

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.

Cost from: **\$1285** per person twin share Single room supplement from \$275

Departs: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays May to September

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

Includes: 7 nights' twin-share accommodation in comfortable hotels with ensuite bathroom, half board (breakfast and dinner) daily, daily luggage transfers, walking route notes and maps, emergency telephone assistance if required, river boat from Passau to Obernzell, bus from Puppung Ortmitte to Wilhering, Pöstlingbergbahn tram (downhill), tram ride in Linz, guided tour or organ recital at St Florian monastery, bus from St Florian to Linz.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, drinks, entrance fees, ferries and other transport, personal expenses, city tourist taxes (@ €1-3 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)

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.

Day 2, Passau - Engelhartszell

walking @ 23km, 6 - 7 hours

Depart Passau by boat to Obernzell, where you begin the walk. Passing the Baroque castle in Obernzell your route takes you up the Krottental valley with rewarding climbs first to the look-out point at Ebenstein, where you can rest and take in the wonderful views over the Danube valley, and then to Penzenstein. Descend back to the valley where today's walking finishes with a short ferry ride across the River Danube to Engelhartszell (ferry cost is @ €2 per person, paid locally), where you stay in a 3-star Gasthof.

Day 3, Engelhartszell - Schlögen

walking @ 25km, 7 hours

Before leaving Engelhartszell this morning, you may like to visit Austria's only Trappist monastery, where the monks produce beer, liqueurs and cheese. The 18th Century rococo-style abbey church is open to all visitors. Walk to Wesenufer where the route leads you into the Kösslbachtal reserve, with magnificent views of the Rannriedl, Marsbach and Haichenbach castles and then on to your destination for tonight, a 4-star hotel located right on the iconic Schlögenger Schlinge, the Danube Loop at Schlögen.

Day 4, Schlögen - Untermühl

walking @ 20km, 6 - 7 hours

In the morning cross the River Danube to Au on the left bank by local ferry (@ €2 per person, paid locally). Walk to the vantage point for views over the Danube Loop. Walk to Obermühl and Donauleiten and ascend to Burgstall. Burgstall (613m) is the highest point between the source and estuary of the Danube. Continue to overnight in a 3-star hotel in Untermühl.

Day 5, Untermühl - Brandstatt / Eferding

walking @ 21km, 6 - 7 hours

Today's walk leads you from Untermühl to Schloss Neuhaus and then on through the Pesenbach nature reserve to the picturesque town of Aschach, with its Baroque town square. From Aschach you make your way to Brandstatt / Eferding and stay overnight in a 3-star hotel in Brandstatt or similar in Eferding.

Day 6, Brandstatt / Eferding - Linz

walking @ 15km, 5 - 6 hours

After breakfast it's a short 30-minute walk to Popping Ortsmitte. Take the bus to Wilhering with its elaborately decorated "*Abbey of a Thousand Angels*". Catch the ferry from Wilhering to Ottensheim (@ €2 per person paid locally), then make your way via Koglerau up the Pöstlingberg hill with its Baroque basilica. Take one of the steepest trams in Europe downhill to Linz where you stay 2 nights in a 4-star hotel in the centre.

Day 7, St Florian circuit

walking @ 12km, 1.5 - 2 hours

Take 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 11th 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.

Day 8, Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in Linz. Extra nights in Linz are recommended (at additional cost) as there is much to see and do in and around this fascinating, progressive city. If you plan to return to Passau, there are several daily direct trains from Linz to Passau, cost @ €18 per person, paid locally, journey time @ 1½ hours.



Outdoor Travel offers self-guided inn-to-inn or guided walks in most destinations in Europe, including Bavaria in Germany, the Dachstein or Stubai Alps in Austria. We also offer great pilgrimage walks such as the Way of Saint James, the Camino de Santiago from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, or the Via Francigena in Italy, the pilgrims 'road to Rome' - ask for details or see our website.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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