

Danube Waltz

Bike + cruise | MV Carissima ****

Passau – Vienna – Bratislava – Budapest | Self-guided or guided



Highlights of the Danube/ 4 countries – 3 metropolises

By bike and boat from the “Bavarian Venice” directly into the heart of the famous and glamorous former K+K monarchy Austria/Hungary. Look forward visiting three of Europe’s most charming capitals: Vienna, the metropolis of Waltz, Bratislava, the capital of coronation and Budapest, the „Paris of the East”.

The bike tours lead you to the romantic „Great Loop” (Schlögenger Donauschlinge), the picturesque Danube Bend with Hungary’s largest cathedral and the legendary Wachau valley, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage with its small villages, beautiful palaces and castles.

On board our comfortable cruise ship you enjoy an exclusive atmosphere – in the spacious, convenient cabins as well as in the stylish outdoor area. Experience the fantastic view to breath-taking landscapes – on the bike, from the pool on the sun deck, in the comfy seats of the panorama-lounge, and even during your amazing meals in the first class restaurant. This exciting bike trip will make your holiday unforgettable.

The cruise ship MV Carissima****

The first thing you’ll experience when boarding is the friendly atmosphere and the coziness of this river ship. In **the restaurant** you will start your culinary excursion through the Danube countries – the fantastic view of the beautiful scenery will sweeten the diversity of flavours you taste. In the **Panorama-Lounge**, where the **bar** is located, you can enjoy a glass of wine with your new friends and travel mates while the gorgeous landscape is passing by. Comfortable lounge chairs and discreet colors make you stay a little longer. After an exciting day of cycling you can relax in the **spa** with **sauna** and **whirlpool**. For pleasant refreshment, jump into the **pool** (June-August) on the sun deck, from where you can enjoy a magnificent view. And if you are in the mood for reading, just borrow a book in the **library**! The comfortable ship will make your journey unforgettable. Wifi is available on board (connection can vary, payable locally).

Main, Middle or Upperdeck ? On the MV Carissima YOU have the choice

All 75 de-luxe staterooms have 14 m² and feature a hotel-style double bed, which may be converted to two single beds. The **half-height windows** on the **Main deck** cannot be opened, the staterooms on the **Middle and Upper deck** provide **full-size picture windows** which do open. All cabins are equipped with a private bathroom with a shower or bathtub, hair dryer, TV, safe and full air-conditioning. **ECO cabins** are located in the front/rear part of the ship (operating noises possible).

Highlights

- Passau at the intersection of three rivers
- the “Great Loop” Schlögenger Donauschlinge
- World Cultural Heritage site Wachau
- Hungarian Danube Bend
- the metropolises of Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest

Tour profile

Level 1: The Danube cycle path leads through terrain with only slightly gradients. Do not feel like cycling? Without effort you will also reach your destination by ship.

Comfort relax package

(Guided tour)

Personal attention from a dedicated guide you cycle in a small group where you explore a lot of local cultures, discover hidden sites and secret places and enjoy some delicious appetizers.

Departure dates

Every SUNDAY, April 28 – October 06, 2019 (= first and last tour start)

Season 1: April / October

Season 2: May / August

Season 3: June / July / September

Comfort relax package

May 5 + 19, June 02 + 23, July 14, August 11, September 01 + 15 + 29 (further dates upon request – min. 8 participants)

Itinerary

Day 1: Passau

Boarding time at 4.30 p.m. Located at the confluence of Danube, Inn and Ilz, Passau has numerous interesting sites to visit. Use your free time and stroll through the cobblestoned old town centre, listen to the bells of Passau's Gothic Town Hall or have a look at the world's largest Catholic Church organ in the Passau Cathedral. At 6.00 p.m. we cast off!

Day 2: Great Loop | Engelhartzell – Aschach, approx. 42 km

Your first day's tour begins with a ride through the classic scenery of the 'Great Loop' Donauschlinge - one of the most beautiful sections of the Danube. Along the way you will encounter tiny villages and cozy cider taverns. In Austria's only Trappist monastery at Engelhartzell you can taste their delicious liquors and cheese. The famous 'Schlogener View' provides a wonderful panorama of the surrounding Austrian countryside. The boat welcomes all cyclists back on board in the charming market town of Aschach.

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava, approx. 43 km

You pedal along the former 'Iron Curtain', cross the green line and reach the imposing Imperial Schlossohof Palace with its beautifully terraced gardens. Follow the bike path through Austria's 'vegetable garden' to the coronation town Bratislava and the slopes of the Little Carpathians and discover the hidden alleyways and sights of Bratislava on an optional city tour.

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

The entrance to Budapest, Hungary's capital is stunning. Savour the beauty of Budapest during a coach tour or a guided bike tour (optional) to discover many of the highlights of this beautiful 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 Folklore show with traditional music, local appetizers and dance (optional).

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

Situated in the middle of the Danube River the idyllic isle of Szentendre exudes silent Puszta romance. History, folklore and Hungarian way of life will accompany you on your way to Esztergom where the gorgeous basilica – Hungary's largest Catholic Church – impresses its guests.

Day 6: Vienna (day of rest)

Discover Vienna's most beautiful attractions. During a city tour by bike or bus (optional) you will experience Vienna's most famous examples of architecture: the imperial Hofburg, St. Stephens Cathedral, the gorgeous 'Ring'-boulevard and the State Opera House, the Burgtheater and town hall, and of course the colorful "Hundertwasserhaus". Take time to relax in one or more of Vienna's famous cafés, while the evening ends impressively at a classical concert (optional) at a famous Viennese Palace.

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 spire of the monastery church is a landmark of the renowned Wachau Valley. Amidst dreamy towns, apricot trees, vineyards and castles, this hilly landscape enchants everybody who visits ... you will be biking on cloud nine! In Weißenkirchen (possibility for wine-tasting – optional) you will find comfortable wine taverns along the bike path.

Day 8: Passau

As you cruise back up the Danube enjoy the early morning sunshine as you wind your way to Passau, where you'll disembark at approx. 10.00 a.m. Connecting travel should be booked for 11.30 a.m. onwards.

Rental bikes & equipment

- 21-speed-Unisex trekking bike freewheel (7-speed-Unisex bike, backpedal upon request)
- Electrically assisted bike / pedelec
- Child equipment within availability
- All rental bikes are equipped with 20 l panniers and a handle bar bag
- Helmets + cycling clothing available for purchase onboard



Excursion program

Optional excursions (not included in the price of your tour) can be booked individually or as a package at a discount on board only.

Bratislava: **City tour** with scenic train and walking tour

Budapest: **City tour** by bike or HOP ON HOP OFF bus
Budapest by night + folklore show at a traditional Hungarian Csarda

Vienna: **City tour** by bike or by bus
Classical **waltz & operetta concert** in one of Vienna's famous palaces

Wachau: **Wine tasting** with a local wine grower in Wachau Valley

Included services

- 7 nights in outside cabins with private facilities and air conditioning
- Port Charges
- Program according to itinerary from/to Passau
- Captain's greeting and welcome cocktail
- Daily cabin cleaning, towels and bed linen
- Full board: breakfast buffet, lunch onboard (non-cyclists) or packed lunch (cyclists), afternoon coffee break, dinner (2/3 dishes to choose), late night snack
- Gala dinner and farewell cocktail
- Farewell crew show
- Daily live music
- Cruise director onboard (does not cycle with the group)
- Daily information meeting
- Detailed roadbook per cabin

Comfort Relax Package ADDITIONALLY includes

- Cycling tour guide
- Tasting of homemade cider at a cider producer in the Upper Danube Valley
- Ferry rides
- Guided city tour by bike in Vienna & by HOP ON HOP OFF bus in Budapest
- Wine tasting with a local wine grower

General information

On the one hand, a riverboat is a "holiday hotel", while on the other, it is also a means of transport that moves with motor power and must always be operated, even at night (partially with lock and bridge passages and the retractions and extensions of the structures caused as a result). Mistakes can happen with lock passages. This is the case for all Danube journeys and cannot be avoided. Please bear in mind that riverboats are restricted (bridge passages, locks) in size (length, height, width) and therefore cannot be compared with cruise liners in the sea.

The cabins are limited in space but are nevertheless comfortable and furnished. In the event of extremely high or low water, the shipping company reserves the right to bridge stages by bus or even to cancel the trip at short notice without any legal claim arising therefrom (water levels are force majeure). The same applies for officially decreed repairs to locks or bridges, not announced in advance, or in the event of motor or propulsion damage to the ship without attributed fault.

All sales prices listed in this document correspond with the prices 2019 published in the RAD + REISEN catalogue. The prices in your offers may NOT fall below.

Please forward your final publications for error checking before publishing/printing.

Errors, changes in prices and availability excepted. Tariffs as of April 2018.



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