

15 Day Splendors of Europe Emerald River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Overview

- An iconic glass-top canal boat cruise in Amsterdam marks the beginning of this wonderful itinerary through the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.
- Promising natural beauty, medieval towns and hikes to hilltop fortresses, four capital cities offer a unique insight into the region's past, present and future.

Your Cruise Includes

- 14 nights on board an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- Airport transfers to and from your Star-Ship
- The services of an Emerald Cruises cruise director
- Port taxes and charges
- All tipping and gratuities

Included Excursions

- Canal cruise in Amsterdam
- Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town
- Visit to Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum
- Guided tour of Miltenberg
- Walking tour of Würzburg and a visit to the Bishops Residence
- Guided tour of Bamberg
- Guided tour of Nuremberg
- Guided tour of Regensburg
- Guided tour of Passau
- Tour of Melk Abbey
- Guided tour of Vienna
- Walking tour of Bratislava
- Guided coach tour of Budapest

EmeraldPLUS

- Exclusive visit to the Glass Art Museum in Wertheim with presentation
- Traditional Bavarian band performance on board
- Home-hosted coffee and cake with a Slovakian family
- Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board

EmeraldACTIVE

- Guided bike tour to Waterland
- Hike to Niederwalddenkmal
- Active walk to Mildenburg Castle
- Guided bike tour along the Danube River
- Guided hike to Dürnstein Castle
- Guided bike tour in Vienna
- Guided hike to Bratislava castle
- Hike to Gellert Hill

DINING HIGHLIGHTS

- 41 delectable meals including 14 breakfasts (B), 13 lunches (L), 14 dinners (D)
- Including a Welcome and Farewell Reception & Dinner
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner on board
-

Map From Emerald River Cruises



Day 1 - Amsterdam

- Welcome to Amsterdam, a postcard-worthy destination of picturesque canals, cafés, and art galleries.
- Here, you 'll be met at the airport and transferred to the comfortable surrounds of your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship.
- After boarding, you can enjoy some time to explore the cobbled streets and gabled houses at leisure.
- This evening, join your fellow guests for dinner on board.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner

Day 2 - Amsterdam

- This morning, explore the Dutch Golden Age, as you board a glass-top canal boat cruise to explore the UNESCO World Heritage-listed canal system or enjoy a guided bike tour to Waterland.
- Both excellent ways to experience the city in all its authenticity, take to its charming waterways, passing iconic buildings and elegant merchant residences that reflect a time when Amsterdam was one of the most lucrative ports in the world. If you're feeling more active, then explore on two wheels, cycling alongside a backdrop of historical villages and traditional windmills.
- On returning to your Star-Ship, your first day of sailing will take you through the tranquil Dutch countryside to the Rhine River.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour to Waterland
- **Included Excursion**
- Canal cruise
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Canal Boats, Amsterdam

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Typical Gabled Houses as seen from a canal boat cruise in 2013.

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 3 - Cologne

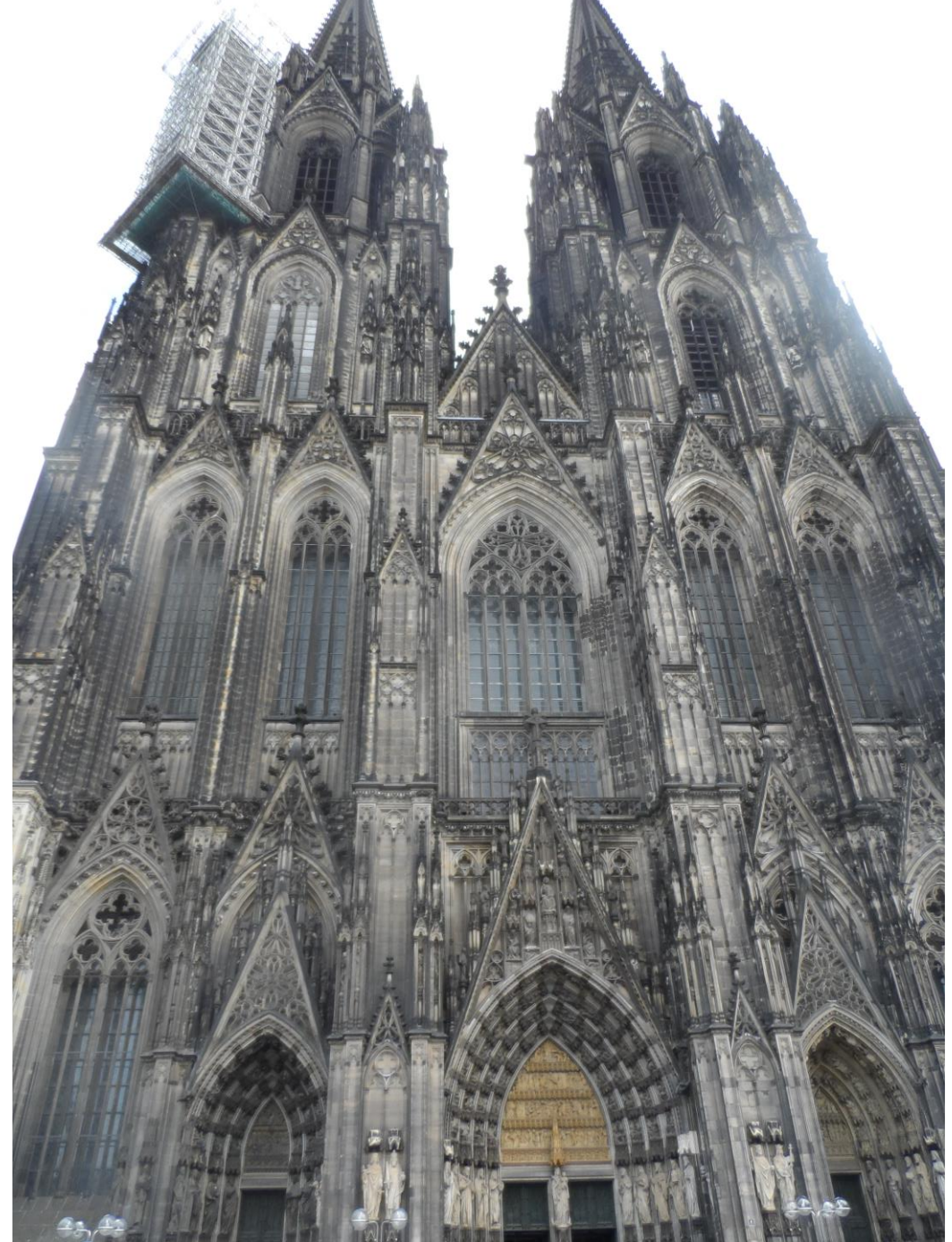
- Founded by the Romans in 50 AD, the cathedral city of Cologne is one of the oldest cities in Germany and the largest on the Rhine.
- The historic capital of the Rhineland, this illustrious city has been generously peppered with ancient architecture, from Roman ruins to medieval structures, despite much of the inner city being completely destroyed during WWII.
- Join your local guide and explore the city, including the Old Town with its beautiful squares, historic monuments and contemporary architecture.
- Your tour will conclude at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cologne Cathedral, whose filigree twin towers form an iconic part of the skyline.
- During your free time, explore the city center where locals meet for shopping trips and to enjoy authentic German beer before returning to your Star-Ship.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Cologne's Old Town
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Cologne Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
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Cologne Cathedral



German-Roman Museum Cologne

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Hohenzollern Bridge Cologne



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Christmas Markets in Old Market Square Cologne



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 4 - Rüdesheim

- Today's cruise route meanders through the fairy tale-like surrounds of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rhine Gorge. Hilltop castles and fortresses will be yours to admire as we sail leisurely down the Rhine River.
- We will pass the infamous Lorelai Rock, where sailors are said to have been lured onto treacherous rocks by an enchanting siren, and the impressive Pfalzgrafenstein Castle, a former stronghold.
- This afternoon, arrive in Rüdesheim, a town with a vibrant wine-growing heritage.
- You will have the choice of either riding on the Winzerexpress and visiting Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum
- or, if you're feeling active, taking an active hike to Niederwalddenkmal.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Hike to Niederwalddenkmal
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Marksburg Castle



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Maus (Mouse) Castle

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Katz (Cat) Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Lorelei—this tree-covered cliff inspired the legend of a love forsaken siren who lures sailors to their death by her enchanting song in this swift flowing, narrow part of the Rhine.



Schönburg Castle on the rock massif above Oberwesel

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Pfalzgrafenstein Castle (foreground) & Gutenfels Castle on the Hill

Photo Anne Schrader
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Reichenstein Castle



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Sailing into Rudesheim

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum

Photo Hank Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Hank Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Gondola Ride Rüdesheim



Germania Monument

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Germania Monument



Day 5 - Miltenberg – Wertheim

- Welcome to Miltenberg, a picturesque village on the Main River, boasting an inimitable feeling of medieval Bavaria with its 15th century half-timbered buildings.
- On your included walking tour, stroll down the cobblestone streets, lined with these colorful houses and view the Gothic Merchant Hall, an impressive symbol of past affluence.
- You could also enjoy an active walk through the forest to Miltenburg Castle. This iconic landmark now houses a wonderful collection of contemporary art and old masters.
- Later, we'll venture to the charming town of Wertheim where, as part of your EmeraldPLUS program you'll have an exclusive glassblowing presentation at the Glass Art Museum.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Exclusive visit to the Glass Art Museum in Wertheim with presentation
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Active walk to Mildenburg Castle
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Miltenberg
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Alter Markt Platz Miltenberg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

St. Jacobus Church. In the background on the right is Miltenberg Castle

Photo Anne Schrader
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Miltenberg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 6 - Würzburg

- Known as the 'Pearl of the Romantic Road', Würzburg, is the center for grape-growing, the product of the sloping vineyard-laden hills which surround the former capital of Franconia.
- The architects behind the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Würzburg Residence drew inspiration from a spectrum of different styles, including Viennese Baroque and secular features from Italy, but it was heavily damaged during WWII.
- Enjoy learning about how this impressive building was restored to its former glory on a guided tour.
- **Included Excursion**
- Walking tour of Würzburg and a visit to the Bishops Residence
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Excursion to Rothenburg (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Marienberg Fortress Würzburg



Old Stone Bridge Würzburg

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Residenz Palace Würzburg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Garden statue Residenz Palace Würzburg



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Translated from German, Plönlein is actually the small square at a fountain". This is probably the most famous picture of Rothenburg. (Extra Cost)



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Market Square Rothenburg (Extra Cost)



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Burger Gate
(Castle Gate)
Rothenburg. This
gate was built
around 1460 and
is the western
gate entrance. It
is the highest
gate tower of
the town
fortifications.
(Extra Cost)



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 7 - Bamberg

- This morning, relax on board and witness the beauty of Europe's waterways from the plush surrounds of your cabin as we cruise to Bamberg.
- The UNESCO World Heritage-listed town boasts one of the largest medieval centers in Europe, with around 2,400 listed buildings gracing its streets.
- Feel the magic of the past as you explore the city with your local guide, marveling at the opulence of the New Residence, once resided in by the prince bishops and now home to a plethora of old German and Baroque paintings from the Bavarian State collection.
- Enjoy a tranquil stroll around the Rose Garden to round your day off peacefully.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Bamberg
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Bamberg
Rathaus
(town hall)

Bamberg Cathedral



New Residence Rose Garden, Bamberg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 8 - Nuremberg

- Embark on a sightseeing tour of the historic city of Nuremberg, including the architectural wonders that have inspired famous artists for centuries and exploring the effects that the war years had.
- After your tour, enjoy time to explore Nuremberg at leisure, passing half-timbered houses that were beautifully reconstructed following the war.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Nuremberg
- **DiscoverMORE**
- World War II tour (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

The Walled City of Nuremberg. There are 4 km of walls and 67 defensive towers that ring the old town

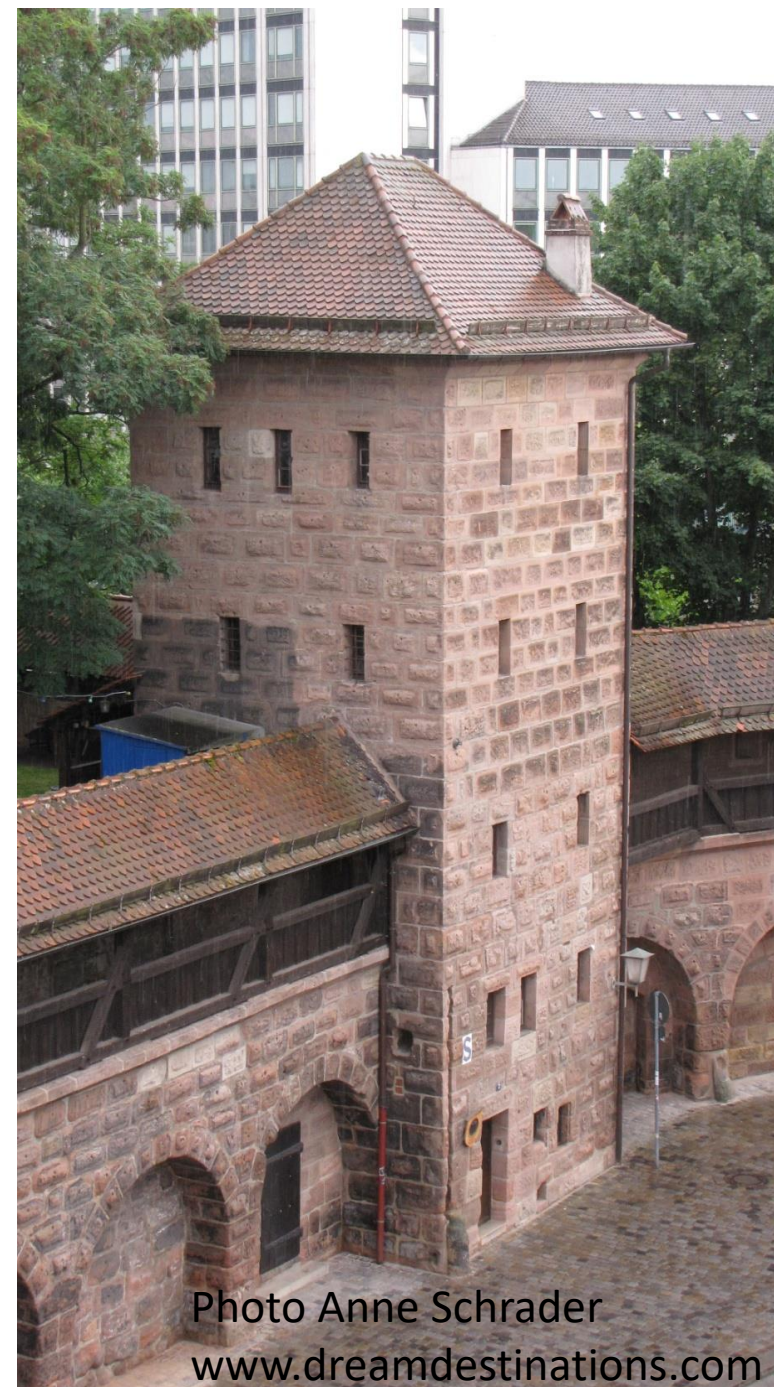


Photo Anne Schrader
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Maxbrücke (also called Hangman's Bridge) at the Pegnitz River—Nuremberg's oldest stone bridge

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Anne Schrader
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Nuremberg

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 9 - Regensburg

- This morning, you'll sail the final stretch of the fascinating Main-Danube Canal to Regensburg.
- As you continue sailing down the Danube, one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities welcomes you with two millennia of history.
- For almost 150 years, the Old Town Hall was the seat of parliament. Dating back to the 13th century, it consists of the Town Hall Tower, the Imperial Chamber building, & the Town Hall.
- Wander the streets with your guide, as the romantic narrow alleys of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town enable you to live through the city's history.
- The main highlight of your tour will be the 12th-century Stone Bridge, a medieval structure crossing the Danube.
- Enjoy time to explore Regensburg at leisure after your guided tour or return to your Star-Ship for some peace and tranquility.
- Later today, enjoy a traditional Bavarian band performance on board.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Bavarian band performance on board
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Regensburg
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Sausage-making workshop (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Regensburg, Germany

Photo Anne Schrader

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Porta Praetoria Roman ruins used in a new building Regensburg



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Old Town Hall Regensburg

Photo Anne Schrader
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Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 10 - Passau

- Passau is a picturesque city that has been shaped by the surrounding rivers over the years, sitting right on the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz.
- This memorable destination is dominated by large squares, magical promenades and romantic lanes. Cobblestone streets and graceful arcades welcome you in the beautiful city of Passau.
- On this morning's walking tour, stroll through streets lined by Baroque buildings dating back to the 17th century and look at the Gothic Town Hall, Bishop's Residence and St. Stephen's Cathedral, a wonderful example of Baroque architecture and home to the largest church organ in Europe.
- Return for lunch on board and an afternoon peacefully cruising along the Danube.
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Passau
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Excursion to Salzburg (extra expense)
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Excursion to Český Krumlov (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Passau, where three rivers meet—the Inn, the Ilz and the Danube



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Passau

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



The Veste Oberhaus Passau

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



St. Stephen's Cathedral Passau

Photo Anne Schrader
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St. Stephen's
Cathedral Passau.
Its organ has 17,947
pipes.

Photo Anne Schrader
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Salzburg Austria (Extra Cost)

Hohensalzburg Fortress



Mozart Square

Salzburg Austria (Extra Cost)

Mozart Birthplace

**Market Square
Fountain**



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Cesky Krumlov (Extra Expense)

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Cesky Krumlov (Extra Expense)



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Day 11 - Melk – Dürnstein

- Situated within Austria's wine-growing region, Melk is home to a 900-year-old Benedictine abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, which is yours to explore today during an included tour.
- Your guide will take you through a series of opulent rooms, each adorned with the finest Italian Baroque architecture and ornate gold leaf walls, including the ancient monastic library, renowned for its extensive collection of medieval manuscripts.
- Later, the Star-Ship sails through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Valley and on to Dürnstein, one of the most enchanting villages in the Wachau wine region, where you can choose to hike to Dürnstein Castle, the site where Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned after returning from the Crusades.
- Alternatively, enjoy an EmeraldACTIVE guided bike ride along the Danube from Melk to Dürnstein, passing famous vineyards and quaint towns.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour along the Danube
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided hike to Dürnstein Castle
- **Included Excursion**
- Tour of Melk Abbey
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Melk Abbey

Melk

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Schonbuhl Castle Wachau Valley

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Hinterhaus Castle Ruins Wachau Valley

Photo Anne Schrader

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Aggstein Castle Ruins Wachau Valley

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Wachau Valley

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Wachau Valley

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Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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Spitz Wachau Valley

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Durnstein, Austria



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Durnstein from the Danube. The Blue Tower is part of Durnstein Abby

Ruins of Durnstein Castle where Richard the Lionhearted was held for ransom in 1192



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Durnstein

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Day 12 - Vienna

- Austria's breathtaking capital is recognized for its cultural legacy.
- As the former residence of Mozart and Beethoven, a multitude of imperial palaces represent a rich history, and the museum district boasts contemporary buildings, housing the work of some of the world's most prolific artists.
- Explore the famous sights of the Ringstrasse and Vienna's city center by coach and on foot or join a guided bike tour. 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 explore Vienna at leisure.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour of Vienna
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Vienna
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Viennese evening concert
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Visit to Schönbrunn Palace
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 - Bratislava

- Set at the crossroads of ancient trade routes in the heart of Europe, Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, is a place where Baroque palaces, boutiques and cafés adorn cobblestone streets. In the morning, enjoy a sightseeing tour, including the enchanting Old City or hike to Bratislava Castle.
- 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 at leisure.
- This afternoon, a local family will be happy to welcome you into their home for some great conversation over traditional sweet treats and coffee.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Home-hosted coffee and cake with a Slovakian family
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided hike to Bratislava Castle
- **Included Excursion**
- Walking tour of Bratislava
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Skoda tour of post-Communist Bratislava (extra expense)
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Carpathian wine route (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hike to Bratislava Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Old Town Hall Bratislava

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Michael's Gate

This gate is the only remaining gate from the walled city of Bratislava



St Martin's Cathedral Bratislava



Primacial Palace Bratislava



Photo Anne Schrader

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Slovak National Theater Bratislava

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Day 14 - Budapest

- Budapest is Eastern Europe's liveliest and most cosmopolitan city.
- Divided by the iconic Danube River, Buda and Pest on either side can be reached via the Chain Bridge, one of the city's most symbolic structures.

Enjoy a guided tour of the city with your local guide this morning.

- Alternatively, embark on a hike to Gellert Hill.
- This evening, you will enjoy a Hungarian folklore show before your farewell dinner.

- **EmeraldPLUS**

- Traditional Hungarian folklore show on board

- **EmeraldACTIVE**

- Hike to Gellert Hill

- **Included Excursion**

- Guided coach tour of Budapest

- **DiscoverMORE**

- Excursion to Szentendre (extra expense)

- **DiscoverMORE**

- Jewish heritage tour (extra expense)

- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 - Budapest

- After breakfast, it's time to say farewell to your fellow guests and disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of the delightful Danube 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.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast

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