

Grand Danube Passage

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers



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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

October 4-19, 2023



A World of Discovery

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, become intimately engaged in the rhythm of the celebrated Danube River region, adding another memorable chapter to the rich story of your life.

Inspiring Moments

- Witness Budapest's glowing, amber skyline during an evening **sail on the Danube.**
- Gaze at the **Iron Gate Gorge**, an engineering marvel and scenic wonder.
- Discover the history and grandeur of **Vienna.**
- Delight in the captivating cobbled lanes of **Bratislava's old town.**
- Applaud the graceful turns and flowing movements of elegant waltz dancers during an **exclusive performance.**
- Marvel at the lush landscape of the beautiful **Wachau Valley.**
- Savor a moment of quiet thought in the marbled halls of **Melk Abbey.**
- Admire the **storybook villages and landmarks** along the Danube.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us on this cultural adventure through eight countries! The incomparable heritage and fascinating history of Eastern Europe come to life during a cruise along the mighty Danube, the continent's most famous river. Each day is filled with new discoveries as we experience this crossroads of culture, stroll cobblestone alleys of medieval towns and explore buzzing metropolises.

We'll begin with two nights in Sofia, Bulgaria. Then sail along the Danube, reveling in unspoiled riverside landscapes, before concluding in the beautiful city of Prague, Czech Republic. Along the way, visit inspiring UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the remarkable Wachau Valley, and taste the region's wines and cuisine. Plus, in most ports, customize your cruise with choices of cultural, active and culinary activities designed to highlight Eastern Europe's history as well as its daily life. You are sure to return home dreaming of fairy-tale castles and memorable evenings spent stargazing along the Danube.

Travel in comfort and enjoy the excursions, cultural events and lectures selected especially for you. This is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture, cuisine and landscapes of eight countries on a deluxe travel program. Make your reservations today!

All the best,

Debbie Vargo
Director, Alumni Tours
The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

ADV-AlumniTours@osu.edu

Visit our website at: **www.go.osu.edu/travel**

Questions? Please call **800-323-7373**.

800-323-7373

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UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Budapest**, Hungary,
including the Banks
of the Danube, the Buda
Castle Quarter and Andr ssy
Avenue, Hungary
2. **Historic Center of Vienna**,
Austria
3. **Wachau Cultural
Landscape**, Austria
4. **Jewish Quarter,
and Historic Center
of Prague**, Czech Republic
5. **Palace and Gardens
of Sch nbrunn**, Austria



Charles Bridge, Prague



Iron Gate Gorge

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart gateway city for Sofia, Bulgaria.🌐

Day 2 | Sofia, Bulgaria

Upon arrival, transfer🚗 to the Sofia Hotel Balkan.

Free Time: Spend the afternoon at leisure in Sofia. Explore the neighborhood or browse the timeless icons and frescoes inside Sofia’s churches.

Day 3 | Sofia

Enrichment: Prologue to the Bulgarian Revival.

Discovery: Sofia. Bulgaria’s capital brims with rich and fascinating history. Join your guide to see the ancient ruins of Serdica, and admire St. George Rotunda and Alexander Battenberg Square, home to the former Royal Palace. Also, see St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

Free Time: The remainder of the day is free to continue exploring Sofia at your own pace. Gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 4 | Sofia | Vidin

After breakfast, transfer to Vidin and savor a memorable lunch and stunning views of rock formations at The Rocks restaurant.

Discovery: Ancient Vidin. Tour one of Bulgaria’s

oldest towns, and see the Osman Pazvantoglu Library and Mosque plus other memorable highlights. Enjoy visits to St. Panteleimon Church and the medieval Baba Vida Fortress.

Embark your first-class ship and commence your thrilling Danube River journey. Raise a toast during the ship’s Welcome Aboard Reception and Dinner.

Day 5 | Iron Gate Gorge

Sail past the cliffs of the Carpathian Mountains, and enter the Iron Gate Gorge, one of Europe’s most magnificent natural wonders that is part of the boundary between Romania and Serbia.

Discovery: Frühschoppen! All hands on deck for a fun *Frühschoppen*. Sip a beer and enjoy pretzels and sausages, an age-old German tradition.

Day 6 | Belgrade, Serbia

Enrichment: Modern Serbia.

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

•**Highlights of Belgrade.** This fourth-century capital is a hub of architecture and culture. Marvel at the ornate Orthodox cathedral, and step into St. Sava, a shining feature of Belgrade.

•**Eating Like a Local.** Take a sensory journey of Serbian gastronomy. Taste creamy *kajmak*, the local cheese, and other regional treats with

YOUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE

Free time means something different to every traveler. You may like to linger in a cozy café or stay on the go. That’s why we design itineraries that allow you to craft an individual travel experience.



PERSONALIZE YOUR JOURNEY | PYJ | Included

Choose from a variety of excursions in selected locales based on your interests.

Check out our itinerary for more details. We’ve done the legwork. Now the choice is yours.



Bratislava, Slovakia

delicious spices and flavors. Also, learn about Serbia's customs and traditions along the way.

•**Science and Scientist Tour.** At the Nikola Tesla Museum, discover how this 19th-century inventor left his imprint on wireless technology while exploring interactive exhibits, original documents and short films.

Free Time: Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. A shuttle will be available for your convenience.

Discovery: Folk Show. Delight in a lively, colorful Serbian folk show on the ship.

Day 7 | Vukovar, Croatia | Osijek

🌍**AHI Connects: Rural Croatia.** Venture to a small village to visit Rural House and sample Slavonian foods and delicacies. Plus, enjoy the flavors of delicious regional wines during a tasting.

Discovery: Osijek and Vukovar. Take a walking tour through Osijek, passing baroque buildings, military complexes and university facilities. See the plague column, built in 1729. This monument gives thanks for protection from a plague outbreak, which killed a third of the city's population. Continue your outing at Vukovar where you'll enjoy a panoramic tour of its historic center. Rejoin the ship and sail to Mohács, Hungary.

Day 8 | Mohács, Hungary | Pécs

Discovery: Pécs. Enjoy a walking tour of Pécs, replete with Roman ruins and Ottoman mosques, which have been turned into churches.

Day 9 | Budapest

🌟**PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

•**Highlights of Budapest.** Enjoy a panoramic city tour, passing Heroes' Square, the Opera House, the Parliament and Fisherman's Bastion.

•**Living Local.** Browse food and craft stalls in the popular Great Market Hall, enjoy a strudel demonstration and taste the local schnapps.

•**Budapest's Jewish Quarter.** Explore the Jewish Quarter, viewing the Great Synagogue and the poignant Shoes on the Danube Bank Memorial. Visit the Holocaust Memorial Center inside the Pava Street Synagogue.

Discovery: Budapest by Night. Sail through a beautiful Budapest at night. The architecture bordering the Danube is illuminated with vivid auburn hues, an unforgettable highlight!

Day 10 | Bratislava, Slovakia

Enrichment: The Velvet Revolution and the Making of Slovakia.



Left: Serbian folk dancers | Above: Shoes on the Danube Bank Memorial



Hofburg Palace, Vienna

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Old Town and Café.** Discover Bratislava's rich past. See St. Martin's Cathedral, the Slovak National Theatre, St. Michael's Gate and Primate's Palace, and sample pastry at a café.

•**Old Town and Music.** Explore the cobbled streets of the charming old town, viewing many of Bratislava's most iconic sights, and revel in a performance by a talented young musician.

•**Iron Curtain Bike Tour.** Enjoy a leisurely bike tour along the Danube to explore the Slovak-Austrian border, once part of the Iron Curtain. Enjoy vistas of the marvelous Bratislava Castle, see a pre-WWII bunker and learn about the area's urban transformation. *(Active)*

Day 11 | Vienna, Austria

Enrichment: Timeless Vienna.

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Imperial Vienna.** Explore the Imperial Apartments of Hofburg Palace, followed by a drive along the Ringstrasse, one of the world's most magnificent boulevards. See the University, the Houses of Parliament and the Opera House.

•**Klosterneuburg Monastery and Wine.** The 12th-century Klosterneuburg Monastery is home to the gilded copper Verdun Altar and a wine estate. Witness an art collection and taste local wines from the monastery's cellar.

•**Schönbrunn Palace.** Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the Imperial family. See the luxurious State Apartments, the Hall of Mirrors and the estate's vast gardens.

Free Time: During leisure time, try Viennese coffee or sacher torte, a tasty Austrian cake. A shuttle will be provided for your convenience.

🌐**AHI Connects: Viennese Waltz.** Delight in an elegant performance of the graceful Viennese waltz by professional ballroom dancers.

Day 12 | Dürnstein | Melk

🌐PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Dürnstein Walking Tour.** This picturesque tour reveals the city's baroque architecture and gorgeous scenery. Plus, visit the magnificent Stiftskirche, known for its blue tower.

•**Cycling the Danube.** Join a guided leisurely cycle along the Danube, passing vineyards and farms. Stop for a snack along the way. *(Active)*

•**Wachau Winery.** Travel into Dürnstein to a local winery in a beautiful old building. Learn about the winery's vintages and sample a few. Relax while sailing through the Wachau Valley, one of Europe's finest landscapes. Admire clusters of pretty villages, churches and castles.

Discovery: Melk Abbey. Visit Melk's



Passau



Melk Abbey

Benedictine abbey, an architectural jewel with impressive interiors. The baroque building dates from 1736 and an amazing view of the mighty Danube awaits on the abbey's terrace.

Attend a Farewell Reception and Dinner tonight.

Day 13 | Passau, Germany | Prague, Czech Republic

Discovery: Picturesque Passau. Passau has been called "one of the most beautifully situated towns in the world." During a walking tour, see St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Veste Oberhaus, Niedernburg Abbey and more.

Dine on German fare at a local restaurant.

Transfer to Prague and check in to the Art Deco Imperial Hotel, located near Prague's old town and many fantastic landmarks.

Day 14 | Prague

Discovery: Old Town and Charles Bridge.

Witness the Clock Tower, whose 15th-century astronomical clock still works on its original system. Then stroll along the ornate Charles Bridge, Prague's most familiar landmark. (Active)

Free Time: The remainder of the day is at leisure to make your own discoveries in Prague.

Day 15 | Prague

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Lobkowicz Palace and Museum.** Set within the Prague Castle complex, this 16th-century palace features stunning masterpieces, art, weapons, ceramics and musical instruments from the 12th-20th centuries. During your visit, learn about the legacies of the Lobkowicz family.

•**Prague's Jewish Quarter.** Explore the Jewish Quarter and the outstanding Prague National Jewish Museum. Housed in the quarter's synagogues, the exhibits provide valuable and poignant insight into Jewish history.

•**Art Nouveau and Cubism.** See Prague's 20th-century architecture and buildings designed in the art nouveau and cubist fashions. Learn to recognize different architectural elements and listen to historical accounts.



Free Time: Spend your final afternoon making your own discoveries. You may wish to visit Prague's notable museums or sit down to enjoy a craft beer.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers to recount your Danube adventure during a Farewell Reception at the hotel.

Day 16 | In Transit

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈ Flights and 🔄 transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

A Note About Activity Levels

We want you to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience. That's why we have rated all of our excursions with activity levels to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website to review the itinerary for full details about our activity levels.

Excursions on this program require:

- ▶ walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces
- ▶ getting on/off motor coaches and boats

ACCOMMODATIONS



Art Deco Imperial Hotel | 
Prague, Czech Republic



Sofia Hotel Balkan | 
Sofia, Bulgaria

Located in Prague's city center, the landmark Art Deco Imperial Hotel is one of the city's registered historic buildings. Its richly decorated Imperial Café, one of Prague's most beautiful restaurants, provides exquisite cuisine. In Sofia, enjoy the centrally located Sofia Hotel Balkan, built as part of the President's Palace complex. The hotel's Stardust Restaurant offers Bulgarian dishes, and guest rooms are decorated in a traditional European style.



Amadeus Silver II



The Amadeus fleet of fine river ships has defined the art of cruising on the great rivers of Europe. As you board the Amadeus Silver II, you'll sense an ambience evocative of a grand European hotel. Relax in a lounge chair on the sun deck, treat yourself to a massage or exercise in the fitness room. Savor European specialties at the restaurant's breakfast buffets and a choice of appetizing regional dishes at lunch and dinner. Beer, wine or soft drinks are available with lunch and dinner. At the end of each day, return to the comforts of your cabin, appointed in modern décor and featuring a river view and a private bathroom with a shower. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.

Grand Danube Passage

Trip #:6-27823W

Call our travel experts at 800-323-7373 to reserve your place! (Preferred registration method.)

Please have the information outlined below available to share with our AHI Travel Experts.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Request and submit it to our office. Once this request is received in our office, an AHI Travel Expert will contact you within one business day to discuss deposit payment. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed.

Send to Ohio State Alumni Tours
c/o AHI Travel
International Tower-Suite 600
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631

I/we would like to request _____ **place(s).** Deposit amount is \$600 per person.

Cabin Category Desired: **1st choice** _____ **2nd choice** _____

Full Legal Name (*exactly as it appears on passport*)

1) _____
First Middle Last Date of Birth Date of Birth

Email Name you would like on your name badge

2) _____
First Middle Last Date of Birth Date of Birth

Email Name you would like on your name badge

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home (_____) Cell (_____) _____

Sharing with _____
Name (Reservation Request sent separately)

Single Accommodations

☐ I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

Flights

☐ Yes, I/we are requesting the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Sofia, Bulgaria, with a return from Prague, Czech Republic, to depart from:

Departure City

I/we are interested in upgrading my/our international flight to the following:

☐ First Class ☐ Business Class ☐ Premium Economy

☐ No thanks! I/we will book my/our own air travel and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Your full balance must be paid by **July 06, 2023** (90 days prior to departure). Reservations received before this date are eligible for a discount if full payment is made at the time of booking. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Payment may be made by eCheck, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://ohst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1719A?schoold=124>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates: October 4-19, 2023
Land | Cruise Program dates: October 5-19, 2023

LAND | CRUISE PROGRAM

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	\$5,945	\$250	\$5,695
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$6,145	\$250	\$5,895
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$6,545	\$250	\$6,295
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$6,645	\$250	\$6,395
A-Mozart (Aft)	\$6,845	\$250	\$6,595
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$7,345	\$250	\$7,095

Suites feature a balcony.
Categories A, B and C feature a drop-down panoramic window.
Categories D and E feature a window.
*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT and Port Tax supplement is an additional \$395 per person.
All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Let us arrange your flights!

AHI FlexAir | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase.
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates.
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights.
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays.

Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than half a century, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

To offer you added peace of mind, we’ve fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:

- ✓ **Included AHI Travel Assurance** covers travel- and health-related contingencies. Available for U.S. residents only.
- ✓ Increased booking flexibility and relaxed cancellation penalties.
- ✓ **Home support staff and ground team** communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey.
- ✓ Travel Directors specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI’s health and safety protocols.
- ✓ A global network of partners rigorously following new procedures and protocols.
- ✓ **Enhanced sanitization practices** for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches.
- ✓ Tour operations modified for smaller groups and greater physical distancing.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer available for guest use.



Rock formations, Vidin

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **2 nights** in Sofia, Bulgaria, at the deluxe Sofia Hotel Balkan.
- **9 nights** aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Amadeus Silver II.
- **3 nights** in Prague, Czech Republic, at the deluxe Art Deco Imperial Hotel.

Transfers {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 14 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 10 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan that covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
 - Admire Sofia's unique landmarks.
 - Take a panoramic tour of Vidin.
 - Discover Belgrade's historic sites.
 - Witness storied Croatian towns.
 - Indulge in cultural activities that celebrate the cuisine and dance of the regions.
 - Enjoy a city tour of Pécs.
 - Marvel at Melk's Benedictine abbey.
 - Uncover the highlights of beautiful Passau.
 - Experience the best of captivating Prague.

-  **Personalize Your Journey | PYJ**
A choice of excursions in each locale.

**Belgrade | Budapest | Bratislava |
Vienna | Dürnstein | Prague**

– **AHI Sustainability Promise:**

Striving for a positive, purposeful impact on the destinations we visit: preserving the environment, supporting local communities and giving back to the places we travel.

-  **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- **Passenger Service Representative** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- **Travel Information** | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- **Travel Director** | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.
- **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Cruising the Danube in Budapest

TRAVEL
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**Enhanced Health
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See pricing panel
for details

Join us to visit eight countries and sail the legendary Danube River!

**Please call or refer to our
website for the most current
program information,
discounts and pricing.**

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver
inspirational educational and cultural
travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who
attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and
customization.
- Safety and security.



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