

# DESTINATION DANUBE: CULTURE, CAPITALS & THE SCENIC WACHAU VALLEY

BUDAPEST TO BUDAPEST – 15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS



HUNGARIAN NATIONAL DAY FIREWORKS, BUDAPEST

Local cultures, splendid scenery, delicious foods, and three incredible Danube capitals – this cruise has it all, plus the luxury cruising experience Riverside is famous for! Begin in Hungary, where you can be part of the nation’s independence celebrations as you visit Budapest and Esztergom. Also explore Bratislava and Vienna, capitals of Slovakia and Austria, respectively, for a wonderful menu of RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions that show off the best of each city. Finally, cruise into the world-famous Wachau Valley, where the serene beauty, many castles, exceptional wines, and charming port towns will leave a lasting impression!

## ITINERARY

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



DATES IN 2026

19 Aug



## RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences! In Budapest, the cityscape’s nighttime beauty is further enhanced by an explosion of light and color as the country celebrates Hungary National Day. Enjoy the festivities from atop the Vista Deck, with refreshments and unhindered views of the brilliant musical fireworks display over the Danube.

## DAY 1 – BUDAPEST

Welcome to Hungary's exotic capital, Budapest, which rises majestically up both sides of the Danube. Embark the luxurious Riverside Mozart and relax as your personal Butler helps you get settled in. Later, meet fellow cruisemates during your first gourmet dinner on board.

## DAY 2 – BUDAPEST

A fantastic day to explore one of the world's most beautiful cities! With a RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, you can relax and see the highlights by comfortable coach; visit Gödöllő, one of the most important examples of Hungarian palace architecture (and Austrian Empress Sisi's favorite palace); and other exciting possibilities. For a complete list of the excursions available throughout your cruise, go to our website. Tonight, head up to the ship's Vista Deck for a very special RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT. To celebrate Hungarian independence, join our Hungary National Day festivities, complete with champagne, refreshments, and superb views of a breathtaking musical fireworks display over the river.

## DAY 3 – ESZTERGOM

A leisurely morning of cruising gives you time for a relaxed breakfast or to take advantage of your ship's amenities. How about a workout in the ship's Fitness Center or a massage or spa treatment? After lunch, disembark in Esztergom, capital of Hungary from the 10th until the mid-13th centuries. Exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion options are a visit to Esztergom Basilica to see its opulent Treasury, a guided e-bike tour along both sides of the Danube, and other options.



BUDA CASTLE AT NIGHT, BUDAPEST



BRATISLAVA

## DAY 4 – BRATISLAVA

Morning arrival in Bratislava, Slovakia, where a full menu of RIVERSIDE CHOICE experiences includes a refreshing e-bike ride through the Bratislavan wetlands, time at the Danubiana Museum, or a Slovakian wine discovery and tasting. If you prefer, head out on your own to search for Napoleon's wall-lodged cannonballs in the Old Town, or treat your tastebuds to a Slovakian beer at a local pub!

## DAYS 5 & 6 – VIENNA

Welcome to Vienna, capital of Austria and paragon of all things Baroque! Two full days give you plenty of time to explore with RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions. You might enjoy a visit to Hofburg Palace to admire the wonders in its lavish Treasury, the chance to peek inside mighty Schönbrunn Palace, e-biking through historic Prater Park, and other possibilities.

## DAY 7 – DÜRNSTEIN / WACHAU VALLEY SCENIC CRUISING / WEISSENKIRCHEN

Arrive in Dürnstein early and hear about King Richard the Lionheart's imprisonment here on his way home from the third Crusades. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, you could hike up to the town's castle ruin for great views over the Wachau Valley or join a wine experience to learn what creates the Wachau's popular wines – and to taste them for yourself! Reboard your ship for lunch, then dock in Weissenkirchen for the chance to hike, attend a wine tasting, or learn about (and sample) authentic, Wachau-made apricot schnapps.



VISEGRÁD FORTRESS



GARDEN PAVILION AT MELK ABBEY

#### DAY 8 – LINZ

Today is filled with wonderful possibilities! With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, get your heart beating properly during an invigorating hike, visit the Baroque jewel of St. Florian Monastery, or maybe join an outing to “Sound of Music” Salzburg or to the medieval walled village of Český Krumlov in the Czech Republic.

#### DAY 9 – PASSAU

Dock bright and early in Germany’s acclaimed City of Three Rivers. Situated along the Route of Emperors and Kings, 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 SCENIC CRUISING

An up-and-at-’em morning awaits in the quaint village of Grein. This is home to Austria’s oldest theater, where even town prisoners could watch the performances from their cell. Meanwhile, with a RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, you could hike up to Grein’s 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 join a guided tour through its world-famous Baroque abbey, explore Melk by electric bicycle, or visit Artstetten Castle, where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria still reside today. This evening, a special al fresco dinner is cooked and served up on the Vista Deck as your ship passes through the UNESCO World Heritage Wachau Valley – be sure to bring your camera!

#### DAY 11 – VIENNA

Morning arrival back in Vienna to take advantage of another RIVERSIDE CHOICE activity or to maybe do some shopping or spend time in one of the city’s famous coffee houses. This evening, a RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE after-hours entrance into Belvedere Palace features a private musical performance and crowd-free viewing of Klimt’s masterful “The Kiss”.

#### DAYS 12 & 13 – VIENNA

Two final days in the City of Music are perfect for one more palace, one more museum, one more masterful concert, or one more piece of mouthwatering strudel! RIVERSIDE CHOICE has excellent options, so make the time whatever you want it to be!

#### DAY 14 – ESZTERGOM / VISEGRÁD / BUDAPEST

This morning returns you to Esztergom for another exciting RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion. Back on board for lunch as your ship continues to Visegrád, medieval gateway to the Danube. Get to know the town that was first mentioned in 1009 AD, as well as its alluring fortress. Tonight, head up to the Vista Deck for a UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE champagne entrance into the twinkling cityscape of Budapest – like the scene from a movie. Cheers!

#### DAY 15 – BUDAPEST

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