



SOUNDS OF MUSIC: A DANUBE JOURNEY

Budapest to Passau | July 11 – July 18, 2026

Aboard The Gentleman

Know Before You Go





Welcome Aboard

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy and anticipation that we welcome you to *Sounds of Music: A Danube Journey*, our special summer 2026 voyage with the Gulf Coast and South Florida Symphonies.

This journey is far more than a river cruise—it is a celebration of music, culture, and the shared experiences that bring us together as a community. Along the legendary Danube, we will explore the landscapes and cities that have inspired some of the world's greatest composers, from the grandeur of Budapest to the timeless beauty of Vienna and Salzburg.

In partnership with Transcend Cruises, we have thoughtfully designed an experience that reflects the artistry and spirit of our Symphonies. Aboard *The Gentleman*, our elegant floating boutique hotel, every detail has been carefully curated—from exceptional cuisine and fine wines to immersive cultural moments and, of course, extraordinary musical experiences.

For those continuing on our optional Prague extension following the cruise, even more history, beauty, and artistic discovery await—offering a deeper connection to the rich cultural heritage of Central Europe.

Your participation in this journey holds special meaning. As supporters and friends of our Symphonies, you play an important role in sustaining our mission to bring world-class music and transformative performances to our communities. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and honored to share this unforgettable experience with you.

With warmest regards and great excitement,

Andrew Kurtz

Music Director, CEO
Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra

Jacqueline Lorber

CEO South Florida Symphony Orchestra

For additional information:

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CRUISE SUMMARY

Program Name: *Sounds of Music: A Danube Journey*

Charter Partner: Gulf Coast Symphony

Vessel: *The Gentleman*

Cruise Dates: July 11 – July 18, 2026

Embarkation Port: Budapest, Hungary

Disembarkation Port: Passau, Germany

Cruise Duration: 7 Nights

Countries Visited: Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Germany

Post-Cruise Program: Czechia (Optional Extension)

PORT HIGHLIGHTS

Your journey along the Danube introduces you to some of Central Europe's most culturally rich and musically significant destinations. Below is a brief overview of each port of call:

Budapest, Hungary

A city of grand architecture and thermal baths, where the Danube divides Buda and Pest, offering a striking blend of history, culture, and elegance.



Bratislava, Slovakia

A charming capital with a beautifully preserved Old Town, baroque palaces, and a relaxed atmosphere along the riverbanks.

Vienna, Austria

The imperial heart of classical music, home to Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss, where opulent palaces, grand cafés, and concert halls define the city's timeless sophistication.

Dürnstein & the Wachau Valley, Austria

A storybook landscape of vineyard-covered hills, medieval villages, and abbeys, set within one of the Danube's most scenic stretches.

Melk, Austria

Dominated by its magnificent Benedictine abbey, Melk offers breathtaking baroque architecture overlooking the river.

Salzburg (via Linz), Austria

The birthplace of Mozart and the setting of *The Sound of Music*, Salzburg enchants with its alpine beauty, historic center, and rich musical heritage.



Passau, Germany

Known as the “City of Three Rivers,” Passau captivates with its Italianate charm, pastel-colored buildings, and stunning cathedral.

Optional Post-Cruise: Prague, Czechia

A fairy-tale city of spires, cobblestone streets, and historic squares, Prague offers a magical extension filled with culture, architecture, and timeless beauty.

EMBARKATION – BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

July 11, 2026

Boarding Time: 1:00 PM. Please plan to arrive within the designated embarkation window.

- Lunch will be served on board.
- Staterooms may not be immediately available upon arrival due to final preparations.
- The final docking location in Budapest will be provided approximately 30 days before departure. (*Dock assignments are determined by local port authorities and may vary based on river traffic and water levels.*)

Transfers:

- Guests arriving independently, are responsible for transportation to the ship.
- Guests participating in our early arrival program on July 10th will be taken to the ship as part of that program.
- If you have arranged transfers through Transcend Cruises (included as part of your fare if you arrive July 11), detailed instructions will be sent separately.

DISEMBARKATION – PASSAU, GERMANY

July 18, 2026

- Breakfast will be served onboard prior to departure.
- Staterooms must be vacated by 9:00 AM.
- All guests must disembark no later than 9:30 AM.
- Please place your luggage outside your stateroom door the evening prior to departure, as instructed in your Daily Program.
- For people not participating in the extension, all transfers are to the Munich airport only.
- For people continuing on the extension, your journey continues. Transportation from the ship includes sightseeing on our way to the hotel. Please wear comfortable shoes.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that all guests purchase comprehensive travel protection insurance. To support you, we have partnered with Faye Travel Insurance to offer excellent coverage options; however, selecting the right policy is entirely your choice.

We encourage choosing a policy that protects against:

- Trip cancellation
- Trip interruption
- Medical expenses abroad
- Emergency evacuation
- Lost or delayed baggage

For questions or assistance, please contact Faye directly at (833) 240-7056.

Please carry a printed copy of your insurance policy, including your policy number and emergency contact details, with you during your travels.

Kindly note that Transcend Cruises is not responsible for any losses incurred due to travel interruptions beyond our control.

EXTENDED FLIGHT GUIDANCE

International travel requires careful preparation.

For Long-Haul Flights

- Stay hydrated
- Avoid excessive caffeine and alcohol
- Walk periodically during flight
- Consider compression socks for circulation
- Bring essential medications in carry-on luggage



Air Travel & Passport Requirements

- Arrive **3 hours prior** to international departures
- Arrive **2 hours prior** to intra-European flights

All guests must carry a passport **THAT IS VALID FOR at least six (6) months** beyond their return date.



TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS (Schengen Area – Europe)

Guests holding passports issued by the United States (place of birth listed as the United States and traveling on a valid U.S. passport) do not require a visa or additional travel authorization for entry into the Schengen Area through October 2026.

All other guests—including U.S. residents traveling on non-U.S. passports—must verify applicable visa and entry requirements prior to departure. Requirements vary by nationality and are the sole responsibility of each traveler.

BAGGAGE GUIDELINES

Airlines strictly enforce baggage allowances and size limitations. As international regulations and carrier policies vary, we encourage you to confirm the most current requirements directly with your airline prior to departure.

A typical international allowance includes:

- One (1) checked bag, up to 50 lbs (23 kg)
- One (1) carry-on bag, generally not exceeding 22 x 14 x 9 inches
- One (1) personal item

We recommend placing valuables, travel documents, medications, and essential items in your carry-on luggage.

To ensure a smooth embarkation, please affix a clearly visible luggage tag to each piece of baggage before departure. Tags should include your full name and mobile contact number. Proper identification assists with efficient handling during airport transfers and ship embarkation and provides added security in the unlikely event of delayed or misplaced luggage.

Transcend Cruises is not responsible for airline-imposed baggage fees, restrictions, or transportation delays.

DELAYED OR MISSED FLIGHTS

In the event of a delayed or missed flight, we recommend taking the following steps:

- Contact your airline immediately to secure the earliest available rebooking.
- Please notify the Gulf Coast Symphony travel team at your earliest convenience text Joy 267-342-0555 so they may assist in coordinating next steps.
- Retain all travel documentation, receipts, and correspondence for potential travel insurance claims.

If your arrival is delayed beyond the ship's scheduled departure from Budapest, guests are responsible for arranging transportation to the next port of call at their own expense. **We strongly recommend comprehensive travel insurance to protect against such unforeseen circumstances.**

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Your journey includes moderate walking, cobblestone streets, inclines, and motorcoach transfers.

Guests must be physically capable of:

- Walking unassisted
- Embarking and disembarking motorcoaches
- Navigating gangways



There is no onboard physician. Local medical services are available in the port if required.

Please notify us in advance of dietary restrictions or medical needs.

ATTIRE & SEASONAL GUIDANCE

Daytime Ashore

July along the Danube typically brings warm summer weather, with average daytime temperatures between 70–85°F (21–29°C). In recent years, temperatures have occasionally been higher in the afternoon. Evenings along the river may feel cooler.

Shore excursions may include walking tours over cobblestone streets, village pathways, and historic city centers. For your comfort, we suggest:

- Lightweight, breathable fabrics such as linen or cotton
- Comfortable walking shoes with good support
- A wide-brimmed hat or cap
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- A light scarf or wrap for cooler evenings
- A compact umbrella or light rain jacket

Complimentary bottled water is provided onboard and during excursions. We encourage guests to remain well hydrated, particularly on warmer days.

Onboard Daytime

During the day, attire onboard is relaxed and smart casual. Resort-style clothing is perfectly appropriate throughout the ship.



Evening Attire

Evenings aboard *The Gentleman* offer an atmosphere that is casually elegant and refined, particularly during dinner and musical programming.

While there is no formal dress code and elegant attire is not mandatory, many guests enjoy dressing slightly more formal for the evening. Collared shirts, dresses, tailored separates, and polished footwear are all suitable choices.

For the comfort and ambiance of all guests, we gently discourage beachwear, athletic shorts, flip-flops, and overly casual attire in the dining venue during dinner service.

ONBOARD EXPERIENCE

Reception is open 24 hours daily.

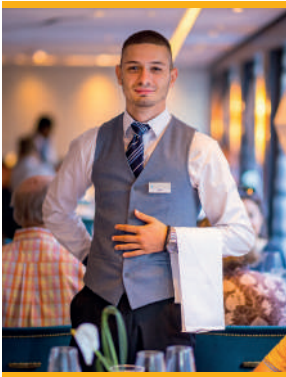
Daily Program newsletters will be delivered each evening outlining:

- Excursion schedules
- All-aboard times
- Dining hours
- GCS performance schedule

All-aboard times are strictly enforced. The ship cannot delay departure for late guests.



DINING & BEVERAGES



All meals are included.

- Open seating
- Regionally inspired cuisine
- Complimentary house wine, beer, liquor, and soft drinks
- Specialty coffee and tea

Dietary requests must be submitted in advance.

Premium wines and spirits are available for purchase.

ONBOARD AMENITIES

- Complimentary Wi-Fi (bandwidth limitations may apply)
- 40" Samsung Television
- Individually controlled air conditioning
- Desk/workspace
- Daily replenished still water (filtered and safe to drink)
- Minifridge
- Hairdryer
- Telephone
- Fitness room (24-hour access)
- Spa treatments (additional charge)
- Sun deck with panoramic views
- Main lounge with live music programming



LAUNDRY SERVICE

You'll find a laundry form in your cabin. Please complete it and place it inside your laundry bag, then submit it to Reception or hand it to your cabin attendant before 10:00 AM. Your items will be returned by 9:00 PM the same day. Kindly note that dry cleaning services are not available onboard.

ITEM	PRICE
Trousers / Hosen / Pantalon	€6,00
Shirt / Hemd / Overhemd	€6,00
T-Shirt / Poloshirt	€2,50
Pair of Socks / Socken Paar / Sokken paar	€1,00
Underpants / Unterwäsche / Onderbroek	€1,00
Undershirt / Unterhemd / Onderhemd	€1,00
Skirt / Rock / Rok	€6,00
Sweater / Pullover / Trui	€5,00
Jeans / Spijkerbroek	€5,00
Jacke / Jasie	€6,00
Pair of pyjamas / Pyjama Paar	€2,50
Ironing / Bügeln / Strijken	€2,50 Exp.

ELECTRICAL INFORMATION

All staterooms feature European 220V outlets (two-pin) and USB charging ports.

Guests should ensure personal appliances are dual-voltage (110V-220V). Devices designed for 120V only will require a converter and adapter and may not function properly.

European hotels also operate on the 220V system.

Please bring appropriate European plug adapters and confirm voltage compatibility prior to departure.

CURRENCY AND BANKING



Major credit cards are widely accepted throughout Switzerland, France, and Germany. However, we recommend carrying a small amount of Euros for local markets, cafés, and incidental purchases.

ATMs are readily available in major cities along the itinerary and typically offer competitive exchange rates.

Prior to departure, please notify your bank and credit card providers of your international travel and inquire about foreign transaction fees and daily withdrawal limits.

COMMUNICATIONS

We recommend contacting your mobile service provider prior to departure to confirm international rates, coverage, and roaming options, and to notify them of your travel plans.

For convenient communication while abroad, consider downloading WhatsApp (a free mobile app), which allows you to send messages and make calls over Wi-Fi at no additional cost.

RIVER NAVIGATION DISCLAIMER

River cruising is subject to:

- Water level fluctuations
- Lock schedules
- Port authority decisions

Itinerary modifications may occur for safety or operational reasons.

Such adjustments are beyond Transcend Cruises' control.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for onboard crew are not included.

Recommended gratuity: €15 per guest per day. (\$105 US Dollars/per person/week.)

Gratuities are to be settled onboard before disembarkation.

GCS - CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

This sailing includes exclusive musical programming curated by the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra.

- Private performances onboard
- Composer-focused lectures and discussions
- Visits to iconic musical landmarks, including Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg and Vienna's historic concert venues
- Immersive exploration of the rich musical heritage of Vienna and Salzburg



Detailed performance schedules will be provided onboard.

LUXURY SERVICE STANDARDS

Your experience includes:

- Dedicated Cruise Manager
- Personalized guest service
- Refined dining presentation
- Boutique hotel ambiance
- Intimate ship atmosphere

Our crew is trained to deliver exceptional service reflecting the artistry and sophistication of this musical journey.



RECOMMENDED READING – GCS EDITION

To deepen your appreciation of the area's cultural and musical heritage, we invite you to explore the following selections prior to departure:

Reading

Mozart: A Life – Maynard Solomon: A compelling and insightful portrait of Mozart's life and genius, especially meaningful before visiting Salzburg.

Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph – Jan Swafford: A definitive biography illuminating Beethoven's profound impact, particularly relevant as you explore Vienna.

The Strauss Dynasty – John Suchet: A fascinating look into the family behind Vienna's most iconic waltzes.

Danube: A Sentimental Journey from the Source to the Black Sea – Claudio Magris: A beautifully written cultural exploration of the Danube and the civilizations shaped by it.

Music & Documentary

Mozart in Vienna: An engaging look at Mozart's years in Vienna and his lasting musical legacy.

Beethoven – Symphony No. 9 (Various Performances): Experience one of the most celebrated works in classical music before your journey.

Amadeus: An award-winning dramatization of Mozart's life, set against the grandeur of Vienna.

Danube-Inspired Viewing

The Danube: Europe's Amazon: A stunning visual journey along the river, highlighting its natural beauty and cultural importance.

Before Sunrise: A romantic and atmospheric film set in Vienna, capturing the city's charm and intimacy.

The Sound of Music: A beloved classic set in Salzburg, bringing the region's landscapes and musical spirit to life.

For Guests Continuing to Prague

Prague: A Cultural and Literary History: A rich introduction to Prague's artistic and intellectual legacy.

The Unbearable Lightness of Being: A beautifully filmed story set in Prague that offers historical and emotional depth.

PASSENGER CONTRACT

All guests are subject to the Transcend Cruises Terms & Conditions, which are available for review on our website at danube26.gulfcoastsymphony.org. Please take a moment to read them prior to departure.

To ensure a smooth embarkation, each guest must review and sign the Passenger Contract and Waiver prior to boarding. A completed and signed waiver is required to board the vessel. Additional details and instructions will be provided prior to departure.



Final Message

We are truly honored to share this exceptional musical journey with you along the legendary Danube, through the heart of Central Europe. From the grandeur of Budapest to the imperial elegance of Vienna and the storybook charm of Salzburg, this voyage promises meaningful cultural discovery, refined hospitality, and unforgettable musical moments.

Together, the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, South Florida Symphony Orchestra, and Transcend Cruises look forward to welcoming you aboard The Gentleman and celebrating this special journey in the most inspiring way—through travel, music, and shared experience.

Bon Voyage, and Welcome aboard.



