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EMERALD CRUISES UNVEILS NEXT CHAPTER IN RIVER CRUISING WITH STAR-SHIP *EMERALD ASTRA* AND FLEET ENHANCEMENTS ACROSS EUROPE

2026 Europe River Cruises and New Cruise Planner Now Available



Hollywood FL (October 15, 2024) – Emerald Cruises has announced a new ship, adding to its fleet of Star-Ships, *Emerald Astra*, along with extensive updates to the entire Emerald Cruises river fleet across Europe. The developments aim to enhance guest experiences, blending Emerald Cruises’ hallmark features with luxury yacht-inspired design elements.

Emerald Astra: An Evolution in River Cruising

Emerald Astra will mark the next evolution of Emerald Cruises’ award-winning river fleet. Designed to mirror the sleek elegance of the line’s luxury superyachts, the ship features a modern, grey-tinted glass exterior and will welcome 180 guests. From ancient Greek and Latin origins, ‘Astra’ translates as ‘Star,’ and Emerald Astra promises to be a true shining star among our stylish Star-Ships – the seventh to sail the Rhine, Main and Danube.

The updated design focuses on both style and functionality, offering guests’ favorite amenities such as the pool/cinema combination, multiple dining options, and a sun deck dedicated to relaxation and panoramic views. All interiors have also been enhanced with a sleek, contemporary design, ensuring a sophisticated and spacious atmosphere for travelers on Europe’s rivers.

Emerald Astra will join the fleet in 2026 and will sail the iconic Rhine, Moselle and Danube rivers.

Emerald Cruises’ 2026 river cruise season is now available for booking, including via Expressbook for Travel Advisors. A new [2026 Luxury Europe River Cruise Planner](#) is also available for download at emeraldcruises.com/brochures.

Fleet-Wide Enhancements

Emerald Cruises also announced comprehensive upgrades across its Europe river fleet, which includes vessels navigating the Rhine-Main-Danube, Rhône in France, and the Douro in Portugal. Guests will be able to enjoy these enhancements during the 2025 season.

Key upgrades include:

- **Horizon Bar & Lounge Redesigns:** Star-Ships on the Rhine-Main-Danube route will receive new lounge furniture, with elevated design, bright accent colors and luxurious textiles. Similarly, the

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Emerald Radiance on the Douro and the Emerald Liberte on the Rhone will see updates to align the new aesthetic across the fleet.

- **Pool/Cinema and Dining Space Enhancements:** Pool and cinema spaces, along with Reflections Restaurant and The Terrace, will be revamped with new furniture and updated layouts to improve guest comfort and dining experiences. Back-of-house areas will also receive significant upgrades.
- **Missoni Textiles and Yacht-Inspired Art:** The addition of Missoni textiles and art installations, inspired by Emerald Cruises' luxury yachts, will bring a refined, modern ambiance to each ship.
- **In-Suite Technology:** Each guest cabin will feature iPads to enhance guest interaction with onboard amenities and each journey's itinerary providing an easy access, digital resource for guests.

All upgrades will be completed for the 2025 season, ensuring a new level of comfort and luxury on Europe's beloved and enchanting rivers.

“As we continue to expand our fleet and enhance the guest experience, our commitment remains steadfast: to provide unrivalled luxury and value in river cruising,” said Glen Moroney, Founder and Chairman of Scenic Group. “The introduction of *Emerald Astra*, alongside the fleet-wide upgrades, exemplifies our dedication to leading innovation in the industry. By seamlessly blending the finest elements of river and yacht cruising, we ensure that every journey is extraordinary. These enhancements are designed with our guests in mind—creating refined spaces that encourage relaxation, connection, and discovery—upholding our promise to continually elevate the standards of luxury river cruising.”

For more information about Emerald Cruises' award-winning river cruises, or to book travel, please visit emeraldcruiises.com or call 844-428-8389. Discerning guests may also contact their Professional Travel Advisor to book their river journey. For any further inquiries, please visit Scenic Group's [Media Center](#).

About Scenic Group

Over 38 years, Scenic Group has redefined luxury travel, embodying exploration and elegance across its esteemed brands: Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours, Emerald Cruises, Mayflower Cruises & Tours, and Evergreen Tours. Offering award-winning river and ocean cruises, along with handcrafted land journeys, Scenic Group transports guests to the world's most captivating destinations on all seven continents. Since its inception, Scenic has revolutionized the river cruise market in Europe and Southeast Asia, offering all-inclusive, five-star journeys, and extending its luxury cruises to Egypt's Nile. In 2019, the launch of *Scenic Eclipse*, The World's First Discovery Yacht™, marked a new benchmark in ultra-luxury cruising, a legacy continued by its sister, *Scenic Eclipse II*, in 2023.

Emerald Cruises, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2024, excels with nine Star-Ships that navigate the rivers of Europe and the Mekong. 2022 saw the advent of *Emerald Azzurra*, the first luxury yacht under the Emerald Cruises banner, sailing the Mediterranean, Adriatic, Caribbean, and Central America, followed by *Emerald Sakara* in 2023. The fleet will be further enhanced with the introduction of *Emerald Kaia*, promising a new era of luxury yacht cruising.

Discover more about our journeys, download brochures, and make reservations through travel advisors or by contacting us directly in the US at www.scenicusa.com, (844) 788-7985, info@scenicusa.com; or www.emeraldcruiises.com, (844) 428-8389, hello@emeraldcruiises.com.

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