Pre-Departure Itinerary

VIENNA & PRAGUE
APRIL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK
9 DAYS: Friday, April 13–Saturday, April 21, 2018

DISCOVER TWO OF EUROPE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND HISTORIC CITIES in the Imperial capitals of Vienna and Prague. We'll begin in Vienna—one of the world’s great cultural treasures—and called “Europe's classiest capital,” by Rick Steves. Enjoy a panoramic tour and visits to Schönbrunn Palace and the Viennese Spanish Riding School to see the Lipizzaner Stallions at their morning training. En route to Prague we’ll enjoy an overnight in the enchanting Bohemian town of Cesky Krumlov. Our holiday ends in fairytale Prague—an old and glorious city with history carved into every cobblestone of its narrow streets. Prague is one of the few European capitals whose architecture has remained unmarred by war for the last 600 years. Explore the 1,000-year-old grounds of Hradcany Castle, walk through the Jewish Quarter and enjoy a short cruise on the Vlatva River.

Includes
• Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Vienna and Prague to Boston, via a connecting city
• Seven nights’ four-star accommodations
• Ten meals: seven breakfasts, three dinners
• Escorted, private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers
• Services of professional local Tour Manager

Accommodations
DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston
DAYS 2–4 Hotel Stefanie, Vienna
DAY 5 Hotel Dvorak, Cesky Krumlov
DAYS 6–8 Hotel Adria, Prague
DAY 9 Return flight to Boston or similar hotel accommodations

Rates
$3,399 person double occupancy
$4,259 round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is $500.

Features
Vienna: panoramic tour, visit to Schönbrunn Palace, visit to Viennese Spanish Riding School. Cesky Krumlov walking tour and castle. Prague: panoramic tour, visit to Prague Castle, walking tour of Jewish Quarter, Vlatva River cruise, excursion to Karlštejn Castle.

DAILY ITINERARY

Friday, April 13: Departure from Boston
Depart from Boston on your overnight flight to Vienna, via a connecting city.

Saturday, April 14: Arrive Vienna
Upon arrival we'll proceed through immigration and passport control and retrieve our luggage. After clearing customs we pass into the Arrivals Hall where we meet our local representative. Transfer to the
Sunday, April 15: Vienna panoramic tour
After breakfast at our hotel, we'll enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of Vienna. See Vienna's most significant sights: the MAK, the State Opera House, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Natural History Museum, the former Habsburg winter residence, the Hofburg, the Parliament, the City Hall, and the Burgtheater. Then, visit Schoenbrunn Palace, the former imperial summer residence with over 1,440 rooms. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight at the hotel. (B)

Monday, April 16: Spanish Riding School
After breakfast we'll enjoy a visit to the Viennese Spanish Riding School to see the Lipizzaner Stallions during their morning training. Return to the hotel in the early afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (B)
**Tuesday, April 17: Transfer to Cesky Krumlov**
After breakfast we'll depart Vienna for the historic and picturesque Bohemian town of Cesky Krumlov. Upon arrival we'll be treated to a walking tour of the old town and visit the castle of Cesky Krumlov, the second largest in the Czech Republic after Prague Castle, and dating to 1240AD. Tonight we'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at Dvorak Hotel in Cesky Krumlov. *(B,D)*

**Wednesday, April 18: Transfer to Prague**
After breakfast, we'll say good-bye to Cesky Krumlov and depart for Prague. After checking in to the Adria Hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure. *(B)*

**Thursday, April 19: Prague sightseeing**
Breakfast at the hotel. Today we'll enjoy a full-day tour of Prague starting with a bus ride through the historical districts and then a visit of Prague Castle. Continue with a walk through the Jewish Quarter—Josefov—passing the Old New Synagogue and the Jewish cemetery. Our full day ends with a short cruise along the Vlatva River. Overnight in Prague. *(B)*
**Friday, April 20: Karlstejn Castle**
After breakfast we’ll set off on an excursion to one of the most famous castles in the Czech Republic, Karlstejn. Built in 1348 by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV, Karlstejn served as a repository of many royal treasures. Return to your hotel in Prague in the early afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight we’ll enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Prague. *(B,D)*

**Saturday, April 21: Return flight to Boston**
After breakfast transfer to Prague Airport and our return flight to Boston. *(B)*

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.
Vienna  Lonely Planet
Baroque streetscapes and imperial palaces set the stage for Vienna’s artistic and musical masterpieces alongside its coffee-house culture and vibrant epicurean and design scenes.

Masterpiece-filled Museums
One of the Habsburgs’ most dazzling Ringstrasse palaces, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, houses the imperial art collection. It’s packed with priceless works by Old Masters, and treasures including one of the world’s richest coin collections. Behind the Hofburg, the former imperial stables have been transformed into the innovative MuseumsQuartier, with a diverse ensemble of museums, showcasing 19th- and 20th-century Austrian art at the Leopold Museum to often-shocking avant-garde works at the contemporary MUMOK. Meteorites, fossils and prehistoric finds fill the Naturhistorisches Museum, while exquisite furnishings at the applied-arts Museum für Angewandte Kunst are also among the artistic feasts in store.

Why I Love Vienna
With its rambling palaces, winding cobbled lanes, elegant Kaffeehäuser (coffee houses) and cosy wood-panelled Beisl, Vienna is steeped in history. Yet it’s also at the cutting edge of design, architecture, contemporary art, and new directions in drinking and dining. What I love most about the city is that not only does it hold on to its traditions, it incorporates them in everything from high-fashion Dirndls (women’s traditional dress) with pop-art motifs or punk conical studs to handmade Sacher Torte-flavoured doughnuts and inspired neo-retro cafes. Vienna’s past is alive in its present, and, by extension, its future.

Soul-stirring Music
With a musical heritage that includes composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Josef Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Johann Strauss (father and son), Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler, among countless others, Vienna is known as the City of Music. Its cache of incredible venues where you can catch performances today include the acoustically renowned Musikverein, used by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the gold-and-crystal main opera house, the Staatsoper, and the multistage Konzerthaus, as well as the dedicated home of the Vienna Boys’ Choir, MuTh. Music comes to life through interactive exhibits at the captivating Haus der Musik museum.

Renowned Drinking & Dining
The Viennese appreciation of the finer things in life extends to its opulent coffee-house 'living rooms' serving spectacular cakes; its beloved pub-like Beisl dishing up hearty portions of Wiener Schnitzel, Tafelspitz (prime boiled beef) and goulash; elegant restaurants; and its fine Austrian wines served in vaulted Vinothek (wine bar) cellars, and in rustic vine-draped Heurigen (wine taverns) in the vineyards fringing the city. Local and international delicacies fill the heady Naschmarkt stalls, and creative chefs are experimenting with local produce and fresh new flavour combinations in innovative, often repurposed venues.

Imperial Architecture
Vienna’s imperial grandeur is the legacy of the powerful Habsburg monarchy. Their home for more than six centuries, the Hofburg palace complex, incorporates the Burgkapelle (Imperial Chapel), where the Vienna Boys’ Choir sings Sunday Mass, and the famed Spanish Riding School, where Lipizzaner stallions perform elegant equine ballet, along with a trove of museums, including in the chandeliered Kaiserappartements (Imperial Apartments). Other immense palaces include the baroque Schloss Belvedere and the Habsburgs’ 1441-room summer residence, Schloss Schönbrunn, while 19th-century

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.
splendours such as the neo-Gothic Rathaus (City Hall) line the magnificent Ringstrasse encircling the Innere Stadt (inner city).

**Prague  Lonely Planet**
Prague is the equal of Paris in terms of beauty. Its history goes back a millennium. And the beer? The best in Europe.

**Urban Explorations**
Prague's maze of cobbled lanes and hidden courtyards is a paradise for the aimless wanderer, always beckoning you to explore a little further. Just a few blocks away from the Old Town Square you can stumble across ancient chapels, unexpected gardens, cute cafes and old-fashioned bars with hardly a tourist in sight. One of the great joys of the city is its potential for exploration – neighbourhoods such as Vinohrady and Bubeneč can reward the urban adventurer with countless memorable cameos, from the setting sun glinting off church domes, to the strains of Dvořák wafting from an open window.

**Art All Around**
Prague's art galleries may not have the allure of the Louvre, but Bohemian art offers much to admire, from the glowing Gothic altarpieces in the Convent of St Agnes, to the luscious art nouveau of Alfons Mucha, and the magnificent collection of 20th-century surrealists, cubists and constructivists in the Veletržní Palác. The weird and witty sculpture of David Černý punctuates Prague's public spaces, and the city itself offers a smorgasbord of stunning architecture, from the soaring verticals of Gothic and the exuberance of baroque to the sensual elegance of art nouveau and the chiselled cheekbones of cubist facades.

**Where Beer is God**
The best beer in the world just got better. Since the invention of Pilsner Urquell in 1842, the Czechs have been famous for producing some of the world's finest brews. But the internationally famous brand names – Urquell, Staropramen and Budvar – have been equalled, and even surpassed, by a bunch of regional Czech beers and microbreweries that are catering to a renewed interest in traditional brewing. Never before have Prague's pubs offered such a wide range of ales – names you'll now have to get your head around include Kout na Šumavě, Svijanský Rytíř and Velkopopovický Kozel.

**Why I Love Prague**
How can you not love a city that has a pub with vinyl cushions on the wall above the gents' urinal, so you can rest your head while you 'go'? Where you can order a beer without speaking, simply by placing a beer mat on the table? And where that beer is probably the best in the world? But it's not just exquisite ale and a wonderfully relaxed drinking culture that keep bringing me back to Prague. There's also wit and weirdness in equal measure: a public fountain where two figures pee in a puddle, spelling out literary quotations; a 1950s nuclear bunker hidden beneath a city centre hotel; and a cubist lamppost. Quirky doesn't even begin to describe it.

**European Hotspot**
The 1989 Velvet Revolution that freed the Czechs from communism bequeathed to Europe a gem of a city to stand beside stalwarts such as Rome, Amsterdam and London. Not surprisingly, visitors from around the world have come in droves, and on a hot summer’s day it can feel like you’re sharing Charles Bridge with half of humanity. But even the crowds can’t take away from the spectacle of a 14th-century stone bridge, a hilltop castle and a lovely, lazy river – the Vltava – that inspired one of the most hauntingly beautiful pieces of 19th-century classical music, Smetana’s Moldau symphony.