

Gemini Excursions

CRUISE THE
MOST HISTORIC
PART OF THE
DANUBE RIVER!



Gems of Eastern Europe

Romania • Bulgaria • Serbia • Croatia • Hungary

Tour Dates: June 18 - July 1, 2025

**Mayflower**
CRUISES & TOURS

Gems of Eastern Europe



Blue domes and blue skies in Belgrade, Serbia



Visit a Puszta Horse Farm in Kalocsa, Hungary

DAY 1 Depart the USA: Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Bucharest, Romania.

DAY 2 Bucharest, Romania: Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The day is at leisure to begin discovering this historic city on your own.

DAY 3 Bucharest – Brasov: Get ready for the start of your Transylvanian adventure! Depart by coach for the town of Brasov, a pleasant mix of traditional medieval charm and modern city life, in the center of Transylvania. En route, visit the world renowned 14th-century Bran (Dracula's) Castle, perched atop a hill, looking like it's from the pages of a fairytale book. Explore the castle, believed to be home to Vlad the Impaler, discover the secrets held within the walls, and decide for yourself if the dark tales are truth or legend! **Meals: B, L**

DAY 4 Brasov: A walking tour includes the St Nicholas Church and a visit of the First Romanian School Museum, leading centers of the Romanian community. The museum houses the oldest Romanian bible, printed on goats' skin. Stroll through Brasov's historical medieval center, learning of its German heritage, and visit Black Church, the largest Gothic church east of Vienna. **Meal: B**
DiscoverMORE: Prejmer & Harman UNESCO fortified churches (additional expense)

DAY 5 Brasov: The final day in Brasov is left free of planned activities for relaxation or independent plans. **Meal: B**
DiscoverMORE: Sighisoara & Viscri Village (additional expense)

DAY 6 Brasov – Bucharest: After breakfast return to Bucharest by coach, traveling through the Carpathian Mountains. Stop in Sinaia, known as the 'Pearl of the Carpathians' and home to one of Romania's most beautiful palaces - Peles Castle. A tour of the palace showcases some of its opulent decor and invaluable collections of art and furniture. Lunch is included during the excursion before arriving in Bucharest for an overnight. **Meals: B, L**

DAY 7 Bucharest / Giurgiu, Romania: Begin the day with a guided city tour where you learn about some of Bucharest's highlights as the coach takes you on a panoramic drive. See the iconic Palace of Parliament and Triumph Arch. Visit the Spring Palace, former mansion of Nicolae Ceaușescu. Spared from the 1989 uprising that overthrew the dictator, the rooms exude opulence and remain as they were over 30 years ago. Following the tour, enjoy free time for lunch on your own. Journey by coach from Bucharest to Giurgiu, on the banks of the Danube, where a warm welcome awaits from your Captain and crew onboard your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship. The ship sails to Rousse this evening. **Meals: B, D**
EmeraldPLUS: Evening choir concert onboard

DAY 8 Rousse, Bulgaria: After arrival in Rousse, depart on an included walking tour. A local guide will tell about the city's history and point out some of the highlights. **Meals: B, L, D**

EmeraldACTIVE*: Guided hike to Ivanovo Church

DiscoverMORE*: Full-day tour to Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi (additional expense)

DiscoverMORE:** Paint & Wine (additional expense)

*These excursions overlap; only one can be selected

**This excursion overlaps with the other DiscoverMORE; only one can be selected

DAY 9 Vidin, Bulgaria: A morning arrival brings you to Vidin in northwest Bulgaria. One of the oldest towns along the Bulgarian Danube, it prospers from its surrounding countryside, renowned for wine production. The day begins with an included tour of a vineyard and the opportunity to sample the local vintage. After a picturesque drive through the Bulgarian countryside, arrive at the medieval Baba Vida Fortress. During the guided tour, see the three fully-preserved towers and original battlements of the city's main attraction. Alternatively, embark on a hike to Belogradchik Fortress, also known as Kaletto, on the northern slopes of the Balkan Mountains. Initially used as a lookout point, it is believed to have been built by Romans, utilizing the already existing rocky landscape. **Meals: B, L, D**

EmeraldACTIVE: Hike to Belogradchik Fortress (instead of included tour)

DiscoverMORE: Traditional Bulgarian pastry-making (additional expense)

DAY 10 Donji Milanovac – Golubac, Serbia / Iron Gates: Embark on an incredible journey to the archaeological excavation site of Lepinski Vir. Located on the Danube in the Djerdap Gorge, near the town of Donji Milanovac, this Paleolithic site showcases a history spanning more than 8 millennia. Archaeologists have used this site to track the development of prehistoric culture in Europe and numerous Stone Age settlements have been found in the area. Re-embark the ship in Golubac following the excursion and enjoy the rest of the day sailing along the Danube River. Be sure to be on deck as you sail through the Iron Gates - the narrow gorge between the European Alps and Carpathian Mountains, boasting spectacular scenery. **Meals: B, L, D**

DiscoverMORE: Golubac Castle Visit (additional expense)

DAY 11 Belgrade: Today's adventure begins with a guided walking tour of this vibrant capital city, showcasing the historic and architectural aspects. Alternatively, learn about the history of Belgrade during a guided bike tour of the city. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in port, or join an optional excursion to the National Opera Theatre for a backstage tour. After dinner, you're in for a treat as a dance troupe comes aboard and performs a folklore show featuring dances from various parts of the country. **Meals: B, L, D**

EmeraldACTIVE: Guided bike tour (instead of city tour)

DiscoverMORE: National Opera Theatre Tour (additional expense)

EmeraldPLUS: Evening Serbian folklore show onboard

DAY 12 Vukovar, Croatia: Enjoy the morning in Vukovar or explore the Vucedol Culture Museum on the DiscoverMORE excursion. This afternoon, for a truly life-enriching experience, you are taken to the homes of local villagers for a home-hosted lunch. Enjoy this fantastic opportunity to share a typical meal with them and learn about their life, local culture, and customs. It's sure to be a highlight of your cruise! **Meals: B, L, D**

EmeraldPLUS: Home-hosted lunch with a Croatian Family

DiscoverMORE: Vucedol Culture Museum (additional expense)

DAY 13 Kalocsa, Hungary: This morning, the ship arrives in Kalocsa, one of Hungary's oldest towns and famous for the production of paprika. Visit a local Puszta Horse Farm during an included excursion. Watch a performance showcasing the exceptional riding skills of Magyar cowboys and the "tricks" of the horses themselves. Reboard the ship and enjoy your final afternoon onboard sailing to Budapest. Be sure to be on deck this evening as the ship arrives in Budapest to witness the beauty of the city aglow in nighttime splendor. **Meals: B, L, D**

EmeraldPLUS: Visit to a Puszta Horse Farm

EmeraldPLUS: Traditional Hungarian folklore show onboard

DAY 14 Budapest / USA: Bid a fond farewell to Eastern Europe as you depart on the transfer to the airport and return home with memories of life-enriching experiences from your cruise along the lower Danube River. **Meal: B**

Itinerary is subject to change.

CRUISE AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS



Exceptional Inclusions

- **27 Meals:** 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners
- **Airport transfers** on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
- Visit **five countries**
- Three-night **hotel stay and touring** in Brasov, Romania
- Visits to **Dracula's Castle and Peles Castle**
- Two-night **hotel stay and touring** in Bucharest, Romania
- **Seven-night cruise** aboard a luxurious Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- **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 shore excursions
- Onboard meals include 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 gratuities included**

Day 2 – Radisson Blu, Bucharest, Romania

Days 3 through 5 – Hotel Ambient, Brasov, Romania

Day 6 – Radisson Blu, Bucharest, Romania

Days 7 through 13 – aboard an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship

Emerald Cruises Star-Ships

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

SUN DECK



HORIZON DECK



VISTA DECK



RIVIERA DECK



Public Areas and Ship Amenities

- 1 Sun Deck with Deck Chairs
- 2 Navigation Bridge
- 3 Sky Barbeque
- 4 Golf Putting Green
- 5 Games Area
- 6 Retractable Glass Roof
- 7 Walking Track
- 8 Daytime Pool / Evening Cinema
- 9 The Terrace
- 10 Horizon Bar and Lounge
- 11 Elevator
- 12 Reception
- 13 Wellness Area
- 14 Fitness Area
- 15 Reflections Restaurant



Owner's One-Bedroom Suite

315ft²

CAT SA



Grand Balcony Suite

210ft²

CAT S



Panorama Balcony Suite

180ft²

CAT A CAT B CAT C



Emerald Stateroom

162ft²

CAT D CAT E

Gems of Eastern Europe River Cruise

		JUNE 18 - JULY 1, 2025		
CAT	STATEROOM / SUITE	DECK	PER PERSON TWIN	SINGLE ROOM ADD
E	Emerald Stateroom	Riviera	\$5,999	+ \$4,575
D	Emerald Stateroom	Riviera	\$6,929	+ \$5,099
C	Panorama Balcony Suite	Vista	\$7,219	+ \$5,429
B	Panorama Balcony Suite	Vista	\$7,449	+ \$5,595
A	Panorama Balcony Suite	Horizon	\$7,789	+ \$5,829
S	Grand Balcony Suite	Horizon	\$8,499	N/A
SA	Owner's One-Bedroom Suite	Horizon	\$9,479	N/A

Pricing includes local Keokuk pickup, roundtrip St Louis airfare, land/cruise package, hotel baggage handling, 27 meals, wine and beer with lunches and dinners on ship, and gratuities to guides, drivers and ship staff.



Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) for River Cruises - \$569 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.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pam Kelly
Gemini Excursions
319-524-1461
excursions.pam@gmail.com