

Grand Capitals of the Danube



TRIP OVERVIEW

This eight-day voyage takes you along the dramatic Danube river, renowned for its magnificent landscapes and sweeping hillside vistas, as you follow this mighty waterway into three capital cities: Vienna in Austria, Bratislava in Slovakia and Hungary's Budapest. Enjoy our guided city tours, which includes tours of Vienna Melk's cinematic hilltop abbey.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip along the Danube. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our river cruise. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.

Day 1: UK to Vienna D

Depart the UK on your scheduled flight to Vienna, where you will board your vessel at 18:00 and enjoy a welcome cocktail and crew presentation. This evening, cruise through the night to Melk, enjoying the moonlit scenery as you sail.

Day 2: Melk and Dürnstein B/L/D

Arrive early this morning for a tour of Melk, a small riverside town that has been of strategic importance to empires since the Romans and lies an hour away from Vienna. While the town offers a small but picturesque historic centre, its main draw is the 11th century monastery of Melk Abbey, perched on the hillside overlooking the town. Visit the abbey and explore its marble halls and intricate frescos. In the afternoon, sail through the Wachau Valley, possibly the most dramatic and picturesque section of the Danube characterised by forested slopes and fortresses dotting almost every bend in the river. Arrive in the wine region of Dürnstein where you'll disembark for a tour of this charming medieval town before returning to your ship and cruising onward to Bratislava.

Day 3: Bratislava B/L/D

Arrive in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava and take a guided tour around this city on the banks of the Danube. Bratislava has been the country's capital since its independence in 1993 and its architecture is a trip through a millennia of European history from the medieval and gothic old town, through baroque buildings and castles commissioned by Hungarian nobles, to renaissance finery and finally, the communist era blocks the represent it's more recent history. Cruise through the afternoon as you make your way to Kalocsa.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily are taken onboard the ship. Tables seat 6 people, so you'll be able to converse and socialise with new friends, whilst never feeling crowded together. Tea & coffee are available on board ship as well as unlimited soft drinks and alcoholic drinks, including a variety of wines & beer, both during meals and at the bar. (Premium brands are available at an extra cost).

Any dietary requirements and dislikes should be made known to our reservations staff at the time of booking.

On embarking the ship, you will be greeted by the captain, crew and staff and treated to welcome cocktails.

Day 4: Kalocsa and Puzsta B/L/D

Trace the river's path into Hungary and visit the prairie town of Puszt for a guided tour through the town and its sweeping grassland plains, where horse, sheep and buffalo often roam, and an impressive horse show. Return to your ship where you'll sail through the night toward Budapest.

Day 5: Budapest B/L/D

Take a guided tour of Hungary's sophisticated capital, with its intoxicating blend of beautiful Art Nouveau architecture, rickety trolley buses, traditional bathhouses and excellent, locally-produced wines.

Day 6: Esztergom B/L/D

The domed Basilica of Esztergom, which can be seen from miles away, announces your arrival into the city. Explore this charming city at your leisure, perhaps exploring the basilica and its surroundings, then enjoy an afternoon of cruising as you sail towards Vienna. Enjoy tonight's gala dinner on board.

Day 7: Vienna B/L/D

Vienna has been a cultural, artistic, and imperial centre of Europe for centuries and the legacy of the powerful Habsburg monarchy can be seen on every corner in baroque streets, imperial palaces, a masterpiece filled museums and renowned drinking and eating culture. Today, experience a full day in Vienna with a guided city tour which includes a visit to the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace, a former imperial summer residence that boasts 1,441 rooms. In the evening, an optional Viennese music concert is available (at a fee of £70 per person, to be pre-booked via our Customer Experience Team).

Day 8: Vienna to UK or extension B

After breakfast, disembark at 09:00 for your transfer to the airport and your return flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

SHIP INFORMATION

Ship information - 4★ MS Beethoven

Constructed in 2004 and refurnished in 2010, the elegant 4★ MS Beethoven hosts 90 well appointed cabins, some of which boast French balconies. During the day, soak up the sunshine on the large sun deck. For dining, the cruise ship features an attractive restaurant with delicious regional cuisine, you also have the spacious lounge bar complete with a dance floor in which to enjoy a cocktail.

Length: 110m long
Cabins 90 cabins

Width 11.40m wide
Passengers: 180 passengers

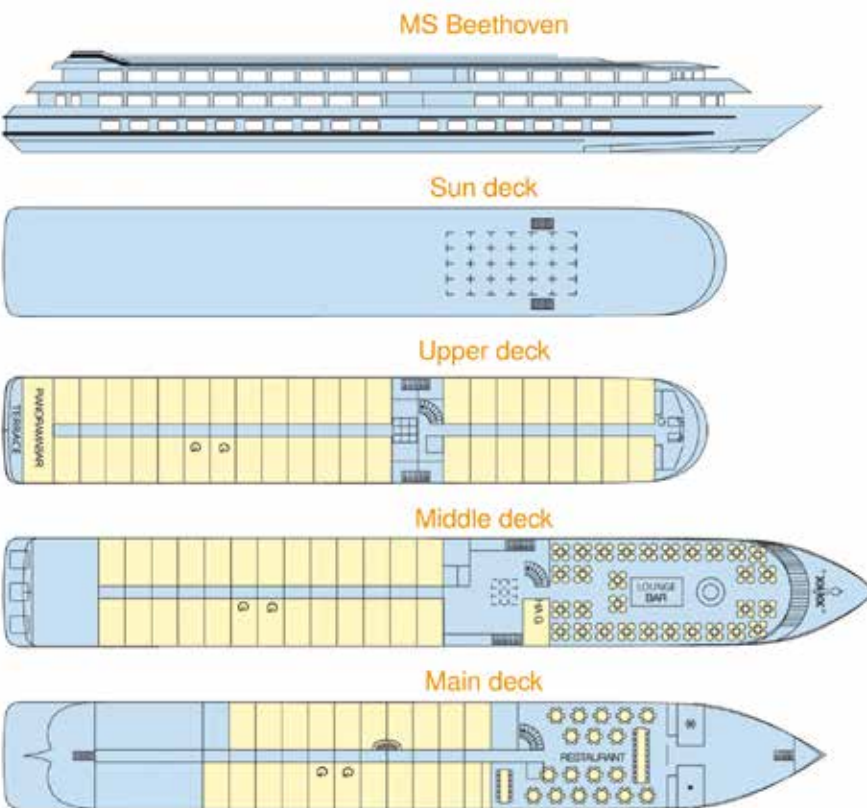
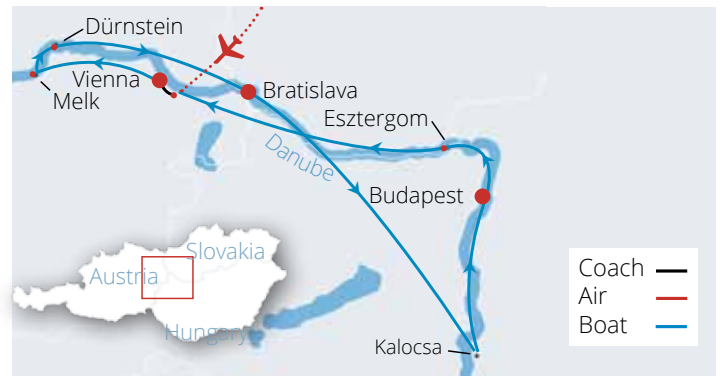
Facilities

- Lounge bar with a dance floor ■ Bar ■ Dining room ■ Large sundeck
- French balconies ■ Wi-Fi on board (Free in lounge bar and reception)

Ship departures for 4★ MS Beethoven

2 Sep 2023	20 Jun 2024	12 Sep 2024	24 July 2025
9 Sep 2023	11 Jul 2024	26 Sep 2024	14 Aug 2025
16 Sep 2023	25 Jul 2024	22 May 2025	28 Aug 2025
23 Sep 2023	15 Aug 2024	5 Jun 2025	4 Sep 2025
23 May 2024	29 Aug 2024	19 Jun 2025	11 Sep 2025
6 Jun 2024	5 Sep 2024	10 Jul 2025	25 Sep 2025

ROUTE MAP - Grand Capitals of the Danube



The Cabins

All cabins are equipped with shower and toilet, hairdryer, satellite TV, radio and safe.

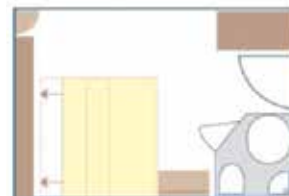
Upper deck: 42 cabins (40 twins, 2 cabins with a double bed (G))

Middle deck: 27 cabins (24 twins, 2 cabins with a double bed (G), 1 disabled cabin with a double bed (HA G))

Main deck: 21 cabins (19 twins, 2 cabins with a double bed (G)).

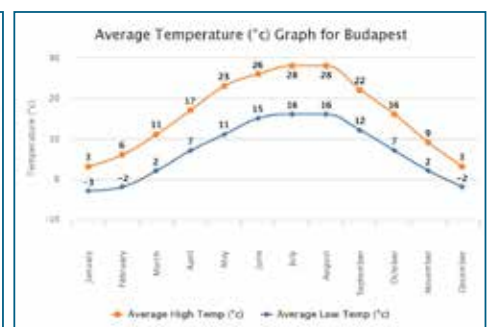
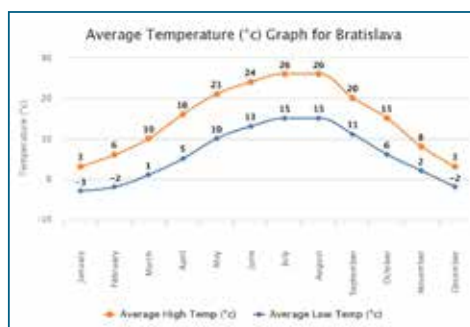
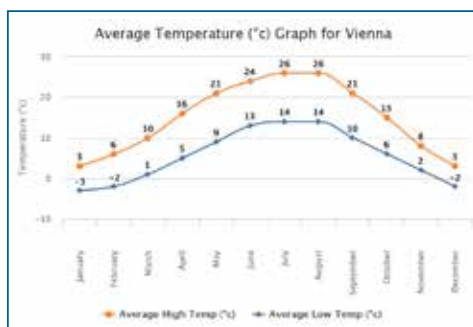
Final confirmation of your deck and cabin will be confirmed at booking. Please contact us if you have any queries.

Twin Cabin



WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



SHIP INFORMATION

Ship information - 5★ MS Vivaldi

This premium, three-decked ship has 88 well-furnished cabins, large windows and a spacious sun deck. MS Vivaldi is decorated in an elegant and contemporary style, offering the perfect place to relax as she cruises the river Danube.

Length: 110m long

Width 11.40m wide

Cabins 88 cabins

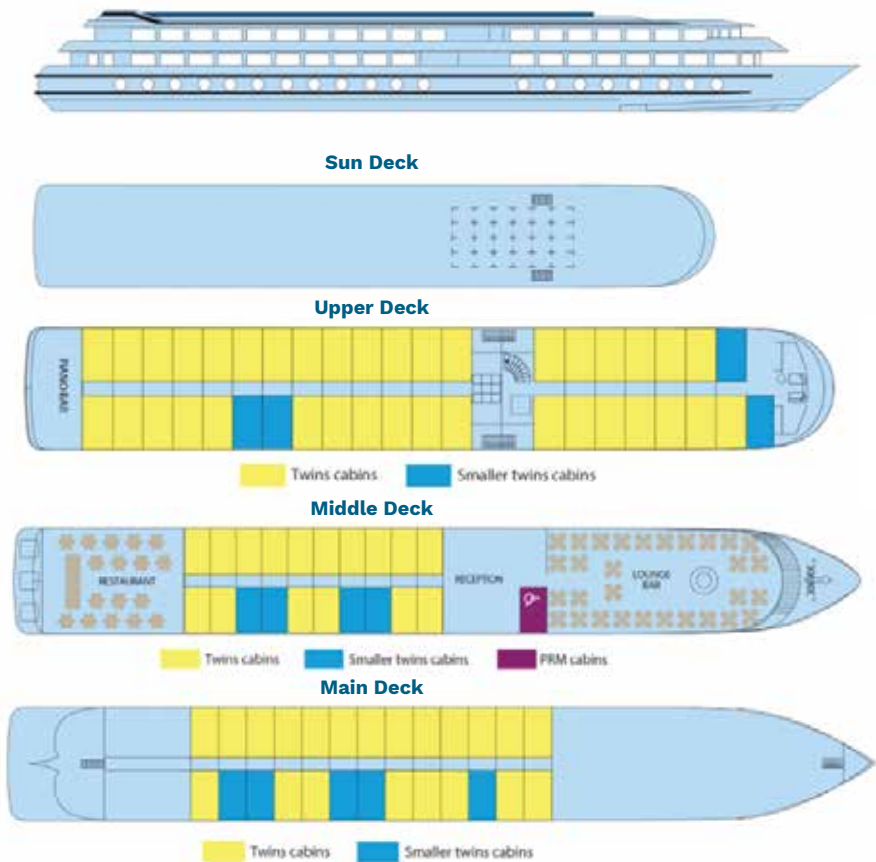
Passengers: 176 passengers

Facilities

- Lounge bar with a dance floor
- Bar
- Restaurant
- Sundeck
- Terrace
- Wi-Fi on board

Ship departures for 5★ MS Vivaldi

- 14 Oct 2023
- 13 Oct 2024
- 12 Oct 2025



The Cabins

All cabins are equipped with shower and toilet, phone (internal calls only), TV, towels, independent air-conditioning and safe.

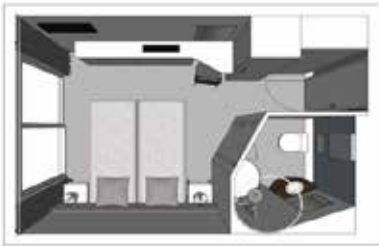
Main deck: 26 cabins (21 twins, 5 smaller twin cabins)

Middle deck: 21 cabins (16 twins, 4 smaller twin cabins and 1 disabled cabin)

Upper deck: 41 cabins (37 twins, 4 smaller twin cabins).

Final confirmation of your deck and cabin will be confirmed at booking. Please contact us if you have any queries.

Twin Cabin



SHIP INFORMATION

Ship information - 5★ MS Douce France

This premium ship has 55 well-furnished cabins and large bay windows on the upper deck where you'll find the lounge/bar and restaurant with their wide panoramic windows. MS Douce France is decorated in shades of pink with aubergine and anise colors in the common areas, whilst the cabins evoke a marine atmosphere. The sun deck is furnished with armchairs and sun loungers to allow you to relax while enjoying a panoramic view of the landscapes.

Width 10.1m wide

Passengers: 107 passengers

Facilities

- Lounge bar with a dance floor
- Restaurant
- Sun deck
- Fitness class on the sun deck
- Gift Shop
- Wi-Fi on board

Ship departures for 5★ MS Douce France

28. Jul 2025

11 Aug 2025

18 Aug 2025

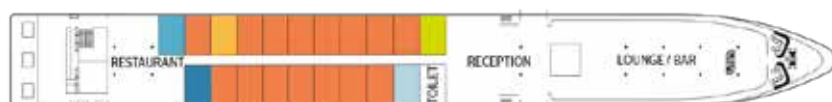
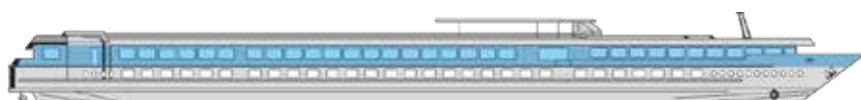
1 Sep 2025









Sun Deck

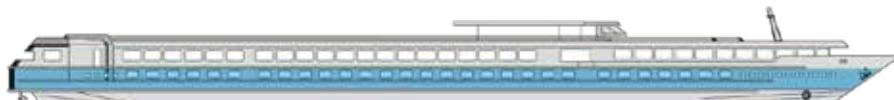


Upper Deck

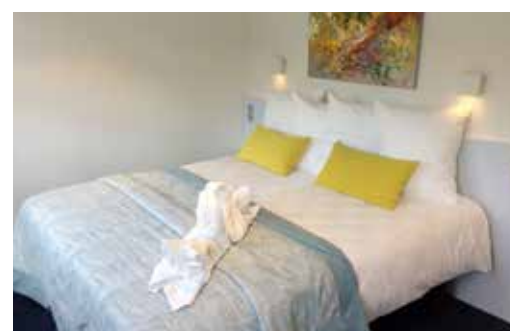


-  Double cabin Cat. A
  Double cabin Cat. B
  PRIM cabin Cat. B
 Single cabin Cat. A
  Single cabin Cat. B
 Suite Cat. B

Main Deck



- Twin cabin Cat. A
 Twin cabin Cat. B
 Twin cabin Cat. C



The Cabins

All cabins are equipped with a bathroom with shower and toilet, phone (internal calls only), TV, towels, independent air-conditioning, safe, hairdryer, Wi-Fi and a selection of bath products.

Main deck with high sliding windows: 35 cabins
(32 double cabins, 2 single cabins, 1 suite)

Upper deck: 20 cabins with French balcony, sliding windows (16 double cabins, 2 single cabins, 1 suite, 1 PRM).

Final confirmation of your deck and cabin will be confirmed at booking. Please contact us if you have any queries.

Standard double cabin



WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for British nationals travelling to Austria, Slovakia or Hungary. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Tour Guides

An English-speaking Cruise Director will be on board your cruise to help with any queries that you may have. While on excursions included in your itinerary, you will be accompanied by an English-speaking local tour guide. When exploring locally during your leisure time you will not be accompanied by a tour guide.

Shared cruise

Please note: your cruise is shared with international clients from other companies.

Tipping

Tipping is at your discretion. There is an envelope in your cabin for these purpose that can be handed to reception at the end of your cruise.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Austria, Slovakia and onboard ship is the Euro (€). The official currency in Hungary is the Hungarian Forint (HUF), however most places will accept Euros. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK, however cash machines are available in all cities to withdraw money in the local currency.

Personal Expenses

This cruise is All-Inclusive, so you will only need to take a little extra money with you to cover any premium drinks on board and souvenirs, drinks and snacks purchased when off the ship, as well as any optional excursions you wish to book.

Credit Card Information

Credit cards are accepted on board ship and throughout all major cities.

Electricity Supply

The electricity supply is 220V. You will need a European two pin round plug adapter in Austria, Hungary and Slovakia.

Itinerary Changes

The Captain and CroisiEurope reserve the right to alter/modify an itinerary at any time, should safety or external circumstances make this necessary, changes are also subject to tides. Some of the highlights may only be seen on optional excursions at an additional cost, or by exploring independently.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This river cruise is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves moderate days of walking on cobble streets and getting on and off the cruise ship. This cruise is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Passport Information

Your Passport Information is required for this cruise, including place of birth. This information is required at least 70 days prior to your departure. Failure to provide this information on time may result in your booking being cancelled with loss of deposit.

DRESS CODE & WHAT TO PACK

Dress Code

There is no official dress code on board, however you'll be most comfortable during the day in smart casual clothing. You may wish to bring items that do not wrinkle easily as there is no iron provided on board ship. There are also no laundry facilities available. Bring a variety of clothing for the weather expected on your cruise, including light clothing and bathing suits for hot weather, a jumper or jacket for cooler weather and of course a raincoat and/or small umbrella.

What to Pack

- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers for sightseeing excursions
- Sun cream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Sunglasses
- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Vienna you will be met just after the Customs office by a representative from our local transfer agent, **TUI Incoming Services**. The Mercury Holidays/TUI Incoming Services representative will show you to your transfer vehicle and escort you to your boat. If you need to contact TUI Incoming Services, during your stay the details are:

TUI Incoming Services

Telephone - 0043 508 847 880

Emergency contact information

Please find below the **CroisiEurope** emergency contact details for the **MS Beethoven**: 0033 7 85 74 87 54

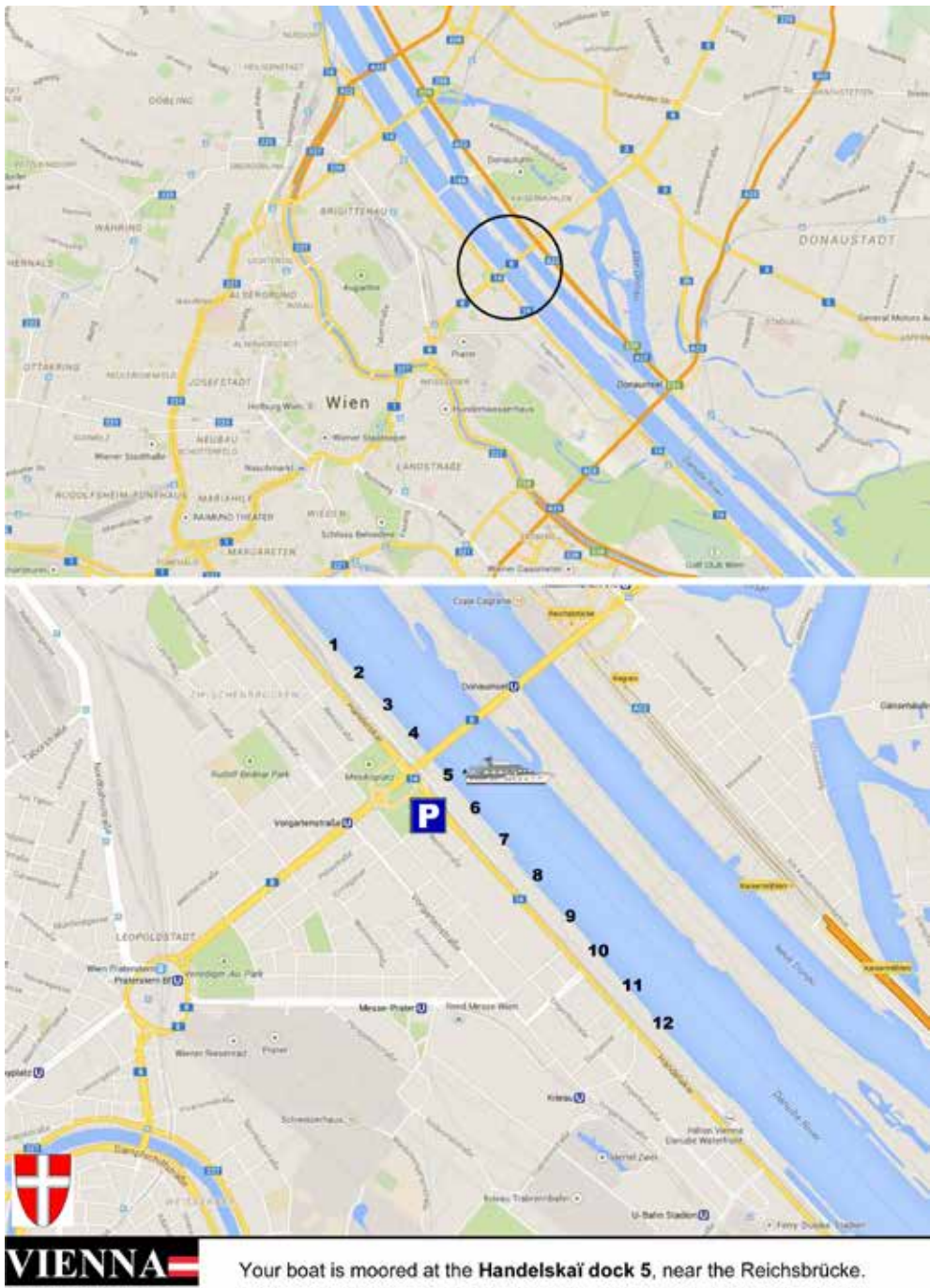
EMBARKING & DISEMBARKING

Embarkation Time: 18:00
Disembarkation Time: 09:00

If your arrival is before this time, you will be transferred to the docking area where you will be able to leave your luggage. You are then free to explore the city at your own pace until it is time to board your ship.
If your return flight is after 9am you will be able to leave your luggage onboard the ship (until 14:00pm) and spend your time exploring the city until your return airport transfer. Please note: from 9:00 am on day of disembarkation drinks will not be available in the lounge bar and there will be no other cruise services on board.

BOARDING DETAILS

Please see below for details of your boarding quay. Your cruise company is **CroisiEurope**.



Please Note: In the unlikely event that your cruise does not operate, then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available, should the alternative dates offered be unsuitable.

Vienna City Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Enjoy an extended 2-night stay in Austria's beautiful capital - Vienna, whose artistic heritage, imperial history and baroque architecture spectacularly characterise this vibrant 'City of Music'.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your beach extension to Vienna.

Hotel (2 nights)

Your stay in Vienna will take place at the **4★ Hotel Zeitgeist** on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

The Hotel Zeitgeist has a good central location only 300m from the main station and the Underground. The hotel has a bar, restaurant, Gym, Wi-Fi, air-conditioning + sauna. The rooms have a fridge, kettle, TV, air-conditioning and free Wi-Fi.

Hotel Information

4★ Hotel Zeitgeist

Address: Sonnwendgasse 15, 1100 Wien, Austria
Tel: 0043 1 90265

Tour Guides

Your stay in Vienna is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Transfers are included.

Transfers

Arrival transfer: 09:00am. Transfer from your ship to The Hotel Zeitgeist.
Supplier: A. C. CLASSY TRAVEL KG 0043 676 5907616

Return transfer: Pick up at 10:00am at The Hotel Zeitgeist to Vienna airport when booked on BA701 VIE 1410.
Supplier: AD Mietwagen Service GmbH 0043 122 82215 - Details to be reconfirmed at hotel desk.

Meals

Your stay will be on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs and drinks.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**