



2026-2027 GRAND DANUBE CRUISE CHRISTMAS MARKETS AKX

21 DAYS · TRAVEL TO MUNICH, GERMANY AND RETURN FROM BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

2 NIGHTS IN MUNICH, 14-NIGHT CRUISE FROM VILSHOFEN TO GIURGIU, 2 NIGHTS IN BRAȘOV AND 2 NIGHTS IN BUCHAREST

Journey along paths forged by conquerors, crusaders and kings through Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic. Step back in time to explore the history and mystery living in the hillsides while cruising the Danube and through the Iron Gates. Legends of all kinds are waiting to be uncovered—the Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, built into the side of a mountain showcasing well-preserved medieval frescos; and the 14th-century Bran Castle, once home to Vlad the Impaler who inspired Bram Stoker’s Dracula. Experience the Romans’ influence firsthand in Pécs, “the city of Mediterranean impressions,” and the taste of wine in Croatia. From imposing capitals—Bucharest, Budapest, Vienna and Prague—to towns lost in time, immerse yourself in the colorful folktales and traditions of the extraordinary people and places you visit along the way.

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	Munich	Hotel check-in
2	Munich	Walking tour Bavarian Beer Hall and pretzel tasting
3	Munich Vilshofen	Transfer to the ship EMBARKATION Exclusive Oktoberfest
4	Passau	“City of Three Rivers” walking tour and Christmas Markets OR Passau Hike to Paulinerkloister Mariahilf
5	Linz	“UNESCO City of Media Arts” walking tour with Christmas Markets OR “Cultural Mile” bike tour OR Full-day Salzburg excursion and Christmas Markets* OR Full-day Český Krumlov and Linz excursion* Distillery tour
6	Weissenkirchen	Scenic cruising through Strudengau and UNESCO Wachau Valley Dürnstein walking tour and Melk Benedictine Abbey OR Apricots and sweets tasting OR Dürnstein Fortress hike OR Wachau Valley bike tour Evening wine tasting at local winery
8	Vienna	“Imperial Vienna” tour with Town Hall Christmas Markets OR Vienna City Tour by Bike Rathaus Christmas Market by night
9	Vienna	“Coronation City” walking tour with Christmas Markets OR Bratislava Castle hike OR Schonbrunn Christmas Markets
10	Budapest	Buda city tour and Vörösmarty Square Christmas Markets OR Castle Hill hike
11	Budapest	Gödöllő Palace and Pustza excursion
12	Mohács	Pécs excursion with Christmas Markets OR Szekszárd wine tasting OR Guided Bike Ride Along the Danube



2026-2027 GRAND DANUBE CRUISE CHRISTMAS MARKETS AKX

13	Vukovar	Highlights of Vukovar OR Osijek tour OR Vukovar bike tour Croatian Wine Tasting OR Vucedol Museum
14	Belgrade	“The City by Two Rivers” tour and Winter Markets OR Belgrade Fortress hike OR Belgrade bike tour OR “Brandies of Belgrade” tasting OR Novi Sad tour
15	Iron Gates	Golubac Fortress Scenic Cruising – The Iron Gates
16	Vidin	Baba Vida Fortress, Vidin Walking Tour, and Christmas Markets OR Banitsa pastry and yogurt tasting OR Vidin bike tour
17	Rousse	Veliko Tarnovo excursion with Christmas Markets OR Bucharest Excursion with Christmas Markets OR Ivanovo Rock-Hewn Churches & Rousse Highlights Tour
18	Giurgiu	DISEMBARKATION Transfer to Brasov Bran Castle tour
	Brasov	Hotel check-in
19	Braşov	“Dracula’s Birthplace,” Sighişoara excursion Braşov city tour with Christmas Markets
20	Braşov	Transfer to Bucharest Peleş Royal Castle tour Transfer to Bucharest
	Bucharest	Hotel check-in
21	Bucharest	Old Town walking tour
22	Bucharest	Return flight home

**Full-day excursion not combinable with other tours this day.*

Day 1, ARRIVE IN MUNICH, GERMANY. Arrive in Munich and check into your hotel.

Day 2, MUNICH. This morning you will tour Munich, the capital of Bavaria and one of Germany’s largest cities, as well as the undisputed beer capital of the world. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town through the city ending at the famous Glockenspiel, with its 43 bells and 32 life-size figures that portray historic scenes, such as a wedding celebration. You will also see Frauenkirche, the “Cathedral of Our Dear Lady.” Later in the day, do like the Bavarians do, and go to a Bavarian Beer Hall for the famous beer and pretzels. This is the cradle of Bavarian tavern culture, and the origin of tradition, “gemütlichkeit” and hospitality. (B)

Day 3, MUNICH – EMBARKATION – VILSHOFEN, GERMANY. Check out of your hotel and transfer to Vilshofen where you will board your luxury ship. Later in the day, attend an exclusive Oktoberfest celebration with traditional beer and Bavarian folk music and dancing. (B,D)



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Day 4, PASSAU. During the season of Advent, beautiful Passau dresses in her Bavarian holiday splendor, which you will discover on your walking tour through the city and at its Christmas market at St. Stephen's Square—also home to its magnificent cathedral. Go in search of unique crafts, including Bavarian-style houses and glass ornaments. Or join a guided hike up to the Mariahilf pilgrimage church and monastery, which offers magnificent views across the old town and surrounding countryside. (B,L,D)

Day 5, LINZ, AUSTRIA. The ship arrives in Linz where you'll have several choices of excursions. Linz is known for being the city of Christmas crèches and its ever-popular Linzer torte. Opt for a full-day excursion to Salzburg where you'll tour the historic center, Mirabell Gardens, Residenz Square and the Old Market. While there, visit the beautiful Christmas Markets, renowned for local handicrafts and unusual holiday presents. Or join a morning walking tour through the old city center of Linz and by the Mozart House, as well as visit Linz's Christmas markets. Or go on a bike tour of the city's famed "Cultural Mile" and the Danube. Alternatively, visit charming Český Krumlov, located just over the Czech-Austrian border, on a full-day tour. In the afternoon, those who have not joined full-day excursions can journey into the fascinating world of whiskey distillation on a guided tour and tasting. (B,L,D)

Day 6, WEISSENKIRCHEN, AUSTRIA. Head up to the Sun Deck for panoramic views as you unwind with a scenic cruise through the Strudengau and UNESCO-designated Wachau valleys. After reaching Weissenkirchen, you'll be treated to several choices of excursions. Take a walking tour of Dürnstein before visiting the UNESCO-designated Melk Abbey. Or hike the trail up to the ruins of Durnstein Fortress, where Richard the Lionheart was once held captive, and where you'll find spectacular views of the valley, river and village below. You can also choose to cycle through the Wachau Valley on a guided bike tour. For a more culinary-focused experience, sample special apricot treats from a local boutique. In the evening, enjoy a wine tasting hosted by a local vintner. (B,L,D)

Day 7, VIENNA, AUSTRIA. The "City of Waltzes" is a treasure trove, and your city tour showcases its regal splendors, including the majestic Opera House and the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburgs. Conclude your tour in the UNESCO-designated historic city center and visit St. Stephen's Cathedral. For a more active exploration, take a guided bike ride through Vienna. During the afternoon, enjoy leisure time exploring this iconic city even more. In the evening, visit the beautifully decorated and illuminated Rathaus Square and the Chirstkindmarkt, Vienna's largest Christmas Market, on your own. (B,L,D)

Day 8, VIENNA, AUSTRIA. Explore Bratislava, host to the crowning ceremonies of 11 Hungarian kings and queens between 1536 and 1830, thus earning this city the title "Coronation City of Kings," on your guided walking tour, which includes a visit to Bratislava's charming Christmas Market. For a more active adventure, hike up to Bratislava Castle, offering magnificent views of the city. You can also opt to visit the Schönbrunn Palace Christmas Market, with its giant Christmas tree and festive atmosphere.

Day 9, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY. You cannot help but fall in love with Budapest, known as the "Queen of the Danube." Your city tour begins with a visit to the Great Market Hall. The remainder of this tour takes you to the Buda (hilly) side of the river. Afterwards, you'll visit one of the city's charming Christmas Markets. Alternatively, hike up to Castle Hill for breathtaking views of the city. (B,L,D)

Day 10, BUDAPEST. Start by heading to the 18th century Gödöllő Palace. Explore its labyrinth of 31 colorful rooms lit by elaborate chandeliers as you learn the palace's history through striking art galleries and antiquities. After touring the royal residence and the Baroque theatre, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Then head for Puszta, the Great Hungarian Plain stretching across the East. Here you can find Hungarian cowboys still wearing traditional dress and practicing the skills of their Magyar ancestors. Next, we will tour a genuine Hungarian csárda (farm) run by the carriage-driving world-champion brothers Lazar. Following the tour, witness a unique, unforgettable performance of Hungarian horsemanship before returning for the evening. (B,L,D)



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Day 11, MOHÁCS, HUNGARY. Enjoy a scenic morning cruise to Mohács. In the afternoon, you can take a guided tour to Pécs, founded more than 2,000 years ago by the Romans, where you will visit the UNESCO-designated Christian Necropolis; St. Peter's Basilica, the city's main Catholic cathedral along with its catacombs; and Széchenyi Square, the heart of Old Town Pécs. You'll also have the opportunity to visit the delightful Pécs Christmas Market. Or choose a guided bike tour through Mohács. For wine connoisseurs, travel to the Szekszárd wine region, one of the oldest red-wine-growing areas in Hungary, established more than 2,000 years ago. (B,L,D)

Day 12, VUKOVAR, CROATIA. Vukovar is a Croatian symbol of resistance, which you'll better understand on your city tour showcasing the Ovčara Memorial and Eltz Castle. While there, experience the festive, warm atmosphere of the holidays when visiting a traditional Croatian Christmas Market. Alternatively, you may see Osijek on a guided tour. You can also choose to experience the city on a guided bike tour. In the afternoon, enjoy a wine tasting, where you'll sample its famous Grasevina, Traminac and Frankovka wines. You can also choose to explore the Vucedol Museum, home to fascinating exhibits on prehistoric culture and one of the most important archaeological sites in Europe. (B,L,D)

Day 13, BELGRADE, SERBIA. Explore Serbia's capital, Belgrade, on a city tour, which includes the Kalemegdan Fortress and the Serbian Orthodox Temple of St. Sava. For those wishing a more active adventure, join a guided bike tour. Alternatively, you can hike to Belgrade Fortress. Later in the day, enjoy a taste of the region by sampling Serbian plum brandy, Šljivovitz, and delicious local delights at the Quburich Distillery. Or explore Novi Sad, a city rich in tradition and culture, on an afternoon walking tour. Begin your tour at the Dunavski (Danube) Park; stroll through Stari Grad, the old town center; and explore Liberty Square, which is dominated by the Old Town Hall. (B,L,D)

Day 14, GOLUBAC – SCENIC CRUISING THROUGH THE IRON GATES. Visit Golubac Fortress – one of the best preserved medieval fortresses in Europe – before cruising through the Iron Gates. The Iron Gates is one of Europe's most awe-inspiring natural wonders. The Danube narrows as it winds through a series of magnificent gorges between the Carpathian and Balkan mountains. (B,L,D)

Day 15, VIDIN, BULGARIA. Explore Vidin, one of Bulgaria's oldest cities, and surrounding areas with a choice of excursions. Discover Baba Vida Fortress, the largest preserved medieval castle in Bulgaria. Alternatively, visit a local home for a demonstration of traditional Bulgarian yogurt and Banitsa, a pastry you will also get to make. You also have the choice to bike through Vidin and to the castle. (B,L,D)

Day 16, ROUSSE, BULGARIA – GIURGIU, ROMANIA. Visit Bulgaria's ancient capital, Veliko Tarnovo, with its medieval fortress and multiple orthodox temples. Enjoy the magic of the holidays when learning about the Bulgarian traditions and folklore during Christmastime. You can opt instead to go to Rousse, known for its 19th- and 20th-century Neo-Baroque and Neo-Rococo architecture, and then afterwards visit the UNESCO-designated Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo with frescos revealing exceptional artistry of 14th-century paintings. Or travel through the Romanian countryside to the capital of Bucharest, known as the "Little Paris of the East." Enjoy a panoramic tour of the historic city center and its elegant architecture. You'll have the opportunity to enjoy the Bucharest Christmas market, shining bright in festive holiday lights, right in front of the Palace of the Parliament. (B,L,D)

Day 17, GIURGIU – DISEMBARKATION – BRAȘOV, ROMANIA Disembark the ship in Giurgiu and continue to the legendary region of Transylvania. On your way to Brasov, you'll visit the legendary Bran Castle, forever linked with the legend of Dracula. Following your excursion, continue to Brasov, and check into your hotel. (B)



2026-2027 GRAND DANUBE CRUISE CHRISTMAS MARKETS AKX

Day 18, BRAȘOV – SIGHIȘOARA. Dracula lovers will be in for another treat with an excursion to Sighișoara, birthplace to Transylvania's most notorious ruler, Vlad Țepeș, also known as Vlad the Impaler, or Dracula. It's hard to believe that this perfectly preserved UNESCO-designated town filled with resplendent pastel-colored buildings, stone lanes, medieval towers and pedestrian-friendly Old Town was Vlad's place of birth. His home is still here, marked with a placard; however, today it houses a kitschy restaurant called "Casa Dracula." Afterward, enjoy a walking tour around Brașov where the fairytale-like old town transforms into a beautiful Christmas Market. (B)

Day 19, BRAȘOV – BUCHAREST, ROMANIA. En route to Bucharest, you'll stop in the quaint mountain town of Sinaia, where you will visit Peles Castle, considered by many to be one of the most stunning castles in Europe and a masterpiece of German new-Renaissance with 160 rooms filled with priceless European art. Later in the day, transfer to Bucharest and check into your hotel. (B)

Day 20, BUCHAREST. This morning, set out on a walking tour through the historic old town of Bucharest. You will observe the many changes this capital city has experienced through a mixture of architectural styles and cultural influences. Bucharest's eclectic architecture is a mix of historical, neo-classical, communist-era and modern buildings. Your guided tour will take you through the old town and show you the most popular places in Bucharest while hearing stories of its history and getting local insights for shopping and dining opportunities. (B)

Day 21, DEPART BUCHAREST. Bid farewell to Bucharest as you prepare for your flight home. (B)

(B,L,D) indicate meals included on that day.

Itinerary subject to change; please refer to your final documents as well as your Daily Cruiser newsletter via our myAmaCruise app for the most up-to-date information.