



## BLUE DANUBE RIVER CRUISE

May 10 – 22, 2023\*

### Highlights

Stay 2 nights in Budapest at a riverfront, city center hotel before your cruise and 2 nights in the charming Bavarian village of Rothenburg ob der Tauber at the end of the cruise.

On board the luxurious ship, you will enjoy

- 7 nights in a deluxe stateroom with floor-to-ceiling glass doors and twin balconies
- Mini-fridge, sitting area, and an entertainment-on-demand system in your room
- Personalized service from a highly trained on-board Cruise Manager
- Daily entertainment including cultural performances
- All onboard dining in a variety of venues with panoramic views
- Regionally inspired cuisine with locally sourced ingredients
- Tapas, sandwiches, snacks and refreshments served daily in the main lounge
- Unlimited fine wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Wellness activities including exercise classes and a walking track
- A choice of gentle, regular, or active special interest tours with knowledgeable guides at each destination.

### Day 1 Budapest, Hungary

Arrive in Budapest, Hungary and transfer to your luxury city center hotel on the Danube River and settle into your river-view room. The remainder of the day is yours to relax or to begin exploring this beautiful city.

Budapest Marriott Hotel (2 nights) [marriott.com/hotels/travel/budhu-budapest-marriott-hotel](https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/budhu-budapest-marriott-hotel)

### Day 2 Budapest, Hungary

Your morning excursion includes sightseeing in the cities of Buda and Pest spread over both banks of the Danube river. You will visit famed Heroes' Square and Castle Hill, home to Fisherman's Bastion, Matthias Church and spectacular views of the Danube. (B)

### Day 3 Budapest, Hungary

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast and a stroll around the city center sights before boarding the AmaSonata ship in the afternoon to begin your cruise on the Danube. After settling in to your spacious room with floor-to-ceiling glass doors and exclusive twin balconies, explore your home for the week. On the ship, you have a choice of dining venues, heated pool, gift shop, massage and hair salon, and eclectic entertainment. In the evening, meet your fellow passengers at the Welcome Dinner as the ship cruises to Bratislava. (BD)

AmaSonata river cruise ship, AMA Waterways (7 nights) [www.amawaterways.com](http://www.amawaterways.com)

### Day 4 Bratislava, Slovakia

This afternoon, arrive in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Host to the crowning ceremonies of 11 Hungarian kings and queens between 1536 and 1830, Bratislava has earned the title of “Coronation City of Kings”. Enjoy a walking tour of the city’s major sites, including the Old Town Hall, Mirbach Palace, and Gothic St. Martin’s Cathedral. Spend your evening in Bratislava before the ship cruises to magnificent Vienna later tonight. (BLD)

### Day 5 Vienna, Austria

The “City of Waltzes” offers a treasure trove of gems. Your city tour showcases its regal splendors, including the majestic Opera House and the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburgs. Conclude your tour in Vienna’s historic city center with a visit St. Stephen’s Cathedral. In the afternoon, enjoy leisure time exploring this iconic city at your own pace. For a more active exploration of the area, take a guided bike ride. (BLD)

### Day 6 Dürnstein & Melk, Austria

After reaching the Wachau Valley in the morning, you will have a choice of three excursions in Dürnstein. Partake in a walking tour along cobblestone streets to the luminous blue façade of the Baroque Stiftskirche with its famed church tower, before enjoying wine tasting in a local cellar. Visit a local boutique, where you’ll be treated to the region’s finest apricot products. Alternatively, for a beautiful view of the Wachau Valley, hike up to the fortress where Richard the Lionheart was once held. After your morning excursions, you have the choice to cruise through the Wachau Valley to Melk or join a bike tour along the Danube. Upon reaching Melk, take a tour of the UNESCO-designated Melk Abbey. (BLD)

### Day 7 Passau, Germany

Enjoy a scenic morning sailing to the medieval city of Passau. Join a walking tour through this 2,000-year-old city, noted for its Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture and St. Stephen’s Cathedral. If you’re looking for a more active morning, you can choose between a guided hike up to the Fortress overlooking Passau or a guided bike tour along the Inn River. (BLD)

### Day 8 Regensburg, Germany

Spend the day in Regensburg, one of Germany’s best-preserved medieval cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a guided walking tour showcasing the city’s architectural highlights, including the Old Town Hall and the Porta Praetoria, gates to an ancient Roman fort built in 170 AD. As an alternate option, bike to Walhalla where you’ll see the neoclassical white marble temple inspired by the Parthenon in Athens. (BLD)

### Day 9 Nuremberg, Germany

Enjoy a scenic morning cruise as the ship crosses the Continental Divide via the Main-Danube Canal to Nuremberg. Explore the medieval city center with a tour that showcases the Imperial Castle and the famous town wall, as well as Albrecht Dürer's home and Market Square with its legendary fountain. Or you can take a guided tour of the city's WWII history, including a visit to the infamous Zeppelin Field, a museum built on the site of former Nazi rallies and the site of the Nuremberg Trials when not in session. (BLD)

### Day 10 Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

Bid farewell to the crew and meet your personal driver who will drive you in a luxury vehicle to your next destination, Rothenburg, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval towns. With its picturesque timbered houses and towers that lean over cobbled lanes, Rothenburg does not fail to enchant every visitor. (B)

Burg Hotel (2 nights) [www.burghotel.eu](http://www.burghotel.eu)

### Day 11 Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

You have the day to yourself to relax and explore the charming town of Rothenburg. Walk the well-preserved medieval city wall that circles the town. Visit the historic Town Hall and have lunch on the Town Square. Shop at the magical Christmas Workshop that is open year-round, marveling at the multitude of decorations. In the evening, join the entertaining Night Watchman as he lights his lamps and tells gritty tales of medieval Rothenburg. (B)

### Day 12 Frankfurt, Germany

With your private driver, depart Rothenburg for the 2-hour drive to Frankfurt, a cosmopolitan metropolis and financial center of Germany and the European Union. In the evening, gather with your friends in the hotel's lounge and bid *auf widersehen* to Germany. (B)

Sheraton Airport Hotel, Frankfurt (1 night)

### Day 13

Depart Frankfurt for your flight home.

**\$6,480 per person/double**

Includes

All accommodations, meals, excursions as stated in the itinerary

Services of private guides and drivers as stated in the itinerary

\*Dates, itinerary, accommodations, and price are tentative at this time and subject to change.

**THAYER TOURS**

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