

OUTDOOR TRAVEL

THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

BIKE & BARGE HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE

2025

EXPLORE THE DANUBE: GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY 8-days / 7-nights river cruising with **GUIDED** or **SELF-GUIDED** cycling



The **River Danube** is a highlight of any trip to Europe. This **guided or self-guided** cycling and cruising holiday is for those who want to be more active and to travel at their own pace. The cruise starts and ends in Passau, Germany. Along the way explore the majestic city of Bratislava, capital of Slovakia; Budapest with its famous bridges; and **Vienna** with its Cathedral, beautiful town hall, Riesenrad (ferris wheel) and Naschmarkt (food market).

Bike and Barge cycling cruises combine cycling and river cruising and allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together, with varied and interesting cycling routes for both leisure cyclists and enthusiasts. Unpack once and come home each night to your floating hotel with dinner prepared for you. On the River Danube, these Premium ships are larger, carrying up to 150 passengers, with an attentive crew and a relaxed atmosphere. Regional cuisine is served in the restaurant and there is space to relax in the bar or on the sun deck. Comfortably furnished cabins offer twin beds, an ensuite shower and toilet, hairdryers, a television, and air conditioning.

Departures: Every Sunday from 20 April to 12 October 2025
Selected Saturdays: 17 May, 7, 21 June, 30 August, 13 September 2025

Cost from: Self-guided: **\$2020** per person, twin-share: Main Deck cabin
\$2595 per person, twin share: Mid Deck cabin
\$2965 per person, twin-share: Superior Mid/Upper Deck cabin with private balcony
Mid/High season supplement from **\$270 - \$555** per person applies May-September

Guided cycling supplement add **\$665** per person.
20, 27 April, 18 May, 8 June, 6, 27 July, 24 August, 14 September, 5, 12 October 2025

Single cabins and upgrades to suites or junior suites available for a supplement on request, please ask for details.

Self-guided tour includes: 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share cabins with ensuite and air-conditioning; full board (breakfast, packed lunch and dinner); onboard entertainment and Gala Dinner; hire of multi-gear hybrid bike with panniers; detailed route map & cycling information (one set per cabin); port fees & charges.

Guided tour includes the items above, plus services of a bike tour guide on the daily cycling route, ferry rides, wine tasting, cider tasting in the Upper Danube Valley, Budapest & Vienna city bus tours, use of a bike helmet.

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

Not included: Arrival or departure transfers, entrance fees, excursion and sightseeing fees, gratuities or personal expenses. For clients on self-guided tours, bike helmets must be reserved in advance (extra cost).

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



Suggested itinerary: Passau – Vienna – Bratislava – Budapest – Vienna – Passau *

Day 1: Passau – Engelhartszell

Plan to arrive in Passau, the “*City of Three Rivers*” in time to board your ship at 5:00pm. Enjoy a welcome drink, your first dinner on board and an evening cruise to Engelhartszell.

Day 2: Engelhartszell – Aschach

cycling @ 43km

The first cycling day starts in Engelhartszell from where we head towards the “Great Loop”, one of the most photographed and scenic sections of the Danube. We ride on the sealed, traffic-free Danube Cycle Path through many small villages and re-board the ship in Aschach. From Aschach we cruise overnight to Devin.

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava

cycling @ 45km

Cycling along what was once the “*Iron Curtain*”, we reach the imposing Imperial Palace of Hof with its beautifully terraced gardens and idyllic manor farm. We follow the cycle path with the Little Carpathians as the backdrop onto Bratislava. Here there is time simply relax onboard, to take a stroll or join the optional bus tour and city walk in the evening to discover the many hidden alleyways, squares, and shopping centres of this busy city.

Day 4: Budapest (Free day)

Optional sightseeing tour or cycling @ 24-55km

Open your cabin curtains to a panoramic view of the Danube and many of Budapest’s most famous tourist sites directly beside the river. Nearby, you’ll find the Margaretheninsel, which is excellent to explore by bike. The popular market hall, nicknamed “*The Stomach of Budapest*”, is full of hand-made Hungarian crafts and specialities and is well worth a visit. For the energetic we suggest a 55km round-trip ride to the island of Szentendre. In the evening you may like to visit the city’s historic Jewish Quarter.

Day 5: The Danube Bend – Esztergom

cycling @ 50km

The Danube Bend known as the “*Hungarian Wachau*” is one of most delightful and attractive parts of the river. Ride past Visegrad, with its famous fortress and the ruins of the former palace, then cycle via the baroque village of Vac, influenced by the architects of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa, and on to Esztergom with its impressive basilica, Hungary’s largest Catholic Church.



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

Today is free to explore Vienna's attractions with an optional city tour to see Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, "Ringstraße" boulevard, Opera House, Burgtheater and Town Hall. Alternatively relax onboard and take in the sights from the river. In the evening you may like to take in an optional waltz and operetta concert.

Day 7: Wachau | Krems – Melk / Pöchlarn**cycling @ 37-45km**

Great cycling through the small towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries, and ruins of the Wachau valley. There are many inviting taverns to taste the local wines and beer. Walk through Durnstein's narrow alleys, where England's King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned during medieval times. The Baroque Benedictine monastery of Melk is an architectural gem. We celebrate with a farewell gala dinner this evening.

Day 8: Tour ends in Passau

The ship arrives into Passau, with disembarkation around 11.00am. In case of delays, please do not plan any onward connections until well after 12.00 noon.



General Information: The suggested itinerary is indicative only and is subject to change without notice. These cruises are subject to water levels, navigation of locks and bridges, etc. All distances shown are approximate. The tour is subject to minimum numbers – status will be confirmed 4 weeks before departure – please ask for further details.

The ship cruises and has engine power at night, so if you are sensitive to noise, we recommend you bring earplugs, and choose a cabin on an upper deck. The ship has three decks: main, middle and upper. On the main deck, portholes are fixed shut, and engine noise is more noticeable than on the other decks.

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. Optional guided sightseeing excursions, 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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