

Places you visit



Melk, Abbey

Day 1: Budapest

The Danube cuts through the heart of Hungary's beautiful capital, separating the Buda Hills and Old City from the boulevards of modern Pest. If time allows, stroll along Váci Utca to shop for Herend porcelain and the country's renowned peasant embroidery.

Day 2: Budapest

Your morning tour begins with a coach ride through the Pest side of the city. Drive along famous Andrássy Boulevard past numerous 19th and 20th century mansions and the

National Opera House. See the renowned Parliament Building and Chain Bridge before stopping at Heroes' Square to learn more about Hungarian culture and history. Cross the Danube to the Buda side and visit the Castle District. Walk up the hill to Fishermen's Bastion and Matthias Church for brilliant views of the city below.

Day 3: Vienna

An imperial city rich in history and culture, Vienna is Austria's elegant capital. Ride along the *Ringstrasse* and see the Opera House,

Stadtpark and Hofburg Theatre, before visiting St Stephen's Cathedral. On your free afternoon, shop along *Kärntnerstrasse* or take an excursion to Schönbrunn Palace, home of Maria Theresa and the Habsburgs' summer residence. Complete your day with an optional evening concert.

Day 4: Melk

After breakfast sail through the stunning Wachau Valley to the Benedictine Abbey at Melk, and join a guided tour through the ornate interior of this baroque architectural

gem. See its elaborate frescoes and admire the library's extensive collection of medieval manuscripts.

Day 5: Passau

Positioned at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube Rivers, enchanting Passau is lined with cobblestone streets, graceful arcades and traditional patrician houses. Founded by the Celts more than 2,000 years ago, it is one of Bavaria's oldest cities. You will see the Oberhaus Fortress and visit impressive St Stephen's Cathedral, which highlights the town's baroque character. Its ornate interior boasts Europe's largest church organ, with more than 17,000 pipes. Inside you will be treated to a special concert played on this magnificent instrument.

Day 6: Regensburg

After breakfast, meet your guide for a walking tour of Regensburg, considered to be one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. You will see one of the largest groupings of 13th- and 14th-century church spires, towers and patrician houses north of the Alps. See the 12th-century Old Stone Bridge and St Peter's Cathedral with its fine collection of chalices and crosses. It can trace its history back 2,000 years, when Marcus Aurelius founded it. Take time to stroll through the streets, or shop before returning to your ship. This afternoon enjoy scenic cruising along the Danube River, or take an optional Danube Gorge excursion visiting Kelheim and Weltenberg.

Day 7: Main-Danube Canal & Nuremberg

Stretching 170 kms from Bamberg on the Main River to Kelheim on the Danube River, the Main-Danube Canal is an engineering marvel that opened up river travel from the North Sea to the Black Sea. Initiated by Charlemagne in 793, the canal, which contains 16 locks and rises to 406 metres, was finally completed in 1992. Bavaria's second largest city, Nuremberg is characterised by Gothic churches and elegant half-timbered houses. Heavily damaged during WWII, the city's protective walls feature ancient moats, tall watchtowers and imposing gateways. Your sightseeing tour features the Zeppelin Grounds, the Main Railway Station and the Palace of Justice (historic home of the Nuremberg Trials). Stop at the Courthouse before returning to the old town which is enclosed by ancient city walls. Also see Elizabeth and St James Church and walk to the castle grounds via Albrecht Dürer House and Main Market Square.

Day 8: Nuremberg

Disembark.