

Capitals of Central Europe Tour

- **Tour Description**

Marvel at the Old World charm and beauty of the capitals of Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, Prague, and more. With many of these jewels hidden during the Cold War, they have once again become popular destinations.

- **Included Features**

Meals - In addition to any meals you may be served during your flights to and from Europe, the tour price includes 14 breakfasts, and 9 dinners during the land portion of the tour.



Itinerary at a Glance

DAY 1 - Departure from USA

The adventure begins

The day of departure has arrived. Keep your departure instructions handy, for they will guide you through the check-in process of your overnight flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

DAY 2 - GERMANY

Frankfurt . . Eisenach

Upon arrival at Frankfurt Airport, meet your tour manager for the transfer to your hotel in Eisenach, situated on the northwestern slopes of the Thuringian Forest. Eisenach is best known as the site of Wartburg Castle, where Luther hid upon his return from the Diet of Worms in 1521 and completed his German translation of the New Testament. Adding to its renown, it was also the birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach. Dinner this evening will be at your hotel in Eisenach.

DAY 3 - GERMANY

Erfurt . . Leipzig . . Berlin

After breakfast at the hotel, travel to charming Erfurt on the Gera River. In the 16th century, Erfurt was one of the larger cities in Europe and became known as "Little Rome" because of its many churches. Your next stop this morning is Leipzig, birthplace of Richard Wagner and the home of Johann Sebastian Bach from 1723 until his death in 1750. Following an independent lunch, you may wish to visit the Thomaskirche, where Bach is buried, or the New Town Hall, site of the old citadel on the Burgplatz. Martin Luther held a momentous speech here in 1519. Mid-afternoon, board the motor coach for the vibrant German capital, Berlin, where you will arrive at your hotel in time for dinner.

DAY 4 - GERMANY

Berlin

Begin your day in Berlin with a sightseeing tour accompanied by a local guide. The tour features such landmarks as the Reichstag Building, the Olympic Stadium, Brandenburg Gate, Rathaus Schöneberg, and the site of Checkpoint Charlie. The bombed tower ruin of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church stands as a reminder of the war on the city's famous Kurfürstendamm, affectionately called Ku'damm. Spend your free time this afternoon shopping, visiting one of the outstanding museums, or enjoying the '[Potsdam & Sanssouci Palace](#)' optional excursion. For your independent dinner, there are many world-class restaurants from which to choose, or you may join your tour manager for the optional '[Berlin Dinner](#)'.

DAY 5 - GERMANY

Dresden . . Görlitz

Depart Berlin for Dresden on the River Elbe. Upon arrival, the city sightseeing tour will introduce you to both Dresden's Old and New Towns, including sights such as the Renaissance Royal Palace, the Cathedral, and the Golden Horse statue of Augustus the Strong. During your free time this afternoon take time to relax over lunch at a sidewalk café, do some shopping, or visit one of the enthralling museums. Depart Dresden in the late afternoon and continue to Görlitz, Germany's easternmost city, for dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 6 - POLAND

Wroclaw . . Krakow

Crossing the Polish border takes you into the southwestern province of Lower Silesia and to Wroclaw, one of the oldest towns in Poland. Wroclaw consists of numerous canals, 12 islands and 112 bridges. Enjoy an independent lunch in this unique and picturesque town, then depart in the early afternoon for Krakow. This European cultural gem of a city is your home for the next two nights. Dinner this evening will be at your hotel in Krakow.

DAY 7 - POLAND

Krakow

After breakfast, a local guide will take you through Krakow, pointing out sites such as the beautiful Market Square, the Jagiellonian University, and Wawel Castle. Become further acquainted with Krakow after lunch, or your tour manager will invite you on an optional excursion to '[Auschwitz](#)'. Dinner this evening is independent, providing an opportunity to sample traditional Polish cooking. Or, you may wish to join your tour

Budapest Parliament
from the Danube
River



manager for the optional ['Polish Country Dinner'](#) excursion.

DAY 8 - SLOVAKIA & HUNGARY

The Tatras . . Banska Bystrica . . Budapest

Today's drive is filled with more scenic beauty. Soon after crossing into Slovakia, you will be in the High Tatras, one of the world's smallest mountain ranges. Stop for an independent lunch in Banska Bystrica, one of seven towns founded by German miners who mined copper and silver from the nearby hills. Directly past the Slovak-Hungarian border, begin to follow the Danube Bend to Hungary's capital, Budapest, sprawled on two banks of the fabled river. Dinner is served at your hotel in Budapest.

DAY 9 - HUNGARY

Budapest

Open the day with sightseeing of both Buda, on the Danube's west bank, and Pest on its east bank. In Buda, your local guide introduces you to the Castle Hill, with its much-photographed Fisherman's Bastion. In Belvaros, the inner city of Pest, your guide points out the romantic concert hall, the Vigado, and Gresham Palace, a splendid example of Art Nouveau. After the city tour, you may want to join the ['Parliament Visit & Lunch'](#) optional, or take the opportunity to explore Budapest on your own. Your tour manager will offer an optional ['Danube Dinner Cruise'](#) this evening.

DAY 10 - HUNGARY & AUSTRIA

Győr . . Vienna

Board the motor coach to your first stop this morning in the ancient city of Győr, an historic city which played a strategic role against Turkey in the 13th century. From Győr, it's on to Austria, and its capital, Vienna. This afternoon features a guided tour of Vienna with highlights such as St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Opera House, one of Vienna's most beloved buildings. For your independent dinner, be adventurous in sampling the Austrian cuisine, or choose the ['Vienna Schönbrunn Palace Dinner'](#) excursion.

DAY 11 - AUSTRIA

Vienna

A full day in Vienna provides the opportunity to see more of the fascinating landmarks the city has to offer. Take a leisurely stroll along the Ringstrasse to see some of the city's magnificent edifices, or stroll through one of the museums in the new, highly-touted Museumsquartier (MQ). Otherwise, for exploration of Vienna's surroundings, come along on the full-day ['Melk Abbey & Dürnstein'](#) optional excursion. Return to the hotel for dinner.

DAY 12 - SLOVAKIA & CZECH REPUBLIC

Bratislava . . Brno . . Prague

From Vienna it is less than a two-hour drive to Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. Your independent time in Bratislava can be spent exploring the old town (Stare Mesto) or visiting Bratislava's hilltop castle. Continue across the border into the Czech Republic, where you will stop in Brno for an independent lunch. A good spot is a restaurant on namesti Svobody, the main square. If you have time afterward, you may want to admire the Peter and Paul Cathedral of Brno. Another short drive takes you to Prague, where you will arrive in time for dinner at the hotel.

DAY 13 - CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague

This morning, meet your local guide for a sightseeing tour of beautiful Staromestske namesti, probably the most photographed square in the city; the Old Town Hall; and the Church of St. Nicholas in the Little Quarter (Malá Strana). During free time, consider taking a stroll near the Vltava (Moldau) River and the spectacular Charles Bridge. From higher banks across the river, the enormous Prague Castle overlooks the city, contributing to the mysterious atmosphere that is inescapable in Prague. Dinner tonight is on your own. The food in Prague's restaurants is good and plentiful. Or, you may wish to join your tour manager for the evening optional ['Czech Folklore Show & Dinner'](#).

DAY 14 - CZECH REPUBLIC & GERMANY

Plzen . . Nuremberg

Enjoy a mid-morning stop in Plzen, the fourth largest city of the Czech Republic and center of West Bohemia since its foundation in 1295. Continue to Nuremberg, location of the famous Nuremberg War Trials, where you will arrive in the early

afternoon for check-in at the hotel and an independent lunch. Your tour manager will take you on a walking tour through the city center and point out some of Nuremberg's outstanding landmarks. During subsequent free time, you may wish to visit Kaiserburg (the imperial castle), or the Germanic National Museum, the largest museum of German art and culture. Transfer to your hotel before dinner.

DAY 15 - GERMANY

Würzburg . . Frankfurt

Board the motor coach this morning for Würzburg, one of the loveliest baroque cities in Germany and the starting point of the Romantic Road. Your visit begins with a walking tour which is sure to take you past the Residenz, the Palace of the Prince Bishops. Following an independent lunch in Würzburg, continue to your hotel near Frankfurt Airport. This evening enjoy a festive farewell dinner with your fellow tour participants.

DAY 16 - Daytime Flight back to the USA

This morning, transfer to Frankfurt Airport for the return flight home.