

2026 - Melodies of the Danube

7-NIGHT CRUISE

Journey along the Danube and see firsthand why this storied river has inspired generations of artists, poets and musicians. Indulge your passion for timeless architecture and art in three magnificent capitals: Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna. Let the hills come alive with the sounds of music in Salzburg. Cruise through the enchanting Strudengau Valley and let the melodies of the Danube carry you from one gem to another on a regal journey through time.

OVERVIEW:

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>DESTINATION</u> | <u>ACTIVITIES</u> |
|------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | BUDAPEST | EMBARKATION |
| 2 | BUDAPEST | Buda city tour OR Castle Hill hike Pest city tour |
| 3 | BRATISLAVA | “Coronation City” walking tour OR Tastes of Slovakia OR Bratislava Castle hike |
| 4 | VIENNA | “Imperial Vienna” tour OR Vienna city tour by bike Free time |
| 5 | WEISSENKIRCHEN | Highlights of Dürnstein and Melk Abbey visit OR Dürnstein with wine and apricots OR Dürnstein fortress hike OR Weissenkirchen to Melk bike tour Strudengau Valley and UNESCO Wachau Valley Exclusive Greinburg Castle visit |
| 6 | LINZ | Full-day Salzburg excursion* OR Full-day Český Krumlov excursion with Linz tour* OR “UNESCO City of Media Arts” walking tour OR “Cultural Mile” bike tour |
| 7 | PASSAU | “City of Three Rivers” walking tour OR Passau Castle hike OR Passau River Inn bike tour Exclusive Oktoberfest celebration |
| 8 | VILSHOFEN | DISEMBARKATION |

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, BUDAPEST. Arrive in Budapest and board your luxurious river cruise ship. (D)

Day 2, BUDAPEST. Today you have the opportunity to visit both the Buda (hilly) and Pest (flat) sides of the Danube River. Start on the Buda side, following your guide through the city’s Castle District where you will marvel at the fairytale turrets of Fisherman’s Bastion, gaze upon the breathtaking panorama below and see

Matthias Church, renowned for its striking tower and colorful mosaic roof. For a more active tour, hike to Budapest's Castle Hill. In the afternoon, explore the treasures of Pest, admiring the colossal Hungarian Parliament Building, Heroes' Square and the moving "Shoes on the Danube Bank" memorial. (B,L,D)

Day 3, BRATISLAVA. Host to the crowning ceremonies of 11 Hungarian kings and queens between 1536 and 1830, Bratislava certainly has earned the title "Coronation City of Kings," as you'll discover during your walking tour. Or join a special "Tastes of Slovakia" tour. For a more active adventure, hike up to Bratislava Castle, offering magnificent views of the city. (B,L,D)

Day 4, VIENNA. The "City of Waltzes" offers a wealth of gems and your city tour showcases its regal splendors, including the majestic Opera House and the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburgs. Conclude your tour in Vienna's historic city center and then visit St. Stephen's Cathedral, or discover Vienna by bike. During the afternoon, enjoy leisure time to further explore this iconic city. (B,L,D)

Day 5, WEISSENKIRCHEN - SCENIC CRUISING - GREIN. After reaching Weissenkirchen, you'll be treated to several choices of excursions. Take a walking tour of Dürnstein before visiting the UNESCO-designated Melk Abbey. For a more culinary-focused experience, join a walking tour in Dürnstein, then enjoy a wine tasting hosted by a local vintner and sample special apricot treats from a local boutique. If you prefer a more active adventure, hike up to the fortress where Richard the Lionheart was once held or join a guided bike tour to Melk. Later in the day, sail through the Strudengau and Wachau valleys to medieval Grein for an exclusive visit to the more than 500-year-old Greinburg Castle, looming regally from above. (B,L,D)

Day 6, LINZ. The ship arrives in Linz where you'll have several choices of excursions. Opt for a full-day excursion to Salzburg where you'll tour the historic center, Mirabell Gardens, Residenz Square and the Old Market. En route to Salzburg, stop at Mondsee, home of the Basilica St. Michael. You may also choose to join a full-day excursion to the charming Czech mountain town of Český Krumlov, where you can stroll its cobblestone streets; marvel at the city's picturesque Baroque and Renaissance-style buildings; and tour Krumlov Castle, one of Europe's largest castle complexes. Upon your return to Linz, you may choose to take a brief walking tour in the city. Or join a morning walking tour through the old city center of Linz and by the Mozart House; or go on a bike tour of the city's famed "Cultural Mile" and the Danube. (B,L,D) *Not combinable with other tours on this day

Day 7, PASSAU - VILSHOFEN. Discover the city of Passau in one of three ways. Enjoy a walking tour and marvel at Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture and St. Stephen's Cathedral. Alternately, choose between a guided hike up to the Veste Oberhaus fortress or a guided bike tour along the River Inn. Later, cruise to Vilshofen, where you will be treated to a festive Oktoberfest celebration—an AmaWaterways exclusive. (B,L,D)

Day 8, VILSHOFEN. Bid farewell to Vilshofen and prepare for your flight home. (B)