

**The Gems of Central Europe:
Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg and Prague**
June 6 to 16, 2024

Wednesday, June 5

Program participants depart today from the United States.

Thursday, June 6

Flights arrive at the Budapest, Hungary airport. The program conductor will meet participants as they arrive at the airport and escort everyone to downtown Budapest. Transportation to the hotel is included in the program cost. Hungary is seven hours ahead of U.S. Central Time.

We'll spend the rest of the day relaxing and walking along the Danube River in the central part of the city. Dinner this evening will be during our walk, or later near the hotel.

Hotel: Budapest

Friday, June 7

Continental breakfast at the hotel this morning and all mornings of our hotel stays is included in the program price. After breakfast we'll meet with our tour guide for a walking visit of the Fisherman's Bastion, the Matthias Church, Castle Hill and the Great Synagogue. Along the way, we cross the Chain Bridge, stop for a photo of the Little Princess and shop the Great Market Hall. Return by public transportation to the hotel, included in the program price.

Hotel: Budapest

Saturday, June 8

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll join our guide again for a walking tour of the Holocaust Memorial, the Shoes on the Danube memorial and the Hungarian Parliament. We'll see the Budapest Opera House and take the Metro to Hero's Square and the City Park. Those who wish can join us in the late afternoon for a dip in the spa waters at the Szechenyi Baths. (optional)

Hotel: Budapest

Sunday, June 9

After breakfast, we'll check out of the Budapest hotel and take the train for the three-hour trip to Vienna, the capital of Austria. After checking in at the hotel, we'll tour the area around the Stephansplatz on our own, walking down Graben (the main street for shopping) and stop for dessert at Demel, famous for its gourmet chocolate and desserts. Return to the hotel by foot and on public transportation.

Hotel: Vienna

Monday, June 10

We'll meet our guide after breakfast to visit the Hofburg Palace, the main Viennese palace of the Hapsburgs, and Schonbrunn Palace, the summer residence of the Hapsburg dynasty. We'll walk to the Rathaus for people-watching, then enjoy a dinner of schnitzel. In the evening, we'll take a tram along the Ringstrasse to see the grand nineteenth-century Opera House, the Hofburg Palace, the Rathaus and other beautiful architecture lit up at night. As a special treat at the end of the day we'll stop at the Café Sacher for a slice of the world-famous Sacher torte. Back to the hotel by public transportation.

Hotel: Vienna

Tuesday, June 11

This morning we'll visit the beautiful Kunsthistorisches Museum, one of the world's great art museums and home to works by Pieter Brueghel, Vermeer, Caravaggio, Titian and Raphael, with a museum guide, then tour the Vienna Opera House. We'll visit the Naschmarkt, and then have dinner in the area before returning to the hotel on public transportation and on foot.

Hotel: Vienna

Wednesday, June 12

After breakfast we'll take a morning train to Salzburg, Austria, arriving in approximately two and a half hours. We'll have time to see Old Town and join a local guide for a walk to see a number of local sites (many tied to the city's favorite son, Amadeus Mozart), including Mozartsteg, Mozartplatz, Residentaplatz, Residenz, the Neue Residenz, Salzburg Cathedral, Kapitelplatz, Waterwheel, St. Peter's Abbey and Cemetery, the University Church, Monschsberg Cliff Face, and the Getreidegasse, the colorful main thoroughfare of Old Salzburg, including no. 9, the Birth House of Mozart. Train in the early evening back to Vienna.

Hotel: Vienna

Thursday, June 13

After breakfast we'll check out of our Vienna hotel and board the train for the four-hour ride to Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. We'll check into our hotel, then visit the Old Town and climb the Town Hall tower for the views of the city. We'll enjoy a coffee and dessert across the street from the astronomical clock and enjoy the brief show at the clock, at the top of the hour. We'll walk across the Charles Bridge to enjoy the end of the day.

Hotel: Prague

Friday, June 14

After breakfast our guide will join us for a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter, with a visit to the old Jewish cemetery and the Old Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in central and eastern Europe. We'll climb the Old Town Tower Bridge, located at the Charles Bridge, then walk across the bridge for the view. We'll visit the Lennon Wall, tour Prague Castle, the St. Vitus Cathedral and the Strahov Monastery and Library. We'll end the day with a pub crawl to enjoy some of the Czech Republic's best beers.

Hotel: Prague

Saturday, June 15

After breakfast, we'll strike out on our own for Wenceslas Square and tour the Mucha Museum. We'll enjoy the Havelka Market for crafts and produce, and then will have the afternoon for relaxing or further exploring individually or in groups. We'll celebrate our discoveries over the past ten days with a farewell dinner.

Hotel: Prague

Sunday, June 16

After breakfast, the tour conductor will accompany you to the Prague Airport or downtown train station for your departure to the United States or elsewhere in Europe.