

The beautiful blue Danube

PASSAU – MELK – VIENNA – BUDAPEST

DAY 1 : PASSAU

Embarkation takes place on the ship at 4:00 PM. Time is allowed to settle comfortably into your cabin before meeting the crew over a welcome drink in the lounge. At 5:00 PM, the ship begins sailing east along the Danube River towards the Austrian-German border passing through the attractive region of **Engellhardtszell**. Dinner is served on board while the ship sails overnight.

DAY 2 : PASSAU – VIENNA

Breakfast is served on board before arriving in Melk at about 8:00 AM. Upon arrival, an optional excursion is offered through the breathtaking Benedictine Abbey of Melk. 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. You return back to the ship around 11:00 AM and sail east to **Durnstein**, arriving there in time for lunch on board at around 12:30 PM. **Durnstein** is the best known village in the **Wachau** Valley, thanks mostly to the legend of King Richard the Lion Hearted. The afternoon is free to discover this picturesque village and its beautiful baroque church on your own. Passengers must be back on board by 3:30 PM before cruising on to **Vienna**. Dinner is served on board before reaching Vienna at around 8:30 PM. Upon arrival, an optional coach tour is offered to view the illuminated sights of the city (**Vienna By Night**). Overnight is in Vienna.

DAY 3 : VIENNA – BUDAPEST

After breakfast is served on board, an **optional coach tour is offered to the Schönbrunn Palace, along with a panoramic city tour of Vienna**. The palace was the summer residence of the imperial family and it is beautifully set off by the perspectives of its adjacent park area and gardens. After the tour, it is back to the ship for lunch on board followed by a free afternoon to tour this magnificent city on your own. Passengers must be back on board by 7:00 PM, as the ship begins sailing east towards **Budapest**, passing **Bratislava** on the way. Dinner is served on board and a gala evening is planned.

DAY 4 : BUDAPEST

Breakfast is served on board prior to arrival in **Esztergom** where **you are invited to sightsee on your own**. This former capital of Hungary under the reign of the Arpad kings is still a prominent town, and it remains the seat of the Hungarian archbishops. **Esztergom** is decidedly full of treasures with its neo-classic basilica and the former Royal Palace. We set sail once again around 12:00 Noon while lunch is served on board. Arrival in **Budapest** is scheduled for around 4:00 PM. The Hungarian capital, which lies along the banks of the Danube River is undoubtedly one of the most attractive cities in Europe. There will be some free time to explore the city on your own before returning to the ship for dinner on board. After dinner an **optional coach tour, Budapest At Night**, is offered. Overnight is in Budapest.

DAY 5 : BUDAPEST

Breakfast is served on board. An **optional coach tour of Budapest is offered to the city** that is nicknamed the "Pearl of the Danube". Budapest is the capital of Hungary and it is listed as part of the world's cultural heritage by UNESCO. The Danube River divides it into two distinct geographic and stylistic entities. The Buda side of the river is laid-back with winding cobblestone streets, colorful little shops, Turkish baths and Royal palaces. The panoramic view of Pest and the Danube River from high atop Buda is fabulous. Pest is a bustling city with the main pedestrian shopping areas, historical buildings, major hotels and sophisticated restaurants. The two cities officially became one in 1872. Return to the ship after the tour for lunch on board before enjoying a free afternoon to discover this amazing city on your own. The ship pier is conveniently located in Pest within a handful of blocks of the major tourist areas. After dinner on board, you have a free evening in the city, or you may want to

tag along on an optional Hungarian **folk evening** with traditional dances at a venue in the city.
Overnight is in Budapest.

DAY 6 : BUDAPEST

Breakfast is served on board before disembarkation takes place at 9:00 AM. End of our services.