Cruise Details

Name:	Eastern Europe & Balkans Unveiled & Gems of the Danube with Transylvania & Prague
Reference:	SCENICPNBT220427-2
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Jasper
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	22 Apr 27
Departs From:	Bucharest
Arrives On:	14 May 27
Arrives At:	Prague
Cruise Nights:	22
Total Vacation Days:	23

Itinerary

Day 1: Bucharest (Romania)

Fly from the UK for the start of your cruise.

Welcome to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. It has a complex – and sometimes confronting – past, having spent more than four decades under Communist rule. But today, it’s a dynamic, modern and energetic city with a thriving café culture, excellent museums and pockets of glorious Belle Epoque architecture. Check into your hotel for an overnight stay.

Arrives On: 22 Apr 27

Day 2: Bucharest (Romania)

This morning, you’ll begin your journey into Transylvania by travelling from Bucharest to the medieval town of Sibiu. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with your

fellow travellers after checking into your luxury hotel.

Arrives On: 23 Apr 27

Day 2: Sibiu, Transylvania (Romania)

Arrives On: 23 Apr 27

Day 3: Sibiu, Transylvania (Romania)

Today you'll wake in Sibiu. The fortified town is a historian's delight, filled with museums, cathedrals and palaces to discover. This afternoon, travel to the village of Sighisoara, the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. It's also one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Europe, with cobblestone lanes and colourful buildings that have remained largely unchanged since the 12th century. Scenic Freechoice:
Today you can choose from the following Scenic Freechoice:

Explore the walled city: The World Heritage-listed walled city at the centre of Sighisoara was built by the Saxons between the 12th and 17th centuries and much of it still stands today. A local guide will show you the highlights.

Hike the hill: If you're feeling more active, hike up the covered stairway to the 14th century Church on the Hill. It's a spectacular example of Gothic Transylvanian architecture and has been restored many times throughout history. The climb rewards you with superb views over the city. Afterwards you'll travel to Brasov, a colourful town that brings together Gothic spires, medieval watchtowers, sprawling squares and Soviet-era concrete. Here, check into your hotel for a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 24 Apr 27

Day 3: Sighișoara, Transylvania (Romania)

Arrives On: 24 Apr 27

Day 3: Brasov (Romania)

Arrives On: 24 Apr 27

Day 4: Brasov (Romania)

This morning, your guide will show you the sights of Brasov, a charming town that brings together Gothic spires, medieval watchtowers, sprawling squares and Soviet-era concrete.

Dracula is Transylvania's most famous figure. Though author Bram Stoker never visited Romania, he is said to have been inspired by the place you'll visit this afternoon – Bran Castle. Perched dramatically on a clifftop, this white stone fortress was built in the 14th century and is a maze of narrow passageways, hidden rooms and sunny courtyards.

Tonight, join your

fellow travellers and enjoy a delicious dinner in one of Brasov’s finest restaurants.

Arrives On: 25 Apr 27

Day 5: Brasov (Romania)

After breakfast, a local guide will take you to Peles Castle, a Neo-Classical masterpiece built in the 1870s by the first king of Romania as a summer residence. Inside, the rooms are exquisitely decorated with paintings, carved wood and stained glass. Nearby, Sinaia Monastery is the oldest monastery in the region and is home to two churches, one from the 17th century and one built by the royal family in the 19th century.

This afternoon, you’ll begin the journey back to Bucharest, where you’ll check into your hotel for the night. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.

Arrives On: 26 Apr 27

Day 5: Bucharest (Romania)

Arrives On: 26 Apr 27

Day 6: Bucharest (Romania)

Wake in Bucharest. After a turbulent past, the city is now a unique mix of Art Nouveau remnants and Brutalist-era architecture sit alongside wide, tree lined boulevards and leafy squares, hidden street art and thriving nightlife.

Take an orientation tour of the city by coach, from the south of Bucharest to Primaverii Palace stopping to see its squares, including Union, University, Roman, Victoryand Charles de Gaulle squares. Scenic Freechoice:
After the city tour, personalise the rest of your morning with the following Scenic Freechoice activities.

Ceausescu’s Spring Palace: Located in one of the wealthiest districts in Bucharest, this 1960s residence is made up of 80 distinctive and elegant rooms decorated with silk wallpaper, wood panels, paintings by famous Romanian painters, mosaics, marble, chandeliers and mirrors made of Murano glass.

Village Open Air Museum: Explore the ethnography exhibits depicting Romanian heritage and culture at the Village Open Air Museum. The museum depicts authentic houses, barns, churches and more, rebuilt by craftsmen using traditional techniques. Afterwards, transfer to Giurgiu to board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship.

Arrives On: 27 Apr 27

Day 6: Giurgiu (Romania)

Arrives On: 27 Apr 27

Day 7: Silistra (Bulgaria)

Arrive in Silistra today. This Bulgarian town has changed hands many times over the centuries. A major Turkish fortress and trade centre in the 15th century, it played a significant role in the Russo-Turkish wars of the 1870s, briefly became part of Romania after the Second Balkan War and finally reverted to Bulgaria in 1940. The town is dotted with historic sites stretching back to late Roman times. To learn more about local culture, you can choose to visit a local village and school, an experience available only to Scenic guests. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities:

Active walk to Silistra Fort: Take an active guided walking tour of the 19th century fort and learn about its history. It is the best preserved of the six points of the Turkish fortification system.

Visit Alfatar village: This exclusive excursion takes you to the small village of Alfatar, located just outside of Silistra. Visit the ethnographic museum featuring a typical country house, see customary attire and visit the Alfatar school to meet local children with a charming choir performance and learn about daily life for young Bulgarians.

Sveshtari Thracian secrets and local delights: Discover the rich heritage and flavours of Bulgaria on this unique guided tour. Explore the ancient Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari, a World Heritage site dating back to the 3rd century BC, then visit local producers of exquisite brandy for a tasting.

Arrives On: 28 Apr 27

Day 8: Ruse (Bulgaria)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will arrive in the Bulgarian town of Rousse today, which has been described as ‘Little Vienna’. Here you will have the choice to disembark and take a walking tour of the city. Alternatively, join a full-day excursion to Veliko Tarnovo, known as the ‘City of the Kings’ Scenic Freechoice:
Discover more on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Walking tour of Rousse: Join a local guide for a sightseeing tour of this opulent town where you will learn about traditional Bulgarian handicrafts, sample some delicious local wine and delight in a short piano recital.

Excursion to Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanassi: Take a full day excursion from Svishtov to Veliko Tarnovo, one of Bulgaria’s oldest towns. Enjoy the panoramic views of the old town and see the Asenevtsi Brothers Monument. You will then venture to the nearby leafy village of Arbanassi.

Arrives On: 29 Apr 27

Day 8: Svishtov (Bulgaria)

Arrives On: 29 Apr 27

Day 10: Belgrade (Serbia)

The capital of Serbia, Belgrade is known as the ‘Door to Central Europe’ and lies at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers. This eclectic city is steeped in history, Brutalist and Art Nouveau buildings and a bohemian vibe. It’s one of the oldest capitals in Europe and has stood at the crossroads between the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires for centuries. Thanks to these centuries of conflict, Belgrade has been rebuilt almost 40 times. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the city today one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions.

Tour of Belgrade: Explore the iconic sites of the city with a local guide. You will explore the city’s highlights such as cobbled streets of the Bohemian Quarter and Kalemegdan Fortress. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore Belgrade on your own.

Panoramic tour of Belgrade with Tito’s Memorial: Join a panoramic tour of Belgrade with a local guide. See and learn about the major sites of the city including the Ottoman heritage of the Old Town and visit the memorial dedicated to Tito, the former ruler of Yugoslavia.

Cycling tour along the Danube: Choose this active excursion to trace the banks of the Danube on two wheels with a guided cycling tour. During the 16km ride, you’ll learn about the history of Yugoslavia and Belgrade, and see the Belgrade Waterfront, the fomer concentration camp Staro Sajmiste, and Ada Island.

Central Belgrade stroll with coffee and cake: Starting from the historic Kalemegdan Fortress, wander down Knez Mihailova Street, Belgrade's bustling pedestrian boulevard, lined with charming shops and cafes. Pause to enjoy a cup of expertly brewed coffee paired with a signature cake from one of the city's beloved bakeries. This afternoon, you’re free to explore Belgrade further. You might like to soak up the bohemian culture with a wander along the cobblestoned Skardalija Street, a district once frequented by writers and artists and other creative souls, now home to traditional restaurants, local stores and galleries. Scenic Enrich
Concert in the Crypt of St. Sava Church: Visit St. Sava Temple, the largest orthodox temple in the Balkans. Admire the fresco-lined walls of the cathedral’s crypt where the church choir will perform some of the most beautiful hymns just for you. The crypt’s remarkable acoustics make this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as white marble adorns the remarkable ceilings.

Arrives On: 01 May 27

Day 11: Vukovar (Croatia)

Cross the border into Croatia and dock in Vukovar, a historically significant city strategically positioned along the Danube River at the confluence with the Vuka River. Known as ‘The Hero Town’, it is famed for its historic resilience, especially its fierce defence during the Croatian War of Independence in the early 1990s, which left a lasting mark on its landscape and collective memory. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from the following Scenic Freechoice activities:

Walking tour of Osijek: Take a guided walking tour of nearby Osijek. This small city has a turbulent history and many of the grand Baroque buildings in the Old Town bear the scars of war. You’ll also have the opportunity to hear some traditional and classical music popular in the region.

Baranja wine region: In this

picturesque region straddling Croatia and Hungary, explore a rich wine-making tradition and picturesque vineyards. Enjoy a tasting experience blending bold notes, local culture and breathtaking landscapes.

Vukovar chronicles - A river town's tale of resilience: With roots dating back to medieval times, Vukovar was historically a vibrant trade and industrial centre. Though heavily damaged by war, the city has been rebuit. On this tour, discover Vukovar's spirit of resilience and stories of bravery that remain central to the city's character, with museums and monuments preserving its legacy of sacrifice and hope. After this morning's excursions, visit the home of a local Croatian family and have lunch. Immerse yourself in this cultural and culinary experience, and enjoy an authentic meal prepared with fresh vegetables from the host's garden.

Arrives On: 02 May 27

Day 12: Mohács (Hungary)

Arrive in Mohács today. Straddling the Danube, this small Hungarian town holds an outsized position in Hungarian history. It was the site of the 16th century Battle of Mohács, which led to the destruction of the Hungarian monarchy and the rise of Ottoman and Habsburg rule. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way with one of these excursions:

Guided tour of Pécs: Located close to the Croatian border, this guided tour will take you to the city's first telephone exchange, which opened in 1885; the Turkish Bath of Pasha Memi, demolished in the late 19th century but unearthed in the 1970s, and more.

Villány wine stories: The region of Villány is known for its big, bold red wines. Learn about everyday life in Hungary, then proceed to a historic wine cellar where you can sample local drops.

Mohács traditions and flavours: Experience Mohács, a town where Hungarians, Croats, and Serbs live in unity, sharing rich traditions and multicultural heritage. Visit the Busóudvar Museum to learn about the World Heritage-listed Busójárás festival and taste authentic halászlé, a flavourful stew made with fresh Danube River fish and Hungarian paprika.

Arrives On: 03 May 27

Day 13: Budapest (Hungary)

Budapest is often considered to be the most beautiful city in Europe and you have a full day at leisure to see why.

Arrives On: 04 May 27

Day 14: 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. It's peppered with Roman ruins, Gothic buildings, bohemian coffee houses, world-class operas, and an historical

Jewish quarter where the scars of WWII can still be seen to this day. It is also well known for its hot springs and thermal baths. 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: Strap on your walking shoes for 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.

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.

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. Your 5-star Scenic 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: 05 May 27

Day 15: 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 today'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, the political boundary that divided Europe after WWII.

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: 06 May 27

Day 16: 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:

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. 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: 07 May 27

Day 17: Dürnstein (Austria)

This morning your Scenic Space-Ship will 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.

Over lunch, cruise through the Wachau Valley where you will be mesmerised by the sloping vineyards and charming villages, before arriving in Melk. This small town is dominated by 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:

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 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.

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. 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: 08 May 27

Day 17: Melk (Austria)

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 18: Brandstatt (Austria)

After a short stop in Brandstatt, arrive in Passau. 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: 09 May 27

Day 18: Passau (Germany)

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 19: 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: 10 May 27

Day 20: Regensburg (Germany)

Journey by coach to Prague, and spend three nights at a city central hotel.

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 20: Prague (Czech Republic)

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 21: 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: 12 May 27

Day 22: 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: 13 May 27

Day 23: Prague (Czech Republic)

Depart after breakfast, taking many wonderful memories with you. Transfer via coach to the airport for your return flight to the UK. 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.

Arrives On: 14 May 27

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

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