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Vineyard Valley: Cycling Austria's Danube

Dates: June 2-11, 2019

Tour Leader(s): Amy Schmied & Bill Fehrenbach



Adventure Tours
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Overview

Explore the breathtaking landscapes, culture, and cuisine of Austria's famous Danube River Valley by bike and barge. Taste world-famous wines, feast on traditional local foods, visit historic castles, and indulge in the offerings of some of Europe's finest chocolatiers. This tour will include options for bike enthusiasts as well as options for those that would prefer to explore by foot and boat. After arriving in Munich, Germany we will travel by train to board our floating hotel in the historic 'Altstadt' dockyard of Passau. Once aboard, we'll settle into our cozy, yet modern cabins, explore the boat, and check-out our bicycles. Each day, travelers will have the option to disembark with the Tour Leaders to pedal the paved-cycling trail to the next destination or to relax and take a break, remaining on board to meet the cyclists at the next stop(s) to explore some of the Danube's most charming winemaking villages and towns. And a tour of Austria wouldn't be complete without a stop in the capital city of Vienna for a historic bike outing, sightseeing, and of course, sipping some 'Viennese Melange' with our 'Sacher-torte' at one the city's most famous coffeehouses.

Tour Leaders

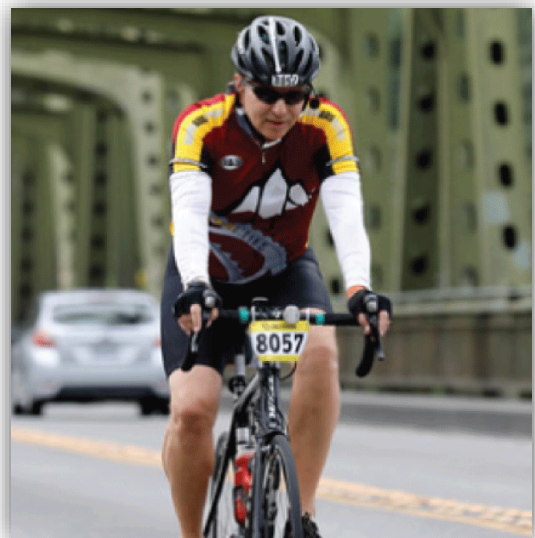


Amy Schmied

In addition to being the Communications Specialist for UWSP Adventure Tours, Amy has over 10 years of tour guiding/leadership experience in both the US and abroad. She holds certifications as a Wilderness First Responder and in Mass Disaster Care. Within the US, she has led tours at several National Parks including Glacier, Zion, Bryce, Arches, Hot Springs, Badlands and more as well as 8 canoe tours within the BWCA. While living and working in Austria as a professional cycling guide, Amy also had the opportunity to explore Croatia, Bosnia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Germany, Lichtenstein, and more. She can't wait to show you various secret local 'hot-spots' along the Danube and is looking forward to being your Tour Leader and German translator!

Bill Fehrenbach

Bill has been bicycling most of his life and has led bicycle tours in Michigan, Indiana, and California for Michigan-based *Bicycle Cruises*, understanding the needs of the novice-to-intermediate cyclist. He has done many multi-day group and fund-raising rides in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Montana, and around the Puget Sound in Washington. He and his wife Mary bicycled across Mallorca as travelers with UWSP Adventure Tours and also traveled to Australia (although his big sister did not allow him to ride a bike in Sydney!). Bill teaches Statistics as an Associate Lecturer at UWSP, commutes daily by bicycle year-round, and is a member of the Stevens Point Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Not to mention, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Portage County and a Pilot for Cycling Without Age Stevens Point. Bill is looking forward to returning to Europe and put his vast array of cycle leadership and bike repair expertise to use to make your tour a worry-free experience!



Itinerary

Day 1 (Sunday, 2 June): Arrival in Munich, GERMANY

Travelers arrive at Munich Airport (MUC) and meet the Tour Leaders. After collecting luggage, the group will travel via train to Passau and spend the evening strolling the historic riverfront of Passau's 'Altstadt' and enjoying a traditional German dinner. *Meals included: D. Overnight in Passau.*

Day 2: Historic Passau & Boarding the Boat

After enjoying breakfast at the hotel, the morning will be free to explore Passau. We'll head down to the 'Donau Lande' (Passau's historic port) to board our river-barge, settle into our cabins, and meet our captain, while we cruise overnight to Engelhartszell. *Meals included: B, D. Overnight on Boat.*



Day 3: Engelhartszell - Linz (22mi/ 35km)

Today begins our cycling adventure! Travelers wishing to pedal today will hop off the boat in Engelhartszell with their bikes and panniers. (There is always an option for travelers to stay on the boat throughout the day instead of cycling and meet up with the group at each of the prominent stops). Cyclists will pedal 22 miles to Linz, the capital of upper Austria. We'll try some specialty cordials and liqueurs along the way (optional). *Meals included: B, L, D. Overnight on Boat.*

Day 4: Linz - Mauthausen - Grein (22-26 mi/36-42km)

In the early morning, travelers will depart via boat or bike towards Mauthausen, with the option to visit the [Mauthausen Memorial](#) at the former concentration camp. After a powerful yet somber experience, we'll continue on towards Mitterkirchen, a Celtic town nestled along the Danube and finish the day with an optional tour of the Castle of Greinburg. Cyclists choosing to pedal today will bike between 22-26 miles before meeting up with the boat in Grein. *Meals included: B, L, D. Overnight on Boat.*



Day 5: Grein - Melk - Tulln (31mi/50km)

The diverse landscape of today's journey includes the Strudengau, a narrow point of the Danube, which used to be notorious amongst skippers. We'll be met with gorgeous views of the baroque monastery at Melk (optional tour), as we continue towards the Wachau Valley. Back on deck after 30 or so miles of cycling, we'll enjoy the sunset and evening illumination of Austria's most famous wine region as we arrive in Tulln. *Meals included: B, L, D. Overnight on Boat.*

Day 6: Tulln - Vienna - Nussdorf (22mi/35km)

Departing the Wachau Valley and heading into Vienna's northernmost outskirts, we'll be met with the breathtaking views of Klosterneuburg, a 900-year old baroque castle above the Kahlenburgerdorf (a village famous for its wine and art)! After 22 miles of pedaling, cyclists and boat-riders alike will have the option for an afternoon walking or biking tour of Vienna's historic downtown or join the Tour Leaders for an introduction to the capital city. Scope out the 'must-see' attractions to add to tomorrow's rest-day itinerary while in Vienna. *Meals included: B, L, D. Overnight on Boat.*



Day 7: Vienna - Rest Day/City Sightseeing

We'll hop off the boat and onto Vienna's clean and easy-to-navigate network of subway trains (U-bahn) to check out the famous landmarks and historical sites such as St. Stephens Cathedral, the Hofburg and the Ringstrasse. After indulging at Vienna's most famous coffeehouses, we'll hop on some city bikes for a 3.5 hour city tour. Back on the boat after a day in Austria's capital city, we'll cruise overnight back towards the Wachau Valley. *Meals included: B, D. Overnight on Boat.*

Day 8: Wachau Valley - Pöchlarn (22 mi/35km)

Our last day of biking is some of the most scenic yet! Today's 25 miles of pedaling will take us through the dreamy villages, apricot orchards, vineyards, and under castle ruins. We'll taste some local jams and spreads,



indulge in the region's specialty chocolates and liqueurs, and wander the cobblestone streets of Durnstein. Those interested can hike the short yet steep path to the ruins above the village or opt to sip wine along the banks of the Danube. Back on board, rest and relax for the evening. *Meals included: B, L, D. Overnight on Boat.*

Day 9: Passau - Munich

As our river valley journey draws to an end, we'll partake in a delicious breakfast as we cruise through the silent and peaceful Danube Valley making our way back to Passau. One last look at the Schlägener Schlinge ("Great Loop") before we arrive refreshed back in Passau. We'll then disembark and make our way via train to Munich. Celebrate our adventure together with a farewell dinner. *Meals included: B, D. Overnight in Munich.*



Day 10 (Tuesday, 11 June): Departure from Munich, GERMANY

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll catch a train from Munich Hbh to the Munich Airport. *Meals included: B.*

Cost & Details

COST: \$2,969 (total USD)

MY OWN ROOM: \$802 (extra USD)

Meal Key: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner



INCLUDED: The cost includes all lodging (2-3 star casual, clean, and on-barge rooms) based on double occupancy, meals listed ("B/L/D"), all group land transfers with train, 1-2 Tour Leaders (depending on group size), group activities (as listed above), bicycle rental (optional), cycling maps, Cycling Austria's Danube traveler handbook, and traveler orientation.

NOT INCLUDED: Roundtrip airfare, extra activities/sites, extra purchases (such as souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, snacks, and lodging sundries), local drivers' and guides' tips, laundry services, and travel insurance.

PLEASE NOTE: The cost comprises land-only rate, per person. With weather and other uncontrollable variables, some activities/lodgings/schedules/meals may change prior to or during the tour. This tour will accommodate a variety of fitness levels; however, it is best to be in fair physical/mental shape. Many activities are optional as is the daily cycling.

TOUR LEADERS: Amy Schmied & Bill Fehrenbach

GROUP SIZE: 16-20 **CONTACT:** Trevor Roark (Program Mgr.), 715-340-8186, adventure.tours@uwsp.edu

BOOKING: Book online with a check or via credit card OR print booking form, complete, & mail along with \$300 (pp) nonrefundable deposit. **WEBSITE:** www.uwspadventuretours.com