Cruise Details

Name:	Christmas Time on the Danube & Budapest
Reference:	EMERALDEXPB201127-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Destiny
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	20 Nov 27
Departs From:	Vienna
Arrives On:	26 Nov 27
Arrives At:	Budapest
Cruise Nights:	6
Total Vacation Days:	7

Itinerary

Day 1: Vienna (Austria)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise. Welcome to the ‘City of Music’, Vienna. It has a magical atmosphere over Christmas, with elaborate decorations and more than 20 festive markets.

You'll be met at the airport by an Emerald Cruises representative and transferred to your luxurious Emerald Star-Ship, where your friendly captain and crew will be waiting to greet you. As you stay overnight in Vienna, you’ll have plenty of time to discover the Viennese markets during the late afternoon hours, while the magical Christmas atmosphere settles in.

Arrives On: 20 Nov 27

Day 2: Vienna (Austria)

This ornate cityscape was home to famous musicians and composers like Mozart and Beethoven, and the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. At this time of year, its squares

become enchanting Christmas markets filled with the aromas of cookies, hot punch and roasted chestnuts. The Old City and shopping streets sparkle with festive lights. Included Excursion
Guided tour of Vienna with Christmas markets
Explore the famous sights of the Ringstrasse and Vienna's 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 visit the Christmas markets on your own 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 site for its historic importance, unique grounds and splendid furnishings. Follow a local expert to hear the fascinating tales of the intriguing former residents.
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 Nov 27

Day 3: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Gothic architecture and fascinating tales of a Communist past welcome you to Bratislava, a capital that has seen much turbulence over the past century. Set at the crossroads of ancient trade routes, this is a place where Baroque palaces, boutiques and cafés adorn medieval cobblestone streets. The Christmas season adds an extra layer to the city, where a blend of distinctive cultures comes together to showcase their handcrafted ornaments and delicious treats. Included Excursion
Walking tour of Bratislava with Christmas market
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 the Christmas markets at leisure. EmeraldPLUS
Traditional Slovakian entertainment on board
Relax on board this evening as you are entertained by traditional musicians and performers.

Arrives On: 22 Nov 27

Day 4: 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 World Heritage-listed city is a true delight at Christmas, when it becomes a magical winter wonderland of decorations, lights and festive cheer. The locals soak in the city's many 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. Included Excursion
Guided coach tour of Budapest with Christmas market
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. Afterwards, explore the Christmas market. DiscoverMORE
Excursion to Szentendre (extra expense)
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.
Activity level: Moderate, Duration: 4 hours

Arrives On: 23 Nov 27

Day 5: Budapest (Hungary)

This morning, after breakfast, disembark your luxury Emerald Star-Ship, and say goodbye to your fellow guests and friendly crew. You'll then be transferred to your centrally located accommodation in Budapest, where a two-night stay in the Hungarian capital is certain to delight. A vibrant and cosmopolitan city, Budapest is split by the Danube River, with the Buda and Pest districts linked by the iconic Chain Bridge, offering stunning views. From fairy lights to wooden ornaments, from spiced mulled wine to roasted chimney cake, Budapest is additionally a wonderful place to celebrate the Christmas holidays. This evening, enjoy meeting your fellow guests and tour director for a welcome drink. 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.

Arrives On: 24 Nov 27

Day 6: 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. 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: 25 Nov 27

Day 7: Budapest (Hungary)

This morning, after breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your fellow guests as you leave your centrally located accommodation for your transfer for your return flight to the UK, leaving with cherished memories of historic gems, festive markets and the tantalising flavours of Budapest. 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 Nov 27

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