Bicycle Tours in Austria: Bicycling the Danube: Vienna to Budapest

OVERVIEW

Selected by National Geographic Traveler magazine as one of "50 Tours of a Lifetime".

Join us on a bicycle tour that follows the Danube River, from Vienna, and then on to Budapest. Enjoy long, leisurely rides along the longest river in Europe and through farm villages, picture-perfect you'll have time to enjoy natural and man-made sights. Visit historic Abbeys and cathedrals in Esztergom, walk through the steep, terraced vineyards of the Wachau, and experience "Hungarian Tuscany". Relish the modern culinary kitchen of three countries.

Extend this tour - check out the 14-day option: Bicycling the Danube from Germany to Budapest tour.

HIGHLIGHTS

Bicycling along Europe's largest river, Vienna, Bratislava, Dinner cruise on the Danube in Budapest, Budapest, The "Hungarian Tuscany"

TOUR FACTS

Includes The usual plus... Use of a quality 27-30 speed bicycle; 8 days, 7 nights' accommodation; 4 dinners (including a dinner cruise on the Danube) with either wine or beer, all breakfasts

Countries Austria, Hungary, Slovakia

Begin/End Vienna / Budapests

Arrive/Depart Vienna / Budapests

Total Distance 361-373 km (223-230 miles)

Avg. Daily Distance 60-62 km (37-38 miles) per riding day

Tour Level 1.0: Mostly flat terrain on bike paths and roads. Most days include mileages of 70 km (44 miles or more). Due to long stretches on bike paths on certain days van support may be more limited than usual, but still attentive.

More Photos https://experienceplus.smugmug.com/gallery/33150601_tj5Tjq

Keep in Mind We work hard to maintain consistency across all of our tours, but some trips have unique differences. Here are some things to keep in mind about this tour.
Well-maintained bike paths in Austria and Slovakia. In Hungary, bike paths are more rare and secondary roads can often be bumpy. We use charming and modern hotels but A/C or fans may not always be available. Long stretches on bike paths limits van support on a few days.

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the online itinerary for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:
https://www.experienceplus.com/guided-bike-tours/austria/danube-vienna-budapest
## Bicycle Tours in Austria: Bicycling the Danube: Vienna to Budapest

### DATES & PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Single Supplement*</th>
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*We are happy to match solo travelers who would like to share a room with someone of the same gender. If no match exists, due to hotel pricing, we will charge 50% of the single supplement rate. This fee will be collected at the time of the final payment. If a roommate assignment is available this fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the tour.*
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ARRIVAL INFO

Meeting time 2 p.m. - on Day 1, meet your fellow cyclists and Tour Leaders at the Day 1 Hotel specified on your itinerary.

Note:

As you are planning, remember that the hotels listed in our itineraries are our primary hotels and are - in rare cases - subject to change. Before you make arrangements, check with us if your tour departure is guaranteed. If your tour departure is out further than 6 months, please also check with us as there might be slight changes to the itinerary.

The below information will help you plan your arrival. For more tips or other routes, you might like Rome2Rio. The fare and timing information listed below is approximate.

We recommend flying into the Vienna Airport (VIE).

From the Vienna Airport to the Day 1 Hotel

- Taxi (40 min/EUR 45 regular/EUR 35 pre-booked: http://www.flughafentaxi-wien.at/)
- CAT directly to Wien Mitte (16 min/EUR 11). Continue by metro U3 bound for Ottakring as described in point below (metro cost is separate, around EUR 4/5 min)
- Commuter train S7 (to Wien Mitte) and Metro U3 bound for Ottakring. Exit at Volkstheater and walk 1 min (40 min/EUR 5).

DEPARTURE INFO

Your trip ends on the final day after breakfast.

The below information will help you plan your departure. For more tips or other routes, you might like Rome2Rio.

We recommend flying out of the Budapest Airport (BUD)

From the Ending Hotel to the Budapest Airport

- Taxi. The front desk can arrange your transfer at a discounted rate (45 min/HUF 6500 through hotel/HUF 8000 regular)
- Shuttle Bus (times and fares vary).
Welcome to Vienna

Highlights Vienna

Meet us today in Vienna, the largest city in Austria and one of Europe's leading musical centers. It was first a Roman and Celtic settlement, but as the Austro-Hungarian Empire rose to prominence, magnificent Medieval and Baroque architecture became especially prevalent. Test ride today.

Optional ride, guided walk in Vienna

Highlights Imperial Vienna; Hofburg palace; Viennese pastries

We offer an optional ride today for those who want to stretch their legs, though we'll start the morning with a guided walk of Vienna. Be sure to take time to explore Vienna, one of the great imperial cities of Europe. Take in a concert at a local church, or concert hall.

Vienna to Bratislava, Slovakia

Highlights Crossing the former "Iron Curtain"

An easy ride today takes you to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Czechoslovakia was formed from parts of the historic Austro-Hungarian empire in 1918 and came under Soviet domination in 1948. It wasn't until 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, that the country was freed from Soviet control. Bratislava became capital of Slovakia when it separated from the Czech Republic during the "velvet divorce" in 1993. You'll bicycle through the former "Iron Curtain", which would have been prohibited just a few decades ago.
Bratislava to Győr, Hungary

**Highlights** Bicycling along the Danube to Hungary

While Győr was a border town early in its history under the Romans, it was an imperial city under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was directly in the path of barbarian invasions through the centuries, and much of the present day city was built by Italian architects after the retreat of the Ottoman Empire in the 17th century. Leaving Slovakia road conditions become noticeably worse, but you are rewarded with pristine, simple villages that will make you feel as though you have traveled back in time.

**Day 4**

- **Distance**: 81 km (51 mi)
- **Gain**: 200 m (656 ft)
- **Terrain**: Mostly flat
- **Level**: 2.0
- **Meals**: Breakfast, Dinner
- **Lodging**: Hotel Klastrom

Bicycle Győr to Tata

**Highlights** Babolna and the "Hungarian Tuscany"

Leaving Győr you'll pass through important industrial areas before reaching the Pannonian Basin and Babolna, where Hungary's finest riding horses are bred. The landscape changes here and you'll soon be riding the rolling hills of Transdanubia, also known as the "Hungarian Tuscany". Your destination is the small city of Tata which features a beautiful "old lake" and castle from the 15th century.

**Day 5**

- **Distance**: 62 km (39 mi)
- **Gain**: 249 m (817 ft)
- **Terrain**: Mostly flat
- **Level**: 1.5
- **Meals**: Breakfast
- **Lodging**: Kristaly Imperial Hotel

Tata to Esztergom

**Highlights** Transdanubian hills, Esztergom

You'll ride just south of the Danube today through the Transdanubian hills. A beautiful landscape that leads you to Esztergom which was the capital of Hungary from the 11th to the mid-13th century, was occupied by the Ottoman Turks for 150 years, and enjoyed a rebirth of baroque architecture after 1700.

**Day 6**

- **Distance**: 59 km (37 mi)
- **Gain**: 576 m (1889 ft)
- **Terrain**: Rolling
- **Level**: 2.5
- **Meals**: Breakfast
- **Lodging**: Bazilika Panzio Hotel
**Esztergom to Budapest**

**Highlights** Bicycling along the Danube into Budapest

We ride into Budapest today and our hotel is at the foot of the Buda Castle Hill, so you’ll be close to most of the sights.

**DAY 7**

- **Distance**: 83 km (52 mi)
- **Gain**: 320 m (1050 ft)
- **Terrain**: Mostly flat
- **Level**: 2.0
- **Meals**: Breakfast, Dinner
- **Lodging**: Art'otel Budapest

**Bicycle Tour ends in Budapest**

**Highlights** Budapest

Our tour ends this morning in Budapest. We highly recommend that you take a few days to enjoy all that the city has to offer. Whatever you decide, have a wonderful journey.

**DAY 8**

- **Meals**: Breakfast
BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Traveler Services: Assistance with arrival and departure, booking extra nights at your starting and ending tour hotels.
- Bicycle Tour Training programs designed specifically for your tour and fitness level.
- Tour Planning tips on what to pack, reading and movie lists, hotel recommendations and many other helpful tips.
- A complimentary gift of your choice.

ON YOUR BICYCLE TOUR

- Superb tour leaders who are great fun and also bilingual, bicultural experts, and avid cyclists. They're experienced to help you navigate confidently on and off the road.
- Comfortable lodging in 3-4 star hotels located in or near the town square with easy access to your favorite café (bar, gelato, espresso) of the day, always with a private bath.
- All breakfasts & at least half of your dinners each featuring multi-courses, fresh, seasonal specialties and wine or beer for dinners. See specific tour itineraries for details.
- On many tours we also have 1 or 2 lunches - see specific tour itineraries for details.
- Use of a high quality Titanium road bike, hybrid, or an aluminum tandem (aluminum road bikes or hybrid bikes in South America), geared specifically to cruise the flats and help ease you over the mountain. Our bikes come with an odometer so you can track your miles, an expandable rear rack pack to carry your stuff, and one water bottle that's yours to keep. Refer to our bikes page for full details.
- Full van support including: luggage shuttle, water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, and rides for tired cyclists.
- Special events like wine tastings and cultural visits as described in the trip itinerary.
- All tips and gratuities at tour hotels and group meals.
- Unique and scenic routes, marked with our signature chalk dust arrows that ensure that you won't get lost and have the freedom to travel at your own pace.
- Daily mileage options—for those folks who just can't get enough cycling, we'll suggest optional routes off our marked course.
- Detailed route map, and informational sheets each day that tell you more about the area where you will be riding.
- All the fun (and more) that you expect from your vacation.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Transportation to and from the bicycling tour including airfare, or train travel.
- Helmets - we ask that you bring your own to ensure the safest fit.
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tour Leader gratuity (with the exception of Expeditions)

AFTER YOUR BICYCLE TOUR

- Deeply discounted tours with our Re-Cycle Program. Your fifth tour with us will be discounted by 50% of the average price of your previous four tours; your tenth tour will be discounted by 100% of the average price of your previous nine tours!
Travelers have different cycling abilities and preferences for the number of miles, elevation gain, and type of terrain they want on a bicycle tour. Our tour levels fall on a scale of 1 - 5. In addition to the overall tour level we have developed daily level summaries to provide an even more detailed look at what kind of cycling you can expect from each day on tour. You’ll find all of the details including mileage, elevation gain, terrain and level for each day of the itinerary to help you better understand what to expect from your tour.

**LEVEL 1 - 1.5**

This day will be mostly flat and the distance will rarely exceed 30 km. Level 1 - 1.5 tours are suitable for beginner cyclists, those traveling by bicycle for the first time, or multi-generational groups with a desire for a nice and easy bike tour with plenty of opportunities to stop and enjoy the scenery.

- **Average daily mileage:** 15-30km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat with occasional gentle climbs at a grade of less than 3%, that are sustained for a maximum of 3km. There might be a steeper but short climb.

**LEVEL 2 - 2.5**

This day is ideal for riders newer to bicycle touring looking for a bit of a challenge, or for individuals who desire shorter days on the bike. On average, level 2 - 2.5 bike tours will ride 30-50 km per day on mostly rolling terrain.

- **Average daily mileage:** 30-50km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Mostly rolling terrain around 3%. Presents multiple 3% to 4% climbs. May present an occasional steeper climb.

**LEVEL 3 - 3.5**

Level 3 - 3.5 tours are for active individuals (who run, bike, swim etc. on a regular basis) with the desire to cover longer daily distances on the bicycle. These tours are a great workout when you’re riding as you will average 50-70 km daily with total gain of 2,000-2,800 ft. There will be multiple 4-6% climbs throughout the tour.

- **Average daily mileage:** 50-70km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Multiple Climbs with grades of 4 - 6%.

**LEVEL 4 - 4.5**

Level 4 - 4.5 tours are for passionate cyclists or very active individuals. This level tour is great for cyclists looking to stay in shape and pedal hard they travel across regions or countries. Level 4 - 4.5 tours cover 70-90km daily with 2,800-3,600 ft of gain. Cyclists on a level 4 - 4.5 bicycle tour can expect multiple climbs, some climbs might be short and steep (6-8% for 1-3 km) while others may be sustained (6+ Km) at a 4-6% grade.

- **Average daily mileage:** 70-90km. Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Presents multiple steep climbs (6% to 8% grades), 1 to 3km long. Alternatively, 4 – 6% grades for 6 kilometers or more.

**LEVEL 5 (EXPEDITIONPLUS!)**

Our ExpeditionPlus! tours designed for strong riders looking for the challenge of riding across countries or continents. Long daily mileages means limited van support so we recommended these tours for riders who feel confident that they can ride every mile.

- **Average daily mileage:** 120 km (75 miles). Be sure to check the day by day itinerary description for the tour you are considering for specific mileages.
- **Terrain:** Expect and be prepared for any and everything.

**REMEMBER**

It is almost always possible to adapt the day's ride to how you are feeling either by taking advantage of the support van, or asking tour leaders for additional mileage.

**Need More Miles?** On just about every day of every tour it is possible to add miles to the day. Just talk to your tour leader about the options.

**Need Fewer Miles?** If you aren't sure about your abilities or how much you want to ride remember the support van is available to offer snacks, encouragement, a lift over the next hill, or to the next hotel. You are on vacation and we're here to help make it perfect for you.

**Chalk Dust Arrows.** Remember, no matter what level of tour you choose ExperiencePlus! uses chalk dust arrows to mark our routes so riders can take the day at their own pace! Whether you prefer to stop at every gelateria, take a hundred photos a day, or push to achieve a new personal best you'll be happy on our tours.
WHAT TO EXPECT

BICYCLES
Your bike will be equipped with: a men’s or women’s saddle, a quick release style seat post adjustment, rear rack and expandable pack, pump, patch kit, spare tube, cable lock, cyclometer, rear lights, a water bottle cage (or two) and a water bottle (or two) and a bell. If you would like to bring your own pedals and shoes we recommend doing so—your tour leaders will install them during the bike fitting. We have flat pedals with or without cages available. For safety and hygiene reasons we recommend you bring your own helmet.

What to Expect

WHAT TO EXPECT

DAYSHEETS
Each day you’ll receive a daysheet with information on the day’s activities, meals and ride, which will be discussed during a briefing. The Daysheets also include Tour Leader phone numbers, hotel information and interesting historical and cultural information about sites that you may want to stop and see along the route. Your Tour Leaders will also post daily announcements in the hotel lobby with information about sightseeing in town or restaurant recommendations for dinners on your own as well as important information about breakfast, luggage down and "arrows down" time.

NAVIGATING ON TOUR
Daily we provide you with a highlighted route map. Of course, we also mark the route every day with our signature chalk dust arrows. Our arrows make navigating very easy—you may never need to look at the map! The arrows also allow you to ride at your own pace. There is no need to "keep up" with the group—this is your ride!

But what if it rains? What happens to the arrows? In a light rain, the arrows actually "set up" and become more permanent. In a heavy rain, they do wash away. If that happens, we’ll re-group to cycle together for those who want to continue cycling while those who prefer to stay dry can shuttle.

For the tech-loving riders out there we offer the opportunity to download GPS tracks of most tour routes to your personal GPS device using RideWithGPS.com.

VAN SUPPORT
Full van support including: luggage shuttle, water and snack resupply, mechanical assistance, and rides for tired cyclists!

HOTELS
We have carefully chosen all of our accommodations for their charm and location. They are typically small, family run hotels that offer you a glimpse into the local culture. We prefer hotels near interesting sites in the center of town located along the best cycling route in the area. Because many of the hotels are small not all of the rooms will be exactly the same. We keep this in mind and do our best to distribute rooms fairly by the end of the tour. Our itinerary lists our primary hotels. On rare occasions, listed hotels are subject to change.

MEALS AND RESTAURANTS
Breakfasts: we work hard to arrange complete breakfasts but some hotels still serve continental style breakfasts; cycling is energy intensive so we do recommend you plan for a morning or mid-morning snack on the road at a local café or market.

Water is OK in almost all hotels and in country fountains; if there is a problem, we will advise you.

We’ll recommend lunch locations en route and most itineraries include a few group picnics. We limit the number of picnics so you don’t feel pressured to be at a certain place in the middle of your ride.

Dinners together are often pre-planned and pre-ordered. We’ll ask you if you have special dietary requirements. Pre-planned meals allow us to provide a variety of regional specialties and facilitate efficient service. Water, wine and beer are included.

TIPPING YOUR TOUR LEADER TEAM
If you feel your tour leader team has demonstrated great expertise and service, common practice within the travel industry is to tip. Tipping is voluntary and greatly appreciated, and gratuity amounts vary widely. Should you decide to leave a tip, as a guideline, we suggest 5% of the tour cost per traveler – this for the entire tour leader team, not each Tour Leader. If you’d like to show your gratitude for your Tour Leaders’ excellent service you can give the tip to any member of the tour leader team, as they share it evenly. In order to avoid social tensions, we encourage you to tip as individuals and not as a group. If you feel your Tour Leaders did not quite meet your expectations, then we would like to know about it. You will also have the opportunity to leave your comments in our evaluation survey which we email to you after your trip.

PHOTOS
By reserving space on tour, you agree that ExperiencePlus! may use, re-use and reproduce any images, photos or videos sent to us, or taken by our guides or travelers free of charge and without your right to inspection. If you do not want us to use any images of you on tour, you must inform
TO DO ONCE YOU'VE BOOKED!

☐ Read through your Reservation Confirmation Email, it has important information to help you plan your trip!

☐ Check the date on your passport. The expiration date should extend three months past your date of return to your home country.

☐ Complete the Customer Information Form: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/customer-information-form/

☐ We recommend you take out travel insurance. Find details at https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/travel-insurance/

☐ Download the bicycle training program: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/

☐ Peruse our country-specific Travel Planning Pages: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/

6 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

☐ Check the online itinerary of your trip and review the arrival and departure information under the "Travel Information" tab to see meeting place and time, if a reservation on a complimentary ExperiencePlus! Shuttle (if applicable) is required, and other important information to help you plan your arrival and departure.

☐ Reserve your flights after you know you have a confirmed tour departure. Please check with our office if you do not know if your trip is confirmed.

☐ Book your pre and post-tour hotel nights.

☐ 12 weeks before your tour begin your training program https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/bicycle-tour-training/.

☐ Final payment is due 90 days (120 days for Bike & Barge/Boat tours) prior to the tour start. Please refer to your Deposit Payment Invoice and the Final Payment Reminder e-mail you have received for detailed instructions.

6 TO 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR START DATE

☐ Start reading one of the books or watching one of the movies from our Reading and Movie List you'll find on the country-specific Travel Planning Pages: https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/.

☐ Plan what you are going to pack and start packing! Refer to the Packing Lists on our website at https://www.experienceplus.com/blog/travel-planning/packing/.

☐ We'll email your Hotel Itinerary, the Participant Roster, names and contact information of your Tour Leaders and other important departure information about 30 days prior to departure.

DAY OF YOUR FLIGHT

Get as much sleep on the plane as you can. Pack one day of cycling gear in your carry-on. See you soon!