

Cycling Safaris

Vienna – Bratislava - Budapest 2018 Self Guided Tour

260 - 285 km | 7 night / 8 days

On this classic cycling tour you will experience the combination of scenic riverbanks of the Danube as well as the unique opportunity to visit the most important cities that lay alongside the Danube. Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest have an overwhelming history with genuine notions of the yesteryear.

Nostalgia is combined with a deeply intriguing history along the ever-changing riverbanks of the Danube and all are included in the places that you will come across. Just to scratch the surface of this in-depth tour; it takes you to The Castle of Eckartsau, which happens to be the place where Austrian Emperor Karl the 1st and his wife Zita met their fate. And in Bratislava, where the coronation of Hungarian Kings took place and the famous empress Maria Theresia acquired much of her fame, prestige and honour. In Esztergom, the first Hungarian king, King Stephan was born and accepted his coronation. Empress Sissi of Austria was crowned Queen of Hungary in Budapest. All of this plus much more will certainly make for a trip of a lifetime.



Highlights:

3 country capitals: Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, the Danube Floodplain National Park, Archaeological Park Carnuntum, “Little Alföld” Protected Area, Arabian National Stud in Babolna, the Basilica in Esztergom, the Danube Bend and the open air museum Skanzen



Tour profile

The tour is mostly flat with rolling hills that are sometimes slightly steep. The Austrian section follows well-maintained and equipped cycling paths, in Hungary, you will often cycle on country back and side roads. Upon entering and leaving cities there is, of course, traffic that must be observed!

Vienna to Budapest

Irish Cycling Safaris | Belfield Bike Shop, UCD, Dublin 4, Ireland
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TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Vienna

Individual arrival to Vienna (our tip: low cost carrier to Vienna/Bratislava); this evening belongs to you! What about a short city walk or a visit at a typical Viennese tavern Heurigen

Day 2 Vienna –Bad-Deutsch Altenburg approx. 45 km

Not far from Vienna begins an untouched landscape and a Nature Reserve with stunning and diverse Flora and Fauna. Get away from it all and enjoy the wonderful peace and silence, only interrupted by the twittering chirps of birds. The ancient Romans have left their print and also have relaxed in the nice warm water of Bad Deutsch Altenburg. The Archaeological Park of Carnuntum will invite you into an exciting journey of the past.

Day 3 Region Bad D. Altenburg – Bratislava approx. 26 km

Nestled between the hills of Hainbury and the Carpathian Mountains, cycle to Europe's youngest capital, Bratislava. The quaint old city centre with numerous sights, a lovely pedestrian zone and countless restaurants and cafes will invite you to an extended stroll. High above the city, stand the towers and walls of an exceptional castle.

Day 4 Bratislava – Szigetköz – Győr approx. 50 km + train Mosonmagyaróvár-Győr

The marshy landscape of the Szigetköz is an ideal environment and paradise for birds and fish alike. In the midst of these wild and untouched lowlands with more than 500 tiny islands, you will find quaint farming villages and a labyrinth of countless Danube canals and creeks. After a relaxing and short train ride you reach the day's final destination, Győr with its gorgeous Baroque-style old town squares.

Day 5 Győr – Komarno/surroundings approx. 45 - 73 km

The National Stud of Babolna is world famous for its Arabian horse breeding and is definitely worth a stroll through. While you are visiting the Studs and the Stud Museum you can catch a glimpse of some secrets Hungarian horse breeding techniques and methods. After cycling through the lush rolling hills into the village of Komárom, where you will stay in this favoured village of renowned King Matthias.

Day 6 Komarno – Danube Bend approx. 35 - 52 km + ship (Cat. A)

Today you cycle along the banks of the Slovakian Danube on small low-traffic roads through quaint and quintessential villages. On your way to the "Town of Bishops and Kings", Estergom, also known as the "Hungarian Rome" or "Royal City", you pass the Roman fort of Kelemantia. The Basilica of Estergom, the largest Catholic Church in Hungary, and the rest of the town are a highlight of this trip.

Day 7 Danube Bend – Budapest approx. 62 km + ship

Amidst the hilly landscape, the river Danube divides itself into parts creating the Szentendre island. On this island you cycle through typical Hungarian villages. Szentendre is famous for its numerous handicraft boutiques and Open-Air Museum Skanzen. A few notable highlights include some of the most famous attractions in Budapest. All in which you will discover on your boat ride into the city.

Day 8 Budapest – Vienna

You enjoy this day in the metropolis of Budapest. Departure by scheduled bus every 2 hours on a daily basis, pre-reservation needed at time of booking, later changes or cancellation only possible until 10 days before arrival; Arrival in Vienna (bus station or international airport) approx. 3 hours later. The return is also comfortably possible by speedboat (extra charge). Schedule subject to change!

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2018 TOUR DATES & PRICES

You have a choice of accommodation type on this tour:

Category A – selected 4* hotels in all cities (on request)

Category B - 3* or 4* hotels/inns (we will assume this category unless otherwise stated)

Season 1: April 21 – April 26, October 5 – October 13 (arrival on Saturdays only)

Category B

€585 per person sharing

€755 for single occupancy

Category A

€695 per person sharing

€895 for single occupancy

Season 2: April 27 – June 28, August 31 – October 4 (Starting Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

Category B

€655 per person sharing

€825 for single occupancy

Category A

€785 per person sharing

€985 for single occupancy

Season 3: June 29 – August 30 (Starting Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

Category B

€695 per person sharing

€865 for single occupancy

Category A

€825 per person sharing

€1025 single occupancy

Reduction:

Reduction with 2 full paying adults in double room (third bed) – bike rental extra/upon request

0-6 years (100%)

7-11 years (50%)

12-14 years (25%)

15-99 years (10%)

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- 7 nights accommodation with private facilities & breakfast
- 7 gear unisex or 21 speed women/gents touring bike with pannier bag
- Daily Luggage transfer up to hotel in Budapest (2 pieces/max. 20 kg per person)
- Return transfer by public bus from Budapest to Vienna (excl. bike)
- 1x train transfer Mosonmagyaróvár – Győr (incl. bike)
- 1 x ship or train transfer (before/after seasonal shipping schedule) Szentendre-Budapest (cat. A & B) *
- For Cat A clients this tour includes a boat transfer from Esztergom to Visegrad, where the Cat A hotel is located. This boat runs from April to the end of August after which a bus is organised to Visegrad.
- Service Hotline
- Handlebar bag with travel book, maps and information material per room

The shipping season starts in late April and goes until the end of September.

If the cruise is not available there is a train ticket organised

*if you wish to avail of dinners a supplement applies:

€110-Category B

€150-Category A (6 dinners included, in Vienna breakfast only)

** If you do not wish to avail of the public bus transfer from Budapest to Vienna a €22 reduction per person will apply.

This must be highlighted at the time of booking.

Not included optional extras (to be booked up to 10 days in advance):

- Helmet rental, payable local, 25 euro (compulsory in Slovakia outside of cities!)
- If you have not rented our bikes but have brought your own, there is a cost of €27.00 to bring bikes by coach but this is available on a Saturday only
- E-bikes are available for a €85 supplement

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BIKE INFORMATION

21-gear ladies bikes come as standard bikes with 28" wheels
in frame sizes 46 / 51 / 56 cm .

For men taller than 186 cm we offer men frames.

Our bicycles are equipped with:

1 good sized waterproofed pannier bag,
1 handle bar bag, repair kit, air pump, lock



- Electric bikes, children's bikes, specialized equipment for children upon request
- All rental bikes are equipped with a pannier (saddle bag) and an odometer (except e-bikes)
- Helmet rental possible for €25 (paid locally)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The bike tours are unescorted. All mileages are approximate distances of recommended routes.
- Vienna, Bratislava (approx 75km from Vienna, Bus Bratislava – Vienna approx €11) and Budapest are accessible by many low-cost airlines.
- In Slovakia you have to wear a helmet outside of cities. Helmets can be rented for €25 and this is payable locally but we recommend you bring your own if possible so you are more comfortable.
- In Austria it is mandatory for children under 12 years to wear a helmet when on a bike.
- In Hungary you have to wear a safety vest at night and by poor visibility outside cities/villages.

WHAT TO BRING

Your enjoyment of the tour will also depend on whether you choose the right clothes to take along. We would recommend that you bring padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover which will make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment, as are hard-sole shoes which will help protect your feet. And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat will protect you from getting too much sun.

ACCOMMODATION

Catagory A – selected 4* hotels in all cities

Catagory B -- 3* or 4* hotels/inns (we will assume this category unless otherwise stated)

We can arrange extra nights/accommodation before or after the tour in either Vienna or Budapest in our hotels (pending availability). The cost for this is:-

Extra night in Vienna:

Double/Twin room €70.00 per person sharing (Cat A/B)

Single room €105.00 (Cat A/B)

Extra night in Budapest

Double/Twin room €60.00 per person sharing (Cat A)

Single room €100.00 (Cat A)

€50.00 per person sharing (Cat B)

Single room €85.00 (Cat B)

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RETURN TRIP TO VIENNA

By coach (included in the tour price): 3 hrs – 3.5 hrs transfer time

Departure at 11.00am or 3.00pm. Other times are possible on request...

You will be brought to Vienna Bus Terminal or Vienna International airport

Return transfer of own bikes: €29.00 (on Saturdays only).

In the event that you do not require the bus-ticket and wish to avail of a refund (€22.00 p/p) we need to be informed up to 10 days before your tour start. For later cancellations we cannot give any reductions.

By hydrofoil:

You can also return to Vienna by hydrofoil – details to be confirmed

Booking for hydrofoil has to be before arrival in Vienna (only limited number of passengers possible.

Check-in: one hour before departure (luggage up to 20kg per person)

The transfer prices are approximate so always check with our office

ENTRY FORMALITIES

Citizens of the states of the European Union need a valid passport to enter Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.

We kindly ask citizens of other countries to refer to their local Consulates or Embassy.