Journey along the Blue Danube

JULY 13–24, 2016

Early-booking discount available before January 13, 2016
Dear Member,

Visit five countries and up to seven UNESCO World Heritage sites on this exclusive journey to eastern Europe’s great cultural centers: Prague, Salzburg, Wachau Valley, Vienna’s historic center and Schönbrunn Palace, Budapest, and Berlin. Framed by rolling hillsides, lush vineyards, and medieval castles, the Danube River Valley has resonated with musicians, artists, poets, and travelers for centuries and has fostered some of the world’s finest art, architecture, and classical music. The trip’s combination of river and land travel features three nights in the medieval gem of Prague and a seven-night cruise on the legendary Blue Danube from Passau, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary, through the stunning Wachau Valley aboard the newly launched, deluxe M.S. Amadeus Silver II, one of the finest ships to ply the waterways of Europe. The itinerary has been carefully crafted to include private performances showcasing the musical heritage of Europe’s accomplished composers, including Mozart and Beethoven, and a comprehensive schedule of exclusive expert lectures and guided excursions to attractions such as the magnificent Baroque Melk Abbey, the Lobkowicz Collection in Prague the collections and gardens at Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, medieval Bratislava, and the Hungarian State Opera House in Budapest.

I hope you will join us on this art- and music-filled journey!

Sincerely,

Aleksandra Matic
Associate Director of Member Travel

Art Institute Study Leader

Alexis Culotta holds a PhD in art history from the University of Washington. Her area of expertise is Renaissance and Baroque art and architecture. She is currently a professor of art history at the American Academy of Art as well as a lecturer at the Art Institute of Chicago. When not teaching or lecturing, Culotta serves as a staff writer for the Italian Art Society blog and continues independent research extending from her dissertation. Portions of that research were recently published in the journal Paragone: Emerging Scholars, and another article is included in an upcoming edition of Rutgers Art (late 2015).

This travel program is specially designed for Art Institute members. For more information or to become a member, please phone the Member Travel Department at (312) 443-3115.
**ITINERARY**

**Wednesday, July 13 and Thursday, July 14**  
**United States to Prague, Czech Republic**

Depart for Prague, the “City of a Thousand Spires,” a UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing 600 years of virtually untouched architecture. Upon arrival, check in to the deluxe Intercontinental Praha Hotel. Attend a private welcome reception Thursday evening in the hotel. (R)

**Friday, July 15 and Saturday, July 16**  
**Prague**

Start the day with a guided walking tour and explore the diverse cultural legacy of Prague, celebrated for its splendid combination of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. Walk along the narrow, picturesque lanes of the Staré Mesto (Old Town) to the Orloj, the ornate 15th-century astronomical clock of Old Town Hall. See the world-famous Charles Bridge, adorned with 17th- and 18th-century Baroque statues. Enjoy a brief private performance of Mozart’s music and a specially arranged private tour of the Estates Theatre, where the prodigy’s opera *Don Giovanni* premiered in 1787. In Josefov, the Jewish Quarter of Prague, visit one of Europe’s oldest standing Jewish houses of worship—the Gothic-style Old New Synagogue—and walk among the moss-covered 15th-century headstones of the Old Jewish Cemetery.

On Saturday, tour the fascinating former residence of Bohemian royalty, the Hradcany complex of castles, churches, and museums, whose spires dominate the city skyline. By special arrangement, view original Beethoven manuscripts and enjoy a private string quartet concert in the family-owned 16th-century Lobkowicz Palace. Visit the neo-Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, the largest and most significant cathedral in Prague, and see the Royal Mausoleum and magnificent St. Wenceslas Chapel. Then walk through the “Golden Lane,” a quaint byway lined with small Mannerist-style houses and workshops once occupied by castle goldsmiths, alchemists, artisans, and guards. Author Franz Kafka was said to have lived here between 1916 and 1917. (2B)
Sunday, July 17  
Prague and Passau, Germany

Travel across rolling hills and through the bucolic wooded Czech and German countryside to Passau, the only place where the Danube, Ilz, and Inn rivers meet. Enjoy lunch in a historic, traditional German restaurant before a walking tour along the cobblestone streets of Altstadt, Passau’s Old Town. Visit the Baroque St. Stephen’s Cathedral, originally consecrated in the 12th century and now home to the largest pipe organ in the world.

Board the M.S. Amadeus Silver II. This evening, attend the captain’s welcome reception. Following dinner, enjoy a short concert by the ship’s musicians of Haydn and Schumann compositions. (B,L,R,D)

Monday, July 18  
Linz for Salzburg, Austria

This morning, arrive in Linz and transfer to Salzburg, a delightful UNESCO-designated city and the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Enjoy a walking tour of Salzburg’s Old Town to admire its splendid Baroque architecture, the majestic 17th-century cathedral, and the largest fully preserved fortress in central Europe, Festung Hohensalzburg. Stroll through lovely Mirabell Gardens and along the charming Getreidegasse pedestrian thoroughfare to see the house where Mozart was born in 1756.

Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and time at leisure to explore Salzburg. Drive through the breathtaking Austrian countryside featured in the classic movie The Sound of Music and stop in the picturesque town of Mondsee to see the historical church where Maria and Baron von Trapp were married in the film. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, July 19  
Melk and Dürnstein, Austria

In the riverside town of Melk, visit the magnificent Benedictine Abbey, a showcase of Austrian Baroque architecture, priceless relics, and stunning 18th-century ceiling frescoes by Paul Troger. In the abbey’s beautiful Stiftskirche (church), admire the perfectly intact 16th-century altarpiece by “Danube School” master Jörg Breu the Elder. A prestigious center of scholarship throughout the Middle Ages, the abbey’s library is today a repository of 100,000 medieval manuscripts.

This afternoon, visit the charming medieval village of Dürnstein, situated below the hilltop ruins of Castle Kuenringer, where Richard the Lionheart was held prisoner after the Third Crusade. Walk through the quaint, picturesque village to visit the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Abbey Church and enjoy a short private organ concert inside the 15th-century Dürnstein Stiftskirche.
In the lingering light of summer, enjoy the evening on deck as you cruise the Danube’s spectacular and fabled Wachau Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where terraced vineyards blanket hillsides dotted with the haunting ruins of medieval castles. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, July 20, and Thursday, July 21
Vienna, Austria

The former seat of the Habsburg Empire, Vienna’s historic city center is an open-air museum of splendid Baroque architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Vienna’s present-day appearance is owed to Austro-Hungarian emperor Franz Josef, who created the famous Ringstrasse showcasing the city’s finest landmarks—the impressive Vienna State Opera House and the lavish Hofburg Palace. Visit the iconic Gothic Stephansdom (St. Stephen’s Cathedral). Enjoy a private, specially arranged performance of Mozart’s music in the Sala Terrena, Vienna’s oldest concert hall, where Mozart resided, worked, and performed briefly in 1781.

Wednesday afternoon is at leisure to further explore the cultural treasures of Vienna on your own.

On Thursday, visit the UNESCO World Heritage–designated Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens, the spectacular summer estate of the imperial Habsburgs. It was here, in one of the grand salons decorated with a priceless collection of art and antiques, that a six-year-old Mozart first performed for the Empress Maria Theresa and her daughter, the future queen of France, Marie Antoinette. The afternoon is free for individual pursuits. On both Wednesday and Thursday, the ship overnights in Vienna. (2B,2L,2D)

Friday, July 22
Bratislava, Slovakia

This morning, en route to Bratislava, cruise through Austria’s scenic Donau-Auen National Park, which preserves the last remaining major wetlands in central Europe.

The charming capital of Slovakia, Bratislava is nestled in the foothills of the impressive Carpathian Mountain range overlooking the banks of the Danube River. Beautifully restored since the end of the Cold War, the city showcases 21st-century life amid its 1,000-year-old history. Enjoy a walking tour of the city’s Old Town; its medieval, Renaissance, and 19th-century architecture is among the finest in central Europe. Visit the Romanesque 14th-century Cathedral of St. Martin, the elaborate Primatial Palace, and St. Michael’s Gate, Bratislava’s oldest preserved medieval fortification, originally built in 1300. Your afternoon is free to further explore this charming city. (B,L,D)
Saturday, July 23
Budapest, Hungary

Considered the “most Hungarian Habsburg” (though Austrian born), Archduke Joseph is credited with creating an imperial capital in Budapest that rivaled Vienna. Buda and Pest are the centuries-old twin cities that face one another across the Danube River; the embankments along this storied river and the Buda Castle Quarter together are designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Begin your tour in Pest to see the elegant neo-Gothic limestone Parliament Building, built between 1884 and 1904, towering over the river. Pass through Heroes’ Square and admire the monuments honoring the Magyar chiefs who conquered Hungary in 896. Visit the 19th-century neo-Renaissance Hungarian State Opera House. One of the most beautiful performing arts venues in the world, its interiors are decorated with frescoes by eminent painters, including Mór Than and Károly Lotz. Here our group will enjoy a private, specially arranged aria performance by an opera singer.

The imposing Chain Bridge links river-level Pest to the hills of Buda on the other side of the Danube. On Castle Hill, visit the stately late 19th-century neo-Romanesque Fisherman’s Bastion, offering exceptional panoramic views of the city and where seven turrets symbolize the seven Magyar tribes that settled in the Carpathian Basin.

On board the ship this evening, attend the captain’s farewell reception and dinner, followed by a traditional folklore performance. (B,L,R,D)

Sunday, July 24
Budapest to United States

Continue on the optional Budapest post program or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (B)
Deluxe M.S. Amadeus Silver II

The elegance and romance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's music was inspiration in the meticulous crafting of the M.S. Amadeus Silver II, newly launched in 2015 with all the comforts of a floating deluxe hotel and setting new standards in ship design and technology.

This exclusively chartered ship offers 84 river-view, air-conditioned, stylishly appointed suites (284 square feet) and staterooms (from 172 square feet), among the most spacious of any European river ship. Most accommodations feature a panoramic, floor-to-ceiling power window that smoothly glides down to create a balcony-like effect. Junior Suites feature panoramic, floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with a private balcony, an interior sitting area, and a minibar. Each has two twin beds (convertible to one queen-size bed), a private bathroom with shower, individual climate control, direct-dial telephone, and flat-screen television, a safe, and hair dryer.

Freshly prepared continental meals featuring local ingredients are served in single, unassigned seatings in the delightfully scenic Panorama Restaurant and include early risers’ coffee, a buffet breakfast and lunch, afternoon tea, a four-course dinner, and a late-evening snack. Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.

Public facilities are spacious and include the Panorama Bar, Lido Bar, Amadeus Club with Internet station, beauty salon, boutique, fitness studio with massage services, and early morning exercise classes. The Sun Deck has a chess board and shuffle board. Guests will also appreciate the complimentary use of an audio headset, available to all passengers for listening enhancement during shore excursions. The ship has an elevator, and laundry service is available.

The English-speaking international crew provides warm hospitality. The M.S. Amadeus Silver II meets the highest safety standards and is one of the only European river ships to have been awarded the “Green Certificate” of environmental preservation.

Berlin Pre-Program Option

Germany’s reunified capital and one of Europe’s preeminent centers of history, art, and music, Berlin is known for its extraordinary museums, grand opera, and eclectic architecture. Cruise the fabled Spree River into the heart of the city. Visit the Pergamon Museum, exhibiting relics of ancient Babylon, and the Wall Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, the former border crossing between East and West Berlin. See the glorious Reichstag, the High Renaissance-style building housing Germany’s Parliament and topped by a glittering glass dome. Accommodations for three nights are at the elegant Westin Grand Berlin Hotel.

Budapest Post-Program Option

A showcase of the wonderfully preserved Habsburg Empire’s influence, Budapest is a world-class city and one of the most beautiful in Europe. Enjoy a tour of the stately Parliament building and an excursion into Hungary’s vast protected Puszta (plains). Accommodations for two nights are in the five-star Sofitel Budapest Chain Bridge, located in the heart of the city.

Pre-program and post-program options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
JULY 13–24, 2016

TOUR OPERATOR: Gohagan & Company (CST: #20318678-40, WST: #601 767 666, OST: #TA 0905)

CO-SPONSORED WITH: Harvard University, MIT, Johns Hopkins, Smith College, NTHP

PROGRAM RATES: Pricing is land/cruise only plus taxes.

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Taxes: $240 per person

Berlin Pre-Program Option

$840 per person based on double occupancy
$1,140 per person based on single occupancy

Budapest Post-Program Option

$795 per person based on double occupancy
$1,095 per person based on single occupancy

PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS: Enrichment program of lectures and discussions; three nights in Prague and seven-night cruise aboard the M.S. Amadeus Silver II; welcome reception and farewell reception; wine served with any included lunch or dinner while on the ship; transfers and luggage handling for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with scheduled group transfers; all excursions, accommodation, and meals per detailed itinerary; all gratuities to local guides and drivers; tour manager throughout; $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

PROGRAM COST EXCLUSIONS: Airfare; passport, visa, and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; optional sightseeing excursions if any; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Inclusions” section of the brochure; transfers and gratuities to ship and hotel personnel/baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship; meals, alcoholic or other beverages, and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Inclusions” section; pre- and post-program options.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: All tour participants are strongly encouraged to purchase travel insurance, regardless of present good health. Should one need to cancel participation in this travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Thomas P. Gohagan must strictly abide by the cancellation terms outlined above. Purchasing travel insurance is the best way to protect your financial investment in the trip against unexpected complications. A travel insurance brochure will be sent upon receipt of registration and deposit.

WAIVER AND RELEASE: In order to participate in this travel program, you will be required to complete an Art Institute of Chicago Waiver and Release form that will be provided to you prior to departure.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a $800 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at (800) 922-3088 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form to (312) 609-1141. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Deposits may be made by check, payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company or with a major credit card. Final payment, payable by check, is due April 8, 2016, 95 days before departure. Deposit for pre- and post-program options is $200 per person per option.
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JULY 13–24, 2016

Name (as listed on passport) Birth date

Name (as listed on passport) Birth date

Address

City State Zip code

Daytime phone / Cell phone

E-mail address

$ Number of persons Amount enclosed

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person. An additional deposit of $200 per person is required for each of the Berlin and Budapest options. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed in this brochure.

Deposit by: □ VISA or MASTERCARD □ CHECK (payable Thomas P. Gohagan & Company)

Card number Expiration date (mm/yy) Billing zip code (if different from above)

ROOMING OPTIONS  Please make my/our reservation in Stateroom Category:

□ Double Occupancy, two twin beds  □ I am reserving a single but prefer to share accommodations. I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

□ Double Occupancy, one bed

□ Single accommodations

Berlin Pre-Program Option  Please make my/our reservation(s):

□ $840 per person based on double occupancy  □ I am reserving a single but prefer to share accommodations. I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

□ $1,140 per person based on single occupancy

Budapest Post-Program Option  Please make my/our reservation(s):

□ $795 per person based on double occupancy  □ I am reserving a single but prefer to share accommodations. I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

□ $1,095 per person based on single occupancy
I/We would like Thomas P. Gohagan & Company to book my/our air travel from

(fill in departure city) to Prague, Czech Republic, with return from Budapest, Hungary, at additional cost to be advised.

☐ Economy  ☐ Business Class  ☐ First Class

Note: Airfare is subject to change with availability and is nonrefundable.

I/we will make my/our own air travel arrangements.

All final payments are required to be made by check or wire transfer by April 8, 2016.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by the Art Institute of Chicago and Thomas P. Gohagan & Company from the participant. Cancellation fees are as follows:

$200  121 days or more prior to departure ($50 for pre- or post-programs)
$800  95–120 days prior to departure ($200 for pre- or post-programs)
40%  61–94 days prior to departure
55%  45–60 days prior to departure
70%  22–44 days prior to departure
100%  21 days or less prior to departure

We recommend that you purchase a travel insurance policy to cover cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances. A brochure will be sent with your registration confirmation.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance to cover unexpected trip interruptions, cancellations, and lost baggage. The pre-existing medical conditions exclusion is waived if the insurance is purchased within 15 days of initial deposit. Neither the Art Institute of Chicago nor our tour operators, including their representatives, employees, and agents, will take responsibility for any costs, losses incurred or suffered by the guest, guests’ dependents, or traveling companions, with regards to, but not limited to, cancellation or curtailment of the tour, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money, and goods. Nor do they accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: International airfare is not included in the program cost. The tour operator can assist you with your air arrangements. Neither the Art Institute of Chicago nor the tour operator accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned.

WHAT TO EXPECT / PHYSICAL HEALTH: All participants must be in generally good health. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motor coaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

Participants with medical issues and/or dietary restrictions must make them known to us well before departure, and impairments regarding mobility must be disclosed prior to booking. If you have any questions about the level of activity of this program or your ability to participate, please call Thomas P. Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.

PREPARING FOR YOUR JOURNEY: You will be provided with comprehensive pre-departure travel information, including specific suggestions for packing, a recommended reading list, and amenities pack.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY, PROGRAM AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Art Institute of Chicago and the tour operator. We reserve the right to change a program’s dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect as of July 2016 and are subject to change.
RESPONSIBILITY: The tour operator, its owners, and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurants, and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC) and the tour operator and their respective, employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability therefore. The AIC and the tour operator assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages, or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. The AIC and the tour operator reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.

APPEARING IN PHOTOS: Photos from AIC trips may be posted on photo-sharing websites or on social media sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by AIC or other travelers, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future AIC travels promotions; AIC will attempt to notify the traveler in advance, but no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes.

QUESTIONS: Please call Art Institute of Chicago’s Member Travel department at (312) 443-3115 or Thomas P. Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088 or e-mail us at information@gohagantravel.com.