

AUSTRIA GERMANY – HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DANUBE CYCLE PATH

8-days / 7-nights River cruising & easy to moderate GUIDED or **SELF-GUIDED** cycling from AU\$1200



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. 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. 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 Thursdays from 30th April – 8th October, 2020**

Cost from: **\$1200** per person twin-share – Main Deck Bunk Cabin
 \$1620 per person twin-share – Promenade Deck Twin Bed Cabin
 High Season supplements apply **\$175 - \$265** per person (May – September departures)

Guided cycling add **\$295** per person: 4th June, 9th July, 3rd September, 2020

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) with limited house wine, draught beer and soft drinks, 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.

Guided cycling tour includes: the items above, plus services of a Bike Tour Guide on the daily cycling route, 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, entrance fees, sightseeing fees, gratuities or personal expenses. For clients on self-guided tours, bike helmets (not compulsory but available for purchase onboard, cost is @ €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

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, 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: Engelhartszell – Brandstatt

cycling @ 45km

Today cycle from Engelhartszell along the Upper Danube valley through the pristine countryside of dense forests, meadows along the former towpath and past sleepy villages and rustic inns. Stop for some sightseeing at The Schlögener Blick observation point, a truly stunning view of the Schlögener Schlinge where the Danube carves its way through a gorge and doubles back on itself.

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, take an optional tour to discover the European Capital of Culture (2009) on a bright yellow miniature train or visit the cathedral that is the biggest church in Austria.

Day 4: Mauthausen – Grein

cycling @ 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 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.

We return along the river to Passau and 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 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 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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