

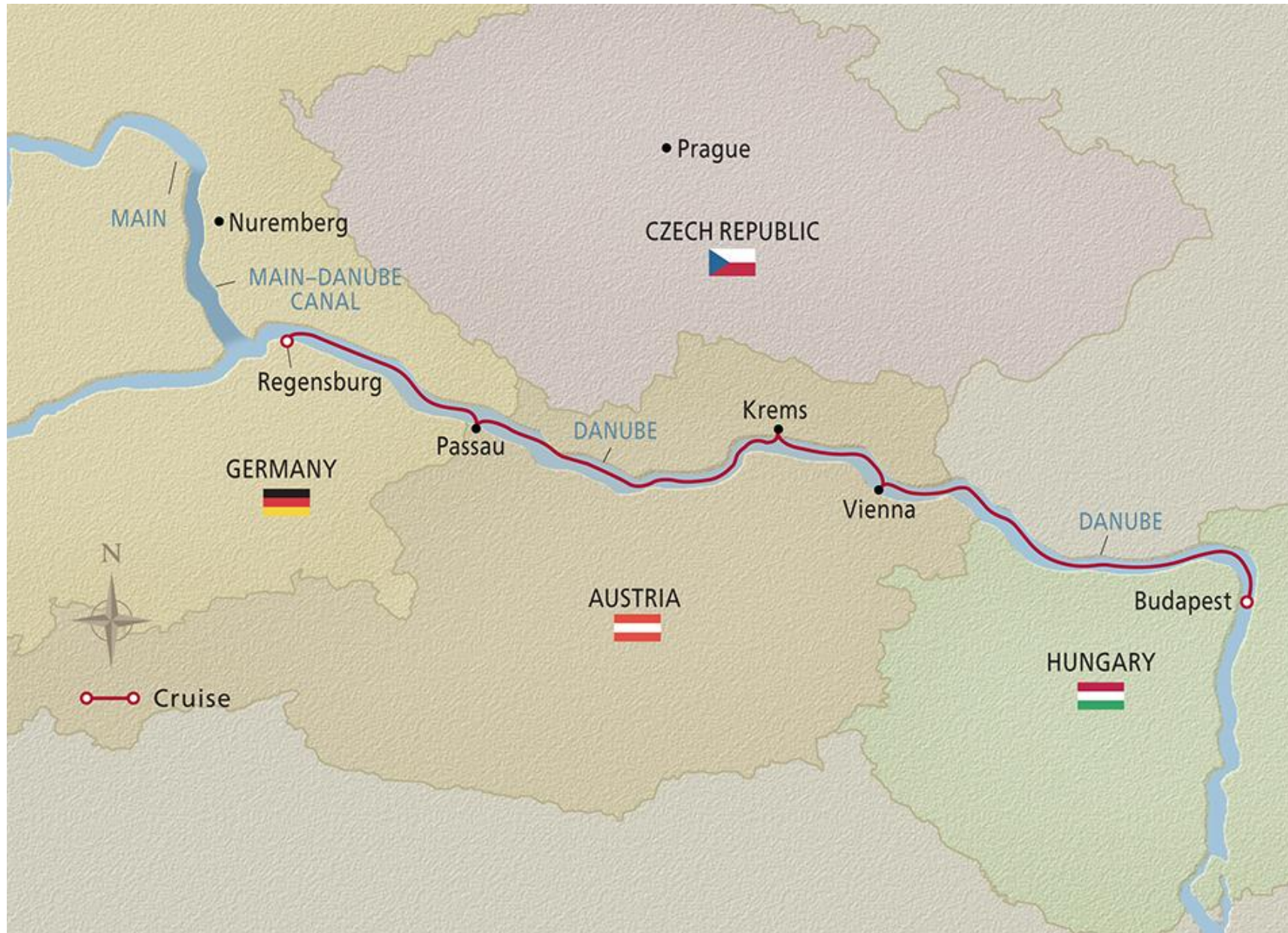
# Romantic Danube Viking River Cruises

By

Hank Schrader

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

- Your morning begins with a panoramic tour of the Pest side of the city.
- Journey along Andrásy Avenue and see the 19th- and 20th-century mansions, National Opera House, Parliament Building and Chain Bridge. Drive through Heroes' Square and learn more about Hungarian history, then cross the Danube to Buda's Castle District.
- Visit Matthias Church and enjoy brilliant views of the Danube and the beautiful Hungarian Parliament building from Fishermen's Bastion.
- Rejoin your ship in Visegrád for lunch as we cruise along the scenic Danube River.
- Enjoy a midafternoon Viennese coffee workshop, complete with apple strudel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 2 Shore Excursions

- Panoramic Budapest—included--Take in one of Europe's great cultural capitals.
- Explore Your Own Way: Full Day Budapest--Create your own itinerary and experience the sights of Budapest with the assistance of your own private guide. (6 people max) 8 hours.
- Explore Your Own Way: Half Day Budapest--Create your own itinerary and experience the sights of Budapest with the assistance of your own private guide. (6 people max) 4 hours.

# Buda Castle

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# Fisherman's Bastion

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# Gothic Matthias Church



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# Gothic Matthias Church

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# Day 3 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 choose to join us for an optional excursion to visit Schönbrunn Palace, erected in 1778 and admired as the "Versailles of Vienna."
- This evening, you might celebrate the bottling of this year's wine vintage among the locals at a high-spirited optional Heurigen dinner.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 3 Shore Excursions

- Panoramic Vienna—included
- Schonbrunn Palace—tour the magnificent home of the Hapsburg Dynasty, built to rival the sprawling Chateau de Versailles.
- Heurigen Dinner—participate in a high-spirited Heurigen Dinner and toast this year's wine at a local vineyard, a cherished annual tradition throughout Austria that marks the bottling of the season's vintage.
- Explore Your Own Way: Full Day Vienna--Create your own itinerary and experience the sights of Budapest with the assistance of your own private guide. (6 people max) 8 hours.
- Explore Your Own Way: Half Day Vienna--Create your own itinerary and experience the sights of Budapest with the assistance of your own private guide. (6 people max) 4 hours.

# Day 3 Habsburg Palace

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St.  
Stephens  
Cathedral  
Vienna  
Day 3



# Day 4 Vienna

- Today, spend time exploring Vienna.
- You may choose to join one of our many optional excursions, including a panoramic tour of Vienna by bike or an all-day optional excursion to the Slovakian capital of Bratislava, filled with lovingly restored baroque city palaces and leafy squares.
- Perhaps venture to the local Farmers' Market with a local chef.
- This evening, enjoy dinner on your own or on board, after which you may choose to join us for a Mozart & Strauss concert.
- We are docked here overnight. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 4 Shore Excursions

- Behind the Scenes at the Lipizzaner Stallions—step backstage at the elegant Spanish Riding School, home to the world-famous Lipizzaner stallions.
- Mozart & Strauss Concert—the classical music never stops in Vienna, as you will hear firsthand during this special concert.
- Alma Deutscher plays Mozart & Strauss—privileged access-- Delight in an enchanting evening of music with a privileged access performance led by the renowned Alma Deutscher.
- Picturesque Bratislava--Get acquainted with the Slovakian capital, a vibrant and relaxed cultural center.
- Viennese Waltz & Mozart--Don your dancing shoes as you learn the steps of the Viennese waltz and visit Mozart's Vienna apartment

# Day 5 Krems

- After breakfast, disembark in Krems and set off for Göttweig, a working Benedictine abbey that owns many of the vineyards along the Danube.
- See the splendid ceiling fresco in its imperial stairwell, one of the largest in the world. Visit the abbey church, a masterpiece of baroque architecture.
- Alternately, you may instead choose to explore your environs by bicycle, enjoying a ride along a riverside bike path considered one of Europe's most scenic.
- Afterward, rejoin your ship and cruise leisurely through the captivating Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taste some local Austrian specialties during lunch on board, taking in views of attractive towns and castle ruins along the way.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Day 5 Shore Excursions

- Göttweig Abbey—included--Experience a Benedictine abbey where monks work and worship during an exclusive visit to Göttweig Abbey.
- Wachau Valley by Bicycle-- Follow the flat bicycle trails along the scenic Danube to Dürnstein on an electric bike, or e-bike.
- Göttweig Abbey with Apricot Dumpling Demonstration-- Enjoy an exclusive visit to historic Göttweig Abbey before learning how to make tasty apricot dumplings.

# Krems Departure for Abbey included tour

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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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# Wachau Valley

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# Spitz Wachau Valley

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# Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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# Hinterhaus Castle Ruins

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# Aggstein Castle Ruins

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# Schonbuhl Castle

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## Day 6 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. See the New Bishop's Residence and view the impressive baroque St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Enjoy lunch on board your ship and return to the city for further exploration on your own before departing.

Alternately, you may instead journey into the countryside on an optional excursion to a local farm where you will have the opportunity to join a festive Bavarian party, experiencing traditional German music and food and tasting locally brewed beer.

Or, you may choose a full-day optional excursion to explore glorious Salzburg; visit the Italianate Old Town, see settings from the film *The Sound of Music* and enjoy lunch at Austria's oldest restaurant.

We cruise through the night.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 6 Shore Excursions

- Passau Walking Tour—included--Explore the Italianate-style streets of Passau, where three European rivers have converged to shape a distinctive city.
- Salzburg Highlights--Spend the day in picturesque Salzburg, setting of the beloved film *The Sound of Music* and the birthplace of Mozart.
- Bavarian Beerfest--Participate in a festive Oktoberfest-style celebration in a stunning rural setting.
- Bavaria by E-Bike--Escape Passau as you pedal along the Inn River, enjoying unspoiled nature and pastoral landscapes along the water.
- Hike the Passau Hills--Take in Passau's sublime setting at the confluence of three rivers from the best vantage points in the city.
- Fairy-Tale Neuschwanstein Castle by Plane--See the famous fairy-tale castle that inspired Walt Disney and enjoy a flight over the surrounding countryside.
- Flightseeing over Passau--Take flight on a private charter over the stunning lakes, rivers and mountains of Germany and Austria.

# Passau, where three rivers meet—the Inn, the Ilz and the Danube



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# Hike to the Veste Oberhaus (Optional Extra Cost)

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# St. Stephen's Cathedral Included

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

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# Day 7 Regensburg

- After breakfast, meet your local guide for a walking tour through the scenic town of Regensburg, considered one of Europe's best preserved medieval cities.
- See one of the largest groupings of 13th- and 14th-century church spires, towers and patrician houses north of the Alps. You also encounter the 12th-century Old Stone Bridge, St. Peter's Cathedral and several idyllic courtyards.
- Take time to stroll the streets, shop or visit Germany's oldest restaurant, the Alte Würstküche. Lunch is served on board your ship.
- This afternoon, take an optional excursion to visit Weltenburg Abbey\* and experience a short cruise through a stunning mountain pass, one of the most breathtakingly scenic bends in the Danube Narrows.
- Alternately, you may choose a full-day optional excursion to see the highlights of the grand city of Munich or a full-day optional excursion to Nuremberg, one of Germany's most renowned and intriguing cities.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
- \* Weltenburg Abbey tour is available from May–October only.

# Day 7 Shore Excursions

- Regensburg Walking Tour—included-Witness a true medieval city untouched by World War II bombing and rich in architectural splendor.
- Weltenburg Abbey & Danube Narrows--Visit a splendid abbey, founded in the 7th century, at a spectacularly scenic bend in the Danube Narrows.
- Regensburg Jewish Walking Tour--Discover the Jewish heritage of Regensburg during a walking tour of this historic city.
- Munich Highlights--See the cultural and historic highlights of one of Germany's most relaxed cities, beautifully set near the foothills of the Alps during a panoramic tour.
- Microbreweries of Bavaria--Sample a selection of Bavaria's best-loved brews, accompanied by classic biergarten fare.
- Historic Nuremberg--Tour one of Germany's most renowned and intriguing cities on this full-day excursion.

# Included Tour Regensburg, Germany



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# Porta Praetoria

## Roman ruins used in a new building



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# Old Town Hall Regensburg

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# Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



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# House of Thurn and Taxis

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# House of Thurn and Taxis



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# Day 8 Regensburg

- After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the airport for your return flight.\*
- Or, extend your journey with our extension to Nuremberg or Prague, Czech Republic, including a tour of Old Town and Prague Castle.
- Alternatively, you can join or fully guided four-night extension to Prague and Nuremberg to experience the best of both towns.
- (Breakfast)

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