**Danube River Cruise and Lemko Vatra July 9-22, 2024**

**Day 1. July 9, 2024**. Flight from JFK to Vienna on Austrian Airlines at 9:45pm. Overnight flight arriving at 11:55am the next day.

**Day 2. July 10, 2024. Arrive Vienna**. Transfer to the river port to board the MS Fidelio.

Welcome cocktail. Overnight stopover in the city. Dinner and overnight on board.

**DAY 3 July 11, 2024. VIENNA**

After breakfast, embark on a panoramic sightseeing tour of the most important sights of Austria's capital: the Opera House, the City Hall, the Parliament, the Burgtheater and the splendid Hofburg Imperial Palace. In the afternoon, enjoy the city at your own pace or enjoy the optional visit to Schonbrunn Palace. At midnight, the ship will leave the Austrian capital and sail in the direction of the Wachau Valley. Overnight on board.   (D)

**DAY 4 July 12, 2024. DÜRNSTEIN / MELK**

Today we wake up in Dürnstein, a charming town in the heart of the winding Wachau Valley with a medieval castle. From the pier you can directly access the historic town center on foot passing through the medieval town gates and up to the Pranger square. From here a beautiful view opens up over the ruins of the castle, famous as the place where Richard the Lionheart was supposedly imprisoned. Don't miss an opportunity to taste the typical wines of the Wachau region.

At noon, we will leave Dürnstein to enjoy the scenery offered by the wonderful Wachau Valley. In the early afternoon, we moor in Melk, a small town located in the heart of the impressive Wachau Valley. It is world famous for the Benedictine Abbey perched atop a rock overlooking the river. In the late after-noon, the ship will leave the town of Melk and sail towards Linz. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

**DAY 5 July 13, 2024. LINZ**

Linz is the capital of Upper Austria and a beautiful baroque city, located between the Danube Valley and the old salt route, it is since the 19th century the most important port on the middle Danube. Free day to discover the city. At lunchtime we will set sail for the capital of Slovakia. Overnight on board. (BL D)

**DAY 6 July 14, 2024. BRATISLAVA**

Early in the morning we will arrive in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Our optional guided tour will offer you a tour of this imperial city. We will see, among other fascinating sights, the National Theater, St. Martin's Cathedral, Michael's Gate, the old town hall and the impressive rock fortress. In the afternoon, we leave Bratislava for Budapest. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

**DAY 7 July 15, 2024. BUDAPEST**

After breakfast, we will arrive in Budapest, the capital of Hungary divided by the mighty Danube into two parts: traditional "Buda" and cosmopolitan "Pest". Our optional guided tour will take you along wide boulevards to the famous Parliament, the Opera House, Heroes' Square, the Market Square, the Chain Bridge and the Fisherman's Bastion with its spectacular views over the city. Budapest is not to be missed at night when the city dresses up. Discover it at your own pace. Night stopover. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

**DAY 8, July 16, 2024. ESZTERGOM**

After breakfast, we will arrive in Esztergom. It is a relevant place in the history of Hungary, as it was the first capital of the Kingdom of Hungary and is where the first King, Stephen I, was crowned in the year 1000. The Basilica of Esztergom is the largest church in Hungary and is the symbol of the city. Inside is the largest organ in Hungary. At lunchtime, we will sail to Vienna. In the evening, Captain's dinner. Overnight on board.  (B, L, D)

**DAY 9, July 17, 2024. VIENNA**

Disembarkation after breakfast. Depart for Vienna Airport. (B)

Flight from Vienna to Krakow on Austrian Airlines flight 597 at 12:55P-1:55P arrival.

**Meet and greet with tour escort.**

Transfer to your hotel Holiday Inn (5\*) for check-in for the next two nights.

Lunch on your own.

**Afternoon half day city tour of Krakow’s Old Town including entrance to St. Mary Basilica**

Walk through the Main Market Square – one of the largest town squares in Mediaeval Europe, surrounded with palaces and old town houses. The square includes the double row 13th century merchants’ stalls later converted into the renaissance Cloth Halls and the Gothic Church of St. Mary’s – from those the “hejnal” bugler daily heralds the arrival of the midday and which interiors are housing the masterpiece of European gothic art - the 15th century wooden altar by Wit Stwosz. Florianska Street leads to the famous Florian Gate and the Barbican - remains of the former city fortifications. St. Anna Street leads to the university district - with the famous in Poland gothic Collegium Maius, the baroque Collegium Nowodworskie and the baroque church of St. Anna. The Old Town of Krakow belongs into the UNESCO Treasures.

**Dinner at a local restaurant in Krakow. (D)**

 

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| **Day 10 July 18, 2024** | **KRAKOW** |

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

**Morning visit to Wawel Royal Castle and Wawel Royal Cathedral**

Wawel Hill situated on the bank of the Vistula River for centuries provided a haven for people who have settled here. Towards the end of the first millennium A.D., Wawel become one of the main Polish centers of Christianity; after the bishopric of Krakow was established in 1000. In 1320 the Duke of Kuyavia Ladislas the Short was crowned King of Poland. This was the first historically recorded coronation of a Polish ruler on the Wawel Hill. Around that time the construction of the third Gothic cathedral began and the castle was expanded. The greatest time for Wawel was the early 16th century, when the Italian Renaissance began and King Alexander and his brother Sigismund I the Old ordered the new impressive residence with large, arcaded courtyard; all completed in 1540. During the Nazi’s occupation the castle was the residence of the German governor general, Hans Frank. Fortunately, Polish people managed to remove the most valuable objects before coming Germans, including the tapestries and the “Szczerbiec” - coronation sword. Today we may admire the castle’s interiors including several rooms on the ground floor and apartments on the second floor. The nearby Gothic Cathedral is surrounded by chapels dating from various periods, among which the most important is the Sigismund Chapel with its golden dome. In the center stands the silver sarcophagus with the relics of St. Stanislaus - the former bishop of Krakow and the patron of Poland. Continue the tour to Saint Michael the Archangel and Saint Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr Basilica, also known as Skałka. The church is said to be the place, where the Bishop of Krakow Saint Stanislaus was murdered by the order of Polish king Boleslaw II the Bold in 1079. This action resulted in the king's exile and the eventual canonization of the bishop.

**Lunch at the local restaurant in Krakow**

**Visit to Wieliczka Salt Mine**

Wieliczka is the oldest salt mine in Europe, operated since 13th century - an impressive and unique underground world full of saline lakes, majestic timber constructions, great chambers, galleries and unique Salt Works created by many generations of Polish miners. The tour leads through almost 3 kilometers of meandering corridors, at the depth of 135 meters – the part, which has been worked from 17th to 19th century. Tourists will hear about the mine history and its secrets – about forces of nature ruling within the depths of the mine and the ethos of hard work performed by the generations of miners. Travelling further and further into the mine, visitors will see the power of human hands, that once excavated rock salt, magnificent mining tools and machines, as well as hear the beautiful legend about Princess Kinga and how she brought the salt treasure to Polish land.

Wieliczka Salt Mine belongs to the UNESCO Treasures. (L)

Worth knowing before visiting Wieliczka Salt Mine: Please bring warm clothing and wear comfortable shoes. Temperature underground ranges between 14° and 16° C. There are a **total 800 steps to climb,**

of which 350 at the beginning taking you down into the mine.

 

Return to Krakow. Enjoy dinner on your own.

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| **Day 11 July 19, 2024 Friday** |  |

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and depart for Krynica Zdroj. Upon arrival in Krynica, check in to hotel, freshen up and get ready to go to Lemko Vatra Festival in Zdynia.

**Spend the day in Zdynia - Lemko Vatra Festival**

Lunch and dinner on your own. Evening transfer to Krynica Zdrój (43 km, around 1 hour)

**Overnight in Krynica Zdroj. Mercure Krynica Zdroj Resort and Spa.**

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| **Day 12, July 20, 2024 Saturday** | ) |

Buffet breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Zdynia (43 km, around 1 hour)

**Spend the day in Zdynia - Lemko Vatra Festival**

Lunch and dinner on own. Evening return transfer to Krynica Zdrój (43 km, around 1 hour)

**Overnight in Krynica Zdroj. Mercure Krynica Zdroj Resort and Spa.**

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| **Day 13, July 21, 2024 Sunday** |  |

After Buffet breakfast at the hotel, check out and depart for Zakopane, (around 124 km, around 3 hours)

Check-in at your hotel. Radisson Blu Hotel and Residences for one night.

Lunch on your own.

**Half day city tour of Zakopane including Funicular to Gubalowka Mountain.**

Zakopane is the most famous mountain resort in Poland and the winter sports capital. The sightseeing tour usually starts at Krupowki – the central mall lined with restaurants, cafes, boutiques and souvenir shops. Walking the alley you will reach the large stone Neo-Romanesque parish church and a much smaller old parish church - a rustic wooden construction dating from 1847. Continue to Villa Koliba, the first of Witkiewicz design in the ”Zakopane style” and further to Villa Atma - once the home of famous Polish composer Karol Szymanowski. You cannot omit amazing Jaszczurowka Chapel - possibly the greatest architectural achievement of Witkiewicz as well as famous Sanctuary of Holy Virgin of Fatima built as a votive offering of saving our Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981. The designer of the church was Stanislaw Tylka from Zakopane and the builders were local highlanders.

Take the funicular to Gubalowka Mountain to admire the excellent panorama of the Tatra Mountains.

**Dinner will be served at the local Highlander’s Inn – restaurant including Highlander’s Folklore Show**

 

**Overnight in Zakopane at the Radisson Blue Hotel and Residences.**

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| **Day 14, July 22, 2024** |

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

8:00 Check-out from the hotel and transfer to Krakow Balice Airport (110 km, around 3 hours)

**Flight on Austrian Airlines 598 Krakow-Vienna 2:35P-3:30P and**

**Austrian Airlines 087 Vienna-JFK 4:45P-8:05P**

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River cruise includes:

● accommodation in the cabin

● live music at the bar every night

● full board, three meals per day (from dinner on arrival day to breakfast on departure day)

● early-riser breakfast every morning

● afternoon high tea: tea, coffee and cake or late night snack

● Coffee station available from 07:00 till 23:00

● welcome buffet on embarkation day

● table tap water during meal services

● tea/coffee for all meals

● welcome and farewell captain’s cocktails (including 1 drink per person)

● welcome and farewell captain’s dinner with special menu

● luggage service on board

● on board TV

● Drink package – 1 glass of beer or house wine during lunch and dinner

● transfers (on request and for extra payment) to and from the port)

Not included:

* Gratuities to tour guides
* Trip insurance
* Meals not specified in the itinerary; items of a personal nature

Package includes:

* Airfare from JFK on Austrian Airlines
* 7 night cruise on the Danube on the MS Fidelio, incl port tax and excursion
* 2 nights hotel Krakow
* 2 nights hotel Krynica
* 1 night hotel Zakopane
* Bus transportation including to/from Lemko Vatra
* Meals as indicated in detailed itinerary
* English speaking tour guide in Poland

Optional:

* Upgrade cabin: Deluxe cabin upgrade for $240 additional per person
* Single room supplement: $1500 for cruise and tour

Kindly complete the reservation form very soon as space is limited. For questions, or more information, please contact Lesia Kozicky at (914) 969-4200 or [alesia@dunwoodietravel.com](mailto:alesia@dunwoodietravel.com)

A diagram of a train

Description automatically generated with medium confidence