

Enchantment of Eastern Europe Emerald Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Map from Emerald Waterways



Cruise Overview

- 7 nights on board an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- 1 night in a hotel in Bucharest
- Airport transfers to and from the ship
- The services of an Emerald Cruises Cruise Director
- Port taxes and charges
- All tipping and gratuities

Included Excursions

- Guided walking tour of Osijek Fortress
- Guided tour of Belgrade
- Visit to Lepenski Vir archaeological site and museum
- Visit to a local vineyard with wine tasting & a visit to Baba Vida Fortress
- Tour of Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi
- Guided drive through Bucharest with a visit to the Spring Palace

Included EmeraldPLUS

- Puszta horse show
- Meet the local Students
- Home-hosted lunch with a Croatian family
- Serbian folklore evening show on board
- Choir concert in Arbanasi

Included EmeraldACTIVE

- Guide bike tour in Belgrade
- Donji Milanovac by bike
- Trek to Adica Park
- Guided hike to Belogradchick Fortress
- Guided hike to Ivanovo Church

Day 1 Budapest

- Welcome to Budapest, where you will be met at the airport and transferred to your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship to be greeted by your friendly captain and crew.
- This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore Eastern Europe's liveliest city at leisure.
- The 'Pearl on the Danube' is a truly breathtaking sight, where dozens of lights adorn the stone bridges that cross the mighty Danube, separating both sides of the city.
- This evening, join your fellow guests for dinner on board.
- Please book your flight to arrive in Budapest prior to 05:00

Day 2 Kalocsa

- This morning, we'll reach Kalocsa, best known for its vibrant paprika festivals.
- You'll venture to the Puszta, or Great Hungarian Plain, for a traditional performance showcasing the exceptional equestrian skills of the Magyar cowboys.
- Relax as you watch their spectacular horse parade and witness their exercise drills.
- Tonight, your crew will welcome you for a welcome dinner & reception.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Puszta horse show

Day 3

- This morning, we will drive to Osijek, a historic university town full of leafy boulevards and promenades.
- Today, you will meet students from a local village who will then perform for you during your EmeraldPLUS excursion, before you embark on a walk around Osijek Fortress, nestled in the center of the romantic old town.
- Later, sail further down the Danube and into Serbia, where remnants of recent conflicts can be seen on the riverbanks.

Day 3 Excursions

- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Home-hosted lunch with a Croatian family
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Meet the local students
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Trek to Adica
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided walking tour of Osijek Fortress
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Vucedol Culture Museum (extra expense)

Day 4 Belgrade:

- The capital of Serbia awaits you today, as a city tour introduces you to the highlights of one of Europe's oldest cities, including Belgrade Fortress.
- Relax as your coach takes you through the center of this peaceful city and witness the symmetrical façade of the Church of Saint Sava, one of the world's largest church buildings.
- Stop for a tour of the Museum of Yugoslavia
- or learn about the history of Belgrade during a guided bike tour of the city.
- This evening, relax in the Horizon Lounge and watch a traditional Serbian folklore show

Day 4 Excursions

- **.EmeraldPLUS**
- Serbian folklore evening show on board
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour in Belgrade
- **Included Excursion**
- Guided tour of Belgrade
- **DiscoverMORE**
- National Opera Theatre tour (extra expense)
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Routes of Nikola Tesla (extra expense)

Belgrade Serbia



Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

St Sava Cathedral

Parliament



Photo Hank Schrader
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DiscoverMORE
National
Opera
Theatre tour
(extra
expense)



Day 5 Golubač–Donji Milanovac–Iron Gates

- In eastern Serbia, within the Majdanpek municipality, the town of Donji Milanovac sits on the right bank of the Danube.
- Today, you will have the opportunity to visit the Palaeolithic site of Lepenski Vir on an included excursion.
- Enjoy learning about the importance of this archaeological site and its illustrious history, spanning more than 8 millennia.
- The day ends as we sail through the Iron Gates, a picturesque narrow gorge that meanders between the Carpathian Mountains and the European Alps.
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to Lepenski Vir archaeological site and museum
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Visit to Lepenski Vir archaeological site and museum Donji Milanovac by bike

Stunning River Scenes The Iron Gates



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Photo Anne Schrader
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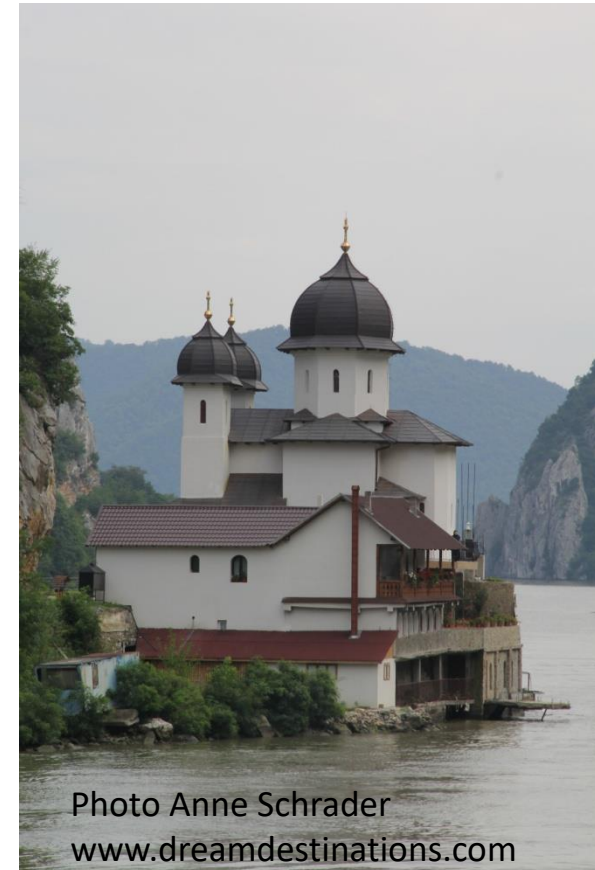


Photo Anne Schrader
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Day 6 Vidin

- This morning, we'll arrive in Vidin, a beautiful town in north-west Bulgaria, renowned for its wine production.
- Your included tour will introduce you to the best of Vidin's viticulture, as you stroll through a local vineyard and enjoy a tasting of their produce.
- Later, venture to Baba Vida, a medieval fortress whose name can be translated to mean "Granny Vida".
- Alternatively, hike to Belogradchik Fortress, a well-preserved stronghold that sits against a series of impressive rock formations.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Hike to Belogradchik Fortress
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to a local vineyard with wine tasting & a visit to Baba Vida Fortress
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Traditional Bulgarian pastry making

Baba Vida Castle, Vidin, Bulgaria



Baba Vida Castle, Vidin Bulgaria



More of Baba Vida Castle

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



One of the keep towers of Baba Vida Castle



Statue of Baba Vida outside the castle



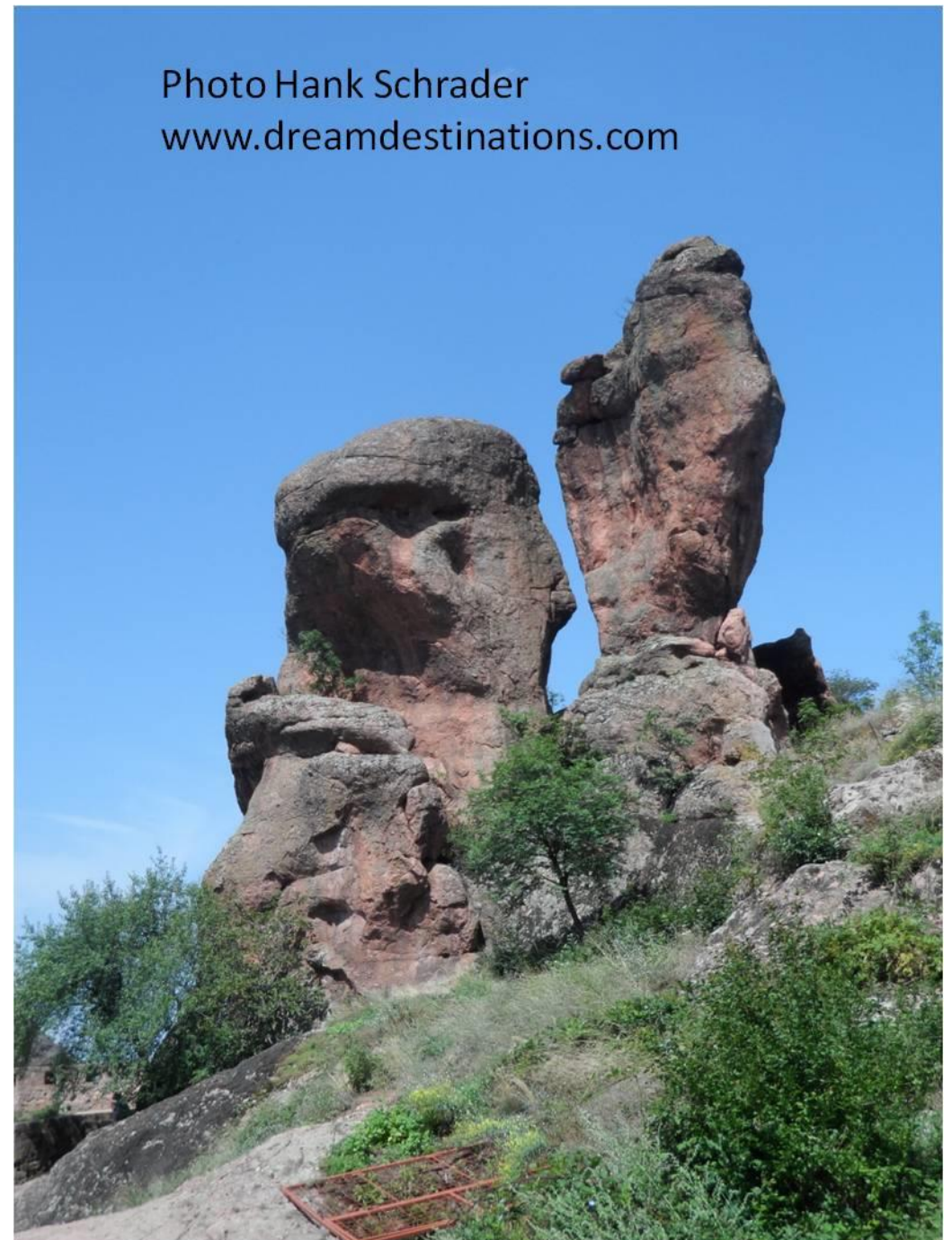
Photo Hank Schrader
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Play about the history of the Baba Vida Castle

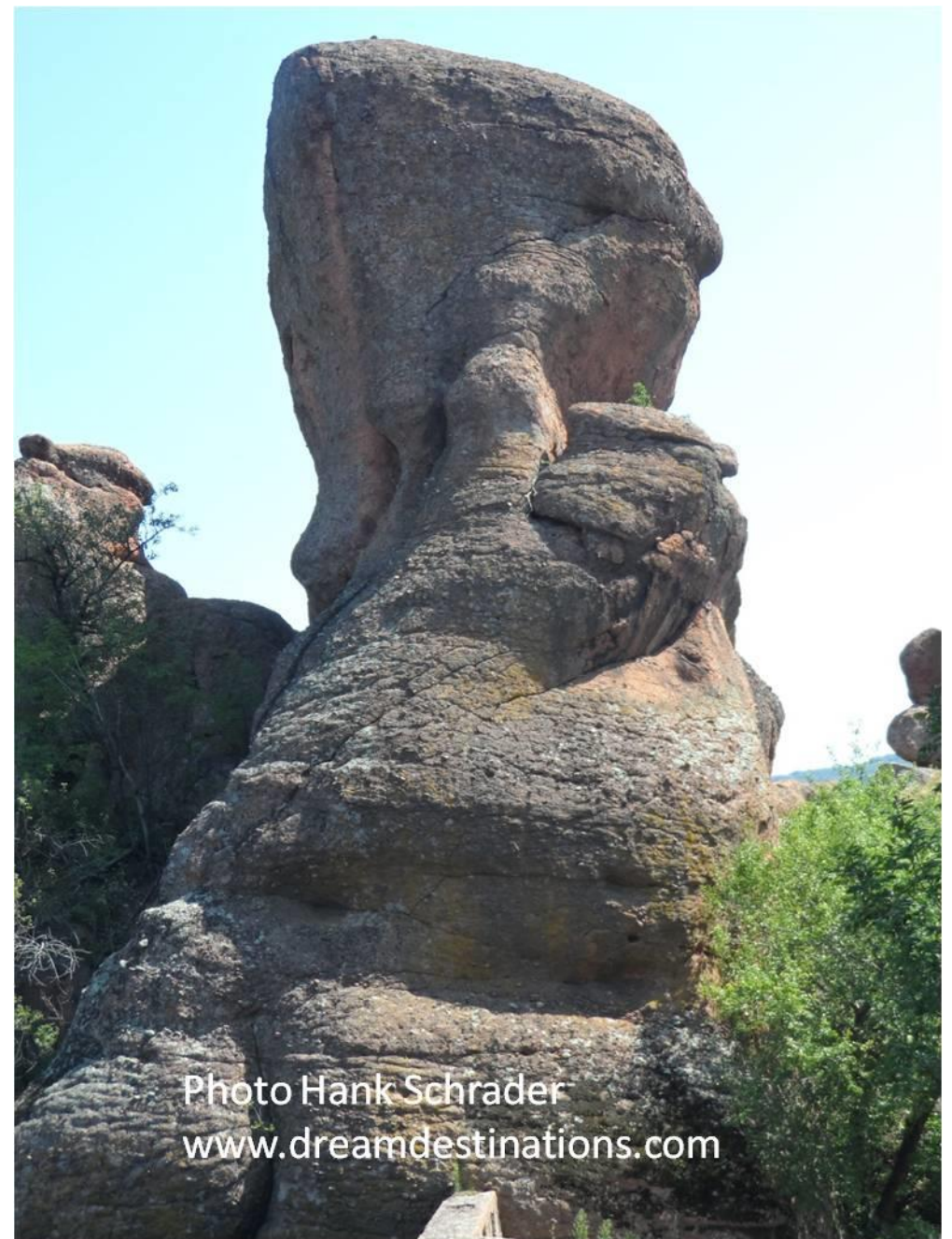


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Belogradchik
Rock Formations
EmeraldACTIVE
Hike to
Belogradchik
Fortress



More Belogradchik rocks



More exposed Belogradchik rocks

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Belogradchik Fortress built among the rocks



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More of the Belogradchik fortress



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A passage gate of the Belogradchik Fortress



Day 7 Rousse – Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi

- Today, your Star-Ship will cruise into Rousse, where you will have the opportunity to visit Veliko Tarnovo.
- The former capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire, this medieval city was built atop three hills and its fortifications and cobbled streets are certain to delight history lovers.
- Nearby, Arbanasi sits on a high plateau overlooking the Yantra River. Each street in the area is lined with traditional houses, and old churches offer centuries of exploration during your guided tour.
- Alternatively, embark on a guided hike to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, a complex of churches, chapels and monasteries
- . Tonight, your crew will welcome you on board for a farewell dinner.

Day 7 Excursions

- **EmeraldPLUS**

- Choir concert in Arbanasi

- **EmeraldACTIVE**

- Guided hike to Ivanovo Church

- **Included Excursion**

- Tour of Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi

- **DiscoverMORE**

- Paint & Wine (extra expense)

- **DiscoverMORE**

- Wine tasting at Leventa Complex (extra expense)

Day 8 Giurgiu – Bucharest

- This morning, relax and enjoy the passing scenery as we drive towards Bucharest, including the Romanian city of Giurgiu, set amongst the mud flats and marshes of the Danube.
- Visit the Spring Palace and the private residence of Nicolae Ceausescu, before enjoying free time to explore the city at leisure.
- Learn about Bucharest's vibrant history on a guided coach tour, passing by the Palace of Parliament.
- This evening, settle into the comfortable surrounds of your hotel and perhaps go for a stroll down one of the wide avenues or leafy boulevards that give Bucharest a distinctly French feel.

Included Excursion

- Guided drive through Bucharest with a visit to the Spring Palace

Palace of the Parliament

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 9 Bucharest

- After breakfast, it is time to say farewell to your fellow guests and transfer to the airport, taking memories of the Great Hungarian Plain and medieval fortresses with you.

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