

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION CONNECTIONS EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE JOURNEYS CHRISTMAS ALONG THE DANUBE

## PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for at least six (6) months after your journey and should have a minimum of one (1) blank visa page for entry and exit stamps for each country visited.

**Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Germany, Austria and Slovakia.**

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](https://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

## REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO COVID-19

Visit the U.S. Department of State at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) or the Government of Canada at [travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories) for comprehensive and up-to-date country entry requirements as well as information for onward travel.

### Entry Requirements

The following are the current COVID-19 screening requirements for entry into Germany, Austria and Slovakia for U.S. and Canadian residents. Requirements are subject to change.

### Germany

#### U.S. residents

- U.S. residents ages 12 years and older may only enter Germany for tourism with an original COVID-19 vaccination certificate indicating full vaccination completed no less than 14 days before arrival. The current approved vaccines are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
- Children ages 11 years and younger may enter with their fully-vaccinated parents or guardians but will be required to isolate for five days after entry.
- U.S. residents entering Germany must complete a digital registration prior to arrival which can be accessed here: [www.einreiseanmeldung.de](https://www.einreiseanmeldung.de)

#### Canadian residents

- All Canadian residents (ages 12 and over) entering Germany must present one of the following:
  - An original COVID-19 vaccination certificate indicating full vaccination completed at least 14 days prior to arrival. The current approved vaccines are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
  - Proof of a positive COVID-19 PCR test taken at least 28 days, but not more than six months prior to arrival, and with no symptoms.
  - A negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival.
  - A negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test taken no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival.

## Austria

### U.S. residents

- All U.S. residents entering Austria must present an original COVID-19 vaccination certificate indicating full vaccination. The current approved vaccines are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson. For travellers who received a two-dose vaccine, the certificate must indicate that the second dose was administered not more than 360 days prior to arrival. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine must be administered at least 22 days, but not more than 270 days, prior to arrival.

U.S. resident children aged 11 years and under are exempt from the entrance requirements above. Unvaccinated children aged 12-17 travelling with a vaccinated adult, may enter without quarantine by presenting one of the following:

- A negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival.
- A negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test taken no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival.

### Canadian residents

- All Canadian residents (12 and over) entering Austria must present one of the following:
  - An original COVID-19 vaccination certificate indicating full vaccination. The current approved vaccines are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson. For travellers who received a two-dose vaccine, the certificate must indicate that the second dose was administered not more than 360 days prior to arrival. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine must be administered at least 22 days, but not more than 270 days, prior to arrival.
  - A negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival.
  - A negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test taken no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival.
  - Official medical certification of recovery from a COVID-19 infection within the 180 days prior to arrival or a positive antibody test taken within 90 days prior to arrival.
- Select accommodations, restaurants, bars, museums, major tourist sites and entertainment venues may require guests ages 12 years and older (6 years and older in Vienna) to provide an original COVID-19 vaccination certificate or a negative COVID-19 PCR test no older than 72 hours or a rapid antigen test no older 48 hours. Non-vaccinated guests will be tested at regular intervals as necessary. Costs for testing are payable directly by credit card at time of service.

## Slovakia

- All travellers (ages 12 and over) entering Slovakia must present one of the following:
  - An original COVID-19 vaccination (Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca) certificate indicating full vaccination completed at least 14 days and no more than one year prior to arrival. Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccination must be completed at least 21 days and no more than one year prior to arrival.
  - Original certificate of vaccination indicating you have received at least one dose of the approved vaccines at least 14 days prior to arrival in conjunction with documentation of a positive COVID-19 PCR test no older than 180 days before the vaccine dose.
- All travellers ages 12 years and older coming from abroad must register online. Please visit: <http://korona.gov.sk/ehranica>.
- All travellers ages 12 years and older arriving by air must also complete a Passenger Locator Form, which can be found at: <https://www.mindop.sk/covid/>.

## Requirements for Returning Home or Onward Travel

### Germany

A&K will arrange COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Antigen testing during your time in Germany. The current cost for local testing ranges from USD \$18-\$180 (subject to change), plus any necessary transport, and can be paid by credit card or cash in local currency. Results are typically provided within 24-48 hours (less for rapid tests).

### Austria

A&K will arrange COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Antigen testing during your time in Austria. The current cost for local testing ranges from USD \$50-\$120 (subject to change), plus any necessary transport, and can be paid by credit card or in Euro cash. Results are typically provided within 36 hours (less for rapid tests).

### Slovakia

A&K will arrange COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Antigen testing during your time in Slovakia. The current cost for local testing ranges from USD \$48-\$95 (subject to change), plus any necessary transport, and can be paid by credit card. Results are typically provided within 24-72 hours (less for rapid tests).

### **Guests returning to the United States**

All travellers, including U.S. passport holders, must provide printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 viral test taken within three (3) days of boarding their flight to the United States or written documentation verifying they have recovered from COVID-19 within 90 days preceding travel. Additional details can be found at [U.S. COVID-19 Entry Requirements | CDC](#). State COVID-19 entry requirements may vary and can be found at [COVID-19 Travel Planner | CDC](#).

### **Guests returning to Canada**

All travellers, including Canadian passport holders, must provide printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test taken within 72 hours of boarding their flight to Canada. Additional information can be found at [travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories).

Note all guests with flights connecting through and/or continuing to other countries should check the specific COVID-19 entry requirements.

## STAY HEALTHY ON THE ROAD

We encourage you to bring your own masks; a supply will be on hand where needed. Note all protocols are subject to change in accordance with relevant guidelines, local regulations and conditions.

### Germany

In accordance with local regulations, face masks must be worn by everyone over the age of six in indoor public spaces (surgical masks, KN95 or FFP2), and all persons are required to practice physical distancing of at least five feet (one and a half meters).

### Austria

In accordance with local regulations, face masks must be worn on public transport and in indoor public spaces and all persons are required to practice physical distancing of at least three feet (one meter). Note that cloth masks are not permitted in Austria; masks should be FFP2-style medical respirators.

### Slovakia

In accordance with local regulations, face masks must be worn by all persons ages six and older on public transport and in public spaces and all persons are required to practice physical distancing of at least six feet (2 meters). In Slovakia, masks worn in indoor public spaces must be

N95 or medical-type respirators. Cloth masks, when required outdoors, are acceptable. We encourage you to bring your own masks; a supply will be on hand where needed.

#### On board ship

Guests are required to practice physical distancing of at least five feet (one and a half meters) and wear a medical or FFP2 mask in public areas if the minimum distance cannot be maintained. Depending on the number of guests on board, it may be necessary to serve meals in two sittings and events such as Welcome Cocktail and entertainment programs may be offered in two sessions. Passengers must wear a face mask while in the elevator. Additional safety measures, if required, will be advised on board.

Shore excursions are organized in accordance with the local rules and regulations for each country visited.

#### CASH & CREDIT CARDS

The currency on board the river ships is the euro. Guest accounts may be settled by cash (euro or U.S. dollars) or credit card (AMEX, Diners Club, MasterCard or Visa). No exchange facilities are available on board the ships.

Major credit cards are widely accepted and ATM access is common. In smaller cities, shops and cafes may prefer cash payment for goods and services. Banks and exchange facilities may refuse US dollar denominations of \$50 and \$100 if they are not equipped with devices to identify counterfeit currency.

Non-European Union resident tourists can, in most cases, apply for a refund of the VAT paid on gifts and merchandise bought for export out of an EU country. The refund should be requested at the last port before departure.

#### PACKING LIST

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to find and manage your luggage for you.

#### Safe Travel Essentials

Be sure to bring personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks, travel-sized hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, facial tissues and disinfecting wipes or spray.

#### Clothing

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather requires. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

For special occasions on board and ashore, a "jacket and tie" is appropriate for gentlemen with an equivalent standard of evening wear for ladies.

Cathedrals, churches, and other religious sites require conservative dress. Arms and shoulders should be covered.

- Warm casual slacks
- Long sleeve turtlenecks, shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels and non-slip soles
- Warm winter coat or parka
- Winter boots with anti-slip tread
- Warm gloves, scarf, and hat that covers ears

- Warm sweater or winter fleece jacket
- Warm sleepwear
- Warm or wool-blend socks
- Thermal or silk long underwear (optional)
- Personal garments
- Lightweight raincoat and umbrella

Other Recommended Items

- Sunglasses
- Simple first-aid kit
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Charging cables for electronics
- Sun block and lip balm
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Smartphone
- Global travel adapter

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

**TIPPING GUIDELINES**

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey:

	<b>European River Cruise Journeys</b>	<b>Tailor Made Journeys</b>
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$20 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Guides	Included	\$25 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Cruise staff on board river ships	Included	n/a.
Local guides/drivers on optional cruise line shore excursions	At your discretion; 1€ per person, per excursion for your driver and guide is suggested.	n/a
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a European River Cruise Small Group Journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only.

**LIFE ON BOARD EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE VESSELS**

Cabins on board the ship are fully air-conditioned and heated with adjustable climate control. All cabins and suites feature an en suite bathroom with shower and hair dryer, satellite television, personal safe, spacious wardrobe and toiletries. Suite category cabins feature a mini-bar, with

bathrobes provided for guest use. Laundry and ironing services are available for a fee; dry cleaning is not available.

The ship has an elevator which goes to all decks except the Sun Deck.

The vessel has a 24-hour staffed reception desk; library with a selection of books, magazines and daily newspapers; five bicycles and helmets for passenger use; complimentary fitness room open 24 hours; deck chairs, chess board and walking track. The ship does not have a medical doctor on board. Hair dresser and massages are available by appointment. An onboard shop sells small souvenirs, post cards, accessories and a limited supply of everyday products.

On board your river ship, all meals are included and served in the Restaurant which accommodates all guests in one or two seatings. Tables are especially reserved for the A&K group on board. A minimum distance of five feet (one and a half meters) measured from table corner to table corner is observed in the Restaurant as well as in the Panorama-Bar and Amadeus-Club.

In general, breakfast is served buffet-style with egg dishes cooked to order. Lunch consists of buffet specialties in the restaurant or a light lunch alternative is offered in the Panorama bar. Buffet-style meals will be served by staff and service may need to be adjusted depending on the number of guests on board. Dinner is usually four courses. Expect "international style" menus flavored by the cuisines of Central Europe. A&K programs include one bottle of water in your cabin daily and bottled water, coffee, tea, soft drinks, beer and house wine are included with lunch and dinner. Other alcoholic beverages can be purchased and charged to your passenger account. All bottles of wine or champagne brought on board by passengers for consumption in the ship's restaurant, bar or public areas are subject to a €10.00 corkage fee per bottle. Coffee and tea are also available at a self-serve coffee/tea station throughout the day.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on board except designated exterior areas.

On board your river ship, each cabin features a GSM direct-dial telephone. The current cost of GSM (cellular) is € 2.00 per minute for calls within Europe and € 4.00 for calls to the USA (rates subject to change).

Wireless internet connection is available and is complimentary for all A&K guests on a Connections European River Cruise Journey. The connection may be weak in certain areas (especially below bridges and next to high buildings) and cannot be compared to the regular hotel standard on land.