

DANUBE LEGENDS WITH BUDAPEST & VIENNA IN DEPTH

BUDAPEST TO BUDAPEST – 15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS



WACHAU VALLEY

The echoes of empires are calling on this immersive luxury cruise that begins in Budapest. Stop in powerful cities and quaint villages alike, discovering the cultural and historical marks left behind in Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany. Highlights include Budapest's monumental Parliament, Bratislava's formidable hilltop castle, Vienna's fascinating Ringstrasse lined with palatial architecture, Melk's stately Benedictine abbey, the charms and legends of Dürnstein, and more. Mother Nature has a few brag-worthy masterpieces, too: the stunning Wachau Valley and dramatic Schlögen Loop, a horseshoe-shaped bend of the river crafted by time itself.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Budapest	Day 9 – Passau
Day 2 – Budapest	Day 10 – Grein/Melk
Day 3 – Bratislava	Day 11 – Vienna
Day 4 – Tulln/Wachau Valley	Day 12 – Vienna
Day 5 – Vienna	Day 13 – Vienna
Day 6 – Vienna	Day 14 – Esztergom/Visegrád/Budapest
Day 7 – Dürnstein/Weissenkirchen	Day 15 – Budapest
Day 8 – Linz	



DATES IN 2026

17 Jun, 1 Jul, 15 Jul, 29 Jul



RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences – like a VIP, after-hours entrance to breathtaking Belvedere Palace. Bask in the ornate Baroque atmosphere as you are treated to a private musical performance and the opportunity for a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".

DAY 1 – BUDAPEST

Welcome to Budapest, one of the Danube's four exciting capitals. Inhabited since prehistoric times, the city straddles the river, with Buda on one side and Pest on the other. Embark the Riverside Mozart and relax as your personal Butler helps you get settled into your luxurious Suite.

DAY 2 – BUDAPEST

After breakfast, get acquainted with the Queen of the Danube. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers great ways to explore, like a tour inside the 691-room Hungarian Parliament Building to see its Golden Staircase, Crown of St. Stephen, and other treasures. If you prefer, join us for an active electric bicycle tour, or a walk around Buda's magnificent Castle District. You'll find a full list of the excursions available on our website. Back on the ship later, head up to the Vista Deck for sheer magic as your ship moves slowly past the grand cityscape on the way out of Budapest.

DAY 3 – BRATISLAVA

After a relaxing morning and lunch on board, arrive in Bratislava, the enchanting capital of Slovakia. Sample the area's excellent wines during a tasting, or enjoy a guided walk through the Old Town, where Michael's Gate and St. Martin's Cathedral serve as highlights in this pretty-as-a-picture setting. For another special experience, walk up to the striking, 9th-century castle, then relax at a local pub with a thirst-quenching Slovakian beer.

DAY 4 – TULLN / WACHAU VALLEY SCENIC CRUISING

Settled in pre-Roman times, the 2,000-year-old city of Tulln survived centuries of tumult: Turkish invasions, floods, and the Thirty Years War. Somehow, it endured, emerging as the pretty City of Gardens you find today. Why not hop on an e-bike for a fun ride through the Austrian countryside, or explore one of Europe's most unique organic gardening showcases? Alternatively, join our UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE tasting at Gobelsburg Castle, where wine production began in 1171. Later, your ship cruises into the photogenic Wachau Valley.

DAY 5 – VIENNA

Vienna greets you today, and you'll quickly see what attracted world-class composers to the splendid, Baroque Austrian capital. Join us for an exciting half-day tour through the Hofburg, the imperial palace that was the Habsburg rulers'

primary residence and center of the Holy Roman Empire. See the former royal family's lavish living quarters and dazzling Treasury.

DAY 6 – VIENNA

Another excitement-packed day in the City of Music. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, step inside another Habsburg palace: their 1,441-room summer getaway at Schönbrunn. Or, pedal your way around Prater Park with its giant Ferris wheel, erected in 1897 to mark the 50th year of Emperor Franz Joseph's accession to the throne. Tonight, join our special RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE after-hours entrance into Belvedere Palace for a private orchestral performance and crowd-free viewing of Klimt's "The Kiss".

DAY 7 – DÜRNSTEIN / WACHAU VALLEY / WEISSENKIRCHEN

Arrive first today in Dürnstein, the tiny river town that imprisoned England's King Richard the Lionheart on his way home from the Crusades. A RIVERSIDE CHOICE hike takes you up to the clifftop castle where he was held, or you can attend a tasting to learn what makes the Wachau Valley's wines so popular. Reboard your ship for lunch, then dock in Weissenkirchen for the chance to sample apricot schnapps, created from apricots grown right in the Wachau!

DAY 8 – LINZ

A lovely menu of excursion options today features an invigorating hike or a visit to the Baroque jewel of St. Florian Monastery, Mozart's Salzburg, or the medieval walled village of Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic.



MOZART'S BIRTHPLACE, SALZBURG



TRADITIONAL TRAM ON VIENNA'S RINGSTRASSE



ESZTERGOM BASILICA

DAY 9 – PASSAU

Germany's City of Three Rivers is on today's agenda. This is where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz Rivers meet, and a guided walk through the Old Town shows off the highlights. Admire the ancient cobblestones, the work-of-art Town Hall, St. Stephen's Cathedral (home to one of the world's largest organs), and more. At the end, your efforts are rewarded with a frothy mug of refreshing Bavarian beer.

DAY 10 – GREIN / MELK / WACHAU VALLEY

The village of Grein may be small, but it has quite a few pleasant surprises up its sleeve! This is home to Austria's oldest theater, where humorous and quirky features abound. Meanwhile, with RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you could hike up to the Gobelwarte Observation Tower for outstanding panoramic views, or join a guided walk up to 500-year-old Greinburg Castle. Return to the ship for lunch as you cruise on to Melk. There, you can get an inside look at its world-famous Baroque abbey, explore town by electric bike, or visit Artstetten Castle, where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria still reside today.

DAY 11 – VIENNA

Morning arrival back in Vienna for more time in the esteemed city of former monarchs and musicians. Why not join another enriching RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion? There's also time for shopping, a museum visit, or a mélange coffee and scrumptious piece of sachertorte at an atmospheric coffee house.

DAYS 12 & 13 – VIENNA

Take advantage of two more days in Vienna. If you'd like more time in Bratislava, RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers an outing to get you there and back. You could also head to the Ringstrasse for time at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, one of the most important museums in the world, or visit the Spanish Riding School at Hofburg Palace, where the Lipizzaner Stallions train for their dazzling equine performances.

DAY 14 – ESZTERGOM / VISEGRÁD / BUDAPEST

Arrive this morning in Esztergom, capital of Hungary from the 10th until the mid-13th century. Exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE activities include a visit to Esztergom Basilica to see its opulent Treasury; a guided e-bike tour along both sides of the Danube; a fun foodie walk to sample the local specialties; and more. Back on board for lunch as your ship continues to Visegrád, medieval gateway to the Danube. Here, enjoy a wonderful introduction to the town that was first mentioned in 1009 AD as well as to its captivating fortress. Tonight, head up to the Vista Deck for a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE champagne return into the warm embrace of Budapest.

DAY 15 – BUDAPEST

After breakfast, disembark your ship. For Riverside transfer details, see our website.



MELK ABBEY