

FESTIVE DANUBE CAPITALS & YULETIDE TRADITIONS OF THE WACHAU VALLEY

BUDAPEST TO PASSAU – 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS



BRATISLAVA CASTLE

This luxury cruise will put the Ho-Ho-Ho into your holidays! Begin in Budapest with its picturesque Castle District and impressive Parliament lining the river. Then, explore Bratislava, where amusing sculptures rise unexpectedly from the sewers; and Vienna, the historic domain of monarchs and music. Also visit Melk and its regal Benedictine abbey; the tiny market town of Mauthausen; and Linz. Along the way, visit Christmas Markets to sample the warm mulled wine and gingerbread, and to shop for holiday gifts at the festively decorated wooden huts. Even Mother Nature is in the gift-giving spirit as you pass by the riverbank castles and terraced vineyards of the Wachau Valley.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Budapest	Day 6 – Vienna
Day 2 – Budapest	Day 7 – Melk
Day 3 – Bratislava	Day 8 – Mauthausen/ Linz
Day 4 – Vienna	Day 9 – Passau
Day 5 – Vienna	

DATES IN 2026

2 Dec



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, Hungary's capital and one of the world's most beautiful cities. Embark the luxurious Riverside Mozart and relax as you settle in. Tonight, meet fellow shipmates during your first gourmet dinner on board.

DAY 2 – BUDAPEST

Begin with a delicious breakfast, then your day is all about Budapest! With your RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, ride in a warm and comfortable coach to see the highlights; visit the massive Parliament building lining the Danube; or wrap yourself in holiday spirit at one of the many Christmas Markets. The Advent Feast at the Basilica was named Europe's best market in 2023, so join the happy crowd and sample the stalls' traditional Hungarian dishes, mulled wine, and mouthwatering Kürtoskalács (chimney cakes). After lunch, additional excursions are available – see a full list with descriptions on our website. Back on the ship later, head up to the Vista Deck for UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE magic. Bid Viszontlátásra (goodbye) to the Queen of the Danube as you sip champagne and your ship moves slowly out of Budapest!

DAY 3 – BRATISLAVA

Morning arrival in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia and a city that just may surprise you with its unique character. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, head to the warmth and wonder of the Danubiana Art Museum to admire the excellent works of art; attend a tasting of delicious Slovakian wines; or visit a Slovak home to see what everyday life is like here. There's also time to explore the festively decorated Old Town with its traditional Christmas Market. Be sure to try the local specialties, like placky (potato pancakes), topping-drenched lángos (fried bread), grilled sausage, and warm mead.

DAY 4 – VIENNA

Arrive this morning in Austria's unrivaled capital, where anywhere you go, echoes remain of former monarchs and musicians. RIVERSIDE CHOICE can show you the highlights during a panoramic tour along the Ringstrasse, followed by time in the festively decorated historical district and at the Christmas Market near St. Stephen's Cathedral. You could also go royal with a visit to the former Habsburg rulers' primary residence, Hofburg Palace, with its awe-inspiring Treasure, or to their summer getaway at Schönbrunn, which has its very own Christmas Market! This evening is an incredible RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE after-hours

entrance into Belvedere Palace for a private musical performance and a crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".

DAYS 5 & 6 – VIENNA

A second and third day in Vienna are the perfect chances to join additional RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions and maybe duck into a cozy coffee house for a mélange coffee and tantalizing piece of apfelstrudel. Otherwise, why not peruse the masterpieces at one of the many world-class museums?

DAY 7 – MELK

Enjoy a leisurely morning with breakfast and the chance to admire the gorgeous passing scenery of the UNESCO World Heritage Wachau Valley. You'll definitely want to have your camera as the ship cruises by countless castles, fortresses, and monasteries. Arrive in Melk after lunch and embark on a RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion. How about a tour of the resplendent Benedictine Melk Abbey with a gingerbread, wine, or coffee experience? Or, consider an outing to Artstetten Castle, where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand still reside today.

DAY 8 – MAUTHAUSEN / LINZ

Early arrival in the small market town of Mauthausen, where you might enjoy a visit to the Baroque jewel of St. Florian Monastery or a day trip to Austria's picture-perfect Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart, or to lovely lakeside St. Wolfgang in the Salzkammergut region. Regardless of your choice, wonderful highlights and Christmas Markets in scenic settings await! The ship continues to Linz, Austria's third-largest city, for a guided sightseeing walk that includes the Christmas Market in Old Town Linz.

DAY 9 – PASSAU

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