

# A MERRY DANUBE CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

VIENNA TO BUDAPEST – 11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS



WINTERY DANUBE BUDAPEST

If the Advent season is your most wonderful time of the year, this luxury cruise will fit the bill nicely! Begin in Vienna, Austria's beloved capital and Baroque showcase! Other ports include Melk and its impressive abbey; Mauthausen, Linz, and Passau; and Krems, eastern gateway to the photo-worthy Wachau Valley. Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, may surprise you with its big personality, while the beauty of Budapest will leave you speechless. Throughout your cruise, RIVERSIDE CHOICE will introduce you to the best of each port, and you'll have free time to experience the traditions, delicacies, and magical atmosphere of the Christmas Markets.

## ITINERARY

Day 1 – Vienna	Day 7 – Krems
Day 2 – Vienna	Day 8 – Vienna
Day 3 – Melk	Day 9 – Bratislava
Day 4 – Mauthausen/ Linz	Day 10 – Budapest
Day 5 – Passau	Day 11 – Budapest
Day 6 – Linz	



## DATES IN 2026

22 Nov, 6 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 – VIENNA

Welcome to Vienna, Austria's capital and wonderland of all things Habsburgs, music, and Baroque! Embark the luxurious Riverside Mozart, relax as your personal Butler helps you get settled in, and explore your ship's many amenities. Tonight, meet your fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner, then afterward, your ship offers a shuttle so you can experience the dazzling atmosphere of Vienna's best Christmas Markets at night!

## DAY 2 – VIENNA

Plenty of excitement awaits in the City of Music! Your RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions offers a panoramic city tour and walk through the festively decorated historical district with time at one of the Christmas Markets; a visit to the Habsburgs' mighty Schönbrunn Palace or imperial Hofburg Palace and Treasury; and other fantastic options. Go to the Riverside website to see a complete listing of excursions available on your cruise. Return to the ship for dinner, then tonight, join us for an incredible RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE after-hours entrance into stunning Belvedere Palace for a private orchestral performance and crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".

## DAY 3 – MELK

Enjoy a leisurely morning with breakfast, a steaming mug (or two!) of coffee or tea, and the chance to relax and appreciate 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 4 – 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 to lovely lakeside St. Wolfgang in the Salzkammergut region, along with time at the astonishingly scenic Christmas Market. Later, 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 5 – PASSAU

Welcome to Passau, situated along the Route of Emperors and Kings and where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz Rivers meet. The Old Town's narrow, cobblestone streets are home to a striking Town Hall and Baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral, home to one of the largest organs in the world. If you like, join us for an excursion to the atmospheric Christmas Market at Thurn & Taxis Palace, whose owners invented and organized the country's imperial postal system. Browse the many wooden huts selling hand-crafted gift items and traditional Advent specialties, and sit by the crackling fires to warm yourself with a hot mug of Glühwein (mulled wine).



PASSAU WINTER WONDERLAND



HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT, BUDAPEST



LINZ CHRISTKINDLMARKT

#### DAY 6 – LINZ

A return to Linz offers a full-day excursion to magnificent Salzburg, birthplace of Mozart and film site for “The Sound of Music” movie. Begin with a guided walk through the history-steeped Getreidegasse with its Old World wrought-iron guild symbols and bustling shops, followed by the chance to explore one of Europe’s prettiest Christmas Markets. If you prefer, stay in Linz for time to shop and indulge in a big slice of Linzer Torte, the world’s first cake!

#### DAY 7 – KREMS

Arrive today in the quaint city of Krems, situated at the eastern end of the legendary Wachau Valley. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a guided walk through neighboring Stein and tasting at the Bailoni apricot schnapps distillery, or an educational Wachau Wine Experience with cellar tasting. Afterward, make merry at the delightful Krems Christmas Market, where you’ll have time to browse the wooden stalls and indulge in heavenly local Advent specialties!

#### DAY 8 – VIENNA

Return for a final day in Vienna, where you can enjoy another RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursion or visit another of the city’s 17 illustrious Christmas Markets – just let your nose follow the tell-tale aromas of roasting nuts, sizzling sausage, and warm, mulled wine!

#### DAY 9 – BRATISLAVA

A leisurely morning is followed by lunchtime arrival in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava. RIVERSIDE CHOICE offers a tasting of delicious Slovakian wines, or a visit to a Slovak home to interact with the family and learn what everyday life is like here. You could also head to the warmth and wonder of the Danubiana Art Museum to admire the world-class works of art, or explore the festively decorated Old Town with its traditional Christmas Market. Browse the huts selling Christmas decorations and hand-crafted gift items, and be sure to try the local specialties, like warm mead and topping-drenched placky (potato pancakes) and lángos (fried bread).

#### DAY 10 – BUDAPEST

This morning, your ship makes its grand arrival into Budapest, Hungary’s gorgeous capital that is all dressed up with bows, boughs, and lights for the holidays. The entire day is devoted to the city’s many wonders on both sides of the Danube. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, get a peek inside the monumental Hungarian Parliament Building; tour Gödöllo Castle, Austrian Empress Sisi’s, favorite palace; mingle with the locals at the Christmas Market; and other great options. Your ship remains in port tonight for a memorable RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE concert at Wenckheim Palace.

#### DAY 11 – BUDAPEST

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