

Danube River Cruise from Budapest to Prague (Oct. 30 – Nov. 12, 2011)

This river cruise is already full and cannot take additional travelers. The trip will depart from the Newark Airport on October 30, 2011 and return on November 12, 2011. A total of 52 will take part in the trip. The total cost, including air and optional tours, is about \$4,050.

Please see the details of "The Blue Danube Discovery" below (but go online for map): http://avalonwaterways.com/Product.aspx?trip=1WBN&source=AW_Cruises_Danube

We will spend three days in Budapest, 2 days in Vienna, and three days in Prague and will stop over several places along this scenic route. The weather will be on the cool side (35 to 45-deg F) like NY area during that time and should be comfortable.

THE BLUE DANUBE DISCOVERY

13 days from Budapest to Prague or 14 days incl. travel (WBN)

Cruise Overview

The delightful Danube sets the stage for this incredible journey. Begin in Budapest, Hungary, with two overnights, guided sightseeing, and a visit to imposing Fishermen's Bastion. Board your river cruise vessel and sail westward, with guided sightseeing in magical Vienna, Passau, and medieval Regensburg. Also take a guided walk in Dürnstein that shows off the baroque Stiftskirche, visit the Benedictine Abbey and enjoy a wine tasting in Melk, and participate in a beer tasting in charming Nuremberg. Disembark your ship and travel to the "Golden City" of Prague for a final three overnights, guided sightseeing, and plenty of free time.

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Budapest, Hungary

Welcome to Budapest, Hungary's lively capital. The remainder of the day is free to start exploring Eastern Europe's most cosmopolitan metropolis.

Day 2 Budapest

Budapest straddles both banks of the Danube, with seven bridges, including the famous Chain and Elisabeth Bridges, connecting ancient Buda on the right bank with Pest on the left. The massive hilltop castle complex with FISHERMEN'S BASTION and the Matthias Church is among the many sights your Local Guide will show you. Shop for renowned peasant embroidery, Herend porcelain, and paprika. (B)

Day 3 Budapest (Embarkation)

This afternoon, board your river cruise vessel and meet your crew at a welcome reception. (B,D)

Day 4 Budapest–Vienna, Austria

A day to relax on board and marvel at the beautiful scenery on both banks of the Danube. Hungary is on your left as you cruise upriver and Slovakia is on your right. The two countries share the Danube for a 58-mile stretch, with the border in the middle of the river. Vienna, Austria's capital, is known as the "City of Music" and inspired the creative genius of Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Vienna

Once the center of the mighty Habsburg Empire, Vienna has much to offer: lavish Hofburg Palace, the impressive Vienna Opera House, the majestic Ring Boulevard, and awe-inspiring St. Stephen's Cathedral, to name just a few of the sights you will enjoy during your city tour. You do not rush through Vienna; you waltz, taking your time to savor each classic sight and sound. Shop in the Kärntnerstrasse and enjoy Sachertorte or Apfelstrudel in a neighborhood café. An optional concert is available during your stay. (B,L,D)

Day 6 Dürnstein–Melk

Dürnstein, known for the magnificent baroque Stiftskirche with its blue façade, lying right in the heart of the Wachau wine region. Above town are the ruins of the castle where England's King Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned in 1192. This afternoon: Melk, whose magnificent BENEDICTINE ABBEY dominates the town from its commanding hill site and is one of Europe's largest monasteries. The view you have from the terrace over the Danube and surrounding countryside is breathtaking! This evening you'll be able to sample some of the Wachau Valley's FAMOUS WINES. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Linz–Passau, Germany

Linz, Austria's third-largest city, lies on both banks of the Danube and is an important industrial town and busy river port. An optional full-day excursion to Salzburg takes in the popular Sound of Music sights. Passau, ideally located at the confluence of the Rivers Inn, Ilz, and Danube, is a city of graceful arcades and cobblestone streets. St. Stephen's Cathedral houses the world's largest church organ with more than 17,000 pipes. (B,L,D)

Day 8 Regensburg

Regensburg is one of Germany's best preserved medieval cities. Architectural highlights on your guided tour include the Old Town Hall and Porta Pretoria—gates to an ancient Roman fort built in 179 AD. The city is the capital of Upper Palatinate, a bustling university town, and one of Bavaria's cultural centers. It is here you will find Germany's oldest restaurant, the 12th-century Historische Wurstküche (Old Sausage Kitchen). (B,L,D)

Day 9 Nuremberg

Although Nuremberg suffered extensive damage during WWII, much of it was restored to its original style. Marvel at this historic city with its fabulous gothic churches and elegant patrician houses—all explained by a local expert. Nuremberg's traditions include famous Lebkuchen, toy making, and metal working. After dinner we'll introduce you to some of Germany's FAMOUS BEERS. (B,L,D)

Day 10 Nuremberg (Disembarkation)—Prague, Czech Republic

Cross the Czech border in the Bohemian Forest and head for Prague, the "Golden City." (B)

Day 11 **Prague**

Prague is a 1,000-year-old city preserved in time. See its best-known treasures such as the Old Town's Astronomical Clock, once the envy of all of Europe; HRADCANY CASTLE GROUNDS, St. Vitus Cathedral, and the Charles Bridge. Browse the shops for hand-cut crystal or art books. Mix with the locals in Wenceslaus Square or stroll along the Vltava River. (B)

Day 12 **Prague**

A free day for you to explore the city at your own pace. Your Cruise Director will have other suggestions for things to do. (B)

Day 13 **Prague**

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

Cruise Highlights

INCLUDED FEATURES

CRUISE:

Deluxe 7-night cruise from Budapest to Nuremberg in an outside stateroom with hotel-style beds

BUDAPEST:

Guided sightseeing, visit Fishermen's Bastion; welcome reception

VIENNA:

Guided sightseeing

DÜRNSTEIN:

Guided walk, see the Stiftskirche

MELK:

Guided visit of the Benedictine Abbey; wine tasting

PASSAU:

Guided sightseeing

REGENSBURG:

Guided sightseeing

MAIN DANUBE CANAL:

Cruise in the canal

NUREMBERG:

Guided sightseeing; beer tasting

PRAGUE:

Guided sightseeing, see the Astronomical Clock and visit Hradcany Castle grounds

MEALS - (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

Full buffet breakfast (B) in Budapest and Prague; superb dining with all meals on board daily featuring full breakfast (B), lunch (L), and dinner (D), including a welcome reception, Captain's reception, and farewell dinner; one sitting with open seating arrangements; complimentary regional wine, beer, or soft drinks with all onboard dinners; complimentary coffee and tea available throughout the day

SUPERIOR HOTELS - (D) Deluxe (SF) Superior First-Class (F) First-Class

BUDAPEST InterContinental (SF), **PRAGUE** Hilton (SF) or InterContinental (D)

Notes:

- In the event of water level problems on stretches of any river, it may be necessary to operate part of the itinerary by motorcoach.
- Please check visa requirements with your local consulate(s); responsibility for obtaining visas rests with the traveler.
- Included visits and special features are subject to change. If a change is necessary, a substitute will be offered.