

Active & Discovery on the Danube – Westbound

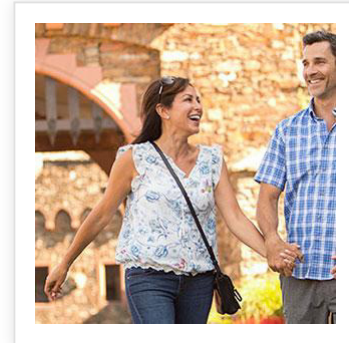


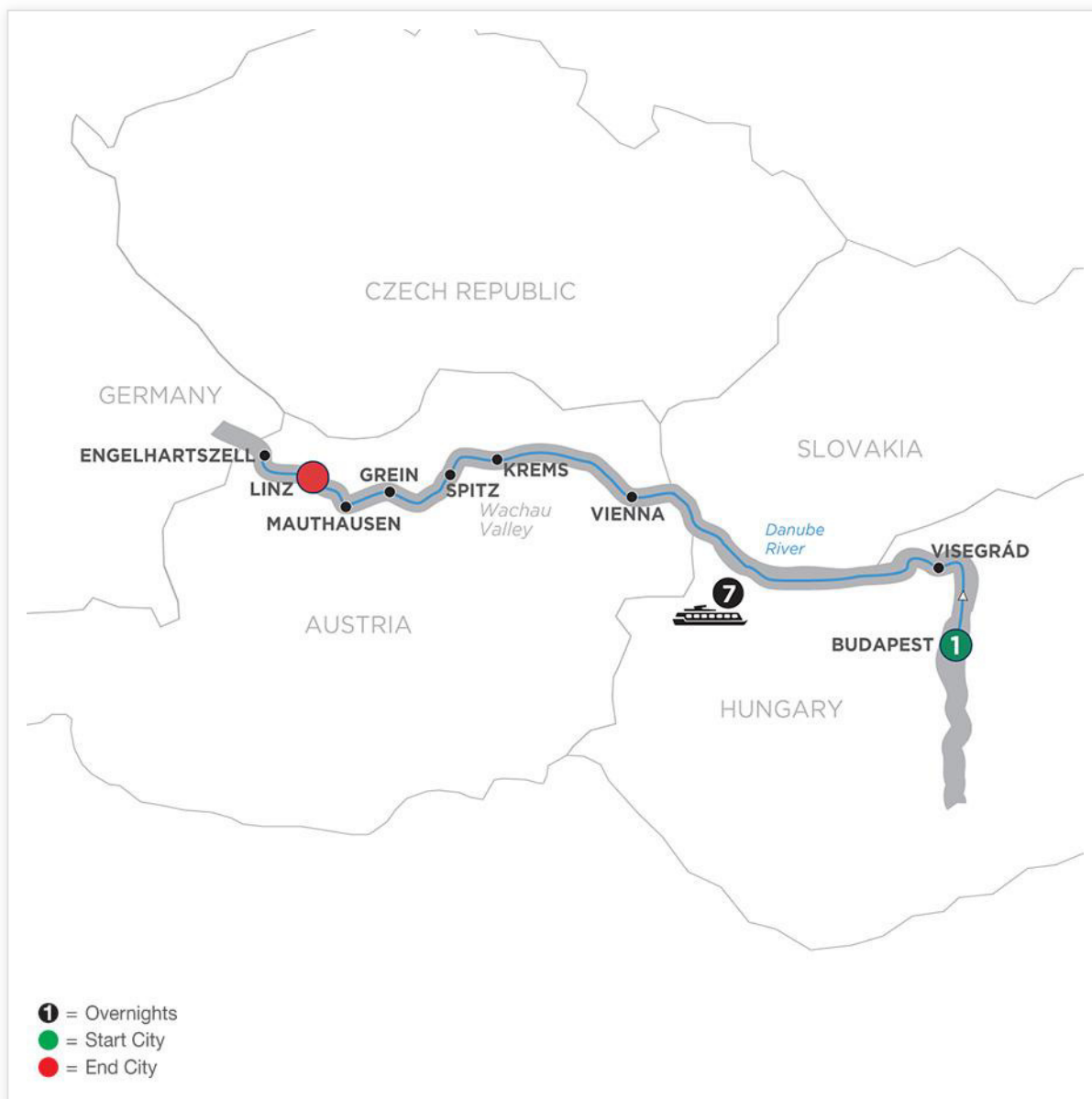
Vacation Overview

Whether you're an art lover, a foodie, a history buff, or an energetic adventurer, your Active & Discovery cruise on the Danube River invites you to experience culture and cuisine in creative ways that are perfect for you. With Avalon Choice, you can select the experiences that are perfect for your interests and pace—from Active to Discovery to Classic. Avalon Choice gives you a choice of included excursions in each port.

Start by exploring Budapest your way—stroll its streets for classic sightseeing with a local guide or take a bike ride through town for a different perspective, or learn something new with a leisurely walking tour to discover a few local Hungarian phrases. Attend a Medieval Knights Tournament at a Visegrád castle, see Gustave Klimt's renowned "Kiss" painting in Vienna. With Avalon Choice, each day is yours to spend your way. Whether you prefer browsing the art collection of the Habsburg Empire, sipping local vintages at an Austrian wine-tasting, or joining a canoe excursion, your Active & Discovery cruise is packed with Avalon Choice inclusions for every pace in every place we go. Sample cheese and beer made by Trappist monks and explore their Abbey gardens; take a hike to Count Dracula's prison tower; or tour Mauthausen Concentration Camp, one of WWII's most notorious sites—selecting from an unmatched variety of included excursions to choose from each day.

Join us on this Active & Discovery cruise and experience the Blue Danube your way. No matter how you choose to explore new locales—from paddling canoes to picnic views—Avalon Choice includes the excursions and activities to invite you to discover each destination your way. Your Active & Discovery Danube River cruise can be as active or leisurely as you like!





Itinerary

Day 1 **BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

Welcome to Budapest—Hungary’s Captivating Capital

The day is yours to relax and enjoy Eastern Europe’s shining city on the Danube.

Day 2 **BUDAPEST (EMBARKATION)–DANUBE BEND**

The Pearl of the Danube

ACTIVE See the sights from a different perspective by joining a Guided Bike Tour along the bike paths and pedestrian areas of the city, OR:



DISCOVERY Enjoy a Guided Walking Tour combing the sights of Budapest with “Fungarian” instruction of useful local words and phrases, OR:

CLASSIC Take a Guided Walking Tour of Budapest to see the city's most iconic sites.

Spend free time shopping for Hungarian paprika or handcrafted souvenirs, or savor a piece of cream cake in the world-famous Gerbeaud Café.

Enjoy a Hungarian Dinner on board during a scenic cruise through the Danube Bend.

EVENING CRUISE TO VISEGRÁD

 Breakfast  Dinner

Day 3 **VISEGRÁD**

Jousting Tournaments and Artisan Traditions

DISCOVERY Join a Guided Visit to the Medieval Knights Tournament at Visegrád's Lower Castle, featuring targeting and fighting demonstrations by members of the St. George Knightly Order, OR:

ACTIVE Take a Castle visit and scenic Hiking Tour to Count Dracula's prison tower in Visegrád, OR:

ACTIVE Take part in a canoe excursion through the picturesque Bend Region of the Danube for a truly unique perspective of one of the river's most beautiful stretches.

Spend free time after your selected activities to explore Palotaház, where stonemasons, smiths, potters, and paper-makers produce their traditional items using age-old techniques.

AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VIENNA

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 4 **VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Strauss, Schnitzel, Strudel, and Sachertorte

ACTIVE Take a Guided Bike Tour along the famed Ringstrasse and pedestrian avenues of Vienna to see the city's highlights from a unique perspective, OR:

ACTIVE Join a Guided Jogging Tour of the City of Music to see highlights of the gilded architecture along the way, OR:

DISCOVERY Take an Insider's Tour of Vienna to get behind the scenes of her sights and attractions. You will meet locals, have the chance to prepare some food, and enjoy other surprises, OR:

CLASSIC Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Vienna, including a tour of Belvedere Palace to see Gustav Klimt's renowned "Kiss" painting.

Spend free time this afternoon strolling through the pedestrian Kärntnerstrasse, then take a break for a piece of Sachertorte.

This evening, you may choose to attend an Optional Musical Experience to conduct your own orchestra, followed by a classical waltz and operetta concert performance to enjoy.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN VIENNA

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 5 **VIENNA**

A Feast for the Soul in Vienna

DISCOVERY Enjoy a morning Guided Walking Tour to see the city in her best light, along with breakfast at a Viennese café, OR:

CLASSIC Dive into European history and drama with a Guided Tour of the Habsburg family's private art collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, and Italian or Dutch master works, OR:

CLASSIC Take a Guided Tour of the Museum of Fine Arts, followed by the World Museum Vienna, commemorating the past of the Habsburg Empire.

You might decide to join a Guided Optional Hike this evening to the vineyards surrounding Vienna, and also enjoy an Optional Excursion to a local Viennese Heurigen (Wine Tavern).

Tonight, enjoy live entertainment on board your ship.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO KREMS

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 6 **KREMS**

Take a Hike, a Canoe, or a Bike to Explore Austria's Wine Country

ACTIVE Paddle a canoe on a Guided Tour to see the Austrian waterways and shoreline scenery from a unique perspective, OR:

ACTIVE Take a Guided Bike Tour from Spitz to Krems, and enjoy a stop in Dürnstein to see the mesmerizing blue Stiftskirche, and to sample local specialties, OR:

DISCOVERY Join an interactive Wine World Experience with wine tasting, OR:

DISCOVERY Enjoy a Guided Visit that showcases production of regional fruits, vegetables, wine, or other products.

Relax on board this afternoon to enjoy the picturesque Wachau Valley scenery as you cruise to Grein.

GREIN

A Modern-Day Castle and the Count

DISCOVERY See Burg Clam on a Guided Visit, and meet the Count of Clam during your tour.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN GREIN

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 7 **GREIN**

Theater History on Austria's Oldest Stage

CLASSIC Take a Guided Walk of Grein, including its historic theater, the oldest in Austria still holding regular performances.

Take a mid-morning cruise to Mauthausen.

MAUTHAUSEN

History Lessons and Monastic Life in Austria

ACTIVE Take a Guided Bike Tour along the Danube and discover how fertile this area is. Stop at a local farm and learn more about farming life and flood protection, OR:

CLASSIC Take a step back in time with a visit to the 9th-century St. Florian Monastery—the largest monastery in upper Austria and home to Augustine monks, OR:

CLASSIC Pay homage to a pivotal time in human history with a Guided Tour of Mauthausen Concentration Camp, one of the largest and most brutal Nazi camps of WWII.

This afternoon sail to Linz arriving this evening.

LINZ

Meet the Locals in Linz

Join a Guided Optional Pub Crawl through Linz to sample local libations and mingle with the locals. Later, enjoy live entertainment on board.

OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ENGELHARTSZELL

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 8 ENGELHARTSZELL–SCHLÖGEN OXBOW

Memories and Beer in the making

ACTIVE Join a Guided Tour to the “House by the Stream” (Haus am Strom) and walk across the Danube Power-Station Jochenstein, OR:

CLASSIC Visit the stunning rococo-style Engelszell Abbey, and explore its Sensory Garden—complete with stone labyrinth, herb garden, and vineyard. Sample cheese and beer made by the resident Trappist monks.

ACTIVE This afternoon, enjoy a scenic Guided Hike along the Danube’s Schlögen Oxbow bend that cuts a dramatic landscape made by centuries of natural elements.

Or, as a relaxing option, enjoy free time on the Sky Deck this afternoon while you sail through the amazing horseshoe bend of the Danube’s Schlögen Oxbow on your return to Linz. Later, enjoy a farewell dinner onboard, followed by live entertainment.

OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN LINZ

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

Day 9 LINZ (DISEMBARKATION)

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.



Breakfast

Vacation Highlights

Day 1 Budapest: welcome to Hungary

Day 2 Budapest (Embarkation)–Danube Bend: choice of walking tour with funny language lesson, or guided bike tour, or city sightseeing tour in Budapest; onboard welcome reception; scenic cruising around the Danube Bend

Day 3 Visegrád: choice of medieval knights tournament, or guided hike in the Danube—Ipoly National Park, or canoe tour

Day 4 Vienna: choice of bike tour, or jogging tour, or meet with local people, or guided tour, visit to Belvedere Palace

Day 5 Vienna: choice of early risers walking tour with breakfast at a Viennese café, or guided tour, see Habsburg private art collection and the Italian or Dutch masters works, or guided tour, see Habsburg private art collection and the World Museum

Day 6 Krems–Grein: choice of canoe tour, or bike tour from Krems to Spitz, or Wine World Experience with tasting, or local encounter showcasing regional products; visit Clam castle and meet the Count

Day 7 Grein–Mauthausen–Linz: guided walk in Grein, visit the historical theater; in Mauthausen, choice of visit to St. Florian Monastery, or guided tour of Mauthausen Concentration Camp, or guided bike tour

Day 8 Engelhartzell–Schlögener Schlinge–Linz: choice of visit to Engelszell Abbey, or visit Jochenstein Power-Station; choice of scenic cruising around the Schlögener Schlinge, or guided hike along the Danube trails

Day 9 Linz (Disembarkation): your vacation ends this morning

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

Hotels

Budapest



Budapest Marriott

Hotel as shown or similar

Deluxe

This modern 364 room property enjoys a prime downtown location and offers convenience blended with style. Free Wi-Fi access is available in the lobby and the hotel has a fitness center with sauna and Jacuzzi. The trendy Mediterranean Grill restaurant serves tasty Hungarian dishes and the stylish lounge bar offers tapas style food and cocktails.



InterContinental Budapest

Hotel as shown or similar

Deluxe

Few would argue the InterContinental Budapest is in the city's best location: right on the Danube across from Castle Hill and the Royal Palace. With the Chain Bridge and the Parliament just steps away, there's no shortage of superb sightseeing opportunities. The Váci Utca shopping street, Central Market Hall and the Gellért Baths are also nearby.



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18472 Colima Rd., Suite 202F, Rowland Heights, CA 91748

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