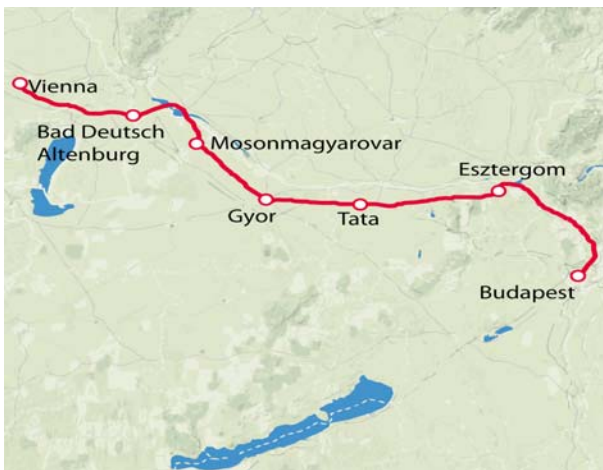


Cycling Safaris

VIENNA TO BUDAPEST HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY Self-Guided Tour 2009

This wonderfully diverse tour between two of Europe's most enchanting capitals takes in the majestic Danube, Slovakia's capital, Bratislava 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.



You leave Vienna by cycling along the Danube for the first couple of days. You take in a brief visit to Bratislava. In Hungary you 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 you do encounter a few hills on day six.

Please note: This self-led tour has to start in Vienna on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday night (unfortunately there is no flexibility on this).

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Vienna

Independent arrival in the Hotel Donzentrum in Vienna. The magic of this lively city will delight you.

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

At 8.30 a.m. you will be met by our local representative and allocated your bikes. The tour starts on the Danube cycle-path along quiet trails through the Donauauen National Park, passing the castles of "Orth" and "Eckartsau" (the baroque hunting castle of Prince Eugene), until you reach the former Roman city of Petronell Caruntum (the site of significant Roman excavations), or the health resort Bad Deutsch Altenburg.

Day 3 Bad Deutsch-Altenburg/ surrounds - Mosonmagyaróvár/Halaszi 61km / 38 miles

Still following the Danube cycle-path into Hungary, you have the option of taking in a brief visit to Bratislava and its old quarter. Though small, it is very attractive, with winding narrow cobblestoned streets and freshly painted Baroque buildings in bright colours. Artists and street performers are encouraged to work here and there are some interesting and unusual sculptures. Leaving Slovakia you return to Hungary, biking through small typical villages using the dam cycle path and country roads.

Day 4 Mosonmagyaróvár - Győr 45km / 28 miles

Today you will cycle through the former marsh region of the "Little Alföld", passing through delightful villages to arrive at the provincial capital of Győr, one of the most important cities of the Hungarian lowlands with a glamorous, historical city centre with Baroque architecture.

Day 5 Győr - Tata 61 km/ 38 miles

You 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/Sturovo 55km / 34 miles

Leaving Tata you travel over the densely wooded hills of the "Gerecse" mountains, through lush forests. Some uphill stretches are rewarded with wonderful descents. If you prefer to take it easy you can take the train (approx. 20 km/12 miles). You reach the divided city of Komárom (a border-town between Hungary and Slovakia). Along the Slovakian Danube you bike through small farm-villages in a flat region to Esztergom. There you can admire the impressive cathedral of Esztergom.

Day 7 Esztergom/Sturovo - Budapest approx. 58 km/ 36 miles

Steep mountain-slopes frame the picturesque landscape of the Danube Bend to Szentendre Island which you cross onto by ferry. From Szentendre you will take the ferry to Budapest (ferry ticket must be paid for locally) - this is the perfect way to arrive in this fascinating city.

Day 8 Budapest - Vienna

In the morning there is an opportunity to take a sightseeing tour of this spectacular city (not included in the tour price). You will return to Vienna by coach at 5.00pm and arrive in Vienna at approx. 8.00pm. on the Saturday evening.

Note: If you bring your own bike, transfer back to Vienna with bike is only possible on Saturdays. €20.00 per bike. Pre-booking necessary!!!

TOUR DATES 2009

17 Apr - 3 Oct

Fri, Sat, Sun departures ONLY

TOUR PRICE 2009

€620.00 per person sharing

€756.00 for single occupancy

There is a reduction of €10.00 per person if you start a self-guided tour between 27 April - and 25 June or between 4 September and 1 October.

Reduction of €40.00 per person when you book the tour between 17 - 26 April and on 2 or 3 October.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- ❑ 7 nights bed & breakfast accommodation with private facilities
- ❑ 21 speed trekking bike with a pannier bag
- ❑ Daily luggage transfer up to your hotel in Budapest
- ❑ Detailed maps, route description and tour information per room
- ❑ 1 safety vest per person (mandatory in Hungary with bad view)
- ❑ Return transfer by scheduled bus from Budapest to Vienna
- ❑ Service hotline

The tour does not include

- The ferry from Szentendre back into Budapest is not included and the cost is approx. €5.00 per person

Optional extra

- If you wish to avail of 6 dinners (in Vienna, breakfast only) the half board surcharge is €109.00 p/p (*you need to specify this when booking tour - otherwise a €25.00 administration fee will apply*).

MEETING POINT

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

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 Donanzentrum you can make your own reservations for an airport – pick up at the following web pages

www.airportservice.at

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 "U3" (SIMMERING) until *Stephansplatz* where you change to underground "U 1" (direction ZENTRUM KAGRAN) until you come to station *Zentrum Kagra*.

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

The welcome meeting takes place on the first bike day at 08.30am, a representative will be at your hotel to welcome you and to hand over detailed information and maps, the hotel vouchers and your bicycles. He will also answer any questions you might have as to the route, cycling techniques and places of interest.

Please look at the **information-board** located at the elevators in which meeting room the welcome meeting takes place and meet our representative there.

Your information material will be waiting for you at the Front office, which you can collect when you check in and your bicycles will be stored in the hotel garage with your name.

LUGGAGE TRANSFERS

- 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.

BICYCLES

You will receive a 21 speed trekking bike. All bicycles are equipped with a repair kit to enable you to cope with simple technical problems by yourself. The bicycles also come with panniers for day-to-day items. Helmets are **not** provided so please bring your own.

ACCOMMODATION

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.)

CLOTHING

Your enjoyment of the tour will also depend on whether you choose the right clothes to take along. We recommend the use of bicycle gloves to protect your hands from abrasion and calluses. A pair of leather reinforced cycling pants will help you to sit more comfortably and hard-sole shoes 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.

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES

Austria has joined the rest of Europe in the Euro, Slovakia will have Euro from 1 January 2009. 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

RETURN TRIP TO VIENNA

By coach (included in the tour price):

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. Supplement per bike: €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)