

Danube River Travel Information

Airport Arrival and Departure – Arrive at the airport at least two hours before your scheduled departure time. **Upon arrival in Budapest**, go first through Passport Control. Then retrieve your luggage and proceed through Customs. Meet your greeter in the Arrivals Hall who will have a sign with your name and will escort you to your driver. Upon departure in Frankfurt, arrive at the airport at least two hours before your scheduled departure time. At your **first point of entry in the U.S.**, go through Passport Control. Then retrieve your luggage, go through Customs, and return your luggage to your airline personnel. Finally, go through Security before proceeding to your departure gate for your flight home.

ATM and Credit Cards – Contact your bank before the tour to let them know you will be using your ATM and credit cards while traveling. Notify the bank of your travel dates so they will anticipate charges being made while traveling outside the U.S. Also, make copies of the front and back of your ATM and credit cards, keeping one copy with you and leaving the other copy with someone at home who will assist you in the event your cards are misplaced or stolen.

Cell Phones – Check with your cell phone provider. There are International Traveler calling plans that you can choose from on your provider’s website or by calling your cell phone provider.

Clothing and Packing – Dress for comfort and convenience with a wardrobe that is flexible and allows for layering. Casual clothing is recommended during the day and dressier clothing for dinner. A scarf and/or jewelry can dress up any casual outfit. “Packing cubes” are very helpful in organizing your clothing in your luggage. The following is a list of recommended items to pack for your cruise:

- Short and long-sleeved shirts
- Slacks, skirts, capris
- Lightweight sweater and jacket
- Hat and gloves, sun hat
- Bathing suit
- Comfortable sandals, weatherproof walking shoes, socks
- Travel umbrella, traveler’s poncho
- Sunglasses and extra pair of prescription glasses
- Electrical adapter and converter
- Toiletries
- Medication (prescription, antibiotics, anti-diarrheal, pain reliever, etc.)
- Copies of your travel documents (passport, flight itinerary, ATM, credit cards)

Currency and Exchange Rates – The official currency of all the countries you will be visiting is the Euro. ATMs are widespread and are generally the most convenient method of obtaining cash and have the best exchange rate. To obtain up-to-date currency exchange rates, you can check the website: www.oanda.com.

Customs and Tax-Free Shopping – Current regulations permit bringing back \$800 worth of items duty-free, as long as you physically bring them with you. A Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied on most consumer goods and services. As a U.S. citizen, you will be entitled to a VAT refund on more expensive items and should inquire about the refund policy where you shop. (See “Shopping” on the next page.)

Electricity – The electrical current is 220V (instead of the U.S. 110V) and the plug is two round prongs. You will need to bring the appropriate current converter and outlet adapters for your electronics. All of the cruise ship cabins have hair dryers.

Flight Comfort – For the overnight flights, you may want to bring a pair of slipper socks, a neck pillow, a lightweight blanket, and a jacket or sweater. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing. Set your watch to Hungary time as soon as you board the plane in order to adjust to the new time zone. Walk around the plane periodically and do stretching exercises at your seat. Stay hydrated.

Health – To enjoy this cruise, you should be in good health and able to walk reasonable distances, often over unpaved and uneven surfaces. Some of the most memorable sightseeing can only be accomplished on foot. There is a moderate to significant amount of walking during our excursions, often along cobblestone streets, and at many sites there are multiple stairs. You should be current on all relevant vaccinations. Check with your doctor. Bottled water will be provided on board. In case of an emergency, the boat can be easily docked and an ambulance or medical assistance called. You may have to pay for any medical services upfront and be reimbursed by your insurance company when you return home. It is highly recommended that you purchase travel insurance to cover any unexpected expenses.

Internet – The ship will have free wi-fi, but it can be unreliable and is often not powerful enough for streaming or FaceTime.

Luggage – Due to space restrictions, you will need to limit your checked luggage to one suitcase per person weighing no more than 50 pounds with overall dimensions (length + width + height) not exceeding 62 inches, and one smaller piece of carry-on luggage. In your carry-on luggage, pack all important documents, camera, prescription medication, and an extra set of clothing in the event your check-in luggage is delayed. Be sure to attach luggage tags to each piece of luggage on the outside and the inside of the luggage. **Reminder:** in your carry-on luggage, all liquids must be 3 oz. or less and all must fit in a quart-size plastic baggie. For your day-to-day travel, limit your hand luggage to a small, soft-sided carry-on piece, and bring only those items you need handy during the day.

Safety – The cities you will be visiting have a moderate rate of crime, but tourists can be targets for pickpockets. Carry your credit cards, passport, and extra cash in a hidden money belt under your clothes or leave them in the cabin safe. Wear your purse across the front and hold on to it and keep cash in a wallet attached to the inside of your purse. Don't keep your wallet in your back pocket. Be aware of your surroundings and suspect any disturbance as a distraction for theft.

Shopping – If you purchase more than 90 Euros worth of goods at a store, you're entitled to get most of the Value Added Tax (16%) back. Have the merchant fill out the necessary document at the store (show your passport), get the document stamped at the airport upon departure, get your refund at the airport (for a fee) or mail the stamped documents in the self-addressed envelope. Or, have your purchases shipped home by the store. The merchant sometimes will offer a reasonable shipping rate and no VAT.

Time – All the countries on the cruise are in the same time zone – 9 hours ahead of California time.

Tipping – Guidelines for tipping: Hotel porters (1 Euro/bag), Housekeepers (1-2 Euros/day), Taxi drivers (round up and add 5-10% if they helped with luggage), Restaurants (5-10% extra if the service was very good). Tip the server personally in cash. On the cruise ship: Cruise Manager (3 Euros/passenger/day), Crew (12 Euros/passenger/day).

Travel Document Requirements – You will need a valid passport that is valid for six months or more from the date of your arrival in Hungary. Make at least two photocopies of the photo and signature pages of your passport. Bring one copy with you and leave the other copy with someone at home.

Weather – May weather on the Danube is temperate with a possibility of rain. The average high/low temperatures are: Budapest (73°/54°) Vienna (71°/55°) Nuremberg (67°/46°) Rothenburg (65°/45°)

