MS Riviera Radiance · THE DANUBE'S IMPERIAL CITIES AND YULETIDE MARKETS · DEPARTING 02 DECEMBER 2026

An important update on your festive holiday

Thank you for choosing to spend part of your festive season with us. Your holiday departs on 02 December as booked and still runs for six days, and Bratislava and Vienna are untouched. What has changed is either end of the holiday. Water levels around Budapest have fallen too low for your ship to sail out of Budapest, so you will spend your first and last nights aboard the MS Riviera Radiance in Budapest, and join the MS Geoffrey Chaucer at Gonyu on the afternoon of day two.

WHY YOUR HOLIDAY HAS CHANGED

The Danube is running low on the stretch around Budapest, and the MS Riviera Radiance is unable to sail out of Budapest. The weather of the past few days has not helped: much of the precipitation has fallen as snow rather than rain, so it is lying on the ground rather than feeding the river.

Rather than shorten your holiday, we have brought the MS Riviera Radiance into Budapest to look after you at both ends of it. She is moored in the city and stays there, so the levels are not an obstacle for her, and we will take you up to meet the MS Geoffrey Chaucer at Gonyu on the afternoon of day two. River levels move in both directions and we watch them daily, so we will tell you promptly if anything else alters.

Guests also have the option to embark the MS Geoffrey Chaucer on night one and coach to Budapest on day two for the guided tour.

YOUR SHIPS, AND WHERE YOU JOIN THEM

You have two ships on this holiday, and both nights on the first of them are in Budapest. You board the MS Riviera Radiance on arrival and she is your home for the first night, moored in the city. On the afternoon of day two you travel by coach to Gonyu and join the MS Geoffrey Chaucer, who carries you through Bratislava and Vienna. On day five you leave her at Gonyu, take the coach back to Budapest and return to the MS Riviera Radiance for your final night. Your luggage is taken care of on both of the days you move between ships, and we will confirm your cabin on each of them in writing.

Alternatively, you can board the MS Geoffrey Chaucer in Gonyu on night one.

YOUR ITINERARY, DAY BY DAY

Coaching and rail times are shown where they are new. Days three and four carry the excursion programme they booked.

Day 1	Arrive in Budapest and board the MS Riviera Radiance, moored in the city, for your first night. Dinner is on board. Budapest is at its most beautiful in late November, and the ship stays moored overnight, so the evening is yours. Vörösmarty Square holds one of the finest Christmas markets in Europe, with mulled wine and freshly baked chimney cake, and the market at St Stephen's Basilica glows against the lit façade of the church. *Coaching: Airport to the ship, around 45 mins* Alternatively, guests can board the MS Geoffrey Chaucer in Gonyu. *Coaching: Airport to the ship, around 1hr 15mins*
Day 2	**Morning option 1:** a panoramic tour of Budapest, seeing the city from both banks of the Danube, from the Parliament building on the Pest side to the views down from the Buda hills. **Morning option 2:** an active guided walk of the Castle District, through the cobbled streets of Buda's historic heart to Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion, looking back across the river to Parliament.

	Afterwards you have free time for the Christmas markets and for shopping, and lunch is served on board the Radiance for anyone who would rather eat there. In the afternoon you travel by coach from Budapest to Gonyu, around an hour and fifteen minutes, where the MS Geoffrey Chaucer is waiting. *Coaching: Budapest to Gonyu, approx. 1hr 15mins*
Day 3	A free morning sailing up to Bratislava, then the guided tour of the old town, the fortress above it, St Martin's Cathedral and the Primate's Palace, and free time at the Christmas market on the main square, where the stalls sell potato pancakes and poppy seed strudel. The ship then continues towards Vienna.
Day 4	Vienna, as booked: the morning guided tour along the Ringstrasse, with the walking tour of the old town as an option, then a free afternoon among the city's markets, from the great one in front of the Rathaus to the handicrafts and toys at Schönbrunn. The Chef's Dinner on board that evening, followed by a classical string quartet.
Day 5	This morning you leave the MS Geoffrey Chaucer at Gonyu and take the coach to Budapest, a comfortable run of around one and fifteen minutes. The afternoon in Budapest is yours, as booked, with the Vörösmarty Square market there for a second look, and you spend the final night back on board the MS Riviera Radiance. *Coaching: Short transfers at each end of the rail journey* *Coach: Gonyu to Budapest, approx. 1hr 15mins*
Day 6	A final breakfast on board the MS Riviera Radiance, then disembark in Budapest.

Your flights are unchanged, and you still fly into and home from Budapest.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO YOU

We want you to choose what suits you best, and if you travel with the new arrangements there is something extra by way of thanks.

Travel with the new arrangements. A future travel voucher worth 20% of your holiday price.

Move to another year. The same festive cruise in 2027 or 2028, at the price you paid for this holiday.

Or cancel. We will refund what you have paid.

Voucher terms. Valid for six months from your return date. For use on any European river cruise departing in 2027 or 2028. Voucher is non combinable.

YOUR SHIP IN BUDAPEST: THE MS RIVIERA RADIANCE

The MS Riviera Radiance is among the newest ships on Europe's rivers, launched in 2025. She is a five star ship carrying just 178 guests, looked after by 44 crew, so she never feels busy, and she is your home in Budapest at both ends of the holiday. You can read all about her here: rivieratravel.co.uk/ships/ms-riviera-radiance

MS Geoffrey Chaucer is one of our classic five-star ships — comfortable and quietly elegant. The kind of ship our guests come back to. You can read all about her here: MS Geoffrey Chaucer - Riviera Travel

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. Once onboard you'll experience exceptional dining, all inclusive drinks, local entertainment and immersive experiences all continuing as part of your holiday. 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.