

CULTURE + WALKING

CZECH REPUBLIC, AUSTRIA & HUNGARY

Prague to Budapest



Classic
JOURNEYS

DAILY ITINERARY

CZECH REPUBLIC, AUSTRIA & HUNGARY | PRAGUE TO BUDAPEST | CULTURE + WALKING



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Time Travel in the Habsburg Empire

If you've ever wondered how it would be to time-travel, this compact visit to the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary is for you. In Prague, Vienna and Budapest, you'll enjoy expertly guided walking tours that explore these one-time capitals of the Habsburg Empire whose spires and castles create the continent's most inspiring skylines. Out in the countryside, the sights are just as amazing. Powder-blue cathedrals leap up from the heart of valley towns. Incredibly intact villages are so perfectly preserved that the U.N. recognizes them as World Heritage Sites. Strolling through wide-open farmland, you'll be forgiven if you feel you've stepped back into feudal times. Whether you're sipping wine from the terraced vineyards along the Danube valley or hitching a ride on a friendly farmer's tractor, you'll marvel that these places still exist. And you'll bring home with you a rich slice of Europe's life and history that most travelers never see.

DAY 1

PRAGUE

• Walking tour of Prague

We meet in what may well be the most walkable city in Europe. Prague is compact, full of history and easy to navigate. So naturally, we'll start by taking a stroll with our guide. This magnificent city is our guide's hometown, and he loves to show it off. We'll cross the famous Charles Bridge (popular with artists, musicians and vendors), visit St. Vitus Cathedral and the Royal castle of Hradcany.

Immediately, you're exposed to a paradox you'll experience again and again in the days ahead: As repressive as Cold War regimes were, a lack of resources and an excess of neglect kept governments from bulldozing cities and towns. That almost-accidental preservation means you'll step into scenes that have gone essentially unchanged for centuries. Complementing those scenes, our guides share personal stories and historical anecdotes as we walk through the shaded orchards of Petrin Hill, past Strahov Abbey and down into the winding alleys of the medieval Mala Strana district, finally culminating at the Old Town Square.

OVERNIGHT: PRAGUE**MEALS: D**

DAY 2

CESKY KRUMLOV

• Countryside walk and exploration of Telc

• Visit a local brewery

We drive south through rolling countryside dotted with farmsteads, pastures and thick swathes of forest. Then, at just the right spot, we leave our minicoach for a lovely walk that leads to Telc, one of 11 UNESCO cultural sites in the Czech Republic. Its main square, rebuilt during the 16th century to complement the neighboring castle, is ringed by tight ranks of Gothic halls, Renaissance houses, and Baroque gables. It's one of the most photogenic townscapes you will ever see - and the miracle is that it's not a reproduction. Telc is the real thing! But then again, so is Cesky Krumlov where we settle in for the next two nights.

The Czechs have a well-earned reputation as brew masters. This afternoon, after a short but scenic riverside walk, we arrive at an authentic beer brewery. As we explore the facility in the company of our guide, we visit with the brewers and learn how this craft is part of the heritage of the Czech Republic. And of course, our hosts treat us to a tasting of their fine product.

OVERNIGHT: CESKY KRUMLOV**MEALS: B, L, D**

DAY 3

CESKY KRUMLOV

• Visit to Rozmberk Castle

Say "CHESS-key KROOM-loff" and you're close to passing your first test in the Czech language. In any language, this village is a remarkable place. It too is a UNESCO historic site, but of a different sort. The Vltava River snakes around the heart of the town. Over it all floats a magnificent castle that

was the family seat of the Rozmberk family for over 300 years. The balconies are draped in flowers. Cafés hang out over the banks of the river. Apart from a guided walk, you'll also have time to roam and shop and lunch.

The afternoon proceeds with a walk in an altogether different setting. From the 13th century Vitkovek castle that seems to sit on the shoulders of a tiny village, we strike out into the countryside. On pasture and woodland trails, we pass close enough to barnyards to see farmers at work. You'll experience an hour or two of uncanny solitude when the only sounds are the wind in the grass or the distant ringing of a steeple bell.

OVERNIGHT: CESKY KRUMLOV**MEALS: B, D**

DAY 4

AUSTRIA / DURNSTEIN

• Historic paper mill visit

• Scenic walk to Zwettl Monastery

In the historic sense, our whole week is spent in the old Habsburg Empire. But unlike the salt traders who used to ride these routes, today we have to cross national borders. So, at Dolni Dvoriste we enter Austria. You quickly notice a difference or two: village churches sprout eastern-style onion domes and the vineyards are more plentiful.

From the village of Gross Pertholz we launch a light walk through a neat patchwork of fields with crops like you don't see back home: flax, for instance, or peas. Our destination is an historic mill where paper is still made by a process passed down through centuries of Austrian papermakers.

After lunch, a scenic walk leads to the Cistercian monastery of Zwettl founded in 1138. But be prepared for a surprise. Yes, it's a monastery...but it is anything but humble. In fact, the abbey is a mind-boggling Baroque confection, spilling over with gilded sunbursts and cherubim and frescoes.

In the afternoon, we continue on to Durnstein where our gracious hotel sits just feet from the banks of the Danube. There's no way to get lost in this town so you may want to wander on your own or relax by the pool set in the hotel's walled garden.

OVERNIGHT: DURNSTEIN**MEALS: B, D**

DAY 5

DURNSTEIN

• Danube River cruise

• Dinner at a local wine tavern

In the morning we have a short discovery walk through lovely Durnstein. (We wouldn't expect you to know this on your own, but there are some incredible views from the castle on the hill just above Durnstein. The catch is that the morning mist from the river valley makes the morning views not as great as those in the afternoons. So we'll return in the afternoon to take in the expansive views. We like to think local knowledge like this is another reason having a guide helps smooth your way.)

Mid-morning, we've scouted a trail that follows the lower terraces of the valley's vineyards. (By the way, you'll want to

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be sure to try these Austrian wines later at dinner. We don't see them so often at home, but they are rich, bright and fruity – and not at all sweet, as many people imagine.)

The relaxing culmination to the day is a cruise on the Danube River. Sit back, sip a glass of wine, and enjoy a fresh perspective on the landscape we've wandered through in the last few days. For those who'd like, the late afternoon walk we mentioned earlier is available; it follows a trail up the crest to Durnstein Castle where Duke Leopold VI held Richard the Lionhearted after the Crusades. From its ruins, we have wonderful views back down to the village and along the Danube for miles in both directions. This evening we'll enjoy dinner at a charming, local wine tavern.

OVERNIGHT: DURNSTEIN
MEALS: B, D

DAY 6

VIENNA / BUDAPEST

- Exploring the glories of Vienna
- An evening promenade along the Danube in Budapest

Fuel up on muesli and yogurt...or go the sausage-and-cheese route for your final Austrian breakfast. This morning we drive through fertile farmland and densely wooded hills to the magnificent city of Vienna. We'll walk on the Ring, the famed circular boulevard lined with monumental buildings that capture the glory of the Habsburg Empire. We'll stroll the medieval lanes of the Inner City to Saint Stephen's Cathedral, Austria's pinnacle of Gothic architecture. Wander down The Graben, Vienna's famous street home to beautiful shops and cafes. Spend some time in a coffeehouse for lunch and live as the Viennese do.

Later this afternoon, we continue on to Budapest. Traveling from Vienna, we first reach the beautiful hills of the Hungarian capital Buda. As we cross over the magnificent Danube via the Elisabeth bridge, you begin to understand why Budapest is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. After dinner, you may want to adopt the local tempo of life and take a stroll along the Korzó, a pedestrian-only promenade on the river. As the lovely skyline lights up, we love to claim a riverside bench and watch the Danube – and the residents – glide by.

OVERNIGHT: BUDAPEST
MEALS: B, D

DAY 7

BUDAPEST

- Exploration of Budapest
- Festive farewell dinner

We dedicate an entire day to a guided visit of Budapest. The colorful hills of Buda lie on one side of the Danube; the cosmopolitan streets of Pest crowd up against the other bank. Together, they create the cultural and commercial heart of Hungary. Along with our local friend, Zsofi (isn't it great to be able to say you saw Budapest with your local friend?), we start on the Pest side, visiting Europe's largest synagogue. We'll also take in Hero's Square and the Parliament building, which is graced by two-dozen slender towers and a vast dome.

After lunch along cosmopolitan Váci utca, we explore the fortifications on the Buda side. A stroll through the cobblestone streets reveals a rich jumble of a few centuries worth of architectural treasures. But the grand delight is Castle Hill leading up to the Royal Palace. This entire district was in ruins by the end of 1944. As the city dug out, archaeologists discovered medieval buildings and restored the castle walls to their former glory.

After an expansive day of discovery, you may want to make a detour to the Gellért Hotel. It's the oldest spa hotel in Hungary and grateful visitors have taken curative baths in its hot springs for nearly 2,000 years.

Tonight, we'll host a festive farewell dinner. Then, if you're up for a lively last night, we recommend a foray to Vörösmarty tér, the impressive square where street musicians rule and you can relax with an after-dinner coffee at a sidewalk café.

OVERNIGHT: BUDAPEST
MEALS: B, D

DAY 8

BUDAPEST

- Independent exploration of Budapest

We part company after breakfast. Rail and air connections are all very convenient. On your own, you may want to get in some shopping or see the collection of Flemish and Dutch Old Masters at the Museum of Fine Arts.

MEALS: B



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Tour Hotels



Hotel Paris Prague

A landmark Art Nouveau structure, this beautifully restored hotel is located in the heart of Prague's Old Town. From the generously proportioned rooms, guests are just steps away from the gothic Powder Tower and the premier arts and shopping district.

OVERNIGHT: PRAGUE | NIGHTS: 1



Hotel Bellevue

Set in the medieval heart of Cesky Krumlov, this fine property was created by combining several historic buildings. The cozy rooms are steps away from some of Europe's most scenic streets. There's also a fine restaurant as well as sauna and spa.

OVERNIGHT: CESKÝ KRUMLOV | NIGHTS: 2



Richard Lowenherz Hotel

On the banks of the Danube, this hotel is nestled between an ancient monastery and a soaring, sky blue Rococo church. The hotel, known for its extremely hospitable hosts, is just one quiet block from the village center.

OVERNIGHT: DÜRNSTEIN | NIGHTS: 2



Corinthia Hotel Budapest

Behind its distinguished façade in the heart of Budapest, this 5-star hotel is one of the finest in the city. Newly renovated, it offers spacious guest rooms as well as a wealth of architectural detailing in the lobby.

OVERNIGHT: BUDAPEST | NIGHTS: 2

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Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
June 7-14, 2020	\$4,895	\$5,490
August 2-9, 2020	\$4,895	\$5,490
September 6-13, 2020	\$4,895	\$5,490
October 4-11, 2020	\$4,895	\$5,490
June 6-13, 2021	\$4,995	\$5,590
August 1-8, 2021	\$4,995	\$5,590
September 5-12, 2021	\$4,995	\$5,590
October 3-10, 2021	\$4,995	\$5,590

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 8 Days, 7 Nights

START: 1:00 PM Lobby of Hotel Pariz, Prague, Czech Republic

END: 9:00 AM Lobby of Corinthia Hotel Budapest, Budapest, Hungary

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails, with van support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 7 nights
- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 7 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Wine on Us**
- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Perfect Pairings Dinners**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

Travel for Free

Your trip is free when you organize a Classic Journeys trip with 10 or more travelers (including you)! Or you can share your savings with other group members.

TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Czechia, Hungary, and Austria...

- Exploring Telc, a UNESCO cultural site, and one of the most photogenic villages in the world
- Savoring fascinating visits to a local brewery, a Cistercian monastery and a paper mill
- Learning the fascinating histories of the Habsburg capitals of Prague and Budapest on guided walking tours
- Exploring from perfectly-sited historic hotels, including the grand and elegant Corinthia Hotel in Budapest
- Encountering experiences that most tourists could never even imagine because of your amazing local guide

"The group was great, the trip was fun. The whole idea of not having to worry about anything was awesome. Our guide told us what to do and we did it, happily!"

—Mary Frances K., Merrick, NY

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Croatia

Dubrovnik & Dalmatian Coast

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling atop massive medieval walls at sunset
- Enjoying lunchtime camaraderie at a local winery
- Skirting the coast on shepherds' paths with jaw-dropping views

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/croatia/>.



Norway

Oslo, Jostedal & Bergen

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Gliding through awesome fjords
- Joining a professional guide for a glacier walk
- Settling into a small village hotel surrounded by mountains and water

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/norway/>.



Switzerland

The Bernese Alps & Oberland

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking on the surface of a glacier
- Going for a llama trek on a Alpine farm
- Eating your way through a culinary hike on the Stockhorn

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/switzerland-walking-tour/>.

You might also enjoy...



Turkey

Turquoise Coast & Cappadocia

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Admiring architectural wonders of the ancient world
- Cruising between islands on a custom yacht
- Witnessing a potter perfecting his art

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/turkey/>.

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.