



## Your cycle tour

### Austria, Danube Waltz

(Passau – Vienna – Bratislava – Budapest – Passau)



OFV 2012

## **Character of the tour**

A combination of Europe's most sold river cruise and favorite 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 kilometers, you can stay on the boat or take a train transfer.

## **Itinerary**

### Day 1: 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: Engelhartszell – Aschach – Vienna, bike leg ≈ 40 km

In Engelhartszell, the bicycle tour starts at the romantic "Great Loop" which is one of the most beautiful sections of the Danube complete with tranquil villages and homely must taverns at the foothills of lush green wooded slopes. You will board again in the charming village Aschach and "sail" into the sunset towards Vienna.

### Day 3: Vienna – Bratislava, bike leg ≈ 55 – 75 km - City Tour with old timer ride and city walk (optional)

Around Vienna you can experience pure nature, wild and untamed, at the National Park Donau Auen, which is one of the last large undeveloped floodplains of Europe. The next great city awaiting you lying at the foot of the Little Carpathian Mountains is Bratislava. During a walkabout in the evening (optional), you discover hidden alleys, squares and all the attractive sights of this ambitious metropolis. Overnight you travel by ship to Budapest.

### Day 4: Budapest (day of rest), Sightseeing tour by bike or bus (at night) - optional

In the morning you can sit back and enjoy the panoramic view of the Danube's bend, which is an absolutely gorgeous and magnificent landscape. The gateway to Budapest is quit overwhelming as many of the famous tourist features are situated directly on the shore. Nearby, you find Margaret's Island, which is exceptionally qualified and outstanding for short bike tours. The Market Hall, referred to as "The Stomach of Budapest", is very attractive with Hungarian hand-made arts and crafts. After lunch, there is a city tour by bike (optional) that is a great way to see many impressive landmarks and get a feel for Hungarian culture. During a city tour by bus at night (optional), you can see the vibrant lights of an illuminated city.

### Day 5: Visegrad – Esztergom, bike leg ≈ 24 – 57 km

The Danube bend, also called the Hungarian Wachau, is definitely one of the most delightful and attractive parts of this journey. Today's bike leg starts at Visegrad with its famous fortress and the ruins of the former palace. You can choose between 2 different routes: the longer one includes a side trip to the island of Szentendre and the baroque village of Vác,

which has been influenced by the architects of Austria's empress Maria Theresa. The shorter route leads you directly to the bishop-town of Esztergom with its gorgeous basilica i.e. Hungary's largest Catholic Church and its great view over the village.

Day 6: Vienna (day of rest), Sightseeing tour by bike or bus – Evening Waltz concert (optional)

Discover Vienna's most breath-taking attractions. During a city tour by bike you will set eyes on some of Vienna's most famous examples of architecture: Imperial Palace (Hofburg), St. Stephens Cathedral, the gorgeous boulevard "Ringstraße" with the infamous State Opera House, the Burgtheater, the city's Town Hall, the colourfully brilliant "Hunderwasserhaus" and even the world's oldest Ferris wheel (Riesenrad), which is situated directly at the year-round carnival, Praterstern. Relaxation and reflection can be found in one of the numberless coffee houses that Vienna is well known for. The evening ends impressively with a Waltz- and Opera concert at the Hofburg (optional) or possibly in a musty wine tavern. After boarding we ship to Krems during the night.

Day 7: Wachau | Krems – Melk, bike leg ≈ 36 km

With quaint dreamy villages, apricot trees, vineyards, castles, monasteries and Ruins this hilly landscape enchants nearly everyone who sees it. This is pure biking enjoyment! As you walk your bike through Dürnstein's narrow alleys don't forget that King Richard Lionheart was not a voluntary guest here during medieval times. In Spitz you will find welcoming little wine taverns along the bike path. Take a break and enjoy yourself! Stunning Melk with its gorgeous baroque monastery of the Benedictine monks is at the end of the stage and is one of the most important baroque buildings in Austria. After a ceremonial Gala dinner, lots of fun and entertainment can be experienced aboard the ship during a live show.

Day 8: Passau

Unfortunately every tour has to come to an end. Relaxed, rested and surely in good spirits you will return to Passau while experiencing the morning impressions of the Upper Danube Valley. Arrival is approx. at 11.30 a.m.; disembarkation approx. ½ hour later. We recommend making reservations for onward travels not before 2:00 p.m. Then all connections and arrangements shall be met in a timely matter.