

Danube Impressions

Hike + Boat | MS Theodor Körner ***+

Passau – Bratislava – Vienna – Passau | Guided



Hiking Package

Enjoy the breath-taking landscapes of the Danube valley and some fantastic views in the company of our experienced hiking guide. Each day a shuttle bus will bring you comfortably to the starting point of your walking tour and then at the end of the day back to the ship. In a small group discover hidden gems and secret places as you learn about the country and its people, culture and customs.

Itinerary

Day 1: Passau

Use the time before embarkation at 4.00 p.m. to stroll through the captivating historic centre of Passau, marvel at the world's largest church organ in the cathedral, and enjoy a cool beer in one of the typical Bavarian beer gardens. Your holiday begins at around 6.30 p.m. when your ship casts off to sail through the wild and romantic Danube valley.

Day 2: Bad Kreuzen – Grein, approx. 13 km (+530/-725)

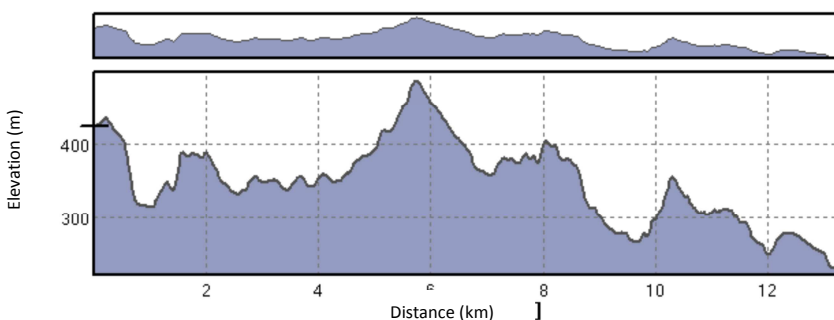
A beautiful and varied route lies ahead as you explore the idyllic hinterland of the Strudengau on foot. Take a taxi from the ship in the morning to the castle in Bad Kreuzen. Today's walk takes you from the Wolfsschlucht ravine past the Martinstein rock formation to the Stillensteinklamm gorge and then on to the Werfensteinblick observation point before you return to the ship in Grein. Then it's time to enjoy this small medieval town with baroque facades and imposing castle. After a romantic journey sailing past towns and villages full of twinkling lights you arrive at the ruined fortress of Devin early in the morning.

Highlights

- Kreuzen castle
- Austria's oldest theatre in Grein
- Schlögenger Donauschlinge "Danube Loop"
- The legendary Wachau valley
- Church of Maria Taferl
- The cities of Vienna and Bratislava with their many attractions

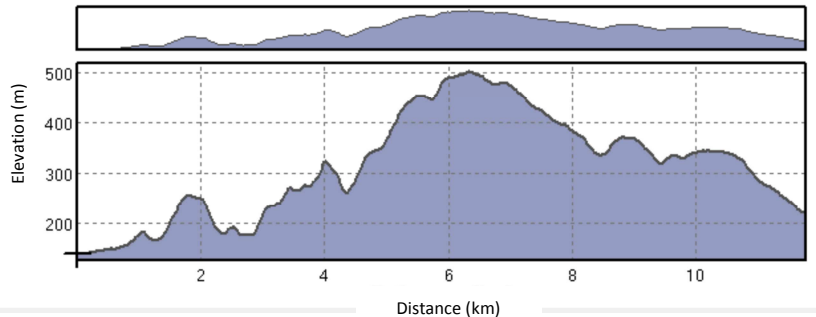
Tour Profile

All routes are approximately 13 kilometres long and you'll cover between 300 and 500 vertical metres. Walks take approx. 4 hours depending on your pace. The routes are not difficult and (with the exception of the walk in the Wachau) can be shortened towards the end. And if one day you don't fancy walking, just stay on board and reach your destination in comfort by ship.



Day 3: Devin – Bratislava, approx. 12 km (+613/-529)

The castle of Devin is one of the oldest in Slovakia and offers a wonderful view of the National Park Donauauen. Today you'll walk from the ship in Devin to the summit of the Devinska Kobyla before continuing to the vibrant city of Bratislava. The optional miniature train tour of the city in which Hungarian kings were once crowned begins with a glorious view from the fortress perched on a hill overlooking the city and ends with a walk through the historic city centre.



INCLUDED Services

- Hiking guide for the tours
- Transfers to the starting/end points of the walks
- Souvenir of the "Donausteig" hiking trail souvenir

Dates

May 18, July 20, September 14 (further dates upon request)

Price per person = EUR 249,-

Minimum amount of participants

Min. 8 / Max. 16 participants

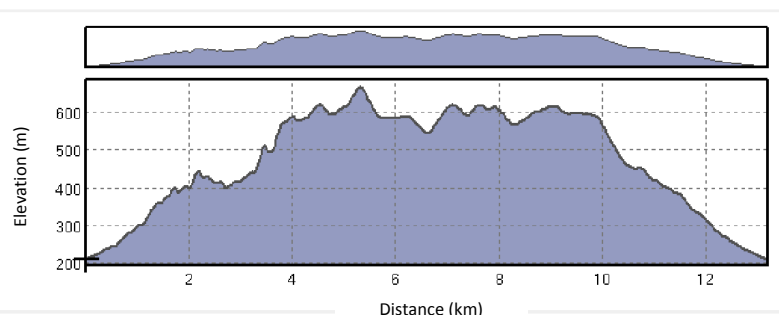
Day 4: Vienna (rest day)

Discover Vienna at your own pleasure on the HOP-ON, HOP-OFF bus (optional). Ride through the historic city centre at a leisurely pace and see the sights from close up. The magnificent Ringstraße will remind you of times long past and inviting coffee houses will tempt you with delicious Viennese cakes and pastries. Afterwards, there's enough time to stroll through the quaint narrow lanes or to visit the Naschmarkt, a feast for all the senses. End the evening on a magical note with a concert of classical waltz and operetta music in the splendid setting of one of Vienna's sumptuous historic palaces (optional).



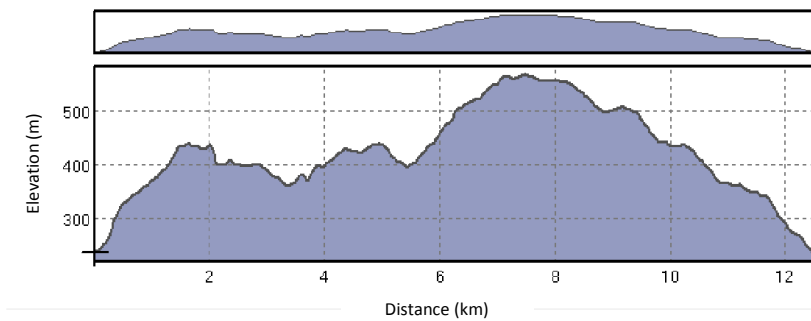
Day 5: Weißenkirchen – Bacharnsdorf, approx. 13 km (+741/-739)

After a hearty breakfast the bus will take you to Weißenkirchen where you cross the Danube on the ferry to St. Lorenzen. This is where you begin your walk to the Hirschwand and the Seekopf. Enjoy the stunning views of the gentle hilly countryside of the Wachau with its picturesque villages, historic castles and palaces surrounded by apricot trees and terraced vineyards. From Kreuzberg walk down the gentle path to Bacharnsdorf to meet the taxi that will take you to Melk. End the day with some window-shopping in the small town of Melk and a visit to the famous Abbey of Melk (UNESCO World Heritage Site).



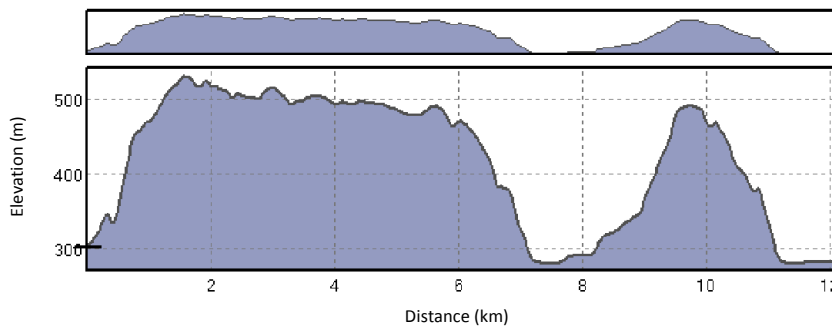
Day 6: Krummnußbaum – Maria Taferl – Granz, approx. 13 km (+509/-515)

After taking a taxi to Krummnußbaum situated on the main road along the bank of the Danube, explore the rugged countryside of the Strudengau and the gentle Nibelungengau on foot. The highlight of today's excursion is the pilgrimage church of Maria Taferl, a magnificent basilica perched on a hill above the Danube. Take time to enjoy the sweeping view over the Danube valley before continuing on through the Steinbach ravine and along the Tümlingbach back to the river. The final destination is Granz, where you'll meet your taxi for the ride to Grein. After dinner, theatre lovers have the opportunity to take a guided tour through Austria's oldest theatre (optional).



Day 7: Inzell – Freizeil, approx. 12 km (+525/-545)

Explore the pristine countryside of the upper Danube valley on a path running through the hills above sleepy villages. Start the day by taking the ferry to Kobling to pick up the taxi to Inzell. Via the Steinerfelsen observation point continue on to the famous Schlögener Blick to enjoy a truly stunning view of the Schlögener Schlinge where the Danube carves its way through a gorge and doubles back on itself. Having arrived in Schlögen take the ferry to Au an der Donau and carry on past the ruins of Haichenbach castle until you reach Freizeil. The taxi will bring you back to the ship in Engelhartzell, where Austria’s only Trappist monastery awaits you with its famous “healing” herbal schnapps, liqueurs and Trappist beer.



Day 8: Passau

Enjoy the first rays of sun and the early morning tranquillity of the Danube valley one last time from the deck of the ship before you reach Passau, your heart bursting with memories and impressions. Disembarkation: approx. 10.00 a.m. Independent homeward travel. We recommend that you do not make any arrangements for onward connections departing before 11.00 a.m. To be on the safe side, later departure times would be even better.

