

Central Europe, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary & Croatia

Day 1 – Prague

Coach transfer from the airport to your hotel in Prague. Welcome dinner and overnight stay. (D)

Day 2 – Prague

After breakfast depart for a guided full day city tour. The first stop is Prague Castle, the largest medieval castle in Europe built in the 9th century by Prince Borivoj. Then continue our tour to the Lesser Town that was founded in 1257 on the slopes below the Prague Castle. In the afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of the Old Town. The Church of Our Lady of Tyn and the Town Hall dominates the Old Town Square. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Prague. (B & D)

Day 3 – Prague

After breakfast depart for a guided tour of the Jewish Quarter (not on Saturday), which contains the remains of Prague's former Jewish ghetto. Afternoon at your leisure to discover more of this enchanting city. Overnight stay in Prague. (B)

Day 4 – Prague – Brno – Vienna

After breakfast depart for Vienna, stopping in Brno, Czech Republic's second largest city. Brno is the metropolis of Moravia and an important tourist centre for all who want to explore the natural and cultural beauties of the South-Moravian region. To the north of Brno lay the protected areas of the Moravian Karst (Moravsky kras) and to the south, the Moravian vineyards and wine cellars. Brno prides itself on many notable historic sites, evidence of its rich cultural history. Continue to Vienna for dinner and overnight stay. (B & D)

Day 5 – Vienna

After breakfast depart for a guided city tour. Visit the Gothic St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Imperial Palace and the Art Nouveau splendour of the Succession. Also visit the Museum of Fine Arts and view the modern architecture at the Museums Quartier. Overnight stay in Vienna. (B)

18 days/17 nights

Price includes:

- Selected 4 star hotels
- Air conditioned coach
- Transfers to/from airport
- Meals as specified

Price excludes:

- Air fare and taxes
- Passport and visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Optional tours
- Meals and drinks if not specified
- Tips
- Entrance fees to castles and museums

Highlights

Prague

Prague is a fairy-tale city of magical beauty with picturesque sites, including the Prague Castle, the Charles Bridge and Wenceslas Square.

Budapest

Budapest, 'Queen of the Danube', was formed from the unification of the three separate towns of Buda, Pest and Obuda. The Castle District, perched high above the Danube, features the former Austrian-Hungarian Empire's Royal Palace. Today the Palace houses the Hungarian National Gallery, the Budapest History Museum and the National Library. Also located in the Castle District is the Fishermans' Bastion.



Day 6 – Vienna

After breakfast depart by private coach to Schonbrunn Palace. This magnificent palace with its 1441 rooms and beautiful gardens is one of the most significant cultural monuments in Austria. Schonbrunn was the imperial summer palace during Maria Theresa's 40-year reign. It was here in the Hall of Mirrors that Mozart, aged 6, performed before the Empress and her court. In 1996 Schonbrunn Palace was listed as an UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Overnight stay in Vienna. (B)

Day 7 – Vienna – Bratislava – Esztergom – Szentendre – Budapest

After breakfast depart for Budapest, with a full day of sightseeing. First stop in Bratislava, a historic city with much to offer, including museums and the famous Castle of Bratislava that overlooks the city. Continue to Esztergom, situated on the bank of the River Danube, that marks the border between Slovakia and Hungary. Visit St. Stephen's Basilica, the largest in Central Europe. Continue to Szentendre, a picturesque Hungarian town with intricate shops, cafes, galleries, churches and Baroque architecture. Evening arrival in Budapest. Dinner and overnight stay. (B & D)

Day 8 – Budapest

After breakfast meet our local guide for a tour of Budapest, the capital city of Hungary. Budapest was formed in 1873 after the union of the three historic towns of Buda, Pest and Obuda. First stop is the grand Royal Palace which dominates the Castle District. This post war reconstruction includes the Hungarian National Gallery, the Budapest History Museum and the National Library. The Castle District also features the famous St. Mathias Church, located adjacent to the Fisherman's Bastion. Built in 1905, the Bastion and its seven towers served as a fortress and now provides breathtaking views over the Danube, Margaret Island and Pest. The tour also includes the Hungarian Parliament, the second largest building in Europe, featuring 691 room, 20 km of corridors and a magnificent dome. Overnight stay in Budapest. (B)

Day 9 – Budapest

After breakfast a day at your leisure to shop or explore more of this fascinating city. Possibilities include a visit to "Hero's Square", unwind on the beautiful Margaret Island, visit the famous Communist statue graveyard or simply relax for lunch in the open air piazza in Liszt Ferenc Ter, which is extremely popular with the locals. Overnight stay in Budapest. (B)

Day 10 – Budapest – Lake Balaton – Zagreb

After breakfast depart for Croatia with a stop at Lake Balaton, the largest freshwater lake in Central Europe. The Tihany Peninsula contains one of the country's most interesting national parks and is the site of the Benedictine Abbey which was founded in 1055. Continue on to Zagreb for dinner and an overnight stay. (B & D)

Day 11 – Zagreb

After breakfast meet with the local guide for a half-day tour of the city. Zagreb is not only rich in cultural and historical monuments, museums and galleries, but also offers the convenience of modern shops and restaurants. The city is divided into three parts: the thousand-year old Gornji grad (Upper Town) containing the Presidential Palace, Croatian Parliament, museums and galleries; the 19th century Donji grad (Lower Town) with its shops, restaurants, cafes and parks; and the modern post war Novi Zagreb (New Town) which is full of high rise buildings. Afternoon at your leisure. Overnight stay in Zagreb. (B)

Day 12 – Zagreb – Opatija

After breakfast depart for Opatija, arriving in the afternoon with some time to relax. Overnight stay. (B)



Day 13 – Opatija – Istrian Peninsula

After breakfast depart with the local guide for the Istrian region. The first stop is Pula, the largest and oldest city in Istria, situated on the southern end of the Istrian Peninsula. It represents a fine combination of old and new and you will find a large number of historical monuments, including the Roman amphitheatre known as the 'Arena'. This important landmark dates from the second century and is the sixth largest in the world. Also visit the Triumphal Arch of the Sergi, Hercules' Gate, Twin Gates and the Temple of Augustus. Continue on to Rovinj, one of the most 'photogenic' towns in the Mediterranean with cobblestone streets winding up the hill to the imposing Church of St. Eufemia, where you can admire the roof tops and the blue sea below. The entire coastline, with its 22 islands is a natural heritage protected area. Heading north along the west Istrian coast is Porec, once a small fishing village, it has grown into an attractive town. The most important monument in Porec is the Basilica of St. Euphrasius, built in the 6th century. The walls of the basilica have been tiled in mosaics, engraved with stories from the Bible. Return to Opatija for an overnight stay. (B)

Day 14 – Opatija – Plitvice Lakes – Split

After breakfast depart for a guided excursion to the Plitvice Lakes National Park. The beauty of the National Park is found in the 16 lakes of crystal blue-green colour. The lakes are fed by many small streams and brooks which spill into each other in foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls. The National Park covers an area of 300 square kilometres while the lakes join together over a distance of eight kilometres. Due to their unique evolution and beauty, the Plitvice Lakes were listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. Continue on to Split for an overnight stay. (B)

Day 15 – Split

After breakfast depart for a guided tour of Split, the second largest city in Croatia. Originally a Greek settlement, Split was conquered by the Venetians in 1420, and ruled by the Austrians and French, before becoming part of Yugoslavia in 1918. In 1942 the city was occupied by the Italians and liberated in 1943. The Diocletians Palace of Split is the best preserved antique building in Croatia and was built of stone from the nearby island of Brač. Overnight stay in Split. (B)

Day 16 – Split – Dubrovnik

After breakfast depart for Dubrovnik. This stunning town, referred to as the 'Jewel of the Adriatic' by George Bernard Shaw, offers a wealth of beauty and culture that is protected by beautiful medieval walls. The old town, completed in the 13th century, is a maze of old cobbled alleyways and numerous ancient churches. You can enter the town through the Pile Gate which leads you to the Stradun, the city's promenade. Here you will find the Onofrio Fountain, built in 1438, the Franciscan Monastery, the Baroque Church of St. Blaise and the Rector's Palace, built in 1441, which is now a city museum. Overnight stay in Dubrovnik. (B)

Day 17 – Dubrovnik

After breakfast enjoy a guided tour of the city of Dubrovnik. Afternoon at your leisure to relax and enjoy more of the sites of this old city. Overnight stay in Dubrovnik. (B & D)

Day 18 – Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)

End of Tour

