

ROMANTIC DANUBE

FIVE COUNTRIES - ONE RIVER

Hosted by Pastor Wayne Alloway

March 20 - April 1, 2025



Dear St. Mark's Family,

If you've been looking for a unique and unforgettable travel experience, I have an exciting opportunity for you to consider. I would love to have you join me and my wife on a once-in-a-lifetime cruise along the Danube River in March 2025. This cruise has been on my bucket list, and I'm so excited to share this experience with the members of our church family.

Traveling with other church members is an incredible way to make new friends, build deeper connections, and create lasting memories. Sharing the beautiful sights of five countries together is a powerful experience that you will never forget.

Those longing for the romance of Old World Europe will travel into the very heart of the continent, where empires were built, kings and queens were crowned, and some of the world's greatest music was composed and performed by the likes of Mozart and Beethoven. Grand European cities like Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest forever remain timeless. Admire the beauty of Salzburg or the Czech Republic's charming mountain town, Český Krumlov. From grand abbeys and fortresses perched high above the Danube to plentiful iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Get ready to be romanced by the Danube with all her regal and romantic splendor as we travel through Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

Again, I'd love for you to join us on this unforgettable journey. Whether you're seeking adventure, spiritual renewal, or simply a chance to connect with your church family, this cruise will surely be the experience of a lifetime.

Blessings,
Wayne



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

Munich



Pretty Passau



Sound of ...Studel



Apricot Blossoms, March



March 20, 2025 - Thursday Traveling to Munich

Our wonderful adventure begins as we meet at St. Mark's United Methodist Church's parking lot. A private motorcoach will transfer us to Omaha airport where we will take an overnight flight to Munich. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your dream vacation.

March 21, 2025 - Friday Munich

Welcome to Munich! Upon arrival, we will meet our private tour guide, who will accompany us in Germany and during our days in the Czech Republic. Munich is a beautiful city contrasting high-tech modernity and proud old traditions and has so many fantastic attractions that it is hard to know where to start. It is also a city of royal scandals and a turbulent 20th century with the early days of the Nazi Party. We transfer to the center of the city to take a walking tour of Altstadt (old town), including Marienplatz with the famous Glockenspiel and the Viktualien-markt where you will find delightful stalls selling local delicacies, exotic fruits, flowers and plants, local crafts, and much more. Lunch is served at a beautiful restaurant located opposite the State Opera House. Check in to our hotel in the early afternoon and have an evening to relax and unwind. B (during flight) | L

March 22, 2025 - Saturday BMW World - Regensburg - Embarkation

After a rich breakfast, we head out to experience the BMW World. Whether you're a die-hard enthusiast or simply curious, BMW World promises an unforgettable journey through the past, present, and future of automotive excellence. Next stop is Regensburg, a medieval UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Germany's oldest towns. Crusaders used the 12th-century stone bridge to cross the Danube en route to the Holy Land. We have arranged an old-town sightseeing on foot, and you will have leisurely time for lunch. Try the historic "Wurstkuchl" (Sausage Kitchen). Located in a 900-year-old building, this is the world's oldest sausage kitchen, still serving more than 6,000 sausages to its guests daily. The menu is simple: Sausages (comes in portions of six, eight, or ten!) along with sauerkraut and mustard! In the late afternoon, we will reach Vilshofen. This is where we embark on nothing less than a fairy tale cruise and journey down the Danube. We will meet the crew and check into our beautifully decorated cabins, and later, we will enjoy a delightful dinner. Welcome on board! B | D

March 23, 2025 - Sunday Vilshofen - Passau

Explore Vilshofen's beautiful old town before cruising to Passau, nestled at the confluence of three rivers in southeastern Germany - a picturesque city with a rich history and captivating charm. Known as the "City of Three Rivers," Passau is where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers meet, creating a stunning natural spectacle. Its history dates back over two millennia, with evidence of settlement from Roman times. The city boasts a blend of architectural styles, including Baroque, Gothic, and Renaissance, showcased in its churches, palaces, and narrow cobblestone streets. Join a walking tour, or if you prefer to be more active, hike high into the hills for a visit to the "Veste Oberhaus," Passau's Castle Hill; or how about a River Inn bike tour? B | L | D

March 24, 2025 - Monday Linz

We arrive in Linz, where you will have several choices of excursions. For those who love The Sound of Music, enjoy a full-day excursion to Salzburg and tour the historic center, Mirabell Gardens, Residenz Square, and the Old Market. En route to Salzburg, stop at Mondsee, home of the Basilica St. Michael, where the famous wedding scene in the movie was filmed. You may also choose to join a full-day excursion to the charming Czech mountain town of Český Krumlov, where you can stroll its cobblestone streets, marvel at the city's picturesque Baroque and Renaissance-style buildings, and tour Krumlov Castle, one of Europe's largest castle complexes. Following the excursions, you may also choose to take a brief walking tour in Linz. Alternatively, join a walking tour through the old city center of Linz and by the Mozart House, or bike along the city's famed "Cultural Mile" and the Danube. B | L | D

March 25, 2025 - Tuesday Dürnstein - Weissenkirchen

Cruise through the Strudengau and Wachau valleys to Weissenkirchen, the gateway to Dürnstein. Once here, you can choose to join a walking tour in Dürnstein along its cobblestone streets to the Baroque Stiftskirche and then visit Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey. For the more active adventurer, you can opt to hike up to the fortress where Richard the Lionheart was once held or take a bike ride along the Danube through the Wachau Valley. As an alternative excursion, visit a local apricot grower, where you will enjoy the region's finest

Strauss in Vienna



Bratislava



Budapest



Charles Bridge, Prague



apricot treats. Later in the evening, enjoy a special wine tasting of locally grown, world-renowned Riesling and Grüner Veltliner in Weissenkirchen. B | L | D

March 26, 2025 - Wednesday Vienna

Welcome to one of the most beautiful cities in the world! The “City of Waltzes” offers a treasure trove of gems, and your city tour showcases them, including the majestic Opera House and the former Imperial Palace. Your tour concludes in the historic city center with a visit to St. Stephen’s Cathedral. Or if you prefer a more active tour, take a guided bike ride through Vienna. During the afternoon, enjoy leisure time to explore this iconic city further. B | L | D

March 27, 2025 - Thursday Bratislava

Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, is a vibrant city brimming with history, culture, and modern charm. Perched on the banks of the Danube, it boasts a picturesque Old Town dotted with medieval buildings, cobblestone streets, and lively cafes. Bratislava Castle, perched atop a hill, offers panoramic cityscape views. With its rich heritage, dynamic arts scene, and bustling atmosphere, Bratislava invites visitors to explore its unique blend of old-world charm and contemporary allure. Host to the crowning ceremonies of 11 Hungarian kings and queens between 1536 and 1830, Bratislava certainly has earned the title “Coronation City of Kings,” as you will discover during your walking tour. Or, join a special “Tastes of Slovakia” tour. For a more active adventure, hike up to Bratislava Castle, offering magnificent views of the city. B | L | D

March 28, 2025 - Friday Budapest

Today, you have the opportunity to visit both the Buda (hilly) and Pest (flat) sides of the Danube River. Start on the Buda side, following your guide through the city’s Castle District where you will marvel at the fairytale turrets of Fisherman’s Bastion, gaze upon the breathtaking panorama below and see Matthias Church, renowned for its striking tower and colorful mosaic roof. For a more active tour, hike to Budapest’s Castle Hill. In the afternoon, explore the treasures of Pest, admiring the colossal Hungarian Parliament Building, Heroes’ Square and the moving “Shoes on the Danube Bank” memorial. B | L | D

March 29, 2025 - Sunday Disembarkation - Prague

After breakfast, we will disembark and meet with our local tour guide and private motorcoach to start our journey toward Prague. Beer has a long and illustrious history in the Czech Republic, with the first brewery known to have existed in 993. We will make a stop in Budvar, the hometown to the Budweiser beer, for lunch. Check into our hotel in the afternoon for an evening at leisure. B | L

March 30, 2025 - Monday Prague

Experience the wonders of Prague and its historic city center, which is a recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site, on your city tour today. See Rudolfinum and the Hundertwasser Dancing House. Visit the 1,000-year-old Prague Castle and St. Vitus before walking over the romantic Charles Bridge to the Old Market Square, where you will find the capital’s famous Astronomical Clock. Lunch is included in a traditional Czech bistro. The evening is yours to enjoy more of the city. B | L

March 31, 2025 - Tuesday Prague

Today is yours to experience the abundance of Baroque, Gothic, and Renaissance architecture, which makes the city an open-air museum. Don’t miss the traditional sweet “tredelnik” baked on every corner. Prague will take your breath away! We bid a fond farewell to a beautiful journey and our wonderful friends at a delightful farewell dinner in a local restaurant. B | D

April 1, 2025 - Wednesday Traveling Home

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer to Prague airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across The Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. We have arranged for a private motor coach to take us from Omaha Airport to St. Mark’s Church tonight. B | Meals during flights

The itinerary is subject to change.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



To register contact:



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Phone: 888.549.1186

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
www.executivetravel.com

SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://fs28.formsite.com/vLu8mE/MARKS32025/>

Package Price Per Person:

Shared double room - Cabin type CA (Fr. Balcony):	\$5,495
Shared double room - Cabin type BA (Balcony):	\$5,995
Single room - Cabin type CA (Fr. Balcony):	\$6,995
Single room - Cabin type BA (Balcony):	\$7,995

Triple/Quad. rooms/cabins are not available.

We offer "Pair & Share" service for our Solo travelers. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. A second non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 is due on September 1, 2024, and the non-refundable balance is due on November 1, 2024, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payments (any payments after the first deposit of \$500) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Register at least eight (8) months prior to departure and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour (rated 3) involves a good amount of walking, some stairs, periods of standing, outdoor activities, and some steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes/boots are always recommended.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

Group airfare:

Becomes available by May 15, 2024. All registered travelers will be notified.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 40 travelers. Should the number fall below 30, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Included:

- Roundtrip motorcoach St. Mark's Church - Omaha Airport
- 2 nights at a 4-star hotel in Munich
- 7 nights during our AmaWaterways cruise
- 3 nights at a 4-star hotel in Prague
- 12 x breakfast, 9 x lunch with a beverage, 8 x dinner with beverages*
- All shore excursions during the cruise
- Drinks package during the cruise, see insert
- All tours and admissions in Munich and Prague, as per the tour program
- Port taxes
- Gratuities for the cruise portion
- All transportation with deluxe motor coach as per the tour program
- Baggage handling at hotels and during cruise (1 bag pp)
- St. Mark's Church tour host: Pastor Wayne Alloway
- Executive Travel tour host
- Detailed travel documents (hard copy and e-format)
- All local taxes and fees, including port taxes

*We refer to the special cruise insert.

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour which can be found on our website at WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

Not Included:

- Airfare, estimate \$1,400 pp including taxes and fees
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for local tour director and motor coach driver (Gratuities on board the cruise are included!)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrance fees to monuments and museums other than those mentioned
- Professional fees, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Accommodations:

Munich: Hilton City or similar
Cruise: AmaWaterways AmaLea
Prague: Hotel Cosmopolitan or similar



AmaWaterways - AmaLea



Included Features:

- Panoramic Lounge with bar, piano and dance floor
- Walking track, pool with swim-up bar, fitness room and bicycles for in-port exploration
- Complimentary high-quality Wi-Fi
- Hair salon and massage services*
- The Chef's Table specialty restaurant with tasting menu
- Breakfast and lunch featuring regional cuisine; multi-course dinners made with fresh local ingredients
- Hand-selected wine, beer and soft drinks with meals - plus a Sip & Sail cocktail hour
- All-day tapas menu and afternoon tea; 24-hour coffee station
- Welcome Cocktail, Welcome Dinner, La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Dinner, Captain's Cocktail and Gala Dinner

*Additional costs apply.

Meal Plan Specifics:

- All gourmet meals onboard
- Early Riser Coffee and croissants
- Rich breakfast
- Festive lunch
- Afternoon tea and coffee with cake, cookies, and sandwiches
- Multi-course dinner including Captain' Welcome Champagne Reception & Gala Dinner, and Captain's Farewell Champagne Reception & Gala Dinner
- Complimentary cocktail hour offering a "Happy Hour Menu" on five evenings one hour before dinner
- Coffee, tea, ice-water, and iced-tea are included all day. Cappucino, latte, and espresso can be requested free during all meals
- Complimentary coffee and tea station 24/7
- Free flowing red and white wine from the local regions, beer and soft drinks for lunch and dinner

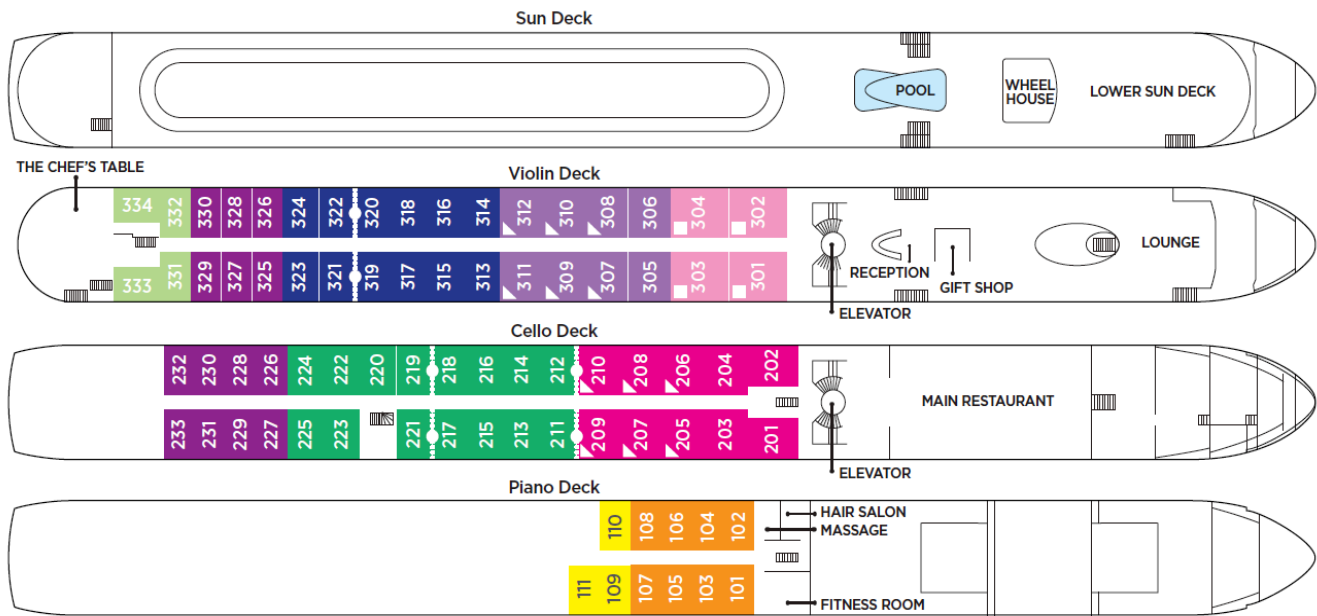


AmaWaterways - AmaLea



Technical Data:

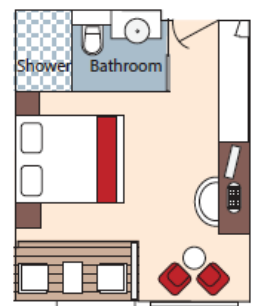
Length: 443 ft. **Width:** 38 ft. **Crew:** 51 **Staterooms:** 79 **Passengers:** 158 **Registry:** Switzerland



Stateroom Accommodations:

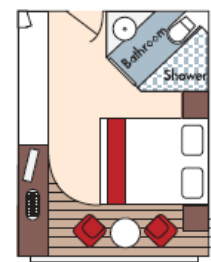
- **Category BA - Violin Deck - Balcony - 210 sq. ft.**
- **Category CA - Violin & Cello Deck - French Balcony - 170 sq. ft.**
- All outside accommodations
- Marble bathrooms, multi-jet showers, soothing bath products, and hair dryer
- Generous closet and storage space with in-room safe
- Entertainment-On-Demand, movies, music and English-language TV
- Individually controlled air-conditioning
- Bottled water replenished daily
- Fluffy bathrobes and slippers
- Unlimited Internet onboard - strictly subject to availability

Category BA



Outside Balcony Large Window French Balcony

Category CA



French Balcony