

AUSTRIA & GERMANY – HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DANUBE CYCLE PATH

8-days / 7-nights River cruising & easy to moderate GUIDED or **SELF-GUIDED** cycling



The **River Danube** is a highlight of any trip to Europe and this is a **guided or self-guided** cycling and cruising holiday is for those who want to be more active and to travel at their own pace. We offer several Premium barges, with variations on well-made, interesting and mostly sealed cycling routes, mainly along the river. All cruises start and end in Passau, Germany. Follow the route taken by Austrian Empress Sisi to meet Emperor Franz. Along the route explore Linz, capital of Upper Austria and a place of vibrant contrasts with its mix of modern and historic architecture, pass small villages, castles and palaces set in the picturesque countryside, to **Vienna** with its Cathedral, beautiful town hall, Riesenrad (ferris wheel) and famous Naschmarkt (food market).

Bike and Barge cycling cruises combine cycling and river cruising, they allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together, interesting for both leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts. On the River Danube, spacious, cruise ships are larger and carry up to 150 passengers, with an attentive crew and a relaxed atmosphere. Regional cuisine is served in the restaurant and there is a bar and sun deck with comfortable chairs and space to relax. The comfortable cabins offer twin beds, ensuite shower and toilet, hairdryers, a TV and air conditioning.

Departs Saturdays: 23rd, 30th April, 7th, 21st May 4th, 18th, 25th June, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th July, 6th, 13th, 27th August, 10th, 17th September, 1st October, 2022

Cost from: **\$1210** per person twin-share – Main Deck Bunk Cabin
\$1745 per person twin-share – Upper Deck Twin Bed Cabin
High Season supplements apply **\$175 - \$395** per person (May – September departures)
Single cabins are available with a supplement on request, please ask for details.

Guided cycling add **\$325** per person: 4th June, 30th July, 1st October, 2022

Self-guided cycling tour includes: 7 nights' in twin-share, mostly outward facing cabins with air-conditioning; full board (breakfast, packed lunch and dinner), welcome cocktail, onboard entertainment, Gala Dinner with farewell cocktail; multi-gear touring bike with pannier; route information & map (one set per cabin); port fees.

Guided cycling tour includes: the items above, plus a cycle tour guide on your rides, ferry rides, bike helmet.

Shown 'optional' excursions, city walks or sightseeing with guide can be booked and paid for during the cruise.

Not included: Arrival/departure transfers, drinks, entrance fees, sightseeing fees, gratuities, personal expenses, bike helmets on self-guided tours (these can be purchased aboard @ €25 - €40 per helmet).

E-Bikes: a limited number of E-bikes are available for hire at extra cost – please ask for details.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Typical suggested route: Passau – Vienna – Passau

Day 1: Arrive Passau

Board the boat in central Passau at 4:00pm. Near the Bavarian / Austrian border, Passau, known as the “City of Three Rivers” is well worth exploring with its charming Old Town and the world’s largest church organ at Stephansdom. The crew will help with bike fitting, a pannier, lock and other necessary equipment or advice. There is a shop onboard to purchase a helmet, clothing and souvenirs. The boat departs at 6:30pm sailing eastward along the romantic Danube Valley and there is a welcome cocktail and dinner with live music onboard.

Day 2: Engelhartszell – Brandstatt

cycling @ 45km

Today we cycle from Engelhartszell along the Upper Danube valley through the pristine countryside of dense forests, lush green farm pastures and sleepy villages. See the Schlägener Blick observation point for a truly stunning view of the Schlägener Schlinge where the Danube loops and carves its way through a gorge.

Day 3: Brandstatt – Linz

cycling @ 26km

Continue along the Danube to the Upper Austrian capital of Linz. In the afternoon there may be time to explore the city, a former European Capital of Culture on a bright yellow miniature train or to visit the cathedral, the biggest church in Austria. Dinner onboard and overnight cruising.

Day 4: Mauthausen – Grein

cycling @ 35km

After breakfast, as time allows, explore the town and visit the Mauthausen camp memorial. Today’s cycling is an easy ride along the Danube Cycle Path – a smooth, sealed traffic-free track - following the river. There is an alternative (slightly hilly) route is via Clam Castle and the beautiful backcountry of the “Strudengau”. The cycling tour ends in Grein, the site of Austria’s oldest city-theatre and the Castle of Grein. After dinner there is an evening cruise past villages and towns of twinkling lights, before arriving early next morning into Vienna.

Day 5: Vienna – Free day

On arriving into the outskirts of Vienna, ride your bike or take a tram, bus or taxi into the city centre to see the Prater, St. Stephens Cathedral and the Hofburg or the *Ringstraße* boulevard with the Burgtheater, State Opera House and the town hall. Take time in the afternoon to stroll around the city or visit the famous Viennese coffee bars. In the evening consider buying tickets for a Waltz and Opera concert or visit a beer hall or wine tavern.

Day 6: Wachau Valley

cycling @ 25 - 40km

Great cycling today, small scenic towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries and castles ruins abound. The charming little town of Dürnstein with its narrow lanes is an absolute highlight. In Weißenkirchen, taste the wine at one of the wine taverns right along the bike path.

Day 7: Weißenkirchen – Pöchlarn

cycling @ 35km

Today we ride through a diverse landscape, through the wide valleys of the Nibelungenau. Passing rustic wine-growing villages set amongst the vineyards to Spitz, situated on the “1000-Eimer Berg”. Take the ferry to the sleepy southern bank of the river and continue cycling on to the Baroque Benedictine Monastery at Melk.

Day 8: Tour ends in Passau.

Our cruise returns along the river to Passau and we arrive at approximately 9:00am with disembarkation half an hour later. *To allow for potential delays, please do not plan any onward connections until well after 10:30am.*

The timetable and itinerary shown above are indicative only and may change without notice; cruise programs will depend on water levels and the navigation of locks, bridges, etc. All distances are approximate. Tours are subject to minimum numbers – confirmed @ 4 weeks before departure – ask for details. These ships cruise and have engine power at night. If you are sensitive to noise we recommend you choose an Upper Deck cabin and avoid the Main Deck cabins (as these are closer to the engine and subject to more noise).





Non-cycling passengers are welcome on these tours but remember whilst there may be activities planned for the evenings there are no sightseeing excursions included in the tour cost during the day. Guided sightseeing excursions and city tours or evening events can be booked during the week and paid for on-board.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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