

# EXPLORE!



## Self-Guided Danube Cycling - Vienna to Budapest

8 days

Austria, Hungary, Slovakia - Trip code CSVB

# Self-Guided Danube Cycling - Vienna to Budapest

On this self-guided holiday through 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 Vienna 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
- ★ **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 Vienna

Your holiday starts in Austria's capital, Vienna. After checking in to the hotel head to the city centre and explore the baroque Schonbrunn palace, winding cobbled lanes, elegant Kaffeehauser (coffee houses) and taste a slice of the world-famous Sachertorte. Vienna is steeped in history; there is much to explore if you arrive early today.



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



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Cycle paths from one capital to the next, Vienna to Bratislava

This morning your bike will be delivered and you will be required to sign an agreement of care upon receipt of the bike. 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)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Explore Bratislava on foot, cycle to Mosonmagyarovar

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 Mosonmagyarovar where you spend the night.

Your total cycling distance today is approximately 43km



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



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - 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 42.5km



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



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - 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 Medvedev. Follow the beautiful Slovakian bank to the baroque city Cicov and further via Zlatna 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 56km



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



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - 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 52km



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



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - 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 64.5km



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



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Trip ends Budapest



Meals Provided: Breakfast

# Cycling information

## DAILY DISTANCE



CSV Distance Chart

### General cycling information

On this journey you cycle 325 km over 6 days, an average of 54 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.

### Bike information

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



## Transport

Bicycle



## Accommodation

7 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

### 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

# 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

## Clothing

Bring cycling gear such as quick drying cycle tops, padded cycle shorts and cycle gloves. Remember that the weather is slightly more changeable in spring and autumn and it can be cool, especially at night and at the start and end of the season, so bring a warmer jacket/fleece. 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. It is a legal requirement in Spain to wear a helmet that meets current safety criteria. 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, insects, pollen, sun etc) , cycle gloves (padded for more comfort) and a water bottle or water delivery system (eg camelback or platypus). You may choose to bring your own gel seat cover for added comfort. If a handle bar bag or pannier is not provided (check bike details) then you may like to bring a small rucksack to wear while cycling. 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:-

## 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.

# 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

### Recommended airport

Vienna

### Flying to your destination

We'd recommend return flights into Vienna or Budapest 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 airport which is serviced by both major and low cost international carriers.

By public transport from Vienna airport to Passau

The suburban railway (S-Bahn) is an economical way of travelling to the centre of Vienna (approx. 5 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 06:33 and the last train departs at 16:03 (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 Vienna Airport.

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 05.42 until 22.12 (duration 18 minutes, 3.9 Euros)

Take the train back to Vienna or you can get a bus to Budapest airport using the local bus. Details can be found here;

[http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/access\\_and\\_parking/by\\_public\\_transportation](http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/access_and_parking/by_public_transportation)

## 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

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

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

Hungary: Visas are not required by UK, US, Canadian, Australia and New Zealand 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.

# 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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