Cruise Details

Name:	Gems of the Danube with Best of Bavaria
Reference:	SCENICBNBU090627-2V
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Crystal
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	09 Jun 27
Departs From:	Budapest
Arrives On:	20 Jun 27
Arrives At:	Munich
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.

Welcome to Hungary and the start of your Danube River wine cruise. The vibrant city of Budapest is an architectural treasure trove comprising styles from Gothic to Art Nouveau and everything in between.

Settle into your spacious suite, then join your fellow guests for a welcome reception and toast to the start of an exciting cruise ahead. You will remain docked in Budapest overnight, so you can also set out to explore the city’s famed nightlife if you wish. Please book your flight to arrive into Budapest prior to 05:00 PM.

Arrives On: 09 Jun 27

Day 2: Budapest (Hungary)

Divided by the Danube, with Buda on one side and Pest on the other, the Hungarian capital became united in 1873 when a newly built bridge connected the two. With its breathtaking

architecture, romantic cobblestone streets, a thriving culinary scene and grand thermal baths, the Hungarian capital is a feast for the senses. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from a range of Scenic Freechoice activities on offer this morning:

Budapest in depth with piano recital: Discover the highlights of Budapest by coach and on foot. Starting in Buda, see the Várkert Bazár then cross the Margaret Bridge to Pest and wander Széchenyi Square and Elizabeth Square. End your tour with a mesmerising piano recital at the Institute for the Blind.

Guided hike of Buda: Take a beautiful hike to the World Heritage-listed Buda Hill. Starting at Batthyány Square, you'll wind upwards through narrow cobbled streets and past beautifully landscaped gardens to reach the hill, with its spectacular views back over the town and river.

Excursion to Szentendre: Travel to the colourful riverside town of Szentendre, where its distinctive Mediterranean atmosphere has inspired generations of artists. A guided walking excursion takes you through the old town and to the Kovács Magrit Museum before some free time.

Etyek region wineries & vineyards: Called the 'vineyard of Budapest', Etyek is a small wine region known for its crisp aromatic whites and sparkling wine. Visit one of its charming boutique wineries to experience the blend of wine, culture and natural beauty that makes it unique. Your 5-star Space-Ship will depart Budapest later this afternoon, allowing you some free time to explore the city on your own. Pack your swimsuit and make your way to one of Budapest's thermal baths for a relaxing soak in the therapeutic waters or perhaps explore the Central Market Hall.

Arrives On: 10 Jun 27

Day 3: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Bratislava is a living monument to history, from its ninth century castle to the medieval and Gothic Old Town and the socialist architecture of the 20th century. The capital of Slovakia since independence in 1993, this modern multicultural metropolis is split across two banks of the Danube. Its home to museums and galleries, excellent restaurants and leafy parks. Scenic Freechoice:
As we dock in the city centre, this today's Scenic Freechoice excursions are just steps away.

Walking tour of Bratislava: Hear the fascinating stories of Bratislava on a guided walking tour. Take a short stroll from the ship to see the city highlights, including the Hlavné Námestie (main square), Old Town Hall and St Martin's Cathedral.

Carpathian wine tasting: Wine has been grown in Slovakia for more than 3,000 years, with its cool climate producing excellent reds, whites and sparkling. On this guided tour, you'll visit a local winery in the Carpathian wine region located just outside Bratislava, learn about viticulture in the region and sample their top wines.

Arrives On: 11 Jun 27

Day 4: Vienna (Austria)

Welcome to Vienna, the capital of Austria and a centre of art, music and culture. The city fostered the musical geniuses Mozart and Beethoven, and oozes charm with magnificent Baroque buildings, ample green spaces, a vibrant coffee-house scene, and masterpiece-filled galleries and museums. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from these Scenic Freechoice activities today.

Cycle to Danube Island: Visit Danube Island on a guided e-bike tour. This urban playground is where the locals of Vienna come for bathing, boating and relaxing on its picturesque beaches.

Central Vienna with free time: Get a taste of the real Vienna on a guided tour with a local guide, introducing you to the city's history, art and architecture. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore at your leisure.

Vienna wine stories: Visit Austria's oldest wine estate, Klosterneuburg Abbey, which has been producing wine for 900 years. Explore the serene halls and magnificent Imperial Apartments, before a guided tasting inside the historic winery.

Art tour of Vienna including Kunsthistorisches Museum: Vienna has an abundance of cultural institutions and a visit to the Kunsthistorisches provides something for everybody. Join a local guide who will give you an overview of the magnificent exhibits including its world class art collection and impressive ancient artefacts, before some time to wander the museum at your leisure. Scenic Enrich
Classical Concert at Palais Liechtenstein: Breathe in the opulence and luxury of Palais Liechtenstein this evening as you relish an exclusive private classical concert. Enjoy a glass of fine Austrian Sekt and listen to the timeless music of Strauss and Mozart performed by a magnificent orchestra. An experience only shared with your fellow Scenic guests, you'll be seated in Vienna's largest secular Baroque Hall, an ornate space where royals and nobles have sat for centuries. Accompanied by ballet dancers and vocalists and surrounded by world-famous art, this will be a concert that you'll remember for a lifetime.

Arrives On: 12 Jun 27

Day 5: Dürnstein (Austria)

This morning your Scenic Space-Ship will dock in the quaint town of Dürnstein, in Austria's Wachau Valley, home to the country's most famous wine region. This small region has around 120 wineries, many of which have been owned by the same family for generations. It produces mostly Riesling and Grüner Veltliner, a traditionally Austrian white wine with spicy, peppery and tangy flavours.

Over lunch, cruise through the Wachau Valley where you will be mesmerised by the sloping vineyards and charming villages, before arriving in Melk. The town of Melk itself is best known for its dramatic, World Heritage-listed Benedictine Abbey, which towers above it from a rocky outcrop. Scenic Freechoice:
This afternoon offers a variety of Scenic Freechoice excursions to choose from.

Tour of Melk Abbey: Admire the brightly coloured facade, ornately decorated rooms and elaborate frescoed ceilings of the 18th century Melk Abbey. Marvel at the library, filled with more than 80,000 books and medieval manuscripts.

UNESCO Wachau Valley e-bike experience: Embark on a guided e-bike ride to soak up the scenery along the Danube as you cycle

from the quaint village of Dürnstein to Melk. You'll pass by small villages and through rolling vineyards, stopping along the way to enjoy the river views.

Wachau Valley wine tasting: Admire the picturesque landscapes of the Wachau Valley as you drive to one of its local wineries. Meet the winemaker, learn about the celebrated wine culture of the Wachau region, and taste local specialties like Riesling and Grüner Veltliner. On board this afternoon, join an informative talk on the production of local wines and schnapps and taste some varieties.

Arrives On: 13 Jun 27

Day 5: Melk (Austria)

Arrives On: 13 Jun 27

Day 6: Passau (Germany)

Arrive in Passau today. Set at the meeting point of three rivers and close to the border with Austria, it was an important trading point for centuries. It was also a significant town in the Holy Roman Empire and the charming Old Town was mostly built by powerful prince-bishops in an Italianate style. Scenic Freechoice:
Take your pick from the following Scenic Freechoice excursions.

Full day excursion to Salzburg: Cross the border into Salzburg, Austria, a storybook city surrounded by alpine peaks and best known as the home of Mozart and The Sound of Music. On a guided tour, learn about its art and music scene, visit Mozart's birthplace, and see the vast Hohensalzburg Fortress. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and some free time.

Full day excursion to Ceský Krumlov: Journey to the Czech town of Ceský Krumlov, a World Heritage site brimming with charm. Explore with your local guide, admire the well-preserved Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture, and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant.

Highlights of Passau: Join your local guide on a walking tour, admiring the brightly coloured buildings that line the waterways. Visit St. Stephens Cathedral, originally built in the year 450 but destroyed by fire in 1662 and rebuilt in the Baroque style.

Arrives On: 14 Jun 27

Day 7: Regensburg (Germany)

Boasting a staggering 2,000 year history, Regensburg has one of Germany's best preserved medieval town centres, with more than 900 of its Romanesque and Gothic buildings listed as World Heritage sites. Within its narrow laneways, the city lays claim to having the highest concentration of bars in the country. Scenic Freechoice:
Today, Regensburg offers a selection of Scenic Freechoice activities to choose from:

Walking tour of Regensburg: On the confluence of three rivers in Bavaria, Regensburg is known as the best preserved medieval city in Germany. Guests will join a walking

tour with a local guide to see the old stone bridge, the Church of St James, and the Porta Praetoria.

Bavarian beer tasting: Learn about intricacies of beer making and the region's rich brewing heritage than spans over 1,000 years and is a valued part of the regions culture. Visit a traditional brewery to taste a variety of distinctive Bavarian brews.

Arrives On: 15 Jun 27

Day 8: Regensburg (Germany)

At the conclusion of your river cruise, transfer to your luxurious hotel in central Nuremberg. Nuremberg is a city steeped in history and culture that stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Germany. Nestled in the heart of Franconia, it’s a place where medieval charm meets modern vitality.

Choose to relax in your hotel this evening or set out to explore the city at your leisure.

Arrives On: 16 Jun 27

Day 8: Nuremberg (Germany)

Arrives On: 16 Jun 27

Day 9: Nuremberg (Germany)

After a delicious breakfast in your hotel, explore Nuremberg on a guided walking tour. Its well-preserved medieval old town, with its formidable city walls, boasts architectural treasures that transport visitors back in time. Beyond its historic facades, Nuremberg's dynamic spirit shines through in its thriving arts scene, bustling markets, and vibrant culinary culture. With your local guide, you’ll visit the Imperial Castle before making your way to Old Town, where you’ll see St. Lawrence Church and the lively market square.

This afternoon, travel from the city towards Schwangau, stopping along the way at Augsburg, one of the oldest cities in Germany and certainly one of the most beautiful. Augsburg is a glamorous blend of Old World architecture, magnificent fountains and watercourses, and a rich musical legacy. Upon arrival, enjoy an orientation tour before some free time to explore.

Arrive in Schwangau tonight and check in to your hotel for a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 17 Jun 27

Day 9: Schwangau (Germany)

Arrives On: 17 Jun 27

Day 10: Schwangau (Germany)

Wake in Schnwangau. Renowned for its top-tier air quality, relaxing atmosphere and spectacular castles, Schwangau is a remarkable gem amid the mountains.

Today, enjoy an excursion to the iconic fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle, the inspiration behind Disney’s Cinderella Castle. Nestled amid the Bavarian Alps, it was built in the 19th century for King Ludwig II and is one of the most photographed buildings in the world. Today you’ll have the opportunity to explore the interior of this iconic palace on a guided tour. Bask in its intricate frescoes and enjoy breathtaking views of Alpsee and Hohenschwangau lakes from the castle’s lofty vantage points.

Arrives On: 18 Jun 27

Day 11: Munich (Germany)

Transfer by coach this morning to Munich, the capital of Bavaria. Upon arrival, enjoy a panoramic tour of the city. Pass by some of its top sights including the former Olympic site, Nymphenburg Palace, the National Theatre, Maximilianstrasse and the Parliament. Stroll the Marienplatz Square and see the famous Glockenspiel.

Later, check in to your luxury hotel, centrally located amongst some of Munich’s must-see attractions. Explore further the town at your leisure and visit iconic sites, such as the Cathedral Church of Our Lady (Frauenkirche) or the Residenz Palace.

Arrives On: 19 Jun 27

Day 12: Munich (Germany)

After breakfast, say your farewell to Munich, taking many wonderful memories with you. Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such, the itinerary may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Arrives On: 20 Jun 27

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

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