

## EXPLORE THE DANUBE: GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY

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



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.

**Departs**                      **Sundays and selected Saturdays from 26<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

**Cost from:**                      **\$1410** per person twin-share – Main Deck (twin beds)  
    **\$2080** per person twin-share – Upper Deck (twin beds)  
 Mid/High season supplement from \$175-\$265 per person applies May to September

**Guided cycling**                      add **\$465** per person: 9<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, also on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Single cabins:**                      available with a supplement on request - 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.

**Guided cycling 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, selected city tours, Bike helmet rental.

**Not included:** Arrival/departure transfers, entrance fees, sightseeing fees, gratuities or personal expenses; for self-guided tour: bike helmets (not compulsory but available for purchase onboard, cost is @ €25)

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

**E-Bikes:** a limited number of E-bikes are available for hire at extra cost – ask for details.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



**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 @ 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 @ 43km**

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 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 @ 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 @ 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 Vac, 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 is a free day to explore Vienna’s many attractions. Optional city tours to see the Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, “Ringstraße” boulevard and the State Opera House, Burgtheater and Town Hall. Alternatively relax onboard.. In the evening there is an (optional) Waltz and Opera Concert at the Wiener Hofburg.

**Day 7: Wachau | Krems – Melk**

**cycling @ 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 shown are approximate.*

*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.*



*These ships cruise and have engine power at night. If you are sensitive to noise we recommend you choose an Upper or Middle Deck cabin and avoid the Main Deck cabins (as these are closer to the engine and subject to more noise). These tours are subject to minimum numbers – confirmed @ 4 weeks before departure.*

**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 to the islands of **Greece** and **Turkey**, even in **Vietnam**.

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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