (extra expense)  
See how Budapest shines when the sun goes down. Take a moonlit tour along the Danube, crossing illuminated bridges and admiring the dazzling lights of the city. The majestic castle area on the hills of Buda is enchanting. Then visit the vibrant downtown area to witness some of the city's legendary nightlife.  
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 1.5 hours

Arrives On: 10 Apr 27

#### Day 4: Budapest (Hungary)

The southernmost town in Slovakia, Štúrovo, sits on the northern bank of the Danube and is connected to the Hungarian city of Esztergom on the other side by the Mária Valéria Bridge. Once the royal seat of Hungary, Esztergom is rich in history and religious heritage.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Tour of Esztergom Basilica and wine tasting  
Visit the monumental Esztergom Basilica, the largest church in Hungary, known for its vast dome and panoramic views over the Danube. Descend into the basilica's historic wine cellars for a tasting of wines traditionally produced and stored beneath this sacred site.

Arrives On: 11 Apr 27

#### Day 4: Štúrovo (Slovakia)

Arrives On: 11 Apr 27

#### Day 5: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Cruise into the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava, this morning. This graceful nation became an independent country in 1993, and since then, Bratislava has flourished as a new capital, making a name for itself as a cultural centre. Set at the crossroads of ancient trade routes in the heart of Europe, it is a place where Baroque palaces, boutiques and cafés adorn medieval cobblestone streets. At the same time, the complex history of Communism can be found in its Brutalist landmarks and military monuments.

**Included Excursion**  
Walking tour of Bratislava  
Enjoy a sightseeing tour, including the enchanting Old City or hike to Bratislava Castle. Your local guide will take you through the heart of the city. Pass by the botanical gardens of the Episcopal Summer Palace, the Old Town Hall and its delightful Renaissance courtyard and the Slovak National Theatre, where busts of famous composers adorn the façade. After your tour, enjoy free time to explore at leisure.

**EmeraldACTIVE**  
Guided hike to Bratislava

Castle  
This active excursion begins at the port of Bratislava, passing the monumental building of the Slovak National Theatre and continuing on to the extensive riverside promenade. Admire the Gothic St. Martin's Cathedral, the most famous sacral building in Bratislava, climb the hill to Bratislava Castle for panoramic views, see St Michael's Gate and walk through the main square.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Local Slovakian entertainment on board  
Relax on board in the Horizon Lounge as you listen to local saloon orchestra Afrodite, comprised of five women playing classical arrangements of pop music, evergreens, musical and movie melodies in traditional Slovakian dress.

**DiscoverMORE**  
Skoda tour of Post-Communist Bratislava (extra expense)  
On this truly insightful tour of Bratislava in a Skoda car, you'll learn about life during the Communist era through real personal stories from your guide and enjoy some local authentic refreshments from this time. This off-the-beaten-track tour brings alive the story of Bratislava in the turbulent 20th century.  
Activity level: Easy: Duration: 2 hours

**DiscoverMORE**  
Carpathian Wine route (extra expense)  
Explore the viticultural towns of the Small Carpathian Wine Route, including the vineyards of Vinosady and a family run winery in Senkvice. You'll learn about the proud heritage of winemaking and sample some local wines in a historic wine cellar.  
Activity level: Moderate, Duration 4hr 40min

Arrives On: 12 Apr 27

#### Day 6: Vienna (Austria)

Historic boulevards and imperial grandeur welcome you to Vienna, the magnificent Austrian capital. As the former residence of Mozart and Beethoven, a multitude of imperial palaces represent a rich history, and the museum district boasts contemporary buildings, housing the work of some of the world's most prolific artists.

**Included Excursion**  
Guided tour of Vienna  
Explore the famous sights of the Ringstrasse and Vienna's city centre by coach and on foot, or join a guided bike tour. Marvel at the Renaissance-style arches that adorn the façades of the Opera House, the Baroque Burgtheater and the Flemish Gothic Parliament before enjoying time to explore Vienna at leisure.

**EmeraldACTIVE**  
Guided bike tour of Vienna  
Embark on a guided bike tour of Vienna to Danube Island. Your guide will talk about why Vienna is the most liveable city in the world and share personal stories, introducing you to a different side of the city. This is an opportunity to visit places other travellers won't see and experience the authentic Vienna.

**DiscoverMORE**  
Visit to Schönbrunn Palace (extra expense)  
Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the Habsburg Empire, is considered one of the most beautiful Baroque palaces in Europe. Today, it is a recognised World Heritage-listed site due to its historic importance, unique grounds and splendid furnishings. Follow a local expert and hear the fascinating tales of the intriguing former residents.  
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 5

hours

**DiscoverMORE**

Exclusive Viennese evening concert (extra expense)  
With Mozart, Beethoven, Strauss and Schubert among its historical repertoire, Vienna is the world capital of opera and classical music. Enjoy an exclusive evening concert at one of Vienna's most beautiful concert halls, with favourites such as the 'Blue Danube Waltz' and the Radetzky March. A complimentary glass of sparkling wine on arrival adds to the unforgettable occasion.

Activity level: Easy, Duration: 2.5 hours

Arrives On: 13 Apr 27

### Day 7: Melk (Austria)

Dock in Spitz, a charming wine village known for its beautiful vineyards, medieval architecture and ornate churches. The surrounding vines produce world-famous Grüner Veltliner and riesling. Later, continue to Melk. Situated within Austria's famed Wachau Valley, the county's premier wine-growing region, Melk is home to a 900-year-old World Heritage-listed Benedictine abbey. A charming and compact port, it's filled with flower-lined laneways, colourful buildings and sprawling green spaces.

**EmeraldACTIVE**

Guided hike in Spitz  
Join an active hike through the tranquil village of Spitz, surrounded by steeply terraced vineyards that have been shaped by centuries of winemaking in the Wachau Valley.

**Included Excursion**

Tour of Melk Abbey  
Explore this ancient abbey today on an included tour. Your guide will take you through a series of opulent rooms, each adorned with the finest Italian Baroque architecture and ornate gold leaf walls, including the ancient monastic library, renowned for its extensive collection of medieval manuscripts.

**EmeraldACTIVE**

Guided bike tour along the Danube River  
Enjoy an active guided bike ride along the Danube from Spitz to Melk, passing famous vineyards and quaint towns before settling down for a picnic on the riverbanks. E-bikes will take you smoothly along the 30km route through picturesque surroundings, including a relaxing break for a refreshing drink along the way.

**DiscoverMORE**

Visit to Schallaburg Castle  
Schallaburg Castle is a typical Central European countryside manor, whose construction began 1,000 years ago. European history has left its mark on this historical site, which is among the most beautiful Renaissance castles in central Europe. Your tour will offer insight into its changing purposes from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Afterwards, try your hand at long-bow archery on the Renaissance-era shooting range and enjoy freshly baked pastries.

Activity level: Medium, Duration: 2.5 hours

Arrives On: 14 Apr 27

### Day 8: Linz (Austria)

Dock in the town of Linz this morning. Though the city has a history that dates back more than 1,000 years, it's considered the country's centre of innovation and technology. Striking public

art installations, cutting-edge galleries and an ever-evolving cultural scene make Linz one of Europe's most vibrant destinations.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Guided tour of Český Krumlov  
Set out on a full-day excursion to the World Heritage-listed town of Český Krumlov. This quaint Czech town has one of the best-preserved ancient centres in Europe, with more than 300 protected medieval buildings and an iconic castle complex. Enjoy a guided tour of the area, including the 15th-century St. Vitus' Church and a series of delightful Gothic façades, each taking you back to the Middle Ages.

**DiscoverMORE**  
Excursion to Salzburg (extra expense)  
The birthplace of Mozart and the picturesque setting for theatrical masterpiece, The Sound of Music, Salzburg has a unique charm. On this full day excursion, you'll explore its historic downtown district as well as the Linzer Gasse, a popular shopping street. Afterwards, enjoy some free time in the city.  
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 10 hours

**DiscoverMORE**  
Excursion to Mauthausen Concentration Camp (extra expense)  
Discover the history of one of Nazi Germany's largest concentration camps on a guided tour. Learn about the events that took place at Mauthausen as well as its significance in World War II. You'll see the camp's remnants, including the barracks and the stone quarry, which played a central role during its operation.  
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 3.5 hours

Arrives On: 15 Apr 27

#### Day 8: Cesky Krumlov (Czech Republic)

Arrives On: 15 Apr 27

#### Day 9: Passau (Germany)

Narrow cobblestone streets, graceful arcades and the aroma of freshly baked gingerbread, a local delicacy, welcome you to Passau. This picturesque city has been shaped by the surrounding rivers over the years, sitting at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz. This memorable destination is dominated by large squares, magical promenades and romantic lanes.

**Included Excursion**  
Bavarian beer experience  
Learn about the rich German tradition of brewing and the local folklore that shaped the region's beer culture. Hear how the techniques have been passed down through generations and the role beer plays in local festivals and celebrations. Enjoy a tasting of a regional beer and discover the flavours that make it unique to the area.

**EmeraldACTIVE**  
Hike to Veste Oberhaus  
Set off on a guided hike around Passau, catching sights of the Mariahilf, a place of pilgrimage at St. Severin, an ancient church dating back to the Ottonian Dynasty. Follow the trail to the Veste Oberhaus, a 13th-century fortress that's one of Europe's largest preserved castle complexes offering spectacular views.

**DiscoverMORE**  
Bavarian Countryside

Experience (additional expense)  
Gain a fascinating insight into the life of local Bavarian farmers during a visit to a working farm. Afterwards, enjoy a tasting of their fresh produce and gourmet specialties, like cheese, cold meats, bread and beer.  
Activity level: Moderate,  
Duration: 3 hours

Arrives On: 16 Apr 27

#### Day 10: Passau (Germany)

This morning after breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Emerald Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, leaving with cherished memories of a wealth of Europe's iconic sights and cultural treasures.

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.

Arrives On: 17 Apr 27

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

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