

Grand Danube Passage

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers



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**The University of
North Carolina
General Alumni Association
September 25 – October 9, 2023**



A World of Discovery

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, become intimately engaged in the rhythm of the celebrated Danube River region, adding another memorable chapter to the rich story of your life.

Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Witness Budapest's glowing, amber skyline during an evening **sail on the Danube.**
- ▶ Gaze at the **Iron Gate Gorge**, an engineering marvel and scenic wonder.
- ▶ Discover the history and grandeur of **Vienna.**
- ▶ Delight in the captivating cobbled lanes of **Bratislava's old town.**
- ▶ Applaud the graceful turns and flowing movements of elegant waltz dancers during an **exclusive performance.**
- ▶ Marvel at the lush landscape of the beautiful **Wachau Valley.**
- ▶ Savor a moment of quiet thought in the marbled halls of **Melk Abbey.**
- ▶ Admire the **storybook villages and landmarks** along the Danube.



Dear Carolina Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow Tar Heels and friends on a cultural adventure through eight countries. The fascinating heritage and history of Eastern Europe comes to life as you cruise the mighty Danube. Each day is filled with new discoveries as you experience this crossroads of culture, stroll cobblestone alleys of medieval towns and explore bustling metropolises.

You'll begin with three nights in Prague, Czech Republic. Then sail along the Danube, reveling in unspoiled riverside landscapes, before concluding in the Balkan city of Sofia, Bulgaria. Along the way, visit inspiring UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the remarkable Wachau Valley, and taste the region's wines and cuisine. In most ports, customize your cruise with choices of cultural, active and culinary activities designed to highlight Eastern Europe's history as well as its daily life. You are certain to return home with wonderful memories of your experiences.

Travel in comfort and enjoy the excursions, cultural events and lectures selected especially for you. This is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture, cuisine and landscapes of eight countries on a deluxe travel program. Book this experience today!

Yours at Carolina,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas".

Douglas S. Dibbert '70

President

The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association

877-962-3980

norcar.ahitravel.com

UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Budapest**, Hungary, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue, Hungary
2. **Historic Center of Vienna**, Austria
3. **Wachau Cultural Landscape**, Austria
4. **Jewish Quarter, and Historic Center of Prague**, Czech Republic
5. **Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn**, Austria



Charles Bridge, Prague



Iron Gate Gorge

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart gateway city for Prague, Czech Republic. 🌐

Day 2 | Prague, Czech Republic

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the Art Deco Imperial Hotel.

Free Time: Spend the afternoon creating your own itinerary in Prague, a magnificent city spread along both banks of the Vltava River.

Tonight, gather for a special Welcome Reception.

Day 3 | Prague

Discovery: Old Town and Charles Bridge.

Admire the famous Clock Tower. The tower's 15th-century astronomical clock still works on its original system. Enjoy a stroll along the ornate Charles Bridge, Prague's most familiar landmark.

Free Time: Create your own path this afternoon. You may wish to visit Prague's intriguing museums or sit down with a craft beer.

Day 4 | Prague

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

•**Lobkowitz Palace and Museum.** Set within the Prague Castle complex, this 16th-century palace features stunning masterpieces, art, weapons and musical instruments from the

12th-20th centuries. During your visit, learn about the legacies of the noble Lobkowitz family.

•**Prague's Jewish Quarter.** Explore the Jewish Quarter and the Prague National Jewish Museum, a showcase of Jewish history and treasures. Housed in the quarter's synagogues, the exhibits provide a fascinating insight into Jewish history.

•**Art Nouveau and Cubist Walking Tour.** Uncover the city's 20th-century architecture, including buildings designed in the art nouveau and cubist fashions. Explore architectural styles, and listen to historical accounts.

Free Time: Enjoy leisure time to pursue your own interests in Prague.

Day 5 | Prague | Passau, Germany

After breakfast, transfer to Passau, Germany.

Discovery: Picturesque Passau. Nestled at the confluence of the Danube, Ilz and Inn rivers, Passau has been called "one of the world's most beautifully situated towns." Venture out to see the many highlights of this delightful city, including Niedernburg Abbey, the medieval Veste Oberhaus and St. Stephen's Cathedral.

Embark your first-class ship and kick off your Danube cruise during a Welcome Aboard Reception and Dinner.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE

Free time means something different to every traveler. You may like to linger in a cozy café or stay on the go. That's why we design itineraries that allow you to craft an individual travel experience.



PERSONALIZE YOUR JOURNEY | PYJ | Included

Choose from a variety of excursions in selected locales based on your interests.

Check out our itinerary for more details. We've done the legwork. Now the choice is yours.



Bratislava, Slovakia

Day 6 | Melk, Austria | Dürnstein

Discovery: Melk Abbey. Visit Melk's Benedictine abbey, an architectural jewel that dates from 1736, and admire spectacular views of the Danube from the abbey's terrace.

This afternoon enjoy sailing through the Wachau Valley, one of Europe's finest landscapes, where the riverbanks boast charming villages clustered around churches and medieval castles.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Dürnstein Walking Tour.** Stroll through one of the most beautiful towns in the Wachau Valley. Delight in the storybook buildings and visit the magnificent blue Stiftskirche.

•**Cycling the Danube.** Join a guide for a leisurely cycle along the Danube. See vineyards of the Wachau Valley region, and enjoy a relaxing stop to indulge in coffee and cake. *(Active)*

•**Wachau Winery.** Travel into the center of Dürnstein to visit a local winery in a beautiful old building. Learn about the winery's most popular vintages and sample a few of the wines.

Day 7 | Vienna

Enrichment: Timeless Vienna.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Imperial Vienna.** Explore the Imperial Apartments of Hofburg Palace, and drive along the Ringstrasse, one of the world's most magnificent boulevards. See the University, the Houses of Parliament and the Opera House.

•**Klosterneuburg Monastery and Wine.** The 12th-century Klosterneuburg Monastery is home to the gilded copper Verdun Altar. Witness the impressive art collection, then visit its ancient wine cellar and enjoy a tasting.

•**Schönbrunn Palace.** Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of the Imperial family. See the luxurious State Apartments, the Hall of Mirrors and the estate's vast gardens.

Free Time: During leisure time, try Viennese coffee or sacher torte, a tasty Austrian cake. A shuttle will be provided for your convenience.

AHI Connects: Viennese Waltz. Watch professional dancers perform the Viennese waltz. Then learn the steps of this classic dance!

Day 8 | Bratislava, Slovakia

Enrichment: The Velvet Revolution and the Making of Slovakia.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

•**Old Town and Café.** Discover Bratislava's



Left: Serbian folk dancers | Above: Shoes on the Danube Bank Memorial



Hofburg Palace, Vienna

rich past. See St. Martin's Cathedral, the Slovak National Theatre, St. Michael's Gate and Primate's Palace, where Hungarian archbishops spend their winters, and sample pastry at a café.

•**Old Town and Music.** Explore the cobbled streets of the charming old town, viewing many of Bratislava's most iconic sights, and revel in a performance by a talented young musician.

•**Iron Curtain Bike Tour.** Join a leisurely bike tour along the Danube to explore the Slovak-Austrian border, once part of the Iron Curtain. Delight in vistas of the marvelous Bratislava Castle, see a pre-WWII bunker and learn about the area's urban transformation. (*Active*)

Day 9 | Budapest, Hungary

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

•**Highlights of Budapest.** Enjoy a panoramic tour, passing Heroes' Square, the Opera House, the Gothic-style Parliament and Fisherman's Bastion, an iconic viewpoint in Budapest.

•**Living Local.** Browse food and craft stalls in the Great Market Hall, enjoy a strudel demonstration and taste the local schnapps.

•**Budapest's Jewish Quarter.** Explore the Jewish Quarter, viewing the Great Synagogue and the poignant Shoes on the Danube Bank Memorial. Visit the Holocaust Memorial Center inside the Pava Street Synagogue.

Discovery: Budapest by Night. Relish an

illuminated cityscape as the ship departs.

Day 10 | Pécs | Osijek, Croatia | Vukovar

Discovery: Pécs. Venture into Pécs, known for its Roman ruins and Ottoman mosques, which have been turned into churches.

🌐 **AHI Connects: Rural Croatia.** Begin your outing in Croatia's Slavonia region with a visit to Rural House, located in a small village. Sample Slavonian foods and learn about local traditions while viewing a short video. Discover the flavors of locally produced vintages during a tasting.

Discovery: Osijek and Vukovar. Take a walking tour through Osijek, passing baroque buildings, military complexes and university facilities. This village, which hugs the River Drava, has 17 parks and an impressive historic neighborhood. Continue to Vukovar for a panoramic tour through the city center.

Rejoin the ship in Mohács and sail to Belgrade.

Day 11 | Belgrade, Serbia

Enrichment: Modern Serbia.

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

•**Highlights of Belgrade.** This fourth-century capital is a hub of architecture and culture. Marvel at the ornate Orthodox cathedral, and step into St. Sava, a shining feature of Belgrade.

•**Eating Like a Local.** Take a sensory journey of Serbian gastronomy. Taste creamy *kajmak*,



Passau



Melk Abbey

a local cheese, plus other treats with delicious spices and flavors. Along the way, learn about Serbia's customs and traditions.

•Science and Scientist Tour. At the Nikola Tesla Museum, discover how this 19th-century inventor left his imprint on wireless technology while exploring interactive exhibits, original documents and short films.

Free Time: Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. A shuttle will be available for your convenience.

Discovery: Folk Show. After dinner, delight in a lively, colorful Serbian folk show on the ship.

Day 12 | Iron Gate Gorge

Sail past the cliffs of the Carpathian Mountains. Enter the Iron Gate Gorge, one of Europe's most magnificent natural wonders, which serves as the boundary between Romania and Serbia. Watching the Danube thunder through the gap is a thrilling sight!

Discovery: Frühschoppen! All hands on deck for *Frühschoppen*, a German mid-morning tradition! Relax and enjoy a spread of warm pretzels, sausages, beer and more.

Join a Farewell Reception and Dinner tonight.

Day 13 | Vidin, Bulgaria | Sofia

After breakfast, disembark the ship in Vidin.

Discovery: Ancient Vidin. Tour one of Bulgaria's oldest towns, and see the Osman Pazvantoglu Library plus other intriguing highlights. Visit the 17th-century St. Panteleimon Church and the medieval Baba Vida Fortress.

Savor lunch and stunning views at The Rocks restaurant. Then continue to Sofia and check in to the Sofia Hotel Balkan.

Day 14 | Sofia

Enrichment: A Prologue to the Bulgarian Revival.

Discovery: Sofia. Discover Bulgaria's capital. See the ancient ruins of Serdica, and admire St. George Rotunda, the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and Alexander Battenberg Square, home to the former Royal Palace.



Free Time: During leisure time, you may wish to explore Town Square or marvel at the beautiful icons and frescoes inside Sofia's churches.

In the evening, join your fellow travelers for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 15 | In Transit

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: *Itinerary may change due to local conditions.*

✈️ *Flights and* 🚗 *transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.*

A Note About Activity Levels

We want you to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience. That's why we have rated all of our excursions with activity levels to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website to review the itinerary for full details about our activity levels.

Excursions on this program require:


- ▶ walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces
- ▶ getting on/off motor coaches and boats

ACCOMMODATIONS



Art Deco Imperial Hotel | 
Prague, Czech Republic



Sofia Hotel Balkan | 
Sofia, Bulgaria

Located in Prague's city center, the landmark Art Deco Imperial Hotel is one of the city's registered historic buildings. Its richly decorated Imperial Café, one of Prague's most beautiful restaurants, provides exquisite cuisine. In Sofia, enjoy the centrally located Sofia Hotel Balkan, built as part of the President's Palace complex. The hotel's Stardust Restaurant offers Bulgarian dishes, and guest rooms are decorated in a traditional European style.



Amadeus Silver II

The Amadeus fleet of fine river ships has defined the art of cruising on the great rivers of Europe. As you board the Amadeus Silver II, you'll sense an ambience evocative of a grand European hotel. Relax in a lounge chair on the sun deck, treat yourself to a massage or exercise in the fitness room. Savor European specialties at the restaurant's breakfast buffets and a choice of appetizing regional dishes at lunch and dinner. Beer, wine or soft drinks are available with lunch and dinner. At the end of each day, return to the comforts of your cabin, appointed in modern décor and featuring a river view and a private bathroom with a shower. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.

Grand Danube Passage

Trip #:5-27822W

Call the Tar Heel Travel Office at 877-962-3980 to reserve your place (preferred registration method).

Please be prepared to provide the information below while on the phone.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Request and submit it to our office. Once this request is received in our office, an AHI Travel Expert will contact you within a few business days to discuss deposit payment. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed.

Send to The University of North Carolina General Alumni Association
Attn: Travel Office, P.O. Box 660
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660
Toll Free: **877-962-3980**

Four participants who are not members of the General Alumni Association must join the Association (\$50 for singles, \$60 for couples) to participate. Please pay by separate check made payable to the General Alumni Association and mail with this reservation form. I understand that reservations will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. I accept the conditions as stated in this brochure and submit my reservation as indicated. I understand that the balance is to be paid 75 days prior to departure.

Signature _____ Date _____

I/we would like to request _____ place(s). Deposit amount is \$600 per person.

Cabin Category Desired: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Full Legal Name (*exactly as it appears on passport*)

1) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email Name you would like on your name badge

2) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email Name you would like on your name badge

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home (_____) Cell (_____) _____

Sharing with _____
Name (Reservation Request sent separately)

Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

Flights

Yes, I/we are requesting the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Prague, Czech Republic, with a return from Sofia, Bulgaria, to depart from:

Departure City

I/we are interested in upgrading my/our international flight to the following:

First Class Business Class Premium Economy

No thanks! I/we will book my/our own air travel and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Your full balance must be paid by **June 27, 2023** (90 days prior to departure). Reservations received before this date are eligible for a discount if full payment is made at the time of booking. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Payment may be made by eCheck, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://norcar.ahitravel.com/destinations/1719A?schoold=114>. You can also request a copy from our office. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates: September 25 – October 9, 2023

Land | Cruise Program dates: September 26 – October 9, 2023

LAND | CRUISE PROGRAM

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	\$5,945	\$250	\$5,695
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$6,145	\$250	\$5,895
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$6,545	\$250	\$6,295
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$6,645	\$250	\$6,395
A-Mozart (Aft)	\$6,845	\$250	\$6,595
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$7,345	\$250	\$7,095

Suites feature a balcony.

Categories A, B and C feature a drop-down panoramic window.

Categories D and E feature a window.


*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT and Port Tax supplement is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Let us arrange your flights!

 **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase.
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates.
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights.
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays.

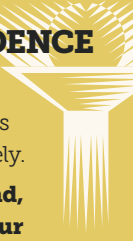
**Travel stress-free with
AHI FlexAir.**

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than half a century, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

To offer you added peace of mind, we've fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:

- ✓ **Included AHI Travel Assurance** covers travel- and health-related contingencies. Available for U.S. residents only.
- ✓ Increased booking flexibility and relaxed cancellation penalties.
- ✓ **Home support staff and ground team** communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey.
- ✓ Travel Directors specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI's health and safety protocols.
- ✓ A global network of partners rigorously following new procedures and protocols.
- ✓ **Enhanced sanitization practices** for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches.
- ✓ Tour operations modified for smaller groups and greater physical distancing.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer available for guest use.



Rock formations, Vidin

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **3 nights** in Prague, Czech Republic, at the deluxe Art Deco Imperial Hotel.
- **8 nights** aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Amadeus Silver II.
- **2 nights** in Sofia, Bulgaria, at the deluxe Sofia Hotel Balkan.

Transfers {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 9 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan that covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
 - Experience the best of captivating Prague.
 - Uncover the highlights of beautiful Passau.
 - Marvel at Melk's Benedictine abbey.
 - Enjoy a city tour of Pécs.
 - Indulge in cultural activities that celebrate the cuisine and dance of the regions.
 - Witness storied Croatian towns.
 - Discover Belgrade's historic sites.
 - Take a panoramic tour of Vidin.
 - Admire Sofia's unique landmarks.

🌍 **Personalize Your Journey | PYJ**

A choice of excursions in each locale.

Prague | Dürnstein | Vienna | Bratislava | Budapest | Belgrade

🌱 **AHI Sustainability Promise:**

Striving for a positive, purposeful impact on the destinations we visit: preserving the environment, supporting local communities and giving back to the places we travel.

🌐 **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.

- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

► **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.

► **Passenger Service Representative** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.

► **Travel Information** | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

► **Travel Director** | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.

► **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.

► **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



The University of North Carolina
 General Alumni Association
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TRAVEL
 WITH CONFIDENCE

Enhanced Health & Safety Protocols

See pricing panel for details

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Cruising the Danube in Budapest

Join us to visit eight countries and sail the legendary Danube River!

Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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