

6-day cruise (port - port basis)

The beautiful Blue Danube

Highlights

Optional tour of Budapest, a two-thousand year old city, Bratislava and its unique charm, Vienna and Schönbrunn Castle, the Hapsburg palace, the Abbey of Melk

Concert of Viennese music*

Traditional evening in Budapest*

Ref.: BUC

BUDAPEST – BRATISLAVA – VIENNA – PASSAU

DAY 1: BUDAPEST

Embarkation takes place at the end of the afternoon. Time is allowed to settle into your cabin prior to the presentation of the crew over a welcome cocktail in the lounge. Dinner is served on board the ship. After dinner an **optional Hungarian folkloric evening is offered in Budapest**. Overnight is in Budapest.

DAY 2: BUDAPEST – BRATISLAVA

Breakfast is served on board. At 8:00 AM, the ship begins sailing towards Bratislava. Prior to ship departure, an **optional city coach tour of Budapest is offered**. **The belle époque city of Budapest offers a sharp contrast between the twin cities of Buda and Pest. They are physically divided by the Danube River but they were administratively united into one city in 1872. You will discover that Buda is laid back with its winding cobblestone streets, colorful shops, Baroque palaces, Turkish baths and its Royal Palace. While Pest, is best described as bustling with a proud mixture of architectural styles, major hotels, sophisticated restaurants and inviting pedestrian shopping areas.** The coach arrives back at the ship in time for lunch on board before departure of the cruise for Bratislava at 1:00 PM. Dinner is served on board with an evening of entertainment and an overnight sailing.

DAY 3: BRATISLAVA – VIENNA

Arrival in **Bratislava** is scheduled for around 7:00 AM with breakfast served on board. At 8.30 AM, an **optional coach and walking tour of Bratislava is offered, or you may wish to sightsee on your own, as the ship is docked within a few blocks of the city center**. The city of Bratislava not only occupies a highly privileged geographic location on the Danube River (between the imperial capitals of Budapest and Vienna), but it is also favorably influenced from the north by the southern slopes of the Little Carpathian Mountains. The charm of the Slovakian capital lies primarily in its “old town” of splendid Baroque palaces, churches and pleasant squares. After the tour, it’s back on board the ship for lunch before departure of the cruise for Vienna. Arrival in **Vienna is scheduled for later** in the evening. Dinner is served on board with an **optional coach tour of Vienna By Night offered**. Overnight is in Vienna.

DAY 4: VIENNA

Breakfast is served on board. Passengers may choose between a morning of sightseeing on their own in **Vienna**, or an **optional coach tour to the Schönbrunn Palace combined with a panoramic tour of Vienna. The palace is the summer residence of the imperial family with beautiful adjacent parks and gardens. It also plays a large role in the heritage of Vienna**, known worldwide as an imperial city and a cradle of classical music. After the tour, it’s back to the ship for lunch on board. After lunch, you may choose between an afternoon of individual sightseeing in **Vienna**, or a coach tour **to the Hofburg**. This exquisite palace of the Hapsburg dynasty houses the crown jewels and many sumptuous imperial apartments. You return from the tour back to the ship in time for dinner on board. After dinner, an optional concert of Viennese music in the city is offered (attendance depends on ticket availability). Departure of the ship is scheduled during the evening hours for an overnight sailing.

DAY 5: MELK – PASSAU

Breakfast is served on board while cruising through the most beautiful section of the **Wachau Valley**. Arrival in **Melk** is scheduled for around 9:00 AM where an **optional excursion to the village of Durnstein is offered. Durnstein is widely acknowledged as the most picturesque village in the Wachau Valley**. It is famous for its legendary visit and imprisonment of King Richard the Lionhearted. Durnstein also has a magnificent church built in the Baroque style. After the tour, it’s back to the ship in time for lunch on board. In the afternoon, an **optional visit to the Benedictine Abbey of Melk is offered**. The abbey is perched 50 meters high atop a rocky outcropping overlooking the town of Melk and the Danube River. Melk Abbey is the symbol of the most complete expression of Baroque Art and architecture in **Austria**. Be sure to visit the Emperors' gallery, the Marble Hall, the Terrace, the Library with its 80,000 books and 2,000 manuscripts, as

well as, the abbey's incredible church. After the tour, it's back on board the ship which departs Melk for Passau at around 4:00 PM. Dinner and a gala evening are planned on board the ship during an overnight sailing.

DAY 6: PASSAU

Breakfast is served on board with disembarkation taking place in Passau around 9:00 AM. *End of our journey.*