

From Bratislava to Prague

COUNTRY WALKS FROM SLOVAKIA TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC



TRIP DATES

2024

May 15-24, 2024

August 28-September 6, 2024

September 25-October 4, 2024

2025

May 14-23, 2025

August 27-September 5, 2025

September 24-October 3, 2025



Wilderness Travel

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“The itinerary was very well crafted, full of unexpected delights, and each venue was clearly thoughtfully planned to highlight the culture, history, and beauty of the area. Bravo! Zuzana and Jiri were a great team and went out of their way to make everyone feel special. It was great fun to spend the time with them and we will miss their infectious love of their country.”

Liz K., Madison, WI



From Bratislava to Prague

In the heart of uncrowded Central Europe lies a walker's paradise. Our journey brings us from Bratislava to Prague, with hikes to hilltop castles and ancient abbeys, following trails through serene forests where locals hunt for prized mushrooms, and right through the gates of enchanting Baroque towns encircled by vineyards. Our journey combines two ancient European capitals, Bratislava, Slovakia, with its cobblestone lanes and vibrant coffee-house culture, and romantic Prague, where ancient history and a lively international vibe happily coexist. Between these two intriguing cities, we'll discover ancient castles like the brooding ruin of Devin Castle, whose ramparts rule over a strategic point in the Danube, and 16th century Telc, with its perfectly preserved town square. In the UNESCO-protected town of Cesky Krumlov, we'll enjoy private backstage tour of the perfectly preserved 17th century theater and overnight in a beautifully renovated historic hotel. We celebrate our journey's finale in Prague, exploring the haunting Jewish cemetery, the Old Town Square with its astronomical clock, and the theater district, where dissident playwright Václav Havel's works were performed before the days of the Velvet Revolution. Our expert—and beloved—Trip Leaders share the ancient heritage and contemporary drama of this fascinating realm.



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Itinerary

DAY 1

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

We meet in the morning for a walking tour of Bratislava, linked by the great Danube to neighboring Vienna and Budapest, forming the trio of great cities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Right from our charming hotel in the Old Town, we'll walk through the intact medieval center, with its stately burgher's houses and nobles' palaces painted in soft pastels. Up at Michael's Gate, one of the city's original four medieval gates, we'll have great views from high above a tangle of narrow lanes that date to the 14th century, and we visit the blue-glazed St. Elizabeth's Church, an Art Nouveau masterpiece designed by Ödön Lechner, considered to be Hungary's Gaudi. We'll also view some of the striking architectural relics of Bratislava's Communist era, such as the inverted pyramid of the Slovak Radio Building. Lunch will be in a local café. Mid-afternoon is the perfect time to experience Bratislava's celebrated coffee-house culture or perhaps step behind the Baroque façade of the Galeria Nedbalka and find a stylish modern interior dedicated to the best Slovakian art from the 19th century to the present. In the evening, we stroll across the river for a festive Welcome Dinner in the UFO Tower, a flying-saucer shaped restaurant and observation deck perched 300 feet above the Danube. The 360-degree views of Bratislava and beyond are amazing. We'll walk back to our hotel in the heart of the Old Town, just a quick stroll from the main square, with its mix of 14th century buildings and lively cafes...LD

Walking Details: 4.5-5 hours

Note: You will need to arrive in Bratislava the night before the trip begins. We are happy to book a room for you at our recommended hotel in Bratislava (an 'on your own' expense)

DAY 2

DEVIN CASTLE, SLOVAKIA / LEDNICE CASTLE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Our first hike brings us into the rural countryside outside of Bratislava to Sandberg, a protected paleontological site, as the fossils of more than 250 extinct animal species were discovered here, from shellfish to whales and mastodons. We hike to the top of the Sandberg site then along a forested trail to reach the dramatic hilltop site of Devin, one of Slovakia's most picturesque castle ruins, set on a crag 600 feet above the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers. We'll explore the haunting walls and towers of this ruined castle, originally an 8th century border fortress and later destroyed by Napoleon's army in a military maneuver. Views from atop the castle ruin stretch into Austria and Hungary. After a picnic lunch at the castle, we'll drive to the border into Moravia, the Czech Republic's wine country, a landscape of woodlands interspersed with orchards and vineyards. We spend our afternoon walking the stately grounds of UNESCO-listed Lednice Castle, built by the Liechtenstein family as a summer residence. The garden is one of the largest formally designed landscapes in Europe, connecting with a twin chateau several miles away. Forested trails lead us to outlying pavilions, statues, chapels, and peaceful



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	10 days
Arrive:	Bratislava, Slovakia
Depart:	Prague, Czech Republic
Lodging:	9 nights 3- and 4-star hotels and country inns
Meals:	All meals included except 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Cultural Adventures, Walking
Trip Level:	1 2 3 4 5 6 A mix of moderate walks and hikes, 2-4 hours a day, van support

HIGHLIGHTS

- Delightful countryside walks each day from hilltop castles to Baroque towns
- Historic Bratislava, Slovakia's ancient capital on the Danube
- Classic Renaissance gem of Telc and the Baroque city of Český Krumlov, a World Heritage Site
- Exuberant and expert Czech Trip Leaders who love to share the region's best hikes and heritage



“Our guides made this trip extra special with their attentiveness to detail, their enthusiasm, and their delightful personalities.

The areas we were in were beautiful, accommodations and food very good, and the sights quite interesting.”

Russ F., Sarasota, FL



ponds where swans glide. Our boat ride across the chateau's lake brings us to the 18th century Arabian Minaret for fabulous views across the estate. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Lednice...BLD

Hiking Details: 7-8 miles, 3-4 hours

Driving Time: 1.5-2 hours

DAY 3

PALAVA NATURE RESERVE / MIKULOV / LEDNICE

This morning we'll visit the castle's fairytale interior, then head out for our first castle-to-castle hike, which brings us through the Palava Nature Reserve, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a landscape of limestone outcrops and hardwood forests. Beginning below the ruined tower of a 10th century castle perched on a crag, we hike through mixed forests of beech, maple, linden, and oak and cross meadows overlooking Moravia's vineyards and villages. Our hike ends at another crag-top ruin, and we enjoy a picnic or a restaurant meal in Mikulov, a Moravian town with Baroque and Renaissance townhouses surrounding its main square. Mikulov is dominated by a huge Baroque castle with views out across wine country. Napoléon stayed in Mikulov's castle during his negotiations with the Austrians after the battle of Austerlitz, and Bismarck came here for the signing of a peace treaty with Austria. The town once had a flourishing Jewish population, especially in the mid-19th century, and we visit the town's medieval Jewish cemetery, one of the largest in eastern Europe, with its finely carved tombstones. Overnight in Lednice...BLD

Hiking Details: 7-8 miles, 3-4 hours

Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 4

CASTLE ROSTEJN / TELC

This morning we drive west, stopping for a picnic lunch in the fairytale setting of the 14th century Castle Rostejn, a Gothic apparition that seems to rise straight up from the rock outcrop it is set upon. During part of the 15th century, the castle served as a hunting chateau for the feudal lords of the area,

and there is a large game preserve established around it. We set off on trails that descend from the castle ramparts into enchanting pine forests and rolling meadows. Our trail brings us to the tiny village of Doupe, then further on a lakeside trail through fields of poppies, ending our hike with a walk through the arched town gates of Telc, one of the best-preserved Renaissance towns in all of Europe, now a World Heritage Site. When a fire destroyed the town's wooden buildings in 1530, Telc was rebuilt from scratch, and today we see a perfectly preserved example of 16th century town planning. No building in Telc is less than 250 years old, giving us an extraordinary opportunity to step back into the past and experience the town as it would have been in Mozart's time. The wedge-shaped main square looks like a stage set, with Renaissance arcades, Gothic and

Renaissance houses of subtle pastel colors, and absolutely striking architectural unity. At the northern end of the square, the 14th century chateau, originally Gothic, was given its Renaissance facade by Italian craftsmen in the 16th century. We enjoy dinner on a terrace right on the town square and an evening stroll to the small moat-like lakes that flank the town, where the red-tiled roofs are reflected in serene waters...BLD

Hiking Details: 6 miles, 2.5 hours

Driving Time: 3 hours

DAY 5

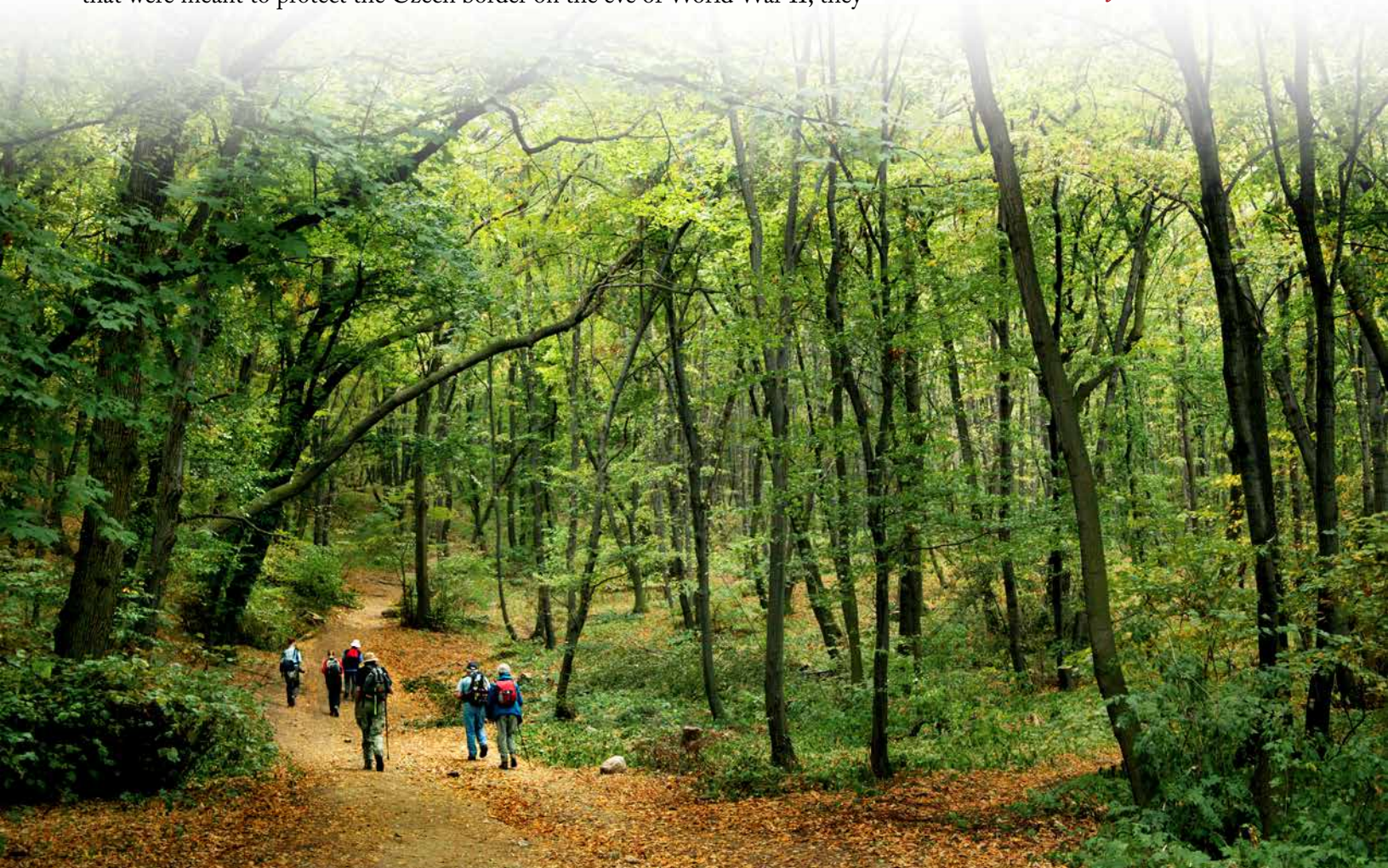
TELC CASTLE / SLAVONICE

The highlands of southern Moravia, a gentle rolling landscape of pastures and forests, became a “forbidden zone” between Austria and Czechoslovakia in the aftermath of World War II. Ironically, as a result, the region’s natural beauty has been well preserved. The area is great for hiking and the local folks can once again explore these woods for wild mushrooms (we may meet some mushroom gatherers as we hike). After a visit to the Telc Castle, we’ll begin our hike from Stare Mesto pod Landstejnem, about a 40-minute drive from Telc. As we hike, we see the remnants of fortifications that were meant to protect the Czech border on the eve of World War II; they



“Zuzana was a joy to be with. Her impressive knowledge of her country, caring nature, and charming personality made for a wonderful week.”

Cathy S., Charlotte, NC





“Zuzana was wonderful, a real treasure and a great pleasure to come to know. She was extremely articulate, with a broad knowledge base that included both distant and recent Czech history.”

Jan K., Titusville, NJ

proved useless when the Allied nations traded away much of eastern Europe in a futile attempt to appease Hitler. Our trail leads us through pine forests to Slavonice, a gem of a town with an intact medieval urban design, just a mile from the Austrian border. This Renaissance outpost was partially abandoned in the 18th century when the stagecoach road between Vienna and Prague was rerouted. The town fell into further disrepair during the Cold War. Today its Renaissance main square, with its unusual biblical paintings on the exteriors of houses, has been carefully restored. We enjoy a picnic lunch and return to Telc for overnight. Dinner is on your own this evening and your Trip Leader will be happy to make restaurant recommendations...BL

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 4 hours

Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 6

CESKY KRUMLOV

We cross into rural southern Bohemia, its winding roads lined by fruit trees, and visit the tiny medieval spa town of Trebon. Trebon's Renaissance chateau is where the infamous Petr Vok, last heir of the noble Rozmberk family and a comrade of Mad King Ludwig II, lived quite colorfully. We continue to Cesky Krumlov, a vision of Renaissance and Baroque houses lying on a double “S” curve on the Vltava River. We spend the evening on a walking tour of this unforgettable town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Like a miniature Prague, Cesky Krumlov is dominated by a grand castle that rises through five courtyards and ends in a huge watchtower. Only three families have lived

in this castle since the Middle Ages: the Rozmberks, lords of the Renaissance era, the Eggenbergs, who built the castle's first theater in the 1680s, and the Schwarzenbergs, whose untold wealth helped to defeat Napoléon. Cesky Krumlov's castle is illuminated at night, providing an enchanting backdrop for wandering and café hopping. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Walking Details: 4 miles, 3 hours

Driving Time: 2 hours

DAY 7

SUMAVA FOREST / CESKY KRUMLOV

Today's hike takes place on the wooded trails of the Sumava (Bohemian) Forest, one of the last wilderness regions in central Europe and a natural border between the Czech Republic on one side and Germany and Austria on the other. Above town rises a Gothic castle that once belonged to the lords of the Rozmberk family. We'll hike across open fields with wonderful views of distant villages and continue to Rozmberk, a charming town built around the serpentine curves of the Vltava River. We end our hike at Vyssi Brod, a serene 13th century Cistercian monastery whose bright white walls contrast vividly with the forest greenery. This centuries-old pilgrimage site, with its Romanesque cloisters and courtyards, is being restored by returning monks

after four decades of closure under Communism (Vyssi Brod was returned to the Cistercian order in 1991). After a late lunch in Rozmberk, we return to Cesky Krumlov in the late afternoon. Dinner is on your own tonight, and the Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations. Want to eat like the locals? Try some fresh trout and a crisp pilsner—a great combination! Overnight at hotel...BL
Hiking Details: 6 miles, 3.5 hours
Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 8 CESKY KRUMLOV

Virtually nothing has changed in Cesky Krumlov since medieval times except for the addition of electricity. Numerous sidewalk cafes liven the scene, and lovely old bridges cross and recross the Vltava River as it snakes through town. In Cesky Krumlov's castle complex is a fabulously intact 18th century Baroque theater, one of few in the world that retains so much original wardrobe, scenery, and props. We enjoy a private visit to this extraordinary theater and other parts of the castle this morning, with the afternoon free for independent exploration. Overnight at hotel...BLD

DAY 9 PRAGUE

A drive of about three hours brings us to Prague, the jewel of Bohemia and one of the world's most beautiful cities. Prague's golden age lasted from the 14th to the 18th centuries, and much of the city's present look was achieved in the 14th century during the long reign of Charles IV, the Holy Roman Emperor. Today, 600 years of glorious architecture, from Renaissance to Cubist, are on display in one of the few major cities to miraculously escape destruction by war.



"It was a fabulous trip; we were able to see the beautiful countryside, share some time with the people (thanks to Zuzana), and learn so much about Czech culture and the history of this little known country."

Nancy M., Orleans, MA



Itinerary (cont'd)

“There was just the right mixture of walking and sightseeing. Everything was well thought out and planned.”

Mary P., Bedford, NY

We arrive in Prague and devote the afternoon to a wonderful walk through narrow Baroque lanes and over medieval stone bridges in this pedestrian-friendly city. We begin in Old Town, the city's Baroque medieval hub and a bustling center for mercantile activity since the 13th century. The Old Town Square is lined by brightly colored houses with Baroque facades. The square's most famous sight is the 15th century Astronomical Clock, which during its hourly chime presents a mechanical tableau of large, moving figures including 12 bowing Apostles and a skeletal Death with his hourglass. One of the “new” additions to the square is the Jan Hus Monument, dedicated in 1915, with its inscription, “Truth Prevails.” In August, 1968, when the Soviets invaded Prague to end the nationalist movement known as the Prague Spring, protestors shrouded this huge statue in black drapes. The famous Velvet Revolution of 1989 bloodlessly brought down the Communist government and the

democratic election of 1990 installed the late Vaclav Havel, dissident and playwright, as president. On our walk, we pass by the theater where Havel's first plays were performed.

Another part of our afternoon walk passes through Prague's Jewish ghetto, Josefov, which dates to medieval times and is now a quiet, middle-class residential quarter. Much of Josefov was demolished in the 19th century when the Jews were moved to another ghetto, but Europe's oldest functioning synagogue is still here, as is the poignant Old Jewish Cemetery, in use from the 15th century until 1787, with its crowded tumble of headstones. Under Nazi occupation in World War II, most of the 35,000 Jews living in Prague were deported or killed in concentration camps. We gather for our Farewell Dinner at a restaurant on the Vltava River with a beautiful view of the Prague



Castle and Charles Bridge. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Walking Details: 3-4 miles, 3 hours

Driving Time: 3 hours

DAY 10

DEPART

Morning checkout and taxi transfer on your own to Prague's airport for homeward-bound flights, or for other destinations in Europe...B

Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$5395 (11-15 members)

\$5995 (5-10 members)

Single supplement: \$590

2025 Trip Costs: Please call for details

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in the Czech Republic by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Czech Koruna. In the late spring of 2023, when we set the rates for our 2024 program, the US Dollar equaled 22.40 Koruna. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Koruna, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Koruna were to rise in value, the trip cost would rise less than might be expected, and if the Koruna were to fall, the drop in land price would also be less than might be expected.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels and comfortable inns
- All meals included except 2 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- Ground transportation throughout the trip
- Sightseeing and entrance fees on group tours

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, airport/hotel transfers, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors; pre-trip expense of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance or passports; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, telephone calls, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Bratislava, Slovakia

Suggested Airport: Vienna International Airport (VIE)

Suggested Date & Time: Anytime prior to Day 1

Meeting Place: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of Marrol's Boutique Hotel in Bratislava at 9:00 am on Day 1.

You will transfer on your own from Vienna International Airport to Marrol's Boutique Hotel in Bratislava. We recommend that you book a transfer with a company called 2PCOM. You can visit their website at www.2pcom.sk/en. The cost of the ride from Vienna International Airport to the hotel in Bratislava is approximately \$70 and takes 45 minutes. You can also take a taxi from the airport to the Vienna Schwedenplatz Ferry Terminal. The ferry will take you into Old Town Bratislava, which is an 8-10 minute walk to the hotel. You can see the schedule of the ferry, rates and purchase tickets in advanced through the Twin City Liner website: www.twincityliner.com/en/content/vienna-bratislava.

Due to the early morning meeting time on Day 1 of the trip, you must overnight in Bratislava the night before Day 1. We are happy to book a room for you at our group hotel (an on your own expense).

DEPARTURE

Prague, Czech Republic

Suggested Airport: Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 10, anytime

Hotel Paris checkout is at noon. If you haven't visited Prague before, we strongly recommend that you extend your stay for at least one extra night, as we only spend one short afternoon and evening there at the end of our trip. We are happy to book an extra hotel night for you at the Hotel Paris (please see our Extra Hotel Request Form for information).

Taxis are available from the Prague hotel to the airport for approximately \$30 per taxi and take about 30-45 minutes, depending on traffic. Your Trip Leader and hotel staff will assist with arranging taxi logistics.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from the Czech Republic.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Prague Excursions

Extend your time in the historical city of Prague, with its Bohemian allure and cultural highlights. We offer you a choice of excursions that allow you to delve deeply into the heart of this beautiful city.

PRAGUE'S JEWISH QUARTER EXCURSION (MORNING OPTION)

Enjoy a 3.5-hour guided walking tour of the Jewish Quarter (Josefov): We visit synagogues and sites that together make up the Jewish Museum. Beginning in the Old-New Synagogue, the oldest functioning synagogue in Europe, we discover the vibrant history of the Prague Jewish Community and its famous citizens including Rabbi Loew and Franz Kafka, and follow with a visit to the Old Jewish Cemetery, listed by National Geographic among the top ten cemeteries to visit around the world. Learn about the "Golden Renaissance" time of Jews in Prague, the Jewish assimilation, and the local context that surrounded Hitler's invasion.

PRAGUE CASTLE AND LESSER QUARTER EXCURSION (AFTERNOON OPTION)

Embark on a journey through the castle complex overlooking the 100-spired city below. The seat of Bohemian kings, Holy Roman Emperors, and Habsburg rulers has gone through many changes and architectural styles since it was established in 880 AD. At its heart is St. Vitus Cathedral, the country's largest church and the final resting place of some iconic Czech personalities. After seeing the sunlit stained glass windows, the picturesque Golden Lane, and four castle's courtyards, we'll descend into the Lesser Quarter, an area of humble lanes and noble palaces and finish our walk at the John Lennon Wall, a symbol of freedom and protest against the communist regime.



EXCURSION COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

TBA

Extension Cost Includes

- Entry ticket to the Jewish Museum (morning option)
- Entry ticket to the Prague Castle and transportation tickets (afternoon option)
- Guide for the duration of each tour

Extension Cost Does Not Include

- Meals
- Tips for your guide

Accommodations



MARROL'S BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Bratislava, Slovakia

Day 1 (1 night)

Marrol's Boutique Hotel has a great location near the heart of the Old Town, so it's a quick walk to the historic main square, with its complex of 14th century buildings and lively cafes. Guest rooms are well appointed and comfortable, and there is a rooftop terrace, a great place to enjoy a glass of wine.



HOTEL PRINCESS

Lednice, Czech Republic

Days 2 to 3 (2 nights)

This relatively new hotel enjoys a great location in Lednice, close to the castle, palace, and other monuments of this World Heritage Site. With just 14 spacious guest rooms and an inviting courtyard with fountain, it offers a cozy, peaceful ambiance.



HOTELS IN TELC

Telc, Czech Republic

Days 4 to 5 (2 nights)

In Telc, we stay at one of the following properties:

HOTEL U HRABENKY

Set in a converted 18th century building of charming Baroque architecture, the 16-room Hotel U Hrabanky ("House of the Countess") is just a two-minute walk from the stunning medieval square of Telc, a World Heritage Site of Renaissance-era gingerbread houses.

HOTEL TELC

Located just steps from the main square in a quaint blue building stands Hotel Telc. Travelers are welcomed into a cozy lobby, and guest rooms are simple and comfortable. There is a nice breakfast buffet, and a lovely little cafe adjacent to the hotel—perfect for an afternoon coffee or tea. The hotel staff is kind and hospitable.



HOTELS IN CESKY KRUMLOV

Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic
Days 6 to 8 (3 nights)

In Cesky Krumlov, we stay at one of the following properties:

HOTEL LATRAN

Formerly two burghers' houses dating back to the 15th century, this 16-room hotel is full of Old World charm and a perfect blend of the modern and historic. Each room is slightly different; some have traditional detailing, but all feature a spacious private bath with modern amenities. The Latran is in a great location, just inside the Old Town and walking distance to all the sights.

KRCINUV DUM

This charming 12-room hotel is practically a historical monument itself in a town that is steeped in history. Dating back to the 14th century, the structure has lots of character, from the painted exterior walls to the spacious guestrooms that are nicely decorated with original furniture—a step back in time. The hotel is ideally located, right in the center of town and just a short walk from the main square and Cesky Krumlov castle.



HOTEL PARIS

Prague, Czech Republic
Day 9 (1 night)

With a Neo-Gothic exterior and elaborate Art Nouveau design elements, this beautifully restored and historic building has a wonderful location just a 5-minute walk to the Old Town Square and 10 minutes to the Charles Bridge. The hotel's 1930s-style Café de Paris is a great place to wind down at the end of the evening and provides an excellent perch for people watching.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *From Bratislava to Prague* webpage and click on “Accommodations.”

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/bratislava-prague-cultural-walking-tour



JIRI ROHEL

Jiri Rohel, from the Czech Republic, has been a guide for WT since 2011. He holds a master's degree in English and music and studied clarinet at a conservatory. Jiri loves mountain life and spent a month trekking in Nepal's Annapurna range. He has also climbed to the summits of Mont Blanc in France, Mt. Elbrus in Russia, the Matterhorn in Switzerland, and the highest peaks in the Austrian Alps. Having grown up in the Czech Republic, Jiri can share his experience of living in Communist Czechoslovakia and the transition to life in today's modern Czech Republic. When not leading trips, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing music with his dulcimer band, taking photographs, and being outside in nature, whether hiking, climbing, trekking, cycling, or skiing.



ZUZANA SOCHOROVA

Zuzana Sochorova comes from the southeastern part of the Czech Republic, a region full of sunshine and vineyards, and has a degree in Economics and Marketing from the University in Ostrava. She loves her work as a guide and takes great delight in meeting new people and showing them the most beautiful and fascinating aspects of the Czech Republic. When not guiding or studying, Zuzana enjoys long walks with her dog, taking belly dancing lessons, and skiing.

“Zuzana really made the difference for all of us. A very competent, knowledgeable, kind, and personable leader and a credit to her country as well as Wilderness Travel.”

Martha P, Inverness, CA

“Jiri’s willingness to share his experience growing up in a communist Czechoslovakia and the transition to life in today’s Czech Republic added another dimension to our trip. His musical talents were also a wonderful addition to our group’s experience.”

Kathleen C., Minneapolis, MN

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 2+ (Easy to Moderate) according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 8 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 5 hours a day.

Average Hiking Day

- 5 miles
- 3-4 hours

Challenge Day

- Day 3: 7-8 miles, 3-4 hours; includes short, steep sections

TERRAIN

This trip includes both easy hikes and walks, traversing across historic towns, through forest trails, and over gently rolling hillsides. You will need to be able to hike over sections that contain rocky steps, uneven surfaces, and occasionally downhill over loose scree. There are some tight staircases in the castles, and trails may become muddy and unstable with bad weather. While this is not a challenging trip, it is active and you will need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady hiking pace of the group.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercise. Stair climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in.

WEATHER

The weather in the Czech Republic and Slovakia in the summer is usually very mild and pleasant, with temperatures in the 60s°F and 70s°F during the day and in the 50s°F and 60s°F at night. Cool breezes and showers can occur at any time, so layers and raingear are recommended.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our accommodations are in small, charming hotels that have been selected for their character. While they are not the most luxurious options in the area, they are clean and comfortable and in the optimal locations. Since they are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

CUISINE

Lunches and dinners will be picnic-style, at local restaurants and cafes, and at the hotels. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 7:30 pm.

TRANSPORTATION

Our bus will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need during the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day).

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	HOURS	MILES	ELEV. GAIN/LOSS	HOURS
1	4.5-5 hours	city walking tour		
2	3-4 hours	7-8 miles		1.5-2 hours
3	3-4 hours	7-8 miles		1 hour
4	2.5 hours	6 miles		3 hours
5	4 hours	5 miles		1 hour
6	3 hours	4 miles		2 hours
7	3.5 hours	6 miles		1 hour
8				
9	3 hours	3-4 miles		3 hours

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Prague	34/25	39/27	48/32	57/37	66/46	73/54	75/54	75/55	68/48	57/41	45/41	37/28
Bratislava	37/26	41/28	51/34	62/41	71/50	71/56	81/59	80/59	71/52	60/42	47/35	38/29
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Prague	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.5	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.0
Bratislava	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.18	2.3	2.75	1.5	2.3	1.9	1.18	2.3	1.9

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at europe@wildernesstravel.com.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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