Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Markets on the Danube
Reference:	EMERALDEWXD151226-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Sky
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	15 Dec 26
Departs From:	Munich
Arrives On:	22 Dec 26
Arrives At:	Budapest
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Munich (Germany)

Welcome to Munich, where you will be greeted by one of our Emerald Cruises representatives and transferred to your contemporary Star-Ship in Passau. A warm welcome awaits you from the captain and crew, and this evening, you'll join your fellow guests for dinner on board. Please book your flight to arrive into Munich prior to 02:00 PM.

Arrives On: 15 Dec 26

Day 1: Passau (Germany)

Arrives On: 15 Dec 26

Day 2: Passau (Germany)

Embark on a guided tour to Passau. Explore its beautiful historic center, featuring charming baroque buildings, stunning riverside views, and narrow cobblestone streets, all infused with the aroma of freshly baked gingerbread. This important historic trading center, known as the City of Three Rivers—where three of Europe's main waterways converge—borders Austria and showcases a distinctive blend of cultures. You can enjoy the magical ambience in the St. Stephen Cathedral with its special organ concert or wander through the Christmas market of Passau right in front of the St. Stephan's Cathedral and discover the unique Bavarian delicacies. Back on board your Star-Ship, enjoy a live local entertainment showcasing typical Bavarian tradition. Included Excursion
Guided Tour of Passau EmeraldPLUS
Traditional Bavarian Band on board

Arrives On: 16 Dec 26

Day 3: Linz (Austria)

Today you will be docked in Linz, the capital of Upper Austria and Austria's third biggest city after Vienna and Graz. During your walking tour, you will have the chance to see the historical old town with a mix of baroque and Renaissance architecture. Hand-carved nativity scenes are on display in many of its churches, making for a serene and contemplative Christmas experience. A festive day for the senses, as you end with a Linzer torte tasting – the local delicacy that will add flavor to your Christmas time memories of this old Austrian town. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Linz with a Linzer Torte tasting DiscoverMORE
Full day Excursion to Salzburg (extra expense)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 26

Day 4: Dürnstein (Austria)

Today, enjoy a morning sailing on your Star-Ship as it sails through the fascinating Wachau Valley, part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Cultural Landscape. This afternoon, embark on a guided tour of Göttweig Abbey, a true treasure overlooking the valley from a hill covered by vineyards and forests. Built in 1083, it's one of Austria's most important Benedictine abbeys, attracting visitors from around the globe. Run by a community of about 45 monks, it's visible from a great distance and provides epic panoramas from the grounds. As part of the tour you get to taste the delightful Göttweig wine, which is a tradition well kept by the monks throughout centuries. EmeraldPLUS
Göttweig Abbey with wine tasting

Arrives On: 18 Dec 26

Day 5: Vienna (Austria)

Sweeping boulevards and world-famous art exhibitions welcome you to Vienna, a city perfectly encapsulating the extravagance of the Habsburg Monarchy and their love of ornate Baroque palaces. For art lovers, there is no place like the Austrian capital, not just because the city is bursting with museums and artwork, but because of the variety. Your tour will include a visit to the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the largest art museum in the country and one of the most important museums worldwide. Included Excursion
Vienna art tour with a visit to the Kunsthistorisches Museum DiscoverMORE
Viennese evening concert (extra expense)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 26

Day 6: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Today, enjoy learning about Slovakia as we take you into the heart of Bratislava, a capital where cultures sit side-by-side. A sightseeing tour of the city will introduce you to its architectural wonders, including the Gothic St. Martin’s Cathedral and the neo-Renaissance Slovak National Theatre. The Christmas markets showcase handcrafted souvenirs and traditional Christmas treats, a true seasonal delight. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Bratislava EmeraldPLUS
Home-hosted coffee and cake with a Slovakian family DiscoverMORE
Carpathian wine route (extra expense)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 26

Day 7: Budapest (Hungary)

Offering an abundance of historical whimsy, Budapest is known for its architectural diversity and famed monuments that pepper both sides of the Danube. This UNESCO World Heritage-listed city is a true delight at Christmas, when the locals take to thermal baths to beat the crisp chill of the season. Today, your guided coach tour will introduce you to Andrássy Avenue and the neo-Renaissance façades of the townhouses found there, as well as a generous scattering of Christmas decorations. This evening, an on board traditional Hungarian folklore show is certain to delight. Included Excursion
Guided coach tour of Budapest EmeraldPLUS
Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Szentendre (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Jewish Heritage Tour (extra expense)

Arrives On: 21 Dec 26

Day 8: Budapest (Hungary)

After breakfast, it’s time to say farewell to your fellow guests. Disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport and take memories of Christmas stalls and crisp winter mornings 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.

Arrives On: 22 Dec 26

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

© 2026 Deluxe Cruises. This cruise itinerary was printed from https://deluxecruises.co.uk