Cruise Details

Name:	Enchantment of Eastern Europe & Istanbul
Reference:	EMERALDEWBI050627-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Dawn
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	05 Jun 27
Departs From:	Budapest
Arrives On:	16 Jun 27
Arrives At:	Istanbul
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

Welcome to Budapest, where you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship to be greeted by your friendly captain and crew.
This afternoon, enjoy plenty of free time to explore Eastern Europe's liveliest city at your leisure. The 'Pearl on the Danube' is a truly breathtaking sight, where dozens of lights adorn the stone bridges that cross the mighty Danube, separating both sides of the city. This evening, enjoy an authentic Hungarian folklore show on board, followed by a traditional dinner. EmeraldPLUS
Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board Please book your flight to arrive into Budapest prior to 05:00 PM.

Arrives On: 05 Jun 27

Day 2: Kalocsa (Hungary)

This morning, we'll reach Kalocsa, best known for its vibrant paprika festivals. You'll venture to the Puszta, or Great Hungarian Plain, for a traditional performance showcasing the exceptional equestrian skills of the Magyar cowboys. Sit back and enjoy the show, as you watch their spectacular horse parade and witness their exercise drills. Tonight, you'll have plenty of opportunities to relax and meet your fellow guests during the welcome dinner & reception. EmeraldPLUS
Puszta Equestrian Heritage

Arrives On: 06 Jun 27

Day 3: Vukovar (Croatia)

This morning,you will get to learn more about Croatia and the daily life of locals, Our EmeraldPLUS excursion will bring you to the home of a Croatian family to share a typical meal from the area while getting to know the local culture and customs. EmeraldPLUS
Home-hosted lunch with a Croatian family DiscoverMORE
Vucedol Culture Museum (extra epense)

Arrives On: 07 Jun 27

Day 4: Belgrade (Serbia)

The capital of Serbia awaits you today, as a city tour introduces you to the highlights of one of Europe's oldest cities. Relax as your coach takes you through the centre of this peaceful city and witness the symmetrical façade of the Church of Saint Sava, one of the world's largest church buildings. Stop for a tour of the Museum of Yugoslavia or learn about the history of Belgrade during a guided bike tour of the city.
This evening, relax in the Horizon Lounge with a traditional Serbian folklore show providing 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: 08 Jun 27

Day 5: Donji Milanovac (Serbia)

Arrives On: 09 Jun 27

Day 5: Golubac (Serbia)

In eastern Serbia, within the Majdanpek municipality, the town of Donji Milanovac sits on the right bank of the Danube. Today, you'll have the opportunity to visit the Palaeolithic site of Lepenski Vir on an included excursion. Enjoy learning about the importance of this archaeological site and its illustrious history, spanning more than 8 millennia. The day ends as we sail through the Iron Gates, a picturesque narrow gorge that meanders between the Carpathian Mountains and the European Alps. Included Excursion
Visit to Lepenski Vir archaeological site and museum DiscoverMORE
Golubac Castle visit (extra expense)

Arrives On: 09 Jun 27

Day 6: Vidin (Bulgaria)

This morning, we'll arrive in Vidin, a beautiful town in north-west Bulgaria, renowned for its wine production. Your included tour will introduce you to the best of Vidin's viticulture, as you stroll through a local vineyard and enjoy a tasting session of their produce.
Later, venture to Baba Vida, a medieval fortress whose name can be translated to mean 'Granny Vida'. Alternatively, hike to Belogradchik Fortress, a well-preserved stronghold that sits against a series of impressive rock formations. 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: 10 Jun 27

Day 7: Ruse (Bulgaria)

Today, your Star-Ship will cruise into Rousse, where you will have the opportunity to explore the timeless charm of its elegant architecture and cultural heritage of the city that many call "The Little Vienna".
Alternatively, embark on a guided hike to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, a complex of churches, chapels, and monasteries. Tonight, your crew will welcome you on board for a farewell dinner. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Rousse EmeraldPLUS
Choir performance EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike to Ivanovo Church DiscoverMORE
Full day tour of Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanassi (extra expense)

Arrives On: 11 Jun 27

Day 8: Giurgiu (Romania)

This morning, relax and enjoy the passing scenery as we drive towards Bucharest, including the Romanian city of Giurgiu, set amongst the mud flats and marshes of the Danube. Visit the Spring Palace and the private residence of Nicolae Ceausescu, before enjoying free time to explore the city at leisure. Learn about Bucharest's vibrant history on a guided coach tour, passing by the Palace of Parliament.
This evening, settle into the comfortable surrounds of your hotel before you consider going for a stroll down one of the wide avenues or leafy boulevards that give Bucharest a distinctly French feel. Included Excursion
Guided drive through Bucharest with a visit to the Spring Palace

Arrives On: 12 Jun 27

Day 8: Bucharest (Romania)

Arrives On: 12 Jun 27

Day 9: Bucharest (Romania)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Istanbul, one of the most important and inspiringly beautiful cities of the world history. You will be met at the airport in Istanbul and taken to your centrally-located hotel, with a three-night stay included in your itinerary.

Arrives On: 13 Jun 27

Day 9: Istanbul (Turkey)

Arrives On: 13 Jun 27

Day 10: Istanbul (Turkey)

Today, you will explore some of the Istanbul's highlights – such as the famed Hippodrome Square which was once the sporting and social center of Constantinople that hosted the chariot races until the Middle Ages. You will get to see the Blue Mosque, probably one of the most famed masterpieces of Ottoman religious architecture. Standing in great prestige with its six minarets and perfect proportioned dome, it is named after its Turquoise colored tiles made of quartz minerals. Ottoman Sultans preferred to pray in this timeless shrine due to its incomparable beauty until when the empire collapsed after the World War I. Afterwards, you will carry on to the Basilica of Saint Sophia, one of the largest Christian shrines ever built in history. Included Excursion
City tour of Istanbul DiscoverMORE
Topkapi & Harem section (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Whirling Dervishes Ceremony (extra expense)

Arrives On: 14 Jun 27

Day 11: Istanbul (Turkey)

We start the day with a tour of the Underground Cistern known by the locals as the Sunken Cistern. From there you will continue your exploration with the bustling atmosphere of the Spice Market, dating back to the 17th century, but still the most popular bazaar visited by locals to shop for fresh ingredients to spice up the dishes prepared in the kitchens of Istanbul. Afterwards, you will experience a very unique aspect of the city by boarding private boat for an unforgettable cruise on the waters of the Bosphorus. During your cruise on the famed strait running between the two continents, your guide will share with you all the legends and myths about the Bosphorus and its impressive mansions and palaces. As well as the scenery of the historical edifices, you will be overwhelmed by the skyline of Istanbul ornamented with domes and minarets of Byzantine and Ottoman cultures. Included Excursion
Bosphorus cruise & Spice market tour DiscoverMORE
Turkish Bath at Roxelana (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Street Food tour (extra expense)

Arrives On: 15 Jun 27

Day 12: Istanbul (Turkey)

After breakfast, bid farewell to your fellow guests as you are transferred to the airport for your onward or homebound flight. 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. Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 16 Jun 27

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

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