



MS RIVIERA RADIANCE · THE BLUE DANUBE · DEPARTING 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

An important update on your cruise, and where you will sail instead

The trip departs on 25 September as booked, with Vienna, Dürnstein, Melk and your choice of Salzburg or Linz all still part of the holiday, alongside guided visits to Budapest and Bratislava. The main change is that the ship will not sail to Esztergom, and you will join and leave your river cruise in Vienna rather than Budapest.

You will begin in the heart of Budapest before travelling comfortably by Railjet to Vienna, where imperial architecture, elegant boulevards and a live classical recital set the tone for the week. From there, the cruise takes you through the beautiful Wachau Valley, with Melk Abbey, Dürnstein and plenty of scenic sailing between vineyard covered hillsides and historic riverside towns. You can also choose a full day in Salzburg or spend time discovering Linz, before visiting Bratislava and returning by rail to Budapest for your final night.

The rail journey itself adds something different to the holiday, taking you across the Danube, through the Hungarian countryside past Győr and onwards into Austria.

THE RIVER, AND WHY WE HAVE CHANGED YOUR ITINERARY

A dry summer has left the free flowing stretch below Vienna, which your ship needs to reach Budapest, around 60 centimeters under its long term low water mark. The Wachau above Vienna is holding more water, so rather than cancel we have rebuilt your week around that stretch. Our river cruise partner's nautical team and our own in house team read the gauges daily, judging what they mean for your ship rather than the Danube in general; levels can move either way, and we will tell you promptly if anything alters.

YOUR ITINERARY, DAY BY DAY

We have clearly added in the amount of coaching involved. The majority of the coaching below, transfers to and from airports and coaching required for our excursions, are included in our usual program outside of the low water crisis. The additional are transfers to train stations and the tour to Bratislava.

Day 1	Fly to Budapest and spend the first night in a hotel with dinner and two drinks included, followed by breakfast the next morning. If we can sail closer to Budapest we will embark you on the MS Riviera Radiance. Coaching: 45min to 1hr, from the airport to the hotel or, if possible, 1hr 20mins to the MS Riviera Radiance
Day 2	Morning option 1: Guided panoramic coach tour of Budapest Morning option 2: Active tour with a guided walk of the castle district €25 per person for lunch followed by a Rail journey to Vienna then enjoy a live classical recital on board Coaching: Excluding the panoramic coach. 30 min to the station in Budapest. 30min from Vienna train station to the ship Train: 2hr 30min
Day 3	Morning option 1: Panoramic guided tour of Vienna on coach Morning option 2: Panoramic guided tour on coach followed by a walking tour of the old town Afternoon: after lunch onboard, is free for you to enjoy Vienna at your own pace. Perhaps visit one of the city's renowned cafés, browse elegant shops or simply soak up the atmosphere of this imperial city. After dinner back on board, we will start our cruise towards Melk. Coaching: 20min shuttles to and from Vienna
Day 4	Morning: Guided tour of Melk Abbey back to ship for lunch Afternoon: Scenic sailing down the Wachau valley Coaching: 10min to Melk Abbey
Day 5	Option 1: Full day excursion to Salzburg with guided tour, lunch at leisure and free time Option 2: Morning guided tour of Linz with the afternoon free to explore Coaching: 2hr 30min each way with 30min comfort stop. This is our standard excursion and no change due to low water
Day 6	Morning option 1: Guided tour of Dürnstein Morning option 2: Guided hike to Dürnstein castle ruins Afternoon: Scenic sailing along the river Coaching: No Coaching

Day 7	Morning: Guided tour of Bratislava with €25 per person for lunch in the city Afternoon: Rail journey from Bratislava to Budapest and transfer to hotel. Alternatively, if water levels permit, we will continue sailing as close to Budapest as conditions allow. Coaching: 1hr 15min to Bratislava. 15min from ship to Bratislava train station. 30min from Budapest train station to hotel or a night aboard MS Riviera Radiance if water levels allow
Day 8	Breakfast in then a transfer to the airport for your flight home. Coaching: 45min to 1hr to the airport from the hotel or, if possible and we have managed to sail closer, 1hr 20mins to the MS Riviera Radiance

We may be able to sail closer to Budapest and keep you onboard for the final evening. We will aim to confirm arrangements before your departure, but if not, your Cruise Director will keep you fully updated throughout your cruise.

NEXT STEPS

The itinerary reflects the arrangements that we currently believe we will be able to operate and which we have been successfully operating over recent weeks.

There has, however, been significant rainfall across the Danube catchment in recent days, and river conditions may improve further over the weekend. If they do, we may be able to sail closer to Budapest than is currently possible. This could mean spending more time on board your ship and potentially changing the arrangements for the first or final night of your holiday to be closer to the trip you originally booked.

1. Please read through the itinerary over the weekend
2. Once we have confirmed your final itinerary on Monday, we will call you to talk about the options available to you.
3. These could include travelling with a future travel voucher, receiving a combination of cash and voucher, cancelling for a full refund, or moving to the same cruise next year at no extra cost.

Vouchers valid for 6 months from today's date (book within 6 months).

Value of the voucher is based on your current holiday price.

Valid on all 2026, 2027 and 2028 European river cruises

READ ABOUT YOUR NEW CRUISE

This is a cruise we sell in its own right: rivieratravel.co.uk/river-cruises/vienna-danube-river-cruise

YOU WILL BE WELL LOOKED AFTER

Your Cruise Director, Cruise Host and crew will be with you throughout, just as planned, and everything you enjoy on board remains unchanged: exceptional dining, all inclusive drinks, local entertainment and immersive experiences. The itinerary may be slightly different, but the Riviera experience on board is very much the same.

For the latest on river conditions and our 5-point promise:

rivieratravel.com/update

And for day to day updates, join our low water Facebook group:

[Riviera Travel Official — Low water updates](#)

Any questions at all, please do call us.