

Cycling Europe

AUSTRIA 2020

SALZBURG TO VIENNA 310 KM

SELF-GUIDED CYCLE TOUR 9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

This tour is a brilliant combination of culture, history and nature– Austria at its absolute best! Starting in Salzburg, the hometown of Mozart, you cycle through the famous Salzkammergut, a region of breathtaking beauty with sparkling lakes set against a backdrop of mountains, and into the Danube River valley. An old disused railway track leads you out of Salzburg to Lake Mondsee. Following the lake shore you cycle over Scharfling Pass to Lake Wolfgangsee and on to Bad Ischl. Cycle or take the boat across the lake to the UNESCO World Heritage village of Hallstatt. From Hallstatt cycle back to Bad Ischl and take a scenic train ride to Grein.

From Grein you reach the narrow Danube valley with its romantic castles, picturesque villages and vineyards and onto a bike path that leads you alongside the majestic river. Enjoy a visit to the monastery of St Florian and Enns, the oldest town in Austria. Further on you will reach the famous Wachau where you can visit the unique Benedictine monastery of Melk or simply enjoy the scenery over a local wine at one of the “Heurigen” (wine tavern).

Leaving the medieval town of Krems you cycle to Tulln and then the final stretch is by train where the tour comes to a climax in the unforgettable capital of Vienna with its many wonderful sights and places to visit.



GRADE: Easy to moderate

There are a few ascents on the first three days where a degree of physical fitness and stamina is necessary. From Grein the cycling is flat and easy along the Danube path. The Danube trail is well signposted and developed. The entire route can easily be ridden with trekking bikes – it is mostly asphalted cycle paths while a few stretches are gravel and forest paths. Wear comfortable sports clothes, backpack and sun protection.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Salzburg

No matter how many times you visit, Salzburg is a city whose hidden corners and romantic streets reveal something new and memorable every time. Overnight Salzburg.

Day 2: Salzburg – Lake Mondsee



Following the Salzach River to the outskirts of Salzburg, you take an old railroad-now-cycling track to the impossibly beautiful shores of Lake Mondsee. The cycling is excellent and varied with spectacular views of unfathomably deep lakes and the most glorious mountain scenery you can imagine.

Cycling: 35kms: Altitude difference - ascent 383m

Day 3: Lake Mondsee – Bad Ischl

Today you follow the lake shore to Scharfling, where a short ascent over Sharflingpass will take you to Lake Wolfgangsee and then on to the imperial town of Bad Ischl where Emperor Franz Josef 1 had his summer home.

Cycling: 39kms: Altitude difference - ascent 435m descent 455m

Day 4: Bad Ischl – Hallstatt – Bad Ischl



Follow the Traun River to Bad Goisern and then along the eastern shore of Lake Hallstatt. You have two options here: you can either cycle around the lake to Hallstatt (5 km), or give yourself a break and take the ferry (cost not included). Enjoy exploring this delightful UNESCO World Heritage village, one of the most picturesque in Austria. Take the cable car up to the historic Salt mines, 360m above the rooftops of Hallstatt. Return to Bad Ischl for overnight.

Cycling: 28kms: Altitude difference - ascent 929m descent 929m (Bad Ischl -Hallstatt)



Day 5: Bad Ischl – Grein by train

Today leave your bike at the service centre in Bad Ischl. From the adjacent train station take a scenic train ride (tickets included, approx. 3 hours with train changes) to the Danube city of Grein, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 6: Grein – Emmersdorf

Receive bikes at your hotel. Allow time to wander the romantic, baroque village of Grein (with the oldest theatre in Austria). Pickup bikes from your hotel and cycle through the romantic Strudengau in the narrow Danube Valley. Passing the Roman village of Ybbs, pedal on to Melk, where the wonderful baroque Benedictine convent sits high on a rock above the Danube. 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 Wachau region is in the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites. Sample the local wine at one of the Heurigen (typical wine taverns). Cross the river to arrive at Emmersdorf.

Cycling distance 62 km, Altitude difference - ascent 252m descent 432m

Day 7: Emmersdorf – Krems

Lush vineyards line your cycle path to Krems. You can choose on which side of the Danube you wish to cycle- although most cyclists prefer the left side with its picturesque villages of Spitz, Weissenkirchen and Durnstein. Krems, a town more than 1000 years old, has medieval streets and romantic arcaded courtyards and baroque town houses.

Cycling distance 35 km, Altitude difference - ascent 233m descent 257m

Day 8: Krems – Tulln (Train to Vienna)

Leave the medieval town of Krems (you can also visit the impressive Benedictine monastery of Gottweig) and rolling downhill enjoy views of the stunning landscape on the way to Tulln. From Tulln you will transfer by train, with your bikes, to the impressive capital city of Vienna with its wonderful museums, palaces, culture and music. Vienna also boasts one of the world's most famous culinary traditions.

Cycling distance 46 km, Altitude difference - ascent 17m descent 36m

Day 9: Vienna

Arrangements end after breakfast. Extra nights can be booked and additional sightseeing and concerts arranged.

2020 SCHEDULE & COSTS PER PERSON (EUROS): Start any day from 24 April – 16 October

Hotel in double/twin room 3* & 4*

24 Apr-01 Jul & 01 Sep-16 Oct	€925
02 Jul-01 Sep	€960
Single Supplement	€240
Hotel Half Board Supplement	€140 (7 dinners- breakfast only in Vienna)

Bike Hire 21 gear trekking bike (incl. saddle bag) €122

Electric Bike (for heights 158cm or more) & bag €205

o **PLEASE NOTE:** Separate twin beds are not always available in Austria ... when twin beds are requested you will sometimes have an 'Austrian Twin' i.e. one large base with two mattresses and two duvets.



2020 TOUR COSTS INCLUDE:

- o 8 night's accommodation (breakfast incl.) in comfortable 3* & 4* hotels/Inns with ensembles
- o Luggage transfers (2 pieces only) including Krems to Vienna
- o Cycling notes and maps (1 set per room)
- o Local service-hotline (9.00am – 7.00pm including weekends)
- o Train tickets: Bad Ischl to Grein (including luggage) & Tulln to Vienna (including bike)
- o Daily cycle service for rented bikes (9.00am – 7.00 pm)

BICYCLES

21 Gear Trekking bikes are standard. Children's bikes (up to 145cm) available on request. Electric bikes can be hired to do some of the work for you. E-Bikes increase pedalling power, taking the hard work out of hills and enabling people of differing abilities to cycle together.

Please note that **bicycle helmets are not available** on this tour – we strongly recommend bringing your own well-fitted helmet.

2020 EXTRA NIGHT COSTS PER PERSON IN EURO

Extra nights are available – costs on request.

Book through:

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