

Cycling Europe

DANUBE BY BIKE & BOAT 2020

PASSAU - VIENNA - BRATISLAVA – BUDAPEST - PASSAU 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – Guided or Self Guided Cycling



This fascinating cycle cruise along the Danube River takes you through four European countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia) right in the heart of the once brilliant imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian monarchy. From the Bavarian city of Passau follow the Danube bike trail downstream to Budapest. Experience three capitals (Budapest - “Queen of the Danube”, “the waltz capital” Vienna and Slovakia’s charming Bratislava). Enjoy varied scenery such as the Schlägener loop, the picturesque Wachau valley, and the Danube Bend with Hungary’s largest cathedral. Marvel at the imposing cathedral of Esztergom in Hungary as well as the 900-year-old Baroque Benedictine abbey of Melk in Austria. This cruise encompasses both nature and culture in places that bear witness to thousands of years of European history.



Highlights of the tour:

- Passau, the City of Three Rivers;
- The Schlogener Danube Loop;
- The UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Wachau
- The ‘music’ city of Vienna;
- Bratislava
- Budapest’s unique architecture

ITINERARY

Day 1: Boarding in Passau – 4.30 pm

Located at the junction of three rivers, the Danube, Inn and Ilz, Passau has a number of interesting sites. Use your free time and stroll through the historic centre, listen to the bells of Passau's Gothic Town Hall, see the world's largest Catholic Church organ in the cathedral. If you arrive early, you can leave your bags on the boat from 3 pm, so you can do some sightseeing in Passau (your cabin will not be ready until 4.30pm). Upon boarding your welcome is in the panoramic lounge and bar where you can enjoy a glass of local wine or German beer. **Cast off at 6.00 pm**

Day 2: Schlögener Loop – Engelhartzell - Aschach | approx. 42 km



The cycle tour begins with a ride through the classic scenery of the "Great Loop" Donauschlinge - one of the most beautiful sections of the Danube. On your way you will encounter tiny villages and cosy cider taverns. In Austria's only Trappist monastery in Engelhartzell you can taste their delicious liquors and cheese. The famous Schlogener view provides a panoramic vista of the surrounding Austrian countryside, where the river makes a dramatic about-turn of 180 degrees. Your boat meets you later in the day at the market town of Aschach. Guests will enjoy dinner before

retiring to their cabins as the boat sails into the night from Austria to Slovakia and to the town of Devin.

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava | approx. 18-43 km

Today you'll be cycling along the former 'Iron Curtain' to the Imperial Palace of Schlosshof. The next section of the ride takes cyclists to the Slovakian capital of Bratislava, which is stunningly located at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains. In the evening, there is an optional rail tour and walkabout in Bratislava or alternatively you can relax in the comforts of your floating hotel.

Day 4: Budapest | Szentendre, approx. 54 km (or rest day)

The entrance to Budapest, Hungary's capital, is stunning. Savour the beauty of Buda and Pest during a coach tour or a guided bike tour (optional) that reveals all the highlights of this handsome city. You can also choose to cycle to the charming town of Szentendre with its Mediterranean atmosphere and lively art scene. You will get a very close experience of Hungarian culture at an evening show with traditional music and dance (optional).

Day 5: Danube Bend– Esztergom, approx. 43 km

The wooded hills of Pilis, Visegrád and Börzsöny together with the meandering Danube create a wonderful landscape that has become nature lovers' paradise. Amidst the Danube river the idyllic isle of Szentendre exudes silent Puszta Romance. You cycle via the baroque village of Vác (influenced by the architects of Austria's empress Maria Theresa) to the bishop town of Esztergom with its impressive basilica – Hungary's largest Catholic Church.

Day 6: Vienna – rest day

Discover Vienna's most beautiful attractions. You can choose to take a city tour by bike or bus (optional – extra cost), where you can experience the most famous examples of architecture; the imperial Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, the gorgeous boulevard "Ring Straße" with the State Opera House, the Burgtheater and town hall, as well as the colourful "Hunderwasserhaus". Relaxation is on offer in the famous Viennese cafés. In the evening there is a classical concert in one of Vienna's most famous palaces (optional – extra cost).

Day 7: Wachau | Krems – Melk, approx. 37 km

Your last biking day is a special highlight! A powerful ruin looms above the small Baroque town of Durnstein, while the blue tower of the monastery church is a landmark of the renowned Wachau. Amidst dreamy towns, apricot trees, vineyards and castles, this hilly landscape enchants everybody. In Weißenkirchen there is the option for a wine-tasting (extra charge), plus you will find wine taverns right along the bike path. All aboard for the final farewell dinner and crew show.



Day 8: Tour ends in Passau

Soak up the atmosphere of the Danube valley as you sail along and recall the amazing sight of the Danube Loop before arriving relaxed at Passau. Disembark at approx. 10am. Connecting travel should be booked no earlier than 11.30am onwards.

GRADE: EASY - Although almost completely flat this cycle tour is graded easy to moderate as the daily distance ranges from 18 - 54km. You will be cycling on the Danube Cycle Path which follows traffic free cycle paths and some quiet roads. This tour is particularly well suited to families and novice cyclists as the route is flat, path predominantly traffic free and you have the option of staying on board if you don't feel like cycling. The route is way marked throughout and we supply you with a detailed route map, guidebook and information pack so you will have no problem following the route. The on board tour guide will also give you a briefing each evening about the route and highlights of the next day's cycle. A limited number of Electric assisted bikes are also available.

SUPERIOR RIVERBOAT: MV CARISSIMA - 4 STAR

MS Carissima is the newest river cruiser to Danube Bike & Boat journeys. This deluxe boat was newly renovated for the 2017 season. All 75 cabins are 14 m² and feature a double bed which can be converted to two single beds. All cabins are equipped with an ensuite, hair dryer, TV, safe and air-conditioning. The Upper and Middle decks have full size picture windows (that can be opened), whereas the Main deck cabins have half height windows that cannot be opened. Some ECO cabins are located in the front and rear part of the ship where engine noise is possible (not recommended). After a day's cycling the sundeck provides ample space for relaxation and between the months of June and August the sundeck pool is available for a soothing dip.

Alternatively you can always take time out in the sauna and whirlpool. And if you are in the mood for reading, just borrow a book in the library. Wifi is also available (payable locally, connection speed may vary).

3 Passenger Decks: Upper, Middle and Main deck

(Photos are examples only)



SUPERIOR RIVERBOAT: MV FORTUNA

Enjoy a stylish and luxurious atmosphere on board the premium ship MV Fortuna. Enjoy the picturesque river scenery from the Panorama Bar, or the sun decks and in the evening the crew will pamper you with international specialities in the elegant Panorama restaurant. Other facilities include a spacious foyer and shop, a cosy library, an internet corner, a lift between middle and top decks and a stair-lift to the sundeck.

There are 85 comfortable outside cabins (14-15 sq m) equipped with 2 beds, private bathroom with shower, hair dryer, TV, safe and air-conditioning. Windows in upper deck cabins can be opened, middle deck windows can be partially opened while main/lower deck windows cannot be opened.

There are three passenger decks. Cabins:

Standard: Main deck, 2 separated beds, windows not to be opened

Comfort: Middle deck (front area of the ship), double-bed to be separated, 2x panorama windows not to be opened

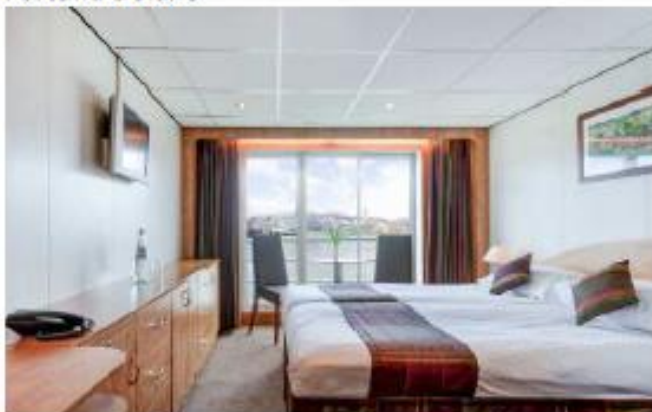
Superior: Middle deck, double-bed to be separated, 2x panorama windows to be opened

Deluxe: Upper deck, double-bed to be separated, french balcony

Suite: Upper deck, double-bed to be separated, french balcony, add. sofa



Fortuna Deluxe



Fortuna Sundeck



Carissima/Fortuna Comfort



GENERAL INFORMATION

All bike tours are unescorted unless you opt for the **Guided option – at an additional cost** (see dates and inclusions below.) All mileages are approximate distances of recommended routes. Please be aware that the cabin storage space is very limited.

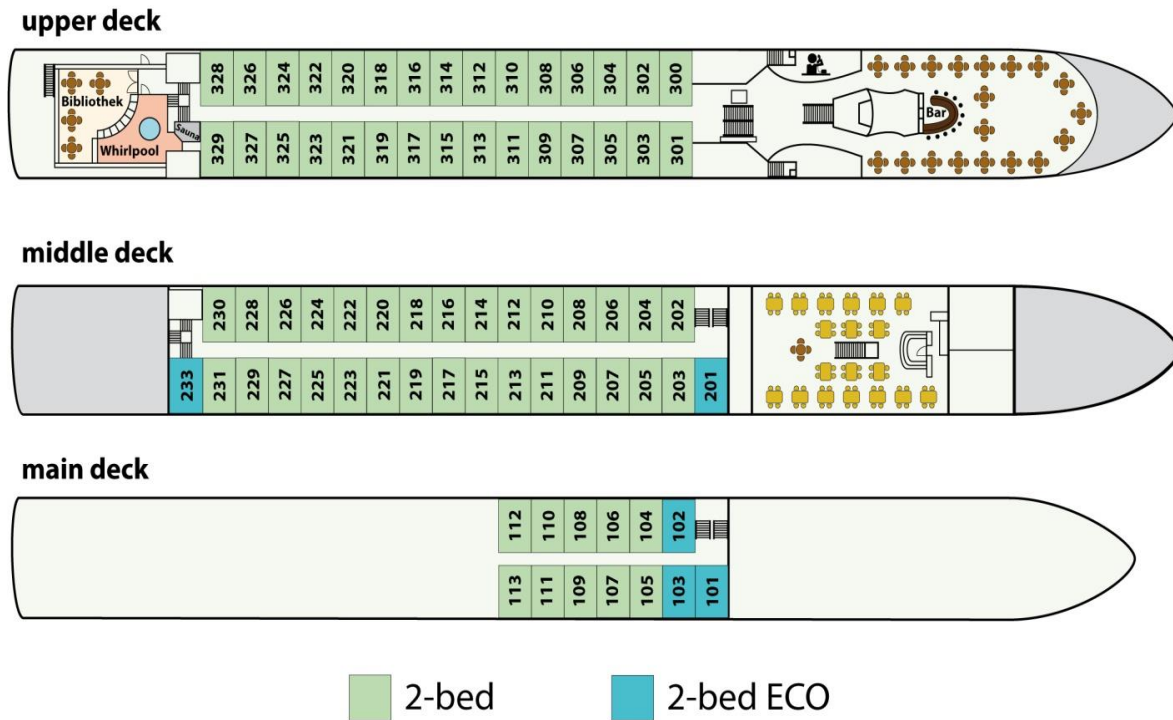
In case of flood or low tide, the shipping company reserves the right to bridge parts of passage by bus. In extreme situations, the shipping company reserves the right to cancel the journey on short notice. No legal right shall be constituted of both situations. (Water level is force majeure). The same applies for officially ordered - previously not announced – repair work on locks or bridges or the occasional breakdown of an engine or power unit.

Please be aware that a cruise ship on the Danube is not only your hotel but also a machine, working with engine power also during the night. When crossing locks and bridges, there will be some noise which is unavoidable. If you are sensitive please bring ear plugs.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS (book & pay onboard):

- Bratislava: City tour with scenic train and walking tour
- Budapest: Sight-seeing city tour by bike or bus. Traditional Hungarian folklore show at Csarda
- Vienna: City tour by bus or bike. Classical Waltz & Operetta Concert in one of Vienna's famous palaces
- Wachau: Wine tasting with a local wine grower

MV Carissima Deck plan



SCHEDULE 2020: MV CARISSIMA (4 STAR)

Saturday, May 09 & 16, June 06 & 13, July 04 & 11, August 01 & 22, September 12 & 19

SCHEDULE 2020: MV FORTUNA (4 STAR)

Departures every Sunday between April 26 and October 04, 2020 (first and last tour start).

We have other tours with a similar itinerary on boat Theodore Korner most Thursdays: Passau–Vienna–Passau (please request details).

Please Note: A minimum of 50 passengers must be reached for the cruise to operate (achieved at least 4 weeks before the start date). In 2018 – 2019 this cruise sold out on every departure.

2020 TOUR COST - MV CARISSIMA (per person in Euros):

	Low Season April & Oct	Mid Season May & August	High Season June, July, Sept
Main deck – double or twin	-	€ 949	€ 999
Middle deck – double or twin	-	€ 1109	€ 1159
Upper deck – double or twin	-	€ 1179	€ 1229
Single cabin Upper deck only	-	€ 1830	€ 1905
<u>Eco-cabins</u> are close to engine – not recommended			
Eco- cabin Main deck Dbl/Twin	-	€ 879	€ 929
Eco- cabin Middle deck Dbl/Twin	-	€ 1009	€ 1059

2020 TOUR COST – MV FORTUNA (per person in Euros):

	Low Season April & Oct	Mid season May & August	High Season June, July, Sept
Standard/Main deck – twin	€ 779	€ 879	€ 929
Comfort/ Middle deck – double or twin	€ 909	€ 1009	€ 1059
Superior/Middle deck – double or twin	€ 1009	€ 1109	€ 1159
Deluxe/Upper deck – double or twin	€ 1159	€ 1259	€ 1309
Suite/Upper Deck –double or twin	€ 1459	€ 1559	€ 1609

Single cabin Standard/Main Deck	€1209	€1363	€1440
Single cabin Comfort/Middle Deck	€1409	€1564	€1642

Supplement 3-bed (Fortuna suite/Upper deck) €909

Guided cycling option + €235 per person

Optional Transfer from Munich Airport €69 one way /€ 119 return – per person

RENTAL BIKES & HELMETS:

21-speed-hybrid-bike with freewheel **€75**

Electrically assisted bike (limited availability) **€175**

Charge to take own bike is €25

Helmets are available for purchase on board from € 25 - €45

Helmets are mandatory in Austria for children up to 12 years!

In Slovakia it is compulsory for adults to wear helmets to cycle outside the city limits – however, if you stay on the recommended tour route you will not be required to wear a helmet by law.

Child seat, bikes for children, bike trailer or trailer bikes - price on request

All rental bikes are equipped with panniers.

SERVICES INCLUDED (Standard tour)

- 7 nights in outside cabins with private facilities and air conditioning
- Port Charges
- Captains greeting and welcome cocktail
- Daily cabin cleaning, towels and bed linen
- MEALS: breakfast, lunch on board for non cyclists or packed lunch for cyclists, afternoon coffee, dinner (2 or 3 choices), and late night snack.
- Gala-Dinner with farewell cocktail
- Farewell-Crew-Show
- Daily live music
- Cruise director/Tour guide on board (does not cycle with group)
- Daily information meeting
- Information pack with road book & maps (one per cabin)

2019: FULLY GUIDED CYCLING OPTION: + €235 per person

MV Carissima: May 9, 19, June 6, 13, July 04, August 01, 22 September 12 & 19

MV Fortuna: May 24, July 19, October 04

Additional dates from 10 people up on request.

Guided cycle option is based on: minimum 10 participants/ maximum 22

In order to offer the guided option a minimum of 50 passengers must be booked on the cruise, (must be achieved at least 4 weeks before the start date).

ADDITIONAL INCLUSIONS WITH GUIDED CYCLING PACKAGE

- Cycling tour guide
- Ferry rides
- Cider-tasting in the Upper-Danube-Valley
- Wine-tasting in the Wachau region
- Guided city tour in Vienna by bike
- Guided city tour in Budapest by Hop On Hop Off Bus
- Bike helmet rental – adult sizes only.

Time of Year

Cycling the Danube is possible from 26 April to October. May to September are the busiest months, and July and August are the hottest. This trip books out extremely quickly for the busiest months in particular, so we recommend booking early if you have specific travel dates in mind.

We would suggest between 8 and 6 months in advance if you would prefer May and around 10 months in advance for September, this way you will have a better chance of getting your preferred cabin option.

Passau parking: garage €79 – outdoors €68 (incl. transfer to/from ship, payable on-site).



BOOK THROUGH

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

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