

# **Danube Explorer**

Hungary • Slovakia • Austria • Germany • the Czech Republic

Departure Date: August 31, 2022



## **Danube Explorer**



Dürnstein, Austria – The 'Pearl of the Wachau Valley'

**DAY 1** Depart the USA: Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Budapest, Hungary.

**DAY 2** Budapest, Hungary: Welcome to the "Pearl of the Danube". You will be met at the airport and transferred to your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship, home for the next seven nights. This evening, join your fellow guests for a folklore performance onboard and a traditional Hungarian dinner. After dinner, relax on the Sun Deck and enjoy the fabulous view of the Parliament Building, aglow in nighttime splendor. **Meal: D** 

EmeraldPLUS: A traditional Hungarian folklore show

**DAY 3** Budapest: Explore Budapest's cobbled medieval quarter, as you embark on a coach tour through the UNESCO World Heritage city center. Your guide will highlight a number of architectural wonders from across the ages, enabling you to follow a journey from Budapest's Roman beginnings to the addition of ornate Romanesque and Baroque architecture in the centuries that followed. If you are feeling more active, you may instead choose to hike to Buda Hill. The surrounding area has been rebuilt several times, most recently following the air raids of WWII. Some 18th-century Baroque houses still stand, best explored by foot along the medieval paths and alleyways in the area around Buda Castle. **Meals: B, L, D** 

EmeraldACTIVE: Guided hike to Buda Hill (instead of city tour)

DAY 4 Bratislava, Slovakia: This morning, relax onboard as we sail into the capital of Slovakia. This graceful nation became an independent country in 1993, and since then, Bratislava has flourished as a new capital and made a name for itself as a cultural center. The romantic cobblestone lanes that weave through the city are explored with your local guide, as you enjoy a walking tour of the ancient town center, seeing the Slovak National Theater and a range of Gothic and Art Nouveau buildings. For the more active guests, embark on a guided hike to Bratislava Castle, a landmark steeped in legends that looks as though it came from the pages of a fairytale book. Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5 Vienna, Austria: Welcome to Vienna, Austria's capital and the capital of classical music. The city perfectly encapsulates the opulence of the Habsburg Monarchy and their ornate Baroque palaces. On the included city tour, see monuments and buildings of grandeur as the coach drives along the famous Ringstrasse. During the walking tour, stroll with your guide through the city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at the classical architectural styles of the buildings, see St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Hofburg Palace, right at the heart of the city center. If you are feeling more active, opt to explore on two wheels, cycling along the river to experience the city by bike. Meals: B, L, D EmeraldACTIVE: Bike tour in Vienna (instead of city tour) DiscoverMORE: Tastes of Vienna tour (additional expense) DiscoverMORE: An exclusive Viennese evening concert with the music of Mozart and Strauss (additional expense)

**DAY 6** Dürnstein – Melk: Effortlessly suspended in time, Dürnstein is a small, charming village nestled in the Wachau wine region. Enjoy free time to wander through the cobblestoned lanes of this enchanting village. Or, if you're feeling energetic, join the hike up to the ruins of Dürnstein Castle which served as a prison to England's Richard the Lionheart. Later this morning, sail through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Valley, passing medieval villages, terraced vineyards and areas of natural beauty. Upon arrival in Melk, enjoy a guided tour of Melk Abbey, originally a lavish castle that was gifted to Benedictine monks during the 11th century. This opulent Baroque building is home to some of the most important collections of medieval manuscripts in the world. **Meals: B, L, D** 

EmeraldACTIVE\*: A guided hike to Dürnstein Castle

EmeraldACTIVE\*: A guided bike ride along the Danube from Dürnstein to Melk

**DiscoverMORE (from Dürnstein):** Weissenkirchen vineyard hike with tasting (additional expense)

DiscoverMORE (from Melk): Tour of Schallaburg Castle (additional expense)

\* the ACTIVE events overlap; only one can be selected

EmeraldACTIVE: A guided hike to Bratislava Castle EmeraldPLUS: Local Slovakian entertainment onboard

### DAY 7 Linz, Austria / Ceský Krumlov, Czech Republic: Today's

adventure takes you to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Ceský Krumlov. With its 13th-century castle, meandering river, and a maze of quaint alleyways, this town has one of the best-preserved centers in Europe. Join your local guide to traverse a labyrinth of winding cobblestone lanes as you experience the charming atmosphere of Ceský Krumlov's medieval buildings and iconic castle complex. During the excursion, visit the 15th-century St. VItus' Church, a highlight of the town. Meals: B, D EmeraldPLUS: A guided tour of Ceský Krumlov DiscoverMORE: A tour of Salzburg (additional expense) \*Instead of the included excursion

DAY 8 Passau, Germany: Narrow cobblestone streets welcome you to Passau, a town nestled on the confluence of three of Europe's main waterways. This important historic trading center borders Austria and Germany, and a distinctive blend of cultures can be found here. Your local guide will take you on a walking tour of the town, touching on its distinctive historic buildings. See the Baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral with its ornate columns and arches and the Altes Rathaus, or Town Hall, a collection of eight historic patrician houses built between the 14th and 15th centuries. Meals: B, L, D EmeraldACTIVE: Guided hike to Veste Oberhaus (instead of city tour) DiscoverMORE: Bavaria Live (additional expense)

DAY 9 Passau – Prague, Czech Republic: After breakfast, say goodbye to your Captain and crew as you disembark your ship and depart by motorcoach for Prague, Czech Republic. Upon arrival, you'll have free time for lunch on your own before the included city tour highlighting the famous sites of this beautiful city. Following a brief panoramic drive, the heart of the city is discovered on foot. See the Old Town Square with its historic astronomical clock, and the medieval Charles Bridge. The tour concludes at the hotel with the evening at leisure. **Meal: B** 

DAY 10 Prague: Your final day is left free of planned activities for your independent exploration of Prague. Or, if you choose, join the morning optional excursion to Terezin Concentration Camp. Meal: B DiscoverMORE: Terezin Concentration Camp (additional expense)

**DAY 11** Prague / USA: Bid a fond farewell to Europe and return home with wonderful memories of life-enriching experiences from your cruise along the Danube River. **Meal: B** 

Itinerary is subject to change.

#### **CRUISE AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Days 2 through 8** – Aboard an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship **Days 9 and 10** – Hotel Grandium or similar, Prague, Czech Republic

Pre-cruise hotel stays available in Budapest. Call for details.



## **Exceptional Inclusions**

- **21 Meals:** 9 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 7 dinners
- Airport transfers on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
- Visit five countries
- Seven-night cruise in a suite or stateroom of your choice onboard the vessel
- All gratuities included
- First-class service by an English-speaking crew
- Onboard Activity Manager will support all EmeraldACTIVE excursions and host daily onboard wellness activities, games, classes and evening entertainment
- Shore excursions with English-speaking local guides
- Personal listening device for onboard excursions
- Most meals included onboard with a variety of international cuisine
- Complimentary regional wines, beer and soft drinks accompany onboard lunches and dinners
- Complimentary **bottled water** in your stateroom
- Complimentary WiFi onboard
- Complimentary **bicycles onboard** for use ashore
- All port charges included
- Two-night **hotel stay and touring** in Prague, the Czech Republic
- \$55 in Mayflower Money

## **Emerald Waterways Star-Ships**

Built: 2014-20 Speed: 15.5 mph Staterooms: 19 Suites: 72 Length: 443 ft. Crew: 47

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AUGUST 31, 2022

### **Danube Explorer River Cruise**

САТ	STATEROOM / SUITE	DECK	TWIN	ROOM
E	Emerald Stateroom	Riviera	\$4,699	+\$3,022
D	Emerald Stateroom	Riviera	\$4,749	+\$3,054
С	Panorama Balcony Suite	Vista	\$5,499	+\$3,542
в	Panorama Balcony Suite	Vista	\$5,599	+\$3,574
Α	Panorama Balcony Suite	Horizon	\$5,849	+\$3,769
S	Grand Balcony Suite	Horizon	\$6,449	N/A
SA	Owner's One-Bedroom Suite	Horizon	\$6,949	N/A

Pricing includes Round Trip Transfers to Roanoke - Blacksburg Regional Airport

#### Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) for River Cruises - \$450 per person (optional)

This nonrefundable fee will provide a refund to you during the instance that you have to cancel your trip. The cancellation has to be for a covered reason (see Plan for details on coverage) and we have to be notified at least one day prior to departure. If you must leave the tour early due to personal illness or the illness or death of an immediate family member, TPP will provide a refund for any unused services after the departure of the tour. Other benefits include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, 24 hour hot line and lost or stolen baggage assistance. Return air transportation is included ONLY if your air tickets are purchased through Mayflower Cruises & Tours. Please review the Plan for details on coverage. Should you choose not to purchase our TPP, the following per person cancellation charges will be assessed for all tours and optional excursion costs:

- 91 days or more prior to departure: Deposit Amount
  90 days to day of departure: 100% of total tour
- No refund on unused portions of the tour

Exclusions: Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its Refund and Cancellation Policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours. Plan and benefits offered and administered by Trip Mate, Inc.





## Free airfare when booked by June 30th, 2022!

Air itineraries may not be available until documents are received. Air seats are assigned by the airline for the entire group. Seat changes can only be attempted upon receipt of tickets and documents at which time availability may be limited. If specific seat assignments are vital to your reservation, we recommend individual air reservations rather than booking air with the group.



Please note that Mayflower requires proof of vaccination against COVID-19, travelers must be fully vaccinated a minimum of 14 days prior to departure.



**Director of Community Programs** 540-375-2323 ridpath@roanoke.edu