

The Blue Danube

Starting at **$1,559***

A fantastic voyage through Europe's picturesque heart

See the beautiful river towns and grand capitals on a river cruise through the most charming parts of Austria, Hungary, and Slovakia. Visit fairy-tale castles and grand cathedrals, and simply watch as some of the most exquisite scenery in the world passes by.

Trip details

Tour start
Budapest

Tour end
Budapest

8 Days

7 Nights

20 Meals

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Trip Highlights:
- Vienna
- Budapest
- Austrian Vineyards
- Salzburg
- Esztergom Basilica
- Wachau
- Melk Abbey

Hotels:
- MS Emily Bronte
- MS Geoffrey Chaucer
- MS Oscar Wilde
- MS Robert Burns
- MS Thomas Hardy
- MS William Wordsworth

The Blue Danube 8 days/7 nights - Budapest to Budapest

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Embark In Budapest

Arrive in Budapest and board your floating hotel in the afternoon; your suite will be ready by 5:00 PM. Settle into your well-equipped suite and familiarize yourself with the ship. Enjoy dinner in the stylish restaurant on board. (D)

Day 2 Esztergom

Cruise to Esztergom, Hungary's capital during medieval times. Enjoy a ride on a land train to Esztergom's renowned Renaissance Basilica, followed by a guided tour of this wonderful building, boasting one the world's largest altars. Return to the ship to enjoy lunch on board as you depart Esztergom. View the landscape, towns, and villages of Hungary and Slovakia on either bank before dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Bratislava

Explore Slovakia's capital city, Bratislava, and see its atmospheric 17th-century fortress on a guided tour aboard a land train, followed by a walking tour of its Baroque Old Town. This afternoon you cruise into Lower Austria and Wachau, a bucolic region home to some of the country's best wines. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Dürnstein | Melk

Arrive in picturesque Dürnstein for a guided tour. You'll see the baroque tower dominating the river, where Richard the Lionheart was once imprisoned. After lunch, make a guided visit to the remarkable monastery at Melk, originally founded in 1089. View the Emperor's Gallery lined with portraits of Austrian emperors and its large library containing a unique medieval collection of manuscripts. Dine this evening as you cruise through the pretty Nibelungengau, immortalized in the music of Wagner. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Linz Or Salzburg

Take a coach drive through the beautiful Austrian landscape to Salzburg, overlooked by its huge Hohensalzburg Fortress. Take a guided walking tour through its timeless architecture and history as captured in the "Sound of Music" film classic. Or, if you would like to stay closer to the ship, take a guided walking tour of the Old Town of Linz. (Please note lunch is not included onboard on this full day excursion to Salzburg; however, the ship will offer a packed lunch.) Return to the ship for dinner on board. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Vienna

Arrive in Vienna, one of Europe's great capitals and cultural centers, home to fine music, sumptuous baroque palaces, grand boulevards, and charming architecture. Start with a guided tour down the architectural wonders of the famous Ringstrasse before walking through the royal court and gardens of the Hofburg, home of the Habsburg Empire. In the afternoon, you are free to explore as you wish or enjoy a coffee and a slice of delicious sachertorte in one of the renowned cafés. After dinner, you will experience a once-in-a-lifetime private Viennese string quartet recital on board. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Budapest

Cruise along Hungary's peaceful pastoral landscape to Budapest, spending a leisurely morning on the Sun Deck to view the scenic Danube Bend. After lunch, enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city known as the "Pearl of the Danube." Take a guided journey through the cities of Buda and Pest, built on opposite banks of the Danube. Stop at Heroes Square, see the Parliament Building then cross over to the Buda side and visit Fisherman's Bastion area with free time to explore. This evening enjoy the Captain's Dinner followed by a Hungarian folklore show. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Disembark In Budapest

Your vacation ends after breakfast. (B) B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner