

DARLINGS OF THE DANUBE: VIENNA, BUDAPEST, BRATISLAVA & WACHAU VALLEY

VIENNA TO VIENNA – 11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS



VISEGRÁD, HUNGARY

From the Ringstrasse of Vienna and Castle District of Budapest to the playful personality of Bratislava, this wonderful 11-day cruise introduces you to some of the Danube's most darling destinations! Your journey begins and ends in Vienna, the beloved City of Music. Then, grab your camera as you cruise past the castles, vineyards, and orchards of the Wachau Valley. Stop at Melk Abbey to see its vast collection of ancient manuscripts, and visit charming Dürnstein, where you might enjoy a hike up to its formidable clifftop castle ruin. Return to Vienna for another chance to see the sights before a memorable arrival into Budapest, followed by the wall-lodged cannonballs and peeping-Tom sewer sculptures of Bratislava. Additional visits to inviting villages in Austria and Hungary complete your experience!

ITINERARY

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



DATES IN 2025

22 Jun, 7 Aug, 21 Sep, 12 Oct



RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE EVENT

Further enhance your cruise with unforgettable experiences – like a VIP, after-hours entrance to enchanting Belvedere Palace. You'll feel like an aristocrat as you bask in the ornate Baroque ambiance; are treated to a private orchestral performance; and enjoy a rare opportunity for a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful *The Kiss*.



ARTSTETTEN CASTLE, NEAR MELK

DAY 1 – VIENNA

Welcome to Vienna, Austria's capital and wonderland of all things Habsburg, music, and Baroque! Embark the luxurious Riverside Mozart and relax as you settle in – or, if you arrive early, join us for an enriching Highlights of Vienna tour. Tonight, meet your crew and fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner as your ship departs Vienna.

DAY 2 – MELK / GREIN

Today the fun begins in Melk! A RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions offers a visit to the town's legendary Baroque abbey, home to an important collection of ancient manuscripts and enviable views over the Danube; a guided bike tour; or the chance to see where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria still reside today during a tour of Artstetten Castle. Back on the ship, head up to the Vista Deck for a delicious barbecue lunch as you cruise on to your next port. Disembark in the quaint village of Grein for a guided walking tour that visits the oldest theater in Austria – complete with a “jail seat” where prisoners could watch the performances! Ship remains in port overnight.

DAY 3 – DÜRNSTEIN / VIENNA

Early risers this morning will appreciate the breathtaking scenery of the Wachau Valley as your ship makes its way to the next port. After breakfast, arrive in Dürnstein, where an expert guide will regale you with tales about King Richard the Lionheart's imprisonment here. RIVERSIDE CHOICE options include a brisk hike up to the town's clifftop castle ruin for great views over the Wachau Valley; a visit to an Austrian vinothèque for a tasting of the Wachau's popular wines; and a guided visit along the celebrated Krems Art Mile for time at the State Gallery

of Lower Austria. Rejoin your ship for lunch and scenic cruising back to Vienna. This evening is an incredible RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE experience: VIP, after-hours entrance into stunning Belvedere Palace, a private orchestral performance, and a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful The Kiss.

DAY 4 – VIENNA

A full day devoted to Vienna! A RIVERSIDE CHOICE of excursions offers a panoramic city tour and walk through the historical district, a visit to Schönbrunn Palace, and other exciting possibilities. You could also head out on your own to spend time at one of the many world-class museums, soak up the atmosphere in an authentic Viennese coffee house, or join a day trip to nearby Bratislava, Slovakia's exciting capital!

DAY 5 – ESZTERGOM

A leisurely morning – perfect for a relaxed breakfast 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. 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 ride through Hungary and Slovakia; a fun foodie walk to sample the local specialties; or a visit to nearby Visegrád to see its impressive fortress. Ship remains in port until late.



CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS, ESZTERGOM



FISHERMEN'S BASTION, BUDAPEST



WACHAU VALLEY

DAY 6 – 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! RIVERSIDE CHOICE affords you the chance to see the highlights by comfortable coach; to visit the monumental Hungarian Parliament Building; or to learn about the city's rich Jewish heritage at Dohány Synagogue. Your ship remains in port tonight, so feel free to head back out after dinner to experience Budapest nightlife – or join our wonderful UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE concert at a beautiful local venue.

DAY 7– BUDAPEST

Another full day lets you soak in everything that makes Budapest so special. How about a visit to Gödöllő Castle for an encounter with Hungary's impressive palace architecture?

DAY 8 – BUDAPEST

Enjoy a final day in Budapest to see the sights and make some memories. Additional RIVERSIDE CHOICE experiences are available to fairytale Fishermen's Bastion and the fascinating Castle District for some of the best views over the city and river, or a trip out into the countryside for a tasting of the local Hungarian wines. 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 9 – 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 scen-

ery. 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 Devín 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 10 – 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 11 – VIENNA

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