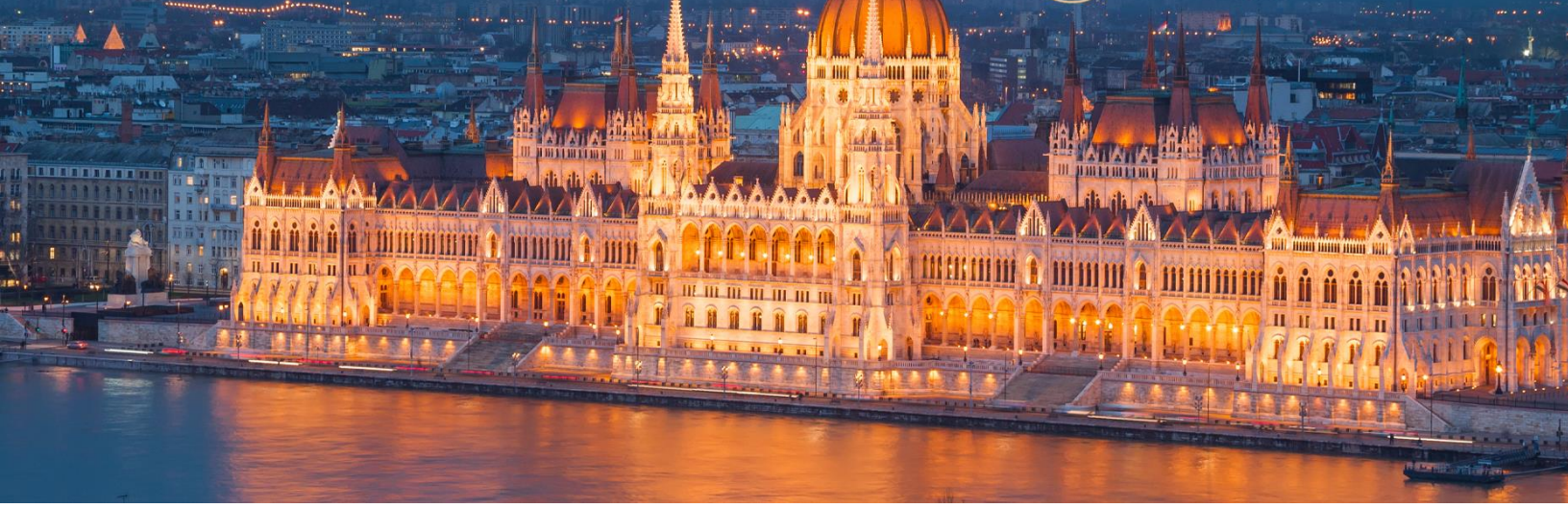


The Blue Danube

WITH HOST
SUZANNE BONA



~ October 6 - 16, 2024 ~



Join me, **Suzanne Bona of Sunday Baroque** and fellow classical music lovers as I host my tenth adventure with Earthbound Expeditions: a cruise down the Blue Danube, plus three glorious nights in **Prague!** Discover the charming markets, grand opera houses and world class museums of Budapest, Vienna, and Prague! Celebrate the genius of Mozart, Strauss, Beethoven, Haydn, Dvorak, Smetana, Mahler and Schumann by visiting the very places where these great composers lived, loved and worked. Dine with the locals in charming wine gardens and enjoy backstage tours and insider experiences. Your trip also includes three nights in romantic **Prague**, home of Dvorak and Smetana! Space is limited on this special classical music getaway. Hope to see you in Budapest!

TRIP AT A GLANCE

7 Nights aboard the Emerald Star
3 Nights Prague, Czech Republic



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA
T. 800.723.8454 / T. 206.842.9775
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JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Seven nights on board the 1st class **MS Emerald Star** ❖ Three nights in romantic **Prague**
Classical concerts in Budapest, Vienna and Prague ❖ Private concerts in the homes of
Mozart and Liszt ❖ Backstage tours of the historic Estate Opera House and world
renowned, Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic ❖ Daily included shore
excursions ❖ Special wine tastings ❖ Visit the abbey of Melk ❖ Enjoy a private tour of the
Fine Arts museum in Vienna ❖ Travel with like-minded friends who share your passion
for art, food, wine and, classical music!

IT'S INCLUDED!

- ❖ Hosted by Suzanne Bona of Sunday Baroque!
- ❖ Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions guide
- ❖ Seven nights first-class cruising on the Blue Danube
- ❖ Three post cruise nights in romantic Prague
- ❖ Transport by private air-conditioned motor coach
- ❖ Unique dining experiences featuring regional dishes
- ❖ Complimentary wine served at dinner while on board the ship
- ❖ Special highlights including lectures, theme dinners, and musical performances
- ❖ Classical concerts while in Vienna, Budapest and Prague (four total)
- ❖ Gratuities for ship and Earthbound Expeditions staff
- ❖ Airport transfers for those arriving/departing with the group
- ❖ A group of like-minded classical music friends to share experiences with

TRIP FACTS

11 Days/ 10 Nights (*not including air travel*)

\$6,995 per person, double occupancy

\$3,995 single supplement (*waived if willing to share & roommate is found*)

Trip begins: October 6, 2024 in Budapest, Hungary

Trip ends: October 16, 2024 in Prague, Czech Republic after breakfast

WAYS TO SAVE \$200

Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 * Sunday Baroque and Earthbound travel alumni save \$100

NOT INCLUDED: Travel insurance ❖ International airfare ❖ Any items not mentioned in your custom Sunday Baroque itinerary.



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Enjoy a day in classical Vienna!

Your Classical Music Journey Begins!

Travel Day: Saturday, October 5 – Depart the US for Budapest

Remember you'll need to depart the US no later than today.

Day 1: Sunday, October 6 – Welcome to Budapest!

Welcome to Budapest, where you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your fabulous Emerald Star ship, before enjoying plenty of free time to explore the Hungarian capital at your leisure. This evening, enjoy an authentic Hungarian folklore show on board, followed by a traditional dinner. Please book your flight to arrive into Budapest prior to 5PM.

Note: Consider flying over a day or two early and soaking up the sites and thermal baths of Budapest! Sleep on board the Emerald Star (D)

Day 2: Monday, October 7 – Discovering Budapest & Franz Liszt

Architecture from across the centuries shines a light on the history of the Hungarian capital. Originally two separate cities, Buda to the west and Pest to the east, offer incredibly different views on the culture of one of the liveliest cities in Eastern Europe. Today, you'll have the opportunity to explore the city during a guided tour, including Heroes' Square and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Andrassy Avenue and Buda Castle District. A special classical concert has been arranged, just for you in the very home of Franz Liszt.

Sleep on board the Emerald Star (B, L, D)



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“The music is not in the notes, but in the silence between.”
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Day 3: Tuesday, October 8 – Bratislava

This morning, relax on board as we sail to Bratislava. An ancient landscape awaits, where remarkable towers add to a skyline that perfectly encapsulates the history of the city, and preserved medieval fortifications tell tales of a turbulent past. Your local guide will take you through the heart of the city, as you soak in the sights of the lavish Episcopal Summer Palace and the neo-Renaissance façade of the Slovak National Theatre. If you're feeling more active, you could instead choose to hike around the serene gardens of Bratislava Castle, which provides the perfect setting for the Shakespeare festival that occurs during the summer months. This afternoon, you will be invited into the home of a local family to learn more about their traditions and culture over coffee and cake.

Sleep on board the Emerald Star (B, L, D)



Day 4: Wednesday, October 9 – Vienna & The Great

Composers! Sweeping boulevards and world-famous art exhibitions welcome you to Vienna, a city which perfectly encapsulates the opulence of the Habsburg Monarchy and their ornate Baroque palaces. The Austrian capital is an art-lover's dream, and your guided tour will include a visit to the Kunsthistorisches Museum. After, enjoy a special lunch in a wine cellar. Then, you'll be treated to a private concert inside an ornate small room where Mozart once lived and worked. Your

tailor-made tour also includes Mozart's Figaro House and a stroll past the Vienna State Opera and ... the Vienna Philharmonic. *Sleep on board the Emerald Star (B, L, D)*



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Explore Göttweig Abbey!

Day 5: Thursday, October 10 – Krems and Dürnstein

This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Göttweig Abbey, a true treasure overlooking the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Valley. Visible from great distance, it's one of Austria's most important Benedictine abbeys and attracts visitors from all over the world and provides epic panorama views. Afterwards, we'll sail through the fascinating Wachau Valley, part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Cultural Landscape, and on to Dürnstein. Alternatively, embark on a guided bike tour from Krems to Dürnstein, passing terraced vineyards, castles and ruins along the way, before arriving where the ship is docked in Dürnstein.

In the afternoon we arrive in Dürnstein; a small town nestled in the heart of the Wachau wine region. You'll have the chance to hike to the medieval ruins of Dürnstein Castle, the site where King Richard I was held prisoner following his return from the Third Crusade, and part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wachau Cultural Landscape, a place peppered with natural lookout points that highlight the beauty of the region.

Sleep on board the Emerald Star (B, L, D)

Day 6: Friday, October 11 – Engelhartszell and Passau

After a morning of sailing along the Danube, we will take you into the heart of Passau. Nicknamed the Dreiflüssestadt, meaning the 'the city of three rivers', it's situated at the confluence of the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers. Your included guided tour of Passau will unveil its noteworthy Gothic and Baroque architecture. If you're feeling active, you could join a bike tour along the River Inn, one of the three rivers converging in Passau. After your tour, enjoy some free time to explore Passau at your leisure, before spending an evening sailing blissfully towards Regensburg. *Sleep on board the Emerald Star (B, L, D)*



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Spend three glorious days in Prague

Day 7: Saturday, October 12 – Regensburg

This morning, we arrive in Regensburg, a city built on the site of an ancient Roman fort. Your guided walking tour of Regensburg will showcase its UNESCO World Heritage-listed medieval center, where narrow cobbled lanes and tall façades help to define the character of this enchanting Bavarian city. Alternatively, you could join a bike tour to the Walhalla monument, which towers high above the slopes of the Danube. From here, you can enjoy a fascinating view of the surrounding landscape and the river. This evening, enjoy a traditional Bavarian band performance on board. *Sleep on board the Emerald Star (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Sunday, October 13 – East to Prague, the city of Mozart, Smetana and Dvořák

After breakfast, we disembark the ship and we make our way to Prague. We stop to explore the beautiful Vysehrad Cemetery. More than just a normal, quiet cemetery, this is the final resting place of the most honored Czech composers, artists, sculptors, writers, scientists and politicians. Here are the graves of Smetana, Dvořák and the 19th century Moravian-Czech artist, Mucha. Prague is the birthplace of Franz Kafka and the city Mozart loved best. For our first evening in Prague, let's enjoy a Bohemian feast. *Sleep in Prague (B, D)*



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Discover romantic Prague

Day 9: Monday, October 14 – Exploring Prague

From its mythological inception to the present, benefactors have placed Prague on the cusp of the divine. King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Karl IV refashioned Prague into a city of soaring cathedrals and lavish palaces. Our historic walking tour of Prague will start at its medieval center, the Old Town Square. We'll cover some of Prague's most interesting sights including the Estates Opera house where Mozart himself conducted the *Marriage of Figaro* in 1787. Our tour will continue to Prague's stirring medieval Jewish quarter. We'll take time to savor this culturally-rich neighborhood and stop by the Old Synagogue, which has been a place of worship for over 700 years. You'll have a free afternoon before meeting to enjoy a concert this evening. *Sleep in Prague (B, L)*

Day 10: Tuesday, October 15 – Prague's Castle District

We start the day with a stroll to Prague's most famous landmark - Charles Bridge, after which we'll visit the historic castle district. Enjoy a farewell lunch this afternoon. The rest of the day is yours to further explore this city's charming streets. Perhaps you'll want to take in a Bohemian market, another classical concert, a world-class museum or simply wander the wondrously preserved historic old town. Concert included this evening. *Sleep in Prague (B, L)*

Day 11: Wednesday, October 16 – Return home with a lifetime of memories!

Your classical music adventure concludes this morning after breakfast. Why not spend a few extra nights in Prague at the end of your journey?

~~Itinerary Subject to Change~~



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Your Deluxe Danube Cruise!

Your French Balcony Cabins on the Emerald Star



Our group will be welcomed on the VISTA DECK, which is the main deck on board the ship. The cabins are Panorama Balcony Suites, (categories B & C, pictured in purple and blue on the following page) and are subject to availability. After noting any location requests (on the Vista Deck), the cabin number will be assigned within 5 business days of your reservation.

Please note: This journey is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Emerald Cruises, and may differ from Earthbound Expeditions. Of special note: all deposits are non-refundable. Final payment is refundable until 100 days before departure.

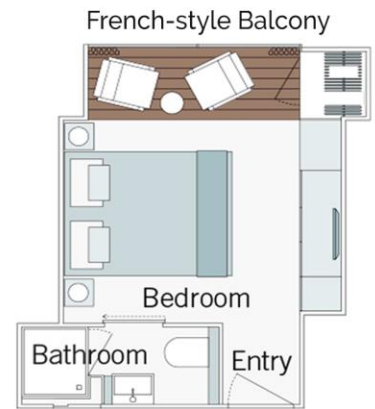


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EMERALD STAR DECK PLAN



Your Emerald Panorama Balcony Cabin offers everything you could possibly need throughout your cruise, and more. You'll be surrounded by elegant décor and comfortable furnishings as you unwind in your home-away-from-home. Relax on your French-style balcony as the stunning landscapes pass by, and transform it from an indoor to an outdoor space with ease, as the floor-to-ceiling window lowers to a halfway point at the touch of a button. Enjoy the river breeze from your comfortable chair while you indulge in a good book or take in the unfolding vistas.



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Meet Your Host!



Suzanne Bona is the host and executive producer of *Sunday Baroque*, a syndicated weekly radio show of Baroque and early music. She originated the program in 1987 on WSHU Public Radio in her hometown of Fairfield, CT. *Sunday Baroque* has been distributed nationally since 1998, and is currently heard by more than a quarter million listeners every week on approximately 240 public radio stations and networks across the United States, and across the world at www.SundayBaroque.org.

Suzanne is also a classically trained flutist who earned a Bachelor of Music degree from The University of Connecticut. She continues to perform frequently as a soloist and chamber musician and has especially enjoyed collaborating with some of her musically talented public radio colleagues in performances for listeners across the country. When she is not making radio, playing her flute, or traveling the world, Suzanne's hobbies include reading, running, cooking, and baking. She is also passionate about the cause of literacy; she was a longtime volunteer tutor and board member for her local Literacy Council and was a community advisory board member for a children's literacy initiative. Suzanne believes that travel, music and reading are among life's most transformational experiences.

Reservations & Questions

Call Earthbound Expeditions at 206 - 842 - 9775 or
email our travel staff at: info@earthboundexpeditions.com



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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$750 per person non-refundable deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. Reserve your cabin and make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Once the deposit is processed, a cabin request will be submitted to Emerald Cruises and once the cabin is assigned, a deposit packet will be emailed to you with pertinent journey details. Final payment is refundable until 100 days before departure (June 27, 2024). After this date, all payments are non-refundable. As always, we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance. A complimentary Travel Guard insurance quote will be emailed to all reserved guests after deposit is made, or feel free to research other travel insurance options.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for ship crew and staff, hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & Conditions: Please note, this journey is subject to special payment terms and conditions as follows: the \$750 deposit is non-refundable. Final payment is due June 27, 2024 and is non-refundable after that date.



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