

# EXPLORE!



## BEST SELLER

### Self-Guided Danube Cycling - Passau to Vienna

8 days

Austria, Germany - Trip code CSBD

## Self-Guided Danube Cycling - Passau to Vienna

Ride the most famous section of the mighty Danube River, between Passau in Germany and Vienna in Austria, on this easy self-guided cycle holiday. Passing through densely-wooded valleys and green meadows you see medieval towns, the wine-growing region of Wachau, imposing castles and glorious abbeys that pay testament to the wealth of history that has passed along this river.

## Trip highlights

- ★ Easy cycling - Along the Danube Valley with fine scenery
- ★ Historic Danube - Pass many medieval towns and villages including Krems, Linz and Grein
- ★ Vienna - Discover Austria's wonderful capital
- ★ Wachau wines - Sample some of Austria's premier wine
- ★ Schlogener Schlinge - See the dramatic bend on the Danube

### 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

## 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 Auschach. 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)

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Standard Hotel

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Single room available

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Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## 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)

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Standard Guesthouse

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Single room available

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Meals Provided: Breakfast

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## 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 Klinglhuber** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

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

Your last day of cycling 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. This marks the end of your Danube ride and you now hand the rental bikes over and continue the journey to Vienna by train. 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 chocolatey 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: Hotel Park Inn by Radisson Uno City (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Journey ends in Vienna

After breakfast, the organised part of your holiday comes to an end.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## Cycling information

### DAILY DISTANCE



#### General cycling information

On this journey you cycle 317 km over six days (an average of 53 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.

Electric bikes (e-bikes) are available for an additional cost for the duration of the holiday. You will be required to pay a refundable deposit upon collection of the e-bike in country. Please contact us for more details or to request your e-bike.

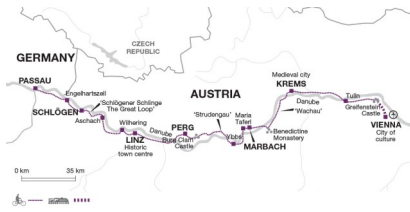
#### Bike information

Your included bike is either a 7 gear European city bike (e.g. Schauf, 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.

Electric bikes (e-bikes) are available for an additional cost for the duration of the holiday. You will be required to pay a refundable deposit upon collection of the e-bike in country. Please contact us for more details or to request your e-bike. Due to the shape of the e-bike a handle bar map holder is not provided.

#### Cycling grade

Easy



## 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. All you need bring is your own helmet.

## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 7



### Transport

Bicycle  
Train



### Accommodation

1 nights standard guesthouse  
6 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

#### 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

## 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.

Maps - Along with the destination manual and route notes you will be sent a set of maps that have been created specifically for this trip to help you navigate. The route is marked on each map together with a series of numbered waypoints which correspond with instructions in the route notes. Should you wish to purchase a more detailed commercially produced map we recommend the following:-

General maps

Bikeline Danube Bike Trail 2: Austrian Danube - From Passau to Vienna, 1:50.000, 320 km

ISBN-10: 3850001601

ISBN-13: 978-3850001601

## 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 Krummnussbaum 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.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bicycle, Train

### Recommended airport

Vienna or Linz.

### Flying to your destination

We'd recommend return flights into Vienna or Linz which are served by both budget (including Easyjet, Ryanair) and non-budget airlines (including British Airways) from multiple airports in the UK.

### 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.

### Arrival and departure information

At the start of your trip you can fly into Vienna or Linz Airports.

By public transport from Vienna airport to Passau

The suburban railway (S-Bahn) is an economical way of travelling to the centre of Vienna (4.40 Euros). Line and timeschedule [www.wienerlinien.at](http://www.wienerlinien.at)

There is an ICE direct train From Wien Hauptbahnhof train station in Vienna to Passau Hauptbahnhof. Trains every hour from 06.44 and the last train departs at 16.44 (duration 2.5 hours).

[www.oebb.at](http://www.oebb.at)

There are later trains with EN (Euro night train) or regional trains with connection stops.

At the end of your trip you can fly back from either Vienna or Linz Airports.

By public transport to Vienna airport  
As well as the S-Bahn already detailed, there is an airport bus.  
The bus departs from Wien Westbahnhof every half hour from 05.25 until 23.25 (duration 30 minutes, 8 Euros)  
[www.postbus.at/en/Airportbus/Vienna\\_AirportLines/index.jsp](http://www.postbus.at/en/Airportbus/Vienna_AirportLines/index.jsp)

## 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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