

Travel Tips

AMSTERDAM & BEYOND: A DANUBE RIVER CRUISE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

****Please check your own country's international travel advice as well as the airline requirements before travel.****

UK guests: please refer to the FCDO website for the latest entry and exit advice for each destination visited: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/netherlands>

PASSPORTS

Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months beyond the period of stay. It is advised to have at least one blank page in your passport for entry stamps.

Please also complete the "Emergency Next of Kin" section inside your passport before travel.

VISAS

The Schengen Agreement allows citizens of the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, and most European countries to enter the Schengen Area (which includes Austria, Germany, Hungary, and the Netherlands) for up to 90 days within a 180-day period for tourist or business purposes without a visa.

Travellers of other nationalities must check visa entry requirements prior to departure. You may be required to show proof of sufficient funds and a return airline ticket.

Further details can be found here: <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com?>

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the necessary travel documentation prior to departure.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

All passengers must have valid travel insurance before travelling, including health and cancellation coverage. Please carry a copy of your policy number and your insurer's 24-hour emergency contact number during the trip.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS & PERSONAL MEDICATION

Please inform us before travel if you have any medical conditions requiring special assistance.

If you take prescription medication, bring enough for your entire trip and carry it in your hand luggage, along with the original doctor's prescription.

TRAVELLING WITH CPAP OR OTHER MEDICAL DEVICES

If you require a CPAP machine or similar device, please notify The Big Journey Company at the time of booking. If distilled or ionised water is required, let us know in advance so that local arrangements can be made. Additional charges may apply.

LUGGAGE

What to Pack and Wear:

Weather along the Danube and in Amsterdam can vary by region, especially in early winter. Expect mild to cool days, with temperatures ranging from 5–12°C (41–54°F), and colder evenings.

We recommend packing:

- Warm, layered clothing (sweaters, long sleeves, waterproof jacket)
- A smart-casual outfit for evening dining or special events on board
- Comfortable walking shoes for city tours and cobbled streets
- Hat, gloves, and scarf for cooler weather
- Umbrella or compact rain jacket
- Adapters for European plug sockets (Type C/F)
- A small day bag for shore excursions

Luggage Allowance:

International airlines are strict regarding baggage weight and size. Please check with your airline for specific requirements, as allowances can vary.

Onboard the ship, storage space is limited, so we recommend one medium suitcase per person plus one small carry-on.

LANGUAGE

Languages spoken along the Danube include German, Hungarian, and Dutch. English is widely spoken in tourist areas, hotels, and onboard the cruise.

WEATHER

Winter and early spring along the Danube and in Amsterdam bring cool temperatures and the chance of light rain or fog. Expect average daytime highs of 5–12°C (41–54°F) and cooler evenings.

Layering is key, and waterproof outerwear is recommended for outdoor excursions.

ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage across Austria, Germany, Hungary, and the Netherlands is 230V, with a frequency of 50Hz.

You will need a European plug adapter (Type C or F). If bringing devices from North America, check whether you need a voltage converter.

MOBILES & INTERNET COMMUNICATION

Mobile coverage is generally excellent throughout Europe.

Please check with your mobile provider regarding international roaming rates before departure, as data charges can be high. Wi-Fi is available onboard the ship for an additional charge, and in most hotels and cafés. Please note that signal strength may vary, particularly while cruising.

MONEY

Currency:

The official currency in Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands is the Euro (€).

In Hungary, the currency is the Hungarian Forint (HUF), though Euros are accepted in some tourist areas.

Credit cards (especially Visa and Mastercard) are widely accepted. Some smaller shops, cafés, or markets may prefer cash, so it's useful to carry small denominations.

ATMs are available in all major cities and towns.

Tipping:

Following feedback from previous guests, The Big Journey Company offers a group tipping package for this tour. Details will be shared in your pre-tour email.

WATER

Tap water in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and Hungary is safe to drink unless otherwise stated.

Onboard the ship, filtered water is available. Bottled water can also be purchased locally if preferred.

SAFETY & SECURITY

These destinations are generally very safe for travellers.

As with any major tourist area, be mindful of your belongings, particularly in crowded spots or public transport hubs. Keep valuables and passports in your hotel or cabin safe where possible.

RELIGION

The majority of people in these regions identify as Christian (Roman Catholic or Protestant), though religious diversity is present. Local customs and festivals may coincide with your visit, particularly around the Christmas season.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Danube and Amsterdam offer stunning scenery and architecture — ideal for photography.

Bring your camera, charger, and extra memory cards. Please be respectful when photographing people or religious sites, and always ask permission where appropriate.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Standard hotel check-in is typically from 3:00 PM.

If you arrive earlier, your room may not yet be available. The Big Journey Company will liaise with hotels to request early check-in where possible.

If you have any other questions that are not covered here, please contact us: info@thebigjourneycompany.com

Disclaimer: The above information is provided as a guideline only. The Big Journey Company assumes no liability for any errors or omissions in this document.

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