Tour description

for the individual bike & boat journey along the Danube

„Passau-Budapest-Passau“

Dear Cyclist!

We would like to give you a warm welcome to our Bike & Barge tour along the Danube from Passau to Budapest and back. The itinerary has been described from the cyclist's perspective, the way you will experience the route from your bike seat.

Before starting the cycle tour, the tour manager explains the respective route in a briefing, introducing the sights you will find on the left and on the right hand of the tour. Naturally, these are merely suggestions for a better planning of your trip.

Please note that this route description cannot substitute a guidebook.

Information and tips have been highlighted in colours to distinguish from the mere route description.

However, nobody is perfect — please note that the situation on-site can sometimes be different from the route description due to road works, new traffic signs, overturned or overgrown signs, etc. If you should encounter similar situations, please do not hesitate to inform us. Our team from SE-Tours as well as all cyclists using this route will be thankful for your suggestions! Of course, we also appreciate any proposal for improvement. Please note: all indicated ferry schedules may be subject to change.

We wish you a relaxing time and lots of fun on your combined bike and barge Tour.

Important telephone numbers

MS SE-Manon Cruise Manager: 0049-171-517 52 23

Ship: 00421-917 828 740

Legend:

10 Map number

Caution!!

Point of interest

Direction arrows (for rough orientation only):

↑ Straight on or follow the route
→ Turn right
← Turn left

1 2 Day 1: Arrival in Passau / Embarkation / Boat Tour to Engelhartszell

For indication how to get to the mooring place in Passau and times for embarkation, please refer to your travel documents.

3 Day 2: Cycle Tour: Engelhartszell - Untermühl, approx. 35 km / Boat Tour Untermühl – Bratislava

	⚠ Due to road construction and blasting works, the Danube Cycle Path EV6 / R1 between 5 Kobling and Kaiserau on the right bank of the Danube will be closed until further notice. More information from your cruise manager.
Info:	Founded in 1293, Engelszell Abbey in Engelhartszell is the only Trappist Abby in Austria. The Abby Church with its 76- metre-high tower is considered one of Austria's most authentic Rococo-style buildings. From 1754 to 1764, the abby church had been built and contains notable art works by Johann Georg Üblher, Joseph Deutschmann and Bartolomeo Altomonte. After being damaged, the ceiling was repainted in 1957 with an impressive contemporary painting from Fritz Fröhlich. Opening hours monastery gateway: April to October daily 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
Tip:	In Engelhartszell, you can take the ferry and cross over to the opposite bank (boats run daily from Apr./Oct. 10:30 am - 5:00 pm, May/Sept. 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, June to August 9:00 am - 6:30 pm), or you cycle for about 3 km upstream until you reach the Jochensteinfels rock. There cross the Danube over the lock at the Jochenstein Power Plant. ⚠ Due to construction work, the power plant crossing is expected to be closed in 2023!

Info:	The myth-enshrouded Jochensteinfels rock rises out of the Danube and is believed to be the seat of the Danube mermaid „Isa“, a sister of the Lorelei.
	Cross the Danube at the **Jochenstein Power Plant**.
➔	After passing the electrical substation, turn right onto the lane **Am Jochenstein.**
	Following the **Danube cycle path EV6 / R1** keep cycling alongside the river through the village of **Jochenstein**.
	Follow the concrete pavement slab lane that forks off to the **Austrian border.**
Info:	At the Dantlbach creek, cross the border from Germany to Austria.
	From the **Engelhartszell bike ferry**, pick up the **towpath** and continue cycling directly **alongside the river.**
➔	4 Shortly before the junction of the **Ranna River** with the **Danube**, you reach a country road. Turn right towards **Niederranna.**
➔	In **Niederranna,** just after the **church,** turn right and follow the signposts for the **Danube cycle path EV6 / R1** and pass under the **Danube bridge.**
	Continue alongside the river.
	After about **6 km**, you will reach **Au.**

Info:	At the Schlögener Schlinge (Danube Loop), nature's powerful force and beauty becomes apparent. That was probably the reason why the loop was declared "Natural Wonder of Upper Austria" in 2008.The formation of the loop was initiated when the Danube carved its way through the Bohemian Massif. Through a subsequent uplift of land, the Danube incised for almost 300 m into the terrain, thus creating a valley in the Schlögen Danube Loop that almost forms a full circle. The Schlögen Danube Loop is often referred to as the most beautiful and most natural part of the Danube.
	Be sure to take the **ferry Au-Inzell** – the fery dock is just next to **Siegfried Pumberger's farm** (ferry runs daily Apr./Sept.-Oct. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, May-Aug. 08:00 am - 08:00 pm) and cross over to the **opposite bank of the Danube**. Now continue along the **south bank, cycle path EV6 / R1**.
	Through the marvellous **Schlögen Danube Loop**, cycle for about **3.5 km** and reach **Inzell**. **5** From **Inzell**, continue alongside the river for approx. **5 km** up to **Kobling**.
Tip:	**4** Alternatively, you can take the **ferry Donaubus-Längsfähre Au-Grafenau - violet route** (daily May/June/Sept. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, July/Aug., 09:30 am - 7:00 pm), directly from the bike ferry Au for approx. 5 km through the Danube loop up to the north river bank near Grafenau. Then you continue by bike on the north river bank to Obermühl. *Attention:* you stay on the north river bank of the river.
	5 In **Kobling**, take the **ferry** to **Obermühl** (ferry service daily Apr./Oct. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, May/Sept., 8:00 am - 6:00 pm, June to August 8:00 am - 7:00 pm).

	You are now on the **north river bank** and follow the **signposting EV6 / R1** towards **Untermühl** to the **mooring place**
	In **Untermühl** go aboard the ship and continue your journey with a boat tour to **Bratislava.** Your cruise manager will give you the exact departure time.

Day 3: Cycle Tour Bratislava - Bratislava, approx. 53 km

Info:	Located in southwestern Slovakia on both banks of the Danube River, **Bratislava** is with about 500.000 inhabitants the capital of Slovakian, and is considered one of the youngest capitals in the world. As it had been the capital of the former Kingdom of Hungary for several years, the city boasts a rich history. The Bratislava Castle is clearly visible already from afar. The Old Town with its quaint narrow lanes offers many historic sights, often accessible only for pedestrians. Bratislava is famous for its lively bars und cafés.
	6 Set off from the ship, pick up the cycleway **upstream** alongside the **bank of the Danube** to the **Most Lafranconi bridge.**
➔	A **winding right-hand bend** leads onto the bridge. Cross the **bridge** to the **other side** of the **Danube**.
➔	Get **off the bridge** in a **wide left bend** and follow the way that leads **parallel to the clearway.**
	Continue onto **Hainburger Straße**, which leads directly to the (invisible) border between **Slovakia and Austria.**
➔	Follow the cycleway through **Wolfsthal**. At the **Statue of the Virgin Mary,** the cycleway leaves the **main road** and takes a right fork onto **Donaugasse**.
	7 Cycle past **fields and meadows** until you get back to **Hainburger Straße**, continue cycling on the **cycleway** parallel to the street.

	Follow the **Danube cycle path signposts** for **Hainburg** until you get back to the **bank of the Danube.**
Tip:	To reach the village centre, keep to the left – otherwise keep cycling straight along the Danube cycle path.
Info:	**Hainburg an der Donau** is known for its almost completely preserved ancient town walls. Amidst the Donau-Auen National Park, the town is nestled in forest and towers over the Danube. Three medieval town gates and 15 defence towers dating from the 13th century bear witness to the village's rich history. It was once part of Upper Hungary; the borders were changed only by the end of World War I. Eastwards you still leave the village through the Hungary Gate dating from 1260. On top of the Castel Hill, there are the expansive ruins of the castle facilities.
	Follow the **Donaulände** (streetname), which later changes into **Hollitzerallee**.
	Pass **under** the **Danube bridge** and cycle in a **left-right loop onto the bridge** and **cross the Danube.**
Info:	With a span of 228 m, a height of 76.33 m and a length of 1872 m, the Andreas-Maurer Bridge in Hainburg is one of the largest, longest and highest bridges in Austria.
	Leave the **bridge** in a **right bend** and continue onto **Dammweg** (street name) in the direction of **Stopfenreuth**.

→ ← →	**8** Just after **reaching the village** the **Dammweg** takes a right fork. You follow the road, then turn left onto **Ulmengasse.** After passing the **Stopfenreuth's cemetery** turn right onto **Amerikagasse**.
→	You cycle **through the village**. Cross the **national road L8,** go straight until the **fork** and turn right. Cycle through **the fields** along **Industriestraße** until you reach **Engelhartstetten**.
←	Continue following **Industriestraße** and turn left onto **Stopfenreuther Straße.**
→ ← →	From here, follow the **signposts** for the **Danube cycle path** to **Schloss Hof Castle**, turn right and cycle along **Untere Hauptstraße B3** for a short while, then turn left onto **Rußbach-weg**, pass the **Belforno restauraunt** and a **sewage plant**, turn right and cross **Bundesstraße 49 state road.**
→	**9** Continue cycling for about **1,8 km** onto the **gravel cycleway** that leads parallel to the **Russbach River.**
←	At the next **small bridge**, cross the **Russbach** to the left, go straight and pass a **horse farm** until you reach **Schloss Hof Castle**.
	Continue following the **signposts** for **Schloss Hof Castle.**

Info:	**Baroque Schloss Hof Castle** : In 1725, Prince Eugene of Savoy purchased a seventeenth-century citadel with four wings and had it extended by two wings. 30 years later, Maria Theresia acquired the country estate. She also had made radical changes to the castle between 1773-1775; an additional storey was added to the palatial building and the rooms on the first floor were remodelled. Enjoy a short stop at the magnificent Imperial Palace with its estate animal farm and the Paradise Garden after a French model.
Tip:	Restaurant „Prinz Eugen“, right next to the castle on Prinz-Eugen-Straße. It has a terrace, delicious food and cold beer.
← →	**<u>If you want to continue directly to Bratislava</u>** Stay on the small road that passes the castle **(dotted red line)**. After approx. **1.5 km** turn left and immediately right again and pick up the **road** towards **Bratislava**. Follow the **road** and cross the **river Morava**, and thus the **Austrian – Slovakian Border** across the **”Bike Bridge of Freedom“**.
Info:	Opened in September 2012, **“The Bike Bridge of Freedom“** is a shared cycle and pedestrian bridge over the Morava, leading from the Lower Austrian municipality of Engelhartstetten to Devínska Nová Ves, a borough of Bratislava in Slovakia.
←	**Leave the bridge** in a **left bend** and pick up the way that leads **parallel to the Morava River** until you reach **Devin**.

10 With wet weather:
Shortly before the Morava River flows into the Danube, the cycle path makes a right turn into a small wooded area **(dotted red line)**. With wet weather do not turn right here, but continue cycling straight ahead on the **main route**. After rainfall the bike path is often completely soaked.

Cycle around **castle ruin Devin** and keep following the **signposts**.
The cycleway ends and you continue along the **cycle lane on the road** **11**.

Watch out: For approx. **6 km**, you cycle along a very busy road.
Therefore, it is indispensable that you always keep to the right.

Pass under the **Danube bridge**. Always continuing along the **riverbank**, you reach the **ship's mooring place.**

In the evening, sail from Bratislava to Budapest.

Day 4: Rest Day in Budapest

	Your cruise manager will inform you about the various possibilities you have, to spend the day in Budapest.
Info:	**Budapest** is a global city and is renowned for art and operetta, a city that fascinates every visitor. Originally sister city of Vienna, Budapest asserts itself until today, in a state with rapidly changing political systems. The city was already founded more than 2000 years ago by the Romans. However, it was not before 1873 that the legal founding of the city took place by the merger of three previously independent cities: Pest, Buda and Obuda. In 1896, in Budapest was inaugurated the first electric underground on the European continent. The metro stations and market halls made of steel and glass date from that period. The Danube River gently floats through the city separating the Buda part from Pest. There are eight magnificent bridges in the city area. Numerous historical and cultural sights are waiting to be discovered.
	Cycle tour from Budapest to Szentendre, located north of Budapest, approx. 48 km
Info:	Due to its proximity to Budapest, Szentendre is a popular tourist destination and a small artist town with well-preserved buildings in Baroque style. The townscape is dominated by pastel-coloured houses. 12 museums, the Open Air Ethnographic Museum, and an Open Air Stone Collection on the grounds of the Roman Limes Fortress await the culturally curious tourist.

	Short description: *The main route offers beautiful landscapes though there are sections that are difficult to cycle. Recommended only for experienced cyclists who are able to navigate well with GPS. Especially after rain, the route may be muddy. Please be careful!*
	12 The cycleway to **Szentendre** leads almost always alongside the **Danube**.
	From the mooring, cycle upstream along the left bank of the Danube. We recommend the alternative route via **Margaret Island** **(violet route)**.
	12 13 Between **Àrpád Bridge** and **railroad bridge** the signposting is insufficient, no cycle path.
	13 Around **Romaifürdö** there are many small restaurants and snack bars, many pedestrians and there are no cycle paths. You cycle on pebble paths of poor quality.
	13 14 After **Csillaghegy** the bike path is new, well maintained and signposted.
	Return to Budapest: same way in the opposite direction.
	At night, sailing to **Visegrad**.

Day 5: Cycle Tour Visegrad – Esztergom, approx. 25 – 63 km

Info:	The **Danube Bend**, the stretch between Vác and Nagymaros, is one of Hungary's most stunning landscapes. Here the Danube breaks its way through the Visegrad Mountains at an angle of almost 90 degrees.

Red route on the map: Cycle Tour Visegrad - Esztergom, approx. 25 km

	Generally: The Szob ferry has ceased operation in 2023. Therefore, you will cycle from Visegrad to Esztergom on the southern bank of the Danube following the state road B11. Please pay attention to the signs EV6 and of course pay good attention to the traffic. *With the exception of the last few kilometers, there is no bike path.*
←	15 From the **mooring** in **Visegrad**, you cycle upstream to the f**erry pier Visegrad-Nagy-maros.** Then turn left and cycle through the **underpass** onto **Rév utca street**.
→	At the **church** turn right onto **Fö utca street**.
	As you continue, you get closer to the **Danube** again. Keep following the **state road B11**.
↑	Passing the towns and villages of **Lepence**, **Doboskert**, **Gizellatelep**, **Diós and Dömös**,
→	16 **Pilismarót,** 17 **Basaharc** and **Búbánatvölgy** to 18 **Szamárhegy.**
	Please continue following the signposts for the **Danube cycle path EV6.**

18 *Watch out!*

In the district **Esztergom-Szamárhegy** you will come to a **bike signpost**

. **About 100 m after this sign you will come to a bus stop**.

Here, you turn right at the **kiosk/snack bar „Adri Büfé“** onto the **cycle path**. This cycle path takes you **alongside the Danube** directly to your **mooring place in Esztergom.**

In the afternoon, shipping to Vienna.

Violet route on the map:
Cycle Tour Visegrad - Syentendre Island – Vác - Esztergom, approx. 63 km

	19 From the **mooring**, follow the **state road 11** to **Tahitótfalu.** The road takes a bend and then follows the **branch of the Danube downstream**.
	20 You cycle along the **branch of the Danube** until you reach **Dunabogdany** and then proceed along the **state road 11**. You reach 21 **Tahitótfalu**. Here, a **bridge** leads to **Szentendre Island**. Continue cycling until you reach the **ferry dock for Vác** where you cross over (service runs from 6:15 am - 7:15 pm, every hour).
Info:	The town of Vác is strongly influenced by Baroque architecture and art: Hungary's only Baroque square is in Vác. A must-see is also the Triumphal Arch, which was built to welcome Empress Maria Theresia. In this town, the old world meets the modern world and together they form a cultural and economic centre.
←	On arriving in **Vác**, turn left and follow the **cycleway EV6 upstream**.
↑	22 23 Pick up the **cycleway** that leads **parallel to the bank of the Danube** and follow the **cycleway signposts EV6** to **Kismaros.**
	You reach **Kismaros**. Cycle along the cycleway **EV6** next to the **state road 12** to the **ferry dock of Nagymaros** where you cross over to **Visegrad** (service runs from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, every hour).

	15 From the **mooring** in **Visegrad**, cycle through the **underpass** onto **Rév utca street.** At the **church** turn right **onto Fö utca street**.
	As you continue, you get closer to the **Danube** again. Keep following the **state road B11**.
⚠	*Watch out: no dedicated cycleways; look out for the traffic!*
	Passing the towns and villages of **Lepence**, **Doboskert**, **Gizellatelep**, **Diós** and **Dömös,** **16** **Pilismarót,** **17** **Besaharc** and **Búbánatvölgy** to **18** **Szamárhegy.** Please continue following the signposts for the **Danube cycle path EV6.**
⚠	**18** *Watch out!* In the district **Esztergom-Szamárhegy** you will come to a **bike signpost** . **About 100 m after this sign you will come to a bus stop**.
➔	**Here,** you turn right at the **kiosk/snack bar „Adri Büfé“** onto the **cycle path**. This cycle path takes you **alongside the Danube** directly to your **mooring place in Estzergom.**
	In the afternoon, shipping to Vienna.

Day 6: Rest Day in Vienna

	The cruise manager will inform you about the possibilities to spend the day in Vienna. At night, sail from Vienna to Rossatz.
Tip:	Join us on a walking tour through Vienna or go for a guided bike tour through the city.

Day 7: Cycle Tour Wachau - Pöchlarn, approx. 40 - 50 km / Boat Tour Pöchlarn – Passau

	Today enjoy the last cycle day of your journey through the marvellous Wachau Valley. The beautiful scenery with gently rolling hills dotted with picturesque villages, terraced vineyards, castles, monasteries, and ruins will enchant you.
Info:	You can cycle on both banks of the Danube.
	24 **Red route on the map**
	To get to the other side of the Danube, you can either cycle downstream to Mautern, in order to cross the Danube bridge (= plus 10 km) - *Watch out:* the cycle path over the Danube bridge is restricted due to construction work, please be careful! - or you cycle upstream to the ferry Rossatz - Dürnstein (operating hours Apr./Oct. Fri, Sat, Sun and bank holidays from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, May/Sept. daily from 9:30 am - 6:00 pm, June to August, Mon - Fri 9:30 am - 6:00 pm, Sat/Sun 9:00 am - 6:30 pm)
	If you would like to take a quick **side trip** to the **town centre of Dürnstein**: *Watch out!* In the pedestrian zone, you have to walk your bike!
	Please keep following the **signposts EV6 / R1 Danube cycle path.**
	In **Dürnstein**, follow the cycleway **along** the **A-road** and continue along an **agricultural road** through vast terraced **vineyards**.
	25 Continue **alongside the railroad tracks** to **Weißenkirchen**.
Tip:	In Weißenkirchen you can find a lot of Heurige (wine taverns) in narrow lanes.

	26 Via **Wösendorf**, keep cycling **parallel to the Danube** until you reach **Spitz**.
Info:	It is a good idea to take the ferry to St. Lorenz in Weißenkirchen (ferry Weißenkirchen - St. Lorenz, service runs Mo-Fr 8:00 am - 11:45 am / 1:30 pm - 6:45 pm and Sa/So/bank holidays 8:00 am - 6:45 pm). Alternatively, take the ferry in Spitz (Ferry Spitz - Arnsdorf, service runs from Mo-Fr 6:15 am - 6:00 pm and Sa-So 8:15 am - 6:00 pm) to cross the river, in order to avoid the traffic alongside the A-road (B3).
	25 26 If you take the **ferry** in **Weißenkirchen** to cross over to **St. Lorenz** (you are now on the **violet route**), pick up the cycleway that leads to **Bacharnsdorf** and **Mitterarnsdorf**.
⚠	*Watch out:* The cycle path near **Mitterarnsdorf** will probably be closed due to construction work until the end of the year. The detour runs parallel on the road.
	Through **wine villages** and **orchards** cycle past **Hofarnsdorf** along the **towpath** to **Oberarnsdorf**.
Info:	If you take the **ferry in Spitz**, you will arrive in **Oberarnsdorf** and here you join the **violet route.**
	Continue along the **bank of the Danube**, past **St. Johann** im **Mauerthale,** 27 **Aggstein**, **Aggsbach Dorf** and 28 **Schönbühel** towards **Melk**.
	29 30 Shortly before reaching **Melk**, cross the little **river Pielach** and pass under the **bridge** to pick up the **Danube Cycle Path** in the direction of **Pöchlarn** until you reach the **mooring place**.

Info:	If you decide to continue along the northern bank to **Pöchlarn** anyway **(red route)**, cycle from 26 **Spitz** to **Schwallenbach**. Here the **cycleway** leads shortly away from the **bank of the Danube**. 27 28 29 30 After **Groisbach**, you get back to the road alongside the river. Pick up the at times **narrow cycleway alongside the A-road** until you reach **Aggsbach Markt**. From here, follow the **Danube Cycle Path** via **Schallemersdorf** and **Emmersdorf** up to **Klein Pöchlarn**. When the **A-road** leads away from the bank, you can either cycle up alongside **the dam** or 🡐 you continue left of it onto **the towpath**. In **Klein Pöchlarn**, turn left and cross the **bridge** to 🡒 reach **Pöchlarn** on the **other side of the Danube**. After crossing the **bridge**, turn right and continue cycling **alongside the bank** until you reach the **mooring place**.

	24 **Violet route on the map**
	From the mooring cycle upstream. You will meet a cycleway that leads **parallel to the road**. Follow the **cycleway** through **Rossatzbach** and **Rossatz**. Here the **cycleway** leads away from the **Danube** for a while.
	25 On an agricultural road, cycle through **orchards to Rührsdorf**.
	At the **ferry dock St. Lorenz**, the way leads back to the **Danube**. 26 Continue along the cycleway to **Bacharnsdorf** and **Mitterarnsdorf**.
⚠	*Watch out:* The cycle path near **Mitterarnsdorf** will probably be closed due to construction work until the end of the year. The detour runs parallel on the road.
	Through **wine villages** and **orchards**, pedal along the **towpath** past **Hofarnsdorf** to **Oberarnsdorf**.
	Keep cycling along the bank of the **Danube**, past **St. Johann im Mauerthale,** 27 **Aggstein**, **Aggsbach Dorf** and 285 **Schönbühel until** towards **Melk**.
	29 30 Shortly before reaching **Melk**, cross the little river **Pielach**, pass **under the bridge** and continue cycling onto the **Danube Cycle Path** to **Pöchlarn** until you reach the **mooring place.**

Day 8: Passau - Disembarkation

IMPRESSUM / ABOUT US

SE-Tours GmbH
Am Grollhamm 12a
27574 Bremerhaven
Tel.: +49 (0)471-800 735
Fax.: +49 (0)471-800 735 29

Geschäftsführer/Managing Director: Jörg Gövert
Handelsregister/Trade register: HRB 2601 BHV
UST-ID-Nr. DE 163249225
E-Mail: info@se-tours.de
Website: www.se-tours.de

Die Reproduktion oder Übernahme des Routenbuches oder von Teilen daraus ist nur in Absprache mit der SE-Tours GmbH erlaubt. / The reproduction or adoption of the whole route book or of parts of it is only allowed when agreed with SE-Tours GmbH.
Schutzgebühr / Nominal fee: € 10,-

Version 13