



- European Highlights -



## EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS

17 Days

Fully Escorted

08 – 24 May 2024

### ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Amsterdam Canal Trip
- North Holland Excursion
- Oberwesel
- Walking Wine Tour of Wurzburg
- Nuremberg
- Bavarian Evening
- Walking Tour of Regensburg
- Melk Abbey
- Wine Tasting in Durnstein
- Vienna
- City Tour of Bratislava
- Hungarian Folklore Show
- And so much More!

### INCLUDES:

- **Flights** Return Economy Class including Taxes\* - *business class upgrades available on request*
- **Private single category C-1<sup>A</sup> cruise cabin** – *cabin upgrade available*
- **Meals** as per itinerary [B=Breakfast/L=Lunch/D=Dinner]
- 24 hour complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate and water
- **Sightseeing** Tours and Transfers as per itinerary
- Complimentary state-of-the-art audio headsets for all excursions
- Complimentary use of onboard bicycles
- **Tour Host**– travels with group from/ to Brisbane
- English Speaking **Cruise Director**
- Port fees and cruise taxes

**From \$14,323\* per person**

**Cabin Upgrade options: B4 Cabin \$15,685\*pp / B1 Cabin \$16,520\*pp / A1 Cabin \$17,556\*pp**

Terms and Conditions apply. Economy class airfare with Emirates. \*Airline Taxes included to the value of \$300. <sup>A</sup>C1 Cabins available until sold out then higher cabin category will be offered. Solo Connections reserves the right to amend all hotels, airlines, restaurants and tours for an equal substitute at any time. Beverages, additional meals, hotel mini bars, laundry, phone calls, any items of personal nature not included. Tours subject to availability. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996





Wednesday, 08 May – Thursday, 09 May 2024  
Brisbane – Amsterdam

D

Early this evening, meet our Tour Host and your fellow travellers at Brisbane International Airport for our flights to **Amsterdam**. Interstate passengers will meet the group in transit, in Dubai.

On arrival into Amsterdam International Airport, on Thursday, we will be welcomed by a representative who will assist with our transfer. Cabins are available later in the afternoon, however we will be able to freshen up before going out for a walk around the area.

Upon embarkation of the ship, we have time to settle into our cabins before this evening's, **Welcome Cocktail**, followed by a specially-prepared **Welcome Dinner**. A rousing performance by a traditional shanty choir completes the experience.

*River Cruise Ship – Amadeus Riva (14 Nights)*

Friday, 10 May 2024  
Amsterdam

B-L-D

This morning we enjoy an included **canal cruise** along the famous Amsterdam canals followed by a trip to the peaceful countryside areas of the **Waterland region**. Enjoy the waterside of historic fishing villages and stroll along the long stretch of eateries, cafes, restaurants and fish stalls selling herring and smoked eel.

Re-joining the vessel in **Utrecht** in time for lunch, we begin cruising the waters of The Netherlands.

Freshen up and enjoy this evening's dinner.

Saturday, 11 May 2024  
Cologne

B-L-D

We awaken in Cologne, the fourth-largest city in Germany, with its skyline marked by the twin spires of the **Cologne Cathedral** among modern buildings. New blends with the old in this metropolis.

We'll enjoy a morning **walking tour** in the city that finishes with a tasting of a typical **Kölsch**, a Rhineland beer, before re-joining the ship for lunch.

Following lunch nature lovers may like to take an excursion to the **Siebengebirge National Park\***, Germany's first nature reserve, and to **Drachenfels castle** ruins. With the Rhine sprawling below in all its splendor, the views from the top of the castle ruins are stunning - **optional tour\***.

Back on-board this evening, cruise through the **passage of the Lorelei** as our ship makes it way to **Oberwesel**.



Sunday, 12 May 2024  
Rüdesheim

B-L-D

The morning starts on a high note with the passage of the Lorelei in the myth-enshrouded **Upper Middle Rhine Valley**.

At lunchtime, the vessel arrives in **Rüdesheim**, a picturesque wine-making town in the Rhine Gorge, where the river landscape has enchanted visitors for centuries.

We will discover the region's rich history on a **walking tour** and admire the magical collection of instruments at the **Music Cabinet Museum**.

Alternatively you may like to take a tram ride through the **vineyards of Rüdesheim\*** on the "Wine Express", enjoying some fine wine and a stroll along the quaint "Drosselgasse" - **optional tour\***.

Monday, 13 May 2024  
Miltenberg & Wertheim

B-L-D

After a tranquil morning on board, we join the afternoon excursion to **Miltenberg and Wertheim**.

Miltenberg is a town flanked by the **river Main** and an incredible, forested hillside and features **Miltenberg Castle** and one of the oldest inns in Germany, **the Hotel "Zum Riesen"**.

We continue to **Wertheim** and explore the medieval streets with their half-timbered houses and the unique glass museum.

We re-join the ship in time to refresh and be ready for another beautifully prepared dinner.

Tuesday, 14 May 2024  
Würzburg

B-L-D

Today, we arrive in **Würzburg**, a city in Bavaria known for lavish architecture, located in the center of the Franconian wine country.

In the morning, we experience the many beautiful sights of the town as well as the Residenz, a Baroque palace considered a masterpiece of its era. Our tour concludes with wine tasting in the ancient wine cellar of a local vineyard.

As an alternate excursion, you could choose to join the trip to **Rothenburg ob der Tauber\***, whose towers, city gates, walls, and half-timbered gables have remained unchanged - **optional tour\***.

Relax on board this afternoon and let the ships Chefs delight you with their culinary magic at dinner whilst the ship continues down the river, to **Bamberg**.



Wednesday, 15 May 2024  
Bamberg

B-L-D

We spend the morning cruising the scenic Main River, so relax on deck and take in the stunning scenery.

After lunch, we have a walking tour of the imperial city of **Bamberg**, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, which retains its medieval layout of three settlement areas, along with its historic buildings and Baroque facades. It is ranked as one of Germany's most attractive towns and is known for its deliciously smoky beer. This German town is also the place to begin the crossing of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal.

Back on-board our ship starts to make its way to **Nuremberg**. This evening you may like to join a presentation about the canal which allows free flow of traffic between the North Sea and the Black Sea.

Thursday, 16 May 2024  
Nuremberg

B-L-D

The former imperial city of Nuremberg awaits us today with its impressive turbulent history and sights.

Following breakfast, you might like to join the morning walking tour admiring the romantic old town, the Palace of Justice (the venue of the Nuremberg Trials), and more - **optional tour\***.

In the afternoon, we visit **the World of Gingerbread** to taste fresh Lebkuchen from the oven and learn about this sweet treat made of honey and spices.

Alternatively, if you prefer, learn more about World War II and the Nazi past at the **Documentation Center of Nuremberg** - **optional tour\***.

Back on board, it's full steam ahead for **Regensburg**. This evening we cruise the passage of the Continental Divide.

Friday, 17 May 2024  
Regensburg

B-L-D

This morning we arrive into the beautiful city of **Regensburg**, one of Germany's most well preserved medieval cities. Among its architectural treasures are churches, monasteries, the town hall, and one of Europe's oldest bridges, which has spanned the Danube since the 12th century.

Explore the city on our **walking tour** and feel the former power and wealth which once controlled the trade route to the Orient. Step inside the **Regensburg Cathedral**, dedicated to St. Peter, and admire this masterpiece of Gothic architecture in southern Germany.

Alternatively, you could visit the 18th century **Thurn and Taxis Palace** for a beer tasting in their traditional brewery - **optional tour\***.

Spend the afternoon cruising the waterways of the **Danube** before a Bavarian theme surrounds this evening including a special menu and festivities.



**Saturday, 18 May 2024**  
**Passau**

**B-L-D**

Our next port of call is the three-river city of **Passau**, located at the confluence of the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz rivers. High above the rivers, the **Veste Oberhaus** 13<sup>th</sup> century fortress houses a city museum and observation tower.

On our afternoon **walking tour** we discover that the old town of Passau is filled with outstanding Baroque architecture, including **St Stephen's Cathedral** containing the largest pipe organ in the world with 17,974 pipes.

This evening, enjoy dinner as we continue to beautiful **Emmersdorf**.

**Sunday, 19 May 2024**  
**Emmersdorf, Durnstein, Wachau Valley & Vienna**

**B-L-D**

We awaken early this morning in **Emmersdorf**, in the heart of the UNESCO-protected landscape, of the Wachau Valley.

You may opt to spend the morning across the river in nearby **Melk** and its magnificent **Benedictine Abbey**, the largest in Austria and a seat of higher education - **optional tour\***.

After lunch onboard, the ship will dock in the village of **Dürnstein**, known as the "Pearl of the Wachau".

We will spend the afternoon on a **walking tour** through the romantic village with its iconic blue church and winding streets, and sample the local wines.

We continue to cruise and arrive into **Vienna**, where the ship docks for the night. There is an evening concert, 'Sound of Vienna', at a local music hall available- **optional tour\***.

**Monday, 20 May 2024**  
**Vienna**

**B-L-D**

There is much to see and explore in the impressive Imperial Vienna as we go out on this morning's **city tour**.

Enjoy the sights of Vienna on the "Highlights of Vienna" tour, including the Ringstrasse, the Vienna State Opera House, the Museum Quarter and more.

After lunch, the remainder of the day is at leisure or you may choose to go on an excursion to **Schonbrunn Palace**, the former Habsburg summer residence of Empress Maria Thersia - **optional tour\***.

Late in the evening, the vessel departs to **Bratislava**.



Tuesday, 21 May 2024  
Bratislava

B-L-D

The ship arrives in the capital city of Bratislava and we will embark on a **walking tour** for the morning.

The old city walls, the summer residence of the archbishop, and the current residence of the president of Slovakia are part of the charm of this city. Walk through the restored old town, from Michael's Gate, where you can admire the **Primatial Palace** and **St. Martin's Cathedral**, a former coronation cathedral for Hungarian kings, to the Academia Istropolitana, the oldest university in the city, which dates back to the 15th century.

Later in the day, you may like to opt for an excursion to the **Imperial Hof Palace** in Austria, a magnificent 18th-century complex once owned by Empress Maria Theresia. Or for those who enjoy wineries, choose the alternate scenic drive through the **Little Carpathian** mountain range with its winemaking tradition, dating back to Celtic and Roman times - **optional tours\***.

This evening we will all enjoy the **Captain's Gala Dinner** whilst the ship makes its way to Budapest.

Wednesday, 22 May 2024  
Budapest

B-L-D

With its neo-Gothic Parliament, Fisherman's Bastion, Buda Castle and Chain Bridge, the Hungarian capital of Budapest is a perfect finale to your trip. This morning we enjoy a **city tour** exploring Budapest, the capital city of Hungary.

A large portion of this city is a **World Heritage Site**, including the banks of the Danube, Andrassy Avenue, the Buda Castle quarter, Heroes' Square, and the Millennium Underground Railway. With 80 geothermal hot springs, the third largest Parliament building in the world, and the second largest Synagogue, there is truly something for everyone to enjoy in this bustling metropolis.

Our afternoon is at leisure or the food lovers amongst us can enjoy the alternate excursion **Authentic Taste of Budapest\*** which starts at the market hall. Admire Budapest's famous thermal baths and, finally, make a stop at Café Gerbeaud, where you can order delicious Hungarian cakes and pastry. Or you could roam further afield in Pest county to the **Royal Palace of Gödöllő\***, one of the most important and imposing Hungarian palaces - **optional tours\***.

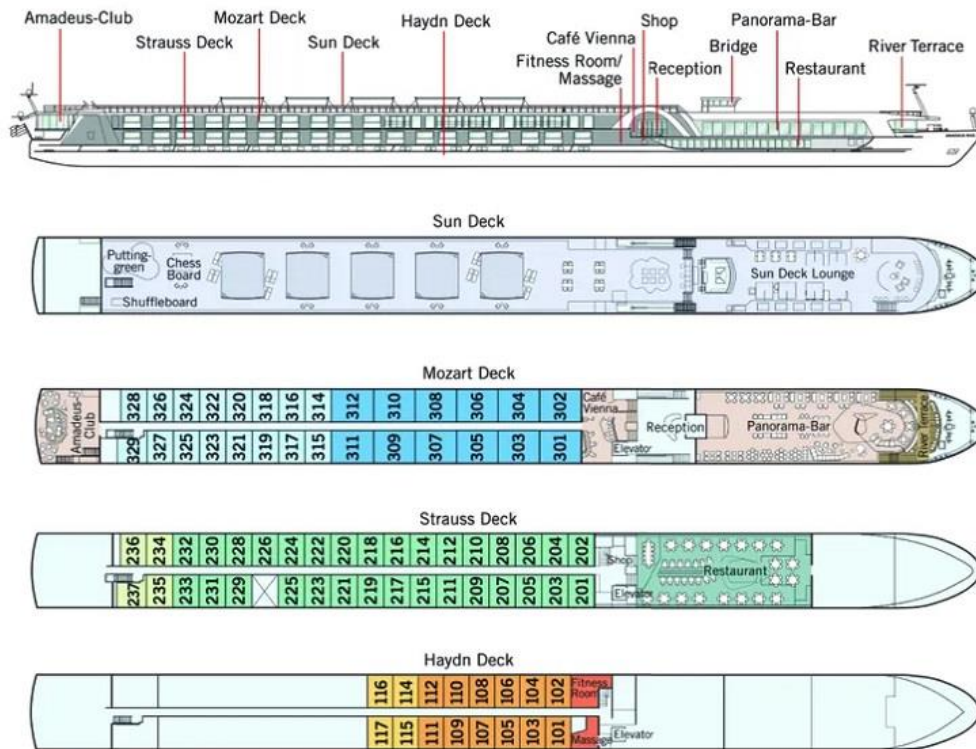
This evening, a **Hungarian folklore show** and evening cruise through the "Paris of the East" on your Amadeus Vessel is a perfect end to the cruise.

Thursday, 23 May – Friday, 24 May 2024  
Budapest - Brisbane

B

This morning we are bid farewell after breakfast and board our coach for a sightseeing tour before being transferred to the Budapest International Airport for our flights home.

## Amadeus Riva – Deck Plan



### Cabin Category

- **Stateroom A-1 \$17,556\* pp**
- **Stateroom B-1 \$16,520\* pp**
- **Stateroom B-4 \$15,685\* pp**
- **Stateroom C-1 \$14,323\* pp**

The AMADEUS Riva is designed to offer guests an effortless combination of the vibrant energy of a river cruise day with an increasingly calm and intimate ship experience. Built in 2023 the Riva follows the progressive design and top-level standard that the AMADEUS fleet is famous for, accompanied by generously designed public spaces, as well as numerous luxury outdoor and dining venues: guests can look forward to the elegant Panorama-Restaurant, the intimate dining lounge with highlight menu, the Panorama-Bar with dance floor, the classic "Café Vienna", the glazed open-air "River Terrace" bar on the ship's bow, the wellness area with massage, hairdresser and fitness room, as well as the spacious sun deck with relaxed lounge and outdoor restaurant. The AMADEUS Riva incorporates the very latest technologies in sustainable travel. The innovative ship's engine not only enables highly efficient energy management but also significantly reduces CO2 emissions and the newly developed air filtration system with two-stage purification is equally innovative and modern.





## Optional Excursions

### **Siebengebirge and Drachenfels Castle Ruins – EURO 81**

From Cologne travel by coach southward to the picturesque wine town Königswinter. From there, head towards Germany's first nature reserve, called Siebengebirge (Seven Mountains). On the top of this summit you will find the Hotel "Petersberg" where many important political discussions, such as the Afghanistan conference in 2001, took place. You can reach the summit with Germany's oldest rack railway or on foot, where you can explore the remains of Castle "Drachenfels" (Dragon Rock) and enjoy the wonderful views into the valley "Rheintal". In the 19th century a bizarre museum was built about halfway up the Drachenfels, where, besides other expeditions, the history of the Nibelungen is presented.

**Duration** - approx. 4 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.

### **Visit to a Vineyard with Tasting & Drosselgasse in Rüdesheim – EURO 50**

Enjoy an unforgettable tram ride on the "Winzerexpress" and discover the beauty of the Rhine Valley. Visit a typical winery and taste different wines of the region. Afterwards, stroll along the famous 'Drosselgasse', which is a narrow cobblestone street, first mentioned in the 15th century as an alley used by the Rhine boatmen to reach their homes. Here you can still find numerous half-timbered wine houses, restaurants and shops. Immerse yourself in the history of the village before returning to the ship on the "Winzerexpress".

**Duration** - approx. 2 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 4: Moderate walking tour. You may need to climb some stairs.

### **Medieval Rothenburg ob der Tauber – EURO 45**

Rothenburg is referred to as Germany's well-preserved "Jewel of the Middle Ages" with its ramparts, city gates, town hall and the St. Jakob parish church. Renaissance and Gothic influences shaped the town. Towers, city gates, walls, half-timbered gables – all these have remained unchanged since the Thirty Years' War. The Middle Ages come alive in Rothenburg. Upon your arrival, join the town walk with a local guide who will point out major points of interest, such as the St. Jakob Parish Church, where art lovers can admire the "Heiligblutaltar" (Holy Blood Altar) by Tilman Riemenschneider, one of the greatest German sculptors of the Middle Ages. After the guided tour, enjoy some free time and buy souvenirs or visit the famous Christmas Museum of Käthe Wohlfahrt.

**Duration** - approx. 4 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 4: Moderate walking tour. You may need to climb some stairs.



### **Nuremberg - capital of Franconia – EURO 52**

The city tour leads you to the major sites and highlights of the city, from its medieval beginnings to the present. The historic town of Nuremberg, once a free imperial city, is the second largest city in Bavaria and the capital of Franconia. During the reconstruction work following the devastation of the Second World War, the style of the old town was maintained. Ringed walls, towers and the castle provide a vivid image of the town as it may have looked during medieval times. After passing the Palace of Justice, the venue of the Nuremberg trials, the coach will take you to the old town at the heart of Nuremberg. The walk through the narrow medieval alleyways starts at the foot of the castle. The final stop of this tour is the main market, where you can stroll through the shops, or enjoy coffee before the coach takes you back to the ship.

**Duration** - approx. 4 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 5: Considerable walk with longer distances. This may include uneven surfaces and stairs.

### **Visit to the Documentation Center of Nuremberg - EURO 64**

The Nazi party's rallying grounds are in the southeast of Nuremberg, where Nazi rallies were held from 1933 to 1938. To this day, the remains of the buildings with their immense proportions are a vivid testimony to the megalomania of the National Socialist regime. This area of eleven square kilometres served as an impressive backdrop for the Nazi party rallies, staged here to demonstrate their power. Today, the area includes a memorial site and is used as the Norisring motor racing track. During this excursion you will visit the grounds and the documentation center with the permanent exhibition, "Fascination and Violence", that looks at the causes, the context and the consequences of the National Socialist reign of terror.

**Duration** - approx. 3 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.

### **Thurn & Taxis Palace with Brewery and Tasting - EURO 76**

Explore the beautiful historic Thurn and Taxis Palace in Regensburg. The Palace, which has roots in German nobility, was built in the 18th century. During the guided tour, view the beautiful marble staircase in the south wing of the palace, which leads to the magnificent rooms of the princely residence. The entire neo-Renaissance style interior is modeled after Roman antiquity. Afterwards, visit the traditional brewery at the castle, for a short guided tour followed by a beer sampling and typical Bavarian pretzel.

**Duration** - approx. 3.5 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.

**Visit to Melk Abbey - EURO 61**

Melk Abbey is an Austrian Benedictine abbey and one of the world's most famous monastic sites. The impressive Baroque abbey was built between 1702 and 1736 and is the biggest monastery complex of the Austrian baroque period. The abbey's church, with frescos by Johann Michael Rottmayr, and the impressive library with countless medieval manuscripts and frescos by Paul Troger are particularly noteworthy. A guided tour takes you through the abbot's chambers, along the emperor's walk, through the marble hall, the balconies and the library.

**Duration** - approx. 2 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.

**"Sound of Vienna" classical concert (Cat. B) - EURO 73**

In the very place where Johann Strauss himself once directed his orchestra from his position as first violin, the true essence of Vienna's classical music can once again be heard daily. The "Salonorchester Alt Wien", one of the best-known interpreters of classical Viennese music, presents an evening full of Viennese charm with the lilting sound of waltzes, polkas, arias and duets, as well as operetta and piano concert melodies. Accompanied by excellent opera singers and enchanting ballet soloists, Vienna's classical music reveals itself as a living firework display for the senses.

**Duration** - approx. 3 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 1: Minimum walking; excursion by bus with short photo stops.

**Visit to Schönbrunn Palace - EURO 67**

Travel by coach to one of the most beautiful sights of Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace. As one of the most important cultural heritage sites in Austria, Schönbrunn Palace and its gardens were declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. The reign of Maria Theresia signified the most splendid era for Schönbrunn.

The castle and park were the center of court and political life. Under the personal guidance of the Empress, it was remodelled and expanded to become a royal residence; a complex with a total of 1,441 rooms and halls was created. Visit many of the ceremonial rooms and then have the opportunity to walk around the beautifully designed gardens of the palace.

**Duration** - approx. 3.5 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 2: The excursion by bus is followed by a moderate walking tour. You may need to climb some stairs.



### **Visit to Schloss Hof Palace and Estate - EURO 67**

Travel by coach along the Marchfelder Schlösserstraße to Hof Castle in Austria. The magnificent complex was built in the early 18th century through the efforts of two of the most important personalities of the Baroque era. General Prince Eugene of Savoy was a legend in his own lifetime; as a lover of art, he provided almost unlimited funds for its construction. The brilliant architect Lucas von Hildebrandt was responsible for the execution of the masterful concept, which encompassed a magnificent palace complete with gardens and an idyllic country estate. The palace was acquired by Empress Maria Theresa, who had the central building extended by one floor and remodeled in the style of French classicism. After her reign, the Habsburgs' interest in the country estate waned, but today the Imperial living quarters, banqueting hall and chapel present themselves again as they were once designed by the best artists of their time.

**Duration** - approx. 3 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.

### **The Small Carpathian Wine Route - EURO 61**

Enjoy a beautiful drive through the Little Carpathian mountain range, a part of the Carpathian mountains. This protected forested mountain range stretches from Bratislava to the northeast for 62 miles. Dotted along the Little Carpathians are many wineries with a long winemaking tradition, dating back to the time of Celtic and Roman settlement. These villages, such as Sv. Jur (St. George), Pezinok or Modra supplied the royal court with good Little Carpathian wines since the Middle Ages. Along the Little Carpathians are also artisan towns with long traditions such as pottery and other handicrafts. On your return drive, enjoy a wine tasting of the local vintage in a wine cellar, where you will also learn about the history of wine growing in the Little Carpathians.

**Duration** - approx. 4.5 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.

### **Authentic Taste of Budapest - EURO 48**

Your spirited excursion begins with a visit to the Market Hall. Built in 1896, this impressive building is the oldest and largest indoor market in Budapest and offers a variety of Hungarian specialties such as tokaj wine, langos and Hungarian paprika. Next, you will continue by bus to the City Park, where you'll see the romantic Vajdahunyad Castle and the beautiful Széchenyi Baths - one of the largest and most popular thermal baths in Europe. Afterwards, ride the second oldest metro in Europe to the city center and visit one of Budapest's numerous pastry shops, where you can enjoy a slice of fluffy cake and a cup of coffee, and finally view the astonishing St. Stephen's Basilica.

Please note: The Market Hall is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Alternatively, we will visit the famous Budapest Opera House and drive up Gellert Hill to enjoy the spectacular view on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Duration** - approx. 3 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.





**Visit to the Royal Palace of Gödöllő - EURO 59**

The Royal Palace of Gödöllő, which is located close to Budapest, was built in the 18th century. The castle was once the favourite summer residence of Empress Elisabeth and Emperor Franz Josef of Austria. In 1867, this noble estate was the coronation gift of Hungary to the royal couple. Nestled in an enormous park, it is the largest and most attractive complex of Baroque buildings in Hungary. In recent years it has been lovingly refurbished and you can visit the splendid ballroom with its beautiful, marble stucco details, as well as the apartments of the royal couple.

**Duration** - approx. 3 hours

**Walking grade** - Level 3: The excursion by bus is followed by a longer walk. You may need to climb several stairs.