

Danube | Passau - Vienna - 8 days

Make some cycling holidays and discover Europe's most classic bike tour along the Danube River between Germany and Austria. The Danube Bicycle Path offers carefree cycle trips and an ideal way to discover the region. It's downstream all the way, passing through picturesque towns and villages and across lush farmland. It's paved and almost traffic-free. You are following an old horse path, where teams of horses once pulled tow-barges upstream. Along the majestic river, you pass romantic castles, cozy villages and sprawling vineyards. To shorten a day's riding, you can often board a train or ship along the way. Many trains have cars specifically for bicycles, and ships carry them with no problem as well. The unforgettable end of the tour is the capital of Austria, Vienna, with its countless sights. You start in a deep valley with craggy outcroppings topped by the ruins of ancient castles. Soon, the hills turn to the rolling vineyards of the Wachau region, dotted with medieval towns. As the river widens, flat pastures spread to the horizons and you meander through farms and villages. From time to time you cross the river, over dams, locks and bridges and sometimes in small ferries that hold barely a dozen cyclists. You finish in Vienna, where you have the chance to see the city by bicycle.

Day 1: Arrival in Passau

Arrive in Passau, the City of Three Rivers, at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube Rivers. If you'd like, take a sightseeing tour around the city and the cathedral, where you might hear a concert on the world's largest church organ.

Day 2: Passau > Schlögen/Wesenufer, ~40km (25 miles)

After you leave your luggage in the lobby, you head the short distance to the river, where you board a riverboat for a scenic tour down the Danube. Strengthen yourselves for the ride ahead with lunch on-board (included). You get off the ship at the charming town of Engelhartzell with its unique Trappist monastery and breathtakingly beautiful rococo church. Here your bike ride actually starts. After riding through granite massifs, you enter an opulent green landscape and soon come to Schlögen, where the Danube rounds a nearly 270-degree bend.

Day 3: Schlögen/Wesenufer > Linz, ~56 km (35 miles)

Continue your ride along the Danube under the gaze of old castles that look from the hilltops. Ride through the narrow and winding Danube valley to Ottensheim, a medieval market town with historic parish church and castle. Stop in Aschach for lunch, with plenty of swimming lakes to choose from along the way, and board the riverboat in the afternoon. You'll soon come to Linz, Austria's third-largest city, with an historic market square surrounded by baroque buildings. The majestic fifteenth-century Linz Citadel stands watch over the Danube. If you'd like, board Europe's steepest mountain railway to climb the Pöstlingberg, a hill overlooking the city. The train, which still operates with its original 19th-century cars, covers nearly 2 miles and about 825 vertical feet in 16 minutes. The view to the river is superb.

Day 4: Wallsee/ Au, ~42 km (26 miles)

Today, the Danube Cycle Path leads through the Machland region via the Abwinden power plant to Mauthausen, and past Wallsee Castle. Then on to the day's destination Wallsee/Au.

Day 5: Marbach/Maria Taferl, ~56 km (35 miles)

Through the Strudengau with the romantic Hößgang to Ybbs and to the day's destination, the second largest place of pilgrimage in Austria or Marbach.

Day 6: Maria Taferl > Krems/Traismauer, ~51 or 66 km (32 or 41 miles)

After Grein, the Danube starts getting narrower. The valley is tighter and craggy where ruins of ancient castles seem to appear at every bend in the river. You can stop at the Persenbeug Castle, which still watches over the Danube from a stark rock outcropping. It dates from the 9th century, although its current form is "only" 400 years old. You cross the river to Ybbs, with its recently restored old town with winding lanes, quiet courtyards and patrician homes from the 15th and 16th centuries. Much of the historic town wall is still intact. In Ybbs, you enjoy lunch and board the riverboat and follow the Danube around a tight curve and travel a short distance to another tour highlight: the Melk Abbey. Melk marks the official start of the Wachau, Austria's most famous wine-growing region. Vineyards

Services:

7 nights in 4**** hotels (3*** in Wallsee)
 7x breakfast
 luggage transfer
 maps and information GB, DE
 GPS tracks on request
 service hotline 9.00am-6.00pm (until 5.00pm in April and October)

additional services:

extra night, single BnB, Vienna	157 €
extra night, single BnB, Passau, cat. A	113 €
extra night, double BnB, Vienna	91 €
extra night, double BnB, Passau, cat. A	74 €
transfer back by van	50 €
transfer back by train	40 €
transfer customers bike	30 €
rental bike 7 gears pedal brake	100 €
rental bike 21 gears	100 €
electric bike	210 €
own bike	0 €
4x half-board	130 €

Price:

04.05.2024 - 11.05.2024 - hotel according to offer

double room, BnB	838 €
single room, BnB	1082 €
twin room, BnB	838 €



stretch up the sides of the valley, and wine villages lie along the river as well as in the neighboring hills. The Benedictine Abbey, a magnificent baroque structure built between 1702 and 1736, surrounds seven courtyards and stretches 1,065 from end to end. Take a tour of the abbey and the adjacent English landscape garden.

Day 7: Krems or Traismauer > Vienna, ~59 or 74 km (37 or 46 miles)

You will reach Vienna via the flower city of Tulln. From Tulln possibly by suburban train (every half hour, approx. € 9.50 on site) to Vienna or continue by bike through the foothills of the Vienna Woods to Klosterneuburg (monastery) on the outskirts of Vienna, individually by subway to the hotel OR continue by bike past Klosterneuburg to the center of the Waltz City. The world metropolis offers a variety of sights (St. Stephen's Cathedral, Ringstrasse, Palace, Schönbrunn Zoo, Prater, Danube Tower, Belvedere Palace).

Day 8: End of the tour

Transfer back to Passau by train or bus included.

