

The Blue Danube Discovery Avalon Waterways

By

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Route Map From Avalon Waterways



The Avalon Artistry II sailing on the Danube



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Another Picture of the Artistry II

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Overview

- Begin this timeless European river cruise vacation in vibrant Budapest, Hungary, sail along the Danube River with exciting stops in Austria and Germany, and conclude in historic Nuremberg, Germany.
- As you leave Budapest, you'll sail past the splendid Parliament Building and, along the Danube River, you'll see Hungary on your left and Slovakia on your right as a 58-mile stretch of the river runs between both countries.
- Enjoy an amazing view of the landscapes of Bratislava while sailing. Vienna, Austria, offers stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Habsburg Palace, the Vienna Opera House, and much more.
- In the heart of the Wachau Valley wine region is Dürnstein, a 16th-century town with charming cobblestone streets and the baroque Stiftskirche with its luminous blue façade.
- In Melk, visit Austria's majestic Benedictine Abbey, one of Europe's largest monasteries, and enjoy a tasting of some of the Wachau Valley's famous wines.

Overview

- Join in a guided walk-through Passau, with its narrow streets, beautiful Patrician houses, and baroque architecture.
- Sail further up the Danube River to discover the medieval walls of Regensburg—the only German city not bombed during WWII. Here, you can become acquainted with some of Germany's famous beers!
- The last stop on this memorable river cruise vacation is the thousand-year-old city of Nuremberg.
- During guided sightseeing, marvel at the medieval fortifications, extraordinary Gothic churches, and the Imperial Castle.
- Take free time to make a wish at the striking fountain on the Hauptmarkt (Main Square)—a perfect ending to a memorable Danube River cruise vacation!

Day 1 Budapest Hungry

- Welcome to Hungary. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Budapest must arrive by 2 pm
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- The day is yours to relax and enjoy the city with time for photographs, cafés, and confections.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO VIENNA

Buda Castle Budapest

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Chain Bridge Budapest at Dusk

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Budapest Parliament at Night

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 2

- Enjoy sailing the Danube, which shares dozens of miles with Hungary and Slovakia. Relax on the Sky Deck to see the rolling landscape and red-rooftops of the Slovakian capital of Bratislava come into view.
- This evening in Vienna, you may choose to join an Optional Excursion to attend a Royal Waltz Concert for an unforgettable evening of music in an elegant hall.
- **Classical Concert (Extra Expense)**
- Enjoy a spellbinding evening of classical works by Mozart and Johann Strauss, performed brilliantly by professional Salon Orchestra Alt-Wien musicians in one of Europe's prettiest venues.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN VIENNA**

You Will Sail By Bratislava Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 3 Vienna

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Vienna's Danube Island by bike with your Adventure Host, OR;
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** After a short walk of Vienna, join a Guided Visit of Austria's largest museum, the legendary Kunsthistorisches Museum (Museum of Fine Arts), OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the Habsburg empire this morning on a Guided City Tour of Vienna's gilded landmarks. See the Imperial Palace complex—the winter residence of the Imperial Family, the iconic Vienna Opera House and stunning St. Stephen's Cathedral.
- Enjoy free time this afternoon to take a tram to visit Vienna's Prater amusement park or one of the many museums nearby.
- You may also borrow a bike from the ship to explore Vienna's square or the banks of the Danube.
- Later, enjoy live entertainment on board.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO DÜRNSTEIN**

Day 3 Habsburg Palace

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Vienna Opera House at the end of Karntner Strasse



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Karntner Strasse



St.
Stephens
Cathedral
Vienna
Day 3



Tiled Roof of St Stephen's Cathedral

**The 2 Eagle side of the roof. These are the Coat of Arms for Austria and the coat of arms of Vienna.
There are 230,000 tiles on the roof**



Day 3 Vienna Optional Excursions

- Join a Guided Optional Excursion to Schönbrunn Palace— summer home of the Habsburg Empire.
- **Schönbrunn Palace, Cultural Gem of Austria**
- Visit magnificent Schönbrunn Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and former summer residence of the Habsburg imperial family.
- **Bites & Highlights of Vienna**
- Experience some of Vienna's most delectable foods and traditions on this unique guided foodie tour!

Schönbrunn Palace

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Schönbrunn Palace

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 4 DÜRNSTEIN to MELK

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walk and hear the legendary tale of King Richard the Lionheart—who was imprisoned in the castle above the village during the Crusades.
- Enjoy coffee or a cocktail on the Sky Deck as you sail through the picturesque Wachau Valley to Melk.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Alternatively, experience Danube's cycle path, follow your Adventure Host for a bike ride along the Danube.
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey to marvel at its frescoed ceilings, statues, incredible library, and ornate pipe organ.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy the flavors of the Wachau Valley with a Wine Tasting on board
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO PASSAU

Dürnstein, Austria



Photo Anne Schrader
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Dürnstein from the Danube. The Blue Tower is part of Dürnstein Abbey

Ruins of Dürnstein Castle where Richard the Lionheart was held for ransom in 1192



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Dürnstein

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Dürnstein Abbey Entrance



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Weisskirchen Wachau Valley 2012

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Wachau Valley

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Spitz Wachau Valley

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Hinterhaus Castle Ruins

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Aggstein Castle Ruins

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Schonbuhl Castle

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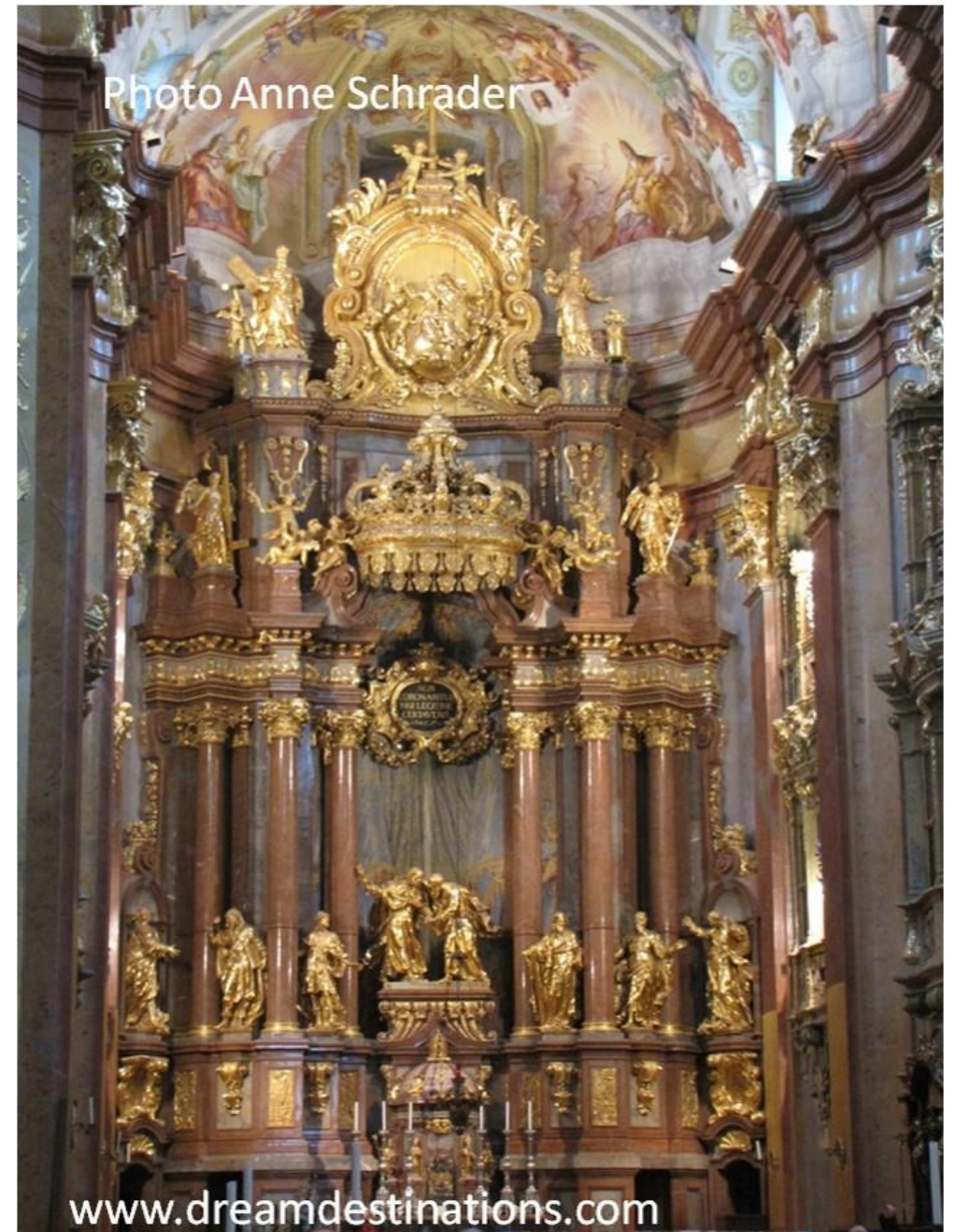


Melk

Photo Anne Schrader
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Melk Abbey



Day 5 Passau

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided City Walk to learn more about this beautiful “City of Three Rivers.”
- Alternatively, join a full-day Guided Optional Excursion to Salzburg—the city of Mozart—or to the picturesque Bohemian town of Cesky Krumlov (both are for extra expense).
- **Sound of Music Salzburg**
- From Mozart to "The Sound of Music", this delightful excursion provides an in-depth look at both the city of Salzburg and its majestic surroundings.
- **Cesky Krumlov - A Sleeping Beauty Awakes**
- You'll feel like you've stepped right into the Middle Ages on this full-day excursion to Český Krumlov, the "Pearl of the Bohemian Forest".
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO REGENSBURG**

Passau, where three rivers meet—the Inn, the Ilz and the Danube



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Passau

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The Veste Oberhaus

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Passau Old Town



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New Bishop's Residence



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Tower of the Town Hall



Photo Anne Schrader
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Town Hall at night



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St. Stephen's Cathedral

Photo Anne Schrader
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St. Stephen's
Cathedral. Its organ
has 17,947 pipes.

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Salzburg Austria Optional Tour (Extra Expense)

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Salzburg Austria



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Cesky Krumlov Optional Tour (Extra Expense)



Cesky Krumlov



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Cesky Krumlov

Photo Hank Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 6 Regensburg

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Walhalla by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided City Walk and see Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall) and Porta Pretoria—built in 179 AD as the entrance to Castra Regina fortress.
- **Weltenburg: Bavaria's Oldest Abbey**
- Visit Bavaria's oldest monastery, 7th-century Weltenburg Abbey with its stunning setting in the Danube Gorge, splendid interior, and the oldest monastic brewery in the world!
- Alternatively spend a free afternoon exploring Regensburg on foot or by bike through its charming streets.
- This evening, enjoy live entertainment after dinner.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ROTH**

Explore Walhalla by bike



Regensburg, Germany Stone Bridge Tower Gate



Photo Anne Schrader
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Old Stone Bridge

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Porta Praetoria

Roman ruins used in a new building



Old Roman Fortress Ruins Stones used again



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Old Town Hall Regensburg

Photo Anne Schrader
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Regensburg St. Peter's Cathedral



Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com

The Historic Sausage Kitchen of Regensburg

It may be the oldest continuously public restaurant in the world

Photo Anne Schrader
www.dreamdestinations.com



Day 7

- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy an Onboard Lecture about the Main-Danube Canal—linking these two rivers to make a vital connection enabling navigation between the North and Black Seas.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Roth's Lauter valley with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided Sightseeing Tour of the Bavarian town of Roth—with its half-timbered houses, market square, and 1535 hunting lodge Schloss Ratibor, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Choose a Guided Sightseeing of Nuremberg—with its medieval architecture, gilded fountain, Gothic cathedral, and Kaiserburg Castle, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of the historic Nuremberg Rally Grounds—used by the Third Reich.
- **EVENING CRUISE TO NUREMBERG**

Nuremberg Castle Nuremberg, Germany

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Albrecht Durer House Nuremberg

Photo Anne Schrader
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St. Lawrence Church, Nuremberg



The Schöner Brunnen (the Beautiful Fountain). The fountain is 19 meters high, was built in the 14th century, and is in the shape of a Gothic spire. There are 40 colorful figures on this fountain and represent important ideas and people of the Holy Roman Empire.



Day 8 Nuremberg

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

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