



## From Passau in Germany to Vienna in Austria

This classic route along the river Danube from Passau to Vienna is one of the most beautiful cycle tours in Europe. Nobody will forget the unique natural beauties of Schlogener Schlinge, the legendary Nibelungen country or the famous Wachau with its vineyards and apricot orchards.

History has left visible traces along the route: ruins and fortresses, former settlements of Danube skippers and traces of the Roman civilization. You will notice the changes from Bavaria through Upper Austria and Lower Austria to Vienna. Homemade specialities vary from rustic to sophisticated and beverage preferences change from beer to cider and wine. This route is ideally suited for cycling novices or the whole family.

**Duration:** 8 days, 7 nights

**Day 1** - Arrive at Passau or Schärding and check into your hotel. Then explore and enjoy the flair of Passau, the three river city, or the baroque city of Schärding. These two cities are well connected by train. Passau is in the state of Bavaria on the Austrian border. It is situated at the confluence of the Danube, the Inn, and the Ilz rivers. Built on a narrow rocky tongue of land between the Danube and the Inn, Passau faces wooded cliffs and the Oberhaus Fortress on the left bank of the Danube.

**Day 2** - Passau or Schärding to Schlögen, St. Agatha, or Wesenufer approx. 40 – 60 km. Stroll through the city of Passau, visit the dome and listen to a concert on the world's biggest church organ (except on Sundays and holidays). Cycle along the River Danube via Oberzell to Engelhartzell, Austria's sole Trappist monastery. Continue through the Donauleiten nature reserve on the north bank to Schlögener Schlinge. Here granite stone was too hard an obstacle for the river to pass through and the water had to make a 180° bend.

**Day 3** - Schlögen, St. Agatha or Wesenufer to Linz approx. 55 km. Cycle through the fascinating double bend between Schlögen and Aschach passing many ruined fortresses. The cultural highlight of today is the Wilhering monastery. In the evening enjoy a stroll through historic old town of Linz, capital of Upper Austria. We suggest you take a ride on the canary yellow Linz City Express to get a real good view of this cultural capital.

**Continued overleaf...**

### Includes:

- Welcome meeting
- Overnights, including breakfast.
- Bike hire
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel (1 piece of luggage per person, max. 20 kilos)
- 1 ferry crossing (Au-Schlögen) incl. bicycle
- Three-river-cruise in Passau
- Ride with Linz City Express
- 1 Jause in Wachau (wine, bread with bacon, piece of Wachauer cake)
- Train fare Vienna to Passau (transfer of own bicycles not included)
- Tour pack including route, points of interest, ferry timetables and city maps
- Hotline



## Continued from previous page...

**Day 4** - Linz – Perg, Grein or surroundings, approx. 50 km. Today you can take the opportunity to detour to St. Florian, a baroque style Augustine monastery and Enns, the oldest city in Austria. Explore the main square with its 60m high city tower from the 16th century and the Lauriacum museum with its remarkable archaeological collection. Cycle along the river past Mauthausen, Au on Danube, Perg, Mitterkirchen and then on to Grein or Bad Kreuzen. Above the town of Grein is the imposing Greinburg castle, which now houses the Austrian Shipping Museum. The castle, built in the 15th century, has a charming 17th century arcaded courtyard. In the Stadtplatz there is an unusual little Rococo theater (1791) with seating for only 163; plays are still performed in the summer months.

**Day 5** - Perg or Grein to Marbach or surroundings, approx. 50 km. Once a much dreaded section feared by Danube skippers but now a harmless place to cycle. Passing through the “Strudengau” you arrive at Ybbs, former trading centre on the Danube. The route continues, passing Maria Taferl, a popular and beautifully located pilgrim’s church, attracting thousands of pilgrims every year.

**Day 6** - Marbach or surroundings to Krems, approx. 65 km. One of the highlights of the Danube cycle trail is the famous Wachau. You cycle to Melk, ‘the gateway to Wachau’, with its imposing Benedictine monastery. Continue

through vineyards and orchards past the wine-growing towns of Spitz, Weißenkirchen and Durnstein to Krems, a 1,000 year old town! Here a wine tasting will be arranged for you.

**Day 7** - Krems to Vienna approx. 80 km (can be shortened by train). Leave Krems, passing the Goettweig monastery you cycle to Tulln, the flower city, via Traismauer. The Vienna Forest closes in on the river. If you are in no hurry to leave you can book some extra days to enjoy Vienna and its surroundings. Visit Klosterneuburg with the art treasures and private art museum, explore the Schoenbrunn castle and walk in Empress Elisabeth’s footsteps or visit Belvedere castle and enjoy a horse and carriage tour of the centre. The last 25 km from Tulln to Vienna can be covered by train (individual organisation).

**Day 8** - Depart or extra days.

### Price:

**Cat A. 4\* hotels (possible 1 x 3\*) £660.00**

Single supplement £185.00

**Cat B. 4\* and 3\* hotels £590.00**

Single supplement £135.00

**Cat C. Guest houses and inns £530.00**

Single supplement £125.00

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

**Additional nights are available on request in Vienna, Linz, Passau and Schaerding. Please contact us via email:**

**info@compass-holidays.com or alternatively phone us on +44 (0) 1242 250642**

### Dates for 2011:

Daily arrival from 9th April to 8th October.

### Ride info:

The route follows the river Danube, mainly flat or slightly descending, almost 100% on dedicated cycle path without any motor traffic.

There are only very short parts on quiet minor roads. Simply a masterpiece of a bicycle tour as it should be.

This tour is suitable for the novice cyclist or the whole family.