



Austria - Walking The Blue Danube

In Wachau the Danube is even more beautiful than elsewhere. The mild climate and steep slopes make it an ideal place for vineyards and fruit growing. This is a varied walking tour which leads past steep rocks, across gentle hills and through fragrant vineyards. Little hamlets dot the landscape and apart from the famous wine you can try some of the region's delicious apricot specialities. Relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery and gentle walks.

Duration: 8 days, 7 nights

Day 1 - Arrive at Krems and check in to your hotel. Take some time to explore the town, which sits at the confluence of the Danube and Krems rivers. Mentioned in 995 as an imperial fortress it was chartered in the 12th century when it had a mint. Of its medieval fortifications, the Steiner Gate, the Pulverturm (Powder Tower), and the Gozzoburg remain.

Day 2 - Krems to Dürnstein. Walk up through vineyards to the tower. Look back at the views over the Blue Danube, Krems and the impressive Göttweig Monastery. Cross the hills to the ruins of Dürnstein castle or take the picturesque Talgrabensteig via Talweg to Dürnstein.

Day 3 - Dürnstein to Weißenkirchen. Take the ferry from Dürnstein to Rossatz. The walk now takes you either through the largest apricot-growing region of Austria along old tracks up to Seekopf with striking views of the Alps or along the Danube, through orchards to the ferry. In Weißenkirchen there is a themed trail leading through vineyards.

Day 4 - Rest day in Weißenkirchen. Surrounded by sunny vineyards and green forests the mighty Gothic church of Weißenkirchen is a remarkable sight. The wine growing villages of Joching, Wösendorf and St Michael, together with Weißenkirchen, form the largest wine growing area in Wachau. Take the time to visit museums, explore the beautiful walking trails or relax and take a boat trip on the Danube. Enjoy a glass of Wachauer wine in one of the wine taverns.

Includes:

- 7 overnights, including breakfast
- Luggage transfer
- Boat cruise from Melk to Krem
- Tour pack with route sheets
- Hotline.

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Continued from previous page...

Day 5 - Weißenkirchen to Spitz via the observation platform at Buschandlwand. Leave Weißenkirchen along the wine trail, past picturesque wine cellars and climb up to Seiber. Walk through the forest to Buschandlwand where the observation platform gives you stunning panoramic views. Continue on to the famous wine growing community at Spitz. An alternative route missing the climb to the platform takes you through vineyards into Spitz.

Day 6 - Spitz to Melk. Up to the ruins of the fortress of the robber barons of Aggsbach. Cross the Danube by ferry to Maria Langeegg. Here you follow St. Jacob's trail up to the ruins of Aggsbach fortress. Visit the fortress which was built at the beginning of the 12th century and was subsequently the home of the 'robber barons' Jörg Scheck von Wald in 1429 and Georg von Stain in 1463. Here you can have a snack while you take in the wonderful scenic views across the Danube. Continue down into Aggsbach where you catch the coach to Melk.

Day 7 - Melk to Krem – Danube Cruise. Visit the impressive monastery with its beautiful grounds before you board the ferry. During the cruise back to Krem you will see the highlights of the tour; the vineyards, Spitz, Durnstein and Krem.

Day 8 - Depart.

Hotel price: £550.00

(Prices are per person, based on two people sharing twin or double room).

Dates for 2011:

Daily arrivals from 23rd April until 9th October inclusive.

Walk info:

You walk mainly on forest tracks and footpaths.

The climb up to the observation platform can be steep.

The tour offers a perfect blend of nature, culture and culinary delights.