



Cruise the Blue Danube & Celebrate Oktoberfest in Munich

Visit: Munich, Bavaria, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Passau, Regensburg, Linz, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest & More.

October 3-14, 2018

From **\$5699.00** per person from Moline shuttle to Chicago
Cabin allotment limited, please call Eskin Tours to reserve your space: 847-291-1510
For questions call: Bea Brasel at WQPT, 309-764-2400 x65031 be-brasel@wiu.edu



Exclusive Tour Features:

- Round trip motor coach transportation from Moline to O'Hare Airport
- Air transportation from Chicago to Munich and return from Budapest on regularly scheduled flights
- 3 nights of First Class hotel accommodations
- 7 nights of cruise accommodations aboard MS Silver II of Lueftner Cruises in the cabin category you select
- Breakfast daily on land
- Welcome dinner in Munich.
- Dinner plus Tyrolean evening with show and dinner in Seefeld, Austria
- Lunch in Salzburg
- Three meals daily while onboard the cruise including wine with every dinner.
- City tour of Munich
- Visit Oktoberfest in Munich
- Visit Linderhof Castle and Oberammergau
- Guided tour of Salzburg
- Guided tour of Innsbruck
- Shore excursion to Weltenburg Abbey and Melk Abbey
- City tour of Vienna, city tour of Budapest, and city tour of Bratislava
- Shore excursion of Danube Bend
- Current airline fuel surcharges subject to change
- Portage of one suitcase per person at hotel and cruise.

Not included: US and foreign departure taxes of \$190.00 per person, gratuity to cruise staff and guides, excursions marked optional.

\$5699.00 per person, Hayden Deck: outside cabin with 2 lower beds, private facility, panoramic window (doesn't open) on lowest deck.

\$6299.00 per person, Straus Deck: outside cabin with 2 lower beds, private facility, drop-down panoramic window, mini bar, on middle deck.

\$6574.00 per person, Mozart Deck: outside cabin with 2 lower beds, private, facility, drop-down panoramic window, mini bar, on Upper Deck.

"Day-by-Day Itinerary"

October 3 - Moline departure

Depart Moline in the afternoon by motor coach to Chicago where you board a regularly scheduled flight to Munich, Germany.

October 4 - Munich

Morning arrival in Munich, the capital of Bavaria Region in Germany. You are welcomed at the airport where you'll begin an orientation tour of Munich, which includes the Marienplatz with its new City Hall in Gothic-style architecture with chimes displaying a medieval tournament and dance; the famous Munich "Schaffelertanz"; the Karolinenplatz with the Obelisk, and the Koenigsplatz surrounded by classic buildings such as the Glyptothek and the State Gallery. Check in at your hotel for some rest before your welcome dinner in the evening. **(D)**

October 5 - Munich (Oktoberfest) – Innsbruck-Seefeld

One of the highlights of your visit to Europe is a visit to Oktoberfest. It is celebrated in Munich every year at this time. Held at the "Weis'n" Fair Grounds, it is the goal of millions of visitors from far and near to visit.

When you arrive at Oktoberfest you'll have a few hours to visit the ten huge festival tents of the 7 Munich breweries, where they welcome visitors with the tantalizing aroma of roasted almonds, sausages and barbecued chicken, and the lively Brass Bands add to the overwhelming sounds of the world famous festival. In the afternoon you continue by motor coach to the delightful town of Seefeld nestled in the heart of the Tyrolean Alps. Stop in Innsbruck, Austria on your way for a guided tour. Dinner is included this evening. **(B&D)**

October 6 - Seefeld - (Linderhof & Oberammergau Excursion)

Today you drive to Mittenwald, known for its violin industry in the style of the Old Italian school of Amati. Continue by way of Garmisch Partenkirchen to the Passion Play town of Oberammergau, where you will have the chance to purchase beautiful woodcarvings made by local craftsmen. After shopping, continue on to nearby Linderhof Palace for a guided visit. The Palace, set in the midst of the Ammergau Mountains, is perhaps the most interesting of the castles built towards the end of the nineteenth century by "mad" King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Return to Seefeld. **Enjoy dinner and a Tyrolean Show at a local restaurant. (B&D)**

October 7 - Seefeld/Salzburg/Passau – Embarkation

Today you check out of the hotel and begin your journey by motor coach to Salzburg, the city of "The Sound of Music", Mozart's birthplace and the setting for the film. Upon your arrival your guide will show you the main sights of this lovely city including St. Peter's Abbey (founded in 690); the fine Baroque Cathedral and Mirabell Palace with its beautiful gardens. There is free time for you to enjoy Salzburg on your own...you may wish to take the cogwheel railroad up to the massive fortress of Hohensalzburg, with wonderful views overlooking the city or stroll down the quaint Getreidegrasse with its fascinating shops, or visit Mozart's birthplace - now a museum with many of his early manuscripts and memorabilia. The old quarter of Salzburg, with its world famous Baroque architecture, is one of the best-preserved city centers north of the Alps and was adopted by UNESCO on its World Cultural Heritage list in 1997. After lunch (included) you continue to Passau, the Bavarian city in Germany, where three rivers meet. Board your Danube cruise ship **MS Silver II**, which will be your home for the next 7 nights. Welcome cocktail party before dinner is served on board. In the evening sail toward Regensburg. **(B, L, D)**

October 8 - Cruising Regensburg

This morning you dock in magnificent **Regensburg**, one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities. An **optional** walking sightseeing tour will show you the city's architectural highlights, including the Old Town Hall and the *Porta Pretoria*. After lunch you can join the **included** excursion to *Weltenburg Abbey*. The gorge is beautiful and the monastery, founded by Irish or Scottish monks in about 620 AD, is the oldest monastery in Bavaria. After a short tour of the abbey church, sample some famous dark Weltenburg beer, which is brewed in the oldest abbey brewery in the world. In the evening enjoy Bavarian entertainment on board the ship. **(B, L, D)**

October 9 - Cruising Passau/Linz

During breakfast the ship arrives at **Passau**. There is an **optional** walking tour around the old quarter of town. Join an **included** guided walking tour through Linz, the former cultural capital. After dinner the vessel casts off downstream towards the Wachau district. **(B, L, D)**

October 10 - Cruise Wachau Valley-Vienna

Early in the morning the ship reaches the Wachau district, having cruised through the narrow *Strudengau*, docking in **Melk/Emmersdorf**. Enjoy an **included** coach excursion through the Wachau, driving first to the 900-year-old Benedictine abbey of Melk. In the course of the guided tour you will see the bishops' rooms, the Emperor's gallery, the marble hall, the altars and the library. Afterward drive through the district's picturesque scenery to Dürnstein, one of the best-known wine villages in the Wachau district, set in a glorious position. At

the end of the tour you are invited to have a glass of wine at a local restaurant. Rejoin the ship at **Weissenkirchen** and during lunch the ship continues downstream to **Vienna** (Austria's capital), where it ties up in the evening. After dinner you can take an **optional** "Vienna at night" excursion where you drive through the *Wienerwald* to *Kahlenberg* followed by a drive through the traditional wine village of Neustift am Walde, where you visit a typical Heurigen pub. **(B, L, D)**

October 11 - Cruising Vienna

An **included** sightseeing tour of **Vienna** provides you with an overall impression of the city's most important sights, taking you along the Ringstrasse, into the Schwarzenbergplatz, passing by the Karlskirche and Vienna's stunning opera house. The last stop is at the city's famous St. Stephan's cathedral, where there will be time to see the inside. In the afternoon you can take an **optional** excursion to the Schoenbrunn Castle, one of Vienna's most beautiful buildings. After dinner you can attend an **optional** music performance called "The Sound of Vienna". Listen to the "Alt Wien" orchestra play popular pieces from Vienna's classical era. The vessel leaves Vienna after midnight. **(B, L, D)**

October 12 - Cruising Bratislava

The vessel continues the cruise downstream to Slovakia during the early hours, docking at Bratislava for the day. An **included** sightseeing tour of Bratislava reveals the city's major sights. From its 13th-century castle featuring breathtaking views over the countryside where three countries - Slovakia, Austria and Hungary - meet. In the afternoon consider an **optional** excursion to the Imperial Festival Palace Castle Hof. On the penultimate evening of the cruise the captain will be delighted to welcome you to a special dinner during which the ship's orchestra will entertain everyone with its spirited playing. **(B, L, D)**

October 13 - Cruising Danube Bend - Budapest

The ship arrives in Esztergom early in the morning and our **included** Esztergom-Szentendre excursion starts. Esztergom, the former residence of the kings of Hungary and seat of the Archbishop, is one of the highlights of this excursion. After visiting its impressive cathedral (Hungary's largest place of worship) we drive up to the imposing ruined fortress of Visegrad, from which there's a magnificent view of the "knee" of the Danube. You then drive along the bank of the Danube to the artists' village of Szentendre. After a stroll through this picturesque place the excursion continues to Budapest, where you rejoin the ship at midday. Budapest named "Queen of the Danube" is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. East meets West in this fascinating city, which has an amazing variety of shops and restaurants. In the afternoon, join the **included** city tour, first through Pest, past the Great Market Hall with its outstanding gourmet shops and stalls and past splendid Baroque buildings such as the Hungarian State Opera and the incomparable parliament building. The building finished in 1904 has become an emblem of the city. There's the opportunity for a photo stop at Heroes' Square, famous for its monuments to many Hungarian kings. Then cross the famous Chain Bridge into Buda and up to Castle Hill where you will visit St. Matthew's Church, and the famous Fisherman's Bastion. Enjoy the unforgettable view over the city before returning to the vessel. In the evening there'll be an **included** *cruise*, passing the magnificently floodlit buildings on both sides of the river and under the illuminated chain bridge. Enjoy a performance by a Hungarian folklore group on board. **(B, L, D)**

October 14 - Disembarkation – Budapest/Moline

Bid farewell to the cruise staff as you are transferred to the airport to board your flight back to Chicago arriving with pleasant memories of your journey on the Danube. Motor coach back to Moline. **(B)**

"Welcome Home"