

AUSTRIA GERMANY SLOVAKIA HUNGARY – DANUBE CYCLE PATH

8-days / 7-nights of river cruising with 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.

Excursions, city walks or sightseeing options with guide can be booked during the cruise at additional cost.

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 (available for purchase onboard, cost approx. €25)

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

Passau, the “*Bishops’ City*” close to the Bavarian/Austrian border is also known as the “*City of Three Rivers*”. Boarding time is at 5.00pm. If time allows, Passau is worth a look, with its charming Old Town and features such as the world's largest church organ at Stephansdom. Begin your holiday that evening with a welcome cocktail and dinner with live music as the boat departs at 6.30pm and moves through the romantic Danube valley.

Day 2: Mauthausen – Grein

cycling distance @ 35km

There is the opportunity this morning to visit the Mauthausen camp memorial. Then an easy bike ride takes you along the Danube with time to enjoy the river views. The alternative route to Clam Castle, via the beautiful backcountry of the “*Strudengau*” is slightly hilly, but a fantastic landscape. The cycling tour ends in Grein, the site of Austria’s oldest city-theatre (optional visit possible, not included) and the Castle of Grein. After dinner, you take a sunset cruise through the romantic Wachau Valley and continue overnight, arriving in the morning at Devin, with its cliff-top castle commanding a fine view of the confluence of the Danube and Morava Rivers

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava

cycling distance @ 43km

The cycling route follows the former Iron Curtain and leads to the impressive baroque Schloss Hof, with its beautifully terraced gardens, then through Austria’s vegetable garden to the coronation city, Bratislava. Here you have an option to explore the hidden alleyways and sights of Bratislava on a city tour (not included).

Day 4: Vienna – Free day

Take the opportunity to see Vienna’s famous sites, such as the Prater, St. Stephens Cathedral and the Hofburg. The gorgeous *Ringstraße* boulevard with the Burgtheater, the State Opera House and the town hall all evoke the past. There is time in the afternoon to stroll or visit one of the famous Viennese coffee bars. The evening ends impressively with a Waltz and Opera concert at the Hofburg (optional), or at a wine tavern.

Day 5: Wachau | Krems – Melk

cycling distance @ 37km

Today’s cycling is a highlight! Small idyllic towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries and ruins in this hilly landscape are enchanting. In Weissenkirchen, where there is the opportunity for wine-tasting (optional) you will find cosy wine taverns right along the bike path.

Day 6: Melk – Grein

cycling distance @ 50km

After breakfast onboard there is time to visit the gorgeous baroque Benedictine monastery at Melk. The cycling today is through a very diverse landscape, first through the wide valleys of the Nibelungenau, then further into the Strudengau, a narrow point of the Danube, which used to be notorious amongst skippers.

Day 7: Danube Loop

cycling distance @ 25km

Cycle through the pretty villages and typical rural landscapes of the Danube valley along the cycle path, perhaps accompanied by the smell of freshly grilled mackerel or local delicacies, enticed by the many inviting small pubs. You can take a short diversion from the cycle route to walk to the viewpoint high above the valley for stunning views of the meandering river and the green valley below. Engelhartzell is the overnight mooring point. If you find yourself in need of refreshment, try some of the special cordials and liqueurs in the local Trappist monastery which supposedly have special healing powers.

Day 8: Tour ends in Passau.

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

Arrive in Passau, the “City of Three Rivers” in time to board your ship at 4.30pm. The ship departs around 6:00pm with your first dinner on board and an evening cruise to Engelhartszell.

Day 2: Engelhartszell – Aschach

cycling distance @ 42km

The day starts in Engelhartszell where we head towards the “Great Loop” - one of the most beautiful and original sections of the Danube. You cycle today through small villages with cosy, must-see taverns. Board the ship again in the charming village of Aschach. Then, you “sail into the night”.

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava

cycling distance @ 43km

Today you pedal along the former “Iron Curtain”, cross the green line and reach the imposing Imperial Palace of Hof with its beautifully terraced gardens and idyllic manor farm. Follow the bike path through Austria’s “vegetable garden”. Our destination is Bratislava and there is an optional bus tour and city walk in the evening, where you get the chance to discover hidden alleys and all the sights of this ambitious metropolis.

Day 4: Budapest (Free day)

Optional sightseeing tour or show or cycling distance @ 55km

Wake up to a panoramic view of the Danube - many of Budapest’s most famous tourist sites are situated directly next to the river bank. Nearby, you’ll find the Margaretheninsel, which is excellent to explore by bike. The market hall – nicknamed “The Stomach of Budapest” – is packed with hand-made Hungarian crafts and worth a visit. You may also like to take a side trip to the island of Szentendre (@ 55km of cycling). There is an (optional) evening show featuring 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”. Cycle past Visegrad, with its famous fortress and the ruins of the former palace, then choose from different routes including one via the baroque village of Vac, which was influenced by the architects of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa. The other route leads you 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 beautiful attractions and architecture, on an (optional) city tour by bike or by bus: the imperial Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, the gorgeous “Ringstraße” boulevard with the State Opera House, the Burgtheater and the town hall. There is also time to relax at one of the numerous small coffee bars. The day ends with a Waltz and Opera Concert at the Wiener Hofburg (optional) or at a wine tavern.

Day 7: Wachau | Krems – Melk

cycling distance @ 37km

Delightful cycling awaits you today, through small towns, apricot orchards, vineyards, castles, monasteries and ruins along sloping hills. In Spitz, there are inviting wine taverns right alongside your bike route. Walk your bike through Dunstein’s narrow alleys, where King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned during medieval times. End today in Melk, with its gorgeous baroque Benedictine monastery. After a ceremonial gala dinner this evening, the crew put on a show packed with fun and entertainment.

Day 8: Tour ends in Passau

The ship arrives in Passau at approximately 9.30am, with disembarkation half an hour later (*to allow for delays, please do not plan any onward connections until well after 11.30am*).



Please note the timetable and itinerary 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 always welcome on these departures but note that whilst there may be activities planned for the evenings there are no sightseeing excursions included in the cost of the tour for non-cyclists during the day. Guided sightseeing excursions and city tours can be booked during the cruise at additional cost.

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, China, Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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