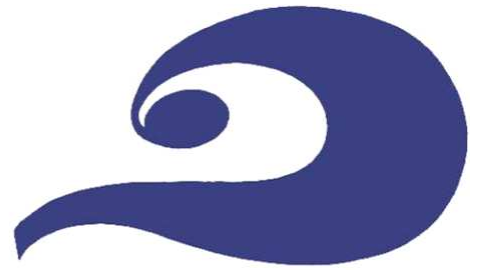


# Die Donau

Internationale Touristische Werbegemeinschaft

Danube Tourist Commission

[www.danube-river.org](http://www.danube-river.org)



## *The Danube in 2008 – Aboard and Ashore*

### Germany

On the **German Danube** 389,106 arrivals were recorded in Regensburg, and 53,870 arrivals and 109,801 overnights in Straubing. Donauwörth counted 81,349 overnights last year, Ingolstadt 390,263 overnights and 212,265 arrivals. Neuburg recorded 119,555 overnights and 52,537 arrivals; Ulm 537,000 overnights and 318,000 arrivals.

Most guests came from Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States.

**Passau**, the most important harbour for cruise ship departures, recorded 104 ships with a record-breaking 1,751 dockings and 213,793 passengers. Top source markets for cruise passengers were the United States and Australia. To date a total of 106 cruise liners have registered to call at Passau in 2009.

Overall the city chalked up 242,000 guest arrivals and 426,000 overnights. Germans accounted for the lion's share of guests—about 80 percent. The remaining guests came principally from France, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, and Great Britain.

### Austria

On the **Upper Austrian Danube** there were 554 dockings by cruise ships in 2008. For 2009 450 dockings have been registered. SchiffART Linz~Donau carried a total of 10,000 passengers on 400 trips on its two excursion ships last year.

The **Lower Austrian Danube** recorded 1.4 million overnights (+3.4%) and 700,893 arrivals (+1.4%). Overnights and arrivals by domestic guests expanded by more than eight percent, while foreign guest arrivals declined by almost ten percent. Overnights by guests from abroad also declined slightly.

The **Port of Vienna** recorded 380,529 passengers and 4,434 dockings by cruise liners and vessels providing scheduled service between Vienna and Bratislava (two Twin City Liners and LOD line hydrofoils). This represented an increase of 24.83% in passengers and 1.44% in ships over the previous year, when only one Twin City Liner was in service.

Vienna chalked up a new record in 2008 with hotels' net revenue from overnights rising by 9.3 percent to EUR 487 million. With a total of 10.2 million overnights (+5.8%) Vienna achieved its sixth consecutive record-breaking tourism year. While overnights in January 2009 numbered 555,000, or 1.1 percent below the figure for the same month of 2008, growth was recorded in the number of guests from Italy, Russia, Romania, and Austria itself. The volume of the overall decline remained minimal owing to growth in guest figures from

central and eastern Europe (Poland, Serbia, Bulgaria and Ukraine), as well as from Turkey, Australia, central and south America, Japan, China, and the Arab states in Asia.

### **Slovakia**

In **Bratislava**, a total of 1,179 dockings by cruise ship and 157,736 passenger arrivals were recorded at piers operated by **SPaP-LOD**. In addition, 93,526 passengers sailed aboard hydrofoils flying the LOD flag, of which 20,721 travelled the Vienna-Bratislava route.

### **Hungary**

In **Mohács**, the new Schengen point of entry in Hungary, 63,569 cabin ship passengers were recorded on seventy-five liners that accounted for 535 dockings. About 31 percent of these passengers came from Germany, about nine percent each from Ukraine and Romania, seven percent each from the U.S. and Bulgaria, and six percent each from Austria and Hungary.

### **Croatia**

**Croatia** recorded 19,770 passengers in 2008. Danube cruise passengers came principally from the United States (11,097 or 56.13%), followed by Germany (3,010 or 15.23%), and Australia (1,780 or 9%). Other source markets included Great Britain, 943 cruise passengers (4.77%), Canada 742 (3.75%), Austria 337 (1.7%), Netherlands 295 (1.49%), Denmark 242 (1.22%), as well as Switzerland and New Zealand with each accounting for about one percent. In 2009, twenty-eight ships and 149 dockings are currently expected at the ports of Vukovar and Ilok

### **Serbia**

**Serbia** welcomed a total of sixty-two cruise liners at its Danube ports. At Belgrade 405 dockings and 51,020 passengers, and at Novi Sad 265 dockings and 34,700 guests were recorded. Kostolac/Viminacium counted nineteen passenger ships and 2,850 guests, Donji Milanovac twenty-four dockings and 3,552 passengers. In 2008 the largest number of cruise ship passengers came from Germany (30.15%), followed by those from France (17.82%), and the United States (11.64%). Austrians (11.17%), British (11.13%), and Swiss (5.75%) also accounted for a large share of passengers

In 2009, the port of Belgrade is looking forward to 430 dockings (approx. 55,000 passengers), Novi Sad 290, Kostolac/Viminacium 30 and Donji Milanovac 45. Overall, Serbia expects some 108,620 cruise ship passengers.

### **Firms**

**Karpaten Turism**, the biggest handling agent for cruise ships in **Romania**, reported 95,550 guests in the country's eight Danube ports. **Prestige Tours International** recorded 20,000 passengers and expects 22,000 in 2009.

**Avalon Waterways** carried 5,013 cruise guests, mostly from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain. The share of passengers from other source markets accounted for less than one percent.

**Uniworld River Cruises** reported carrying 12,462 cruise guests on its Danube liners last year.

Uniworld River Cruises will bring a new ship to the Danube: in March *River Beatrice* is to be baptised in Vienna.

**Peter Deilmann** lines of Germany recorded 7,190 guests on sixty cruises aboard two liners and plans to run sixty-four cruises and carry 7,500 passengers in 2009.

Basel-based **River Advice** had 10,954 passengers on the Danube last year and looks forward to this figure topping 11,370 in 2009.

The Swiss company **Scylla Tours** welcomed 15,554 guests on the Danube and 3,313 passengers on the Main-Danube Canal aboard its ten ships.

**Croisi Europe** carried a total of 46,922 cruise guests on its seven ships on the Danube in **2008** with 28,378 passengers from France making up the largest group (60.48%). These were followed by 7,592 German guests (16.18%), 3,423 Belgians (7.29%), 1,015 British (2.16%), and 932 Spaniards (1.99%).

In **2009**, the French firm offers for the first time a cruise on the *river Sava*: the cruise departs from and returns to Budapest taking guests to Osijek, Vukovar, Novi Sad, Belgrade, Sremska Mitrovica, Brčko, Slavonski Brod, Bosanska Gradiška, and Sisak.

Croisi Europe also runs cruises on *the Tisza*, and had 380 passengers on the route from Budapest to Novi Sad and Tokaj.

Two nine-day *Tisza cruises* are to be offered in 2009. The first trip, May 8-16, starts with a flight from France to Budapest. Departing from the Hungarian capital the cruise proceeds first on the Danube to Mohács, Bezdan and Novi Sad, where the ship reaches the Tisza to travel to Kanjiža, Szeged, Csongrád, Szolnok, Tiszafüred, and Tokaj. The second trip (May 16-24) also starts with a flight from France to Budapest. Guests then travel to Tokaj where the ship casts anchor for Tiszafüred, Csongrád, Csanytelek, Szeged, Kanjiža, and Novi Sad, where the cruise continues on the Danube to Bezdan, Mohács and Budapest.

The German firm **nicko tours** operated six ships on the Danube in **2008** and carried about 26,000 guests. In **2009**, nicko tours offers a wide range of Danube holidays. With a fleet of nine ships (four three-star, and five four-star liners) and six different routes from three to sixteen nights, options for guests have been increased and made even more attractive. Another feature is the addition of *Vienna as port of departure*. The company offers a variety of ways to get to departure points: unique are bus transfers from more than 150 locations in Germany. Nicko Tours also offers attractively priced rail transfers, even pick-ups from the passenger's doorstep, and supervised parking facilities in Passau. Flight transfers are available for Danube cruising leaving from and returning to Vienna.

In **2009**, a total of fourteen new or re-named cruise liners will ply the Danube, the most European of rivers.