

Danube Experience Iron Gates

Bike + Boat | MV Carissima

Passau – Vienna – Bratislava – Budapest – Belgrade – Iron Gates – Passau | Self-guided or guided



Fjord-like Landscapes, Puszta, Balkan and Paprika

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 breath-taking 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”, 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 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.

The cruise ship MV Carissima

The first thing you'll experience when boarding is the friendly atmosphere and the cosiness of the river ship. In **the restaurant** you will start your culinary excursion through the Danube countries – the fantastic view of the beautiful scenery will sweeten the diversity of flavours you taste. In the **Panorama-Lounge**, with its **bar**, you can enjoy a glass of wine with your new friends and travel mates while the gorgeous landscape is passing by. Comfortable lounge chairs and discreet colours make you stay a little longer. After an exciting day of cycling you can relax in the **spa** with **sauna** and **whirlpool**. For pleasant refreshment, jump into the **pool** (June-August) on the sun deck, from where you can enjoy a magnificent view. And if you are in the mood for reading, just borrow a book from the **library**! The comfortable ship will make your journey unforgettable. Wi-Fi is available on board (connection can vary, payable locally).

3 passenger-decks:

Upper deck + Middle deck (windows can be opened), Main deck (windows cannot be opened)

Cabins:

All 75 outside cabins have **14 m²** and feature a hotel-style double bed. The cabins are equipped with a private bathroom with a shower or bathtub, hair dryer, TV, safe and full air-conditioning.

Standard : Main deck, doublebed to be separated, windows not to be opened

Comfort: Middle deck, doublebed to be separated, windows to be opened

Superior: Upper deck, doublebed to be separated, windows to be opened

ECO: front/rear area of the ship (operating noises possible)

Highlights

- The four capital cities along the Danube Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade
- The mighty canyon of the Iron Gates National Park is the highlight of this cycling holiday
- Kalocsa, the “Paprika Capital”
- The commanding citadel Petrovaradin
- Novi Sad, the magnificent capital of the Vojvodina
- The Basilica in Esztergom
- The Drava-Nemzeti National Park
- The countryside of the Danube Bend
- The fabulous Wachau region with its vineyards and castles

Tour profile

Level 1+2: The route mainly follows the Eurovelo 6 cycle path; in A/SK/H it runs 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.

Guided Tour

(incl. cycling tour guide)

Personal attention from a dedicated guide you cycle in a small group where you explore a lot of local cultures, discover hidden sites and secret places and enjoy some delicious appetizers.

Departure dates

SATURDAY, April 25, May 23, June 20, July 18, August 8+29, September 26, 2020

Season 1: April

Season 2: May – September

Itinerary

Day 1: Passau

Embarkation 4.00 p.m. in Passau; departure is at 5.00 p.m. 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: Schlögen Danube Bend | Obernzell – Obermühl, approx. 35 km

Enjoy a delightful day's cycling from Obernzell through the ruggedly romantic Danube Bend at Schlögen, one of the most beautiful sections of the river lined with sleepy farming villages and a natural landscape. Get a break at Austria's only Trappist monastery in Engelhartzell and refill your energy with home-distilled drinks. Along the way, you can drop in at one of the many inviting cider taverns. At the charming village Obermühl you go aboard the barge and sail into the beautiful sunset.

Day 3: Devin – Bratislava, approx. 15 - 43 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. After a stretch of untouched countryside is followed and a short time later, you arrive to 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. 27-54 km (or day of rest)

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 its many artists and galleries. Get a taste of the fiery Hungarian temperament at a Hungarian folklore show with traditional music and folk dance accompanied by wine and local food (optional).

Day 5: Baja – Mohacs, approx. 37 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 past fields of sunflowers. 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 (day of rest)

Explore the fun-loving Serbian capital at the confluence of the Sava and the Danube by bike or bus, take a journey in time from the past to the present and learn about the rise and fall of Yugoslavia (optional). In the evening, Belgrade is bathed in a sea of light. Visit a colourful folklore show with traditional dances from all parts of the country, followed by typical regional specialities in the well-known Bohemian district of Skadarlija with lively folk music from a Serbian band (optional).

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

Experience the stunning fjord-like landscape at close quarters from the ship's deck. The river cuts through the Romanian Carpathian mountains and the mighty foothills of the Balkan mountain range. A spectacular landscape with steep gorges, dark forests with historic monuments and impregnable fortresses on the shores that are reflected in the blue waters of the river: this miracle of nature will take your breath away!

Day 8: Novi Sad – Ilok, approx. 48 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. Everything in the medieval town of Ilok is about wine. In the evening you will have the opportunity to sample some famous Croatian wines at a local wine cellar (optional).

Day 9: Batina – Mohacs, approx. 42 km

In the border triangle you cycle through the never-ending „Backa“. Small, idyllic villages and endless canola fields accompany you from Croatia to Serbia and Hungary. Farmers stop their work to greet you and now and then you will meet a carriage. You will experience untouched nature in the Nemzeti National Park and after the ferry ride to Mohacs there is enough time for a visit at the White Stork Museum or the Memorial of the Battle of Mohacs.

Dates guided Tour

April 25, June 20, August 08 (further dates upon request – min. 10 participants)

Rental bikes & equipment

- 21-speed-Unisex trekking bike freewheel
- Electrically assisted bike / pedelec
- Child equipment within availability
- All rental bikes are equipped with 20 l panniers and a handle bar bag
- Helmets + cycling clothing available for purchase onboard



Day 10: Kalocsa – Solt, approx. 50 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. You will cycle through fields and orchards that stretch as far as the eye can see until you reach Solt, birthplace of the famous conductor Sir George Solti. Vecsey Castle and the library with some 34,000 books are especially worth seeing.



Day 11: Danube Bend – Esztergom, approx. 43 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 can be seen from far. 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 breath-taking view of the idyllic floodplain forest of the Donauauen National Park and the impressive skyline as you sail to Vienna. Go for a bike ride on the Danube Island – Vienna’s favourite recreational area, cycle to the nearby Klosterneuburg Abbey or wander through the idyllic vineyards of Kahlenberg (with magnificent views over the city and the Danube). The day ends traditionally with a concert of classic waltz and operetta music at a famous Viennese Palais (optional).



Day 13: Vienna (day of rest)

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 at point-blank range. The magnificent Ringstraße boulevard will remind you of times a long time ago 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. Let your day in Vienna end at a rustic wine tavern.



Day 14: Wachau | Krems – Melk, approx. 37 km

This final stage of your cycling tour can be described as magical! The gentle hilly countryside of the Wachau valley with its picturesque villages, historic castles and palaces surrounded by apricot trees and terraced vineyards, is one of the loveliest stretches. In Weißenkirchen the cycle path is lined with cosy vintner’s taverns and you should definitely have a break in this area. (optional wine tasting)!

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, your heart bursting with memories and impressions. Disembarkation at approx. 10.00 a.m. Independent homeward journey. We recommend not to make any arrangements for onward connections departing before 11.00 a.m.



Link Danube in Serbia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= TiHfYWhDmo>



Excursion program

Optional excursions (not included in the price of your tour) can be booked individually or as a package at a discount on board only.

- Bratislava:** City tour with scenic train and walking tour
- Budapest:** City tour by bike or by HOP ON HOP OFF bus
Budapest by night + traditional **Hungarian folklore show** at a Csarda
- Belgrade:** City tour by bike or bus
Belgrade by night with **folklore show**
- Ilok:** Wine-tasting at a local wine cellar
- Vienna:** City tour by bike or HOP ON HOP OFF bus
Waltz and operetta concert at a famous Viennese Palais
- Wachau:** Wine tasting with a local winegrower

Included services

- 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
- Daily cabin cleaning, towels and bed linen
- Full board: breakfast buffet, 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
- Crew Show
- Daily live music
- Tour guide on board (does not cycle with the group)
- Daily information meeting
- Detailed roadbook per cabin

Guided tour ADDITIONALLY includes

- Cycling tour guide
- Ferry rides
- City tour Budapest by bus
- City tour Belgrade by bus
- City tour Vienna by bus
- Rental helmet (adults only)

General information

On the 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 be operated, even during 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. 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.

All sales prices listed in this document correspond with the prices 2020 published in the RAD + REISEN catalogue. The prices in your offers may NOT fall below.

Please forward your final publications for error checking before publishing/printing.

Errors, changes in prices and availability accepted. Tariffs as of April 2020.

Prices 2020 / per person / in €		
	Season 1	Season 2
Standard ECO	1.475	1.575
Standard	1.789	1.889
Comfort ECO	1.775	1.875
Comfort	2.098	2.198
Superior	2.198	2.298
Additional services		
2-bed single occupancy ²	+ 55% supplement	
Guided Tour	345	
Rental bike	139	
Electrically assisted bike	249	
Bringing own bike	35	
Add Night Passau	***+	****
Double room	58	66
Single room	83	95
Transfer Munich airport-Passau/ship ¹	one way 69	round trip 119

¹ from/to Munich city centre/train station – Passau: € 40 one-time surcharge (1-8 pers.)

² max. 2 cabins/departure (Superior cabin only)

Parking Passau (14 nights/pre-reservation)

incl. shuttle transfer to/from pier

outdoor area **€ 104**

parking garage **€ 117**

(registration form in the travel documents or online, payable locally)

Minimum of participants

Cruise: min. 50 people

Guided Tour: min. 10 people (max. 22 people)

(has to be reached 4 weeks prior arrival)

