

## Cruise across 3 countries

# The DANUBE and its traditions

Explore the Christmas Markets in these famous capitals

VIENNA – BUDAPEST – BRATISLAVA

Ref VBV

---

### VIENNA – BUDAPEST – BRATISLAVA – VIENNA

---

#### 1<sup>st</sup> day: VIENNA (Austria)

Embarkation takes place in Vienna at 6:00 PM. Time is allowed for settling into your cabin before the presentation of the crew over welcome cocktail in the lounge. **Dinner is served on board with an “Austrian theme”**. Overnight is in Vienna.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> day: VIENNA – BUDAPEST (Hungary)

Buffet breakfast is served on board. This morning an **optional coach tour of Vienna is offered**. Vienna has **been** the location of the imperial residence for more than six centuries and it has been deeply marked by the seal of the Hapsburgs. If, for many people, the Austrian capital evokes the rhythm of the waltz or the silhouette of the big ferris wheel at the Prater Amusement Park, it owes its primary attraction, above all, to its monuments and memories of the Hapsburgs. Vienna is also known for the riches of its museums, its musical traditions (continued by the Opera) and by various illustrious ensembles. After the city tour, it is back to the ship for lunch on board followed by the beginning of the cruise to **Budapest**. This afternoon is devoted to sailing east on the Danube, a river rich in history and immense heritage. Dinner is served on board followed by an evening of dancing. Arrival is scheduled in **Budapest** sometime during the evening hours. Overnight is in Budapest.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> day: BUDAPEST (Hungary)

After breakfast is served on board, an **optional coach tour of Budapest is offered**. You are invited to explore this astonishing city which has been cut in half by the Danube: You have Buda with its hills and valleys, and Pest with its flat plain. The panoramic view of the city from the Buda side overlooks Pest and the banks of the Danube River. Buda is very laid-back with narrow cobblestone streets, colourful shops, Turkish baths and the Royal Palace. Pest is a bustling city with main shopping areas, historical sites, major hotels and sophisticated restaurants. The cities were two separate entities divided by the Danube River until their official union in 1872. Budapest is also listed as part of the world's cultural heritage by UNESCO. After the tour, it is back to the ship for lunch on board. The afternoon is free for sightseeing on your own and the ship pier is conveniently located on the Pest side, just a handful of blocks from the main tourist and shopping areas. You have plenty of time to explore the unquestioned marvels of the city at your own pace. **Dinner is served on board with a “Hungarian theme”** followed by an evening of entertainment. Departure of the ship is scheduled for around 12:00 Midnight, as we head back to the west towards Bratislava.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> day: BRATISLAVA (Slovakia)

There is sailing during the morning with breakfast served on board. For the more courageous, an aerobics session is offered in the lounge in the company of our hostess. Lunch is served on board during the cruise with arrival in **Bratislava** scheduled for around 4:00 PM. An **optional guided coach and walking tour of the Slovakian capital 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 the city is also favorably influenced from the north by the southern slopes of the Little Carpathian Mountains. The charm of Bratislava lies primarily in its “old town” with its splendid Baroque palaces, churches and pleasant squares. After the tour, it is back on board the ship for **dinner and a gala evening**. Departure of the cruise heading back west to Vienna takes place during the evening hours with an overnight sailing scheduled.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> day: VIENNA (Austria)

Arrival in **Vienna** is scheduled for early in the morning with breakfast served on board. Disembarkation takes place at 9:00 AM.