



NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY CHRISTMAS MARKETS TOUR

DECEMBER 10-19, 2022

Price \$3600 Per Person double. Single, add \$650.

Airfare not included. Prices subject to change.

(Price includes train ticket to/from Dresden from Prague)

Optional arrivals, no transfers to the hotel.

Saturday, December 10

AM

- Meeting in the Budapest hotel lobby
- Exchange money
- Budapest market (we must do this first, because they close in the afternoon and are closed all Sunday as well).
- Meeting with local guide, sightseeing—only the Pest side of the city with the parliament (outside only)
- Lunch with the group

PM

- Free time in the city
- Dinner on your own
- Evening with local folk-dance group performance

In the morning we all will meet in the hotel lobby. Our first outing will be to the famous Budapest Christmas market. On the way you will have a chance to exchange your money to the local currency. After the market we will meet with our local guide and do some sightseeing. That will lead us to the parliament building and we will enjoy the great views from the riverside. Lunch will be together with the group. Then you will have free time to discover the city on your own. It will be your chance to have fun at the local Christmas market. We will meet again in the evening and will enjoy a performance by a local Folk-dance group. This will be not a typical show normally

offered to tourists, but we will have our own show with an explanation of the main Hungarian regions.

Sunday, December 11

AM

- Trip to the castle, walk around, optional cathedral
- Visit to the museum Hospital in the Rock

PM

- Lunch together with the group
- Hungarian National Gallery
- Free time, dinner on your own

In the morning we will visit the Buda side. Walk around the castle and enjoy the view across the river. Then we will have a tour of the Museum in the Rock, which shows a fascinating history of Budapest in WWII. Lunch will be together with the group and then we will walk to the nearby National Gallery. Here we will have a local guide and will learn about some impressive art. You will have the rest of the day to enjoy the Christmas atmosphere. Dinner will be on your own.



Monday, December 12

AM

·Stop in Szentendre, walk through this historical town, visit local traditional markets

·Stop in Esztergom, lunch on your own (Menu in English available)

PM

·Visit to the famous Esztergom Basilica

·Cross border to Slovakia, stop by local kroj maker

·Arrival in Bratislava, check in

·Dinner with the group

Our first stop will be in the famous town of Szentendre. Here we will walk through the small but picturesque streets, and visit the local street market with traditional handicrafts and art. For lunch we'll be on our own. The city center has many good restaurants and each of them offer menus in English. All of the staff speaks at least some English. Some people may prefer to just have a little snack by the river. Next stop will be in Esztergom where we will visit the famous Basilica. Then will cross the border to Slovakia. In the afternoon we will have a long bus ride, so it will be nice to have one more stop on the way and meet with a Slovakian kroj maker. We will learn some basics about traditional folk wear and will see part of the sewing process. After arrival in Bratislava, we will check in and have dinner in the hotel.

Tuesday, December 13

AM

·Sightseeing of Bratislava historical center

·Lunch on your own (Menu in English available)

PM

- Museum of wine
- Free time in the city, Christmas Market
- Dinner in the hotel with traditional folk music

We will have sightseeing in the morning. Bratislava has a nicely renovated historical city center. We will walk through so participants can get a sense of directions. For lunch we'll be on our own, but this is a very touristy place, and it is easy to communicate in English. Afterwards we will visit the museum of wine. Later in the afternoon and evening we will visit the local Christmas market. Lastly, we will return to the hotel, relax, and we have dinner accompanied by some traditional Slovakian folk music.



Wednesday, December 14

AM

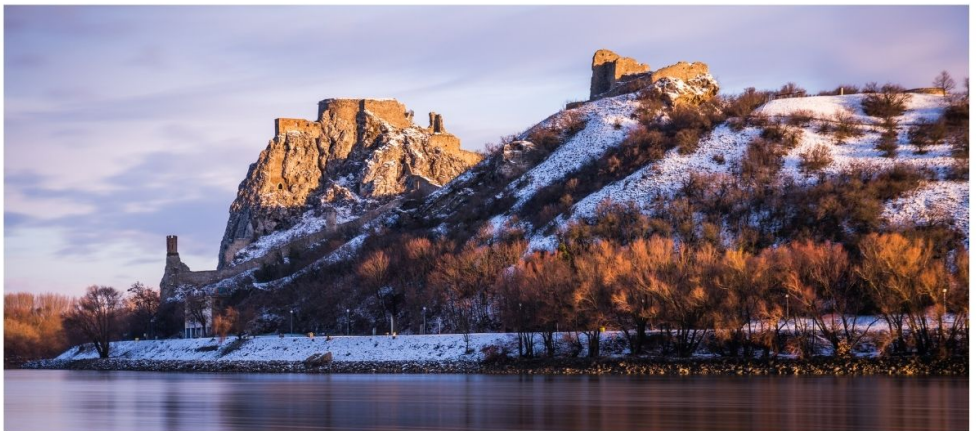
- Departure for Vienna
- Brief stop at Devin Castle (outside exposition only, indoor is closed for winter)

- Arrival in Vienna
- Sightseeing with local guide
- Lunch with the group

PM

- Free time and Christmas market
- Dinner on your own (Menu in English available)
- Return to Bratislava

Today we will visit Vienna. It is about 1 1/2 hours by coach from Bratislava. On the way to Austria, we will have brief stop at Devin Castle, which was first mentioned in records in the 9th century. Because it's December, the interior will be closed, but we will have a chance to see the exterior and enjoy the view of the Danube River. After arriving in Vienna, we will meet with a local guide and do some sightseeing. Lunch will be with the group. Then will be time to discover Vienna on your own and enjoy the Christmas Markets. Dinner will be on your own. Vienna city center is full of restaurants, and you can speak English everywhere. After dinner we will return to the hotel in Bratislava.



Thursday, December 15

AM

- Departure for the Czech Republic
- Tour of Lednice Chateau (UNESCO)
- Arrival in Brno, lunch with the group
- Walk to the city center, free time at the town square

PM

- Stop at The Pilgrimage Church of St. Jan of Nepomuk (UNESCO)
- Arrival in Prague, check in
- Christmas Market near the hotel
- Dinner on your own in the hotel area (Menu in English available)

Today we will cross the border into the Czech Republic. Our first stop will be a beautiful chateau in Lednice, where we will have a tour. The entire area including the local park and greenhouse is designated as an UNESCO heritage site. From Lednice we will go to Brno, the capital of Moravia. Here we will have lunch together and then will visit the historical center of the town and have another chance to visit the Christmas Markets. Our next stop will be another UNESCO location – Žďár nad Sázavou with the unique Church of St. Jan Nepomuk. Here we will have a chance to admire this baroque jewel and also learn about the Jan Nepomuk movement. In the evening we will arrive in Prague and check in. During the evening you'll be on your own. There are many restaurants around the hotel, and all have menus in English. You can also visit a small Christmas Market located just a few minutes from the hotel.

Friday, December 16

AM

- Sightseeing with local guide
- Lunch with the group

PM

- Continue sightseeing
- Free time at the Old Town Square
- Dinner on your own (Menu in English available)

This will be our first full day in Prague. We will have a local guide to walk us through the city, starting by Prague Castle and walking down to the city. With each step you will see something interesting and special. Lunch will be together with the group and then we will continue sightseeing and cross Charles Bridge to the Old Town. The guided tour will end up at the Old Town Square, where the greatest Prague Christmas Market is located. Then you'll be on your own. All the restaurants in this part of Prague offer services in English.

Saturday, December 17

- A day trip to Dresden



Sunday, December 18

AM

- Optional mass in nearby church
- Visit of Vysehrad, an ancient part of Prague
- Lunch on your own (Menu in English available)

PM

- Free time
- Dinner and folklore show

People who are interested in Christmas shopping can go on their own to the town and spend the whole day as they wish. Some people may prefer to stay in the group. In this case we offer a visit of the Prague Ethnography Museum where we will learn about Czech Christmas traditions. Lunch will be on your own (menus in English available) and then you will have a free afternoon. Those interested can join the guide and visit some of the smaller Christmas Markets in Prague, which are usually set up exclusively for the local residents. For our farewell dinner we will meet in a special restaurant to enjoy a good traditional meal as well as a very nice folkloric program.

Monday, December 19

AM

- Departure after breakfast.
- Transfer is not organized, but the hotel can arrange for transportation.