

## Tour Central Europe

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## 2018 Central European Tour

Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary

**Departure:** **Monday, September 3, 2018**  
From your point of departure in the USA for Prague

**Pick-up:** **Tuesday, September 4, 2018**  
At Prague's Vaclav Havel Airport (PRG)

**Returning:** **Thursday, September 20, 2018**  
From Budapest's Ferenc Liszt Airport (BUD) Airport

**NOTE:** For interested guests, we will be able to take you back in our mini-bus to Prague (5-6 hours driving time) for next day departure from PRG

### Tour Highlights:

Tour of elegant and historic Prague - boat trip on the Vltava River - Roznov, Frank's former home town.... Auschwitz concentration camp....historic royal town of Krakow....Wieliczka underground salt mines, a UNESCO cultural site....spectacular raft floating on the Dunajec River....Gypsy music entertainment....dramatic High Tatra Mountains....Danube Bend....comprehensive Budapest touring....outstanding Hungarian "cowboys" at work in the Hungarian Pusta - Varga Tanya....pleasing mix of touring, history, culture, music, nature and time at leisure.

### Day1 (traveling day):

After arriving in **Prague (Praha** in Czech; 1,100,000 pop.), we check into our hotel. Depending on our arrival, there might be time to explore this beautiful city on your own. Prague has always been historic. Now it is fun too. No place in Europe has become so popular so quickly. And for good reasons, Prague, the only Eastern European capital to escape the bombs of the last century's wars, is one of Europe's best-preserved cities. It is filled with sumptuous Art Nouveau facades, offers great musical entertainment, galleries, amazing museums and restaurants, and brews the best beer in Europe (perhaps in the world).

### Overnight in Prague

### DAY 2:

This morning we tour Prague with a local guide (3.5 hours). We explore the Hradcany (the Prague Castle) district, home of the distinctive castle towering above the Vltava River. The castle today is the seat of the president of the Czech Republic. We cross the famous Charles Bridge into the Old Town Square with its Astronomical Clock Tower. We also walk along the Vltava River, passing by the National Theater and visit the Jewish Quarter. The remainder of the day is free to continue exploring this enchanting city on your own. A welcome dinner on a private boat on the **Vltava River** is the evening's activity.

### Overnight in Prague

(B-L-D)

**DAY 3:**

Free day in Prague for your own exploration (optional activity for interested travelers may be organized).

Evening program: concert or opera in one of Prague's theater venues.

**Overnight in Prague**

(B)

**DAY 4:**

This morning we journey east from Prague to the town of **Litomysl**. This historic town was a home of the famous Czech composer Bedrich Smetana. We continue to Moravia and will make a visit at one of the most spectacular castles in the country, the **Castle Pernstejn**. From there we will depart to another historic town of **Kromeriz**. Kromeriz was proclaimed the most beautiful historic town of the Czech Republic in 1997. In 1998, the two magnificent gardens and the Archbishopric Chateaux were listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site. There will be a special evening in the Archbishop's private wine cellars with musical entertainment.

**Overnight in Kromeriz**

(B)

**DAY 5:**

In the morning we will visit the gorgeous gardens (**Pleasure Park**) and the **Archbishopric Chateau**, where some scenes from "*Amadeus*" and "*Immortal Beloved*" were filmed.

After lunch we continue to the Walachian Region and the town of **Roznov pod Radhostem** (17,000 pop.). Frank lived in this town for 15 years. Situated at the foot of the Moravian Beskydy Mountains, this town has many significant cultural memorials and all season recreation activities. It is known for its **Walachian Open-Air Museum**. The museum provides treasures of the popular architecture, trades and life of the Walachian countryside in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Overnight in Roznov**

(B-D)

**DAY 6:**

This morning we will travel due to north/east, cross the border to Poland and will reach our next destination of **Krakow** (758,000 pop.) Before we reach Krakow, we will make a stop at the (un)famous WW II concentration camp of **Auschwitz**. The royal City of Krakow, the former capital of Poland, is the proudest and the most beautiful Polish city. Krakow has traditionally been one of the leading scientific, cultural and artistic centers of the country, the former residence of the Polish kings, and is considered by many to be the spiritual heart of Poland due to its history of more than a thousand years.

**Overnight in Krakow**

(B-L-D)

**DAY 7:**

We spend this morning with our guide and tour some of the most attractive and historic sites of Krakow that survived World War II intact. Our tour includes the historic area: the renaissance Royal Castle at Wawel, the gothic St. Mary's Basilica, the trade pavilions of the Cloth Hall, the authentic Old Town (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and much more.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Overnight in Krakow**

(B)

### DAY 8:

This morning we will tour the **Wieliczka Salt Mines**, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Have you ever sent greetings from an underground post office? Have you ever seen underground chapels carved in living salt rock? There are many other unbelievable attractions awaiting you. During seven centuries of salt exploitation, the mine developed into an extensive underground city, mysterious and unique.

Following lunch at Wieliczka we will head south for the Polish/Slovak border. After we cross the border we will head to the small town of **Cerveny Klastor** (The Red Monastery village). Cerveny Klastor is located on the **Dunajec River** near the border with Poland. This village also borders **Pieniny National Park** and is an entry gate to the national reserve **Prielom Dunajca**. An evening dinner at a rustic local restaurant with musical entertainment.

#### Overnight Cerveny Klastor

(B-L-D)

### DAY 9:

This morning we will take a relaxing wooden raft floating (approx. 3 hours) trip on the Dunajec River through spectacular country side along the Slovak and Polish border. After the raft trip we have an option to bike along the Dunajec River (or ride in the van with Mike) back to Goralsky Dvor.

In the afternoon we will continue in the **High Tatra Mountain** region. These mountains are a magnet for fresh-air enthusiasts from all over the world. Later this afternoon we will reach the final destination of this day, **Dolny Smokovec**. This mountain town is a part of the **Tatra National Park** and is the Tatra's one of the main ski-resort. Upon getting situated in our hotel, there is free time on our own to explore the town.

#### Overnight in Dolny Smokovec

(B-L)

### DAY 10:

This morning we will travel to the **Demenovske Ice Cave**. It stands out by occurrence of permanent ice fill, bizarre and mighty shapes of underground spaces, rare cave fauna as well as rich history. The path is about .8 miles long with vertical span of 150 feet. The tour will last about one hour. The temperature fluctuates around 32 degrees. On our return drive to Dolny Smokovec we will make a stop at the **Spis Castle**. It is one of the largest castles in central Europe, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. The photogenic ruins will provide us with spectacular 360-degree views of the surrounding country side. There is a fairly steep walk of about 30 minutes to the castle.

#### Overnight in Dolny Smokovec

(B)

### DAY 11:

This day is designated at our leisure to explore endless opportunities for hiking/walking or just relaxing and enjoying the mountainous surroundings.

#### Overnight in Dolny Smokovec

(B)

### DAY 12:

Later this afternoon we cross the Slovak/Hungarian border at **Sturovo** and enter the historic town of **Esztergom** (30,000 pop.), a town full of ecclesiastic wonders. It has been the seat of Roman Catholicism in Hungary since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The soaring monumental **Esztergom Basilika** is home to the Primate of Hungary. We will continue to the next town on the Danube Bend, **Visegrad (High Castle)**.

#### Overnight in Visegrad.

(B-D)

**DAY 13:**

This morning we will visit one of the remains of the major-league castles: a hilltop fortress, the **Castle Visegrad**. This former strategic site overlooks the Danube River and its surroundings. Following this exciting castle tour we continue to **Szentendre**, one of the most picturesque (touristy as well) towns on the Danube. It rises gently from the Danube, a postcard-pretty village with twisty Mediterranean street plan filled with Austrian Baroque houses.

Following lunch we will venture (about 3 hour drive) 50 miles south of Budapest into the country side to a traditional Hungarian - Pusta working horse farm/ranch at **Varga Tanya** near the Kiskunsag National Park. We will find our accommodation in rustic-style bungalows settled in the forest. In the evening we will experience an outdoor Hungarian dinner at bon-fire.

**Overnight in Varga Tanya.**

(B-D)

**DAY 14:**

This morning we will participate in a spectacular Pusta program (farm animals) at **Varga Tanya** farm. A robust lad and a pretty country girl dressed in their national costume welcomes us with a drink (apricot brandy) and cakes. We drive through the countryside in a carriage as a prelude to a local feast. We will enjoy a 3-course lunch in a rustic open-air "music hall" featuring typical Hungarian cuisine with wine and are entertained with Gypsy music.

Later this afternoon we will arrive in **Budapest** (1.8 million pop.), the remainder of the afternoon is free to begin discovering one of the most enchanting cities in Europe.

**Overnight in Budapest.**

(B-L)

**DAY 15:**

This morning we have a half-day guided tour of the Hungarian capital. Budapest is a study in contrasts – of new and old, West and East. Strictly speaking, the story of Budapest begins only in 1873 with the administrative union of the three cities that grew together: Buda, west of the Danube; Obuda (the oldest part of Buda) to the north; and Pest on the eastern side of the river. But the area has been occupied for thousands of years before Budapest, as we know it, existed. We will visit the Castle Hill that contains most of the medieval buildings, from where there is a spectacular view of the city including the imposing Parliament that fronts the Danube. The Pest site is a nice mix of history and narrow streets with elegant shops and cafes, which invite you to spend some leisure time.

The afternoon is at our leisure. This evening we enjoy a typical Hungarian dinner at a local restaurant.

**Overnight in Budapest.**

(B)

**DAY 16:**

The day is at our leisure to explore the city in more details. There will be a farewell dinner that will conclude and celebrate our adventures spent together.

**Overnight in Budapest.**

(B-D)

**Day 17 (traveling day):**

This morning we transfer to the airport in Budapest for our return flight to the U.S.

(B)

## TOUR SPECIFICATIONS AND PRICING

Upon signing up for this tour, you will receive a booklet with important and helpful information, including detailed itinerary, money exchange, what to pack, electrical appliances, cell phones, hotel addresses and phone numbers, medical concerns, suggested readings, information on visiting places, and much more.

This trip has been custom-designed specifically for a small group of just 12 to 14 guests to appreciate unique natural landscapes, cultural and historical sites, culinary treats, behind the scene treasures, and authentic encounters. You will never feel like you are a part of a herd. We like to travel light – smaller group causes little environmental and cultural disturbance, which allows you to get closer to the world you are exploring.

We will be traveling in a private air-conditioned mid-size bus. We realize that hotels are not the main reason for you to select a tour. But great accommodation can improve the tour experience. We are selecting hotels according to our previous satisfied experience or hotels that we believe are the best for our particular trip. European hotels are usually smaller than those in the U.S.A. Also, air conditioning isn't as common as at home and in some country setting hotels elevators may not be available (we'll help you with your luggage). Our goal is to select accommodations that will offer you a nice and clean place, with the usual amenities or better, good service and good location. In larger cities, our hotels are usually centrally located so you can get around easily. In rural areas we will offer unique lodging that will provide local ambiance larger groups never experience.

### YOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Small group of up to 14 guests.
- All accommodations.
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 7 dinners as indicated on the itinerary (beverages are not included).
- All land transportation.
- Entrance fees for all planned events.
- Transfer from/to the airport (only on the official arriving and departure day).
- Guided tours and special events.

**Note:** Roundtrip air-fare from your point of departure is not included.

### All land arrangements as described above:

- Double room occupancy: **\$4,200 per person**
- Single room occupancy: **\$4,700**

Deposit of \$700.00 per guest is due with sign up to secure your spot. It is fully refundable if Tour Central Europe cancels the tour.

The prices are based on minimum of 12 travelers. For a fewer than 12 registered travellers by 95 days prior to departure the tour cost may proportionally increase to compensate for the missing number of travellers. We reserve the right to cancel the tour due to insufficient number of travelers.

Limited space reservation to 14 people - first come, first served basis.

We would like to suggest arranging your own round trip air travel from your hometown to Prague and from Budapest back home. Please contact us first prior to making your reservation. If you are not able to make your own travel plans we will assist you.

In order to get the full benefit of this trip adequate degree of physical conditioning is recommended due to a good amount of walking and some hiking on our tour. If you need assistance in getting around, our tour may not be appropriate for you. Please contact us prior making a decision on this tour.

We are strongly recommending purchasing a travel insurance to protect yourself and your investment in case you have to cancel or interrupt this tour. In order to provide you with the most effective coverage, the policy exclusion for "Pre-Existing Conditions" will be waived if you purchase a plan within 14 days of making your initial deposit payment for your trip. Please let us help you with securing your travel insurance.

Please consult the "[Reservations](#)" and "[Terms & Conditions/Travel Insurance](#)" sections for more pertinent information concerning this tour.

**In order to secure the best possible air-fair and our reserved hotels please register early! Before securing your flight arrangements, please check with us on the number of registered travelers.**