

Tour Central Europe
Presents
Check the Czechs Special

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

With Durango's Frank Fristensky and Jim Baumgardt

Indulge yourself in a world class photographic, culinary and historic experience you will never forget. **Czech Republic** – located in the heart of Europe is a country of fairytale castles, chateaux, forests, music and art and world class beer. It also enjoys long standing tradition of historical as well art nouveau architecture stretching back several centuries, spectacular landscapes of rolling hills, lakes, rock formations, and beautiful flora and fauna.

Friday

Leaving Durango or another port of departure

Saturday

Group pick up at the Prague airport
Hotel check in, relaxation
6 pm festive dinner at a private boat, tour orientation
Overnight in Prague
(D)

Sunday

Morning guided tour of Prague
Afternoon at your leisure
Overnight in Prague
(B-L)

Monday

PRAGUE DAY

Strolling through Prague with a renowned Czech photographer
Rest of the day at your leisure
Overnight in Prague
(B)

Tuesday

NATURE DAY

Departure for the Czech Paradise Forest (nature reserve)

The region Turnov is a traditional center for gemstone polishing, glass craftsmanship and arts.

Prachovske Rocks (natural rock city). It is characterized by slim sandstone towers and pillars with striking vertical cracks and corners broken up by ravines and gullies

Medieval castle of Kost. It has a special position amongst Bohemian castles – it is the best preserved gothic castle in Czech Republic

Overnight in Turnov

(B-L-D)

Wednesday

MOUNTAINS AND ARCHITECTURE DAY

Central Bohemian Uplands or Czech Volcanic-Mountains, characteristic conical hills are the result of tertiary volcanic activity, which pushed up igneous rock mainly of phonolite and basalt type into the form of mounds and blankets

Leisure travel through the nature with stops

Arrival in Plzen (3rd largest city in the CR, WW II liberated by the US 3rd Army)

Exploration of town and visit the Pilsner-Urquel Brewery

Overnight in Plzen

(B-L-D)

Thursday

ARCHITECTURE AND CASTLE DAY

Back in the history to gothic, baroque, and renaissance time

Chateau Kozel. It is well preserved with all originals a representative hunting castle in classic style built at the end of 18th century

The historic town of Klatovy

Castle Kasperk. Well preserved and picturesque ruins of the Kasperk castle on the rock spit above the Otava river. It is the highest situated royal castle in Bohemia

Overnight in Kasperske Hory

(B-D)

Friday

STREEMS AND FOREST DAY

Czech Black Forest-Sumava National Park

Hike in the valley of the Vydra River

Forest architecture

Deep in the forest with a guide

Overnight in Kasperske Hory

(B-D)

Saturday

ARCHITECTURE DAY

Cesky Krumlov, under UNESCO protection (*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*) historic town

One of the most photogenic towns on our tour

Visit of the Rosenberg's castle with a unique baroque theater

Overnight in Cesky Krumlov

(B-L-D)

Sunday

All day at your leisure

(B)

Monday

TECHNOLOGY DAY

Travel by the only narrow gauge steam train with stops along the way – "Czech Canada"

Visit of WW II original bunkers along the Czech border

Secret underground crypt

Overnight in Slavonice

(B-L-D)

Tuesday

ARCHITECTURE AND FOLK STYLES DAY

Travel to South Moravia

Historic town of Telc. Besides the monumental 17th century Renaissance chateau with an English-style park the most significant sight is the town square, a unique complex of long urban plaza with well-conserved Renaissance and Baroque houses with high gables and arcades UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Vine cellar with degustation with entertainment

Traditional folk costumes

Overnight in Mikulov

(B-D)

Wednesday

UNESCO DAY

Kromeriz – one of the most famous chateaux in the country (the movie *Amadeus* was produced here)

Stroll through the most beautiful chateau gardens

Krtiny (architect J.B. Santini) a Baroque pilgrim complex.

The gorge of Moravsky kras (Moravian Karst is one of the most important karst area of Central Europe)

Overnight in Moravsky kras

(B-L-D)

Thursday**UNDERGROUND DAY**

Floating on the underground Punkva River (The Punkva Caves with its underground river and the bottom of the famous Macocha Abyss)

Cloister Porta Coeli – a Romanesque-Gothic Monastery (Porta Coeli is a Latin expression for "heaven's door.")

Arriving in Praha

Farewell dinner

Overnight in Praha

(B-L-D)

Friday**DEPARTURE DAY**

Leaving for the airport and departure to the USA

(B)