



Your cycle tour

Austria, Danube Impressions

(Passau – Vienna – Passau)



OFV(1) 2011

Character of the tour

A combination of Europe's most sold river cruise and favourite cycle way, is the basis of the combined cycle and boat trip. This trip will get you along enchanting river landscapes with steep forested hills and vineyards. Around the end of the afternoon you will go back to your sailing hotel again. When you want a day off or a day with less kilometres, you can stay on the boat or take a train transfer.

Itinerary

Day 1, Saturday: Passau

The worth seeing and quaint "Bishop-City" embedded between Inn, Ilz and the Danube is close to the German/Austrian border. Embarkation is at 5 p.m. Now you can enjoy a relaxing evening aboard with a welcome cocktail and dinner; live music is provided in the evening.

Day 2 Sunday: Passau – Obermühl, 50 km./31 miles per bike and sailing to Linz

Downstream, the way leads you to pretty villages amid natural landscape. Need a boost? Try some of the special cordials and liquors in the Trappist monastery in Engelhartzell. Supposedly they have "special healing powers". Relax on the sun deck after a successful day while the ship takes you through the romantic Schlägener Schlinge "Great loop", where the river makes a very abrupt 180° degree turn. After dinner, ride on the bright yellow City-Express (optional) and discover Linz, the capital of Upper Austria.

Day 3, Monday: Linz – Grein, 65 km/40 miles

Today's bike tour takes you directly along the Danube where you have enough time to enjoy the natural state of the meadow landscape. The Celtic town Mitterkirchen gives you an insight of the past. The alternative route "Clam Castle" through the beautiful back country of the "Strudengau" is slightly hilly, but a fantastic landscape. Grein is the destination of today's stage, place of Austria's oldest city-theatre and the Castle of Grein (optional).

Day 4, Tuesday: Grein – Melk, 57 km/35 miles and sailing to Tulln

Today's stage is marked by a diversified landscape. At the beginning you traverse the Strudengau - a narrow point of the Danube which used to be notorious amongst skippers. The valley expands from Persenbeug and the bike tour leads you further to Melk with its gorgeous baroque monastery of the Benedictine monk hood. On deck you enjoy the sunset and the beautiful evening illumination the Wachau. Today's final destination is Tulln, famous for its numerous market gardens.

Day 5, Wednesday: Tulln – Vienna, 35 km./21 miles

Right in front of Vienna's entrance, embedded in a breathtaking landscape, the monastery of Klosterneuburg is situated. You can already see the cupola of this 900 year old, baroque building from a distance. "Kahlenbergdorf" with its wine taverns is only a hop from

the shipping pear and definitely worth to visit. After a stroll through the vineyards, you can enjoy the panoramic view over Vienna. In the afternoon you can see the most important sights of Vienna during a guided bus tour (optional).

Day 6, Thursday: Vienna

Discover Vienna's most beautiful points by interest during a city tour by bike. You will experience the most famous sights at close: the imperial Palace Hofburg, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the gorgeous boulevard 'Ringstraße' with the State Opera House, the Burgtheater and the Town Hall. Relaxation can be found at one of the countless small cafés. The day ends impressively with a Waltz- and Opera Concert at the Wiener Hofburg/Imperial Palace (optional) or at a traditional wine tavern.

Day 7, Friday: Wachau: Krems – Emmersdorf, 36 km./23 miles

Small dreamy towns, apricot trees, vineyards, castles, monasteries and ruins are the characteristics of the hilly landscapes of the UNESCO- World Heritage Site Wachau. Pure cycling enjoyment can be found here! The small town Spitz invites with cosy wine taverns directly next to the bike path for a break. King Richard Lionheart was involuntary guest here during mediaeval times. Today's destination is Melk with its gorgeous baroque Benedictine monastery. After the gala dinner the crew invites for an entertaining show evening.

Day 8: Passau

Each journey must come to an end. Relaxed and definitely in good mood you will enjoy the passing by landscape. Take a last look on the great loop in Schlögen, before you reach Passau at approx. 12:00 noon. Disembarkation approx. 30 min. later.