

RIVER DANUBE - AUSTRIA GERMANY SLOVAKIA HUNGARY

8-days / 7-nights river cruising & with guided cycling or self-guided cycling



Bike and Barging, cruising and cycling along the **River Danube** is a highlight of any tour to Europe and this is a **self-guided** program for those who want to be more active and to travel at their own pace. We offer cabins on a floating hotel on a route that is generally gently downhill, mostly with a helpful tailwind. Spend your days exploring the river from Bratislava, the former city of Hungarian kings, to **Vienna** with St. Stephen's Cathedral, beautiful town hall and Riesenrad (Ferris wheel). The Naschmarkt (food market) in Vienna is a cultural and culinary adventure and there are cosy coffee shops, bars and typical Viennese wine taverns.

Bike and Barge cruises combine two popular ways to explore Europe (cycling & river cruising), allowing partners of different abilities & interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for non-cycling partners, leisure cyclist OR enthusiasts), unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom.

On the mighty River Danube spacious, traditionally built cruise ships carrying up to 135-passengers with an attentive crew and a comfortable atmosphere. Regional cuisine is served to reflect the counties visited. Onboard there is a restaurant and bar and a sun deck with comfortable deck chairs. There are up to 87 comfortably furnished cabins, (approximately 9-10sqm) usually with twin-beds each with en suite (shower and toilet), hairdryers, TV and air conditioning. All cruises starts & ends in Passau (Germany)

Danube Impressions

self guided cycling

Regular Season: \$1395 per person (twin share).
Mid Season: \$1470 per person (twin share).
High/Festival Season: \$1550 per person (twin share).

Departs: 7, 4, 21, 28 Apr, 6, 13 Oct
Departs: 5, 12 May, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Sep
Departs: Saturdays 19 May to 25 Aug

Danube Impressions

Guided cycling

Regular Season: \$1895 per person (twin share).
Mid Season: \$1980 per person (twin share).
High/Festival Season: \$2060 per person (twin share).
Single cabin supplement: \$ 610 - all seasons

Departs: 14 Apr
Departs: 12 May, 15, 29 Sep
Departs: 9 Jun, 14 Jul, 18 Aug

Danube Waltz

self guided cycling

Regular Season: \$1425 per person (twin share).
Mid Season: \$1495 per person (twin share).
High/Festival Season: \$1580 per person (twin share).
Single cabin supplement: \$ 565 - all seasons

Departs: 15, 22, 29 Apr, 7 Oct
Departs: 6, 13 May, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Sep
Departs: Sundays 20 May to 26 Aug

Danube Walz

Guided cycling

Regular Season: \$1990 per person (twin share).
Mid Season: \$2060 per person (twin share).
High/Festival Season: \$2150 per person (twin share).

Departs: 22 Apr, 7 Oct
Departs: 23 Sep
Departs: 20 May, 17 Jun, 22 Jul, 26 Aug

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Self guided cycling tour Includes: Twin-share (mostly outward facing) cabins with air-conditioning for 7-nights, full board (breakfast, packed lunch & dinner), welcome cocktail, onboard entertainment & Gala Dinner with farewell cocktail. Bike hire (7-speed-roadster with saddlebag), detailed route map and cycling information, daily city or sightseeing options (at extra cost) with guide, all services on-board the ship.

Guided cycling tour Includes the items above, plus: Bike Tour Guide, ferry rides, Wachau wine tasting, Cider tasting in the Upper Danube Valley, selected city tours.

Not Included: Arrival/departure transfers, entrance fees, sightseeing fees, gratuities or personal expenses, Bike Helmets – available for purchase onboard (15€).



DANUBE IMPRESSIONS - GERMANY & AUSTRIA

8-days / 7-nights river cruising & with guided cycling or self-guided cycling

Suggested route: Passau – Vienna – Passau

Day 1.: Passau

Passau, the "Bishops City" close to the Bavarian/Austrian border is also known as the "City of Three Rivers". Boarding time is at 5 p.m. Begin your holiday that evening with a welcome cocktail and dinner with live music.

Day 2: Passau – Danube loop – Linz - cycling distance approximately 50km

Cycle through pretty villages and natural landscapes. Try some of the special cordials and liqueurs in the Trappist monastery in Engelhartszell. Supposedly they have special healing power. Later, relax on the sun deck while the ship takes you through the romantic Schlögenger loop, where the river makes a very abrupt 180-degree turn. And after dinner, ride on the bright yellow City-Express (optional) and discover Linz, the capital of upper Austria.

Day 3: Linz – Grein - cycling distance approximately 60km

Today's bike ride takes you along the Danube with time to enjoy the rural landscape. The Celtic town of Mitterkirchen gives a fascinating insight into the past. The alternative route to Clam Castle, via the beautiful backcountry of the "Strudengau" is slightly hilly, but a fantastic landscape. Today's final destination is Grein, the site of Austria's oldest city-theatre and the Castle of Grein.

Day 4: Grein – Melk – Tulln - cycling distance approximately 51km

The cycling today is through a very diverse landscape. Firstly, there is the Strudengau – a narrow point of the Danube, which used to be notorious amongst skippers. The valley expands from Persenbeug and the bike tour leads you further to Melk with its gorgeous baroque Benedictine monastery. This evening, enjoy the sunset from the deck and the beautiful evening illumination of the Wachau. Today's final destination is Tulln, famous for its numerous market gardens.

Day 5: Tulln – Vienna - cycling distance approximately 35km

Right in front of the entrance to Vienna, embedded in a breathtaking landscape, is the monastery of Klosterneuburg. The cupola of this 900 year old, baroque building is visible from quite a distance. Once at the shipping pier, "Kahlenbergerdorf" with its wine taverns is only a hop and definitely worth a visit. After a stroll through the vineyards, you can enjoy the panoramic view over Vienna. You may like to take the city tour (optional) by bus in the afternoon which passes most of the numerous and famous sights. It is also possible to visit St. Stephens Cathedral and have a short-guided walking tour through the old town centre.

Day 6: Vienna (Free day) - (optional city tour - cycling approximately 3,5 hours)

Take the opportunity to see Vienna's famous sites, such as the Prater, St. Stephens Cathedral and the Hofburg. The gorgeous "Ringstraße" boulevard with the Burgtheater, the State Opera House and the town hall

all evoke the past. There is time in the afternoon to stroll or visit one of the famous Viennese coffee bars. The evening ends impressively with a Waltz and Opera concert at the Hofburg (optional), or at a wine tavern.

Day 7: Wachau |Krems – Emmersdorf - cycling distance approximately 36km

Your last biking day is a highlight! Small dreamy towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries and ruins in this hilly landscape are enchanting. In Weißenkirchen (possibility for a wine-tasting – optional) you will find comfy wine taverns right along the bike path. After a ceremonial gala dinner this evening, the crew put on a show packed with fun and entertainment.

Day 8: Passau

This morning you have a last chance to enjoy the sunrise from the deck and the peaceful silence of the Danube Valley. Take a last look at the Schlägener Schlinge (=“Great Loop”) before arriving in Passau, where your tour ends. You arrive at approximately 12:00noon, with disembarkation half an hour later. To allow for delays, please do not plan any onward connections until after 2pm.



DANUBE WALTZ - GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY

8-days / 7-nights river cruising & with guided cycling or self-guided cycling

Suggested route: Passau – Vienna – Bratislava – Budapest – Vienna – Passau

Day 1: Passau

Arrive in Passau; the “City of Three Rivers” in time to board your ship at 5pm. If time allows, Passau is worth a look, with its charming Old Town and features such as the world's largest church organ at Stephansdom. The ship departs around 6:30pm with your first dinner on board and an evening cruise to Engelhartszell.

Day 2: Engelhartszell – Aschach – Vienna - cycling distance approximately 40km

The day starts in Engelhartszell where we head towards the "Great Loop" - one of the most beautiful and original sectors of the Danube. You cycle today through small villages with cosy, must-see taverns. Board the ship again in the charming village of Aschach. Then, you "sail into the night".

Day 3: Vienna – Bratislava - cycling distance approximately 55 – 75km

Cycling from Vienna you can enjoy the wild and untamed Donauauen National Park, one of the last big unspoilt floodplains in Europe. Our destination is Bratislava and there is an optional bus tour and city walk in the evening, where you get the chance to discover hidden alleys and all the sights of this ambitious metropolis.

Day 4: Budapest (Free day) – Optional sightseeing tour by bike or bus (at night)

Wake up to a panoramic view of the Danube. The gateway to Budapest is overwhelming, as many of the famous tourist sites are situated directly next to the river bank. Nearby, you'll find the Margaretheninsel, which is excellent to explore by bike. The market hall - called "The Stomach of Budapest" - is packed with Hungarian hand made crafts and worth a visit. There is an (optional) night-time city tour where you can experience the beautifully lit city of Budapest.

Day 5: Visegrad – Esztergom - cycling distance approximately 24 – 57km

The Danube bend is one of most delightful and attractive parts of the river and is called the “Hungarian Wachau”. Today's bike ride starts at Visegrad, with its famous fortress and the ruins of the former palace. You can choose from 2 different routes: the longer one includes a side trip to the island of Szentendre and the baroque village of Vac, which was influenced by the architects of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresia. The other route leads you directly to Esztergom with its impressive basilica, Hungary's largest Catholic Church.

Day 6: Vienna (Free day) – Optional sightseeing tour by bike or bus & evening waltz concert

Today you are free to explore Vienna's beautiful attractions and architecture, on a city tour by bike or by bus: the imperial Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, the gorgeous "Ringstraße" boulevard with the State Opera House, the Burgtheater and the town hall. There is also time to relax at one of the numerous small coffee bars. The evening ends with a Waltz and Opera Concert at the Wiener Hofburg (optional) or at a wine tavern.

Day 7: Wachau | Krems – Melk - cycling distance approximately 36km

Delightful cycling awaits you today, through small towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries and ruins along sloping hills. In Spitz, there are comfy wine taverns right alongside your bike route. You will have to walk your bike through Dunstein's narrow alleys, where King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned during the medieval times. End today in Melk, with its gorgeous baroque Benedictine monastery. After a ceremonial gala dinner this evening, the crew put on a show packed with fun and entertainment.

Day 8: Passau

The ship arrives in Passau in the late morning. You arrive at approximately 12:00noon, with disembarkation half an hour later. To allow for delays, please do not plan any onward connections until after 2pm.



General Information: Please note the timetable & itinerary are indicative only & are subject to change without notice. These cruises are subject to water levels and navigation of locks & bridges, etc. The tour is subject to minimum numbers - status will be confirmed 4 weeks before departure – ask for further details. The ship cruises & has engine power at night, so if you are sensitive to noise, we recommend you bring earplugs.

You will need to make your own way to and from Passau. All distances shown are approximate only. Cabin space is limited (soft or foldable bags are recommended). We suggest you bring or buy locally a good quality bike helmet. We suggest you also bring your own good quality rainwear (jacket and trousers), sunshade, sunscreen, sports shoes and bathing shoes.

Other Bike & Barge cruises are available from **Outdoor Travel** in **France, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Croatia, Greece & Turkey**. We offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling tours in most areas of Europe & river and canal hotel barge cruises. Sailing holidays are available in Corsica, Tuscany or Sicily in Italy. Bike & boat holidays are also available in Vietnam & on the St Lawrence River in Canada:

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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