



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 Prinzessin Katharina Cruise Manager: 0049-170-99 15 159

Ship reception desk: 00421-917 883 851



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 - Aschach, approx. 40 - 43 km**
Boat Tour Aschach - Vienna

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 abby church: Winter 08:00 am - 5 pm, Summer 8:00 am - 7:00 pm.

Tip: In Engelhartszell, 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 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, July/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 at lock Jochenstein is expected to be closed until October 2024.

After crossing to the other side of the river on the **Engelhartszell bike ferry**, pick up the **towpath** and continue cycling directly **alongside the river in direction of Niederanna.**

- **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 ferry dock is just next to **Pumberger's farm / Jausenstation** (ferry runs daily Apr./Sept.-Oct. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, May-Aug. 8:00 am - 8:00 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**. From **Inzell**, continue alongside the river for approx. **5 km** up to **5 Kobling**. Please continue following the **red route** via **Kaiserau 6 7** until **Aschach**. Here, you will board the ship again and sail to **Vienna**. Your cruise manager will give you the exact departure time.

Tip:

4 **5** **6** **7** Alternatively, as of May, you can take the **ferry Donaubus-Längsfähre Au-Grafenau** (daily May/June/Sept. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, July/Aug., 9:30 am - 6:30 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 (violet route)**.

Here you will again cross to the southern bank to **Kobling** using the **ferry** (daily May/September from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, June to August from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm), and then continue following the **red route** to **Aschach**.

Variant A Closure of the cycle path between Kobling and Kaiserau (expected until end of April)

Info:



Due to urgent rock stabilization work (risk of rockfall), the Danube Cycle Path R1 between **5** Kobling and Kaiserau on the right bank of the Danube will be closed until end of April 2024. Please bypass the closure using the Kobling-Obermühl ferry and the Untermühl-Kaiserhof ferry.

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 (violet route)** towards **Untermühl**. Here again take the ferry to the south riverbank (daily Apr - Sept 9:00 am - 6 pm).

6 **7** You are cycling now on the **red route** to **Aschach**. Here you go aboard the ship and continue your journey with a **boat tour** to **Vienna**. Your cruise manager will give you the exact departure time.

Variant B *Cycling tour to Brandstatt* (for departures 25th of May und 17th of August only)

7 Red route: From **Aschach**, continue cycling alongside the south bank of the Danube and follow the **cycle path signs EV6 / R1** to **Brandstatt**.

In **Brandstatt** go aboard the ship and continue your journey with a boat tour to **Vienna**. Your cruise manager will give you the exact departure time.

Day 3: Rest Day in Vienna

You will reach **Vienna** in the morning. At early evening sail from **Vienna to Budapest**.

Info: Vienna, the magnificent capital of Austria, captivates with its rich history and breathtaking architecture. As the former center of the Habsburg Empire, the city offers a unique blend of imperial splendor and modern joie de vivre. Renowned for its magnificent palaces, world-famous artworks, and vibrant music scene, Vienna is a cultural gem on the Danube. From the majestic palaces of the Old Town to the charming cafes along the Ringstrasse, the city exudes a special atmosphere that enchants visitors from around the world.

Tip: Join us on a walking tour through Vienna or go for a guided bike tour through the city.

Day 4: Rest Day in Budapest

You will reach Budapest in the morning.

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.

Tip: Join us for a guided city bike tour and experience Budapest at night and see a lively folkloric show.

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!

The cycleway to **Szentendre** leads almost always alongside the **Danube**.



9 At the berth of your ship, cross the road and cycle left along the wall onto the upper road. Here, the bike path leads you northward.

We recommend the alternative route via **Margaret Island (violet route)**.



9 **10** Between **Árpád Bridge** and **rail bridge** the signposting is insufficient, no cycle path.



10 Around **Romaifürdő** there are many small restaurants and snack bars, many pedestrians and there are no cycle paths. You cycle on pebble paths of poor quality.

10 **11** After **Csillaghegy** the bike path is new, well maintained and signposted.

Return to Budapest: same way in the opposite direction. Maps **11** **10** **9**

At night, sailing to **Visegrad**.

Day 5: Cycle Tour Visegrad – Vác – Visegrad, approx. 36 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.

12 **13** From the **mooring** in Visegrad, follow the **state road 11** to **Tahitótfalu**. The road takes a bend and then follows the **branch of the Danube downstream**.



Alternatively, you can take the **ferry Szentgyörgypuszta - Kisoroszi** (operating times from 7:45 am -6:45 pm, every hour) to **Szentendre Island** and cycle to the **ferry in Vác (violet route)**.

Watch out! No signposting!

12 You cycle along the **branch of the Danube** until you reach **Dunabogdany** and then proceed along the **state road 11**. You reach **13 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**.



14 **15** **16** Follow the **cycleway signposts EV6** to **Kismaros**.

You reach **Kismaros**. Keep following the **cycleway signposts EV6** to the **ferry dock of Nagymaros** where you cross over to **Visegrad** (service runs from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, every hour).

In the afternoon, shipping to Bratislava.

Day 6: Rest Day in Bratislava

In the morning you will reach Bratislava. In the afternoon, sail from Bratislava to the Wachau.

Info:

Located in southwestern Slovakia on both banks of the Danube River, **Bratislava** is with about 500.000 inhabitants the capital of Slovakia, 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 and cafés.

Tip:

Take a city tour by Mini train or go for a guided bike tour of Bratislava. More information from your cruise manager.

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.

18 **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)** or you **cycle upstream** to the **ferry Ros-satz - 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**.

19 Continue **alongside the railroad tracks** to **Weißkirchen**.

Tip: In Weißkirchen you can find a lot of Heurige (wine taverns) in narrow lanes.

20 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 / 1:15 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 - 7:00 pm and Sa/So/bank holidays 8:15 am - 7:30 pm) to cross the river, in order to avoid the traffic alongside the A-road (B3).

19 **20** 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 still be closed due to construction work. The detour runs parallel on the road.

Through **wine villages** and **orchards** cycle past **Hofarnsdorf** along the **towpath** to **Oberarnsdorf**.

Info:

20 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**, **21** **Aggstein**, **Aggsbach Dorf** and **22** **Schönbühel** towards **Melk**.

23 **24** 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**.

Tip:

The Danube lake in Weitenegg is a wonderful place to swim (**orange route**).

Info:

If you decide to continue along the northern bank to **Pöchlarn** anyway (**red route**), cycle from **20** **Spitz** to **Schwallenbach**. Here the **cycleway** leads shortly away from the **bank of the Danube**.

21 **22** **23** **24** 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 **Schallemerisdorf** 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**.

18 **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.

19 On an agricultural road, cycle through **orchards to Rührsdorf**.

At the **ferry dock St. Lorenz**, the way leads back to the **Danube**.

20 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**,
21 Aggstein, Aggsbach Dorf and **22 Schönbühel** until towards **Melk**.

23 24 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**.

Tip: The Danube lake in Weitenegg is a wonderful place to swim (**orange route**).

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

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