

Cycling Safaris

Passau to Vienna (Danube Cycle Path) 2018 Self-Guided Tour

325 – 340 km | 8 days | 7 nights



Travel along the blue Danube as the Romans or European Kings and Emperors did in former times. You will get to know the beauty and historic importance of the thousand-year-old trade route. Always accompanied from the cool and clear water of the Danube you can enjoy one of the most beautiful bike paths in Europe.

Start your journey in the baroque city Schöding or in the three-rivers-city Passau and cycle through the several quarters of Upper and Lower Austria until you reach the Danube metropolis Vienna. You will be fascinated from the breath-taking Danube loop, from the Danube valley and the wonderful landscapes of Machland, Strudengau and well-known Wachau. Furthermore this region offers several traditional culinary Austrian delicacies. Enjoy numerous dumplings specialties and tasty wines. This route is ideal for a bike holiday with the whole family.

Along the river Danube flat or slightly descending, almost 100% on dedicated cycle paths without any motor traffic. There are only very short parts on quiet minor roads. Simply a masterpiece of a bicycle tour, as it should be!

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival to Schärding/Passau, baroque city or three-rivers-city

Stroll through the baroque city Schärding and visit the „Silberzeile“ or enjoy the newly renovated pedestrian zone in three-rivers-city Passau.

Day 2: Schärding/Passau – Danube loop/surroundings, Danube valley approx. 40 - 55 km

Along river Inn to three-rivers-city Passau. We recommend a short city tour, the visit of the Dome (biggest organ of the world). Along the Danube and via Oberzell to Engelhartzell (monastery). The Danube, second-biggest river in Europe has to make a 180° bend here. During your ferry tour to the other side of the river and hotel you have enough time to watch this phenomenon.

Day 3: Danube loop/surroundings – Linz, Danube loop approx. 50 km

Today you cycle via Aschach, Ottensheim and Wilhering to the upper Austrian capital city Linz where a lot of restaurants are awaiting you in the historic old city. Another highlight of this city is the wonderful view from mountain Pöstlingsberg or a stroll along Donaulände.

Day 4: Linz – Grein/surroundings, through Marchland approx. 55 km

Today you leave the Danube to cycle to St. Florian (abbey) and Enns. In Enns you can visit the market square with city tower (size of 60m), which is the emblem of the oldest city in Austria or you visit the archaeological collection in the city museum Lauriacum. Afterwards you continue again along the river to reach the wonderful baroque city of Grein. Here you have the possibility to visit the oldest city theatre in Austria. Furthermore you can visit the navy museum or Greinburg.

Day 5: Grein/surroundings – Wachau, Strudengau and Nibelungengau approx. 50-60 km

This part of the Danube was dreaded in former times as it was hard to pass by boat. Today you can cycle this section in a very relaxed way. In Maria Taferl a precious pilgrims church is awaiting you, thousands of pilgrims visit this church yearly.

Day 6: Wachau – Krems / Traismauer / Tulln approx. 40-60 km

In Melk you should plan a stop to visit the abbey. Afterwards you cycle through the Wachau region where you will enjoy the beauty of the typical fruit orchards and vineyards. Via Spitz, Weißenkirchen and ruin Dürnstein you reach Krems, a thousand-year-old city and Tulln. Of course you have to taste the typical wine, therefore we have organised a wine tasting for you.

Day 7: Krems / Traismauer / Tulln – Vienna approx. 45-65 km

Within a few last kilometres you reach the Danube metropolis. Enjoy the amenities of this great city. Visit a typical Viennese café and try a piece of Sachertorte. Stroll through Vienna's Parade shopping street Mariahilfer Straße, visit the Stephen's Cathedral or enjoy the most important places of interest during a trip in one of the famous Fiaker cabs.

Day 8: Individual departure or additional nights

If you want to extend your stay in Vienna, we have thought of something special: Spend a few relaxing days in a 4****- hotel and combine sightseeing and cultural attractions with cycling tours or hikes through the wine-growing regions around Vienna.

If you need a rental bike we offer that for free (based on availability, upon request!)

TOUR DATES 2018

Daily arrival from 24th March – 13th Oct

When booking the tour please state the city of arrival: Schärding or Passau

TOUR PRICES 2018

You have a choice of accommodation type on this tour:

We will assume all bookings are for Category A unless otherwise stated.

Category A - usually 4* hotels or the best local hotels

Season 1 : 24 Mar – 27 Apr & 29 Sep – 13 Oct	€715.00 per person sharing
Season 2 : 28 Apr – 25 May & 8 – 28 Sept	€765.00 per person sharing
Season 3 : 26 May – 7 Sept	€820.00 per person sharing
+ €210.00 for single occupancy	
+ €165.00 half board supplement (6 dinners, Vienna not included)	

Category B – 3* and 4* Hotels

Season 1 : 24 Mar – 27 Apr & 29 Sep – 13 Oct	€610.00 per person sharing
Season 2 : 28 th Apr – 25 May & 8 – 28 th Sept	€660.00 per person sharing
Season 3 : 27 May – 1 Sept	€715.00 per person sharing
+ €170.00 for single occupancy	
+ €150.00 half board supplement (6 dinners, Vienna not included)	

Category C - 3* hotels and guesthouses, all rooms with shower/WC

Season 1 : 24 Mar – 27 Apr & 29 Sep – 13 Oct	€555.00 per person sharing
Season 2 : 28 th Apr – 25 May & 8 – 28 th Sept	€595.00 per person sharing
Season 3 : 27 May – 1 Sept	€635.00 per person sharing
+ €150.00 for single occupancy	
+ €150.00 half board supplement (6 dinners, Vienna not included)	

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 overnight stays in selected category
- Breakfast buffet
- 21 or 7 gear unisex bikes (gents bikes on request only – limited availability)
- Personal tour information
- Detailed travel documents with route description and recommendations for culture, cuisine, etc. per booked room
- Luggage transport from hotel to hotel
- 1 journey by ferry (Au-Schlögen) incl. bike
- 1 wine tasting in Wachau
- Danube Card in Upper Austria
- GPS tracks available
- Service-hotline during your tour

- *Optional extra*
E-Bikes are available for an additional +€95 supplement

ACCOMMODATION

We can arrange extra night's accommodation before or after the tour in either Passau or Vienna in our hotels (pending availability). The cost for this is:

Extra night in Passau/Schärding:

Category A Double/Twin room €70.00 per person sharing
Category B/C Double/Twin room €60.00 per person sharing

Single room €100.00
Single room €90.00

Extra night in Vienna

All categories Double / Twin room €70.00 per person sharing

Single room €110.00

WHAT TO BRING

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. **Please bring your own helmet as these are not provided.** And don't forget raingear including a rain jacket, rain pants and slip-on boots. A hat and sunglasses will protect you from getting all much sun and, in the evening, mosquito repellent should ensure a good night's sleep. Finally, please make an effort to pack lightly. This will make your travels easier and will be much appreciated with the luggage transfers.

BACK UP SERVICE

As this is a self led trip you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveler, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation.

If you experience small problems with the bike (e.g., a puncture) you will have a spare tube, pump and tyre lever. You also have access to a 24 hour helpline.

BIKE AND FITNESS



- 21 speed unisex bike (gents bike on request only/limited availability)
- Saddle bag (water-resistant)
- Handlebar bag (water-resistant)
- Tools
- Repair kit
- Pump
- Combination lock

The advantage of this cycling safari is that you can enjoy each day's cycle at your own pace. To get the most out of your holiday we would recommend that you do take a few practice rides before this tour.

The Route

Flat or slightly downhill the Danube; well-built cycling path almost all the way without motor vehicles. Minor roads make up only very short sections of this route – the Danube cycle path is a perfect example of a cycle route

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Flying to Passau

- **Munich Airport (MUC)**

The closest airport to Passau is Munich Airport (München Flughafen / MUC) with its huge number of cheap flights to mostly German and European destinations.

Passau is around 160 km (100 miles) from Munich Airport. Driving time is around 90 minutes. From the airport, take Autobahn A92 towards Deggendorf and turn southeast onto Autobahn A3 when reaching the Danube.

Public transportation is slightly more complicated. From the airport, take bus 635 to Freising (18 minutes). Direct trains run from Freising to Passau every two hours. Alternatives require transfers in either Plattling or Regensburg. Total journey time varies from 2h20 to three hours.

- **Frankfurt International Airport (FRA)**

Many international, and especially intercontinental, passengers will enter Germany at Frankfurt International Airport (FRA). It will often be both faster and cheaper to take the ICE train from Frankfurt to Passau rather than taking a connection flight to Munich. Many direct trains are available with more options requiring an easy transfer at Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof. Total journey time is just over four hours.

The following websites will help you with train connections between Vienna and Passau.

www.bahn.de or www.oebb.at

For route planner:

<http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query.exe/en?newrequest=yes&protocol=http&>

High-Speed Inter-City-Express Trains to Passau

Passau is on the high-speed railway line that links Frankfurt am Main and Vienna. Luxury, high-speed Inter-City Express (ICE) trains run on this route roughly every two hours.

The ICE trains to Frankfurt am Main Hauptbahnhof (Main Station) take around four hours and stop en route in Plattling (30 minutes), Regensburg (1h), Nürnberg / Nuremberg (2h), and Würzburg (3h). Many trains continue to Frankfurt International Airport and on to Cologne (Köln) and further destinations.

From Passau to Vienna on the ICE train is three hours with a stop en route in Linz (1h10).

- Passau station (Bahnhof) is at the edge of the old town in Donaustadt. From the station to the heart of the old town is an easy fifteen-minute walk through pleasant shopping streets.

Regional Trains to Passau

Many regional trains also pass through Passau. Although slower than the ICE, regional trains can be significantly cheaper and on short distances, the time differences can be negligible. In addition, discount tickets such as the Bayern Ticket and Schönes-Wochenende-Ticket may be used on regional trains only.

The regional trains are available amongst others to Plattling (36 min) and Regensburg (1h40). Only regional trains are available to München / Munich (2h15) and run mostly every two hours – more frequent connections require transfers at either Plattling or Regensburg.

German discount tickets are not valid on regional trains into Austria but the slower trains are cheaper than the ICE. Regional trains run to Linz (90 min to 2h) and Vienna (5h).

Daily return transfer by bus from Vienna at the end of the tour – pick up at the hotel between 3 – 3.30pm, duration approx. 3,5 – 4 hours. Cost per person including own bikes - €55. Reservation necessary, payable on the spot.