

8 days cruise

Round trip by boat from/to Vienna

Réf. : WBB

VIENNA – MELK – DÜRNSTEIN – BRATISLAVA – KALOCSA – BUDAPEST – ESZTERGOM – VIENNA

Day 1: Vienna

Embarkation takes place at 6:00 PM in Vienna. There is time to settle into your cabin prior to the introduction of the crew over a welcome cocktail in the lounge. Dinner is served on board followed by free time for individual sightseeing, or an optional coach tour of Vienna By Night is offered. The ship begins sailing around 12:00 Midnight towards Melk.

Day 2: Melk

Breakfast is served on board the ship. An **optional tour is offered to the incredible 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. Return on board for lunch while the ship begins sailing east towards Dürnstein through the beautiful Wachau Valley. Arrival in Durnstein is in the early afternoon, with the ship's hostess leading passengers on a short walk to the village for sightseeing on their own. Return to the ship in mid-afternoon with continuation of the cruise to our next stop in Bratislava. Dinner is served on board the ship during an overnight sailing.

Day 3: BRATISLAVA

The ship arrives into Bratislava during the night. After breakfast on board, 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. This 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 the Slovakian capital primarily lies in its "old town" with its splendid Baroque palaces, churches and pleasant squares. Return to the ship after the tour for lunch on board as the cruise departs towards Kalocsa, Hungary. A full afternoon of cruising is followed by dinner on board and an evening of entertainment.

Day 4: KALOCSA

Breakfast is served on board the ship which arrives in Kalocsa in the early morning. Upon arrival, an optional coach excursion is offered to the **Puzsta**, including a horse show. The Puzsta tour is quite unique, as it includes a visit to an authentic horse ranch. Real-life "Hungarian cowboys" put on a spectacular show for the tour participants, which includes incredible feats of horsemanship. Return back on board the ship for lunch with cruise departure north towards Budapest, the "pearl of Danube". The ship arrives late that evening with dinner served on board.

Day 5: BUDAPEST

Breakfast is served on board. This morning you will have a choice between a free day of sightseeing on your own in **Budapest**, or an optional guided coach tour of **the city**. Budapest is listed as part of the world's cultural heritage by UNESCO. There are actually two cities, Buda and Pest that are physically separated by the Danube River. Their official union as one administrated city did not take place until 1872. The panoramic view of the city and the Danube River from high atop the Buda side is fabulous. Buda has winding cobblestone streets, colorful souvenir shops, Baroque palaces, Turkish baths and royal castles. Pest is the bustling city with the main pedestrian shopping areas, historical buildings, major hotels and sophisticated restaurants. Lunch is served on board after the tour participants return to the ship. This afternoon is free to explore Budapest on your own. The ship pier in Pest is located within a handful of blocks from the main tourist area. After dinner is served on board, you may enjoy a free evening, or an **optional traditional Hungarian folklore show** is offered in the city. Overnight is in Budapest.

Day 6: BUDAPEST – ESZTERGOM

There is an early cruise departure from Budapest towards Esztergom with arrival **scheduled for after breakfast. There is free time in Esztergom to explore on your own. This former capital of Hungary is still a prominent city as it remains the seat of the Hungarian archbishops. Esztergom is full of treasures with its neoclassic basilica** and the former Royal palace. The ship departs towards Vienna at around 11:00 AM. Lunch is served on board during an afternoon of cruising. Tonight is the **gala dinner and evening on board. The ship is scheduled for an overnight sailing.**

Day 7: VIENNA

The ship arrives early in the morning into Vienna. After breakfast 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. Return to the ship after the tour for lunch on board. You may have the afternoon free for individual sightseeing, or you may take an optional guided tour of **Hofburg**, the Habsburg Palace on the Ringstrasse. Return on board the ship for dinner. In the evening, you will have the opportunity to attend a concert of **Viennese music** in the city. This concert is optional and subject to ticket availability. Overnight is in Vienna.

Day 8: VIENNA

After breakfast is served on board, disembarkation takes place about 9:00 AM. *End of our services.*