

Cycling Self-guided

Premium Boat

Tour description

Day 1	
Passau	
Day 2	42km
Danube Bend-Engelhartzell	
Day 3	45 km
Devin - Bratislava	
Day 4	54 km
Budapest excursion or rest day	
Day 5	50 km
Baha - Mohacs	
Day 6	Rest
Belgrade	
Day 7	Rest
Cataract Canyons-Iron Gates Park	
Day 8	50 km
Novi Sad - Ilok	
Day 9	55 km
Apatin - Bezdán (Betina)	
Day 10	50 km
Kalosca - Solt	
Day 11	45 km
Danube Bend - Esztergom	
Day 12	
To Vienna (sail & cycle excursions)	
Day 13	Rest
Vienna Rest Day	
Day 14	35 km
Wachau/Krems- Melk	
Day 15	
Back to Passau by 10:00 am	



Germany Austria Slovakia Hungary Serbia Croatia

What a wonderful way to explore six countries along the waterways by bike, all the while never having to unpack once.

Discover the breath-taking natural beauty of the **Iron Gates**, one of the most spectacular gorges in Europe and the vast expanse of the Pannonian plains. Cycle through the **Danube Bend** in Hungary and the breadbaskets of Croatia and Serbia, through idyllic wine-growing regions and past commanding fortresses high above the river. Visit **Belgrade** the “white city” and fall in love with bewitching **Budapest**, the “Paris of the East”, marvel at the baroque palaces in the picturesque Old Town of **Bratislava** and let yourself be carried away by the elegant charm of **Vienna**, the city of the waltz.

Cycle or simply stay on board and enjoy the cruise. The boat is a very spacious ship that can accommodate over 100 passengers. The atmosphere is low key and comfortable. On board however, our guests are treated like royalty! Our crew members will anticipate your every wish and contribute to an unbelievable experience. Your trip through various European countries is also a culinary joy, where you can sample the diversity of national and regional cuisines and in the evening, you can enjoy a wonderful musical performance!

Tour Details 2019

Dates: Apr 27 Jun 15
Aug 3, 31 Sep 29

Cost: \$3495 p/p (middle deck)
\$3695 p/p (promenade deck)

Single Cabin Supplement: +50%

Port Fees \$110 per person
Bike rental: \$275

Length: 15 days / 14 nights

Grade: Moderate

Starts / Ends: Passau

Fact Sheet

Includes:

- 14 nights accommodation on boat with all meals included
- Route notes & maps, daily review of routes
- No need to pack and unpack each day

E-Bike Info:

- E-bike rental: \$475
- Limited supplies on boat, reservations recommended



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Day 1 Passau

Where the rivers Inn, Ilz and Danube unite, the bishop's town of Passau is located at the Bavarian/Austrian border. The Barge is waiting for you in the harbour of Passau and the crew bids you welcome as you join the tour. You can board at 16:00, and we set sail at 17:00 for our cruise.

Day 2 Great Danube Loop - Engelhartzell Aschach 42 km

A delightful day's cycling from Engelhartzell (Austria's only Trappist monastery) through the ruggedly romantic Danube Bend at Schlögen, one of the most beautiful sections of the river lined with sleepy farming villages. Along the way, you can stop by one of the many inviting cider taverns. The boat awaits cyclists in the charming town of Aschach, before sailing into the night.

Day 3 Devin - Bratislava 45 km

From Devin you follow the former 'Iron Curtain', cross the former border and reach the imposing Baroque Palace of Hof with its beautifully terraced gardens. Cycle through Austria's 'vegetable garden' to the coronation city and former capital of Hungary Bratislava located at the slopes of the Little Carpathians. Explore the hidden alleyways and sights of Bratislava on an optional city tour.

Day 4 To Budapest or rest day 54 km

Cruise to Budapest, Hungary's capital, savour the beauty of the metropolitan city by bike or relax on a bus tour. A city on either side of the majestic Danube: Buda, with its romantic streets and alleyways, and Pest, an effervescent cultural centre. Take your pick! Or enjoy its diversity! Alternatively, cycle to the charming town of Szentendre with its Mediterranean feel and lively art scene.

Day 5 Baja - Mohacs 35 km

From the quiet baroque town of Baja that is famous for its fish soup, you'll cycle along the flood protection dykes in the Gemenc floodplain, through sleepy river landscapes past fields of sunflowers. At the end of today's ride, you take the ferry to the little town of Mohacs, Hungary's most southerly town on the Danube and famously the site of two battles with the Ottoman Turks.

Day 6 Belgrade rest day

Explore the fun-loving Serbian capital at the confluence of the Save and the Danube rivers by bike or bus, take a journey in time and learn about the rise and fall of Yugoslavia (optional). In the evening, Belgrade is bathed in a sea of light. Visit a colourful folklore show with traditional dances from all parts of the country, followed by typical regional specialities in the well-known bohemian district of Skadarlija with lively folk music from a Serbian band (optional).

Day 7 Cataract Canyons - Iron Gates National Park (rest day)

Experience the stunning fjord-like landscape at close quarters from the ship's deck. The river cuts through the Romanian Carpathian mountains and the mighty foothills of the Balkan mountain range. A spectacular landscape with steep gorges, dark forests with historic monuments and impregnable fortresses along the shores are reflected in the blue waters of the river: this miracle of nature will take your breath away!

Day 8 Novi Sad - Ilok 50 km

The imposing Petrovaradin fortress perches high above the provincial capital of the Vojvodina. After cycling upstream along a flat cycle path you take a ferry to reach the gentle foothills of the Fruška Gora, with its orchards, vineyards and idyllic farming villages. Everything in the medieval town of Ilok revolves around wine. In the evening you will have the opportunity to sample some famous Croatian wines at a local wine cellar (optional).



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Day 9 Apatin - Bezdán (Batina)

55 km

Apatin beer is well known throughout the western Balkan region. Cycle along the Danube Canal on idyllic trails, lined by meadows and trees, and over country roads through the vast expanse of the Batschka (the area populated by Danube Swabians). Sombor is a small romantic town with buildings, dating back to the Habsburg period.

Day 10 Kalocsa - Solt

50 km

Kalocsa is the “Paprika Capital” of Hungary and the character of the town is strongly influenced by colourful houses with hand-painted, bright floral patterns and the cathedral with its towers that can be seen even from a distance as they rise into the skies from the flat Hungarian plain. Visiting the Paprika Museum you’ll learn all there is to know about Hungary’s favourite spice. Continue your journey on the well-built cycle path along the flood protection dyke through the vast expanse of the puszta, and corn fields and orchards that stretch as far as the eye can see until you reach Solt, birthplace of the famous conductor Sir George Solti. Vecsey Castle and the library with some 34,000 books are especially worth seeing.

Day 11 Danube Bend - Esztergom

45 km

The Danube is framed by steep wooded hills as it flows through the picturesque, hilly landscape of the “Hungarian Wachau“. Set in the middle of the Danube, the delightful island of Szentendre radiates real puszta romance. As you continue your journey on idyllic cycle paths through picturesque villages you’ll be able to experience the Hungarian zest for life at first hand. The dome of the imposing basilica in Esztergom that sits high over the Danube can be seen from far and wide. Hungary’s largest church, with its Tuscan-style high altar and a side chapel with red marble walls is especially worth seeing.

Day 12 Vienna excursion choices

After so many action-packed days of cycling, you deserve some relaxation. Enjoy breathtaking views of the idyllic floodplain forest of the Donauauen National Park and the impressive skyline as you sail into Vienna. Go for a ride on Danube Island – Vienna’s favourite recreational area, cycle out to the nearby Klosterneuburg Abbey or wander through the idyllic vineyards on Kahlenberg (with magnificent views over the city and the Danube). The day ends traditionally with a concert of classic waltz and operetta music in the Schönbrunn palace (optional).

Day 13 Vienna (rest day)

Discover Vienna’s most beautiful highlights. During a city tour by bike or bus (optional), you can experience the most famous examples of architecture: the imperial Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, the State Opera House, the Burgtheater and town hall as well as the colorful “Hunderwasserhaus.” You can relax at one of the numerous small coffee bars. The evening can end with a Waltz and Opera Concert at the Wiener Kursalon (optional) or at a local wine tavern. Bus tour optional.

Day 14 Wachau / Krems - Melk

35 km

Your bike ride brings a special highlight! Today’s ride goes past small dreamy towns, apricot trees, vineyards, castles, monasteries and ruins - this hilly landscape is enchanting for everyone. This is pure biking enjoyment! In Weissenkirchen, you will find comfy wine taverns directly beside the bike path.

Day 15 Passau (Arrival approx. 10 AM)

Enjoy the first rays of sun and the early-morning tranquillity of the Danube valley one last time. Catch a final view of the Danube Bend at Schlägen – before reaching Passau. Disembark from 10:30 am.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

Generally you can count on sunny weather, cooler mornings and evenings, similar to Vermont.

How many hours of cycling a day?

This depends on how you ride, but anticipate 4-6 hours a day at good pace, with stops.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, but an active beginner will enjoy this trip as well as children.

What are the accommodations on the boat like?

Our dignified furnished cabins are cosy, equipped with either 2 adjoined beds on the upper deck (Promenade) or mid-deck (Upper deck) with windows that may be opened. There are other possibilities on the lower deck - cabins with bunk beds, with a lesser cost, but we try not to sell these cabins. Rooms have en suite facilities (shower and toilet), TV, radio and air conditioning. The ship contains a restaurant, a panoramic bar, a Viennese coffee bar, sauna, WIFI (optional) a sunny patio as well as a broad sun deck with comfortable chairs.



Getting There

- Flying into Munich International airport is the most convenient location. You can take an airport bus right to the train station downtown and the train for Passau departs almost each hour. The journey takes about 1.5 hrs.
- Alternatively fly to Vienna and take the train to Passau, journey takes 4 hrs.



Extra Services

Optional tours from boat - can be booked individually or as a package at a discount on board only:

- **Bratislava** City by scenic train and walking tour
- **Budapest** City tour by bike or by HOP ON HOP OFF bus
Budapest by night + traditional Hungarian folklore show at a Csarda
- **Belgrade** City tour by bike or bus
Belgrade by night with folklore show
- **Ilok** Wine-tasting at a local wine cellar
- **Vienna** City tour by HOP ON HOP OFF bus or bike Waltz and Operetta concert at the Viennese Palaces
- **Wachau** Wine tasting at a local winery

How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & Conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.