

# Cycling the Austrian Danube, Passau to Vienna

## Laid-back cycling holidays at the Austrian Danube

**Daily distance:** 30-60 km    **Duration:** 7 days / 6 nights  
**Route profile:** flat terrain, mostly directly along the Danube

The Danube is Europe's second longest river and an important waterway. Today, more and more cyclists are using the river's former tow paths to explore the continent and its various cultures.

It is about 140 miles from Passau, Germany to Vienna, Austria's capital. Your journey leads you through changing landscape, from densely forested hillsides in the Donauleiten nature reserve to the sun-kissed vineyards of the Wachau region. You will get to know the area's delicacies at first hand – the world's oldest known torte in Linz, the fine wines of the Wachau region and the exquisite coffee at Vienna's coffee houses.

The route itself mostly follows the river on dedicated cycle paths or light-traffic back roads. Your guide ensures that you travel safely and are looked after carefully.



### Day 1, Sunday

Your guide will pick you up from Munich and take you to Passau. Any meeting place in Munich is possible.

Passau offers various opportunities to pass the afternoon: Feel free to go for a stroll through the old town or enjoy a coffee in the shade of St. Stephan's Cathedral. You may also go inside the cathedral and marvel at the frescos dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, or walk up to Oberhaus Castle to relax and take in the view over the old town. Back down in the city, you can go on a cruise up and down the Danube and the river Inn.

Later that day, you will meet the other group members at a Bavarian restaurant. Here, your guides will have organised a table in the beer garden.



### Day 2, Monday

After a gorgeous breakfast, you follow your guide through Passau's historic landmarks and past its tourist attractions. You also pass the confluence point where three differently coloured rivers merge – the blue Danube, the green Inn and the black Ilz. Fascinating tales from Passau's eventful past complete your walk this morning.

Today's bike ride starts in the afternoon. After having adjusted your bicycle, you are ready to go. In a group, with your guide cycling in front, you cross the Austrian border today. It is only about 18 miles to Engelhartzell. As on every day, the route follows dedicated cycle paths and less busy back roads, mostly directly alongside the Danube. (18 miles/28 km)



### Day 3, Tuesday

Cycling across the Donauleiten nature reserve is the first highlight today. Steep hillsides with dense forest on both sides of the river are its most striking characteristic. You'll be glad to know that we take the easy route next to the river. Later on, we cross the Danube at the famous Schlogen bend, where the river appears to turn 180 degrees.



To keep energy levels up, we will enjoy a delightful picnic around midday. You will have a buffet lunch, chat with your fellow cyclists and perhaps even have a nap under the trees, should you fancy it.

We will reach Linz, today's destination, just in time to take a guided walk through the city. Linz was the European Capital of Culture in 2009, and the contemporary art installations in town can still be seen. (35 miles/56 km)

#### **Days 4, 5 and 6 ...**

... did not fit in here. Please visit our website for further details.

#### **Day 7, Saturday**

Our hotel in Vienna is situated in the city centre, not far away from attractions such as St. Stephen's Cathedral and Hofburg Imperial Palace with its world-famous stables. You may also take a rest at a typical Viennese coffee house: have a coffee and a piece of Sachertorte, as the local chocolate cake is called. Since there is so much to explore, we recommend extending your stay in Vienna for a couple of days. Your ticket to Vienna Airport is valid on any chosen day.

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**Tour dates 2012:** 10<sup>th</sup> June - 16<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> July - 14<sup>th</sup> July,  
12<sup>th</sup> August - 18<sup>th</sup> August

#### **Services included:**

- 6 nights in biker friendly hotels or guesthouses (double room) incl. breakfast and dinner (dinner excl. beverages)
- healthy food and refreshments will be provided along the way
- transport from and to airport/railway station in Munich (arrival) and Vienna (departure)
- daily luggage transportation
- one bilingual guide cycling with the group
- passenger van escort
- trekking/hybrid bicycle with panniers
- guided vineyard tour
- guided tour at Melk Abbey, guided walks in Passau and Linz
- all ferry boat fees

**Fair price:** € 955 p.p. (£ 745 p.p.), single room supplement: € 170 (£ 140)

**Extra nights** in Vienna [per room and night]: double €115 (£95) / single €90 (£80).

Extra nights in Passau [per room and night]: double €95 (£80) / single €65 (£55).

If you intend to stay overnight in Passau prior to the tour, be aware that we will not be able to maintain our shuttle service on your day of arrival.

**Mercurio shuttle service:** Included in each of our tours is a shuttle service from the nearest major airports and train stations. This shuttle operates throughout the day, at the beginning and at the end of your cycling holiday.

Pick-up points on arrival:

- Munich Airport (MUC)
- Munich main station ("Hauptbahnhof")
- Any place in central Munich

Drop-off points on departure:

- Vienna Airport (VIE)
- Vienna station



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[www.mercurio-bike-travel.com](http://www.mercurio-bike-travel.com)

Guided cycling holidays in Germany and Austria

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