Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Time on the Danube & Budapest
Reference:	EMERALDEXPB161228-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Luna
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	16 Dec 28
Departs From:	Budapest
Arrives On:	22 Dec 28
Arrives At:	Vienna
Cruise Nights:	6
Total Vacation Days:	7

Itinerary

Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

Welcome to Budapest, the capital of Hungary and the perfect introduction to Eastern Europe. You will be met at the airport in Hungary and taken to your centrally-located hotel, with a two-night stay included in your itinerary.

Arrives On: 16 Dec 28

Day 2: Budapest (Hungary)

Today, the storied capital of Hungary is yours to explore at leisure, perhaps crossing the 19th-century Chain Bridge to see how the city differs in the historic Buda and Pest districts, or stopping off at some of the atmospheric Christmas markets to sample some Hungarian festive treats. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Budapest
Enjoy a guided tour of this enthralling city, touching on its two distinctive faces. Offering an abundance of European history, Budapest is renowned for its charming neo-Gothic architecture,

whimsical cultural elements and historic monuments literally around every corner. Relax as a drive down Andrássy Avenue showcases the decorative façades of neo-Renaissance townhouses and journey to Heroes' Square to see the seven chieftains of the Magyars, as well as the historic Castle District. DiscoverMORE
Tastes of Hungary (extra expense)
Embark on a flavourful journey through Budapest’s vibrant culinary scene, where tradition meets indulgence. Today’s tasting tour invites you to sample iconic Hungarian dishes, such as rich goulash, crispy lángos topped with sour cream and cheese, and sweet chimney cake, fresh from the oven. Sip on the fiery fruit brandy pálinka as you explore bustling markets and hidden eateries, guided by a local expert who brings Hungary’s culinary heritage to life with every bite.
Activity level: Easy, Duration: 1.5 hours

Arrives On: 17 Dec 28

Day 3: Budapest (Hungary)

Today, you will be transferred from your hotel to your contemporary Emerald Cruises Star-Ship. This evening, join your fellow guests for a dinner on board.

Arrives On: 18 Dec 28

Day 4: Budapest (Hungary)

Budapest is Eastern Europe’s liveliest and most cosmopolitan city. The history of the Hungarian capital shows a unique blend of cultures, cuisine and vibrant lifestyle. There is so much to take in while you pass through the bustling city, which draws visitors from around the world. During your free time, stroll the Christmas market on Budapest’s main square near Váci Utca Street, which showcases Hungarian craft products such as glass blowing, knitting, wood carving, candle making, pottery, leather trade, traditional Hungarian embroidery and lace work. In the evening, we invite you to join us and your fellow guests for a special dinner and a traditional folklore show in town; a truly immersive local experience and the perfect way to begin your Christmas adventure on the Danube. Included Excursion
Guided coach tour of Budapest
See Budapest’s grand architecture and vibrant neighbourhoods on a guided coach tour that introduces the city’s distinct Buda and Pest sides. Travel between landmark boulevards, historic squares and panoramic viewpoints as your guide shares insight into Hungary’s capital. EmeraldPLUS
Traditional folklore show
This evening, enjoy a traditional Hungarian dinner with folk dancing and music. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Szentendre (extra expense)
Visit the small town of Szentendre, known for its baroque architecture, churches, colorful houses and narrow, cobbled streets. The old city centre is a pedestrian area and you can explore on foot during this guided tour. Experience the town’s Mediterranean atmosphere that has drawn many artists, and visit shops, galleries and museums

Arrives On: 19 Dec 28

Day 5: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, is situated in a wonderful location between the Carpathians and the Alps, just a few kilometres from Vienna. Pre-Christmas time in Bratislava is intrinsically connected with glowing streets, warm holiday spirit, traditional dishes, and yuletide drinks. Bratislava also has many charming Christmas markets throughout the city for you to enjoy. The main Christmas Market is located at the Main Square and Hviezdoslav Square, but there are plenty of smaller ones in the city centre as well, such as the square in front of the Eurovea shopping centre. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Bratislava
Enjoy a sightseeing tour including the enchanting Old City with its Town Hall, Mirbach Palace, and the Gothic Cathedral of St
Martin. EmeraldPLUS
Local Slovakian Entertainment on board
Tonight, be immersed in local traditions with live Slovakian entertainment on board.

Arrives On: 20 Dec 28

Day 6: Vienna (Austria)

During the holiday season, Vienna's most charming squares transform into magical Christmas markets. The delightful aroma of Christmas cookies baking, hot punch, and roasted chestnuts allure many visitors this time of the year. The Old City and shopping streets are decorated with festive lights that create a whimsical atmosphere in Vienna.

You'll have ample free time to sample the wonderful tastes of Vienna's Christmas markets, such sumptuous Käsekrainer sausage, sweet donuts, salty pretzels, and Kartoffelpuffer - a savoury potato pancake.

As you stay overnight in Vienna, you can discover the Viennese markets during the late afternoon hours while the magical Christmas atmosphere settles in. In the evening, you're invited to join us for an awe-inspiring optional visit to enjoy the delights of a Viennese concert. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Vienna
Explore Austria's capital beginning with a drive along the Ringstrasse, where you'll see some of Vienna's world-famous sights such as the Opera House, Burgtheater, Town Hall, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Hofburg Imperial Palace. 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 hours 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: 21 Dec 28

Day 7: Vienna (Austria)

After breakfast, it’s time to say farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport and your onward or homebound flight, taking memories of the delightful Danube at Christmas 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: 22 Dec 28

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

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