

Tour price: Per person--\$4500, single add \$600. Airfare not included. Prices subject to change.

September 3, Saturday – optional day

- Arrival in Budapest, check-in, dinner on your own
- This day is fully optional with no planned activities

September 4, Sunday

AM

- Meeting with local guide, sightseeing in Budapest
- Lunch with the group

PM

- Free time in the city, shopping
- Group dinner in local winery
- Private folk-dance performance
- Return to the hotel

We have one full day in Budapest. Let's start with some sightseeing! For lunch we will still be together and will enjoy some local food. After lunch we will show you "fair exchange" where you can exchange money to Hungarian Forints or to EUR for Slovakia. Then there will be a chance to explore Budapest on your own--we will give you tips on where to go (the Basilica, Market, etc.). For the evening we will have dinner together and then have a private performance by a Hungarian folk-dance ensemble. This is not a tourist show; the show has been arranged especially for us. Afterwards we will return to the hotel.

September 5, Monday

AM

- ·Departure
- ·Arrival in Szentendre, walk through the town, street market
- ·Lunch on you own (Menu in English available)



PM

- ·Departure
- ·Arrival in Esztergom, visit to local famous Basilica
- ·Stop at doll factory that makes dolls in traditional costumes
- ·Arrival at the chateau, check in
- ·Dinner in the hotel

Our first stop will be in the small but famous town of Szentendre. Here we will walk through small and picturesque streets, and visit a local street market with traditional handicraft 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 just a little snack by the Danube. Next stop will be in Esztergom where we will visit a famous Basilica. Then we will cross the border to Slovakia and stop in a small factory that produces dolls in traditional dress. That will be a chance to get a present for someone! After a short ride we will arrive at the chateau in Viglas and check-in. Dinner will be in the hotel.

September 6, Tuesday

AM

- ·Departure
- ·Stop at unique wooden church in Hronsek UNESCO site
- ·Arrival in Banská Štiavnica UNESCO site
- ·Guided tour

PM

- ·Lunch on your own (Menu in English available)
- ·Stop in Sväty Anton, visit to a local chateau, optional walk in the park
- ·Arrival in Detva, meeting with a local traditional folk dress maker
- ·Dinner with the group in a local restaurant
- ·Group performance by local folk dancers
- ·Arrival in the hotel

Because we will stay two nights here, we don't need to pack and can travel today with just a few belongings. Our first stop will be in the small village of Hronsek and we will visit an amazing wooden church from 1726 (UNESCO). This church had to be built without a single nail. Then we will move to the mining town of Banská Štiavnica. We will have a guided tour here and then free time for lunch on your own. This is a larger town with several restaurants in the city center. All restaurants will offer English menus. In the afternoon we will visit another chateau in Sväty Anton. You can admire beautiful interiors mostly from the 18th century. Then we will switch from nobility to pure village people. In Detva we will meet with a local folk dress

dress producer, have dinner in a local restaurant and in the evening, we will meet with members of local folk-dance group. They will showcase their very unique dance and music techniques. Then we will return to the hotel.

September 7, Wednesday

AM

- ·Arrival in Nitra, visit to a chocolate factory
- ·Departure for the city center
- ·Free time, lunch on your own (Menu in English available) PM
- ·Arrival in Trnava, museum of traditional dress
- ·Tour in Červený Kameň Castle
- ·Dinner with the group
- ·Arrival at chateau hotel in Pezinok

Our first stop will be very sweet! In Nitra we will visit a local chocolate factory, which produces some of the best chocolate in the world, as they have won Great Taste Awards. For lunch time you'll be on your own. Nitra is a larger city and offers many possibilities on where to eat. Menus in English will be available. In the afternoon we will arrive in Trnava and will visit a local museum featuring an exposition of traditional folk dress. Next stop will be at Červený Kameň Castle where we will have a tour and then dinner together. Afterwards we will arrive at our Pezinok chateau hotel and check in for two nights.

September 8, Thursday

AM

- ·Arrival in Bratislava
- ·Guided tour in the city center
- ·Lunch time on your own (Menu in English available)
- ·Free time

PM

- ·Wine museum in Bratislava
- ·Visit to a currant winery
- ·Dinner with the group in Slovensky Grob
- ·Departure for the Palace Art Hotel in Pezinok

Today we will visit the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava. After our arrival in Bratislava, we will have a guided tour in the city center. Lunch time will be on your own. Bratislava is a touristy place, so all restaurants will offer menus in English. After lunch we will visit the wine museum showing the history of wine culture in Slovakia. For the evening we will leave the city. First, we will stop in a winery where you can taste wine made from currants. Dinner will be in a traditional restaurant in Modrá with traditional Slovak music. Then we will return to the hotel in Pezinok.



September 9, Friday

AM

- ·Departure crossing into the Czech Republic
- ·Arrival in Petrov, walk between wine cellars
- ·Arrival in Strážnice tour of a blueprint factory
- ·Lunch with the group

PM

- ·Tour in local open-air museum
- ·Arrival in the hotel, check in, relax
- Departure for wine cellars area, free time with locals, wine, and dinner on your own

Today we will cross the border to the Czech Republic. We will stop in the small wine village of Petrov and walk through the "wine cellar little town." This will be a good chance to stretch our legs. About half an hour is all it takes to get to the next destination--Strážnice. Here we will visit a private blueprint workshop. For lunch we will dine together and then visit a local open-air museum. After we arrive at the hotel, you will have time to relax and then we will take you to another "little wine town" where it will be opening evening of the wine festival. Many people walk from one cellar to another, taste different wines, listen, sing, and dance to local musicians. There are many vendors in town from whom you can purchase food and drinks. Most of staff people speak some English and your guide will be there to help you.

September 10, Saturday

Whole day at the Festival in Uherské Hradiště Today you'll be on your own. You all will get a detailed program of the festival and choose whatever you would like to see. Part of the festival is also a parade with a couple thousand people in traditional dress. Those who would prefer to enjoy the festival on their own can feel free to do so. Everybody else can stay together with the guide.

September 11, Sunday

AM

- ·Brief stop at Austerlitz Battlefield
- ·Arrival in Moravský Krumlov, famous Mucha's Slav Epic PM
- ·Lunch with the group in the town of Miroslav
- ·Arrival in Znojmo, check in
- ·Sightseeing in the city center
- ·Wine tasting
- ·Free time in the city
- ·Dinner on your own (Menu in English available)

Our first brief stop will be at the Austerlitz Battlefield. We will have the same view as Napoleon had. Again, a good stop to stretch our legs. After that we will arrive in Moravský Krumlov, and here at a local chateau, we will see the famous paintings of Alfons Mucha--The Slav Epic. Lunch will be together with the group. In the afternoon we will arrive in Znojmo and will check in. The hotel is owned by the local wine company Lahofer, so you can buy good wine directly in the hotel. We will have a guided tour in the historical center as well as a wine tasting. For dinner you will be on your own. This town offers many possibilities of places to eat, and all will offer

menus in English. The hotel is within walking distance from the town square.



September 12, Monday

(this is Monday, so Vranov nad Dyjí and Lednice Chateaus are closed).

AM

- ·Visit to unique painted wine cellars in Šatov
- ·Meeting with local puppeteer
- ·Arrival in Mikulov
- ·Lunch time on your own (Menu in English available)

PM

- ·Visit to Mikulov Chateau--wine exposition
- ·Optional walk to the chapel of St. Sebastian (amazing view of Mikulov Chateau)
- ·Visit to unique baroque water mill
- ·Dinner in Znojmo

In the morning we will visit a very unique place--the painted wine cellars in Šatov. After the tour we will meet with a local

puppeteer. Around noon we will arrive in Mikulov. Lunch time will be on your own (an English menu will be available) and then we will see the wine exposition at the Mikulov Chateau. There will be an optional outing above the town. It is not a long walk, and we can see a beautiful view of the town and chateau. On the way back to Znojmo we will stop by a unique baroque water mill. Dinner will be in our hotel with local wine.

September 13, Tuesday

AM

- ·Tour of small historical brewery in Dačice
- ·Arrival in Jindřichův Hradec
- ·Lunch on your own (Menu in English available)

PM

- ·Visit in a tapestry workshop
- ·Arrival in Květuš
- ·Simple Czech and Slovak folk dances, making traditional cookies
- ·Traditional dinner with the group
- ·Arrival in Prague hotel, check in

We have a long journey today! After loading the bus, we move further west, and our first stop will be a historical brewery. We will have a tour there and will learn about Czech beer. Of course, we'll be able to taste it. Next stop will be in the town of Jindřichův Hradec. Lunch time will be on your own. This is a touristy town, and you will not have a problem with English. In the afternoon we will visit a tapestry workshop where you can learn about its long tradition. The next stop will be a small farm in Květuš. The farm is not used anymore, but we will

have a lesson in simple Czech and Slovak dances, try singing in Czech, make traditional cookies and have dinner. Then it will take a little more than an hour to reach Prague. Here you will check in and relax.

September 14, Wednesday

AM

- ·Guided tour in Prague
- ·Lunch with the group

PM

- ·Guided tour in Prague
- ·Free time in the city center
- ·Meeting in the city center
- ·Dinner cruise

For almost the whole day you will walk through Prague. We will have a great local guide. For lunch we will stop in the city center. The tour includes areas of Prague Castle, Malá Strana, Charles Bridge, and Old Town. Then you will have some time on your own. Later we will meet again and will have a dinner cruise, with a good meal and a lovely view of Prague from a new perspective.

If the group would like to have dinner at the American Ambassador's residence or with William Lobkowicz, we will change the evening program.

September 15, Thursday

·Morning departure

Time to say goodbye. We do believe you will take home wonderful memories of the Czech Republic. If you decide to

stay in Prague for few more nights, we are happy to help you arrange a hotel.

