



Vienna-Budapest: Biking Along the Blue Danube

Trip No. 2011, August 5-16, 2020

Leader: Dick Cable

Co-Leader: Janis Stahlhut

This is an easygoing cycling tour along the Danube River, visiting Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. From the musical city of Vienna, we will ride through the towns and villages of Europe's most famous waterway, finishing in the fairy tale city of Budapest. Along the way we will see Slovakia's capital city, Bratislava, where medieval castles meet head on with socialist-era architecture, and of course take time to sample the local dishes. Gentle country lanes take us to the famous panoramic 'Danube Bend,' then to the fairy tale castles of Budapest. Here Eastern Europe meets Western, and there is plenty to see and do, including heading to one of the city's hot springs and enjoying a long hot soak! We have built extra time into Vienna and Budapest so you don't have to miss a thing!



Daily Itinerary

Day 1 – Aug. 5, 2020: Depart USA

DAY 2 – Aug. 6, 2020: Arrive Vienna. Today we will arrive in the morning or early afternoon on our flights from the States. You will have time to check in, relax a bit to shake off the jet lag. We will have a group briefing at 7:00 p.m., and then you are free to choose a nearby restaurant to enjoy a quiet dinner on your own.



Vienna is the “City of Music” and today and tomorrow we will visit some of its famous attractions, such as the giant Ferris Wheel Riesenrad and the fabulous Hofburg Palace. The stunning architecture and interiors of the Cathedral of St Stephen, the State Opera House and the Votifkirche should not be missed.

Overnight: Vienna

DAY 3 – Aug. 7, 2020: Vienna

Today we have a full day to explore Vienna. We’ve left



enough time for a relaxing drink and snack in a famous



Viennese coffee bar or enjoy local foods and sample Vienna’s craft beers in a typical Viennese tavern.

Overnight: Vienna

DAY 4 – Aug. 8, 2020: Vienna to Bad Deutsch

Altenburg, 45km. Today’s theme is peace and

relaxation, although we will still be cycling for a few hours! Not far from Vienna we’ll discover an off-the-beaten-track landscape and a Nature Reserve boasting a stunning and diverse collection of flora and fauna. This is your chance to revel in the wonderful peace and tranquility of the region. At the town of Bad Deutsch Altenburg, we can visit the Archaeological Park of Carnuntum, offering a fascinating journey back to ancient Roman times. **Overnight: Bad Deutsch Altenburg**



DAY 5 – Aug. 9, 2020: Bad Deutsch Altenburg to Bratislava, 25-30km.

This morning, cycle on to the city of Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia and Europe’s youngest capital city. Located between the

Danube plains, hills and vineyards, Bratislava enchants with its dreamy old quarter and walled castle, which sits above modernist influences of recent decades. **Overnight: Bratislava**

DAY 6 – Aug. 10, 2020: Bratislava to Sziegetköz to Győr, 50km. The wild and untouched land and waterscape of the island plain Szigetköz is an idyllic paradise for birds and fish. Cycling from Bratislava, we will relish the tranquility and the stunning scenery encompassing 500 tiny islands, boasting numerous farming villages and a labyrinth of countless Danube creeks. A train journey takes us to Győr, with its beautiful Baroque-style old town. **Overnight: Győr**

DAY 7 – Aug. 11, 2020: Győr to Komárom, 55-60km. Did you know that the National Stud of Babolna is world famous for breeding truly magnificent Arabian horses? On a visit to the stud farm and museum, we'll catch a glimpse of some of the secrets of Hungarian horse breeding techniques. Today's cycling takes us through lush, rolling hills on mainly quiet country road into the village of Komárom, which was much favored by the renowned King Matthias.



Overnight: Komárom

DAY 8 – Aug. 12, 2020: Komárom to Danube Bend, 55-60km. The Magical scenery and quaint villages accompany us on our cycle today, first along the banks of the Slovakian Danube and then via small, quiet roads. On our way to Esztergom – known as Hungarian Rome and the Town of Bishops and Kings – we'll pass the impressive Roman fort of Kelemantia. Another highlight is the magnificent Hungarian Danube Bend located just past Esztergom. Acclaimed as one of the most beautiful sections of the Danube, the river here winds through the Visegrad Mountains and then makes an abrupt turn south between Esztergom and Szentendre. In the Basilica of Esztergom, we'll find Hungary's largest Catholic church and all kinds of attractions to explore.

Overnight: Esztergom.

DAY 9 – Aug. 13, 2020: Danube Bend to Budapest, 55-60km. Amid the hilly landscape of Hungary, the



River Danube divides into parts and gives form to the Szentendrei Sziget island. A short ferry trip brings us to the island where we can cycle through traditional Hungarian villages and settlements, including Szigetmonostor. A highlight town is Szentendre,

which is famed for its numerous handicraft boutiques and the Open Air Museum of Skanzen. The final destination on our cycling tour is Budapest, where we'll welcome the chance to experience the atmosphere and attractions of this wonderfully cosmopolitan capital. It's a city where Eastern Europe meets Western and there is so much to see.

Overnight: Budapest

DAY 10 – Aug. 14, 2020: Budapest. Budapest is such a vibrant and worthy city that we have added an additional day to our itinerary so we can explore all there is to see.

Overnight: Budapest

Day 11 – Aug. 15, 2020: Budapest to Vienna.

After a leisurely breakfast we board our private bus that will take us back to Vienna. After check-in, we will have time for any last minute shopping or sightseeing. We will have a farewell group dinner and celebrate our 255-kilometer biking adventure! **Overnight: Vienna**



Day 12 – Aug. 16, 2020: Vienna to home.

After breakfast we head to Vienna Airport to begin our journey “across the pond” unless you are lingering in Vienna or heading to another destination in Europe.

Fitness Level, Equipment and Activities: *The trip is rated **Easy to Moderate [3-4]**: Reasonable fitness for the expected activity is needed, but the trip is designed for daily bike rides of 40-60 km (25-40 miles), for six consecutive days, on a mixture of cycle paths, country roads and routes that take us through villages, towns, and cities. Routes are predominantly flat with some gentle hills toward the week's end. Applicants should have basic-intermediate bike riding skills including the ability to ride with confidence at intersections, in light traffic with cars and other bicycles, safely navigate traffic circles, and mount/dismount with ease. To see the rating scale: <https://www.outdoors.org/outdoor-activities/difficulty-ratings>*

Our bikes will be hybrids with gearing and brake systems appropriate to the conditions and terrain. You will need sturdy biking shoes with or without cleats. (Clip-in pedals or cages are not provided with our rental bikes. Should you desire to use special pedals, you may be able to bring them with you and swap out the pedals on the rentals. This will be confirmed at a later date.)

ANSI rated or the equivalent bike helmet is required at all times while riding. Please bring your own, as rentals will not be available.

Each participant should carry with them at all times an appropriate water supply for the day, a rain jacket, and a simple first aid kit. Bikes will be equipped with a handlebar bag or a side pannier (to be confirmed at a later date).

When you participate in this trip, you should be in proper condition for the activities outlined in this prospectus and equipped with the appropriate gear as noted above. You should always be aware of the risks involved and conduct yourself accordingly.

You are responsible for your own safety. Prior to your acceptance as a participant on this trip, you will be asked to discuss your capabilities and experience with us. We may also request references to confirm your fitness level and suitability for participating in the trip's activities.

This trip is designed so that everyone may experience our Austrian/Slovakian/Hungarian journey through shared participation in activities and tasks in an organized group environment. AMC travelers are known for their cooperative efforts and camaraderie. Expectations are that all participants will be considerate of others sharing this AMC Adventure Travel experience.

It may happen on any trip that a participant is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. AMC Trip Leaders in their sole judgment, have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it is of the group or of the individual. Examples of some conditions that might result in a participant's being unable to perform one or more activities include illness, injury, lack of proper gear, or inappropriate fitness level. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible. Any deviation from the trip's itinerary by a participant will be at her personal expense.

TRIP PRICE: US\$3,550

(Though every effort is made to estimate all costs of a trip conservatively – often as much as two years in advance, the price may fluctuate up or down due to exchange rates at time of invoice payments, unanticipated inflation, or other unforeseen expenses.)

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- 10 nights in 4 star hotels, en suite facilities
- All meals from dinner on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 12
- Handlebar bag with information pack including detailed route maps and notes
- Ferry to Szentendrei Sziget Island on Day 9
- Train from Mosonmagyaróvár to Győr on Day 6
- Bus transfer from Budapest to Vienna on Day 11
- Daily baggage transfer (1 medium bag per person)

Also included: 2 AMC-AT leaders certified in CPR and Wilderness First Aid, medical evacuation travel insurance (limits), 24x7 emergency world wide assistance, 24x7 AMC-AT emergency telephone access, 24x7 in theater technical assistance.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare, which will be purchased independently by participants
- Meals and snacks not listed above
- Airport transfers
- Any entrance fees to museums, gardens, or other attractions not specified on the Daily Itinerary
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone and internet charges, etc.

Additionally: tips, special order or alcoholic beverages at group dinner(s), cancellation charges, lost or damaged baggage, medical and evacuation insurance beyond that provided in AMC-AT trip price, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance.

APPLICATION AND DEPOSITS: *To apply, you must complete and submit a Participant Application, Confidential Health Questionnaire, and Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release form, enclosing a **registration deposit of \$1,500**. Your application will be subject to a full screening, including contacting your references and conducting a brief phone interview. A spot on the roster is not assured until this process has been completed and you have been notified. Once your roster spot is confirmed, your check will be deposited into the trip account for safekeeping. Please make payments by check payable to the "Appalachian Mountain Club" and mail to the address shown on the Participant Application.*

Payment schedule: \$1500 with application. \$1050 due on Oct. 1, 2019. Balance of \$1000 due on Feb. 1, 2020.

CANCELLATION POLICY: The AMC Adventure Travel cancellation policy is based on the intent that your cancellation may not raise the cost to the other participants or to the leaders. If expenses already incurred on your behalf, and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of your registration and cancellation, cannot be applied to another suitable participant, they will be assessed to you and subtracted from any refund. If the leaders are able to replace you, you may be charged a reduced or zero penalties. In some cases, this may not be determined until *after* the trip. Please refer to medical evacuation insurance info in the section above, "This Trip Includes." This is the **only** insurance provided in your AMC trip price.

Airline tickets may be non-refundable in accordance with the terms of the ticket you purchase for the trip.

Travel Insurance: *No one expects to cancel or interrupt a planned trip, or to incur costs due to emergency medical expenses or lost luggage. However, such events do occur. If you are at all concerned about this possibility, we recommend you purchase travel insurance. Policy information will be supplied to all participants upon acceptance into the trip. Or, you may use any travel insurance company of your choosing.*

Your AMC Leaders



Dick Cable has been an AMC-Adventure Travel leader for 10 years. He has led over 25 international hiking, biking, walking, and cultural trip to Asia, Europe, Africa, South America. He is retired from education and consulting. He is a personal trainer and fitness instructor and continues to teach when in CT. He lives part of the year in Spain. He is a bike and hike leader for AMC CT Chapter and Berkshire Chapter. His passions: gardening, biking, fitness, interior design, art, theater, and TRAVEL.

Janis Stahlhut, a lifelong outdoors enthusiast, has been an AMC-AT leader since 2009 and a CT Chapter hike & bike leader since 2007. She has led and co-led AT hiking, biking, kayaking and cultural trips in North



America, Europe, South America, and New Zealand. Janis prefers a kinder-gentler approach to the outdoors, planning trips in the easy-moderate activity range that include bits of cultural, historical, and naturalist experiences along the way. After 15 years as a marketing and public policy specialist for major telecommunications firms, followed by 15 years as an exercise-programming specialist, Janis now enjoys being retired. She stays busy teaching exercise classes part time, writing sparingly, and leading adventure travel trips. She is currently pursuing the healing arts as a volunteer at her local hospital. Included in her 15 minutes of fame, Janis boasts a walk-on tryout for the 2002 US Olympic Bobsled Team. The rest is history!

As leaders our goals for the group are to have fun, utilize and enhance your skills, and savor a unique environment at reasonable cost and in the company of other adventurers with similar interests. AMC Adventure Travel trips are volunteer run in a manner supportive of and consistent with the traditions, principles, and mission of the Club. Trip leaders encourage participant conduct consistent with Leave No Trace environmental and conservation principles and with all local regulations. Though AMC membership is not a requirement to participate, we hope that through your experience, you will be inspired to join and support an organization devoted to wilderness stewardship and appreciation of the natural world.

Please be aware that, in accordance with AMC AT policy, you are subsidizing the leaders' costs. Beyond this, the leaders are not allowed to realize any profit from this excursion. The trip price also includes an AMC administrative overhead fee to help cover the club's expenses of offering Adventure Travel excursions.

The price for this excursion is based on quotes or estimates obtained at the time the trip was submitted to the Adventure Travel Committee for approval, up to two years in advance. Trip participants will share any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases we incur. Our cost estimates are conservative, and so a refund is considerably more likely than a price increase. All AMC Adventure Travel trips are run on a non-profit basis and refunds, if any, are issued after the trip's financial accounting is complete.

For more information or an application package please contact: Dick Cable, r.cable@sbcglobal.net or Janis Stahlhut jstahlhut@me.com, 203-820-9275. If telephoning, please call between the hours of 9am and 9pm.



VOLUNTEER-LED EXCURSIONS WORLDWIDE