

---

TAUCK 

RIVER CRUISING

800-851-8233 or your travel agent

September 2023



# The Blue Danube – 2023

Start in Budapest Hungary - End in Prague Czech Republic

---

# The Blue Danube



## Full Itinerary

Along the "river of kings"... medieval castles and Gothic cathedrals... charming riverside villages... the Imperial treasures of the Habsburgs... lush Wachau valley vineyards... the music of Mozart... From Prague to Budapest, castles of all descriptions have watched over the landscape from their royal perches for centuries. On this 12-day journey featuring a 9-night Danube cruise, they remain lasting testimony to kingdoms and culture, ready to welcome you... during a private dinner in Lobkowitz Palace... an exclusive evening of Imperial entertainment at a private Vienna palace... in Baroque Salzburg and atop Budapest's Castle Hill... and exploring Vienna's Hofburg or Schönbrunn Palace. It's a Blue Danube cruise to remember!

---

# Itinerary

## ONLY WITH TAUCK

- Private Imperial Evening at a palace in Vienna featuring a gala dinner and Viennese performers
- Private aperitif and dinner in Prague at Lobkowitz Palace, Prague Castle
- A private tour of Prague's Baroque libraries, Strahov Monastery

## TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- All gratuities to ship staff, drivers, local guides, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director
- All private Tauck shore excursions – \$3,150 Value
- Two nights in Prague at a hotel centrally located in the heart of the city
- Choice in Vienna: Schönbrunn Palace or the Imperial Apartments at the Hofburg
- 5 included/escorted bicycle rides
- Choice of a full day in Salzburg or Cesky Krumlov
- Evenings of local performing artists and classical music aboard the riverboat
- Unlimited complimentary beverages aboard ship include regional wine, beer and premium spirits in addition to specialty coffee, water and soft drinks
- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure as noted
- 30 meals; select meals in local restaurants; service charges, taxes, portorage, and applicable fuel surcharges

---

## DAY 1

Arrive Budapest and embark

**Tour begins: 5:00 PM, Budapest.** A transfer is included from Budapest's Ferenc Liszt Airport or Keleti train station to your riverboat. Meet your fellow travelers and Tauck Directors, and learn about the upcoming days, ahead at a welcome toast this evening prior to your first dinner aboard ship.

- **MEALS:** Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship

## DAY 2

Discover the landmarks & stories of Pest

Budapest is split into "Buda" and "Pest" by the Danube River. This morning, explore the Pest side of the city on a tour including City Park and Heroes' Square – bounded by some of the finest architectural works in Hungary – and a special visit to the opulent State Opera House, opened in 1884, with its royal boxes, gilded vaulted ceiling, exquisite murals and three-ton chandelier. Later, you have a choice of a themed walking tour that focuses on the Hungarian Revolution and includes the Parliament building, the Embassy and St. Stephen's Basilica; or a guided bicycle tour in Budapest. The afternoon is free for you to pursue what interests you most. Budapest has acquired quite an excellent reputation for cuisine; tonight's special welcome cocktail reception and dinner is at the grand Akadémia Club in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Pest & the Hungarian Revolution
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Cycling Excursion around Budapest

## DAY 3

Explore Buda

Head up to Castle Hill, a UNESCO World Heritage Site overlooking the Danube on the Buda side of the city, for a choice of sightseeing. A guided tour includes Fisherman's Bastion, with its Neo-Romanesque design, the stained glass windows and centuries of history in the 14th-century, late-Gothic Matthias

---

Church (may be closed on some days due to services) and more. Alternatively, visit the famed Szechenyi Bath Spa. Reboard your riverboat this afternoon, and begin to cruise the Danube River, bound for Bratislava, Slovakia.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Tour of Buda Castle
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Visit to Szechenyi Spa Baths

## DAY 4

### Baroque in Bratislava

Our resident expert takes you inside contemporary Slovakia and Bratislava for a look at the region's politics, economy, religion, social order, preservation and emergence of the arts. After lunch aboard the riverboat, you'll have a choice of exploring Bratislava's cobblestoned, vehicle-free historic city center on a walking tour – seeing 17 centuries of history eloquently chronicled in its 13th-century Old Town Hall, Baroque Habsburg-era palaces, the Opera House, Slovak Philharmonic Hall, and Hviezdoslav Square – or setting off on a bicycling excursion through the city's "Iron Curtain Area." Back on board the riverboat, dinner tonight introduces you to a glimpse of daily life in Slovakia with a taste of regional cuisine and an a performance by a talented troupe of Slovak dancers.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Bratislava Walking Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Cycling Excursion around Bratislava

## DAY 5

### Exploring Vienna & an Imperial Evening

Your riverboat arrives this morning in Vienna, Austria, where an introductory tour of this former capital of the old Habsburg Empire – and its grand boulevard, the Ringstrasse – precedes a walking tour focusing on medieval Vienna, alternatively, enjoy a bike ride in the city. The rest of the day is yours to explore this famous city as you please. Later, nothing compares to the royal treatment and pageantry you'll experience tonight at our private Imperial Evening in the opulent Palais Pallavicini, a private Baroque palace in Vienna that film buffs may have spotted in the 1940s film noir classic *The Third Man*.

---

Welcome cocktails and dinner precede an unforgettable spectacle of beautiful ball gowns and a musical performance celebrating the legacy of Mozart.

*Please note: To preserve your sightseeing experience in Vienna and maximize our time there, we may rotate our activities on Days 5 and 6 on some departures. Your Tauck Director will advise accordingly.*

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Vienna Old Town Walking Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Cycling Excursion in Vienna

## DAY 6

### A choice in Vienna & on to Dürnstein

A choice of sightseeing this morning features a tour of the Habsburgs' Schönbrunn Palace, an architectural masterpiece and Austrian cultural treasure, or Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, one of the world's most acclaimed art museums located in a palatial building on the historic Ringstrasse. Then, shuttles are at the ready to bring you back to the riverboat before we cruise the Danube River through Austria's Wachau Valley; glide past castles and abbeys to as you set off medieval Dürnstein this evening.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Schonbrunn Palace Visit
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Vienna Fine Arts Museum

## DAY 7

### Dürnstein & the Wachau Valley

Wake up in Dürnstein for a closer look at its 16th-century Baroque houses and 13th-century Romanesque church on a walking tour along cobblestone streets; you may also choose to tour a local monastery, or take a bicycle ride. Enjoy some free time in this charming riverside town, perhaps taking an invigorating climb up the steps to the ruins of Kuenringerburg, a hilltop castle above the town where Richard the Lionhearted was held for ransom during the Crusades. Sample the fruits of the Wachau Valley vineyards during a wine tasting at an authentic Austrian tavern. Back aboard, you'll

---

continue to cruise the Danube River through the Wachau Valley, Austria's lush wine-growing region that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its well-preserved medieval landscapes, to Linz; after the Chef's Signature dinner onboard, enjoy a show put on by members of the riverboat crew.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Dürnstein Monastery & Wine Tasting
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Cycling Excursion - Wachau Valley

## DAY 8

### Salzburg sights or Cesky Krumlov

Your boat stays docked in Linz today, with a choice of how you spend your day – full-day excursions to Salzburg (Austria), or Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic, or remaining in Linz. A setting for *The Sound of Music*, a Salzburg walking tour explores Old Town, Mirabell Gardens, and Mozart's birthplace.; enjoy time on your own to have lunch and experience the sights as you wish. Alternatively, travel to Cesky Krumlov; graced with an incredibly well-preserved medieval heritage and charming ambiance, the town has earned its coveted designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its historic importance and physical beauty. A walking tour takes you to part of Krumlov Castle; it's worth climbing the many steps to see firsthand the medieval, Renaissance and Rococo design found inside, along with the stunning views of the town below. Return to the riverboat for dinner followed by an evening performance by the classical trio, Donau 3Klang.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Salzburg Visit
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Cesky Krumlov Visit
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Exploring Linz at Leisure

## DAY 9

### Engelhartszell & cycling along the Danube

Wake up this morning in Engelhartszell, a pretty town on the Danube in Upper Austria. After a visit to a local private home (and a taste of local cake, sweets and coffee), you'll have a walking tour of town

---

including 18th-century Engelhartszell Abbey and Danube World. Following lunch aboard the riverboat, you may, if you wish, join us for an optional bicycle excursion along the Danube (a fairly rigorous bike ride, for experienced cyclists only). Take in the views from the sun deck, lounge, or the windows of your outside cabin as your riverboat glides into Germany, bound tonight for your final destination, Vilshofen; enjoy a farewell toast followed by dinner onboard this evening.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Cruising the Danube
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Cycling Excursion to Passau

## DAY 10

### Disembark Vilshofen for Regensburg & Prague

Disembark your ship in Vilshofen for a choice of excursions. One brings you to the Bavarian town of Regensburg for a walking tour led by a local guide that visits the Steinerne Brücke (a medieval stone bridge over the Danube), towering Dom St. Peter, and the remains of the town's Roman wall before venturing to Prague. Alternatively, journey to Prague for a visit to one of its hidden gems - the Strahov Monastery! Your time here also includes a short walk through Hradcany Castle, the largest ancient castle in the world. Following your excursion, enjoy a light lunch and check into your hotel in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic and the "City of 100 Spires." The remainder of the day is free; the city's many fine restaurants and cafés feature a wide range of cuisines... and some of the best schnitzels, goulashes, strudels, dumplings and beer the region has to offer.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Andaz Prague
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Prague and Strahov Monastery
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Regensburg and Drive to Prague

## DAY 11

### The legacy of many centuries in Prague

Start today's exploration of Prague this morning with a choice of walking tours through Prague's ethereal Old Town, choosing between a one-hour introductory tour; a "walk through the centuries" (note: this excursion has two versions, with one being shorter and less requiring less walking); or the



---

city's poignant Jewish sites in Josefov, the historic Jewish Quarter (ask at booking about dates that cannot visit inside the Jewish Heritage sites as they are closed Saturdays and on Jewish holidays; in those cases, alternate sightseeing will be offered). Tonight, cap a memorable trip with a truly royal evening that's another Tauck Exclusive; join us for a farewell reception, tour and dinner at 16th-century Lobkowitz Palace at Prague Castle. Immerse in an evening of classical cultural treasures – and see for yourself how music and art played an important role in the aristocratic world of the Lobkowitz family.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Andaz Prague
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Prague Old Town
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Jewish Heritage Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Old Town Highlights Tour

## DAY 12

Journey home

**Tour ends: Prague, Czech Republic.** Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from Andaz Prague to Praha Hlavni Nadrazi train station or Václav Havel Airport Prague. Please allow a minimum of 3 hours for check-in.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast

---

# Book This Trip



call **800-851-8233** or  
your travel agent  
and book today

## Have Information Ready

- Tour Name and Departure Date Desired
- Traveler Name(s): Please have first and last names as they appear on the passport or driver's license.
- Traveler's Address(es)
- Traveler's Phone Number(s)
- Emergency Contact Information: This would be a relative or friend whom we could contact during the tour in the event of an emergency. Please provide their name and phone number(s).
- Interest in purchasing a travel protection product (US and Canada)
- Interest in extending your trip by staying in a Tauck recommended hotel before your trip begins or after it ends
- Interest in our specially negotiated airfares.

## Book Your Trip

**For reservations, call 800-851-5233 or contact your travel advisor to book today!**

## Deposit Date

Upon your request, we will hold space tentatively for you and give a "Deposit Due Date," by which a deposit must be received or space is automatically released.

## Special Requests

We will be happy to advise hotels of any special requests, provided we receive them at time of booking. We regret that requests cannot be guaranteed.

## Final Payment

Final Payment is due to Tauck **120** days before departure for cruises and rail journeys. If your deposit was made by credit card, final payment will be automatic unless you opted out at time of booking. Bookings without full payment at this time may be subject to cancellation without notice. Failure to

---

make payment will be a considered a cancellation by the guest and all applicable cancellation fees will apply.

---

Although it is not necessary for you to exchange money prior to your trip, it may be useful to have a small amount of local currency with you when sightseeing. The euro is the official currency for Slovakia, Austria and Germany; the Czech koruna in the Czech Republic and the Hungarian forint in Hungary. If upon arrival you require local currency, you can visit one of the many currency exchange facilities at the airport or use an ATM. Currency can also be exchanged at the hotels in Prague and Budapest. The riverboat does not exchange currency, but does accept euro, American Express, MasterCard and Visa as methods of settling shipboard accounts.

In those countries which are now using the euro as the official currency major credit cards and travelers' checks are widely accepted, and ATMs are found in most tourist venues. In those countries which do not use the euro credit cards and travelers' checks are not widely accepted, fees are often charged for currency exchange, and ATMs are often not found outside of main cities. In these countries, paying cash for purchases in the local currency is preferable.

To obtain the most current exchange rate, you may want to check your local newspaper or log on to the Internet website, *oanda.com*, by clicking [here](#).

All customary gratuities for the hotel and ship staff, local guides, drivers, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director are included.

**Tour prices are per person.** All hotel and riverboat accommodations, motor coach transportation, port charges, land excursions, admissions, entertainment, special dinners, beverages aboard the riverboat (including unlimited soft drinks, regional wine, beer and premium spirits), sightseeing, portage, services of the ship staff, the local guides and motor coach drivers, the Tauck Director and the Tauck Cruise Director and all customary gratuities for the ship staff, local guides, drivers, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director are included. Transportation from Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport or Budapest Keleti Train Station to the Tauck hotel is included, regardless of the time you check in to the hotel, provided you have furnished us with accurate flight arrival information at least three weeks prior to the start of your tour. Transportation from the Tauck hotel to Prague Vaclav Havel Airport or a local train station is also included when you check out of the hotel. Transportation to and from airports and train stations may be shared with other Tauck guests. If you are staying at a hotel other than the Tauck-designated hotel before or after your tour, contact Tauck regarding your various transfer options.

To avoid jet lag and possible flight delays, you may wish to make hotel arrangements for the nights preceding or following your tour or cruise. As a service, we will book additional nights for you on a space-available basis using special rates only available through us. Hotel room charges will be added to the tour or cruise cost. Transfers for these extended stays are included (as noted). If you wish to spend additional nights, please consult Extend Your Stay in the Accommodations section and discuss it with your reservations sales consultant or your travel advisor when you book your tour or cruise.

---

We pledge to make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. We reserve the right to alter or curtail the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, hotels, and/or conveyances as deemed necessary. Any savings realized by these changes will be refunded to you. Any resultant added expense will be covered by us. Although not expected, prices on this website may be modified due to unexpected significant external factors not forecast at the time of publication.