



Romantic Danube River Cruise

plus a two night pre-cruise package in Prague

Czech Republic ♦ Germany ♦ Austria ♦ Hungary

During this wonderful journey, discover the grand cities and quaint villages along the Danube River. Begin with two nights in beautiful Prague before we board our **Viking River Cruises'** ship for a **7-night river cruise**. In Germany, explore a baroque cathedral and stroll cobbled streets lined with half-timbered houses. Experience Vienna's imperial architecture and gracious culture, and tour riverside towns in Austria's Wachau Valley. Explore both sides of Hungary's capital—traditional "Buda" and more cosmopolitan "Pest"—and see how the river divides this fascinating city. Savor the tastes of authentic dishes, learn about local legends, and see why Strauss immortalized this romantic river in his famous "Blue Danube" waltz.

Day 1 Depart from the U.S.

Today we will board our plane and wing our way across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Prague (L)

Arrive in **Prague** in the heart of the Czech Republic. We will be greeted at the airport by an English-speaking guide who will give us a brief **orientation tour** on our way to the 4-star **Hotel Majestic Plaza** where we will check in for two nights. This luxury hotel is perfectly located just a few steps from Wenceslas Square and a short walk from the Old Town area. Following lunch featuring Czech cuisine at the **Pizenska Restaurant**, we will join our local guide for a **walking tour of Prague** – the "City of a Hundred Spires." You will be enchanted by Prague's varied architecture, from Romanesque to Gothic and baroque to Art Nouveau. We will visit **Old Town Square** and the famous **Charles Bridge**. Our tour ends at the hotel where the evening is free for you to relax or explore on your own.

Day 3 Prague (B, L)

After breakfast we will depart with our local guide on a **Prague Castle tour**. We will begin with a visit to the **Strahov Monastery**, famous for its library. Then we'll proceed to **Loreto**, a Baroque gathering place of pilgrimage from the 17th century where we will see beautiful noble palaces including **Sternberg Palace** and **Schwarzenberg Palace**. Then it's on to **Prague Castle** dominated by the impressive **St. Vitus Cathedral**, Prague's largest church. Our tour of the castle will continue with a walk down the **Golden Lane**, once home to medieval craftsmen, and through the castle's beautiful gardens. Lunch will be included at the **Vikarka Restaurant** located in a building that dates back to 1594! Following our tour, the rest of the afternoon and evening are free to spend as individually desired.

Day 4 Prague (B)

Enjoy a full free day in Prague.

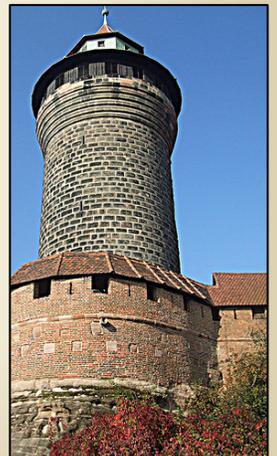
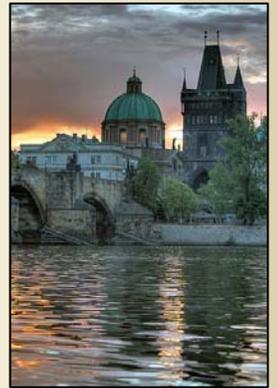
Day 5 Prague & Nuremberg (B, L, D)

Following breakfast, you have the morning to further explore beautiful **Prague** before being transferred to the pier to embark our **Viking River Cruises'** ship in **Nuremberg, Germany**. A light lunch will be served on board as we wait for our rooms to be ready. The ship remains docked overnight.

Day 6 Nuremberg & Main Danube Canal (B, L, D)

After breakfast, disembark for a **tour of Nuremberg**, a lovely medieval city surrounded by 13th century walls. Today Nuremberg evokes the notorious post-World War II war trials. But throughout its history, the city was known for its handicrafts, particularly toys and fancy metalwork. You will see where the trials were held and the grounds where Nazi rallies were staged, as well as the imposing Imperial Castle. Admire the city's half-timbered houses and stroll through the Market Square.

We return to our ship for lunch and set off to navigate the **Main-Danube Canal**. This engineering marvel stretches 106 miles from Bamberg on the Main River to Kelheim on the Danube. Begun as Charlemagne's dream in 793, it was completed in 1992 with 16 locks that raise the water to 1,332 feet. Today it enables river travel from the North Sea to the Black Sea. Gather this evening to get acquainted with your Program Director and traveling companions at a **Welcome Reception** after dinner aboard. Cruise through the night.



Day 7 Regensburg (B, L, D)

This morning enjoy scenic cruising along the Danube River — or take the optional Danube Gorge excursion featuring dramatic scenery, spectacular 400-foot chalk cliffs and visit Weltenburg Abbey, renowned for the ale brewed here by monks since 1050. Then rejoin the ship in Kelheim for lunch.

After lunch, we will meet our guide dockside for a **walking tour** through the scenic town of **Regensburg**, considered one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. See one of the largest groupings of 13th and 14th century church spires, towers and patrician houses north of the Alps. We'll also encounter the 12th century **Old Stone Bridge**, **St. Peter's Cathedral** and a number of idyllic courtyards. Take a stroll along the streets or shop before returning to the ship for dinner.

Day 8 Passau (B, L, D)

We arrive in **Passau** this morning where we'll enjoy a **tour** of this elegant town. Passau is situated at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz and Inn Rivers. See the impressive **Bishop's Residence**, 14th century **Town Hall** and the town's magnificent 17th century **St. Stephan's Cathedral**, containing Europe's largest pipe organ. After the tour, you will be treated to an **organ concert**. Return to the ship for lunch, and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure before the ship sails again in the early evening.

Day 9 Melk & Vienna (B, L, D)

Dock in **Melk** after breakfast and disembark for an excursion to the dramatic 900-year-old baroque **Melk Abbey**, perched on sheer cliffs high above the Danube. Its cherub-filled library is home to a wide range of medieval manuscripts. The interior of the abbey's church is a kaleidoscope of red, orange and gold, with a magnificent carved pulpit and shimmering ceiling frescoes.

Return to the ship for lunch and continue sailing through the **Wachau Valley**, the heart of Austria's wine country. This area is filled with cultural and historic importance, and is of such unsurpassed beauty, that it has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dock in Vienna in the early evening.

After dinner, attend an optional concert in one of the city's palaces that features compositions by Mozart and Strauss performed by a Viennese orchestra. The ship remains docked overnight.

Day 10 Vienna (B, L, D)

This morning we set off on a **half-day tour of Vienna**, one of Europe's most elegant cities. Our tour features the remarkable **Ringstrasse**, lined with imposing palaces and grand residences, encircling the medieval Inner City. See the magnificent **Hofburg Palace**, glorious **St. Stephan's Cathedral** with its gleaming spire and the beautiful **State Opera House**. We then travel to **Belvedere Palace**. After walking through its beautiful gardens, we will tour inside to see its wonderful collection of art.

Following lunch enjoy an afternoon of exploring on your own. You may choose to take an optional tour to Maria Theresa's Schönbrunn Palace, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the palace's opulent rooms and collection of period furniture, and admire the beautiful formal gardens.

Gather this evening to reminisce and say farewell to your new-found friends at the Captain's Farewell Dinner. The ship departs around dinnertime and sails through the night.

Day 11 Budapest (B, L, D)

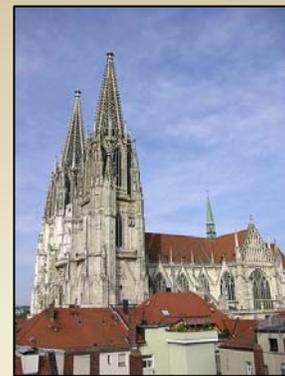
Disembark after breakfast for a **tour of Budapest**, Hungary's lovely capital. The Danube cuts through the heart of the city, separating the Buda Hills and the Old City from the elegant boulevards of modern Pest. Start in "Pest" with a ride along the **Andrássy Út** where we'll see the **National Opera House** and **Heroes' Square**. See **Parliament** and other highlights before crossing the river to the more traditional "Buda" side of the city. Our tour here highlights the massive hilltop castle complex with its turreted **Fishermen's Bastion** and **Matthias Church**.

After lunch the afternoon is at leisure to explore on your own. Stroll along **Váci Utca** where you will find excellent Herend porcelain, Hungary's renowned peasant embroidery and other local souvenirs. Perhaps take an optional tour to discover the heritage of the legendary Hungarian "cowboys" or take a free excursion to the Caprice Diamond Factory and Museum followed by a visit to Szentendre's town center known for its museums, art galleries and colorful coffee shops.

Dinner aboard this evening features the varied cuisine of Hungary. After dinner, you may want to disembark for a romantic evening stroll – the perfect end to a wonderful trip.

Day 12 Return to the U.S. (B)

After breakfast we will disembark and transfer to the airport for our return flight home.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Cruises and Tours Worldwide at
(314) 961-1020 or (800) 435-2710.**