



Europe River Cruise **Christmas on the Danube** **12 days from \$4999.**

Per person twin share from Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide or Brisbane

- Departure dates: 19 Dec 2016.



[Your tour inclusions and itinerary](#)

Included in the tour price, you get the following -

- Return economy airfares from Sydney to London with Qantas
- 2 nights Comfort Inn Hotel, Victoria Station.
- 3 nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast and 1 evening meal
- 6 nights' full board cruising on the MS Select Explorer
- Convenient local joining points
- Travel by Silver Service coach

Excursions

Included in the tour price, you get the following excursions included -

- Vienna - Charming Austrian capital
- Budapest - Grand imperial city of two parts
- Bratislava - Baroque palaces
- Durnstein & Wachau - Beautiful riverside scenery
- Passau - Pretty old town
- Würzburg - 'Pearl of the Romantic Road'
- Rhine Gorge - Fairytale castles
- Cologne - Capital of the Rhineland

Accommodation

Included in the tour price, you get the following accommodation -

Your Cruise Ship & Hotels

You will stay for six nights' full board on the 4-star MS Select Explorer, which combines classical comfort with an intimate and cosy atmosphere. The lounge and restaurant are spacious and light, with floor to ceiling windows for watching the passing scenery. Another great place to enjoy the sights is the fully covered Sky Lounge. Cabins are located on the Lower, Middle and Upper Deck. All cabins are equipped with individual air-conditioning and heating, T.V., safety deposit box and hairdryer.

Your overnight stays in Belgium and Germany will be in city-style hotels.

20 Dec

Arrive London, and overnight at the Comfort Inn Victoria Station for 1 night

21 Dec

Depart London Hotel, then travel onwards to Belgium for an overnight stay.

Dec 22

Continue by coach through Germany and into Austria to reach Vienna, where we join the MS Select Explorer for our six-night cruise

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast, Dinner*

Dec 23 - Vienna

Free time to explore Vienna at your leisure. Once the centre of the Habsburg Empire, Vienna's regal imperial past is still there to be seen in the many fine buildings and palaces. Our optional, guided sightseeing tour will show you the principal sights, including the home

where Johann Strauss composed the famous Blue Danube Waltz. We leave Vienna this evening and cruise this evening towards Budapest.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Christmas Eve - Budapest

We arrive this morning in Budapest. Enjoy a day of discovering the Hungarian capital. Our optional sightseeing tour captures many of the sights, including the Fisherman's Bastion, the Royal Palace, Parliament and St. Stephen's Basilica.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Christmas Day

Merry Christmas! Spend the morning in Budapest, before enjoying Christmas Day lunch as we cruise to Esztergom, where we make a brief stop this evening. Our cruise continues to Bratislava.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Boxing Day - Bratislava

We arrive in Bratislava, the Slovakian capital, where we spend most of the day. We include a brief orientation tour of the city, with its exquisitely renovated centre of Baroque palaces, fountains and romantic streets. We leave mid-afternoon and begin our cruise back westwards along the mighty Danube.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Dec 27 - Dürnstein

We arrive this morning in Dürnstein, in the heart of the Wachau region. See the 12th century castle, where Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned. Around midday, we cruise past the pretty town of Melk, dominated by the huge 900-year old Benedictine abbey.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Dec 28 - Passau & Würzburg

This morning we arrive in Passau, situated at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz Rivers. We disembark and enjoy free time in this delightful city. Enjoy a stroll through the cobblestone streets and narrow alleyways. We leave Passau and head by coach to Würzburg. The city is known as the 'Pearl of the Romantic Road' and is home to the 18th century Residenz Palace, the Romanesque St. Kilian Cathedral and the old Main Bridge. After spending time here, we continue to our overnight hotel in the Frankfurt area.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast, Dinner*

Dec 29 - Rhine Gorge & Cologne

We drive through the Rhine Gorge, passing the legendary Loreley Rock. Later spend time in the Rhineland capital, Cologne, before reaching our overnight hotel in Belgium.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast*

Day 13

Return home to London and overnight at the Comfort Inn Victoria Station.

- **Included meals:** *Breakfast*

Day 14

Transfer to London airport for your flights home to Australia.

Your Hotels and Cruise Ship

- You'll spend six nights cruising on the: The MS Select Explorer is an elegant river cruise vessel, which was built in the Netherlands in 2010. The 125.5 m long vessel combines spacious comfort with an elegant and cozy atmosphere. The MS Select Explorer has 77 cabins and 8 suites, which are located on 3 decks.
- Passengers can enjoy a range of areas and services whilst on board; whether it be relaxing in the grand piano bar/lounge, dining in the panoramic restaurant, making use of the library and computer space, or purely basking in the panoramic vistas on the sundeck, the MS Select Explorer has all the elements and flexibility to make it an unforgettable journey. On-board facilities include a well-equipped gymnasium, guest WIFI, private library with two guest computers and a wide range of entertainment, games and reading material. The grand piano bar/lounge and restaurant are spacious and light, with floor to ceiling windows and fully equipped bar.
- The fully-covered sky lounge allows for maximum comfort and viewing opportunities regardless of the weather conditions, and the vast sun deck means that all guests have the opportunity to cruise in style. The sun deck is also fitted with an electronically operated chair, which can transport guests easily from the upper deck level. The ship is also equipped with a modern lift that connects the three cabin decks, and allows easy access to deluxe, superior and standard cabins

- All cabins are very spacious and equipped with a flat screen TV, safety deposit box, hairdryer, E.U. /U.S power adaptors and separate bathroom with individual shower and toilet.

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Passau:

Water has quite literally shaped the picturesque town of Passau on the border with Austria. Its Altstadt is stacked atop a narrow peninsula that jabs its sharp end into the confluence of three rivers: the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz. The rivers brought wealth to Passau, which for centuries was an important trading centre, especially for Bohemian salt, central Europe's 'white gold'. Christianity, meanwhile, generated prestige as Passau evolved into the largest bishopric in the Holy Roman Empire. The Altstadt remains pretty much as it was when the powerful prince-bishops built its tight lanes, tunnels and archways with an Italianate flourish, but the western end (around Nibelungenplatz) has received a modern makeover with shopping malls centred around the hang-glider-shaped central bus station (ZOB). Passau is a Danube river cruise halt and is often bursting with day visitors.

Melk:

With its blockbuster abbey-fortress set high above the valley, Melk is a high point of any visit to the Danube Valley. Separated from the river by a stretch of woodland, this pretty town makes for an easy and rewarding day trip from Krems or even Vienna. Combine a visit with nearby Renaissance Schloss Schallaburg, 6km south of town, and you have yourself a day packed with architectural bliss.

Melk is one of the most popular destinations in Austria so you certainly won't be alone on its cobbled streets. It's also one of the few places in the Wachau that has a pulse in winter, making it a year-round option.

Vienna:

Vienna is packed with imperial history; at the same time it has exciting contemporary museums, lively eating and nightlife scenes, and many quiet corners to explore.

Imperial Grandeur: Few cities can boast the imperial grandeur of Vienna, once the centre of the powerful Habsburg monarchy. Lipizzaner stallions performing elegant equine ballet, the angelic tones of the Vienna Boys' Choir drifting across a courtyard, outrageously opulent palaces such as Schloss Belvedere and Schloss Schönbrunn, and the monumental Hofburg complex – as a visitor today, you feel grandeur everywhere in Vienna.

City of Music: Vienna is one the most musical cities in the world. This is partly due to the vast number of great composers and musicians who were born here or lived and worked here. Visiting Austria's capital therefore means experiencing the works of Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, Beethoven, Johann Strauss (both father and son), Liszt, Brahms, Bruckner and many others in venues like the Staatsoper and Musikverein. The music of Bach and Händel continues to be performed in Vienna's historic churches today, and Vienna's Collection of Ancient Musical Instruments, paired with a visit to the Haus der Musik, takes you deeper into the texture of music and how it is created. Venues for classical music are augmented by some great clubs and live rock and jazz places.

Budapest:

Straddling the Danube River, with the Buda Hills to the west and the Great Plain to the east, Budapest is a gem of a city.

In the Soak: The city is blessed with an abundance of hot springs. As a result, 'taking the waters' has been a Budapest experience since the time of the Romans. The choice of bathhouses is generous – you can choose among Turkish-era, Art Nouveau and modern establishments. Some people come seeking a cure for whatever ails them, but the majority are there for fun and relaxation – though we still maintain it's the world's best cure for what Hungarians call a macskajaj (cat's wail) – hangover.

Eat, Drink & Be Magyar: There's a lot more to Hungarian food than goulash, and it remains one of the most sophisticated styles of cooking in Europe. Magyars may exaggerate when they say that there are three essential world cuisines: French, Chinese and their own. But Budapest's reputation as a food capital dates largely from the late 19th and the first half of the 20th century and, despite a fallow period under communism, the city is once again commanding attention. So, too, are its excellent wines – from Villány's big-bodied reds and Somló's flinty whites to honey-gold sweet Tokaj.

Bratislava:

Proximity to nature gives Slovakia's capital its strongest flavouring. The Danube winds through town and cycle paths through its verdant flood plain beginning just outside the centre. Meanwhile, erupting a 30-minute walk from the train station are the densely forested Small Carpathians; the trailer to a mountainous extent that runs countrywide, virtually unimpeded by civilisation. Then there's ski runs and vineyards to amble among. The charming – if tiny – old town (starý mesto) is the place to start appreciating Bratislava. Stroll narrow pedestrian streets of pastel 18th-century buildings or sample the myriad sidewalk cafes under the watchful gaze of the city castle, harking back to medieval times. Done with the old? In with the new(er): the city boasts intriguing socialist-era architecture worth checking out and one of Eastern Europe's most spectacular modern art spaces. Contrasts like this are all part of Bratislava's allure.

Durnstein:

The pretty town of Dürnstein, on a supple curve in the Danube, is not only known for its beautiful buildings but also for the castle above the town where Richard I (the Lionheart) of England was once imprisoned. Busy with visitors in summer, Dürnstein completely shuts up shop over the winter. The Danube, which enters Lower Austria from the west near Ybbs and exits in the east near Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, carves a picturesque path through the province's hills and fields. Austria's most spectacular section of the Danube is the dramatic stretch of river between Krems an der Donau and Melk, known as the Wachau. Here the landscape is characterised by vineyards, forested slopes, wine-producing villages and imposing fortresses at nearly every bend. The Wachau is today a Unesco World Heritage site, due to its harmonious blend of natural and cultural beauty.

M/S Select Explorer



- Cabins are divided into 4 cabin types: Standard Cabins on the lower deck (14m²), fitted with two fixed porthole windows. Located on the split-middle deck, Comfort Cabins contain two fixed double windows (14m²); and Superior Cabins have two fixed panoramic windows (14m²).



On the upper deck, Deluxe Cabins (14m²) and Suites (21m²) both include a French balcony with a sliding door. Suites contain extra features such as private sitting area, DVD player and large flat screen TV, mini bar and 2 opening french windows. All cabins are very spacious and equipped with a flat screen TV, safety deposit box, hairdryer, E.U./U.S power adaptors and separate bathroom with individual shower and toilet.



Our exclusive focus is on supported travel arrangements which provide our customers with a breadth and depth of service complimented by local expertise that is simply unparalleled

How to book:

Our office is located in Abbotsford in Melbourne.

You can call our office on 1300 813391.

You can email us on, sonya@ditravel.com.au, mark@ditravel.com.au ,

You can call our office and make an appointment to come and meet with one of travel consultants.

Payment can be made by:

Credit card – there is 2% bank fee charged for all major credit cards that will be added to your tour cost at time of payment. We only accept visa and MasterCard.

You can also pay by cash or cheque by depositing these funds directly into our bank account at any Bendigo bank in Australia. There are no bank fees charged when you direct deposit the funds directly into our bank account.

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