

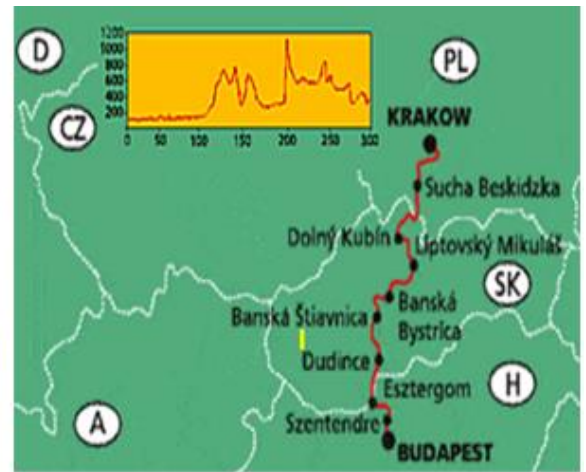
Cycling Europe

BUDAPEST - KRAKOW 2020

SELF GUIDED & GUIDED CYCLE TOURS - 9 days/8 nights

Length 354 km / 221 miles

Trip rating: Challenging



Called “the Amber Trail”....Throughout history, people traded amber along this route, leading through Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland. On this bicycle tour, ride from artist's town of Szentendre, biking the Danube bend to Banská Štiavnica, an old mining town in the hills. Here the cycling gets more challenging, crossing the Low Tatras and West part of the High Tatras.

Your reward is the superb panoramic views of the breath-taking Slovakian countryside dotted with traditional mountain villages, meadows and pastures. You will see traditional handcrafts such as carpets being hand made in the village of Malatina. Biking into Poland you will visit the pilgrimage site of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. Finish in Krakow, rivaling Prague with its historical monuments.

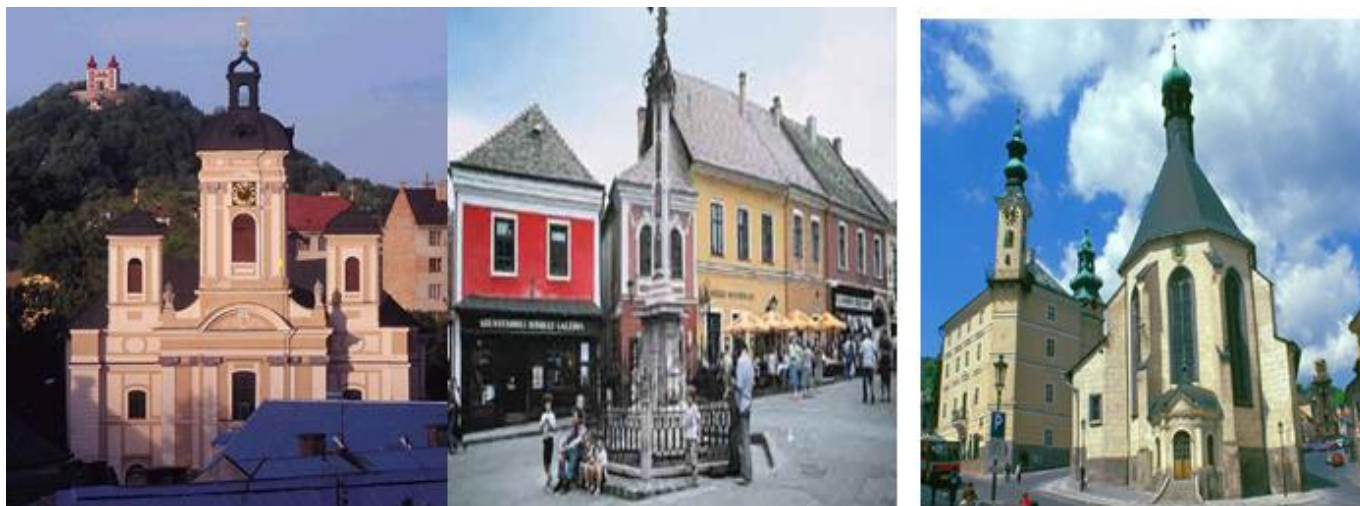
ITINERARY

DAY 1: BUDAPEST - SZENTENDRE

After arriving in Budapest make your own way to the small town of Szentendre (40 min. by train, approx. NZ\$2.00), by bus, or boat (Ticket not included). This town has a unique character with 24 museums, 7 churches, thirteen galleries and numerous cafes and small bars. An open air museum close by shows you original Hungarian country life.

Accommodation in Szentendre





Banska Stiavnica

DAY 2: SZENTENDRE - ESZTERGOM

Cycling along the Danube to Lenyefalu on the first day leads you to the ferry to Szentendre Island. After crossing and biking through the charming island, the ferry takes you back to the mainland and it is onward to Esztergom. For those wishing for more cycling miles there is a challenging ascent to nearby Visegrad Castle, where a superb panorama of the Danube valley can be seen. The original place of the Hungarian bishops, Esztergom has a massive castle and is the highlight of the Hungarian part of this tour.

Accommodation in Esztergom. **Cycling: 58 km / 36 miles**

DAY 3: ESZTERGOM – STUROVO - DUDINCE

The Slovak part of the tour starts today as we cross from the southern to the northern bank of the Danube to Sturovo. It is fairly easy cycling over rolling landscapes to the town of Dudince, which takes full advantage of the mineral rich waters in the area. This town was built according to the ideas of Socialist Realism and, as a result, is a very interesting place to visit. A highlight in this town is some Roman bathtubs carved out of the travertine stone.

Accommodation in Dudince **Cycling: 62 km / 38 miles**

DAY 4: DUDINCE – BANSKA STIAVNICA

The demanding section of the Slovak part starts here with the Stiavnicky Hills, a precursor to the later mountain stages. If you do not feel like mountain cycling then that is fine. We can always shorten your daily miles or transfer you to the next destination. Finish in Banska Stiavnica, protected by UNESCO, having an extremely well conserved old town and a long heritage of mining. It is one of the best stopovers on the entire Amber Trail.

Accommodation in Banska Stiavnica **Cycling: 40km / 25 miles**

DAY 5: BANSKA STIAVNICA – BANSKA BYSTRICA

Today's route consists of two parts. The first half is hilly and challenging, in quiet rural areas, forests and remote villages. Then it is almost flat and the route takes you against the Hron river through vital countryside. On the way to Banska Bystrica, stop in Hronsek to look at the precious timber church listed in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Once in Banska Bystrica you will see that the old part of the town is being well restored and is doing much to overcome the towns upsetting, Socialist past.

Accommodation in Banska Bystrica **Cycling: 59 km / 37 miles**

DAY 6: BANSKA BYSTRICA – VLKOLINEC – LIPTOVSKY MIKULAS

Today a transfer is provided from Banska Bystrica to Vlkolinec – A UNESCO World Heritage site, it contains the biggest concentration on traditional architecture in the Slovak Republic – precious, old houses built using old crafts and techniques. Having climbed up from Liptovska Osada you begin cycling in the very challenging area of the Lower Tatras – beginning with a seven mile climb. However the amazing views and the sweeping landscape are worth the ride



Traditional village of Vlkolinec



Monastery at Kalwaria Zebrzydowska

to the top. The rest of the day is easier with a ride around the reservoir in Liptovska Mara. Finish in Liptovský Mikuláš, an interesting town whose museum documents an infamous outlaw Juraj Janosik – the equivalent of Robin Hood in Slovakia.

Accommodation in Liptovský Mikuláš **Cycling: 65 km / 42 miles**

DAY 7: LIPTOVSKÝ MIKULÁŠ – DOĽNÝ KUBÍN

Cycle through the Chočský and Oravský Hills, one of the prettiest segments of the whole route. In the town of Malatína, you can watch rugs being hand-made on an original wooden loom. In the village of Lestiny there is a rare wooden church built without a single nail. Evening transfer to Sucha Beskidzka, Poland – approximately 90 minutes.

Overnight in Sucha Beskidzka **Cycling: 50 km / 31 miles**

DAY 8: DOĽNÝ KUBÍN - SUCHA BESKIDZKA – KALWARIA ZEBRZYDOWSKA - KRAKÓW

The main highlight today is Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, an imposing Bernadine monastery. A transfer by van is included van from Kalwaria Zebrzydowska into Krakow (45 minute drive).

Overnight in Krakow
Cycling: 29km / 18 miles

DAY 9: TOUR ENDS IN KRAKÓW

Tour arrangements end after breakfast in Krakow. We recommend that you add extra nights to see Wawel Castle, the Old Market Square, the Kazimierz Jewish Quarter, the town walls and Royal Way are some of the many things to see in this royal city.



Danube Bend



Massive Gothic Castles



Wieliczka salt mine

TIME TO GO: CLIMATE

On the continent in Central Europe the weather is cold with snow in the winter but the summers are lengthy with a lot of sunshine and clear days. Our cycling tours run from the beginning of April to the end of October – the optimum months here for a good bicycle trip. May, June and September are the times to experience the cooler, but still warm weather. The temperature in the summer can get high, particularly in July and August. April and October temperatures are changeable and can be chilly.

2020 SCHEDULE

Self-Guided tours: Start any day from April to the end of October (subject to hotel availability). Please be aware that is not unusual to get snow in April or Mid October.

2020 Guided Tours:

These set date departures guaranteed to depart with a minimum of four people

Dates to be reconfirmed – Departures: May 16, June 13, July 11, August 01

Private guided tours available every day from April to the end of October (price on request)

2020 COST PER PERSON IN EURO

SELF GUIDED TOURS

Double or twin share € 1690

Single room supplement (when travelling with others) € 400

15% surcharge applies for a solo traveller (extra cost is for transfers & luggage transfers)

Extra nights in Krakow – price on request

GUIDED TOURS

Guided Tour: Minimum group size is 4 people

Set Date departures (4 – 7 people) Double or Twin Share €2620

Single Supplement € 400

Set Date departures (8 + people) Double or Twin Share €2330

Single Supplement € 400

Private Group tour: (4 – 7 people) Double or Twin Share €2620

Single Supplement € 400

Private Group tour: (8 + people) Double or Twin Share €2330

Single Supplement € 400

2020 SELF-GUIDED COST INCLUDES

- Accommodation for in selected hotels and pensions
- Daily Buffet breakfast
- Luggage transfer
- English route descriptions
- Detailed cycling maps
- Town maps
- Global Positioning System (GPS) console
- Transportation by car according to program
- Welcome briefing upon arrival
- Quality TREK bike rental + Helmet rental
- Stand-by support (cell phone and contact person)

Not Included: Train or boat from Budapest to Szentendre, Ferries

2020 GUIDED COST INCLUDES

- Professional bilingual guide
- Accommodation in selected hotels and pensions
- Support van
- Buffet breakfast and dinner included
- Luggage transfer
- English route descriptions
- Detailed cycling maps
- Town maps
- Global Positioning System (GPS) console
- Quality TREK bike rental with helmets
- Guided tours at castles, museums and other selected attractions
- Special events, including wine tasting and picnic

TREK FX 3

Lightweight aluminum frame. Carbon fork Groupset Shimano Alivio. Trek FX 3 is a lightweight hybrid bike with a carbon fork which brings both speed and comfort to any of our routes you choose. It comes in all sizes to fit you perfectly and it is available also in Women's Specific Design.
Size Men : 15" 17.5" 20" 22.5" 25"
Size WSD: 15" 17" 19"



GETTING FROM BUDAPEST TO SZENTENDRE

By train: take the HÉV suburban railway from Batthyány tér (on the Metro

red line) or from Margit Hid (Margaret Bridge) in Budapest. Trains leave every 20 minutes and is a scenic 40 minute ride to Szentendre (fare is 300 – 350 HUF = less than NZ\$2.00)

By Bus: Buses leave daily from Budapest's Újpest-Városcapu bus station (on the Metro blue line) and take about 30 minutes to arrive.

By Boat: You can reach Szentendre by riverboat every day from Budapest, Vigadó square or Batthyány square. <http://www.mahartpassnave.hu> Click on the English flag and "pleasure trips on riverboats" for the timetable.



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