

## GERMANY & AUSTRIA – ALONG THE RIVER DANUBE

8-days / 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walking from Passau in Germany to Linz in Austria

**VALUE**



One of Europe's most popular cycling / cruising routes in Europe is now a 'must-do' walk. The '*Donausteig*' offers an easy to moderate walking tour along the hills and through the villages that surround the River Danube, enjoying stunning views and amazing landscapes. Travel at your own pace, to stop and relax or explore secure in the knowledge that your room is waiting for you, your bags have gone ahead and the river is your guide

The trail passes through towns and villages along an undulating route, crisscrossing the River Danube as you go. There is a well-graded and signposted path along the hillsides, through woods and forest often framed by mountains, with ascents well-rewarded by picturesque lookouts with spectacular views. The route follows the river from Germany into Austria through many traditional villages. Pass ancient monasteries with spectacular examples of the Baroque style of architecture, romantic and historic castles and ancient market towns.

The tour ends in the fascinating and progressive city of Linz, a market town which juxtaposes beautiful historic buildings with modern design and cutting edge architecture. Linz today is a centre of learning and culture and it is well worth spending an extra night there to explore all it has to offer. Enjoy the Opera house (Musiktheatre Linz), home to the Bruckner orchestra, sample the famous Linzer Torte or just relax in a café or in the market square.

**Departs:** Daily from 1 May to 30 September

**Cost from:** **\$1595** per person twin share                      Single room supplement from \$830  
Half Board Option (Breakfast & 6 Dinners): \$495 per person

**Starts:** Passau, Germany    **Ends:** Linz, Austria

**Includes:** 7 nights' twin-share accommodation in comfortable hotels with ensuite bathroom, 7 breakfasts, luggage transfers, walking route notes and maps (1 set per room), river boat from Passau to Kasten, transfer Engelhartzell to Schlögen, ferry Schlögen to Au, bus Aschach to Ottensheim, train from Linz to Passau, emergency telephone assistance. If taking the Half Board option (at extra cost) 6 dinners are also included.

**Not included:** Meals not mentioned, drinks, entrance fees, ferries and other transport, personal expenses, city tourist taxes (@ €1-4 per person per night), transfers to/from the start and end of the walk.



**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

## Suggested itinerary:

### Day 1: Arrive in Passau (Germany) or nearby Kellberg

Take the train from Vienna or most mainline German / Austrian stations to Passau. Plan to arrive at your hotel mid-afternoon to collect your trip documents, maps and vouchers with time to explore Passau before dinner. Passau sits at the convergence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz Rivers. Its old town is dominated by Gothic and Baroque architecture, including St Stephen's Cathedral. In busy times your hotel may be in the nearby town of Kellberg which is a short taxi ride away.

### Day 2: Passau - Engelhartszell

**walking @ 15km**

Depart by boat to Kasten, where you begin the walk along the southern bank to Engelhartszell. You have the option of climbing the Haugstein, the highest spot on the Donausteig hiking trail. In Engelhartszell you may like to visit Austria's only Trappist monastery Engelszell, where the monks produce beer, liqueurs and cheese. The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Rococo-style abbey church is open daily to all visitors.

### Day 3: Engelhartszell - Obermühl

**walking @ 10km + optional 11km**

Transfer by taxi from Engelhartszell to Schlögen/Haibach. Before starting the walk to Obermuehl along the northern bank, we recommend taking time to explore the Ciconia trail (11km), which has a number of information stations and sculptures that describe the local area. Complete the loop trail back to Schlögen and take the ferry boat from Schlögen to Au before following the nature trail to Obermühl.

### Day 4: Obermühl - Untermühl

**walking @ 10km**

In the morning, walk up to the "Burgstallblick" vantage point for spectacular views over the famous Danube Loop, a natural wonder known as the "Schlögenger Schlinge". Walk towards Kirchberg passing through fields and meadows until you reach Untermühl, where you meet the Danube again.

### Day 5: Untermühl - Aschach

**walking @ 18km**

Walk from Untermühl via Schloss Neuhaus and then via St. Martin im Innkreis and through the Pesenbach nature reserve to the picturesque town of Aschach. We recommend taking some time to explore Aschach, a town from the Middle Ages with houses featuring facades and courtyards from the Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance eras.

### Day 6: Aschach - Pöstlingberg - Linz

**walking @ 16km**

After breakfast take a short bus trip (13km) to Ottensheim. From Ottensheim walk along the northern bank up the Pöstlingberg hill with its Baroque basilica. Take a scenic ride downhill on one of the steepest trams in Europe (paid locally) to Linz where you stay for 2 nights.

### Day 7: Free day Linz

**optional walking @ 12km**

No walks are organised today, leaving you free to relax at the hotel or explore the fascinating and progressive city of Linz. You may wish to do another local walk like the St Florian circuit by taking the tram to Ebelsberg Castle, then walk to the small town of St Florian, to visit the Baroque-era monastery. There has been an Augustinian abbey on this site since the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. Austrian composer Anton Bruckner was a choirboy and organist here in the 1850s and is buried in the crypt beneath his beloved organ, now called the Bruckner organ. The monastery library is astounding – its collection includes over 150,000 manuscripts, incunabula, maps and modern printed books. Depending on what day you are at the abbey, you will either have a guided tour or an organ recital. Later in the day, take the bus back to Linz. Transport cost for this walk is not included in tour price.

If you have taken the Half Board option, dinner tonight is at your own arrangements from one of the many restaurants or cafés in Linz.

### Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in Linz. Ask about extra nights in Linz (at additional cost). If you plan to return to Passau, there are several daily direct trains from Linz to Passau, journey time @ 1½ hours or a ferry daily except Monday & Friday. Should you need it, a courtesy train ticket back to Passau is included in you tour cost and you will need to take your luggage with you on this train trip.

**Outdoor Travel** offers self-guided inn-to-inn or guided walks in most destinations in Europe, including Bavaria in Germany, the Seefeld Plateau or Stubai Alps in Austria - ask for details or see our website.

## Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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