

# Cycling Europe

## AUSTRIA 2019

### DANUBE: SCHARDING OR PASSAU TO VIENNA SELF GUIDED CYCLE TOUR 9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

**350 KM**

The classic cycle path along the Danube from Passau to Vienna is one of the most beautiful routes in Europe, with imposing river landscape, picturesque villages and landscapes, and Austrian cuisine. Along its way are the Schlägener Schlinge – a dramatic loop in the river; the cultural metropolis of Linz and Greinburg Castle; the Benedictine Abbey of Melk, founded in 1089; the modern Art Museum of Kunstmeile Krems; the renowned wine valley of Wachau. Visiting one of the Buschenschenken (wine taverns) in the Wachau is a must. The starting-point is either Schärding or Passau so be sure not to miss a concert performed on the biggest church organ in the world in Passau!



#### **GRADE: Easy cycling 40-65 km per day**

The bike-path along the Danube is mostly flat or slightly downhill. The trail is signposted and maintained very well. Distances are 40-65 Km per day. You can request a slower version with less km per day and extra nights to give you more time for sightseeing. Add in a rest day (we recommend the Wachau wine region).

Customised shorter or longer versions can be requested (with more or less km/day) & electric bikes are possible e.g. a 6 night "sports version" has 60-80 km cycling per day.

## ITINERARY



### Day 1: Arrive in Schärding or Passau

**Start in Schärding:** Our tour partners' office is located in Schärding. If you start here you can meet them in their office, gain their local knowledge and ask any questions about the tour. If you have a rental car, they offer free parking for the duration of the tour.

(Train: Passau to Schärding is 12 minutes). Schärding is a pretty baroque town.

**Or start in Passau:** There are direct trains to Passau from Vienna, Munich, Frankfurt & Frankfurt Airport. Allow time for sightseeing in this pretty town at the confluence of three rivers. At noon you can enjoy an organ concert (except on Sundays and public holidays) on the largest church organ in the world in St Stephen's cathedral in Passau.

Schärding to Passau is only 17 km, so if you arrive by Noon, it is possible to pick up bikes at the office, and ride to Passau on Day 1.

### Day 2: Schärding/ Passau – Upper Danube Valley (approx. 30-58kms)

If you stay the first night in Passau, bikes can be delivered to your hotel this morning (8.30 am – 9.30 am, no briefing).

**From Schärding:** to Passau there is a wonderful bike path along the Inn. (17 km). From Passau you have the option to go by boat for the first part of the bike tour. Otherwise you cycle along the southern side of the Danube until Engelhartzell, where you can find the only Trappist monastery in Austria. In Engelhartzell you can cross the Danube by ferry or at Jochenstein (1 km before Engelhartzell) cycle over the power station to the northern side of the Danube. At the Jochenstein power station you can visit the waterworld at the "House at the River".

### Day 3: Upper Danube Valley to Linz via the Schlögen Loop (approx. 50-65kms)

The first highlight of today is the "Schlögener Donauschlinge" where the Danube River loops to a turn of 180 degrees. Then cycle through the village of Aschach, past the monastery at Wilhering, and from Ottensheim to Linz, the capital of Upper Austria. Time to stroll through the enchanting old town with its interesting sights in the evening. Stay overnight in Linz or surrounding area.



#### **Day 4: Linz to Ardagger/Grein and surrounds (approx. 50-65kms)**

Today leave Linz and cycle via Mauthausen or Enns, the oldest town in Austria. Continue via Ardagger to the beautiful old mariner town of Grein where you can visit the oldest theatre in Austria, the Greinburg (castle) perched on a hilltop, and the maritime museum.

#### **Day 5: Grein region to Marbach/Maria Taferl/Melk and surrounds (approx. 50-68kms)**

Today cycle through the Strudengau on the southern side of the Danube to the old Roman town of Ybbs, then cross the Danube on the dam of the power station Ybbs-Persenbeug. Reach Marbach by cycling through the gentle landscape of Nibelungengau. Past Marbach and high over the Danube stands the pilgrimage church of Maria Taferl. Your route then follows via Klein Pöchlarn to Melk whose highlight is the wonderful baroque Benedictine Abbey located high on a rocky outcrop above the Danube.



#### **Day 6: Cycle into the Wachau wine region (approx. 54-76kms)**

Melk marks the start of the most popular part of the Danube bike tour: the picturesque wine area of the Wachau where vineyards, apricot trees, monasteries and castles grace the landscape. The cycle path leads through the traditional viticultural villages of the Wachau.

***Additional nights can be booked here to relax and enjoy the Wachau.***



#### **Day 7: Wachau to Traismauer/Tulln and surrounds (approx. 36-64kms)**

Visit Krems, a town more than 1000 years old, with medieval streets and romantic arcaded courtyards and traditional baroque town houses. From there we cross the Danube once again and cycle past Göttweig Monastery to Traismauer or into the flat Tullner Field with its city of flowers, Tulln.

#### **Day 8: Traismauer/Tulln to Vienna**

Shortly before Vienna the valley narrows again. The Danube passes through the Vienna Gate on the edge of the Vienna Woods and takes you through Klosterneuburg to the beautiful, charismatic city of Vienna, famous for its cafe culture and its many sights. Stay last night of tour in Vienna.

## Day 9: Tour ends in Vienna

Arrangements end after breakfast. You can book additional nights in Vienna and we can arrange sightseeing, and/or a Vienna by bike tour.



## 2019 SCHEDULE

Start any day from 01 April – 31 October 2019.

Please specify if you wish to start in Schärding (safe parking available free of charge) or Passau at the time of booking.

## 2019 COST IN EURO PER PERSON (8 NIGHTS/9 DAYS), including breakfast

Hotel Category	A: (4/3 *)	B: (3/4 *)	C: (3 *)
Double / Twin Share	€ 955	€ 835	€776
Single Room	€1210	€1055	€945
Bike rental 7 or 21 speed	€ 75	€ 75	€ 75
Electric Bike	€ 175	€ 175	€175
Helmets not available			
Half board - 7 dinners	n/a	€140	€135

7 & 21 speed bikes have 2 pannier bags. E-Bikes have 1 pannier bag.

Half Board & special dietary requirements must be specified at time of booking.

**Deduct €55 per person for travel 01 April-12 May and 18 September-31 October 2018**

## CATEGORY A HOTELS

Accommodation predominantly in the **best hotels along the Danube** (4-star in Grein & 3-star in Traismauer). Spacious and comfortable rooms with own bathroom with bath and toilet or shower and toilet. The hotels are situated in the centres of the most beautiful villages and towns.

## CATEGORY B HOTELS

Accommodation in **very good, comfortable hotels, and excellent inns**, mostly family-run. 3 star & 4-star category. All rooms with have bath and toilet or shower and toilet. These properties rank among the best in the villages. Half Board (dinner) is possible for 7 nights only (not in Vienna).

## CATEGORY C HOTELS

3- star accommodation in **comfortable guest houses, inns or hotels**, usually family-run. All rooms have own shower or bath and a toilet. Half Board (dinner) is possible for 7 nights only (not in Vienna).

**Twin or Double beds:** We can request Double or Twin beds at time of booking, however the hotels will not guarantee the bed type.

### 2019 COST INCLUDES:

- 8 nights accommodation in the category selected
- Breakfast daily (biker-breakfast or buffet)
- Luggage transfers (number of bags is not limited)
- 1 Info pack per room with maps & road book, sightseeing information
- Free parking in Schärディング
- Local service-hotline
- Danube Card – offering reductions on many highlights along the route
- Tour information – short briefing available in Schärディング only

### OPTIONAL VIENNA BY BIKE TOUR

Guided sightseeing tour in Vienna by bike: daily from May to September, duration 3 hours. €40 per person.

### 2019 EXTRA NIGHT COST IN EURO PER PERSON

#### Schärディング or Passau

#### including breakfast

Category "A" : Double/Twin €70 per person / single room €92

Category "B&C": Double/Twin €55 per person / single room €74

#### Vienna:

#### including breakfast

Category "A": Double/Twin €79 per person / single room €116

Category "B&C": Double/Twin €67/€79 per person / single room €99/€116

### VIENNA EXTENSION - 2 NIGHT PACKAGE

Includes 2 night's accommodation, breakfast and admission to Stephen's Cathedral with audio tour, catacombs tour, ascent of the south tower for spectacular views of Vienna, take the lift to the bell "Pummerin" in the north tower, and visit the cathedral treasures.

**Category A or B:** €165 per person (share twin/double room) **€235** (single)

**Category C:** €145 per person (share twin/double room) **€205** (single)



### TRANSFERS

**Bus Vienna to Passau/Schärディング after tour:** every day at 2.30 p.m. Duration: approx. 4 hours  
Fee: € 49 per person including bike.  
(Reservation necessary)

### AMENDMENT FEES

Change of accommodation category after booking has been requested €50 per booking. Date changes after booking has been requested €150 per booking.



**Book through:**

## **A Walker's World**

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