

Christmas and New Year's on the Danube: A Holiday Voyage

From
$ 9,920 / per person
Does not include flights

DATES Dec	**DURATION** 11 Days
SHIPS *Evolve*	
STARTS AT Budapest, Hungary →	**ENDS AT** Vienna, Austria

Sail the storied Danube aboard the state-of-the-art *Evolve* and experience the holiday season in grand style, celebrating the joy of Christmas and the promise of New Year's against the enchanting backdrop of Europe adorned for the season. Journey from Budapest's grand boulevards to Vienna's glowing palaces and the storybook villages that line the river, where festive traditions come alive in every square. Enjoy exclusive access to historic landmarks and intimate cultural performances that capture the magic of this time of year. On board, seasonal dining, live music and gala celebrations create a warm and elegant setting for an unforgettable holiday voyage through the heart of Europe.

Minimum Age Requirement: Any children booked on *Evolve* voyages must be at least 1 year old at time of embarkation.

Highlights



- Celebrate the holidays with exclusive seasonal events, from festive concerts and gala dinners on board to special moments amid Europe's most atmospheric Christmas settings in Budapest, Vienna and beyond
- Experience private access to cultural landmarks throughout your journey—from an organ concert at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Passau to an after-hours tour of Melk Abbey and a private visit to historic Clam Castle
- Savor the locally crafted wine of the Wachau Valley with a tasting that highlights the region's diverse terroirs
- Choose to explore the deeply rooted heritage of Salzburg or the storybook-like charm Český Krumlov, a UNESCO World Heritage site






CZECHIA
Český Krumlov
Passau
Linz
Grein
Krems
Vienna
Bratislava
SLOVAKIA
Salzburg
AUSTRIA
Budapest
HUNGARY
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
mapbox
© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Day by day

■ DAY 1

Budapest, Hungary / Embark Ship

Arrive in Budapest and embark *Evolve*. Enjoy lunch on board, then take some time to get acquainted with this stunning ship, relaxing with a drink on the top deck, indulging in a soothing spa treatment or savoring a cappuccino as you browse the library. Settle into your stateroom later this afternoon, then gather for a welcome reception and gala dinner, including Christmas carols and a tree trimming.

Meals included: dinner, lunch

◇ DAY 2

Budapest

Begin your day with a guided tour of Budapest's beloved Christmas markets. Wander through the vibrant stalls of Vörösmarty Square, St. Stephen's Basilica and Andrássy Avenue, each brimming with handcrafted gifts, seasonal treats and holiday cheer. Conclude your stroll at the Budapest Central Market Hall, the largest and oldest indoor market in the city.

This afternoon, enjoy an exclusive visit to the prestigious Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, the heart of Hungary's rich musical heritage. Enjoy rare access to its Art Nouveau concert halls and historical teaching rooms while learning about the life and legacy of composer Franz Liszt. The experience culminates in a private salon concert featuring a rising virtuoso or student ensemble—an intimate showcase of Hungary's next generation of musical talent. Cap off the day with an unforgettable Christmas Eve dinner, complete with live Hungarian entertainment.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Sailing / Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Sail the tranquil Danube River, soaking in views of wintery landscapes and storybook towns. Listen to engaging talks from expert field staff, who offer insights into the region's rich history and holiday traditions; then enjoy a delightful gingerbread cookie-making demonstration.

Gather for a festive Christmas lunch, featuring traditional dishes from Hungary, Austria and the Slovak Republic. Relax with coffee and a book or refresh with a visit to the gym during the afternoon. Later, enjoy a tasting of sparkling wines that showcase the best of local vintages. As night falls, arrive in Bratislava, the capitol of the Slovak Republic, where you can attend a joyous Christmas mass if you wish. On board, Christmas dinner awaits, followed by an evening of live entertainment featuring a traditional Slovakian band, bringing the spirit of the season to life through music and celebration.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

Bratislava

Begin your day with an unforgettable private chamber concert in one of Bratislava's most historical venues—either the elegant Reduta Hall or the opulent Golden Salon of Grassalkovich Palace. The renowned Cappella Istropolitana orchestra will perform classical masterpieces by Mozart and Haydn in one of these intimate, atmospheric settings.

Later, enjoy a curated visit to the newly reopened Salvator Pharmacy, a hidden gem designed in Baroque fashion that dates back to 1727. Marvel

at its original cabinet of curiosities, rare medicinal artifacts and richly preserved interiors. Experience a cellar-side tasting of Slovak spirits or artisanal bitters—a flavorful journey into the region's gastronomic heritage. Return to *Evolve* for an elegant Slovak dinner.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

Krems, Austria

Wake up this morning to Krems, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the heart of the Wachau Valley. Alongside an expert guide, stroll charming medieval streets, admire centuries-old architecture and visit the iconic Steiner Tor, the last remaining gate of the city's original fortifications. Delve into the region's celebrated wine culture with a private tasting at a local winery, enjoying distinctive Wachau wines that reflect the valley's terroir and heritage. The day concludes with an Austrian dinner on board that celebrates the culinary traditions of the Wachau.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

Linz / Salzburg / Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

Today, choose between exploring two of Europe's most fascinating cities: Salzburg and Český Krumlov. In Salzburg, you'll discover the city's holiday spirit amid the artisan booths of its renowned Christmas market, surrounded by the majestic Alps. Enjoy lunch at a traditional Austrian restaurant, savoring regional specialties in a cozy setting.

Alternatively, venture to Český Krumlov, a UNESCO-listed town known for its medieval architecture and storybook charm. During the holiday season, its cobbled streets and castle views are adorned with festive lights and market stalls, creating a magical atmosphere. Explore the town and savor a traditional lunch at a local restaurant.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

Passau, Germany

Experience the charm of Passau, a picturesque Bavarian town where the Danube, Inn and Ilz converge. Start at Domplatz, home to the magnificent St. Stephen's Cathedral, famous for its Baroque splendor. Witness a private performance of the world's largest cathedral organ, featuring over 17,000 pipes. Continue through the winding alleys and vibrant facades of the old town before enjoying a free afternoon to explore on your own. Conclude your day with a savory German dinner, featuring regional Bavarian dishes and beers.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 8

Grein, Austria / Melk

Take a private tour of Clam Castle, a majestic medieval fortress rich in Austrian history that overlooks the Danube Valley. Gain rare access to private areas, including the Renaissance arcaded courtyard, the Gothic chapel with Baroque flourishes, the armory and select residential apartments that have been lived in since 1454. Hear captivating stories of the castle's role in Austrian history, including how it was defended during the Thirty Years' War.

Later, experience the grandeur of Melk Abbey—a UNESCO World Heritage site—during an after-hours visit. Wander the Baroque Library, Marble Hall, Imperial Staircase and the awe-inspiring Abbey Church, all without the usual crowds. Weather permitting, stroll through the Abbey Park, home to 250-year-old linden trees and a Baroque garden pavilion adorned with frescoes by Johann Baptist Wenzel Bergl. Conclude your day with

a medieval-style dinner on board inspired by traditional Austrian fare.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Vienna

Vienna transforms into a glittering city of lights during the holidays. This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Schönbrunn Palace or the Albertina Museum. One of the largest palaces in Europe, Schönbrunn was the main summer residence of the powerful Habsburg dynasty for over 300 years and a hub of courtly life. At the Albertina Museum, discover a unique blend of imperial history and world-class art from masters like Raphael, da Vinci, Picasso and Monet. Enjoy time on your own, exploring Vienna's museums, cafés and beautifully lit streets.

Ring in the New Year this evening with an unforgettable gala dinner. Savor a multi-course feast accompanied by live classical and contemporary music. This festive onboard event, capped off with fireworks at midnight, captures the magic of Vienna at year's end.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Vienna

Ease into the new year with an onboard matinée, featuring a classical concert. If open, venture into the heart of Vienna's legendary Christmas markets, where festive cheer fills the city's historic squares. This evening, raise a glass at the farewell cocktail reception and dinner—a final celebration of your journey through the heart of Europe.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 11

Vienna / Disembark Ship

After breakfast, disembark in Vienna.

Meals included: breakfast

Expedition

Budapest, Hungary → Vienna, Austria

2027 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Evolve*

23 Dec				

2028 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *Evolve*

23 Dec				



Evolve

GUESTS	CABINS
126	60

Discover Europe aboard an expertly crafted river ship rooted in sustainable design

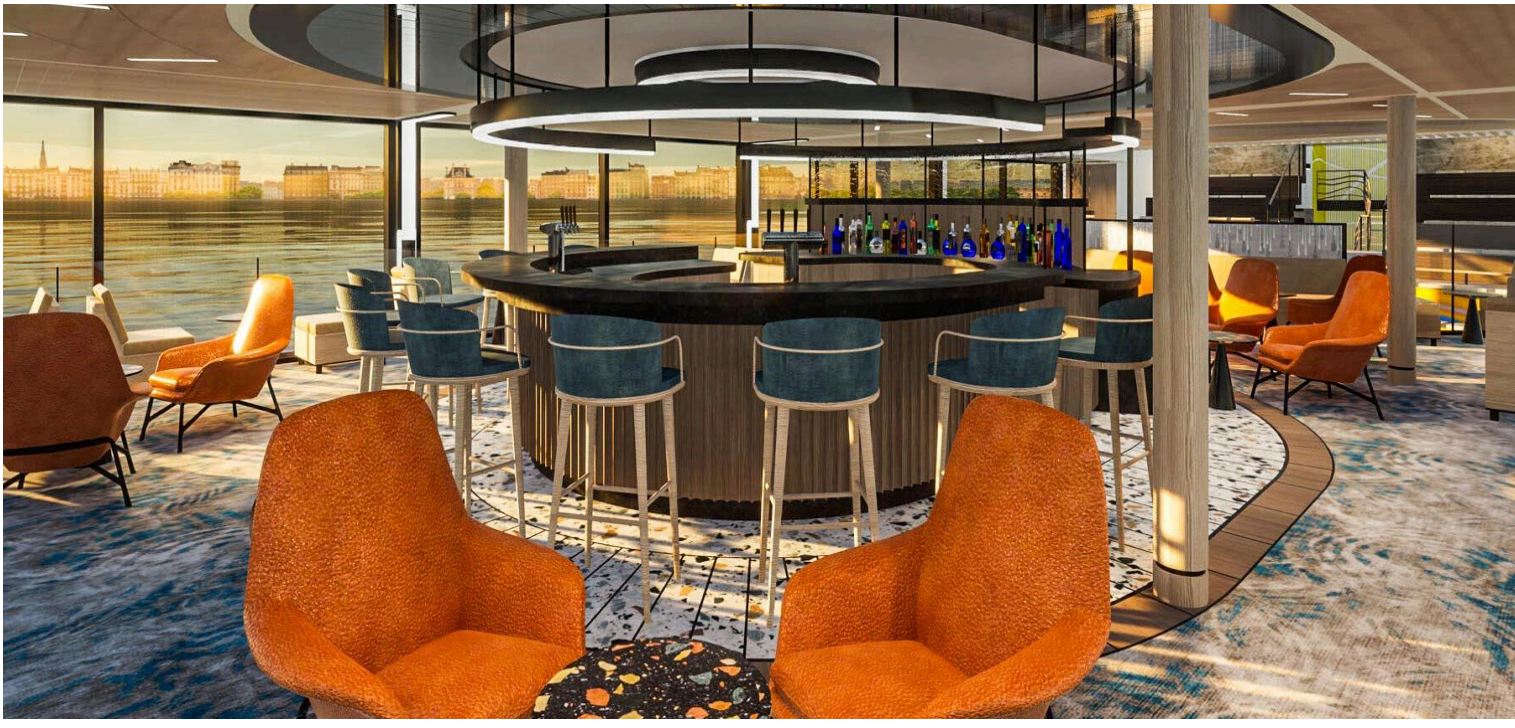
Constructed in 2026, *Evolve* is a brand-new, state-of-the-art European river ship joining our growing collection of bespoke charter vessels. With cutting-edge technology, luxurious amenities and wrap-around picture windows, this sleek 120-guest ship is uniquely designed to sail through the heart of storied destinations along the Danube, including Germany, Austria, the Slovak Republic and beyond. Sustainability and regional connection are at her core, creating a refined and meaningful experience that elevates every journey.

Setting sail in 2026, *Evolve* features sixty 210 square-foot elegant and spacious staterooms (convertible to 420 square-foot suites), each one well-appointed with two large wardrobe closets, smart glass spa shower and full-width floor-to-ceiling windows to take in the charming riverside towns and pastoral landscapes.

With an array of dynamic public venues, there is plenty of space to relax, dine, mingle with your fellow travelers, and connect more deeply with your destination through expert presentations and onboard experiences like wine tastings and musical performances. This contemporary river ship includes an expansive wellness area, the Forum, which is a two-story amphitheater, a restaurant and bistro, as well as a lively lounge with a well-stocked bar.

Every detail is thoughtfully designed—from carefully sourced build materials and green technology that minimizes food waste to environmentally friendly bath and bedding products.





Cabin Categories

Category C1

MAIN DECK **#C201-C212, C214-C229, C231, C233**

These spacious 210-square-foot staterooms feature a sash balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; two closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Category C2

UPPER DECK **#C301-C312, C314-C329, C331, C333**

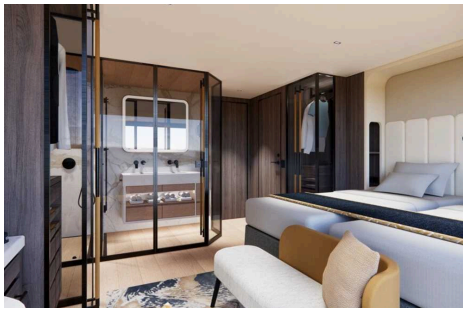
These spacious 210-square-foot staterooms feature a sash balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; two closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Category S1

MAIN DECK **#S201-S212, S214, S215, S217**

Spacious 420-square-foot S1 suites are created by combining two staterooms, offering an expansive accommodation with generous living space. Suites feature a sash window balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; four closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Category S2

UPPER DECK **#S301-S312, S314, S315, S317**

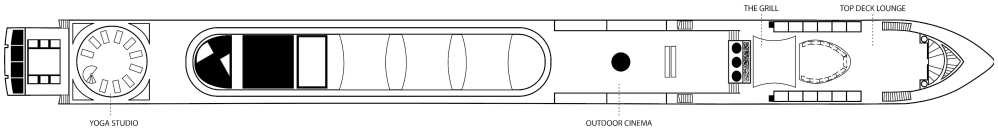
Spacious 420-square-foot S2 suites are created by combining two staterooms, offering an expansive accommodation with generous living space. Suites feature a sash window balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows; two single beds that convert to a king; bedside table; writing desk with chair; mini fridge; four closets; and an ensuite bathroom with a glass-walled shower.



Deck Plans

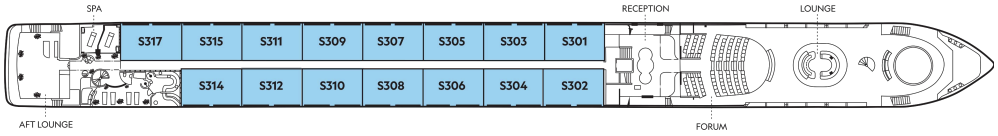
Stateroom and suite plans show different configurations of the same Main and Upper Decks. Select staterooms can be combined to create larger suites, and accommodations may include a combination of both configurations.

Sun Deck



Upper Deck - Suites

Category S2



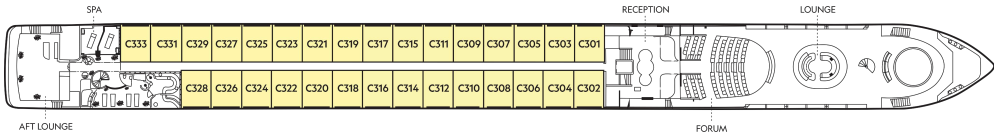
Main Deck - Suites

Category S1



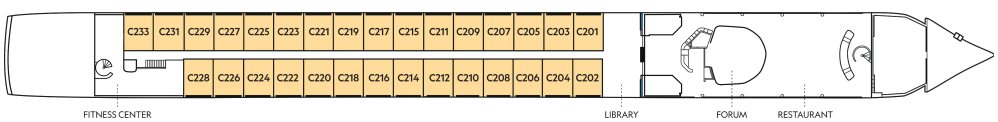
Upper Deck - Staterooms

Category C2



Main Deck - Staterooms

Category C1



Ship Amenities

Tools for Exploration

A fleet of bikes is available for those who want to enjoy some independent exploration, riding along the canals of Amsterdam or through the French countryside.

Public Spaces

An expansive top deck houses fitness zones, a lounge area and a grill and bar. From dinners to cocktail hours to movie nights, memorable al fresco events will cap off busy days spent exploring ashore.

In Good Company

Explore in the company of veteran Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic expedition staff, a veteran Expedition Leader, Certified Photo Instructor, as well as Historian, Cultural, Photo and Destination Experts.



Special Offers

10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non- refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/

CANCELLATION POLICY

Review our cancellation policy: https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/