CRUISE OF 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS - REF. WBB_RANPP

Hiking cruises in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire (port-to-port cruise)

AUSTRIA - SLOVAKIA - HUNGARY

Relaxing hiking and stunning scenery: embark on an incredible cruise along the Danube. From Austria via Hungary to Slovakia, discover breathtaking views and stroll through places earmarked in history such as Aggstein Castle, Devinska Kobyma Nature Reserve or the Fortress of Visegrad.





HIGHLIGHTS

- Hiking trails with a qualified mountain guide
- Bratislava, Budapest and Vienna
- At the very heart of Austro-Hungarian traditions and folklore

THE CROISIEUROPE DIFFERENCE

- All meals included - DRINKS INCLUDED with meals and at the bar
- Refined French cuisine - Gala dinner and evening - Welcome cocktail
- Free Wi-Fi onboard
- Headsets are included for excursions
- Official welcome from the captain and crew
- Onboard activities
- Travel assistance and repatriation insurance
- All port fees included

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

VIENNA

Board at around 6.00pm in Vienna. Welcome cocktail, presentation of the crew. Dinner on board. Our ship will depart at 8:00 p.m. towards Melk and sail through the night.

DAY 2

MELK - DURNSTEIN

Buffet breakfast on board. Arrive at daybreak and set off on the visit to Melk Abbey. Here you can admire the baroque-style marble hall, library and church. Return on board for lunch and set sail for Dürnstein, cruising through the beautiful Wachau Valley. Hiking programme: set off by coach for the village of Aggstein. Hike through the heart of the Wachau region, visit the ruins of Aggstein Castle. Its exceptional location and its impressive dimensions make this castle one of the most well-known in Austria. Erected around 1100, it is thought to have been the haunt of pillaging knights during the Middle Ages. There are superb views over the Wachau. After the visit, hike through unspoilt scenery to Maria Longegg then transfer by coach to rejoin the boat in Dürnstein. (4 hours hiking, with a climb of around 400m) Programme for the non-hikers: arrive in the early afternoon in Dürnstein and have a discovery tour in the company of your on board hostess. The village, known for the legend of Richard the Lionheart, has a remarkable abbey, radiant in pale blue and white, with one of the finest baroque bell towers in Austria. Return on board. Overnight stop in Dürnstein.

DAY 3

BRATISLAVA

Arrival of the boat during the night. Buffet breakfast on board. Hiking programme: set off by coach for Devinska Nova Ves, hike in the Little Carpathian mountain range, through Sandberg and the Devinska Kobyla National Nature Reserve to the ruins of Devin Castle (outside), from where there are beautiful views of Bratislava. Transfer by coach back to the ship. (1½ hours hiking, with a climb of around 250m) Programme for the non-hikers: set off on a visit of the Slovak capital. The baroque palace and pleasant shady squares are part of the charm of the town that was held so dear by Princess Maria Theresa of Austria. Return on board. Overnight stop in Bratislava.

DAY 4

BUDAPEST or surroundings (2)

Morning cruising towards Budapest, the “Pearl of the Danube”, which we will reach in the early afternoon. You will set off for the visit to the Puzsta, Also known as the "Great Hungarian Plain”, this enormous flat prairie was the Hungarian Wild West during the 19th century. You can immerse yourselves in the tradition and folklore as you watch a traditional horse show.

DAY 5

BUDAPEST or surroundings (2)

Buffet breakfast on board. Hiking programme: from the mooring point, a city walk to discover Buda. You will pass the famous Gellert Baths and walk along the paved streets by the castle, which is one of the few remaining examples of medieval Budapest. Return on board via public transport (not included) for lunch. (2½ hours hiking, with a climb of around 100m) Programme for the non-hikers: Guided visit of Budapest (panoramic tour by coach with stops) to discover Buda, the upper part of the city, with its narrow winding streets, baroque buildings and Royal Palace. Pest, is more bustling and busy, and proudly displays its rich mix of architectural styles. Lunch on board, afternoon at leisure for the non-hikers. Hiking programme: a walk in Pest, to discover the Art Deco and Hungarian Art Nouveau buildings. Set off from the mooring point to the covered market place. Pass Budapest synagogue - evidence of the importance of the Jewish community long ago. Walk along the pedestrianized street Vaci Utca and look up. You are sure to be surprised to see the great diversity of ornamentation on the buildings' facades. Visit St Stephen's Basilica and continue to Freedom Square lined with Hungarian Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings. Return on board by public transport (not included) or on foot. (2 hours level walking, no climbing involved). Dinner on board then a free evening, or a Folklore Evening in Budapest. Departure of the boat around midnight.

DAY 6

ESZTERGOM - VIENNA

Arrival early on the morning in Esztergom. Buffet breakfast on board. Free time in Esztergom, birth and coronation place of the first Hungarian king, St Stephen. The Basilica of Esztergom is a masterpiece of classicism and with its large dome, it owers over the town. It is the largest religious building in Hungary. Hiking programme: set off by coach for Visegrad then walk to Visegrad Fortress (exteriors only) from where you can see the Danube Bend. Return to the coach on foot and then transfer to the ship. (2 hours hiking, with a climb of around 250m) Lunch on board and an afternoon of cruising. Gala dinner and evening.

DAY 7

VIENNA

Arrival of the ship at daybreak. After buffet breakfast on board, there is a guided visit of Vienna and Schönbrunn Castle. Return on board for lunch. Hiking programme: the afternoon is spent on a walking discovery tour of Vienna. After lunch on board, transfer by coach to Kahlenbergerdorf. The walk up Leopoldsberg will take you to one of the finest vantage points over the city. From here you can admire the Danube and the Vienna Woods as you walk between the vines and forest. The distinctive feature of this circuit is the Nasenweg path, with its unique flora and fauna. (Around 3 to 4 hours hiking, with a climb of around 340m). Programme for the non-hikers: free time to visit Vienna at your own pace, or a guided visit of the Hofburg Palace, the Hapsburg's winter residence and its Sisi Museum. Return on board for dinner. In the evening, you will have the option to attend a concert of Viennese music(1).We moor for the night.

DAY 8

VIENNA

We have buffet breakfast on board and disembark. End of our journey.

Excursions

Included excursions (1)



EXCURSIONS PACKAGE

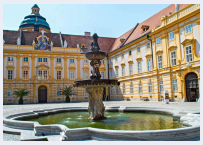
1 day Classic

Optional excursions (2)



VIENNESE MUSIC CONCERT

3h Classic SOIR



EXCURSIONS PACKAGE

1 day Classic

Our price includes

the cruise on a full board basis commencing with dinner on Day One and ending with buffet breakfast on the final morning - onboard drinks included (except for drinks from our special lists) - an air-conditioned twin main deck cabin with en suite shower/wc - transfers specified in the itinerary - visits and / or hikes as detailed in the programme - the services of a qualified mountain guide - welcome cocktail - entertainment on board - the Gala evening - the services of our hostess on board - insurance covering emergency aid and repatriation - all port taxes.

NB: CroisiEurope and the ship's captain reserve the right to modify the cruising itinerary to ensure the safe navigation of the vessel. (1) Subject to availability. (2) The stop in Budapest may be replaced by a stop in Komarom. Alcohol can be harmful to your health. Please drink in moderation.

Our price does not include

Drinks from our special lists, or drinks ordered during excursions or transfers - cancellation and baggage insurance - scheduled flights - airport taxes - booking fees - personal expenses.

Practical information

- Degree of difficulty: grade 2 (on a scale of 0 to 5)
- The hikes proposed as part of this cruise programme include half day trips including 2-3 hour walks or full day trips with up to 5 hours of walking, and include varying degrees of ascents and/or descents (approximately 150m to 400m). As you participate in these walks, you will have the chance to see up close the natural and cultural sites which form an integral part of the cruise programme.
- The durations given in the programme itineraries are for guidance purposes only and do not include stops.
- In order to take part in the walks, you do not have to be an elite athlete; however you should be relatively fit and well-rested if you wish to enjoy your cruise to the full.
- Your equipment
- Rucksack
- It is essential that you bring a rucksack or back pack with you with a 30-litre maximum capacity. Your rucksack should easily hold a sweater, waterproof clothing, picnic items, a water bottle and sun protection - vital when you go out on any walk or ramble.
- Your choice of rucksack will have a great influence on your comfort and therefore your enjoyment during your walks. Ensure you bring a sturdy rucksack of an appropriate size which has padded straps and is made of a tough, waterproof material.
- Please note that no porterage is provided during walks.
- Shoes
- Good shoes must be comfortable above anything else and must not rub or damage your feet. Ensure you are happy with your shoes, and try them out before you travel.
- Whatever degree of difficulty might be envisaged for the walks, please ensure the soles of your shoes are high-quality. They should be well-stitched and you should not slip when walking on any type of terrain, be it wet or dry. We would advise you choose shoes fitted with shock-absorbing soles which will help you to avoid malleolus fractures, back injuries and damage to your joints.
- Clothing
- It is essential that a walker's kit should always include:
- ▪ undergarments with the correct degree of thickness and warmth appropriate for the type of walks envisaged
- ▪ lightweight trousers that dry quickly
- ▪ a fleece or woollen pullover
- ▪ a cagoule or rain cape
- ▪ hat or cap
- ▪ lightweight gloves and hat can be welcome items in early and late season

REQUIREMENTS

Valid national identity card or passport required. Non-EU nationals are advised to consult their embassy or consulate.