

Kat's Great Adventures

Germany - Austria - Slovakia - Hungary - Croatia - Serbia - Danube Experience Iron Gates Bike and Boat Tour 2023
Passau – Vienna - Bratislava – Budapest - Belgrade – Iron Gates - Passau
Self-Guided Tour or Guided Tour
15 days / 14 nights



Come with us on an adventure packed bike and boat tour through six countries and widely differing cultures that reveals the beauty of the majestic Danube River in all its glory. Discover the breathtaking natural scenery of the Iron Gates, one of the most spectacular gorges in Europe, the vast expanse of the Pannonian plains, cycle through the Danube Bend in Hungary and the breadbaskets of Croatia and Serbia, through idyllic wine growing regions and past commanding fortresses high above the river. Visit Belgrade, the “white city”, fall in love with bewitching Budapest, the “Paris of the East”, and marvel at the baroque palaces in the picturesque Old Town of Bratislava and let yourself be carried away by the elegant charm of Vienna, the city of the waltz. Scenic and cultural highlights, excellent food and a crew that caters to your every whim, guarantee that your cycling holiday will be a unique and unforgettable experience.

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Passau/Surroundings

Embarkation 4:00 p.m. in Passau; departure is at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a final view of the beautiful city of Passau as you glide serenely into the sunset, past dark green forests before entering the lock at the Jochenstein power plant on the border between Germany and Austria.

Day 2: Great Loop - Engelhartzell – Aschach 42 km

Your first day's tour begins with a ride through the classic scenery of the 'Great Loop' Donauschlinge - one of the most beautiful sections of the Danube. Along the way you will encounter tiny villages and cozy cider taverns. In Austria's only Trappist monastery at Engelhartzell you can taste their delicious liquors and cheese. The famous 'Schlogener View' provides a wonderful panorama of the surrounding Austrian countryside. The boat welcomes all cyclists back on board in the charming market town of Aschach.



Day 3: Devin – Bratislava 15 - 43 km

A narrow cycle path runs along the Iron Curtain from the castle ruins in Devin to the splendid palace of Schloss Hof, which boasts one of the most magnificent baroque gardens in Europe. After a stretch of untouched countryside and a short time later, you arrive in the vibrant city of Bratislava. Our miniature train tour of the Slovakian capital in which Hungarian kings were once crowned (optional) begins with a glorious view from the fortress perched on a hill overlooking the city and ends with a walk through the beautifully restored historic city center.



Day 4: Budapest - Excursion to Szentendre 27 - 54 km (or rest day)

Savour the entrance to Budapest and the stunning views of the city's most famous buildings. Discover the city that straddles the Danube on a guided tour (optional) or take a detour to the delightful little town of Szentendre with its many artists and galleries. Get a taste of the fiery Hungarian temperament at a Hungarian folklore show with traditional music and folk dance accompanied by wine and hearty local food (optional).

Day 5: Baja – Mohacs 37 km

From the quiet baroque town of Baja that is famous for its fish soup, you'll cycle along the flood protection dykes in the Gemenc floodplain, through sleepy river landscapes past fields of sunflowers. At the end of today's stage, you take the ferry to the little town of Mohacs, Hungary's most southerly town on the Danube and famously the site of two battles with the Turks.

Day 6: Belgrade (rest day)

Explore the fun loving Serbian capital at the confluence of the Save and the Danube by bike or bus, take a journey in time from the past to the present and learn about the rise and fall of Yugoslavia (optional). In the evening, Belgrade is bathed in a sea of light. Visit the famous artists' quarter "Skadarlija", where in the countless taverns typical local specialties are served to spirited folk music.



Day 7: Cataract Canyons / Iron Gates National Park (rest day)

Experience the stunning fjord like landscape at close quarters from the ship's deck. The river cuts through the Romanian Carpathian Mountains and the mighty foothills of the Balkan mountain range. A spectacular landscape with steep gorges, dark forests with historic monuments and impregnable fortresses on the shores that are reflected in the blue waters of the river: this miracle of nature will take your breath away!



Day 8: Novi Sad – Ilok 48 km

The imposing Petrovaradin fortress perches high above the provincial capital of the Vojvodina. After cycling upstream along a flat cycle path, you take a ferry to reach the gentle foothills of the Fruska Gora, with its orchards, vineyards and idyllic farming villages. Ilok, the easternmost town in Croatia is famous for its wines, which are drunk even in the English royal family. A stroll train will take you to the old wine cellar (1450), where you will taste through the most famous wines of the region. In some cases, a Tamburizza group will accompany us through the evening (optional).

Day 9: Batina – Mohacs 42 km

You are in the border triangle and cycling through the endless expanse of the Batschka (the territory of the Danube Swabians). Small, dreamy farming villages, bright yellow rape fields and endless agricultural areas line your way from Croatia via Serbia to Hungary. Farmers cheerfully wave from their fields, and every now and then a horse-drawn wagon crosses the road. The alternative route leads through the untouched nature of the Dunav-Drava-Nemzeti Nations Park. On the roofs of the farmhouses nest numerous white storks, for which even a separate museum has been established. On your way to Mohacs, Hungary, you will pass the National Memorial commemorating the great battle of 1526.

Day 10: Kalocsa – Solt 50 km

Kalocsa is the "Paprika Capital" of Hungary and the character of the town is strongly influenced by colourful houses with hand painted, bright floral patterns and the cathedral with its towers that can be seen even from a distance as they rise into the skies from the flat Hungarian plain. Visiting the Paprika Museum you'll learn all there is to know about Hungary's favourite spice. Continue your journey on the well-built cycle path along the flood protection dyke through the vast expanse of the Puszta. On your way to Solt, the birthplace of the famous conductor Sir George Solti, white sandbanks along the Danube bank invite you to jump into the cool water again and again.

Day 11: Danube Bend – Esztergom 43 km

The Danube is framed by steep wooded hills as it flows through the picturesque, hilly landscape of the “Hungarian Wachau”. Set in the middle of the Danube, the delightful island of Szentendre radiates real Puszta romance. As you continue your journey on idyllic cycle paths through picturesque villages you’ll be able to experience the Hungarian zest for life at first hand. The dome of the imposing basilica in Esztergom can be seen from far and wide. Hungary’s largest church, with its Tuscan style high altar and a side chapel with red marble walls is especially worth seeing.



Day 12: Vienna (Bike excursion to Klosterneuburg, Danube Island...)

After so many action packed days of cycling, you deserve some relaxation. Enjoy the breath taking view of the idyllic floodplain forest of the Donauauen National Park and the impressive skyline as you sail into Vienna. Go for a ride on the Danube Island – Vienna’s favourite recreational area, cycle out to the nearby Klosterneuburg Abbey or wander through the idyllic vineyards on Kahlenberg (with magnificent views over the city and the Danube). The day ends traditionally with a concert of classic waltz and operetta music at a famous Viennese Palais (optional).



Day 13: Vienna (rest day)

Discover Vienna: from the saddle on a guided bike tour or on your own with the HOP ON HOP OFF Bus (optional). Ride through the historic city centre at a leisurely pace and see the sights from close up. The magnificent Ringstraße will remind you of times long past and inviting coffee houses will tempt you with delicious Viennese cakes and pastries. Afterwards, there’s enough time to stroll through the quaint lanes or visit the Naschmarkt, a feast for the senses. End your day in Vienna in traditional fashion at a rustic wine tavern.

Day 14: Wachau | Krems – Melk 39 km

This final stage of your cycling tour can best be described as magical! The gentle hilly countryside of the Wachau with its picturesque villages, historic castles and palaces surrounded by apricot trees and terraced vineyards, is one of the loveliest stretches of the river. In Weißenkirchen the cycle path is lined with cozy vintner's taverns and you should definitely treat yourself to a break here (optional wine tasting)!



Day 15: Passau/Surroundings

Enjoy the first rays of sun and the early morning tranquillity of the Danube valley one last time. Catch a final view of the Danube Bend at Schlögen – before you reach Passau, your heart bursting with memories and impressions. Disembarkation at approximately 11:00 a.m. Independent homeward travel. We recommend that you do not make any arrangements for onward connections departing before 12:00 p.m. To be on the safe side, later departure times would be even better.



Route



Technical Characteristics:

Tour Profile: Level 1 and 2: The route mainly follows the Eurovelo 6 cycle path; in Austria/Slovakia/Hungary it runs on asphalted paths over flat terrain; in Croatia/Serbia country roads with little traffic and cycle paths not all of which are asphalted. 1 stage runs over hilly terrain. Don't feel like cycling today? You can reach your destination easily by boat.

Distance: 344 - 398 km

Travel Season: Self-Guided Departures: Saturday departures: May 6; August 5 and September 30, 2023
Guided Departures: Saturday departures: May 6; August 5 and September 30, 2023



Prices per Person:

Standard Cabin	€ 2349.00
Comfort Cabin	€ 2749.00
Superior Cabin	€ 3099.00
Mini Suite	€ 2849.00
Two Bed Cabin for Single Use	+55%
Guided Tour	€ 459.00
Hybrid Bike Rental (21/24 speed unisex trekking with freewheel)	€ 139.00
Electric Bike Rental	€ 289.00
Extra Nights Passau 3* Double Occupancy B&B	€ 51.00
Extra Nights Passau 3* Single Occupancy B&B	€ 80.00
Extra Nights Passau 4* Double Occupancy B&B	€ 72.00
Extra Nights Passau 4* Single Occupancy B&B	€ 105.00

Included:

Self-Guided Tour:

- 14 nights in outside cabins with private facilities and air conditioning
- Port charges
- Program according to itinerary from/to Passau
- Captains greeting and welcome cocktail
- Full board: breakfast buffet, lunch on board (non-cyclists) or packed lunch (cyclists), afternoon coffee break, dinner (2-3 dishes to choose from)
- Gala dinner with farewell cocktail
- On-board Musician
- Tour guide on board (does not cycle with the group)
- Daily information meeting
- Detailed travel documents + cycling guide App +GPS tracks per cabin

Guided Tour:

- All items included with self-guided tour
- Cycling tour guide
- Ferry rides
- City tour Budapest by bus
- City tour Belgrade by bus
- City tour Vienna by bus
- Rental helmet

The cruise ship MV Swiss Crown

Stylish, elegant and timelessly beautiful - this is how the 4* SUPERIOR ship MS Swiss Crown presents itself as it glides gently along the Danube river. You will immediately feel at home on board as soon as you enter the spectacular foyer. Designed in warm wood tones, the ship radiates a comfort and leaves nothing to be desired. The simple elegance of the timelessly beautiful staterooms, which are decorated with great attention to detail, will inspire you. Sit back, enjoy the serene, relaxed atmosphere, the fantastic views of breathtakingly beautiful natural landscapes, sometimes from the bicycle seat, sometimes from the inviting, partially covered sun deck. Let yourself



be pampered by the friendly, accommodating crew and create on board relationships alongside memories to last a lifetime.

3 passenger decks:

Upper deck + Middle deck (windows can be opened), Main deck (windows cannot be opened)

Cabins:

The 68 outward facing cabins are spacious 14 m² (single cabin 12 m²) and convince with elegant, comfortable interior. The cabins have a double bed (can be separated to 2 single beds), shower/WC, hairdryer, SAT TV, safe, coffee maker and individually adjustable air conditioning.

Standard: Main deck, double bed to be separated, windows not to be opened

Comfort: Middle deck, double bed to be separated, windows to be opened

Superior: Upper deck, double bed to be separated, balcony, windows to be opened

Mini suite: Middle deck, double bed to be separated, windows to be opened, minibar



Bikes



Our bicycles are modern and high standard quality of KTM. We offer 28 Zoll Unisex tour bikes with deep comfort entrance. The bikes are equipped with a precious Shimano 7 gear hub with back pedal and caliper breaks or 21 derailleur gear with override, caliper breaks and robust wheels. Our bicycles are mostly not older than 3 years.

Our bicycles are equipped with:

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

Electric bikes | E-Bikes | Pedelecs

You will receive modern high quality E-Bikes of the brands Flyer/Kalkhoff and KTM with 8 gear hub, individual regulated use of support of pedal use, robust wheels and deep Unisex comfort entrance. The bikes have a strong Panasonic Pedelec mechanism and a strong lithium ion battery. The battery lasts up to 70 kilometres, depending on sort of cycling, weight and routing. The more hills to go, the heavier the weight, the more capacity will be used. You can regulate range of the battery if you use less support at the beginning and raise it if needed. Batteries will be charged with the battery recharger by night in your room.