Cruise Details

Name:	Danube Explorer & Budapest
Reference:	EMERALDECPN170727-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Astra
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	17 Jul 27
Departs From:	Budapest
Arrives On:	26 Jul 27
Arrives At:	Passau
Cruise Nights:	9
Total Vacation Days:	10

Itinerary

Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. 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: 17 Jul 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 pogacsa bread.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 3.5 hours

Arrives On: 18 Jul 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 Gödöllö with cake tasting (extra expense)
Step into Hungary’s royal past on a visit to Gödöllö, 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
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: 19 Jul 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: 20 Jul 27

Day 4: Štúrovo (Slovakia)

Arrives On: 20 Jul 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: 21 Jul 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: 22 Jul 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: 23 Jul 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 Ceský Krumlov
Set out on a full-day excursion to the World Heritage-listed town of Ceský 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: 24 Jul 27

Day 8: Cesky Krumlov (Czech Republic)

Arrives On: 24 Jul 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.

Arrives On: 25 Jul 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 for your return flight to the UK, 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: 26 Jul 27

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

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