

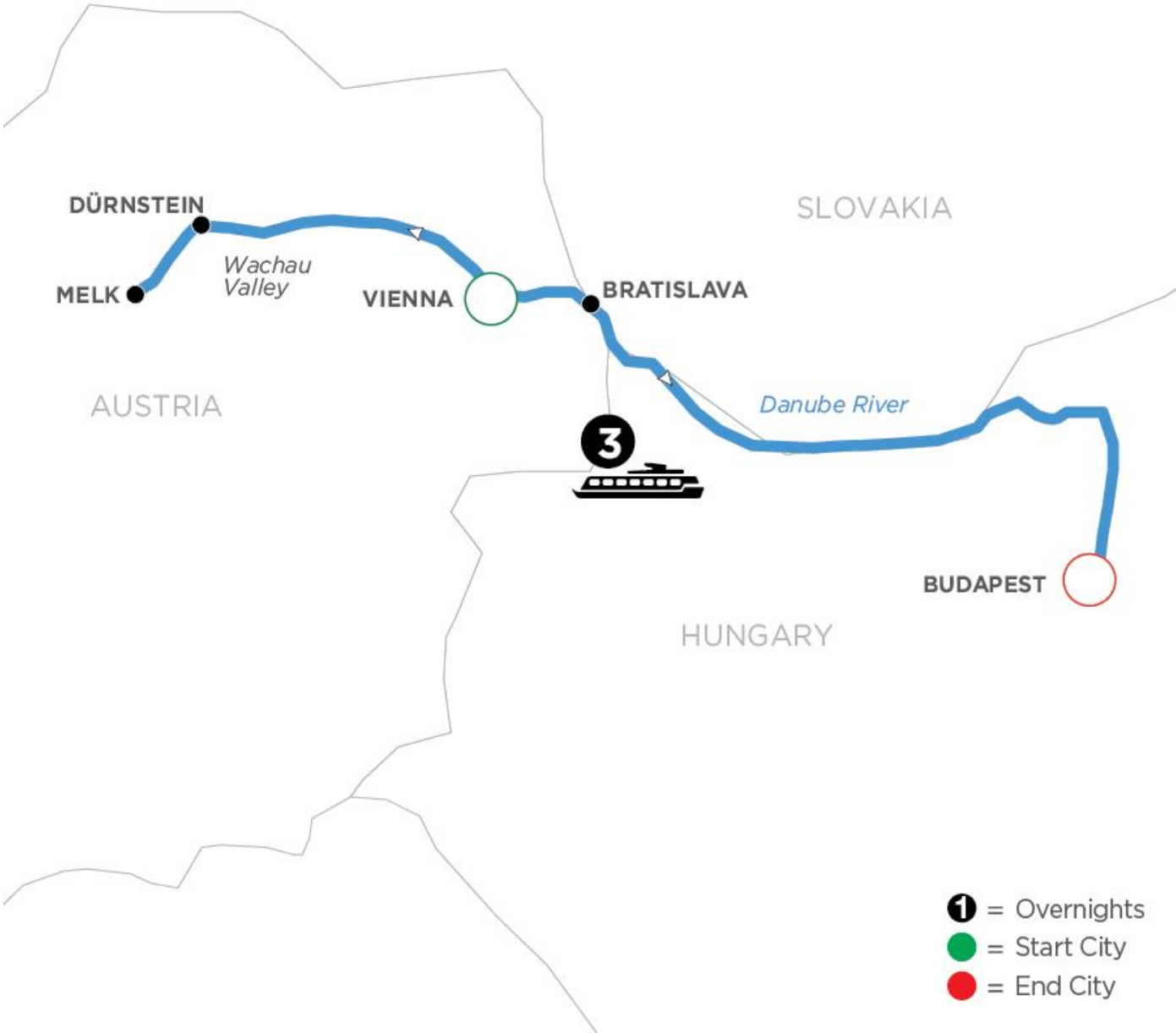
A Taste of the Danube Avalon Waterways

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

Route Map From Avalon Waterways



The Avalon Artistry II sailing on the Danube



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Another Picture of the Artistry II

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Overview

- Through the natural beauty of Austria's Wachau Valley, with stops in quaint towns and iconic cities, you'll fall in love with this river cruise along the Danube River.
- Board your ship in Vienna and set sail for Melk, where you will visit Austria's majestic Benedictine Abbey, one of Europe's largest, and where Benedictine monks still stroll amidst the sacred walls.
- From the Abbey's terrace, you can take in the breathtaking views of the Danube River, and the surrounding countryside.
- Dürnstein lies in the heart of the picturesque Wachau Valley and is best known for its beautiful Stiftskirche with its blue façade.
- Above the town are the ruins of the castle where England's Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned.

Overview

- Continue your European river cruise to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.
- This dynamic city lies at the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. There's sightseeing with a local expert and a visit to the gothic St. Martin's Cathedral, the coronation church for Hungary during the 16th to 19th centuries.
- Then it's on to Budapest, Hungary, where your Danube river cruise vacation ends.
- This Danube River cruise is a must to see Austria's striking beauty, Budapest's shining city, and all the splendid spots between on your European river cruise vacation of a lifetime.

Day 1 Vienna

- Welcome to Austria. Your Suite Ship[®] is Ready for Boarding.

Flights into Vienna must arrive by 3:30 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

Spend free time today by relaxing, exploring, or strolling through the streets of Vienna before boarding.

- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MELK**

Day 2 Melk to DÜRNSTEIN

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join your Avalon Adventure Host for a bike ride along the Wachau Valley (Extra Expenses), OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a morning Guided Sightseeing Tour of Melk's 11th-century Benedictine Abbey. Explore its frescoes, statues, library, and spectacular pipe organ in the monastery's lofty perch above the Danube.
- Take a relaxing break on the Sky Deck as you sail through awe-inspiring views of the Wachau Valley and the wine region.
- Spend free time at your leisure, perhaps biking through the vineyards in the Wachau Valley.
- Later, enjoy onboard entertainment by local musicians.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BRATISLAVA**

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Melk

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Melk Abby Melk, Austria

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Schonbuhl Castle

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Aggstein Castle Ruins

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Hinterhaus Castle Ruins

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Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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Wachau Valley

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Spitz Wachau Valley

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Durnstein, Austria



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Durnstein from the Danube. The Blue Tower is part of Durnstein Abby

Ruins of Durnstein Castle where Richard the Lionhearted was held for ransom in 1192



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Durnstein

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Krems

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Day 3 Bratislava

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Follow your Avalon Adventure Host on a short hike to lofty Bratislava Castle, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Old Town's cobblestone streets to Town Hall. Visit the gothic halls of St. Martin's Cathedral—Hungary's centuries-old coronation church.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BUDAPEST**

Hike Up to Bratislava Castle

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Michael's Gate

This gate is the only remaining gate from the walled city of Bratislava

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St Martin's Cathedral



Primacial Palace Bratislava



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Old Town Hall

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Slovak National Theater

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Day 4 Budapest

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

Flights should not leave Budapest airport before 10 am.

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