

AMA Waterways Christmas and New Year's Cruise Dec 25-Jan 1 2018

Dec 23-25 Private Pre Tour Munich for our Group: \$650 double and \$199 single occupancy. We arranged this pre tour for our group only. Friends and family may join us.

**De 22 Depart for Munich on flights arranged by us. Dec 23 Transfer on your own to our hotel in Munich (Eden Hotel Wolff or similar). Taxis are easy from the airport or contact our hotel for a car service: [conciierge@ehw.de](mailto:conciierge@ehw.de) Optional dinner. Dec 24 breakfast then walking tour of Munich. Afternoon free. Dinner together tonight. Dec 25 late morning or lunch time transfer to our ship in Vilshoven, 90 minutes away. We will check regarding embarkation times for the ship and at what time they do or don't they serve a light lunch for arriving passengers. Most cruises start with dinner.**

**A word about Munich, Southern Germany's well heeled and elegant capital. If you wish to attend church, some series are held midnight on Dec. 24. This might be an interesting experience; we suggest you speak with the concierge whose email is above**

Our hotel: <https://www.eden-hotel-wolff.de/english/>

DAY 1

EMBARKATION – VILSHOFEN, GERMANY

This evening meet your fellow passengers on board for the Welcome Reception and Dinner. (D)

DAY 2

VILSHOFEN – PASSAU

This morning you are free to explore Vilshofen's beautiful old town before cruising to Passau. This afternoon you will have a walking tour of this 2,000-year-old city, noted for its Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture, cobblestone streets, Rathaus, Domplatz and Residenzplatz squares, as well as St. Stephen's Cathedral. (B,L,D)

DAY 3

LINZ, AUSTRIA

The ship arrives this morning in Linz. Enjoy a walking tour of the second largest city in Austria or choose a guided bike tour that will show you around the Old City Center, along the Danube River, and past the ultra-modern Ars Electronica Center. Later, you will have a choice of three different excursions. The first option is an excursion to Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace, where you will take a walking tour of the historic center made famous by "The Sound of Music." The second option is an excursion to the Czech town of Cesky Krumlov, a wonderfully preserved medieval town nestled in the hills just over the Austrian-Czech border. The third option is a visit to the Austrian Lake District, the scenic Salzkammergut region. All three regions are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. (B,L,D)

DAY 4

## WEISSENKIRCHEN

Cruise through the narrow Strudengau this morning en route to Weissenkirchen. You have three choices of how to explore Dürnstein today. The first is a walking tour along the town's cobblestone streets followed by a visit to the magnificent Benedictine Abbey at Melk, one of Europe's largest and most famous monastic sites, home to religious relics and a library filled with medieval manuscripts. Alternatively, you may join a hike up to the fortress where Richard the Lionheart was once held for ransom, or enjoy an Apricots and Sweets tasting instead. Tonight, after dinner on board, enjoy a wine tasting at a local winery. (B,L,D)

## DAY 5 VIENNA

This morning, you will have a chance to savor the Baroque elegance of romantic Vienna through your choice of one of three different excursions. The first option is a panoramic tour of Vienna that guides you past the majestic Opera House, the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburg Emperors, Parliament, Town Hall and Vienna University. Afterwards, you will visit Vienna's historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and see St. Stephen's Cathedral, Graben and the world famous Spanish Riding School. The second option is a walking tour of Vienna's hidden treasures that takes you to secret places and sights like Ankeruhr, a whimsical Art Nouveau clock. Your third option is a guided bike tour along the Danube and through the Donaupark. This afternoon, you can join a guided bike ride to Klosterneuburg Monastery, or explore at your leisure. Be sure to sample some Viennese coffee and pastries. (B,L,D)

## DAY 6 BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

Enjoy a scenic morning cruise to Bratislava, where you will have three choices of excursions. The first is a walking tour that includes the Old Town Hall, Mirbach Palace and St. Martin's Cathedral. The second is a Slovakian Specialties tasting where you will enjoy a welcome glass of sparkling wine, sample a creamy soup made from sheep's cheese and learn how to prepare stuffed potato ravioli. Finally, you can also join a hike up to Bratislava Castle, which includes visits to the Castle Upper Terrace and Court of Honor. The remainder of the day is free to explore on your own. (B,L,D)

## DAY 7 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Your morning excursion includes sightseeing in the cities of Buda and Pest spread over both banks of the river. You will see famed Heroes' Square and Castle Hill, home to Fisherman's Bastion, Matthias Church and spectacular views of the Danube. Alternatively, you may also opt to join a hike up to Castle Hill on which you will see Buda Castle, Fisherman's Bastion and Parliament Square. After dinner, the ship will sail a special Illuminations Cruise past the glittering riverfront of Budapest. (B,L,D)

## DAY 8 BUDAPEST – DISEMBARKATION

Your cruise comes to an end as you prepare for your homeward flight. (B)

