Travel from Vienna to Budapest between the two capitals of the “Danube Monarchy”. Travel beside beautiful lakes, through ancient forests and charming rustic villages - through a largely undiscovered region of eastern Austria and Hungary. We pass by two of the most beautiful and important Hungarian lakes and to the unique thermal lake of Hévíz. The cycling route is varied with plenty of places of interest along the way with gentle undulating hills. Our tour guide does not cycle with you as a tour leader but instead follows with a support vehicle which carries the luggage, meets you at pre-arranged points, is contactable by mobile phone and assists with emergency bike repairs if necessary. You can travel at your own pace, with all the time in the world to stop for a photograph, a relaxing swim or even a thermal spa.

**Highlights:**  Vienna – Danube River – Lake Fertő – Thermal Lake Hévíz – Lake Balaton – Budapest

**Departs:**  9th, 23rd April, 7th, 28th May, 18th June, 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th July, 6th, 13th, 27th August, 10th, 24th September, 8th, 22nd October 2016

**Cost from:** $1195 per person (twin share)  Single room supplement from $250

**Distance:**  Moderate cycling – 50 to 65 kilometres per day on undulating terrain.

**Suggested itinerary:**

**Day 1 Vienna.**
Plan to arrive at your hotel in the late afternoon although if you get there earlier there is lots to see and do in Vienna. Dinner tonight is at your own arrangement in one of the many local restaurants. Overnight in Vienna.

**Day 2 River Danube**
After breakfast meet with your guide/driver at 8.45am for a briefing on the route ahead and to fit your bicycles. Today we cycle along the River Danube cycle path through the Donau-Auen National Park to the spa town of Bad Deutsch Altenburg. Here we meet the driver for a transfer by vehicle to the idyllic old town of Bruck an der Leitha, with one of Eastern Austria’s most beautiful baroque town squares.

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Day 3  Lake Neusiedl and Sopron  Cycling @ 60km
We cycle to Parndorf, then along the reed-covered shore of Lake Neusiedl (called Lake Fertő in Hungary). On our way is the picturesque town of Rust, famous for its storks that roost in the town’s chimneys. We cycle to Mörbisch, where the “Small Hungarian Plain” begins.

Our day ends in Sopron, the only Hungarian city where almost the entire city centre architecture has survived from the Middle Ages. Yet its history goes back further, when Western Hungary was a province of the Roman Empire, a city called Scarbantia stood here. The Forum was located where the main square of Sopron is today.

Day 4  Haydn and The Eszterházy Dynasty  Cycling @ 56km
After breakfast cycle towards Lake Fertő. The salty water of the lake and its surrounding marshland are home to some 250 species of waterbirds. We cycle towards Fertőd (Eszterháza) and its impressive baroque palace built by the Prince Eszterházy family. Joseph Haydn was court musician here for 30 years. Our destination today is Bük / Sárvár in Hungarian spa country, with healing mineral water springs.

Day 5  Lake Hévíz  Cycling @ 60km
A wonderful cycling route leads us through typical and traditional villages. Stork nests decorate the roofs and steeples. We reach the spa resort Hévíz on the largest natural thermal lake in Europe. It has a constant water temperature of 30/35°C. We then travel onwards to Keszthely on the shores of Lake Balaton.

Day 6  Lake Balaton  Cycling @ 56km
Ride around the shores of Lake Balaton with again many pretty small villages and perhaps a chance to take a refreshing dip in the lake waters. This is flat, easy cycling to Balatonföldvár where we leave our bikes and board the support vehicle to Budapest, on the River Danube. Travel time is approximately 1.5 hours. On arrival in Budapest, you have free time to explore. Dinner this evening is at your own arrangements.

Day 7  Budapest
The tour ends after breakfast at the hotel in Budapest. If you would like to extend your stay in Budapest, we can arrange extra nights at additional cost – please ask when making your booking. We can also book a transfer back to Vienna, by rail, bus or hydrofoil – ask for prices and availability when booking this tour.

These are just a few of the many small group guided or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling tours we offer in Europe - including river rides from Passau to Vienna along the Danube.

Other cycling holiday destinations include Tuscany, Umbria and the Veneto in Italy; Catalunya and Asturias in Spain; the Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Burgundy, and the Dordogne in France; Germany, Austria and Switzerland, including Lake Constance and the Inn River Trail; and areas in Holland, Ireland, England and Scotland, Hungary, in the Czech Republic, Poland, Vietnam, New Zealand and Australia.

We also offer group guided Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat cruises in many destinations including along the Danube in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Romania, in many regions of France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, the Hebrides Islands in the Scottish Highlands, the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece, the Lycian coast of Turkey and in Vietnam.

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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