

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

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



The **River Danube** is a highlight of any trip to Europe. This **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, the 'City of Three Rivers'. Along the way explore Bratislava, the former city of Hungarian kings; **Budapest** the capital of Hungary, home to history, culture and mineral-rich hot spring bathhouses; and **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 and allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together. The Danube cycle path is easy to moderate and makes for an enjoyable and leisurely riding experience. Unpack once and come *home* each night to a comfortable cabin and dinner.

The depth and width of the Danube allows for larger barges and cruise ships. The Premium barge plying this route carries up to 140 passengers, with an attentive crew and a relaxed atmosphere. Regional cuisine is served in the restaurant which features panoramic windows, and there is a bar and sun deck with comfortable chairs and space to relax. The comfortably furnished cabins offer twin beds, an en suite shower and toilet, hairdryers, a TV, and air conditioning. Cabins are situated on the upper deck or main deck; upper deck cabins feature a French balcony and availability is strictly limited.

**Departs:** Selected Saturdays from 12 April – 11 October 2025

**Cost from:** \$2200 per person twin-share – Main Deck  
\$2565 per person twin-share – Upper Deck  
Single cabin supplement on request

Mid/High season supplements apply from May to September

A limited number of **E-bikes** are available for hire at extra cost of \$250 per bike – ask when booking.

**Includes:** 7 nights' accommodation in twin-share cabins with air-conditioning; 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches and 6 dinners, welcome cocktail, gala dinner with farewell cocktail; hire of multi-gear trekking bike with saddlebag and bike insurance; digital or printed detailed route map and cycling information (one set per cabin); port fees & charges.

**Not included:** Arrival/departure transfers, entrance fees, sightseeing fees, ferries; gratuities, personal expenses, bike helmets (not compulsory but limited available to buy on-board, cost is @ €40 per helmet), shown 'optional' excursions, city walks or sightseeing with guide (can be booked and paid for during the cruise).

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



**Typical suggested route: Passau – Vienna – Budapest – Bratislava – Passau \***

### **Day 1: Arrive Passau**

Board the boat in central Passau at 4pm. 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, a pannier, lock and other necessary equipment or advice. There is a shop onboard to purchase a helmet, clothing and souvenirs. The boat departs at 7pm sailing eastward along the romantic Danube Valley to Engelhartszell.

### **Day 2: Engelhartszell – Great Loop – Vienna/Nussdorf**

**cycling @ 45km**

The day starts in Engelhartszell, site of the only Trappist monastery in Austria, where we head towards the Great Loop, one of the most beautiful sections of the Danube. Your cycling will take you through small villages and past cosy taverns. Re-join the boat in Aschach and cruise towards Vienna.

### **Day 3: 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. Cruise to Budapest overnight.

### **Day 4: Budapest - Free day or out & return to Szentendre**

**optional cycling @ 48km**

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 48km round-trip ride to the island of Szentendre. In the evening we sail towards Visegrad.

### **Day 5: The Danube Bend – Visegrad**

**cycling @ 35km**

The Danube Bend known as the *Hungarian Wachau* is one of most delightful and attractive parts of the river. From Visegrad, with its famous fortress and the ruins of the former palace, cycle through picturesque countryside to the baroque village of Vac, influenced by the architects of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa. Return via small Hungarian villages to Visegrad.

### **Day 6: Bratislava – Free day**

**optional cycling**

Arrive into Bratislava in the morning and discover the small lively capital of Slovakia. Explore the magnificent panoramic view from the castle or take a ride on a mini train through the enchanting old town. Alternatively, explore the city's surroundings along the Danube by bike.

### **Day 7: Wachau – Melk – Pöchlarn**

**cycling @ 40-50km**

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 and blue tower monastery is an absolute highlight. Re-join the boat in the small village of Pöchlarn. Enjoy a farewell dinner whilst cruising towards Passau.

### **Day 8: Tour ends in Passau.**

Our cruise returns along the river to Passau where you can enjoy the early morning tranquillity before disembarking around 11.30am. To allow for potential delays, please do not plan any onward connections until well after 1.30pm.

*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. These ships cruise and have engine power at night. If you are sensitive to noise, we recommend you choose an Upper 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.*





Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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**Outdoor Travel** offers Bike & Barge or Bike & Boat cruises to many areas of Europe including the popular Amsterdam to Bruges or Bruges 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.

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