

Budapest, Vienna, Prague

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS - INDEPENDENT TRAVEL
DEPARTS DAILY FROM BUDAPEST OR PRAGUE



Sample the delights of three Central European cities that were once centers of great empires. Spending three nights in each city will allow you to leisurely enjoy breathtaking castles, palaces and churches. Visit the remarkable city of Budapest, where you can discover antique-filled flea markets, thermal spas, great bookstores and inviting cafes. Vienna combines all the comforts and luxuries of the modern world with the spirit of the past, and Prague's fairytale-like, historic center is registered as a cultural and historical site by UNESCO. Pleasant train rides between the imperial cities affords the opportunity to view rolling hills and quaint villages. Explore the heart of Europe and let its sights astound you.

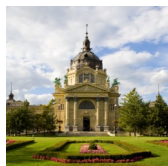


DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE BUDAPEST

Arrive in Budapest and collect your bags. As you exit customs you will be met by a representative who will help you with your luggage and escort you to your hotel, where you will stay for three nights. Use the afternoon to get settled or take a relaxing walk along the beautiful Danube River. From its banks you can see many of Budapest's best sights. Be sure to return to the hotel lobby in time for your evening sightseeing tour of Budapest. After the tour you can choose to go back to the hotel for a good night's sleep, or gamble into the night at the Monte Carlo Budapest.

BUDAPEST BY NIGHT ~ Enjoy the illuminated 'Paris of the East' as you spend an exciting evening in a traditional restaurant in the hills of Buda! You will be served a traditional, Hungarian three-course menu accompanied with wine. The dinner is complemented by a colorful folkloric show with traditionally-dressed dancers and gypsy music. Afterwards you will be driven through the illuminated city

for a photo stop atop Gellért Hill (Citadel), the most spectacular viewpoint of Budapest.



DAY 2 ~ BUDAPEST

After breakfast you will be picked up at your hotel for a fantastic city tour. The tour will feature Budapest's impressive highlights and will gain you entrance to many of this city's most famous sights. At the conclusion of the half-day tour, you will be free to spend the evening dining and relaxing.

BUDAPEST CITY TOUR ~ The tour begins on the Chain Bridge, where you will be driven over to the neighborhood of Buda. In the Castle District you will enjoy a short walk where you will be shown some of the main attractions of the area, such as Matthias Church and the Fishermen's Bastion. You will then be taken across the Elisabeth Bridge to the neighborhood of Pest and shown the famous Central Market Hall, followed by the largest Synagogue of Europe and the City Park. After a stop at the Heroes' Square, you will be taken past the Opera House and the St Stephen's

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- Private Arrival Transfers
- 3 nights Budapest
- Budapest by Night
- Budapest City Tour
- Szentendre Nostalgia Tour
- 1st Class Rail between cities
- 3 nights Vienna
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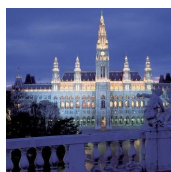
Basilica to downtown Pest. Here you will visit the interior of the impressive neo-gothic House of Parliament. During the tour you will not just see the sights but get an overview of the last 1000 years of Hungarian history.



DAY 3 ~ BUDAPEST

On your last full day in Budapest, you will have the chance to explore the lush Hungarian countryside on a full-day tour to the charming village of Szentendre. Upon your return to the city, be sure to dine in a local restaurant to enjoy some of the diverse Hungarian cuisine. Due to Budapest's location and history, its food has influences from every corner of the world.

SZENTENDRE NOSTALGIA TOUR ~ Wander the narrow streets of the baroque settlement of Szentendre. This picturesque artists' village was built on medieval ruins. You will have the opportunity to go shopping and eat *langos*, a traditional fried Hungarian flat bread, or visit the Margit Kovács Ceramic Museum and Confectionery Museum. If visiting during the summer months you will return to Budapest on the River Danube by boat.



DAY 4 ~ TRAVEL TO VIENNA

After breakfast make your way to the station where you will board the train for Austria. You are traveling first class, so sit back and appreciate the countryside as it passes by your window. Upon your arrival to Vienna, make your way to your hotel where you will spend three nights. Enjoy the afternoon and evening as you please. This is the perfect time to either discover Vienna's dynamic music scene or to visit one of its excellent museums such as the Bestattungs Museum, which is dedicated to coffins and

mortuary science. Before dinner consider popping in a local Kaffeehaus to read the paper or chat with your companions over a cup of traditional Viennese coffee.



DAY 5 ~ VIENNA

After an early breakfast you will be picked up at your hotel for a half-day city sightseeing tour that features admission and a guided tour of Schönbrunn Palace. After the tour you are free to explore on your own for the rest of the afternoon. This evening you will be picked up for a wonderful evening in Vienna.

CITY TOUR AND SCHONBRUNN~ This tour will give you an overall impression of the most significant historical sights of Vienna. Along the Ringstrasse you will see many grand buildings, such as the magnificent Museum of Fine Arts, home to the artist treasures of the Habsburg family, and the Natural History Museum. You will also will view the Museum Quarter, the Parliament and City Hall. The tour will take you past the Belvedere Palace, which houses the largest and most precious Gustav Klimt collection in the world. The highlight is a guided tour of the showrooms of Schönbrunn Palace, once the summer residence of the Habsburg family and home of Empress Maria Theresa.

VIENNA BY NIGHT~ Tonights tour lets you experience the beauty of Vienna's illuminated sights at night. After a short city tour, you will be taken to the well known Danube Tower. From its terrace 150 meters above the roofs of Vienna, you can admire the marvelous panorama of the city. The evening ends in one of the traditional wine taverns of Grinzing, where you can enjoy the music and charm of traditional Viennese ambiance.



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DAY 6 ~ VIENNA

Today you are in for a treat so eat a good breakfast before meeting your tour guide in the lobby. Mozart and the *Sound of Music* await you in their hometown of Salzburg. You will enjoy a full-day tour before returning to Vienna. Pack your bags and make sure that you enjoyed a delicious glass of Austrian wine on your last evening in the former home of the Habsburg court.

SALZBURG TOUR~ On your way to Mozart's town of birth you will become acquainted with the beautiful Salzkammergut landscape, where the Emperor Franz Joseph and his family used to spend their holidays. Skirting the edges of Lake Fuschl and Lake Wolfgang, you'll reach the city of Salzburg in time for lunch. The afternoon will be spent strolling through this historic city to see its most important sights, including the Cathedral, the Festival Hall, and St. Peter's Abbey & Cemetery. You will also have the chance to see Mozart's birth place in the Getreidegasse. From the gardens of Mirabell Palace experience a marvelous view of the Hohensalzburg Fortress.



DAY 7 ~ TRAVEL TO PRAGUE

After breakfast make your way to the station where you will board the train for Prague. Once you arrive in the capital of Czech Republic, make your way to your hotel where you will stay for three nights. Today you are free to do as you please. Travel back in time by roaming the ancient streets of Prague. This magical city of bridges, cathedrals, gold-tipped towers and church domes has stood on the Vltava River for more than ten centuries. In the evening meet your guide at the Power Tower for a night of dining and entertainment.

PRAGUE BY NIGHT~ Experience Prague, one of Europe's historic cities, beautifully illuminated at nighttime. Enjoy an evening filled with lively atmosphere and Bohemian specialties. After a tour of illuminated Prague, you will be served a traditional Bohemian dinner with beer or wine, accompanied by a colorful folkloric program.



DAY 8 ~ PRAGUE

After a week of traveling and sightseeing, take the morning to either sleep in or to wander the historic streets of the Old Town. This would be a great time to catch one or two of Prague's many museums and galleries. As the center of Bohemian society for centuries, this wonderful city has much to offer to those interested in culture, history or technology. In the afternoon meet your guide in the lobby for a half-day city sightseeing tour. After the tour you will be free to spend the evening dining and relaxing as you please.

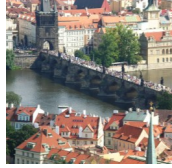
GRAND PRAGUE CITY TOUR ~ Starting at Vysehrad you will be driven along the Moldavia River, passing the Manes Palace, the Zofin Palace and the National Theatre en route. Enjoy the panoramic views of Prague Castle, the largest ancient castle in the world, and the Charles Bridge. During the walking portion of your tour you will see many of Prague's impressive sights including the Loretto Church, the Royal Palace, the towering St. Vitus Cathedral, and the Golden Lane, which is an ancient street lined by 11 charming historic houses. By bus you will then return to Old Town Square where you will find Prague's most iconic landmarks, such as the gothic Tyn Church, the baroque St. Nicholas Church and the beautiful and ingenious astronomical clock.



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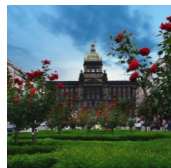
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DAY 9 ~ PRAGUE

On your second full day in Prague you will get a chance to experience the beauty of the Czech Republic with a full-day sightseeing tour to Cesky Krumlov, best known for its fine architecture and historic Old Town. Upon your return to Prague be sure to join the locals for some traditional Czech fare and take a walk over the famous Charles Bridge. This bustling center of trade and entertainment connects Old Town to Lesser Town and dates back to the 14th century.

CESKY KRUMLOV UNESCO TOUR WITH LUNCH ~ On this all-day excursion you will have a chance to admire the beautiful southern Bohemian countryside, with its picturesque villages and many ponds. The entire town of Cesky Krumlov is on the UNESCO World Heritage list and is comprised of the castle and more than three hundred well-preserved, historic houses. The Cesky Krumlov Castle, the second largest in the Czech Republic after Prague Castle, is located on a rock overlooking the Vltava River. Surrounded by landscaped gardens, the castle's presence dominates the medieval village below. In the village the facades of painted houses, traditional artisan shops and medieval taverns form a unique labyrinth in which you'll want to simply lose yourself.



DAY 10~ PRAGUE

Enjoy breakfast and take one final walk through the charming streets of Prague before meeting your transfer representative in the lobby of your hotel. He or she will help you with your luggage and escort you to the airport for your flight home. Watch as the towering spires of Prague's churches disappear in the distance as you take off from Prague Airport.





Budapest's famous Chain Bridge

Want a private guide to show you the sights?

Europe Express offers a wide variety of private sightseeing options too!

The Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna



Admission Tickets

Instead of simply buying tickets to the sights you want to see, consider taking a tour. This will benefit you in many ways:

1. Many of Europe's sights can have very long wait lines. By taking a tour you will often skip the line and make better use of your time.
2. You will receive explanations of what you see from local experts. This can enrich your experience and make it easier for you to understand the relevance of everything you see.
3. Don't waste your precious vacation time planning what you are going to do each day or shopping around for the right tour. By pre-booking your activities you can guarantee that you will see the sights you traveled around the world to see; ensure that you have the best experience possible!

Alternative Prague Tours

KARLSBAD—KARLOVY VARY TOUR ~ After arriving in the world-renowned spa town of Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary), tour the famous Moser glass factory where you will see production demonstrations and visit the exhibition. Afterwards, proceed to the center of town to view the beautiful spa colonnades and hot springs. Here it is possible to feel like an international celebrity for a day by trying the 12 famous thermal and mineral springs. In the afternoon you will have free time to stroll through the picturesque streets, to shop or perhaps to treat yourself to a candied Carlsbad plum or a famous Czech bitters, *Becherovka*.

KUTNA HORA TOUR ~ Kutna Hora is an old mining town founded in the 13th century, which was once famous for its silver mines. Visit the gothic Cathedral of St. Barbara with its invaluable murals and the former Royal Mint which once coined the Bohemian *groschen*. To this day Kutna Hora has retained the character of a medieval city and rightly belongs to the most important UNESCO heritage sites in the Czech Republic. You will also visit a unique Ossuary, known as The Bone Church, where everything from the chandelier to the crosses decorating the walls were created from human bones.

NIZBOR GLASS FACTORY ~ Nizbor is a small town located 24 miles from Prague, where one of the Czech Republic's most famous glass factories is situated. You will learn about the factory's daily operation and see how it produces and decorates its specialized handmade crystal and metalwork. Afterward, you are welcome to visit the boutique where you can buy crystal products at reasonable prices. Additionally- each visitor will receive a small present.

KARLSTEIN CASTLE TOUR ~ You will be driven approximately 20 miles to the beautiful landscape of Central Bohemia to Karlstein Castle which was built by Charles IV and sits on a dominating rock surrounded by dense forests. The drawbridge and towering walls illustrate how very fortified the castle was despite many siege attempts. Walk about 20 minutes uphill to reach this gothic treasure of Czech history and visit its fascinating interior.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent

