

# DANUBE CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY & NEW YEAR'S IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA TO VIENNA – 14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS



WINTERY VIENNA

Spending the festive season in other countries is a great way to gain a richer understanding of the celebrations – and this 2-week Danube cruise delivers just that! Embark in Vienna and cruise in pampered luxury through the lovely Wachau Valley, stopping at Christmas Markets to mingle with the locals and soak up the jolly atmosphere. Visit Melk's magnificent Benedictine abbey; Linz, a European Capital of Culture; Budapest, Hungary's gorgeous capital that spans both sides of the Danube; and more. Best of all, spend Christmas in Germany and New Year's Eve and Day in Austria – a thrilling way to start 2027!

### ITINERARY

- Day 1 – Vienna
- Day 2 – Vienna
- Day 3 – Bratislava
- Day 4 – Melk
- Day 5 – Linz/Engel-hartszell/Passau
- Day 6 – Passau
- Day 7 – Linz
- Day 8 – Krems
- Day 9 – Vienna
- Day 10 – Budapest
- Day 11 – Bratislava
- Day 12 – Tulln
- Day 13 – Vienna
- Day 14 – Vienna



DATES IN 2026  
20 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".



SALZBURG

### DAY 1 – VIENNA

Welcome to Vienna, Austria's capital and wonderland of all things Habsburgs, music, and Baroque! Embark the luxurious Riverside Mozart and relax as you settle in. Tonight, meet your fellow traveling companions during your first onboard dinner. Then, this evening, head into the city to experience the dazzling atmosphere of Vienna's best Christmas Markets at night.

### DAY 2 – VIENNA

Get ready for plenty of excitement today! Your RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions offers a panoramic city tour and walk through the festively decorated historical district with time at one of Vienna's famous Christmas Markets; a visit to the Habsburgs' mighty Schönbrunn Palace; and other options. See our website for a full list of activities available during your cruise. Tonight is an incredible RIVERSIDE SIGNATURE after-hours entrance into Belvedere Palace, featuring a private orchestral performance and crowd-free viewing of Klimt's masterful "The Kiss".

### DAY 3 – BRATISLAVA

Start the day with a hearty breakfast – cooked to order! We'll also keep the piping-hot coffee or tea flowing, so refill your cup, settle in, and relax. Around lunchtime, arrive in Bratislava, the warm and welcoming capital of Slovakia. With a RIVERSIDE CHOICE selection of excursions, wander among the masterpieces at the Danubiana Art Museum, built to resemble a Roman galley in the river; explore the pedestrian-only Old Town and its enticing Christmas Market; or discover what everyday life is like here during a visit to a traditional Slovakian home.

### DAY 4 – MELK

Cruise to Melk today for a guided tour of its resplendent Benedictine abbey and time at the traditional Christmas Market, or you might enjoy an outing to Artstetten Castle, where descendants of Archduke Franz Ferdinand still reside.

### DAY 5 – LINZ / ENGELHARTSZELL / PASSAU

An exciting Christmas Eve Day awaits with 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. Then, free time at one of Europe's prettiest Christmas Markets! Afterward, rejoin the ship in Engelhartszell and cruise on to Passau, where if you like you can attend Heiligabend (Christmas Eve) Mass at the 17th-century Italian Baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral, home to the world's largest cathedral organ. Tonight's onboard dinner features delectable German-style Christmas dishes!

### DAY 6 – PASSAU

Fröhliche Weihnachten (Merry Christmas)! Your time in the beautiful City of Three Rivers will be a Christmas Day to remember. Begin with a leisurely guided walk through Passau's Old Town with food tastings. Then, this afternoon, stroll out of town to a traditional German farm, where a blazing bonfire awaits. Pull up a log and warm yourself, surrounded by the inviting sounds and aromas of the flames. There'll be plenty of mulled wine and local food to enjoy, tales about Germany's most famous and unusual holiday traditions, and a visit from a special VIP to wish you the merriest Christmas ever. Return to your ship in time for dinner, featuring a menu of delicious Anglo-Saxon Christmas recipes!



HOFBURG PALACE FIAKERS, VIENNA

### DAY 7 – LINZ

A leisurely day of scenic cruising is followed by time in Linz, Austria's third-largest city. Join a local expert for a guided evening walk to experience this charming port in its most atmospheric light!

### DAY 8 – KREMS

Ease into your day with breakfast and the beauty of the Danube riverscapes on the way to Krems at the eastern end of the legendary Wachau Valley. The RIVERSIDE CHOICE menu of excursions offers an introduction to neighboring Stein, followed by a tasting at the Bailoni apricot schnapps distillery; or an amazing Wachau Wine Experience with wine tasting!

### DAY 9 – VIENNA

A return to Vienna helps you really get to know this legendary city – and a full retinue of RIVERSIDE CHOICE excursions leads the way! Alternatively, head out on your own for a coffee mélangé and piece of decadent apfelstrudel in a cozy Viennese coffee house, immerse yourself in the stunning works at one of the many famous museums, or maybe do some shopping.

### DAY 10 – BUDAPEST

Relax this morning as your ship crosses into Hungary. With your free time on board, you could opt for a pampering massage or spa treatment;

time in the hot tub, sauna, or steam room; or burn some energy in the Fitness Center. Before lunch, a special treat as your ship makes its grand entrance into Budapest, one of the world's most beautiful cities. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, a full menu of great excursions is lined up and ready to go, like a ride in a warm and comfortable coach to see the highlights; an inside tour through the monumental Hungarian Parliament Building; and more.

### DAY 11 – BRATISLAVA

Wake up the way you like this morning, because there's no rush – a perfect day for a nice breakfast and as many refills as you want on your coffee or tea. After lunch, arrive in Bratislava, historically known as Pressburg, the warm and quirky capital of Slovakia. With RIVERSIDE CHOICE, head to the warmth and wonder of the Danubiana Art Museum to admire the world-class works of art; attend a tasting of delicious Slovakian wines; or visit a Slovak home to see what everyday life is like here. Be sure to watch for the sculpture of Čumil the Sewer Worker, the city's unofficial mascot, and the cannonballs lodged around the Old Town – "gifts" from Napoleon's army in 1809. Before you depart, be sure to pop into a charming sidewalk pub to try a refreshing Zlatý Bažant beer.

### DAY 12 – TULLN

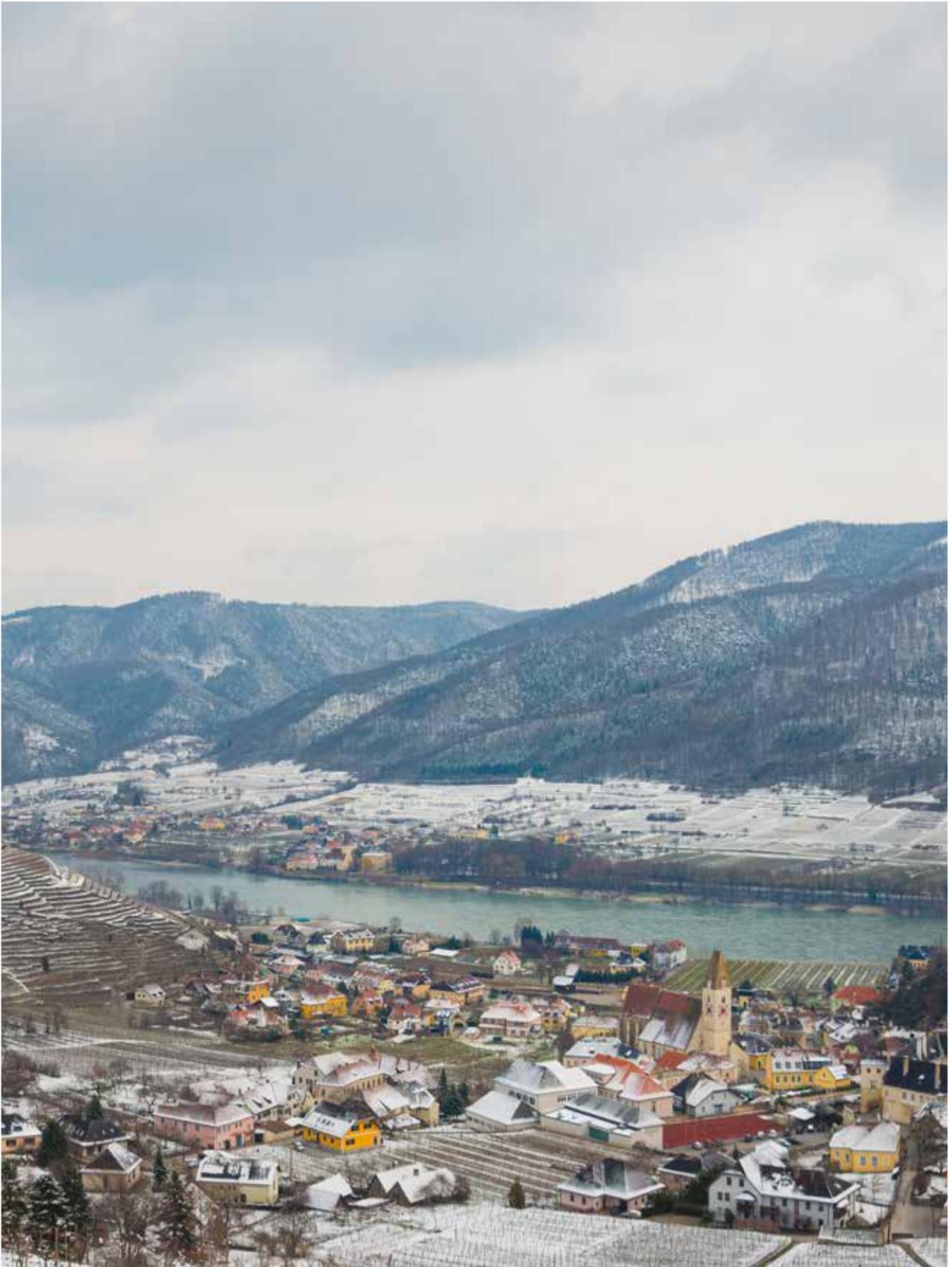
After a peaceful morning, arrive after lunch in the 2,000-year-old "Garden City" of Tulln, marked over the centuries by Turkish invasions, floods, and the Thirty Years War! Tonight, join the UNIQUELY RIVERSIDE fun during a Danube-style send-off to the year. With music, food, champagne, and more, you can dance the night away as the midnight countdown approaches. Plus, Riverside has partnered with the city to ensure you can even enjoy fireworks from the Vista Deck.

### DAY 13 – VIENNA

Morning departure from Tulln gives you time to sleep a little later or ring in the new year bright and early with breakfast, coffee, and beautiful scenery as far as the eye can see – made even more impressive by a musical performance setting the mood. Return to Vienna after lunch for free time to explore the City of Music on your own!

### DAY 14 – VIENNA

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



WACHAU VALLEY