



2026 BEST OF THE DANUBE (CELEBRATION OF MUSIC)
Our Co-Founder Rudi Schreiner’s top-choice itinerary for 2025!
(ROUNDTRIP BUDAPEST)
DBM Cruise Only

7-NIGHT CRUISE ROUNDTRIP FROM BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Capture the imperial history of Old-World Europe along the Danube River as it flourished beneath towering fortresses and inspired legendary artists and musicians. With an abundance of scenic cruising, a focus on grand cities and popular landmarks, and the ease of traveling roundtrip from Budapest, this special itinerary is our Co-Founder Rudi Schreiner’s top-choice itinerary for 2025 – be among the first to experience it! After embarking your ship in Budapest, follow famous melodies through the scenic Wachau Valley, a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site. Throughout your journey you will visit the river’s legendary capitals: Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna – where AmaWaterways’ Co-Founder Rudi Schreiner, the visionary “Godfather of River Cruising,” was born and raised and where the great composers lived, worked and performed. Encounter fascinating architecture from Melk’s golden-hued Benedictine abbey to Vienna’s magnificent Schönbrunn Palace. Plus, follow *The Sound of Music* through sprawling Salzburg, the incomparable birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	Budapest	RIVER CRUISE EMBARKATION
2	Bratislava	Scenic cruising “Coronation City” walking tour with musical vignettes OR “Tastes of Slovakia” OR Bratislava Castle hike OR Bike tour
3	Wachau Valley	Scenic cruising
	Melk	Melk Abbey visit with choir performance
4	Linz	Full-day Salzburg City tour with Mozart birth house and residence* OR Full-day Cesky Krumlov OR “UNESCO City of Media Arts” walking tour OR “Cultural Mile” bike tour
5	Vienna	Scenic cruising “Imperial Vienna” carriage tour OR Vienna by bike Exclusive evening concert
6	Vienna	Composer’s Walking Tour with House of Music OR Vienna Woods hike



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| 7 | Budapest | Buda city tour
OR Castle Hill hike
Classical Music Tour with Opera House visit and Liszt Museum
OR Pest tour
Free time |
| 8 | Budapest | RIVER CRUISE DISEMBARKATION |

**Not combinable with other tours on this day.*

Itinerary is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the itinerary schedule provided with your final travel documents.

Day 1, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY – EMBARKATION. Check out of your hotel to board your luxurious ship, perhaps exploring more of the city independently before the evening’s briefings, cocktail hour and dinner. (B,D)

Day 2, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA. Take your time this morning as the ship cruises from Austria to Slovakia. Host to the crowning ceremonies of 11 Hungarian kings and queens between 1536 and 1830, Bratislava certainly has earned the title “Coronation City of Kings,” as you’ll discover during your walking tour. Along the way, be delighted by a few surprise musical performances. If you prefer exploring the world through your tastebuds, join a special “Tastes of Slovakia” tour to sample traditional flavors from the region, including local beer. For a more active adventure, hike up to Bratislava Castle, offering magnificent views of the city, or journey further from the seat of your bike on a guided cycling tour. (B,L,D)

Day 3, WACHAU VALLEY – MELK, AUSTRIA. Spend your morning reveling in the postcard-perfect landscapes of Austria’s picturesque UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Wachau Valley. Later in the day, arrive in Melk. Located above the city on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube, Melk Abbey is one of Europe’s largest and most revered Baroque monasteries and a breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage Site. Originally founded in the 11th century, the magnificent abbey now houses a museum chronicling its history and a famous library with countless medieval manuscripts. During your tour you will see some of Melk’s musical manuscripts as well as frescoes painted by Johann Michael Rottmayr and Paul Troger. Plus, enjoy a live choir performance in or around the abbey. (B,L,D)

Day 4, LINZ, AUSTRIA. Arrive in Linz, where you’ll have multiple choices for excursions. In the morning, step off the ship into Linz, taking in its contemporary architecture as well as the old city center, the old market and past the Mozart House, where he composed the Linz Symphony in only three days. As another alternative, pedal through Linz on an exhilarating bike tour. If you would rather fulfill your travel wish list in Salzburg, join our tour through the historic center, lovely Mirabell Gardens, Residenz Square and the Old Market. You will also visit the museum at the famed yellow building known as Mozart Birth House and residence where the legendary composer was born in 1756 and lived until 1773. In the afternoon, for those who have not embarked on our full-day tour to Salzburg, you may join an excursion to the charming Czech mountain town of Český Krumlov, where you can stroll its cobblestone streets; marvel at the city’s picturesque Baroque and Renaissance-style buildings; and tour Krumlov Castle, one of Europe’s largest castle complexes. (B,L,D)

Day 5, VIENNA, AUSTRIA. Enjoy a full morning of scenic cruising, taking some time to sit back, relax and delight in the ever-changing views. Sleep in late, participate in a complimentary wellness class, treat yourself to a massage and get to know fellow cruisers while exploring all the amenities on board. In the afternoon, enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride through the historic city center as a traditionally costumed coachman regales you with fascinating stories along your route, offering a new perspective on this sophisticated city. Alternatively, take a thrilling guided bike ride along the romantic Danube Canal and through the city, traversing a bridge, cycling across a meadow and heading to Vienna’s famous Ringstrasse Boulevard. In the evening, join us for a special included concert on shore in Vienna you won’t soon forget. (B,L,D)



Day 6, VIENNA. Following your overnight in the “City of Waltzes,” explore the city of music while following in the footsteps of one or more world-renowned composers, such as Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, from their past residences to museums to grand monuments. Next, visit the House of Music, an interactive museum where you can feel sound waves, learn more about composers of the Viennese Classical period and even enjoy a virtual simulation where you are the conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra! If you prefer to connect with nature, journey to the town of Cobenzl where you will embark on a hike through the famed Vienna Woods that inspired a waltz composed by Johann Strauss II. (B,L,D)

Day 7, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY. Budapest offers an unmatched combination of culture and tradition. Start your exploration of the city on the Buda side of the Danube, following your guide through the city’s Castle District where you will marvel at the fairytale turrets of Fisherman’s Bastion, gaze upon the breathtaking panorama below and see Matthias Church, renowned for its striking tower and colorful mosaic roof. For a more active tour, hike to Budapest’s Castle Hill. In the afternoon, revel in an itinerary-exclusive classical music tour of Budapest. This special tour invites you to enter a world of grandeur as your knowledgeable local guide leads you through the exquisitely designed Hungarian State Opera House in Budapest, followed by a stop at the Franz Liszt Memorial Museum, where the renowned Hungarian musician and composer lived for many years. If you wish instead to explore the treasures of Pest, admire the colossal Hungarian Parliament Building, Heroes’ Square and the moving “Shoes on the Danube Bank” memorial. In the evening, head up to the Sun Deck or stroll around town, delighting in the way Budapest’s magnificent landmarks illuminate against the night sky. (B,L,D)

Day 8, BUDAPEST – DISEMBARKATION. Bid farewell to Budapest and prepare for your flight home. (B)

(B,L,D) – Indicates Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included on this day.