

# CALL OF THE DANUBE: BUDAPEST LOOP WITH SCENIC WACHAU VALLEY

BUDAPEST TO BUDAPEST – 12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS



WACHAU VALLEY

Castles, churches, culture, and cuisine – this cruise along the Danube has it all! From sleepy villages to dynamic capitals, and from Nature's majestic Wachau Valley to manmade marvels like Melk Abbey, the best of Hungary, Slovakia, and Austria are at the ready. Embark in Budapest, whose seemingly endless Parliament building adorns the riverbank. Save time for Heroes' Square, the Castle District, and maybe even a bowl of authentic Hungarian goulash! Also encounter Esztergom; nearby Bratislava; and Austria's ornate City of Music, Vienna, as well as ancient Tulln; tiny Grein; Linz, a European Capital of Culture; and enchanting Dürnstein with its clifftop castle ruin. A final highlight is the showstopping entrance back into Budapest – magical!

## ITINERARY

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Day 1 – Budapest            | Day 8 – Melk/Wachau Valley / Dürnstein |
| Day 2 – Budapest            |  |
| Day 3 – Bratislava          | Day 9 – Vienna                         |
| Day 4 – Tulln/Wachau Valley | Day 10 – Esztergom                     |
| Day 5 – Vienna              | Day 11 – Budapest                      |
| Day 6 – Grein               | Day 12 – Budapest                      |
| Day 7 – Linz                |  |



## DATES IN 2025

28 Jun, 23 Jul, 6 Sep, 27 Sep



## RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences – like a private concert at Budapest's Neo-Baroque Wenckheim Palace. Admire the ornate decor that has been captured in Hollywood movies such as “Spy” and “Red Sparrow” – then sip champagne as the heart and soul of the Danube is revealed through the music.



INSIDE THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, BUDAPEST

## DAY 1 – BUDAPEST

Welcome to Budapest, Hungary's gorgeous capital city. Embark the luxurious Riverside Mozart and relax as you settle in – or, if you arrive early, join us for a Snapshot of Budapest tour. Tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner. The ship remains in port overnight, so you're free to explore Budapest's vibrant nightlife.

## DAY 2 – BUDAPEST

After breakfast, your day is devoted to the wonders of Budapest. With your RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, you can see the highlights by comfortable coach; get a peek inside the monumental Parliament Building; or join an exhilarating bike tour. After lunch, additional experiences are available to Gödöllő Castle, the favorite palace of Austrian Empress "Sisi", the much-adored Queen of Hungary; Dohány Synagogue to learn about the city's rich Jewish heritage; or fairytale Fishermen's Bastion in the Castle District for some of the best views over the city and river. Back on the ship, head up to the Vista Deck for sheer magic as your ship cruises slowly past the grand cityscape on the way out of Budapest.

## DAY 3 – BRATISLAVA

Enjoy a leisurely morning – perfect for a relaxed breakfast, plenty of refills on your coffee or tea, and the chance to appreciate the passing scenery. After lunch, arrive in Bratislava, the enchanting capital of Slovakia, for a full menu of RIVERSIDE CHOICE options! How about time at the Danubiana Art Museum, the opportunity to try some of Slovakia's fascinating wines, an active bike ride to Devin Castle, or a visit to a traditional Slovak family home? Alternatively, you can head out on your own to do some shopping or enjoy a pint of Slovakian beer at a local pub!

## DAY 4 – TULLN / WACHAU VALLEY SCENIC CRUISING

Arrive today in the 2,000-year-old Lower Austrian town of Tulln. Settled in pre-Roman times, hear about centuries marked by Turkish invasions, floods, and the Thirty Years War, and see the Nibelungen Fountain commemorating Attila the Hun's proposal to Kriemhild (which legend says took place in Tulln). Through RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you can take a fun bike tour through the Austrian countryside; discover one of Europe's most unique organic gardening showcases at Tulln Gardens; or visit Klosterneuburg Abbey for a tour of the 12th-century Augustinian monastery and wine tasting. We also have a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE wine tasting at Gobelsburg Castle, where wine production began in 1171! Later, rejoin your ship and cruise into the heart of the Wachau Valley to see its enchanting collection of castle ruins, terraced vineyards, and apricot orchards.

## DAY 5 – VIENNA

Welcome to Vienna, Austria's inimitable capital and City of Music, where anywhere you go, echoes remain of former monarchs and musicians. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you can take a panoramic city tour and walk through the historical district; visit the Habsburgs' Schönbrunn Palace; and take in other exciting possibilities. Alternatively, maybe head out on your own for some shopping or time at one of the world-famous museums!

## DAY 6 – GREIN

A leisurely start to your day can include steaming mugs of coffee or tea on the Vista Deck with plenty of outstanding scenery to capture your attention. After lunch, disembark in Grein, home



STEPHANSPLATZ, VIENNA



to Austria's oldest theater, where a curtained-off toilet among the seats kept patrons from missing the plot! With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you can commune with nature during a pleasant bike tour or hike up to 500-year-old Greinburg Castle. Alternatively, join a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE experience at stately Clam Castle with its distinctive multi-story round keep. "Often besieged but never conquered", the castle's preserved rooms include precious furnishings and decor, which you'll see for yourself during a guided tour. Your visit also features refreshments and an entertaining knights' battle – huzzah!

## DAY 7 – LINZ

Early arrival gives you the whole day in Linz, a well-deserved European Capital of Culture. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you can join a guided walk through the Old Town to hear about the city's rich history and visit the Neo-Gothic Mariendom with its impressive stained-glass windows and 20,000-person seating capacity. Hear why it was allowed to be the largest (but not the tallest) church in Austria when it was built! Or, burn some energy during a vigorous hike up Pöstlingberg Hill for amazing panoramas over the river valley; visit gorgeous Salzburg, of "Sound of Music" fame; or travel into the Czech Republic to experience the medieval, walled village of Český Krumlov. Ship cruises overnight.

## DAY 8 – MELK / WACHAU VALLEY SCENIC CRUISING / DÜRNSTEIN

Today the fun begins in Melk! RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a visit to the town's legendary Baroque abbey, home to an important collection of ancient manuscripts and enviable views over the Danube; the chance to see where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria

still reside today at the unique, 7-towered Artstetten Castle; or for an active option, you can cycle from Melk to the ship's next stop in Dürnstein. Otherwise, allow the ship to transport you through the stunning scenery of the Wachau Valley, arriving in Dürnstein after lunch. Here, your knowledgeable guide will regale you with tales about King Richard the Lionheart's imprisonment. A hike up to the town's castle ruin provides amazing views, or join us at an Austrian vinothèque for wine tasting and the chance to learn about what makes Wachau wines distinct.

## DAY 9 – VIENNA

A second day in Vienna presents so many possibilities! You can join another RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion, or head out on your own to explore the palaces, museums, and coffee houses independently!

## DAY 10 – ESZTERGOM

Enjoy a leisurely morning – perfect for a relaxed breakfast, plenty of refills on your coffee or tea, and the chance to appreciate the scenery as you cross into Hungary. After lunch, arrive in Esztergom, Hungarian capital from the 10th until the mid-13th centuries. Exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions include a visit to Esztergom Basilica to see its opulent Treasury, including a 12-pound gold and gemstone-encrusted cross; a guided bike tour through Hungary and Slovakia; a fun foodie walk to sample the specialties; or a visit to nearby Visegrád to see its impressive fortress. Ship remains in port until late.

## DAY 11 – BUDAPEST

As you enjoy a hot, fresh cup of coffee or tea up on the Vista Deck this morning, you'll be impressed by your ship's grand entrance into Budapest – like something out of a movie! Take advantage of the day with another RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion or you can head out to explore independently! Tonight, don't miss our magical RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE concert at Wenckheim Palace.

## DAY 12 – BUDAPEST

After breakfast, disembark the Riverside Mozart and enjoy complimentary transfers to the airport, train station, or central hotel.



OLD MARKET SQUARE, LINZ





DÜRNSTEIN CASTLE RUIN