

Cycling Safaris

Passau to Vienna 2010



The Danube Cycle Way from Passau to Vienna covers approximately 350 km and is one of the most popular cycle routes on the Continent. For the most part, it passes along the banks of the Danube through a fantastic landscape of woodland, meadows and fields, and encompasses magnificent castles, baroque monasteries and picture-perfect historic towns.

This picturesque route is ideal for beginners but will also delight the more experienced cyclist. The terrain is flat and the quality of the trail between Passau and Vienna is excellent. This is because the majority of the trail is now on dedicated, smooth, paved, traffic-free cycleways, with just a few short stretches on cycle lanes alongside roads. What better way to explore this beautiful part of the world!

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive Passau - "City of Three Rivers"

Upon your arrival in Passau, a delightful German baroque town, situated at the confluence of three rivers, the Danube, Inn and Ilz you can enjoy a "three-river-cruise" boat ride (included in your tour price). The cruise departs every half hour and lasts approx. 45 minutes. The town itself has quite a medieval feel and is definitely worth exploring. The Dome of St. Stephan's Cathedral houses the world's largest church organ.

DAY 2 Passau to Schlogen/surroundings **approx 60 km**

Your tour details and maps will be awaiting you in your first hotel. An information meeting and distribution of bikes will take place between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m in a service centre in central Passau. Leaving Passau, and Germany, you ride through forested hills through the small town of

Engelhartszell, with its Trappist monastery. The famous 180-degree meander 'Schlogener Schlinge' (Great Loop) offers a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside on your way to tonight's destination - Schlogen.

DAY 3 Schlogen/surroundings - Linz approx 55 km

Today's destination is Linz, the capital of Upper Austria. You will see a huge variety of wildlife along the river as you pass Kolbing. Other sights today include Aschach with its old stucco-adorned houses and seventeenth-century ruined castle, and the impressive monastery in Wilhering. The old city centre of Linz had recently been renovated and is well worth exploring upon your arrival. We suggest taking a ride on a canary-yellow Linz City Express...

DAY 4 Linz - Perg/Grein approx 50 km

Today you might consider a detour to St. Florian (baroque style Augustine monastery) and into the oldest city of Austria - Enns. The main-square features a very impressive 16th Century 60 m high tower. Also worth a visit on the main-square is the Lauriacum Museum - awarded the "Austrian Museum Prize" - this features an interesting prehistoric collection focusing on Roman History, the history of town and sacred art items. The cycle continues along the river bringing you to lovely baroque style city of Regensburg featuring the Danube Skipper Museum and the oldest theatre of Austria, still performing plays...

DAY 5 Perg/Grein - Marbach/surroundings approx 50 km

Leaving Grein, tree-clad mountains rise on both sides of the river and tiny villages nestle by the water's edge. The river here has a reputation beyond Grein for dangerous current, its narrowness, whirlpools and even pirates! At one time the rocky riverbed caused so many accidents that this stretch of the river was known as 'the place where death resides'. The reefs have since been blasted away and river traffic can negotiate the bend in safety. As you approach Melk the great Benedictine Abbey dominates the skyline, towering above the town. This monastery is one of Europe's most splendid Baroque structures with its mass of treasures, and is well worth a visit.

DAY 6 Marbach/surroundings - Krems Wachau approx 66 km

You are now entering the famous Wachau region with its breathtaking scenery. Vineyards appear in abundance, along with peach, plum and apricot orchards. The trail wanders through the traditional wine-producing villages of Willendorf, Spitz, St Michael and Durnstein. A stop off here to sample some wine is a must! Pedaling through the bustling thousand-year-old university town of Krems you arrive at Gottweig Abbey. The abbey gives a fascinating insight into the affluent lifestyles of the monks in bygone days. The view of the Danube flowing through the Wachau is one of the scenic highlights of the tour.

DAY 7 Krems - Vienna approx 80 km

Your final stage is along a dead-flat stretch of the Danube. It passes the dam and power station at Greifenstein towards the busy town of Klosterneuburg. Approaching Vienna, you will notice that the railway stations are becoming more frequent and the riverside cycleway is lined with restaurants and bars where the Danube cruise ships tie up. You arrive in Austria's capital through a pleasant waterside park.

Vienna is steeped in history and has a lot to offer the visitor. From palaces that once belonged to the Hapsburg dynasty, to galleries, museums and cathedrals, you're sure not to get bored. If you have time, head towards the old city for Vienna's highest concentration of historic monuments. If you'd prefer to relax, then the city's famous wine taverns are a good option! Cycle tracks are everywhere

and the cycle is an excellent mode of transport in Vienna, especially for visiting some of the outlying sights.

Day 8 Tour End

Guests are free to depart this morning after breakfast.

TOUR DATES

May 15
June 26
July 17
August 14
Sept 4

TOUR PRICE

€905.00 per person sharing
€1085.00 for single occupancy

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Welcome and tour information, handing over of rental bicycles and accompanied by a trained tour guide
- 7 nights accommodation with buffet breakfast
- 6 Dinners
- Daily luggage transfer
- 21 speed touring bike
- 1 ferry (Au-Schlogen) incl. Bicycle
- Three-river-cruise in Passau
- Ride with Linz City Express
- 1 wine tasting (3 wines) in Wachau
- Detailed documentation per room: bum bag with tour book and very detailed tour description, boat time tables, city maps.
- Entrance various other attractions
- Service-hotline

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation on this tour is in 4**** hotels.

We can arrange extra night/s accommodation before or after the tour in either Passau or Vienna in our hotels (pending availability). The cost for this is:

Extra night in Passau:

Double/Twin room €56.00 per person sharing

Single room €78.00

Extra night in Vienna

Twin room €72.00 per person sharing

Single room €110.00

WHAT TO BRING

We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover which will make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment, as are hard-sole shoes which will help protect your feet. Please bring your own helmet as these are not provided. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat and sunglasses will protect you from getting all much sun and, in the evening, mosquito repellent should ensure a good night's sleep. Finally, please make an effort to pack lightly. This will make your travels easier and will be much appreciated with the luggage transfers.

BIKE AND FITNESS

Bike hire is included in the tour package



21 speed bike
Pannier bag
Repair kit
a map support

Helmets are **not** included.

The advantage of a cycling safari is that you can enjoy each day's cycle at your own pace. To get the most out of your holiday we would recommend that you do take a few practice rides before this tour.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following websites will help you with train connections between Vienna and Passau.

www.bahn.de or www.oebb.at

For route planner:

<http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query.exe/en?newrequest=yes&protocol=http:&>