

2020 - 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 four magnificent capitals: Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna and Prague. Let the hills come alive with the sounds of music in Salzburg and the Austrian Lake District. 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	“Queen of the Danube” tour OR Castle Hill hike
3	BRATISLAVA	“Coronation City” walking tour OR Tastes of Slovakia OR Bratislava Castle hike
4	VIENNA	City tour OR Vienna bike tour Free time
5	WEISSENKIRCHEN	Highlights of Dürnstein and Melk Abbey OR Weissenkirchen to Melk bike tour OR Weissenkirchen walking tour and Melk Abbey OR Dürnstein excursion with wine and apricots tastings OR Dürnstein fortress hike Strudengau Valley Exclusive castle visit with private reception
6	LINZ	Full-day Salzburg excursion OR “UNESCO City of Media Arts” walking tour OR “Cultural Mile” bike tour OR Český Krumlov excursion
7	PASSAU	“City of Three Rivers” walking tour OR Passau bike tour OR Passau Castle hike 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. Budapest offers an unmatched combination of culture, tradition and even a secret labyrinth of caves under the city. Your city tour begins with a visit to the Great Market Hall before going to both the Buda (hilly) and the Pest (flat) sides of the river. You'll see Heroes' Square and Castle Hill, home to the Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church. As an alternative, you can hike up to Castle Hill for breathtaking views of the city below. (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)

*Please Note: Wine Cruise itineraries are modified and will not visit Bratislava. Instead of visiting Bratislava, guests will enjoy visiting the charming winemaking town of Gobelsberg.

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. Or opt for a walking tour of Weissenkirchen followed by an abbey visit. 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, join a guided bike tour to Melk or hike up to the fortress where Richard the Lionheart was once held. Later in the day, sail through the Strudengau Valley to medieval Grein for an exclusive visit to the more than 500-year-old Greinburg Castle, looming regally from above. While here, enjoy a folklore show and wine reception. (B,L,D)

Day 6, LINZ. The ship arrives in Linz where you can opt for a full-day excursion to Salzburg and 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. Or join a walking tour through the old city center of Linz and by the Mozart House; or bike along the city's famed "Cultural Mile" and the Danube. Later in the day, visit the charming Czech mountain town of Český Krumlov. (B,L,D)

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. Or choose between a guided bike tour along the Danube River, or a guided hike up to the Veste Oberhaus fortress. 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)