

Cycling Safaris

Vienna – Bratislava - Budapest 2016

Self Guided Tour

260 - 285 km | 7 night / 8 days

On this classic cycling tour you will experience the combination of nature along the scenic riverbanks of the Danube as well as the unique opportunity to visit the most important metropolis cities that lay alongside the Danube. Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest have an overwhelming history with genuine notions of the yesteryear.



Nostalgia is combined with a deeply intriguing history along the ever-changing riverbanks of the Danube and all are included in the places that you will come across. Just to scratch the surface of this in-depth tour; it takes you to The Castle of Eckartsau, which happens to be the place where Austrian Emperor Karl the 1st and his wife Zita met their fate. And in Bratislava, where the coronation of Hungarian Kings took place and the famous empress Maria Theresia acquired much of her fame, prestige and honour. In Esztergom, the first Hungarian king, King Stephan was born and accepted his coronation. Empress Sissi of Austria was crowned Queen of Hungary in Budapest. All of this plus much more will certainly make for a trip of a lifetime.

Highlights:

3 country capitals: Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, the Danube Floodplain National Park, Archaeological Park Carnuntum, "Little Alföld" Protected Area, Arabian National Stud in Babolna, the Basilica in Esztergom, the Danube Bend and the open air museum Skanzen



Tour profile

Level 1-2; the tour is mostly flat with rolling hills that are sometimes slightly steep. The Austrian section follows well-maintained and equipped cycling paths, in Hungary, you will often cycle on country back and side roads. Upon entering and leaving cities there is, but of course traffic that must be observed!

Vienna to Budapest

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TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 **Vienna**

Individual arrival to Vienna (our tip: low cost carrier to Vienna/Bratislava); this evening belongs to you! What about a short city walk or a visit at a typical Viennese tavern Heurigen?

Day 2 **Vienna -Bad-Deutsch Altenburg** **approx. 45 km**

Not far from Vienna begins an untouched alluvial landscape and a Nature Reserve with stunning and diverse Flora and Fauna. Get away from it all and enjoy the wonderful peace and silence, only interrupted by the twittering chirps of birds. The ancient Romans have left their print and also have relaxed in the nice warm water of Bad Deutsch Altenburg. The Archaeological Park of Carnuntum will invite you into an exiting journey of the past.

Day 3 **Region Bad D. Altenburg - Bratislava** **approx. 32 km**

Nestled between the hills of Hainbury and the Carpathian Mountains, you start your days journey with a short transfer by train and then cycle on to Bratislava – the capital of Slovakia. The quaint old city centre with numerous sights, a lovely pedestrian zone and countless restaurants and cafes will invite you to an extended stroll. High above the city, stand the towers and walls of an exceptional castle.

Day 4 **Bratislava - Szigetköz - Győr** **approx. 45 km + train**

The marshy landscape of the Szigetköz is an ideal environment and paradise for birds and fish alike. In the midst of these wild and untouched lowlands with more than 500 tiny islands, you will find quaint farming villages and a labyrinth of countless Danube canals and creeks. After a relaxing and short train ride you reach the day's final destination, Győr with its gorgeous Baroque-style old town squares.

Day 5 **Győr - Komárom/surroundings** **approx. 45 - 55 km**

The National Stud of Babolna is world famous for its Arabian horse breeding and is definitely worth a stroll through. While you are visiting the Studs and the Stud Museum you can catch a glimpse of some secrets Hungarian horse breeding techniques and methods. After cycling through the lush rolling hills into the village of Komárom, you will find your accommodations in the favorite village of renowned King Matthias.

Day 6 **Komárom - Danube Bend** **approx. 35 - 50 km + ship (Cat. A)**

Today you cycle along the banks of the Slovakian Danube on small low-traffic roads through quaint and quintessential villages. On your way to the "Town of Bishops and Kings", Estergom, also known as the "Hungarian Rome" or "Royal City", you pass the Roman fort of Kelemantia. The Basilica of Estergom, the largest Catholic Church in Hungary, and the rest of the town are a highlight of this trip.

Day 7 **Danube Bend - Budapest** **approx. 58 km + ship (Cat. B)**

Amidst the hilly landscape, the river Danube divides itself into parts creating the Szentendre island. On this island you cycle through typical Hungarian villages. Szentendre is famous for its numerous handicraft boutiques and Open-Air Museum Skanzen. A few particular highlights include some of the most famous attractions in Budapest. All in which you will discover on your boat ride (category B) into the city.

Day 8 **Budapest - Vienna**

You enjoy this day in the metropolis of Budapest. Departure by scheduled bus daily at 3.30 pm. (11.30 a.m. possible on request, pre-reservation needed at time of booking, later changes or cancellation only possible until 10 days before arrival); Arrival in Vienna at approx. 6.30 pm. The return is also comfortably possible by speedboat (extra charge). Schedule subject to change!

Vienna to Budapest

2016 TOUR DATES & PRICES

You have a choice of accommodation type on this tour:

Category A - selected 4* hotels in all cities

Category B - 3* or 4*hotels/inns

We will assume all bookings are for Category A unless otherwise stated.

Season 1: April 23 - April 28, September 24 - October 8 (Starting Saturdays only)

Category A

€670 per person sharing

€860 for single occupancy

Category B

€570 per person sharing

€740 for single occupancy

Season 2: April 29 - June 30, August 22 - September 23 (Starting Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

Category A

€750 per person sharing

€940 for single occupancy

Category B

€630 per person sharing

€800 for single occupancy

Season 3: July 1 - August 21 (Starting Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

Category A

€790 per person sharing

€980 for single occupancy

Category B

€670 per person sharing

€840 for single occupancy

Reduction:

Reduction with 2 full paying adults in double room (third bed) - bike rental extra/upon request

0-6 years (100%)

7-11 years (50%)

12-14 years (25%)

15-99 years (10%)

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- 7 nights accommodation with private facilities
- All breakfasts*
- 7 gear unisex or 21 speed women/gents touring bike with pannier bag
- Daily Luggage transfer up to hotel in Budapest (2 pieces/max. 20 kg per person)
- Return transfer by public bus from Budapest to Vienna, Departure at 15:30** (excl. bike)
- 1x train transfer Mosonmagyaróvár - Győr (incl. bike)
- 1 x ship or train transfer (before/after seasonal shipping schedule)
Szentendre-Budapest (cat. B only)
- 1 x ship transfer Esztergom-Visegard (cat. A only)
- Service Hotline
- Handlebar bag with travel book, maps and information material per room

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*if you wish to avail of dinners a supplement of €145 (cat. A - 7 dinners) / €109 (cat B - 6 dinners, in Vienna breakfast only) per person is available.

** If you do not wish to avail of the public bus transfer from Budapest to Vienna a €10 reduction per person will apply. Again, this must be highlighted at the time of booking.

Not included optional extras (to be booked up to 10 days in advance):

- Helmet rental, payable local, 25 euro (compulsary in Slovakia outside of cities!)
- Return transfer Budapest-Vienna by hydrofoil €99.00 per person (see travel info below)
Departure 9am, May 10 - Sept. 29 every Tue, Thur & Sat (see travel info below)
If you have not rented our bikes but have brought your own, there is a cost of €25.00 to bring bikes on the hydrofoil
If you have not rented our bikes but have brought your own, there is a cost of €27.00 to bring bikes by coach but this is on a Saturday only
- E-bikes are available for a €75 supplement

BIKE INFORMATION

- 7 gear ladies/gents-touring bike with coaster break (back pedal) or 21-gear ladies/gents bikes
- Electric bikes, children's bikes, specialized equipment for children upon request
- All rental bikes are equipped with a pannier (saddle bag) and an odometer
- Helmet rental possible for €25 (paid locally)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The bike tours are unescorted. All mileages are approximate distances of recommended routes.
- The arrival and departure to and from Vienna is individual.
- Vienna, Bratislava (approx 75km from Vienna, Bus Bratislava - Vienna approx €11) and Budapest are accessible by many low-cost airlines.
- In Slovakia you have to wear a helmet outside of cities. Helmets can be rented for €25 and this is payable locally but we recommend you bring your own if possible so you are more comfortable.
- In Austria it is mandatory for children under 12 years to wear a helmet when on a bike.
- In Hungary you have to wear a safety vest at night and by poor visibility outside cities/villages.

WHAT TO BRING

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.

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