Cruise Details

Name:	The Blue Danube - Westbound
Reference:	TAUCKRDW202705052027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Esprit
Regions:	Danube
Departs On:	05 May 27
Departs From:	Budapest
Arrives On:	16 May 27
Arrives At:	Regensburg
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Budapest (Hungary)

Tour begins: 5:00 PM, Budapest. A transfer is included from Budapest's Ferenc Liszt Airport or Keleti train station to your riverboat. Meet your fellow travelers and Tauck Directors, and learn about the upcoming days, ahead at a welcome toast this evening prior to your first dinner aboard ship.

Arrives On: 05 May 27

Day 2: Budapest (Hungary)

Budapest is split into "Buda" and "Pest" by the Danube River. This morning, explore the Pest side of the city on a tour including City Park and Heroes' Square – bounded by some of the finest architectural works in Hungary – and a special visit to the opulent State Opera House, opened in 1884, with its royal boxes, gilded vaulted ceiling, exquisite murals and three-ton chandelier. Later, you have a choice of walking tours that focuses in Budapest. The afternoon is free for you to

pursue what interests you most. After dinner, you can join your Tauck Director for an evening stroll into town to get a taste of Budapest's vibrant evening atmosphere.

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 3: Budapest (Hungary)

Head up to Castle Hill, a UNESCO World Heritage Site overlooking the Danube on the Buda side of the city, for a choice of sightseeing. Enjoy a guided visit to the Hungarian Parliament, the third largest parliament building in the world. Afterward, embark on a themed walking tour with your local guide that focuses on sites and events involved in the 1956 Hungarian Revolution during the Cold War "Iron Curtain" era, including stops at Parliament Square, the Embassy and St. Stephen's Basilica (Bazilika). Alternatively, visit the famed Szechenyi Bath Spa. Reboard your riverboat this afternoon, and begin to cruise the Danube River, bound for Bratislava, Slovakia.

Arrives On: 07 May 27

Day 4: Bratislava (Slovakia)

Our resident expert takes you inside contemporary Slovakia and Bratislava for a look at the region's politics, economy, religion, social order, preservation and emergence of the arts. After lunch aboard the riverboat, you'll have a choice of exploring Bratislava's cobblestoned, vehicle-free historic city center on a walking tour – seeing 17 centuries of history eloquently chronicled in its 13th-century Old Town Hall, Baroque Habsburg-era palaces, the Opera House, Slovak Philharmonic Hall, and Hviezdosalv Square – or setting off on a bicycling excursion through the city's "Iron Curtain Area." Back on board the riverboat, dinner tonight introduces you to a glimpse of daily life in Slovakia with a taste of regional cuisine and an a performance by a talented troupe of Slovak dancers.

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 5: Vienna (Austria)

Your riverboat arrives this morning in Vienna, where local guides join you for an introductory motor coach ride along the Ringstrasse, the grand boulevard that encircles the historic center and showcases many of the city's most significant landmarks. Passing stately palaces, museums, and civic buildings, you'll gain an overview of Vienna's imperial past before continuing on a choice of guided city walks. These walking tours explore different corners of the city and include a tasting of local specialties, offering a chance to experience Vienna's culture through both its streets and its cuisine. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is yours to enjoy at leisure. You may choose to visit one of Vienna's outstanding museums, stroll through historic neighborhoods and cafés, or head to the Vienna Prater, home to its famous Ferris wheel and expansive parkland. Whether you prefer cultural discovery or relaxed exploration, the city offers many ways to shape your time here.Please Note: To preserve your sightseeing experience in Vienna and maximize our time there,

we may rotate our activities on Days 5 and 6 on some departures. Your Tauck Director will advise accordingly.

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 6: Vienna (Austria)

A choice of sightseeing this morning features a tour of the Habsburgs' Schönbrunn Palace, an architectural masterpiece and Austrian cultural treasure, or Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, one of the world's most acclaimed art museums located in a palatial building on the historic Ringstrasse. After an afternoon at leisure to explore Vienna as you wish, join us this evening, we invite you to attend our private Imperial Evening in the opulent Palais Pallavicini, a private Baroque palace in Vienna that film buffs may have spotted in the 1940s film noir classic The Third Man (the evening of the event is subject to change). Welcome cocktails and dinner precede an unforgettable evening of musical performance celebrating the legacy of the composers who made Vienna Europe's center of music during the Habsburg era. Tonight, your ship charts a course toward Durnstein.

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 7: Dürnstein (Austria)

Wake up in Dürnstein for a closer look at its 16th-century Baroque houses and 13th-century Romanesque church on a walking tour along cobblestone streets; you may also choose to tour a local monastery followed by a wine tasting at an authentic Austrian tavern, or take a bicycle ride. Enjoy some free time in this charming riverside town, perhaps taking an invigorating climb up the steps to the ruins of Kuenringerburg, a hilltop castle above the town where Richard the Lionhearted was held for ransom during the Crusades.Back aboard, you'll continue to cruise the Danube River through the Wachau Valley, Austria's lush wine-growing region that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its well-preserved medieval landscapes, to Linz.

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 8: Linz (Austria)

Your boat stays docked in Linz today, with a choice of how you spend your day – full-day excursions to Salzburg (Austria), or Cesky Krumlov in the Czech Republic, or remaining in Linz. A setting for The Sound of Music, a Salzburg walking tour explores Old Town, Mirabell Gardens, and Mozart's birthplace.; enjoy time on your own to have lunch and experience the sights as you wish. Alternatively, travel to Cesky Krumlov; graced with an incredibly well-preserved medieval heritage and charming ambiance, the town has earned its coveted designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its historic importance and physical beauty. A walking tour takes you to part of Krumlov Castle; it's worth climbing the many steps to see firsthand the medieval, Renaissance and Rococo

design found inside, along with the stunning views of the town below. Return to the riverboat for dinner followed by an evening performance by the classical trio, Donau 3Klang.

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 9: Engelhartszell an der Donau (Austria)

Wake up this morning in Engelhartszell, a picturesque town on the Danube in Upper Austria. Following a visit to a local private home for coffee, sweets, and homemade cake, choose between a walking tour of town featuring 18th-century Engelhartszell Abbey and Danube World, or a guided visit to the Schütz Art Museum, whose collection focuses on Austrian Classical Modernism and avant-garde art, including works by Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, and Oskar Kokoschka. After lunch aboard the riverboat, you may choose to join an optional bicycle excursion along the Danube (a fairly rigorous ride recommended for experienced cyclists only) before continuing your cruise this afternoon to Linz. Take in the views from the sun deck, lounge, or the windows of your outside cabin as your riverboat glides into Germany, bound tonight for your final destination, Vilshofen; enjoy a farewell toast followed by dinner onboard this evening.

Arrives On: 13 May 27

Day 10: Regensburg (Germany)

Disembark your ship in Vilshofen for a choice of excursions. One brings you to the Bavarian town of Regensburg for a walking tour led by a local guide that visits the Steinerne Brücke (a medieval stone bridge over the Danube), towering Dom St. Peter, and the remains of the town's Roman wall before venturing to Prague. Alternatively, journey to Prague for a visit to one of its hidden gems - the Strahov Monastery! Your time here also includes a short walk through Hradcany Castle, the largest ancient castle in the world. Following your excursion, enjoy a light lunch and check into your hotel in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic and the "City of 100 Spires." The remainder of the day is free; the city's many fine restaurants and cafés feature a wide range of cuisines... and some of the best schnitzels, goulashes, strudels, dumplings and beer the region has to offer.

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 11: Prague (Czech Republic)

Your explorations of Prague start this morning with a choice of walking tours through Prague's ethereal Old Town. You'll have the option to choose between either a longer tour featuring the Museum of Communism and longer stops at the Old Town's numerous historical sites; an abbreviated version of that same tour, ending in the the Old Town Square for time to explore the city on your own or, you may choose to embark on a walking tour of the city's poignant Jewish sites in Josefov, the historic Jewish Quarter (ask at booking about dates that cannot visit inside the Jewish Heritage sites as they are closed Saturdays and on Jewish holidays; in those cases,

alternate sightseeing will be offered). Tonight, cap a memorable trip with a truly royal evening that's another Tauck Exclusive; join us for a farewell reception, tour and dinner at 16th-century Lobkowicz Palace at Prague Castle. Immerse in an evening of classical cultural treasures – and see for yourself how music and art played an important role in the aristocratic world of the Lobkowicz family.

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 12: Regensburg (Germany)

Tour ends: Prague, Czech Republic. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from Andaz Prague to Praha Hlavni Nadrazi train station or Václav Havel Airport Prague. Please allow a minimum of 3 hours for check-in.

Arrives On: 16 May 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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