

Singing Danube – Choral Performance Cruise

Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary | 8 days, 7 nights



The „Singing Danube – Choral Performance Cruise“ features picturesque and outstanding landscapes of the Danube region combined with a high standard cruise. The artistic content is designed by musicians for musicians and will offer you the possibility to sing on land in inspiring venues.

Destinations: Passau, Melk, Vienna, Budapest, Esztergom, Bratislava, Duernstein, Passau
Travel season: October 12th to 19th 2014
Meals: Full board
Accommodation: Cabins
Transportation: MS Excellence Princess



Artistic content

We will give the possibility to your choir to share incredible and intense moments of music with other singers aboard. In order to deepen the interaction between the choirs, our artistic director proposed the following concept: beside your common repertoire, your choir will present to the other singers one or two river-related songs typical from your region or country. Every day you will have the chance to share your own and learn new pieces of music! At the end of the cruise, during the gala evening, the singers will sing all together their river-related song repertoire.

Our **artistic director *Diego Lenger*** will be part of the tour and use his extensive expertise to ensure smooth operations and high educational content. Moreover **guest-director Prof. Volker Hempfling** will join the “Singing Danube Cruise” and give you professional guidance.

Concerts and performances

- Daily expert-led rehearsal / workshop dedicated to river-related songs
- 2 informal concerts on board + 1 gala performance on board
- 2 concert performances on land in a church or venue.

Duration depending of the number of choirs participating: min. 1:00 – max: 1:30 / concert.
Including piano hire and concert promotion



Diego Lenger – the artistic director

Argentinian choral conductor and composer **Diego Lenger** is also artistic manager for Pulso 70, a label entirely devoted to choral music. He has founded and directed several choirs and vocal groups. As a composer he has been awarded the **Premio de Composición Coral 2006 of the Federació Catalana d'Entitats Corals (FCEC – Barcelona, Spain)**. He was also member of the **Artistic Committee for the IFCM-9th World Symposium on Choral Music, Puerto Madryn (Argentina) 2011**. Diego Lenger is also member of the **IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music) Directors' board**. Further to his activities as choir director Diego Lenger conducts "La Mixta" a vocal and instrumental ensemble specialized in the Spanish renaissance music. As singer he participates in the a cappella male quartet "Gentlemen".

Diego Lenger is born in 1971 in Buenos Aires. He studied the piano with Beatriz Tabares, singing with Helga Epstein and conducting with Néstor Andrenacci at the **Argentina Catholic University**. He also attended performance and conducting courses with Werner Pfaff, Josep Prats, Laszlo Heltay, Venno Laul, Robert Sund y Claudio Morla.



Prof. Volker Hempfling

Studied church music, organ, orchestral conducting, singing in Herford and Cologne (Germany). He has been **professor for choral conducting at the University of music Saarbücken and the Robert Schumann-Hochschule in Düsseldorf**.

During 25 years he was in **charge of the Domkantorei Altenberg as well as director of the "Sacred Music" series at Altenberg cathedral**. V. Hempfling founded the **world famous Kölner Kantorei** and toured with both choirs **through Europe, Israel and in the USA**. In addition to guest conducting appearances, he acts as a **lecturer in conducting and vocal training courses** throughout the world (Israeli Zimriya Festival, annual seminar in Freiburg, among others). **He's jury member at national and international competitions**.

In June 2004 he conducted the World Youth Chamber Choir in framework of the festivities of 60 years D-day in Normandy. He has been member of the Artistic Committee for the World Symposium on Choral Music 2008 in Copenhagen. **In 2006 he edited "Lore-Ley", the first edition of a German Folksong Book for mixed choir**.

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In order to intensify the experiential value of our tours, PDM provides the “PDM Plus”. A well-balanced set of add-on activities which you can select according to your personal preferences:

+ Education & Culture

Get in contact with the European culture: Take part in a city quest rather than an ordinary city tour, go “behind the scenes” at theatres or meet members of the European Parliament.

+ Community & Relation

Experience your host country like a local: Enjoy home dinners, get in contact with local schools and share sport activities or spend a day on an Italian farm helping at the harvest.

+ Nature & Sustainability

Join our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts: Be part of one of our projects: river cleaning, social activities with retirement homes or reforestation.

+ Body & Health

The ideal physical-mental balance: Play sports with locals, have training camps together with local clubs or benefit from a menu planned by dieticians.

PDM Plus



On December 3rd 2013 the PDM Tourism Group’s travel concept “PDM Plus - Experiential travelling” was announced as one of the official decade projects by the jury of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO in the course of the UN Decade “Education for Sustainable Development”.



Ausgezeichnet von der
Österreichischen UNESCO-Kommission

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ITINERARY

Day 1 Passau Sunday, October 12th 2014

Highlights: 1st Choral Performances on Board!

- Individual arrival to Passau (or from pre-tour)
- Afternoon – embarkement and boarding to ship
- Welcome dinner
- Presentation of two river songs during 1st Performance on Board +
- Departure at 17.30



Day 2 Melk Monday, October 13th 2014

Highlights: Visit the beautiful town of Melk!

- Stopover in Melk 07.00-13.00
- Morning - Visit the Melk Abbey - one of the world's most famous monastic sites. During a guided tour of the abbey you learn more about the history of the place that is the resting place of members of Austria's first ruling dynasty +
- Lunch on board
- Afternoon - Common Singing aboard (~45 mins)
- 19.00 Arrival in Vienna
- Dinner on board
- Enjoy the evening during an independent visit of the city
- Optional add-on activity: Attend a classic concert in Vienna



Day 3 Vienna Tuesday, October 14th 2014

Highlights: Performance on land in Vienna!

- Morning - Guided city tour through Vienna and see the most important highlights like St Stephen's, the Ring Street and the Hofburg Castle (excl. entrances)
- Lunch on board
- Afternoon – 1st Performance on Land (e.g. St Peters Church) +
 - 15.00-16.00 sound check
 - 16.00-17.00 concert
- Optional add-on activity in the afternoon until concert – Schoenbrunn castle (details below)
- 18.00 Departure
- Dinner on board
- Evening - Common Singing on board (~ 45 mins)



Day 4 Budapest Wednesday, October 15th 2014

Highlights: Concert performance in Budapest!

- 09.00 Arrival Budapest
- Morning - Enjoy a city tour in Budapest leading you by the Chain Bridge, Matthias Church and the Opera house etc. (excl. entrances)
- Lunch on board
- Afternoon – 2nd Performance on Land (e.g. St. Michael's Church) +
 - 15.30-16.00 sound check
 - 16.00-17.00 concert
- Optional add-on activity in the afternoon until concert: Spa visit or Formula 1 racetrack (details below)
- Dinner on board
- Evening - Common Singing on board (~ 45 mins)
- Free time to explore the city of Budapest by night



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Day 5 Budapest - Esztergom Thursday, October 16th 2014

Highlights: Perform on board!

- Morning – Explore the city of Budapest on your own – wander the narrow streets of the Old Town. For luxury lovers – check out Il Bacio di Stile housing more than 40 high-end brands
- Optional add-on activity in the morning: Spa visit or Formula 1 racetrack (details below)
- 13.30 Departure
- Lunch on board
- Afternoon – Common Singing on aboard (-45 mins)
- Dinner on board
- 18.30-20.00 Stopover Esztergom – explore the charming town housing the seat of the Primate of the Catholic Church
- Evening – 2nd Performance on board +



Day 6 Bratislava Friday, October 17th 2014

Highlights: Music themed city tour in Bratislava!

- 08.30 Arrival Bratislava
- Morning – Music themed city tour – see the most important highlights of the city and visit the parent house of Johann Nepomuk Hummel and Jan Albrecht and see locations where Franz Liszt, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart or Béla Bartók performed +
- Lunch on board
- Afternoon – explore the city of Bratislava – taste some local specialties, buy traditional handicraft or walk up to the castle and enjoy the spectacular view
- 16.00 Departure
- Evening – Common Singing on board (~ 45 mins)



Day 7 Duernstein Saturday, October 18th 2014

Highlights: Wine tasting and gala concert on board!

- Stopover Duernstein 08.00-14.00
- Morning – Guided tour – visit the blue abbey that is a landmark of this historic town and the ruins where Richard Lionheart was once held captured
- Wine tasting in Duernstein – try some of Austria's most renowned wines +
- Lunch on board
- Afternoon – Common Singing on aboard (-45 mins)
- 3rd Performance on Board during gala event (~1hr) +
- Dinner on board



Day 8 Passau Sunday, October 19th 2014

- Disembarkment and check-out in the morning
- Travel home or continue on extension tour

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PRICING

Cabin categories	Price per person
2-bed cabin, rear main deck	€ 989,- p.P.
2-bed cabin, main deck	€ 1.049,- p.P.
2-bed veranda cabin, rear middle deck	€ 1.149,- p.P.
2-bed veranda cabin, middle deck	€ 1.249,- p.P.
2-bed veranda cabin, rear upper deck	€ 1.319,- p.P.
2-bed veranda cabin, upper deck	€ 1.369,- p.P.
Junior veranda suite, middle deck	€ 1.439,- p.P..
Junior veranda suite, upper deck	€ 1.589,- p.P.

Cabin description

The cabins on the Excellence Princess fulfill your highest wishes for an exclusive river cruise. All cabins are exterior, exquisitely equipped and decorated with high-end materials. The ship's engineering is of highest and newest standard and guarantees extraordinarily quiet days and nights in your cabin.

Standard Equipment: Shower/WC, Sat-TV (Flat Screen), minibar, safe, hairdryer, house phone, individually adjustable air conditioning, heating und power supply (220 V).

Comfort Cabins: on middle/upper Deck: 16m² with French balcony; main Deck: 13m² with window.

Junior Suites: 20m² with French balcony. Internet connection (at surcharge), DVD player, bath robes.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation in cabins on double room basis with shower and toilet
- Full board treatment incl. table drinks
- All scheduled sightseeing and activities
- 7 Days Cruise incl. all port taxes
- 2 concert performances on land incl. piano hire and concert promotion
- 2 concert performances on board
- 1 gala concert performance on board
- Daily common singing with expert
- Internationally renowned music expert
- Entertainment on board
- Wellness and sport activities
- 24-hour Customer Service
- Excursions Office available for information on visits on ground
- PDM Tour Manager
- Tips

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel to and from destination (e.g. flight or train tickets)
- Single room supplement
- Any activities not specifically mentioned in the program
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses, e.g. drinks, laundry, phone calls...
- Rental fees for instruments or specific technical equipment
- Travel insurance

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Optional add-on activities

Vienna

Classical concert

Attend a classical concert at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, which was founded in 1913. It is one of the largest and most progressive music institutions in the world, adding to Vienna's reputation as one of the world's capitals of music. The exact concert and pricing will be published closer to the date

Price: from € 39,- p.P.



Schoenbrunn Castle

Excursion to the Schoenbrunn castle which used to be the residence of the Habsburg emperors from the 18th century to 1918. Renowned worldwide thanks to the "Sissi" movies, the Palace and the Park are Vienna's number one tourist attraction. During your excursion you can enjoy an Imperial tour through the Castle where you see the apartments of Emperor Franz Joseph and his wife Elisabeth.

Price: € 15,- p.P.



Budapest

Spa and Wellness

Enjoy a traditional wellness experience during a visit to thermal baths (e.g. Szechenyi Bath). Budapest is also called the "City of Baths" as it is the only city in the world that is rich in thermal waters with healing qualities. Entrance ticket with locker valid for one day and 1 20minute aroma-relax or spa massage.

Price per person: € 29,- p.P.



Formula 1 Hungaroring

Ready to go behind the scenes of one of the most famous locations of motor sport worldwide? During a private circuit tour of the Hungaroring you see places usually inaccessible to the public such as the Race Control. On request you can also race the Grand Prix track yourself.

Price per person: from € 15,- p.P. for Circuit tour only

Driving experience: from € 69,- p.P. (on request)

(Minimum number of participants: 20)



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