

ASTA Fam Trip March 16 – 20, 2025 – Riviera River Cruises

Day 1 Embark in Vienna

The friendly crew welcomes you on board, helping you settle into your spacious and exquisitely furnished accommodation – you'll feel immediately at home.

This evening, we have a live classical musical experience on board.

Day 2 – Vienna – visit Schonbrunn – include in price

The city's very name provokes images of elegance, fine music, wide boulevards, Baroque architecture and a rich tapestry of peoples who were drawn here from all corners of Europe.

For 200 years until the First World War, Vienna was the cultural centre of Europe and many of the showpiece buildings, galleries, aristocratic palaces and magnificent churches you see today were built to reflect its imperial status. The city's most iconic monument is the breathtaking Saint Stephen's Cathedral, whose striking multi-coloured roof and huge Gothic South Tower dominate the skyline.

There's also the colossal Hofburg, the former royal court that is now home to a collection of museums, the Crown Jewels and the Spanish Riding School, and where the Vienna Boys' Choir performs. Then there are the lavish Imperial Apartments and an outstanding collection of relics of the Holy Roman Empire, including, allegedly, the sabre of Charlemagne himself. The Kunsthistorisches Museum, which contains the world's fourth largest collection of paintings, is just across the road.

This morning, we have a tour with a local guide offering insights into why Vienna is one of Europe's great capitals – the seat of the Habsburg emperors and home to some of the world's finest classical composers, including Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart and, of course, a whole family of Strausses.

Over lunch we will set sail towards Bratislava, we will arrive late afternoon and will have a short orientation tour, before dinner.

Day 3 – Bratislava

This morning, we explore Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, which has shrugged off the greyness of the communist era and rekindled the splendour of its imperial past in its painstakingly restored Baroque Old Town.

Wander the winding streets to the main square where you'll find the former Old Town Hall, now housing a museum dedicated to the history of the city and where you may climb the tower for some lovely views. Equally impressive is the great 9th-century castle that dominates the city, with its expansive views across the Danube. Or head to the neoclassical Primatial Palace with its fabulous Hall of Mirrors and rare collection of 17th-century English tapestries. For something more relaxing, perhaps enjoy a refreshing homemade lemonade – a speciality of the city – in one of the many cafés.

Cruise towards Budapest

Our cruise reaches another highlight this afternoon as we navigate the dramatic Danube Bend, one of the most spectacular stretches of this mighty river. Winding our way through a narrow twisting valley flanked by high mountains and verdant hillsides, we pass a kaleidoscope of exceptional river views, ancient castle ruins and historic towns.

We reach our journey's end cruising into Budapest during the night.

This evening, we will have the chef's dinner.

Day 4 – Budapest

You rise refreshed in this breathtakingly beautiful imperial capital that straddles the great Danube River, and we have a whole day to enjoy it. Dominated by its castle, Budapest has been called ‘Little Paris of Middle Europe’ and, with its truly magnificent skyline of soaring spires and grand domes, it’s not hard to see why. It’s renowned for the bewitching blend of monuments reflecting Hungary’s national culture and those of the foreign powers that have dominated most of the city’s history.

Today Budapest is a collage of Roman ruins, Turkish baths from the Ottoman Empire, palatial buildings, Baroque churches and sensational Art Nouveau architecture and design – all wrapped up in a wonderful atmosphere enhanced by the unique sound of Hungary’s music and language.

You’ll really get to know this beguiling city on our guided tour of the main sights, such as the iconic Parliament Building, a huge neo-Gothic building that dominates the riverbank with its striking central dome and multitude of soaring spires.

This afternoon, you might want to wander the ancient streets of the Castle District while you enjoy panoramic views of the city, stroll down elegant Andrassy Avenue or visit the spectacular Central Market Hall, where you can find everything from traditional foods to handicrafts. Afterwards you return to the ship for your final dinner on board and, later, enjoy a coffee in the lounge with your travel companions while sharing memories of your exploration of the heart of Europe on this splendid cruise.

Day 5 – Disembark in Budapest

After breakfast, this morning your friendly crew will bid you farewell before you disembark.