

# EXPLORE!

**Self-Guided Danube Cycling - Passau to Budapest**  
15 days

Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia - Trip code CSPB



## Self-Guided Danube Cycling - Passau to Budapest

On this self-guided holiday through Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary you'll cycle along the Danube on Europe's most famous cycle path. Pedal through lowland forests, wide floodplains and follow the Danube River through three capital cities. This wonderful cycling trip from Passau to Budapest combines unspoilt nature, hidden artistic treasures, charming monuments and peaceful cycling.

### Trip highlights

- ★ **Easy scenic cycling** - Along the Danube between Vienna and Budapest
- ★ **Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest** - Discover three impressive capital cities
- ★ **Historic Danube** - Pass many medieval towns and villages including Krems, Linz and Grein
- ★ **Viennese culinary specialties** - Try sweet treats like Sachertorte (type of chocolate cake)

#### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

##### Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

#### CYCLING GRADE:

##### Easy

Suitable for anyone who enjoys easy and relatively short rides on flat or gently undulating terrain. Ideal if you simply want to explore a region by bike at a relaxed pace.

# Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

## DAY 1 - Trip starts in Passau

Your holiday starts in the German town of Passau, close to the Austrian border. After checking in to your hotel and picking up your bicycle from the local bike shop, the rest of the day is free to explore this pretty university town. Known as the 'City of Three Rivers', it is here that the Danube is joined by the Ilz and the Inn. We recommend a visit to St. Steven's Cathedral in the Old Town. This Baroque building is home to Europe's largest organ, with an impressive 17000 pipes. If you are lucky, you may time your visit with a lunchtime or evening concert. We also recommend walking up to Veste Oberhaus - the ancient fortress that dominates the city from the hilltop. Now a museum of history and folklore, spectacular panoramic views are afforded from the tower. Your bike will be delivered today or tomorrow morning and you will be required to sign an agreement of care upon receipt of the bike.



**Accommodation: Dormero Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Bike to Schlogen; View the impressive 'Schlogen Bend'

This morning, there is time to explore more of Passau before jumping into the saddle to commence your journey to Schlogen. Cycling alongside the picturesque Danube, it is easy to see how this trail gained its reputation as one of Europe's most famous cycle paths. You cross the river by ferry from Engelhartzell to Uferhausl (ticket paid locally and not included in package) and from here cycle following the river up to Au, on the opposite bank to Schlogen. From here take the ferry across the river (ticket included). On arrival in Schlogen, a 30-minute walk will lead you to an impressive panoramic viewpoint over a bend in the Danube, where it alters course by almost 180 degrees.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 42 kilometres (120 metres ascent, 140 metres descent).



**Accommodation: Hotel Freizeitanlage Schlogen** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Cycle to Linz; Enjoy a dip in a lake

A 20 kilometre ride along the shady riverbank takes you to the village of Auscach. Here, you may choose to visit the Fischermuseum,

with its interesting exhibition on the Danube's historic fishing trade. Further along your route, there is the opportunity to swim in a couple of the picture-perfect lakes that you pass, so make sure you pack your swimming gear for this. Today's journey takes us to Linz. Although this is the second largest industrial town in Austria, it has a pretty city centre. We recommend a visit to the Neuer Dom - the largest cathedral in Austria which was only completed in 1924. Alternatively, you may choose to relax in the Hauptplatz, sampling the famous Linzertorte - the oldest known cake in the world. As you explore the town, look out for the house where Mozart composed his Symphony No. 36, otherwise known as the Linz Symphony.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 51 kilometres (130 metres ascent, 156 metres descent).



**Accommodation: Hotel Prielmayerhof** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Bike to Perg via the Mauthausen Memorial

Leaving Linz through the park along the Danube, you will continue your journey along the river. 18 kilometres into your route, you may choose to take a 10 kilometre detour to the Abbey of St. Florian (entrance ticket included) - an impressive example of Baroque architecture and art. After crossing the river by ferry (May to August) from Enns to Mauthausen (ferry ticket included), another option is to visit the sobering Mauthausen Memorial. Here you will find a well-presented visitor centre which details the atrocities that took place at this concentration camp. As one of the first Nazi 'death camps', conditions here were at the harshest end of the spectrum and survival was not expected. Your base for tonight is Perg - a small town near the river.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 40 kilometres (114 metres ascent, 139 metres descent) plus options to do an extra 4 kilometres to Enns, 6 kilometres to Mauthausen or 12 kilometres to St. Florian.



**Accommodation: Gasthof Manner** (or similar)



Standard Guesthouse



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Cycle to Marbach; Admire its UNESCO-listed abbey

We start today's ride through the Strudengau region and after a short while reach Grein, a quiet village on the river where we recommend a visit to Schloss Greinburg - a castle with stunning panoramic views, which also hosts an interesting navigation museum. From Grein you catch the ferry across to Uberfuhr (ferry ticket paid locally and not included in package). The next village you encounter along today's route is Ybbs. Just before the village you can choose between cycling across the river dam bridge and going directly onto Marbach where you will spend the night, or first cycling into Ybbs to visit the quirky bicycle museum where you can admire (and try out) many types of two-wheeled transport.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 64 kilometres (113 metres ascent, 149 metres descent).



**Accommodation: Hotel Rose** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Discover Austria's famous wine region

Further along the peaceful banks of the Danube the first place on today's ride is Melk, with its UNESCO-listed Baroque abbey - one of the largest in Europe. Benedictine monks have been living here since 1089. We also recommend visiting the abbey garden and the impressive library. Today, you cycle through the Wachau Valley, well-known for its picturesque rolling hills. This is the most famous wine region in Austria and, as you ride through the villages on your route, don't miss the chance stop off and sample some locally-produced vintages. Before your arrival at your night stop in Krems, you may choose to spend some time in glorious Durstein. This little town is a tourist haven, due to its picturesque setting and traditional architecture. The 12th century English king, Richard The Lionheart, was held prisoner here at Kuenringer Castle, the ruins of which still overlook the town.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 54 kilometres (215 metres ascent, 220 metres descent).



**Accommodation: Hotel Klinghuber** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Cycle to Greifenstein; train to Vienna

Cycling today will lead you along the Danube to the historic city of Tulln, founded by the Romans. Your ride continues to Greifenstein, a suburb of Vienna where we may like to visit the castle. You continue the journey to Vienna by train (taking your bike with you). Your luggage will be delivered to the hotel in Vienna. The train leaves you at Westbahnhof station and from here you may choose to use public transport to head directly into town and explore. Vienna is packed full of fantastic sights and architecture. After your week of cycling, we think you definitely deserve a slice of chocolaty Sacher Torte, maybe even at the famous Hotel Sacher. Claiming to be the sole custodian of the original 19th century recipe, the hotel ensures that its formula remains a well-kept secret.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 61 kilometres (99 metres ascent, 114 metres descent).



**Accommodation: NH Danube City** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

## DAY 8 - Free day to Explore Vienna

Today is left free for independent sightseeing. The city of Vienna remains a testament to the once immensely rich and powerful Habsburg dynasty and its architectural treasures are many, with impressive statues and public buildings at every turn, interspersed with tasteful gardens. You may choose just to spend a few hours walking around, soaking up the atmosphere, or you might take in a couple of the wonderful museums, or perhaps visit the world-renowned Schloss Schonbrunn, the enormous summer palace of the Habsburgs. Whichever you choose, Vienna will certainly provide a wonderful break from the saddle.

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## DAY 9 - Cycle paths from one capital to the next, Vienna to Bratislava

The hotel is just 100 meters from the cycle path, once you have left the hotel start cycling in the metropolis of Vienna but not for long, soon you will find yourself in the greenness of the Donauauen National Park. Pass the Schonau and Orth castles then cycle on to the Habsburg Castle in Eckartsau. We recommend a detour to castle Hof, a magnificent castle which was built at the behest of the Austrian empress Maria Theresia; its impressive park and the gorgeous architectural monuments are definitely worth a visit. Continue cycling via Hainburg to the Slovakian capital, Bratislava.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 68km



**Accommodation: Austria Trend Hotel Bratislava** (or similar)

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Standard Hotel

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Single room available

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## DAY 10 - Explore Bratislava on foot, cycle to Mosonmagyaróvár

Spend the morning in Bratislava, wander through cobbled streets, and admire the Baroque architecture. Today's ride starts by leading you away from the capital along a cycling path and soon cross the Slovakian Hungarian border near Kunovo; via Dunasziget a village which was once located on an island in the middle of the Danube. Reach the small town of Mosonmagyaróvár where you spend the night.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 45km



**Accommodation: Termal Hotel** (or similar)

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Standard Hotel

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Single room available

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## DAY 11 - Country lanes and cycle paths to Gyor

Start by cycling across two of Mosonmagyaróvár's seventeen bridges on your way out of the town. Soon you pick up signs for the Eurovelo Route 6 and follow excellent cycle paths and quite country roads for most of the day. You will see yellow rapeseed fields bordered with deciduous trees. Stop to visit the village of Hedervár and its castle which has been converted to a hotel. Further on, partly along the idyllic Danube you arrive to Győr, the 'metropolis' of west-Hungary, a dynamically developing city with a Baroque city centre. Once you have checked in to your hotel and left the bikes we suggest you visit the town hall which used to have a prison in the basement, the Diocesan Treasury to view its medieval manuscripts or try out one of the town's thermal baths.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 45km



**Accommodation: Hotel Famulus** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 12 - Abandoned railway line, border village and baroque Cicov

Not far out of Győr follow an abandoned railway line for a while and then more country lanes past farmhouses and through forested land. Back on country roads you cross the Hungarian-Slovakian border by cycling over a bridge on the Danube to the border village of Medvedov. Follow the beautiful Slovakian bank to the baroque city Cicov and further via Zlatná to the Slovakian/Hungarian city of Komárno/Komarom situated on both sides of the Danube connected by the Elisabeth Bridge.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 64km



**Accommodation: Hotel Banderium** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## DAY 13 - Cycle past farming villages and take the ferry to Visegrad

This morning you take the bridge back to the Hungarian part of the city; passing the Roman fort Kelemantia and isolated farming villages. Cross the well-known Gisela Bridge to Esztergom, you may wish to stop here and visit the cathedral. Follow the right bank of the Danube through more villages then cycle paths following signs to the ferry, cross the Danube then continue cycling on the right bank of the Danube to Nagymaros from where you catch the ferry to Visegrad.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 69km



**Accommodation: Hotel Visergrad** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 14 - Cycle to Budapest and explore by bike or on foot

Explore by bike Szentendre-Island situated in a bend on the Danube and some 31km long. Continue by ferry to Szentendre-City which is about 20km from Budapest. Soon the Budapest skyline starts to come into view, and your ride that started in Vienna is nearing its end. Once you arrive to the Hungarian capital you are free to sightsee by bike or on foot. The city consists of two parts: Buda and Pest. Buda is the older, more graceful part, with cobbled streets and medieval buildings, whilst the latter is the modern business centre. We recommend visiting the Basilica of Saint Stephen and the Parliament buildings before crossing the Chain Bridge to the Castle District and Watertown. Here lie Buda's most ancient gems - Castle Hill with the Old Town, Fisherman's Bastion and the Royal Palace.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 45km



**Accommodation: Lion's Garden Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 15 - Trip ends Budapest

The trip ends in Budapest this morning after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

# Cycling information

### General cycling information

On this journey you cycle 657 km over 12 days, an average of 55 km per day. The terrain is almost completely flat. 95% of the route is on paved cycle paths without traffic and 5% on gravel tracks. We have graded the route as easy.

### Bike included

7 gear European city bike or 21 gear Hybrid bike.

### Bike information

Your included bike is either a 7 gear European city bike (e.g. Schauuff, Kettler or KTM) or a 21 gear Hybrid bike and will be the correct frame size for your height. Each bike is fitted with a lateral pannier bag as well as a map note holder on the handlebars. A lock is included. All you need to bring is your own helmet. Please note it is not possible to fit your own seat or pedals on the bikes. You will be required to sign an agreement of care upon receipt of the bike.

### Cycling grade

Easy

CSPB Map  
CSPB Map

## Why book this trip

Unlike many other operators, we include the hire of your bike in the overall cost of the holiday: you don't need to bring your own or pay extra to hire one locally. We also provide a pump, lock, spare inner tube and tyre levers. All you need bring is your own helmet.

## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 14



### Transport

Bicycle



### Accommodation

1 nights standard guesthouse  
12 nights standard hotel

## Trip information

### Country information

Austria



**Climate**

Austria has a variable climate with frequent changes of weather from day to day. Expect a contrast of warm summer days with the possibility of showers at any time.

**Time difference to GMT**

+1

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Roman Catholic

**Language**

German

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## Germany

**Climate**

Germany has a variable climate with frequent changes of weather from day to day. Expect a contrast of warm summer days with the possibility of showers at any time.

**Time difference to GMT**

+1

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Christian

**Language**

German

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## Hungary

**Climate**

Summer days are generally quite hot and sunny with usually between 9-10 hours of sunshine daily. Winter days are usually quite windy and temperatures are regularly around or just below freezing. Night time temperatures can drop quite low in the hills whilst most rain falls in spring and early summer. Sudden rain showers can, however, occur at any time of the year.

**Time difference to GMT**

+1

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Christian

**Language**

Hungarian

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## Slovakia

**Climate**

Summers are short in the mountains. July to August is the hottest period, when daytime temperatures average 20-22°C, though it may be much cooler in the early morning or late evening. During the winter, snow and ice is not uncommon, with snow generally starting in December and continuing to early February. Mountain weather is notoriously changeable and it can be cold at any time of year, so be prepared.. Early July is the best time for flowers.

**Time difference to GMT**

+1

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

## Religion

Roman Catholic

## Language

Slovak

# Budgeting and packing

## Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Day 1 - In Passau visit the Oberhaus Museum ([www.oberhausmuseum.de](http://www.oberhausmuseum.de)). Entrance costs around 5 Euros.

Day 2 - It is worth stopping at the Fisher Museum in Aschach ([museum.aschach.at](http://museum.aschach.at)). Costs around 2.5 Euros.

Day 3 - In Linz visit the Linzertorte Konditorei ([www.linzertorte.at](http://www.linzertorte.at)).

Day 4 - Explore Sanct Florian abbey ([en.wikipedia.org/wikit.\\_Florian\\_Monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wikit._Florian_Monastery)). The entrance fee is included in the package.

Alternatively stop at Mauthausen camp (<http://en.mauthausen-memorial.at/>). This costs around 5 Euros (guided tour best to book in advance).

Day 5 - Today visit the Schloss Greinburg ([www.schloss-greinburg.at](http://www.schloss-greinburg.at)). Entrance costs around 4 Euros.

Day 6 - The Ybbs - Fahrrad Museum ([www.ybbs.gv.at/kultur-tourismus/museen.html#c1511](http://www.ybbs.gv.at/kultur-tourismus/museen.html#c1511)) costs around 4 Euros.

Day 7 - On arrival into Vienna perhaps try the sightseeing wheel at Prater (<http://www.wienerriesenrad.com/>). The cost is around 9.50 Euros.

## Clothing

Bring cycling gear such as quick drying cycle tops, padded cycle shorts and cycle gloves. The weather is changeable in this part of Europe so bring a mix of breathable light layers and warmer clothes. A waterproof cycle jacket is recommended in case of rain. A light windproof jacket is always useful.

## Footwear

If you are not bringing cycle shoes then try to bring stiff-soled shoes as these are better for cycling - transmitting your energy into the pedals more efficiently. This becomes more relevant and recommended the more demanding the grade and distances to cover. SPD cycle shoes are not well suited to tours that combine sightseeing with cycling. Comfortable shoes, trainers, sandals or flip flops are useful when not on the bike.

## Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage during transfers by public transport so don't overload yourself. Luggage transfers between hotels are normally arranged by the hoteliers. Mark your bags clearly and leave them at the place and time arranged with them. When travelling on public transport you should always take your luggage with you.

## Luggage transfer

Included between each hotel.

## Equipment

On all Explore cycle holidays we strongly recommend you bring along and wear your cycle helmet. In case of an accident resulting in personal injury, certain insurance policies are invalidated in cases where a helmet was not being worn. Cycle glasses to protect against dust, pollen and the sun, padded cycle gloves and a water bottle or water delivery system (e.g. camelback or platypus) are also useful. You may choose to bring your own gel seat cover for added comfort. Other items to consider bringing are a sunhat and sun cream, torch, earplugs and insect repellent. Please carry some or all of your cycling equipment e.g. helmet as part of your hand luggage.

## Tipping

### Local fees

The following ferry journeys are not included in the holiday package and you will be required to purchase these locally:

Day 2 - Ferry Engelhartzell-Uferhausl - 2.20 Euros per person

Day 5 - Ferry Grein-Uberfuhr - 2.40 Euros per person

Day 5 - Ferry Krümmnussbaum an der Westbahn Fahre-Marbach - 2.20 Euros per person

Other ferry crossings (days 2 and 4) and the train journey from Greifenstein to Vienna are included in the package and tickets will be supplied locally.

## Country Information

### Austria

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Dinner price**

£27

**Beer price**

£2.85

**Water price**

£1.8

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Euro

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

GBP, USD and Euros cash are accepted at exchange offices and banks.

**Where To Exchange**

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

**ATM Availability**

All main towns and cities have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Credit cards are widely accepted.

**Travellers Cheques**

Travellers Cheques can be changed in main banks.

### Germany

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Dinner price**

£18

**Beer price**

£3

**Water price**

£1.3

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Euro

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

GBP and USD are readily exchanged.

**Where To Exchange**

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

**ATM Availability**

ATMs are readily available throughout Germany.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Most major credit cards are accepted, but ask first.

**Travellers Cheques**

Can be exchanged at banks and exchange shops.

## Hungary

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£10

**Dinner price**

£18

**Beer price**

£1.5

**Water price**

£1.1

### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Hungarian Forint<sup>2</sup>

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

British Pounds Sterling and US Dollars can be exchanged locally for Euros

**Where To Exchange**

GBP, USD and Euros cash are accepted at exchange offices

**ATM Availability**

All the main towns and cities have ATM's for cash withdrawal

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Credit cards are widely accepted

**Travellers Cheques**

Travellers Cheques can be exchanged in the main banks

## Slovakia

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£7

**Dinner price**

£15

**Beer price**

£2

**Water price**  
£1

## Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**  
Euro

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**  
British Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are accepted at exchange offices and banks

**Where To Exchange**  
Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival

**ATM Availability**  
Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival, but please be aware that some ATMs will charge 5% commission and outside of the main cities ATM's can sometimes be difficult to find

**Credit Card Acceptance**  
At most shops and restaurants

**Travellers Cheques**  
Travellers Cheques can be difficult to exchange

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bicycle

### Accommodation notes

#### Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard - Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

## Visa and Passport Information

Germany: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Austria: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel

dates.

## Austria

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Germany

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Hungary

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Slovakia

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tick-borne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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