Cruise Details

Name:	Danube Capitals & Crossroads
Reference:	EMERALDEWSG240328-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Luna
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	24 Mar 28
Departs From:	Passau
Arrives On:	03 Apr 28
Arrives At:	Belgrade
Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Passau (Germany)

Upon your arrival in Munich, you will be greeted by one of our Emerald Cruise’s representatives and transferred to your contemporary Star-Ship in Passau, where a warm welcome awaits you from the captain and crew. This evening, join your fellow guests for dinner on board. Emerald Cruises transfers are only available for flights arriving into Munich prior to 02:00 PM.

Arrives On: 24 Mar 28

Day 2: Passau (Germany)

Your journey along the mighty Danube will start in the charming town of Passau, situated at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers. Known as the ‘City of Three Rivers’, Passau enchants visitors with its picturesque old town, elegant baroque architecture and riverside setting. A late departure tonight gives you more time to explore. Included

Excursion
Bavarian Beer Experience
Enjoy a unique Bavarian experience as you discover the 800-year-old history of beer and learn about the traditions, folklore and craftsmanship that have shaped the region’s brewing culture. Hear stories of how brewing has been passed down through generations EmeraldACTIVE
Hike to Veste Oberhaus
If you feel active, join a hike to Veste Oberhaus, one of the largest surviving castle complexes in Europe. Departing from the ship, you’ll cross a bridge over the Danube, giving a great view of the confluence of the three rivers. Continue on to the castle and its viewing platform, which has a stunning vista over the city and St Stephen’s Cathedral.

Arrives On: 25 Mar 28

Day 3: Linz (Austria)

This morning you'll arrive in vibrant Linz, Austria’s third-largest city. The expansive main square is located right by the Danube and is one of the largest in Central Europe. Its quaint Old Town has a relaxed and authentic feel, ideal for your guided walking tour, as you pass centuries-old architecture and discover the hidden gems of this spectacular city. Enjoy another late departure tonight. Included Excursion
Linz walking tour
Join us for an exciting walking tour of Linz, Austria’s UNESCO City of Media Arts, and discover the historic charm, colourful streets and cultural highlights of this beautiful Danube city. Afterwards, relax with a coffee and a tasting of the famous Linzer Torte, one of Europe’s most beloved desserts and a local speciality that has been enjoyed for centuries. Learn more about the history and traditions behind this iconic treat, named after the city where it was created. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Salzburg (extra expense)
The birthplace of Mozart and the picturesque setting for the theatrical masterpiece, The Sound of Music, Salzburg has a unique charm and is surrounded by the breathtaking Alps. Spend a full day exploring this Austrian city, wandering its historic downtown district, exploring the Linzer Gasse shopping street and visiting the home of Mozart.
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 WWII. 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: 26 Mar 28

Day 4: Spitz (Austria)

Relax as you cruise along the Danube River through the breathtaking Wachau Valley, a World Heritage landscape renowned for its rolling vineyards, terraced hills and picturesque riverside villages. Admire the beauty of the region as you pass apricot orchards and vine-covered

slopes that produce some of Austria’s finest wines. Discover Spitz an der Donau, a charming wine-growing town nestled among the vineyards, where centuries-old traditions, stunning scenery and the flavours of the Wachau come together. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Spitz
Enjoy a guided walking tour of Spitz an der Donau and uncover the town’s fascinating connection to the river that has shaped its history and traditions. Visit the Schifffahrtsmuseum Spitz, where historic exhibits bring to life the importance of navigation, shipping and daily life along the Danube. Learn how generations of local communities relied on the river for trade, transport and cultural exchange, gaining a deeper insight into the heritage of this remarkable region. EmeraldPLUS
Vineyard Stories of Wachau
Stroll between vine-covered slopes and picture-book villages in Austria’s Wachau Valley, where centuries of winemaking tradition shape the landscape. You can hear local stories, learn how the region’s wines are crafted and enjoy relaxed tastings, all while taking in gentle river views and the timeless atmosphere of this celebrated wine-growing area. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided Hike in Spitz
Hike through the beautiful surroundings of Spitz an der Donau, following trails that wind through the vineyards and rolling hills of the Wachau Valley. Take in spectacular views over the Danube, the terraced landscapes and the charming villages below while discovering the natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere of this remarkable region.

Arrives On: 27 Mar 28

Day 5: Vienna (Austria)

Sweeping boulevards and world-famous landmarks welcome you to Vienna, a city that perfectly encapsulates the opulence of the Habsburg Monarchy and its ornate Baroque palaces. Discover the Austrian capital’s most iconic sights, including its magnificent imperial architecture, historic squares and grand avenues that showcase Vienna’s rich cultural heritage and timeless elegance. With an overnight stay, you’ll have more time to soak up the city’s charms. Included Excursion
Guided Tour of Vienna
Explore the famous sights of the Ringstrasse and Vienna’s World Heritage-listed city centre by coach and on foot. 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
Bike tour in Vienna
Embark on a guided e-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)
Step into Vienna’s imperial story with a visit to Schönbrunn Palace. You can explore opulent state rooms, admire ornate detailing and learn how the Habsburg dynasty once lived and entertained, before strolling through grand gardens that frame sweeping views and offer time to absorb the palace’s historic atmosphere.
Activity

level: Easy, Duration: 5 hour DiscoverMORE
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: 28 Mar 28

Day 6: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Cobbled streets pave the course for daily life in Bratislava, where winding alleys and gothic architecture blend together to create a truly distinctive Slovakian capital. Enjoy a guided tour of Bratislava Castle, a striking landmark most recently rebuilt in a Renaissance style, that still retains some of its stunning original features. After your included tour, the afternoon is yours to spend exploring the city on your own or join another tour. With a late departure you can also experience Bratislava after dark. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Bratislava
Enjoy a sightseeing tour, including the enchanting Old City. 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. 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. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided hike to Bratislava Castle
This active excursion begins at the port of Bratislava, passing the monumental Slovak National Theatre building and continuing 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. 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 Slovakia’s Carpathian Wine Route, where gentle hills and traditional vineyards shape your gourmet experience. You can visit local wineries, learn about regional varietals and winemaking traditions, and sample carefully crafted wines, guided by an expert sommelier.
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours 15 minutes

Arrives On: 29 Mar 28

Day 7: Štúrovo (Slovakia)

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. Later, cruise to Budapest, where your ship will be docked overnight. 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: 30 Mar 28

Day 7: Budapest (Hungary)

Arrives On: 30 Mar 28

Day 8: Budapest (Hungary)

Set along the banks of the Danube, Budapest captivates with its striking architecture, vibrant atmosphere and rich history. Hungary's capital brings together the historic hills of Buda and the lively streets of Pest, connected by the iconic Chain Bridge. Explore a city where grand landmarks, cultural traditions and the energy of modern life come together in a truly unforgettable setting. Included Excursion
Guided coach tour of Budapest
Enjoy a guided tour of the city with your local guide this morning. Explore the World Heritage-listed centre, travelling through the chapters of architecture through the ages from Romanesque to Baroque and classical façades. See the Liberty Statue, Heroes' Square and the Buda Castle district, before a walking tour showcases Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. 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. Depart Budapest after lunch and sail towards Novi Sad.

Arrives On: 31 Mar 28

Day 9: Novi Sad (Serbia)

Serbia’s second city is renowned for being the liberal city of music, art and culture. Set on an idyllic stretch of the Danube River, locals enjoy the reputation of living within Serbia’s cultural heart. Cradled by a crook in the Danube and shielded by a 17th century fortress, hints of old-world Habsburg charm can be found on the workbenches of Novi Sad’s leather shops, carved into its historic facades, and worn on the faces of the dapper locals who frequent its suave cafes and bustling markets. The city's bubbling art and culture scene earned it the title of European Capital of Culture for 2022. With a late departure tonight, you can discover more of the city after dark. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Novi Sad
Set out on an easy walking tour of the city with a local guide. See the market, Orthodox Cathedral, City Hall, Catholic Cathedral, and enjoy a visit to the Synagogue. EmeraldACTIVE
Guided e-bike tour in Novi Sad
Discover Novi Sad on two wheels with this guided e-bike tour. Ride along the Danube promenade and pass iconic landmarks. Learn about the city’s history, culture and local life from your guide while enjoying a leisurely cycling pace.

Arrives On: 01 Apr 28

Day 10: Belgrade (Serbia)

Serbia's capital awaits today as a guided tour takes you off the beaten track in one of Europe’s oldest cities. Where the Sava and Danube Rivers meet, socialist blocks are squeezed between art nouveau masterpieces, and remnants of the Habsburg legacy contrast with Ottoman relics and socialist modernist monoliths. Included Excursion
Highlights of Belgrade
Relax as your coach takes you through the centre of this peaceful city to see the symmetrical façade of the Church of Saint Sava, one of the world’s largest church buildings, the Parliament Building, Republic Square, City Hall and more. Finish with a drive through Belgrade’s wealthiest neighbourhoods and past Tito’s Mausoleum. EmeraldPLUS
Serbian folklore evening show on board
Watch local musicians and dancers perform traditional dances from around Serbia while wearing authentic, colourful costumes. EmeraldACTIVE
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Routes of Nikola Tesla (extra expense)
Learn the story of Serbian-American Nikola Tesla at the intriguing museum dedicated to the life and work of one of the world's most famous inventors. You’ll see magnificent working models of Tesla's machines, his various personal items and his visions of the future.
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 2.5 hours

Arrives On: 02 Apr 28

Day 11: Belgrade (Serbia)

After breakfast, it is time to say farewell to your fellow guests and disembark the ship for your transfer to the airport, taking wonderful memories of each fascinating destination with you. 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: 03 Apr 28

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

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