

AUSTRIA GERMANY SLOVAKIA HUNGARY – DANUBE CYCLE PATH

8-days / 7-nights River cruising & easy to moderate GUIDED or **SELF-GUIDED** cycling from AU\$1385



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 cabins on a floating hotel on a well-made, interesting and mostly sealed cycling route along the river. All cruises start and end in Passau, Germany. Along the route explore Bratislava, the former city of Hungarian kings, 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. Unpack once and come *home* each night to a comfortable cabin and dinner. 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 comfortably furnished cabins – at different levels - offer twin beds, an en suite shower and toilet, hairdryers, a TV and air conditioning.

Danube Highlights **Departs selected Saturdays from 11th May – 27th September, 2019**
Cost from: **\$1385** per person twin-share – Main Deck Bunk Cabin
 \$1775 per person twin-share – Promenade Deck Twin Bed Cabin
 High season supplement from \$85 per person on selected departures (June, July, Sept)

Guided cycling add **\$510** per person: 11th May, 8th Jun, 6th, 27th Jul, 24th Aug, 21st Sep, 2019

Explore the Danube **Departs Sundays 28th April – 6th October, 2019**
Cost from: **\$1505** per person twin-share – Main Deck (twin beds)
 \$1895 per person twin-share – Upper Deck (twin beds)
 Mid/High season supplement from \$180-\$265 per person applies May to September

Guided cycling add **\$510** per person: 5th, 19th May, 2nd, 23rd Jun, 14th Jul, 11th Aug, 1st, 15th, 29th Sep, 2019

Single cabins are available with a supplement on request, please ask for details.

Self-guided cycling tour includes: 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share, mostly outward facing cabins with air-conditioning, full board (breakfast, packed lunch and dinner), welcome cocktail, onboard entertainment and Gala Dinner with farewell cocktail; hire of multi-gear touring bike with saddlebag; detailed route map and cycling information (one set per cabin); port fees & charges. Shown 'optional' excursions, city walks or sightseeing with guide can be booked and paid for during the cruise.

Guided cycling tour includes: the items above, plus services of a Bike Tour Guide on the daily cycling route, 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 (not compulsory but available for purchase onboard, cost is @ €25 - €35)

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

DANUBE HIGHLIGHTS: GERMANY, AUSTRIA & SLOVAKIA

8-days / 7-nights river cruising and with guided or **SELF-GUIDED** cycling

Suggested route: Passau – Vienna – Bratislava – Passau

Day 1: Arrive Passau

Board the boat in central Passau at 5.00pm. 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, pannier and other equipment. There is a shop onboard to purchase a helmet, clothing and souvenirs if required. The boat departs at 6.30pm sailing eastward along the romantic Danube Valley and there is a welcome cocktail and dinner with live music as the cruise begins.

Day 2: Mauthausen – Grein

cycling distance @ 35km

After breakfast perhaps take time to explore the town and visit the Mauthausen camp memorial. Today we start the cycling with an easy ride along the Danube Cycle Path – a smooth, sealed traffic-free track - following the river. The 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 a sunset cruise through the romantic Wachau Valley. In the morning we arrive at Devin, with its clifftop castle offering views over the confluence of the Danube and Morava Rivers

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava

cycling distance @ 43km

Longer cycling today, the route follows the former Iron Curtain to the impressive baroque Schloss Hof, with its beautifully terraced gardens. Continue on through Austria’s vegetable garden to the coronation city of Bratislava. Here you can explore the hidden alleyways and sights of the city, there are many cafes, bars and shops to enjoy.

Day 4: Vienna – Free day

On arriving into the outskirts of Vienna, take a tram 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 at the Hofburg or visit a beer hall or wine tavern.

Day 5: Wachau | Krems – Melk

cycling distance @ 37km

Great cycling today, small scenic towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries and castles ruins abound. In Weißenkirchen, taste the wine at one of the wine taverns right along the bike path.

Day 6: Melk – Grein

cycling distance @ 50km

After breakfast take time to visit the Baroque Benedictine Monastery at Melk. We ride through a diverse landscape, first through the wide valleys of the Nibelungenau, then further into the Strudengau, the river narrows.

Day 7: Danube Loop

cycling distance @ 25km

Relaxed cycling again through many pretty villages in this typically rural landscape. The many cafes, bars and market stalls you pass offer freshly grilled mackerel, cheeses or other local delicacies and there is always time for a taste. Take a short diversion to walk to the viewpoint high above the valley for stunning views of the meandering river and the lush green valley below. Engelhartzell is the overnight mooring point. It’s only a small town that is dominated by the Trappist Monastery which is open to visitors. Perhaps try some of the special cordials and liqueurs produced here which are reputed to have special healing powers.

Day 8: Tour ends in Passau.

We return along the river to Passau and arrive at approximately 10.00am with disembarkation half an hour later. *To allow for potential delays, please do not plan any onward connections until after 11.30am.*





EXPLORE THE DANUBE: 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 – Engelhartszell

Plan to arrive in Passau, the “*City of Three Rivers*” in time to board your ship at 4.30pm. The ship departs at @ 6:00pm with bike fitting, a welcome drink and your first dinner on board and an evening cruise to Engelhartszell.

Day 2: Engelhartszell – Aschach

cycling distance @ 42km

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 with café, bars and taverns. Re-board the ship in Aschach and cruise overnight to Devin.

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava

cycling distance @ 43km

Peddalling 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 through Austria’s “vegetable garden” and our destination is Bratislava where you can relax, 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 show or cycling distance @ 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, well worth a visit. For the energetic we suggest a 55km round-trip ride to the island of Szentendre. In the evening there is an (optional) excursion to enjoy traditional Hungarian music and dance.

Day 5: The Danube Bend – Esztergom

cycling distance @ 43km

The Danube Bend is one of most delightful and attractive parts of the river and is called the “*Hungarian Wachau*”. We ride past Visegrad, with its famous fortress and the ruins of the former palace, then you can choose from two different routes; one via the baroque village of Vác, which was influenced by the architects of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa or directly 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 you are free to explore Vienna’s many beautiful attractions and architecture. Join the (optional) city tour by bike or by bus: see the imperial Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, “*Ringstraße*” boulevard with the State Opera House, the Burgtheater and Town Hall. Or you can simply relax at one of the numerous small coffee bars. In the evening there is an (optional) Waltz and Opera Concert at the Wiener Hofburg.

Day 7: Wachau | Krems – Melk

cycling distance @ 37km

Great cycling today through the small towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries and ruins that dot the cycle path. In Spitz, there are many inviting wine taverns to taste the local wines and beer. Walk with your bike through Dunstein’s narrow alleys, where England’s King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned during medieval times. We end the day in Melk, with its gorgeous Baroque Benedictine Monastery. We celebrate with a farewell gala dinner this evening and afterwards the crew put on a show packed with fun and entertainment.

Day 8: Tour ends in Passau

The ship arrives into Passau at approximately 9.30am, with disembarkation half an hour later. *To avoid missed connections please do not plan any onward connections until well after 11.30am.*



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 or Promenade 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.

Outdoor Travel offers Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the the popular Amsterdam to Bruges or Burges to Paris routes, in the Loire Valley, Bordeaux, Champagne and Burgundy or Provence in **France**, several routes in **Holland, Germany** – along the Rivers Saar, Moselle and Rhine, in **Italy** on the Po near Venice or along the Amalfi coast or in Sicily, the Danube in **Austria** or **Romania**, island hopping on the spectacular Dalmatian coast of **Croatia** or **Montenegro** or to the islands of **Greece** and **Turkey**.

Outdoor Travel also offer inn-to-inn guided or self-guided cycling holidays in many destinations across Europe, the USA, Canada, Japan, South Africa, China, New Zealand and in Vietnam.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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