Danube Waltz Viking River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Route Map from Viking River Cruises



Day 1 Budapest

- Welcome to Budapest, capital of Hungary.
- Transfer to your ship from the airport.*
- After boarding, the afternoon is yours to relax or do a bit of exploring.
- Tonight, return to your ship for a traditional Hungarian dinner.
 (Dinner)
- * Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

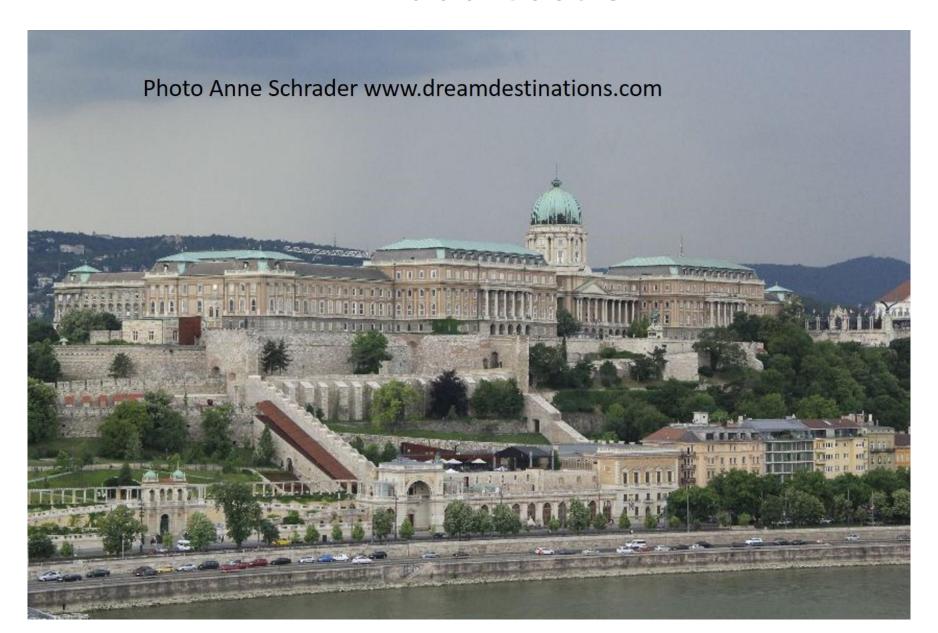
Day 2 Budapest

- Today we see highlights of the hilly Buda and cosmopolitan Pest sides of the city, starting with Pest's National Opera House and historic Heroes' Square.
- In Buda, walk along Castle Hill to Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church.
- Enjoy lunch on board your ship; the rest of the day is yours to explore the city.
- You may wish to visit the Art Nouveau Gellért Spa, or one of the many other lavish facilities in this "City of Healing Waters."
- Return to your ship for dinner and evening departure. (B, L, D)

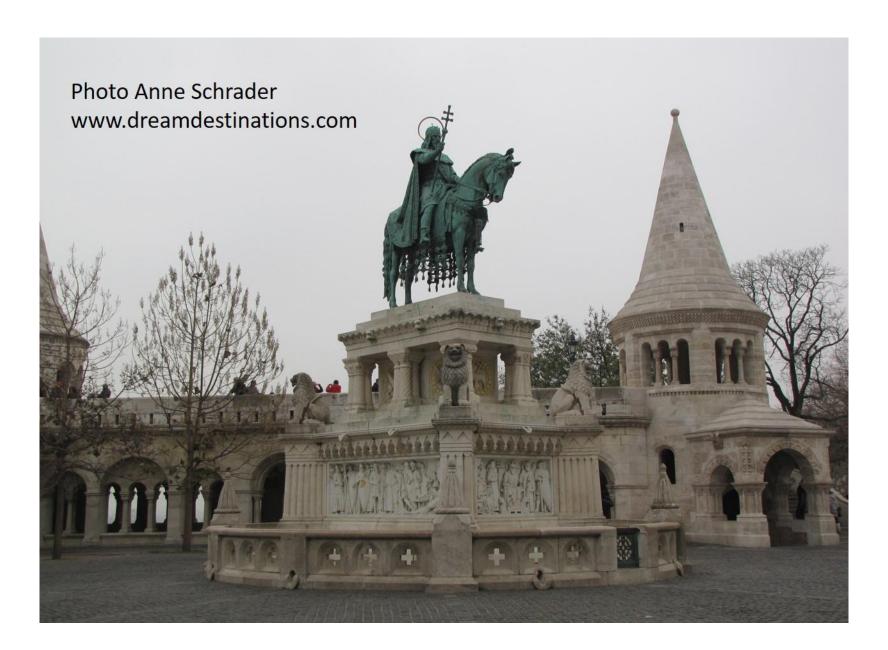
Chain Bridge with Buda Castle in the Background Budapest, Hungary



Buda Castle



Fisherman's Bastion



Gothic Matthias Church



Gothic Matthias Church



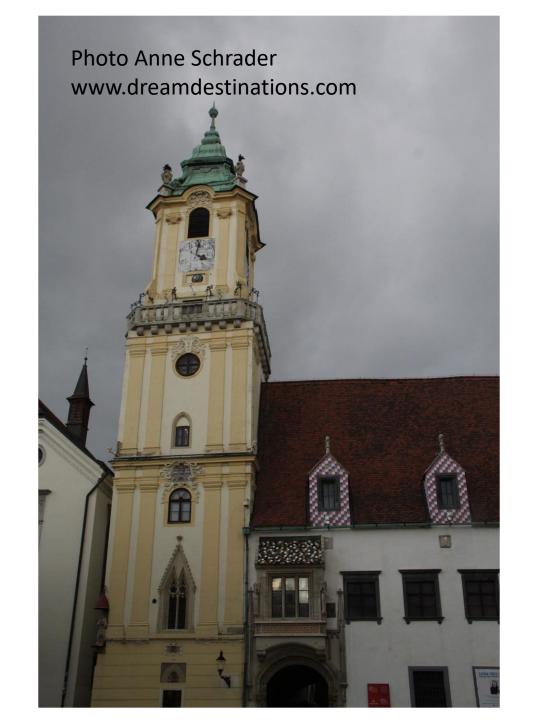
Day 3 Bratislava

- Arrive in Bratislava this afternoon and embark on a walking tour of Slovakia's charming capital with a long and fascinating history.
- It is the only national capital that borders two other countries, Austria and Hungary. See attractions like the medieval Town Hall complex and fortifications at Michael's Tower, the baroque Jesuit Church and Gothic St. Martin's Cathedral, and pass by several Hapsburg-era baroque palaces before returning to your ship.
- This evening you can relax or take a walk before our late departure.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Bratislava Castle



Old Town Hall



Michael's Gate
This gate is the only
remaining gate from
the walled city of
Bratislava



St Martin's Cathedral



Primacial Palace Bratislava



Slovak National Theater



Day 4 Vienna

- Today we tour the Austrian capital of Vienna.
- Ride along the Ringstrasse, which replaced the city walls in the mid-19th century. See some of the city's baroque architecture, including the world-famous Opera House, St. Stephen's Cathedral and Hofburg Palace.
- Return to your ship for lunch.
- The rest of the day is yours to further explore. As always, your Program Director can help you plan your free time.
- Or you may take an optional tour to Schönbrunn Palace, the "Versailles of Vienna," erected in 1778 and graced by a number of formal gardens, Grecian statuary, the world's oldest zoo and Roman ruins.
- After dinner, relax or enjoy an optional classical concert. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Habsburg Palace



St.
Stephens
Cathedral
Vienna



Vienna Opera House at the end of Karntner Strasse



Optional Tour Schönbrunn Palace



Optional Tour Schönbrunn Palace



Day 5 Krems

- Today's highlight is an exclusive visit of the splendid Benedictine Abbey of Göttweig, a working monastery for more than 900 years.
- Participate in an exclusive visitor program at Göttweig, created to provide an understanding of the daily business of the venerable institution.
- You may also take an invigorating bicycle ride through the Wachau Valley before returning to your ship.
- This afternoon, enjoy scenic sailing as we cruise toward Linz.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Krems



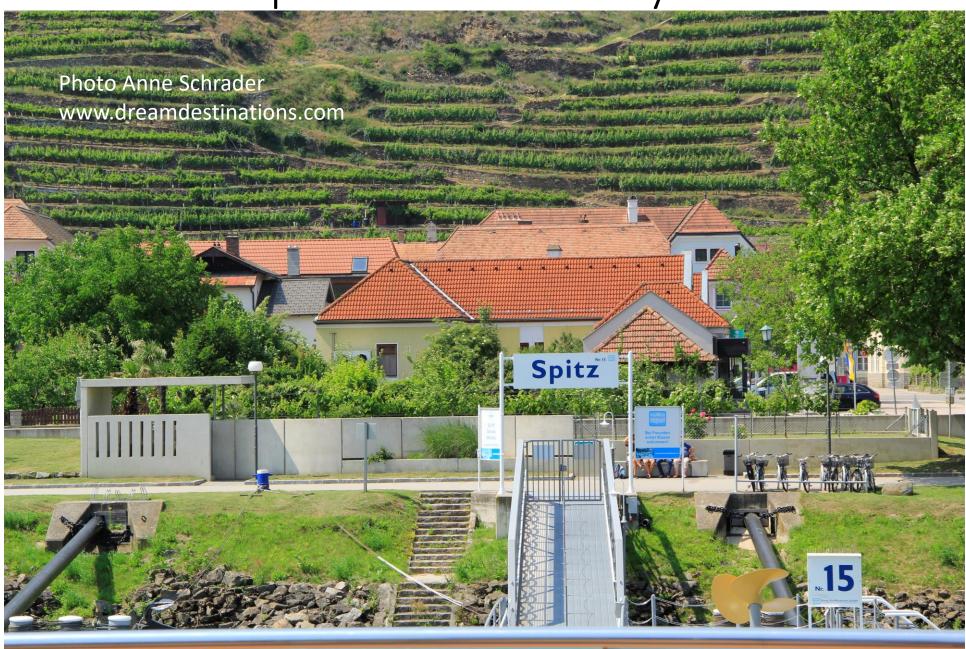
Schonbuhl Castle



Aggstein Castle Ruins



Spitz Wachau Valley



Wachau Valley



Wachau Valley



Hinterhaus Castle Ruins

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012





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

Durnstein, Austria



Day 6 Linz

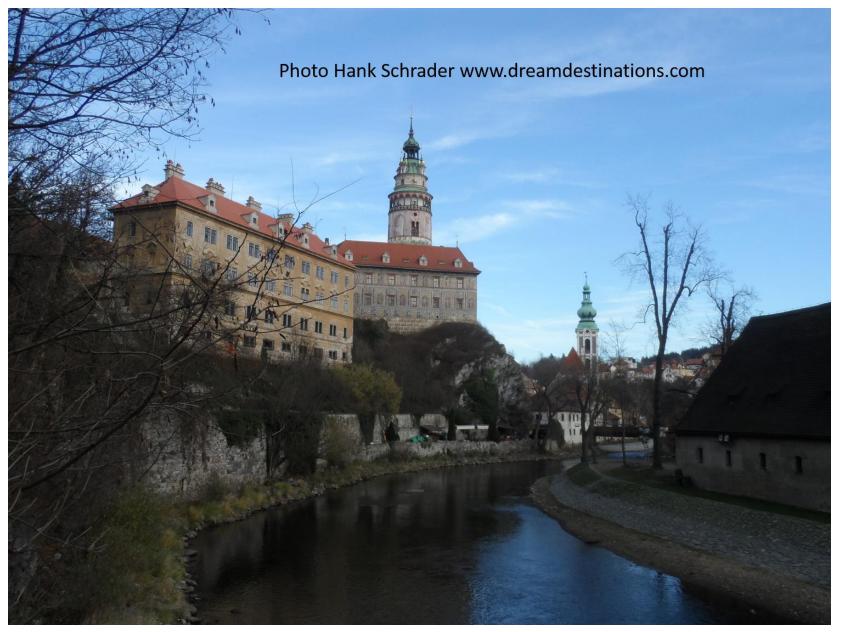
Wake up in Linz this morning and set off to explore this cultural on foot.

Ride along the Danube's south bank and take in the sights; see the Brucknerhaus concert hall, Linz Castle and the Market Hall, where Mozart wrote the Linz Symphony, followed by a walking tour of the city's Old Quarter.

Alternatively, join a full day optional excursion to the beautiful Bohemian town of Český Krumlov, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the baroque and Renaissance buildings and the town's charming streets, brimming with cafés, shops and galleries.

Return on board for dinner and a late-evening departure. (B, D)

Optional Tour Cesky Krumlov



Optional Tour Cesky Krumlov



Day 7 Passau

- Arrive this morning in Passau, at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube Rivers.
- Your guided walk along the town's narrow streets takes you through Old Town and past traditional patrician houses. Admire the New Bishop's Residence and see the impressive baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral; its ornate interior is home to the Europe's largest church organ.
- Enjoy an onboard lunch but return to the city to further explore on your own before dinner.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

The Veste Oberhaus



Passau



Bishop's Residence Passau



St. Stephen's Cathedral



St. Stephen's Cathedral. Its organ has 17,947 pipes.



Passau, where three rivers meet—the Inn, the IIz and the Danube



Day 8 Passau

- After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the airport for your return flight.*
- Or, extend your journey with 3 additional nights in the breathtaking Czech capital of Prague.
- (Breakfast)
- * Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

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