# Grand Danube Passage

Sofia to Prague

# **Inspiring Moments**

- ► Witness Budapest's glowing, amber skyline during an **evening cruise on the Danube.**
- ► Gaze at the scenic wonder of the **Iron Gate Gorge,** an engineering marvel.
- ► Discover the history and grandeur of **timeless** Vienna, once the heart of an empire.
- ► Delight in the medieval streets and colorful buildings of **Bratislava's old town.**
- ► Applaud the grace of elegant dancers during a special Viennese Waltz performance.
- ► Marvel at the lush, storybook landscape of the **Wachau Valley.**
- ▶ Pause to reflect on the many intricate details and baroque beauty of the **Melk Abbey.**
- Revel in the romantic nostalgia of Prague and stroll along the atmospheric Charles Bridge.
- ► Experience five UNESCO World Heritage sites.



Charles Bridge, Prague

Explore eight countries, Old World capitals and charming villages along the mighty Danube River. Begin in Sofia, Bulgaria, set sail on the storied Danube River, and conclude your adventure in Prague, Czech Republic. Uncover the history of ancient Roman ruins, castles and fortresses, and feast your eyes on an illuminated Budapest, the lush Wachau Valley and the Iron Gate Gorge. Aboard your ship, delight in a Serbian folk show, an authentic German Frühschoppen and enriching lectures. Plus, select from a choice of included excursions in many ports, featuring local cuisine, cycling, art tours and more!

# **Day-by-Day Itinerary**

#### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Sofia, Bulgaria.

## Day 2 | Sofia, Bulgaria

Upon arrival, transfer  $\Im$  to the Sofia Hotel Balkan.

Free Time: Explore at your own pace today.

## Day 3 | Sofia

#### Enrichment: Prologue to the Bulgarian Revival.

**Sofia.** Venture out to see St. George Rotunda, Alexander Battenberg Square and more.

Close the day at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

## Day 4 | Sofia | Vidin

After breakfast, transfer to Vidin and savor regional cuisine and stunning views at The Rocks restaurant.

**Vidin Discovery.** See a remarkable mosque and visit the St. Panteleimon Church and Baba Vida Fortress.

Embark your first-class river ship. Later, gather for a Welcome Aboard Reception and Dinner.

## Day 5 | Iron Gate Gorge

Sail through the Iron Gate Gorge, an outstanding engineering wonder that is part of the boundary between Romania and Serbia.

**Frühschoppen!** Join friends to sip a beer and enjoy brezeln (pretzels), Weißwurst (sausages) and mustards during a fun, age-old German tradition.

#### Day 6 | Belgrade, Serbia

Enrichment: Modern Serbia.

## \*PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- Belgrade City Highlights. Get to know the city! Witness the Kalemegdan Citadel and other iconic sites.
- Eating Like a Local. Taste a fusion of Serbian cuisine and learn about local customs and traditions.
- Science & Scientist Tour. Witness informative exhibits at the fascinating Nikola Tesla Museum.



Free Time: Craft your own itinerary in Belgrade.

**Folklore Performance.** Revel in an energetic folk show that depicts Serbia's cultural heritage.

#### Day 7 | Vukovar, Croatia | Osijek

**Vukovar**. Take a panoramic tour, passing this historic city's many churches and palaces.

**©AHI Connects:** Rural Croatia. Visit Rural House in a small village. Enjoy tasting popular Slavonian foods and locally produced wines.

**Osijek.** During a walking tour, see a monument that gives thanks for protection from a plague outbreak that killed a third of the city's residents.

#### Day 8 | Mohács, Hungary | Pécs

**Pécs.** Enjoy a walking tour of Pécs, known for its spectacular Roman ruins and Ottoman mosques. Sail on to Budapest after rejoining the ship.

#### Day 9 | Budapest

## \*PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- **Budapest**. Witness Heroes' Square, the Parliament Building, Castle Hill, Fisherman's Bastion and more.
- Living Local. Visit the buzzing Great Market Hall. Sample fresh strudel and palinka, a local schnapps.
- Budapest's Jewish Quarter. View the Great Synagogue and tour the Holocaust Memorial Center.

**Budapest by Night.** Delight in views of an illuminated cityscape during an evening cruise.

#### Day 10 | Bratislava, Slovakia

**Enrichment:** The Velvet Revolution.

#### PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- •Old Town & Café. See St. Martin's Cathedral, Michael's Gate and more. Plus, enjoy a typical pastry.
- Old Town & Music. View sites steeped in musical history, followed by a recital by a young violinist.
- Iron Curtain Bike Tour. Enjoy a leisurely bike tour along the historic Slovak-Austrian border. (Active)

#### Day 11 | Vienna, Austria

Enrichment: Timeless Vienna.

#### PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- Imperial Vienna. Tour the Hofburg Palace's Imperial Apartments, followed by a drive by the Ringstrasse.
- Klosterneuburg Monastery. See the monastery's art and treasures, and visit a wine cellar for a tasting.
- Schönbrunn Palace. Baroque wonders await at the State Apartments, Hall of Mirrors and gardens.
- **CALL Connects:** Viennese Waltz. Delight in a waltz show accompanied by a lively musical trio.

#### Day 12 | Dürnstein | Melk

## PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

• Dürnstein. Be charmed by Dürnstein's baroque façades, medieval ambience and blue Stiftskirche.



- Danube Cycling. Ride gently through the pretty countryside, then break for coffee and cake. (Active)
- Wachau Winery. Delve into storied Wachau Valley viniculture during a wine tasting at a historic cellar.

**Melk Abbey.** Visit Melk's Benedictine abbey, an architectural jewel perched on a hill.

Join a Farewell Aboard Reception and Dinner.

## Day 13 | Passau, Germany | Prague, Czech Republic

**Picturesque Passau**. See the Veste Oberhaus, St. Stephen's Cathedral and other sites.

Dine on savory German fare at a local restaurant. Continue your journey to Prague and check in to the lovely Art Deco Imperial Hotel.

#### Day 14 | Prague

**Prague.** Behold marvelous Prague while seeing the famous Clock Tower and Charles Bridge.

Free Time: Spend the balance of the day at leisure.

#### Day 15 | Prague

## PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

- •Lobkowicz Palace & Museum. Browse the palace's stunning masterpieces, relics, weapons and art.
- Prague's Jewish Quarter. Explore the Jewish Quarter and the Prague National Jewish Museum.
- •Art Nouveau & Cubist Walking Tour. Uncover Prague's captivating 20th-century architecture.

**Free Time:** Cap off your final afternoon by enjoying the magnificent sites of Prague.

Raise a toast to your Danube adventure during a Farewell Reception at your hotel tonight.

#### Day 16 | In Transit

Transfer **3** to the airport for the return flight **4** to your gateway city.

#### **Included Features**

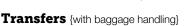
**NO SINGLE** 

SUPPLEMENT

for Solo Travelers

## **Accommodations** {with baggage handling}

- -2 nights in Sofia, Bulgaria, at the deluxe Sofia Hotel Balkan.
- -9 nights aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class
   MS Amadeus Queen.
- -3 nights in Prague, Czech Republic, at the deluxe Art Deco Imperial Hotel.



 Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.

#### **Extensive Meal Program**

- 14 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 10 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

## Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- Visit 8 countries during this program.
- AHI Travel Assurance plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Engaging excursions highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
- Personalize Your Journey | PYJ
   A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- -Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- -Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

## **2024 Departures & Pricing**

## October 15-30, 2024

Full Price from \$6,145 Special Savings \$250

## **Special Price from**

\$5,895\*

## \*See website for complete category pricing.

\*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details.

VAT & port tax supplement are an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://norcas.ahitravel.com/destinations/1809A?schoolld=115. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

**Note:** Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.

Flights and transfers provided for AHI FlexAir participants.