



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Imperial Cities

Prague, Vienna & Budapest

Monday, October 12 – Thursday, October 22, 2009

You know that long list of places you dream of visiting? Here are three of them: Prague, Vienna and Budapest. We'll start in **Prague, Czech Republic**, a fairy-tale-worthy "city of a thousand spires," with countless castles, shops and museums. And though you won't want to leave, the next stop may be even more dazzling—the ever sophisticated **Vienna, Austria**, one of the world's great cultural and architectural hubs. Treat yourself to a classical music concert and enjoy tours of grand **Schönenbrunn Palace**, and a magical trip down the **Danube River**. Then it's off to **Budapest, Hungary**, where you'll be drawn into the city's beautiful architecture and magnificent river views. Highlights will include a spectacular equestrian show; a Hungarian feast and gypsy-folk entertainment; as well as a glimpse into the city's Renaissance history with a visit to a 14th century castle, where costumed knights recreate the days of chivalry and provide a special dinner. Three cities, three countries—hundreds of new memories.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Prague and Budapest to Boston
- Nine nights' first class accommodations
- Fifteen meals: nine breakfasts, one lunch, seven dinners
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

Rates

\$2,999 per person double occupancy

\$2,949 per person triple occupancy

\$3,819 for single reservations

Add \$390 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$200. Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at time of booking. Passport required.

Visitors are required to have travel/health insurance to travel to the Czech Republic. The health insurance must cover medical services abroad with minimum coverage of \$38,000. If you purchase waiver/insurance mentioned above, your coverage meets this requirement. If not, you will be required to have proof of your own coverage to enter the country.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday, October 12 Overnight Flight

Great sightseeing, traditional entertainment and a fabulous Hungarian horse show highlight your amazing tour of the Imperial cities of Central Europe. Your cultural experience of a lifetime begins with an overnight flight to Europe.

Features

Prague: panoramic tour, Hradcany Castle, Golden Lane, Charles Bridge, Old Jewish Quarter; Vienna: city tour featuring Schönenbrunn Palace, St. Stephan's Cathedral; Danube River cruise, Melk Abbey; Vienna Woods; Budapest: Puszta horse farm and show, traditional Hungarian feast with gypsy music, city tour, Szentendre and Visegrad, Renaissance-style dinner

Trip Planner

Day 1: Overnight flight from Boston

Days 2-4: Mercure Prague Center, Prague

Days 5-7: Hotel De France, Vienna

Days 8-10: Hotel Radisson SAS Beke, Budapest

Day 11: Return flight to Boston

Day 2: Tuesday, October 13 Arrive Prague, Czech Republic

After arriving in Prague, variously called the "Golden City" or "The City of 100 Spires," the remainder of your day is at leisure. You will come to adore Prague, whose historic center has been included on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites since 1992. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Wednesday, October 14 Prague

Your introduction to this fairy tale city begins with a panoramic tour as you drive through the city to the amazing Hradcany Castle. Walk the famous Golden Lane with its delightful miniature houses, including one that was the residence of Franz Kafka. View St. Vitus Cathedral as well as the lovely statue-lined Charles Bridge. The afternoon is at leisure to independently explore the city, shop for famous Bohemian crystal, or visit one of the city's many outstanding museums, such as the Lapidarium, home of stone sculptures dating from the 11th century to the present. (B)

Day 4: Thursday, October 15 Prague

Today you visit Prague's Old Jewish Quarter. See its historic Jewish Museum and Europe's oldest surviving Jewish cemetery, founded in 1478. Continue to explore this fascinating area with a leisurely walking tour through the old town. Don't miss the famous Orloj, which functions as a clock, calendar, primitive planetarium and showcases a parade of the Apostles. This evening you are invited to a wonderful dinner of culinary delights at one of Prague's historic restaurants. (B, D)

Day 5: Friday, October 16 Vienna, Austria

A scenic ride through the countryside takes you from Prague into the grand city of Vienna, the former capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. With the remainder of your day at leisure, you may choose to sample a scrumptious strudel or Sachertorte at a traditional "kaffeehaus." Perhaps you will visit a fascinating museum or see the Old Quarter from a horse-drawn "Fiaker," a well-appointed horse-drawn carriage whose driver traditionally sports a bowler hat. Tonight, you may choose to join an optional dinner followed by an unforgettable classical music concert featuring many fine melodies from the great composers. (B)

Day 6: Saturday, October 17 Vienna

A city tour features the baroque marvels of Schoenbrunn Palace, the summer retreat of the Habsburg dynasty for more than 200 years. Touring Vienna's city center, see the gothic St. Stephan's Cathedral and behold the beautiful architecture, scenic parks, and gothic spires that fill the city. Enjoy a memorable evening, with entertainment, in the picturesque wine-making village of Grinzing. (B, D)

Day 7: Sunday, October 18 Vienna - Danube River - Melk - Vienna

Travel along the banks of the Danube to the medieval town of Durnstein where you board your boat for a scenic Danube River cruise. "Waltz" across one of the most breathtaking bodies of water in the world, immortalized by Strauss, and travel through the historic Wachau Valley. Later, visit the 11th century Melk Abbey, famous for its production and collection of manuscripts. A leisurely ride through the Vienna Woods concludes this marvelous day. (B)

Day 8: Monday, October 19 Vienna - Budapest, Hungary

Your journey continues to Budapest, the "Queen of the Danube," and truly one of the world's most beautiful cities. Buda, decidedly more rugged in terrain, sits on one side of the river, and Pest is on the gentler opposite bank. (B, D)

Day 9: Tuesday, October 20 Budapest - Domonyvolgy (Horse Show)

Travel to the picturesque Hungarian Great Plain countryside, called the "Puszta," and visit a typical horse farm in this land which some say is "flat as water." Learn the unique culture and history of the Csikos, or Hungarian horsemen, whose equestrian lineage reaches back 1000 years. Watch in amazement as they put on a spectacular horse show for your pleasure. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional Hungarian feast, including goulash soup, in a typical setting against a backdrop of wonderful gypsy music. (B, L)

Day 10: Wednesday, October 21 Budapest - Szentendre - Visegrad - Budapest

An informative city tour features the Mathias Church, site of many coronations of kings. Also visit the Fishermen's Bastion with its white walls, towers and arcades for spectacular views. Continue to historic Old Buda and Gellert Hill, followed by the Parliament. At Heroes Square, admire the imposing Millennium Monument, completed in 1904, which memorializes the 1000th anniversary of Hungarian dominion. Later, visit the beautiful baroque town of Szentendre and travel to the former Renaissance capital of Visegrad to enjoy a magnificent view of the Danube

Bend and the Borzsony Mountains. Travel back in time with a visit to a 14th century castle where knights with colorful costumes and authentic weaponry recreate the days of chivalry. This evening, enjoy a special Renaissance-style dinner and re-enact the days of medieval times. Complete with wine and music, this highlight will end your fascinating cultural journey. (B, D)

Day 11: Thursday, October 22 Budapest - Depart for Home

Transfer today to the airport for your return flight back to Boston. (B)

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. Flight schedules are approximate, and will not be guaranteed until 30 days prior to departure.*

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.*