

NATIONAL  
CZECH &  
SLOVAK  
MUSEUM &  
LIBRARY

SPRING TOUR  
2022



APRIL 29-  
MAY 11,  
2022

Price \$3850 per person in a double room.  
Single add \$750.  
Airfare not included. Prices subject to change.

### **Friday, April 29 (or earlier)**

·Individual arrival in Prague, check in, dinner on your own

### **Saturday, April 30**

AM

- Loading the bus, departure
- Visit to Bedřich Smetana Museum (famous Czech composer)
- Visit to a private Czech home
- Optional walk to a viewpoint

PM

- Lunch with the group in Mnichovo Hradiště
- Visit to an old Russian military air force base
- Arrival in Krásná Lípa, check-in
- Dinner with the group
- Meeting with local people at the Maypole ceremony
- Evening fire event

We will meet with the bus in front of the hotel and depart from Prague. Our first stop will be a small village featuring the Bedřich Smetana Museum. He was a famous Czech composer from the 19th Century (The Moldau), who spent the last 10 years of his life here and composed many important pieces. Then we will visit the private home of Jitka, who lives on the way and invited us for a treat. Those who are interested can join us for a walk to a nearby viewpoint. Lunch will be

together, and in the afternoon, we will move north. We will stop at a very unique place—an Old Russian air force base. This is a breathtaking view. You will have a chance to walk on the runway. Next, we will reach our hotel in Krásná Lípa, where we will check in and have dinner. Then we will walk to the square to see the Maypole ceremony, featuring traditional folk dress and live music. Finally, those who are interested can join us for the Fire Event—an old pagan custom of burning fires on this night.

## **Sunday, May 1**

AM

- Bus departure (no luggage)
- Meeting with a local artist, painting on glass and ceramic in Mikulášovice
- Arrival in Bautzen (Germany), walk to the city center, lunch on your own

PM

- Drive back to Czech Republic (walking distance from the hotel)
- Tour in a unique basilica in Jablonné v Podještědí 1699
- Arrival in the hotel, check-in
- Dinner with the group

Our first stop today will be in a small town where we will meet a local artist who paints glass and ceramics. You will all have a chance to paint a piece and take it home. Then we will cross the border and visit a very nice German town called Bautzen. We will visit the historical center and you will have lunch here on your own--Bautzen offers many restaurants to eat. Later in the afternoon we will cross borders again to the Czech

Republic and visit a beautiful baroque monastery, where we will have a guided tour. Then we will arrive at our hotel with very nice cozy rooms and a traditional restaurant. After check-in, we will eat dinner there.

## **Monday, May 2**

AM

- Optional visit to the nature preserve Sloní kameny
- Departure from the hotel
- Meeting with a local artist, an expert at glass grinding

PM

- Arrival in Jablonec nad Nisou, lunch time on your own
- Visit to a bead factory
- Arrival at Černá Studnice lookout
- Dinner in a local restaurant
- Return to the hotel

This is our first full day. Because North Bohemia is an area with a rich glass production history, we will focus on that. In the morning we will offer a short relaxing walk to a nearby nature preserve. Those who are not interested can enjoy a relaxed morning in the hotel (late breakfast). Then we all will depart and meet with an expert glass artist in his private workroom. Next, we will move to Jablonec nad Nisou, have lunch, and then visit a bead factory. Afterwards we will stop by the Černá Studnice lookout, where we can climb up and walk around. We will have dinner at a local restaurant and then will return to the hotel.

## **Tuesday, May 3**

AM



·Departure

·Visit a paper mill with handmade production

·Tri-border of Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany

·Lunch time on your own in Hrádek nad Nisou

PM

·Departure for Zgorzelec, Poland

·Walk around the town, crossing the bridge between Germany and Poland

·Arrival in Liberec, free time for shopping

·Cable car up to a viewpoint on Ještěd Mountain

·Dinner with the group

·Return to the hotel

Our first stop in the morning will be at a local paper mill with handmade production. We will learn about the history of how they produce the paper from many different kinds of materials. Then we will move to the tri-border of the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany. Just a short walk here and then we will have lunch in the smaller town of Hrádek nad Nisou. After lunch we will continue north to Zgorzelec, a Polish town divided by a river from Górlitz, Germany. We will cross the local bridge and walk to Germany for a moment. Afterwards we will return to the Czech Republic and visit Liberec, the capital of North Bohemia. Later in the afternoon we will take a cable car and ascend Ještěd Mountain. Here we will enjoy great views and a unique local TV tower that has been built as a restaurant and hotel. Finally, we all will meet with the bus, go to a local restaurant for dinner, and then return to the hotel.

## **Wednesday, May 4**

AM

- Loading the bus
- Stop at a very nice glass workshop for a demonstration of glass blowing
- Tour the Emperor's Chateau, Zákupy
- Lunch time in Česká Lípa

PM

- Stop in Ústěk Synagogue
  - Tour of the Small Fortress in Terezín--the WWII Gestapo prison
  - Arrival at Jirkov Chateau, check-in, relax, dinner in the hotel restaurant
- Today we have a long journey with some interesting stops. Our first stop will be at a small private glass works. Here we can see, and maybe even try, glass blowing and admire local masters. Before lunch we will still have time to visit the Emperor's Chateau, Zákupy. After the tour we will have lunch in Česká Lípa. Next stop will be in the picturesque town, Ústěk. Here we will visit a local synagogue and learn about the large Jewish community that lived here before WWII. We will keep this theme for our next stop as we will pass by Terezín, which is a former Jewish ghetto, and have a tour here as well. This will not be a fun stop, but this is a sobering part of Czech history. Finally, we will arrive in Jirkov Chateau where we will stay for two nights. Dinner will be in a local restaurant.

## **Thursday, May 5**

AM

- Stop at the gothic Hasištejn Castle, and a tour of the castle
- Arrival in Kadaň, a unique town with a historical center
- Lunch time on your own

PM

- Arrival in Karlovy Vary, take a funicular up to the Diana Observation Tower
- Restaurant with a great view of Karlovy Vary
- Group dinner at the restaurant
- Meeting with local folk dancers
- Departure for the hotel

Our first stop in the morning will be the ruins of the gothic Hasištejn Castle. After the tour we will go to the fairytale town Kadaň. We will see medieval fortifications, a beautiful square, and we will walk through executioner's

street--one of the narrowest streets in the Czech Republic. In the afternoon we will arrive in famous Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad). We will walk through the city center and will have some free time to taste local sweets. In the evening we will move above the town by funicular. Those interested can visit the local lookout and see Karlovy Vary from the top. We all will have dinner there and then will meet up with a local folk-dance group. Lastly, we will return to the hotel.



## **Friday, May 6**

AM

- Tour in an open-air museum
- Hop Museum in Žatec
- Lunch time on your own

PM

- Visit to a private stained-glass workshop in Lubenec
- Visit to the Centre for Building Heritage in Plasy
- Arrival in Plzeň
- Dinner with the group

Our first stop will be very close by in the open-air museum. We will visit a few traditional buildings and a mill. Because Western Bohemia is area where hops are grown, we will visit

the Hop Museum in Žatec. It may sound boring, but we will not only hear about hops, but mostly about people who have made a living from it in the past. Lunch will be in town, and you will also have an opportunity to admire the local beer/astronomical clock. Then we will hit the road again. On the way we will have a very special visit to a stained-glass workshop in Lubenec. We have one more stop on the way, the Centre of Building Heritage. Here we will be able to learn about some of the historical architecture. Finally, we will arrive in Plzeň, check in, and walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

### **Saturday, May 7**

AM

- Sightseeing in the town
- Tour in a local brewery
- Group lunch at Najíme Se v Pivovaru

PM

- Program on the Liberation Festival of Plzeň
- Dinner on your own

Plzeň is a modern industrial center of Western Bohemia, with a very nice historical city center. We will have a sightseeing in the morning, then we will visit the famous Pilsner Urquell Brewery. Unfortunately, it is not owned by Czechs anymore, but Czechs work here and produce the well-known beer. We will have a tour here and also lunch. Next you'll be on your own and can enjoy the Liberation Festival in honor of the American soldiers who liberated Plzeň in 1945. Dinner will be on your own. You can visit any of the local restaurants or stay in the main square and have some traditional klobasa or kolace.

### **Sunday, May 8**

AM

- Optional church service
- Loading the bus
- Visit to a puppet museum



- Stop at a water mill
- Lunch with the group

PM

- Arrival in Prague, check-in
- Walk around the hotel area
- Dinner on your own

Those interested may attend a morning church service. Afterwards we will load the bus and visit a local puppet museum, then depart for Prague. Before lunch we will stop by a historical water mill. For lunch we will choose a local restaurant. In the afternoon we will arrive in Prague, check-in to the hotel and let you relax. Then we will do a short walk in the area. For dinner you will be on your own.

## **Monday, May 9**

AM

- Walking tour
- Lunch with the group

PM

- Walking tour
- Free time
- Dinner with a folk-dance show

If you want to discover Prague, you must walk. We will take a tram first, but then we will walk and walk. With our guide, after lots of walking, we will reach the restaurant in the city center for a lunch and then will rest. Later we will have more sightseeing, ending up at the Old Town Square. Here you will have some free time to relax or wander around. We all will meet again to have a great traditional dinner with a high-quality folk-dance show.

## **Tuesday, May 10**

AM

- Optional visit to Vysehrad and more walking around Prague

PM

·Free time

·Dinner cruise and farewell dinner

Today is our last day together. Some of you may want to enjoy Prague by yourselves, or some may prefer to stay with the group, it's up to you. Those who stay with the group will visit Vyšehrad and then walk to the city center again. Afternoon will be free. We will meet in the evening for the dinner cruise, which will show you Prague from a different and beautiful perspective.

## **Wednesday, May 11**

AM

·Departure from Prague

It is time to say goodbye. You will have individual departures so we will not include the transfer as part of the tour.

