

# The Blue Danube

WITH HOST  
FRED CHILD



## ~ THE PRAGUE SPRING MUSIC FEST ~ THE BLUE DANUBE!

May 17 - 26, 2025



For over 75 years, **The Prague Spring Festival** has brought together some of world's finest ensembles, and from its outset – when Leonard Bernstein was invited to make his European debut – it has proved a staging ground for new generations of virtuoso musicians, conductors and composers. On this tailor-made classical **PERFORMANCE TODAY** journey, the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** will perform under the baton of Jaap van Zweden, who is currently concluding his tenure as chief conductor of the New York Philharmonic. Add in a

privately chartered, 1st class cruise on the Blue Danube, Mozart's Vienna, Beethoven, world-class museums, outings to wineries and you have a feast for the senses. Join **PERFORMANCE TODAY** host, Fred Child, and walk in the footsteps of the great composers! Space is limited.

### TRIP AT A GLANCE

4 Nights Prague, Czech Republic / Prague Spring Music Festival

5 Nights aboard the MS Douce France



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

Tel: 206.842.9775

[www.EarthboundExpeditions.com](http://www.EarthboundExpeditions.com)



*Enjoy the Prague Spring Music Fest!*

## JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Tickets to the legendary **Prague Spring International Music Festival** ❖ Attend a performance by the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** ❖ Five nights on board the 1<sup>st</sup> class **MS Douce France** ❖ Four nights in romantic Prague ❖ Classical concerts in Budapest, Vienna and Prague ❖ Private concerts in the homes of Mozart and Liszt ❖ Backstage tours of the historic Estate Opera House and the world renowned, Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic ❖ Daily included shore excursions ❖ Special wine tastings ❖ Visit the abbey of Melk ❖ Enjoy a private tour of the Fine Arts museum in Vienna ❖ Travel with like-minded friends who share your passion for art, food, wine and classical music!

## IT'S INCLUDED!

- ❖ Hosted by Fred Child of PERFORMANCE TODAY
- ❖ Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions guide
- ❖ Classical concerts while in Vienna, Budapest and Prague and on the ship
- ❖ Five nights first-class cruising on the Blue Danube
- ❖ Four pre-cruise nights in romantic Prague at the \*\*\*\* Marriott Old Town
- ❖ Transport by private air-conditioned motor coach
- ❖ Unique dining experiences featuring regional dishes
- ❖ Complimentary wine, beer and drinks served at dinner while on board the ship
- ❖ Special highlights including lectures, theme dinners, and musical performances
- ❖ Airport transfers for those arriving/departing with the group
- ❖ A group of like-minded kindred spirits who share your passion for music!



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## TRIP FACTS

10 Days/9 Nights (not including air travel)

Trip begins: May 17, 2025 in Prague, Czech Republic

Trip ends: May 26, 2025 in Budapest, Hungary after breakfast

## WAYS TO SAVE UP TO \$400

Pay your final balance by check and save \$100 \* MPR and Earthbound travel alumni save \$100 \* Sign up by September 19, 2024 and save \$200

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# Your Classical Music Journey Begins!

## Travel Day: May 16 - Depart the US for Prague

Remember you'll need to depart the US no later than today.

## Day 1: May 17 - Arrival Day Prague

Considered by many to be the most beautiful city in Europe, Prague is the city of Kafka and the place Mozart loved best. It was also once home to two legendary Czech composers, Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák.

The city is also home to three historic opera houses, the Czech Philharmonic, and several chamber orchestras, as well as the historic Estates Theatre. The Estates Theatre is deeply linked with the name of W. A. Mozart. Besides other of his works, it was the venue of world premieres of two Mozart operas: Don Giovanni (on 29 October 1787 - conducted by the composer himself) and La clemenza di Tito (in 1791, to mark the coronation of Leopold II). Enjoy a welcome orientation and dinner before settling in for the night at your hotel.

*Sleep at the Marriott Hotel in Prague Old Town (D)*

## Day 2: May 18 - Discover Prague

Our historic walking tour of Prague begins! We will stroll to Prague's most famous landmarks. En route to the Old Town Square, we'll tour the illustrious Estates Opera House. Our journey continues to Prague's stirring, perfectly preserved medieval Jewish quarter. Consisting of five synagogues, a Ceremonial Hall, and a cemetery, Prague's Jewish Museum was created in 1906 to protect precious buildings and treasures for the local Jewish community.

After enjoying a traditional Czech lunch, the afternoon is yours to further explore Prague.

*Sleep at the Marriott Hotel in Prague Old Town (B, L)*



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*Enjoy classical concerts in Prague, Vienna and Budapest!*

**MUSIC  
EVENT**

**Day 3: May 19 - A full day to Explore Prague**

After breakfast, we will make our way past Charles University to Charles Bridge. We'll cross the very river that lends its name to Smetana's symphonic Czech masterpiece, the Vltava. Then we'll ascend the hill to one of Europe's most impressive castles: Prague Castle. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the castle consists of a large-scale composition of palaces and ecclesiastical buildings of various architectural styles, from Roman-style buildings from the 10th century to Gothic modifications in the 14th century. Another fabulous classical concert is included this evening.

*Sleep at the Marriott Hotel in Prague Old Town (B, L)*



**MUSIC  
EVENT**

**Day 4: May 20 – Prague: The Chicago Symphony Orchestra!**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning; the day is yours to explore and stroll. Suggestions include the Mucha Museum, Kafka Museum, Decorative Arts Museum, and the National Museum, which is the largest museum in the Czech Republic.

Alternatively, dive deeper into the life of Dvořák with a visit to the Antonín Dvořák Museum, established in 1932. Inside, guests can see dozens of letters and household objects Dvořák once used during his lifetime. Perhaps the two most famous objects in this museum's collection are his piano and viola.

This evening, The **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** will perform under the baton of Jaap van Zweden, who is currently concluding his tenure as chief conductor of the New York Philharmonic. *Sleep at the Marriott Hotel in Prague Old Town (B)*



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*Discover the magic of Prague!*

**MUSIC  
EVENT**

**Day 5: May 21 - South to Passau, Bavaria - via Bohemia!**

After a leisurely morning in Prague, we depart the city for the Bavarian countryside. Driving south, we will visit the small Bohemian town of Český Krumlov. This town has been writing its story for over 700 years, and each century is uniquely imprinted on its face. A picturesque town boasting a magical atmosphere and inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List has developed since then. Enjoy an afternoon in the charming village of Český Krumlov before boarding our 4-star, privately chartered ship, the MS Douce France!

The ship casts off in the late afternoon and takes us through the series of scenic bends along the Danube known as the Schloegener Schlinge. Join your host Fred Child for a welcome concert and dinner. *Sleep aboard the MS Douce France (B, D)*

**MUSIC  
EVENT**

**Day 6: May 22 - Melk - Vienna**

Experience the grandeur of Melk Abbey, an architectural masterpiece nestled in the heart of Austria's stunning landscapes. We then continue our journey to Vienna, Austria's captivating capital. Prepare for an evening of enchantment with a tour of Vienna by night. Witness the city's iconic landmarks bathed in the warm glow of twilight, a magical experience that promises to leave you spellbound.

*Sleep aboard the MS Douce France (B, L, D)*



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*Walk in the footsteps of the Great Composers in Vienna!*

**MUSIC  
EVENT**

**Day 7: May 23 - Classical Vienna**

Today enjoy an in-depth private tour of the Vienna Fine Arts Museum. Then, enjoy a traditional wiener schnitzel and apple strudel lunch in a local cellar. After, we visit the world-renowned Wiener Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic. *Sleep aboard the MS Douce France (B, L, D)*

**MUSIC  
EVENT**

**Day 8: May 24 - Esztergom to Budapest**

This morning, explore Esztergom, the former capital of Hungary, on your own. We'll then spend the afternoon cruising to Budapest. The Hungarian capital lies along the banks of the Danube and is one of the most attractive cities in Europe. There will be free time to sightsee in the city before returning to the ship. After dinner, join us to explore Budapest by night. *Sleep aboard the MS Douce France (B, L, D)*

**MUSIC  
EVENT**

**Day 9: May 25 - Classical Budapest: The City of Franz Liszt**

Today is a full day exploring Budapest! Experience an exclusive private piano recital at the Franz Liszt Memorial Museum and tour the historic State Opera House. Also included is an excursion to Buda Hill, where you'll have time to soak in the stunning views. In the late afternoon, you may wish to visit one of the famous bathhouses. *Sleep aboard the MS Douce France (B, L, D)*

**Day 10: May 26 - Arrive home with a lifetime of happy memories!**

Enjoy one last buffet breakfast on board before disembarking at 9:00 a.m. (B)



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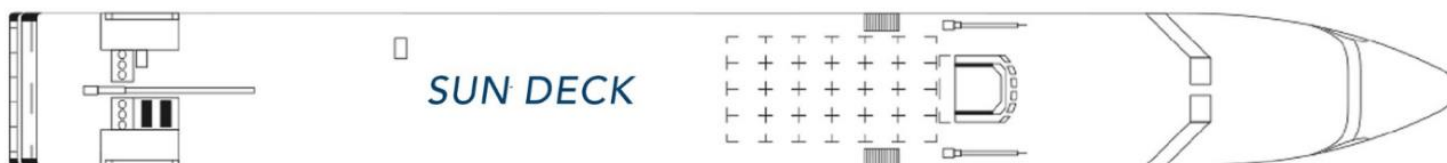
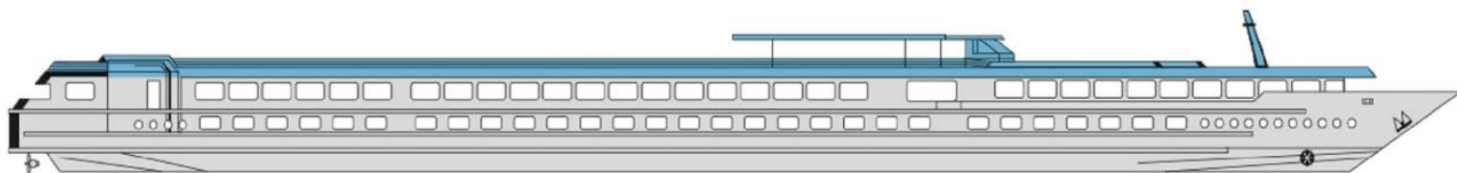
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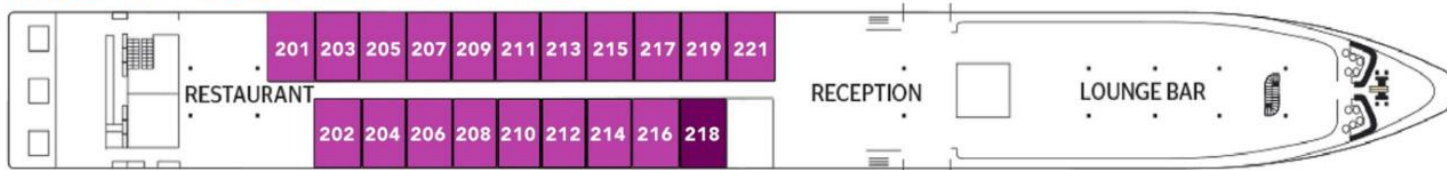
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# MS DOUCE FRANCE DECK PLAN & PRICING



## MOZART DECK ■ Stateroom, ■ Suite



## DVORAK DECK ■ Stateroom



IT'S INCLUDED: 10 DAYS – 21 MEALS  
CLASSICAL CONCERTS AND ALL SHORE EXCURSIONS

Double Cabin Category	Per Person Before Discounts	MPR or EBE Travel Alumni Discount	Early Sign-Up Discount by Sept. 19, 2024	Price After Discounts Each
Mozart Deck Suite	\$7,295.00	-\$100	-\$200	\$6,995
Mozart Deck Stateroom	\$6,995.00	-\$100	-\$200	\$6,695
Dvorak Deck Stateroom	\$6,495.00	-\$100	-\$200	\$6,195

**EARLY SIGN UP DISCOUNT**  
**\$200 SAVINGS**  
SIGN UP BY  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

**EXTRA \$100 SAVINGS**  
FOR MPR & EARTHBOUND TRAVEL ALUMNI

**Single Travelers:** For single occupancy cabins, add \$1,995.00 (excluding suites). Space is limited.

**Not included:** Gratuities for ship staff, travel insurance and any items not mentioned in your itinerary. Port taxes, charges and fees are \$199 per person and are additional.

**Savings:** Discounts apply for all MPR Travel Club and Earthbound Alumni members. \* If you pay your final balance by check, you'll receive an additional \$100 per person discount. To qualify, there must be a remaining balance of \$3,200 per person at the time of final payment.

**Advanced, canceled or delayed sailing for cruises:** Please note that cruise schedules and tour activities can be subject to change due to changes in water levels, port accessibility, weather, labor disputes or for any other reason whatsoever. The Owner or Operator of the cruise vessel may, at any time, cancel, advance or postpone any scheduled tour and may, but is not obliged to, substitute another vessel or itinerary, and it shall not be liable for any loss whatsoever to passengers by reason of any such cancellation, advancement or postponement.



## MS Douce France



**Mozart Deck:** Upper cabins have floor to ceiling windows.



Beer, wine and alcoholic beverages are complimentary while cruising.



**Dvorak Main Deck:** Cabins are bright, modern, and cheery. Dvorak deck cabins have large glass windows and are well above the waterline.



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## Meet Your Hosts!



### **Fred Child**

*Host of Performance Today*

**Fred Child** is the host of American Public Media's Performance Today, the most-listened-to classical music radio show in America. Fred is also the commentator and announcer for Live from Lincoln Center, the only live performing arts series on television. In recent years, Fred has hosted a series of unique live national concert broadcasts. He has given concert talks for Lincoln Center, the Aspen Festival, and Summerfest La Jolla. His CD reviews have appeared on NPR's All Things Considered, and his music reports have appeared on NPR's Morning Edition and Weekend Edition. He's been a contributor to Billboard magazine and a commentator for BBC Radio 3. This will be Fred's seventh hosted adventure with Performance Today guests.



### **Amy Hyatt**

*Custom Travel Manager*

**Amy Hyatt** is a dynamic event and travel manager with over 25 years' experience, currently working at American Public Media and Minnesota Public Radio. Her global success includes managing events, initiatives and group trips in over 40 countries, including as a member of two Olympic committees. Amy believes in the power of public media, travel, hospitality and empathy to transform the world. Her values and home are deeply rooted in Minnesota.

## Reservations & Questions

Call Earthbound Expeditions at 206.842.9775 or  
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# Know Before You Go!

**Reservations and Deposits:** A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your space on this journey. Deposits can be made via credit card or by calling the Earthbound office at 206.842.9775. A deposit packet will be emailed confirming the receipt of your deposit. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 30 days from the processing date or until 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

**Not Included:** International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for ship crew and staff, hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

**Physical Requirements:** It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

**Travel Insurance:** Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

**Events and Hosted Journeys:** If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

**Terms & Conditions:** Click [here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.

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