Gems of the Danube Scenic Opal

Updated for 2023 Sailing Experiences

By Hank Schrader

Accredited Cruise Counselor & Europe Destination Specialist

Our 7 Day Cruise Itinerary in 2015

- We sailed from December 1-7, 2015, on the Danube starting from Nuremberg and ending in Budapest.
- We were sailing during the famous Christmas Market Season.
- Our ports were Nuremberg, Regensburg, Passau/Linz, Melk/Durnstein, Vienna and Budapest.
- Scenic cruises feature 3 signature tours. These unique tour features are called **Freechoice**, **Sundowners** and **Enrich**.

Tours 2015

- All tours are included—they call them **Freechoice**. At each port, there are at least 2 choices of escorted tours.
- Freechoice tours are divided into Active, Moderate and Relaxed, to allow you to choose the pace which best suits the tempo you desire for your vacation.

2023 Budapest > Nuremberg—Gems of the Danube
A river unlike any other

- *Witness the wonderful sights and traditions found along one of Europe's longest waterways.*
- Start your journey in Budapest, one of Europe's most beautiful cities, where architectural treasures on a grand scale await.
- Immerse yourself in local traditions and history as you sailing the mighty Danube to witness opulence like no other in the magical surrounds of Palais Liechtenstein where you will be enthralled by an exclusive classical concert.
- Your journey concludes in Nuremberg, one of Europe's most fascinating cities.

Capital Cities

Budapest Hungary

Bratislava, Slovakia

Schonbrunn Palce, Vienna, Austria

Wachau Valley & Danube

Dunstein Austria

Schonbuhl Castle, Austria

Melk Abby, Melk Austria

Regensburg Germany

Route Map From Scenic USA 2023

Truly all-inclusive luxury

- 5-Star Scenic Space-Ships with up to 163 guests
- Spacious Balcony Suites with an innovative Scenic Sun Lounge
- 1 Scenic Enrich experience of an enchanting private classical evening concert at Palais Liechtenstein – Exclusive to Scenic
- Personalize your trip with 23 included Scenic Freechoice activities
- Dine at your choice of up to five on board venues, from casual to fine dining
- 20 meals – 7 breakfasts (B), 6 lunches (L) and 7 dinners (D)
- Complimentary premium on board beverages all day, every day – not just at mealtimes
- Butler service for every suite throughout your cruise
- Complimentary full mini-bar throughout your cruise
- Innovative Salt Therapy Lounge and fitness area
- Scenic Tailormade App for river commentary and independent exploration
- The freedom of our e-bikes – electrically assisted bicycles
- Scenic Cruise Director to guide and assist & expert local guides
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout your cruise
- Return airport transfers
- All tipping and gratuities on board and on shore

Day 1 - Budapest

- Your journey into wonder begins here. Relax and raise your glass to the days ahead at this evening’s welcome reception.
- Please book your flight to arrive into Budapest prior to 05:00 PM.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner

Budapest Parliament at Night—this was the view from our balcony!

Day 2 - Budapest

- **Freechoice**
- Make the most of a guided city tour including a piano concert,
- Discover the Jewish history with an expert local guide.
- Alternatively, take a guided hike to Buda Hill for breath-taking views over the Danube
- Journey to nearby Szentendre, known for its museums, galleries and artists. You'll have the opportunity to discover this charming town on a guided city tour.
- Alternatively, discover the Ancestry of the Kitchen learning how to make a traditional Hungarian dish during a cooking class hosted by a local, while learning about life in this region.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Chain Bridge with Buda Castle in the Background Budapest, Hungary

Buda Castle

Fisherman’s Bastion

Great Market

Day 3 - Vienna

- As you cruise the mighty Danube relax in one of the lounges and viewing areas and enjoy the scenery as your Scenic Space-Ship sails towards the majestic city of Vienna.
- **Enrich**
- Breathe in the opulence and luxury of Palais Liechtenstein while enjoying a glass of fine Austrian Sekt.
- Then be enthralled by an enchanting private classical evening concert featuring the timeless music of Strauss and Mozart. Even in elegant Vienna, Palais Liechtenstein is one of the grandest of all venues.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Enrich 2015

- Our **Enrich** visit was an **evening concert featuring the music of Strauss and Mozart in Palais Liechtenstein** during our visit to Vienna.
- We started off the evening with a couple of glasses of excellent Austrian Sekt (sparkling wine).
- The concert hall had great acoustics, was lavish beyond belief and was really a memorable experience.

Palais Liechtenstein

Palais Liechtenstein

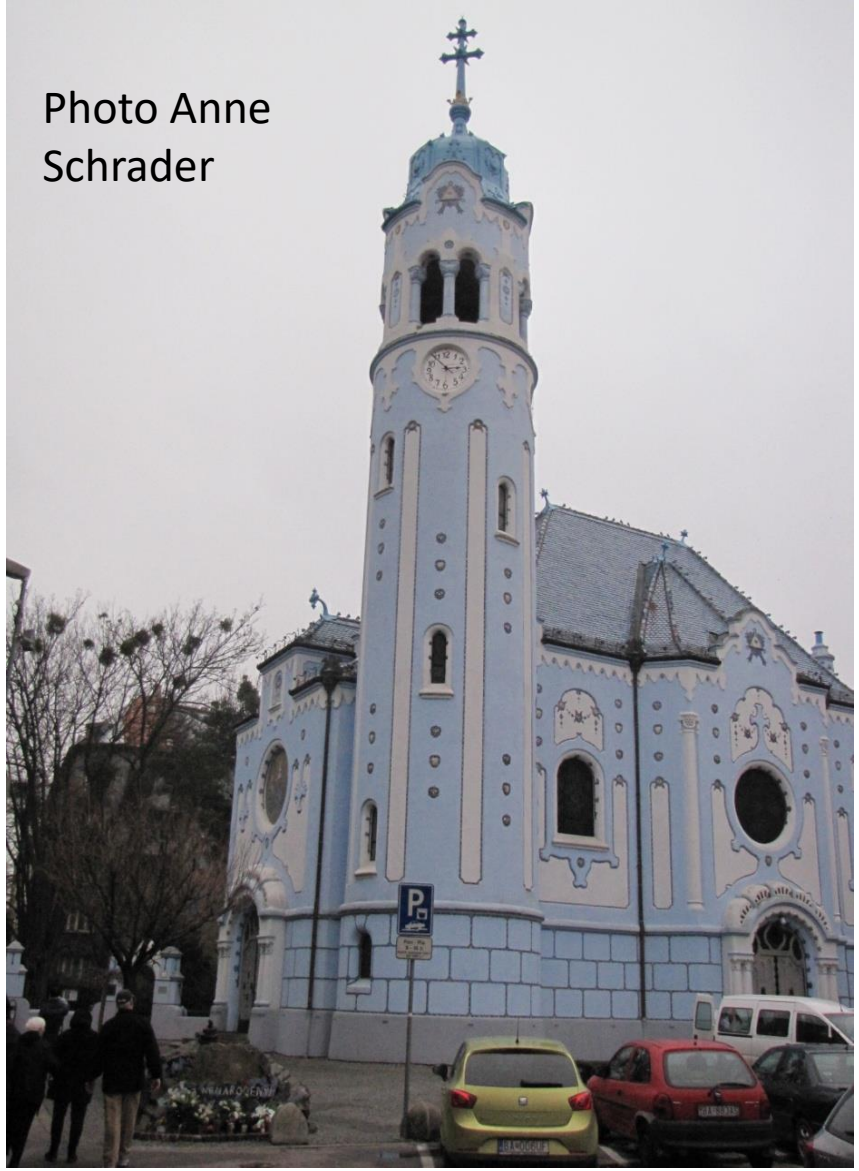
Day 4 - Vienna

- **Freechoice**
- Take a guided tour of historic Bratislava or
- Tour Schönbrunn Palace and witness the sheer opulence of the Habsburg Empire.
- Alternatively, explore a different side of Vienna on a guided cycling tour to the Danube Island,
- Visit the Belvedere Museum, one of Europe's most stunning Baroque landmarks and home to the greatest collection of Austrian art dating from the Middle Ages to the present day, complemented by the work of international artists such as Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh. The museum houses the world's largest collection of Gustav Klimt's paintings, including the golden Art Nouveau icons 'The Kiss' and 'Judith'.
- Alternatively, journey outside of Vienna's city center to its acclaimed wine region, hearing tales of Vienna's' long tradition in wine production along the way.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Schönbrunn Palace

Schönbrunn Palace

Bratislava, Slovakia



The Blue Church

Bratislava at night

Bratislava

Primacial Palace

Day 5 - Dürnstein > Melk

- **Freechoice**
- Be guided through Melk’s magnificent 18th century Benedictine Abbey,
- Embark on a guided bike ride along the river from Dürnstein to Melk.
- Alternatively, meet the current owners of Artstetten Castle, once home to the Archduke Franz Ferdinand whose assassination sparked the beginning of WWI,
- Taste your way through the Wachau Valley sampling many regional delicacies as you go.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Durnstein

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com
Vinothek
im
Torwächterhaus

Melk

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com
CAFE RATHAUS
STADT MELK

Day 6 - Linz > Passau

- **Freechoice**
- Visit the medieval Czech city of Cesky Krumlov and discover its World Heritage-listed old town,
- Journey to Salzburg and explore the birthplace of Mozart and the city backdrop for the film ‘The Sound of Music’.
- Alternatively, stay on board for a cooking demonstration as you cruise from Linz to Passau.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

My Cruise Highlight 2015

- I got to visit **Cesky Krumlov, the medieval Czech town**, a place I had wanted to see for quite some time.
- This place is great—a cool castle and a great charming village—and, for me, the highlight of the entire cruise.

Cesky Krumlov

Cesky Krumlov

Salzburg
Austria

Salzburg
Austria

Day 7 - Regensburg

- Regensburg offers a rich tapestry of experiences, from its medieval Old Town to the Bavarian Forest on its border.
  Freechoice
- Join a guided walk around Regensburg
- Take a ferry and sail the Danube Gorge to view historic Weltenburg Abbey, where you can sample beer from one of the oldest monastic breweries in the world.
- Alternatively, explore Kuchlbauer's World of Beer, the brewery offers a unique design inspired by renowned Viennese artist Friedensreich Hunderwasser famous for his bright colours and unique shapes. Taste the delicious brew produced here and visit the Kuchlbauer Tower.
- If you are feeling active hop aboard an e-bike for a self-guided cycle to the Walhalla monument using your Scenic Tailormade app.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Regensburg
Germany

One of Regensburg’s Christmas Market

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Day 8 - Nuremberg

- Depart today after a delicious and hearty breakfast.
- Please book your flight to depart out of Nuremberg after 12:00 PM.
- This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast

Scenic Opal Ship Overview

- The ship is very sleek and modern. The ship was built in 2015 and is well designed. The Scenic Opal is a 135m long ship. It has room for 169 guests & 53 crew members.
- There are 4 decks: the **Jewel Deck** (at the river line), the **Sapphire Deck**, the **Diamond Deck** and the **Sun Deck**.
- Facilities on board include Portobellos Restaurant, the River Café, the lounge & bar, a gift shop, the Crystal Dining Room, Table La Rive (only for Diamond deck guests, limited to 10 guests and serves a 6-course meal paired with fine wines), a massage parlor, a hairdresser salon, and a fitness center.
- On the Sun Deck (top level), there is a pool and walking track. The lounge & bar area is very large and open for a river cruise ship.

Standard Scenic Cruise Features

- Your own butler (services vary by stateroom category);
- complimentary beverages all day, every day;
- six dining options;
- the Tailormade GPS device;
- balcony suites on the 2 upper decks;
- electronically assisted bikes;
- complimentary Wi-Fi; laundry and airport transfers.
- There are no extra charges for tours or gratuities, but massages and the hairdresser are extra charges.

The Scenic Opal

Bar & Lounge

Electronic Assisted Bikes

Cooking Demonstration

On board Entertainment

Dining Options on our Cruise

- The Crystal Dining room serves most of the meals. Breakfast and lunch are buffet style (although there are some items you can order off the menu) and most dinners are served at your table at night.
- **The best dining experience in the Crystal Dining room was the seafood buffet**—it is the best seafood buffet we have tasted on any cruise ship period!
- Other dining venues include the **River Café** (a casual all-day dining place), **Portobello**s and the **Table La Rive**.
- **Portobellos Restaurant** is for 32 guests at one nightly seating, and reservations are necessary, but each guest is given at least one chance to dine there during a 7 day cruise. We thought the five course Italian meal that was paired with Tuscan wines was excellent and a special feature of the cruise.
- You can also get **room service from your butler**, certainly not a standard feature on most river cruise lines.
- During good weather, there sometimes are special meals served on the Sun Deck area.

Crystal Restaurant.

Crystal Restaurant Seafood Buffet

Portobellos Restaurant

Portobellos Restaurant

Portobellos Restaurant

Our Cabin

- Our balcony cabin was 205 square feet, a good size for a river cruise ship.
- It had a comfortable bed, 32 inch flat screen TV, a well-designed bathroom (shower only), and a good size closet with a stocked bar (no extra charge!)
- The **highlight was the Scenic Sun Lounge**—at a push of a button, the glass enclosed lounge converts to an open air balcony—it was awesome!
- **We had a butler**, who escorted us to our cabin and explained his duties and made sure we knew how everything in the cabin was and how it worked

Our Balcony Suite

Our Scenic Sun Lounge—It converts to an open air at a push of a button!

Our Balcony Suite

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

Our Balcony Suite Bathroom

Our Balcony Suite

The, Hotel manager, Cruise Director & Captain Say Goodbye & thanks for sailing on Scenic!

Visit Dream Destinations, LLC

Your Journey Begins Here!

Dream Destinations

Your journey begins here!

- **We want to be your travel consultants!**
- **Please contact us at:**
- aschrader@dreamdestinations.com or
- hschrader@dreamdestinations.com or
- Call us at:
- 832-244-0215 (Anne cell); 713-397-0188 (Hank Cell)
- Or visit at www.dreamdestinations.com
- www.pinterest.com/visitdd or
- www.facebook.com/visitdreamdestinations

Let Us Plan your next vacation!

Call Hank (713-397-0188) or
Anne (832-244-0215)