

Cycling The Danube - Vienna to Budapest

Trip Code: SGVB

Version:



CYCLE



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride through three countries on the EuroVelo 6 long distance cycle route along the Danube
- Immerse yourself into the rich history and culture of UNESCO Vienna
- Explore Bratislava's medieval old town and Baroque palaces
- Discover 'European Best Destination Award'-winning Budapest and its UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Pedal through the peaceful nature reserve of the Danube-Auen National Park

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days cycling & sightseeing
- Luggage transfer
- Bike hire included
- E-bike upgrade available
- GPS travel app
- Saturday departures in April & October
- Friday /Saturday / Sunday departures in May & September
- Daily departures in June
- July & August
- Join at Vienna / End in Budapest

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

The mighty Danube, the greatest river in Western Europe, flows through ten countries from its source in Germany on its way to the Black Sea. On this one week self-guided cycling holiday, you will pedal at your own pace through three countries – Austria, Slovakia and Hungary – following the popular EuroVelo 6 long-distance Danube cycle route.

Starting in UNESCO-listed Vienna, delve into the cultural capital of Austria with its plethora of museums, art galleries, stunning architecture and emotive music scene. Travel through rural landscapes of peaceful prairies and idyllic nature reserves on your way to Bratislava, picturesque capital city of Slovakia. This city is much more than its famous bar culture and beer; learn of its noble history, with international influences over the centuries including Romans and Hungarian nobles among many others. Crossing the Hungarian border, you will have the time to immerse yourself into the beautiful old town of Esztergom before culminating your journey in Budapest, vibrant capital city of Hungary. This UNESCO-listed city is a treasure trove of magnificent architecture, numerous thermal spas and cultural gems, not to mention a sparkling nightlife.

Pedalling at a leisurely pace, you will have plenty of time to explore as you wish. Along the way you will stay in carefully selected 3* and 4* hotels on a bed and breakfast basis, chosen for their warm hospitality and ideal locations. With bike hire included and luggage transfers taken care of, you can simply relax and enjoy your ride. We can even assist you in extending your time in Vienna or Budapest to really get under the skin of these fabulous cities.

Looking to extend your holiday?

Fancy the ultimate Danube cycling experience? Why not combine this trip with our [Self-Guided Danube Cycling: Passau to Vienna](#) holiday for a two week, four country bike adventure.

Is this holiday for you?

If you love to journey on two wheels and immerse yourself into history and discover new cultures, this holiday offers a great opportunity to do just that, all at your own pace. Over 6 days of cycling you will cycle an average of 50km a day, on purpose-built bike trails and quiet country roads. Some short sections in the cities will be on road shared with motor traffic. The majority of the route is asphalted; there are some short distances on unsurfaced track. On the whole the route is well signed and waymarked, and the tour is predominantly flat. You also have the option to upgrade to an e-bike if you prefer an extra boost to your pedal power. Staying in 3* and 4* hotels, some with wellness facilities, you can relax at the end of the day in the comfort that everything has been taken care of for you.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Luggage transfers
- 21 gear bike hire
- Welcome briefing
- Boat or train ticket from Esztergom to Visegrad or Szentendre to Budapest including your bike
- Navigation App
- GPX tracks available

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Bike Helmet
- Travel to Vienna
- Travel from Budapest
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist Taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

GPS Travel App

This holiday includes a GPS navigation app, which contains the routes for you to follow each day, as well as attractions, coffee stops and points of interest along the way. The app does not need to have Wi-Fi connection to work, you simply follow the instructions we provide you to download the app to your personal smartphone device before you leave home and you are ready to go.

While the travel app is running, your phone battery charge can be consumed faster than normal, so we strongly recommend that you pack a power bank with you just in case you require it.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking or cycling holiday for your family, a centre-based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a day's walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool, or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our Sales Team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts at Vienna and ends at Budapest. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Vienna Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

If you are flying to Vienna Airport you can take the train directly from the airport to the city, which takes around 30 minutes. At the end of the trip you can take the direct train or bus from Budapest Kelenföld back to Vienna Airport, the journey takes around 2.5 hours to 3 hours.

It is also possible to fly to Budapest Airport. From the airport, you can take the bus to the city and then the train from Budapest Kelenföld to Vienna. The total journey takes around 3.5 hours. Alternatively you can take a direct bus from Budapest Airport to Vienna Central Station, the journey takes between 3.5 hours to 4 hours.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

Food in this region blends influences from all around Central Europe, offering up hearty and delicious fare made with seasonal ingredients hailing from the countryside. Meat features strongly in many of the dishes of the region. Expect plentiful varieties of comforting goulash, stew, soup and dumplings of potato or flour; alternatively you can also get savoury pancakes and gnocchi. Of course, there are many options for a sweet treat too, from the famous Austrian apple strudel or sachertorte, to the lesser known Hungarian chimney cake, or Slovakian poppy seed pastry. Perhaps you might also like to sample the wines of the Danube region, varieties such as Grüner Veltliner, Riesling as well as Cabernet Sauvignon are produced in this region.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

On this trip you will stay in carefully selected 3 and 4 star hotels, guesthouses and country inns, each picked for their warm hospitality and ideal locations in each of the towns you will stop at on your cycle along the Danube. All of the hotels have Wi-Fi and offer continental breakfasts to fuel you on your way. Some hotels also offer spa or sauna facilities to help you relax after a day in the saddle. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis in a twin or double room, some with Austrian style twin beds as is traditional in this area (two beds within one bed frame and separate bedding).

Bike Hire

Bikes come with 21 gears and all bikes come equipped with a pannier and handlebar bag for your daily essentials plus lights, a bike lock, pump and repair kit.

The bikes provided for this trip come in two different frame types- unisex or male bike frame. Unisex bikes being provided for passengers up to a height of 185cm and male bike frames are provided for those above 185cm. If you would prefer a specific frame bike i.e. a male bike frame, please request this with our sales team.

You also have the option of upgrading to Bike Plus hire on this trip for an additional supplement of £65. The bike plus option provides a slightly sportier sitting posture and comes with upgraded items such as 27 gears, hydraulic brakes and a front suspension fork. This is a great option for those looking for a slightly comfier ride without upgrading to an e-bike.

We strongly recommend you to bring your own helmet with you for the best comfort however you can reserve a helmet to purchase on your arrival in Vienna for an additional €49. Please contact our sales team to reserve this in advance of travel.

We also recommend packing a gel seat for extra comfort or a pair of padded cycling shorts, whilst the cycling is leisurely and there are plenty of opportunities to stop and explore it is always nice to have some padding for a comfortable ride.

We can arrange tandem bikes, children's bikes, trailers and child seats upon request. Please ask our sales team for details.

In Slovakia and Hungary, it is a requirement for pedestrians and cyclists to be equipped with reflective strips. It is recommended that you carry a high-visibility waistcoat with you on your rides.

Upgrade to an E-bike

If you are looking for a bit of extra support whilst in the saddle, you can upgrade to an e-bike to make your ride even more leisurely.

Equipped with a battery and motor, these electric bikes give you a helping hand whilst you are pedalling, making it easier to climb hills, and travel further with less effort and more comfort.

E-bikes are available on this holiday at an additional supplement of £250. Just request this upgrade option with our sales team at the time of booking.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your bike. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is under 20kg and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates (*see Health & Vaccinations below*), **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the [FCDO](#) for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and Support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

The unit of currency in Hungary is the Hungarian Forint (HUF).

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided cycling holiday is that you decide the pace. This trip is designed for leisure cyclists and does not require you to be in peak fitness. Having said this it is always sensible to get some additional exercise before going on an active holiday. After all, the fitter you are the more enjoyable your cycling will be. You should be comfortable with cycling 40-60 km a day on easy cycle paths and it is advisable to dust off your bike and head out on a few rides before your holiday.

Climate

This part of the Danube basin has a continental climate. Temperatures vary through the season, with typical average daytime temperatures around 15-20 degrees C in May to 20-25 degrees C in August, and 11-15 degrees C in early October. You can expect some occasional showers at any time of the year so it is always worth remembering to pack your waterproof just in case.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Three Capitals, Five Cities, Two Wheels: Passau to Budapest by Bicycle - Colin Smith

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

SelfGuided Cycling Equipment List

- Cycling shorts
- Cycle helmet

- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Scarf
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Rain protection
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Handlebar mount that is compatible with your smartphone
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags

- Tupperware for picnics

Land Only Information

Please note that our 'from' price listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers - contact our Sales Team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip - please ask our Sales Team to find out more about this.

Our Sales Team will be happy to provide you with a quote for scheduled flights, or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Easily combine this trip with our Self-Guided Danube Cycling from Passau to Vienna itinerary to make a two week, four country cycling holiday ticking off Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary in one epic adventure. Enjoy this classic long-distance cycle route with comfortable accommodation and luggage transfers taken care of for you. Plus bike hire is included in the cost of your holiday, and e-bike upgrades are available too.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 12/07/2025 and the trip is subject to change