# **Tour Central Europe**

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# Musical and Cultural Tour in the Czech Republic

With Frank Fristensky, Durango, CO and Michael Zeman, Prague

Departure: Monday, April 27, 2015 from your port of departure to Prague

Returning: Monday, May 11, 2015 from Prague





The Czech Republic is a country of fairytale castles, picturesque forests, fishponds, and splendid flora and fauna. Music and art, medieval towns, rustic villages and Renaissance chateaux compliment the major characteristics of this historic country. The traditional music of Bohemia and Moravia has been well documented and influenced the work of composers like Smetana, Dvorak, Janacek and Martinu. It always has been an unforgettable experience for American travelers to listen to some great music in architecturally amazing places that have been built several hundred years ago. In addition to the classical sounds, the tour should also introduce you to the Czech traditional folklore and medieval music, dances and theaters. And at the center of it is Prague (Praha), one of the most beautiful and cultured cities in the world. The entire country is very photogenic with very distinct scenery and architecture constantly changing between the regions that will offer you a close insight in the Czech culture and lifestyle.

# **Tour Highlights:**

Historic Prague...Antonin Dvorak's mansion and performance...The Lobkowicz Palace/National Galery...Karlovy Vary, a picturesque hot springs town...Bedrich Smetana's museum...The "Pilsner Urquel" brewery...Spectacular fairy town of Cesky Krumlov...The walled village of Telc...The wine cellars of Mikulov with folklore music...Underground gorge of Macocha...Medieval dress up party at the private castle of Vilemov...Pleasing mix of touring, history, culture, music, nature and time at leisure.

# **DAY 1:**

Tuesday, April 28

Arrival in Prague, hotel check in, free time. Prague (Praha in Czech) (1, 100,000 pop.). It is amazing what 24 years of freedom can do. Prague has always been historic. Now it is fun too. No place in Europe has become so popular so quickly. And for good reason: 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). Prague is the town of thousands of red roofs and spires....Prague is energizing. Overnight in Prague.

(D)

#### **DAY 2:**

Wednesday, April 29

Morning guided tour of Prague.

Tonight we gather for a welcome dinner on a private boat traveling the Vltava river with musical entertainment.

Overnight in Prague.

(B-L-D)

# **DAY 3:**

Thursday, April 30

In the morning, we will visit museum of the famous Czech composer Bedrich Smetana. While there, we will be offered a small concert of the composer's work.

The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration.

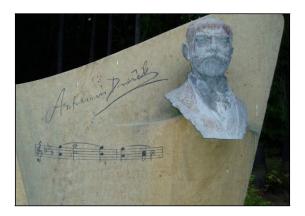
This evening will be crowned by a concert or opera.

Overnight in Prague.

(B)

### **Antonin Dvorak' Mension**





# **DAY 4:**

Friday, May 1

This day is reserved for us to explore the most enchanting of cities on our own.

This evening, we will travel to visit the mansion where another famous Czech composer, Antonin Dvorak lived and worked. Our visit will be highlighted by a private Dvorak's concert and dinner. Overnight in Prague

(B-D)

#### **DAY 5:**

Saturday, May 2

This morning, we will travel due west to Karlovy Vary. This picturesque town is known for its world's famous spas, colonnades with medicinal hot water springs, and international film and music festivals. Our first stop will be at the world famous Moser lead free crystal glass making factory. A visit to the Moser Glass Factory is a pleasure to everyone who enjoys crystal glass products and the art of glass making. Moser glass has been sought out ever since for its outstanding quality and artistry and is known worldwide as the "glass of kings". Also, we will visit another famous product of Karlovy Vary. The original "Becherovka" liquor small factory. We will taste the various liquors made according to Mr. Becher's hundred year old formulas combined by local herbs and the medicinal hot waters. In the evening, we will have the pleasure to attend a private Mozart's concert. Overnight in Karlovy Vary

(B-L)



Hot water spring in Karlovy Vary

#### **DAY 6:**

Sunday, May 3

This day is at our leisure to experience the many interesting programs and sites that Karlovy Vary may offer for us. From easy hiking, either in town experiencing the many cafes by the river, colonnades by sipping the hot waters or hiking the nearby parks and forests. We may experience the thermal baths with soothing massages and hydrotherapy or just relax by a glass (or two) of wine on the colonnade or parks.

Overnight in Karlovy Vary

(B)

# **DAY 7:**

Monday, May 4

This morning we continue due south into the nearby Bohemian Forest. Our destination will be a small cozy village of Kasperske Hory. On the way, we will make a lunch stop in Pilsen, the third largest city in the Czech Republic, which was liberated by the US 3.rd Army led by General G. Patton. We will pay respect at the US Memorial in town followed by visit of the "Pilsner Urquel" beer factory with lunch there. After lunch, we will continue to our destination in Kasperske Hory. In the evening we will take a hike to the castle of Kasperske Hory, where we will be offered a night of gothic music on the castle's court yard. Overnight in Kasperske Hory.

(B-L-D)

#### **DAY 8:**

Tuesday, May 5

After breakfast, we continue to the picturesque town of Cesky Krumlov. We will experience a spectacular tour of one of the most impressive castle's in the country including the chateaux and its unique Baroque Theater built in the 16th century. It is one of the only two theaters in the whole world where practically the entire original equipment has been preserved.

Again, in the evening, we will be offered baroque concert at the chateaux. Overnight in Cesky Krumlov

(B-D)



# **DAY 9:**

Wednesday, May 6

We will enjoy a free day to fully explore this fairytale like town.

In the evening, we will depart to the nearby cloister of "Zlata Koruna" for J.S. Bach concert. Overnight in Cesky Krumlov.

(B)

# **DAY 10:**

Thursday, May 7

This Morning we will travel due east to the historical town of Telc, another architectural gem of Southern Bohemia. Afternoon travel to Mikulov, a city in the wine region of Moravia. Private evening in a wine cellar accompanied by a musical folklore ensemble from the region. Overnight in Mikulov.

(B-L-D)

Mikulov wine cellar



# **DAY 11:**

Friday, May 8

Leaving Mikulov this morning we will be heading in the area of Moravian Karst followed by a walk through the caves and floating on the underground Punkva River (The Punkva Caves with its underground river and the bottom of the famous Macocha Abyss). In the afternoon we will turn west to the town of Litomysl, where the composer Bedrich Smetana was born, and tour the Litomysl Castle. Later this afternoon, we will proceed to a small village of Vilemov and take our quarters at a private medieval chateaux of Vilemov. We will get dressed in a medieval costumes and enjoy private festive dinner, followed by a concert and dance.

Overnight at the Vilemov chateaux.

(B-L-D)

#### **DAY 12:**

Saturday, May 9

Morning arrival in Prague and time at our leisure. In the afternoon we will travel to the nearby town of Kutna Hora. This historical town, once the second most important city in the Kingdom of Bohemia, after Prague. The city is included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. The dominant part of the city is its prestigious St. Barbora Cathedral.

Overnight in Prague.

(B-L-D)

# **DAY 13:**

Sunday, May 10

One more day to enjoy Prague at our leisure.

Farewell dinner with the "Original Prague Syncopated Orchestra." Overnight in Prague.

(B-D)

# DAY 14: Departure for the USA.

# **TOUR SPECIFICATIONS:**

We will be traveling in a private modern air-conditioned bus. The tour price includes all accommodations with **all breakfasts**, **6 lunches**, **9 dinners** (buffet style breakfasts, complete lunches and dinners with salad or soup, a main course, desert, coffee and water on the tables; other drinks are not included), all land transportation, tickets for all planned events, transfer from/to the airport (only on the official dates of arrival and departure), guided tours and special events, and services of the Tour Central Europe's tour directors. Round-trip air transportation from your port of departure is not included.

All land arrangements as described above:

12-15 travelers:

Double room occupancy: \$3,825.00/per person

Single room occupancy: \$4,200.00

16-20 travelers:

Double room occupancy: \$3,645.00/per person

Single room occupancy: \$4,020.00

21-25 travelers:

Double room occupancy: \$3,215.00/per person

Single room occupancy: \$3,635.00

- Accommodations are usually in locally owned hotels (middle/upper class) in order to maintain contact with the local culture and to support the local economy and are centrally located in the the city/town. It is our goal to select accommodations that offer the best combination of quality, atmosphere, value, and location. Please note, however, that European hotel rooms tend to be smaller and air conditioning is not as common as in the United States.
- The program and accompanied activities were carefully selected to provide our travellers with
  as complete insight in the Czech music history and culture as possible. Many concerts and
  performances will be in a private setting staged just for our group and/or with VIP preferences.
  Complimentary programs and visiting places will represent the various regions of the Czech
  Republic with its natural, culinary, and architectural gems.
- Deposit of \$700.00 per guest is due with registration.
- We would like to suggest arranging your own round trip air travel from your port of departure to/from Prague. Please contact us first prior making your flight reservation. If you are not able to make your own travel plans, we will assist you.
- We are recommending to sign up early due to select the best possible flight arrangements to Prague, and to secure our planned activities and accommodations.
- In order to secure the best possible air-fair, our reserved hotels and programs, please register early!

Before securing your flight arrangements, please check with us on the number of registered travelers.

• The cut-off day for this tour is April 1, 2015..