Cruise Details

Name:	Gems of the Danube with Prague & Budapest
Reference:	SCENICPNBB160528-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Amber
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	16 May 28
Departs From:	Prague
Arrives On:	28 May 28
Arrives At:	Budapest
Cruise Nights:	12
Total Vacation Days:	13

Itinerary

Day 1: Prague (Czech Republic)

Welcome to one of Europe’s best-preserved and most beautiful cities, with a rich and fascinating history stretching back more than 1,000 years. The Vltava River, the longest in the Czech Republic, runs through the centre of Prague, with the historic Old Town on one bank and New Town on the other.

Arrives On: 16 May 28

Day 2: Prague (Czech Republic)

Wake to the sound of church bells ringing out across this ancient city. This morning, join your expert local guide to explore Prague in all its Gothic glory including the Old Town, the famous Astronomical Clock and Charles Bridge, commissioned in 1357 by Charles IV. This afternoon, stroll this magnificent city at your leisure. Situated on the banks of the River Vltava in central Bohemia, Prague is rich in history and home to some of the world’s most striking architectural

wonders.

Arrives On: 17 May 28

Day 3: Prague (Czech Republic)

Today, discover more of Prague. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of these excursions:

Communist walk of Prague: Join an expert local guide for a walking tour of Prague’s famous sites and hidden gems and learn about everyday life under Communism. They will even share some of their personal experiences of growing up during the socialist regime.

Prague Castle tour: Explore Prague Castle, considered one of the largest castle complexes in the world. Visit St. Vitus Cathedral, the grandest cathedral in the Czech Republic, the Old Royal Palace, former residence of Bohemian Royalty, and the picturesque Golden Lane.

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 4: Regensburg (Germany)

Arrives On: 19 May 28

Day 4: Prague (Czech Republic)

Journey by coach to Regensburg where you’ll board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship.

Arrives On: 19 May 28

Day 5: 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: 20 May 28

Day 6: Passau (Germany)

Arrive in Passau early this morning. 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. This excursion brings your country count for this journey to five.

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: 21 May 28

Day 6: Schlögen (Austria)

Arrives On: 21 May 28

Day 7: Melk (Austria)

This morning your Scenic Space-Ship will dock in the small town of Melk, tucked inside Austria's picturesque Wachau Valley. The town is dominated by its dramatic, World Heritage-listed Benedictine Abbey, which towers above it from a rocky outcrop. Scenic Freechoice:
This morning offers a variety of Scenic Freechoice excursions to choose from:

Guided tour of Melk Abbey: Wander the halls of this grand 18th century abbey, visit the decorated marble hall and the library, which is filled with more than 80,000 books, and be awed by the Abbey Church, adorned in frescoes and intricate statues.

UNESCO Wachau Valley e-bike experience: Embark on a guided cycle to soak up the scenery along the Danube as you e-bike from Melk to the quaint village of Dürnstein. You'll pass by small villages and through rolling vineyards, stopping along the way to enjoy the river views.

Artstetten Castle: Meet the current owners of Artstetten Castle, which dates to the 13th century. It was once home to the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whose assassination sparked the beginning of WWI in 1914. See the family crypt and visit the onsite museum, before hearing tales from decedents of the royal family dynasty that were influential in European history. This afternoon, cruise through the Wachau Valley where you will be mesmerised by the sloping vineyards and charming

villages. Then dock in the quaint town of Dürnstein, where you have ample free time to wander at your leisure. Surrounded by vineyards, the town has historical buildings that date back to the 12th century, including the hilltop ruins of Dürnstein Castle where Richard the Lionheart was famously imprisoned between 1192 and 1193.

While on board later today, you can also join an informative talk on the production of regional delicacies and taste some local varieties.

Arrives On: 22 May 28

Day 7: Dürnstein (Austria)

Arrives On: 22 May 28

Day 8: 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 this afternoon:

Schönbrunn Palace: Explore Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the Habsburg family. Wander its ornately designed rooms, hear tales about the royal family that lives here and see the impressive gardens.

Cycle to Danube Island: Explore a different side of Vienna on a guided e-bike tour to Danube Island, a recreational playground where locals come for bathing, boating, cycling and relaxing on its beaches and open spaces.

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.

Central Vienna: Vienna is brimming with history, elegance and diverse architecture. During this tour your expert local guide will delight you with stories from the city before allowing you free time to explore as you wish. 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 renowned orchestra. 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: 23 May 28

Day 9: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Slovakia’s capital since independence in 1993, Bratislava is a modern multicultural metropolis with an intriguing history. Its Old Town is glorious with medieval and Gothic architecture. Its well-preserved hilltop castle, which dates back to the ninth century, still dominates the town. These charming historic sites contrast with its brutalist socialist architecture, which is evident around the city. Scenic Freechoice:
As we dock in the city centre, this morning’s Scenic Freechoice excursions are just steps away:

Walking tour of Bratislava: Join a knowledgeable local guide to see the highlights of the city, including the Hlavné Námestie (main square) and the Old Town Hall while learning about the history of the city. You’ll also learn what everyday life was like behind the Iron Curtain and taste some local delicacies.

Carpathian wine route: Embark on a delightful Slovakian wine-tasting just beyond Bratislava, where the picturesque villages of the Small Carpathians invite you to discover this celebrated viticultural region. Enjoy an insider’s perspective on local culture and heritage, meeting passionate family winemakers who have preserved their craft across generations.

Communist walk: Journey behind the Iron Curtain to explore Bratislava’s complex and compelling history during the communist regime. Discover how this controversial era shaped the daily lives of Slovaks, with impacts that were sometimes positive, often negative, and always fascinating.

Arrives On: 24 May 28

Day 10: Budapest (Hungary)

Arrive in Budapest early this morning, the capital of Hungary and one of Europe’s most diverse and vibrant cities. Divided by the Danube, with Buda on one side and Pest on the other, this city became united in 1873 when a newly built bridge connected the two. It’s an architectural treasure trove comprising styles from Gothic to Art Nouveau and everything in between. It is also well known for its hot springs and thermal baths and has a vibrant nightlife scene. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from a range of Scenic Freechoice activities on offer this morning:

Budapest in depth: Explore this magical city by coach. Starting in Buda, see the Várkert Bazár before crossing the Margaret Bridge to the Pest side to see 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 through the Buda district of the city. On your walk, see Várkert Bazár and beautifully landscaped gardens, all while enjoying great views over the Danube River and the city architecture.

Excursion to Szentendre: Journey to the riverside town Szentendre, known for its museums, galleries, and artists. Experience the Mediterranean atmosphere and discover its charms on a guided city tour.

National Opera House: Step into one of Europe’s most magnificent cultural landmarks, a neo-Renaissance masterpiece that reflects the grandeur of the Austro-Hungarian era and Hungary’s deep devotion to the arts. This guided tour reveals the splendid interior as well as stories of royal guests, world-famous performers and the building’s exceptional acoustics.

Arrives On: 25 May 28

Day 11: Budapest (Hungary)

Continue your exploration of Budapest, enjoy some free time to explore the city on your own or explore further afield with two excursions that are exclusive to Scenic. Scenic Freechoice:
Discover the region on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Beethoven’s favourite getaway – Brunszvik Castle: The snow white Brunsvik Castle is a stunning example of 18th century neo-Gothic architecture surrounded by a sprawling English style park. Famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven, was a frequent visitor and today the castle houses a Beethoven Memorial Museum.

Etyek region wineries & vineyards: Often called the ‘vineyard of Budapest’, Etyek is renowned for its crisp, aromatic white wines and sparkling wines. Take a tour of a vineyard, learn about the winemaking process and sample local vintages. You will be staying in a luxury hotel for the next two nights. This gives you plenty of opportunities to discover Budapest’s legendary nightlife.

Arrives On: 26 May 28

Day 12: Budapest (Hungary)

This morning, join a local guide to discover the flavours of Hungary on a Hungarian culinary market walk and tasting tour. This foodie tour in Budapest promises an unforgettable journey through the city’s culinary delights. Visit the bustling Grand Central Market and other locations for tasting the local delicacies, and hear fascinating stories about the city’s traditions. Enjoy free time this afternoon to explore the city at your leisure. You may like to bring your swimsuit and join the locals in one of the many thermal baths.

Arrives On: 27 May 28

Day 13: Budapest (Hungary)

Your journey concludes today. After breakfast, transfer to Budapest airport for your onward journey, taking with you a treasure trove of wonderful memories from this undiscovered corner of Europe. 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. Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 28 May 28

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