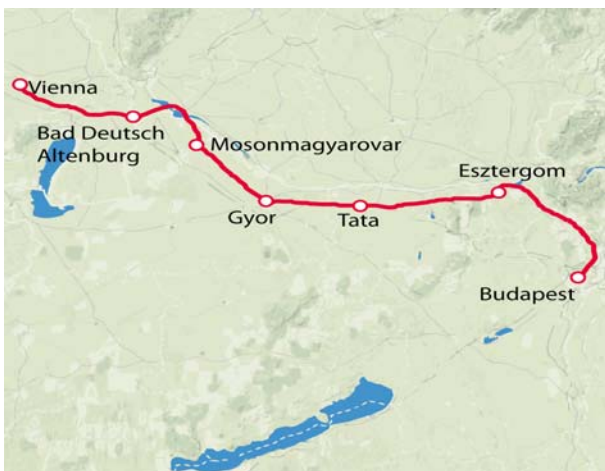


# Cycling Safaris

## VIENNA - BUDAPEST HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY 2009

This wonderfully diverse tour between two of Europe's most enchanting capitals takes in the majestic Danube and the Hungarian lowlands. Following cycle paths in Austria and small country roads in Hungary, the route offers superb vistas of the pristine rolling forested hills, quiet marshland and lush green meadows that are so typical of this part of Central Europe. You will have time to explore Gyor with its stunning baroque city centre, Tata, a picturesque town situated on the banks of two lakes, and Esztergom, Hungary's capital for 250 years.



We leave Vienna by cycling along the Danube for the first couple of days. In Hungary we take to cycle paths and country roads. It is busier coming in and out of the cities, so do take care.

The terrain is typically level although we do encounter a few hills on day six.

### TOUR ITINERARY

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#### **Day 1**            **Vienna**

6.00 pm meeting in the hotel with your tour guide for instructions and information.

#### **Day 2**            **Vienna - Petronell/ Bad Deutsch-Altenburg**            **46 km / 29 miles**

The Danube-Cycle-Path takes us on quiet trails through the Donauauen National Park, passing the castles of Orth and Eckartsau (the baroque hunting castle of Prince Eugene), heading to Petronell-Caruntum, the site of significant Roman excavations.

#### **Day 3**            **Petronell/ Bad Deutsch-Altenburg - Mosonmagyaróvár**    **61 km / 38 miles**

We follow the Danube-Cycle-Path to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. The quaint old city centre with numerous sights, a lovely pedestrian zone and countless restaurants and coffee shops will tempt you to linger here. After we have visited Bratislava, we return to Hungary, biking through small typical villages using the dam cycle path and country roads.

#### **Day 4**            **Mosonmagyaróvár - Gyor**            **45 km / 28 miles**

Today we cycle through the former marsh region of the "Little Alfold". Taking side roads we pass through delightful villages and arrive at the provincial capital of Gyor, one of the most important cities of the Hungarian lowlands with a glamorous, historical city centre. Dinner is not included in tonight's package, but there are plenty of lovely restaurants in Gyor for us to choose from.

**Day 5 Gyor - Tata****61 kms / 38 miles**

We pedal through a landscape of rolling hills and reach Pannonhalma (Benedictine monastery - entrance fee not included), via Babonla (a town famous for its Arabian horses) and continue to Tata, a picturesque town situated on two lakes.

**Day 6 Tata - Esztergom****55 km / 34 miles**

Leaving Tata we travel over the densely wooded hills of the "Gerecse" range. Some uphill stretches are rewarded with wonderful descents. We reach the divided city of Komarom (a boarder-town between Hungary and Slovakia). Along the Slovakian Danube we cycle through small farm-villages in a flat region to Esztergom, where a visit to the impressive cathedral is highly recommended.

**Day 7 Esztergom - Budapest****58 km / 36 miles**

Steep mountain-slopes frame the picturesque landscape of the Danube Bend to Szentendre Island which we cross onto by ferry. From Szentendre we take a ferry to Budapest - a perfect way to arrive in this fascinating city.

**Day 8 Budapest - Vienna**

In the morning there is an opportunity to take a sightseeing bus tour of this spectacular city. You will return to Vienna by bus at 5.00pm and arrive in Vienna at approx. 8.00pm. on the Saturday evening.

**GROUP TOUR DATES**

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28 June

6 Sept

**GROUP TOUR PRICE**

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€1075.00 per person sharing

€1195.00 for single occupancy

**WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE**

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- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast
- 6 Dinners
- Guide in a support van
- 21 speed touring bike with pannier bag
- Route details and maps
- Guided tour of Cathedral in Esztergom
- City bus tour of Budapest (English speaking guide)
- Ferry from Szentendre to Budapest
- Ferry from Haslau to Wolfsthal
- Public bus from Budapest back to Vienna

## MEETING POINT - Hotel Donauzentrum

### Austria Trend Hotel Donauzentrum

Wagramer Straße 83 - 85  
A-1220 Vienna  
Tel: 0043/1/203 55 45 0  
Fax:0043/1/202 55 45 183

### Austria Trend Hotel Messe

Messestraße 2  
1020 Vienna  
Tel: 0043/1/727 27 0

You are staying in this hotel on your first night so you can check in on arrival.

### Coming to Vienna by Plane:

Flights to Vienna International Airport are offered by all major airlines. (If travelling from Dublin, you can arrange with Aer Lingus to fly into Vienna and back from Budapest in the one booking, by choosing "multi-city" when booking online).

For airport transfer from Vienna International Airport to the Hotel Donauzentrum or Hotel Messe, you can make your own reservations for an airport – pick up at the following web pages

[www.airportservice.at](http://www.airportservice.at)  
[www.ck-airportservice.at](http://www.ck-airportservice.at)

Price approx €25.00 (up to four persons). Please make your reservations at least 10 days before your arrival

### Coming to Vienna by train:

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

In case you arrive at *Westbahnhof* and intend to go to Hotel Donauzentrum take the underground "U 3" (SIMMERING) until *Stephansplatz* where you change to underground "U 1" (direction ZENTRUM KAGRAN) until you come to station Zentrum Kagran.

Exit the underground by "A-Scharf-Platz). Enter the shopping centre and go straight through until you come to the end (Wagramerstrasse). The hotel entrance is on the left hand side in the same building



## WELCOME MEETING

You should identify yourself as part of the Rad & Reisen / Irish Cycling Safaris Tour Group.

The tour guide will welcome you in the hotel lobby at **6.00 pm** on the first night of the tour. After an introductory chat, you have dinner in the restaurant.

In the event you miss the welcome meeting because of flight or train delay, just check into the hotel, your guide will meet you in the morning. If you are not too late you can also just ask if the guide is still in the Hotel.

## LUGGAGE TRANSFERS

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- Please try to keep to one bag per person
- Please use strong bags, if possible
- Do not put any valuables (money, important documents) in your luggage.

## BIKES, GROUP, GUIDE AND BACK-UP SERVICE

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All bicycles are equipped with a repair kit to enable you to cope with simple technical problems by yourself. The bicycles also come with rear rack and panniers for the rear rack. Helmets are **not** provided so please bring your own.

The tour will typically be made up of between 8 – 16 people. A local guide will accompany you by van, carrying your luggage and looking after you. Although you will not have a guide cycling with you, you will be given route details and a map of the tour and the guide will meet you during the day to ensure all is well.

## WHAT TO BRING

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Your enjoyment of the tour will also depend on whether you choose the right clothes to take along. 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. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat will protect you from getting too much sun.

## INCIDENTIAL EXPENSES

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Austria has joined the rest of Europe in the Euro, while Hungary entered the EU in May 2004 it continues to use the Forint for the time being.

Travel costs for a trip to Hungary have almost reached Western European levels. A three-course menu with drinks is at approx. Forint 1000,-- to 1400,-- at a restaurant. Money exchange is possible at the border.

If you are confused about the currencies and need any further clarification, we would recommend that you visit the following website which will give you an up-to-date conversion from one currency to another - [www.exchangerate.com](http://www.exchangerate.com).

## ENTRY FORMALITIES

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Citizens of the states of the European Union need a valid passport to enter Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.

*We kindly ask citizens of other countries to refer to their local Consulates or Embassy.*

## ACCOMMODATION

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Accommodation is in choice 3\* - 4\* hotels

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

Extra night in Vienna:

Double/Twin room €62.00 per person sharing

Single room €92.00

Extra night in Budapest

Double/Twin room €59.00\* per person sharing

Single room €96.00\*

Excluding Formula Grand Prix Budapest 2009 (26 June - 3 September - exact date to be confirmed yet.)

## RETURN TRIP TO VIENNA

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### **By coach (included in the tour price): 3 hrs - 3.5 hrs transfer time**

There is the option to take an earlier bus back to Vienna. Departure Budapest at 12.00.

Please advise if you would like us to book you onto this bus instead.

In the event that you do not require the bus-ticket and wish to avail of a refund (€10.00 p/p) we need to be informed 2 weeks before your tour start. For later cancellations we cannot give any reductions.

### **By hydrofoil:**

You can also return to Vienna by hydrofoil -

Departure Budapest 09.00 - arrival in Vienna approx. 3.20 p.m.

Supplement per person: €89.00. Transfer of own bike on board: €25.00.

Booking for hydrofoil has to be before arrival in Vienna (only limited number of passengers possible).

Check-in: one hour before departure (luggage up to 20kg per person)

*The transfer prices are approximate so always check with our office*