

Germany - Austria - Slovakia - Hungary - Croatia - Serbia - Danube Experience Iron Gates Bike and Boat Tour (2026)

15 Days/ 14 Nights

Guided or Self Guided



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.



Day by Day

Day 1: Passau

Immediately after embarkation between 16:00 and 17:00, it's time to "cast off". 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: Danube Loop | Engelhartszell – Brandstatt, approx. 45 km

Your first day's cycling begins with a ride through the classic scenery of the 'Danube 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 Engelhartszell 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 farmers village of Brandstatt.



Day 3: Devin – Bratislava, approx. 15-45 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. There follows 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 centre.



Day 4: Budapest | Excursion to Szentendre, approx. 48 km

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 many artists and galleries.



Day 5: Baja - Mohacs, approx. 36 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. At the end of today's stage, you take the ferry to the little town of Mohacs, Hungary's southernmost town on the Danube and famously the site of two battles with the Turks.

Day 6: Belgrade (rest day)

By bike or by bus, you can explore the lively Serbian metropolis at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, take a journey through time from the past to the present and learn a lot about the rise and fall of Yugoslavia (optional). Discover the lively market life and historic buildings in Zemun, the oldest district of Belgrade, and taste some of the country's specialities in one of the taverns located directly on the riverbank.



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

Experience a breathtaking fjord landscape in the middle of the Danube, where the river cuts through the Romanian Carpathians and the mighty foothills of the Balkan Mountains. From the deck, enjoy steep gorges, dark forests, and historical landmarks. Highlights include the Decebalus Monument and a ship stop at Golubac Fortress with a visit opportunity. This natural wonder will give you goosebumps!



Croatian wine-making traditions (optional).

Day 8: Novi Sad – Ilok, approx. 47 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: You'll visit the 400-year-old wine cellar of a local winemaker, taste famous wine varieties of the region, and learn a lot about

Day 9: Batina - Mohacs, approx. 48 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

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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, approx. 52 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 sky from the flat Hungarian plain. Visiting the Paprika Museum, you'll learn a lot 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. White sandbanks along the Danube bank invite you to jump into the cool water. In the afternoon experience a horse show with breathtaking demonstrations by the Csikosoks and a tasting of local specialties (optional)

Day 11: Danube Bend – Esztergom, approx. 50 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 that sits high over the Danube 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 breathtaking 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 of the so called Kahlenberg (with magnificent views over the city and the Danube). End the evening on a magical note with a concert of waltz and classical operetta music in Schönbrunn castle (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, approx. 37 km

This final stage of your cycling tour can best be described as magical! The gentle hilly countryside of the Wachau with their 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 cosy vintner's taverns and you should definitely treat yourself to a break here (optional wine tasting)! Along the way you will also spot one of the most beautiful baroque ensembles in Europe: The Abbey of Melk.

Day 15: Passau

Enjoy the first rays of sunlight 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/surroundings, your heart bursting with memories and impressions. Disembarkation at approx. 11.00 am. Independent homeward journey. We recommend not to make any arrangements for onward connections departing before 12.00 pm.

All optional activities can be booked and paid for on board In the event of extremely high or low water, the shipping company reserves the right to bridge stages by bus or even to cancel the trip at short notice without any legal claim arising therefrom (water levels are force majeure). The same applies for officially decreed repairs to locks or bridges, not announced in advance, or in the event of motor or propulsion damage to the ship without attributed fault. On one hand, a riverboat is a "holiday hotel", while on the other, it is also a means of transport that moves with motor power and must always be operated, even at night (partially with lock and bridge passages and the retractions and extensions of the structures caused as a result). Mistakes can happen with lock passages. This is the case for all Danube journeys and cannot be avoided. Please bear in mind that riverboats are restricted (bridge passages, locks) in size (length, height, width) and therefore cannot be compared with cruise liners at sea. The cabins are limited in space but are nevertheless comfortable and furnished



Route



<u>Technical Characteristics:</u> Tour Profile: Level 1+2: The route mainly follows the Eurovelo 6 cycle path; in A/SK/H it runs on asphalted paths over flat terrain; in HR/SRB 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:** 334 - 389 km

2026 Travel dates: May 2; June 27; August 1 and September 26







<u>Price per Person double occupancy in Euros-</u> all prices subject to confirmation on booking

2 bed cabin Standard ECO	€ 2329	
2 bed cabin Standard	€ 2449	
2 bed cabin Comfort ECO	€ 2729	
2 bed cabin Comfort	€ 2849	
2 bed cabin Superior	€ 3299	
2 bed Standard Cabin for single use	€ 3796	
2 bed Comfort cabin for single use	€ 4416	
Guided Tour surcharge	€ 550	
Bike Rental (24 speed)	€ 218	
Electric Bike	€ 458	
Using Own Bike	€ 60	
Using Own E- Bike (max 23kg excluding battery)	€ 100	
Rental bike disclaimer hybrid/ e-bike	€50/120	
Extra Nights Passau 4* Double Occupancy	€81	
Extra Nights Passau 4* Single Occupancy	€119	
Group transfer Munich Airport/ City— Passau Ship Dock	One Way - On request	Round Trip – On request

Individual Cycling tour

Ride free: cycle individually, at your own pace, and design your day around your desires. The only limit is the overall schedule. Never miss a turn: Our bike tour app with voice navigation ensures gets you there safely and reliably. For extra peace of mind, a detailed route book packed with maps and insightful information is also included. Daily insider tips: Learn about must-see sights, refreshing rest stops, and local delicacies during the daily briefing with your cruise director. Flexibility on board: Want to take a day off? No problem! Simply stay on board and enjoy the passing scenery from the sun deck.



Guided tour

You cycle in a small group guided by a local tour guide. During a guided tour by bike or bus you will pass by numerous famous sights in Vienna and Budapest.

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: rich breakfast, lunch on board (non- cyclists) or packed lunch (cyclists), afternoon coffee break, dinner (2/3 dishes to choose from), late night snack
- Gala dinner with farewell cocktail
- Board Musician
- Tour guide on board (does not cycle with the group)
- Daily information meeting
- Detailed travel documents per cabin, cycling app with voice navigation (we recommend bringing
 a power bank and phone holder to ensure a smooth riding experience)

Guided Tour:

- All of the above
- Cycling tour guide
- Ferry rides
- City tour Budapest by bus
- City tour Belgrade by bus
- City tour Vienna by bike
- Rental helmet (adults only)



Accommodation

MS LISABELLE



Experience unforgettable moments aboard the MS Lisabelle – an elegant premium ship that perfectly combines comfort, enjoyment and relaxation. Sit back and enjoy the cheerful, relaxed atmosphere on board. Whether on the spacious sun deck or in the stylish panorama lounge area, experience a journey full of discovery and relaxation. The MS Lisabelle offers relaxed luxury on one of Europe's most beautiful waterways, the Danube. Let the friendly and attentive crew pamper you and enjoy the excellent service. Wi-Fi is available throughout the entire journey (connection may vary). So you can stay in touch with your friends and family at any time. Cast off – your dream vacation begins here.

Cabins

The 76 outside cabins are spacious 11-14 m² in size and impress with their elegant, comfortable interior. The standard and comfort cabins have two single beds, while the superior cabins have a separable double bed. All cabins are equipped with shower/WC, hairdryer, satellite TV, safe and individually adjustable air conditioning.





STANDARD Cabin

The standard cabins (approx. 11m²) are located on the main deck, have two single beds and 1 smaller, raised window (NOT opening).



COMFORT Cabin

The comfort cabins (approx. 11m²) are located on the middle deck, have two single beds and a generous panoramic window (NOT opening)

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SUPERIOR Cabin

The superior cabins (approx. 14m²) are located on the middle and upper deck and have a separable double bed and a French balcony.

ECO

Our ECO cabins are located at the front and rear of the ship. It is possible that you may be disturbed by operational noise

Decks

- Main deck STANDARD cabins (half-height windows that do not open)
- Middle deck COMFORT cabins (panoramic windows that do not open)
- Middle deck SUPERIOR cabins (French balcony)
- Upper deck SUPERIOR cabins (French balcony)

Onboard Facilities

- Restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows for panoramic views
- Panoramic bar and lounge
- Inviting reception and lobby area
- Sun deck with 360-degree view, shaded seating area and chessboard
- Library and public TV area
- Elevator only from middle to upper deck
- Free Wi-Fi (connection speed may vary and depends on usage)

The spacious panorama lounge with a cozy bar invites you to linger in comfortable club chairs and sofas in light, subtle colors, while you admire the passing landscape through the floor-to-ceiling windows. In



the light-flooded panorama restaurant, you can enjoy culinary excursions through the Danube countries and their diverse flavors. A special highlight is the sun deck with a 360-degree panoramic view, equipped with seating areas in the shade and a giant chessboard. Experience a natural theater of a special kind with a glass of wine together with like-minded people.

In a small on-board shop, you can purchase souvenirs and gifts for those at home, but also useful equipment for your bike tours (clothing, helmets, bags, etc.). And if you fancy a good book, just help yourself from the on-board library. A warm welcome awaits you on board from the ship's crew, who will make your stay as pleasant as possible and anticipate your every wish. WIFI available on board (connection may vary, payable locally)

Bikes

Our bicycles are the most modern quality bikes of the brand KTM, which were specially designed for the requirements and the wishes of our guests. This resulted in easy-running, robust touring bikes with low comfort entry and puncture-proof tires. The elevated handlebars allow for comfortable and backfriendly riding. The bikes in our fleet are usually not older than 3 years. During the duration of the trip you are liable for damage, loss or theft. Bike insurance can be purchased on board.

The following bikes are available for rent:

- 24-Speed UNISEX* with comfort entry, hand brakes and freewheel
- E-Bikes (Pedelecs) UNISEX with freewheel and 28" tires in frame sizes 43 / 45 / 50 cm. max.
 permissible total weight 130kg

*Men's frames are provided for men over 188 cm tall.

Our rental bikes are equipped with: Pannier, handlebar bag, air pump. Per cabin you will receive a service kit with tools and a bike lock. In the on-board store you will receive quality bicycle helmets as well as cycling clothing (e.g. jerseys, pants, sweaters, rain jackets, rain ponchos).

On request, 7-speed UNISEX* touring bikes with hand and coaster brakes can be provided, as well as child seats and child trailers.

Electric Bikes | E-Bikes | Pedelecs

We provide modern quality e-bikes (pedelecs) with 5/8-speed hub gears and low UNISEX comfort entry. The bikes have a powerful Bosch mid-motor and strong 500wh battery. IMPORTANT: please reserve ebikes early, as they are only available in very limited numbers.



Breakdowns

Punctures can occur even with new wheels and the best maintenance. Fix punctures yourself, for major damage please contact our on-site staff. Please do not have any repairs done to the bikes without consulting the cruise director.

Bringing of own bikes

You are welcome to bring your own bike. Please bring a spare inner tube, a tool bag and a lock and check that they are in good working order before departure. You will receive a waterproof Ortlieb pannier (20 I) for your day luggage for use during the trip.

You take your luggage with you at your own risk - we accept no liability for loss, theft or damage. The bicycles are parked on the sun deck (not covered); for safety reasons it is not possible to store them inside the ship. Our crew regularly transports the bikes ashore and back, but scratches or minor damage cannot always be avoided. Due to the limited space available, the bikes are stored close together and have to be laid flat when crossing bridges. In individual cases, bicycles remain locked overnight on the walkway instead of on board.

IMPORTANT: Please remove permanently mounted bike boxes/baskets and handlebar mirrors. Batteries must be removed before loading and unloading. E-bikes may weigh a maximum of 23 kg without battery.

Carriage of special bicycle types

Please note that the following types of bicycles or vehicles cannot be taken on board our ships due to space and safety requirements: Tandem bikes, tricycles, recumbent bikes, hand bikes, cargo bikes, electric scooters and e-scooters. Thank you for your understanding.

Rental bike disclaimer

If a traveller rents a bike, he is basically liable for damages and theft. When booking our rental bike disclaimer, we assume liability so that in case of loss or damage to the rental bike (when properly used and secured) no financial responsibility must be paid. Excluded from this are only lost keys, batteries and chargers of e-bikes, as well as damage due to intent or gross negligence.

Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion. www.okcycletours.com



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